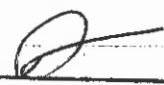




FORWARDED TO
POLICE SERVICES BOARD

DATE JUNE 3, 2022


CHIEF OF POLICE

10-06-22

REPORT
Police Services Board

For Information

File Class: 1-01-02-01

Cross-Reference File Class: _____

PSB REC: JUNE 08, 2022
LOG #30-22
FILE CASS: P01

DATE: March 15, 2022

SUBJECT: **2021 ANNUAL HATE-MOTIVATED CRIME REPORT**

FROM: Marc Andrews, Deputy Chief, Community Policing Operations Command

RECOMMENDATION

That the Police Service's Board receive the 2021 Annual Hate-Motivated Crime Report in accordance with the annual reporting requirements.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The total number of Criminal Code offences reported to Peel Regional Police in 2021 was 35,800. Of those, 115 have been identified as hate-motivated crimes and 32 (28%) resulted in charges.
- In 2021, the number of police reported hate crimes increased by 24%, or 22 incidents compared to the previous year. This is significantly lower than the National average of 37% in 2020 (2021 statistics unavailable) - Juristat Article; Police reported hate crime in Canada, 2020.
- In 2021, officers from Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Bureau continued to promote awareness and educate the community via virtual seminars on hate-motivated crimes and incidents.

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DISCUSSION

1. Background

The Peel Regional Police (PRP) Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Bureau (DEI) is tasked with educating employees and members of the community about hate-motivated crimes, incidents, and propaganda. Ongoing efforts to commence and maintain open and direct dialogue with all members of our diverse community include various initiatives developed and operationalized in recent years, some of which are discussed in this report.

DEI's primary responsibilities are to monitor and analyze data on hate-motivated incidents & crimes and to identify and address related trends within the Region of Peel.

Directive 1-B-130(F) "Hate-Motivated Crime" provides guidelines to PRP employees on how to accurately identify, record and investigate hate crimes.

A hate-motivated crime is defined as:

- (a) *"hate-motivated crime" – means a criminal offence committed against a person or property, which is motivated solely or in part, by the offender's hate, bias or prejudice based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or similar factor.*

A hate-motivated incident is defined as:

- (b) *"hate-motivated incident" – means incidents which involve behaviours that, though motivated by hate or bias against a victim's race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability or sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or similar factor, are not criminal acts. (For example, disrespectful/discriminatory or hostile speech).*

There are two types of hate-motivated crimes, as described in sections 318 and 319 of the Criminal Code.

- The first includes the offences of advocating genocide, public incitement of hatred, and willful promotion of hatred against an identifiable group; these are characterized as hate propaganda offences under the Criminal Code. The Attorney General's consent is required to initiate a prosecution for the offence of willful promotion of hatred and the offence of advocating genocide.
- The second refers to all other criminal offences where evidence establishes that bias, prejudice, or hate was a motivating factor in the commission of the offence.

Upon conviction of a crime where hate, bias, or prejudice is established as a motivating factor, the Crown is entitled to argue that such factor(s) are aggravating element(s) in consideration of penalty.

The investigation of all hate-motivated incidents and crimes in the Region of Peel is the responsibility of the respective divisional Criminal Investigation Bureau or other investigative units (i.e., Homicide, Robbery, etc.). To ensure communication flow and effective support, each of the

five PRP divisions has a hate-motivated crime coordinator to act as a resource for their division in such investigations. DEI meets with the Divisional Coordinators quarterly to discuss investigations and ensure proper reporting practices.

All reports that are submitted by front line officers and investigators are forwarded to the DEI Regional Hate-Motivated Crime Coordinator for review and to ensure that support and specialized knowledge are provided to the investigating unit. The Regional Coordinator is also responsible for liaising with the local Assistant Crown Attorneys assigned to the hate-motivated crime portfolio.

Divisional investigators are also supported by PRP Intelligence Services who provide context based on information shared amongst police services and governmental agencies on hate-motivated crime and extremism.

2. Findings

The information contained in this report is based on reported occurrences with an acknowledgement that some incidents are not reported to police. There are a number of factors that operate on their own or in combination to shape the decision not to report. These include confusion/lack of knowledge about what hate motivated crime is, fear of escalation and/or retaliation, embarrassment, a lack of trust in police (a sentiment that may also be present in some newcomer communities, wherein negative experiences with police in the country of origin shape perceptions of police in this country), a belief that if identified and charged, the accused person(s) would not be convicted or adequately punished, dealing with the incident in another way, and concerns that a given incident may not be serious enough to report.

Given these considerations and in order to reduce victim reluctance to report, DEI undertakes proactive outreach programs on behalf of the organization to build relationships and trust in our diverse community, to educate community members about what constitutes a hate-motivated crime, and to spread awareness of the initiatives our service has implemented to support victims while also working to prevent and control hate/bias motivated crime and incidents.

3. Direction

Promoting the timely reporting of hate-motivated incidents to police remains a priority. To that end, DEI has created additional resources for PRP members and the community, including:

- Hate-Motivated Crime Information Fact Cards available on the PRP website, at police divisions, community stations, and from officers. The fact cards outline the various elements of hate-motivated crimes and incidents, along with instructions on how to report such matters to the police.
- A Hate-Motivated Crimes Guidebook that serves as a resource tool for officers and provides investigative tips and guidelines when dealing with such matters.
- A Religious and Cultural Awareness Guidebook that provides guidance and information related to specific nuances associated with the most prominent cultural and religious communities within our region. This guidebook also identifies important information related to significant days, dates and times, as well as other topics such as gender-specific considerations; search/detention/arrest considerations; and death and funeral-related

matters. This resource helps to ensure that members further their understanding and awareness related to differing beliefs and that interactions with our diverse community members are culturally appropriate and effective.

- A Hate-Motivated Crimes Educational Video was made publicly available via YouTube. This video provides information related to hate-motivated crimes while encouraging victims of such incidents to report their matters to police promptly (hyperlink reference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZEEifrN5nl>)

Initiative – Reassurance Protocol

Hate-motivated crimes and incidents impact our community members in several negative ways. The residual impact of such crimes and incidents often results in feelings of fear, marginalization, and alienation. To ensure that victims of hate-motivated crimes and incidents receive the necessary support and reassurance from PRP, and to help mitigate and minimize the above-noted concerns, PRP's 'Reassurance Protocol' is activated by DEI for all known hate crimes and hate incidents.

In response to any hate-motivated crime or incident the Regional Hate-Motivated Crime Coordinator or designate ensures that they follow up with the victim/complainant in a timely manner. Given that public/personal safety is a crucial aspect of our service delivery, appropriate follow-ups and the provision of supports are imperative. During the follow-up process, Victim Services and any other relevant social support services are offered to affected community members.

This protocol has been well received by the members of the community impacted by hate-motivated crimes and incidents. The empathetic and supportive nature of this practice has resulted in victims feeling an additional layer of safety and support.

Education

Through education, awareness and connecting with our community, a slight increase in the number of reported incidents of hate-motivated crime has been observed. With further education and new initiatives planned with community partners, it is anticipated that the number of reported incidents in 2022 will increase and be more reflective of the number of hate-motivated incidents occurring in our community that are currently unreported.

Safe Place Program

This program enables local businesses or public locations to volunteer display the Peel Regional Police Safe Place sticker on their front entrance, window, or door. By doing so, it signals to members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community that the premise(s) will provide a safe place to call from and wait for police if they are victimized in a hate incident, or are fearful that such victimization may occur. Businesses that register and subscribe to the program commit to educating their staff members on a host of issues related to equity, inclusion, empathy, and understanding.

DEI, in collaboration with The Mississauga and Brampton Boards of Trade, has registered 47 businesses with over 203 associated locations and affixed a total of 395 Safe Place stickers at

doorways. All City of Brampton properties, including Fire & Emergency Services, now display the sticker.

In 2022, DEI will continue discussions with community partners to expand the Safe Place Program.

OPC Advanced Hate Crime Course

PRP assisted with the development of the 'Advanced Hate-Motivated Crime and Extremism Investigators Course' that has been endorsed by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (MCSCS) and is offered bi-annually (in May and October) at the Ontario Police College (OPC).

4. Strategic Plan Alignment

Goal: 1. Community Safety and Well-being Together

Priority: 1.1 Crime prevention and response

Officers from DEI will continue to educate and create awareness of hate-motivated crimes and incidents to the community, providing reassurance to victims of hate. The DEI Bureau monitors world events and maintains a lens on the impact that these events have on our local communities. DEI will continue to create collaborative opportunities focussed on mitigating the risk and harm associated with hate motivated crimes and incidents.

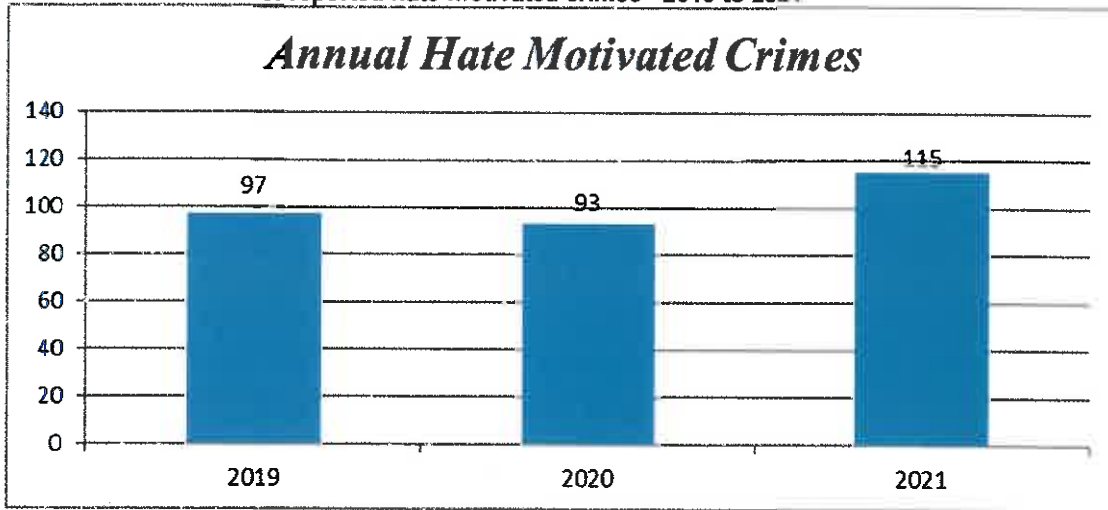
5. 2021 Statistics

Annual Hate-Motivated Crimes

In 2021, Peel Regional Police recorded 35,800 Criminal Code offences, of which 115 (0.3%) have been designated as hate/bias-motivated crimes. Of those, 32 resulted in Criminal Code charges.

As noted in Chart 1, the number of reported hate-motivated crime offences in our Region increased from 97 in 2019 to 115 in 2021. The increase was due to numerous anti-South Asian and anti-Semitic graffiti incidents, believed to be the responsibility of one suspect committed over a span of 9 months. The suspect was identified, arrested and charged with 11 counts of mischief. Peel Regional Police will continue to take a pro-active and collaborative community approach in an effort to educate and support our community, while working diligently to investigate, denounce and deter such crimes.

Chart 1: Total number of reported hate-motivated crimes - 2019 to 2021



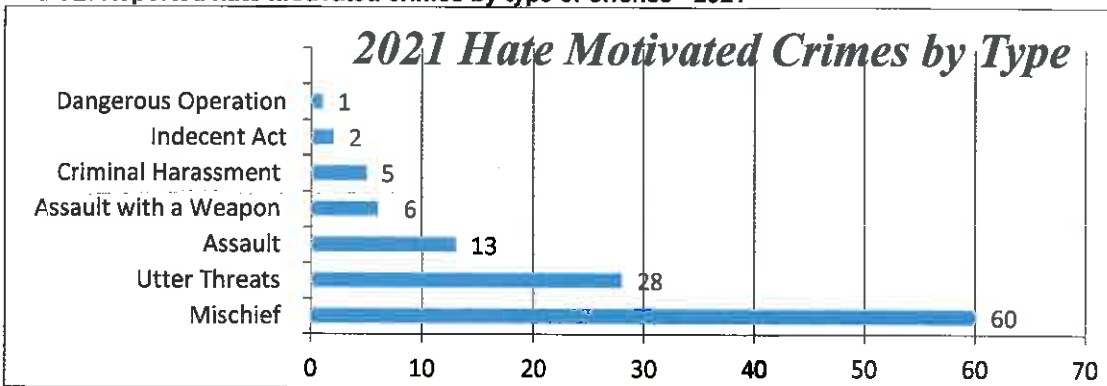
Hate-Motivated Crimes by Type

Based on the reported characteristics of hate crime, violent crimes increased by 2% in 2021 compared to 2020. This increase is significantly lower than the reported national statistics in 2020, which reported a 32% increase (2021 statistics are currently unavailable).

The hate-motivated crimes reported in 2021 involved a range of offence types as illustrated in Chart 2.

Mischief occurrences comprised 84% of the police reported non-violent hate crimes. Mischief remains the highest reported incident type between 2019 and 2021, increasing from 42 to 60 offences. The majority of this volume can be attributed to a series of Mischief offences committed by an individual during a 9-month period in 2021.

Chart 2: Reported hate-motivated crimes by type of offence - 2021

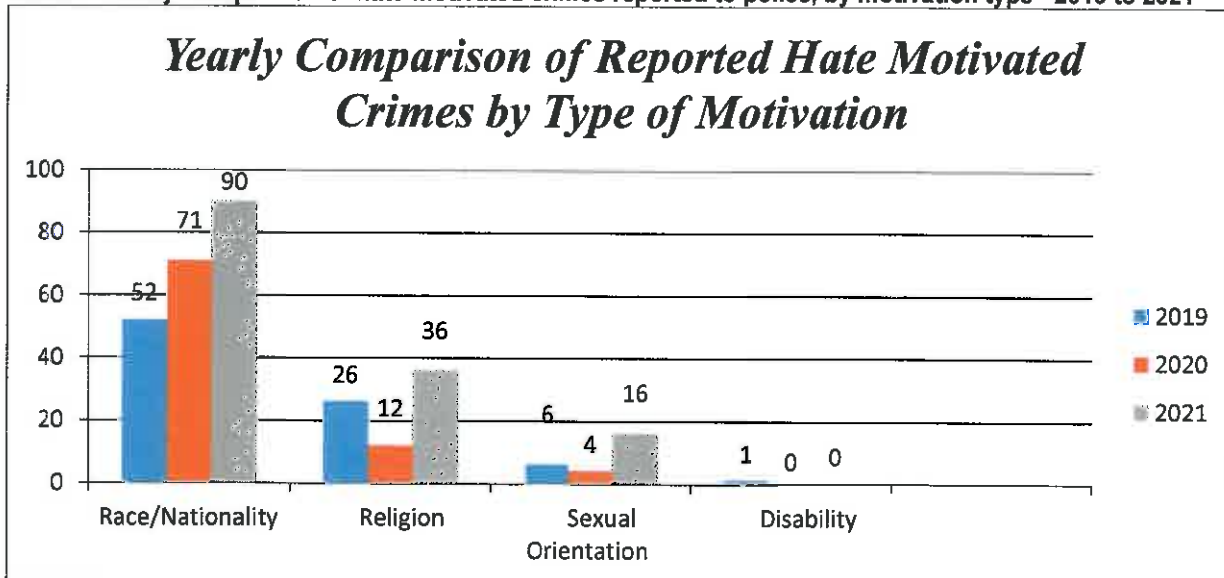


Targeted Groups- Motivation

Chart 3 represents the number of hate crimes reported to PRP from 2019-2021 motivated by race/nationality which increased from 52 in 2019 to 90 in 2021. Those motivated by religion

increased by 38.5% (from 26 in 2019 to 36 in 2021), while those motivated by sexual orientation increased from 6 to 16 (167%) incidents from 2019 to 2021.

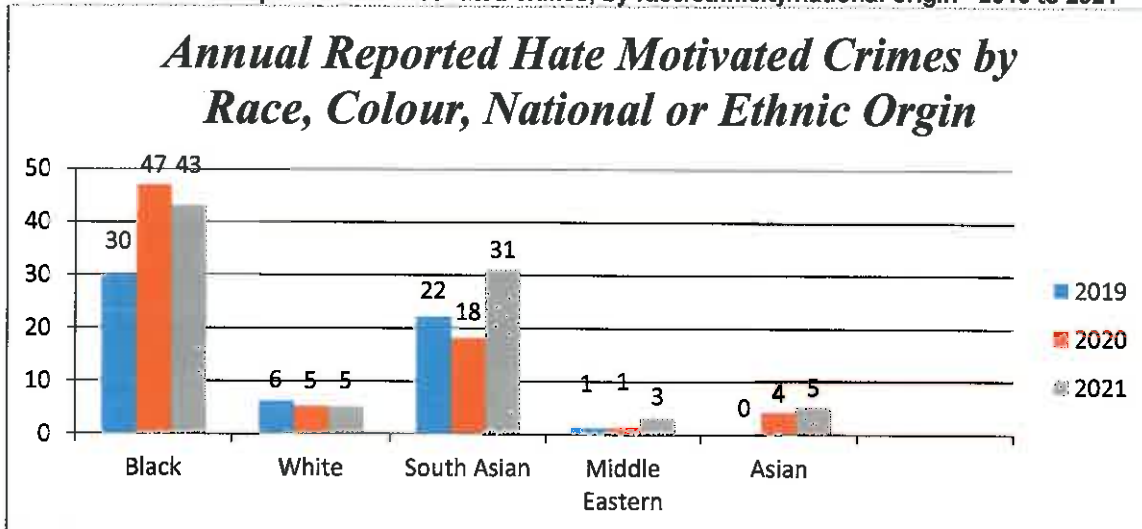
Chart 3: Yearly Comparison of hate-motivated crimes reported to police, by motivation type - 2019 to 2021



Type of Race, National or Ethnic Origin as Motivation for Hate Crimes

A statistical review of hate crime victimization based on ethnic and/or racial background is provided in Chart 4. Members of the Region’s Black communities continue to experience the highest reported victimization numbers while South Asian community members experienced the second highest victimization numbers. The increase in hate crime in the South Asian community can be partly attributed to the Farmer Protests in our Region.

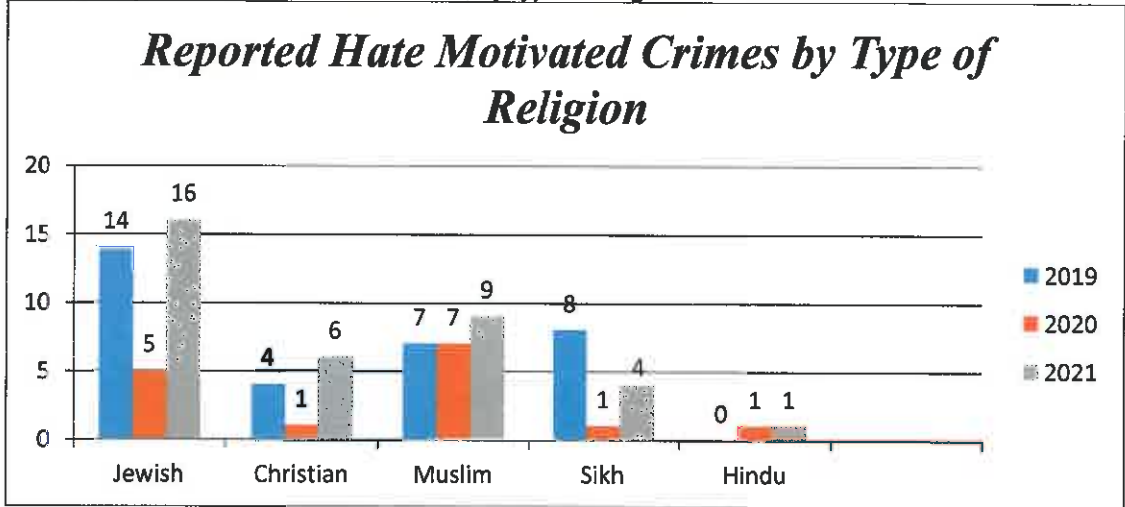
Chart 4: Number of reported hate-motivated crimes, by race/ethnicity/national origin - 2019 to 2021



Type of Religion as Motivation for Hate Crimes

Chart 5 demonstrates that 13 of the 115 (11.3%) hate-motivated crimes reported in 2021, targeted religious groups as either the sole motivator or in combination with another motivator. Jewish (16) and Muslim (9) community members reported the highest victimization numbers. The increase in hate crimes in the Jewish community can be partially attributed to one individual who committed a series of Mischiefs during a period of 9 months in 2021.

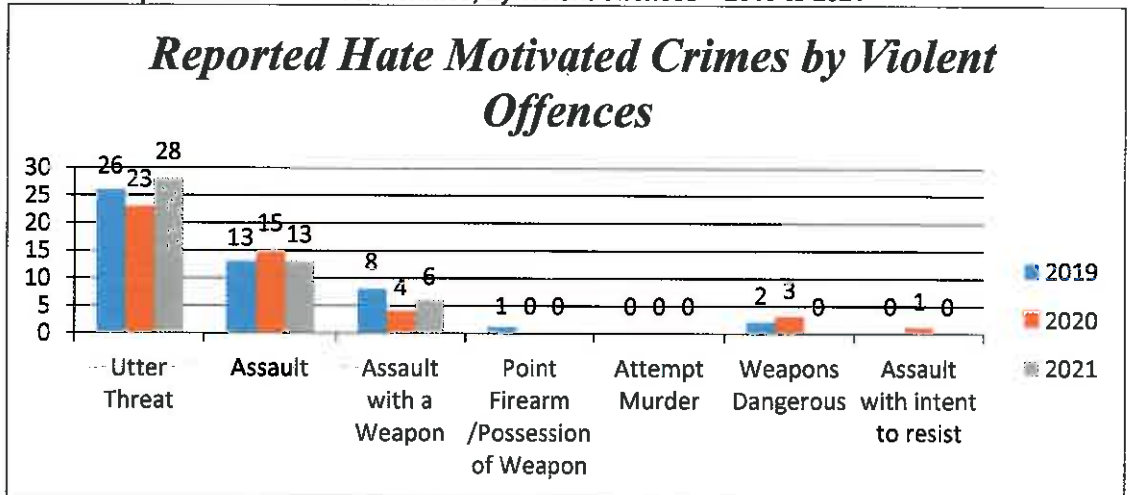
Chart 5: Reported hate-motivated crimes, by type of religion – 2019 to 2021



Violent Hate-Motivated Crimes

As shown in Chart 6, 47 of the 115 hate-motivated crimes involved acts of violence, or threats of violence; with 28 uttering threats (60%) being the most common, 13 assault (28%), and 6 assault with a weapon (13%). Of all violent occurrences as categorized below, three incidents resulted in minor injuries.

Chart 6: Reported hate-motivated crimes, by violent offences – 2019 to 2021

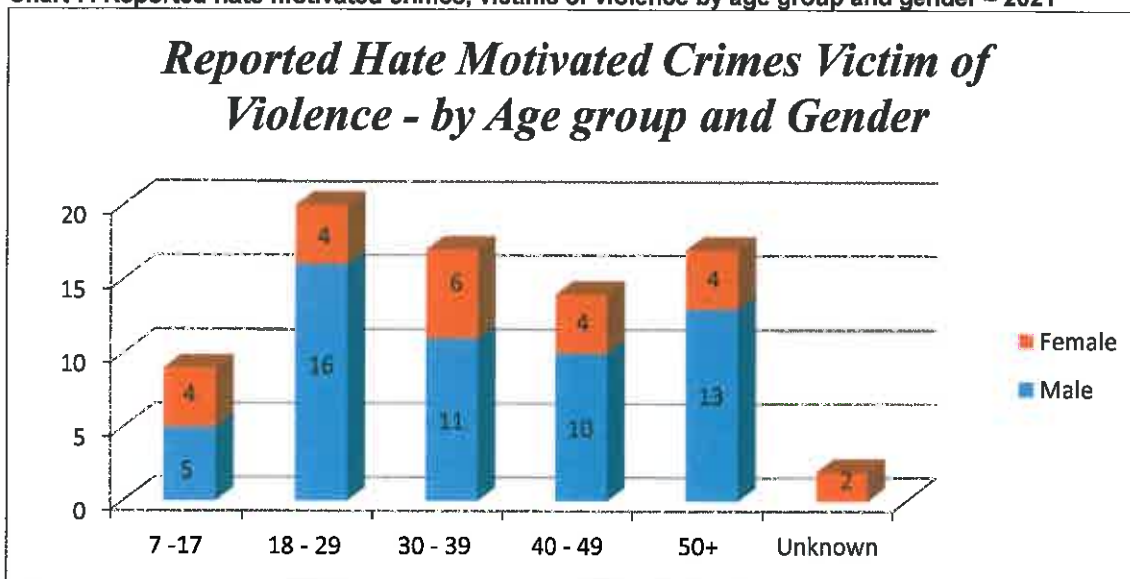


Gender and Age of Victims

As shown in Chart 7, 79 persons were victims of reported hate-motivated crimes in 2021;
 > 55 were male (70%), 22 were female (28%) and 2 were unknown (2%).

In regards to age, the majority of male victims were between 18-29 (29%) and over 50 years of age (24%), while the largest percentage of female victims (27%) were between the age of 30-39.

Chart 7: Reported hate-motivated crimes, victims of violence by age group and gender – 2021



CONCLUSION

The Region of Peel's population estimates for 2021 is 1,497,090 (Source: Region of Peel Planning Department updated forecast file 2016-2051) with visible minorities making up over half of the total population. The 2016 census data shows the top five ethno-cultural groups in Peel Region to be South Asian, Black, Asian (Chinese), Filipino and Arab. When compared to other forms of criminal victimization, the proportion of hate-motivated crimes reported to police is low (in 2021, hate crimes represented only 0.3% of the total crimes reported to PRP).

As discussed in this report, the number of reported hate-motivated crime offences in our Region increased by 19% between 2019 and 2021. Some of this incline may be directly related to the efforts of PRP to proactively address hate-motivated crimes and incidents in previous years. The DEI bureau has implemented various initiatives to educate and raise awareness and these initiatives provide an additional layer of support to our community members who have been victimized by such incidents. The DEI bureau continues to deliver various programs, both internally and externally (requested by the community in the language of their choice), that serve to inform individuals on the root causes of hate, while emphasizing the importance of being vigilant in our collective efforts to stop the spread of hate within our communities.

The PRP DEI Bureau will continue to monitor all incoming reports of hate-motivated crimes and incidents to ensure that our members and the community have the necessary support to deal with these matters in an effective and compassionate manner. PRP is committed to supporting

individuals and communities that are disproportionately victimized by hate and taking all steps possible to combat hate-motivated crimes and incidents.

Approved for Submission:

 MCKENNA FOR ANDREWS
Marc Andrews, Deputy Chief, Community Policing Operations Command

For further information regarding this report, please contact Inspector Jodi Dawson #2265 at extension 3609 or via email at 2265@peelpolice.ca

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