



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 2008 domestic violence statistics are listed below:

- There were 70,613 domestic violence offenses reported by the police in 2008, a 2 percent decrease compared to the 71,901 reported in 2007.
- Murders increased 50 percent in 2008 (57) when compared to 2007 (38).
- Assaults accounted for 43 percent (30,429) and harassment accounted for 43 percent (30,023) of the reported offenses in 2008.
- Arrests were made in 31 percent (21,665) of the offenses reported for 2008, a decrease of 3 percent when compared to arrests made in 2007.
- The most frequent day of domestic violence occurrences was Sunday (12,397).
- For the twenty-sixth consecutive year, the most frequent hours of domestic violence incidents were between 8:00 p.m. and midnight, when 26 percent (18,679) of the offenses were reported.
- Children were involved or present during 33 percent of all domestic violence offenses occurring in 2008. Specifically, 5 percent (3,519) were involved and 28 percent (19,583) were present.
- Wives were the victims in 19 percent (13,637) and ex-wives were the victims in 3 percent (2,406) of the reported domestic violence offenses in 2008. Overall, females were victims in 76 percent (53,810) of all domestic violence offenses.
- The number of domestic violence complaints that had prior court orders issued against the offender decreased from 15,481 in 2007 to 13,872 in 2008. This is a decrease of 10 percent.
- Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in 28 percent (19,691) of the reported offenses occurring in 2008. Alcohol involvement alone accounted for 25 percent (17,808) of the total domestic violence offenses reported.
- Persons age 60 or over were victims in 3 percent (2,345) of all reported domestic violence offenses that occurred in 2008. Elderly were the victims in 21 percent (12) of the domestic violence murders (57).
- 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 7 minutes and 26 seconds.
- Domestic violence offenses arising from a dating relationship accounted for 15 percent (10,468) of the state total.
- There were 2,966 total arrests involving domestic violence restraining orders reported by police in 2008. Of these, 1,793 were arrests for violations of a restraining order **only**, while 1,173 were arrests for violations of a restraining order **with** an offense arrest.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS 2007/2008

Domestic Violence Offense		Number of Offenses	☆Number of Arrests	☆Percent of Offenses Involving an Arrest
Homicide	2007	38	19	50
	2008	57	30	53
	Percent Change	50	58	6
Assault	2007	31,661	15,549	49
	2008	30,429	15,017	49
	Percent Change	-4	-3	0
Terroristic Threats	2007	3,411	1,025	30
	2008	3,359	1,046	31
	Percent Change	-2	2	3
Kidnapping	2007	27	11	41
	2008	27	13	48
	Percent Change	0	18	17
Criminal Restraint	2007	136	57	42
	2008	154	75	49
	Percent Change	13	32	17
False Imprisonment	2007	53	24	45
	2008	41	22	54
	Percent Change	-23	-8	20
Sexual Assault	2007	233	83	36
	2008	198	69	35
	Percent Change	-15	-17	-3
Criminal Sexual Contact	2007	47	21	45
	2008	54	18	33
	Percent Change	15	-14	-27
Lewdness	2007	13	2	15
	2008	11	4	36
	Percent Change	-15	&	140
Criminal Mischief	2007	4,889	1,532	31
	2008	4,958	1,525	31
	Percent Change	1	*	0
Burglary	2007	586	217	37
	2008	636	242	38
	Percent Change	9	12	3
Criminal Trespass	2007	460	180	39
	2008	427	143	33
	Percent Change	-7	-21	-15
Harassment	2007	30,055	3,489	12
	2008	30,023	3,416	11
	Percent Change	*	-2	-8
Stalking	2007	292	70	24
	2008	239	45	19
	Percent Change	-18	-36	-21
TOTAL	2007	71,901	22,279	31
	2008	70,613	21,665	31
	Percent Change	-2	-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

2007/2008

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault	Criminal Sexual Contact
Atlantic	2007	-	1,689	179	1	12	3	12	-
	2008	5	1,531	177	2	6	-	10	4
Bergen	2007	-	1,943	264	1	7	3	10	2
	2008	2	1,835	256	-	8	4	7	3
Burlington	2007	2	1,300	104	1	4	3	13	4
	2008	6	1,240	73	1	8	4	12	-
Camden	2007	2	3,187	190	6	17	1	26	6
	2008	8	3,212	256	4	20	2	15	2
Cape May	2007	-	475	50	-	-	-	4	-
	2008	-	435	27	1	3	1	2	1
Cumberland	2007	2	1,497	82	1	14	-	5	1
	2008	3	1,555	98	1	15	-	8	1
Essex	2007	6	2,639	554	3	12	6	17	5
	2008	9	2,664	599	5	27	3	22	2
Gloucester	2007	-	1,411	81	-	4	1	6	2
	2008	-	1,441	99	1	4	1	9	3
Hudson	2007	3	2,281	233	4	9	-	17	4
	2008	6	2,057	187	2	3	1	16	6
Hunterdon	2007	-	221	31	-	-	2	2	1
	2008	-	217	30	-	2	1	-	1
Mercer	2007	5	1,651	42	-	11	5	16	3
	2008	3	1,388	42	2	6	1	10	2

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2007/2008

Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass	Harassment	Stalking	County Total	Percent Change	Arrests
1	216	32	31	3,075	14	5,265	-1	1,222
-	221	28	26	3,177	11	5,198		1,106
1	166	24	37	1,902	21	4,381	-2	1,285
1	195	15	32	1,922	19	4,299		1,245
-	262	24	33	1,942	16	3,708	-1	1,771
-	216	34	23	2,043	7	3,667		1,667
-	569	83	38	2,076	24	6,225	6	2,066
1	593	104	42	2,337	19	6,615		2,127
-	74	7	13	576	1	1,200	-8	372
-	80	9	18	523	3	1,103		300
2	310	35	28	1,324	8	3,309	-1	931
-	298	33	26	1,225	5	3,268		911
1	346	46	15	872	28	4,550	3	1,467
1	380	63	25	868	33	4,701		1,437
-	215	24	33	1,199	12	2,988	7	1,040
-	225	34	29	1,336	5	3,187		1,147
-	279	48	18	1,418	27	4,341	-6	1,103
-	253	44	13	1,463	18	4,069		1,107
-	32	2	7	390	9	697	-1	202
1	36	1	6	395	1	691		187
-	248	34	21	1,039	9	3,084	-12	1,034
1	231	30	24	958	8	2,706		928

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2007/2008

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault	Criminal Sexual Contact
Middlesex	2007	4	2,269	309	1	14	5	22	1
	2008	3	1,984	278	1	6	4	15	5
Monmouth	2007	1	2,244	271	-	8	5	17	4
	2008	1	2,178	226	1	15	5	17	5
Morris	2007	1	909	135	-	5	4	5	-
	2008	1	884	151	-	4	3	6	1
Ocean	2007	3	1,971	247	2	7	4	15	6
	2008	2	1,939	238	2	8	2	12	6
Passaic	2007	2	2,305	367	3	6	3	15	3
	2008	5	2,237	366	3	7	4	14	6
Salem	2007	1	366	26	1	3	-	1	-
	2008	1	376	33	-	2	-	-	-
Somerset	2007	2	698	16	1	1	2	9	2
	2008	1	683	17	-	-	2	10	1
Sussex	2007	1	433	51	-	-	2	1	-
	2008	1	474	26	-	1	-	3	1
Union	2007	3	1,771	145	2	2	2	18	2
	2008	-	1,692	152	1	6	3	8	1
Warren	2007	-	401	34	-	-	2	2	1
	2008	-	407	28	-	3	-	2	3
TOTAL	2007	38	31,661	3,411	27	136	53	233	47
	2008	57	30,429	3,359	27	154	41	198	54

* Less than one-half of one percent.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2007/2008

Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass	Harassment	Stalking	County Total	Percent Change	Arrests
2	401	37	24	1,768	25	4,882		1,577
-	374	43	26	1,721	30	4,490	-8	1,434
-	366	45	32	2,636	21	5,650		1,890
2	371	46	31	2,366	20	5,284	-6	1,791
-	162	10	20	1,207	15	2,473		716
2	206	10	14	1,155	8	2,445	-1	768
2	387	48	30	2,519	15	5,256		1,317
-	368	43	26	2,502	8	5,156	-2	1,402
3	298	48	24	1,058	19	4,154		1,592
-	289	45	19	1,078	21	4,094	-1	1,521
-	68	5	8	286	2	767		311
-	68	8	5	226	3	722	-6	303
-	118	2	11	1,329	3	2,194		533
-	130	11	11	1,275	4	2,145	-2	537
-	72	5	10	795	4	1,374		349
1	74	8	12	821	1	1,423	4	355
-	239	24	15	1,655	6	3,884		1,237
1	276	23	12	1,604	6	3,785	-3	1,166
1	61	3	12	989	13	1,519		264
-	74	4	7	1,028	9	1,565	3	226
13	4,889	586	460	30,055	292	71,901		22,279
11	4,958	636	427	30,023	239	70,613	-2	21,665

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS 2004 Through 2008

Domestic Violence Offense	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests
Homicide	44	27	41	24	42	27	38	19	57	30
Assault	33,712	16,247	33,674	16,166	32,450	15,702	31,661	15,549	30,429	15,017
Terroristic Threats	4,194	1,285	4,239	1,236	3,673	1,079	3,411	1,025	3,359	1,046
Kidnapping	44	19	47	22	38	16	27	11	27	13
Criminal Restraint	159	79	190	83	188	79	136	57	154	75
False Imprisonment	46	23	35	22	46	14	53	24	41	22
Sexual Assault	212	77	217	54	214	64	233	83	198	69
Criminal Sexual Contact	57	17	54	22	44	14	47	21	54	18
Lewdness	9	1	3	-	11	4	13	2	11	4
Criminal Mischief	4,809	1,518	5,056	1,623	4,997	1,525	4,889	1,532	4,958	1,525
Burglary	621	218	680	243	653	228	586	217	636	242
Criminal Trespass	537	193	506	206	555	213	460	180	427	143
Harassment	31,333	4,241	30,603	3,835	30,532	3,661	30,055	3,489	30,023	3,416
Stalking	332	69	306	70	306	74	292	70	239	45
TOTAL	76,109	24,014	75,651	23,606	73,749	22,700	71,901	22,279	70,613	21,665

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TYPE OF WEAPON AND EXTENT OF INJURY 2007/2008

Type of Weapon		Extent of Injury			TOTAL
		Aggravated Serious	Non-Aggravated Minor	None	
Gun	2007	36	27	92	155
	2008	29	12	94	135
	Percent Change	-19	-56	2	-13
Knife	2007	307	445	347	1,099
	2008	302	391	311	1,004
	Percent Change	-2	-12	-10	-9
Other Dangerous Weapon	2007	349	1,076	347	1,772
	2008	363	968	303	1,634
	Percent Change	4	-10	-13	-8
Hands, Fists, Feet, etc.	2007	753	16,654	13,151	30,558
	2008	803	16,208	12,268	29,279
	Percent Change	7	-3	-7	-4
None	2007	-	-	38,317	38,317
	2008	-	-	38,561	38,561
	Percent Change	-	-	1	1
TOTAL	2007	1,445	18,202	52,254	71,901
	2008	1,497	17,579	51,537	70,613
	Percent Change	4	-3	-1	-2

* Less than one-half of one percent.

- Twenty-seven percent (19,076) of all domestic violence complaints resulted in injury. This is a decrease of 3 percent when compared to the (19,647) that occurred in 2007.
- Of all the domestic violence offenses involving weapons (32,052), hands, fists, feet, etc. were used in 91 percent (29,279) of these offenses.
- Domestic violence offenses involving a gun decreased 13 percent when compared to 2007.
- Serious injuries were reported in 1,497 offenses, a 4 percent increase when compared to the 1,445 reported in 2007.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TYPE & SEX OF VICTIM 2008

Type of Offense		Relationship of Victim to Offender							Total Number of Offenses	
		Spouse	Ex-spouse	Co-parent	Relative	Friend	Ex-friend	Civil Union Partner		Total
Homicide	Male	2	-	1	6	3	-	-	12	57
	Female	16	2	8	5	11	3	-	45	
Assault	Male	1,757	173	939	1,767	2,536	470	3	7,645	30,429
	Female	5,562	475	4,830	2,611	7,433	1,870	3	22,784	
Terroristic Threats	Male	118	32	74	169	128	79	-	600	3,359
	Female	702	177	592	289	527	472	-	2,759	
Kidnapping	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	27
	Female	4	1	6	1	10	5	-	27	
Criminal Restraint	Male	3	-	1	5	2	1	-	12	154
	Female	29	6	35	9	40	23	-	142	
False Imprisonment	Male	2	-	-	-	3	2	-	7	41
	Female	9	-	7	2	14	2	-	34	
Sexual Assault	Male	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	3	198
	Female	45	4	32	12	71	31	-	195	
Criminal Sexual Contact	Male	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	54
	Female	5	3	11	3	23	7	-	52	
Lewdness	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	11
	Female	4	1	-	2	2	2	-	11	
Criminal Mischief	Male	240	51	215	249	423	208	-	1,386	4,958
	Female	670	108	681	642	996	475	-	3,572	
Burglary	Male	14	8	24	33	23	44	-	146	636
	Female	58	34	102	50	96	150	-	490	
Criminal Trespass	Male	4	7	7	20	27	21	-	86	427
	Female	52	31	62	53	61	82	-	341	
Harassment	Male	1,634	490	843	1,139	1,688	1,086	-	6,880	30,023
	Female	6,447	1,535	3,833	2,373	5,296	3,656	3	23,143	
Stalking	Male	1	2	2	2	6	11	-	24	239
	Female	34	29	24	4	42	82	-	215	
TOTAL	Male	3,775	763	2,109	3,390	4,841	1,922	3	16,803	70,613
	Female	13,637	2,406	10,223	6,056	14,622	6,860	6	53,810	
GRAND TOTAL		17,412	3,169	12,332	9,446	19,463	8,782	9	70,613	-

ANALYSIS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (Alcohol or Drugs Involved) † 2008

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	57	8	1	5	14	24.6
Assault	30,429	9,986	451	508	10,945	36.0
Terroristic Threats	3,359	531	67	58	656	19.5
Kidnapping	27	5	1	1	7	25.9
Criminal Restraint	154	35	4	2	41	26.6
False Imprisonment	41	6	1	1	8	19.5
Sexual Assault	198	46	8	6	60	30.3
Criminal Sexual Contact	54	14	1	1	16	29.6
Lewdness	11	2	-	-	2	18.2
Criminal Mischief	4,958	1,305	73	88	1,466	29.6
Burglary	636	94	22	8	124	19.5
Criminal Trespass	427	99	7	3	109	25.5
Harassment	30,023	5,661	303	261	6,225	20.7
Stalking	239	16	2	-	18	7.5
TOTAL	70,613	17,808	941	942	19,691	27.9

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

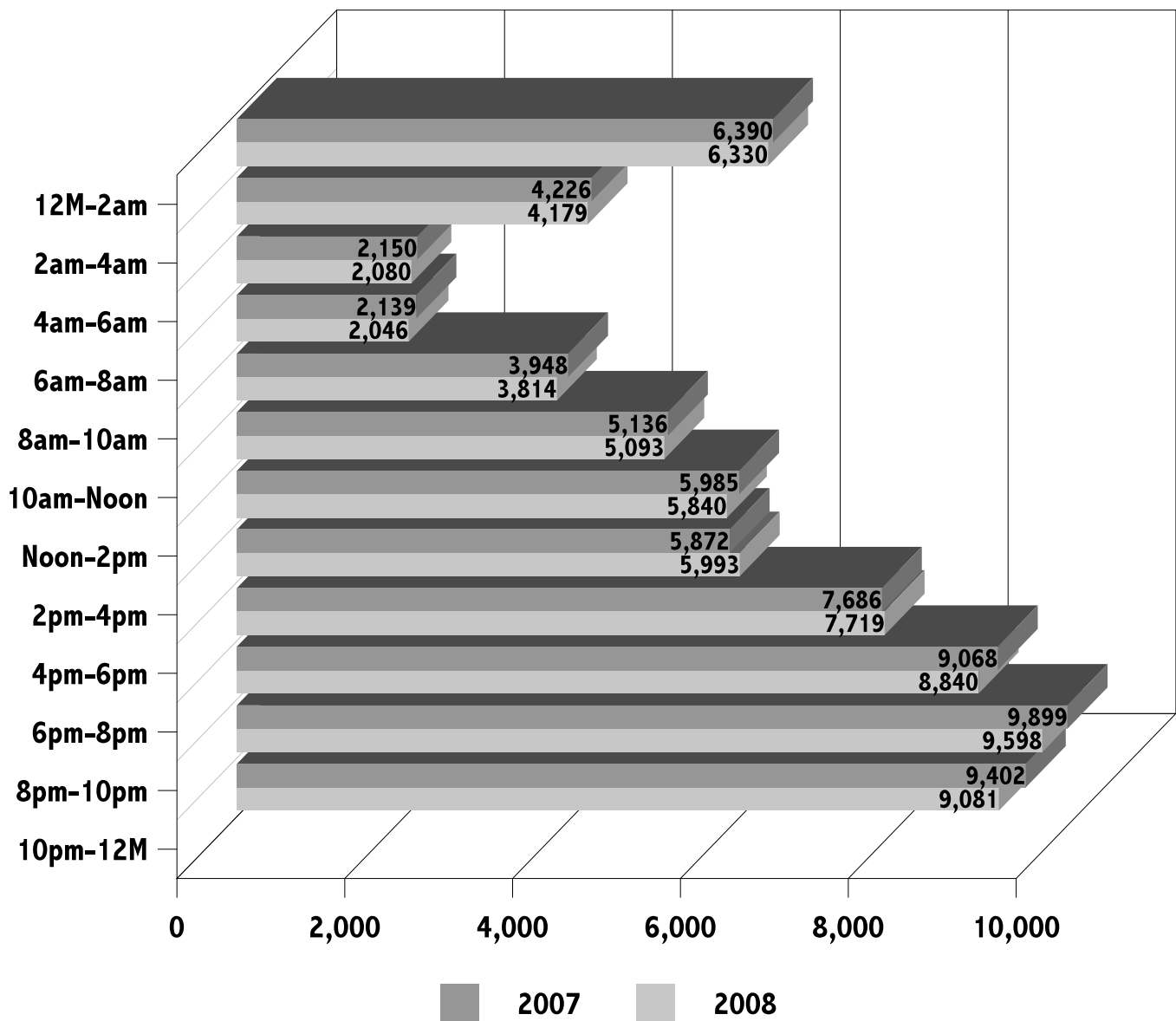
- Drugs or alcohol were involved in 25 percent (14) of domestic violence homicides.
- Twenty-eight percent (19,691) of the reported acts of domestic violence (70,613) involved the use of drugs or alcohol.

OFFENSES AGAINST ELDERLY VICTIMS (60 Years of age or over) 2008

Domestic Violence Offense	Total Number of Offenses	Relationship of Victim to Offender													
		Spouse		Ex-spouse		Co-parent		Relative		Friend		Ex-friend		Civil Union Partner	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Homicide	12	1	5	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
Assault	800	80	111	10	5	8	9	165	255	74	71	4	7	1	-
Terroristic Threats	120	3	15	-	-	2	2	26	42	9	16	1	4	-	-
Kidnapping	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Restraint	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
False Imprisonment	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Sexual Assault	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Sexual Contact	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lewdness	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Mischief	217	9	9	3	-	3	1	49	110	9	17	5	2	-	-
Burglary	22	1	1	-	1	-	-	6	8	1	2	2	-	-	-
Criminal Trespass	33	-	2	-	1	-	-	8	17	3	1	1	-	-	-
Harassment	1,130	74	175	11	17	4	17	208	424	69	85	26	20	-	-
Stalking	3	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2,345	169	320	24	25	18	29	465	863	167	192	39	33	1	0

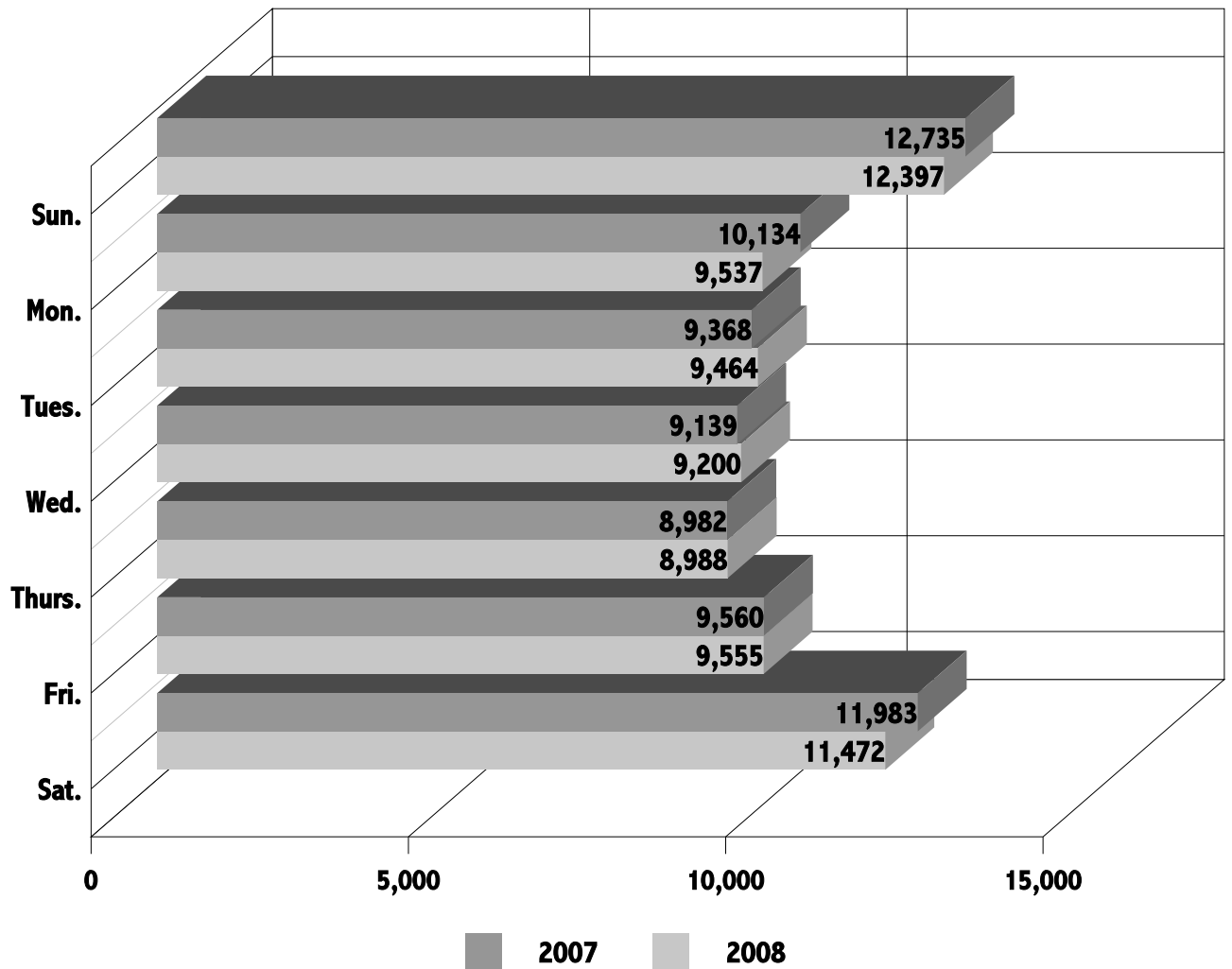
- Assaults accounted for 34 percent (800) of all domestic violence offenses for victims 60 years old or over.
- Females age 60 or over were the victims in 62 percent (1,462) of the 2,345 elderly abuse offenses.
- Persons age 60 or over were the victims in 3 percent (2,345) of all the reported domestic violence offenses during this period.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TIME OF DAY 2007/2008



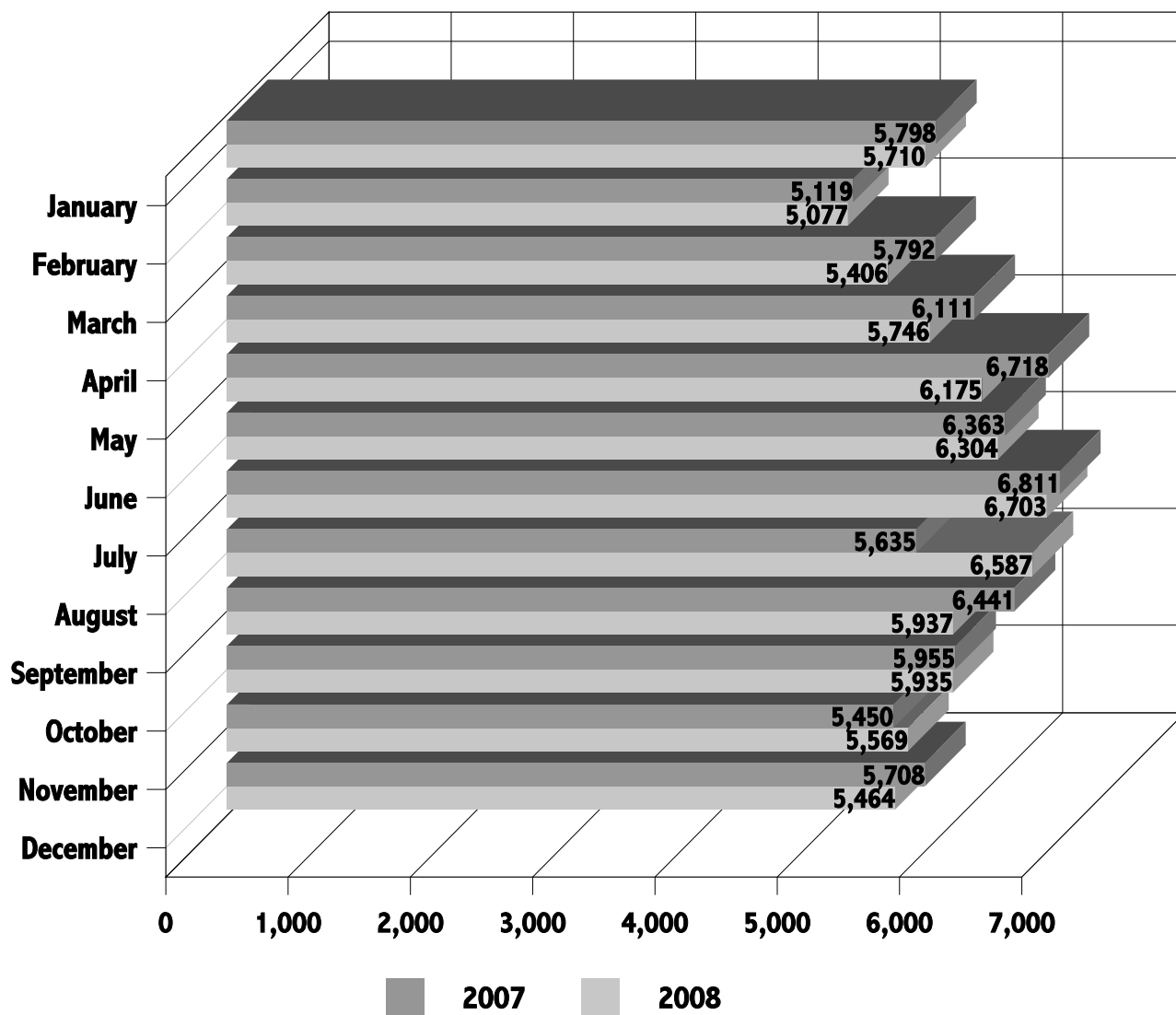
- During 2008, 26 percent (18,679) of the reported domestic violence offenses occurred between 8:00 p.m. and 12 midnight.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY DAY OF WEEK 2007/2008



- Sunday recorded the highest number of occurrences in 2008 with 12,397 offenses.
- During 2008, 34 percent (23,869) of the reported domestic violence offenses occurred during the weekend (Saturday and Sunday).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY MONTH OF YEAR 2007/2008



- In 2008, the highest number of domestic violence offenses occurred during the month of July.
- During 2008, the month with the lowest number of reported domestic violence offenses was February.

RESTRAINING ORDER ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2007/2008

	Domestic Violence Restraining Order Only			Domestic Violence Restraining Order with Offense Arrest			Total Arrests Involving Domestic Violence Restraining Orders		
	2007	2008	Percent Change	2007	2008	Percent Change	2007	2008	Percent Change
ATLANTIC	90	92	2	64	66	3	154	158	3
BERGEN	66	78	18	107	86	-20	173	164	-5
BURLINGTON	96	105	9	70	65	-7	166	170	2
CAMDEN	200	224	12	142	164	15	342	388	13
CAPE MAY	35	41	17	23	24	4	58	65	12
CUMBERLAND	83	97	17	39	47	21	122	144	18
ESSEX	69	89	29	79	74	-6	148	163	10
GLOUCESTER	72	118	64	85	93	9	157	211	34
HUDSON	76	71	-7	49	62	27	125	133	6
HUNTERDON	24	14	-42	7	12	71	31	26	-16
MERCER	56	58	4	71	68	-4	127	126	-1
MIDDLESEX	104	88	-15	69	52	-25	173	140	-19
MONMOUTH	117	124	6	113	77	-32	230	201	-13
MORRIS	75	75	0	42	41	-2	117	116	-1
OCEAN	174	176	1	57	55	-4	231	231	0
PASSAIC	143	117	-18	66	51	-23	209	168	-20
SALEM	26	25	-4	22	22	0	48	47	-2
SOMERSET	76	82	8	19	28	47	95	110	16
SUSSEX	38	29	-24	30	14	-53	68	43	-37
UNION	52	63	21	87	65	-25	139	128	-8
WARREN	23	27	17	14	7	-50	37	34	-8
STATE TOTALS	1,695	1,793	6	1,255	1,173	-7	2,950	2,966	1