

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORT



NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE
UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING UNIT

144077

TENTH ANNUAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSE REPORT 1992

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**U.S. Department of Justice
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Prepared by:

**State of New Jersey
Division of State Police
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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 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. As stated in the following pages, reported domestic violence acts decreased six percent over 1991. (NOTE: Legislation effective November 12, 1991, added terroristic threats, and criminal trespass as occurrences which constitute domestic violence acts; these additional offenses may 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.



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

ROBERT J. DEL TUFO
ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Honorable Jim Florio
Governor of the State of New Jersey

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

Dear Governor and Members of the Legislature:

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:25-8, I herewith submit for your information and review the tenth annual report on domestic violence in New Jersey. The annual report 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 1992.

It would have been impossible to complete this report without 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 tenth Domestic Violence Report is submitted.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Del Tufo", written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Robert J. Del Tufo
Attorney General of New Jersey



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION OF STATE POLICE

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Dear Attorney General Del Tufo:

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:25-8, the tenth 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 1992. The report contains comparisons and analyses between 1991 and 1992 data.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Justin J. Dintino".

Colonel Justin J. Dintino
Superintendent

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Highlights of the 1992 domestic violence statistics are listed below:

- There were 52,321 domestic violence offenses reported by the police in 1992, a 6% decrease compared to the 55,698* reported in 1991.
- Murders decreased 2% in 1992 (60) when compared to 1991 (61).
- Assaults accounted for 58% (30,292) of the reported offenses in 1992.
- The total arrests for 1992 (19,720) increased 3% over 1991 (19,127).
- Arrests were made in 38% (19,720) of the offenses reported for 1992.
- The most frequent day of domestic violence occurrences was Sunday (9,651).
- For the tenth consecutive year, the most frequent hours of domestic violence incidents were between 8:00 p.m. and midnight, when 30% (15,869) of the offenses were reported.
- Children were involved or present during 51% of all domestic violence offenses occurring in 1992. Specifically, 9% (4,956) were involved and 42% (21,957) were present.
- Wives were the victims in 31% (16,275), and ex-wives were the victims in 3% (1,583) of the reported domestic violence offenses in 1992. Overall, females were victims in 83% (43,393) of all domestic violence offenses.
- The number of domestic violence complaints that had prior court orders issued against the offender decreased from 12,105 in 1991 to 12,051 in 1992. This is a decrease of less than one-half of one percent.
- Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in 42% (22,236) of the reported offenses occurring in 1992. Alcohol involvement alone accounted for 37% (19,483) of the total domestic violence offenses reported.
- Persons age 60 or over were victims in 3% (1,557) of all reported domestic violence offenses that occurred in 1992.
- 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 ten (10) minutes and four (4) seconds.
- * Domestic Violence offenses of Terroristic Threats and Criminal Trespass were not reported during 1991.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS

1991/1992

Type of Domestic Violence Offense		Number of Offenses	Percent Distribution	* Number of Arrests	* Percent of Offenses Involving an Arrest
Homicide	1991	61	—	48	79
	1992	60	—	48	80
Percent Change		-2	—	—	+1
Assault	1991	34,319	62	15,237	44
	1992	30,292	58	15,227	50
Percent Change		-12	-7	***	+14
Terroristic Threats**	1991	—	—	—	—
	1992	3,026	2	954	32
Percent Change		—	—	—	—
Kidnapping	1991	20	—	6	30
	1992	14	—	4	29
Percent Change		-30	—	(1)	-3
Criminal Restraint	1991	120	—	54	45
	1992	82	—	31	38
Percent Change		-32	—	-43	-16
False Imprisonment	1991	32	—	11	34
	1992	28	—	10	36
Percent Change		-13	—	(1)	+6
Sexual Assault	1991	82	—	33	40
	1992	92	—	41	45
Percent Change		+12	—	+24	+13
Criminal Sexual Contact	1991	19	—	11	58
	1992	25	—	10	40
Percent Change		+32	—	(1)	-31
Lewdness	1991	8	—	1	13
	1992	6	—	1	17
Percent Change		-25	—	—	+31
Criminal Mischief	1991	2,768	5	885	32
	1992	2,553	5	854	33
Percent Change		-8	—	-4	+3
Burglary	1991	382	1	101	26
	1992	293	1	72	25
Percent Change		-23	—	-29	-4
Criminal Trespass**	1991	—	—	—	—
	1992	478	1	225	47
Percent Change		—	—	—	—
Harassment	1991	17,887	32	2,740	15
	1992	15,372	29	2,243	15
Percent Change		-14	-9	-18	—
TOTAL	1991	55,698	100	19,127	34
	1992	52,321	100	19,720	38
Percent Change		-6	—	+3	+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 of Terroristic Threats and Criminal Trespass were not reported during 1991.

*** Percent change less than one-half of one percent.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS

1988 through 1992

Type of Domestic Violence Offense	1988		1989		1990		1991		1992	
	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests
Homicide	65	57	49	37	57	47	61	48	60	48
Assault	33,249	13,020	32,640	13,331	32,268	13,726	34,319	15,237	30,292	15,227
Terroristic Threats*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,026	954
Kidnapping	6	4	11	3	17	5	20	6	14	4
Criminal Restraint	99	28	114	46	96	34	120	54	82	31
False Imprisonment	20	7	18	7	26	7	32	11	28	10
Sexual Assault	66	22	72	19	84	28	82	33	92	41
Criminal Sexual Contact	15	4	22	5	23	9	19	11	25	10
Lewdness	13	2	13	2	12	3	8	1	6	1
Criminal Mischief	2,362	710	2,623	811	2,460	785	2,768	885	2,553	854
Burglary	250	62	263	81	291	86	382	101	293	72
Criminal Trespass*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	478	225
Harassment	16,064	2,194	15,960	2,322	15,489	2,305	17,887	2,740	15,372	2,243
TOTAL	52,209	16,110	51,785	16,664	50,823	17,035	55,698	19,127	52,321	19,720

- Arrests for domestic violence offenses increased (3%), and reflected the highest number of arrests since the inception of the Domestic Violence Program.
- The violent crimes of homicide (60), aggravated assault (4,908) and sexual assault (92) accounted for ten (10) percent of reported domestic violence offenses (52,321).

* Domestic Violence offenses of Terroristic Threats and Criminal Trespass were first reported during 1992.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES
BY TYPE OF WEAPON AND EXTENT OF INJURY
1991/1992**

Type of Weapon		Extent of Injury			Total
		Aggravated Serious	Non-Aggravated Minor	None	
Gun	1991	105	74	195	374
	1992	154	117	123	394
	Percent Change	+47	+58	-37	+5
Knife	1991	663	819	421	1,903
	1992	684	755	304	1,743
	Percent Change	+3	-8	-28	-8
Other Dangerous	1991	565	1,369	235	2,169
	1992	515	1,189	189	1,893
	Percent Change	-9	-13	-20	-13
Hands, Fists, Feet, etc.	1991	1,495	24,612	4,354	30,461
	1992	1,347	21,574	4,185	27,106
	Percent Change	-10	-12	-4	-11
None	1991	—	—	20,791	20,791
	1992	—	—	21,185	21,185
	Percent Change	—	—	+2	+2
TOTAL	1991	2,828	26,874	25,996	55,698
	1992	2,700	23,635	25,986	52,321
	Percent Change	-5	-12	*	-6

- Fifty percent (26,335) of all domestic violence complaints resulted in injury. This is an 11% decrease when compared to the 29,702 that occurred in 1991.
- Of all the domestic violence offenses involving weapons (31,136), hands, fists, feet, etc. were used in 87% (27,106) of these offenses.
- Domestic violence offenses involving a gun increased 5%, from 374 in 1991 to 394 in 1992.
- There were 2,700 serious injuries reported in 1992, a 5% decrease when compared to the 2,828 reported in 1991.

* Percent change less than one-half of one percent

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY COUNTY 1991/1992

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats †	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment
Atlantic	1991	2	1,355	—	—	5	2
	1992	1	1,185	86	—	4	—
Bergen	1991	4	2,081	—	1	8	3
	1992	7	1,903	183	1	3	2
Burlington	1991	2	1,801	—	—	6	2
	1992	5	1,677	85	—	2	1
Camden	1991	7	3,572	—	4	21	2
	1992	7	3,183	183	—	12	1
Cape May	1991	2	696	—	1	9	—
	1992	—	610	47	—	1	1
Cumberland	1991	—	1,364	—	—	3	—
	1992	—	1,011	99	1	4	—
Essex	1991	18	3,635	—	6	6	2
	1992	8	3,838	504	2	8	1
Gloucester	1991	—	977	—	—	1	2
	1992	1	752	59	—	2	1
Hudson	1991	3	2,755	—	2	9	6
	1992	7	1,994	215	1	4	3
Hunterdon	1991	—	173	—	—	1	—
	1992	—	135	13	—	1	1
Mercer	1991	1	1,489	—	—	2	—
	1992	4	1,308	50	1	3	2

† Not reported in 1991.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY COUNTY

1991/1992

Sexual Assault	Criminal Sexual Contact	Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass †	Harrassment	County Total	Percent Change
2	1	—	126	10	—	897	2,400	- 5
2	1	—	108	10	11	870	2,278	
1	—	—	130	15	—	1,349	3,592	- 1
3	—	1	98	8	57	1,301	3,567	
5	1	—	124	9	—	695	2,645	+ 7
7	2	—	141	8	21	873	2,822	
7	3	1	322	49	—	2,192	6,180	- 7
13	—	2	300	43	41	1,951	5,736	
1	—	—	52	7	—	469	1,237	+ 4
1	—	1	66	4	21	532	1,284	
4	1	1	127	21	—	383	1,904	- 19
1	1	—	112	21	19	273	1,542	
13	2	1	186	43	—	950	4,862	+ 8
15	5	—	198	37	24	595	5,235	
1	—	—	81	5	—	458	1,525	- 20
2	—	—	70	1	10	327	1,225	
1	1	1	157	33	—	1,169	4,137	- 23
4	4	—	133	25	9	773	3,172	
1	—	—	6	1	—	118	300	- 21
—	—	—	7	—	6	75	238	
8	—	1	170	23	—	500	2,194	- 4
8	—	—	124	14	30	573	2,117	

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY COUNTY

1991/1992

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats †	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment
Middlesex	1991	3	2,193	—	—	7	—
	1992	1	1,927	284	1	7	6
Monmouth	1991	3	2,530	—	—	10	4
	1992	2	2,254	221	2	4	2
Morris	1991	2	1,107	—	2	3	1
	1992	1	879	96	1	6	1
Ocean	1991	6	1,731	—	—	5	1
	1992	2	1,599	217	3	3	1
Passaic	1991	3	2,282	—	3	6	2
	1992	4	1,965	296	1	3	—
Salem	1991	—	381	—	—	—	—
	1992	1	286	14	—	3	—
Somerset	1991	2	962	—	—	2	3
	1992	1	800	26	—	6	—
Sussex	1991	—	386	—	—	2	1
	1992	1	368	56	—	1	—
Union	1991	2	2,505	—	1	10	1
	1992	7	2,354	258	—	3	3
Warren	1991	1	344	—	—	4	—
	1992	—	264	34	—	2	2
TOTAL	1991	61	34,319	—	20	120	32
	1992	60	30,292	3,026	14	82	28

† Not reported in 1991.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY COUNTY 1991/1992

Sexual Assault	Criminal Sexual Contact	Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass [†]	Harrassment	County Total	Percent Change
7	2	—	209	21	—	1,267	3,709	- 8
7	3	—	198	22	29	939	3,424	
6	—	—	248	41	—	1,504	4,346	- 1
5	3	1	255	24	53	1,482	4,308	
2	3	1	119	11	—	844	2,095	- 16
2	1	—	89	10	15	653	1,754	
2	1	1	128	13	—	1,117	3,005	*
3	—	1	142	13	27	1,002	3,013	
8	1	—	139	29	—	1,179	3,652	- 10
10	1	—	128	19	25	831	3,283	
2	—	—	41	3	—	280	707	- 24
—	—	—	30	3	2	198	537	
3	—	1	120	6	—	751	1,850	- 14
2	—	—	97	5	16	643	1,596	
2	2	—	34	3	—	395	825	- 5
1	—	—	31	2	9	318	787	
5	1	—	220	35	—	1,180	3,960	- 2
5	4	—	201	23	48	973	3,879	
1	—	—	29	4	—	190	573	- 9
1	—	—	25	1	5	190	524	
82	19	8	2,768	382	—	17,887	55,698	- 6
92	25	6	2,553	293	478	15,372	52,321	

* Percent change less than one-half of one percent.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES
(By Type and Sex of of Victim)
1992

Type of Offense		Relationship of Victim to Offender						Total	Total Number of Offenses
		Spouse	Ex-Spouse	Co-Parent	Relative	Friend	Ex-Friend		
Homicide	Male	5	—	—	6	6	—	17	60
	Female	20	—	4	9	8	2	43	
Assault	Male	1,610	130	477	1,268	1,499	179	5,163	30,292
	Female	9,216	586	4,119	2,051	7,821	1,336	25,129	
Terroristic Threats	Male	119	15	25	145	68	35	407	3,026
	Female	1,016	196	393	267	447	300	2,619	
Kidnapping	Male	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	14
	Female	6	—	4	—	1	2	13	
Criminal Restraint	Male	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	82
	Female	28	2	16	3	21	10	80	
False Imprisonment	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28
	Female	8	3	4	2	9	2	28	
Sexual Assault	Male	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	92
	Female	25	4	19	7	22	14	91	
Criminal Sexual Contact	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25
	Female	7	2	1	3	10	2	25	
Lewdness	Male	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	6
	Female	—	—	2	1	1	1	5	
Criminal Mischief	Male	123	23	52	136	149	54	537	2,553
	Female	600	70	360	299	491	196	2,016	
Burglary	Male	10	3	5	6	7	11	42	293
	Female	63	11	44	20	37	76	251	
Criminal Trespass	Male	12	6	8	31	7	5	69	478
	Female	104	33	75	54	67	76	409	
Harassment	Male	980	141	246	527	594	200	2,688	15,372
	Female	5,182	676	1,618	1,163	2,977	1,068	12,684	
Total	Male	2,860	319	813	2,120	2,332	484	8,928	—
	Female	16,275	1,583	6,659	3,879	11,912	3,085	43,393	
Grand Total		19,135	1,902	7,472	5,999	14,244	3,569	—	52,321

ANALYSIS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(Alcohol or Drugs Involved) †

1992

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		
Homicide	60	19	3	5	27	45
Assault	30,292	12,336	641	987	13,964	46
Terroristic Threats	3,026	887	131	121	1,139	38
Kidnapping	14	3	—	—	3	21
Criminal Restraint	82	25	1	—	26	32
False Imprisonment	28	9	—	1	10	36
Sexual Assault	92	31	2	5	38	41
Criminal Sexual Contact	25	8	—	1	9	36
Lewdness	6	1	—	1	2	33
Criminal Mischief	2,553	1,007	52	119	1,178	46
Burglary	293	47	14	19	80	27
Criminal Trespass	478	140	20	15	175	37
Harassment	15,372	4,970	289	326	5,585	36
Total	52,321	19,483	1,153	1,600	22,236	42

- Drugs or alcohol were involved in 45% (27) of the reported domestic violence offenses of homicides (60).
- Forty-three percent (22,236) of the reported acts of domestic violence (52,321) involved the use of drugs or alcohol.

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

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES OF ELDERLY VICTIMS

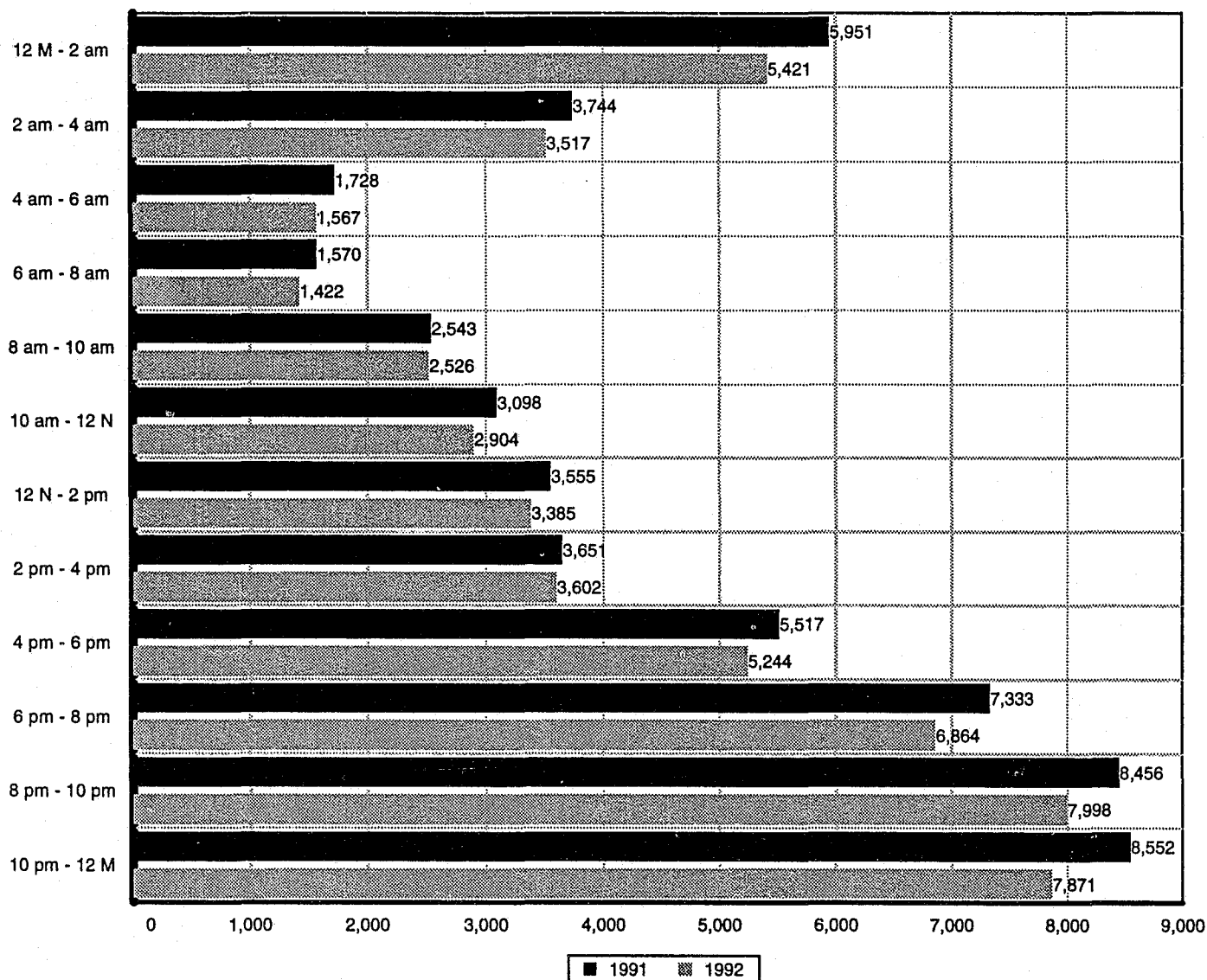
(60 Years of Age or Over)

1992

Type of 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	11	1	1	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	2	—	—
Assault	668	66	163	3	2	8	51	132	190	25	22	4	2
Terroristic Threats	141	7	22	—	3	1	11	31	52	4	8	2	—
Kidnapping	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Criminal Restraint	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
False Imprisonment	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Sexual Assault	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Criminal Sexual Contact	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lewdness	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Criminal Mischief	104	1	6	—	1	2	16	24	47	6	1	—	—
Burglary	8	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	5	—	—	—	—
Criminal Trespass	32	—	1	2	1	1	7	9	9	—	1	1	—
Harassment	589	54	121	2	6	9	41	99	222	13	15	5	2
Total	1,557	129	317	7	13	21	126	299	531	48	49	12	5

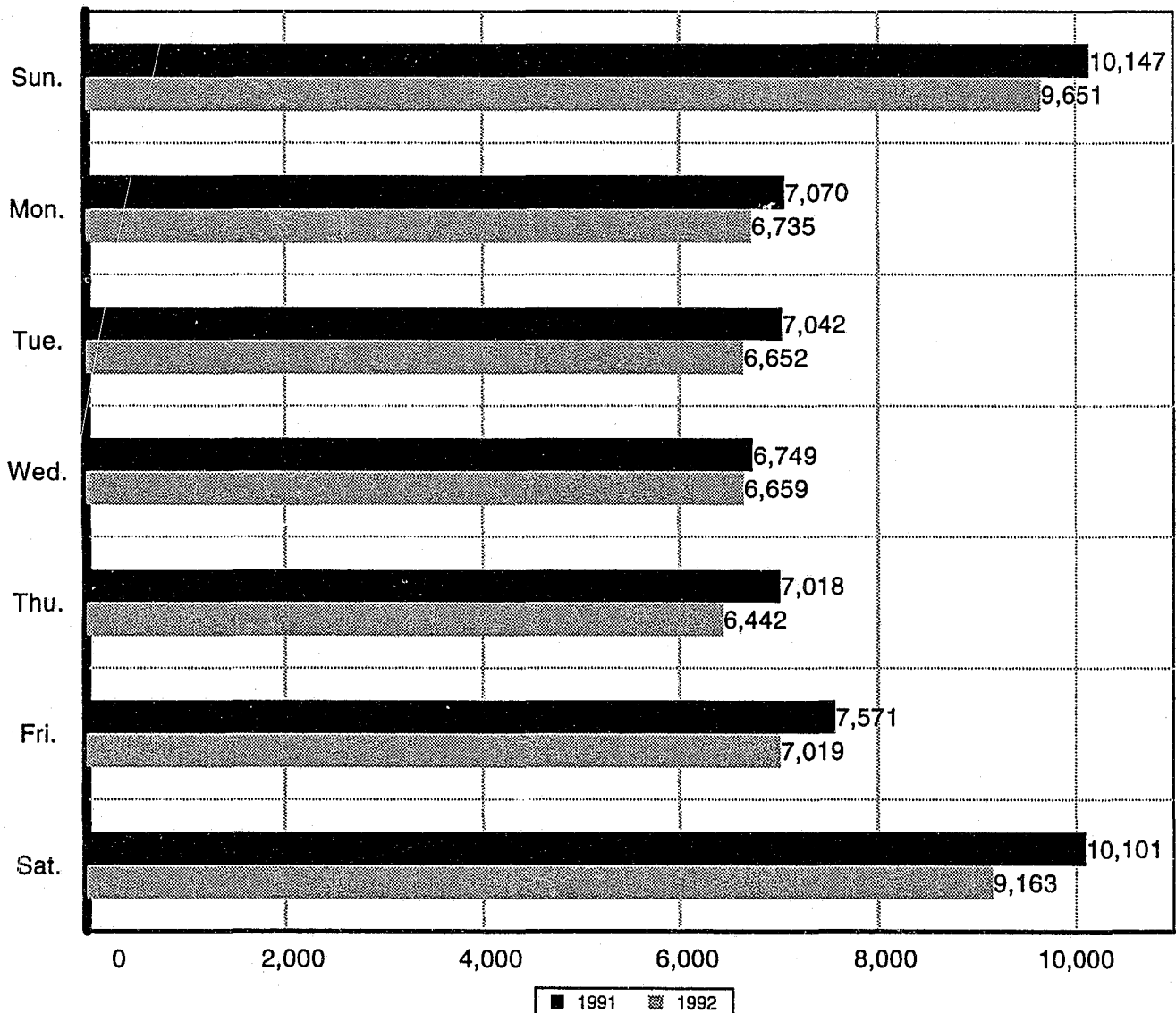
- Assaults accounted for 43% (668) of all domestic violence offenses for victims 60 years of age or over.
- Females, 60 years of age or over, were the victims in 67% (1,041) of the 1,557 elderly abuse offenses.
- Persons age 60 or over were the victims in 3% (1,557) of all the reported domestic violence offenses during this period.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TIME OF DAY 1991/1992



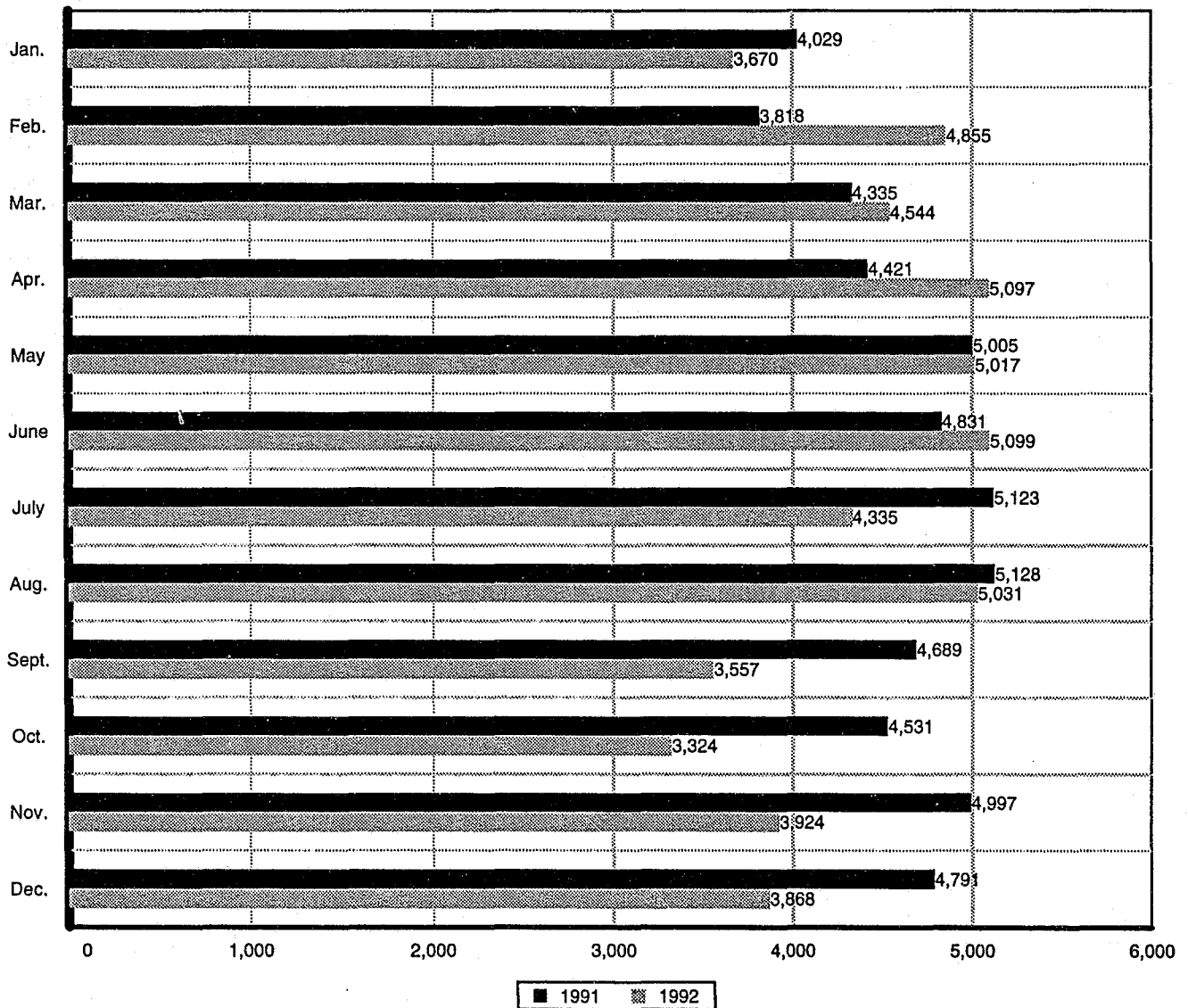
- During 1992 forty-three percent (22,733) of the reported Domestic Violence offenses occurred between 6:00 p.m. and 12 Midnight.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY DAY OF WEEK 1991/1992



- The most frequent day of occurrence for Domestic Violence during 1992 was **Sunday**.
- During 1992, thirty-six percent (18,814) of the reported Domestic Violence offenses occurred during the weekend (**Saturday and Sunday**).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY MONTH OF YEAR 1991/1992



- In 1992, the highest number of Domestic Violence offenses occurred during the months of **April** and **June**.
- During 1992 the months with the lowest number of reported Domestic Violence offenses were **September** and **October**.

