



Section Six

CRIME IN THE CITIES

CRIME IN THE CITIES

This section deals with serious crimes reported in the large urban cities of the state. These cities represent 19 percent of the population and historically account for one third of the reported Crime Index of the state.

This analysis involves the latest ten-year period 1993-2002 and endeavors further to identify crime trends in these urban areas.

The cities included in this analysis were initially categorized as urban municipalities (i.e., densely populated with extensive development) by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of State and Regional Planning, Bureau of Statewide Planning, and will continue to be used for comparative purposes.

The criteria used in the selection of these cities were (1) classified as urban character and (2) have a population of 50,000 or more inhabitants.

For further comparative analysis, the urban cities were subdivided into two distinct groupings.

Group number one consisted of the state's six largest urban centers with populations of 80,000 or over and is categorized as "Major Urban."

The second group included the "Major Urban" and the additional urban communities with populations of 50,000 or more inhabitants, and is referred to as the "Urban 15."

"MAJOR URBAN"

- Camden City
- Elizabeth City
- Jersey City
- Newark City
- Paterson City
- Trenton City

"URBAN 15"

- Bayonne City
- Camden City
- Clifton City
- Dover Twp.
- East Orange City
- Elizabeth City
- Irvington Town
- Jersey City
- Newark City
- Passaic City
- Paterson City
- Trenton City
- Union City
- Vineland City
- Woodbridge Twp.

The accompanying table reflects percent changes in the state's "Major Urban" and "Urban 15" municipalities Crime Index for the years 1993/2002.

STATE AND URBAN CRIME INDEX OFFENSES

Percent Change 1993/2002

| | | NEW JERSEY | "MAJOR URBAN" | "URBAN 15" |
|----------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Population | 1993 | 7,730,188 | 930,818 | 1,538,864 |
| | 2002 | 8,414,350 | 948,698 | 1,597,860 |
| | Percent Change | 9 | 2 | 4 |
| TOTAL CRIME INDEX | 1993 | 378,302 | 99,298 | 137,223 |
| | 2002 | 261,080 | 57,813 | 88,376 |
| | Percent Change | -31 | -42 | -36 |
| Violent Crime | 1993 | 49,388 | 23,190 | 29,215 |
| | 2002 | 32,286 | 11,315 | 17,083 |
| | Percent Change | -35 | -51 | -42 |
| Nonviolent Crime | 1993 | 328,914 | 76,108 | 108,008 |
| | 2002 | 228,794 | 46,498 | 71,293 |
| | Percent Change | -30 | -39 | -34 |
| Murder | 1993 | 419 | 212 | 249 |
| | 2002 | 341 | 169 | 231 |
| | Percent Change | -19 | -20 | -7 |
| Rape | 1993 | 2,214 | 688 | 955 |
| | 2002 | 1,348 | 360 | 506 |
| | Percent Change | -39 | -48 | -47 |
| Robbery | 1993 | 23,307 | 12,795 | 15,915 |
| | 2002 | 13,987 | 5,582 | 8,251 |
| | Percent Change | -40 | -56 | -48 |
| Aggravated Assault | 1993 | 23,448 | 9,495 | 12,096 |
| | 2002 | 16,610 | 5,204 | 8,095 |
| | Percent Change | -29 | -45 | -33 |
| Burglary | 1993 | 76,760 | 21,971 | 29,308 |
| | 2002 | 44,035 | 9,579 | 14,889 |
| | Percent Change | -43 | -56 | -49 |
| Larceny-Theft | 1993 | 195,909 | 31,757 | 49,023 |
| | 2002 | 148,918 | 22,798 | 36,705 |
| | Percent Change | -24 | -28 | -25 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 1993 | 56,245 | 22,380 | 29,677 |
| | 2002 | 35,841 | 14,121 | 19,699 |
| | Percent Change | -36 | -37 | -34 |

* Less than one-half of one percent.

Percent Change

- During the ten-year period 1993/2002, the Crime Index in New Jersey has decreased 31 percent, while the "Urban 15" cities decreased 36 percent and the six major urban cities decreased 42 percent.
- Violent crime in the state decreased 35 percent, the 15 urban cities decreased 42 percent and the six major cities decreased 51 percent.
- Nonviolent crime in the state decreased 30 percent, the "Urban 15" decreased 34 percent and the six major cities decreased 39 percent.

CRIME IN THE CITIES TEN YEAR SUMMARY

COMPARATIVE CRIME INDEX DISTRIBUTION FOR STATE AND URBAN CITIES 1993-2002

| | NEW JERSEY | MAJOR URBAN | URBAN 15 |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| CRIME INDEX TOTAL | 3,167,397 | 766,100 | 1,097,592 |
| Percent Distribution | | 24.2 | 34.7 |
| Violent Crime | 394,253 | 168,980 | 225,282 |
| Percent Distribution | | 42.9 | 57.1 |
| Nonviolent Crime | 2,773,144 | 597,120 | 872,310 |
| Percent Distribution | | 21.5 | 31.5 |
| Murder | 3,469 | 1,783 | 2,185 |
| Percent Distribution | | 51.4 | 63.0 |
| Rape | 16,816 | 4,900 | 6,864 |
| Percent Distribution | | 29.1 | 40.8 |
| Robbery | 175,304 | 85,367 | 112,519 |
| Percent Distribution | | 48.7 | 64.2 |
| Aggravated Assault | 198,664 | 76,930 | 103,714 |
| Percent Distribution | | 38.7 | 52.2 |
| Burglary | 578,836 | 149,557 | 213,821 |
| Percent Distribution | | 25.8 | 36.9 |
| Larceny-Theft | 1,769,961 | 283,909 | 438,007 |
| Percent Distribution | | 16.0 | 24.7 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 424,347 | 163,654 | 220,482 |
| Percent Distribution | | 38.6 | 52.0 |

Distribution:

- Six major urban centers—Camden, Newark, Jersey City, Trenton, Paterson and Elizabeth—collectively represent 11 percent of New Jersey’s total population. These same urban centers, during the period 1993 through 2002 accounted for 24 percent of the state’s total crime.
- “Major Urban” centers from 1993 through 2002 accounted for 43 percent of all violent crime and 22 percent of the nonviolent crimes in the entire state.
- The 15 urban municipalities represent 19 percent of the state’s total population.
- “Urban 15” municipalities accounted for 35 percent of New Jersey’s total Crime Index. Violent crime was 57 percent of the state total, while nonviolent crime was 32 percent of the state total during this ten-year period.
- Sixty-four percent of all robberies reported occurred in the “Urban 15” cities during this ten-year period.

STREET CRIME

There has never been a clear-cut definition for street crime within the criminal justice system. The nation's clearinghouse for the collection and dissemination of criminal statistics, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has no criteria in the categorization of specific crimes to be designated or defined as "street crimes." More and more this media term has been confused with the violent crime group of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Although any particular crime can and does occur on the street, this analysis, because of reporting constraints within the Uniform Crime Reporting System, is limited to defining street crimes as those offenses which occur, or are most likely to occur, on streets, highways, parking lots, etc.. These crimes include highway robbery, purse-snatching, theft from autos, theft of auto parts and accessories, theft of bicycles, and motor vehicle thefts. All are crimes against property and only one, highway robbery, falls in the violent crime group.

- During the ten-year period 1993-2002, the "Urban 15" cities accounted for 40.9 percent of the street crimes in the state.
- Three out of every four highway robberies occurred in the "Urban 15" during the ten-year period.
- More than half of all motor vehicle thefts during the survey span occurred in these 15 urban municipalities.
- Thirty-nine percent of all purse-snatchings during the survey span were perpetrated in the "Urban 15" cities.
- Highway robbery and larceny of motor vehicle parts and accessories were at their lowest levels during 2002, in this ten-year period.
- The accompanying table reflects percent distribution of street crime for the "Urban 15" cities for the years 1993-2002.

STREET CRIME TRENDS "URBAN FIFTEEN" MUNICIPALITIES

| STREET CRIME | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | TOTAL | Percent of State Total |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Highway Robbery | 12,887 | 12,781 | 12,380 | 9,647 | 8,280 | 7,093 | 6,669 | 6,231 | 6,504 | 6,201 | 88,673 | 74.6 |
| Purse Snatching | 1,746 | 1,377 | 1,116 | 826 | 658 | 600 | 486 | 499 | 536 | 586 | 8,430 | 39.0 |
| Larceny from Motor Vehicle | 10,744 | 12,173 | 14,381 | 12,977 | 12,387 | 12,107 | 11,295 | 10,789 | 10,983 | 10,762 | 118,598 | 30.2 |
| Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts & Accessories | 9,511 | 8,118 | 7,818 | 6,831 | 6,114 | 4,777 | 3,871 | 3,919 | 4,217 | 4,030 | 59,206 | 40.4 |
| Larceny of Bicycles | 1,963 | 2,169 | 2,164 | 1,805 | 1,928 | 1,768 | 1,677 | 1,464 | 1,479 | 1,256 | 17,673 | 11.7 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 29,667 | 26,824 | 26,263 | 23,398 | 20,499 | 17,212 | 18,469 | 18,429 | 20,022 | 19,699 | 220,482 | 52.0 |
| TOTAL | 66,518 | 63,442 | 64,122 | 55,484 | 49,866 | 43,557 | 42,467 | 41,331 | 43,741 | 42,534 | 513,062 | 40.9 |
| Percent of State "Street Crime" Total | 42.2 | 41.8 | 41.4 | 39.6 | 39.2 | 38.5 | 40.0 | 41.8 | 41.8 | 42.1 | 40.9 | - |

"URBAN FIFTEEN" PROFILES

| Municipality | Year | Population | Crime Index | Violent Crime | Non-Violent Crime | Murder | Rape | Robbery | Aggravated Assault | Burglary | Larceny-Theft | Motor Vehicle Theft | Total Police Officers | Total Police Employees |
|-------------------------|------|------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Camden City | 2001 | 79,904 | 6,903 | 1,711 | 5,192 | 25 | 58 | 715 | 913 | 1,376 | 2,552 | 1,264 | 404 | 478 |
| | 2002 | 79,904 | 6,147 | 1,488 | 4,659 | 33 | 45 | 609 | 801 | 1,155 | 2,423 | 1,081 | 420 | 492 |
| Newark City | 2001 | 273,546 | 19,737 | 3,968 | 15,769 | 91 | 100 | 1,892 | 1,885 | 2,592 | 7,065 | 6,112 | 1,350 | 1,517 |
| | 2002 | 273,546 | 18,813 | 3,317 | 15,496 | 68 | 102 | 1,635 | 1,512 | 2,281 | 6,844 | 6,371 | 1,361 | 1,563 |
| Jersey City | 2001 | 240,055 | 12,657 | 2,891 | 9,766 | 26 | 89 | 1,312 | 1,464 | 2,356 | 4,985 | 2,425 | 839 | 1,015 |
| | 2002 | 240,055 | 12,397 | 2,952 | 9,445 | 21 | 86 | 1,408 | 1,437 | 2,299 | 4,819 | 2,327 | 826 | 987 |
| Trenton City | 2001 | 85,403 | 7,152 | 1,503 | 5,649 | 13 | 72 | 718 | 700 | 1,535 | 2,871 | 1,243 | 372 | 426 |
| | 2002 | 85,403 | 6,310 | 1,480 | 4,830 | 19 | 68 | 706 | 687 | 1,196 | 2,533 | 1,101 | 361 | 423 |
| Paterson City | 2001 | 149,222 | 8,005 | 1,302 | 6,703 | 16 | 15 | 673 | 598 | 1,964 | 3,060 | 1,679 | 438 | 533 |
| | 2002 | 149,222 | 6,847 | 1,165 | 5,682 | 15 | 29 | 653 | 468 | 1,595 | 2,650 | 1,437 | 429 | 517 |
| Elizabeth City | 2001 | 120,568 | 7,320 | 856 | 6,464 | 5 | 16 | 549 | 286 | 919 | 3,533 | 2,012 | 350 | 465 |
| | 2002 | 120,568 | 7,299 | 913 | 6,386 | 13 | 30 | 571 | 299 | 1,053 | 3,529 | 1,804 | 344 | 467 |
| Vineland City | 2001 | 56,271 | 3,394 | 469 | 2,925 | 2 | 7 | 206 | 254 | 732 | 2,018 | 175 | 136 | 170 |
| | 2002 | 56,271 | 3,735 | 453 | 3,282 | 4 | 8 | 221 | 220 | 809 | 2,267 | 206 | 134 | 153 |
| East Orange City | 2001 | 69,824 | 5,344 | 1,417 | 3,927 | 13 | 32 | 685 | 687 | 936 | 1,815 | 1,176 | 249 | 277 |
| | 2002 | 69,824 | 5,998 | 1,530 | 4,468 | 18 | 54 | 700 | 758 | 913 | 2,025 | 1,530 | 246 | 281 |
| Irvington Town | 2001 | 60,695 | 5,180 | 1,468 | 3,712 | 13 | 44 | 736 | 675 | 1,101 | 1,247 | 1,364 | 185 | 214 |
| | 2002 | 60,695 | 5,425 | 1,702 | 3,723 | 15 | 46 | 864 | 777 | 1,077 | 1,129 | 1,517 | 178 | 205 |
| Bayonne City | 2001 | 61,842 | 1,345 | 199 | 1,146 | 3 | 2 | 74 | 120 | 223 | 752 | 171 | 235 | 279 |
| | 2002 | 61,842 | 1,099 | 208 | 891 | 4 | 3 | 93 | 108 | 186 | 584 | 121 | 243 | 285 |
| Union City | 2001 | 67,088 | 2,434 | 326 | 2,108 | 3 | 1 | 206 | 116 | 496 | 1,038 | 574 | 187 | 227 |
| | 2002 | 67,088 | 2,213 | 311 | 1,902 | 3 | 6 | 177 | 125 | 474 | 899 | 529 | 184 | 225 |
| Woodbridge Twp. | 2001 | 97,203 | 3,492 | 328 | 3,164 | - | 9 | 66 | 253 | 509 | 2,189 | 466 | 195 | 242 |
| | 2002 | 97,203 | 3,533 | 302 | 3,231 | 3 | 8 | 77 | 214 | 538 | 2,170 | 523 | 198 | 244 |
| Dover Twp. | 2001 | 89,706 | 2,782 | 181 | 2,601 | - | 13 | 58 | 110 | 450 | 2,039 | 112 | 148 | 189 |
| | 2002 | 89,706 | 2,548 | 189 | 2,359 | 11 | 9 | 46 | 123 | 432 | 1,834 | 93 | 149 | 192 |
| Clifton City | 2001 | 78,672 | 2,364 | 189 | 2,175 | 1 | 7 | 95 | 86 | 422 | 1,337 | 416 | 149 | 176 |
| | 2002 | 78,672 | 2,667 | 208 | 2,459 | - | 7 | 117 | 84 | 417 | 1,603 | 439 | 148 | 177 |
| Passaic City | 2001 | 67,861 | 3,672 | 1,011 | 2,661 | 8 | 8 | 469 | 526 | 617 | 1,374 | 670 | 164 | 201 |
| | 2002 | 67,861 | 3,345 | 865 | 2,480 | 4 | 5 | 374 | 482 | 464 | 1,396 | 620 | 156 | 186 |
| "URBAN 15" | 2001 | 1,597,860 | 91,781 | 17,819 | 73,962 | 219 | 473 | 8,454 | 8,673 | 16,228 | 37,875 | 19,859 | 5,401 | 6,409 |
| | 2002 | 1,597,860 | 88,376 | 17,083 | 71,293 | 231 | 506 | 8,251 | 8,095 | 14,889 | 36,705 | 19,699 | 5,377 | 6,397 |