

SECTION VI
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 1989-1998 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

THE "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 1989-1998.

STATE AND URBAN CRIME INDEX OFFENSES

Percent Change 1989/1998

		NEW JERSEY	"MAJOR URBAN"	"URBAN 15"
Population	1989	7,721,077	947,798	1,552,360
	1998	7,993,220	928,249	1,537,582
	Percent Change	4	-2	-1
TOTAL CRIME INDEX	1989	407,197	115,548	156,969
	1998	296,638	67,636	97,950
	Percent Change	-27	-41	-38
Violent Crime	1989	47,050	23,007	28,847
	1998	35,722	14,621	19,580
	Percent Change	-24	-36	-32
Nonviolent Crime	1989	360,147	92,541	128,122
	1998	260,916	53,015	78,370
	Percent Change	-28	-43	-39
Murder	1989	394	219	252
	1998	321	154	186
	Percent Change	-19	-30	-26
Rape	1989	2,449	885	1,188
	1998	1,623	470	654
	Percent Change	-34	-47	-45
Robbery	1989	21,112	11,900	15,049
	1998	15,115	7,183	9,281
	Percent Change	-28	-40	-38
Aggravated Assault	1989	23,095	10,003	12,358
	1998	18,663	6,814	9,459
	Percent Change	-19	-32	-23
Burglary	1989	75,462	21,976	30,273
	1998	54,491	12,588	19,111
	Percent Change	-28	-43	-37
Larceny-Theft	1989	213,646	38,659	57,061
	1998	171,267	27,671	42,047
	Percent Change	-20	-28	-26
Motor Vehicle Theft	1989	71,039	31,906	40,788
	1998	35,158	12,756	17,212
	Percent Change	-51	-60	-58

Percent Change

- During the ten-year period 1989/1998, the Crime Index in New Jersey has decreased 27 percent, while the "Urban 15" cities decreased 38 percent and the six major urban cities decreased 41 percent.
- Violent crime in the state decreased 24 percent, the 15 urban cities decreased 32 percent and the six major cities decreased 36 percent.
- Nonviolent crime in the state decreased 28 percent, the "Urban 15" decreased 39 percent, and the six major cities decreased 43 percent.

CRIME IN THE CITIES TEN YEAR SUMMARY

COMPARATIVE CRIME INDEX DISTRIBUTION FOR STATE AND URBAN CITIES 50,000 Population and Over 1989-1998

	NEW JERSEY	URBAN CITIES Over 80,000 Population (Major Urban)	URBAN CITIES Over 50,000 Population (Urban 15)
CRIME INDEX TOTAL	3,673,093	963,983	1,346,077
Percent Distribution		26.2	36.6
Violent Crime	458,038	213,043	272,228
Percent Distribution		46.5	59.4
Nonviolent Crime	3,215,055	750,940	1,073,849
Percent Distribution		23.4	33.4
Murder	3,848	1,998	2,391
Percent Distribution		51.9	62.2
Rape	20,842	6,675	9,185
Percent Distribution		32.0	44.1
Robbery	208,732	111,824	141,810
Percent Distribution		53.6	67.9
Aggravated Assault	224,616	92,546	118,842
Percent Distribution		41.2	52.9
Burglary	644,480	192,377	268,770
Percent Distribution		29.9	41.7
Larceny-Theft	2,010,203	329,913	503,757
Percent Distribution		16.4	25.1
Motor Vehicle Theft	560,372	228,650	301,322
Percent Distribution		40.8	53.8

Distribution:

- Six major urban centers—Camden, Newark, Jersey City, Trenton, Paterson and Elizabeth—collectively represent 12 percent of New Jersey's total population. These same urban centers, during the period 1989 through 1998, accounted for 26 percent of the state's total crime.
- Major Urban centers from 1989 through 1998 accounted for 47 percent of all violent crime and 23 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 37 percent of New Jersey's total Crime Index. Violent crime was 59 percent of the state total, while nonviolent crime was 33 percent of the state total during this ten-year period.
- Nearly seven out of every 10 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 1989-1998, the "Urban 15" cities accounted for 42 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.
- Forty-eight percent of all purse-snatchings were perpetrated in the "Urban 15" cities.
- The street crime categories of highway robbery, purse-snatching, larceny of motor vehicle parts and accessories, and motor vehicle theft were at their lowest levels during 1998, in this ten-year period.

The accompanying table reflects percent distribution of street crime for the "Urban 15" cities for the years 1989-1998.

STREET CRIME TRENDS URBAN FIFTEEN MUNICIPALITIES

STREET CRIME	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	TOTAL	Percent of State Total
Highway Robbery	12,265	13,691	12,674	12,386	12,887	12,781	12,380	9,647	8,280	7,093	114,084	76.3
Purse Snatching	2,130	1,991	1,919	1,832	1,746	1,377	1,116	826	658	600	14,195	48.4
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	15,082	13,864	12,316	11,460	10,744	12,173	14,381	12,977	12,387	12,107	127,491	29.4
Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts & Accessories	15,240	13,846	11,770	10,894	9,511	8,118	7,818	6,831	6,114	4,777	94,919	39.4
Larceny of Bicycles	1,623	1,737	1,949	1,740	1,963	2,169	2,164	1,805	1,928	1,768	18,846	11.0
Motor Vehicle Theft	40,788	40,415	40,327	35,929	29,667	26,824	26,263	23,398	20,499	17,212	301,322	53.8
TOTAL	87,128	85,544	80,955	74,241	66,518	63,442	64,122	55,484	49,866	43,557	670,857	42.3
Percent of State "Street Crime" Total	46.1	44.6	43.0	43.5	42.2	41.8	41.4	39.6	39.2	38.5	42.3	-

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
"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
3	1997	84,844	9,136	2,412	6,724	42	96	1,110	1,164	2,452	2,780	1,492	365	432
4	1998	84,844	8,510	2,105	6,405	30	91	971	1,013	1,687	3,215	1,503	386	449
5	1997	268,510	29,713	7,346	22,367	58	178	3,489	3,621	4,605	11,867	5,895	1,418	1,607
6	1998	268,510	24,519	5,770	18,749	64	174	2,916	2,616	3,463	10,135	5,151	1,422	1,609
7	1997	229,039	15,808	3,786	12,022	26	109	1,668	1,983	3,170	5,775	3,077	858	999
8	1998	229,039	13,389	3,319	10,070	20	74	1,545	1,680	2,864	5,063	2,143	866	1,019
9	1997	85,437	6,254	1,239	5,015	12	57	588	582	1,252	2,641	1,122	369	422
10	1998	85,437	6,161	1,134	5,027	15	58	537	524	1,198	2,813	1,016	374	429
11	1997	150,270	7,234	1,465	5,769	14	54	694	703	1,998	2,639	1,132	382	458
12	1998	150,270	6,591	1,279	5,312	17	39	573	650	1,677	2,459	1,176	401	483
13	1997	110,149	9,829	1,187	8,642	7	39	798	343	2,167	4,587	1,888	354	435
14	1998	110,149	8,466	1,014	7,452	8	34	641	331	1,699	3,986	1,767	352	441
15	1997	55,906	3,231	414	2,817	6	29	141	238	673	1,952	192	129	145
16	1998	55,906	3,411	390	3,021	1	21	153	215	670	2,154	197	128	146
17	1997	70,534	5,756	1,142	4,614	16	41	571	514	825	2,254	1,535	290	332
18	1998	70,534	5,393	1,201	4,192	11	46	605	539	1,058	2,011	1,123	278	316
19	1997	58,434	6,233	1,568	4,665	7	63	726	772	1,682	1,577	1,406	179	204
20	1998	58,434	5,659	1,559	4,100	6	45	692	816	1,573	1,485	1,042	183	209
21	1997	60,499	1,653	187	1,466	3	8	67	109	293	883	290	196	222
22	1998	60,499	1,344	217	1,127	3	7	70	137	200	750	177	202	233
23	1997	57,126	2,754	357	2,397	2	18	187	150	707	1,149	541	178	190
24	1998	57,126	2,255	234	2,021	4	3	120	107	583	997	441	180	190
25	1997	94,714	3,918	383	3,535	-	22	95	266	562	2,450	523	200	240
26	1998	94,714	3,584	399	3,185	3	22	91	283	461	2,254	470	197	240
27	1997	83,776	3,512	220	3,292	-	10	69	141	658	2,501	133	134	167
28	1998	83,776	2,957	162	2,795	-	7	37	118	574	2,086	135	134	171
29	1997	71,305	2,659	169	2,490	1	4	92	72	480	1,444	566	138	161
30	1998	71,305	2,564	165	2,399	2	11	65	87	623	1,405	371	149	174
31	1997	57,039	4,033	763	3,270	4	20	389	350	814	1,749	707	144	164
32	1998	57,039	3,147	632	2,515	2	22	265	343	781	1,234	500	149	164
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34	1997	1,537,582	111,723	22,638	89,085	198	748	10,684	11,008	22,338	46,248	20,499	5,334	6,178
35	1998	1,537,582	97,950	19,580	78,370	186	654	9,281	9,459	19,111	42,047	17,212	5,401	6,273
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