

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 in the home, the State of New Jersey, through its legislature, has provided the means to gain a meaningful insight into this 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. (NOTE: Legislation effective November 12, 1991, added terroristic threats and criminal trespass as domestic violence offenses. Additionally, legislation enacted August 11, 1994, added stalking as a domestic violence offense. This 1994 legislation also expanded domestic violence protection to persons involved in a dating relationship. These legislative changes will effect comparisons of the volume of reported domestic violence acts.) 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 1995 domestic violence statistics are listed below:

- There were 86,631 domestic violence offenses reported by the police in 1995, a 22% increase compared to the 70,991 reported in 1994.
- Murders increased 45% in 1995 (61) when compared to 1994 (42).
- Assaults accounted for 53% (45,509) and harassment accounted for 34% (29,139) of the reported offenses in 1995.
- Arrests were made in 34% (29,061) of the offenses reported for 1995, an increase of 15% when compared to 1994 (25,364).
- The most frequent day of domestic violence occurrences was Sunday (15,796).
- For the thirteenth consecutive year, the most frequent hours of domestic violence incidents were between 8:00 p.m. and midnight, when 29% (25,547) of the offenses were reported.
- Children were involved or present during 45% of all domestic violence offenses occurring in 1995. Specifically, 7% (5,993) were involved and 38% (32,823) were present.
- Wives were the victims in 25% (21,842) and ex-wives were the victims in 3% (2,462) of the reported domestic violence offenses in 1995. Overall, females were victims in 81% (70,042) of all domestic violence offenses.
- The number of domestic violence complaints that had prior court orders issued against the offender increased from 17,007 in 1994 to 19,747 in 1995. This is an increase of 16%.
- Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in 37% (32,197) of the reported offenses occurring in 1995. Alcohol involvement alone accounted for 32% (27,512) of the total domestic violence offenses reported.
- Persons age 60 or over were victims in 3% (2,607) of all reported domestic violence offenses that occurred in 1995.
- 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 six (6) minutes and forty-two (42) seconds.
- Domestic Violence offenses arising from a dating relationship accounted for 8% (6,946) of the state total. Five of these offenses were murder.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS 1994/1995

Domestic Violence Offense	Number of Offenses	★Number of Arrests	★Percent of Offenses Involving an Arrest	
Homicide	1994 1995	42 61	30 48	71 79
Percent Change		45	60	10
Assault	1994 1995	39,047 45,509	19,306 21,952	49 48
Percent Change		17	14	-2
Terroristic Threats	1994 1995	4,414 5,348	1,255 1,438	28 27
Percent Change		21	15	-5
Kidnapping	1994 1995	33 25	9 7	27 28
Percent Change		-24	&	3
Criminal Restraint	1994 1995	85 110	28 42	33 38
Percent Change		29	50	16
False Imprisonment	1994 1995	18 33	4 13	22 39
Percent Change		83	&	77
Sexual Assault	1994 1995	118 195	50 78	42 40
Percent Change		65	56	-6
Criminal Sexual Contact	1994 1995	32 46	13 22	41 48
Percent Change		44	69	18
Lewdness	1994 1995	14 19	4 8	29 42
Percent Change		36	&	47
Criminal Mischief	1994 1995	3,546 4,397	1,191 1,417	34 32
Percent Change		24	19	-4
Burglary	1994 1995	496 627	144 182	29 29
Percent Change		26	26	-
Criminal Trespass	1994 1995	658 839	321 359	49 43
Percent Change		28	12	-12
Harassment	1994 1995	22,488 29,139	3,009 3,426	13 12
Percent Change		30	14	-12
Stalking [□]	1994 1995	- 283	- 69	- 24
Percent Change		-	-	-
TOTAL	1994 1995	70,991 86,631	25,364 29,061	36 34
Percent Change		22	15	-6

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

& Percent not calculated due to small volume.

□ Domestic Violence offense of Stalking was first reported during 1995.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY COUNTY 1994/1995

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault
Atlantic	1994	3	1,873	187	1	4	-	6
	1995	8	2,264	242	-	4	2	9
Bergen	1994	2	2,383	368	2	7	3	7
	1995	3	2,813	413	1	6	3	6
Burlington	1994	3	1,831	94	1	3	2	2
	1995	3	2,046	113	-	5	1	8
Camden	1994	4	3,686	254	4	7	-	8
	1995	2	4,596	281	-	19	2	23
Cape May	1994	-	664	60	-	6	1	2
	1995	-	860	55	1	4	1	4
Cumberland	1994	4	1,358	139	3	1	-	8
	1995	1	1,637	136	3	2	-	14
Essex	1994	7	5,251	783	4	7	-	19
	1995	9	6,073	1,058	6	6	4	33
Gloucester	1994	1	1,304	110	-	2	1	1
	1995	1	1,481	128	1	12	-	2
Hudson	1994	3	3,188	428	5	5	2	10
	1995	7	3,773	586	5	9	1	19
Hunterdon	1994	1	180	13	-	2	-	3
	1995	-	190	24	-	2	-	1
Mercer	1994	4	1,578	51	1	2	2	7
	1995	3	1,952	60	2	3	5	7

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY COUNTY

1994/1995

Criminal Sexual Contact	Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass	Harassment	Stalking	County Total	Percent Change
1	-	172	16	16	1,560	-	3,839	31
2	1	215	22	27	2,229	11	5,036	
2	1	137	24	86	1,771	-	4,793	24
2	3	189	23	98	2,370	27	5,957	
-	-	127	8	35	1,115	-	3,221	21
3	-	165	15	49	1,477	10	3,895	
3	2	444	65	66	2,725	-	7,268	29
3	-	581	104	81	3,686	20	9,398	
-	-	62	4	41	744	-	1,584	26
2	-	69	4	39	937	12	1,988	
4	1	131	18	15	481	-	2,163	24
5	1	179	29	30	644	6	2,687	
5	3	255	94	47	764	-	7,239	20
-	4	340	125	38	950	29	8,675	
-	1	133	7	23	648	-	2,231	15
-	-	175	9	41	720	5	2,575	
1	-	183	48	31	1,159	-	5,063	27
8	1	275	65	32	1,616	22	6,419	
1	-	10	1	7	153	-	371	21
-	1	12	1	5	210	4	450	
3	-	219	27	33	863	-	2,790	24
-	-	260	16	37	1,097	11	3,453	

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY COUNTY

1994/1995

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault
Middlesex	1994	-	2,698	418	4	11	-	11
	1995	4	3,149	484	2	7	3	19
Monmouth	1994	2	2,729	259	3	7	2	4
	1995	4	3,130	308	-	8	3	13
Morris	1994	4	1,159	139	-	5	2	4
	1995	2	1,292	182	-	4	1	4
Ocean	1994	1	1,981	327	2	6	1	5
	1995	4	2,447	403	1	5	-	10
Passaic	1994	-	2,154	322	1	3	-	5
	1995	5	2,383	347	2	10	2	8
Salem	1994	-	382	16	-	-	-	2
	1995	-	520	21	-	-	1	2
Somerset	1994	2	940	24	-	4	-	5
	1995	-	901	34	1	1	1	3
Sussex	1994	-	401	43	-	-	-	2
	1995	-	461	66	-	-	2	2
Union	1994	1	3,032	354	2	3	2	7
	1995	5	3,240	366	-	1	1	7
Warren	1994	-	275	25	-	-	-	-
	1995	-	301	41	-	2	-	1
TOTAL	1994	42	39,047	4,414	33	85	18	118
	1995	61	45,509	5,348	25	110	33	195

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY COUNTY

1994/1995

Criminal Sexual Contact	Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass	Harassment	Stalking	County Total	Percent Change
3	2	305	34	27	1,537	-	5,050	21
1	-	414	38	64	1,910	25	6,120	
1	1	345	38	56	2,114	-	5,561	17
3	1	338	36	70	2,569	25	6,508	
1	-	106	6	24	858	-	2,308	23
1	-	145	9	36	1,149	12	2,837	
1	-	195	28	37	1,705	-	4,289	25
5	2	268	37	57	2,089	27	5,355	
2	1	141	22	26	807	-	3,484	17
3	4	149	29	34	1,089	14	4,079	
1	-	44	4	7	233	-	689	35
-	-	54	4	9	317	1	929	
-	2	175	4	23	1,037	-	2,216	12
2	-	173	5	31	1,334	1	2,487	
-	-	47	3	12	497	-	1,005	20
1	-	59	2	14	590	7	1,204	
2	-	287	44	44	1,476	-	5,254	13
4	1	288	53	44	1,910	11	5,931	
1	-	28	1	2	241	-	573	13
1	-	49	1	3	246	3	648	
32	14	3,546	496	658	22,488	0	70,991	22
46	19	4,397	627	839	29,139	283	86,631	

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS

1991 Through 1995

Domestic Violence Offense	1991		1992		1993		1994		1995	
	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests
Homicide	61	48	60	48	54	35	42	30	61	48
Assault	34,319	15,237	30,292	15,227	37,760	18,488	39,047	19,306	45,509	21,952
Terroristic Threats □	-	-	3,026	954	3,999	1,219	4,414	1,255	5,348	1,438
Kidnapping	20	6	14	4	15	5	33	9	25	7
Criminal Restraint	120	54	82	31	93	33	85	28	110	42
False Imprisonment	32	11	28	10	21	10	18	4	33	13
Sexual Assault	82	33	92	41	122	53	118	50	195	78
Criminal Sexual Contact	19	11	25	10	28	17	32	13	46	22
Lewdness	8	1	6	1	11	5	14	4	19	8
Criminal Mischief	2,768	885	2,553	854	3,237	1,121	3,546	1,191	4,397	1,417
Burglary	382	101	293	72	418	127	496	144	627	182
Criminal Trespass □	-	-	478	225	560	248	658	321	839	359
Harassment	17,887	2,740	15,372	2,243	19,930	2,754	22,488	3,009	29,139	3,426
Stalking □	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	283	69
TOTAL	55,698	19,127	52,321	19,720	66,248	24,115	70,991	25,364	86,631	29,061

□ Domestic Violence offenses of Terroristic Threats and Criminal Trespass were first reported during 1992. Stalking was first reported in 1995.

- Arrests for domestic violence offenses increased 15%, and reflected the highest number of arrests since the inception of the Domestic Violence Program.
- The violent crimes of homicide (61), aggravated assault (6,648), and sexual assault (195) accounted for 8 % of reported domestic violence offenses (86,631).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TYPE OF WEAPON AND EXTENT OF INJURY 1994/1995

Type of Weapon	Extent of Injury			TOTAL
	Aggravated Serious	Non-Aggravated Minor	None	
1994 1995	189 237	128 148	93 86	410 471
Percent Change	25	16	-8	15
1994 1995	841 951	979 1,056	248 217	2,068 2,224
Percent Change	13	8	-13	8
1994 1995	663 751	1,496 1,668	187 203	2,346 2,622
Percent Change	13	11	9	12
1994 1995	1,484 1,699	28,297 33,023	4,053 5,314	33,834 40,036
Percent Change	14	17	31	18
1994 1995	- -	- -	32,333 41,278	32,333 41,278
Percent Change	-	-	28	28
1994 1995	3,177 3,638	30,900 35,895	36,914 47,098	70,991 86,631
Percent Change	15	16	28	22

- Forty-six percent (39,533) of all domestic violence complaints resulted in injury. This is a 16% increase when compared to the 34,077 that occurred in 1994.
- Of all the domestic violence offenses involving weapons (45,353), hands, fists, feet, etc. were used in 88% (40,036) of these offenses.
- Domestic violence offenses involving hands, fists, feet, etc. increased 18%, from 33,834 in 1994 to 40,036 in 1995.
- Serious injuries were reported in 3,638 offenses a 15% increase when compared to the 3,177 reported in 1994.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TYPE & SEX OF VICTIM

1995

Type of Offense	Relationship of Victim to Offender							Total Number of Offenses
	Spouse	Ex-spouse	Co-parent	Relative	Friend	Ex-friend	Total	
Homicide	Male	1	-	-	6	10	2	19
	Female	15	1	4	8	11	3	42
Assault	Male	2,470	182	1,014	1,962	2,759	543	8,930
	Female	10,841	725	6,875	3,191	11,955	2,992	36,579
Terroristic Threats	Male	178	43	64	235	148	96	764
	Female	1,451	291	752	503	795	792	4,584
Kidnapping	Male	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
	Female	2	6	8	2	2	3	23
Criminal Restraint	Male	1	-	1	2	1	-	5
	Female	30	2	19	5	27	22	105
False Imprisonment	Male	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
	Female	13	1	5	-	9	4	32
Sexual Assault	Male	1	-	-	2	2	-	5
	Female	41	6	16	12	73	42	190
Criminal Sexual Contact	Male	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	Female	7	4	4	9	15	6	45
Lewdness	Male	1	-	-	1	-	-	2
	Female	6	1	-	6	4	-	17
Criminal Mischief	Male	250	31	142	184	247	192	1,046
	Female	868	104	523	503	891	462	3,351
Burglary	Male	14	5	10	29	18	30	106
	Female	84	26	102	85	70	154	521
Criminal Trespass	Male	28	14	9	50	35	30	166
	Female	149	63	105	108	105	143	673
Harassment	Male	1,619	315	585	1,043	1,235	719	5,516
	Female	8,287	1,212	3,258	2,247	5,519	3,100	23,623
Stalking	Male	6	1	2	1	4	12	26
	Female	48	20	25	5	40	119	257
TOTAL	Male	4,570	592	1,828	3,515	4,460	1,624	16,589
Female	21,842	2,462	11,696	6,684	19,516	7,842	70,042	-
GRAND TOTAL		26,412	3,054	13,524	10,199	23,976	9,466	86,631

ANALYSIS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (Alcohol or Drugs Involved)* 1995

Domestic Violence Offense	Total Number of Offenses	Substance Involved			Total Alcohol and Drugs	Percent of Offenses Involving Alcohol or Drugs
		Only Alcohol	Only Drugs	Both Alcohol and Drugs		
Homicide	61	13	7	3	23	38
Assault	45,509	16,276	1,154	1,460	18,890	42
Terroristic Threats	5,348	1,240	220	251	1,711	32
Kidnapping	25	6	1	-	7	28
Criminal Restraint	110	20	2	9	31	28
False Imprisonment	33	8	-	-	8	24
Sexual Assault	195	51	5	8	64	33
Criminal Sexual Contact	46	15	-	3	18	39
Lewdness	19	3	3	1	7	37
Criminal Mischief	4,397	1,512	126	140	1,778	40
Burglary	627	101	55	22	178	28
Criminal Trespass	839	210	28	29	267	32
Harassment	29,139	8,019	565	588	9,172	31
Stalking	283	38	4	1	43	15
TOTAL	86,631	27,512	2,170	2,515	32,197	37

* Indicates alcohol or drug use by either victim or offender.

- Drugs or alcohol were involved in 38% (61) of the reported domestic violence offenses of homicides.
- Thirty-seven percent (32,197) of the reported acts of domestic violence (86,631) involved the use of drugs or alcohol.

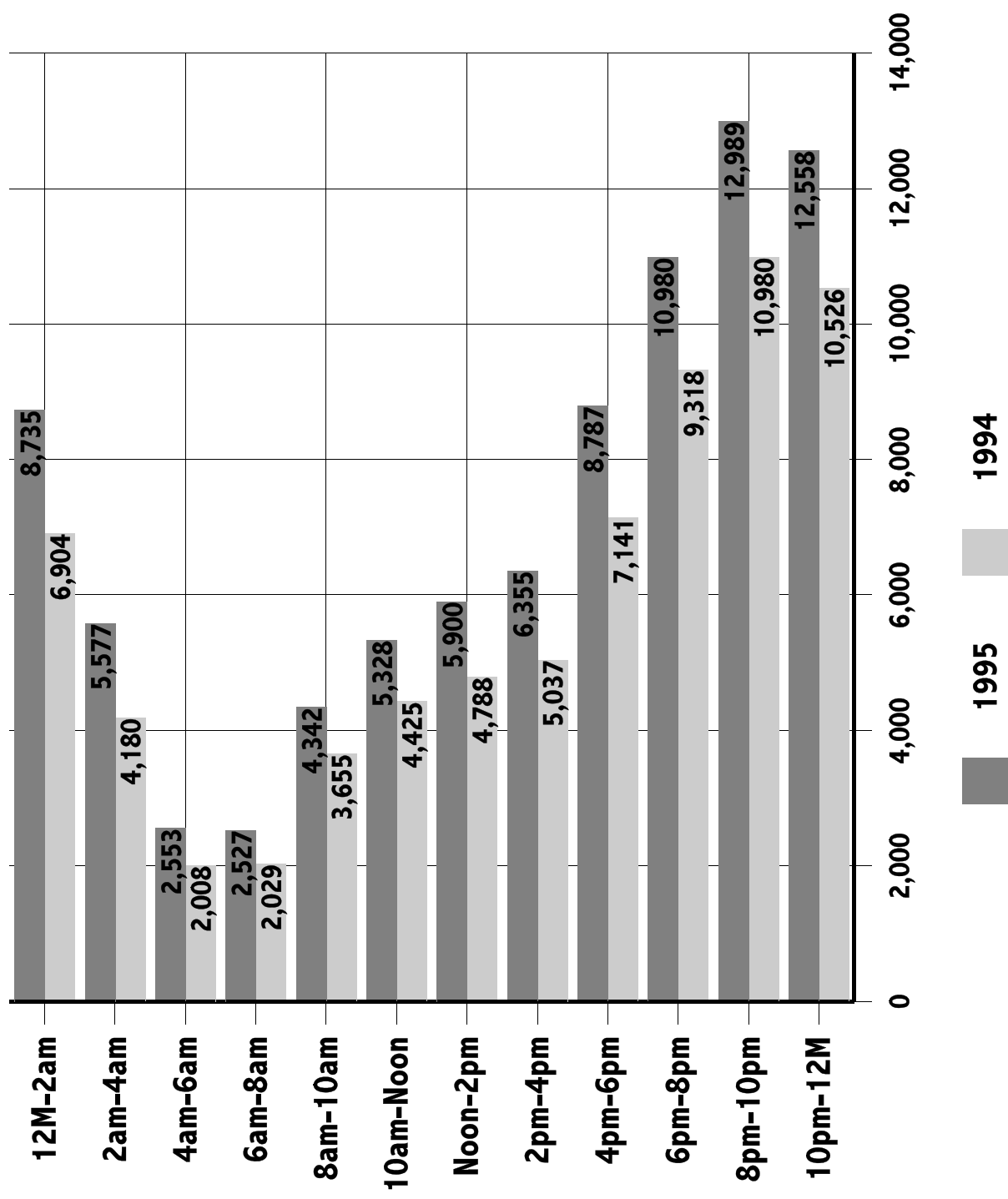
OFFENSES AGAINST ELDERLY VICTIMS (60 Years of age or over) 1995

Domestic Violence Offense	Total Number of Offenses	Relationship of Victim to Offender												
		Spouse		Ex-spouse		Co-parent		Relative		Friend		Ex-friend		
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Homicide	13	1	4	-	-	-	-	2	5	-	-	1	-	-
Assault	995	96	211	3	5	4	25	194	327	57	61	9	3	3
Terroristic Threats	211	6	34	3	1	3	13	51	83	3	9	1	4	4
Kidnapping	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Restraint	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
False Imprisonment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sexual Assault	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Criminal Sexual Contact	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Lewdness	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Mischief	178	10	11	1	-	7	13	37	83	4	4	8	-	-
Burglary	26	1	-	-	1	-	1	6	13	2	1	1	-	-
Criminal Trespass	63	1	3	-	1	1	1	20	30	3	1	1	1	1
Harassment	1,115	84	216	5	9	13	33	192	458	34	42	22	7	7
Stalking	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2,607	199	481	12	17	28	86	502	1,002	103	120	42	15	15

- Assaults accounted for 38% (995) of all domestic violence offenses for victims 60 years old or over.
- Females, age 60 or over were the victims in 66% (1,721) of the 2,607 elderly abuse offenses.
- Persons age 60 or over were the victims in 3% (2,607) of all the reported domestic violence offenses during this period.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TIME OF DAY

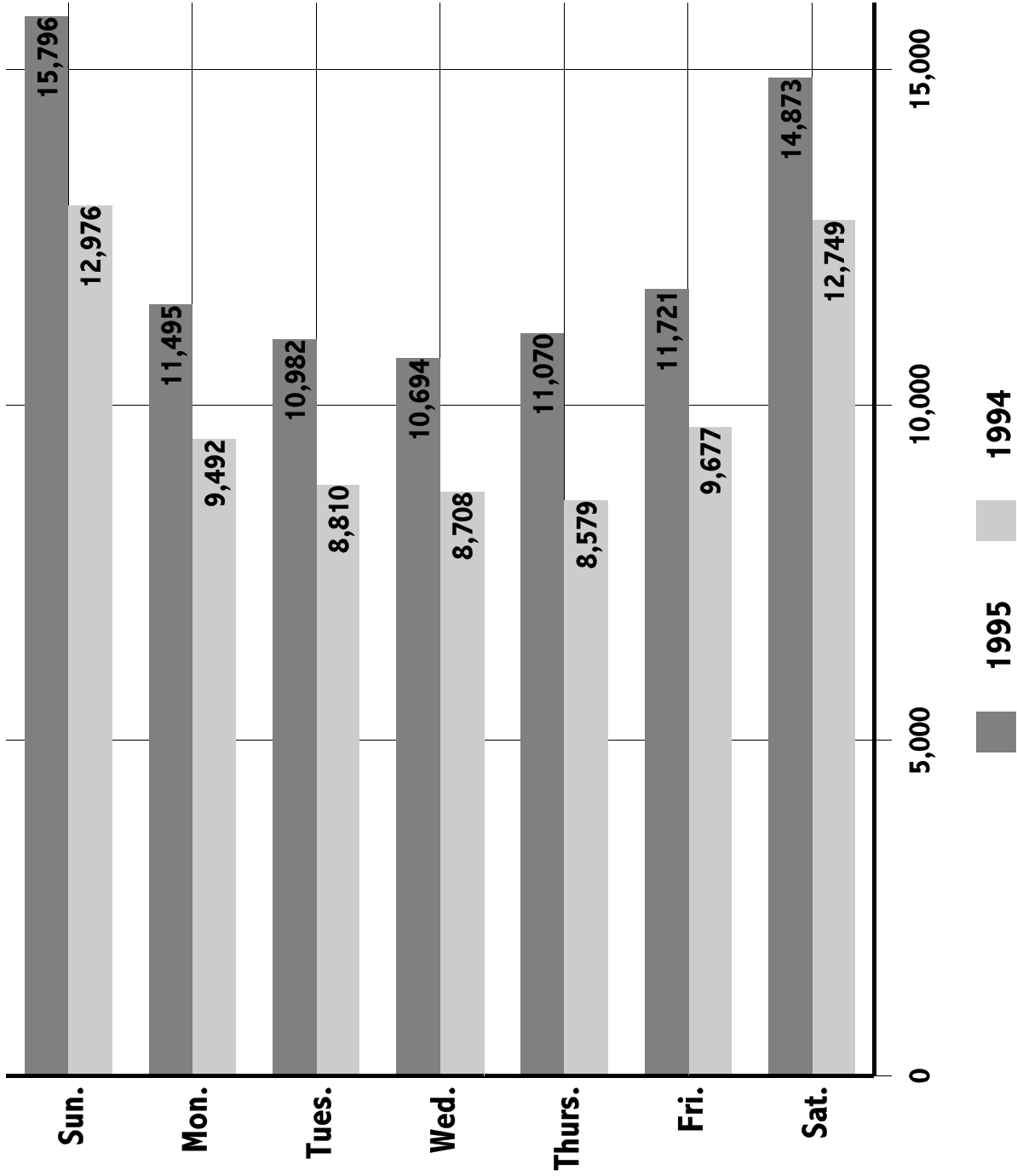
1994/1995



- During 1995, 57% (49,516) of the reported Domestic Violence offenses occurred between 8:00 p.m. and 12 midnight.

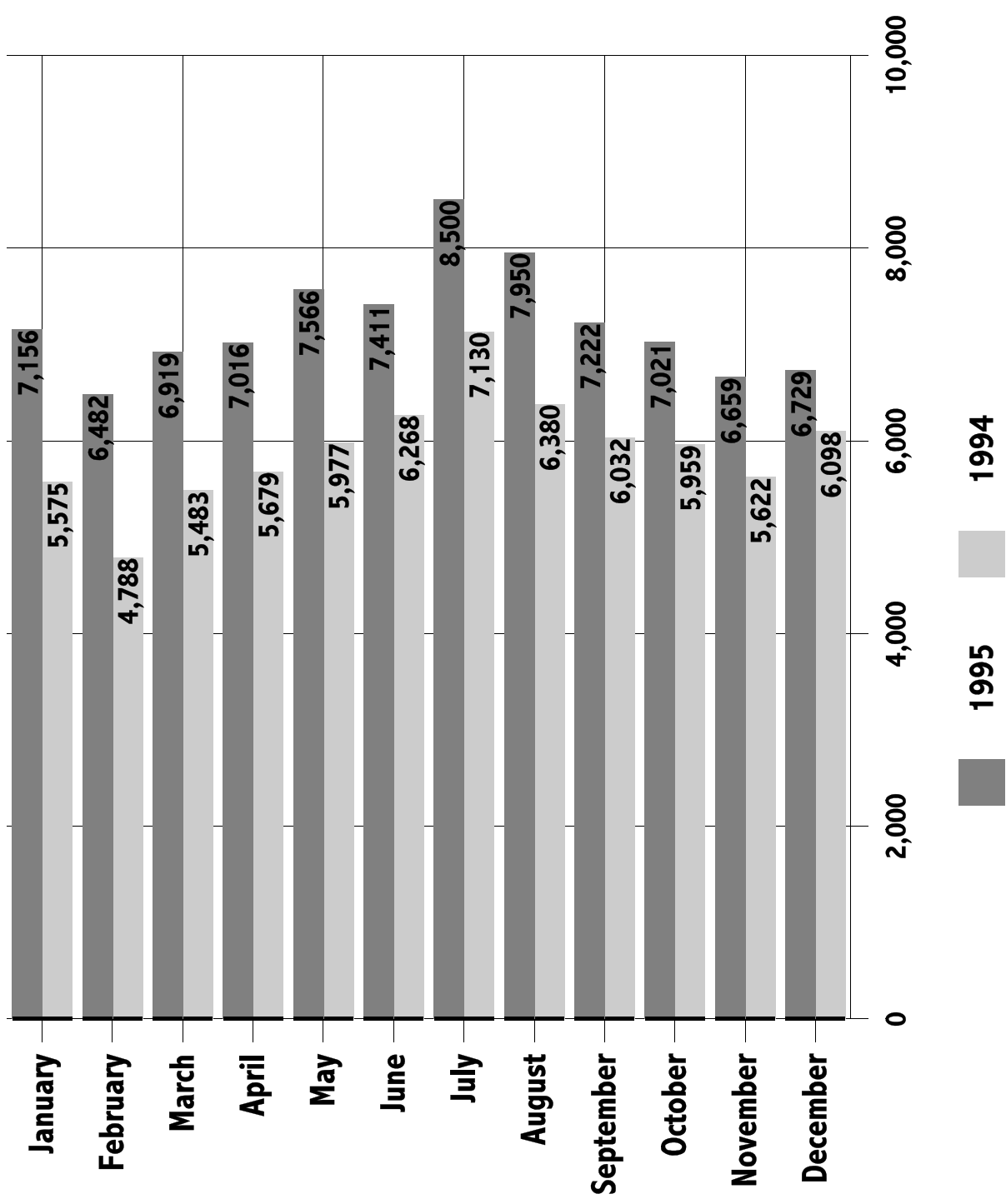
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY DAY OF WEEK

1994/1995



- Sunday recorded the highest number of occurrences in 1995 with 15,796 offenses.
- During 1995, 35% (30,579) of the reported domestic violence offenses occurred during the weekend (Saturday and Sunday).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY MONTH OF YEAR 1994/1995



- In 1995, the highest number of domestic violence offenses occurred during the months of July and August.
- During 1995, the month with the lowest number of reported domestic violence offenses was February.