

2003

CARJACKING

OFFENSE REPORT

For the year ending December 31, 2003

New Jersey State Police
Uniform Crime Reporting Unit



ELEVENTH ANNUAL CARJACKING OFFENSE REPORT 2003

Honorable Peter C. Harvey

Attorney General
State of New Jersey

Colonel Joseph R. Fuentes

Superintendent
New Jersey State Police

Major Gayle M. Cameron

Commanding Officer
Identification and Information Technology Section
New Jersey State Police

Chief Michael Mastronardy

Dover 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

JAMES E. MCGREEVEY
Governor

PETER C. HARVEY
Attorney General

*The Honorable James E. McGreevey
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 2003 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 2003.

It would not have been possible 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,


*Peter C. Harvey
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

JAMES E. MCGREEVEY
Governor

PETER C. HARVEY
Attorney General

COLONEL JOSEPH R. FUENTES
Superintendent

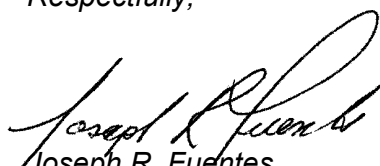
Honorable Peter C. Harvey
Attorney General
State of New Jersey
Hughes Justice Complex
Trenton, New Jersey

Dear Attorney General Harvey:

As a result of the carjacking data collection programs mandated by Attorney General's Executive Directive 1993-1, the eleventh 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. The report contains comparisons and analyses between 2002 and 2003.

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,


Joseph R. Fuentes
Colonel
Superintendent

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 CARIACKING 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 2003 are listed below:

- There were 407 carjacking offenses reported to the police; 8 were determined to be unfounded, leaving a total of 399 carjackings, involving 459 victims, including passengers.
- Carjackings decreased 8% when comparing 2003 to 2002.
- Sixty-two of the 566 municipalities in New Jersey reported carjackings.
- Firearms were involved in 56% (223) of all carjackings. Fifteen percent (34) of the firearms used were assault firearms. Shootings were involved in 3 percent (11) of all carjackings.
- New Jersey registered vehicles represented 90% (358) of all carjackings. Ford, with 10% (40), was the most frequently carjacked vehicle make, while 2000, with 8% (31), was the most frequently targeted vehicle year.
- Fifty-seven percent (228) of all carjacked vehicles were recovered. The average value of a carjacked motor vehicle was \$10,412.
- Carjackings occurred in a residential area 47% (186) of the time. The hours of darkness (6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.) accounted for 68% (270) of all carjackings.
- Twenty percent (80) of all carjackings were witnessed.
- The most frequent victim age group was 20-24, which accounted for 20% (91) of the victim total (459). Sixty-nine percent (316) of all victims were male. Forty-eight percent (221) of all victims were white.
- The total number of offenders was 712. Insufficient analysis information was supplied on 23% (164) of the offenders. Of all known offenders (548), 20-24 was the most frequent offender age group and accounted for 46% (252). Ninety-five percent (520) of all known offenders were male. Eighty-four percent (460) of all known offenders were black.
- Juveniles accounted for 26% (15) of the total arrests for carjacking (57), while adults accounted for 74% (42).
- March and November had the highest number of offenses with (42) each, accounting for 21% of all carjacking offenses.
- Monday recorded the highest number of offenses, accounting for 18% (73) of all carjackings.
- Region I, which consists of Essex, Hudson, and Union counties, accounted for 75% (299) of all carjackings.
- One murder was reported in 2003 as the result of carjacking.
- Eight percent (30) of all carjackings (399) were cleared by arrest.

CARJACKING OFFENSES

COUNTY AND STATE TOTALS—2002/2003

County	Year	Number of Offenses	Estimated Vehicle Value	Actual Number of Vehicles Recovered	Offenses Cleared by Arrest	Number of Persons Arrested
Atlantic	2002	6	\$67,000	6	5	6
	2003	1	\$3,000	-	-	-
Bergen	2002	10	\$259,500	4	4	4
	2003	5	\$90,100	2	3	3
Burlington	2002	5	\$69,500	2	2	2
	2003	3	\$43,000	1	1	1
Camden	2002	44	\$372,100	8	3	4
	2003	32	\$245,900	7	1	2
Cape May	2002	-	-	-	-	-
	2003	-	-	-	-	-
Cumberland	2002	5	\$32,000	3	2	2
	2003	5	\$16,800	3	1	2
Essex	2002	204	\$2,448,700	137	9	18
	2003	235	\$2,451,319	158	15	28
Gloucester	2002	9	\$84,200	5	1	2
	2003	3	\$26,000	2	-	-
Hudson	2002	33	\$287,800	13	3	3
	2003	26	\$180,200	14	-	-
Hunterdon	2002	-	-	-	-	-
	2003	1	\$5,000	1	1	1
Mercer	2002	21	\$239,200	12	6	7
	2003	9	\$55,200	4	1	-

CARJACKING OFFENSES

COUNTY AND STATE TOTALS—2002/2003

County	Year	Number of Offenses	Estimated Vehicle Value	Actual Number of Vehicles Recovered	Offenses Cleared by Arrest	Number of Persons Arrested
Middlesex	2002	13	\$185,000	5	2	2
	2003	7	\$115,000	3	1	2
Monmouth	2002	2	\$50,289	2	1	2
	2003	5	\$59,001	2	-	-
Morris	2002	2	\$43,150	1	-	-
	2003	1	\$3,000	1	-	-
Ocean	2002	6	\$57,500	2	-	-
	2003	2	\$43,000	-	-	-
Passaic	2002	23	\$270,000	11	3	6
	2003	27	\$362,700	16	3	11
Salem	2002	-	-	-	-	-
	2003	-	-	-	-	-
Somerset	2002	1	\$40,000	-	-	-
	2003	1	\$5,000	-	-	-
Sussex	2002	-	-	-	-	-
	2003	-	-	-	-	-
Union	2002	49	\$642,191	25	5	7
	2003	36	\$450,300	14	3	7
Warren	2002	-	-	-	-	-
	2003	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2002	433	\$5,148,130	236	46	65
	2003	399	\$4,154,520	228	30	57

CARJACKING VICTIMS BY AGE, SEX AND RACE

2003

Age	Number	Percent Distribution	Sex		Race			
			Male	Female	White	Black	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander
0-9	4	1	1	3	1	1	-	2
10-14	2	*	2	-	-	2	-	-
15-19	35	8	29	6	13	22	-	-
20-24	91	20	60	31	33	55	1	2
25-29	64	14	46	18	31	31	-	2
30-34	74	16	50	24	43	27	-	4
35-39	51	11	33	18	27	24	-	-
40-44	40	9	29	11	22	18	-	-
45-49	28	6	21	7	17	9	-	2
50-54	28	6	22	6	14	12	-	2
55-59	17	4	7	10	8	9	-	-
60-64	13	3	5	8	4	6	-	3
65-69	7	2	6	1	5	2	-	-
70-74	1	*	1	-	-	1	-	-
75 and over	4	1	4	-	3	1	-	-
TOTAL FOR NEW JERSEY	459	-	316	143	221	220	1	17
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION	-	-	69	31	48	48	*	4

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

2003

Age	Number	Percent Distribution	Sex		Race			
			Male	Female	White	Black	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander
0-9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-14	1	*	1	-	-	1	-	-
15-19	97	18	94	3	16	81	-	-
20-24	252	46	240	12	31	221	-	-
25-29	117	21	112	5	26	91	-	-
30-34	59	11	54	5	8	50	-	1
35-39	16	3	14	2	1	15	-	-
40-44	6	1	5	1	5	1	-	-
45-49	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-
50-54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
TOTAL FOR NEW JERSEY	548	-	520	28	87	460	-	1
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION	-	-	95	5	16	84	-	*

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

Suspect and arrested offenders are combined.

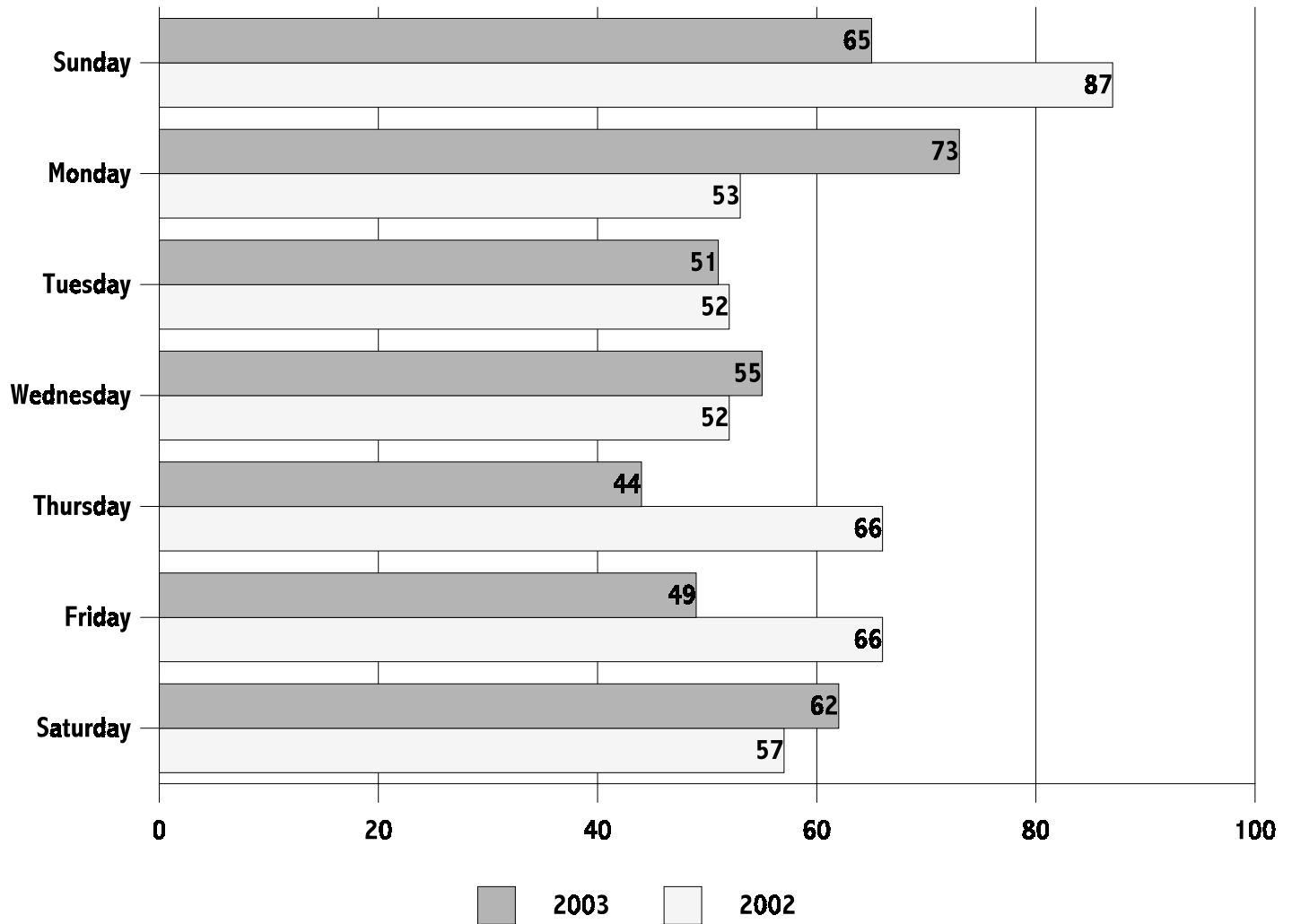
Percent distribution may not add to 100 due to rounding.

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

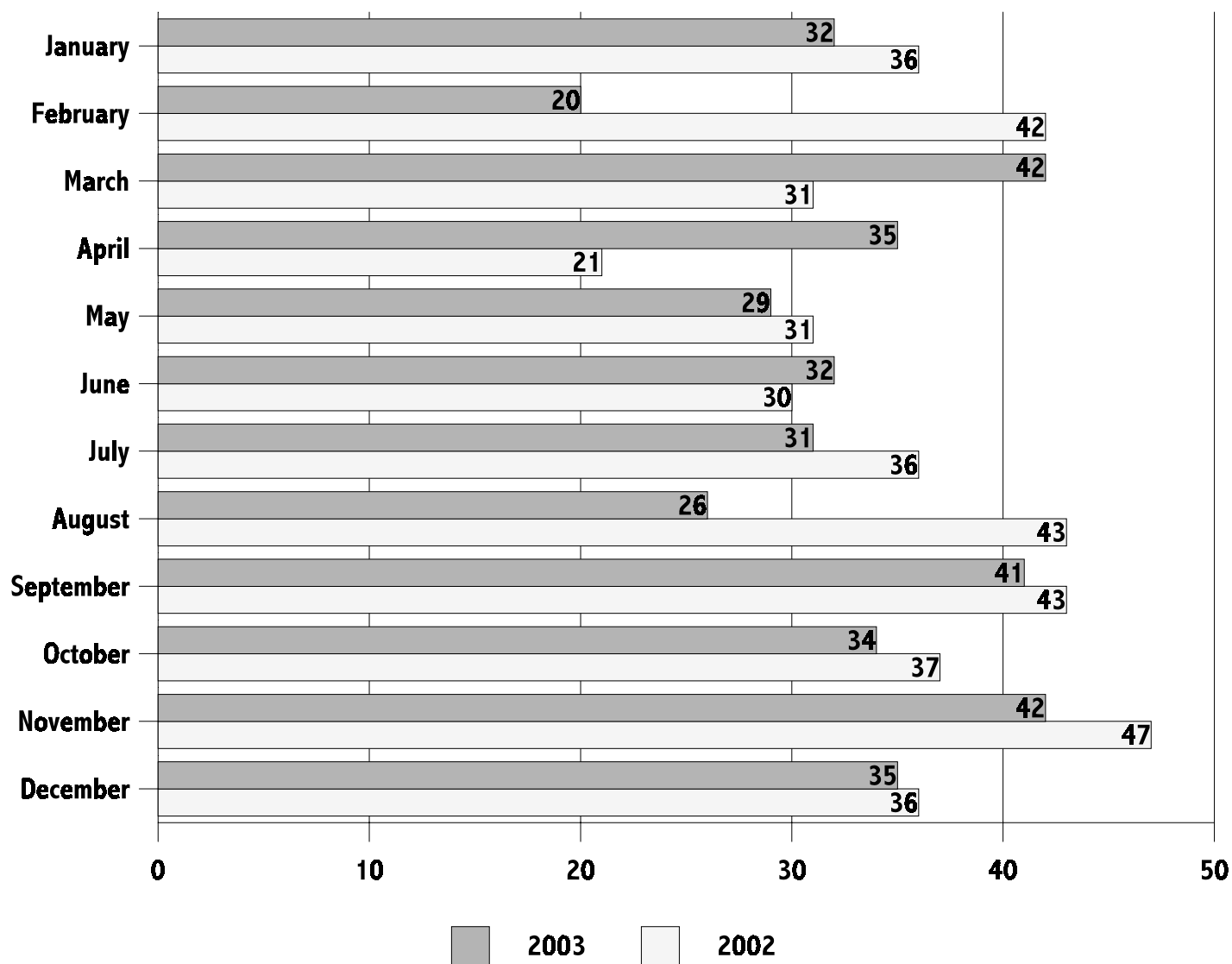
‡ Information supplied on 164 unknown suspects was inconsistent; therefore, accurate data breakdowns are not available.

CARJACKING BY DAY OF WEEK

2002/2003



CARJACKING BY MONTH 2002/2003



CARJACKING OFFENSES BY TIME AND LOCATION

2003

Time	Total	LOCATIONS						
		Residential Area	Highway	Intersection	Business Strip	Shopping Center*	Parking Lot	Other
Midnight to 2 a.m.	57	31	9	9	7	-	1	-
2:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m.	41	17	3	13	3	-	4	1
4:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.	26	8	8	6	3	-	-	1
6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.	11	9	1	1	-	-	-	-
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	19	7	4	2	4	-	1	1
10:00 a.m. to Noon	21	12	3	2	2	1	1	-
Noon to 2:00 p.m.	24	10	5	2	3	3	1	-
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	27	9	7	6	1	-	2	2
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	27	14	1	2	7	1	1	1
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	37	14	6	7	4	1	3	2
8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	39	17	5	7	4	3	2	1
10:00 p.m. to Midnight	70	38	13	9	5	-	3	2
TOTAL	399	186	65	66	43	9	19	11

* Includes major malls.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF COUNTY & STATE PERCENTAGES 2002/2003

County	2002		2003	
	Number of Offenses	Percent of State Total	Number of Offenses	Percent of State Total
Atlantic	6	1	1	*
Bergen	10	2	5	1
Burlington	5	1	3	1
Camden	44	10	32	8
Cape May	-	0	-	0
Cumberland	5	1	5	1
Essex	204	47	235	59
Gloucester	9	2	3	1
Hudson	33	8	26	7
Hunterdon	-	0	1	*
Mercer	21	5	9	2
Middlesex	13	3	7	2
Monmouth	2	*	5	1
Morris	2	*	1	*
Ocean	6	1	2	1
Passaic	23	5	27	7
Salem	-	0	-	0
Somerset	1	*	1	*
Sussex	-	0	-	0
Union	49	11	36	9
Warren	-	0	-	0
STATE TOTAL	433	100	399	100

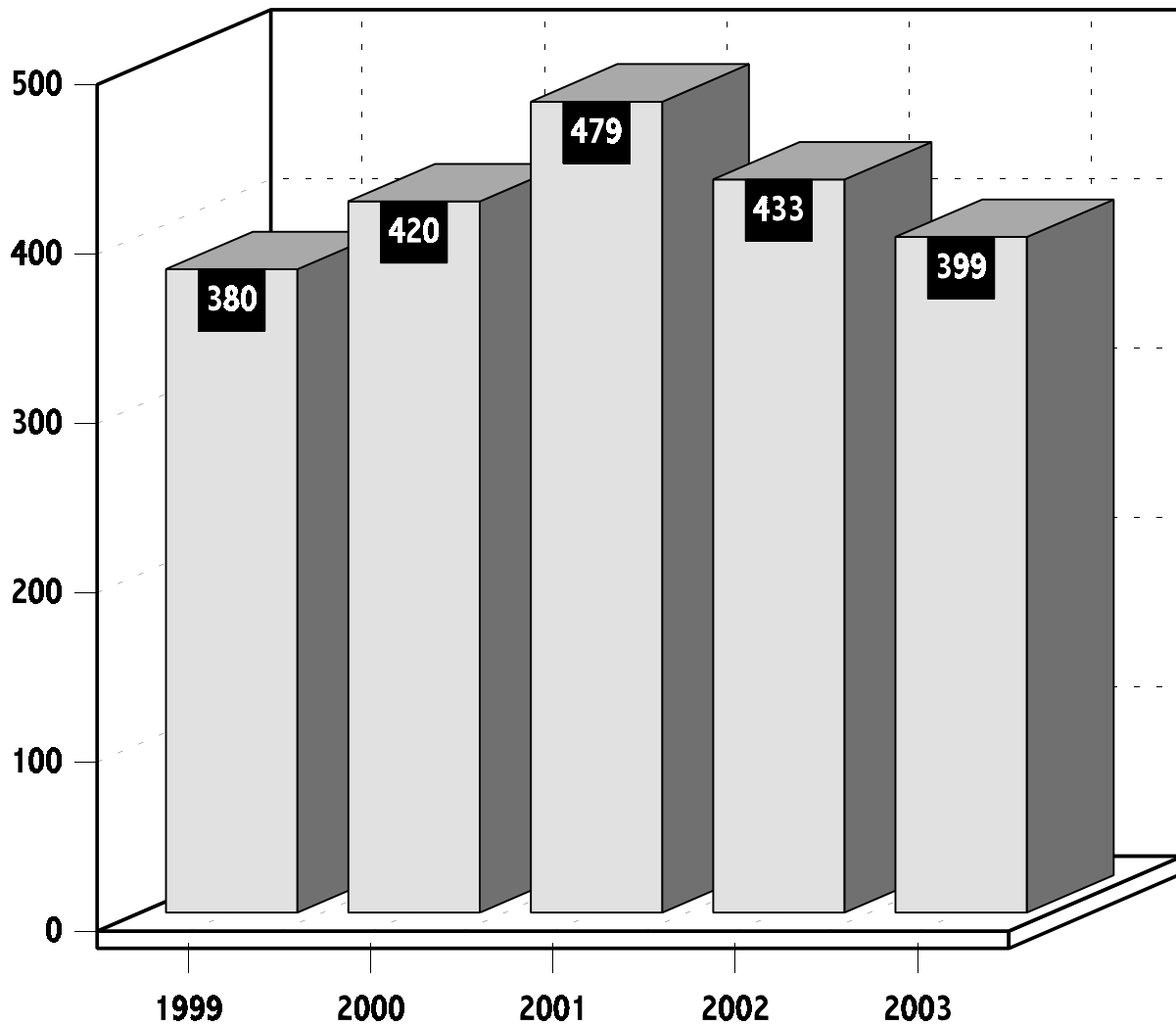
* Less than one-half of one percent.

Percent distribution may not add to 100 due to rounding.

CARJACKING

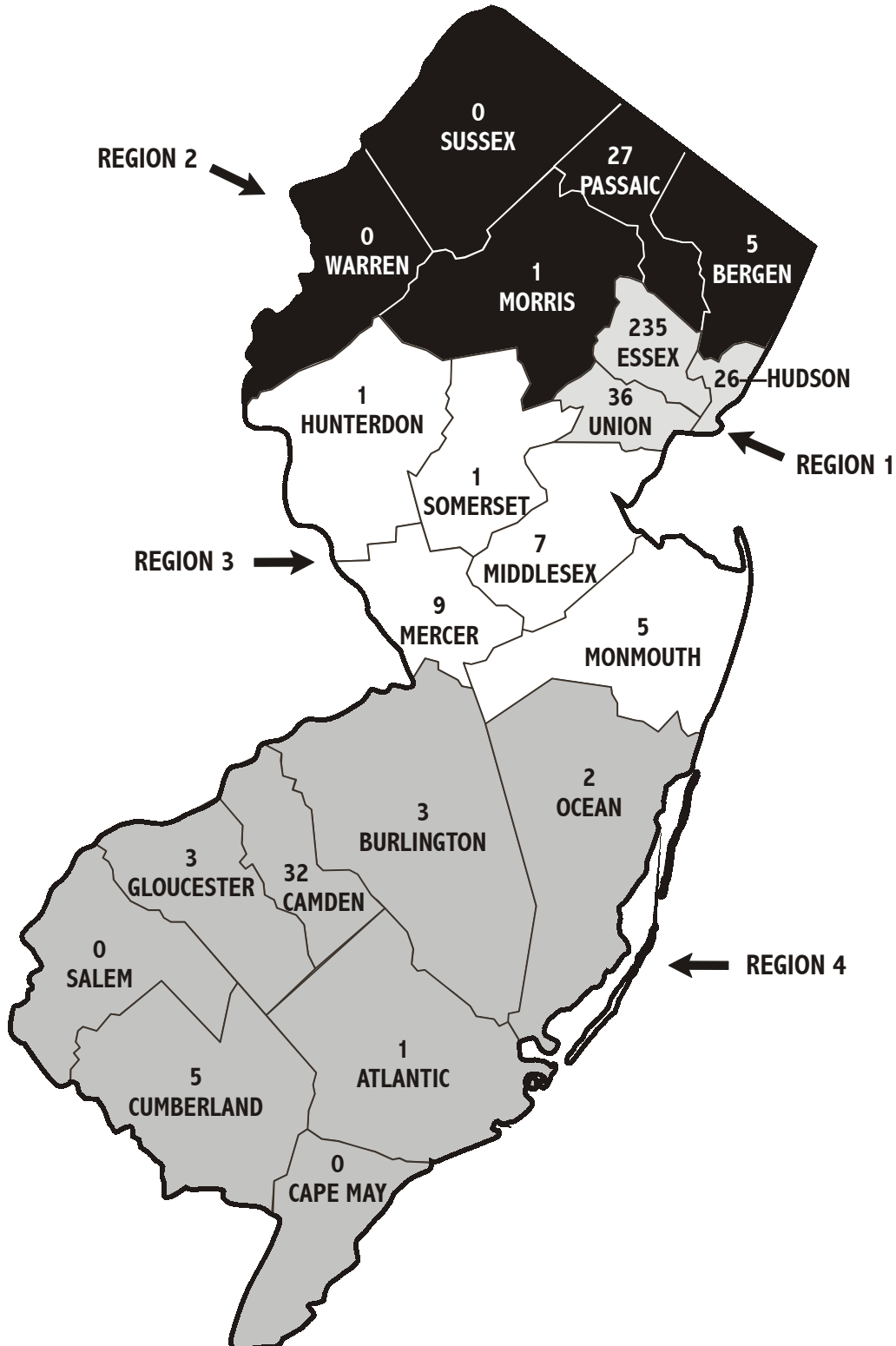
FIVE YEAR COMPARISON

1999 - 2003



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

2003

	Total	Residential Area	Highway	Intersection	Business Strip	Shopping Center*	Parking Lot	Other
State of New Jersey	399	186	65	66	43	9	19	11
Region I	299	143	55	44	35	3	9	10
Percent of State Total	75	77	85	67	81	33	47	91
Region II	34	16	4	4	6	2	2	-
Percent of State Total	9	9	6	6	14	22	11	0
Region III	21	9	4	2	1	1	4	-
Percent of State Total	5	5	6	3	2	11	21	0
Region IV	45	18	2	16	1	3	4	1
Percent of State Total	11	10	3	24	2	33	21	9

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

* Includes major malls.

CARJACKING OFFENSES

PERCENT OF STATE TOTAL BY REGION AND WEAPON TYPE

2003

	Total	Handgun	Rifle	Shotgun	Knife	Other Dangerous Weapon	Physical Force
State of New Jersey	399	207	3	13	38	9	129
Region I	299	162	3	11	24	6	93
Percent of State Total	75	78	100	85	63	67	72
Region II	34	15	-	-	3	1	15
Percent of State Total	9	7	0	0	8	11	12
Region III	21	6	-	-	5	1	9
Percent of State Total	5	3	0	0	13	11	7
Region IV	45	24	-	2	6	1	12
Percent of State Total	11	12	0	15	16	11	9

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

CARJACKING OFFENSES

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION WITHIN REGION BY LOCATION

2003

	Total	Residential Area	Highway	Intersection	Business Strip	Shopping Center*	Parking Lot	Other
State of New Jersey	399	186	65	66	43	9	19	11
Percent Distribution		47	16	17	11	2	5	3
Region I	299	143	55	44	35	3	9	10
Percent Distribution		48	18	15	12	1	3	3
Region II	34	16	4	4	6	2	2	-
Percent Distribution		47	12	12	18	6	6	0
Region III	21	9	4	2	1	1	4	-
Percent Distribution		43	19	10	5	5	19	0
Region IV	45	18	2	16	1	3	4	1
Percent Distribution		40	4	36	2	7	9	2

Percent distribution may not add to 100 due to rounding.

* Includes major malls.

CARJACKING OFFENSES

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION WITHIN REGION BY WEAPON TYPE

2003

	Total	Handgun	Rifle	Shotgun	Knife	Other Dangerous Weapon	Physical Force
State of New Jersey	477	207	3	13	38	9	129
Percent Distribution		43	1	3	8	2	43
Region I	299	162	3	11	24	6	93
Percent Distribution		54	1	4	8	2	31
Region II	34	15	-	-	3	1	15
Percent Distribution		44	0	0	9	3	44
Region III	21	6	-	-	5	1	9
Percent Distribution		29	0	0	24	5	43
Region IV	45	24	-	2	6	1	12
Percent Distribution		53	0	4	13	2	27

Percent distribution may not add to 100 due to rounding.

* Less than one-half of one percent.

GLOSSARY OF CARJACKING LOCATION TYPES

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