



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 2007 domestic violence statistics are listed below:

- There were 71,901 domestic violence offenses reported by the police in 2007, a 3 percent decrease compared to the 73,749 reported in 2006.
- Murders decreased 10 percent in 2007 (38) when compared to 2006 (42).
- Assaults accounted for 44 percent (31,661) and harassment accounted for 42 percent (30,055) of the reported offenses in 2007.
- Arrests were made in 31 percent (22,279) of the offenses reported for 2007, a decrease of 2 percent when compared to arrests made in 2006.
- The most frequent day of domestic violence occurrences was Sunday (12,735).
- For the twenty-fifth consecutive year, the most frequent hours of domestic violence incidents were between 8:00 p.m. and midnight, when 27 percent (19,301) of the offenses were reported.
- Children were involved or present during 33 percent of all domestic violence offenses occurring in 2007. Specifically, 5 percent (3,796) were involved and 28 percent (19,945) were present.
- Wives were the victims in 20 percent (14,550) and ex-wives were the victims in 3 percent (2,433) of the reported domestic violence offenses in 2007. Overall, females were victims in 76 percent (54,873) 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 2006 to 14,339 in 2007. This is a decrease of 7 percent.
- Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in 28 percent (20,227) of the reported offenses occurring in 2007. Alcohol involvement alone accounted for 25 percent (18,003) of the total domestic violence offenses reported.
- Persons age 60 or over were victims in 3 percent (2,385) of all reported domestic violence offenses that occurred in 2007. Elderly were the victims in 11 percent (4) of the domestic violence murders (38).
- 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 19 seconds.
- Domestic violence offenses arising from a dating relationship accounted for 15 percent (10,646) of the state total.
- There were 2,950 total arrests involving domestic violence restraining orders reported by police in 2007. Of these, 1,695 were arrests for violations of a restraining order **only**, while 1,255 were arrests for violations of a restraining order **with** an offense arrest.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS 2006/2007

Domestic Violence Offense		Number of Offenses	☆ Number of Arrests	☆ Percent of Offenses Involving an Arrest
Homicide	2006	42	27	64
	2007	38	19	50
	Percent Change	-10	-30	-22
Assault	2006	32,450	15,702	48
	2007	31,661	15,549	49
	Percent Change	-2	-1	2
Terroristic Threats	2006	3,673	1,079	29
	2007	3,411	1,025	30
	Percent Change	-7	-5	3
Kidnapping	2006	38	16	42
	2007	27	11	41
	Percent Change	-29	-31	-2
Criminal Restraint	2006	188	79	42
	2007	136	57	42
	Percent Change	-28	-28	0
False Imprisonment	2006	46	14	30
	2007	53	24	45
	Percent Change	15	71	50
Sexual Assault	2006	214	64	30
	2007	233	83	36
	Percent Change	9	30	20
Criminal Sexual Contact	2006	44	14	32
	2007	47	21	45
	Percent Change	7	50	41
Lewdness	2006	11	4	36
	2007	13	2	15
	Percent Change	18	&	-58
Criminal Mischief	2006	4,997	1,525	31
	2007	4,889	1,532	31
	Percent Change	-2	*	0
Burglary	2006	653	228	35
	2007	586	217	37
	Percent Change	-10	-5	6
Criminal Trespass	2006	555	213	38
	2007	460	180	39
	Percent Change	-17	-15	3
Harassment	2006	30,532	3,661	12
	2007	30,055	3,489	12
	Percent Change	-2	-5	0
Stalking	2006	306	74	24
	2007	292	70	24
	Percent Change	-5	-5	0
TOTAL	2006	73,749	22,700	31
	2007	71,901	22,279	31
	Percent Change	-3	-2	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 2006/2007

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault	Criminal Sexual Contact
Atlantic	2006	-	1,639	182	2	5	3	3	3
	2007	-	1,689	179	1	12	3	12	-
Bergen	2006	2	2,020	309	1	10	5	12	3
	2007	-	1,943	264	1	7	3	10	2
Burlington	2006	2	1,424	90	1	8	3	13	1
	2007	2	1,300	104	1	4	3	13	4
Camden	2006	2	3,439	220	9	20	4	28	2
	2007	2	3,187	190	6	17	1	26	6
Cape May	2006	-	432	39	-	1	-	-	-
	2007	-	475	50	-	-	-	4	-
Cumberland	2006	2	1,508	89	2	18	3	6	-
	2007	2	1,497	82	1	14	-	5	1
Essex	2006	7	3,037	674	4	19	6	16	2
	2007	6	2,639	554	3	12	6	17	5
Gloucester	2006	2	1,395	63	1	13	-	7	2
	2007	-	1,411	81	-	4	1	6	2
Hudson	2006	7	2,424	278	5	4	4	19	7
	2007	3	2,281	233	4	9	-	17	4
Hunterdon	2006	-	142	9	-	-	-	1	-
	2007	-	221	31	-	-	2	2	1
Mercer	2006	1	1,615	61	3	9	-	10	2
	2007	5	1,651	42	-	11	5	16	3

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2006/2007

Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass	Harassment	Stalking	County Total	Percent Change	Arrests
1	231	34	35	3,221	19	5,378	-2	1,115
1	216	32	31	3,075	14	5,265		1,222
1	195	27	51	1,997	31	4,664	-6	1,311
1	166	24	37	1,902	21	4,381		1,285
1	233	14	29	1,973	3	3,795	-2	1,918
-	262	24	33	1,942	16	3,708		1,771
2	637	108	48	2,280	15	6,814	-9	2,363
-	569	83	38	2,076	24	6,225		2,066
-	64	5	19	620	5	1,185	1	315
-	74	7	13	576	1	1,200		372
1	254	26	22	1,415	7	3,353	-1	954
2	310	35	28	1,324	8	3,309		931
3	396	74	26	941	40	5,245	-13	1,560
1	346	46	15	872	28	4,550		1,467
-	210	26	26	1,252	13	3,010	-1	1,039
-	215	24	33	1,199	12	2,988		1,040
-	290	43	25	1,447	16	4,569	-5	1,092
-	279	48	18	1,418	27	4,341		1,103
-	34	1	2	298	2	489	43	129
-	32	2	7	390	9	697		202
-	285	32	32	1,071	15	3,136	-2	1,043
-	248	34	21	1,039	9	3,084		1,034

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2006/2007

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault	Criminal Sexual Contact
Middlesex	2006	4	2,351	324	3	18	2	24	9
	2007	4	2,269	309	1	14	5	22	1
Monmouth	2006	4	2,176	298	1	14	5	13	3
	2007	1	2,244	271	-	8	5	17	4
Morris	2006	-	959	163	2	11	3	7	3
	2007	1	909	135	-	5	4	5	-
Ocean	2006	1	2,177	269	2	10	-	9	2
	2007	3	1,971	247	2	7	4	15	6
Passaic	2006	2	2,221	381	1	16	1	11	3
	2007	2	2,305	367	3	6	3	15	3
Salem	2006	-	358	17	-	2	-	2	-
	2007	1	366	26	1	3	-	1	-
Somerset	2006	-	702	10	1	1	3	8	1
	2007	2	698	16	1	1	2	9	2
Sussex	2006	1	336	37	-	4	2	6	1
	2007	1	433	51	-	-	2	1	-
Union	2006	4	1,747	117	-	3	2	16	-
	2007	3	1,771	145	2	2	2	18	2
Warren	2006	1	348	43	-	2	-	3	-
	2007	-	401	34	-	-	2	2	1
TOTAL	2006	42	32,450	3,673	38	188	46	214	44
	2007	38	31,661	3,411	27	136	53	233	47

* Less than one-half of one percent.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2006/2007

Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass	Harassment	Stalking	County Total	Percent Change	Arrests
-	417	39	26	1,779	30	5,026		1,649
2	401	37	24	1,768	25	4,882	-3	1,577
-	391	42	58	2,367	31	5,403		1,860
-	366	45	32	2,636	21	5,650	5	1,890
-	137	14	27	1,252	21	2,599		727
-	162	10	20	1,207	15	2,473	-5	716
1	397	64	45	2,742	14	5,733		1,460
2	387	48	30	2,519	15	5,256	-8	1,317
-	287	50	15	1,093	24	4,105		1,601
3	298	48	24	1,058	19	4,154	1	1,592
-	44	1	14	220	5	663		299
-	68	5	8	286	2	767	16	311
1	124	13	17	1,318	3	2,202		529
-	118	2	11	1,329	3	2,194	*	533
-	56	4	10	532	-	989		278
-	72	5	10	795	4	1,374	39	349
-	249	34	21	1,895	8	4,096		1,272
-	239	24	15	1,655	6	3,884	-5	1,237
-	66	2	7	819	4	1,295		186
1	61	3	12	989	13	1,519	17	264
11	4,997	653	555	30,532	306	73,749		22,700
13	4,889	586	460	30,055	292	71,901	-3	22,279

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS 2003 Through 2007

Domestic Violence Offense	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests
Homicide	57	29	44	27	41	24	42	27	38	19
Assault	35,193	16,965	33,712	16,247	33,674	16,166	32,450	15,702	31,661	15,549
Terroristic Threats	4,523	1,327	4,194	1,285	4,239	1,236	3,673	1,079	3,411	1,025
Kidnapping	24	9	44	19	47	22	38	16	27	11
Criminal Restraint	140	64	159	79	190	83	188	79	136	57
False Imprisonment	52	31	46	23	35	22	46	14	53	24
Sexual Assault	234	78	212	77	217	54	214	64	233	83
Criminal Sexual Contact	46	15	57	17	54	22	44	14	47	21
Lewdness	11	3	9	1	3	-	11	4	13	2
Criminal Mischief	4,756	1,524	4,809	1,518	5,056	1,623	4,997	1,525	4,889	1,532
Burglary	671	238	621	218	680	243	653	228	586	217
Criminal Trespass	556	190	537	193	506	206	555	213	460	180
Harassment	30,986	4,058	31,333	4,241	30,603	3,835	30,532	3,661	30,055	3,489
Stalking	318	74	332	69	306	70	306	74	292	70
TOTAL	77,567	24,605	76,109	24,014	75,651	23,606	73,749	22,700	71,901	22,279

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TYPE OF WEAPON AND EXTENT OF INJURY 2006/2007

Type of Weapon		Extent of Injury			TOTAL
		Aggravated Serious	Non-Aggravated Minor	None	
Gun	2006	31	22	114	167
	2007	36	27	92	155
	Percent Change	16	23	-19	-7
Knife	2006	306	438	346	1,090
	2007	307	445	347	1,099
	Percent Change	*	2	*	1
Other Dangerous Weapon	2006	364	1,119	340	1,823
	2007	349	1,076	347	1,772
	Percent Change	-4	-4	2	-3
Hands, Fists, Feet, etc.	2006	727	17,294	13,280	31,301
	2007	753	16,654	13,151	30,558
	Percent Change	4	-4	-1	-2
None	2006	-	-	39,368	39,368
	2007	-	-	38,317	38,317
	Percent Change	-	-	-3	-3
TOTAL	2006	1,428	18,873	53,448	73,749
	2007	1,445	18,202	52,254	71,901
	Percent Change	1	-4	-2	-3

* Less than one-half of one percent.

- Twenty-seven percent (19,647) of all domestic violence complaints resulted in injury. This is a decrease of 3 percent when compared to the (20,301) that occurred in 2006.
- Of all the domestic violence offenses involving weapons (33,584), hands, fists, feet, etc. were used in 91 percent (30,558) of these offenses.
- Domestic violence offenses involving a gun decreased 7 percent when compared to 2006.
- Serious injuries were reported in 1,445 offenses, a 1 percent increase when compared to the 1,428 reported in 2006.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TYPE & SEX OF VICTIM 2007

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	2	4	1	9	38
	Female	12	1	2	1	10	3	29	
Assault	Male	1,818	162	940	1,849	2,626	464	7,859	31,661
	Female	6,003	489	4,880	2,573	7,895	1,962	23,802	
Terroristic Threats	Male	104	29	58	188	117	85	581	3,411
	Female	754	188	535	296	543	514	2,830	
Kidnapping	Male	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	27
	Female	3	-	4	-	7	11	25	
Criminal Restraint	Male	2	1	3	2	4	3	15	136
	Female	28	1	19	9	49	15	121	
False Imprisonment	Male	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	53
	Female	18	1	8	1	18	6	52	
Sexual Assault	Male	1	-	1	-	4	-	6	233
	Female	50	4	34	16	80	43	227	
Criminal Sexual Contact	Male	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	47
	Female	8	4	7	7	10	10	46	
Lewdness	Male	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	13
	Female	1	1	2	1	7	-	12	
Criminal Mischief	Male	270	45	182	271	390	225	1,383	4,889
	Female	714	124	613	613	959	483	3,506	
Burglary	Male	15	6	8	27	23	35	114	586
	Female	43	36	109	53	98	133	472	
Criminal Trespass	Male	11	16	12	26	27	25	117	460
	Female	63	32	53	62	56	77	343	
Harassment	Male	1,710	485	839	1,039	1,720	1,113	6,906	30,055
	Female	6,815	1,524	3,489	2,358	5,230	3,733	23,149	
Stalking	Male	4	7	2	3	4	13	33	292
	Female	38	28	37	5	32	119	259	
TOTAL	Male	3,938	752	2,046	3,408	4,920	1,964	17,028	71,901
	Female	14,550	2,433	9,792	5,995	14,994	7,109	54,873	
GRAND TOTAL		18,488	3,185	11,838	9,403	19,914	9,073	71,901	-

ANALYSIS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (Alcohol or Drugs Involved) † 2007

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	38	1	1	2	4	10.5
Assault	31,661	10,182	549	659	11,390	36.0
Terroristic Threats	3,411	517	72	66	655	19.2
Kidnapping	27	4	1	1	6	22.2
Criminal Restraint	136	34	4	2	40	29.4
False Imprisonment	53	13	1	-	14	26.4
Sexual Assault	233	52	13	9	74	31.8
Criminal Sexual Contact	47	10	-	2	12	25.5
Lewdness	13	7	-	-	7	53.8
Criminal Mischief	4,889	1,299	90	78	1,467	30.0
Burglary	586	101	18	11	130	22.2
Criminal Trespass	460	102	7	8	117	25.4
Harassment	30,055	5,661	336	289	6,286	20.9
Stalking	292	20	2	3	25	8.6
TOTAL	71,901	18,003	1,094	1,130	20,227	28.1

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

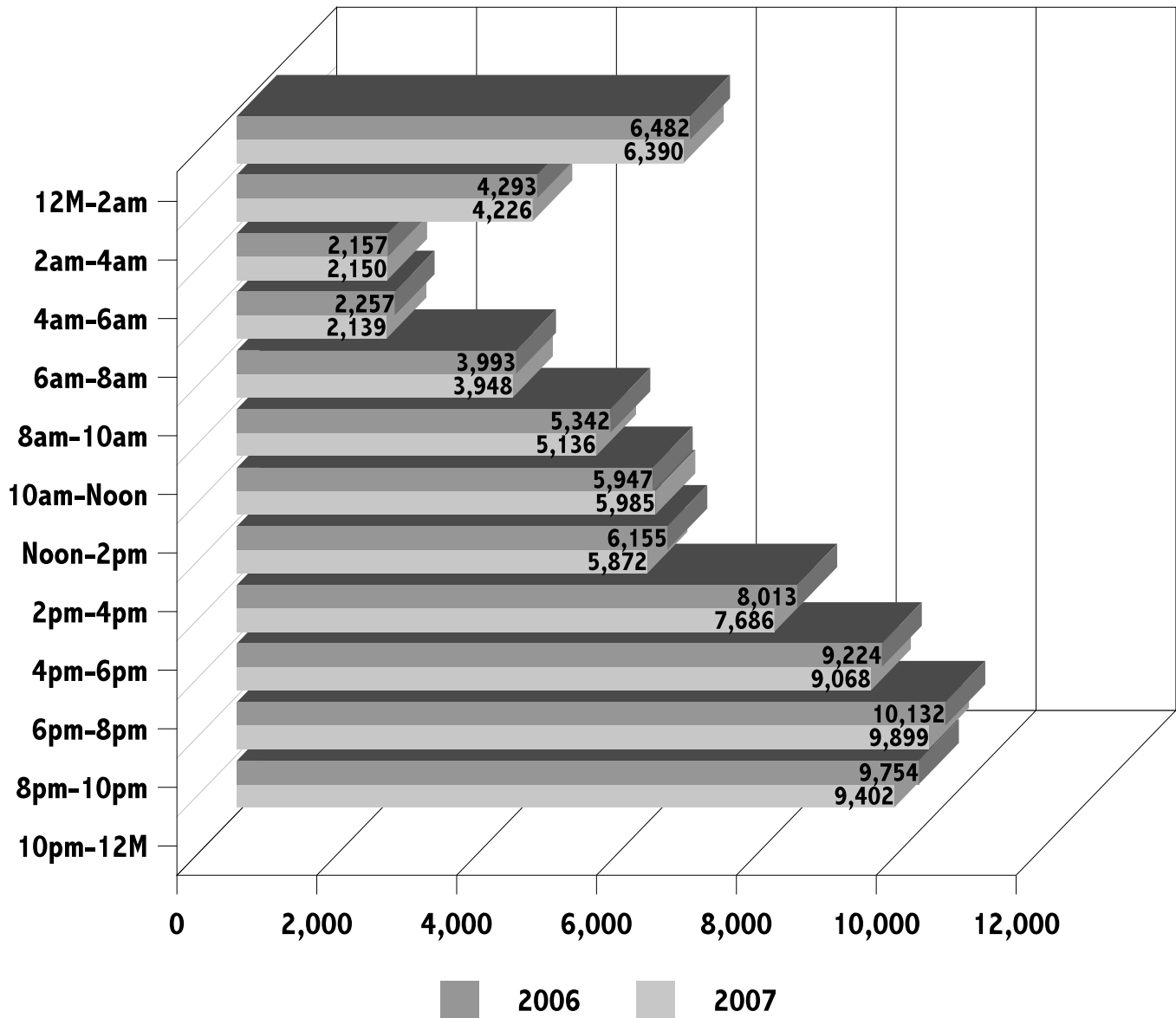
- Drugs or alcohol were involved in 11 percent (4) of domestic violence homicides.
- Twenty-eight percent (20,227) of the reported acts of domestic violence (71,901) involved the use of drugs or alcohol.

OFFENSES AGAINST ELDERLY VICTIMS (60 Years of age or over) 2007

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	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assault	844	90	152	6	4	7	9	164	258	77	57	8	12
Terroristic Threats	131	6	19	-	1	-	2	32	50	7	10	3	1
Kidnapping	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Restraint	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
False Imprisonment	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sexual Assault	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Criminal Sexual Contact	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lewdness	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Mischief	232	3	11	2	-	5	3	58	116	17	6	9	2
Burglary	26	-	1	-	-	-	2	5	10	1	4	-	3
Criminal Trespass	39	-	1	-	-	-	2	8	20	1	2	3	2
Harassment	1,100	78	201	11	12	8	11	163	406	66	79	24	41
Stalking	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
TOTAL	2,385	177	390	19	18	20	29	431	862	170	159	47	63

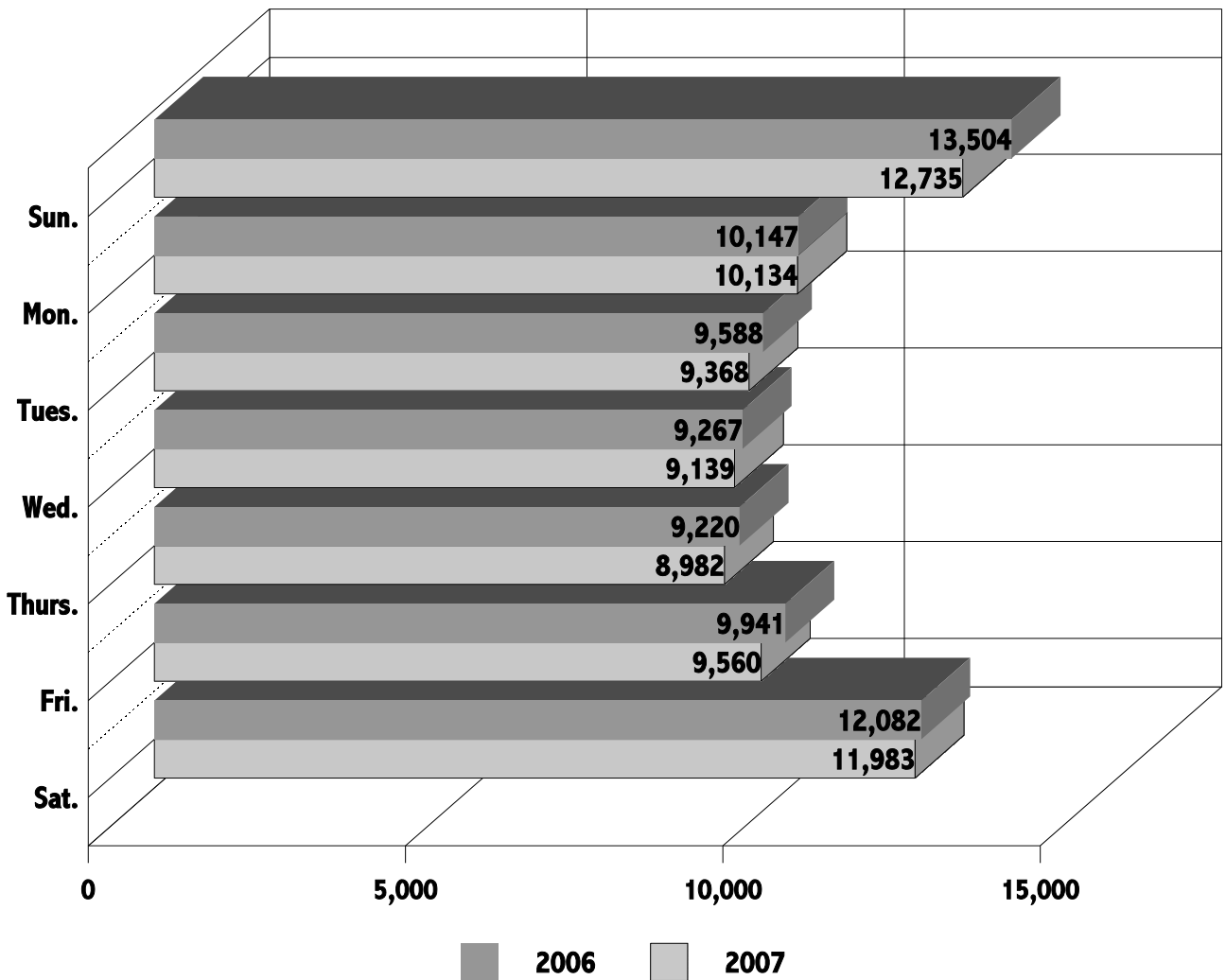
- Assaults accounted for 35 percent (844) of all domestic violence offenses for victims 60 years old or over.
- Females age 60 or over were the victims in 64 percent (1,521) of the 2,385 elderly abuse offenses.
- Persons age 60 or over were the victims in 3 percent (2,385) of all the reported domestic violence offenses during this period.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TIME OF DAY 2006/2007



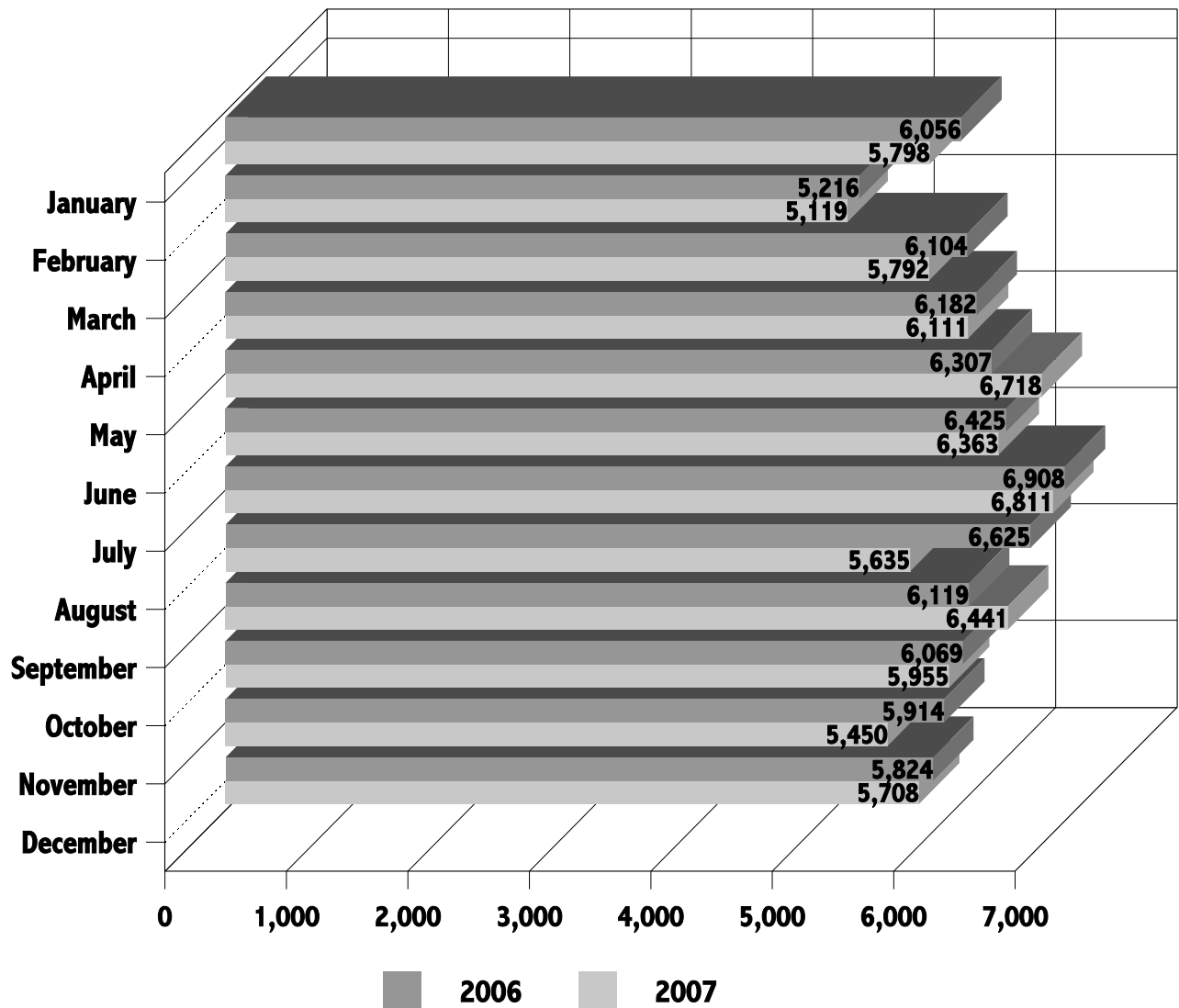
- During 2007, 27 percent (19,301) of the reported domestic violence offenses occurred between 8:00 p.m. and 12 midnight.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY DAY OF WEEK 2006/2007



- Sunday recorded the highest number of occurrences in 2007 with 12,735 offenses.
- During 2007, 34 percent (24,718) of the reported domestic violence offenses occurred during the weekend (Saturday and Sunday).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY MONTH OF YEAR 2006/2007



- In 2007, the highest number of domestic violence offenses occurred during the month of July.
- During 2007, the month with the lowest number of reported domestic violence offenses was February.

RESTRAINING ORDER ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2006/2007

	Domestic Violence Restraining Order Only			Domestic Violence Restraining Order with Offense Arrest			Total Arrests Involving Domestic Violence Restraining Orders		
	2006	2007	Percent Change	2006	2007	Percent Change	2006	2007	Percent Change
ATLANTIC	72	90	25	54	64	19	126	154	22
BERGEN	75	66	-12	131	107	-18	206	173	-16
BURLINGTON	91	96	5	82	70	-15	173	166	-4
CAMDEN	222	200	-10	167	142	-15	389	342	-12
CAPE MAY	46	35	-24	23	23	0	69	58	-16
CUMBERLAND	86	83	-3	49	39	-20	135	122	-10
ESSEX	93	69	-26	71	79	11	164	148	-10
GLOUCESTER	133	72	-46	73	85	16	206	157	-24
HUDSON	76	76	0	58	49	-16	134	125	-7
HUNTERDON	7	24	243	6	7	17	13	31	138
MERCER	62	56	-10	65	71	9	127	127	0
MIDDLESEX	88	104	18	50	69	38	138	173	25
MONMOUTH	105	117	11	86	113	31	191	230	20
MORRIS	105	75	-29	46	42	-9	151	117	-23
OCEAN	175	174	-1	70	57	-19	245	231	-6
PASSAIC	148	143	-3	70	66	-6	218	209	-4
SALEM	29	26	-10	20	22	10	49	48	-2
SOMERSET	88	76	-14	33	19	-42	121	95	-21
SUSSEX	28	38	36	12	30	150	40	68	70
UNION	79	52	-34	110	87	-21	189	139	-26
WARREN	10	23	130	8	14	75	18	37	106
STATE TOTALS	1,818	1,695	-7	1,284	1,255	-2	3,102	2,950	-5