

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 1997 domestic violence statistics are listed below:

- There were 82,627 domestic violence offenses reported by the police in 1997, a 3% decrease compared to the 85,018 reported in 1996.
- Murders increased 16% in 1997 (50) when compared to 1996 (43).
- Assaults accounted for 51% (41,738) and harassment accounted for 35% (29,054) of the reported offenses in 1997.
- Arrests were made in 34% (27,686) of the offenses reported for 1997, a decrease of 1% when compared to 1996 (28,039).
- The most frequent day of domestic violence occurrences was Sunday (14,947).
- For the fifteenth consecutive year, the most frequent hours of domestic violence incidents were between 8:00 p.m. and midnight, when 29% (23,976) of the offenses were reported.
- Children were involved or present during 40% of all domestic violence offenses occurring in 1997. Specifically, 6% (5,087) were involved and 34% (27,857) were present.
- Wives were the victims in 24% (19,564) and ex-wives were the victims in 3% (2,410) of the reported domestic violence offenses in 1997. Overall, females were victims in 79% (65,393) of all domestic violence offenses.
- The number of domestic violence complaints that had prior court orders issued against the offender decreased from 19,618 in 1996 to 18,150 in 1997. This is a decrease of 7%.
- Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in 35% (28,881) of the reported offenses occurring in 1997. Alcohol involvement alone accounted for 30% (24,870) of the total domestic violence offenses reported.
- Persons age 60 or over were victims in 3% (2,357) of all reported domestic violence offenses that occurred in 1997.
- 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 twenty-two (22) seconds.
- Domestic violence offenses arising from a dating relationship accounted for 11% (8,870) of the state total. Seven of these offenses were murder.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS 1996/1997

Domestic Violence Offense		Number of Offenses	★ Number of Arrests	★ Percent of Offenses Involving an Arrest
Homicide	1996	43	25	58
	1997	50	38	76
	Percent Change	16	52	31
Assault	1996	43,017	20,947	49
	1997	41,738	20,461	49
	Percent Change	-3	-2	0
Terroristic Threats	1996	5,057	1,294	26
	1997	4,922	1,306	27
	Percent Change	-3	1	4
Kidnapping	1996	22	6	27
	1997	37	13	35
	Percent Change	68	&	30
Criminal Restraint	1996	121	45	37
	1997	121	42	35
	Percent Change	0	-7	-5
False Imprisonment	1996	27	15	56
	1997	31	18	58
	Percent Change	15	20	4
Sexual Assault	1996	176	73	41
	1997	185	62	34
	Percent Change	5	-15	-17
Criminal Sexual Contact	1996	67	30	45
	1997	56	20	36
	Percent Change	-16	-33	-20
Lewdness	1996	10	4	40
	1997	20	4	20
	Percent Change	100	0	-50
Criminal Mischief	1996	4,522	1,461	32
	1997	4,631	1,550	33
	Percent Change	2	6	3
Burglary	1996	647	177	27
	1997	651	184	28
	Percent Change	1	4	4
Criminal Trespass	1996	765	330	43
	1997	786	368	47
	Percent Change	3	12	9
Harassment	1996	30,191	3,555	12
	1997	29,054	3,553	12
	Percent Change	-4	*	0
Stalking	1996	353	77	22
	1997	345	67	19
	Percent Change	-2	-13	-14
TOTAL	1996	85,018	28,039	33
	1997	82,627	27,686	34
	Percent Change	-3	-1	3

★ Incidents are reported soon after they occur; therefore, arrests made after that time are not included.

& Percent not calculated due to small volume.

* Less than one-half of one percent.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY COUNTY

1996/1997

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault
Atlantic	1996	2	2,232	228	1	5	-	7
	1997	5	2,182	222	3	6	1	8
Bergen	1996	6	2,706	450	3	12	3	5
	1997	4	2,626	420	3	8	3	8
Burlington	1996	-	2,047	100	-	3	1	7
	1997	3	1,908	113	-	5	1	7
Camden	1996	7	4,555	270	3	21	5	15
	1997	5	4,371	301	3	17	2	19
Cape May	1996	-	749	64	-	3	1	4
	1997	-	726	41	-	4	-	4
Cumberland	1996	-	1,567	115	1	7	1	11
	1997	5	1,636	115	1	4	-	4
Essex	1996	5	5,712	1,018	3	17	2	27
	1997	7	5,577	979	5	12	2	26
Gloucester	1996	1	1,468	130	-	3	-	1
	1997	-	1,504	129	3	8	1	2
Hudson	1996	7	3,588	576	2	9	-	13
	1997	4	3,780	636	5	8	2	22
Hunterdon	1996	-	202	24	1	1	-	1
	1997	-	201	32	-	2	1	-
Mercer	1996	1	1,849	50	1	3	1	19
	1997	-	1,829	40	-	3	2	16

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY COUNTY

1996/1997

Criminal Sexual Contact	Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass	Harassment	Stalking	County Total	Percent Change
3	1	207	22	26	2,462	12	5,208	
2	2	232	41	26	2,591	14	5,335	2
2	1	217	20	111	2,400	33	5,969	*
4	5	213	29	142	2,482	40	5,987	
1	1	200	20	44	1,621	6	4,051	
3	1	206	20	49	1,528	12	3,856	-5
8	3	554	110	83	3,619	20	9,273	
3	1	564	96	83	3,069	15	8,549	-8
1	-	82	12	25	923	16	1,880	
-	-	79	4	30	830	6	1,724	-8
1	-	171	21	17	625	9	2,546	
3	1	202	39	17	725	4	2,756	8
10	1	372	128	51	980	29	8,355	
5	-	405	117	44	994	51	8,224	-2
1	-	184	17	37	921	11	2,774	
1	-	178	16	32	1,016	7	2,897	4
7	-	251	64	32	1,797	49	6,395	
5	-	283	62	23	1,642	40	6,512	2
-	-	22	-	7	209	1	468	
1	1	24	3	7	202	2	476	2
4	-	316	27	35	1,149	9	3,464	
4	-	276	30	35	1,124	9	3,368	-3

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY COUNTY

1996/1997

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault
Middlesex	1996	1	2,841	462	1	9	4	15
	1997	3	2,686	462	3	15	3	15
Monmouth	1996	1	2,989	308	-	12	3	10
	1997	2	2,693	308	1	11	3	10
Morris	1996	-	1,133	187	-	5	-	4
	1997	1	1,167	152	-	3	2	7
Ocean	1996	2	2,350	386	2	5	-	16
	1997	1	2,282	360	4	5	1	13
Passaic	1996	1	1,905	287	2	2	-	4
	1997	4	1,650	273	2	1	-	8
Salem	1996	1	484	18	-	-	1	2
	1997	-	473	28	1	1	-	2
Somerset	1996	1	945	25	-	-	2	4
	1997	1	895	27	-	-	3	4
Sussex	1996	2	446	63	-	3	1	1
	1997	-	415	50	-	2	-	-
Union	1996	4	2,998	268	2	1	1	9
	1997	4	2,869	207	3	4	4	9
Warren	1996	1	251	28	-	-	1	1
	1997	1	268	27	-	2	-	1
TOTAL	1996	43	43,017	5,057	22	121	27	176
	1997	50	41,738	4,922	37	121	31	185

* Less than one-half of one percent.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY COUNTY

1996/1997

Criminal Sexual Contact	Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass	Harassment	Stalking	County Total	Percent Change
9	-	406	42	39	1,803	24	5,656	-4
4	2	377	39	44	1,756	29	5,438	
2	-	430	42	62	2,837	39	6,735	-10
3	1	412	48	59	2,453	26	6,030	
2	1	124	9	30	1,135	7	2,637	4
1	1	160	4	40	1,176	19	2,733	
2	1	269	42	54	2,121	37	5,287	-3
6	-	285	39	45	2,066	26	5,133	
7	-	109	18	20	954	19	3,328	-9
5	-	127	21	11	886	25	3,013	
-	-	61	3	7	372	2	951	-8
2	2	51	3	10	300	1	874	
3	-	181	10	38	1,520	6	2,735	-3
4	2	163	7	47	1,494	7	2,654	
1	-	54	1	9	606	10	1,197	-4
-	-	56	2	9	609	3	1,146	
3	1	285	35	36	1,912	13	5,568	-5
-	1	297	27	33	1,846	5	5,309	
-	-	27	4	2	225	1	541	13
-	-	41	4	-	265	4	613	
67	10	4,522	647	765	30,191	353	85,018	-3
56	20	4,631	651	786	29,054	345	82,627	

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS 1993 Through 1997

Domestic Violence Offense	1993		1994		1995		1996		1997	
	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests
Homicide	54	35	42	30	61	48	43	25	50	38
Assault	37,760	18,488	39,047	19,306	45,509	21,952	43,017	20,947	41,738	20,461
Terroristic Threats	3,999	1,219	4,414	1,255	5,348	1,438	5,057	1,294	4,922	1,306
Kidnapping	15	5	33	9	25	7	22	6	37	13
Criminal Restraint	93	33	85	28	110	42	121	45	121	42
False Imprisonment	21	10	18	4	33	13	27	15	31	18
Sexual Assault	122	53	118	50	195	78	176	73	185	62
Criminal Sexual Contact	28	17	32	13	46	22	67	30	56	20
Lewdness	11	5	14	4	19	8	10	4	20	4
Criminal Mischief	3,237	1,121	3,546	1,191	4,397	1,417	4,522	1,461	4,631	1,550
Burglary	418	127	496	144	627	182	647	177	651	184
Criminal Trespass	560	248	658	321	839	359	765	330	786	368
Harassment	19,930	2,754	22,488	3,009	29,139	3,426	30,191	3,555	29,054	3,553
Stalking □	-	-	-	-	283	69	353	77	345	67
TOTAL	66,248	24,115	70,991	25,364	86,631	29,061	85,018	28,039	82,627	27,686

□ Stalking was first reported in 1995.

- Arrests for domestic violence offenses decreased 1%, and reflected the third highest number of arrests since the inception of the Domestic Violence Program.
- The violent crimes of homicide (50), aggravated assault (5,708), and sexual assault (185) accounted for 7% of reported domestic violence offenses (82,627).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TYPE OF WEAPON AND EXTENT OF INJURY 1996/1997

Type of Weapon		Extent of Injury			TOTAL
		Aggravated Serious	Non-Aggravated Minor	None	
Gun	1996	191	100	156	447
	1997	170	73	145	388
	Percent Change	-11	-27	-7	-13
Knife	1996	863	940	300	2,103
	1997	799	731	325	1,855
	Percent Change	-7	-22	8	-12
Other Dangerous Weapon	1996	735	1,584	233	2,552
	1997	754	1,439	254	2,447
	Percent Change	3	-9	9	-4
Hands, Fists, Feet, etc.	1996	1,533	31,095	5,006	37,634
	1997	1,371	29,841	5,724	36,936
	Percent Change	-11	-4	14	-2
None	1996	-	-	42,282	42,282
	1997	-	-	41,001	41,001
	Percent Change	-	-	-3	-3
TOTAL	1996	3,322	33,719	47,977	85,018
	1997	3,094	32,084	47,449	82,627
	Percent Change	-7	-5	-1	-3

- Forty-three percent (35,178) of all domestic violence complaints resulted in injury. This is a 5% decrease when compared to the 37,041 that occurred in 1996.
- Of all the domestic violence offenses involving weapons (41,626), hands, fists, feet, etc. were used in 89% (36,936) of these offenses.
- Domestic violence offenses involving hands, fists, feet, etc. decreased 2%, from 37,634 in 1996 to 36,936 in 1997.
- Serious injuries were reported in 3,094 offenses, a 7% decrease when compared to the 3,322 reported in 1996.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TYPE & SEX OF VICTIM 1997

Type of Offense		Relationship of Victim to Offender							Total Number of Offenses
		Spouse	Ex-spouse	Co-parent	Relative	Friend	Ex-friend	Total	
Homicide	Male	4	-	-	8	4	-	16	50
	Female	12	2	4	3	12	1	34	
Assault	Male	2,441	205	1,071	1,845	2,703	613	8,878	41,738
	Female	9,240	623	6,491	3,162	10,397	2,947	32,860	
Terroristic Threats	Male	162	38	73	241	129	121	764	4,922
	Female	1,258	287	745	448	616	804	4,158	
Kidnapping	Male	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	37
	Female	4	4	10	-	7	9	34	
Criminal Restraint	Male	2	-	1	2	3	-	8	121
	Female	30	5	27	8	26	17	113	
False Imprisonment	Male	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	31
	Female	8	2	4	2	10	3	29	
Sexual Assault	Male	1	-	1	1	1	-	4	185
	Female	36	7	30	16	58	34	181	
Criminal Sexual Contact	Male	-	-	2	1	3	-	6	56
	Female	9	2	9	8	14	8	50	
Lewdness	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	20
	Female	7	1	4	1	5	2	20	
Criminal Mischief	Male	252	46	145	207	309	201	1,160	4,631
	Female	909	93	605	514	869	481	3,471	
Burglary	Male	14	12	5	32	24	38	125	651
	Female	79	32	83	80	75	177	526	
Criminal Trespass	Male	29	16	15	49	29	33	171	786
	Female	138	54	87	102	94	140	615	
Harassment	Male	1,818	362	672	936	1,372	909	6,069	29,054
	Female	7,793	1,272	3,263	2,220	5,014	3,423	22,985	
Stalking	Male	4	2	2	-	5	15	28	345
	Female	41	26	34	7	31	178	317	
TOTAL	Male	4,731	681	1,987	3,322	4,583	1,930	17,234	-
	Female	19,564	2,410	11,396	6,571	17,228	8,224	65,393	
GRAND TOTAL		24,295	3,091	13,383	9,893	21,811	10,154	-	82,627

ANALYSIS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (Alcohol or Drugs Involved)* 1997

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	50	10	3	2	15	30
Assault	41,738	14,651	933	1,288	16,872	40
Terroristic Threats	4,922	1,031	197	176	1,404	29
Kidnapping	37	5	-	-	5	14
Criminal Restraint	121	33	4	4	41	34
False Imprisonment	31	11	1	-	12	39
Sexual Assault	185	54	5	16	75	41
Criminal Sexual Contact	56	16	-	-	16	29
Lewdness	20	3	-	-	3	15
Criminal Mischief	4,631	1,492	96	152	1,740	38
Burglary	651	106	44	21	171	26
Criminal Trespass	786	202	28	24	254	32
Harassment	29,054	7,231	479	524	8,234	28
Stalking	345	25	5	9	39	11
TOTAL	82,627	24,870	1,795	2,216	28,881	35

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

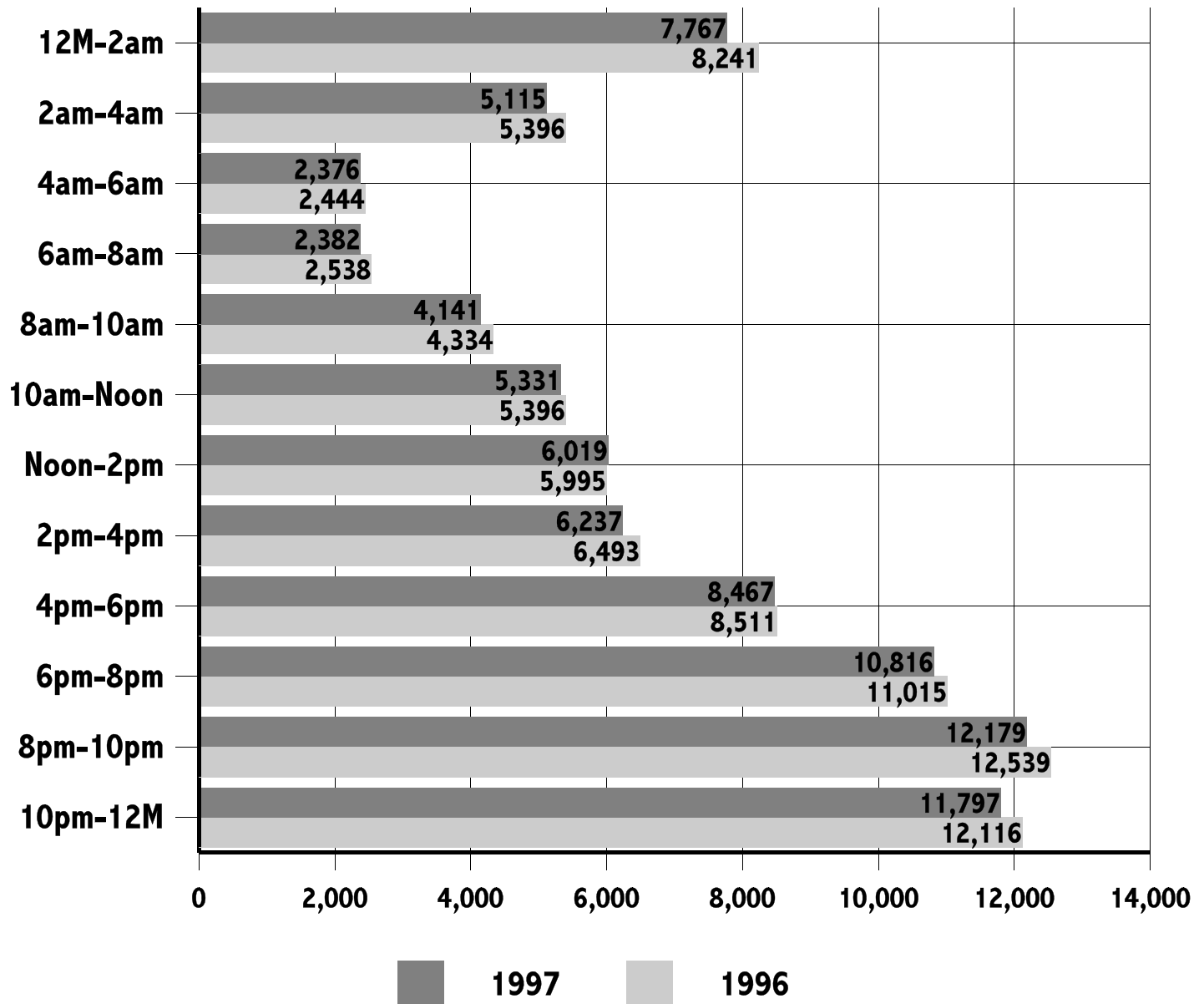
- Drugs or alcohol were involved in 30% (15) of the reported domestic violence offenses of homicides.
- Thirty-five percent (28,881) of the reported acts of domestic violence (82,627) involved the use of drugs or alcohol.

OFFENSES AGAINST ELDERLY VICTIMS (60 Years of age or over) 1997

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	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	-	-
Assault	897	74	190	3	9	4	15	185	300	50	56	8	3
Terroristic Threats	194	8	42	-	4	-	5	44	76	4	1	7	3
Kidnapping	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Restraint	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
False Imprisonment	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sexual Assault	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Sexual Contact	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lewdness	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Criminal Mischief	144	3	13	1	1	1	-	37	69	10	1	5	3
Burglary	31	2	-	1	-	-	1	4	21	1	-	1	-
Criminal Trespass	55	2	2	-	-	-	-	13	33	-	-	4	1
Harassment	1,023	83	185	10	16	19	13	185	416	36	33	14	13
Stalking	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	2,357	173	435	15	30	24	34	473	917	102	92	39	23

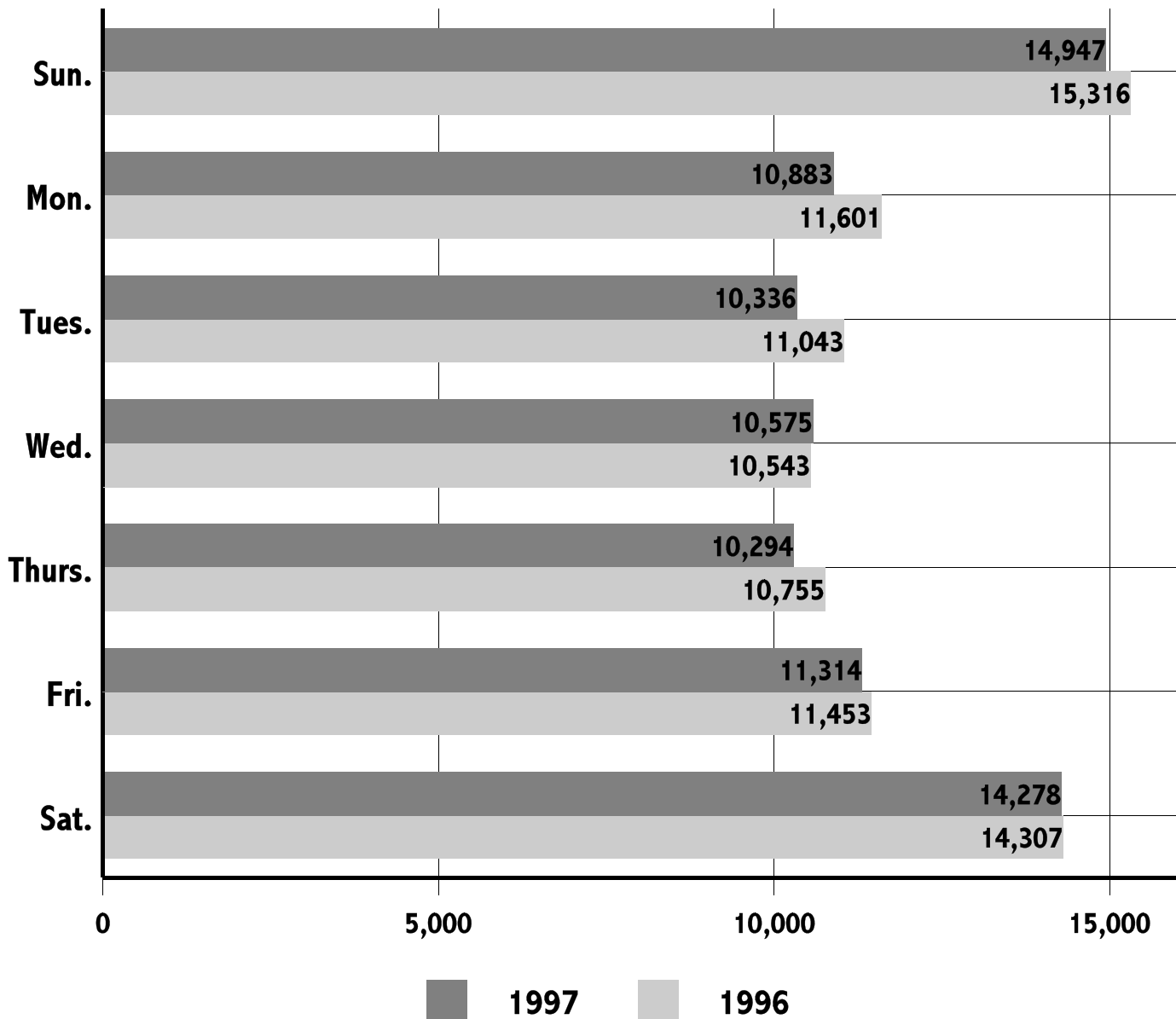
- Assaults accounted for 38% (897) of all domestic violence offenses for victims 60 years old or over.
- Females age 60 or over were the victims in 65% (1,531) of the 2,357 elderly abuse offenses.
- Persons age 60 or over were the victims in 3% (2,357) of all the reported domestic violence offenses during this period.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TIME OF DAY 1996/1997



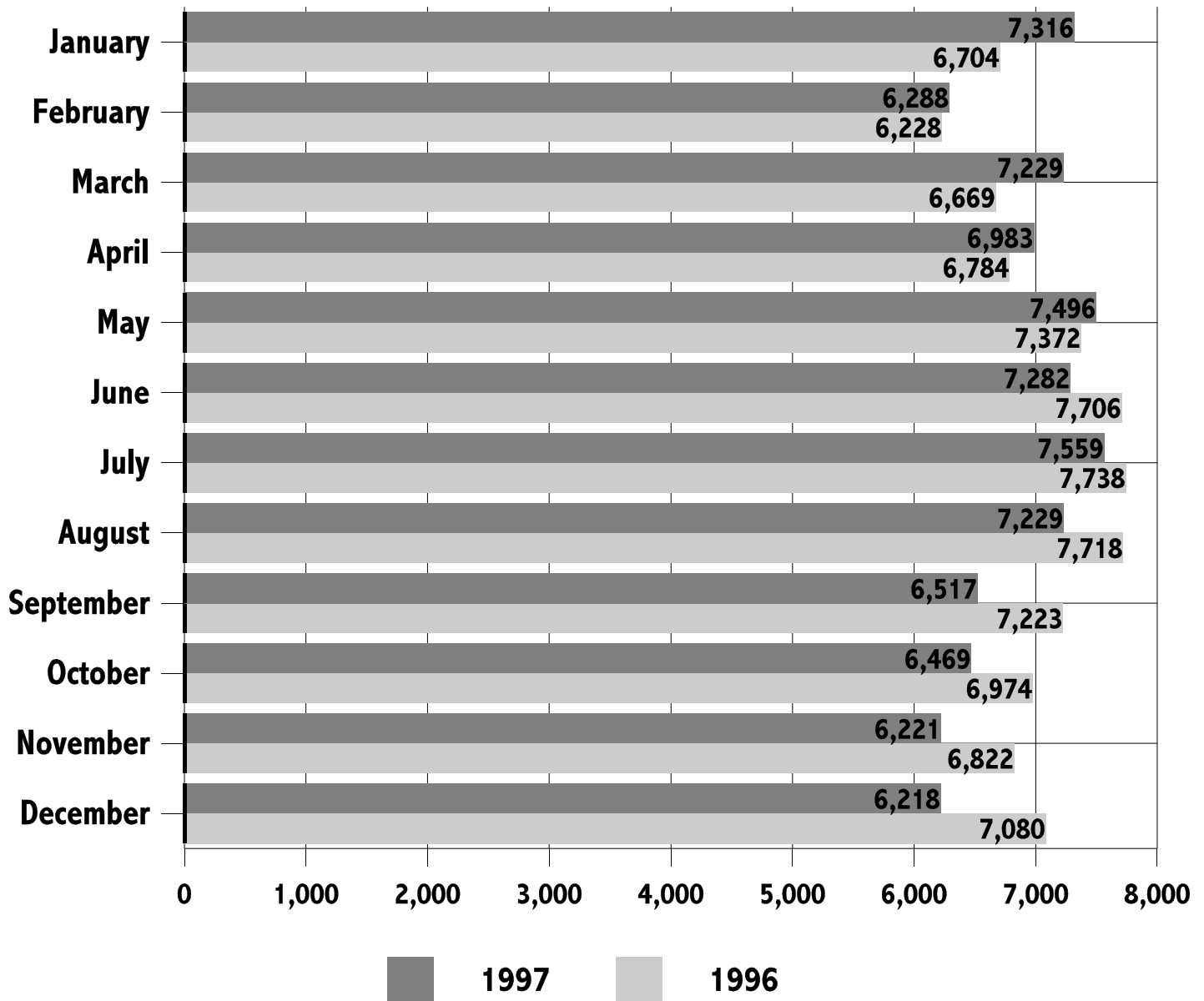
- During 1997, 29% (23,976) of the reported domestic violence offenses occurred between 8:00 p.m. and 12 midnight.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY DAY OF WEEK 1996/1997



- Sunday recorded the highest number of occurrences in 1997 with 14,947 offenses.
- During 1997, 35% (29,225) of the reported domestic violence offenses occurred during the weekend (Saturday and Sunday).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY MONTH OF YEAR 1996/1997



- In 1997, the highest number of domestic violence offenses occurred during the month of July.
- During 1997, the month with the lowest number of reported domestic violence offenses was December.

