

domestic
domestic
violence

IN NEW JERSEY



2023

FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSE REPORT 2023

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TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

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 41st 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 2023.

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 41st 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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Dear Attorney General Platkin:

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:25-24, the 41st 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 2023.

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 2023 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

2023 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Overview of the 2023 domestic violence statistics are listed below:

- There were 70,828 domestic violence incidents reported by the police in 2023 a 5 percent increase compared to the 67,512 reported in 2022
- Murders increased 14 percent in 2023 (57) when compared to 2022 (50)
- Assaults accounted for 44 percent (31,514) and harassment accounted for 38 percent (26,987) of the reported incidents in 2023
- Arrests were made in 38 percent (26,980) of the incidents reported for 2023, an increase when compared to arrests made in 2022 (25,132)
- The most frequent day of the week for domestic violence incidents was Sunday (12,352), closely followed by Saturday (11,150)
- Children were actively involved or present during 16,858 incidents or 24 percent of all domestic violence incidents occurring in 2023
- The number of domestic violence complaints that had prior court orders issued against the offender increased from 10,691 in 2022 to 10,973 in 2023
- Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in 21 percent (14,542) of the reported incidents occurring in 2023
- Persons age 60 or over (elderly) were victims in 8 percent (5,765) of all reported domestic violence incidents that occurred in 2023