

2008



# CARJACKING

*in*

*New Jersey*

For the year ending December 31, 2008



New Jersey State Police  
Uniform Crime Reporting Unit



# SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CARJACKING OFFENSE REPORT 2008

**Honorable Anne Milgram**  
Attorney General  
State of New Jersey

**Colonel Joseph R. Fuentes**  
Superintendent  
New Jersey State Police

**Major James S. Beshada**  
Commanding Officer  
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New Jersey State Police

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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  
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JON S. CORZINE  
*Governor*

ANNE MILGRAM  
*Attorney General*

*The Honorable Jon S. Corzine  
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 2008 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 2008.*

*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 "Anne Milgram".

*Anne Milgram  
Attorney General of New Jersey*





# State of New Jersey

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*Superintendent*

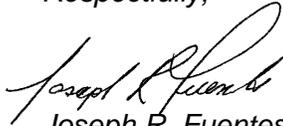
*The Honorable Anne Milgram  
Attorney General  
State of New Jersey  
Hughes Justice Complex  
Trenton, New Jersey*

*Dear Attorney General Milgram:*

*As a result of the carjacking data collection programs mandated by Attorney General Executive Directive 1993-1, the sixteenth 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 2008. The report contains comparisons and analyses between 2007 and 2008.*

*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, 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 2008 are listed below:

- There were 235 carjacking offenses reported to the police; 2 were determined to be unfounded, leaving a total of 233 carjackings, involving 264 victims, including passengers.
- Carjackings increased 12% when comparing 2008 to 2007.
- Thirty-one of the 566 municipalities in New Jersey reported carjackings.
- Firearms were involved in 68% (158) of all carjackings. Four percent (7) of the firearms used were assault firearms. Shootings were involved in 1 percent (2) of all carjackings.
- New Jersey registered vehicles represented 87% (203) of all carjackings. Honda, with 12% (27), was the most frequently carjacked vehicle make, while the most frequently targeted vehicle year was 2007 with 11% (25).
- Sixty-seven percent (157) of all carjacked vehicles were recovered. The average value of a carjacked motor vehicle was \$11,187.
- Carjackings occurred in a residential area 70% (163) of the time. The hours of darkness (6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.) accounted for 71% (165) of all carjackings.
- Fifteen percent (36) of all carjackings were witnessed.
- The most frequent victim age group was 25-29, which accounted for 20% (52) of the victim total (264). Seventy percent (186) of all victims were male. Forty-eight percent (128) of all victims were white.
- The total number of offenders was 413. Insufficient analysis information was supplied on 46% (190) of the offenders. Of all known offenders (223), 20-24 was the most frequent offender age group and accounted for 51% (114). Ninety-eight percent (219) of all known offenders were male. Eighty-two percent (182) of all known offenders were black.
- Juveniles accounted for 36% (9) of the total arrests for carjacking (25), while adults accounted for 64% (16).
- December had the highest number of offenses with 35, accounting for 15% of all carjacking offenses.
- Monday recorded the highest number of offenses, accounting for 18% (42) of all carjackings.
- Region I, which consists of Essex, Hudson, and Union counties, accounted for 69% (160) of all carjackings.
- No murders were reported in 2008 as the result of carjacking.
- Seven percent (16) of all carjackings (233) were cleared by arrest.

# CARJACKING OFFENSES

## COUNTY AND STATE TOTALS — 2007/2008

County	Year	Number of Offenses	Estimated Vehicle Value	Actual Number of Vehicles Recovered	Offenses Cleared by Arrest	Number of Persons Arrested
Atlantic	2007	-	-	-	-	-
	2008	-	-	-	-	-
Bergen	2007	-	-	-	-	-
	2008	2	\$80,000	-	1	1
Burlington	2007	2	\$47,077	2	1	1
	2008	3	\$67,100	2	-	-
Camden	2007	25	\$190,501	2	1	1
	2008	36	\$451,300	5	2	3
Cape May	2007	-	-	-	-	-
	2008	-	-	-	-	-
Cumberland	2007	5	\$42,000	3	1	1
	2008	6	\$65,500	2	1	1
Essex	2007	118	\$1,582,200	95	9	17
	2008	121	\$1,220,001	109	7	13
Gloucester	2007	-	-	-	-	-
	2008	-	-	-	-	-
Hudson	2007	11	\$35,001	8	1	1
	2008	23	\$218,504	21	1	2
Hunterdon	2007	-	-	-	-	-
	2008	-	-	-	-	-
Mercer	2007	8	\$79,601	4	2	2
	2008	9	\$55,802	2	-	-

# CARJACKING OFFENSES

## COUNTY AND STATE TOTALS—2007/2008

County	Year	Number of Offenses	Estimated Vehicle Value	Actual Number of Vehicles Recovered	Offenses Cleared by Arrest	Number of Persons Arrested
Middlesex	2007	5	\$75,000	-	-	-
	2008	5	\$45,800	1	-	-
Monmouth	2007	3	\$52,000	3	-	-
	2008	2	\$21,500	2	2	2
Morris	2007	-	-	-	-	-
	2008	-	-	-	-	-
Ocean	2007	1	\$15,000	-	-	-
	2008	-	-	-	-	-
Passaic	2007	7	\$38,000	2	-	-
	2008	7	\$148,000	6	-	-
Salem	2007	-	-	-	-	-
	2008	1	\$8,000	1	1	1
Somerset	2007	1	\$10,000	-	-	-
	2008	2	\$2,000	1	-	-
Sussex	2007	-	-	-	-	-
	2008	-	-	-	-	-
Union	2007	22	\$245,502	2	-	2
	2008	15	\$210,000	4	1	2
Warren	2007	-	-	-	-	-
	2008	1	\$13,000	1	-	-
TOTAL	2007	208	\$2,411,882	121	15	25
	2008	233	\$2,606,507	157	16	25

# CARJACKING VICTIMS BY AGE, SEX AND RACE 2008

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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-19	26	10	22	4	13	12	-	1
20-24	49	19	34	15	29	20	-	-
25-29	52	20	38	14	25	25	-	2
30-34	50	19	31	19	17	28	-	5
35-39	17	6	14	3	7	8	-	2
40-44	24	9	18	6	14	9	-	1
45-49	15	6	10	5	5	8	-	2
50-54	12	5	7	5	7	5	-	-
55-59	3	1	2	1	2	1	-	-
60-64	9	3	6	3	6	3	-	-
65-69	2	1	2	-	1	1	-	-
70-74	3	1	1	2	1	2	-	-
75 and over	1	*	-	1	1	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL FOR NEW JERSEY</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>PERCENT DISTRIBUTION</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</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 2008

Age	Number	Percent Distribution	Sex		Race			
			Male	Female	White	Black	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander
0-9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-14	2	1	2	-	-	2	-	-
15-19	40	18	40	-	2	38	-	-
20-24	114	51	112	2	20	94	-	-
25-29	46	21	44	2	14	32	-	-
30-34	14	6	14	-	4	10	-	-
35-39	5	2	5	-	1	4	-	-
40-44	1	*	1	-	-	1	-	-
45-49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50-54	1	*	1	-	-	1	-	-
55-99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
<b>TOTAL FOR NEW JERSEY</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>PERCENT DISTRIBUTION</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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

Suspect and arrested offenders are combined.

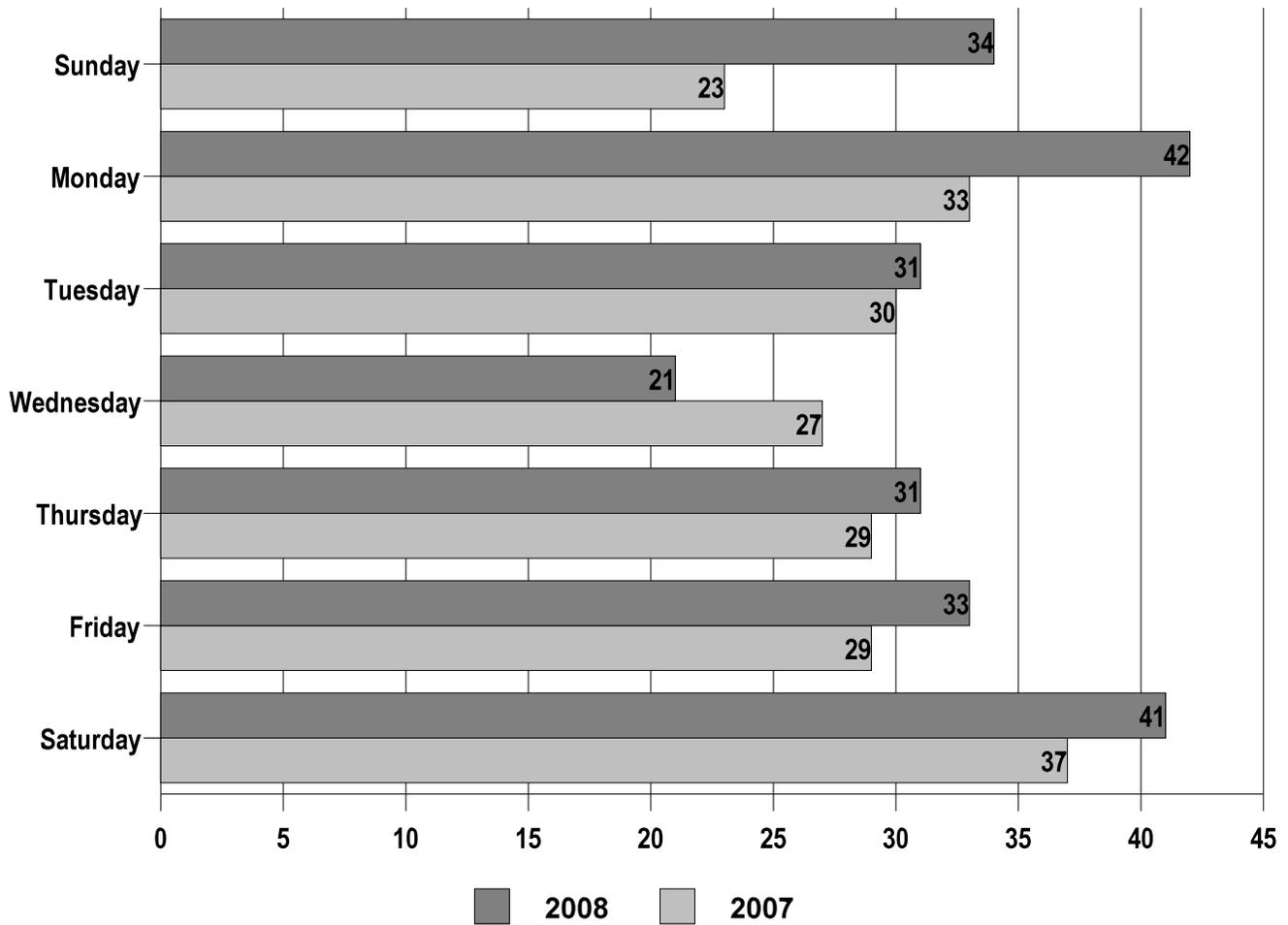
Percent distribution may not add to 100 due to rounding.

‡ Information supplied on 190 unknown suspects was inconsistent; therefore, accurate data breakdowns are not available.

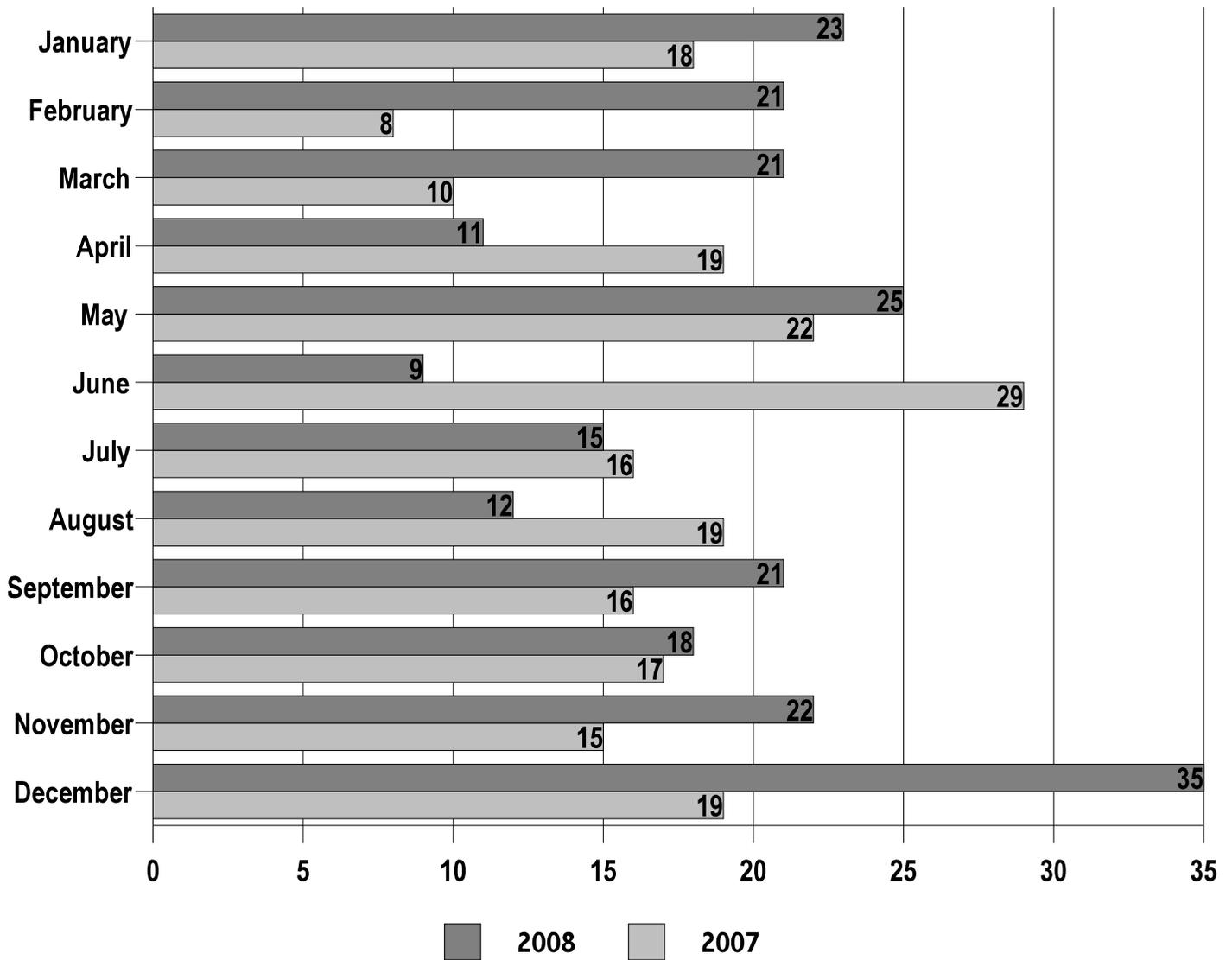
\* Percent distribution less than one-half of one percent.

# CARJACKING BY DAY OF WEEK

## 2007/2008



# CARJACKING BY MONTH 2007/2008



# CARJACKING OFFENSES BY TIME AND LOCATION 2008

Time	Total	LOCATIONS						
		Residential Area	Highway	Intersection	Business Strip	Shopping Center✧	Parking Lot	Other
Midnight to 2 a.m.	29	18	3	4	2	-	1	1
2:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m.	27	21	1	2	1	-	2	-
4:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.	13	8	1	3	1	-	-	-
6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.	8	7	1	-	-	-	-	-
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	7	2	-	4	-	-	-	1
10:00 a.m. to Noon	13	8	-	1	2	1	1	-
Noon to 2:00 p.m.	9	6	-	2	-	-	1	-
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	10	6	2	2	-	-	-	-
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	20	14	1	4	-	-	-	1
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	22	18	-	1	2	1	-	-
8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	34	27	-	4	1	1	1	-
10:00 p.m. to Midnight	41	28	2	6	3	-	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>

✧ Includes major malls.

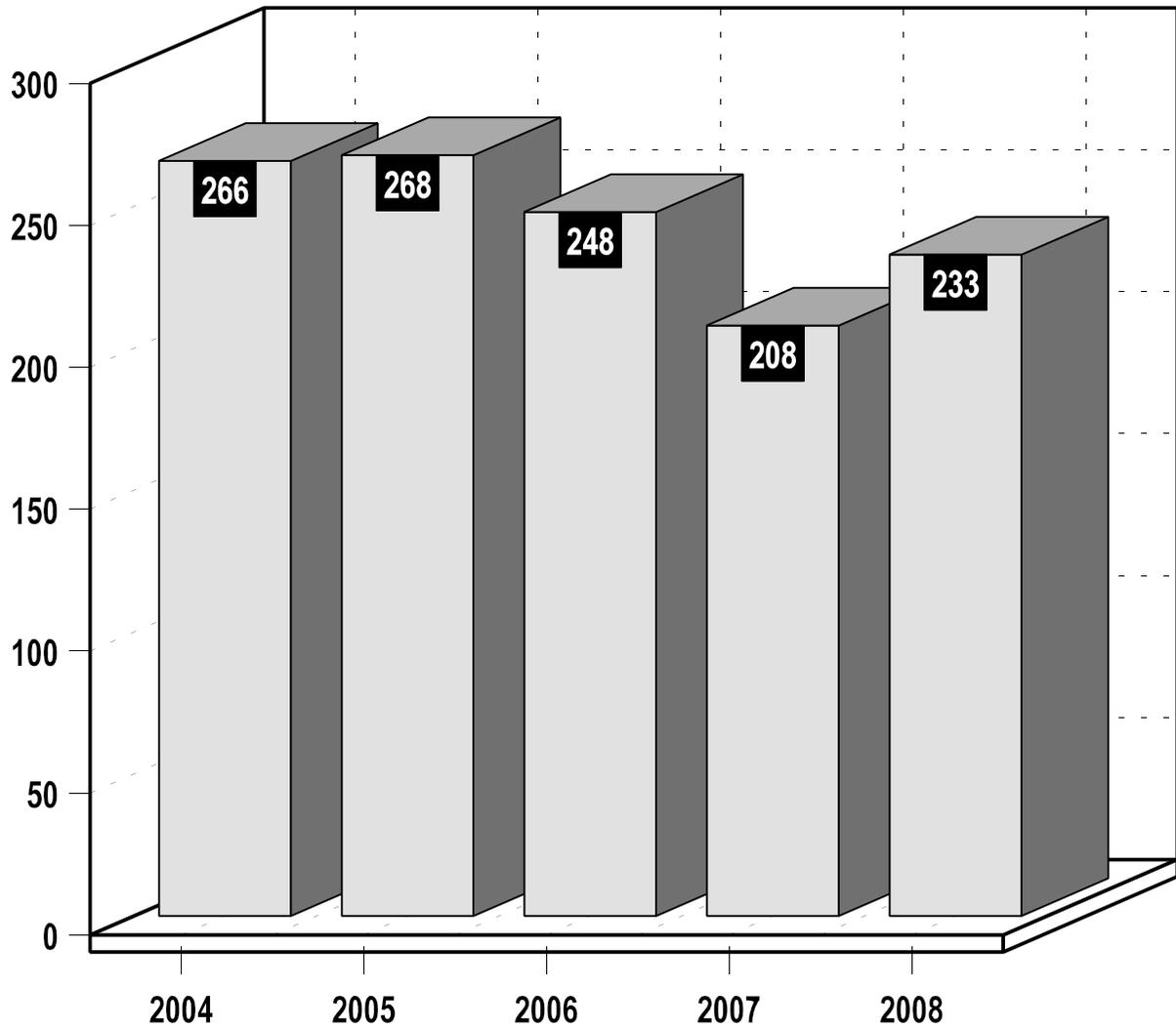
# COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF COUNTY & STATE PERCENTAGES 2007/2008

County	2007		2008	
	Number of Offenses	Percent of State Total	Number of Offenses	Percent of State Total
Atlantic	-	0	-	0
Bergen	-	0	2	1
Burlington	2	1	3	1
Camden	25	12	36	15
Cape May	-	0	-	0
Cumberland	5	2	6	3
Essex	118	57	121	52
Gloucester	-	0	-	0
Hudson	11	5	23	10
Hunterdon	-	0	-	0
Mercer	8	4	9	4
Middlesex	5	2	5	2
Monmouth	3	1	2	1
Morris	-	0	-	0
Ocean	1	*	-	0
Passaic	7	3	7	3
Salem	-	0	1	*
Somerset	1	*	2	1
Sussex	-	0	-	0
Union	22	11	15	6
Warren	-	0	1	*
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Less than one-half of one percent.

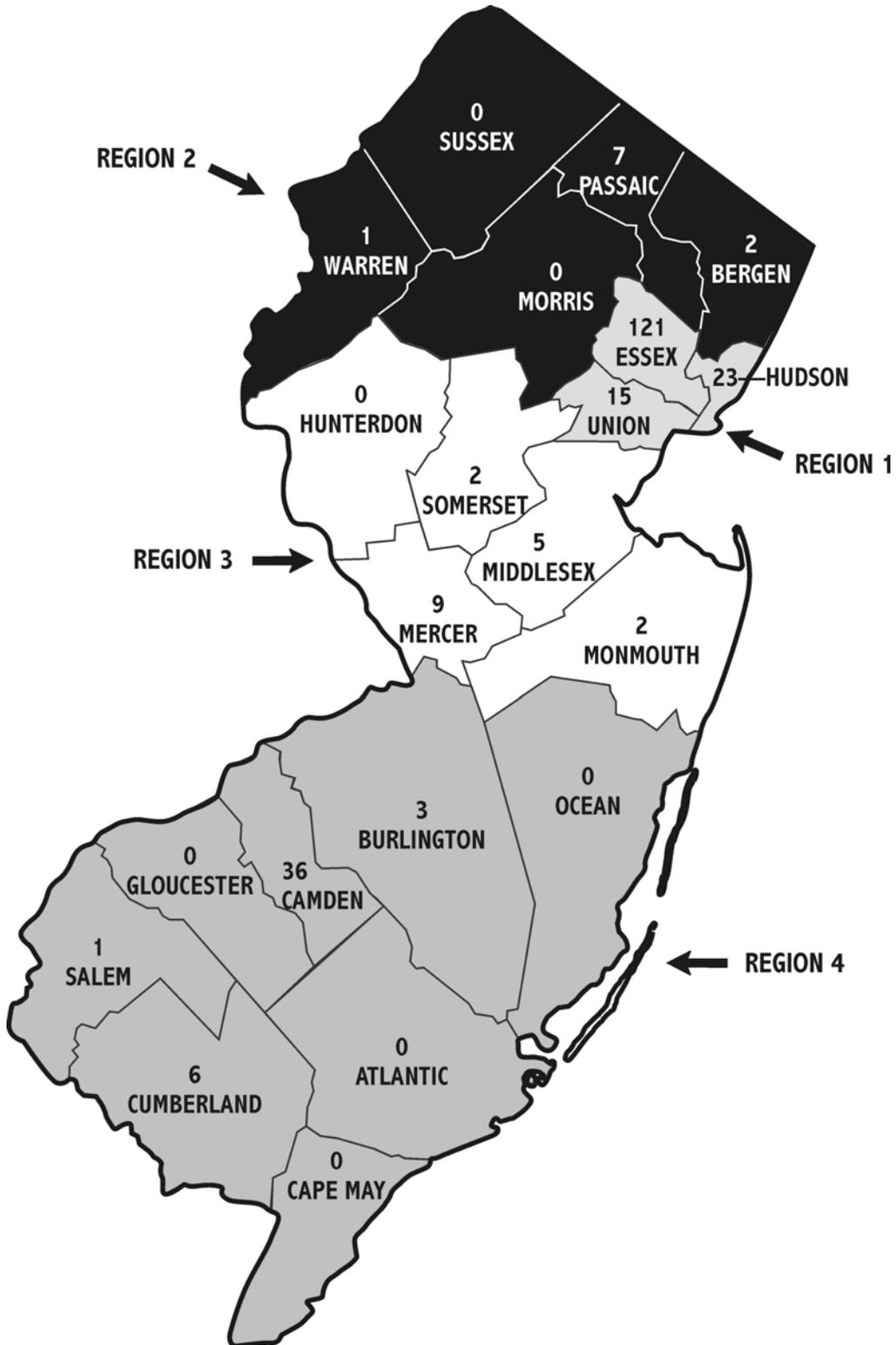
Percent distribution may not equal 100 due to rounding.

# CARJACKING FIVE YEAR COMPARISON 2004 - 2008



# 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

### 2008

	Total	Residential Area	Highway	Intersection	Business Strip	Shopping Center*	Parking Lot	Other
State of New Jersey	233	163	11	33	12	3	7	4
Region I	160	129	8	12	7	-	2	2
Percent of State Total	69	79	73	36	58	0	29	50
Region II	10	6	-	-	1	2	-	1
Percent of State Total	4	4	0	0	8	67	0	25
Region III	18	10	2	2	1	-	3	-
Percent of State Total	8	6	18	6	8	0	43	0
Region IV	45	18	1	19	3	1	2	1
Percent of State Total	19	11	9	58	25	33	29	25

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

\* Includes major malls.

# CARJACKING OFFENSES

## PERCENT OF STATE TOTAL BY REGION & WEAPON TYPE

### 2008

	Total	Handgun	Rifle	Shotgun	Knife	Other Dangerous Weapon	Physical Force
State of New Jersey	233	<b>154</b>	-	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Region I</b>	<b>160</b>	109	-	4	6	3	38
Percent of State Total	<b>69</b>	71	0	100	67	100	60
Region II	10	6	-	-	-	-	4
Percent of State Total	4	4	0	0	0	0	6
Region III	18	13	-	-	1	-	4
Percent of State Total	8	8	0	0	11	0	6
Region IV	45	26	-	-	2	-	17
Percent of State Total	19	17	0	0	22	0	27

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

# CARJACKING OFFENSES

## PERCENT DISTRIBUTION WITHIN REGION BY LOCATION

### 2008

	Total	Residential Area	Highway	Intersection	Business Strip	Shopping Center✱	Parking Lot	Other
State of New Jersey	233	163	11	33	12	3	7	4
Percent Distribution		70	5	14	5	1	3	2
Region I	160	129	8	12	7	-	2	2
Percent Distribution		81	5	8	4	0	1	1
Region II	10	6	-	-	1	2	-	1
Percent Distribution		60	0	0	10	20	0	10
Region III	18	10	2	2	1	-	3	-
Percent Distribution		56	11	11	6	0	17	0
Region IV	45	18	1	19	3	1	2	1
Percent Distribution		40	2	42	7	2	4	2

Percent distribution may not add to 100 due to rounding.

✱ Includes major malls.

# CARJACKING OFFENSES

## PERCENT DISTRIBUTION WITHIN REGION BY WEAPON TYPE

### 2008

	Total	Handgun	Rifle	Shotgun	Knife	Other Dangerous Weapon	Physical Force
State of New Jersey	233	154	-	4	9	3	63
Percent Distribution		66	0	2	4	1	27
Region I	160	109	-	4	6	3	38
Percent Distribution		68	0	3	4	2	24
Region II	10	6	-	-	-	-	4
Percent Distribution		60	0	0	0	0	40
Region III	18	13	-	-	1	-	4
Percent Distribution		72	0	0	6	0	22
Region IV	45	26	-	-	2	-	17
Percent Distribution		58	0	0	4	0	38

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.