

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 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 decreased two percent over 1989. 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 1990 domestic violence statistics are listed below:

- There were 50,823 domestic violence offenses reported by the police in 1990, a 2% decrease compared to the 51,785 reported in 1989.
- Murders increased 16% in 1990 (57) when compared to 1989 (49).
- Assaults occurred in 63% (32,268) of the reported offenses in 1990.
- The total arrests for 1990 (17,035) increased 2% over 1989 (16,664).
- Arrests were made in 34% of the offenses reported for 1990.
- The most frequent day of domestic violence occurrences was Sunday (9,570).
- For the eighth consecutive year, the most frequent hours of domestic violence incidents were between 8:00 p.m. and midnight, when 31% (15,862) of the offenses were reported.
- Children were involved or present during 53% of all domestic violence offenses occurring in 1990. Specifically, 10% (4,934) were involved and 44% (22,203) were present.
- Wives were the victims in 39% (19,569), and female friends were the victims in 39% (19,680) of the reported domestic violence offenses in 1990. Overall, females were victims in 85% (43,245) of all domestic violence offenses.
- The number of domestic violence complaints that had prior court orders issued against the offender increased from 10,508 in 1989 to 10,695 in 1990. This is a 2% increase.
- Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in 46% (23,538) of the reported offenses occurring in 1990. Alcohol involvement alone accounted for 41% (20,919) of the total domestic violence offenses reported.
- Persons age 60 or over were victims in 3% (1,393) of all reported domestic violence offenses that occurred in 1990.
- 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 ten (10) minutes and twenty-one (21) seconds.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS
1989/1990**

Type of Domestic Violence Offense		Number of Offenses	Percent Distribution	* Number of Arrests	* Percent of Offenses Involving an Arrest
Homicide	1989	49	—	37	76
	1990	57	-	47	82
	Percent Change	+ 16	—	+ 27	+ 8
Assault	1989	32,640	63	13,331	41
	1990	32,268	63	13,726	43
	Percent Change	- 1	—	+ 3	+ 5
Kidnapping	1989	11	—	3	27
	1990	17	-	5	29
	Percent Change	+ 55	—	(1)	+ 7
Criminal Restraint	1989	114	—	46	40
	1990	96	-	34	35
	Percent Change	- 16	—	- 26	- 13
False Imprisonment	1989	18	—	7	39
	1990	26	-	7	27
	Percent Change	+ 44	—	—	- 31
Sexual Assault	1989	72	—	19	26
	1990	84	-	28	33
	Percent Change	+ 17	—	+ 47	+ 27
Criminal Sexual Contact	1989	22	—	5	23
	1990	23	-	9	39
	Percent Change	+ 5	—	(1)	+ 70
Lewdness	1989	13	—	2	15
	1990	12	-	3	25
	Percent Change	- 8	—	(1)	+ 67
Criminal Mischief	1989	2,623	5	811	31
	1990	2,460	5	785	32
	Percent Change	- 6	—	- 3	+ 3
Burglary	1989	263	1	81	31
	1990	291	1	86	30
	Percent Change	+ 11	—	+ 6	- 3
Harassment	1989	15,960	31	2,322	15
	1990	15,489	30	2,305	15
	Percent Change	- 3	- 3	- 1	—
TOTAL	1989	51,785	100	16,664	32
	1990	50,823	100	17,035	34
	Percent Change	- 2	-	+ 2	+ 6

(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
1986 through 1990**

Type of Domestic Violence Offense	1986		1987		1988		1989		1990	
	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests
Homicide	64	50	36	28	65	57	49	37	57	47
Assault	28,220	7,680	29,868	8,648	33,249	13,020	32,640	13,331	32,268	13,726
Kidnapping	4	2	3	1	6	4	11	3	17	5
Criminal Restraint	71	22	79	33	99	28	114	46	96	34
False Imprisonment	20	3	19	2	20	7	18	7	26	7
Sexual Assault	57	25	65	17	66	22	72	19	84	28
Criminal Sexual Contact	13	4	9	2	15	4	22	5	23	9
Lewdness	9	3	17	2	13	2	13	2	12	3
Criminal Mischief	1,981	480	2,043	546	2,362	710	2,623	811	2,460	785
Burglary	167	38	210	48	250	62	263	81	291	86
Harassment	12,942	1,553	13,613	1,572	16,064	2,194	15,960	2,322	15,489	2,305
TOTAL	43,548	9,860	45,962	10,899	52,209	16,110	51,785	16,664	50,823	17,035

- False imprisonment, sexual assault, criminal sexual contact and burglary reported the highest number of offenses since the inception of the Domestic Violence Program.
- For the second consecutive year, domestic violence offenses decreased (-2% in 1990), while at the same time arrests increased (+2%, in 1990).
- The violent crimes of homicide (57), aggravated assault (5,876) and sexual assault (84) accounted for twelve (12) percent of reported domestic violence offenses (50,823).

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY COUNTY
1989/1990**

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Kidnaping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault	Criminal Sexual Contact	Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Harassment	COUNTY TOTAL	Percent Change
Atlantic	1989	—	1,184	—	5	—	1	—	—	107	4	927	2,228	
	1990	1	1,136	—	10	2	2	1	—	92	16	1,002	2,262	+ 2
Bergen	1989	3	1,997	—	5	1	3	2	1	110	5	1,169	3,296	
	1990	3	1,840	—	7	3	2	3	2	95	9	1,053	3,017	- 8
Burlington	1989	2	1,390	2	6	—	4	—	1	101	2	588	2,096	
	1990	6	1,565	3	5	—	5	—	—	122	7	603	2,316	+ 10
Camden	1989	5	2,982	1	15	—	9	2	1	250	21	1,441	4,727	
	1990	7	3,074	2	24	1	5	—	—	277	26	1,484	4,900	+ 4
Cape May	1989	1	604	—	4	2	—	—	1	36	5	355	1,008	
	1990	—	644	—	2	1	1	—	—	50	6	450	1,154	+ 14
Cumberland	1989	—	1,044	—	2	—	6	2	—	117	13	273	1,457	
	1990	5	4,036	—	3	—	4	2	1	92	13	265	1,421	- 2
Essex	1989	15	3,697	—	12	1	9	5	4	198	38	1,131	5,110	
	1990	7	3,825	4	8	2	14	—	—	182	54	959	5,055	- 1
Gloucester	1989	—	1,021	2	5	—	—	—	1	73	6	414	1,522	
	1990	2	1,073	—	3	—	1	1	—	71	2	406	1,559	+ 2
Hudson	1989	4	2,333	1	9	1	2	1	—	140	18	1,047	3,556	
	1990	4	2,262	2	5	—	1	—	1	120	18	991	3,404	- 4
Hunterdon	1989	—	187	—	1	—	—	1	—	19	—	135	343	
	1990	—	181	—	2	—	1	—	1	10	—	125	320	- 7

Mercer	1989	5	1,506	-	2	2	2	2	2	1	-	209	14	427	2,168	†
	1990	3	1,489	-	-	2	2	2	6	2	-	188	18	466	2,174	
Middlesex	1989	2	2,216	1	9	2	2	6	6	-	-	196	18	1,143	3,593	
	1990	5	2,177	-	5	1	1	7	7	1	-	192	14	1,037	3,439	- 4
Monmouth	1989	1	2,616	2	9	4	4	6	6	2	-	229	27	1,506	4,402	
	1990	2	2,513	2	2	4	4	5	5	1	-	247	20	1,343	4,139	- 6
Morris	1989	2	1,159	1	6	1	1	3	3	1	-	118	5	730	2,026	
	1990	2	1,066	-	4	4	4	7	7	3	-	99	7	700	1,892	- 7
Ocean	1989	1	1,824	-	4	1	1	3	3	1	-	137	15	1,116	3,102	
	1990	-	1,747	1	1	2	2	6	6	2	3	111	10	972	2,855	- 8
Passaic	1989	2	2,216	-	2	-	-	5	5	-	3	152	24	1,182	3,586	
	1990	1	2,031	3	3	1	1	5	5	2	2	96	14	1,114	3,272	- 9
Salem	1989	-	467	-	-	1	1	3	3	-	-	43	-	209	723	+ 8
	1990	-	470	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	-	268	780	
Somerset	1989	1	931	-	3	-	-	1	3	1	-	107	5	558	1,607	+ 14
	1990	2	981	-	5	2	2	3	3	3	1	104	6	718	1,825	
Sussex	1989	1	376	-	3	1	1	-	3	2	-	37	1	321	742	- 7
	1990	-	370	-	1	-	-	3	3	1	-	39	2	277	693	
Union	1989	3	2,579	1	12	1	1	9	9	1	1	218	42	1,090	3,957	
	1990	6	2,525	-	6	1	1	5	5	1	1	214	48	1,123	3,930	- 1
Warren	1989	1	311	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	26	-	198	536	- 22
	1990	1	263	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	1	133	416	
TOTAL	1989	49	32,640	11	114	18	18	72	84	22	13	2,623	263	15,960	51,785	
	1990	57	32,268	17	96	26	26	84	84	23	12	2,460	291	15,489	50,823	- 2

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES
BY TYPE OF WEAPON AND EXTENT OF INJURY
1989/1990**

Type of Weapon		Extent of Injury			Total
		Aggravated Serious	Non-Aggravated Minor	None	
Gun	1989	82	69	189	340
	1990	82	76	190	348
	Percent Change	—	+ 10	+ 1	+ 2
Knife	1989	551	832	475	1,858
	1990	674	700	510	1,884
	Percent Change	+ 22	- 16	+ 7	+ 1
Other Dangerous	1989	488	1,578	358	2,424
	1990	548	1,418	276	2,242
	Percent Change	+ 12	- 10	- 23	- 8
Hands, Fists, Feet, etc.	1989	1,635	23,141	3,686	28,462
	1990	1,545	22,944	3,733	28,222
	Percent Change	- 6	- 1	+ 1	- 1
None	1989	—	—	18,701	18,701
	1990	—	—	18,127	18,127
	Percent Change	—	—	- 3	- 3
TOTAL	1989	2,756	25,620	23,409	51,785
	1990	2,849	25,138	22,836	50,823
	Percent Change	+ 3	- 2	- 2	- 2

- Fifty-five percent (27,987) of all domestic violence complaints resulted in injury. This is a 1% decrease when compared to the 28,376 that occurred in 1989.
- Of all the domestic violence offenses involving weapons (32,696), hands, fists, feet, etc. were used in 86% (28,222) of these offenses.
- Domestic violence offenses involving a gun increased 2%, from 340 in 1989 to 348 in 1990.
- There were 2,849 serious injuries reported in 1990, a 3% increase when compared to the 2,756 reported in 1989.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES
(By Type of Victim)
1990

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	57	3	8	8	17	7	14
2. Assault	32,268	1,920	1,094	1,678	12,195	2,273	13,108
3. Kidnapping	17	—	1	1	4	1	10
4. Criminal Restraint	96	1	2	2	34	10	47
5. False Imprisonment	26	—	—	—	14	1	11
6. Sexual Assault	84	5	—	—	34	6	39
7. Criminal Sexual Contact	23	—	—	—	4	3	16
8. Lewdness	12	—	1	—	5	1	5
9. Criminal Mischief	2,460	133	133	190	763	322	919
10. Burglary	291	8	8	20	93	20	142
11. Harassment	15,489	1,064	501	797	6,406	1,352	5,369
Total	50,823	3,134	1,748	2,696	19,569	3,996	19,680

- For the eighth consecutive year, assault was the most prominent of the eleven types of domestic violence offenses (32,268). Females were victims in 85% (27,576) and males in 15% (4,692) of the domestic violence offenses involving assaults.
- Wives were the victims in 39% (19,569), and female friends were the victims in 39% (19,680) of the reported domestic violence offenses in 1990. Overall, females were victims in 85% (43,245) of all domestic violence offenses.
- Harassment was the second highest reported domestic violence offense in 1990 (15,489).
- In addition to the fifty-seven (57) domestic violence homicide victims in 1990, there were nine (9) associated deaths.
- Thirty-three percent of the domestic violence homicide victims were male (19), while sixty-seven percent were females (38).

ANALYSIS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
(Alcohol or Drugs Involved)†
1990

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	57	14	—	3	17	30
2. Assault	32,268	14,113	607	1,161	15,881	49
3. Kidnapping	17	4	—	—	4	24
4. Criminal Restraint	96	27	4	3	34	35
5. False Imprisonment	26	10	—	1	11	42
6. Sexual Assault	84	27	1	5	33	39
7. Criminal Sexual Contact	23	7	1	3	11	48
8. Lewdness	12	5	1	—	6	50
9. Criminal Mischief	2,460	1,094	56	101	1,251	51
10. Burglary	291	76	12	10	98	34
11. Harassment	15,489	5,542	291	359	6,192	40
Total	50,823	20,919	973	1,646	23,538	46

- Drugs or alcohol were involved in 30% (17) of the reported domestic violence offenses of homicides (57).
- Forty-six percent (23,538) of the reported acts of domestic violence (50,823) involved the use of drugs or alcohol.

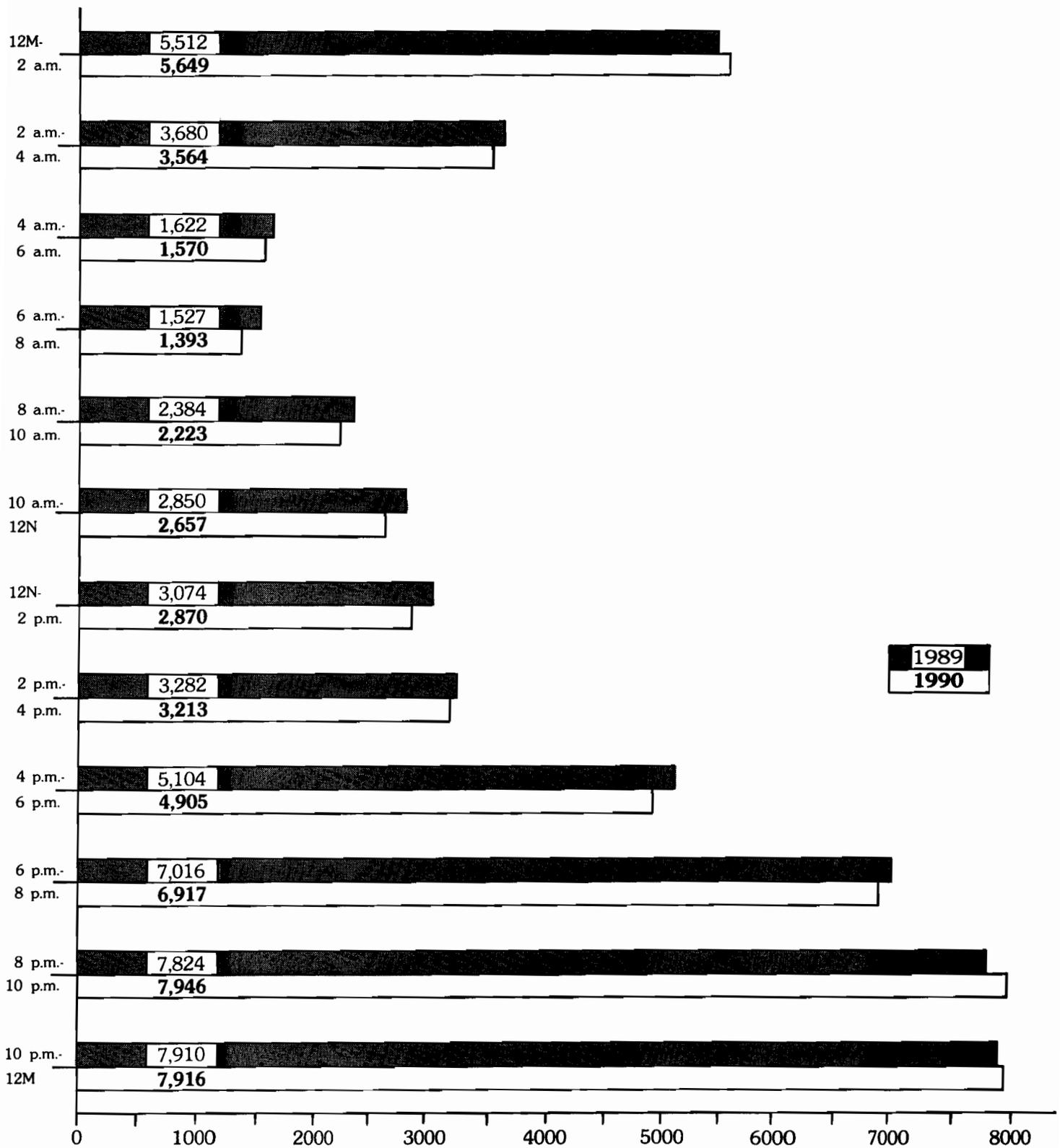
† Indicates Alcohol or Drug use by either victim or offender.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES OF ELDERLY VICTIMS
(60 Years of Age or Over)
1990

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	6	—	2	—	3	1	—
2. Assault	713	64	140	35	206	234	34
3. Kidnapping	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Criminal Restraint	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
5. False Imprisonment	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
6. Sexual Assault	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Criminal Sexual Contact	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
8. Lewdness	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Criminal Mischief	87	—	34	1	3	47	2
10. Burglary	3	—	—	—	—	2	—
11. Harassment	582	43	118	15	129	252	25
Total	1,393	107	294	51	343	536	61

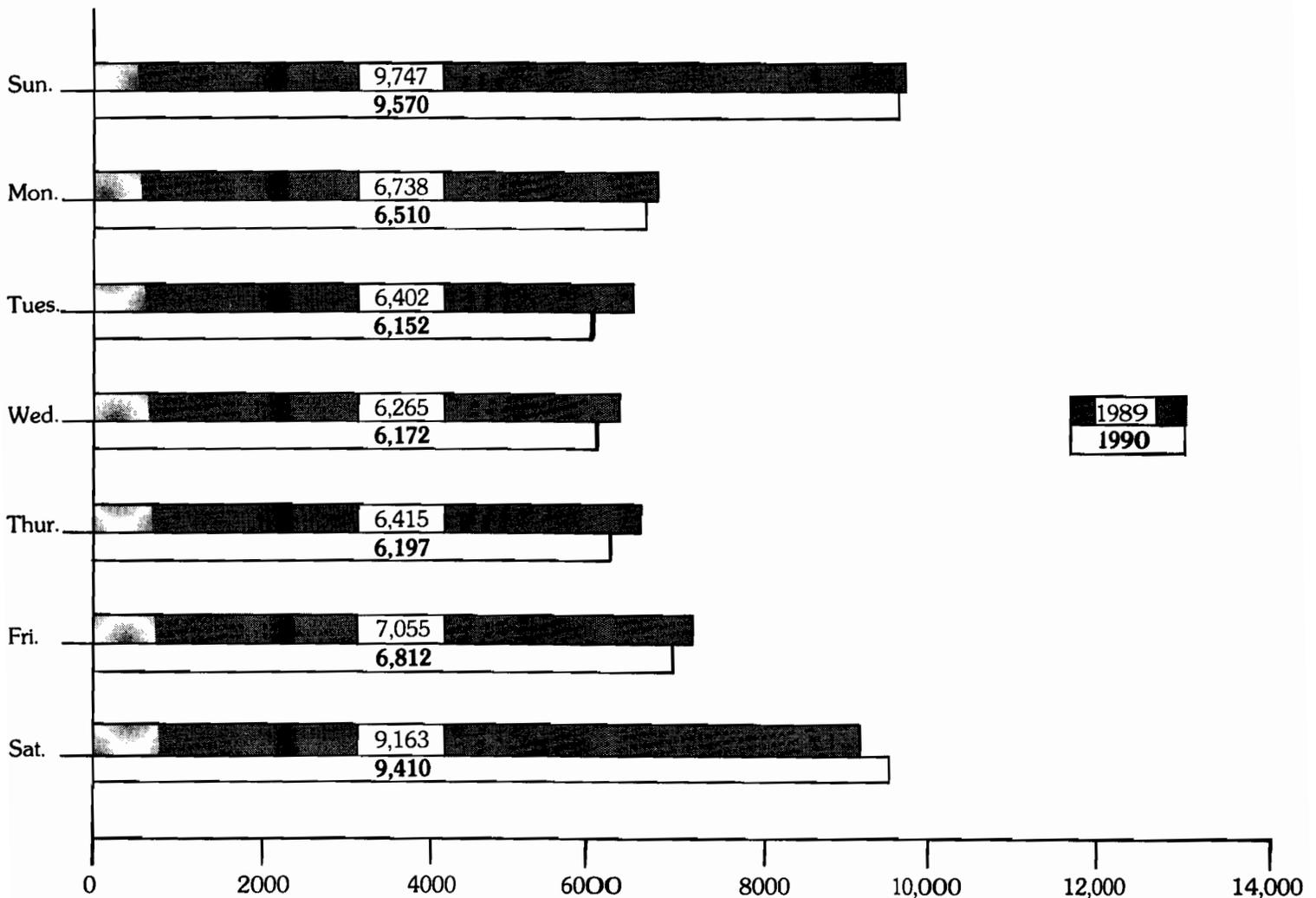
- Assaults occurred in 51% (713) of all domestic violence offenses for victims 60 years of age or over.
- Females, 60 years of age or over, were the victims in 67% (940) of the 1,393 elderly abuse offenses.
- Persons age 60 or over were the victims in 3% (1,393) of all the reported domestic violence offenses during this period.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TIME OF DAY 1989/1990



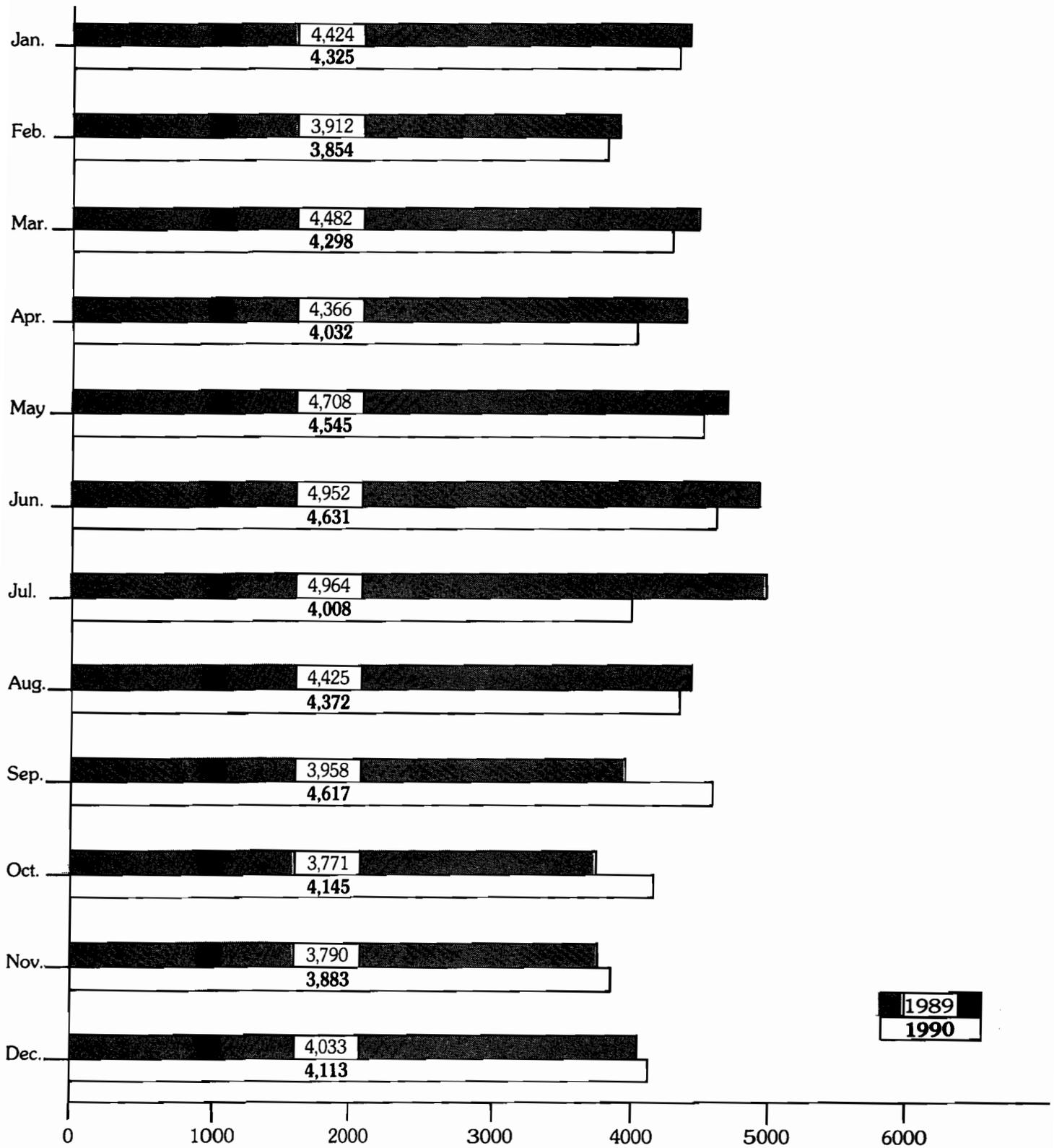
- During 1990 forty-five percent of the reported Domestic Violence offenses occurred between 6:00 p.m. and 12 Midnight.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY DAY OF WEEK 1989/1990



- The most frequent day of occurrence for Domestic Violence during 1990 was Sunday.
- During 1990, thirty-seven percent (18,980) of the reported Domestic Violence offenses occurred during the weekend (Saturday and Sunday).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY MONTH OF YEAR 1989/1990



- The months with the highest number of reported Domestic Violence during 1990 were June and September.
- During 1990 the months with the lowest number of reported Domestic Violence were February and November.