



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 2003 domestic violence statistics are listed below:

- There were 77,567 domestic violence offenses reported by the police in 2003, a three percent decrease compared to the 79,844 reported in 2002.
- Murders increased 10 percent in 2003 (57) when compared to 2002 (52).
- Assaults accounted for 45 percent (35,193) and harassment accounted for 40 percent (30,986) of the reported offenses in 2003.
- Arrests were made in 32 percent (24,605) of the offenses reported for 2003, the same percentage when compared to arrests made in 2002.
- The most frequent day of domestic violence occurrences was Sunday (13,778).
- For the twenty-first consecutive year, the most frequent hours of domestic violence incidents were between 8:00 p.m. and midnight, when 28 percent (21,496) of the offenses were reported.
- Children were involved or present during 36 percent of all domestic violence offenses occurring in 2003. Specifically, six percent (4,347) were involved and 31 percent (23,679) were present.
- Wives were the victims in 22 percent (16,855) and ex-wives were the victims in three percent (2,300) of the reported domestic violence offenses in 2003. Overall, females were victims in 77 percent (59,726) of all domestic violence offenses.
- The number of domestic violence complaints that had prior court orders issued against the offender decreased from 17,720 in 2002 to 17,103 in 2003. This is a decrease of three percent.
- Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in 29 percent (22,726) of the reported offenses occurring in 2003. Alcohol involvement alone accounted for 26 percent (20,313) of the total domestic violence offenses reported.
- Persons age 60 or over were victims in three percent (2,215) of all reported domestic violence offenses that occurred in 2003. Elderly were the victims in 12 percent (7) of the domestic violence murders (57).
- 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 6 minutes and 47 seconds.
- Domestic violence offenses arising from a dating relationship accounted for 14 percent (10,767) of the state total.
- There were 3,632 total arrests involving domestic violence restraining orders reported by police in 2003. Of these, 2,001 were arrests for violations of a restraining order **only**, while 1,631 were arrests for violations of a restraining order **with** an offense arrest.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS 2002/2003

Domestic Violence Offense		Number of Offenses	★Number of Arrests	★Percent of Offenses Involving an Arrest
Homicide	2002	52	33	63
	2003	57	29	51
	Percent Change	10	-12	-19
Assault	2002	36,823	17,800	48
	2003	35,193	16,965	48
	Percent Change	-4	-5	0
Terroristic Threats	2002	4,593	1,366	30
	2003	4,523	1,327	29
	Percent Change	-2	-3	-3
Kidnapping	2002	24	11	46
	2003	24	9	38
	Percent Change	0	&	-17
Criminal Restraint	2002	160	70	44
	2003	140	64	46
	Percent Change	-13	-9	5
False Imprisonment	2002	43	21	49
	2003	52	31	60
	Percent Change	21	48	22
Sexual Assault	2002	201	69	34
	2003	234	78	33
	Percent Change	16	13	-3
Criminal Sexual Contact	2002	75	25	33
	2003	46	15	33
	Percent Change	-39	-40	0
Lewdness	2002	10	2	20
	2003	11	3	27
	Percent Change	10	&	35
Criminal Mischief	2002	4,987	1,626	33
	2003	4,756	1,524	32
	Percent Change	-5	-6	-3
Burglary	2002	670	237	35
	2003	671	238	35
	Percent Change	*	*	0
Criminal Trespass	2002	565	236	42
	2003	556	190	34
	Percent Change	-2	-19	-19
Harassment	2002	31,348	4,206	13
	2003	30,986	4,058	13
	Percent Change	-1	-4	0
Stalking	2002	293	72	25
	2003	318	74	23
	Percent Change	9	3	-8
TOTAL	2002	79,844	25,774	32
	2003	77,567	24,605	32
	Percent Change	-3	-5	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 2002/2003

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault	Criminal Sexual Contact
Atlantic	2002	2	1,815	207	-	14	1	8	4
	2003	2	1,844	216	1	6	1	16	2
Bergen	2002	5	2,284	358	1	9	2	14	10
	2003	4	2,205	368	1	13	11	22	3
Burlington	2002	3	1,680	99	1	6	-	7	1
	2003	3	1,582	101	2	7	3	7	-
Camden	2002	2	3,746	241	-	22	3	14	5
	2003	7	3,457	291	4	12	7	30	5
Cape May	2002	1	509	43	-	2	-	-	2
	2003	-	563	31	-	4	-	1	-
Cumberland	2002	3	1,639	126	2	12	-	6	6
	2003	7	1,753	145	-	7	1	12	2
Essex	2002	8	4,302	871	3	20	7	22	6
	2003	8	3,324	720	-	6	4	24	2
Gloucester	2002	1	1,400	100	-	6	2	8	1
	2003	6	1,405	104	-	5	-	4	3
Hudson	2002	3	2,706	412	3	10	1	17	10
	2003	5	2,589	430	1	6	4	16	3
Hunterdon	2002	-	154	23	-	1	-	-	-
	2003	1	195	35	-	3	-	2	2
Mercer	2002	1	1,834	75	2	6	4	11	2
	2003	2	1,797	57	2	4	4	12	4

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2002/2003

Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass	Harassment	Stalking	County Total	Percent Change	Arrests
-	222	43	15	3,242	15	5,588	1	1,571
1	238	28	27	3,258	26	5,666		1,572
-	183	22	107	2,464	31	5,490	-4	1,474
1	184	10	75	2,344	34	5,275		1,396
-	239	31	37	1,472	7	3,583	3	2,237
1	222	21	36	1,701	9	3,695		2,180
1	562	99	47	2,591	12	7,345	-3	2,737
2	585	124	60	2,500	31	7,115		2,656
-	61	8	9	616	4	1,255	-2	435
-	70	10	12	535	3	1,229		449
-	254	37	23	1,074	10	3,192	8	1,168
-	248	42	19	1,209	6	3,451		1,153
2	497	78	24	1,104	36	6,980	-21	2,215
1	380	66	27	931	39	5,532		1,525
-	187	20	26	1,183	5	2,939	4	1,012
-	216	20	24	1,260	7	3,054		1,072
1	290	42	11	1,725	23	5,254	-1	1,102
-	286	61	16	1,758	20	5,195		1,058
1	24	2	5	312	3	525	8	136
-	28	1	10	291	1	569		147
-	344	51	25	1,416	10	3,781	-3	1,065
1	315	37	23	1,387	6	3,651		1,038

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2002/2003

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault	Criminal Sexual Contact
Middlesex	2002	6	2,341	344	-	3	1	24	5
	2003	1	2,412	386	1	9	1	20	1
Monmouth	2002	3	2,326	312	1	10	8	14	3
	2003	1	2,128	291	1	15	4	7	4
Morris	2002	4	960	162	-	10	5	6	5
	2003	1	970	173	1	6	3	5	1
Ocean	2002	2	2,105	400	2	8	1	11	5
	2003	1	2,229	332	3	11	1	14	2
Passaic	2002	3	2,825	469	8	6	3	18	6
	2003	3	2,809	536	2	13	5	24	5
Salem	2002	1	392	20	-	8	-	1	-
	2003	-	354	18	1	1	-	-	-
Somerset	2002	-	764	26	-	1	-	5	-
	2003	-	770	24	-	3	1	3	3
Sussex	2002	1	445	50	-	1	1	2	-
	2003	-	416	47	-	-	-	1	-
Union	2002	2	2,174	206	1	2	4	10	4
	2003	5	2,006	160	4	7	2	10	4
Warren	2002	1	422	49	-	3	-	3	-
	2003	-	385	58	-	2	-	4	-
TOTAL	2002	52	36,823	4,593	24	160	43	201	75
	2003	57	35,193	4,523	24	140	52	234	46

* Less than one-half of one percent.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2002/2003

Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass	Harassment	Stalking	County Total	Percent Change	Arrests
-	361	28	28	1,607	18	4,766		1,662
1	367	43	44	1,659	23	4,968	4	1,681
1	369	51	48	2,360	25	5,531		1,721
-	314	44	28	2,237	19	5,093	-8	1,617
2	152	14	20	1,182	15	2,537		768
1	155	8	19	1,183	11	2,537	0	723
-	313	44	37	2,524	26	5,478	*	1,297
1	331	45	40	2,443	29	5,482		1,345
-	280	48	23	1,183	20	4,892		1,950
-	290	62	36	1,173	23	4,981	2	2,043
-	76	3	14	266	1	782		331
-	58	3	8	279	1	723	-8	300
1	149	7	17	1,463	10	2,443		636
-	127	9	15	1,451	7	2,413	-1	602
1	79	3	15	742	3	1,343		380
-	58	4	9	758	3	1,296	-4	330
-	274	37	27	2,069	12	4,822		1,638
1	218	27	18	1,888	13	4,363	-10	1,487
-	71	2	7	753	7	1,318		239
-	66	6	10	741	7	1,279	-3	231
10	4,987	670	565	31,348	293	79,844		25,774
11	4,756	671	556	30,986	318	77,567	-3	24,605

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS 1999 Through 2003

Domestic Violence Offense	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests
Homicide	55	38	39	21	40	23	52	33	57	29
Assault	39,474	19,098	36,602	18,338	39,092	18,674	36,823	17,800	35,193	16,965
Terroristic Threats	4,851	1,348	4,395	1,312	4,808	1,409	4,593	1,366	4,523	1,327
Kidnapping	25	7	33	16	33	12	24	11	24	9
Criminal Restraint	132	58	131	58	128	47	160	70	140	64
False Imprisonment	42	20	37	17	39	24	43	21	52	31
Sexual Assault	200	77	196	66	204	71	201	69	234	78
Criminal Sexual Contact	52	16	59	18	58	9	75	25	46	15
Lewdness	11	3	5	-	10	4	10	2	11	3
Criminal Mischief	4,712	1,508	4,727	1,578	5,191	1,658	4,987	1,626	4,756	1,524
Burglary	688	186	633	215	730	246	670	237	671	238
Criminal Trespass	828	369	658	271	612	242	565	236	556	190
Harassment	29,266	3,426	29,869	3,789	31,096	4,041	31,348	4,206	30,986	4,058
Stalking [□]	345	86	296	75	332	91	293	72	318	74
TOTAL	80,681	26,240	77,680	25,774	82,373	26,551	79,844	25,774	77,567	24,605

[□] Stalking was first reported in 1995.

- Arrests for domestic violence offenses decreased five percent.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TYPE OF WEAPON AND EXTENT OF INJURY 2002/2003

Type of Weapon		Extent of Injury			TOTAL
		Aggravated Serious	Non-Aggravated Minor	None	
Gun	2002	47	30	171	248
	2003	39	35	116	190
	Percent Change	-17	17	-32	-23
Knife	2002	402	541	453	1,396
	2003	365	466	409	1,240
	Percent Change	-9	-14	-10	-11
Other Dangerous Weapon	2002	452	1,152	436	2,040
	2003	393	1,144	384	1,921
	Percent Change	-13	-1	-12	-6
Hands, Fists, Feet, etc.	2002	826	19,460	14,767	35,053
	2003	766	18,638	14,350	33,754
	Percent Change	-7	-4	-3	-4
None	2002	-	-	41,107	41,107
	2003	-	-	40,462	40,462
	Percent Change	-	-	-2	-2
TOTAL	2002	1,727	21,183	56,934	79,844
	2003	1,563	20,283	55,721	77,567
	Percent Change	-10	-4	-2	-3

- Twenty-eight percent (21,846) of all domestic violence complaints resulted in injury. This is a 5 percent decrease when compared to the 22,910 that occurred in 2002.
- Of all the domestic violence offenses involving weapons (37,105), hands, fists, feet, etc. were used in 91 percent (33,754) of these offenses.
- Domestic violence offenses involving a gun decreased 23 percent when compared to 2002.
- Serious injuries were reported in 1,563 offenses, a 10 percent decrease when compared to the 1,727 reported in 2002.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TYPE & SEX OF VICTIM 2003

Type of Offense		Relationship of Victim to Offender							Total Number of Offenses
		Spouse	Ex-spouse	Co-parent	Relative	Friend	Ex-friend	Total	
Homicide	Male	2	-	-	6	5	-	13	57
	Female	13	1	7	7	13	3	44	
Assault	Male	2,069	169	1,006	1,909	2,742	498	8,393	35,193
	Female	7,247	494	5,417	2,740	8,705	2,197	26,800	
Terroristic Threats	Male	155	34	76	223	139	115	742	4,523
	Female	1,001	228	765	405	716	666	3,781	
Kidnapping	Male	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	24
	Female	6	1	8	2	2	4	23	
Criminal Restraint	Male	3	-	1	1	8	1	14	140
	Female	26	4	26	5	46	19	126	
False Imprisonment	Male	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	52
	Female	12	2	8	4	16	8	50	
Sexual Assault	Male	1	-	-	1	9	-	11	234
	Female	55	6	31	13	77	41	223	
Criminal Sexual Contact	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46
	Female	10	5	8	5	11	7	46	
Lewdness	Male	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	11
	Female	3	-	1	-	4	2	10	
Criminal Mischief	Male	229	51	185	232	370	219	1,286	4,756
	Female	756	94	625	569	942	484	3,470	
Burglary	Male	12	9	18	33	27	38	137	671
	Female	60	20	116	65	104	169	534	
Criminal Trespass	Male	17	16	8	31	35	26	133	556
	Female	83	41	67	64	76	92	423	
Harassment	Male	1,874	460	810	1,128	1,713	1,092	7,077	30,986
	Female	7,522	1,378	3,616	2,312	5,515	3,566	23,909	
Stalking	Male	5	-	5	-	13	8	31	318
	Female	61	26	25	4	53	118	287	
TOTAL	Male	4,369	739	2,109	3,565	5,062	1,997	17,841	
	Female	16,855	2,300	10,720	6,195	16,280	7,376	59,726	
GRAND TOTAL		21,224	3,039	12,829	9,760	21,342	9,373	77,567	77,567

ANALYSIS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (Alcohol or Drugs Involved) † 2003

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	57	14	3	2	19	33.3
Assault	35,193	11,479	559	678	12,716	36.1
Terroristic Threats	4,523	776	127	80	983	21.7
Kidnapping	24	3	-	1	4	16.7
Criminal Restraint	140	42	2	2	46	32.9
False Imprisonment	52	12	2	1	15	28.9
Sexual Assault	234	46	6	8	60	25.6
Criminal Sexual Contact	46	10	-	3	13	28.3
Lewdness	11	5	-	1	6	54.6
Criminal Mischief	4,756	1,341	97	85	1,523	32.0
Burglary	671	91	25	12	128	19.1
Criminal Trespass	556	128	16	5	149	26.8
Harassment	30,986	6,343	372	322	7,037	22.7
Stalking	318	23	2	2	27	8.5
TOTAL	77,567	20,313	1,211	1,202	22,726	29.3

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

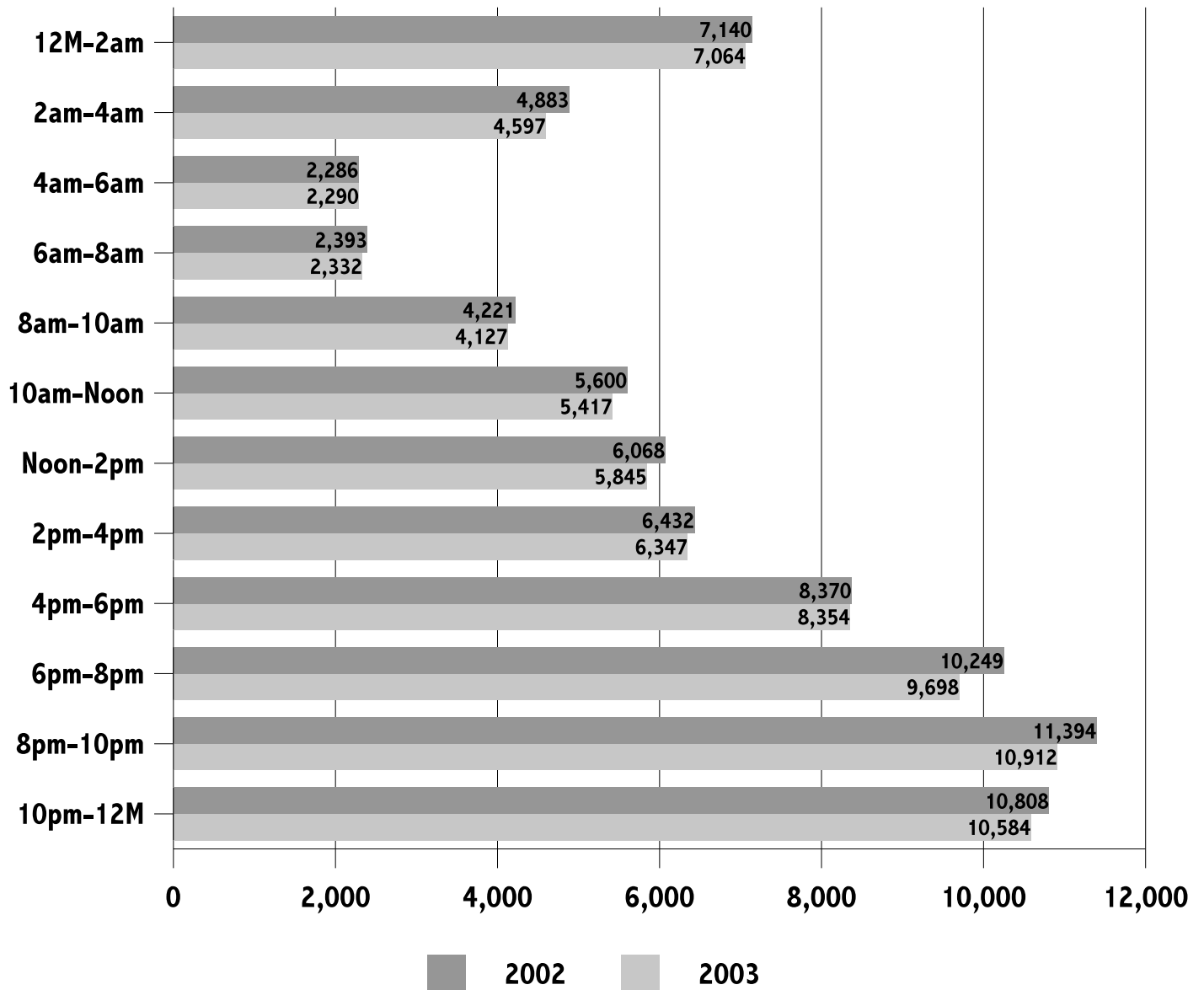
- Drugs or alcohol were involved in 33 percent (19) of domestic violence homicides.
- Twenty-nine percent (22,726) of the reported acts of domestic violence (77,567) involved the use of drugs or alcohol.

OFFENSES AGAINST ELDERLY VICTIMS (60 Years of age or over) 2003

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	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	1
Assault	772	77	160	3	3	9	6	169	227	49	52	10	7
Terroristic Threats	147	11	33	1	-	1	1	31	59	2	6	-	2
Kidnapping	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Criminal Restraint	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
False Imprisonment	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Sexual Assault	4	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Criminal Sexual Contact	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lewdness	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Mischief	183	11	10	2	1	-	2	45	93	9	6	2	2
Burglary	29	-	1	-	-	-	4	12	8	1	1	2	-
Criminal Trespass	38	1	1	-	1	-	-	12	20	2	1	-	-
Harassment	1,029	90	186	11	18	9	13	177	351	69	56	23	26
Stalking	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	2,215	190	397	17	23	19	27	447	762	133	124	37	39

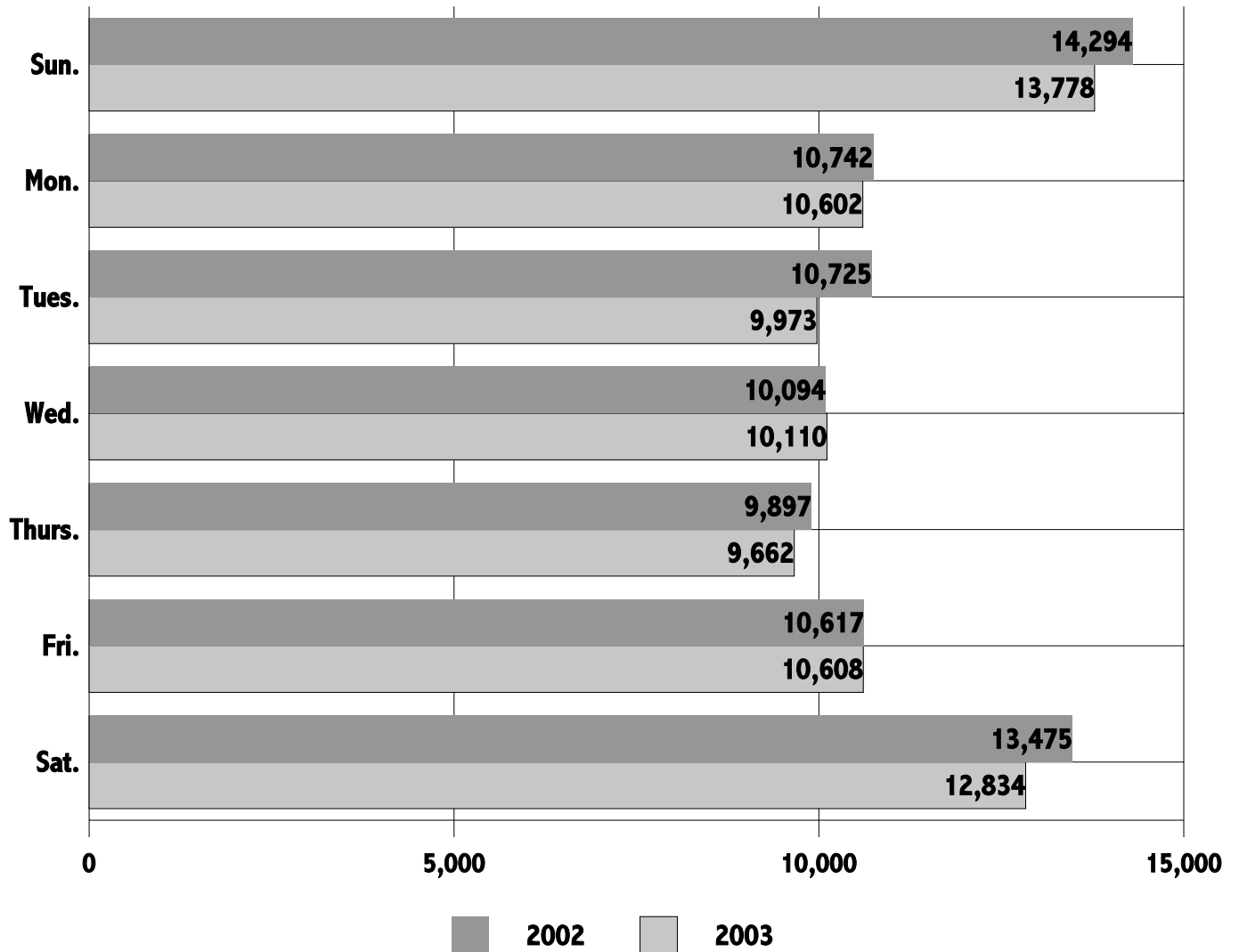
- Assaults accounted for 35 percent (772) of all domestic violence offenses for victims 60 years old or over.
- Females age 60 or over were the victims in 62 percent (1,372) of the 2,215 elderly abuse offenses.
- Persons age 60 or over were the victims in 3 percent (2,215) of all the reported domestic violence offenses during this period.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TIME OF DAY 2002/2003



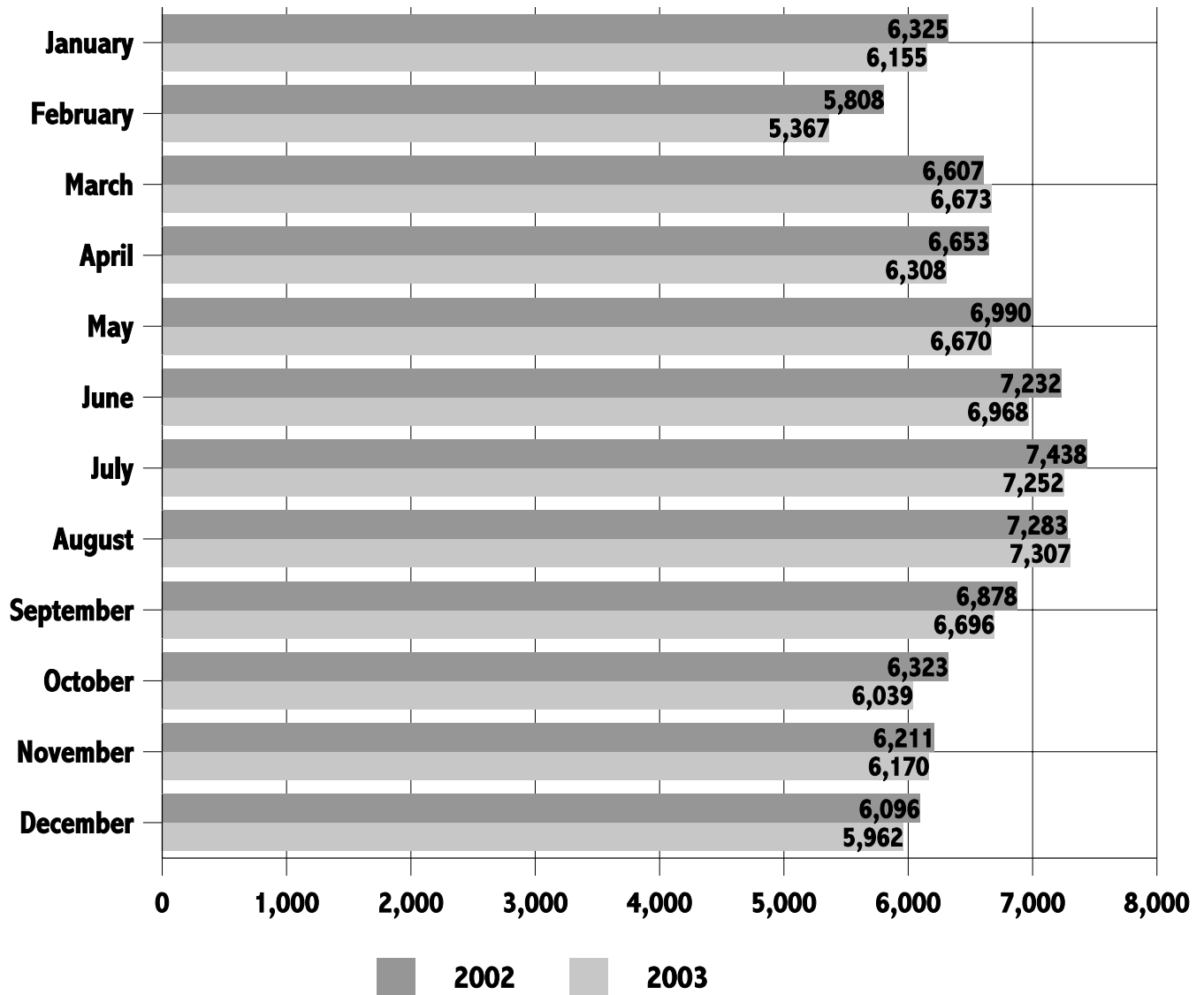
- During 2003, 28 percent (21,496) of the reported domestic violence offenses occurred between 8:00 p.m. and 12 midnight.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY DAY OF WEEK 2002/2003



- Sunday recorded the highest number of occurrences in 2003 with 13,778 offenses.
- During 2003, 34 percent (26,612) of the reported domestic violence offenses occurred during the weekend (Saturday and Sunday).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY MONTH OF YEAR 2002/2003



- In 2003, the highest number of domestic violence offenses occurred during the month of August.
- During 2003, the month with the lowest number of reported domestic violence offenses was February.

RESTRAINING ORDER ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2002/2003

	Domestic Violence Restraining Order Only			Domestic Violence Restraining Order with Offense Arrest			Total Arrests Involving Domestic Violence Restraining Orders		
	2002	2003	Percent Change	2002	2003	Percent Change	2002	2003	Percent Change
ATLANTIC	65	85	31	126	121	-4	191	206	8
BERGEN	77	92	19	172	140	-19	249	232	-7
BURLINGTON	98	103	5	98	88	-10	196	191	-3
CAMDEN	210	232	10	259	262	1	469	494	5
CAPE MAY	55	55	0	28	39	39	83	94	13
CUMBERLAND	116	122	5	63	70	11	179	192	7
ESSEX	123	104	-15	138	63	-54	261	167	-36
GLOUCESTER	90	113	26	105	107	2	195	220	13
HUDSON	65	83	28	80	67	-16	145	150	3
HUNTERDON	18	10	-44	5	7	&	23	17	-26
MERCER	73	72	-1	108	87	-19	181	159	-12
MIDDLESEX	87	95	9	78	65	-17	165	160	-3
MONMOUTH	77	130	69	111	90	-19	188	220	17
MORRIS	71	66	-7	50	44	-12	121	110	-9
OCEAN	163	197	21	74	79	7	237	276	16
PASSAIC	153	161	5	91	96	5	244	257	5
SALEM	43	35	-19	40	36	-10	83	71	-14
SOMERSET	83	119	43	45	45	0	128	164	28
SUSSEX	29	35	21	34	20	-41	63	55	-13
UNION	101	75	-26	141	98	-31	242	173	-29
WARREN	19	17	-11	17	7	&	36	24	-33
STATE TOTALS	1,816	2,001	10	1,863	1,631	-12	3,679	3,632	-1

& Percent not calculated due to small volume.