



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 2000 domestic violence statistics are listed below:

- There were 77,680 domestic violence offenses reported by the police in 2000, a 4% decrease compared to the 80,681 reported in 1999.
- Murders decreased 29% in 2000 (39) when compared to 1999 (55).
- Assaults accounted for 47% (36,602) and harassment accounted for 38% (29,869) of the reported offenses in 2000.
- Arrests were made in 33% (25,774) of the offenses reported for 2000, a decrease of 2% when compared to 1999 (26,240).
- The most frequent day of domestic violence occurrences was Sunday (14,298).
- For the eighteenth consecutive year, the most frequent hours of domestic violence incidents were between 8:00 p.m. and midnight, when 29% (22,386) of the offenses were reported.
- Children were involved or present during 39% of all domestic violence offenses occurring in 2000. Specifically, 6% (4,800) were involved and 33% (25,786) were present.
- Wives were the victims in 23% (17,903) and ex-wives were the victims in 3% (2,294) of the reported domestic violence offenses in 2000. Overall, females were victims in 78% (60,377) of all domestic violence offenses.
- The number of domestic violence complaints that had prior court orders issued against the offender increased from 16,194 in 1999 to 18,987 in 2000. This is an increase of 17%.
- Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in 32% (24,850) of the reported offenses occurring in 2000. Alcohol involvement alone accounted for 29% (22,195) of the total domestic violence offenses reported.
- Persons age 60 or over were victims in 3% (2,127) of all reported domestic violence offenses that occurred in 2000. Elderly were the victims in 21% (8) of the domestic violence murders (39).
- 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 46 seconds.
- Domestic violence offenses arising from a dating relationship accounted for 13% (9,836) of the state total.
- There were 3,878 total arrests involving domestic violence restraining orders reported by police in 2000. Of these, 1,789 were arrests for violations of a restraining order **only**, while 2,089 were arrests for violations of a restraining order **with** an offense arrest.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS 1999/2000

Domestic Violence Offense		Number of Offenses	★Number of Arrests	★Percent of Offenses Involving an Arrest
Homicide	1999	55	38	69
	2000	39	21	54
	Percent Change	-29	-45	-22
Assault	1999	39,474	19,098	48
	2000	36,602	18,338	50
	Percent Change	-7	-4	4
Terroristic Threats	1999	4,851	1,348	28
	2000	4,395	1,312	30
	Percent Change	-9	-3	7
Kidnapping	1999	25	7	28
	2000	33	16	48
	Percent Change	32	&	71
Criminal Restraint	1999	132	58	44
	2000	131	58	44
	Percent Change	-1	0	0
False Imprisonment	1999	42	20	48
	2000	37	17	46
	Percent Change	-12	-15	-4
Sexual Assault	1999	200	77	39
	2000	196	66	34
	Percent Change	-2	-14	-13
Criminal Sexual Contact	1999	52	16	31
	2000	59	18	31
	Percent Change	13	13	0
Lewdness	1999	11	3	27
	2000	5	-	0
	Percent Change	&	&	&
Criminal Mischief	1999	4,712	1,508	32
	2000	4,727	1,578	33
	Percent Change	*	5	3
Burglary	1999	688	186	27
	2000	633	215	34
	Percent Change	-8	16	26
Criminal Trespass	1999	828	369	45
	2000	658	271	41
	Percent Change	-21	-27	-9
Harassment	1999	29,266	3,426	12
	2000	29,869	3,789	13
	Percent Change	2	11	8
Stalking	1999	345	86	25
	2000	296	75	25
	Percent Change	-14	-13	0
TOTAL	1999	80,681	26,240	33
	2000	77,680	25,774	33
	Percent Change	-4	-2	0

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

& Percent not calculated due to small volume.

* Less than one-half of one percent.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 1999/2000

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault	Criminal Sexual Contact
Atlantic	1999	3	1,984	234	-	2	2	8	2
	2000	2	1,979	194	3	5	2	14	1
Bergen	1999	5	2,462	380	2	7	6	10	7
	2000	1	2,338	368	1	12	2	11	5
Burlington	1999	6	1,931	95	-	5	-	9	2
	2000	2	1,599	89	1	4	3	6	3
Camden	1999	5	4,028	285	4	12	5	25	3
	2000	2	3,861	272	4	10	4	21	6
Cape May	1999	1	634	48	-	1	-	2	-
	2000	1	557	41	1	2	2	3	-
Cumberland	1999	-	1,520	81	3	11	1	8	2
	2000	1	1,553	99	2	10	-	6	1
Essex	1999	11	4,803	978	7	20	5	27	7
	2000	5	3,488	684	4	17	1	27	6
Gloucester	1999	1	1,402	108	-	10	1	5	1
	2000	1	1,251	113	-	2	1	4	4
Hudson	1999	3	3,431	518	4	12	3	10	4
	2000	-	3,316	509	7	6	5	18	9
Hunterdon	1999	-	181	16	-	-	1	-	-
	2000	-	169	28	1	4	-	1	1
Mercer	1999	1	1,613	47	-	5	4	8	1
	2000	4	1,713	60	-	10	3	13	-

* Less than one-half of one percent.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 1999/2000

Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass	Harassment	Stalking	County Total	Percent Change	Arrests
1	227	27	27	2,572	17	5,106	-2	1,257
-	201	35	27	2,513	14	4,990		1,505
-	206	35	109	2,523	35	5,787	-2	1,606
2	215	29	92	2,594	28	5,698		1,688
-	214	26	42	1,499	6	3,835	-13	2,070
-	199	13	37	1,389	2	3,347		1,938
1	550	114	69	2,687	38	7,826	-5	2,984
-	544	83	60	2,507	23	7,397		2,902
-	78	4	27	739	4	1,538	-9	521
-	68	4	22	689	5	1,395		485
-	217	30	17	620	7	2,517	5	995
1	190	28	30	718	5	2,644		1,064
-	395	112	53	919	52	7,389	-23	2,534
-	351	77	36	960	45	5,701		2,113
-	192	13	40	1,060	4	2,837	-4	954
-	200	19	35	1,096	11	2,737		909
2	278	64	22	1,683	42	6,076	-1	1,637
1	295	72	16	1,713	40	6,007		1,536
-	18	-	10	252	2	480	6	118
-	16	-	10	279	1	510		123
1	295	33	45	1,103	16	3,172	9	1,007
-	246	41	28	1,320	14	3,452		1,024

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 1999/2000

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault	Criminal Sexual Contact
Middlesex	1999	2	2,551	436	-	11	2	14	1
	2000	2	2,442	378	3	4	2	17	5
Monmouth	1999	5	2,587	286	1	8	1	12	-
	2000	1	2,317	267	1	13	4	5	3
Morris	1999	2	1,001	148	-	7	-	1	2
	2000	4	919	170	-	8	3	5	2
Ocean	1999	1	2,114	406	-	2	4	7	1
	2000	3	2,179	403	4	3	3	6	3
Passaic	1999	4	2,473	456	3	9	3	20	8
	2000	4	2,537	410	-	7	1	14	5
Salem	1999	-	472	24	-	-	1	-	-
	2000	-	373	20	-	2	-	1	-
Somerset	1999	1	912	37	1	1	2	9	2
	2000	-	828	23	-	2	-	6	2
Sussex	1999	-	378	51	-	3	-	4	1
	2000	1	377	53	-	-	-	2	-
Union	1999	3	2,635	183	-	4	1	20	5
	2000	4	2,455	181	1	7	1	14	3
Warren	1999	1	362	34	-	2	-	1	3
	2000	1	351	33	-	3	-	2	-
TOTAL	1999	55	39,474	4,851	25	132	42	200	52
	2000	39	36,602	4,395	33	131	37	196	59

* Less than one-half of one percent.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 1999/2000

Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass	Harassment	Stalking	County Total	Percent Change	Arrests
1	369	42	51	1,805	12	5,297		1,663
-	393	48	42	1,785	19	5,140	-3	1,715
2	386	40	61	2,469	18	5,876		2,004
-	397	33	52	2,406	19	5,518	-6	1,731
-	159	16	49	1,026	13	2,424		786
-	157	13	28	1,175	12	2,496	3	758
1	304	46	87	2,390	24	5,387		1,243
1	333	33	53	2,660	17	5,701	6	1,336
-	210	41	25	1,096	30	4,378		1,525
-	231	40	21	1,031	14	4,315	-1	1,569
-	62	7	13	352	3	934		366
-	66	1	11	244	1	719	-23	307
1	130	9	22	1,469	7	2,603		665
-	169	11	15	1,489	6	2,551	-2	694
-	69	1	9	544	5	1,065		314
-	66	1	7	581	4	1,092	3	291
-	299	27	40	2,004	7	5,228		1,710
-	325	51	30	2,136	10	5,218	*	1,860
1	54	1	10	454	3	926		281
-	65	1	6	584	6	1,052	14	226
11	4,712	688	828	29,266	345	80,681		26,240
5	4,727	633	658	29,869	296	77,680	-4	25,774

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS 1996 Through 2000

Domestic Violence Offense	1996		1997		1998		1999		2000	
	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests
Homicide	43	25	50	38	62	47	55	38	39	21
Assault	43,017	20,947	41,738	20,461	40,727	19,453	39,474	19,098	36,602	18,338
Terroristic Threats	5,057	1,294	4,922	1,306	4,712	1,254	4,851	1,348	4,395	1,312
Kidnapping	22	6	37	13	41	18	25	7	33	16
Criminal Restraint	121	45	121	42	126	53	132	58	131	58
False Imprisonment	27	15	31	18	37	19	42	20	37	17
Sexual Assault	176	73	185	62	198	69	200	77	196	66
Criminal Sexual Contact	67	30	56	20	59	15	52	16	59	18
Lewdness	10	4	20	4	14	2	11	3	5	-
Criminal Mischief	4,522	1,461	4,631	1,550	4,744	1,504	4,712	1,508	4,727	1,578
Burglary	647	177	651	184	665	173	688	186	633	215
Criminal Trespass	765	330	786	368	772	379	828	369	658	271
Harassment	30,191	3,555	29,054	3,553	28,949	3,413	29,266	3,426	29,869	3,789
Stalking □	353	77	345	67	348	73	345	86	296	75
TOTAL	85,018	28,039	82,627	27,686	81,454	26,472	80,681	26,240	77,680	25,774

□ Stalking was first reported in 1995.

- Arrests for domestic violence offenses decreased 2%.
- The violent crimes of homicide (39), aggravated assault (1,764) and sexual assault (196) accounted for 3% of reported domestic violence offenses (77,680).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TYPE OF WEAPON AND EXTENT OF INJURY 1999/2000

Type of Weapon		Extent of Injury			TOTAL
		Aggravated Serious	Non-Aggravated Minor	None	
Gun	1999	131	42	103	276
	2000	45	42	200	287
	Percent Change	-66	0	94	4
Knife	1999	756	672	282	1,710
	2000	484	552	587	1,623
	Percent Change	-36	-18	108	-5
Other Dangerous Weapon	1999	730	1,346	207	2,283
	2000	477	1,199	490	2,166
	Percent Change	-35	-11	137	-5
Hands, Fists, Feet, etc.	1999	1,184	26,603	7,822	35,609
	2000	844	20,397	12,457	33,698
	Percent Change	-29	-23	59	-5
None	1999	-	-	40,803	40,803
	2000	-	-	39,906	39,906
	Percent Change	-	-	-2	-2
TOTAL	1999	2,801	28,663	49,217	80,681
	2000	1,850	22,190	53,640	77,680
	Percent Change	-34	-23	9	-4

* Less than one-half of one percent.

- Thirty-one percent (24,040) of all domestic violence complaints resulted in injury. This is a 24% decrease when compared to the 31,464 that occurred in 1999.
- Of all the domestic violence offenses involving weapons (37,774), hands, fists, feet, etc. were used in 89% (33,698) of these offenses.
- Domestic violence offenses involving a gun increased 4% when compared to 1999.
- Serious injuries were reported in 1,850 offenses, a 34% decrease when compared to the 2,801 reported in 1999.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TYPE & SEX OF VICTIM 2000

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	-	1	7	5	-	14	39
	Female	9	1	2	4	6	3	25	
Assault	Male	2,261	178	1,133	1,663	2,704	528	8,467	36,602
	Female	7,911	526	5,654	2,729	8,931	2,384	28,135	
Terroristic Threats	Male	160	38	81	181	122	113	695	4,395
	Female	1,123	235	621	355	649	717	3,700	
Kidnapping	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	33
	Female	4	1	10	1	10	7	33	
Criminal Restraint	Male	1	1	1	1	1	4	9	131
	Female	32	3	22	9	35	21	122	
False Imprisonment	Male	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	37
	Female	9	-	6	2	15	4	36	
Sexual Assault	Male	-	-	-	1	5	2	8	196
	Female	44	5	18	10	68	43	188	
Criminal Sexual Contact	Male	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	59
	Female	15	3	6	9	18	5	56	
Lewdness	Male	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	5
	Female	1	-	-	1	2	-	4	
Criminal Mischief	Male	247	43	196	220	351	248	1,305	4,727
	Female	846	89	567	555	935	430	3,422	
Burglary	Male	8	14	12	30	28	29	121	633
	Female	82	31	87	70	78	164	512	
Criminal Trespass	Male	17	17	17	24	29	31	135	658
	Female	95	51	92	83	99	103	523	
Harassment	Male	1,916	407	770	951	1,529	941	6,514	29,869
	Female	7,677	1,322	3,464	2,255	5,033	3,604	23,355	
Stalking	Male	1	5	4	1	3	16	30	296
	Female	55	27	22	4	37	121	266	
TOTAL	Male	4,613	703	2,215	3,080	4,779	1,913	17,303	-
	Female	17,903	2,294	10,571	6,087	15,916	7,606	60,377	
GRAND TOTAL		22,516	2,997	12,786	9,167	20,695	9,519	-	77,680

ANALYSIS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (Alcohol or Drugs Involved)* 2000

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	39	13	-	2	15	38.5
Assault	36,602	12,675	626	802	14,103	38.5
Terroristic Threats	4,395	831	116	115	1,062	24.2
Kidnapping	33	5	1	5	11	33.3
Criminal Restraint	131	31	6	6	43	32.8
False Imprisonment	37	8	2	1	11	29.7
Sexual Assault	196	46	5	9	60	30.6
Criminal Sexual Contact	59	20	-	1	21	35.6
Lewdness	5	-	1	-	1	20.0
Criminal Mischief	4,727	1,455	83	96	1,634	34.6
Burglary	633	101	33	9	143	22.6
Criminal Trespass	658	159	7	8	174	26.4
Harassment	29,869	6,824	360	356	7,540	25.2
Stalking	296	27	3	2	32	10.8
TOTAL	77,680	22,195	1,243	1,412	24,850	32.0

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

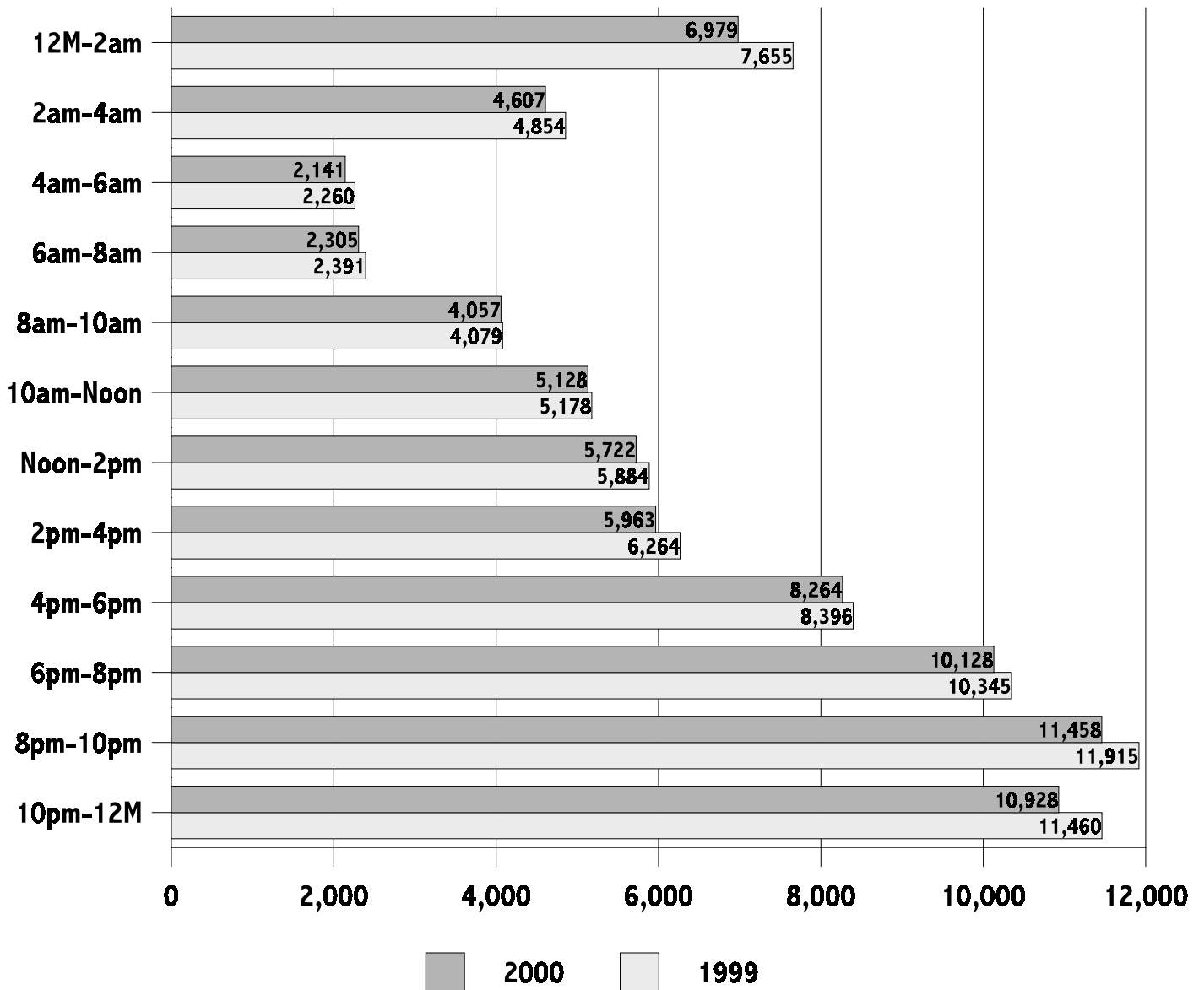
- Drugs or alcohol were involved in 38% (15) of domestic violence homicides.
- Thirty-two percent (24,850) of the reported acts of domestic violence (77,680) involved the use of drugs or alcohol.

OFFENSES AGAINST ELDERLY VICTIMS (60 Years of age or over) 2000

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	8	-	3	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	-	-	-
Assault	812	82	169	3	3	8	11	161	237	59	63	10	6
Terroristic Threats	157	2	29	-	3	1	3	30	59	9	14	2	5
Kidnapping	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Restraint	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
False Imprisonment	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sexual Assault	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Sexual Contact	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lewdness	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Mischief	155	5	7	-	-	3	-	31	86	6	11	2	4
Burglary	25	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	14	1	1	1	2
Criminal Trespass	31	-	1	1	-	1	-	8	15	-	3	2	-
Harassment	932	60	184	3	9	5	14	161	364	51	50	12	19
Stalking	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	2,127	149	396	7	15	20	28	398	779	127	142	29	37

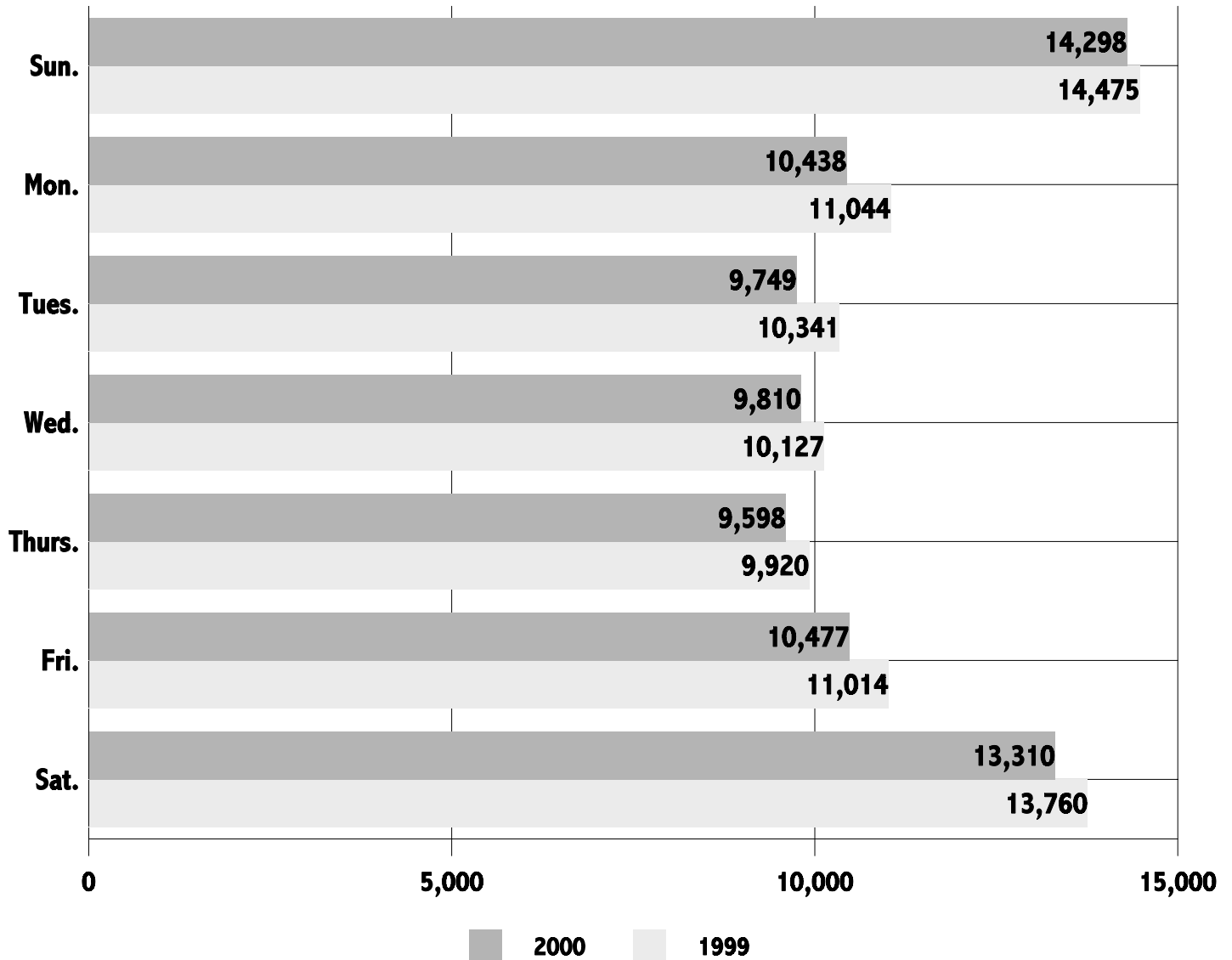
- Assaults accounted for 38% (812) of all domestic violence offenses for victims 60 years old or over.
- Females age 60 or over were the victims in 66% (1,397) of the 2,127 elderly abuse offenses.
- Persons age 60 or over were the victims in 3% (2,127) of all the reported domestic violence offenses during this period.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TIME OF DAY 1999/2000



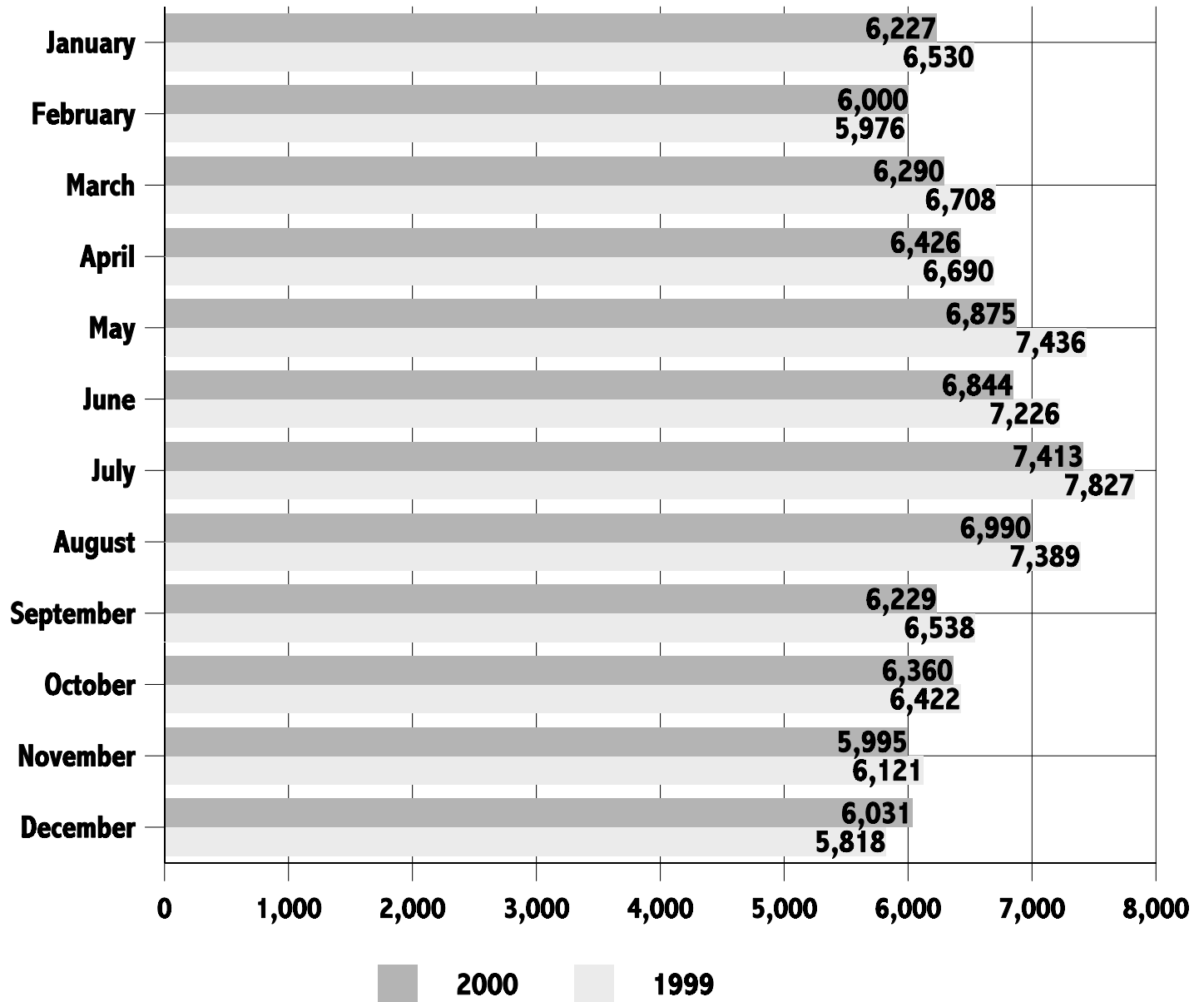
- During 2000, 29% (22,386) of the reported domestic violence offenses occurred between 8:00 p.m. and 12 midnight.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY DAY OF WEEK 1999/2000



- Sunday recorded the highest number of occurrences in 2000 with 14,298 offenses.
- During 2000, 36% (27,608) of the reported domestic violence offenses occurred during the weekend (Saturday and Sunday).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY MONTH OF YEAR 1999/2000



- In 2000, the highest number of domestic violence offenses occurred during the month of July.
- During 2000, the month with the lowest number of reported domestic violence offenses was November.

RESTRAINING ORDER ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2000

	Domestic Violence Restraining Order Only	Domestic Violence Restraining Order with Offense Arrest	Total Arrests Involving Domestic Violence Restraining Orders
ATLANTIC	98	137	235
BERGEN	83	244	327
BURLINGTON	89	108	197
CAMDEN	195	326	521
CAPE MAY	49	58	107
CUMBERLAND	78	69	147
ESSEX	119	132	251
GLOUCESTER	95	101	196
HUDSON	98	108	206
HUNTERDON	13	9	22
MERCER	68	84	152
MIDDLESEX	93	95	188
MONMOUTH	91	86	177
MORRIS	73	59	132
OCEAN	160	101	261
PASSAIC	116	93	209
SALEM	41	30	71
SOMERSET	87	44	131
SUSSEX	22	19	41
UNION	87	176	263
WARREN	34	10	44
STATE TOTALS	1,789	2,089	3,878