



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 2009 domestic violence statistics are listed below:

- There were 73,709 domestic violence offenses reported by the police in 2009, a 4 percent increase compared to the 70,613 reported in 2008.
- Murders decreased 32 percent in 2009 (39) when compared to 2008 (57).
- Assaults accounted for 42 percent (31,225) and harassment accounted for 44 percent (32,198) of the reported offenses in 2009.
- Arrests were made in 30 percent (22,295) of the offenses reported for 2009, an increase of 3 percent when compared to arrests made in 2008.
- The most frequent day of domestic violence occurrences was Sunday (12,988).
- For the twenty-seventh consecutive year, the most frequent hours of domestic violence incidents were between 8:00 p.m. and midnight, when 26 percent (19,404) of the offenses were reported.
- Children were involved or present during 31 percent of all domestic violence offenses occurring in 2009. Specifically, 4 percent (3,242) were involved and 27 percent (19,940) were present.
- Wives were the victims in 18 percent (13,586) and ex-wives were the victims in 3 percent (2,450) of the reported domestic violence offenses in 2009. Overall, females were victims in 76 percent (55,848) of all domestic violence offenses.
- The number of domestic violence complaints that had prior court orders issued against the offender decreased from 13,872 in 2008 to 13,821 in 2009. This is a decrease of less than one-half of one percent.
- Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in 27 percent (19,720) of the reported offenses occurring in 2009. Alcohol involvement alone accounted for 24 percent (17,832) of the total domestic violence offenses reported.
- Persons age 60 or over were victims in 4 percent (2,635) of all reported domestic violence offenses that occurred in 2009. Elderly were the victims in 10 percent (4) of the domestic violence murders (39).
- 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 7 minutes and 8 seconds.
- Domestic violence offenses arising from a dating relationship accounted for 15 percent (11,126) of the state total.
- There were 3,193 total arrests involving domestic violence restraining orders reported by police in 2009. Of these, 1,888 were arrests for violations of a restraining order **only**, while 1,305 were arrests for violations of a restraining order **with** an offense arrest.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS 2008/2009

Domestic Violence Offense		Number of Offenses	☆Number of Arrests	☆Percent of Offenses Involving an Arrest
Homicide	2008	57	30	53
	2009	39	17	44
	Percent Change	-32	-43	-17
Assault	2008	30,429	15,017	49
	2009	31,225	15,239	49
	Percent Change	3	1	0
Terroristic Threats	2008	3,359	1,046	31
	2009	3,286	1,051	32
	Percent Change	-2	*	3
Kidnapping	2008	27	13	48
	2009	49	25	51
	Percent Change	81	92	6
Criminal Restraint	2008	154	75	49
	2009	187	86	46
	Percent Change	21	15	-6
False Imprisonment	2008	41	22	54
	2009	58	22	38
	Percent Change	41	0	-30
Sexual Assault	2008	198	69	35
	2009	217	58	27
	Percent Change	10	-16	-23
Criminal Sexual Contact	2008	54	18	33
	2009	52	17	33
	Percent Change	-4	-6	0
Lewdness	2008	11	4	36
	2009	13	2	15
	Percent Change	18	&	-58
Criminal Mischief	2008	4,958	1,525	31
	2009	4,956	1,501	30
	Percent Change	*	-2	-3
Burglary	2008	636	242	38
	2009	649	229	35
	Percent Change	2	-5	-8
Criminal Trespass	2008	427	143	33
	2009	448	188	42
	Percent Change	5	31	27
Harassment	2008	30,023	3,416	11
	2009	32,198	3,764	12
	Percent Change	7	10	9
Stalking	2008	239	45	19
	2009	332	96	29
	Percent Change	39	113	53
TOTAL	2008	70,613	21,665	31
	2009	73,709	22,295	30
	Percent Change	4	3	-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 2008/2009

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault	Criminal Sexual Contact
Atlantic	2008	5	1,531	177	2	6	-	10	4
	2009	6	1,580	200	-	5	3	5	2
Bergen	2008	2	1,835	256	-	8	4	7	3
	2009	1	1,935	242	1	10	6	8	4
Burlington	2008	6	1,240	73	1	8	4	12	-
	2009	2	1,342	80	-	8	2	11	3
Camden	2008	8	3,212	256	4	20	2	15	2
	2009	1	3,350	249	12	23	2	30	2
Cape May	2008	-	435	27	1	3	1	2	1
	2009	1	478	45	1	1	-	2	1
Cumberland	2008	3	1,555	98	1	15	-	8	1
	2009	2	1,564	109	5	18	1	6	1
Essex	2008	9	2,664	599	5	27	3	22	2
	2009	6	3,076	641	11	20	8	14	7
Gloucester	2008	-	1,441	99	1	4	1	9	3
	2009	1	1,428	102	-	11	3	10	4
Hudson	2008	6	2,057	187	2	3	1	16	6
	2009	1	1,942	163	4	12	2	13	3
Hunterdon	2008	-	217	30	-	2	1	-	1
	2009	-	191	15	-	2	2	1	-
Mercer	2008	3	1,388	42	2	6	1	10	2
	2009	7	1,460	58	2	3	4	12	1

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2008/2009

Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass	Harassment	Stalking	County Total	Percent Change	Arrests
-	221	28	26	3,177	11	5,198	10	1,106
1	199	42	30	3,609	16	5,698		1,082
1	195	15	32	1,922	19	4,299	2	1,245
-	204	23	44	1,880	27	4,385		1,331
-	216	34	23	2,043	7	3,667	9	1,667
1	254	27	25	2,214	12	3,981		1,750
1	593	104	42	2,337	19	6,615	6	2,127
1	605	102	46	2,599	21	7,043		2,135
-	80	9	18	523	3	1,103	9	300
1	74	7	11	581	2	1,205		364
-	298	33	26	1,225	5	3,268	10	911
2	260	45	15	1,559	9	3,596		1,052
1	380	63	25	868	33	4,701	14	1,437
-	419	81	19	1,040	39	5,381		1,623
-	225	34	29	1,336	5	3,187	1	1,147
-	240	23	16	1,362	12	3,212		1,094
-	253	44	13	1,463	18	4,069	-5	1,107
1	264	52	18	1,357	29	3,861		1,038
1	36	1	6	395	1	691	-15	187
-	20	3	2	346	5	587		183
1	231	30	24	958	8	2,706	7	928
-	211	18	18	1,077	18	2,889		1,019

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2008/2009

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault	Criminal Sexual Contact
Middlesex	2008	3	1,984	278	1	6	4	15	5
	2009	2	2,105	246	1	13	7	24	4
Monmouth	2008	1	2,178	226	1	15	5	17	5
	2009	1	2,062	217	5	17	1	16	6
Morris	2008	1	884	151	-	4	3	6	1
	2009	-	927	133	-	10	4	8	1
Ocean	2008	2	1,939	238	2	8	2	12	6
	2009	2	1,899	191	1	8	4	14	1
Passaic	2008	5	2,237	366	3	7	4	14	6
	2009	3	2,292	364	2	12	1	18	7
Salem	2008	1	376	33	-	2	-	-	-
	2009	-	411	27	-	3	1	-	-
Somerset	2008	1	683	17	-	-	2	10	1
	2009	1	669	10	1	5	-	6	2
Sussex	2008	1	474	26	-	1	-	3	1
	2009	1	426	38	-	2	-	6	-
Union	2008	-	1,692	152	1	6	3	8	1
	2009	1	1,691	125	3	4	4	11	3
Warren	2008	-	407	28	-	3	-	2	3
	2009	-	397	31	-	-	3	2	-
TOTAL	2008	57	30,429	3,359	27	154	41	198	54
	2009	39	31,225	3,286	49	187	58	217	52

* Less than one-half of one percent.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2008/2009

Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass	Harassment	Stalking	County Total	Percent Change	Arrests
-	374	43	26	1,721	30	4,490		1,434
-	393	43	22	1,785	41	4,686	4	1,517
2	371	46	31	2,366	20	5,284		1,791
-	358	36	58	2,519	21	5,317	1	1,854
2	206	10	14	1,155	8	2,445		768
-	210	11	22	1,248	17	2,591	6	772
-	368	43	26	2,502	8	5,156		1,402
-	357	32	22	2,586	9	5,126	-1	1,388
-	289	45	19	1,078	21	4,094		1,521
2	326	49	20	1,107	21	4,224	3	1,444
-	68	8	5	226	3	722		303
-	71	4	11	276	2	806	12	315
-	130	11	11	1,275	4	2,145		537
-	129	5	15	1,480	4	2,327	8	553
1	74	8	12	821	1	1,423		355
-	57	2	7	773	6	1,318	-7	349
1	276	23	12	1,604	6	3,785		1,166
2	242	37	16	1,724	12	3,875	2	1,193
-	74	4	7	1,028	9	1,565		226
2	63	7	11	1,076	9	1,601	2	239
11	4,958	636	427	30,023	239	70,613	4	21,665
13	4,956	649	448	32,198	332	73,709		22,295

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS 2005 Through 2009

Domestic Violence Offense	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests
Homicide	41	24	42	27	38	19	57	30	39	17
Assault	33,674	16,166	32,450	15,702	31,661	15,549	30,429	15,017	31,225	15,239
Terroristic Threats	4,239	1,236	3,673	1,079	3,411	1,025	3,359	1,046	3,286	1,051
Kidnapping	47	22	38	16	27	11	27	13	49	25
Criminal Restraint	190	83	188	79	136	57	154	75	187	86
False Imprisonment	35	22	46	14	53	24	41	22	58	22
Sexual Assault	217	54	214	64	233	83	198	69	217	58
Criminal Sexual Contact	54	22	44	14	47	21	54	18	52	17
Lewdness	3	-	11	4	13	2	11	4	13	2
Criminal Mischief	5,056	1,623	4,997	1,525	4,889	1,532	4,958	1,525	4,956	1,501
Burglary	680	243	653	228	586	217	636	242	649	229
Criminal Trespass	506	206	555	213	460	180	427	143	448	188
Harassment	30,603	3,835	30,532	3,661	30,055	3,489	30,023	3,416	32,198	3,764
Stalking	306	70	306	74	292	70	239	45	332	96
TOTAL	75,651	23,606	73,749	22,700	71,901	22,279	70,613	21,665	73,709	22,295

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TYPE OF WEAPON AND EXTENT OF INJURY 2008/2009

Type of Weapon		Extent of Injury			TOTAL
		Aggravated Serious	Non-Aggravated Minor	None	
Gun	2008	29	12	94	135
	2009	36	12	95	143
	Percent Change	24	0	1	6
Knife	2008	302	391	311	1,004
	2009	300	358	306	964
	Percent Change	-1	-8	-2	-4
Other Dangerous Weapon	2008	363	968	303	1,634
	2009	356	974	298	1,628
	Percent Change	-2	1	-2	*
Hands, Fists, Feet, etc.	2008	803	16,208	12,268	29,279
	2009	769	16,759	12,639	30,167
	Percent Change	-4	3	3	3
None	2008	-	-	38,561	38,561
	2009	-	-	40,807	40,807
	Percent Change	-	-	6	6
TOTAL	2008	1,497	17,579	51,537	70,613
	2009	1,461	18,103	54,145	73,709
	Percent Change	-2	3	5	4

* Less than one-half of one percent.

- Twenty-seven percent (19,564) of all domestic violence complaints resulted in injury. This is an increase of 3 percent when compared to the (19,076) that occurred in 2008.
- Of all the domestic violence offenses involving weapons (32,902), hands, fists, feet, etc. were used in 92 percent (30,167) of these offenses.
- Domestic violence offenses involving a gun increased 6 percent when compared to 2008.
- Serious injuries were reported in 1,461 offenses, a 3 percent decrease when compared to the 1,497 reported in 2008.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TYPE & SEX OF VICTIM 2009

Type of Offense		Relationship of Victim to Offender								Total Number of Offenses
		Spouse	Ex-spouse	Co-parent	Relative	Friend	Ex-friend	Civil Union Partner	Total	
Homicide	Male	1	-	1	2	5	-	-	9	39
	Female	10	1	4	2	9	4	-	30	
Assault	Male	1,721	166	1,059	1,938	2,619	470	9	7,982	31,225
	Female	5,404	475	4,962	2,832	7,703	1,851	16	23,243	
Terroristic Threats	Male	104	27	66	193	131	70	2	593	3,286
	Female	682	164	581	317	484	465	-	2,693	
Kidnapping	Male	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	4	49
	Female	3	3	9	3	15	12	-	45	
Criminal Restraint	Male	6	-	3	6	6	2	-	23	187
	Female	27	5	37	13	57	25	-	164	
False Imprisonment	Male	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	58
	Female	17	1	12	4	15	8	-	57	
Sexual Assault	Male	2	-	2	1	3	-	-	8	217
	Female	34	8	39	10	81	37	-	209	
Criminal Sexual Contact	Male	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	52
	Female	8	6	6	5	17	8	-	50	
Lewdness	Male	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	13
	Female	1	-	3	1	1	5	-	11	
Criminal Mischief	Male	227	48	203	280	395	219	3	1,375	4,956
	Female	631	114	770	627	975	460	4	3,581	
Burglary	Male	14	9	13	30	31	37	-	134	649
	Female	43	36	137	49	94	155	1	515	
Criminal Trespass	Male	18	13	14	17	16	21	-	99	448
	Female	51	50	54	58	51	85	-	349	
Harassment	Male	1,783	475	930	1,328	1,877	1,198	6	7,597	32,198
	Female	6,620	1,555	3,906	2,733	5,906	3,868	13	24,601	
Stalking	Male	4	4	1	2	8	13	-	32	332
	Female	55	32	38	6	55	114	-	300	
TOTAL	Male	3,882	742	2,295	3,799	5,092	2,031	20	17,861	73,709
	Female	13,586	2,450	10,558	6,660	15,463	7,097	34	55,848	
GRAND TOTAL		17,468	3,192	12,853	10,459	20,555	9,128	54	73,709	-

ANALYSIS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (Alcohol or Drugs Involved) † 2009

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	39	5	-	3	8	20.5
Assault	31,225	9,866	420	534	10,820	34.7
Terroristic Threats	3,286	523	61	34	618	18.8
Kidnapping	49	6	1	1	8	16.3
Criminal Restraint	187	39	4	5	48	25.7
False Imprisonment	58	7	1	2	10	17.2
Sexual Assault	217	59	6	9	74	34.1
Criminal Sexual Contact	52	11	1	3	15	28.9
Lewdness	13	4	-	-	4	30.8
Criminal Mischief	4,956	1,233	71	65	1,369	27.6
Burglary	649	83	17	16	116	17.9
Criminal Trespass	448	75	10	1	86	19.2
Harassment	32,198	5,903	363	255	6,521	20.3
Stalking	332	18	2	3	23	6.9
TOTAL	73,709	17,832	957	931	19,720	26.8

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

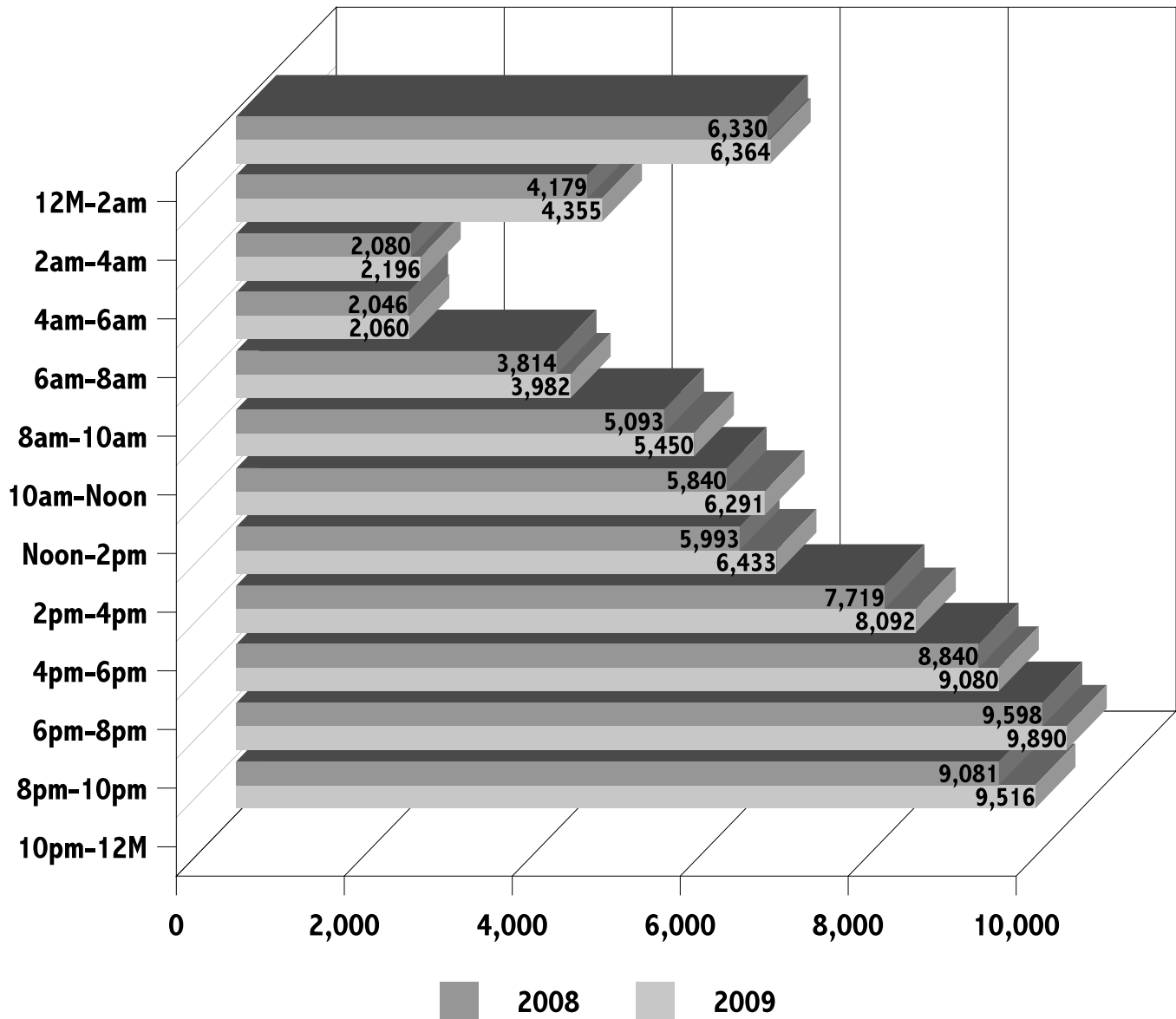
- Drugs or alcohol were involved in 21 percent (8) of domestic violence homicides.
- Twenty-seven percent (19,720) of the reported acts of domestic violence (73,709) involved the use of drugs or alcohol.

OFFENSES AGAINST ELDERLY VICTIMS (60 Years of age or over) 2009

Domestic Violence Offense	Total Number of Offenses	Relationship of Victim to Offender													
		Spouse		Ex-spouse		Co-parent		Relative		Friend		Ex-friend		Civil Union Partner	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Homicide	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assault	917	96	177	6	5	7	3	184	279	83	59	11	7	-	-
Terroristic Threats	149	11	24	-	4	2	2	31	53	9	8	3	2	-	-
Kidnapping	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Restraint	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
False Imprisonment	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sexual Assault	5	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Criminal Sexual Contact	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lewdness	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Mischief	239	11	8	4	2	5	3	66	109	14	8	8	-	1	-
Burglary	26	1	-	1	1	-	1	10	8	-	3	-	1	-	-
Criminal Trespass	27	-	2	-	1	-	-	3	17	1	2	1	-	-	-
Harassment	1,247	95	211	11	15	7	22	226	450	70	81	27	32	-	-
Stalking	5	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	2,625	214	429	22	29	21	32	521	920	178	165	51	42	1	0

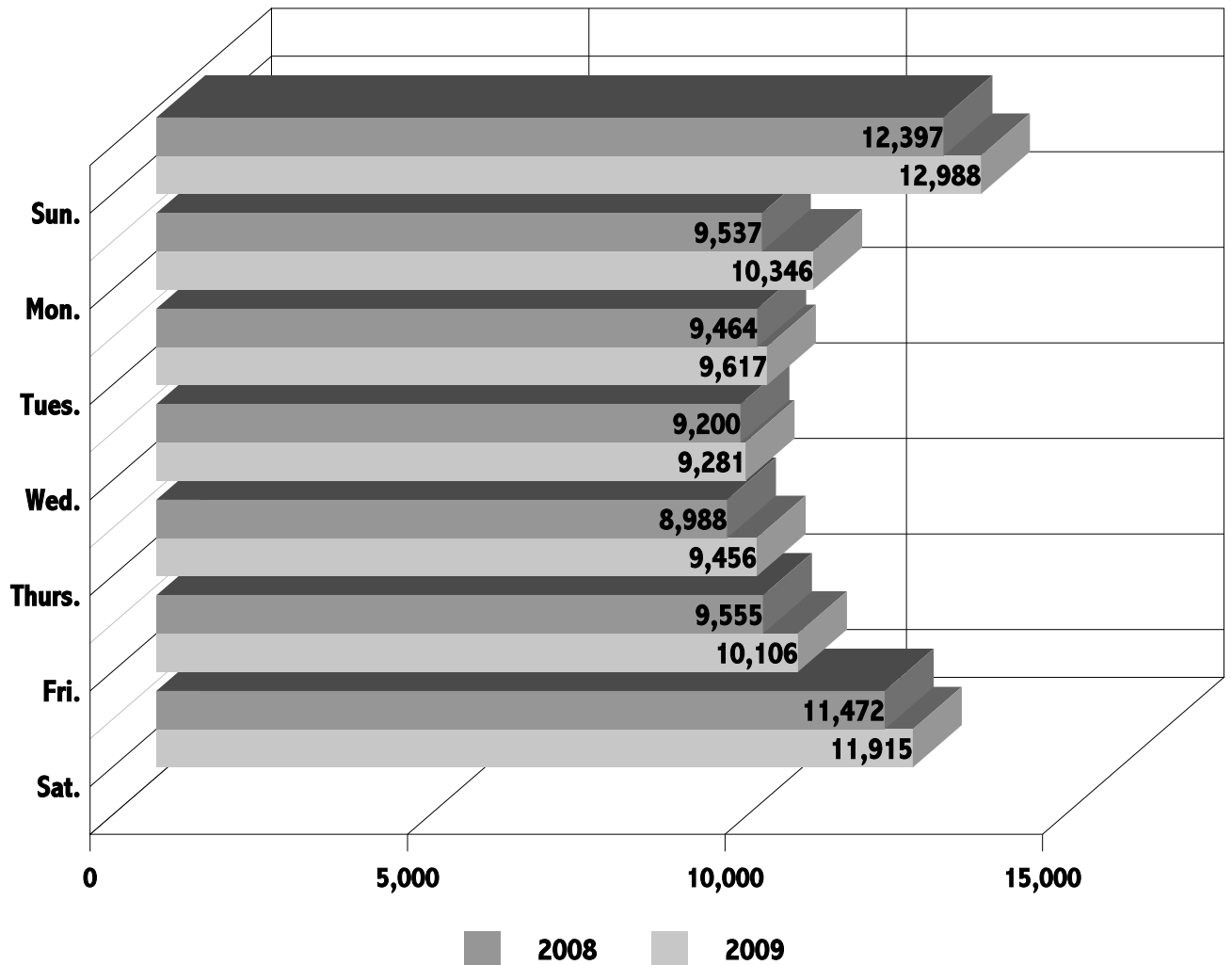
- Assaults accounted for 35 percent (917) of all domestic violence offenses for victims 60 years old or over.
- Females age 60 or over were the victims in 62 percent (1,617) of the 2,625 elderly abuse offenses.
- Persons age 60 or over were the victims in 4 percent (2,625) of all the reported domestic violence offenses during this period.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TIME OF DAY 2008/2009



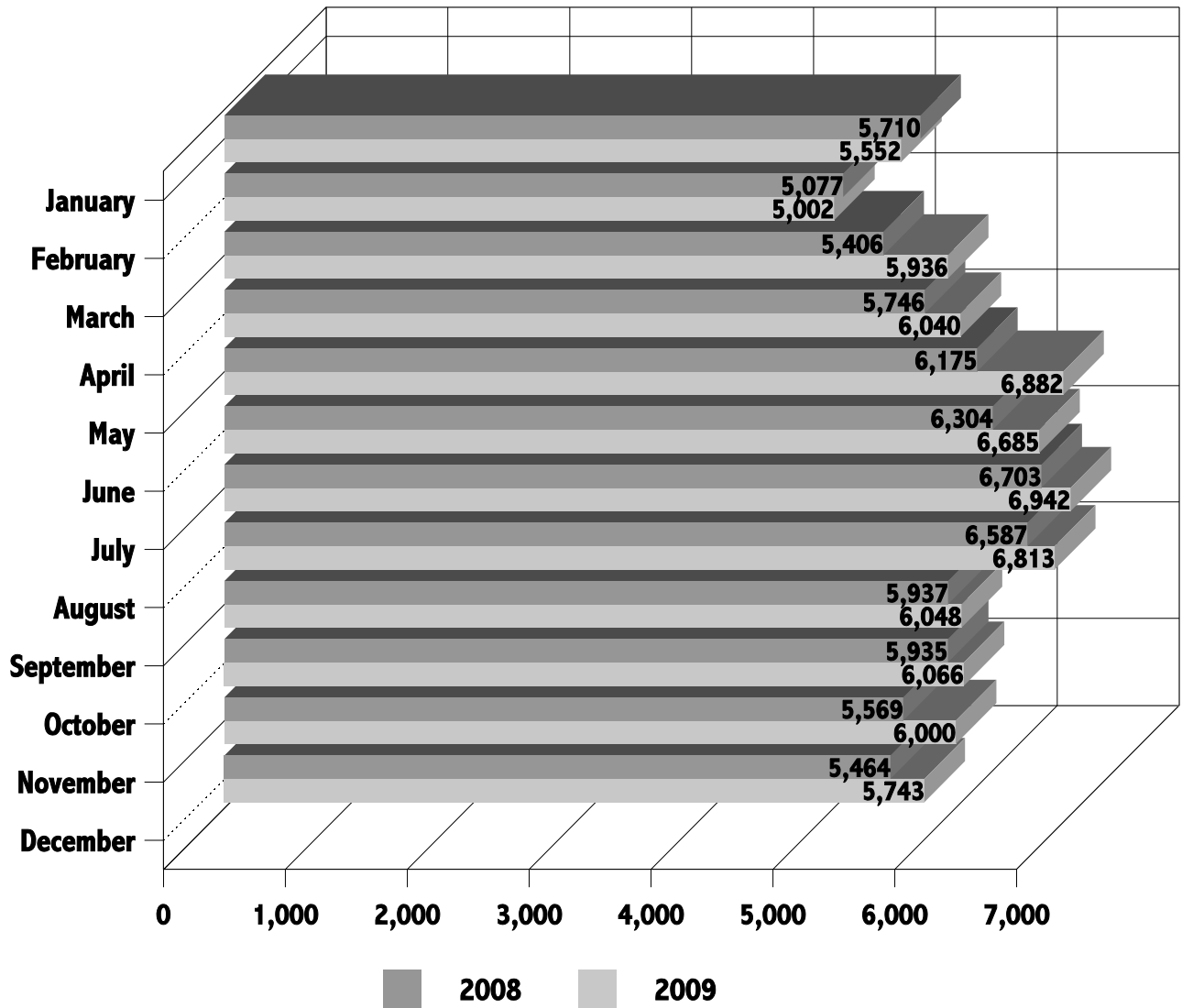
- During 2009, 26 percent (19,406) of the reported domestic violence offenses occurred between 8:00 p.m. and 12 midnight.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY DAY OF WEEK 2008/2009



- Sunday recorded the highest number of occurrences in 2009 with 12,988 offenses.
- During 2009, 34 percent (24,903) of the reported domestic violence offenses occurred during the weekend (Saturday and Sunday).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY MONTH OF YEAR 2008/2009



- In 2009, the highest number of domestic violence offenses occurred during the month of July.
- During 2009, the month with the lowest number of reported domestic violence offenses was February.

RESTRAINING ORDER ARRESTS BY COUNTY 2008/2009

	Domestic Violence Restraining Order Only			Domestic Violence Restraining Order with Offense Arrest			Total Arrests Involving Domestic Violence Restraining Orders		
	2008	2009	Percent Change	2008	2009	Percent Change	2008	2009	Percent Change
ATLANTIC	92	100	9	66	76	15	158	176	11
BERGEN	78	80	3	86	85	-1	164	165	1
BURLINGTON	105	143	36	65	70	8	170	213	25
CAMDEN	224	186	-17	164	189	15	388	375	-3
CAPE MAY	41	44	7	24	23	-4	65	67	3
CUMBERLAND	97	115	19	47	78	66	144	193	34
ESSEX	89	81	-9	74	62	-16	163	143	-12
GLOUCESTER	118	114	-3	93	84	-10	211	198	-6
HUDSON	71	61	-14	62	49	-21	133	110	-17
HUNTERDON	14	12	-14	12	17	42	26	29	12
MERCER	58	65	12	68	71	4	126	136	8
MIDDLESEX	88	124	41	52	59	13	140	183	31
MONMOUTH	124	133	7	77	100	30	201	233	16
MORRIS	75	96	28	41	53	29	116	149	28
OCEAN	176	175	-1	55	86	56	231	261	13
PASSAIC	117	127	9	51	40	-22	168	167	-1
SALEM	25	35	40	22	23	5	47	58	23
SOMERSET	82	72	-12	28	46	64	110	118	7
SUSSEX	29	35	21	14	24	71	43	59	37
UNION	63	64	2	65	56	-14	128	120	-6
WARREN	27	26	-4	7	14	100	34	40	18
STATE TOTALS	1,793	1,888	5	1,173	1,305	11	2,966	3,193	8