



Section Eleven

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. Pursuant to a change in N.J.S.A. 2C:25-24 enacted, June 9, 1999, arrest data is presented by county. Domestic violence restraining order violations are now captured and reported. 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. 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 2002 domestic violence statistics are listed below:

- There were 79,844 domestic violence offenses reported by the police in 2002, a 3% decrease compared to the 82,373 reported in 2001.
- Murders increased 30% in 2002 (52) when compared to 2001 (40).
- Assaults accounted for 46% (36,823) and harassment accounted for 39% (31,348) of the reported offenses in 2002.
- Arrests were made in 32% (25,774) of the offenses reported for 2002, a decrease of 3% when compared to 2001 (26,551).
- The most frequent day of domestic violence occurrences was Sunday (14,294).
- For the twentieth consecutive year, the most frequent hours of domestic violence incidents were between 8:00 p.m. and midnight, when 28% (22,202) of the offenses were reported.
- Children were involved or present during 37% of all domestic violence offenses occurring in 2002. Specifically, 6% (4,625) were involved and 31% (24,944) were present.
- Wives were the victims in 22% (17,556) and ex-wives were the victims in 3% (2,279) of the reported domestic violence offenses in 2002. Overall, females were victims in 77% (61,715) of all domestic violence offenses.
- The number of domestic violence complaints that had prior court orders issued against the offender decreased from 19,186 in 2001 to 17,720 in 2002. This is a decrease of 8%.
- Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in 30% (23,877) of the reported offenses occurring in 2002. Alcohol involvement alone accounted for 27% (21,313) of the total domestic violence offenses reported.
- Persons age 60 or over were victims in 3% (2,271) of all reported domestic violence offenses that occurred in 2002. Elderly were the victims in 17% (9) of the domestic violence murders (52).
- 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 6 minutes and 35 seconds.
- Domestic violence offenses arising from a dating relationship accounted for 14% (10,909) of the state total.
- There were 3,679 total arrests involving domestic violence restraining orders reported by police in 2002. Of these, 1,816 were arrests for violations of a restraining order **only**, while 1,863 were arrests for violations of a restraining order **with** an offense arrest.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS 2001/2002

Domestic Violence Offense		Number of Offenses	☆ Number of Arrests	☆ Percent of Offenses Involving an Arrest
Homicide	2001	40	23	57
	2002	52	33	63
	Percent Change	30	43	11
Assault	2001	39,092	18,674	48
	2002	36,823	17,800	48
	Percent Change	-6	-5	0
Terroristic Threats	2001	4,808	1,409	29
	2002	4,593	1,366	30
	Percent Change	-4	-3	3
Kidnapping	2001	33	12	36
	2002	24	11	46
	Percent Change	-27	-8	28
Criminal Restraint	2001	128	47	37
	2002	160	70	44
	Percent Change	25	49	19
False Imprisonment	2001	39	24	62
	2002	43	21	49
	Percent Change	10	-13	-21
Sexual Assault	2001	204	71	35
	2002	201	69	34
	Percent Change	-1	-3	-3
Criminal Sexual Contact	2001	58	9	16
	2002	75	25	33
	Percent Change	29	&	106
Lewdness	2001	10	4	40
	2002	10	2	20
	Percent Change	0	&	-50
Criminal Mischief	2001	5,191	1,658	32
	2002	4,987	1,626	33
	Percent Change	-4	-2	3
Burglary	2001	730	246	34
	2002	670	237	35
	Percent Change	-8	-4	3
Criminal Trespass	2001	612	242	40
	2002	565	236	42
	Percent Change	-8	-2	5
Harassment	2001	31,096	4,041	13
	2002	31,348	4,206	13
	Percent Change	1	4	0
Stalking	2001	332	91	27
	2002	293	72	25
	Percent Change	-12	-21	-7
TOTAL	2001	82,373	26,551	32
	2002	79,844	25,774	32
	Percent Change	-3	-3	0

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

& Percent change not calculated due to small volume.

* Less than one-half of one percent.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2001/2002

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault	Criminal Sexual Contact
Atlantic	2001	1	1,905	233	1	8	-	13	4
	2002	2	1,815	207	-	14	1	8	4
Bergen	2001	1	2,410	373	3	8	2	16	4
	2002	5	2,284	358	1	9	2	14	10
Burlington	2001	4	1,696	112	-	2	3	11	-
	2002	3	1,680	99	1	6	-	7	1
Camden	2001	2	3,765	233	5	10	6	16	7
	2002	2	3,746	241	-	22	3	14	5
Cape May	2001	-	576	45	1	1	1	4	-
	2002	1	509	43	-	2	-	-	2
Cumberland	2001	2	1,593	86	3	5	2	6	5
	2002	3	1,639	126	2	12	-	6	6
Essex	2001	3	5,617	1,090	4	23	1	33	6
	2002	8	4,302	871	3	20	7	22	6
Gloucester	2001	1	1,408	88	-	6	3	5	2
	2002	1	1,400	100	-	6	2	8	1
Hudson	2001	4	2,982	450	5	5	1	15	6
	2002	3	2,706	412	3	10	1	17	10
Hunterdon	2001	-	163	25	-	2	1	-	1
	2002	-	154	23	-	1	-	-	-
Mercer	2001	4	2,036	66	1	4	4	11	3
	2002	1	1,834	75	2	6	4	11	2

* Less than one-half of one percent.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2001/2002

Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass	Harassment	Stalking	County Total	Percent Change	Arrests
-	229	39	32	2,823	13	5,301	5	1,539
-	222	43	15	3,242	15	5,588		1,571
-	211	25	90	2,563	31	5,737	-4	1,561
-	183	22	107	2,464	31	5,490		1,474
-	189	16	33	1,438	7	3,511	2	2,150
-	239	31	37	1,472	7	3,583		2,237
2	595	109	48	2,560	19	7,377	*	2,832
1	562	99	47	2,591	12	7,345		2,737
-	73	10	19	697	9	1,436	-13	470
-	61	8	9	616	4	1,255		435
-	244	30	27	967	9	2,979	7	1,098
-	254	37	23	1,074	10	3,192		1,168
1	602	116	39	1,269	53	8,857	-21	2,944
2	497	78	24	1,104	36	6,980		2,215
-	194	20	27	1,181	11	2,946	*	949
-	187	20	26	1,183	5	2,939		1,012
-	268	59	12	1,593	26	5,426	-3	1,267
1	290	42	11	1,725	23	5,254		1,102
-	24	2	3	280	3	504	4	144
1	24	2	5	312	3	525		136
1	349	42	35	1,560	9	4,125	-8	1,171
-	344	51	25	1,416	10	3,781		1,065

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2001/2002

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault	Criminal Sexual Contact
Middlesex	2001	2	2,420	378	2	13	2	13	5
	2002	6	2,341	344	-	3	1	24	5
Monmouth	2001	5	2,260	284	1	10	1	7	3
	2002	3	2,326	312	1	10	8	14	3
Morris	2001	-	946	164	1	2	3	5	-
	2002	4	960	162	-	10	5	6	5
Ocean	2001	1	2,133	351	-	8	1	12	3
	2002	2	2,105	400	2	8	1	11	5
Passaic	2001	2	2,699	470	4	4	1	9	6
	2002	3	2,825	469	8	6	3	18	6
Salem	2001	2	403	18	-	4	-	1	-
	2002	1	392	20	-	8	-	1	-
Somerset	2001	1	817	28	1	3	1	8	-
	2002	-	764	26	-	1	-	5	-
Sussex	2001	-	384	52	-	1	-	7	-
	2002	1	445	50	-	1	1	2	-
Union	2001	3	2,494	214	1	6	6	11	3
	2002	2	2,174	206	1	2	4	10	4
Warren	2001	2	385	48	-	3	-	1	-
	2002	1	422	49	-	3	-	3	-
TOTAL	2001	40	39,092	4,808	33	128	39	204	58
	2002	52	36,823	4,593	24	160	43	201	75

* Less than one-half of one percent.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2001/2002

Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass	Harassment	Stalking	County Total	Percent Change	Arrests
2	355	41	36	1,642	21	4,932		1,583
-	361	28	28	1,607	18	4,766	-3	1,662
-	393	45	48	2,545	21	5,623		1,637
1	369	51	48	2,360	25	5,531	-2	1,721
1	155	14	21	1,112	16	2,440		674
2	152	14	20	1,182	15	2,537	4	768
2	348	51	43	2,719	27	5,699		1,331
-	313	44	37	2,524	26	5,478	-4	1,297
-	279	50	28	1,090	28	4,670		1,763
-	280	48	23	1,183	20	4,892	5	1,950
-	64	3	10	307	-	812		307
-	76	3	14	266	1	782	-4	331
-	162	7	19	1,433	5	2,485		665
1	149	7	17	1,463	10	2,443	-2	636
-	61	1	8	648	3	1,165		311
1	79	3	15	742	3	1,343	15	380
1	321	49	29	1,994	11	5,143		1,922
-	274	37	27	2,069	12	4,822	-6	1,638
-	75	1	5	675	10	1,205		233
-	71	2	7	753	7	1,318	9	239
10	5,191	730	612	31,096	332	82,373		26,551
10	4,987	670	565	31,348	293	79,844	-3	25,774

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS 1998 Through 2002

Domestic Violence Offense	1998		1999		2000		2001		2002	
	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests
Homicide	62	47	55	38	39	21	40	23	52	33
Assault	40,727	19,453	39,474	19,098	36,602	18,338	39,092	18,674	36,823	17,800
Terroristic Threats	4,712	1,254	4,851	1,348	4,395	1,312	4,808	1,409	4,593	1,366
Kidnapping	41	18	25	7	33	16	33	12	24	11
Criminal Restraint	126	53	132	58	131	58	128	47	160	70
False Imprisonment	37	19	42	20	37	17	39	24	43	21
Sexual Assault	198	69	200	77	196	66	204	71	201	69
Criminal Sexual Contact	59	15	52	16	59	18	58	9	75	25
Lewdness	14	2	11	3	5	-	10	4	10	2
Criminal Mischief	4,744	1,504	4,712	1,508	4,727	1,578	5,191	1,658	4,987	1,626
Burglary	665	173	688	186	633	215	730	246	670	237
Criminal Trespass	772	379	828	369	658	271	612	242	565	236
Harassment	28,949	3,413	29,266	3,426	29,869	3,789	31,096	4,041	31,348	4,206
Stalking [□]	348	73	345	86	296	75	332	91	293	72
TOTAL	81,454	26,472	80,681	26,240	77,680	25,774	82,373	26,551	79,844	25,774

□ Stalking was first reported in 1995.

- Arrests for domestic violence offenses decreased 3%.
- Criminal Sexual Contact was at its highest in the past 5 years at 75, a 27% increase from the previous high of 59 offenses reported in both 1998 and 2000 respectively.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TYPE OF WEAPON AND EXTENT OF INJURY 2001/2002

Type of Weapon		Extent of Injury			TOTAL
		Aggravated Serious	Non-Aggravated Minor	None	
Gun	2001	38	45	189	272
	2002	47	30	171	248
	Percent Change	24	-33	-10	-9
Knife	2001	464	595	516	1,575
	2002	402	541	453	1,396
	Percent Change	-13	-9	-12	-11
Other Dangerous Weapon	2001	473	1,319	420	2,212
	2002	452	1,152	436	2,040
	Percent Change	-4	-13	4	-8
Hands, Fists, Feet, etc.	2001	845	20,782	15,195	36,822
	2002	826	19,460	14,767	35,053
	Percent Change	-2	-6	-3	-5
None	2001	-	-	41,492	41,492
	2002	-	-	41,107	41,107
	Percent Change	-	-	-1	-1
TOTAL	2001	1,820	22,741	57,812	82,373
	2002	1,727	21,183	56,934	79,844
	Percent Change	-5	-7	-2	-3

* Less than one-half of one percent.

- Twenty-nine percent (22,910) of all domestic violence complaints resulted in injury. This is a 7% decrease when compared to the 24,561 that occurred in 2001.
- Of all the domestic violence offenses involving weapons (38,737), hands, fists, feet, etc. were used in 90% (35,053) of these offenses.
- Domestic violence offenses involving a gun decreased 9% when compared to 2001.
- Serious injuries were reported in 1,727 offenses, a 5% decrease when compared to the 1,820 reported in 2001.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TYPE & SEX OF VICTIM 2002

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	-	-	5	6	-	12	52
	Female	11	-	2	9	17	1	40	
Assault	Male	2,202	151	1,147	1,824	2,661	543	8,528	36,823
	Female	7,685	499	5,742	2,797	9,172	2,400	28,295	
Terroristic Threats	Male	159	40	85	210	144	126	764	4,593
	Female	1,072	255	712	404	644	742	3,829	
Kidnapping	Male	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	24
	Female	4	-	6	2	8	3	23	
Criminal Restraint	Male	2	-	3	3	5	2	15	160
	Female	31	3	28	7	53	23	145	
False Imprisonment	Male	1	-	-	-	2	-	3	43
	Female	11	1	7	4	8	9	40	
Sexual Assault	Male	-	1	1	1	2	-	5	201
	Female	38	8	34	14	64	38	196	
Criminal Sexual Contact	Male	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	75
	Female	15	1	4	7	26	19	72	
Lewdness	Male	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	10
	Female	3	-	-	3	2	-	8	
Criminal Mischief	Male	306	61	197	221	401	214	1,400	4,987
	Female	795	105	614	589	952	532	3,587	
Burglary	Male	16	6	13	30	24	59	148	670
	Female	67	33	113	57	97	155	522	
Criminal Trespass	Male	25	17	20	35	24	23	144	565
	Female	81	44	67	63	94	72	421	
Harassment	Male	1,933	414	839	1,096	1,776	1,023	7,081	31,348
	Female	7,687	1,302	3,645	2,284	5,565	3,784	24,267	
Stalking	Male	3	3	1	1	2	13	23	293
	Female	56	28	31	3	40	112	270	
TOTAL	Male	4,648	693	2,307	3,426	5,051	2,004	18,129	-
	Female	17,556	2,279	11,005	6,243	16,742	7,890	61,715	
GRAND TOTAL		22,204	2,972	13,312	9,669	21,793	9,894	79,844	79,844

ANALYSIS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (Alcohol or Drugs Involved)* 2002

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	52	8	1	2	11	21.2
Assault	36,823	11,947	599	769	13,315	36.2
Terroristic Threats	4,593	797	106	90	993	21.6
Kidnapping	24	3	1	1	5	20.8
Criminal Restraint	160	42	7	8	57	35.6
False Imprisonment	43	8	2	-	10	23.3
Sexual Assault	201	54	7	3	64	31.8
Criminal Sexual Contact	75	21	2	3	26	34.7
Lewdness	10	5	-	-	5	50.0
Criminal Mischief	4,987	1,369	106	111	1,586	31.8
Burglary	670	97	25	15	137	20.4
Criminal Trespass	565	109	12	15	136	24.1
Harassment	31,348	6,827	363	313	7,503	23.9
Stalking	293	26	2	1	29	9.9
TOTAL	79,844	21,313	1,233	1,331	23,877	29.9

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

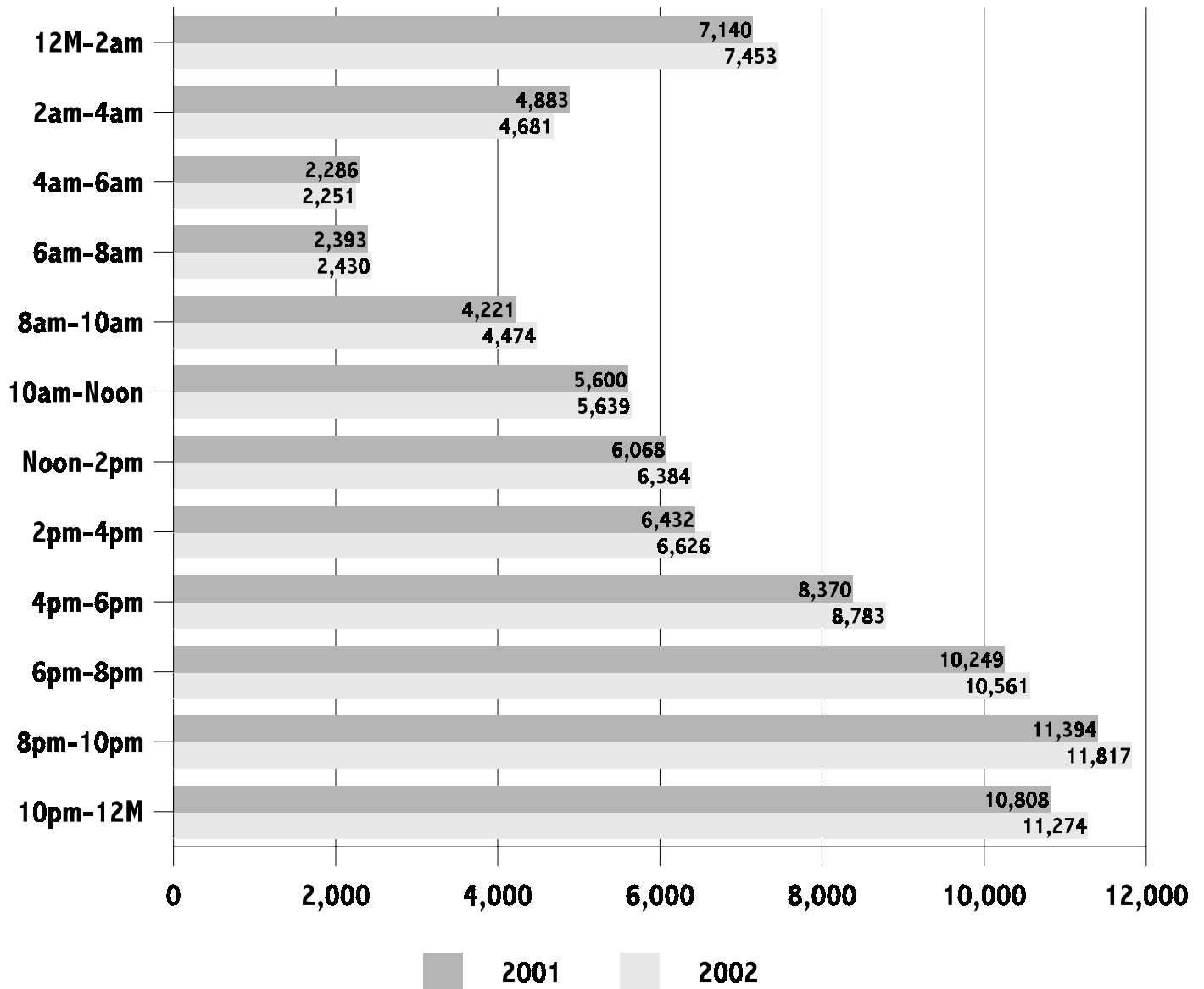
- Drugs or alcohol were involved in 21% (11) of domestic violence homicides.
- Thirty percent (23,877) of the reported acts of domestic violence (79,844) involved the use of drugs or alcohol.

OFFENSES AGAINST ELDERLY VICTIMS (60 Years of age or over) 2002

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	9	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	4	1	1	-	-
Assault	828	94	148	1	6	8	18	182	243	64	45	13	6
Terroristic Threats	145	9	23	2	2	-	2	36	58	4	6	1	2
Kidnapping	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Criminal Restraint	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
False Imprisonment	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sexual Assault	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Criminal Sexual Contact	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lewdness	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Mischief	176	15	3	-	1	3	4	34	88	13	9	5	1
Burglary	28	2	-	-	-	-	-	8	12	2	1	2	1
Criminal Trespass	35	-	3	-	-	-	1	10	16	3	1	1	-
Harassment	1,041	75	188	10	7	3	12	178	400	53	67	23	25
Stalking	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	2,271	195	370	13	17	14	37	450	823	140	131	45	36

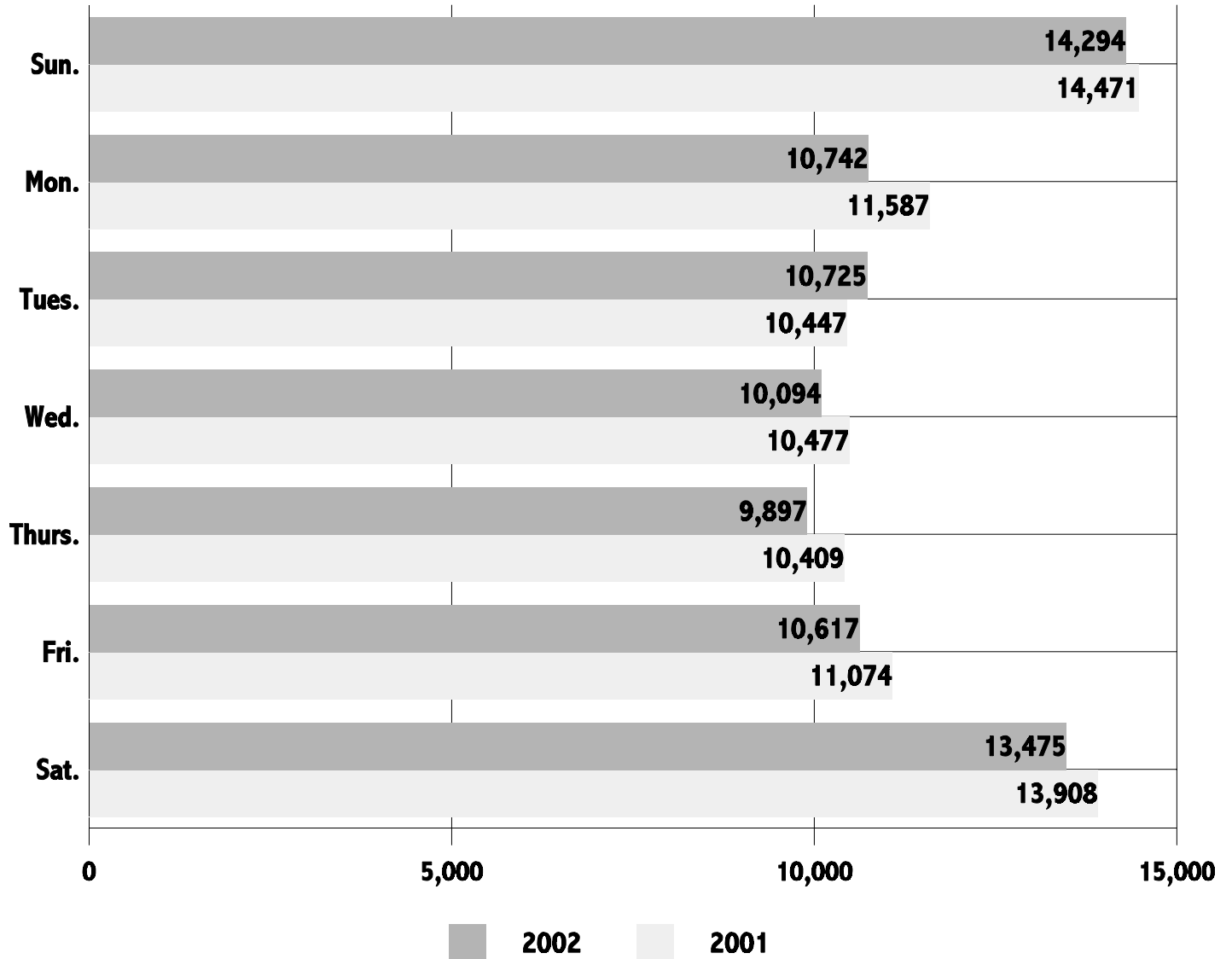
- Assaults accounted for 36% (828) of all domestic violence offenses for victims 60 years old or over.
- Females age 60 or over were the victims in 62% (1,414) of the 2,271 elderly abuse offenses.
- Persons age 60 or over were the victims in 3% (2,271) of all the reported domestic violence offenses during this period.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TIME OF DAY 2001/2002



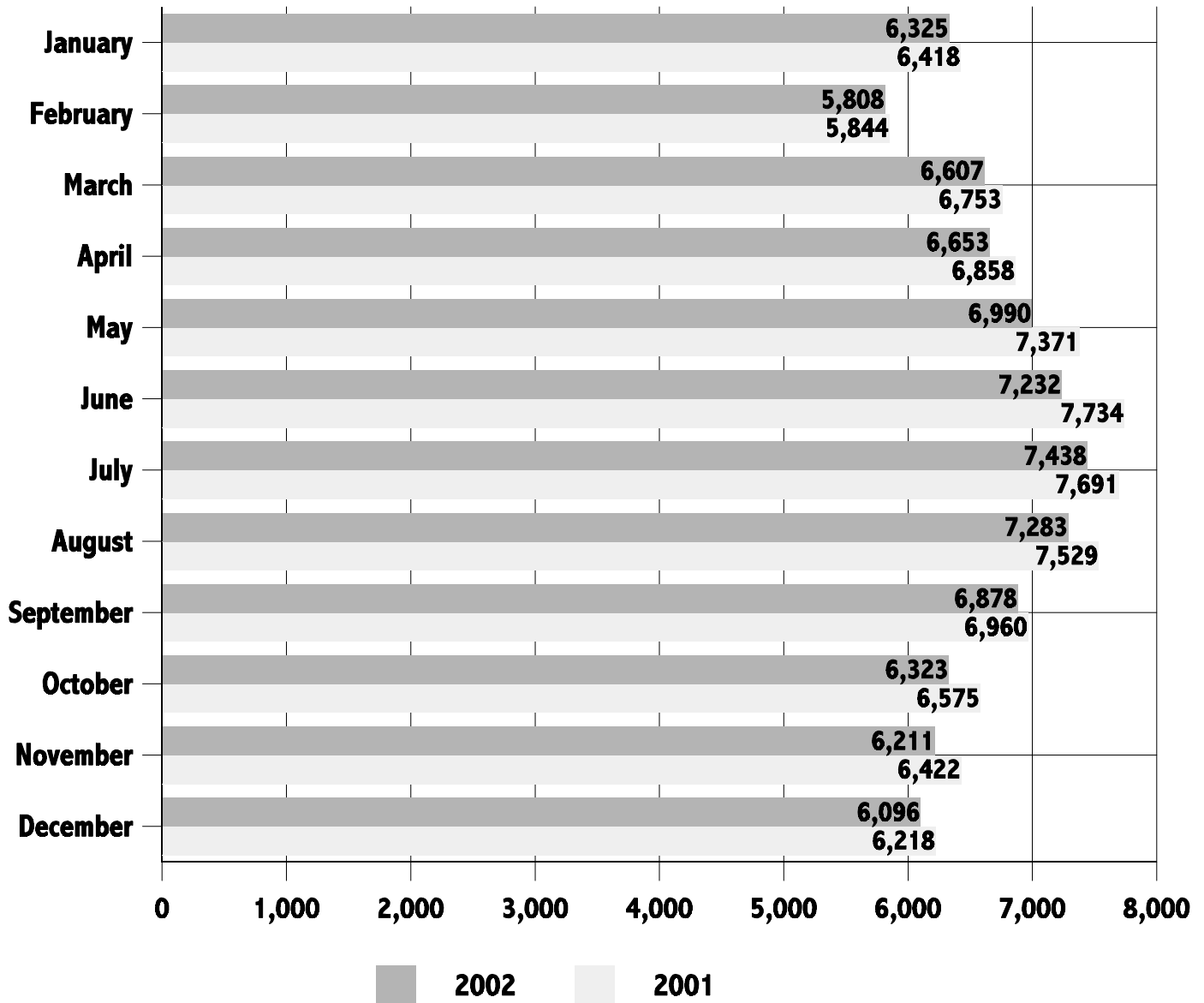
- During 2002, 28% (22,202) of the reported domestic violence offenses occurred between 8:00 p.m. and 12 midnight.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY DAY OF WEEK 2001/2002



- Sunday recorded the highest number of occurrences in 2002 with 14,294 offenses.
- During 2002, 35% (27,769) of the reported domestic violence offenses occurred during the weekend (Saturday and Sunday).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY MONTH OF YEAR 2001/2002



- In 2002, the highest number of domestic violence offenses occurred during the month of July.
- During 2002, the month with the lowest number of reported domestic violence offenses was February.

RESTRAINING ORDER ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2001/2002

	Domestic Violence Restraining Order Only			Domestic Violence Restraining Order with Offense Arrest			Total Arrests Involving Domestic Violence Restraining Orders		
	2001	2002	Percent Change	2001	2002	Percent Change	2001	2002	Percent Change
ATLANTIC	103	65	-37	146	126	-14	249	191	-23
BERGEN	81	77	-5	185	172	-7	266	249	-6
BURLINGTON	91	98	8	119	98	-18	210	196	-7
CAMDEN	203	210	3	285	259	-9	488	469	-4
CAPE MAY	59	55	-7	42	28	-33	101	83	-18
CUMBERLAND	103	116	13	82	63	-23	185	179	-3
ESSEX	216	123	-43	207	138	-33	423	261	-38
GLOUCESTER	81	90	11	86	105	22	167	195	17
HUDSON	78	65	-17	73	80	10	151	145	-4
HUNTERDON	9	18	&	8	5	&	17	23	35
MERCER	73	73	0	128	108	-16	201	181	-10
MIDDLESEX	83	87	5	94	78	-17	177	165	-7
MONMOUTH	93	77	-17	96	111	16	189	188	-1
MORRIS	84	71	-15	35	50	43	119	121	2
OCEAN	181	163	-10	101	74	-27	282	237	-16
PASSAIC	130	153	18	78	91	17	208	244	17
SALEM	50	43	-14	31	40	29	81	83	2
SOMERSET	74	83	12	58	45	-22	132	128	-3
SUSSEX	20	29	45	29	34	17	49	63	29
UNION	89	101	13	149	141	-5	238	242	2
WARREN	23	19	-17	9	17	&	32	36	13
STATE TOTALS	1,924	1,816	-6	2,041	1,863	-9	3,965	3,679	-7

& Percent not calculated due to small volume.

* Less than one-half of one percent.