



Section Six

CRIME IN THE CITIES

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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 1999-2008 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
- Toms River 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 1999/2008.

STATE AND URBAN CRIME INDEX OFFENSES

Percent Change 1999/2008

		NEW JERSEY	"MAJOR URBAN"	"URBAN 15"
Population	1999	8,115,011	927,165	1,548,027
	2008	8,685,920	955,410	1,596,662
	Percent Change	7	3	3
TOTAL CRIME INDEX	1999	277,472	63,683	93,341
	2008	227,177	46,981	69,378
	Percent Change	-18	-26	-26
Violent Crime	1999	33,579	13,521	18,593
	2008	28,281	10,452	14,217
	Percent Change	-16	-23	-24
Nonviolent Crime	1999	243,893	50,162	74,748
	2008	198,896	36,529	55,161
	Percent Change	-18	-27	-26
Murder	1999	287	139	176
	2008	376	196	244
	Percent Change	31	41	39
Rape	1999	1,412	363	537
	2008	1,090	245	367
	Percent Change	-23	-33	-32
Robbery	1999	14,251	6,553	8,853
	2008	12,694	5,600	7,304
	Percent Change	-11	-15	-17
Aggravated Assault	1999	17,629	6,466	9,027
	2008	14,121	4,411	6,302
	Percent Change	-20	-32	-30
Burglary	1999	47,135	11,211	16,924
	2008	40,132	8,413	12,598
	Percent Change	-15	-25	-26
Larceny - Theft	1999	161,363	25,428	39,355
	2008	138,644	19,330	31,499
	Percent Change	-14	-24	-20
Motor Vehicle Theft	1999	35,395	13,523	18,469
	2008	20,120	8,786	11,064
	Percent Change	-43	-35	-40

Percent Change

- During the ten-year period 1999/2008, the Crime Index in New Jersey has decreased 18 percent. The Crime Index in the "Urban 15" cities decreased 26 percent and the "Major Urban" cities decreased 26 percent.
- Violent crime in the state decreased 16 percent, the 15 urban cities decreased 24 percent and the six major cities decreased 23 percent.
- Nonviolent crime in the state decreased 18 percent, the "Urban 15" decreased 26 percent and the six "Major Urban" decreased 27 percent.

CRIME IN THE CITIES TEN YEAR SUMMARY

COMPARATIVE CRIME INDEX DISTRIBUTION FOR STATE AND URBAN CITIES 1999-2008

	NEW JERSEY	MAJOR URBAN	URBAN 15
CRIME INDEX TOTAL	2,484,859	544,606	813,447
Percent Distribution		21.9	32.7
Violent Crime	311,785	115,397	164,510
Percent Distribution		37.0	52.8
Nonviolent Crime	2,173,074	429,209	648,937
Percent Distribution		19.8	29.9
Murder	3,657	1,886	2,391
Percent Distribution		51.6	65.4
Rape	12,523	3,079	4,403
Percent Distribution		24.6	35.2
Robbery	134,175	56,540	79,042
Percent Distribution		42.1	58.9
Aggravated Assault	161,430	53,892	78,674
Percent Distribution		33.4	48.7
Burglary	421,932	91,989	140,302
Percent Distribution		21.8	33.3
Larceny-Theft	1,448,648	214,945	344,541
Percent Distribution		14.8	23.8
Motor Vehicle Theft	302,494	122,275	164,094
Percent Distribution		40.4	54.2

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 1999 through 2008 accounted for 22 percent of the state’s total crime.
- “Major Urban” centers from 1999 through 2008 accounted for 37 percent of all violent crime and 20 percent of the nonviolent crimes in the entire state.
- The 15 urban municipalities represent 18 percent of the state’s total population.
- “Urban 15” municipalities accounted for 33 percent of New Jersey’s total Crime Index. Violent crime was 53 percent of the state total, while nonviolent crime was 30 percent of the state total during this ten-year period.
- Sixty-five percent of all reported murders 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 1999-2008, the "Urban 15" cities accounted for 41.1 percent of the street crimes in the state.
- Sixty-eight percent of all highway robberies in the state occurred in the "Urban 15" cities during the ten-year period.
- Fifty-five of all motor vehicle thefts during the survey span occurred in these 15 urban municipalities.
- Almost Thirty percent of all purse-snatchings during the survey span were perpetrated in the "Urban 15" cities.
- In 2008, Larceny of Bicycles and Purse-Snatching were at their lowest levels in this ten-year period.
- The accompanying table reflects percent distribution of street crime for the "Urban 15" cities for the years 1999-2008.

STREET CRIME TRENDS "URBAN FIFTEEN" MUNICIPALITIES

STREET CRIME	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	TOTAL	Percent of State Total
Highway Robbery	6,669	6,231	6,504	6,201	6,098	5,761	6,085	5,935	5,142	5,527	60,153	68.1
Purse Snatching	486	499	536	586	530	418	541	374	319	245	4,534	21.7
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	11,295	10,789	10,983	10,762	9,938	9,590	9,214	8,889	9,949	11,287	102,696	31.2
Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts & Accessories	3,871	3,919	4,217	4,030	5,327	4,769	4,639	3,239	3,435	3,396	40,842	40.4
Larceny of Bicycles	1,677	1,464	1,479	1,256	1,083	979	884	856	880	844	11,402	10.1
Motor Vehicle Theft	18,469	18,429	20,022	19,699	18,783	16,862	15,199	13,647	12,083	11,064	164,257	55.0
TOTAL	42,467	41,331	43,741	42,534	41,759	38,379	36,562	32,940	31,808	32,363	383,884	41.1
Percent of State "Street Crime" Total	40.0	41.7	41.8	42.1	42.6	42.7	41.8	39.4	39.1	39.3	41.1	-

"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	2007	79,318	6,413	1,770	4,643	42	67	784	877	1,129	2,353	1,161	410	497
	2008	78,675	6,857	1,791	5,066	54	70	820	847	1,254	2,809	1,003	396	486
Newark City	2007	281,402	13,970	2,489	11,481	105	60	1,127	1,197	1,954	5,124	4,403	1,227	1,623
	2008	280,135	13,489	2,767	10,722	67	52	1,442	1,206	2,031	4,859	3,832	1,317	1,707
Jersey City	2007	241,789	9,338	2,456	6,882	20	47	1,264	1,125	1,505	4,156	1,221	902	1,080
	2008	242,389	9,913	2,315	7,598	26	49	1,268	972	1,875	4,554	1,169	885	1,045
Trenton City	2007	83,923	3,931	1,176	2,755	25	15	597	539	856	1,512	387	360	414
	2008	82,804	3,769	996	2,773	19	23	548	406	732	1,533	508	358	460
Paterson City	2007	148,708	5,858	1,479	4,379	14	26	695	744	1,460	2,007	912	494	578
	2008	146,545	6,022	1,457	4,565	17	23	772	645	1,563	2,025	977	477	563
Elizabeth City	2007	126,179	6,275	945	5,330	16	25	612	292	786	3,187	1,357	349	469
	2008	124,862	6,931	1,126	5,805	13	28	750	335	958	3,550	1,297	348	466
Vineland City	2007	58,271	2,913	335	2,578	5	13	147	170	589	1,898	91	155	191
	2008	58,505	2,854	344	2,510	4	16	136	188	589	1,823	98	155	182
East Orange City	2007	67,247	2,350	529	1,821	8	32	241	248	446	896	479	277	339
	2008	65,952	2,123	474	1,649	6	21	179	268	508	774	367	280	342
Irvington Town	2007	58,024	4,548	1,243	3,305	23	29	616	575	930	1,358	1,017	192	220
	2008	56,920	4,382	1,203	3,179	24	41	574	564	967	1,335	877	191	219
Bayonne City	2007	58,844	1,137	190	947	1	6	84	99	212	632	103	225	265
	2008	57,886	1,206	209	997	0	7	106	96	237	639	121	212	249
Union City	2007	63,930	1,829	407	1,422	1	4	182	220	332	917	173	167	217
	2008	62,715	1,859	341	1,518	1	4	157	179	367	991	160	165	212
Woodbridge Twp.	2007	99,208	3,155	242	2,913	1	14	105	122	439	2,212	262	205	257
	2008	98,450	2,980	209	2,771	1	12	96	100	447	2,162	162	203	252
Toms River Twp.	2007	94,889	2,167	125	2,042	-	14	46	65	327	1,640	75	160	195
	2008	95,148	2,657	111	2,546	2	9	49	51	453	2,037	56	158	213
Clifton City	2007	79,606	2,138	223	1,915	-	5	108	110	389	1,324	202	158	188
	2008	78,573	2,178	200	1,978	5	9	84	102	299	1,484	195	158	188
Passaic City	2007	67,974	2,282	695	1,587	3	3	313	376	395	952	240	189	225
	2008	67,103	2,158	674	1,484	5	3	323	343	318	924	242	194	225
URBAN "15" TOTALS	2007	1,609,312	68,304	14,304	54,000	264	360	6,921	6,759	11,749	30,168	12,083	5,470	6,758
	2008	1,596,662	69,378	14,217	55,161	244	367	7,304	6,302	12,598	31,499	11,064	5,497	6,809