

domestic
domestic
violence

IN NEW JERSEY



2021

THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSE REPORT 2021

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The Honorable Philip D. Murphy
Governor of the State of New Jersey

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

Dear Governor Murphy and Members of the Legislature:

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:25-24, I herewith submit for your information and review, the 39th Annual Report on domestic violence in New Jersey. The annual report is based on the domestic violence offense reports submitted to the New Jersey Uniform Crime Reporting System by every New Jersey law enforcement agency for the year 2021.

This report has evolved through the cooperation of New Jersey's criminal justice family. It is with appreciation to these dedicated public servants, and in the interest of the thousands of persons in this state who are victims of domestic disputes, that this 39th Domestic Violence Report is submitted.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. J. Platkin".

Matthew J. Platkin
Attorney General of New Jersey





State of New Jersey

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COLONEL PATRICK J. CALLAHAN
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The Honorable Matthew J. Platkin
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State of New Jersey
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Dear Attorney General Platkin:

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:25-24, the 39th Annual Report on domestic violence in New Jersey is submitted. This report contains statistics related to the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act. All information is based on domestic violence offense reports submitted to the New Jersey Uniform Crime Reporting System by every New Jersey law enforcement agency for the year 2021.

This report has evolved through the cooperation of all New Jersey law enforcement agencies. It is being forwarded for your information and presentation to the Governor and members of the Legislature.

Respectfully,

Patrick J. Callahan
Colonel
Superintendent



"An Internationally Accredited Agency"

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Introduction

Domestic violence is a significant issue that impacts individuals and families in all communities, regardless of age, socioeconomic status, gender, race, religion, or nationality. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behaviors, that are part of a larger pattern of power and control exerted by a current or former intimate partner, household member, or someone in a dating relationship. This abuse can take many forms, including physical violence, sexual violence, psychological harm, economic control, and emotional manipulation. The frequency and intensity of domestic violence may vary, but it is always characterized by one person's ongoing efforts to dominate and control the other.

The consequences of domestic violence extend far beyond the immediate harm inflicted on the victim. It can lead to physical injuries, emotional trauma, and, in severe cases, even death. The impact of domestic violence can also create lasting emotional, psychological, and physical effects, which may carry over from one generation to the next, deeply affecting families and communities.

In the State of New Jersey, domestic violence is defined as the occurrence of one or more of the following criminal offenses inflicted upon a person protected under the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991, c.261 (2C:25-17 et al.).

Homicide N.J.S.A. 2C:11-1 et seq.	False Imprisonment N.J.S.A. 2C:13-3	Criminal Mischief N.J.S.A. 2C:17-3
Assault N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1	Criminal Coercion N.J.S.A. 2C:13-5	Burglary N.J.S.A. 2C:18-3
Terroristic Threats N.J.S.A. 2C:12-2	Sexual Assault N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2	Criminal Trespass N.J.S.A. 2C:18-3
Stalking N.J.S.A. 2C:12-10	Criminal Sexual Contact N.J.S.A. 2C:14-3	Contempt N.J.S.A. 2C:29-9b
Kidnapping N.J.S.A. 2C:13-1	Lewdness N.J.S.A. 2C:14-4	Harassment N.J.S.A. 2C:33-4
Criminal Restraint N.J.S.A. 2C:13-2	Robbery N.J.S.A. 2C:15-1	Cyber Harassment N.J.S.A. 2C:33-4.1

In addition, domestic violence acts can also include any other crime involving risk of death or serious bodily injury to a person protected under the "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991," P.L.1991, c.261 (2C:25-17 et al.)

Improvements since the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act are continuing. Pursuant to a change in N.J.S.A. 2C:25-24 enacted in June of 1999 established the requirement that arrest data be reported by county and that violations of domestic violence restraining orders be tracked. Other changes have included improved investigation procedures, better reporting practices by law enforcement, and mandatory in-service training for police officers and court personnel. These changes have made it easier for victims to seek help and access the constitutional rights afforded to all individuals.

The data included in the “Domestic Violence Offense Report” is the result of gathered information pertaining to domestic violence offenses reported by the New Jersey State Police and municipal police departments throughout the State of New Jersey. It is important to note that according to domestic violence advocacy groups throughout the State, only a small portion of domestic violence victims report their victimization to law enforcement; therefore, the numbers of actual domestic violence offenses in the State of New Jersey are most likely higher than stated in this report. It is the goal of the New Jersey State Police to use the analysis of this data to better understand victims and offenders of domestic violence and work towards the prevention of future violence

Uniform Crime Reporting

Data Compilation Disclaimer

During this reporting period, the New Jersey State Police, as the state program manager for the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program, requires all law enforcement agencies to submit Domestic Violence Reports for every domestic violence incident within their jurisdiction.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 2C:25-24, law enforcement agencies across the state report their domestic violence data to the NJ UCR program. The data presented here has been submitted to the New Jersey State Police Uniform Crime Reporting Unit via the UCR application. Each reporting agency is solely responsible for the accuracy of its data. Any questions regarding the published data should be directed to the respective reporting agency.

Discrepancies in the "Relationship Of Victim To Offender" tab when compared to the "Relationship" tab may occur due to instances where the sex of the victim is not identified or omitted from the report. In such cases, the sex of the victim is recorded as "Unknown," which may impact statistical comparisons between the two tabs. These discrepancies do not indicate data inaccuracies but rather reflect the limitations of available reporting information. As a result, variations in data presentation and categorization may be observed when comparing current and past reports.

The 2021 Domestic Violence data is provided in an Excel spreadsheet format, detailing the reports from all municipal police departments, including the New Jersey State Police, categorized by county.

NOTE: The UCR figures provided are a snapshot of data entered into the New Jersey State Police Uniform Crime Reporting Repository. Please be mindful UCR data is fluid and therefore subject to change as law enforcement agencies enter or modify their data within the reporting repository

2021 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Overview of the 2021 domestic violence statistics are listed below:

- There were 70,524 domestic violence incidents reported by the police in 2021 a 12 percent increase compared to the 63,058 reported in 2020
- Murders increased 69 percent in 2021 (49) when compared to 2020 (29)
- Assaults accounted for 41 percent (28,629) and harassment accounted for 42 percent (29,308) of the reported incidents in 2021
- Arrests were made in 34 percent (24,296) of the incidents reported for 2021, a decrease when compared to arrests made in 2020 (22,603)
- The most frequent day of the week for domestic violence incidents was Sunday (11,683), closely followed by Saturday (11,037)
- Children were actively involved or present during 16,309 incidents or 23 percent of all domestic violence incidents occurring in 2021
- The number of domestic violence complaints that had prior court orders issued against the offender increased from 12,669 in 2020 to 13,169 in 2021
- Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in 19 percent (13,709) of the reported incidents occurring in 2021
- Persons age 60 or over (elderly) were victims in 7 percent (5,036) of all reported domestic violence incidents that occurred in 2021