



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 2005 domestic violence statistics are listed below:

- There were 75,651 domestic violence offenses reported by the police in 2005, a 1 percent decrease compared to the 76,109 reported in 2004.
- Murders decreased 7 percent in 2005 (41) when compared to 2004 (44).
- Assaults accounted for 45 percent (33,674) and harassment accounted for 40 percent (30,603) of the reported offenses in 2005.
- Arrests were made in 31 percent (23,606) of the offenses reported for 2005, a decrease of 2 percent when compared to arrests made in 2004.
- The most frequent day of domestic violence occurrences was Sunday (13,465).
- For the twenty-third consecutive year, the most frequent hours of domestic violence incidents were between 8:00 p.m. and midnight, when 27 percent (20,540) of the offenses were reported.
- Children were involved or present during 34 percent of all domestic violence offenses occurring in 2005. Specifically, 5 percent (3,893) were involved and 29 percent (21,742) were present.
- Wives were the victims in 21 percent (15,849) and ex-wives were the victims in 3 percent (2,384) of the reported domestic violence offenses in 2005. Overall, females were victims in 77 percent (58,162) of all domestic violence offenses.
- The number of domestic violence complaints that had prior court orders issued against the offender decreased from 16,188 in 2004 to 15,558 in 2005. This is a decrease of 4 percent.
- Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in 29 percent (21,599) of the reported offenses occurring in 2005. Alcohol involvement alone accounted for 25 percent (19,138) of the total domestic violence offenses reported.
- Persons age 60 or over were victims in 3 percent (2,410) of all reported domestic violence offenses that occurred in 2005. Elderly were the victims in 20 percent (8) of the domestic violence murders (41).
- 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 56 seconds.
- Domestic violence offenses arising from a dating relationship accounted for 15 percent (11,080) of the state total.
- There were 3,461 total arrests involving domestic violence restraining orders reported by police in 2005. Of these, 2,010 were arrests for violations of a restraining order **only**, while 1,451 were arrests for violations of a restraining order **with** an offense arrest.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS 2004/2005

Domestic Violence Offense		Number of Offenses	☆ Number of Arrests	☆ Percent of Offenses Involving an Arrest
Homicide	2004	44	27	61
	2005	41	24	59
	Percent Change	-7	-11	-3
Assault	2004	33,712	16,247	48
	2005	33,674	16,166	48
	Percent Change	*	*	0
Terroristic Threats	2004	4,194	1,285	31
	2005	4,239	1,236	29
	Percent Change	1	-4	-6
Kidnapping	2004	44	19	43
	2005	47	22	47
	Percent Change	7	16	9
Criminal Restraint	2004	159	79	50
	2005	190	83	44
	Percent Change	20	5	-12
False Imprisonment	2004	46	23	50
	2005	35	22	63
	Percent Change	-24	-4	26
Sexual Assault	2004	212	77	36
	2005	217	54	25
	Percent Change	2	-30	-31
Criminal Sexual Contact	2004	57	17	30
	2005	54	22	41
	Percent Change	-5	29	37
Lewdness	2004	9	1	11
	2005	3	0	0
	Percent Change	-67	&	&
Criminal Mischief	2004	4,809	1,518	32
	2005	5,056	1,623	32
	Percent Change	5	7	0
Burglary	2004	621	218	35
	2005	680	243	36
	Percent Change	10	11	3
Criminal Trespass	2004	537	193	36
	2005	506	206	41
	Percent Change	-6	7	14
Harassment	2004	31,333	4,241	14
	2005	30,603	3,835	13
	Percent Change	-2	-10	-7
Stalking	2004	332	69	21
	2005	306	70	23
	Percent Change	-8	1	10
TOTAL	2004	76,109	24,014	32
	2005	75,651	23,606	31
	Percent Change	-1	-2	-3

☆ 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 2004/2005

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault	Criminal Sexual Contact
Atlantic	2004	-	1,748	223	2	12	-	6	3
	2005	4	1,856	248	5	12	1	7	4
Bergen	2004	3	2,040	336	2	11	1	16	3
	2005	1	1,946	319	1	10	-	12	5
Burlington	2004	2	1,481	107	-	9	2	9	5
	2005	2	1,435	100	2	13	1	7	4
Camden	2004	2	3,448	237	4	18	3	26	2
	2005	3	3,429	267	5	22	2	31	6
Cape May	2004	1	577	40	2	1	-	4	3
	2005	1	507	32	-	3	2	3	1
Cumberland	2004	2	1,763	117	4	7	2	15	2
	2005	1	1,595	102	-	17	2	4	1
Essex	2004	3	2,527	546	6	12	2	16	4
	2005	5	3,233	682	2	13	5	22	6
Gloucester	2004	1	1,428	104	2	10	3	9	-
	2005	1	1,477	104	2	6	2	6	2
Hudson	2004	3	2,579	397	5	9	1	11	5
	2005	7	2,736	400	8	15	2	15	3
Hunterdon	2004	2	167	20	-	-	-	-	-
	2005	-	160	31	-	1	-	1	1
Mercer	2004	3	1,796	53	5	7	4	11	4
	2005	4	1,721	74	3	8	4	14	2

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2004/2005

Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass	Harassment	Stalking	County Total	Percent Change	Arrests
1	238	20	23	3,310	22	5,608	3	1,604
-	205	35	33	3,374	11	5,795		1,444
-	189	29	58	2,183	31	4,902	-4	1,324
-	167	20	46	2,175	27	4,729		1,278
1	236	19	31	1,658	10	3,570	1	1,987
-	276	29	42	1,678	9	3,598		1,982
1	608	84	41	2,284	15	6,773	-2	2,474
-	571	86	40	2,172	18	6,652		2,386
-	82	6	16	560	2	1,294	1	477
-	76	7	19	648	4	1,303		418
-	231	27	20	1,267	7	3,464	-5	1,086
-	255	31	21	1,259	2	3,290		994
1	306	67	23	821	33	4,367	26	1,206
-	454	91	21	921	51	5,506		1,714
-	214	23	41	1,384	8	3,227	-1	1,105
1	196	27	26	1,332	6	3,188		1,152
1	247	53	19	1,938	30	5,298	-6	1,032
1	292	63	12	1,414	29	4,997		1,097
-	27	-	4	310	1	531	17	152
-	34	1	7	378	5	619		138
1	301	41	24	1,289	12	3,551	-7	1,212
-	332	34	19	1,080	9	3,304		1,096

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2004/2005

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault	Criminal Sexual Contact
Middlesex	2004	5	2,318	420	1	10	8	17	6
	2005	4	2,201	373	5	6	2	15	5
Monmouth	2004	2	2,252	267	4	7	7	14	5
	2005	2	2,154	283	1	19	3	20	4
Morris	2004	2	989	169	-	10	4	9	2
	2005	1	931	147	-	10	1	3	1
Ocean	2004	5	2,105	361	3	14	3	8	3
	2005	-	2,115	333	2	8	-	20	1
Passaic	2004	4	2,566	505	2	8	3	14	3
	2005	2	2,503	473	6	8	5	12	4
Salem	2004	-	494	17	-	3	-	4	-
	2005	-	392	23	-	1	-	1	-
Somerset	2004	1	713	17	1	-	2	9	-
	2005	-	751	15	-	7	1	6	3
Sussex	2004	-	407	45	-	-	-	1	-
	2005	1	321	44	-	1	1	4	-
Union	2004	2	1,933	162	1	7	1	12	4
	2005	2	1,789	130	5	6	1	14	1
Warren	2004	1	381	51	-	4	-	1	3
	2005	-	422	59	-	4	-	-	-
TOTAL	2004	44	33,712	4,194	44	159	46	212	57
	2005	41	33,674	4,239	47	190	35	217	54

* Less than one-half of one percent.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2004/2005

Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass	Harassment	Stalking	County Total	Percent Change	Arrests
-	377	30	35	1,739	34	5,000		1,640
-	365	54	33	1,694	24	4,781	-4	1,598
1	354	38	50	2,300	27	5,328	*	1,803
-	405	48	50	2,345	19	5,353		1,744
1	201	19	23	1,198	17	2,644		748
1	180	7	12	1,152	15	2,461	-7	697
-	354	48	36	2,581	32	5,553		1,360
-	370	41	38	2,647	16	5,591	1	1,302
1	285	57	21	1,221	29	4,719		1,775
-	284	59	23	1,244	29	4,652	-1	1,795
-	68	10	14	362	1	973		417
-	66	6	10	311	4	814	-16	327
-	124	8	16	1,405	7	2,303		547
-	134	8	21	1,396	5	2,347	2	623
-	55	4	8	753	1	1,274		313
-	50	2	3	556	4	987	-23	247
-	252	35	25	1,977	5	4,416		1,528
-	269	25	22	1,922	7	4,193	-5	1,360
-	60	3	9	793	8	1,314		224
-	75	6	8	905	12	1,491	13	214
9	4,809	621	537	31,333	332	76,109		24,014
3	5,056	680	506	30,603	306	75,651	-1	23,606

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS 2001 Through 2005

Domestic Violence Offense	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests
Homicide	40	23	52	33	57	29	44	27	41	24
Assault	39,092	18,674	36,823	17,800	35,193	16,965	33,712	16,247	33,674	16,166
Terroristic Threats	4,808	1,409	4,593	1,366	4,523	1,327	4,194	1,285	4,239	1,236
Kidnapping	33	12	24	11	24	9	44	19	47	22
Criminal Restraint	128	47	160	70	140	64	159	79	190	83
False Imprisonment	39	24	43	21	52	31	46	23	35	22
Sexual Assault	204	71	201	69	234	78	212	77	217	54
Criminal Sexual Contact	58	9	75	25	46	15	57	17	54	22
Lewdness	10	4	10	2	11	3	9	1	3	-
Criminal Mischief	5,191	1,658	4,987	1,626	4,756	1,524	4,809	1,518	5,056	1,623
Burglary	730	246	670	237	671	238	621	218	680	243
Criminal Trespass	612	242	565	236	556	190	537	193	506	206
Harassment	31,096	4,041	31,348	4,206	30,986	4,058	31,333	4,241	30,603	3,835
Stalking	332	91	293	72	318	74	332	69	306	70
TOTAL	82,373	26,551	79,844	25,774	77,567	24,605	76,109	24,014	75,651	23,606

- Arrests for domestic violence offenses decreased 2 percent.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TYPE OF WEAPON AND EXTENT OF INJURY 2004/2005

Type of Weapon		Extent of Injury			TOTAL
		Aggravated Serious	Non-Aggravated Minor	None	
Gun	2004	31	27	113	171
	2005	32	32	121	185
	Percent Change	3	19	7	8
Knife	2004	322	466	385	1,173
	2005	332	440	378	1,150
	Percent Change	3	-6	-2	-2
Other Dangerous Weapon	2004	372	1,117	363	1,852
	2005	431	1,120	365	1,916
	Percent Change	16	*	1	3
Hands, Fists, Feet, etc.	2004	719	17,815	13,933	32,467
	2005	806	17,758	13,887	32,451
	Percent Change	12	*	*	*
None	2004	-	-	40,446	40,446
	2005	-	-	39,949	39,949
	Percent Change	-	-	-1	-1
TOTAL	2004	1,444	19,425	55,240	76,109
	2005	1,601	19,350	54,700	75,651
	Percent Change	11	*	-1	-1

- Twenty-eight percent (20,951) of all domestic violence complaints resulted in injury. This is an increase of less than one-half of one percent when compared to the 20,869 that occurred in 2004.
- Of all the domestic violence offenses involving weapons (35,702), hands, fists, feet, etc. were used in 91 percent (32,451) of these offenses.
- Domestic violence offenses involving a gun increased 8 percent when compared to 2004.
- Serious injuries were reported in 1,601 offenses, an 11 percent increase when compared to the 1,444 reported in 2004.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TYPE & SEX OF VICTIM 2005

Type of Offense		Relationship of Victim to Offender							Total Number of Offenses
		Spouse	Ex-spouse	Co-parent	Relative	Friend	Ex-friend	Total	
Homicide	Male	5	-	-	6	6	-	17	41
	Female	10	1	-	3	9	1	24	
Assault	Male	1,919	163	978	1,807	2,656	485	8,008	33,674
	Female	6,730	497	5,112	2,720	8,419	2,188	25,666	
Terroristic Threats	Male	139	31	62	207	141	119	699	4,239
	Female	952	219	696	340	677	656	3,540	
Kidnapping	Male	-	1	1	-	1	-	3	47
	Female	4	2	8	3	17	10	44	
Criminal Restraint	Male	3	-	3	1	10	4	21	190
	Female	36	2	34	13	57	27	169	
False Imprisonment	Male	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	35
	Female	9	1	7	-	10	7	34	
Sexual Assault	Male	-	-	-	3	2	-	5	217
	Female	49	6	21	13	84	39	212	
Criminal Sexual Contact	Male	-	-	-	1	2	1	4	54
	Female	10	2	4	9	17	8	50	
Lewdness	Male	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3
	Female	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	
Criminal Mischief	Male	280	49	171	261	374	208	1,343	5,056
	Female	745	115	682	598	1,085	488	3,713	
Burglary	Male	21	3	9	28	30	30	121	680
	Female	73	37	113	51	111	174	559	
Criminal Trespass	Male	9	11	16	29	27	20	112	506
	Female	70	38	65	58	77	86	394	
Harassment	Male	1,853	484	746	1,103	1,769	1,161	7,116	30,603
	Female	7,111	1,437	3,405	2,261	5,572	3,701	23,487	
Stalking	Male	5	4	8	-	8	13	38	306
	Female	50	27	25	5	36	125	268	
TOTAL	Male	4,235	746	1,994	3,447	5,026	2,041	17,489	75,651
	Female	15,849	2,384	10,172	6,074	16,173	7,510	58,162	
GRAND TOTAL		20,084	3,130	12,166	9,521	21,199	9,551	75,651	-

ANALYSIS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (Alcohol or Drugs Involved) †

2005

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	41	11	1	1	13	31.7
Assault	33,674	10,615	567	660	11,842	35.2
Terroristic Threats	4,239	727	122	81	930	21.9
Kidnapping	47	6	3	3	12	25.5
Criminal Restraint	190	41	9	7	57	30.0
False Imprisonment	35	11	1	1	13	37.1
Sexual Assault	217	46	11	12	69	31.8
Criminal Sexual Contact	54	19	1	-	20	37.0
Lewdness	3	-	1	-	1	33.3
Criminal Mischief	5,056	1,401	101	89	1,591	31.5
Burglary	680	107	29	15	151	22.2
Criminal Trespass	506	110	15	10	135	26.7
Harassment	30,603	6,029	404	312	6,745	22.0
Stalking	306	15	5	-	20	6.5
TOTAL	75,651	19,138	1,270	1,191	21,599	28.6

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

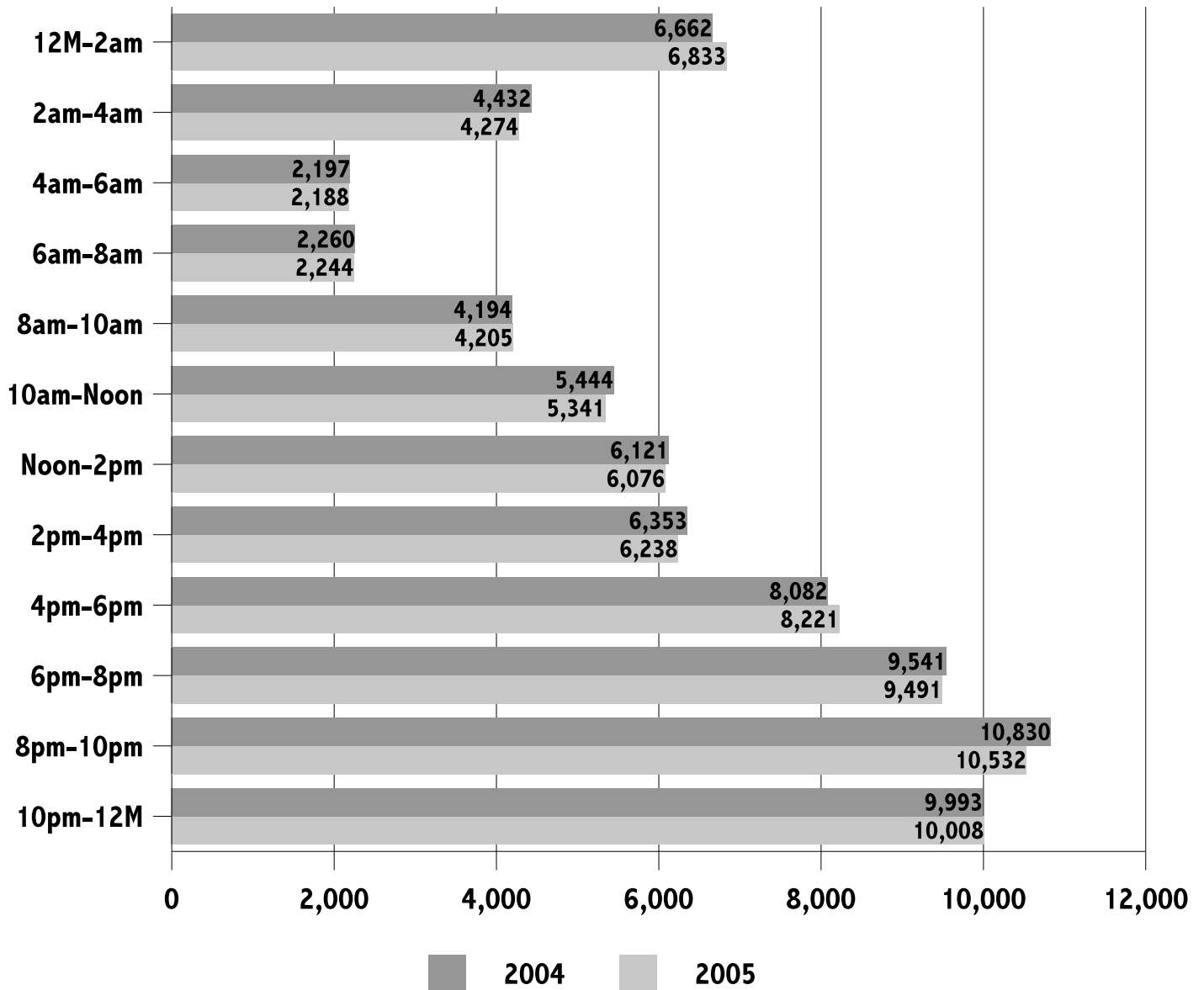
- Drugs or alcohol were involved in 32 percent (13) of domestic violence homicides.
- Twenty-nine percent (21,599) of the reported acts of domestic violence (75,651) involved the use of drugs or alcohol.

OFFENSES AGAINST ELDERLY VICTIMS (60 Years of age or over) 2005

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	8	2	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
Assault	857	71	167	6	5	9	11	158	279	81	52	10	8
Terroristic Threats	179	13	38	-	2	2	1	35	64	10	10	1	3
Kidnapping	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Restraint	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
False Imprisonment	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sexual Assault	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Sexual Contact	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lewdness	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Mischief	201	11	10	-	-	5	3	55	91	12	7	5	2
Burglary	26	-	1	-	-	-	-	5	14	1	3	1	1
Criminal Trespass	37	-	-	-	-	1	1	6	21	2	4	1	1
Harassment	1,093	70	187	8	15	5	12	197	394	68	80	33	24
Stalking	4	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2,410	169	409	14	22	23	28	457	867	175	156	51	39

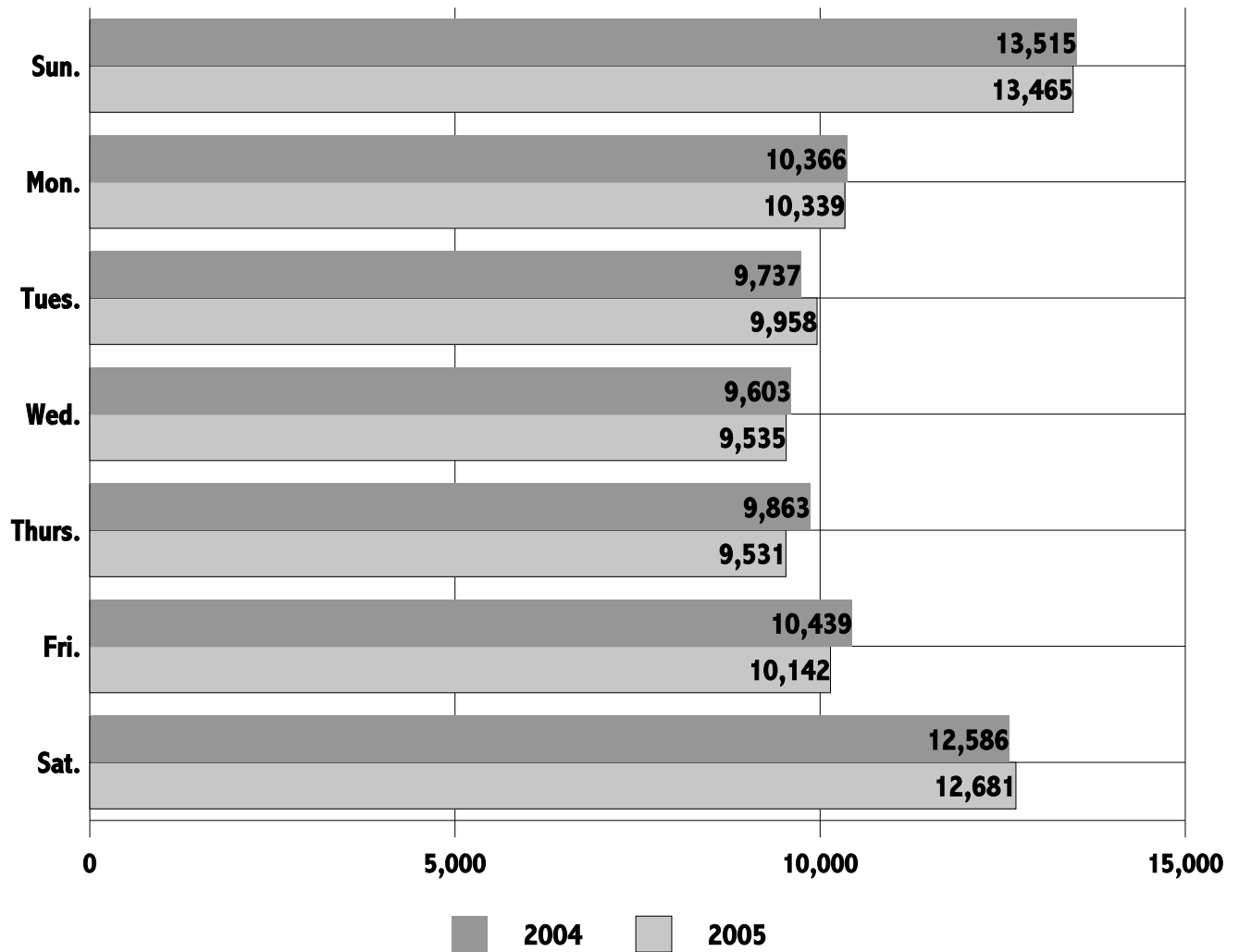
- Assaults accounted for 36 percent (857) of all domestic violence offenses for victims 60 years old or over.
- Females age 60 or over were the victims in 63 percent (1,521) of the 2,410 elderly abuse offenses.
- Persons age 60 or over were the victims in 3 percent (2,410) of all the reported domestic violence offenses during this period.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TIME OF DAY 2004/2005



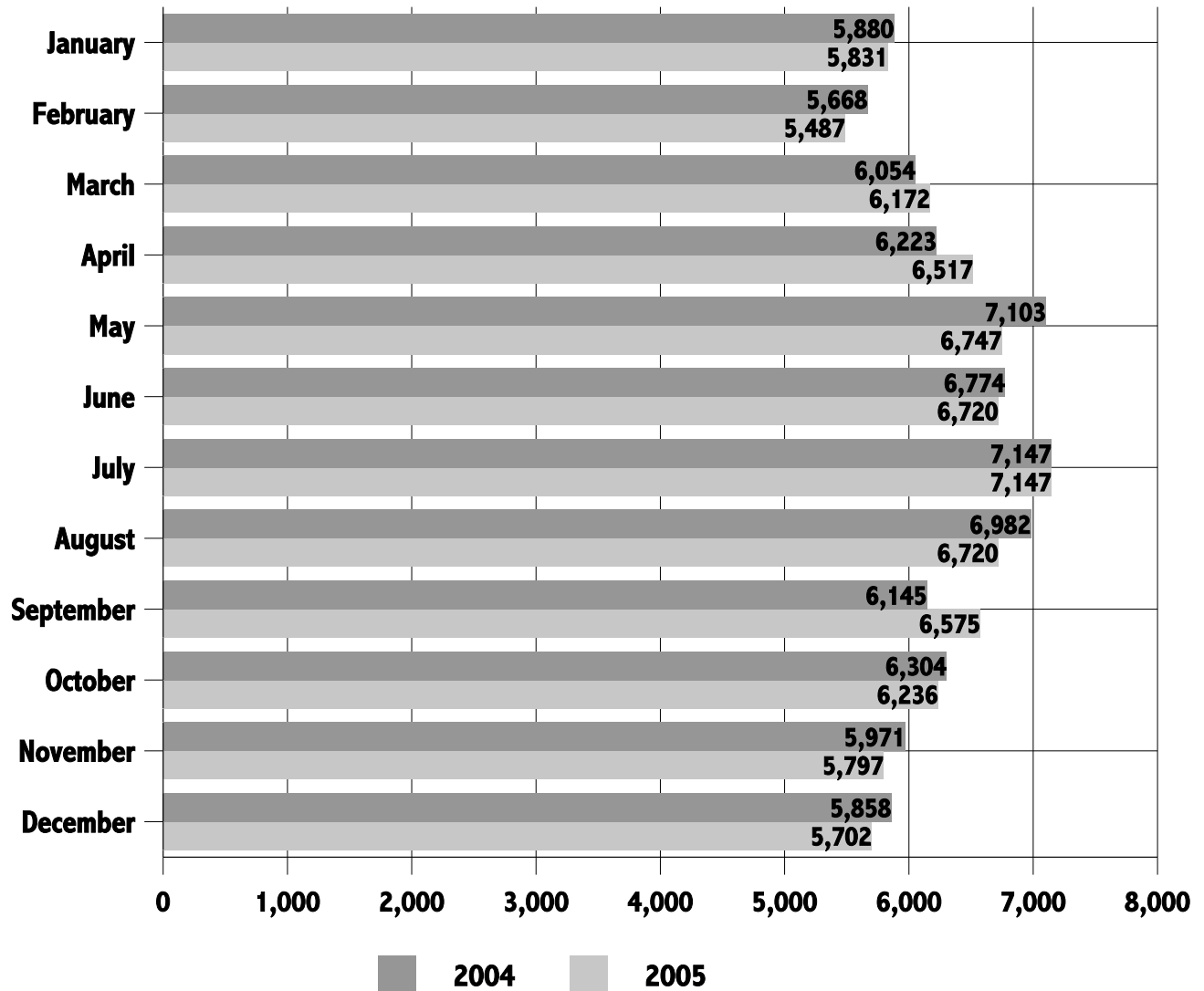
- During 2005, 27 percent (20,540) of the reported domestic violence offenses occurred between 8:00 p.m. and 12 midnight.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY DAY OF WEEK 2004/2005



- Sunday recorded the highest number of occurrences in 2005 with 13,465 offenses.
- During 2005, 35 percent (26,146) of the reported domestic violence offenses occurred during the weekend (Saturday and Sunday).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY MONTH OF YEAR 2004/2005



- In 2005, the highest number of domestic violence offenses occurred during the month of July.
- During 2005, the month with the lowest number of reported domestic violence offenses was February.

RESTRAINING ORDER ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2004/2005

	Domestic Violence Restraining Order Only			Domestic Violence Restraining Order with Offense Arrest			Total Arrests Involving Domestic Violence Restraining Orders		
	2004	2005	Percent Change	2004	2005	Percent Change	2004	2005	Percent Change
ATLANTIC	90	90	0	95	73	-23	185	163	-12
BERGEN	112	87	-22	113	132	17	225	219	-3
BURLINGTON	109	87	-20	85	79	-7	194	166	-14
CAMDEN	194	246	27	197	171	-13	391	417	7
CAPE MAY	61	58	-5	47	37	-21	108	95	-12
CUMBERLAND	128	104	-19	77	58	-25	205	162	-21
ESSEX	84	111	32	63	85	35	147	196	33
GLOUCESTER	115	130	13	107	94	-12	222	224	1
HUDSON	62	58	-6	63	56	-11	125	114	-9
HUNTERDON	19	26	37	10	8	-20	29	34	17
MERCER	74	99	34	111	86	-23	185	185	0
MIDDLESEX	83	79	-5	66	77	17	149	156	5
MONMOUTH	119	119	0	84	92	10	203	211	4
MORRIS	109	84	-23	53	37	-30	162	121	-25
OCEAN	154	167	8	77	87	13	231	254	10
PASSAIC	166	187	13	80	73	-9	246	260	6
SALEM	47	46	-2	47	38	-19	94	84	-11
SOMERSET	99	100	1	31	40	29	130	140	8
SUSSEX	35	26	-26	16	19	19	51	45	-12
UNION	68	79	16	138	93	-33	206	172	-17
WARREN	28	27	-4	11	16	45	39	43	10
STATE TOTALS	1,956	2,010	3	1,571	1,451	-8	3,527	3,461	-2