

SECTION X
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

INTRODUCTION

The violence within the American domicile has been recognized for decades by elements of government and society with little done to correct the problem. Only recently has this phenomenon begun to receive the attention it deserves. In an effort to understand, identify and treat the incidents of abuse occurring within the home, the State of New Jersey, through its legislature, has provided the means to gain a meaningful insight into the issue.

In 1982, the Domestic Violence Act was instituted to protect battered victims and study the complex problems that spark such aggressive behavior. This legislation also provided the opportunity to identify the causes of violence in the home and put forth a more comprehensive effort to combat the crime of Domestic Violence.

Improvements since the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act are continuing; serious concern has been displayed within many municipal and county agencies whereby various committees and working groups have been formed to help battle this important problem. Revised investigation and reporting procedures by the police; improved processing of domestic complaints by the courts; mandatory in-service training for police and court personnel have all enabled the victim to come forward and implement the constitutional rights granted to all Americans.

The following pages of narrative and graphics in this chapter are the result of gathered data displaying the complexities of domestic violence found within the State of New Jersey. As stated in the following pages, reported domestic violence acts increased ten percent over 1990. It is through analysis of this data that hopefully, the keys to preventing future violence can be found.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Highlights of the 1991 domestic violence statistics are listed below:

- There were 55,698 domestic violence offenses reported by the police in 1991, a 10% increase compared to the 50,823 reported in 1990.
- Murders increased 7% in 1991 (61) when compared to 1990 (57).
- Assaults occurred in 62% (34,319) of the reported offenses in 1991.
- The total arrests for 1991 (19,127) increased 12% over 1990 (17,035).
- Arrests were made in 34% (19,127) of the offenses reported for 1991.
- The most frequent day of domestic violence occurrences was Sunday (10,147).
- For the ninth consecutive year, the most frequent hours of domestic violence incidents were between 8:00 p.m. and midnight, when 31% (17,008) of the offenses were reported.
- Children were involved or present during 53% of all domestic violence offenses occurring in 1991. Specifically, 9% (5,228) were involved and 44% (24,304) were present.
- Wives were the victims in 37% (20,632), and female friends were the victims in 39% (21,867) of the reported domestic violence offenses in 1991. Overall, females were victims in 85% (47,140) of all domestic violence offenses.
- The number of domestic violence complaints that had prior court orders issued against the offender increased from 10,695 in 1990 to 12,105 in 1991. This is a 13% increase.
- Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in 44% (24,551) of the reported offenses occurring in 1991. Alcohol involvement alone accounted for 39% (21,671) of the total domestic violence offenses reported.
- Persons age 60 or over were victims in 3% (1,659) of all reported domestic violence offenses that occurred in 1991.
- Domestic Violence does not occur at a regular frequency, but when viewed as a ratio of its occurrence to a fixed time interval, one act of domestic violence would occur every nine (9) minutes and twenty-six (26) seconds.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS
1990/1991**

Type of Domestic Violence Offense		Number of Offenses	Percent Distribution	* Number of Arrests	* Percent of Offenses Involving an Arrest
Homicide	1990	57	—	47	82
	1991	61	—	48	79
	Percent Change	+ 7	—	+ 2	- 4
Assault	1990	32,268	63	13,726	43
	1991	34,319	62	15,237	44
	Percent Change	+ 6	- 2	+ 11	+ 2
Kidnapping	1990	17	—	5	29
	1991	20	—	6	30
	Percent Change	+ 18	—	(1)	+ 3
Criminal Restraint	1990	96	—	34	35
	1991	120	—	54	45
	Percent Change	+ 25	—	+ 59	+ 29
False Imprisonment	1990	26	—	7	27
	1991	32	—	11	34
	Percent Change	+ 23	—	(1)	+ 26
Sexual Assault	1990	84	—	28	33
	1991	82	—	33	40
	Percent Change	- 2	—	+ 18	+ 21
Criminal Sexual Contact	1990	23	—	9	39
	1991	19	—	11	58
	Percent Change	- 17	—	(1)	+ 49
Lewdness	1990	12	—	3	25
	1991	8	—	1	13
	Percent Change	(1)	—	(1)	- 48
Criminal Mischief	1990	2,460	5	785	32
	1991	2,768	5	885	32
	Percent Change	+ 13	—	+ 13	—
Burglary	1990	291	1	86	30
	1991	382	1	101	26
	Percent Change	+ 31	—	+ 17	- 13
Harassment	1990	15,489	30	2,305	15
	1991	17,887	32	2,740	15
	Percent Change	+ 15	+ 7	+ 19	—
TOTAL	1990	50,823	100	17,035	34
	1991	55,698	100	19,127	34
	Percent Change	+ 10	—	+ 12	—

(1) Computing percent changes for these offenses was eliminated due to small volume.

* Incidents are reported soon after they occur; therefore, arrests made after that time are not included.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS
1987 through 1991**

Type of Domestic Violence Offense	1987		1988		1989		1990		1991	
	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests
Homicide	36	28	65	57	49	37	57	47	61	48
Assault	29,868	8,648	33,249	13,020	32,640	13,331	32,268	13,726	34,319	15,237
Kidnapping	3	1	6	4	11	3	17	5	20	6
Criminal Restraint	79	33	99	28	114	46	96	34	120	54
False Imprisonment	19	2	20	7	18	7	26	7	32	11
Sexual Assault	65	17	66	22	72	19	84	28	82	33
Criminal Sexual Contact	9	2	15	4	22	5	23	9	19	11
Lewdness	17	2	13	2	13	2	12	3	8	1
Criminal Mischief	2,043	546	2,362	710	2,623	811	2,460	785	2,768	885
Burglary	210	48	250	62	263	81	291	86	382	101
Harassment	13,613	1,572	16,064	2,194	15,960	2,322	15,489	2,305	17,887	2,740
TOTAL	45,962	10,899	52,209	16,110	51,785	16,664	50,823	17,035	55,698	19,127

- Assault, criminal restraint, false imprisonment, criminal mischief, burglary and harassment reported the highest number of offenses since the inception of the Domestic Violence Program.
- Arrests for domestic violence offenses increased (12%), and reflected the highest number of arrests since the inception of the Domestic Violence Program.
- The violent crimes of homicide (61), aggravated assault (5,757) and sexual assault (82) accounted for eleven (11) percent of reported domestic violence offenses (55,698).

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY COUNTY
1990/1991**

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Kidnap- ping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprison- ment	Sexual Assault	Criminal Sexual Contact	Lewd- ness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Harass- ment	COUNTY TOTAL	Percent Change
Atlantic	1990	1	1,136	—	10	2	2	1	—	92	16	1,002	2,262	
	1991	2	1,355	—	5	2	2	1	—	126	10	897	2,400	+ 6
Bergen	1990	3	1,840	—	7	3	2	3	2	95	9	1,053	3,017	
	1991	4	2,081	1	8	3	1	—	—	130	15	1,349	3,592	+ 19
Burlington	1990	6	1,565	3	5	—	5	—	—	122	7	603	2,316	
	1991	2	1,801	—	6	2	5	1	—	124	9	695	2,645	+ 14
Camden	1990	7	3,074	2	24	1	5	—	—	277	26	1,484	4,900	
	1991	7	3,572	4	21	2	7	3	1	322	49	2,192	6,180	+ 26
Cape May	1990	—	644	—	2	1	1	—	—	50	6	450	1,154	
	1991	2	696	1	9	—	1	—	—	52	7	469	1,237	+ 7
Cumberland	1990	5	1,036	—	3	—	4	2	1	92	13	265	1,421	
	1991	—	1,364	—	3	—	4	1	1	127	21	383	1,904	+ 34
Essex	1990	7	3,825	4	8	2	14	—	—	182	54	959	5,055	
	1991	18	3,635	6	6	2	13	2	1	186	43	950	4,862	- 4
Gloucester	1990	2	1,073	—	3	—	1	1	—	71	2	406	1,559	
	1991	—	977	—	1	2	1	—	—	81	5	458	1,525	- 2
Hudson	1990	4	2,262	2	5	—	1	—	1	120	18	991	3,404	
	1991	3	2,755	2	9	6	1	1	1	157	33	1,169	4,137	+ 22
Hunterdon	1990	—	181	—	2	—	1	—	1	10	—	125	320	
	1991	—	173	—	1	—	1	—	—	6	1	118	300	- 6

Mercer	1990	3	1,489	-	-	2	6	2	-	188	18	466	2,174	+ 1
	1991	1	1,489	-	2	-	8	-	1	170	23	500	2,194	
Middlesex	1990	5	2,177	-	5	1	7	1	-	192	14	1,037	3,439	+ 8
	1991	3	2,193	-	7	-	7	2	-	209	21	1,267	3,709	
Monmouth	1990	2	2,513	2	2	4	5	1	-	247	20	1,343	4,139	+ 5
	1991	3	2,530	-	10	4	6	-	-	248	41	1,504	4,346	
Morris	1990	2	1,066	-	4	4	7	3	-	99	7	700	1,892	+ 11
	1991	2	1,107	2	3	1	2	3	1	119	11	844	2,095	
Ocean	1990	-	1,747	1	1	2	6	2	3	111	10	972	2,855	+ 5
	1991	6	1,731	-	5	1	2	1	1	128	13	1,117	3,005	
Passaic	1990	1	2,031	3	3	1	5	2	2	96	14	1,114	3,272	+ 12
	1991	3	2,282	3	6	2	8	1	-	139	29	1,179	3,652	
Salem	1990	-	470	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	-	268	780	- 9
	1991	-	381	-	-	-	2	-	-	41	3	280	707	
Somerset	1990	2	981	-	5	2	3	3	1	104	6	718	1,825	+ 1
	1991	2	962	-	2	3	3	-	1	120	6	751	1,850	
Sussex	1990	-	370	-	1	-	3	1	-	39	2	277	693	+ 19
	1991	-	386	-	2	1	2	2	-	34	3	395	825	
Union	1990	6	2,525	-	6	1	5	1	1	214	48	1,123	3,930	+ 1
	1991	2	2,505	1	10	1	5	1	-	220	35	1,180	3,960	
Warren	1990	1	263	-	-	-	1	-	-	17	1	133	416	+ 38
	1991	1	344	-	4	-	1	-	-	29	4	190	573	
TOTAL	1990	57	32,268	17	96	26	84	23	12	2,460	291	15,489	50,823	+ 10
	1991	61	34,319	20	120	32	82	19	8	2,768	382	17,887	55,698	

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES
BY TYPE OF WEAPON AND EXTENT OF INJURY
1990/1991**

Type of Weapon		Extent of Injury			Total
		Aggravated Serious	Non-Aggravated Minor	None	
Gun	1990	82	76	190	348
	1991	105	74	195	374
	Percent Change	+28	- 3	+ 3	+ 7
Knife	1990	674	700	510	1,884
	1991	663	819	421	1,903
	Percent Change	- 2	+ 17	- 17	+ 1
Other Dangerous	1990	548	1,418	276	2,242
	1991	565	1,369	235	2,169
	Percent Change	+ 3	- 3	- 15	- 3
Hands, Fists, Feet, etc.	1990	1,545	22,944	3,733	28,222
	1991	1,495	24,612	4,354	30,461
	Percent Change	- 3	+ 7	+ 17	+ 8
None	1990	—	—	18,127	18,127
	1991	—	—	20,791	20,791
	Percent Change	—	—	+ 15	+ 15
TOTAL	1990	2,849	25,138	22,836	50,823
	1991	2,828	26,874	25,996	55,698
	Percent Change	- 1	+ 7	+ 14	+ 10

- Fifty-three percent (29,702) of all domestic violence complaints resulted in injury. This is a 6% increase when compared to the 27,987 that occurred in 1990.
- Of all the domestic violence offenses involving weapons (34,907), hands, fists, feet, etc. were used in 87% (30,461) of these offenses.
- Domestic violence offenses involving a gun increased 7%, from 348 in 1990 to 374 in 1991.
- There were 2,828 serious injuries reported in 1991, a 1% decrease when compared to the 2,849 reported in 1990.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES
(By Type of Victim)
1991

Type of Domestic Violence Offense	TOTAL Number of Offenses	Relationship of Victim to Offender					
		Husband	Male Relative	Male Friend	Wife	Female Relative	Female Friend
1. Homicide	61	1	7	8	17	11	17
2. Assault	34,319	2,087	1,232	1,889	12,343	2,519	14,249
3. Kidnapping	20	1	—	—	6	1	12
4. Criminal Restraint	120	3	1	—	50	12	54
5. False Imprisonment	32	—	—	—	15	4	13
6. Sexual Assault	82	—	—	—	40	5	37
7. Criminal Sexual Contact	19	—	1	1	7	3	7
8. Lewdness	8	—	—	—	2	4	2
9. Criminal Mischief	2,768	180	130	219	812	366	1,061
10. Burglary	382	19	8	17	107	53	178
11. Harassment	17,887	1,217	645	892	7,233	1,663	6,237
Total	55,698	3,508	2,024	3,026	20,632	4,641	21,867

- For the ninth consecutive year, assault was the most prominent of the eleven types of domestic violence offenses (34,319). Females were victims in 85% (29,111) and males in 15% (5,208) of the domestic violence offenses involving assaults.
- Wives were the victims in 37% (20,632), and female friends were the victims in 39% (21,867) of the reported domestic violence offenses in 1991. Overall, females were victims in 85% (47,140) of all domestic violence offenses.
- Harassment was the second highest reported domestic violence offense in 1991 (17,887).
- In addition to the sixty-one (61) domestic violence homicide victims in 1991, there were nine (9) associated deaths.
- Twenty-six percent of the domestic violence homicide victims were male (16), while seventy-four percent were female (45).

**ANALYSIS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
(Alcohol or Drugs Involved)†
1991**

Type of Domestic Violence Offense	TOTAL Number of Offenses	Substance Involved			Total Alcohol or Drugs	Percent of Offenses Involving Alcohol or Drugs
		Only Alcohol	Only Drugs	Both Alcohol and Drugs		
1. Homicide	61	12	6	5	23	38
2. Assault	34,319	14,256	724	1,132	16,112	47
3. Kidnapping	20	5	—	—	5	25
4. Criminal Restraint	120	45	8	5	58	48
5. False Imprisonment	32	11	—	—	11	34
6. Sexual Assault	82	26	—	8	34	41
7. Criminal Sexual Contact	19	3	1	—	4	21
8. Lewdness	8	2	—	1	3	38
9. Criminal Mischief	2,768	1,141	71	102	1,314	47
10. Burglary	382	88	21	19	128	34
11. Harassment	17,887	6,082	352	425	6,859	38
Total	55,698	21,671	1,183	1,697	24,551	44

- Drugs or alcohol were involved in 38% (23) of the reported domestic violence offenses of homicides (61).
- Forty-four percent (24,551) of the reported acts of domestic violence (55,698) involved the use of drugs or alcohol.

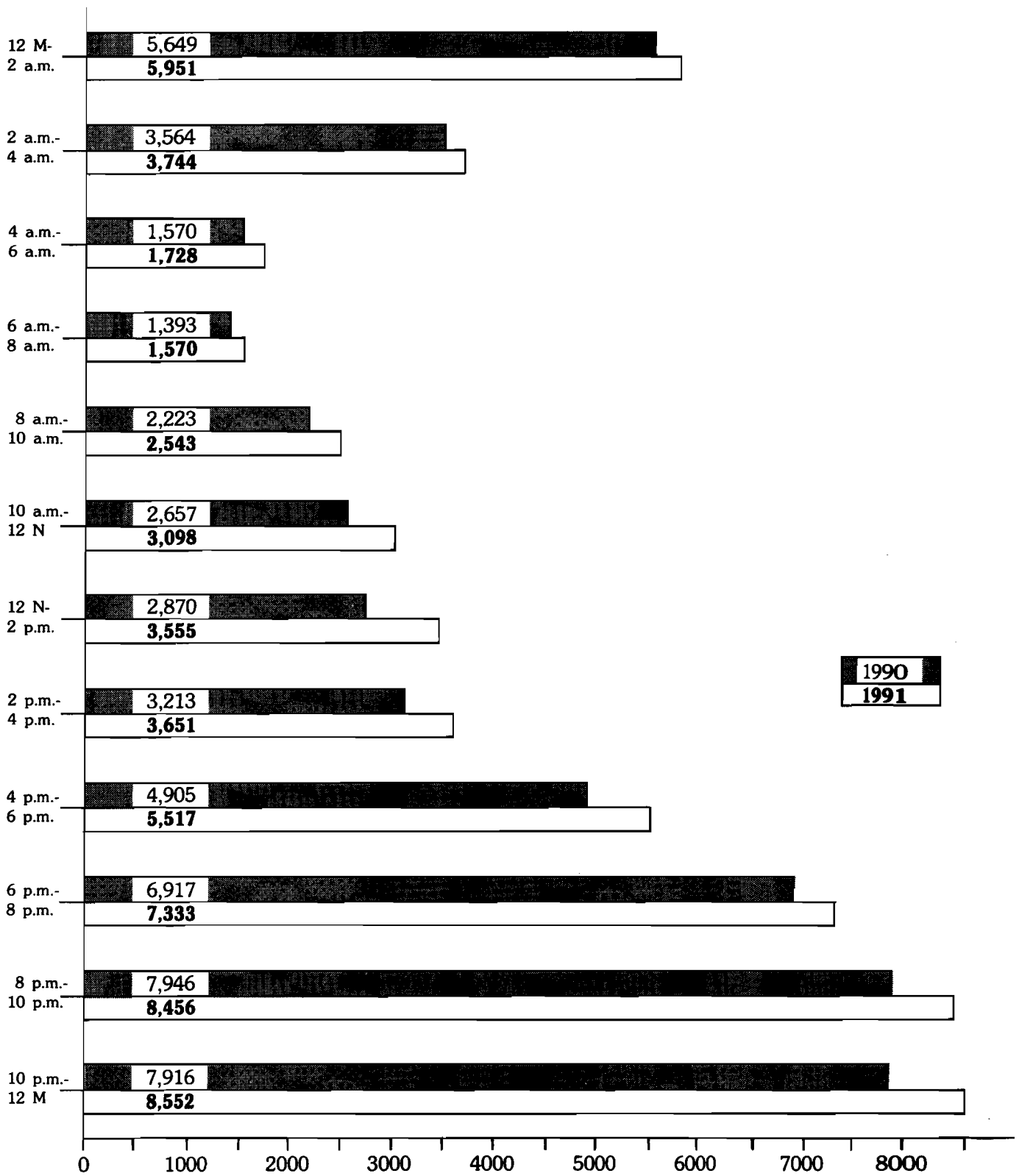
† Indicates Alcohol or Drug use by either victim or offender.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES OF ELDERLY VICTIMS
(60 Years of Age or Over)
1991**

Type of Domestic Violence Offense	TOTAL Number of Offenses	Relationship of Victim to Offender					
		Husband	Male Relative	Male Friend	Wife	Female Relative	Female Friend
1. Homicide	9	—	1	—	3	5	—
2. Assault	761	77	160	26	207	255	36
3. Kidnapping	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Criminal Restraint	9	1	1	—	1	6	—
5. False Imprisonment	3	—	—	—	1	2	—
6. Sexual Assault	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
7. Criminal Sexual Contact	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Lewdness	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Criminal Mischief	128	5	36	3	15	64	5
10. Burglary	11	—	1	—	1	8	1
11. Harassment	737	66	141	29	154	318	29
Total	1,659	149	340	58	383	658	71

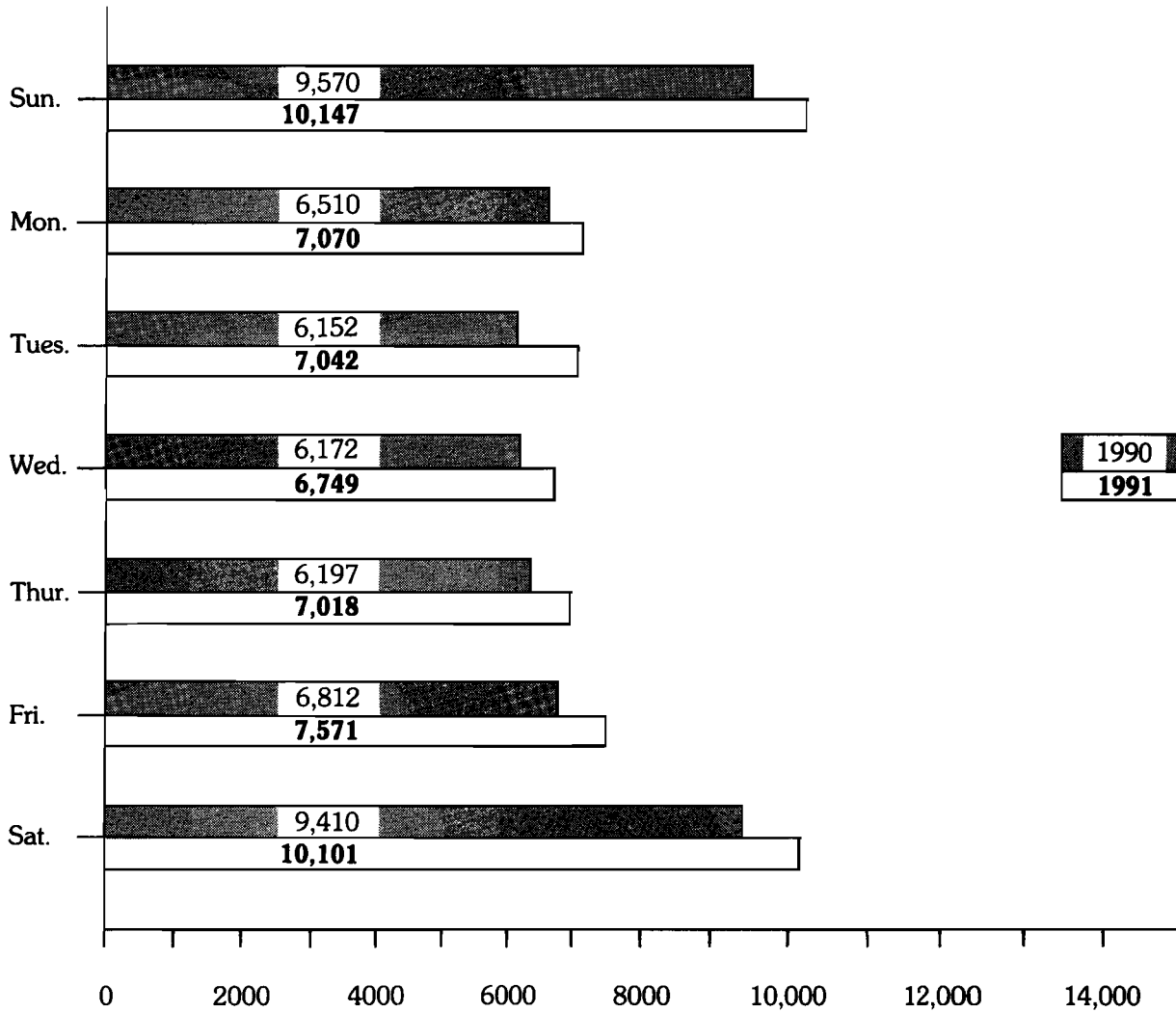
- Assaults occurred in 46% (761) of all domestic violence offenses for victims 60 years of age or over.
- Females, 60 years of age or over, were the victims in 67% (1,112) of the 1,659 elderly abuse offenses.
- Persons age 60 or over were the victims in 3% (1,659) of all the reported domestic violence offenses during this period.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TIME OF DAY 1990/1991



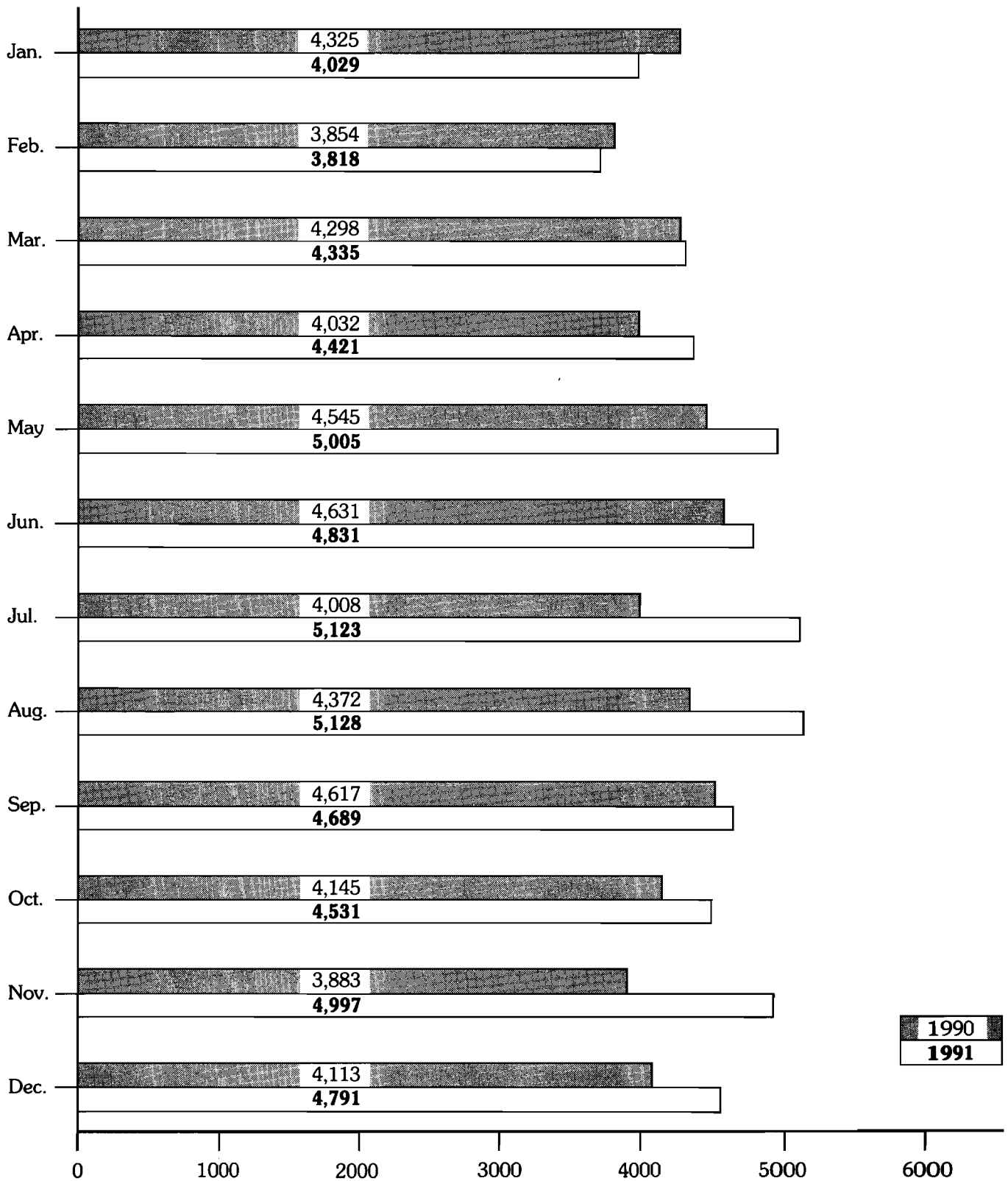
- During 1991 forty-four percent (24,341) of the reported Domestic Violence offenses occurred between 6:00 p.m. and 12 Midnight.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY DAY OF WEEK 1990/1991



- The most frequent day of occurrence for Domestic Violence during 1991 was **Sunday**.
- During 1991, thirty-six percent (20,248) of the reported Domestic Violence offenses occurred during the weekend (**Saturday and Sunday**).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY MONTH OF YEAR 1990/1991



- In 1991, the highest number of Domestic Violence offenses occurred during the months of **July** and **August**.
- During 1991 the months with the lowest number of reported Domestic Violence offenses were **January** and **February**.