

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORT



11-13-92

MFI

**137622**

NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE  
UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING UNIT

137622

# NINTH ANNUAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSE REPORT 1991

NCJRS  
JUL 21 1992  
ACQUISITION

**Honorable Robert J. Del Tufo**  
*Attorney General*  
*State of New Jersey*

**Colonel Justin J. Dintino**  
*Superintendent*  
*New Jersey State Police*

**Major Valcocean Littles**  
*Supervisor*  
*Records and Identification Section*  
*New Jersey State Police*

**Chief Larry D. Parker**  
*Stafford Township Police Department*  
*President*  
*New Jersey Association of Chiefs of Police*

137622

U.S. Department of Justice  
National Institute of Justice

This document has been reproduced exactly as received from the person or organization originating it. Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the National Institute of Justice.

Permission to reproduce this copyrighted material has been granted by  
New Jersey State Police

to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS).

Further reproduction outside of the NCJRS system requires permission of the copyright owner.

**Prepared by:**

**State of New Jersey**  
**Division of State Police**  
**Uniform Crime Reporting Unit**

## 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 the 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 increased ten percent over 1990. 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

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 ninth 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 1991.

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 ninth Domestic Violence Report is submitted.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Del Tufo", written over a horizontal line.

Robert J. Del Tufo  
Attorney General of New Jersey



## State of New Jersey

### DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION OF STATE POLICE

POST OFFICE BOX 7068  
WEST TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08628-0068  
(609) 882-2000

ROBERT J. DEL TUFO  
Attorney General

COLONEL JUSTIN J. DINTINO  
Superintendent

Honorable Robert J. Del Tufo  
Attorney General  
State of New Jersey  
Hughes Justice Complex  
Trenton, New Jersey

Dear Attorney General Del Tufo:

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:25-8, the ninth 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 1991. The report contains comparisons and analyses between 1990 and 1991 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 that reads "Justin J. Dintino".

Colonel Justin J. Dintino  
Superintendent

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Highlights of the 1991 domestic violence statistics are listed below:

- There were 55,698 domestic violence offenses reported by the police in 1991, a 10% increase compared to the 50,823 reported in 1990.
- Murders increased 7% in 1991 (61) when compared to 1990 (57).
- Assaults occurred in 62% (34,319) of the reported offenses in 1991.
- The total arrests for 1991 (19,127) increased 12% over 1990 (17,035).
- Arrests were made in 34% (19,127) of the offenses reported for 1991.
- The most frequent day of domestic violence occurrences was Sunday (10,147).
- For the ninth consecutive year, the most frequent hours of domestic violence incidents were between 8:00 p.m. and midnight, when 31% (17,008) of the offenses were reported.
- Children were involved or present during 53% of all domestic violence offenses occurring in 1991. Specifically, 9% (5,228) were involved and 44% (24,304) were present.
- Wives were the victims in 37% (20,632), and female friends were the victims in 39% (21,867) of the reported domestic violence offenses in 1991. Overall, females were victims in 85% (47,140) of all domestic violence offenses.
- The number of domestic violence complaints that had prior court orders issued against the offender increased from 10,695 in 1990 to 12,105 in 1991. This is a 13% increase.
- Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in 44% (24,551) of the reported offenses occurring in 1991. Alcohol involvement alone accounted for 39% (21,671) of the total domestic violence offenses reported.
- Persons age 60 or over were victims in 3% (1,659) of all reported domestic violence offenses that occurred in 1991.
- 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 nine (9) minutes and twenty-six (26) seconds.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS

1990/1991

Type of Domestic Violence Offense		Number of Offenses	Percent Distribution	* Number of Arrests	* Percent of Offenses Involving an Arrest
Homicide	1990	57	—	47	82
	1991	61	—	48	79
	Percent Change	+7	—	+2	-4
Assault	1990	32,268	63	13,726	43
	1991	34,319	62	15,237	44
	Percent Change	+6	-2	+11	+2
Kidnapping	1990	17	—	5	29
	1991	20	—	6	30
	Percent Change	+18	—	(1)	+3
Criminal Restraint	1990	96	—	34	35
	1991	120	—	54	45
	Percent Change	+25	—	+59	+29
False Imprisonment	1990	26	—	7	27
	1991	32	—	11	34
	Percent Change	+23	—	(1)	+26
Sexual Assault	1990	84	—	28	33
	1991	82	—	33	40
	Percent Change	-2	—	+18	+21
Criminal Sexual Contact	1990	23	—	9	39
	1991	19	—	11	58
	Percent Change	-17	—	(1)	+49
Lewdness	1990	12	—	3	25
	1991	8	—	1	13
	Percent Change	(1)	—	(1)	-48
Criminal Mischief	1990	2,460	5	785	32
	1991	2,768	5	885	32
	Percent Change	+13	—	+13	—
Burglary	1990	291	1	86	30
	1991	382	1	101	26
	Percent Change	+31	—	+17	-13
Harassment	1990	15,489	30	2,305	15
	1991	17,887	32	2,740	15
	Percent Change	+15	+7	+19	—
TOTAL	1990	50,823	100	17,035	34
	1991	55,698	100	19,127	34
	Percent Change	+10	—	+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/ARRESTS 1987 through 1991

Type of Domestic Violence Offense	1987		1988		1989		1990		1991	
	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests
Homicide	36	28	65	57	49	37	57	47	61	48
Assault	29,868	8,648	33,249	13,020	32,640	13,331	32,268	13,726	34,319	15,237
Kidnapping	3	1	6	4	11	3	17	5	20	6
Criminal Restraint	79	33	99	28	114	46	96	34	120	54
False Imprisonment	19	2	20	7	18	7	26	7	32	11
Sexual Assault	65	17	66	22	72	19	84	28	82	33
Criminal Sexual Contact	9	2	15	4	22	5	23	9	19	11
Lewdness	17	2	13	2	13	2	12	3	8	1
Criminal Mischief	2,043	546	2,362	710	2,623	811	2,460	785	2,768	885
Burglary	210	48	250	62	263	81	291	86	382	101
Harassment	13,613	1,572	16,064	2,194	15,960	2,322	15,489	2,305	17,887	2,740
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45,962</b>	<b>10,899</b>	<b>52,209</b>	<b>16,110</b>	<b>51,785</b>	<b>16,664</b>	<b>50,823</b>	<b>17,035</b>	<b>55,698</b>	<b>19,127</b>

- Assault, criminal restraint, false imprisonment, criminal mischief, burglary and harassment reported the highest number of offenses since the inception of the Domestic Violence Program.
- Arrests for domestic violence offenses increased (12%), and reflected the highest number of arrests since the inception of the Domestic Violence Program.
- The violent crimes of homicide (61), aggravated assault (5,757) and sexual assault (82) accounted for eleven (11) percent of reported domestic violence offenses (55,698).



**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY COUNTY**  
**1990/1991**

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Kidnaping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault	Criminal Sexual Contact	Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Harassment	COUNTY TOTAL	Percent Change
Atlantic	1990	1	1,136	—	10	2	2	1	—	92	16	1,002	2,262	+6
	1991	2	1,355	—	5	2	2	1	—	126	10	897	2,400	
Bergen	1990	3	1,840	—	7	3	2	3	2	95	9	1,053	3,017	+19
	1991	4	2,081	1	8	3	1	—	—	130	15	1,349	3,592	
Burlington	1990	6	1,565	3	5	—	5	—	—	122	7	603	2,316	+14
	1991	2	1,801	—	6	2	5	1	—	124	9	695	2,645	
Camden	1990	7	3,074	2	24	1	5	—	—	277	26	1,484	4,900	+26
	1991	7	3,572	4	21	2	7	3	1	322	49	2,192	6,180	
Cape May	1990	—	644	—	2	1	1	—	—	50	6	450	1,154	+7
	1991	2	696	1	9	—	1	—	—	52	7	469	1,237	
Cumberland	1990	5	1,036	—	3	—	4	2	1	92	13	265	1,421	+34
	1991	—	1,364	—	3	—	4	1	1	127	21	383	1,904	
Essex	1990	7	3,825	4	8	2	14	—	—	182	54	959	5,055	-4
	1991	18	3,635	6	6	2	13	2	1	186	43	950	4,862	
Gloucester	1990	2	1,073	—	3	—	1	1	—	71	2	406	1,559	-2
	1991	—	977	—	1	2	1	—	—	81	5	458	1,525	
Hudson	1990	4	2,262	2	5	—	1	—	1	120	18	991	3,404	+22
	1991	3	2,755	2	9	6	1	1	1	157	33	1,169	4,137	

Mercer	1990	3	1,489	—	—	2	6	2	—	188	18	466	2,174	+1
	1991	1	1,489	—	2	—	8	—	1	170	23	500	2,194	
Middlesex	1990	5	2,177	—	5	1	7	1	—	192	14	1,037	3,439	+8
	1991	3	2,193	—	7	—	7	2	—	209	21	1,267	3,709	
Monmouth	1990	2	2,513	2	2	4	5	1	—	247	20	1,343	4,139	+5
	1991	3	2,530	—	10	4	6	—	—	248	41	1,504	4,346	
Morris	1990	2	1,066	—	4	4	7	3	—	99	7	700	1,892	+11
	1991	2	1,107	2	3	1	2	3	1	119	11	844	2,095	
Ocean	1990	—	1,747	1	1	2	6	2	3	111	10	972	2,855	+5
	1991	6	1,731	—	5	1	2	1	1	128	13	1,117	3,005	
Passaic	1990	1	2,031	3	3	1	5	2	2	96	14	1,114	3,272	+12
	1991	3	2,282	3	6	2	8	1	—	139	29	1,179	3,652	
Salem	1990	—	470	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—	268	780	-9
	1991	—	381	—	—	—	2	—	—	41	3	280	707	
Somerset	1990	2	981	—	5	2	3	3	1	104	6	718	1,825	+1
	1991	2	962	—	2	3	3	—	1	120	6	751	1,850	
Sussex	1990	—	370	—	1	—	3	1	—	39	2	277	693	+19
	1991	—	386	—	2	1	2	2	—	34	3	395	825	
Union	1990	6	2,525	—	6	1	5	1	1	214	48	1,123	3,930	+1
	1991	2	2,505	1	10	1	5	1	—	220	35	1,180	3,960	
Warren	1990	1	263	—	—	—	1	—	—	17	1	133	416	+38
	1991	1	344	—	4	—	1	—	—	29	4	190	573	
TOTAL	1990	57	32,268	17	96	26	84	23	12	2,460	291	15,489	50,823	+10
	1991	61	34,319	20	120	32	82	19	8	2,768	382	17,887	55,698	

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES  
BY TYPE OF WEAPON AND EXTENT OF INJURY  
1990/1991**

Type of Weapon		Extent of Injury			Total
		Aggravated Serious	Non-Aggravated Minor	None	
Gun	1990	82	76	190	348
	1991	105	74	195	374
	Percent Change	+28	-3	+3	+7
Knife	1990	674	700	510	1,884
	1991	663	819	421	1,903
	Percent Change	-2	+17	-17	+1
Other Dangerous	1990	548	1,418	276	2,242
	1991	565	1,369	235	2,169
	Percent Change	+3	-3	-15	-3
Hands, Fists, Feet, etc.	1990	1,545	22,944	3,733	28,222
	1991	1,495	24,612	4,354	30,461
	Percent Change	-3	+7	+17	+8
None	1990	—	—	18,127	18,127
	1991	—	—	20,791	20,791
	Percent Change	—	—	+15	+15
<b>TOTAL</b>	1990	2,849	25,138	22,836	50,823
	1991	2,828	26,874	25,996	55,698
	Percent Change	-1	+7	+14	+10

- Fifty-three percent (29,702) of all domestic violence complaints resulted in injury. This is a 6% increase when compared to the 27,987 that occurred in 1990.
- Of all the domestic violence offenses involving weapons (34,907), hands, fists, feet, etc. were used in 87% (30,461) of these offenses.
- Domestic violence offenses involving a gun increased 7%, from 348 in 1990 to 374 in 1991.
- There were 2,828 serious injuries reported in 1991, a 1% decrease when compared to the 2,849 reported in 1990.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES**  
**(By Type of Victim)**  
**1991**

Type of Domestic Violence Offense	TOTAL Number of Offenses	Relationship of Victim to Offender					
		Husband	Male Relative	Male Friend	Wife	Female Relative	Female Friend
1. Homicide	61	1	7	8	17	11	17
2. Assault	34,319	2,087	1,232	1,889	12,343	2,519	14,249
3. Kidnapping	20	1	—	—	6	1	12
4. Criminal Restraint	120	3	1	—	50	12	54
5. False Imprisonment	32	—	—	—	15	4	13
6. Sexual Assault	82	—	—	—	40	5	37
7. Criminal Sexual Contact	19	—	1	1	7	3	7
8. Lewdness	8	—	—	—	2	4	2
9. Criminal Mischief	2,768	180	130	219	812	366	1,061
10. Burglary	382	19	8	17	107	53	178
11. Harassment	17,887	1,217	645	892	7,233	1,663	6,237
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,698</b>	<b>3,508</b>	<b>2,024</b>	<b>3,026</b>	<b>20,632</b>	<b>4,641</b>	<b>21,867</b>

- For the ninth consecutive year, assault was the most prominent of the eleven types of domestic violence offenses (34,319). Females were victims in 85% (29,111) and males in 15% (5,208) of the domestic violence offenses involving assaults.
- Wives were the victims in 37% (20,632), and female friends were the victims in 39% (21,867) of the reported domestic violence offenses in 1991. Overall, females were victims in 85% (47,140) of all domestic violence offenses.
- Harassment was the second highest reported domestic violence offense in 1991 (17,887).
- In addition to the sixty-one (61) domestic violence homicide victims in 1991, there were nine (9) associated deaths.
- Twenty-six percent of the domestic violence homicide victims were male (16), while seventy-four percent were female (45).

**ANALYSIS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**  
**(Alcohol or Drugs Involved) †**  
**1991**

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		
1. Homicide	61	12	6	5	23	38
2. Assault	34,319	14,256	724	1,132	16,112	47
3. Kidnapping	20	5	—	—	5	25
4. Criminal Restraint	120	45	8	5	58	48
5. False Imprisonment	32	11	—	—	11	34
6. Sexual Assault	82	26	—	8	34	41
7. Criminal Sexual Contact	19	3	1	—	4	21
8. Lewdness	8	2	—	1	3	38
9. Criminal Mischief	2,768	1,141	71	102	1,314	47
10. Burglary	382	88	21	19	128	34
11. Harassment	17,887	6,082	352	425	6,859	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,698</b>	<b>21,671</b>	<b>1,183</b>	<b>1,697</b>	<b>24,551</b>	<b>44</b>

- \* Drugs or alcohol were involved in 38% (23) of the reported domestic violence offenses of homicides (61).
- Forty-four percent (24,551) of the reported acts of domestic violence (55,698) involved the use of drugs or alcohol.

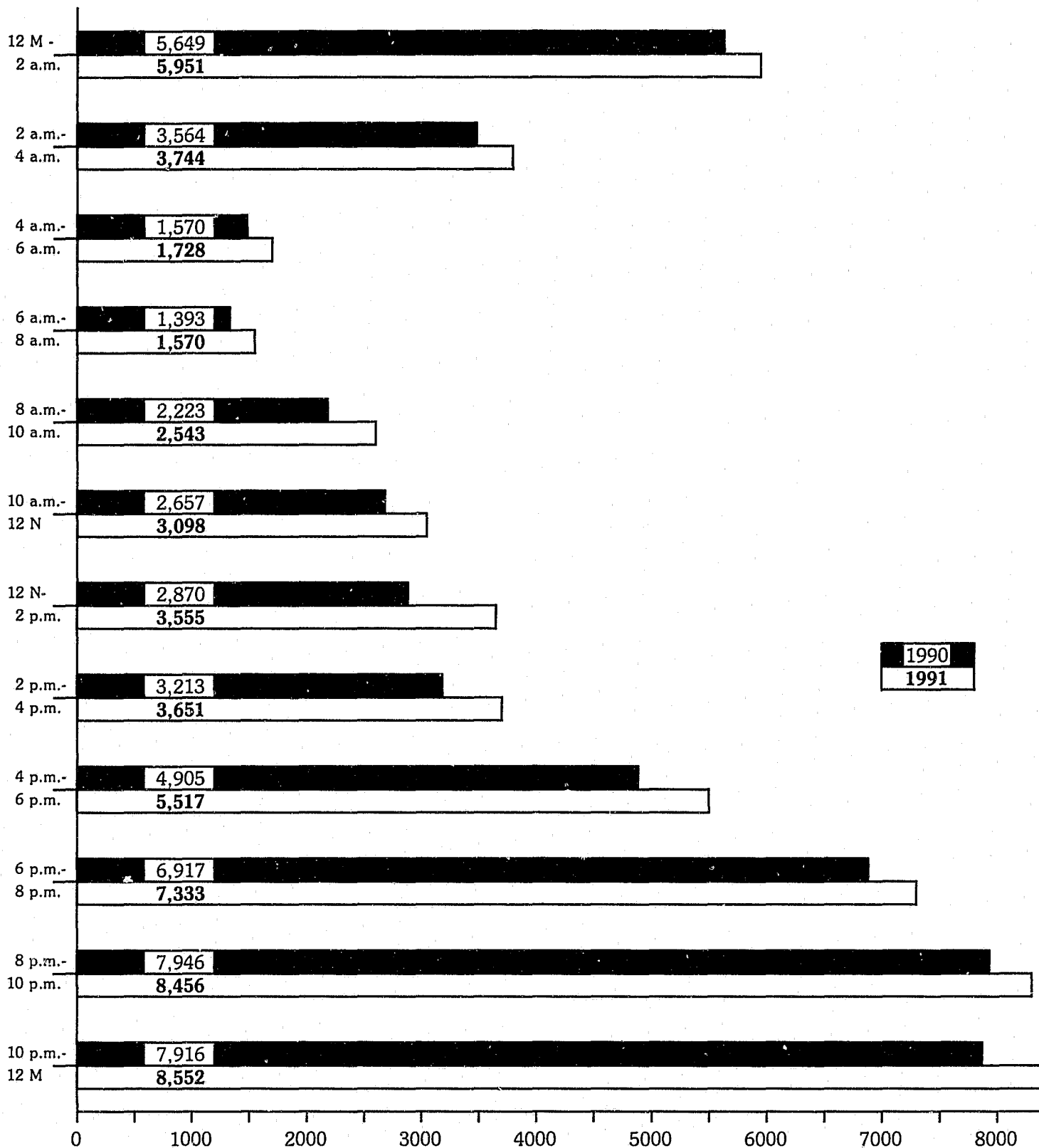
† Indicates Alcohol or Drug use by either victim or offender.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES OF ELDERLY VICTIMS**  
**(60 Years of Age or Over)**  
**1991**

Type of Domestic Violence Offense	TOTAL Number of Offenses	Relationship of Victim to Offender					
		Husband	Male Relative	Male Friend	Wife	Female Relative	Female Friend
1. Homicide	9	—	1	—	3	5	—
2. Assault	761	77	160	26	207	255	36
3. Kidnapping	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Criminal Restraint	9	1	1	—	1	6	—
5. False Imprisonment	3	—	—	—	1	2	—
6. Sexual Assault	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
7. Criminal Sexual Contact	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Lewdness	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Criminal Mischief	128	5	36	3	15	64	5
10. Burglary	11	—	1	—	1	8	1
11. Harassment	737	66	141	29	154	318	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,659</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>71</b>

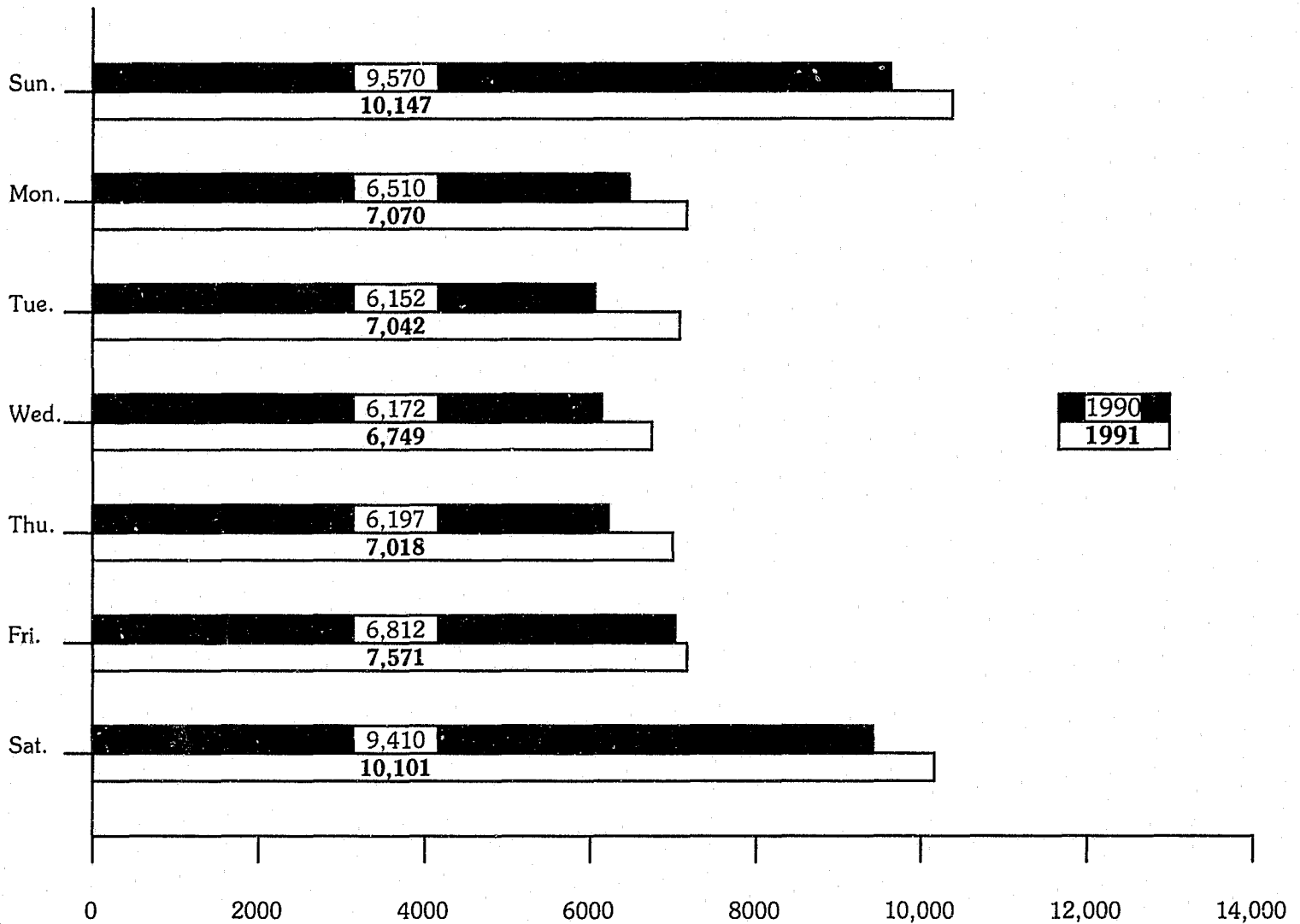
- Assaults occurred in 46% (761) of all domestic violence offenses for victims 60 years of age or over.
- Females, 60 years of age or over, were the victims in 67% (1,112) of the 1,659 elderly abuse offenses.
- Persons age 60 or over were the victims in 3% (1,659) of all the reported domestic violence offenses during this period.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TIME OF DAY 1990/1991



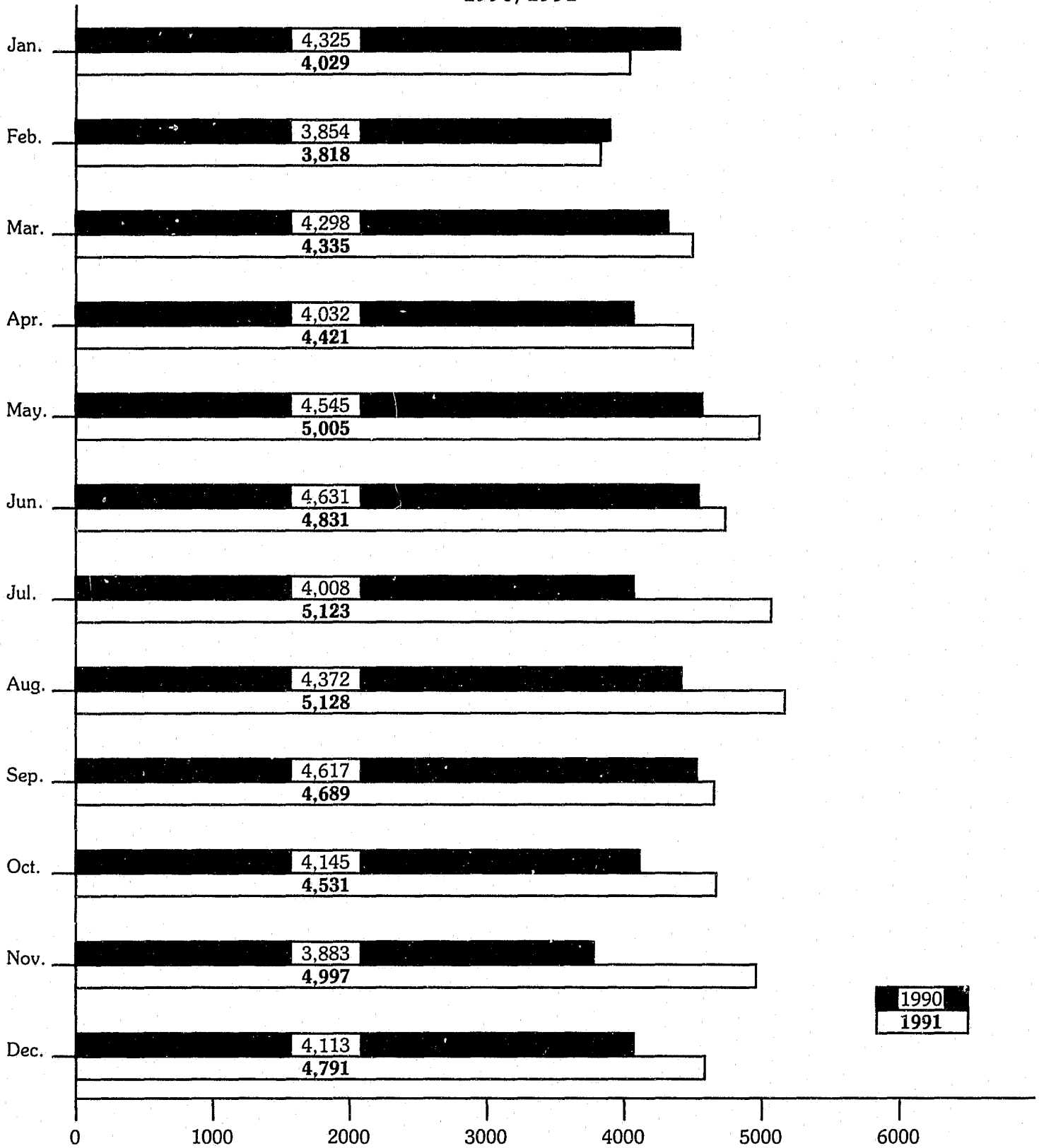
• During 1991 forty-four percent (24,341) of the reported Domestic Violence offenses occurred between 6:00 p.m. and 12 Midnight.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY DAY OF WEEK 1990/1991



- The most frequent day of occurrence for Domestic Violence during 1991 was **Sunday**.
- During 1991, thirty-six percent (20,248) of the reported Domestic Violence offenses occurred during the weekend (**Saturday and Sunday**).

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY MONTH OF YEAR  
1990/1991**



- In 1991, the highest number of Domestic Violence offenses occurred during the months of **July** and **August**.
- During 1991 the months with the lowest number of reported Domestic Violence offenses were **January** and **February**.