



2002  
**CARJACKING**  
Offense Report



# TENTH ANNUAL CARJACKING OFFENSE REPORT 2002

**Honorable Peter C. Harvey**

Attorney General  
State of New Jersey

**Colonel Joseph R. Fuentes**

Superintendent  
New Jersey State Police

**Major Garry Holmberg**

Commanding Officer  
Records and Identification Section  
New Jersey State Police

**Chief Edward Petrini**

Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office  
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 & PUBLIC SAFETY

P.O. Box 080

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0080

(609) 292-4925

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 2002 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 2002.*

*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,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter C. Harvey".

*Peter C. Harvey  
Attorney General of New Jersey*



## State of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & 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*

*The 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 program mandated by Attorney General's Executive Directive 1993-1, the tenth 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 2001 and 2002.*

*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 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, Records and Identification 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 2002 are listed below:

- There were 452 carjacking offenses reported to the police; 19 were determined to be unfounded, leaving a total of 433 carjackings, involving 515 victims, including passengers.
- Carjackings decreased 10% when comparing 2002 to 2001.
- Eighty-seven of the 566 municipalities in New Jersey reported carjackings.
- Firearms were involved in 52% (224) of all carjackings. Twenty-one percent (47) of the firearms used were assault firearms. Shootings were involved in 4 percent (18) of all carjackings.
- New Jersey registered vehicles represented 90% (389) of all carjackings. Ford, with 12% (52), was the most frequently carjacked vehicle make, while 2001, with 10% (42), was the most frequently targeted vehicle year.
- Fifty-five percent (236) of all carjacked vehicles were recovered. The average value of a carjacked motor vehicle was \$11,889.
- Carjackings occurred in a residential area 46% (199) of the time. The hours of darkness (6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.) accounted for 67% (290) of all carjackings.
- Twenty-five percent (109) of all carjackings were witnessed.
- The most frequent victim age group was 20-24, which accounted for 20% (104) of the victim total (515). Seventy-two percent (373) of all victims were male. Fifty-two percent (269) of all victims were white.
- The total number of offenders was 747. Insufficient analysis information was supplied on 22% (161) of the offenders. Of all known offenders (586), 20-24 was the most frequent offender age group and accounted for 44% (259). Ninety-five percent (559) of all known offenders were male. Eighty percent (466) of all known offenders were black.
- Juveniles accounted for 15% (10) of the total arrests for carjacking (65), while adults accounted for 85% (55).
- November had the highest number of offenses with (47) accounting for 11% of all carjacking offenses.
- Sunday recorded the highest number of offenses, accounting for 20% (87) of all carjackings.
- Region I, which consists of Essex, Hudson, and Union counties, accounted for 66% (286) of all carjackings.
- No murders were reported in 2002 as the result of carjacking.
- Eleven percent (46) of all carjackings (433) were cleared by arrest.

# CARJACKING OFFENSES

## COUNTY AND STATE TOTALS—2001/2002

County	Year	Number of Offenses	Estimated Vehicle Value	Actual Number of Vehicles Recovered	Offenses Cleared by Arrest	Number of Persons Arrested
Atlantic	2001	5	\$57,000	3	1	2
	<b>2002</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$67,000</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
Bergen	2001	7	\$120,314	4	3	6
	<b>2002</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>\$259,500</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
Burlington	2001	10	\$96,218	5	2	5
	<b>2002</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$69,500</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Camden	2001	41	\$277,600	6	2	2
	<b>2002</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>\$372,100</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Cape May	2001	1	\$10,500	1	-	-
	<b>2002</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Cumberland	2001	7	\$45,500	3	1	1
	<b>2002</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$32,000</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Essex	2001	245	\$2,716,451	188	19	40
	<b>2002</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>\$2,448,700</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>18</b>
Gloucester	2001	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>2002</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>\$84,200</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Hudson	2001	29	\$251,500	17	4	6
	<b>2002</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>\$287,800</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Hunterdon	2001	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>2002</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Mercer	2001	14	\$100,001	2	2	8
	<b>2002</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>\$239,200</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>



# CARJACKING OFFENSES

## COUNTY AND STATE TOTALS—2001/2002

County	Year	Number of Offenses	Estimated Vehicle Value	Actual Number of Vehicles Recovered	Offenses Cleared by Arrest	Number of Persons Arrested
Middlesex	2001	10	\$174,140	5	1	1
	<b>2002</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>\$185,000</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Monmouth	2001	3	\$28,400	2	1	2
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$50,289</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Morris	2001	3	\$43,000	1	1	4
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$43,150</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Ocean	2001	3	\$12,000	1	-	-
	<b>2002</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$57,500</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Passaic	2001	36	\$389,612	10	2	2
	<b>2002</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>\$270,000</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>
Salem	2001	3	\$39,500	1	1	2
	<b>2002</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Somerset	2001	2	\$40,500	1	1	1
	<b>2002</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Sussex	2001	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>2002</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Union	2001	60	\$590,882	35	7	10
	<b>2002</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>\$642,191</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>
Warren	2001	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>2002</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	2001	479	\$4,993,118	285	48	92
	<b>2002</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>\$5,148,130</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>65</b>

# CARJACKING VICTIMS BY AGE, SEX AND RACE 2002

Age	Number	Percent Distribution	Sex		Race			
			Male	Female	White	Black	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander
0-9	6	1	4	2	5	1	-	-
10-14	3	1	1	2	2	1	-	-
15-19	51	10	38	13	28	22	-	1
20-24	104	20	81	23	53	48	-	3
25-29	90	17	62	28	40	47	1	2
30-34	62	12	50	12	27	35	-	-
35-39	47	9	31	16	27	20	-	-
40-44	44	9	31	13	27	17	-	-
45-49	44	9	31	13	23	20	-	1
50-54	21	4	13	8	10	10	-	1
55-59	11	2	9	2	3	7	-	1
60-64	13	3	11	2	6	7	-	-
65-69	5	1	3	2	5	-	-	-
70-74	2	*	2	-	2	-	-	-
75 and over	12	2	6	6	11	1	-	-
<b>TOTAL FOR NEW JERSEY</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>PERCENT DISTRIBUTION</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>2</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 2002

Age	Number	Percent Distribution	Sex		Race			
			Male	Female	White	Black	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander
0-9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-14	3	1	3	-	1	2	-	-
15-19	97	17	92	5	17	80	-	-
20-24	259	44	248	11	55	204	-	-
25-29	127	22	123	4	22	105	-	-
30-34	65	11	61	4	13	52	-	-
35-39	23	4	20	3	6	17	-	-
40-44	8	1	8	-	2	6	-	-
45-49	4	1	4	-	4	-	-	-
50-54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
<b>TOTAL FOR NEW JERSEY</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>PERCENT DISTRIBUTION</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

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

Suspect and arrested offenders are combined.

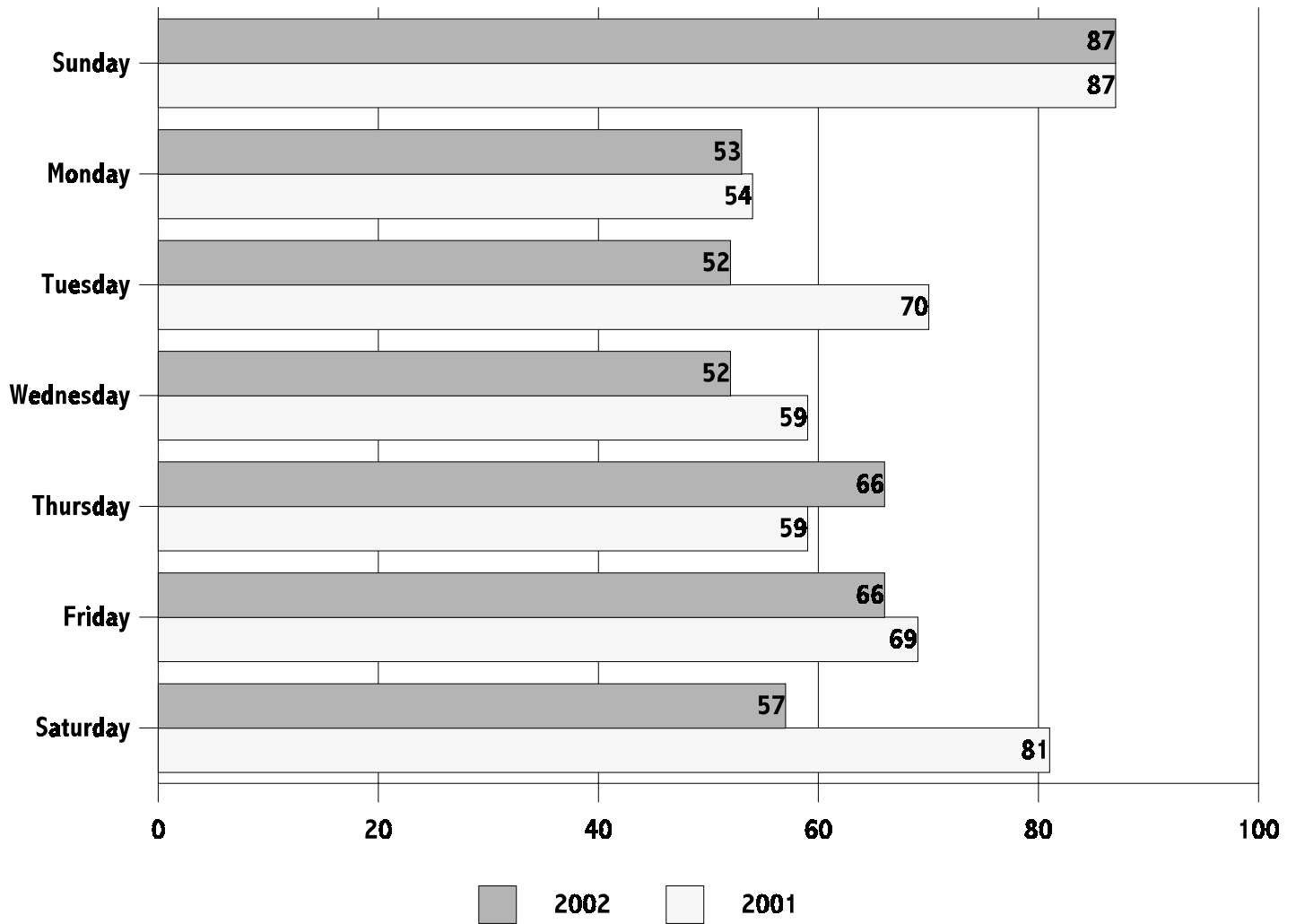
Percent distribution may not add to 100 due to rounding.

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

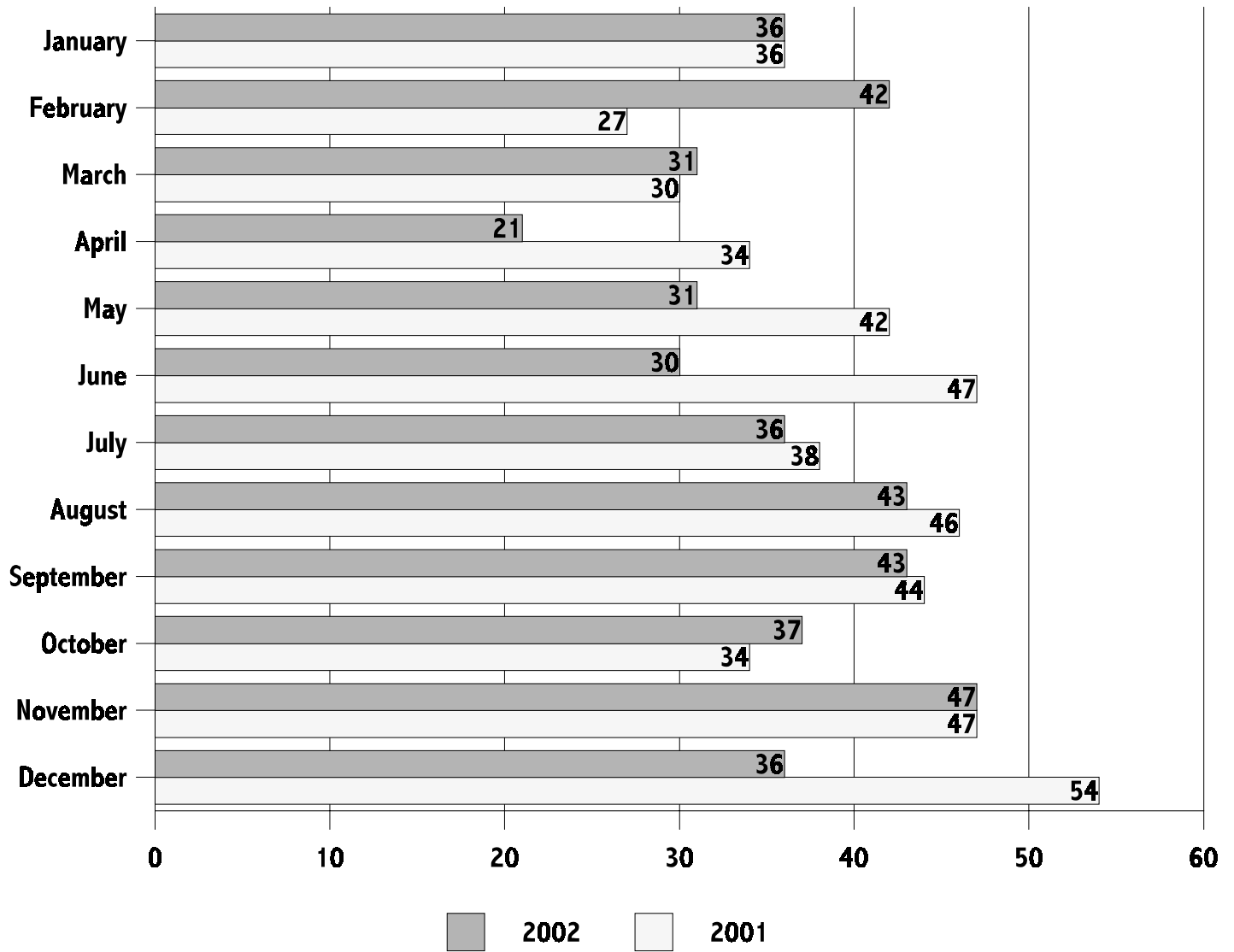
‡ Information supplied on 161 unknown suspects was inconsistent; therefore, accurate data breakdowns are not available.

# CARJACKING BY DAY OF WEEK

## 2001/2002



# CARJACKING BY MONTH 2001/2002



# CARJACKING OFFENSES BY TIME AND LOCATION 2002

Time	Total	LOCATIONS						
		Residential Area	Highway	Intersection	Business Strip	Shopping Center*	Parking Lot	Other
Midnight to 2 a.m.	48	22	12	5	4	-	3	2
2:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m.	50	31	6	9	3	-	-	1
4:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.	27	10	8	6	2	-	1	-
6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.	18	7	3	1	7	-	-	-
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	17	8	3	3	2	-	1	-
10:00 a.m. to Noon	22	11	1	5	5	-	-	-
Noon to 2:00 p.m.	39	14	4	7	6	4	4	-
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	18	9	1	5	-	1	1	1
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	29	14	4	3	6	-	2	-
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	42	18	5	9	2	2	4	2
8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	44	18	8	4	5	3	4	2
10:00 p.m. to Midnight	79	37	14	11	7	5	3	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>10</b>

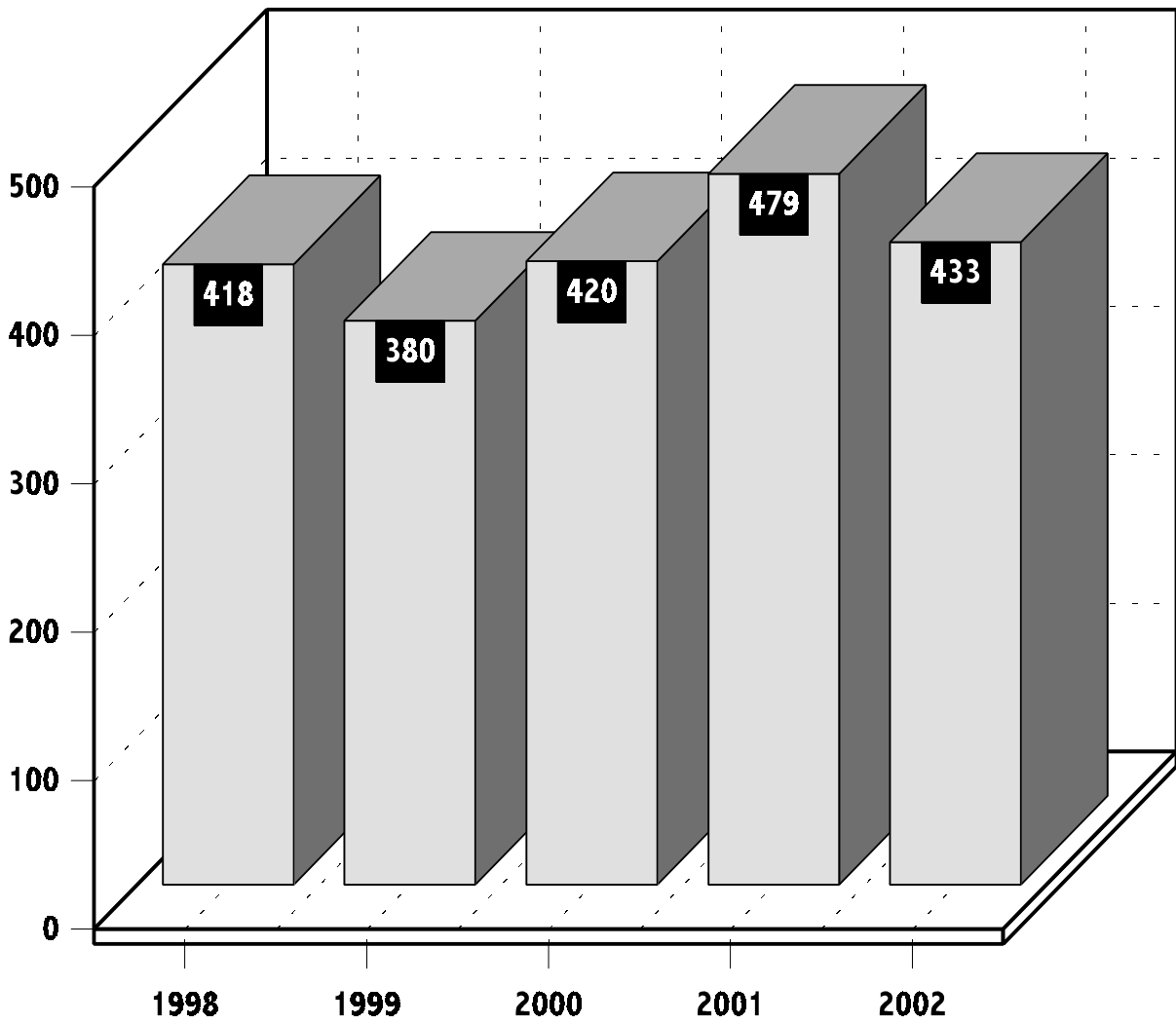
\* Includes major malls.

# COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF COUNTY & STATE PERCENTAGES 2001/2002

County	2001		2002	
	Number of Offenses	Percent of State Total	Number of Offenses	Percent of State Total
Atlantic	5	1	6	1
Bergen	7	1	10	2
Burlington	10	2	5	1
Camden	41	9	44	10
Cape May	1	*	-	0
Cumberland	7	1	5	1
Essex	245	51	204	47
Gloucester	-	0	9	2
Hudson	29	6	33	8
Hunterdon	-	0	-	0
Mercer	14	3	21	5
Middlesex	10	2	13	3
Monmouth	3	1	2	*
Morris	3	1	2	*
Ocean	3	1	6	1
Passaic	36	8	23	5
Salem	3	1	-	0
Somerset	2	*	1	*
Sussex	-	0	-	0
Union	60	13	49	11
Warren	-	0	-	0
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>100</b>

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

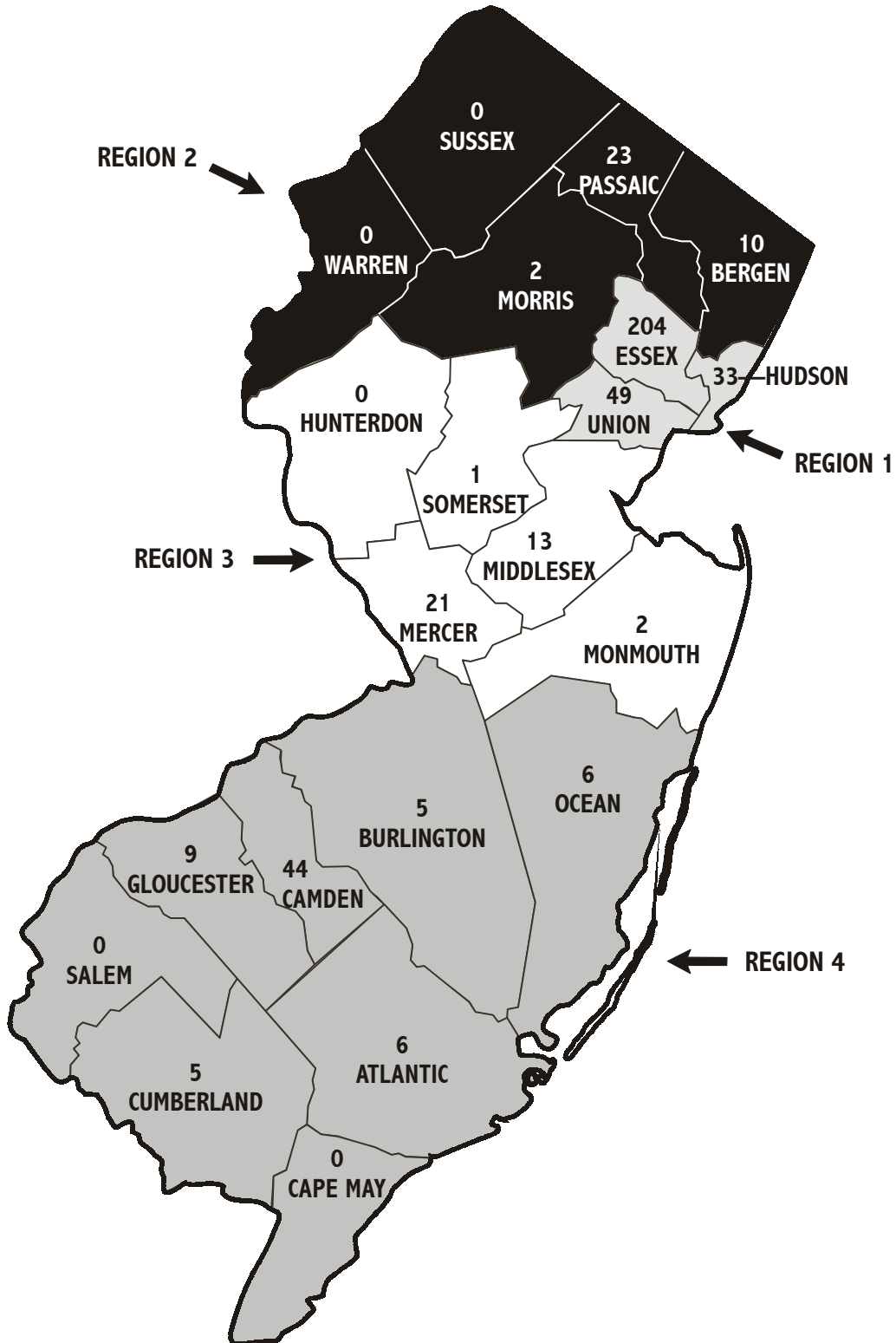
# CARJACKING FIVE YEAR COMPARISON 1998 - 2002





# 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

### 2002

	Total	Residential Area	Highway	Intersection	Business Strip	Shopping Center*	Parking Lot	Other
<b>State of New Jersey</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Region I</b>	<b>286</b>	130	52	50	33	4	9	8
<b>Percent of State Total</b>	<b>66</b>	65	75	74	67	27	39	80
<b>Region II</b>	<b>35</b>	17	5	5	5	2	1	-
<b>Percent of State Total</b>	<b>8</b>	9	7	7	10	13	4	0
<b>Region III</b>	<b>37</b>	17	5	2	4	3	5	1
<b>Percent of State Total</b>	<b>9</b>	9	7	3	8	20	22	10
<b>Region IV</b>	<b>75</b>	35	7	11	7	6	8	1
<b>Percent of State Total</b>	<b>17</b>	18	10	16	14	40	35	10

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

\* Includes major malls.

# CARJACKING OFFENSES

## PERCENT OF STATE TOTAL BY REGION AND WEAPON TYPE

### 2002

	Total	Handgun	Rifle	Shotgun	Knife	Other Dangerous Weapon	Physical Force
<b>State of New Jersey</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>Region I</b>	<b>286</b>	150	2	8	24	13	89
<b>Percent of State Total</b>	<b>66</b>	70	100	100	63	65	59
<b>Region II</b>	<b>35</b>	14	-	-	2	-	19
<b>Percent of State Total</b>	<b>8</b>	7	0	0	5	0	13
<b>Region III</b>	<b>37</b>	14	-	-	4	2	17
<b>Percent of State Total</b>	<b>9</b>	7	0	0	11	10	11
<b>Region IV</b>	<b>75</b>	36	-	-	8	5	26
<b>Percent of State Total</b>	<b>17</b>	17	0	0	21	25	17

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

# CARJACKING OFFENSES

## PERCENT DISTRIBUTION WITHIN REGION BY LOCATION

### 2002

	Total	Residential Area	Highway	Intersection	Business Strip	Shopping Center*	Parking Lot	Other
<b>State of New Jersey</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Percent Distribution</b>		46	16	16	11	3	5	2
<b>Region I</b>	<b>286</b>	130	52	50	33	4	9	8
<b>Percent Distribution</b>		45	18	17	12	1	3	3
<b>Region II</b>	<b>35</b>	17	5	5	5	2	1	-
<b>Percent Distribution</b>		49	14	14	14	6	3	0
<b>Region III</b>	<b>37</b>	17	5	2	4	3	5	1
<b>Percent Distribution</b>		46	14	5	11	8	14	3
<b>Region IV</b>	<b>75</b>	35	7	11	7	6	8	1
<b>Percent Distribution</b>		47	9	15	9	8	11	1

Percent distribution may not add to 100 due to rounding.

\* Includes major malls.

# CARJACKING OFFENSES

## PERCENT DISTRIBUTION WITHIN REGION BY WEAPON TYPE

### 2002

	Total	Handgun	Rifle	Shotgun	Knife	Other Dangerous Weapon	Physical Force
<b>State of New Jersey</b>	<b>433</b>	214	2	8	38	20	151
<b>Percent Distribution</b>		49	*	2	9	5	35
<b>Region I</b>	<b>286</b>	150	2	8	24	13	89
<b>Percent Distribution</b>		52	1	3	8	5	31
<b>Region II</b>	<b>35</b>	14	-	-	2	-	19
<b>Percent Distribution</b>		40	0	0	6	0	54
<b>Region III</b>	<b>37</b>	14	-	-	4	2	17
<b>Percent Distribution</b>		38	0	0	11	5	46
<b>Region IV</b>	<b>75</b>	36	-	-	8	5	26
<b>Percent Distribution</b>		48	0	0	11	7	35

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.