



# Section Eleven

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## **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 will be reported in next year's statistical publication. 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 1999 domestic violence statistics are listed below:

- There were 80,681 domestic violence offenses reported by the police in 1999, a 1% decrease compared to the 81,454 reported in 1998.
- Murders decreased 11% in 1999 (55) when compared to 1998 (62). Dating relationships accounted for 7 of the 55 domestic violence murders.
- Assaults accounted for 49% (39,474) and harassment accounted for 36% (29,266) of the reported offenses in 1999.
- Arrests were made in 33% (26,240) of the offenses reported for 1999, a decrease of 1% when compared to 1998 (26,472).
- The most frequent day of domestic violence occurrences was Sunday (14,475).
- For the seventeenth consecutive year, the most frequent hours of domestic violence incidents were between 8:00 p.m. and midnight, when 29% (23,375) of the offenses were reported.
- Children were involved or present during 35% of all domestic violence offenses occurring in 1999. Specifically, 5% (4,254) were involved and 30% (24,290) were present.
- Wives were the victims in 23% (18,153) and ex-wives were the victims in 3% (2,494) of the reported domestic violence offenses in 1999. Overall, females were victims in 78% (62,896) of all domestic violence offenses.
- The number of domestic violence complaints that had prior court orders issued against the offender decreased from 16,515 in 1998 to 16,194 in 1999. This is a decrease of 2%.
- Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in 32% (25,780) of the reported offenses occurring in 1999. Alcohol involvement alone accounted for 28% (22,817) of the total domestic violence offenses reported.
- Persons age 60 or over were victims in 3% (2,407) of all reported domestic violence offenses that occurred in 1999. Elderly were the victims in 13% (7) of the domestic violence murders (55).
- 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 minutes and twenty-six seconds.
- Domestic violence offenses arising from a dating relationship accounted for 13% (10,501) of the state total.

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS 1998/1999

Domestic Violence Offense		Number of Offenses	mNumber of Arrests	mPercent of Offenses Involving an Arrest
Homicide	1998	62	47	76
	<b>1999</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>69</b>
	Percent Change	-11	-19	-9
Assault	1998	40,727	19,453	48
	<b>1999</b>	<b>39,474</b>	<b>19,098</b>	<b>48</b>
	Percent Change	-3	-2	0
Terroristic Threats	1998	4,712	1,254	27
	<b>1999</b>	<b>4,851</b>	<b>1,348</b>	<b>28</b>
	Percent Change	3	7	4
Kidnapping	1998	41	18	44
	<b>1999</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>28</b>
	Percent Change	-39	&	-36
Criminal Restraint	1998	126	53	42
	<b>1999</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>44</b>
	Percent Change	5	9	5
False Imprisonment	1998	37	19	51
	<b>1999</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>48</b>
	Percent Change	14	5	-6
Sexual Assault	1998	198	69	35
	<b>1999</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>39</b>
	Percent Change	1	12	11
Criminal Sexual Contact	1998	59	15	25
	<b>1999</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>31</b>
	Percent Change	-12	7	24
Lewdness	1998	14	2	14
	<b>1999</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>27</b>
	Percent Change	-21	&	93
Criminal Mischief	1998	4,744	1,504	32
	<b>1999</b>	<b>4,712</b>	<b>1,508</b>	<b>32</b>
	Percent Change	-1	*	0
Burglary	1998	665	173	26
	<b>1999</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>27</b>
	Percent Change	3	8	4
Criminal Trespass	1998	772	379	49
	<b>1999</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>45</b>
	Percent Change	7	-3	-8
Harassment	1998	28,949	3,413	12
	<b>1999</b>	<b>29,266</b>	<b>3,426</b>	<b>12</b>
	Percent Change	1	*	0
Stalking	1998	348	73	21
	<b>1999</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>25</b>
	Percent Change	-1	18	19
TOTAL	1998	81,454	26,472	32
	<b>1999</b>	<b>80,681</b>	<b>26,240</b>	<b>33</b>
	Percent Change	-1	-1	3

m 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/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 1998/1999

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault	Criminal Sexual Contact
Atlantic	1998	9	2,147	210	3	12	-	5	3
	1999	3	1,984	234	-	2	2	8	2
Bergen	1998	6	2,559	380	4	10	6	11	5
	1999	5	2,462	380	2	7	6	10	7
Burlington	1998	2	1,943	110	-	5	2	10	5
	1999	6	1,931	95	-	5	-	9	2
Camden	1998	6	4,110	273	5	9	6	20	2
	1999	5	4,028	285	4	12	5	25	3
Cape May	1998	-	749	43	-	2	-	4	1
	1999	1	634	48	-	1	-	2	-
Cumberland	1998	-	1,557	122	2	4	-	9	3
	1999	-	1,520	81	3	11	1	8	2
Essex	1998	10	4,990	897	6	19	1	29	5
	1999	11	4,803	978	7	20	5	27	7
Gloucester	1998	-	1,440	93	4	4	3	7	3
	1999	1	1,402	108	-	10	1	5	1
Hudson	1998	5	3,669	579	6	11	3	17	9
	1999	3	3,431	518	4	12	3	10	4
Hunterdon	1998	-	186	20	-	-	-	-	-
	1999	-	181	16	-	-	1	-	-
Mercer	1998	3	1,801	55	3	-	4	8	1
	1999	1	1,613	47	-	5	4	8	1

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 1998/1999

Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass	Harassment	Stalking	County Total	Percent Change	Arrests
-	231	31	38	2,481	25	5,195	-2	1,257
1	227	27	27	2,572	17	5,106		
1	214	26	122	2,263	38	5,645	3	1,606
-	206	35	109	2,523	35	5,787		
1	217	13	60	1,518	6	3,892	-1	2,070
-	214	26	42	1,499	6	3,835		
1	508	92	59	2,772	15	7,878	-1	2,984
1	550	114	69	2,687	38	7,826		
-	64	7	27	783	9	1,689	-9	521
-	78	4	27	739	4	1,538		
-	215	35	21	767	8	2,743	-8	995
-	217	30	17	620	7	2,517		
3	417	104	57	901	47	7,486	-1	2,534
-	395	112	53	919	52	7,389		
1	171	9	35	1,063	9	2,842	*	954
-	192	13	40	1,060	4	2,837		
1	332	77	26	1,772	47	6,554	-7	1,637
2	278	64	22	1,683	42	6,076		
1	19	3	11	229	1	470	2	118
-	18	-	10	252	2	480		
1	313	43	31	1,149	12	3,424	-7	1,007
1	295	33	45	1,103	16	3,172		

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 1998/1999

County	Year	Homicide	Assault	Terroristic Threats	Kidnapping	Criminal Restraint	False Imprisonment	Sexual Assault	Criminal Sexual Contact
Middlesex	1998	5	2,671	388	3	13	5	13	4
	1999	2	2,551	436	-	11	2	14	1
Monmouth	1998	2	2,704	293	-	5	1	12	6
	1999	5	2,587	286	1	8	1	12	-
Morris	1998	1	1,029	152	-	5	1	6	1
	1999	2	1,001	148	-	7	-	1	2
Ocean	1998	3	2,295	415	1	8	1	15	5
	1999	1	2,114	406	-	2	4	7	1
Passaic	1998	2	2,239	357	3	4	1	15	2
	1999	4	2,473	456	3	9	3	20	8
Salem	1998	1	467	23	-	1	-	-	1
	1999	-	472	24	-	-	1	-	-
Somerset	1998	3	934	47	-	4	-	6	1
	1999	1	912	37	1	1	2	9	2
Sussex	1998	1	356	37	-	1	-	2	-
	1999	-	378	51	-	3	-	4	1
Union	1998	2	2,625	186	1	5	3	9	2
	1999	3	2,635	183	-	4	1	20	5
Warren	1998	1	256	32	-	4	-	-	-
	1999	1	362	34	-	2	-	1	3
TOTAL	1998	62	40,727	4,712	41	126	37	198	59
	1999	55	39,474	4,851	25	132	42	200	52

\* Less than one-half of one percent.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS BY COUNTY 1998/1999

Lewdness	Criminal Mischief	Burglary	Criminal Trespass	Harassment	Stalking	County Total	Percent Change	Arrests
1	361	44	52	1,769	20	5,349	-1	1,663
1	369	42	51	1,805	12	5,297	-3	2,004
1	391	42	49	2,535	26	6,067	-2	786
2	386	40	61	2,469	18	5,876	1	1,243
-	164	16	22	1,067	15	2,479	15	1,525
-	159	16	49	1,026	13	2,424	2	366
-	276	43	44	2,217	24	5,347	-5	665
1	304	46	87	2,390	24	5,387	2	314
1	165	25	37	940	27	3,818	*	1,710
-	210	41	25	1,096	30	4,378	43	281
-	64	-	14	344	2	917	-1	26,240
-	62	7	13	352	3	934		
-	170	13	26	1,529	6	2,739		
1	130	9	22	1,469	7	2,603		
-	51	2	5	581	4	1,040		
-	69	1	9	544	5	1,065		
1	361	39	33	1,959	5	5,231		
-	299	27	40	2,004	7	5,228		
-	40	1	3	310	2	649		
1	54	1	10	454	3	926		
14	4,744	665	772	28,949	348	81,454	-1	26,240
11	4,712	688	828	29,266	345	80,681		

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES/ARRESTS 1995 Through 1999

Domestic Violence Offense	1995		1996		1997		1998		1999	
	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests	Offenses	Arrests
Homicide	61	48	43	25	50	38	62	47	55	38
Assault	45,509	21,952	43,017	20,947	41,738	20,461	40,727	19,453	39,474	19,098
Terroristic Threats	5,348	1,438	5,057	1,294	4,922	1,306	4,712	1,254	4,851	1,348
Kidnapping	25	7	22	6	37	13	41	18	25	7
Criminal Restraint	110	42	121	45	121	42	126	53	132	58
False Imprisonment	33	13	27	15	31	18	37	19	42	20
Sexual Assault	195	78	176	73	185	62	198	69	200	77
Criminal Sexual Contact	46	22	67	30	56	20	59	15	52	16
Lewdness	19	8	10	4	20	4	14	2	11	3
Criminal Mischief	4,397	1,417	4,522	1,461	4,631	1,550	4,744	1,504	4,712	1,508
Burglary	627	182	647	177	651	184	665	173	688	186
Criminal Trespass	839	359	765	330	786	368	772	379	828	369
Harassment	29,139	3,426	30,191	3,555	29,054	3,553	28,949	3,413	29,266	3,426
Stalking R	283	69	353	77	345	67	348	73	345	86
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>86,348</b>	<b>28,992</b>	<b>85,018</b>	<b>28,039</b>	<b>82,627</b>	<b>27,686</b>	<b>81,454</b>	<b>26,472</b>	<b>80,681</b>	<b>26,240</b>

R Stalking was first reported in 1995.

- Arrests for domestic violence offenses decreased 1%, and reflected the fifth highest number of arrests since the inception of the Domestic Violence Program.
- The violent crimes of homicide (55), aggravated assault (2,801), and sexual assault (200 ) accounted for 4% of reported domestic violence offenses (80,681).

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TYPE OF WEAPON AND EXTENT OF INJURY 1998/1999

Type of Weapon		Extent of Injury			TOTAL
		Aggravated Serious	Non-Aggravated Minor	None	
Gun	1998	141	71	138	350
	<b>1999</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>276</b>
	Percent Change	-7	-41	-25	-21
Knife	1998	780	689	277	1,746
	<b>1999</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>1,710</b>
	Percent Change	-3	-2	2	-2
Other Dangerous Weapon	1998	729	1,319	249	2,297
	<b>1999</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>1,346</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>2,283</b>
	Percent Change	*	2	-17	-1
Hands, Fists, Feet, etc.	1998	1,309	28,006	7,363	36,678
	<b>1999</b>	<b>1,184</b>	<b>26,603</b>	<b>7,822</b>	<b>35,609</b>
	Percent Change	-10	-5	6	-3
None	1998	-	-	40,383	40,383
	<b>1999</b>	-	-	<b>40,803</b>	<b>40,803</b>
	Percent Change	-	-	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	1998	2,959	30,085	48,410	81,454
	<b>1999</b>	<b>2,801</b>	<b>28,663</b>	<b>49,217</b>	<b>80,681</b>
	Percent Change	-5	-5	2	-1

\* Less than one-half of one percent.

- Thirty-nine percent (31,464) of all domestic violence complaints resulted in injury. This is a 5% decrease when compared to the 33,044 that occurred in 1998.
- Of all the domestic violence offenses involving weapons (39,878), hands, fists, feet, etc. were used in 89% (35,609) of these offenses.
- Domestic violence offenses involving a gun decreased 21% when compared to 1998.
- Serious injuries were reported in 2,801 offenses, a 5% decrease when compared to the 2,959 reported in 1998.

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TYPE & SEX OF VICTIM 1999

Type of Offense		Relationship of Victim to Offender							Total Number of Offenses
		Spouse	Ex-spouse	Co-parent	Relative	Friend	Ex-friend	Total	
Homicide	Male	1	1	-	3	5	-	10	55
	Female	13	-	4	5	20	3	45	
Assault	Male	2,352	189	1,104	1,832	2,814	626	8,917	39,474
	Female	8,423	613	5,905	3,034	9,743	2,839	30,557	
Terroristic Threats	Male	139	43	73	188	136	135	714	4,851
	Female	1,217	286	728	392	695	819	4,137	
Kidnapping	Male	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	25
	Female	5	2	2	-	7	8	24	
Criminal Restraint	Male	-	-	1	3	3	1	8	132
	Female	39	7	20	6	34	18	124	
False Imprisonment	Male	1	-	-	1	3	1	6	42
	Female	9	1	2	3	15	6	36	
Sexual Assault	Male	2	-	-	1	2	3	8	200
	Female	46	2	22	15	79	28	192	
Criminal Sexual Contact	Male	1	-	1	-	2	1	5	52
	Female	12	3	6	7	12	7	47	
Lewdness	Male	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	11
	Female	1	1	2	1	2	2	9	
Criminal Mischief	Male	249	43	187	234	362	258	1,333	4,712
	Female	831	82	583	509	862	512	3,379	
Burglary	Male	17	4	15	20	20	57	133	688
	Female	72	40	104	75	86	178	555	
Criminal Trespass	Male	22	17	16	46	32	45	178	828
	Female	149	48	108	107	98	140	650	
Harassment	Male	1,824	414	728	997	1,387	1,095	6,445	29,266
	Female	7,286	1,371	3,249	2,234	4,914	3,767	22,821	
Stalking	Male	3	1	4	1	4	12	25	345
	Female	50	38	29	7	45	151	320	
TOTAL	Male	4,611	713	2,129	3,327	4,771	2,234	17,785	-
	Female	18,153	2,494	10,764	6,395	16,612	8,478	62,896	
GRAND TOTAL		22,764	3,207	12,893	9,722	21,383	10,712	-	80,681

# ANALYSIS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (Alcohol or Drugs Involved)\* 1999

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	55	11	2	4	17	31
Assault	39,474	13,292	712	865	14,869	38
Terroristic Threats	4,851	958	144	112	1,214	25
Kidnapping	25	3	1	1	5	20
Criminal Restraint	132	34	1	5	40	30
False Imprisonment	42	14	1	-	15	36
Sexual Assault	200	68	2	6	76	38
Criminal Sexual Contact	52	15	1	1	17	33
Lewdness	11	2	-	1	3	27
Criminal Mischief	4,712	1,435	86	100	1,621	34
Burglary	688	82	51	9	142	21
Criminal Trespass	828	187	13	22	222	27
Harassment	29,266	6,678	427	391	7,496	26
Stalking	345	38	3	2	43	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>80,681</b>	<b>22,817</b>	<b>1,444</b>	<b>1,519</b>	<b>25,780</b>	<b>32</b>

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

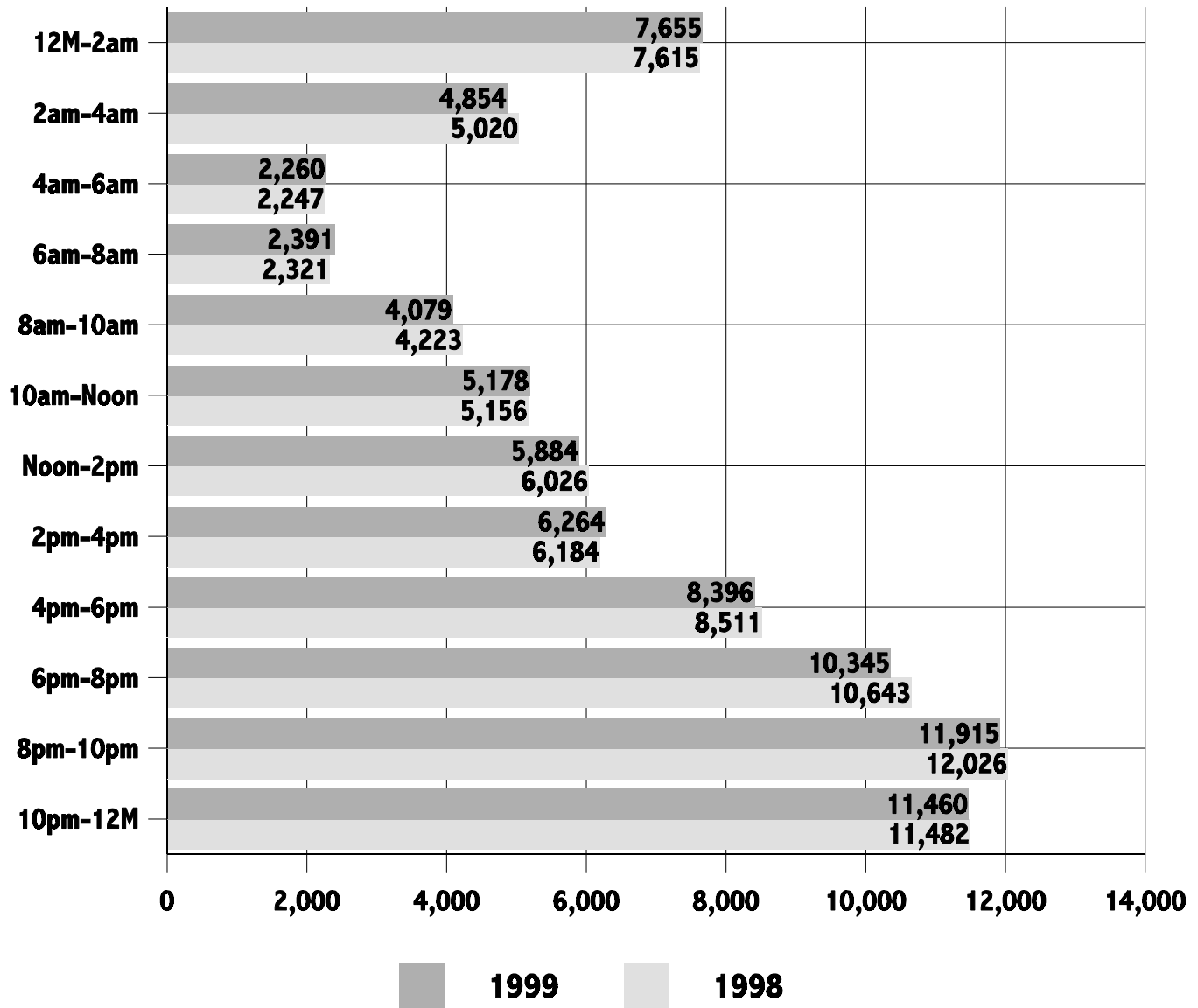
- Drugs or alcohol were involved in 31% (17) of domestic violence homicides.
- Thirty-two percent (25,780) of the reported acts of domestic violence (80,681) involved the use of drugs or alcohol.

# OFFENSES AGAINST ELDERLY VICTIMS (60 Years of age or over) 1999

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	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-
Assault	882	86	181	1	3	5	7	188	261	78	58	8	6
Terroristic Threats	152	7	30	2	2	-	3	33	56	3	10	3	3
Kidnapping	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Restraint	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
False Imprisonment	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
Sexual Assault	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Sexual Contact	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Lewdness	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Criminal Mischief	193	7	16	1	2	-	1	49	85	11	4	12	5
Burglary	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	13	-	-	2	2
Criminal Trespass	67	2	-	-	1	-	1	18	33	3	3	2	4
Harassment	1,067	77	154	6	19	11	10	229	438	39	46	17	21
Stalking	8	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,407</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>43</b>

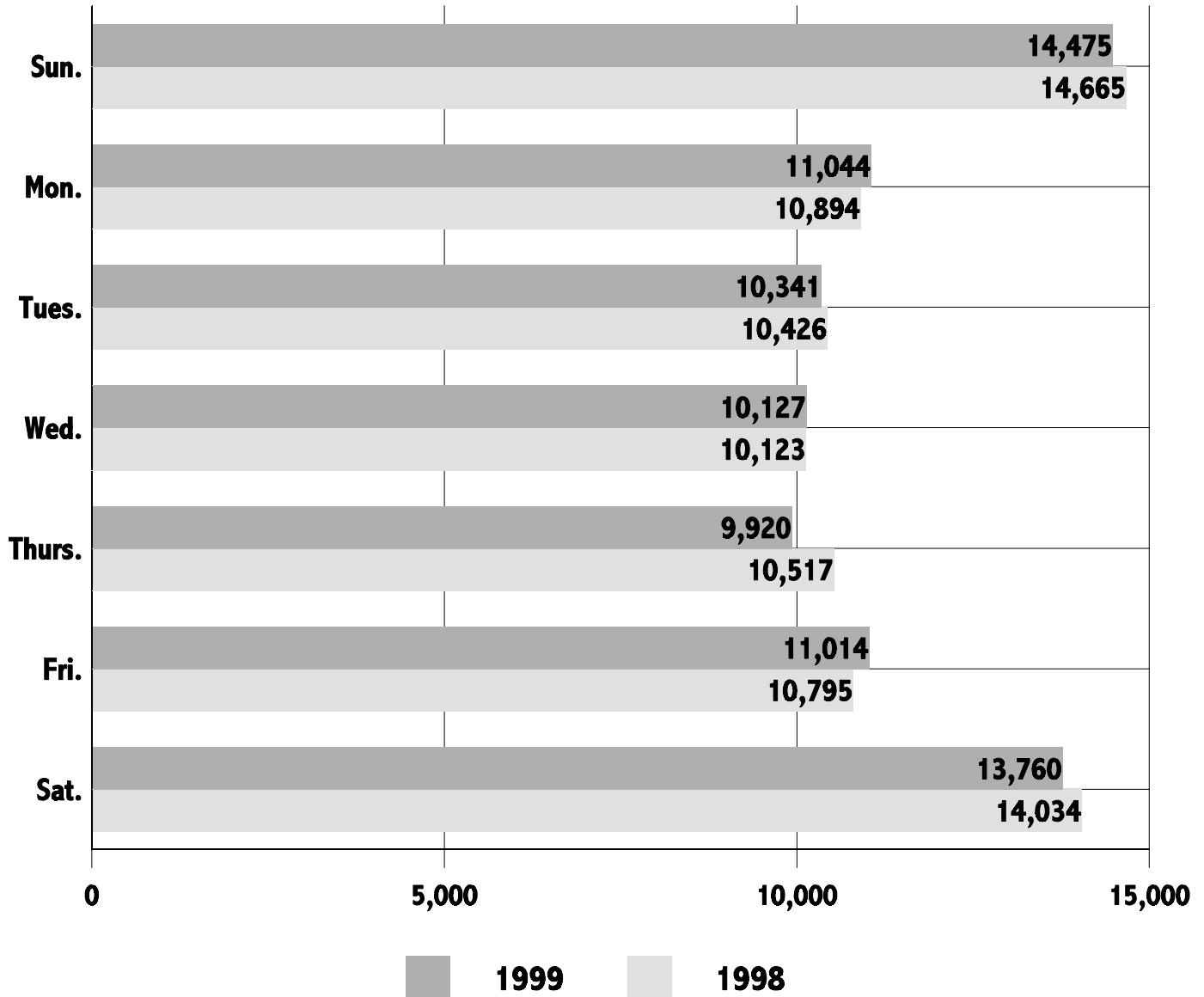
- Assaults accounted for 37% (882) of all domestic violence offenses for victims 60 years old or over.
- Females age 60 or over were the victims in 62% (1,497) of the 2,407 elderly abuse offenses.
- Persons age 60 or over were the victims in 3% (2,407) of all the reported domestic violence offenses during this period.

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY TIME OF DAY 1998 /1999



- During 1999, 29% (23,375) of the reported domestic violence offenses occurred between 8:00 p.m. and 12 midnight.

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES BY DAY OF WEEK 1998 /1999



- Sunday recorded the highest number of occurrences in 1999 with 14,475 offenses.
- During 1999, 35% (28,235) of the reported domestic violence offenses occurred during the weekend (Saturday and Sunday).

