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 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. As stated in the following pages, reported domestic violence acts decreased six percent over 1991. (NOTE: Legislation effective November 12, 1991, added terroristic threats and criminal trespass as occurrences which constitute domestic violence acts; these additional offenses may 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 1992 domestic violence statistics are listed below:

- There were 52,321 domestic violence offenses reported by the police in 1992, a 6% decrease compared to the 55,698* reported in 1991.
- Murders decreased 2% in 1992 (60) when compared to 1991 (61).
- Assaults occurred for 58% (30,292) of the reported offenses in 1992.
- The total arrests for 1992 (19,720) increased 3% over 1991 (19,127).
- Arrests were made in 38% (19,720) of the offenses reported for 1992.
- The most frequent day of domestic violence occurrences was Sunday (9,651).
- For the tenth consecutive year, the most frequent hours of domestic violence incidents were between 8:00 p.m. and midnight, when 30% (15,869) of the offenses were reported.
- Children were involved or present during 51% of all domestic violence offenses occurring in 1992. Specifically, 9% (4,956) were involved and 42% (21,957) were present.
- Wives were the victims in 31% (16,275), and ex-wives were the victims in 3% (1,583) of the reported domestic violence offenses in 1992. Overall, females were victims in 83% (43,393) of all domestic violence offenses.
- The number of domestic violence complaints that had prior court orders issued against the offender decreased from 12,105 in 1991 to 12,051 in 1992. This is a decrease of less than one-half of one percent.
- Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in 42% (22,236) of the reported offenses occurring in 1992. Alcohol involvement alone accounted for 37% (19,483) of the total domestic violence offenses reported.
- Persons age 60 or over were victims in 3% (1,557) of all reported domestic violence offenses that occurred in 1992.
- 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 four (4) seconds.

^{*}Domestic Violence offenses of Terroristic Threats and Criminal Trespass were not reported during 1991.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS 1991/1992

Type of Domestic Violence Offense		Number of Offenses	Percent Distribution	* Number of Arrests	* Percent of Offenses Involving an Arrest
Homicide Percent Change	1991 1992	61 60 - 2	- - -	48 48 —	79 80 + 1
Assault Percent Change	1991 1992	34,319 30,292 - 12	62 58 - 7	15,237 15,227 ***	44 50 + 14
Terroristic Threats** Percent Change	1991 1992	3,026 —		954 —	32
Kidnapping Percent Change	1991 1992	20 14 - 30	-	6 4 (1)	30 29 - 3
Criminal Restraint Percent Change	1991 1992	120 82 - 32	- - -	54 31 - 43	45 38 - 16
False Imprisonment Percent Change	1991 1992	32 28 - 13	_ _ _	11 10 (1)	34 36 + 6
Sexual Assault Percent Change	1991 1992	82 92 + 12	_ _ _	33 41 + 24	40 45 + 13
Criminal Sexual Contact Percent Change	1991 1992	19 25 + 32	_ _ _	11 10 (1)	58 40 - 31
Lewdness Percent Change	1991 1992	8 6 - 25	_ _ _	1 1 —	13 17 + 31
Criminal Mischief Percent Change	1991 1992	2,768 2,553 – 8	5 5 —	885 854 – 4	32 33 + 3
Burglary Percent Change	1991 1992	382 293 – 23	1 1 -	101 72 - 29	26 25 - 4
Criminal Trespass** Percent Change	1991 1992	478 —		225 —	47 —
Harassment Percent Change	1991 1992	17,887 15,372 – 14	32 29 – 9	2,740 2,243 – 18	15 15 —
TOTAL Percent Change	1991 1992	55,698 52,321 - 6	100 100 —	19,12 7 19,720 + 3	34 38 + 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 of Terroristic Threats and Criminal Trespass were not reported during 1991.

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

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS 1988 through 1992

Type of	19	88	19	89	19	90	19	91	1992		
Domestic Violence Offense	Offenses	Arrests									
Homicide	65	57	49	37	57	47	61	48	60	48	
Assault	33,249	13,020	32,640	13,331	32,268	13,726	34,319	15,237	30,292	15,227	
Terroristic Threats*	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	3,026	954	
Kidnapping	6	4	11	3	17	5	20	6	14	4	
Criminal Restraint	99	28	114	46	96	34	120	54	82	31	
False Imprisonment	20	7	18	7	26	7	32	11	28	10	
Sexual Assault	66	22	72	19	84	28	82	33	92	41	
Criminal Sexual Contact	15	4	22	5	23	9	19	11	25	10	
Lewdness	13	2	13	2	12	3	8	1	6	1	
Criminal Mischief	2,362	710	2,623	811	2,460	785	2,768	885	2,553	854	
Burglary	250	62	263	81	291	86	382	101	293	72	
Criminal Trespass*	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	478	225	
Harassment	16,064	2,194	15,960	2,322	15,489	2,305	17,887	2,740	15,372	2,243	
TOTAL	52,209	16,110	51,785	16,664	50,823	17,035	55,698	19,127	52,321	19,720	

[•] Arrests for domestic violence offenses increased (3%), and reflected the highest number of arrests since the inception of the Domestic Violence Program.

[•] The violent crimes of homicide (60), aggravated assault (4,908) and sexual assault (92) accounted for ten (10) percent of reported domestic violence offenses (52,321).

^{*}Domestic Violence offenses of Terroristic Threats and Criminal Trespass were first reported during 1992.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY COUNTY 1991/1992

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats†	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonmen
Ad	1991 1992	2 1	1,355 1,185	_ 86	_	5 4	2
Atlantic	1992	1	1,165	80	-	4	_
_	1991	4	2,081		1	8	3
Bergen	1992	7	1,903	183	1	3	2
	1991	2	1,801			6	2 1
Burlington	1992	5	1,677	85	_	2	1
	1991	7	3,572	_	4	21	2 1
Camden	1992	7	3,183	183	_	12	1
	1991	2	696	_	1	9	_
Cape May	1992	_	610	47		1	1
	1991	_	1,364	_	_	3	_
Cumberland	1992	_	1,011	99	1	4	_
	1991	18	3,635	_	6 2	6	2
Essex	1992	8	3,838	504	2	8	1
	1991	_	977	-	_	1	2
Gloucester	1992	1	752	59	_	2	1
	1991	3	2,755	_	2	9	6
Hudson	1992	7	1,994	215	1	4	3
	1991	_	173	_	_	1	_
Hunterdon	1992	_	135	13	_	1	1
	1991	1	1,489	_	_	2	_
Mercer	1992	4	1,308	50	1 1	3	2

†Not reported in 1991.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY COUNTY 1991/1992

Sexual Assault	Criminal Sexual Contact	Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass†	Harassment	County Total	Percent Change
2 2	1 1	_	126 108	10 10		897 870	2,400 2,278	- 5
1 3	_ _	_	130 98	15 8	 57	1,349 1,301	3,592 3,567	- 1
5 7	1 2	_	124 141	9		695 873	2,645 2,822	+ 7
7 13	3 -	1 2	322 300	49 43	_ 41	2,192 1,951	6,180 5,736	- 7
1 1	_ _	1	52 66	7 4	_ 21	469 532	1,237 1,284	+ 4
4 1	1 1	1 -	127 112	21 21	_ 19	383 273	1,904 1,542	- 19
13 15	2 5	1 -	186 198	43 37	 24	950 595	4,862 5,235	+ 8
1 2	_ _	_	81 70	5 1	_ 10	458 327	1,525 1,225	- 20
1 4	1 4	1 _	157 133	33 25	_ 9	1,169 773	4,137 3,172	- 23
1 _	_ _	_	6 7	1 -	_ 6	118 75	300 238	- 21
8 8		1 -	170 124	23 14	30	500 573	2,194 2,117	- 4

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY COUNTY 1991/1992

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats†	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Im- prisonmen
Middlesex	1991 1992	3 1	2,193 1,927	284	<u></u>	7 7	6
Monmouth	1991 1992	3 2	2,530 2,254	221		10 4	4 2
Morris	1991 1992	2	1,107 879	_ 96	2 1	3 6	1 1
Ocean	1991 1992	6 2	1,731 1,599	217	_ 3	5 3	1 1
Passaic	1991 1992	3 4	2,282 1,965	_ 296	3 1	6 3	2 -
Salem	1991 1992		381 286	14	_	3	-
Somerset	1991 1992	2 1	962 800	_ 26	_	2 6	3 -
Sussex	1991 1992		386 368	 56	_	2 1	1 -
Union	1991 1992	2 7	2,505 2,354	258	1 -	10 3	1 3
Warren	1991 1992	1 -	344 264	_ 34	_	4 2	
TOTAL	1991 1992	61 60	34,319 30,292		20 14	120 82	32 28

†Not reported in 1991.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY COUNTY 1991/1992

Sexual Assault	Criminal Sexual Contact	Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass†	Harassment	County Total	Percent Change
7 7	2 3	_	209 198	21 22	 29	1,267 939	3,709 3,424	- 8
6 5	3	_ 1	248 255	41 24	_ 53	1,504 1,482	4,346 4,308	- 1
2 2	3 1	1 _	119 89	11 10	_ 15	844 653	2,095 1,754	- 16
2 3	1 -	1 1	128 142	13 13	_ 27	1,117 1,002	3,005 3,013	
8 10	1 1	_	139 128	29 19	 25	1,179 831	3,652 3,283	- 10
2 -	_ -	_	41 30	3 3		280 198	707 537	- 24
3 2	- -	1 -	120 97	6 5	_ 16	751 643	1,850 1,596	- 14
2 1	2 -	_	34 31	3 2	_ 9	395 318	825 787	- 5
5 5	1 4	_	220 201	35 23	_ 48	1,180 973	3,960 3,879	- 2
1 1	_ _	_	29 25	4 1	_ 5	190 190	573 524	- 9
82 92	19 25	8 6	2,768 2,553	382 293	_ 478	17,887 15,372	55,698 52,321	- 6

^{*}Percent change less than one-half of one percent

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TYPE OF WEAPON AND EXTENT OF INJURY 1991/1992

			Extent of Injury			
Type of Weapon		Aggravated Serious	Non-Aggravated Minor	None	Total	
	1991	105	74	195	374	
Gun	1992	154	117	123	394	
Percent Change		+ 47	+ 58	- 37	+ 5	
	1991	663	819	421	1,903	
Knife	1992	684	755	304	1,743	
Percent Change		+ 3	- 8	- 28	- 8	
	1991	565	1,369	235	2,169	
Other Dangerous	1992	515	1,189	189	1,893	
Percent Change		- 9	- 13	- 20	- 13	
	1991	1,495	24,612	4,354	30,461	
Hands, Fists, Feet, etc.	1992	1,347	21,574	4,185	27,106	
Percent Change		– 10	- 12	- 4	- 11	
	1991	_	_	20,791	20,791	
None	1992	_	_	21,185	21,185	
Percent Change		_	_	+ 2	+ 2	
	1991	2,828	26,874	25,996	55,698	
TOTAL	1992	2,700	23,635	25,986	52,321	
Percent Change		– 5	- 12	*	- 6	

- Fifty percent (26,335) of all domestic violence complaints resulted in injury. This is an 11% decrease when compared to the 29,702 that occurred in 1991.
- Of all the domestic violence offenses involving weapons (31,136), hands, fists, feet, etc. were used in 87% (27,106) of these offenses.
- Domestic violence offenses involving a gun increased 5%, from 374 in 1991 to 394 in 1992.
- There were 2,700 serious injuries reported in 1992, a 5% decrease when compared to the 2,828 reported in 1991
- * Percent change less than one-half of one percent

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES (By Type and Sex of Victim) 1992

-			Relations	ship of V	ictim to (Offender			Total
Type of Offense		Spouse	Ex- Spouse	Co- Parent	Relative	Friend	Ex- Friend	Total	Number of Offenses
Homicide	Male Female	5 20	_	4	6 9	6 8	_ 2	17 43	60
Assault	Male Female	1,610 9,216	130 586	477 4,119	1,268 2,051	1,499 7,821	179 1,336	5,163 25,129	30,292
Terroristic Threats	Male Female	119 1,016	15 196	25 393	145 267	68 447	35 300	407 2,619	3,026
Kidnapping	Male Female	_ 6	1 -	_ 4		_ 1		1 13	14
Criminal Restraint	Male Female	_ 28		_ 16	1 3	1 21	_ 10	2 80	82
False Imprisonment	Male Female	8	3	4		_ 9		_ 28	28
Sexual Assault	Male Female	_ 25	4	_ 19	7	1 22	_ 14	1 91	92
Criminal Sexual Contact	Male Female	7		1	3	_ 10		 25	25
Lewdness	Male Female	1 -	_ _		1	1	1	1 5	6
Criminal Mischief	Male Female	123 600	23 70	52 360	136 299	149 491	54 196	537 2,016	2,553
Burglary	Male Female	10 63	3 11	5 44	6 20	7 37	11 7 6	42 251	293
Criminal Trespass	Male Female	12 104	6 33	8 75	31 54	.7 67	5 7 6	69 409	478
Harassment	Male Female	980 5,182	141 676	246 1,618	527 1,163	594 2,977	200 1,068	2,688 12,684	15,372
Total	Male Female	2,860 16,275	319 1,583	813 6,659	2,120 3,879	2,332 11,912	484 3,085	8,928 43,393	
Grand Total		19,135	1,902	7,472	5,999	14,244	3,569	-	52,321

ANALYSIS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (Alcohol or Drugs Involved)† 1992

T	TOTAL	C1.	_4 1	l	Todal	Percent of Offenses
Type of Domestic Violence Offense	Number of Offenses	Only Alcohol	stance Invo Only Drugs	Both Alcohol and Drugs	Total Alcohol or Drugs	Involving Alcohol or Drugs
Homicide	60	19	3	5	27	45 *
Assault	30,292	12,336	641	987	13,964	46
Terroristic Threats	3,026	887	131	121	1,139	38
Kidnapping	14	3	ł <u> </u>	_	3	21
Criminal Restraint	82	25	1	_	26	32
False Imprisonment	28	9	_	1	10	36
Sexual Assault	92	31	2	5	38	41
Criminal Sexual Contact	25	8	–	1	9	36
Lewdness	6	1	_	1	2	33
Criminal Mischief	2,553	1,007	52	119	1,178	46
Burglary	293	47	14	19	80	27
Criminal Trespass	478	140	20	15	175	37
Harassment	15,372	4,970	289	326	5,585	36
Total	52,321	19,483	1,153	1,600	22,236	42

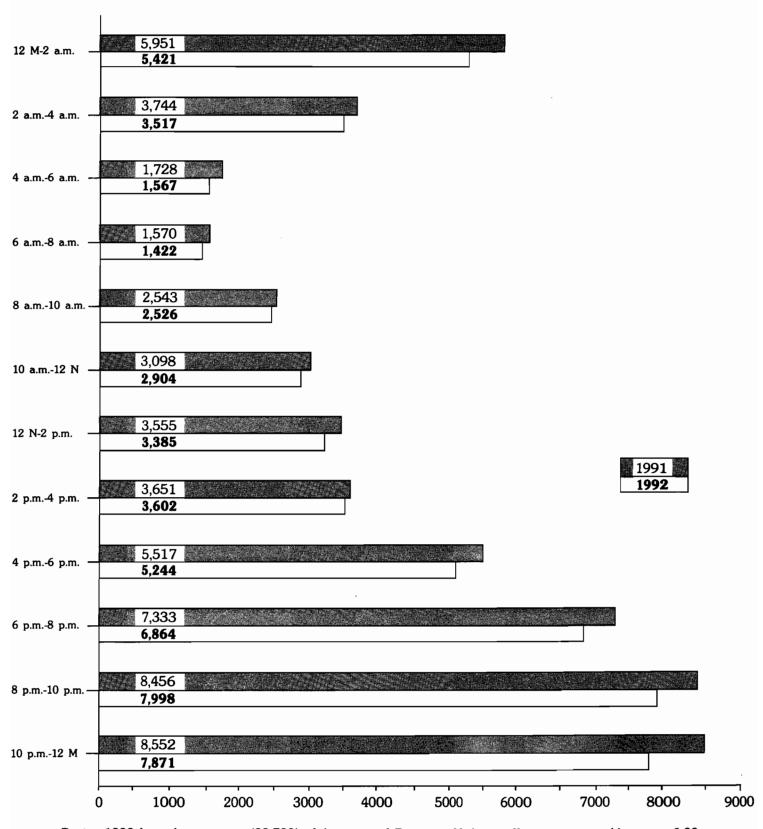
- Drugs or alcohol were involved in 45% (27) of the reported domestic violence offenses of homicide (60).
- Forty-three percent (22,236) of the reported acts of domestic violence (52,321) involved the use of drugs or alcohol.
- † Indicates Alcohol or Drug use by either victim or offender.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES OF ELDERLY VICTIMS (60 Years of Age or Over) 1992

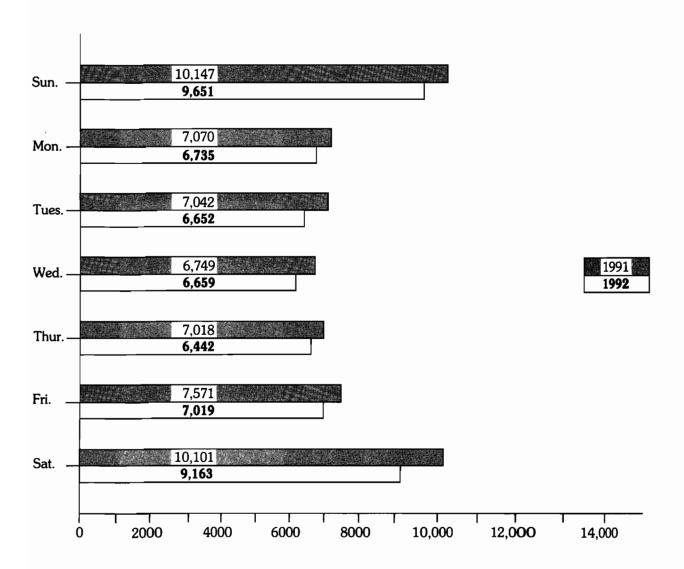
		l	1	Relatio	onship	of '	Victin	n to C	Offend	er			
Type of	Total				Ex-		Co-	I		I		Ex-	
Domestic Violence	Number of	Sp	ouse	Spo	ouse	Pa	rent	Re	lative	Fri	iend	Fri	end
Offense	Offenses	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Homicide	11	1	1	_	_	_	_	3	4	_	2	_	_
Assault	668	66	163	3	2	8	51	132	190	25	22	4	2
Terroristic Threats	141	7	22	_	3	1	11	31	52	4	8	2	—
Kidnapping	_	_		l —	l —		_	l —	l —	 	 	_	ĺ —
Criminal Restraint	1	l –		l —	l —	_	l —	(—	1	_	_	l —	l —
False Imprisonment	1	l –	l —	_	 	_	_		1	_	_	_	_
Sexual Assault		l –	_	l —	_		_	_	_	_	_		_
Criminal Sexual Contact	1	_	1		_	_	_	—	l —	_	_	l —	—
Lewdness	1	· —	l —	 	 —	_	_	—	l —	_	_	—	1
Criminal Mischief	104	1	6	_	1	2	16	24	47	6	1	_	l —
Burglary	8	l –	2		l —	_	_	1	5	_	_	 —	_
Criminal Trespass	32	_	1	2	1	1	7	9	9	_	1	. 1	
Harassment	589	54	121	2	6	9	41	99	222	13	15	5	2
Total	1,557	129	317	7	13	21	126	299	531	48	49	12	5

- · Assaults accounted for 43% (668) 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% (1,041) of the 1,557 elderly abuse offenses.
- Persons age 60 or over were the victims in 3% (1,557) of all the reported domestic violence offenses during this period.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TIME OF DAY 1991/1992

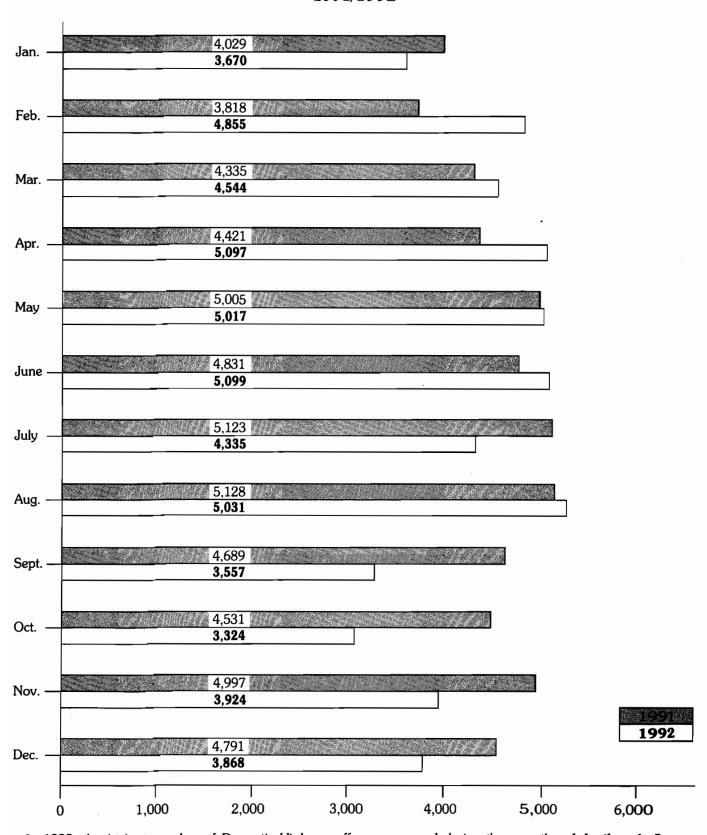


DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY DAY OF WEEK 1991/1992



- · The most frequent day of occurrence for Domestic Violence during 1992 was Sunday.
- During 1992, thirty-six percent (18,814) of the reported Domestic Violence offenses occurred during the weekend (Saturday and Sunday).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY MONTH OF YEAR 1991/1992



- In 1992, the highest number of Domestic Violence offenses occurred during the months of April and June.
- During 1992 the months with the lowest number of reported Domestic Violence offenses were September and October.