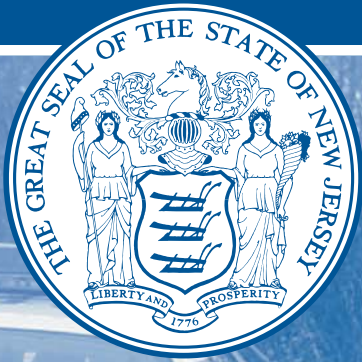


2009



# CARJACKING

IN NEW JERSEY

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2009



New Jersey State Police  
Uniform Crime Reporting Unit

# SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CARJACKING OFFENSE REPORT 2009

**Honorable Paula T. Dow**

Attorney General  
State of New Jersey

**Colonel Joseph R. Fuentes**

Superintendent  
New Jersey State Police

**Major James S. Beshada**

Commanding Officer  
Identification and Information Technology Section  
New Jersey State Police

**Chief Eric Mason**

Cranford Township Police Department  
President  
New Jersey Association of Chiefs of Police

Prepared by:

State of New Jersey  
Department of Law and Public Safety  
Division of State Police  
Uniform Crime Reporting Unit



## State of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
P.O. Box 080  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0080

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

PAULA T. DOW  
*Attorney General*

The Honorable Chris Christie  
Governor of the State of New Jersey

Honorable Members of the Senate and  
Assembly of the State of New Jersey

Dear Governor and Members of the Legislature:

I hereby submit the 2009 statewide report on carjacking offenses in New Jersey. The report is based on carjackings reported by state, county, and municipal law enforcement agencies to the New Jersey State Police Uniform Crime Reporting Unit for the year 2009.

It would have been impossible to complete this report without the cooperation of New Jersey's law enforcement family. It is with appreciation to these dedicated public servants and in the interest of the victims of these heinous acts, that this report is submitted.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paula T. Dow".

Paula T. Dow  
Attorney General of New Jersey





State of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE  
POST OFFICE BOX 7068  
WEST TRENTON NJ 08628-0068  
(609) 882-2000

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

PAULA T. DOW  
*Attorney General*

COLONEL JOSEPH R. FUENTES  
*Superintendent*

The Honorable Paula T. Dow  
Attorney General  
State of New Jersey  
Hughes Justice Complex  
Trenton, New Jersey

Dear Attorney General Dow:

As a result of the carjacking data collection programs mandated by Attorney General Executive Directive 1993-1, the seventeenth annual report on carjacking in New Jersey is submitted. This report outlines the extent, type, and geographic location of carjacking activity collected from state, county, and municipal law enforcement agencies for the year 2009. The report contains comparisons and analyses between 2008 and 2009.

It is through the cooperation of all New Jersey's law enforcement agencies that this report is being forwarded for your information and presentation to the Governor and members of the Legislature.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph R. Fuentes".

Joseph R. Fuentes  
Colonel  
Superintendent



"An Internationally Accredited Agency"

New Jersey Is An Equal Opportunity Employer  
Printed on Recycled Paper and Recyclable



## INTRODUCTION

In response to the growing number of reported carjacking incidents, four regional task forces, each composed of personnel from municipal police departments, county prosecutors' offices, county sheriffs' offices, the Division of State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, were formed throughout New Jersey to assist law enforcement agencies with CARJACKING investigations.

With the assistance of these four task forces, the New Jersey State Police developed a mandatory statewide carjacking data collection program. Accessibility to this program is provided through the New Jersey Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NJLETS). The database for this program is located at the State Police Division Headquarters, Identification and Information Technology Section, Uniform Crime Reporting Unit, West Trenton, New Jersey.

This carjacking data collection program identifies: geographic problem areas; profiles of carjacking locations; descriptions of vehicles being carjacked; age, sex, and race of victims and offenders; types of weapons used; additional crimes committed; and estimates regarding the value of vehicles stolen.

The Attorney General has mandated, through Executive Directive 1993-1, that every law enforcement agency notify the Uniform Crime Reporting Unit of all reported carjacking incidents, whether actual or attempted. Notification must be done through NJLETS, as soon as possible, not to exceed more than twenty-four hours from the time the incident is reported.

# CARJACKING

## Definition

Carjacking, a specific type of robbery, is defined under 2C:15-2(a) as the unlawful taking of a motor vehicle in the course of which the perpetrator:

- (1) inflicts bodily injury or uses force upon an occupant or person in possession or control of a motor vehicle;
- (2) threatens an occupant or person in control with, or purposely or knowingly puts an occupant or person in control of the motor vehicle in fear of, immediate bodily injury;
- (3) commits or threatens immediately to commit any crime of the first or second degree; or
- (4) operates or causes said vehicle to be operated with the person who was in possession or control or was an occupant of the motor vehicle at the time of the taking remaining in the vehicle.

Questions have been raised whether an infant, alone in a motor vehicle, can actually be the victim of a carjacking, since no personal confrontation exists. While most carjackings do involve personal confrontation between perpetrator and victim, personal confrontation is not a necessary element of the crime. Under N.J.S.A. 2C:15-2(a)(4), an infant or sleeping child who is an occupant of the motor vehicle at the time of the unlawful taking is a victim of carjacking.

# CARJACKING HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of carjacking offense statistics for 2009 are listed below:

- There were 240 carjacking offenses reported to the police; 4 were determined to be unfounded, leaving a total of 236 carjackings, involving 268 victims, including passengers.
- Carjackings increased 1% when comparing 2009 to 2008.
- Twenty-six of the 566 municipalities in New Jersey reported carjackings.
- Firearms were involved in 67% (157) of all carjackings. One percent (2) of the firearms used were assault firearms. Shootings were involved in 2 percent (4) of all carjackings.
- New Jersey registered vehicles represented 84% (198) of all carjackings. Honda and Nissan, with 19% (46), was the most frequently carjacked vehicle make, while the most frequently targeted vehicle year was 2000 with 11% (27).
- Sixty-four percent (151) of all carjacked vehicles were recovered. The average value of a carjacked motor vehicle was \$10,099.
- Carjackings occurred in a residential area 70% (166) of the time. The hours of darkness (6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.) accounted for 68% (160) of all carjackings.
- Seventeen percent (40) of all carjackings were witnessed.
- The most frequent victim age group was 20-24, which accounted for 22% (60) of the victim total (268). Seventy-five percent (202) of all victims were male. Fifty-one percent (137) of all victims were black.
- The total number of offenders was 452. Insufficient analysis information was supplied on 36% (164) of the offenders. Of all known offenders (288), 20-24 was the most frequent offender age group and accounted for 61% (177). Ninety-eight percent (283) of all known offenders were male. Eighty-six percent (248) of all known offenders were black.
- Juveniles accounted for 6% (1) of the total arrests for carjacking (17), while adults accounted for 94% (16).
- July had the highest number of offenses with 33, accounting for 14% of all carjacking offenses.
- Sunday recorded the highest number of offenses, accounting for 19% (44) of all carjackings.
- Region I, which consists of Essex, Hudson, and Union counties, accounted for 73% (173) of all carjackings.
- No murders were reported in 2009 as the result of carjacking.
- Five percent (11) of all carjackings (236) were cleared by arrest.

# CARJACKING OFFENSES

## COUNTY AND STATE TOTALS — 2008/2009

County	Year	Number of Offenses	Estimated Vehicle Value	Actual Number of Vehicles Recovered	Offenses Cleared by Arrest	Number of Persons Arrested
Atlantic	2008	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>	-	-	-
Bergen	2008	2	\$80,000	-	1	1
	<b>2009</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	-	-	-
Burlington	2008	3	\$67,100	2	-	-
	<b>2009</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Camden	2008	36	\$451,300	5	2	3
	<b>2009</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>\$221,500</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Cape May	2008	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>2009</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Cumberland	2008	6	\$65,500	2	1	1
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$11,000</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Essex	2008	121	\$1,220,001	109	7	13
	<b>2009</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>\$1,336,000</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>
Gloucester	2008	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>2009</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Hudson	2008	23	\$218,504	21	1	2
	<b>2009</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>\$255,531</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Hunterdon	2008	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>2009</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Mercer	2008	9	\$55,802	2	-	-
	<b>2009</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>\$73,001</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

# CARJACKING OFFENSES

## COUNTY AND STATE TOTALS — 2008/2009

County	Year	Number of Offenses	Estimated Vehicle Value	Actual Number of Vehicles Recovered	Offenses Cleared by Arrest	Number of Persons Arrested
Middlesex	2008	5	\$45,800	1	-	-
	<b>2009</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>\$166,000</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Monmouth	2008	2	\$21,500	2	2	2
	<b>2009</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	-	-	-
Morris	2008	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>2009</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>1</b>	-	-
Ocean	2008	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>2009</b>	-	-	-	-	-
Passaic	2008	7	\$148,000	6	-	-
	<b>2009</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>\$123,000</b>	<b>4</b>	-	-
Salem	2008	1	\$8,000	1	1	1
	<b>2009</b>	-	-	-	-	-
Somerset	2008	2	\$2,000	1	-	-
	<b>2009</b>	-	-	-	-	-
Sussex	2008	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>2009</b>	-	-	-	-	-
Union	2008	15	\$210,000	4	1	2
	<b>2009</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>\$141,300</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Warren	2008	1	\$13,000	1	-	-
	<b>2009</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	2008	233	\$2,606,507	157	16	25
	<b>2009</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>\$2,383,332</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>

# CARJACKING VICTIMS BY AGE, SEX AND RACE 2009

Age	Number	Percent Distribution	Sex		Race			
			Male	Female	White	Black	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander
0-9	1	*	1	-	1	-	-	-
10-14	3	1	1	2	3	-	-	-
15-19	14	5	11	3	8	6	-	-
20-24	60	22	46	14	23	35	2	-
25-29	50	19	36	14	18	30	-	2
30-34	42	16	35	7	18	23	-	1
35-39	29	11	22	7	16	10	-	3
40-44	23	9	16	7	11	12	-	-
45-49	16	6	12	4	7	9	-	-
50-54	7	3	6	1	4	3	-	-
55-59	10	4	6	4	6	4	-	-
60-64	7	3	5	2	3	3	-	1
65-69	2	1	2	-	-	2	-	-
70-74	1	*	1	-	1	-	-	-
75 and over	3	1	2	1	3	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL FOR NEW JERSEY</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>PERCENT DISTRIBUTION</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>

Percent distribution may not add to 100 due to rounding.

\*Percent distribution less than one-half of one percent.

# CARJACKING OFFENDERS BY AGE, SEX AND RACE 2009

Age	Number	Percent Distribution	Sex		Race			
			Male	Female	White	Black	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander
0-9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-19	47	16	43	4	2	44	-	1
20-24	177	61	176	1	28	149	-	-
25-29	36	13	36	-	6	30	-	-
30-34	20	7	20	-	1	19	-	-
35-39	5	2	5	-	1	4	-	-
40-44	1	*	1	-	-	1	-	-
45-49	1	*	1	-	1	-	-	-
50-54	1	*	1	-	-	1	-	-
55-99	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
<b>TOTAL FOR NEW JERSEY</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PERCENT DISTRIBUTION</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>*</b>

Information noted above is based on victim's account of incident and investigation.

Suspect and arrested offenders are combined.

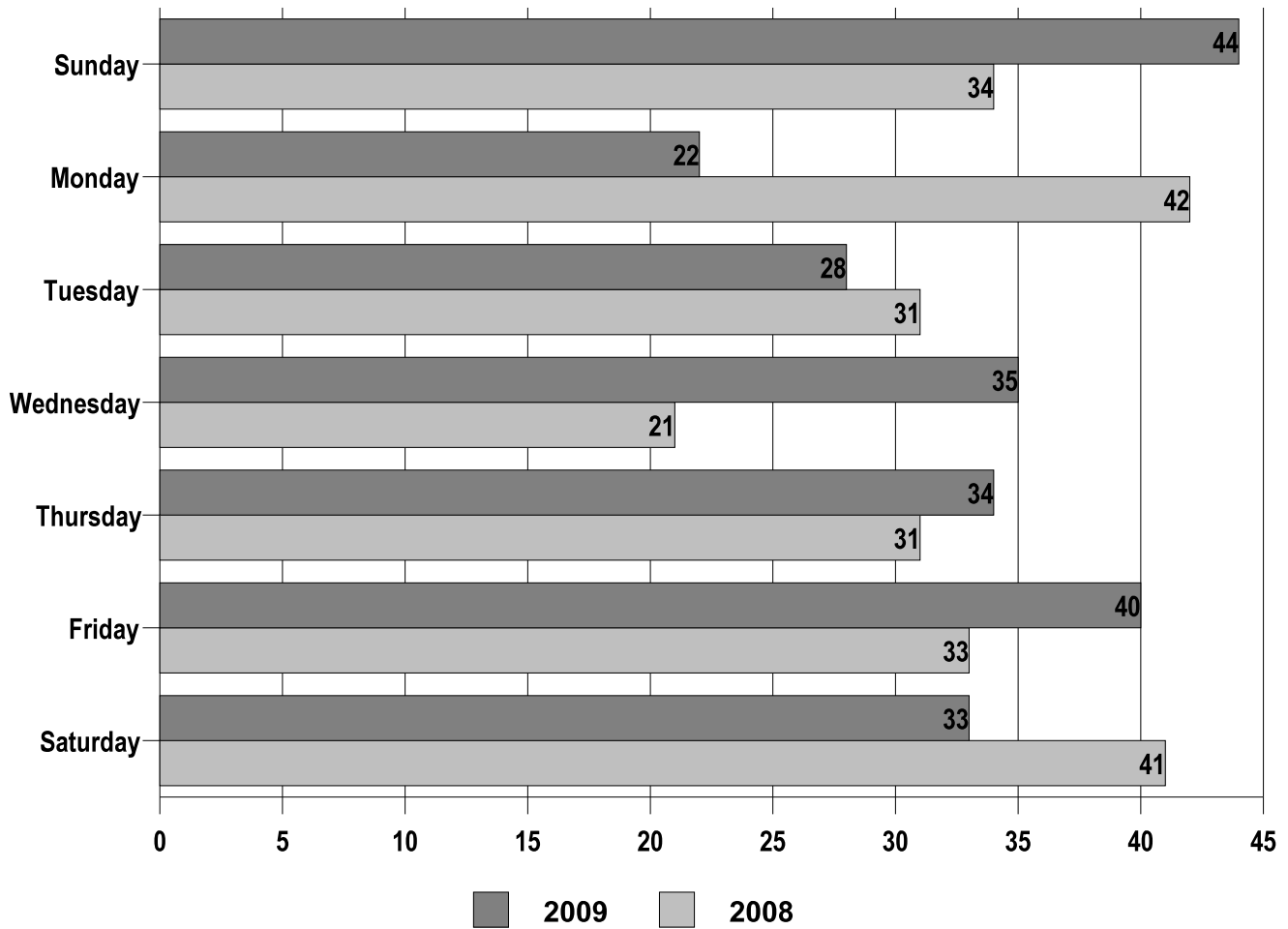
Percent distribution may not add to 100 due to rounding.

‡ Information supplied on 164 unknown suspects was inconsistent; therefore, accurate data breakdowns are not available.

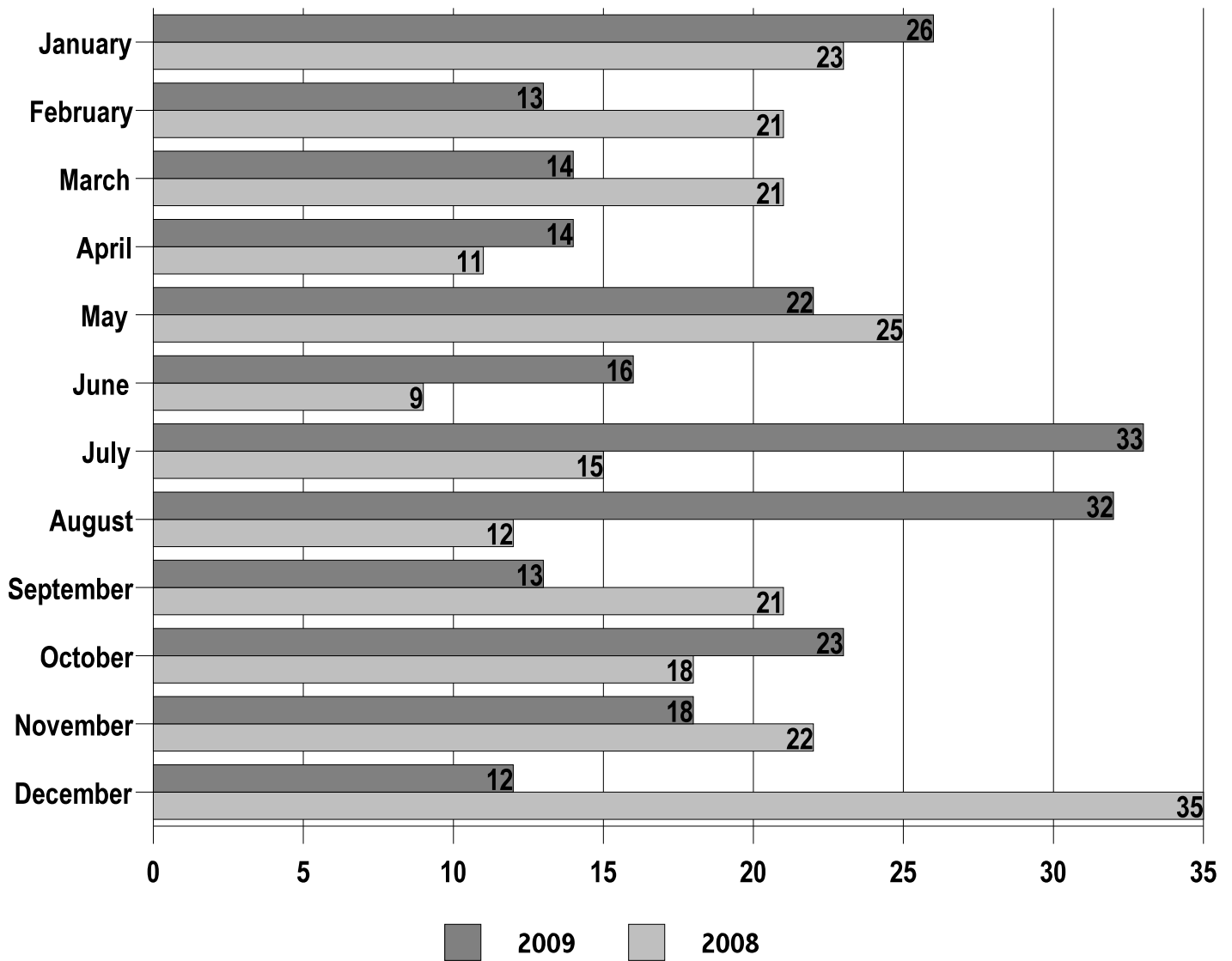
\* Percent distribution less than one-half of one percent.

# CARJACKING BY DAY OF WEEK

## 2008/2009



# CARJACKING BY MONTH 2008/2009



# CARJACKING OFFENSES BY TIME AND LOCATION 2009

Time	Total	LOCATIONS						
		Residential Area	Highway	Intersection	Business Strip	Shopping Center*	Parking Lot	Other
<b>Midnight to 2 a.m.</b>	<b>27</b>	18	1	7	-	-	1	-
<b>2:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m.</b>	<b>30</b>	23	3	2	1	-	1	-
<b>4:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.</b>	<b>21</b>	13	-	6	1	-	1	-
<b>6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>20</b>	14	3	2	-	-	-	1
<b>8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>4</b>	3	-	-	-	-	1	-
<b>10:00 a.m. to Noon</b>	<b>5</b>	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Noon to 2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>19</b>	14	-	2	3	-	-	-
<b>2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>6</b>	4	-	1	1	-	-	-
<b>4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>22</b>	17	-	1	1	1	1	1
<b>6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>21</b>	14	2	4	-	1	-	-
<b>8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.</b>	<b>21</b>	14	-	4	1	1	1	-
<b>10:00 p.m. to Midnight</b>	<b>40</b>	27	4	5	1	-	3	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>

\* Includes major malls.

# COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF COUNTY & STATE PERCENTAGES 2008/2009

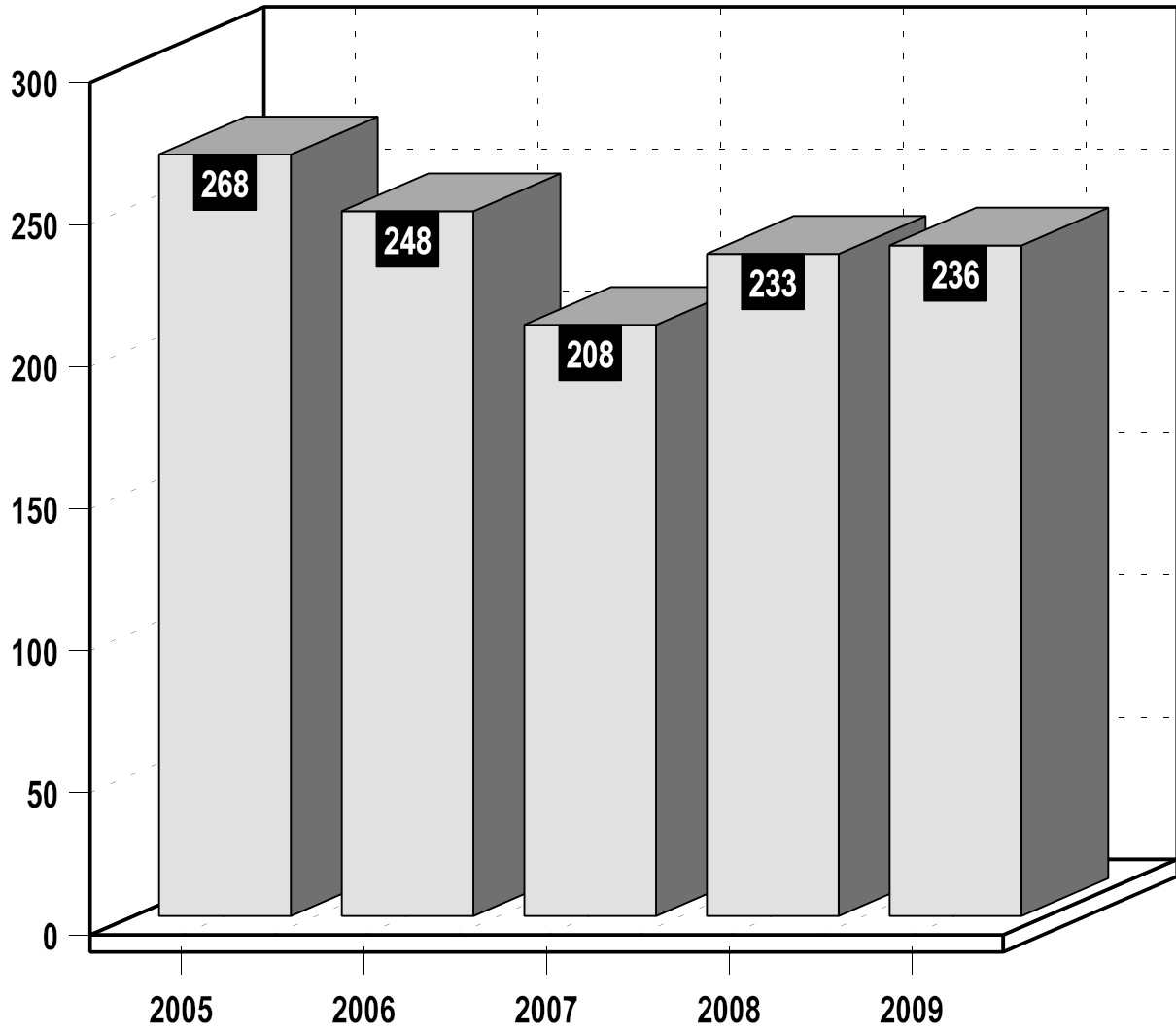
County	2008		2009	
	Number of Offenses	Percent of State Total	Number of Offenses	Percent of State Total
Atlantic	-	0	2	1
Bergen	2	1	1	*
Burlington	3	1	-	0
Camden	36	15	28	12
Cape May	-	0	-	0
Cumberland	6	3	2	1
Essex	121	52	144	61
Gloucester	-	0	-	0
Hudson	23	10	16	7
Hunterdon	-	0	-	0
Mercer	9	4	11	5
Middlesex	5	2	7	3
Monmouth	2	1	1	*
Morris	-	0	1	*
Ocean	-	0	-	0
Passaic	7	3	10	4
Salem	1	*	-	0
Somerset	2	1	-	0
Sussex	-	0	-	0
Union	15	6	13	6
Warren	1	*	-	0
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Less than one-half of one percent.  
Percent distribution may not equal 100 due to rounding.

# CARJACKING

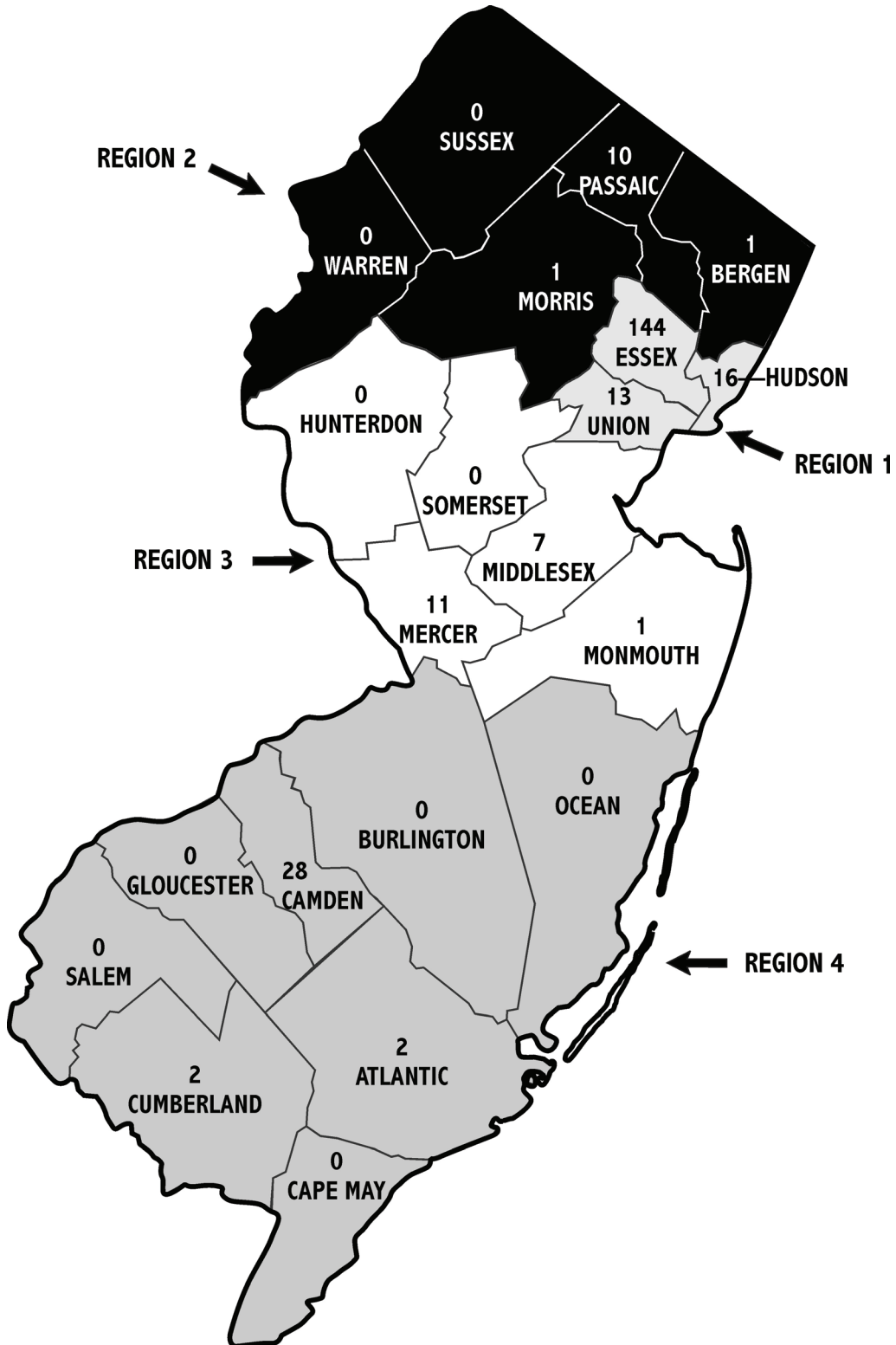
## FIVE YEAR COMPARISON

### 2005 - 2009



# STATE REGIONS DEFINED

For the purpose of coordinating and gathering carjacking information, the state has been divided into four regions. A visual breakdown of the regions is depicted below. In addition, each county's total carjackings for the year are presented.



# CARJACKING OFFENSES

## PERCENT OF STATE TOTAL BY REGION AND LOCATION

### 2009

	Total	Residential Area	Highway	Intersection	Business Strip	Shopping Center <sup>☆</sup>	Parking Lot	Other
<b>State of New Jersey</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Region I</b>	<b>173</b>	146	7	6	6	1	5	2
<b>Percent of State Total</b>	<b>73</b>	88	54	18	67	33	56	100
<b>Region II</b>	<b>12</b>	5	-	5	1	-	1	-
<b>Percent of State Total</b>	<b>5</b>	3	0	15	11	0	11	0
<b>Region III</b>	<b>19</b>	2	5	9	-	1	2	-
<b>Percent of State Total</b>	<b>8</b>	1	38	26	0	33	22	0
<b>Region IV</b>	<b>32</b>	13	1	14	2	1	1	-
<b>Percent of State Total</b>	<b>14</b>	8	8	41	22	33	11	0

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

☆ Includes major malls.

# CARJACKING OFFENSES

## PERCENT OF STATE TOTAL BY REGION & WEAPON TYPE

### 2009

	Total	Handgun	Rifle	Shotgun	Knife	Other Dangerous Weapon	Physical Force
<b>State of New Jersey</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Region I</b>	<b>173</b>	113	-	10	3	4	43
<b>Percent of State Total</b>	<b>73</b>	77	0	100	60	57	64
<b>Region II</b>	<b>12</b>	8	-	-	-	1	3
<b>Percent of State Total</b>	<b>5</b>	5	0	0	0	14	4
<b>Region III</b>	<b>19</b>	10	-	-	1	1	7
<b>Percent of State Total</b>	<b>8</b>	7	0	0	20	14	10
<b>Region IV</b>	<b>32</b>	16	-	-	1	1	14
<b>Percent of State Total</b>	<b>14</b>	11	0	0	20	14	21

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

# CARJACKING OFFENSES

## PERCENT DISTRIBUTION WITHIN REGION BY LOCATION

### 2009

	Total	Residential Area	Highway	Intersection	Business Strip	Shopping Center <sup>☆</sup>	Parking Lot	Other
<b>State of New Jersey</b>	<b>236</b>	166	13	34	9	3	9	2
<b>Percent Distribution</b>		70	6	14	4	1	4	1
<b>Region I</b>	<b>173</b>	146	7	6	6	1	5	2
<b>Percent Distribution</b>		84	4	3	3	1	3	1
<b>Region II</b>	<b>12</b>	5	-	5	1	-	1	-
<b>Percent Distribution</b>		42	0	42	8	0	8	0
<b>Region III</b>	<b>19</b>	2	5	9	-	1	2	-
<b>Percent Distribution</b>		11	26	47	0	5	11	0
<b>Region IV</b>	<b>32</b>	13	1	14	2	1	1	-
<b>Percent Distribution</b>		41	3	44	6	3	3	0

Percent distribution may not add to 100 due to rounding.

☆ Includes major malls.

# CARJACKING OFFENSES

## PERCENT DISTRIBUTION WITHIN REGION BY WEAPON TYPE

### 2009

	Total	Handgun	Rifle	Shotgun	Knife	Other Dangerous Weapon	Physical Force
<b>State of New Jersey</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Percent Distribution</b>		62	0	4	2	3	28
<b>Region I</b>	<b>173</b>	113	-	10	3	4	43
<b>Percent Distribution</b>		65	0	6	2	2	25
<b>Region II</b>	<b>12</b>	8	-	-	-	1	3
<b>Percent Distribution</b>		67	0	0	0	8	25
<b>Region III</b>	<b>19</b>	10	-	-	1	1	7
<b>Percent Distribution</b>		53	0	0	5	5	37
<b>Region IV</b>	<b>32</b>	16	-	-	1	1	14
<b>Percent Distribution</b>		50	0	0	3	3	44

Percent distribution may not add to 100 due to rounding.  
 \* Less than one-half of one percent.

# GLOSSARY OF CARJACKING LOCATION TYPES

<b>BUSINESS STRIP</b>	Any retail business area or driveway, other than a major mall or shopping center.
<b>INTERSECTION</b>	Location where two or more roadways connect.
<b>MAJOR MALL</b>	An enclosed self-contained retail shopping area that provides customer parking within its architectural design and contains at least one major chain store.
<b>OTHER PARKING LOT</b>	Any parking lot other than major mall, shopping center, or residential parking lots.
<b>RESIDENTIAL AREA</b>	Any residential area, including driveways or residential parking lots.
<b>SHOPPING CENTER</b>	A group of stores within a specific boundary that provides customer parking within its architectural design.
<b>HIGHWAY</b>	Locations not accounted for in the first six categories. Include areas such as public roads, streets, bridges, interstates, county roads, etc.
<b>OTHER</b>	All other locations if not listed above.