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 enacted August 11, 1995, added stalking as a domestic violence offense. This 1995 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 1996 domestic violence statistics are listed below:

- There were 85,018 domestic violence offenses reported by the police in 1996, a 2% decrease compared to the 86,631 reported in 1995.
- Murders decreased 30% in 1996 (43) when compared to 1995 (61).
- Assaults accounted for 51% (43,017) and harassment accounted for 36% (30,191) of the reported offenses in 1996.
- Arrests were made in 33% (28,039) of the offenses reported for 1996, a decrease of 4% when compared to 1995 (29,061).
- The most frequent day of domestic violence occurrences was Sunday (15,316).
- For the fourteenth consecutive year, the most frequent hours of domestic violence incidents were between 8:00 p.m. and midnight, when 29% (24,655) of the offenses were reported.
- Children were involved or present during 43% of all domestic violence offenses occurring in 1996. Specifically, 7% (5,545) were involved and 36% (31,003) were present.
- Wives were the victims in 24% (20,717) and ex-wives were the victims in 3% (2,201) of the reported domestic violence offenses in 1996. Overall, females were victims in 80% (68,011) of all domestic violence offenses.
- The number of domestic violence complaints that had prior court orders issued against the offender decreased from 29,061 in 1995 to 19,618 in 1996. This is a decrease of 32%.
- Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in 36% (30,784) of the reported offenses occurring in 1996. Alcohol involvement alone accounted for 31% (26,303) of the total domestic violence offenses reported.
- Persons age 60 or over were victims in 3% (2,600) of all reported domestic violence offenses that occurred in 1996.
- 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 eleven(11) seconds.
- Domestic violence offenses arising from a dating relationship accounted for 11% (9,202) of the state total. Seven of these offenses were murder.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS 1995/1996

Domestic Violence Offense		Number of Offenses	★Number of Arrests	★Percent of Offenses Involving an Arrest
Homicide	1995	61	48	79
	1996	43	25	58
Percent Change	1005	-30	-48	-27
Assault	1995 1996	45,509	21,952	48 49
Percent Change	1990	43,017 -5	20,947 -5	2
	1995	5,348	1,438	27
Terroristic Threats	1996	5,057	1,294	26
Percent Change		, -5	-10	-4
Kidnapping	1995	25	7	28
	1996	22	6	27
Percent Change		-12	&	-4
Criminal Restraint	1995	110	42	38
Dorsont Change	1996	121	45 7	37
Percent Change	1995	10 33	13	39
False Imprisonment	1995	27	15	56
Percent Change	1330	-18	15	44
•	1995	195	78	40
Sexual Assault	1996	176	73	41
Percent Change		-10	-6	3
Criminal Sexual Contact	1995	46	22	48
	1996	67	30	45
Percent Change		46	36	-6
Lewdness	1995	19	8	42
Percent Change	1996	10 -47	4 &	40 -5
•	1995	4,397	1,417	32
Criminal Mischief	1996	4,522	1,461	32
Percent Change		3	3	0
•	1995	627	182	29
Burglary	1996	647	177	27
Percent Change		3	-3	-7
Criminal Trespass	1995	839	359	43
•	1996	765	330	43
Percent Change	1995	-9 20.120	-8	0
Harassment	1995	29,139 30,191	3,426 3,555	12 12
Percent Change	1 3 30	4	4	0
	1995	283	69	24
Stalking	1996	353	77	22
Percent Change		25	12	-8
TOTAL	1995	86,631	29,061	34
	1996	85,018	28,039	33
Percent Change		-2	-4	-3

^{*} Incidents are reported soon after they occur; therefore, arrests made after that time are not included. & Percent not calculated due to small volume.

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault
Atlantic	1995	8	2,264	242	-	4	2	9
	1996	2	2,232	228	1	5	-	7
Bergen	1995	3	2,813	413	1	6	3	6
	1996	6	2,706	450	3	12	3	5
Burlington	1995	3	2,046	113	-	5	1	8
	1996	-	2,047	100	-	3	1	7
Camden	1995	2	4,596	281	-	19	2	23
	1996	7	4,555	270	3	21	5	15
Cape May	1995 1996	- -	860 749	55 64	1 -	4 3	1 1	4 4
Cumberland	1995 1996	1 -	1,637 1,567	136 115	3 1	2 7	- 1	14 11
Essex	1995	9	6,073	1,058	6	6	4	33
	1996	5	5,712	1,018	3	17	2	27
Gloucester	1995 1996	1 1	1,481 1,468	128 130	1 -	12 3	- -	2 1
Hudson	1995 1996	7 7	3,773 3,588	586 576	5 2	9 9	1 -	19 13
Hunterdon	1995	-	190	24	-	2	-	1
	1996	-	202	24	1	1	-	1
Mercer	1995	3	1,952	60	2	3	5	7
	1996	1	1,849	50	1	3	1	19

Criminal Sexual Contact	Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass	Harassment	Stalking	County Total	Percent Change
2	1	215	22	27	2,229	11	5,036	
3	1	207	22	26	2,462	12	5,208	3
2	3	189	23	98	2,370	27	5,957	
2	1	217	20	111	2,400	33	5,969	*
3	_	165	15	49	1,477	10	3,895	
1	1	200	20	44	1,621	6	4,051	4
3	_	581	104	81	3,686	20	9,398	
8	3	554	110	83	3,619	20	9,273	-1
2	_	69	4	39	937	12	1,988	
1	-	82	12	25	923	16	1,880	-5
5	1	179	29	30	644	6	2,687	
1	-	171	21	17	625	9	2,546	-5
-	4	340	125	38	950	29	8,675	
10	1	372	128	51	980	29	8,355	-4
-	-	175	9	41	720	5	2,575	
1	-	184	17	37	921	11	2,774	8
8	1	275	65	32	1,616	22	6,419	*
7	-	251	64	32	1,797	49	6,395	*
_	1	12	1	5	210	4	450	
-	-	22	-	7	209	1	468	4
_	-	260	16	37	1,097	11	3,453	*
4	-	316	27	35	1,149	9	3,464	

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault
Middlesex	1995	4	3,149	484	2	7	3	19
	1996	1	2,841	462	1	9	4	15
Monmouth	1995	4	3,130	308	-	8	3	13
	1996	1	2,989	308	-	12	3	10
Morris	1995 1996	2 -	1,292 1,133	182 187	- -	4 5	1 -	4 4
Ocean	1995	4	2,447	403	1	5	-	10
	1996	2	2,350	386	2	5	-	16
Passaic	1995	5	2,383	347	2	10	2	8
	1996	1	1,905	287	2	2	-	4
Salem	1995	-	520	21	-	-	1	2
	1996	1	484	18	-	-	1	2
Somerset	1995 1996	- 1	901 945	34 25	1 -	1 -	1 2	3 4
Sussex	1995 1996	- 2	461 446	66 63	-	- 3	2 1	2 1
Union	1995	5	3,240	366	-	1	1	7
	1996	4	2,998	268	2	1	1	9
Warren	1995 1996	1	301 251	41 28	- -	2 -	- 1	1 1
TOTAL	1995	61	45,509	5,348	25	110	33	195
	1996	43	43,017	5,057	22	121	27	176

^{*} Indicates less than one-half of one percent.

Criminal Sexual Contact	Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass	Harassment	Stalking	County Total	Percent Change
1	-	414	38	64	1,910	25	6,120	-8
9	-	406	42	39	1,803	24	5,656	-0
3	1	338	36	70	2,569	25	6,508	3
2	-	430	42	62	2,837	39	6,735	3
1	-	145	9	36	1,149	12	2,837	,
2	1	124	9	30	1,135	7	2,637	-7
5	2	268	37	57	2,089	27	5,355	-1
2	1	269	42	54	2,121	37	5,287	-1
3	4	149	29	34	1,089	14	4,079	-18
7	-	109	18	20	954	19	3,328	-10
-	-	54	4	9	317	1	929	2
-	-	61	3	7	372	2	951	
2	-	173	5	31	1,334	1	2,487	10
3	-	181	10	38	1,520	6	2,735	
1	-	59	2	14	590	7	1,204	-1
1	-	54	1	9	606	10	1,197	
4	1	288	53	44	1,910	11	5,931	-6
3	1	285	35	36	1,912	13	5,568	-0
1	-	49	1	3	246	3	648	-17
-	-	27	4	2	225	1	541	-17
46	19	4,397	627	839	29,139	283	86,631	-2
67	10	4,522	647	765	30,191	353	85,018	-2

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS 1992 Through 1996

Domestic Violence	199	2	199	3	199)4	199)5	199	6
Offense	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests
Homicide	60	48	54	35	42	30	61	48	43	25
Assault	30,292	15,227	37,760 18,488	39,047	19,306	45,509	21,952	43,017	20,947	
Terroristic Threats	3,026	954	3,999	1,219	4,414	1,255	5,348	1,438	5,057	1,294
Kidnapping	14	4	15	5	33	9	25	7	22	6
Criminal Restraint	82	31	93	33	85	28	110	42	121	45
False Imprisonment	28	10	21	10	18	4	33	13	27	15
Sexual Assault	92	41	122	53	118	50	195	78	176	73
Criminal Sexual Contact	25	10	28	17	32	13	46	22	67	30
Lewdness	6	1	11	5	14	4	19	8	10	4
Criminal Mischief	2,553	854	3,237	1,121	3,546	1,191	4,397	1,417	4,522	1,461
Burglary	293	72	418	127	496	144	627	182	647	177
Criminal Trespass	478	225	560	248	658	321	839	359	765	330
Harassment	15,372	2,243	19,930	2,754	22,488	3,009	29,139	3,426	30,191	3,555
Stalking 🗆	-	-	-	-	-	-	283	69	353	77
TOTAL	52,321	19,720	66,248	24,115	70,991	25,364	86,631	29,061	85,018	28,039

[□] Stalking was first reported in 1995.

- Arrests for domestic violence offenses decreased 4%, and reflected the second highest number of arrests since the inception of the Domestic Violence Program.
- The violent crimes of homicide (43), aggravated assault (6,148), and sexual assault (176) accounted for 7 % of reported domestic violence offenses (85,018).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TYPE OF WEAPON AND EXTENT OF INJURY 1995/1996

			Extent of Injury		
Тур	oe of Weapon	Aggravated Serious	Non-Aggravated Minor	None	TOTAL
Gun	1995 1996 Percent Change		148 100 -32	86 156 81	471 447 -5
Knife	1995 199 6	951	1,056 940 -11	217 300 38	2,224 2,103 -5
Other Danger	rous Weapon 1995 Percent Change	751	1,668 1,584 -5	203 233 15	2,622 2,552 -3
Hands, Fists,	1995	1,699	33,023 31,095 -6	5,314 5,006 -6	40,036 37,634 -6
None	1995 1996 Percent Change	-	- - -	41,278 42,282 2	41,278 42,282 2
TOTAL	1995 1996 Percent Change	·	35,895 33,719 -6	47,098 47,977 2	86,631 85,018 -2

- Forty-four percent (37,041) of all domestic violence complaints resulted in injury. This is a 6% decrease when compared to the 39,533 that occurred in 1995.
- Of all the domestic violence offenses involving weapons (42,736), hands, fists, feet, etc. were used in 88% (37,634) of these offenses.
- Domestic violence offenses involving hands, fists, feet, etc. decreased 6%, from 40,036 in 1995 to 37,634 in 1996.
- Serious injuries were reported in 3,322 offenses a 9% decrease when compared to the 3,638 reported in 1995.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TYPE & SEX OF VICTIM 1996

			Re	lationship	of Victim to	Offender			Total
Type of Offense		Spouse	Ex- spouse	Co- parent	Relative	Friend	Ex- friend	Total	Number of Offenses
Homicide	Male Female	1 9	1 3	- 2	2 5	4 14	1 1	9 34	43
Assault	Male Female	2,326 9,861	201 607	1,026 6,556	1,926 3,086	2,606 11,115	590 3,117	8,675 34,342	43,017
Terroristic Threats	Male Female	142 1,348	38 279	69 721	212 420	131 687	131 879	723 4,334	5,057
Kidnapping	Male Female	2 1	- 1	1 5	- 2	3	- 7	3 19	22
Criminal Restraint	Male Female	1 29	2 -	2 18	- 9	1 29	1 29	7 114	121
False Imprisonment	Male Female	- 10	-	3	-	- 13	- 1	0 27	27
Sexual Assault	Male Female	- 22	- 6	1 30	- 9	3 67	- 38	4 172	176
Criminal Sexual Contact	Male Female	- 17	- 3	- 6	1 10	- 18	- 12	1 66	67
Lewdness	Male Female	3	- 1	1	- 1	-	- 1	1 9	10
Criminal Mischief	Male Female	242 847	44 103	139 569	218 478	330 890	177 485	1,150 3,372	4,522
Burglary	Male Female	17 76	12 25	10 114	31 88	15 70	23 166	108 539	647
Criminal Trespass	Male Female	22 136	10 47	13 95	36 83	39 90	41 153	161 604	765
Harassment	Male Female	1,887 8,308	331 1,096	649 3,362	1,016 2,232	1,409 5,510	830 3,561	6,122 24,069	30,191
Stalking	Male Female	2 50	5 30	3 23	1 2	7 31	25 174	43 310	353
TOTAL	Male Female	4,642 20,717	644 2,201	1,914 11,507	3,443 6,425	4,545 18,537	1,819 8,624	17,007 68,011	-
GRAND TOTAL		25,359	2,845	13,421	9,868	23,082	10,443	-	85,018

ANALYSIS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (Alcohol or Drugs Involved)* 1996

		Sul	bstance Involv	ved .		Percent of Offenses
Domestic Violence Offense	Total Number of Offenses	Only Alcohol	Only Drugs	Both Alcohol and Drugs	Total Alcohol and Drugs	Involving Alcohol or Drugs
Homicide	43	5	1	1	7	16
Assault	43,017	15,188	1,037	1,371	17,596	41
Terroristic Threats	5,057	1,054	219	188	1,461	29
Kidnapping	22	1	1	2	4	18
Criminal Restraint	121	28	3	3	34	28
False Imprisonment	27	7	2	2	11	41
Sexual Assault	176	51	7	9	67	38
Criminal Sexual Contact	67	17	1	1	19	28
Lewdness	10	5	1	-	6	60
Criminal Mischief	4,522	1,527	120	136	1,783	39
Burglary	647	91	62	27	180	28
Criminal Trespass	765	168	35	25	228	30
Harassment	30,191	8,112	588	627	9,327	31
Stalking	353	49	9	3	61	17
TOTAL	85,018	26,303	2,086	2,395	30,784	36

^{*} Indicates alcohol or drug use by either victim or offender.

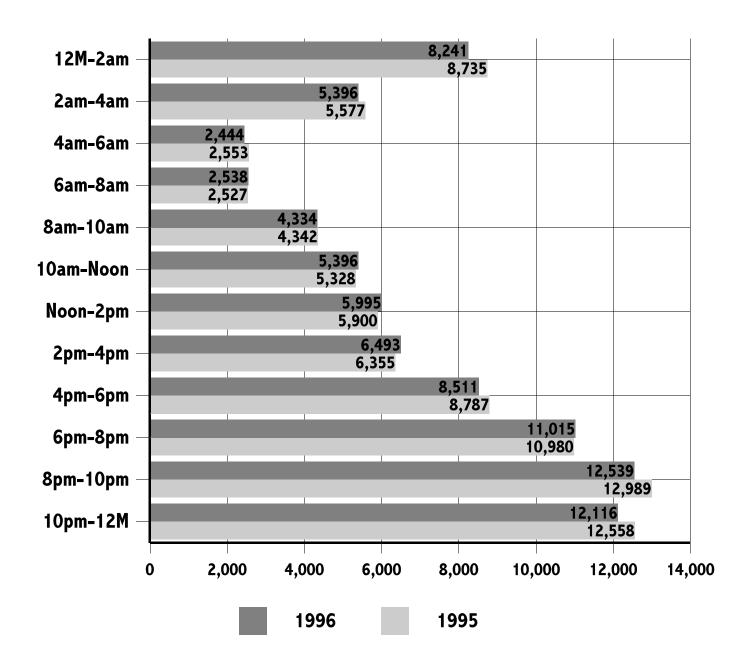
- Drugs or alcohol were involved in 16% (43) of the reported domestic violence offenses of homicides.
- Thirty-six percent (30,784) of the reported acts of domestic violence (85,018) involved the use of drugs or alcohol.

OFFENSES AGAINST ELDERLY VICTIMS (60 Years of age or over) 1996

	Total				Rela	tionsh	ip of V	ictim t	o Offen	der			
Domestic Violence Offense	Number of	Spo	use	Ex-sp	ouse	Со-ра	arent	Rela	tive	Frie	end	Ex-fr	iend
	Offenses	М	F	М	F	М	F	M	F	М	F	M	F
Homicide	6	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-
Assault	1,023	80	202	2	5	17	28	234	328	68	49	8	2
Terroristic Threats	155	7	26	2	-	1	8	31	58	8	9	3	2
Kidnapping	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Restraint	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
False Imprisonment	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sexual Assault	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Sexual Contact	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Lewdness	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Mischief	188	8	9	1	1	3	11	48	84	7	5	7	4
Burglary	36	3	1	-	-	1	2	9	18	1	1	-	-
Criminal Trespass	50	2	2	-	1	-	5	13	19	2	-	4	2
Harassment	1,134	83	218	9	13	16	38	204	422	57	42	14	18
Stalking	4	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
TOTAL	2,600	184	460	14	22	38	92	540	934	143	107	37	29

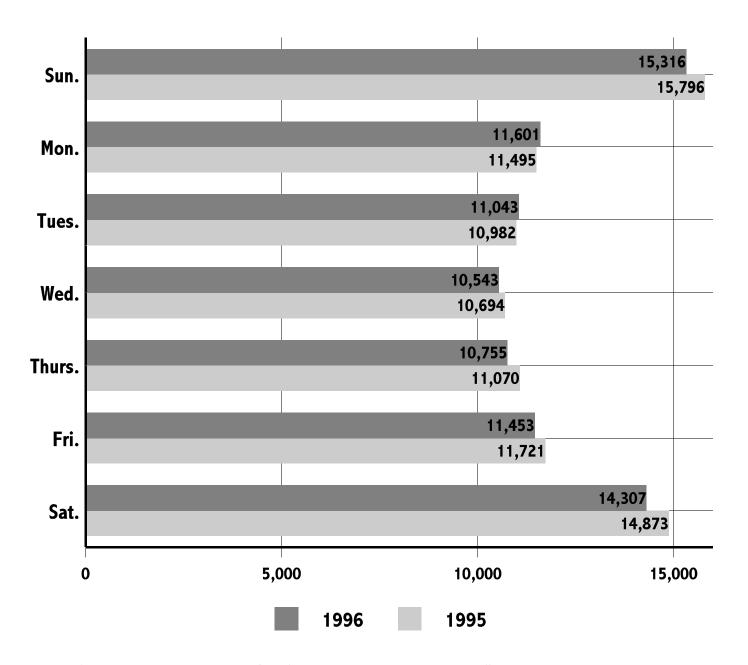
- Assaults accounted for 39% (1,023) of all domestic violence offenses for victims 60 years old or over.
- Females, age 60 or over were the victims in 63% (1,644) of the 2,600 elderly abuse offenses.
- Persons age 60 or over were the victims in 3% (2,600) of all the reported domestic violence offenses during this period.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TIME OF DAY 1995/1996



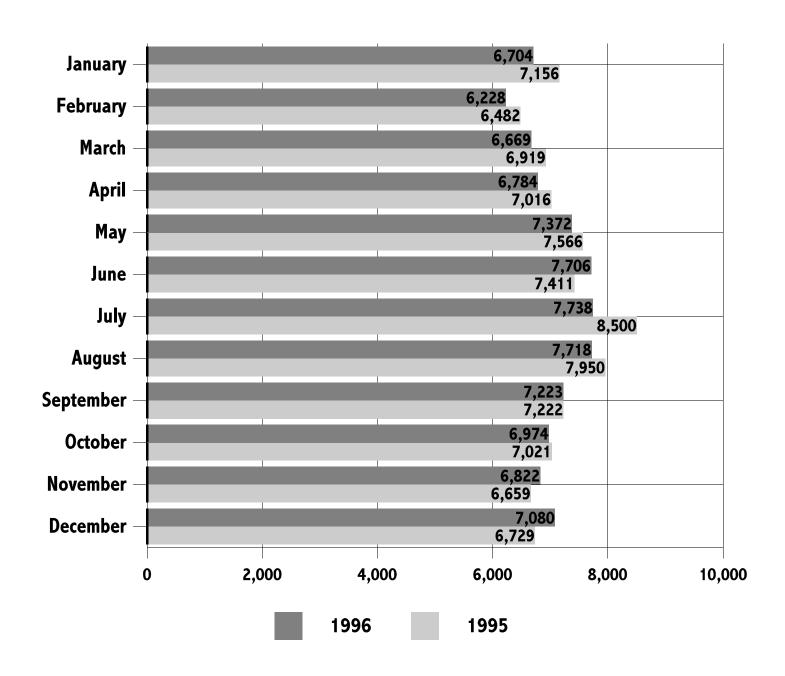
• During 1996, 29% (24,655) of the reported domestic violence offenses occurred between 8:00 p.m. and 12 midnight.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY DAY OF WEEK 1995/1996



- Sunday recorded the highest number of occurrences in 1996 with 15,316 offenses.
- During 1996, 35% (29,623) of the reported domestic violence offenses occurred during the weekend (Saturday and Sunday).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY MONTH OF YEAR 1995/1996



- In 1996, the highest number of domestic violence offenses occurred during the month of July.
- During 1996, the month with the lowest number of reported domestic violence offenses was February.