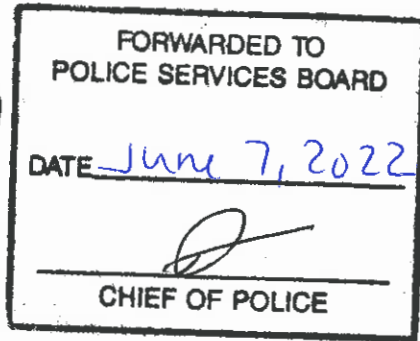


09-06-22



REPORT
Police Services Board

For Information

File Class: 1-01-02-01

PSB REC: JUNE 08, 2022

LOG #28-22

FILE CLASS: P01

Cross-Reference File Class: _____

DATE: June 1, 2022

SUBJECT: 2021 PERSONS AT RISK ANNUAL REPORT

FROM: Nick Milinovich, Deputy Chief, Investigative and Emergency Services Command

RECOMMENDATION

That the 2020 Persons at Risk Annual Report be received as information.

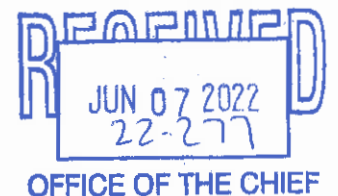
REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse
- Family and Intimate Partner Violence
- Youth Crime Report
- Internet Child Exploitation

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with a summary of distinct fields related to Persons at Risk. The reporting categories set out in this Report relate to the following five (5) areas:

- Child Abuse and Neglect** – reporting area, Special Victims Unit
- Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse** – reporting area, Community Mobilization and Well Being
- Family and Intimate Partner Violence** – reporting area, Family and Intimate Partner Violence
- Youth Crime Report** – reporting area, Youth Engagement
- Internet Child Exploitation** – reporting area, Internet Child Exploitation Unit



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Background

One of the core responsibilities of the Peel Regional Police (PRP) Special Victims Unit (SVU) is to conduct thorough investigations into allegations of child abuse (children under 18) by caregivers, a category which includes, but is not limited to parents, babysitters, teachers, daycare providers, child youth workers and foster parents.

In recognizing that child abuse can have serious long lasting traumatic effects on the victim, SVU pledges to be sensitive to the needs of victims while providing assistance and support during investigations; working cooperatively with The Children's Aid Society of the Region of Peel (Peel CAS) and community partners.

All investigations in SVU are conducted in accordance with the PRP Criminal Investigation Management Plan and the Region of Peel Child Abuse Investigation Protocol.

The Enhanced Violence Against Women Protocol spear headed by the Peel Committee Against Women Abuse (PCAWA) came into effect in 2018. Peel Regional Police were actively involved in the protocols development. The protocol assists member agencies in providing a consistent, supportive and inclusive response to reduce the systemic barriers that exist for survivors of violence in the Region.

Certain designated offences are mandated by the Solicitor General and has been since 1995, to be investigated in accordance with the Ontario Major Case Management System established guidelines. Officers within SVU are trained to a level that meets or exceeds the necessary investigative skills; they receive on-going training, participation in courses such as:

- Sexual Assault Investigators Course
- Major Case Management Course
- Power case Course
- Investigating Offences Against Children Course
- Forensic Interviewing Course
- Search Warrant Course
- Advance Search Warrant Course
- Preparation, Engage, Account, Closure and Evaluation (PEACE) Interviewing Course
- Phased Interview Model for Suspects (PIMS) Course

Child abuse investigations where young victims suffer serious, life threatening injuries are usually complex and will often hinge on medical evidence. Over the last several years, SVU has on average, investigated ten (10) of these serious child abuse cases per year.

SVU liaises and works collaboratively with numerous social services and community agencies within the Region of Peel. The Region of Peel Child Abuse Investigation Protocol guides these relationships. Participating agencies include the following:

- Trillium Health Partners
- Peel CAS
- Crown Attorney's Office
- Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board
- Ministry of Attorney General – Peel

- Every Mind
- Peel District School Board
- William Osler Health System

The Protocol communicates the required reporting, investigative and legal responsibility processes related to incidents of child abuse with the goal of ensuring the safety and well-being of children in Peel Region. The Protocol directs that the PRP and the CAS, working together, investigate incidents of a criminal nature jointly.

Findings

In 2021, SVU received 725 calls for assistance directly from the CAS. The calls for assistance were either a query for information or a consultation on an incident they were investigating, with some of these incidents leading to a joint investigation. The review of referrals is an ongoing joint process between PRP and CAS to maintain and refine the reporting criteria and achieve a consistent method of evaluating occurrences. The Covid-19 pandemic caused the closure of schools and daycare centres for a prolonged period, which is a likely cause for a reduction of incidents being reported to police. At the conclusion of 2021, amendments were made to federal and provincial public health regulations, permitting schools and daycare centres to re-open.

Calls for Assistance Received from the CAS

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
880	773	693	708	509	725

Special Victims Unit Child Abuse Investigations

In 2021, there was a 27% increase from 2020 in the number of investigations involving Sexual Offences Against Children. There was also a 10% increase in the number of Physical Assaults Against Children from 2020 (an additional 40 incidents from the previous year). There were 8 neglect investigations, which was an increase of 7 cases. Overall, there was a 14% increase in the number of total victims from 2020 to 2021.

The table below lists the number of physical, sexual and neglect investigations undertaken in the Region in relation to children (<18) by SVU.

ABUSE TYPES	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2020-21 variation
Sexual Offences Against Children	324	378	306	238	302	+27%
Physical Assaults Against Children	642	647	694	395	435	+10%
Neglect	0	3	1	1	8	+87%
Total Investigations	966	1028	1001	644	745	+14%

2021 Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics & Methodology

ABUSE TYPES	2021
Sexual Offences Against Children	302
Physical Assaults Against Children	435
Neglect	8
Total Investigations	745

- Victim report violation codes: Physical Assault, Sex Assault, Invitation, Interference, Attempted murder, Sexual Exploitation, Child Pornography, Making Sexually Explicit Material Available to a Child
- All victims under 18 at the time of the offence
- The relationship between the offender and victim excludes: spouse, ex-spouse, girlfriend/boyfriend, ex-girlfriend/boyfriend
- Fail to provide and child abandonment numbers were extracted using CCC section numbers (CCC 215(1) and (2) and 218)
- When multiple victims existed, statistics were obtained by victim, not occurrence number
- Unfounded reports were excluded

ABUSE TYPE	Totals
Aggravated Assault Level 3	7
Assault Level 1	267
Assault With Weapon/Causing Bodily Harm/Choking	157
Attempted Murder	4
Invitation to Sexual Touching	5
Sexual Assault	182
Sexual Assault With Weapon/ Cause Bodily Harm/Choking	4
Sexual Exploitation	6
Sexual Interference	105
Neglect	8
Grand Total	745

Strategic Plan Alignment

Goal: 1. Community Safety and Well-being Together
 Priority: 1.5 Priority populations

Organizational Wellness/Occupational Health and Safety/Risk Management

Given the sensitive and graphic nature of investigations, members assigned to SVU are designated as “high risk”, and are subject to the Wellness Check-in Program. PRP is committed to the well being of all our personnel; and,

Established protocols and partnerships maintained with social services and community agencies contribute to ensuring that PRP is able to respond professionally to incidents of child physical and sexual abuse.

Conclusion

PRP SVU continues to work collaboratively with our community partners within the Region of Peel. The Child Abuse Investigation Protocol has been recognized as a standard for the Province, and is a working document that is a testament to our commitment to children and families within the Region of Peel.

ELDER AND VULNERABLE ABUSE

Background

This report provides information about the mandate of the Peel Regional Police (PRP) Elder Abuse and Vulnerable Adult Coordinator and the number of related investigations undertaken in adherence to Ontario Policing Standards LE-021. PRP Directive 1-B-701 (F) also provides instructions and guidelines and serves to educate members on the existence of abuse and neglect of elderly and or vulnerable adults. It also provides instructions for what action is to be taken when encountered.

The role of the Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Coordinator includes:

Act as a liaison for all frontline officers and all PRP bureaus when they require assistance in the investigation of elder/vulnerable person abuse.

Provide assistance by referring members of the community to external partners and community groups. These groups work collaboratively with the Elder Abuse/Vulnerable Person Coordinator to provide support and resources for victims, people in need, family members and caregivers.

Coordinate training programs, conduct lectures and disseminate information to members of this service and the public.

Review all police occurrences identified as “Elder Abuse” or “Vulnerable Person Abuse”, which is any occurrence involving a person 60 or more years of age or who is considered a “Vulnerable” (18+) person, who has been the victim, accused or the complainant of abuse or suspected abuse

Review police occurrences that involve personal injury or threat of personal injury, loss of property and general mistreatment of older adults or vulnerable persons. These occurrences could be both criminal and non-criminal in nature.

The Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Coordinator is the policy centre for the following PRP Directives:

<u>Issue Number</u>	<u>Subject</u>
I-B-701 (F)	Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse

Definition:

Elder abuse/vulnerable adult abuse refers to any act or behaviour that harms or threatens to harm the health or well-being of an elderly or vulnerable adult. The abuse is often caused by someone in a position of trust or authority that the elderly/vulnerable adult relies upon for their basic needs. Forms of abuse include, but are not limited to physical, sexual, financial and psychological abuse and neglect, whether active or passive.

The age of 60 years has historically been used by PRP as a benchmark for collecting data with respect to incidents involving possible or actual elder abuse, and is the standard amongst police services throughout Ontario.

Persons 60 Years of Age and Over

2021 population estimates for the City of Brampton and City of Mississauga are as follows:

Total Population 1,497,090

Source: Region of Peel Planning Department updated forecast file 2016-2051

2021 population estimates for age cohort over 60 years estimates for the City of Brampton and City of Mississauga are as follows:

Population 60+ 308,650

Percentage of population 60+ 21%

Source: Region of Peel Planning Department forecast file 2016-2031

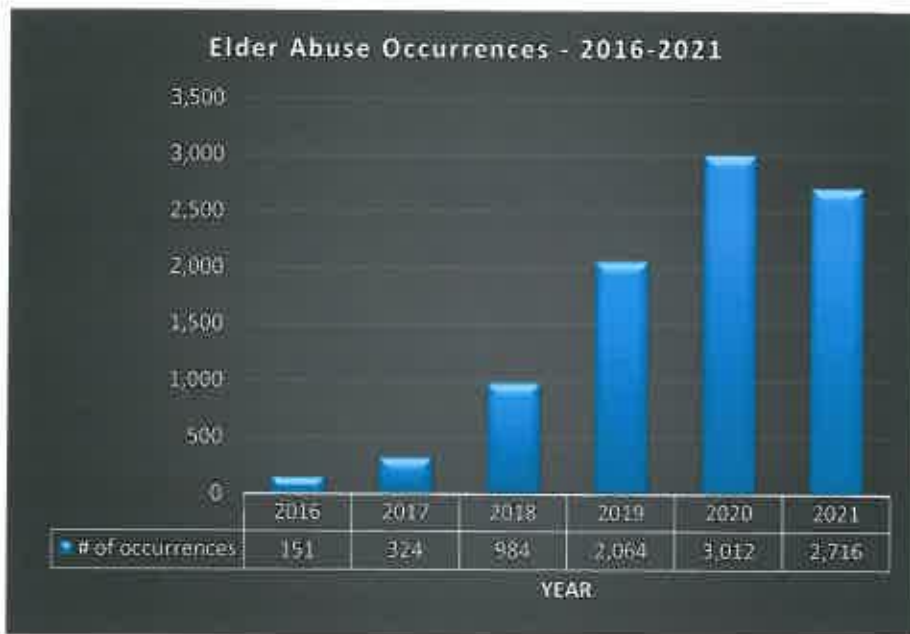
Findings

Between January 1st, 2021 and December 31st, 2021, the Elder Abuse Coordinator reviewed **3509** Police occurrences involving an elder person(s) / vulnerable adult(s). This was a 13% decrease from the **4041** occurrences examined in 2020.

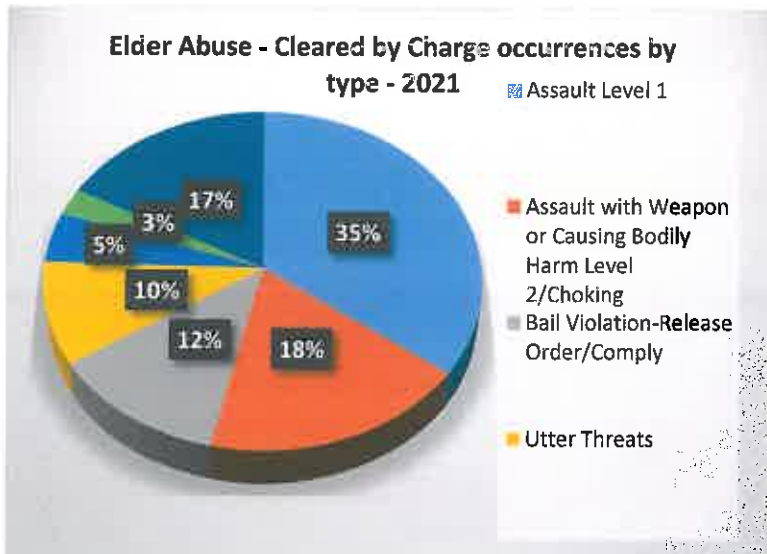
Of the **3509** police occurrences examined by the Elder Abuse Coordinator, **2716** of these occurrences were further investigated for elder/vulnerable abuse or the potential of elder/vulnerable abuse. These 2716 occurrences were resolved as follows:

- 351 occurrences were cleared by charge
- 67 occurrences were cleared other
- 2298 occurrences were solved but deemed non-criminal

Number of Incidents Identified as Potential Elder Abuse 2016 - 2021:



Breakdown of the 351 incidents cleared by charge - 2021:



Community Referrals

Upon reviewing the 3509 occurrences, the Elder Abuse Coordinator provided 356 consultations to community members to offer education and resources. Of those consultations, the Elder Abuse Coordinator made 25 direct referrals to social services, Public Guardian and Trustee and to internal PRP Bureaus. These numbers also included referrals to the Crisis Outreach and Support Teams (COAST) and the newly formed Divisional Mobilization Unit for follow-up and continued support for elder and vulnerable persons within the community.

Presentations

In 2021, the Elder Abuse Coordinator provided nine internal training sessions to various PRP personnel including officers attending the PRP Mental Health Course, new recruits and Divisional Mobilization Unit Training.

Externally, 20 virtual presentations were delivered to community members of emergency medical services, community agency workers, long-term care service providers, residents, caregivers, elders living in their own homes, volunteers, and neighbourhood associations. The presentations were designed to educate the participants on the issues surrounding elder and vulnerable person abuse and the resources available to support individuals and families.

Senior Safety Calendars

The Elder Abuse Coordinator worked with PRP Corporate Communications in developing a Safety for Seniors Calendar. This calendar included information and resources in relation to senior safety and elder abuse. Five thousand calendars were distributed to various senior groups and organizations within the Peel Region. The Senior Safety Calendar is extremely popular with seniors and demonstrates one of the many ways that PRP is dedicated to making the Region of Peel "A Safer Community Together."

Elder Abuse Committee Involvement

The Elder Abuse Coordinator sits on three committees in the Region of Peel that impact Elder and Vulnerable Persons. The role of the PRP Coordinator on these committees is to provide interpretation, direction and guidance from a police perspective on issues tabled. It is also an opportunity to engage stakeholders and partners.

Law Enforcement Agencies Protecting Seniors (L.E.A.P.P.S.)
 Peel Elder Abuse Prevention Network (P.E.A.P.N.)
 Vulnerable Person Registry Committee (V.P.R.C)

Conclusion

Elder Abuse continues to be a priority for Peel Regional Police with the continued growth in our aging community and the impact felt from reduced programming and access to resources during the Covid 19 pandemic. The Elder Abuse Coordinator will continue to represent Peel Regional Police with various community partners and social agencies to provide the necessary resources and education to support seniors and vulnerable adults. This priority population will continue to

be supported by the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan "Community Safety and Well Being Together" by focusing on Crime prevention and response (1.1).

FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Background

All police services in Ontario are required by Adequacy Standard LE-024 to implement one or more models set out in the Ministry guidelines for the investigation of domestic violence occurrences and to ensure that the police service has access to trained domestic violence investigators. Peel Regional Police (PRP) continues to meet organizational needs and has developed and implemented a specialized Intimate Partner Violence Unit responsible for undertaking, managing, and reviewing all Intimate Partner Investigations.

The Peel Regional Police Intimate Partner Violence Unit (IPV) plays a key role in ensuring compliance with both internal and external legislation governing this Service's response to matters involving Intimate Partner Violence.

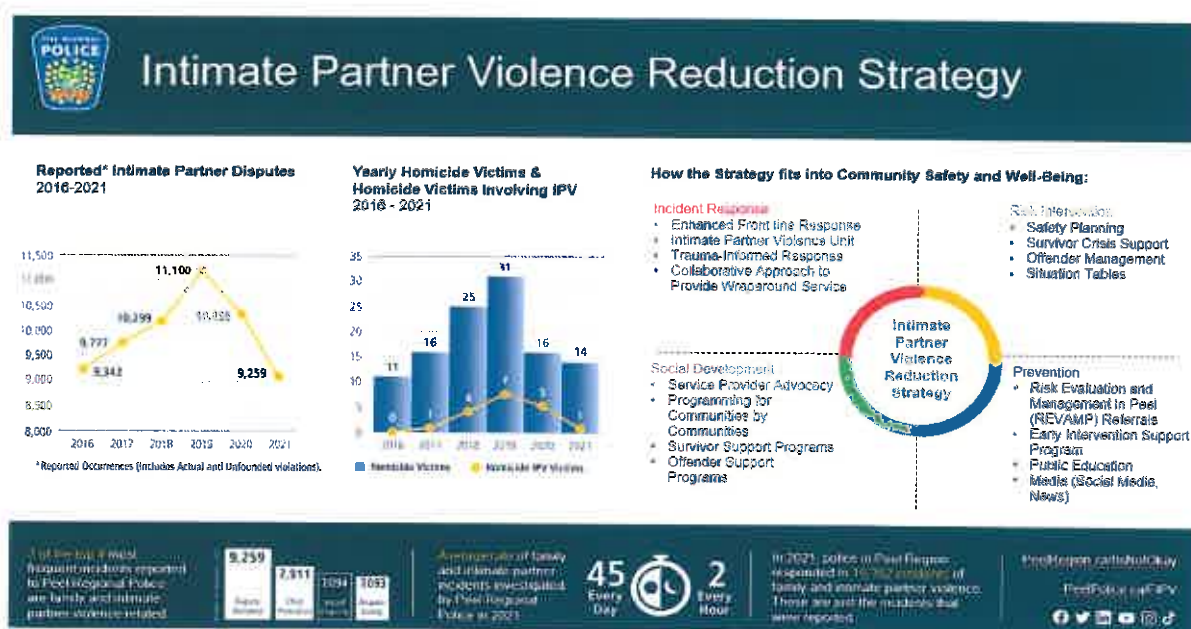
The IPV Unit consists of 56 Detective Constables, 8 Detectives, and 1 Detective Sergeant. The IPV Unit is located at the Safe Centre of Peel (SCoP) at 60 West Drive in the City of Brampton. The Safe Centre of Peel led by Family Catholic Services of Peel Dufferin is based on the Family Justice Centre Model. SCoP includes organizations that specialize in high-risk crisis support, housing, family services, child welfare, education, settlement, multi-cultural, legal and employment. This partnership works in collaboration with 15 victim support organizations.

IPV is the policy centre for the following PRP directives:

Issue Number	Subject
I-A-602 (F)	Criminal Harassment
I-B-718 (F)	Project Guardian - Pilot Project
I-B-713 (F)	Intimate Partner Incidents

Family and Intimate Partner Violence is one of the top priorities of PRP and aligns with the priorities of the Community Safety and Well Being framework. CSWB has been invaluable in ensuring service alignment to the communities' needs and interests.

Intimate Partner Violence Reduction strategy



Findings

Intimate Partner Violence calls remain the number one call for service for PRP and are considered to be of the highest priority. Frontline Uniform officers are the first responding officers and once the offence is deemed as Intimate Partner related, the IPV unit is contacted and IPV officers take carriage of the investigation. The victim is transported to the Safe Centre of Peel where an interview is conducted by a specialty-trained investigator from the IPV unit in a soft interview room. Upon completion of the interview, the victim is immediately referred to our community partners providing them with a wrap around services.

The mandatory charge guideline, as directed by the Province is strictly adhered to; where reasonable grounds exist to believe that a criminal offence has occurred, within an intimate partner relationship, officers shall lay charges. PRP continues to be in compliance with the mandatory charge guideline of the Province of Ontario. PRP has comprehensive directives that provide guidelines to intimate partner investigations. These directives include detailed steps on how domestic related investigations are documented to ensure that officers are conducting thorough investigations.

The partnership with The Safe Centre of Peel has strengthened our community by providing single location services that are coordinated, responsive and accessible to those who have experienced Intimate Partner Violence.

The development of the Intimate Partner Violence Unit has provided:

- Enhanced relationships with our community partners creating a more collaborative information exchange.
- A more effective and efficient service delivery.

- A reduction in work load for front line personnel.
- Overall better monitoring of high risk offenders.
- Enhanced and compassionate care for survivors.
- Increased and immediate access to supports and services for survivors exposed to Intimate Partner Violence.
- Less barriers and built positive relationships between PRP and the community.
- Robust referral process for victims of Intimate Partner Violence.

Statistics

There were 1293 referrals made to the Safe Centre of Peel from the IPV unit between April 2021 and December 2021.

2021 Regional IPV Report

- The IPV Unit was operational April 20th 2021; however, the first full month of data available for analysis was May.
- There were 6194 occurrences with the Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) violation code from May to December in 2021. This is an 11% decrease from 2020 (6987) during the same time period.
- 2090 IPV Occurrences were cleared by charge from May to December 2021, and were eligible to be assigned to the IPV unit.
- 1,158 of occurrences eligible (cleared by charge) were assigned to the IPV Unit.
- There was one IPV related homicide from May – December 2021.

Charges Laid on IPV Occurrences

- In 2021 there were 3741 charges laid by the IPV Unit from May to December.
- There were 5152 charges laid on occurrences with an IPV violation code.
- There 1411 IPV related charges that were laid occurrences that were not assigned to the unit. When the IPV Unit is unable to take carriage of a call, Divisional officers take carriage of the investigation.

Top 5 Charges Laid on IPV Occurrences

- Assault.
- Utter Threat to Cause Death or Bodily Harm.
- Fail to Comply with Release Order- other than to attend court (Form11).
- Assault with a weapon.
- Strangulation.

CAD Events

- In June of 2021, the Event Type 'DOMESTIC' was split into 'DOMIPV' (Intimate Partner Violence) and 'DOMFAM' (Family Domestic).
- There were 3,855 DOMIPV events from June to December 2021.
- Note that in June, there were 48 events that were still labelled with a DOMESTIC Event Type, and these can not be counted as a DOMIPV or DOMFAM.

MONTH	DOMESTIC	DOMIPV	DOMFAM	Domestic Combined
January	1065	0	0	1065
February	939	0	0	939
March	1011	0	0	1011
April	958	0	0	958
May	1028	0	0	1028
June	48	552	465	1065
July	0	550	413	963
August	0	567	433	1000
September	0	557	398	955
October	0	555	467	1022
November	0	528	442	970
December	0	546	460	1006
Total	5049	3855	3078	11982

Domestic Violence Investigator Training

Members of the IPV Unit received five days of extensive specialized training in relation to Intimate Partner Violence. The training included trauma informed response, interviewing and anti racism training. The training has provided an opportunity to build a trauma informed response that has produced a more thorough investigation, decreased potential for future harm and provided overall better victim care and management.

The Domestic Violence Investigator's (DVI) Course is offered to front line officers and those in investigative bureaus who are exposed to these types of investigations. Upon completion, officers are awarded the DVI designation. PRP currently has **845** officers with the DVI designation.

Safety Issues:

Peel Children's Aid

PRP takes a precautionary approach in dealing with matters where a child is likely to be exposed to Intimate Partner Violence. These incidents are reported directly to the Peel Children's Aid Society (CAS). Peel CAS address a variety of service needs for children and families experiencing struggles with Intimate Partner Violence. They conduct child welfare assessments and provide ongoing work with families, youth and children who have experienced and been exposed to Intimate Partner Violence; including intervention plans and referrals to other agencies for support. CAS has two Domestic Violence Teams solely dedicated to providing support for children who have been exposed to Intimate Partner Violence.

Project Guardian – Support Link

In December 2017, Victim Services of Peel (VSOP) launched Project GUARDIAN, which replaced the previous personal alarm system (Domestic Violence Emergency Response System - DVERS). Project Guardian is a pilot project sponsored by VSOP. This project provides victims who are at high risk of life-threatening violence with a portable, personal Global Positioning System (G.P.S.) locator device. Each recipient is provided with a small pendant. When the recipient is faced with immediate danger of physical harm, he/she depresses the SOS button on the pendant. This automatically calls Northern 911 Emergency Centre through 2-way hands-free voice technology who in-turn notifies the appropriate police service. Criteria and suitability for the program is determined by VSOP

- In 2021, 11 clients were offered services to the program and 6 new clients were enrolled. There was 1 alarm and 1 false alarm triggered. The program continues to be piloted through 2022.

REVAMP- Risk Evaluation and Management in Peel

Every court jurisdiction in Ontario must have a functioning Domestic Violence high-risk committee. The REVAMP committee identifies, monitors and manages high-risk intimate Partner Violence cases. The goal of the committee is to enhance the safety of victims, their families and the general community. The committee is comprised of a Peel Domestic Violence prosecutor, Victim Witness Assistance program manager, PRP, probation and parole, Victim's services and Children's aid society.

- In 2021, 243 files were reviewed and monitored and there were 46 new referrals.

Public Education and Awareness

Delivering education, promoting awareness, and facilitating access to appropriate resources both within the service and in the community is a high priority for PRP.

The IPV Unit provided the public with information regarding Intimate Partner Violence and identified community agencies that provide assistance and support to victims and their families. PRP brought awareness to the IPV Unit upon its development through an IPV Campaign.

IPV Campaign

IPV Campaign Highlights



May 29, 2021

Objective

To bring awareness of Intimate Partner Violence launch, with particular focus on the historical partnership formed between PRP and SCoP.



8.2x higher performance than any other video post since April 20.

How People Are Watching
 57.7% Followers
 30.2% Shares
 12.1% Recommendations

6.5K Views
 Top performing video since release. Sustained organic growth due to the number of shares. *Shares and comments increase visibility and reach, and expose interest in content = active engagement.*

Top Shares
 33 Peel Children's Aid Society
 19 Zonta Club of Brampton
 14 Catholic Family Services of Peel-Dufferin

Platform	Video Views	Impressions	Shares	Comments
Twitter	4.1k	41.8k	80	5
Facebook	6.5k	12.1k	51	61
LinkedIn	3.9k	7.8k	22	16
Instagram	5.2k	10.5k	115	46
YouTube	1k	3k	14	-
Total	20,700	73.6k	282	128

Mainstream Media
 Potential Audience Reach: **14M**

PRP collaborated and formed a partnership with the Region of Peel, the City of Brampton, City of Mississauga, Town of Caledon, OPP and community organizations to develop and strategize a public education and awareness campaign "Break the Silence" to generate awareness and increased access to information and resources related to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV).

2021 FIPV social summary

Organic Posts	Impressions	Reach	Engagements	Link Clicks	Saves
Instagram	2,578	2,363	111	N/A	3
Facebook	48,879	24,115	651	382	N/A
Twitter	49,692	n/a	184	44	N/A

Paid Ads	Impressions	Reach	Engagements	Link Clicks	Video Views
Google Ads	548,540	n/a	n/a	347	34,930
Facebook & Instagram Ads	979,310	526,606	16,640	3,829	2,830
Twitter Ads	49,365	n/a	66	555	N/A

Proposed Direction

Continue to take steps that align directly with the Community Safety and Well Being Plan and the Intimate Partner Violence Reduction Strategy.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Goal: Community Safety and Well-being Together
Priority: 1.3 Intimate partner and family violence

Organizational Wellness/Occupational Health and Safety/Risk Management

Given the sensitive and graphic nature of IPV investigations, members assigned to the IPV Unit are designated as “high risk”, and are subject to the PRP Safeguarding program. PRP is committed to the well being of all our members; and,

Established protocols and partnerships maintained with our community partners contribute to ensuring that PRP is effective in responding to incidents of Intimate Partner Violence.

Conclusion

PRP continues to maintain long-standing, collaborative working relationships with several community/social services agencies. These agencies focus primarily on the needs of victims and the families of victims impacted by Intimate Partner Violence.

Beyond formal partnerships, efforts to reduce intimate partner violence through community engagement continue with innovative approaches including providing presentations to external partners and developing strategies to identify and support victims.

YOUTH CRIME

Background

The 2021 Youth Crime Report provides insight into crime statistics and trends related to young persons investigated by the Peel Regional Police (PRP).

On March 17, 2020, the Government of Ontario declared a state of emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In the interest of public health in 2021, the Government of Ontario continued to impose individual and community-based measures to flatten the curve and mitigate the spread of the virus. These measures included school closures, stay-at-home orders, social gathering restrictions, municipal and provincial lockdowns and other emergency measures. The fluctuation in 2021 Youth Crime Statistics reflected in this report correlates highly with the limits on youth social interactions due to the pandemic and subsequent provincial restrictions.

The Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) defines a young person as someone between 12 and 17 years. This legislation includes multi-disciplinary approaches where PRP takes reasonable steps to prevent youth crime, address underlying causes and provide guidance to those at risk of committing crimes. While recognizing the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Canadian Bill of Rights, members of PRP also respect the interests of victims and

witnesses. The legislation ensures accountability through meaningful consequences and effective rehabilitation and reintegration. It also reserves the most invasive intervention for the more serious crimes with the goal being to reduce incarceration for non-violent young persons.

Findings

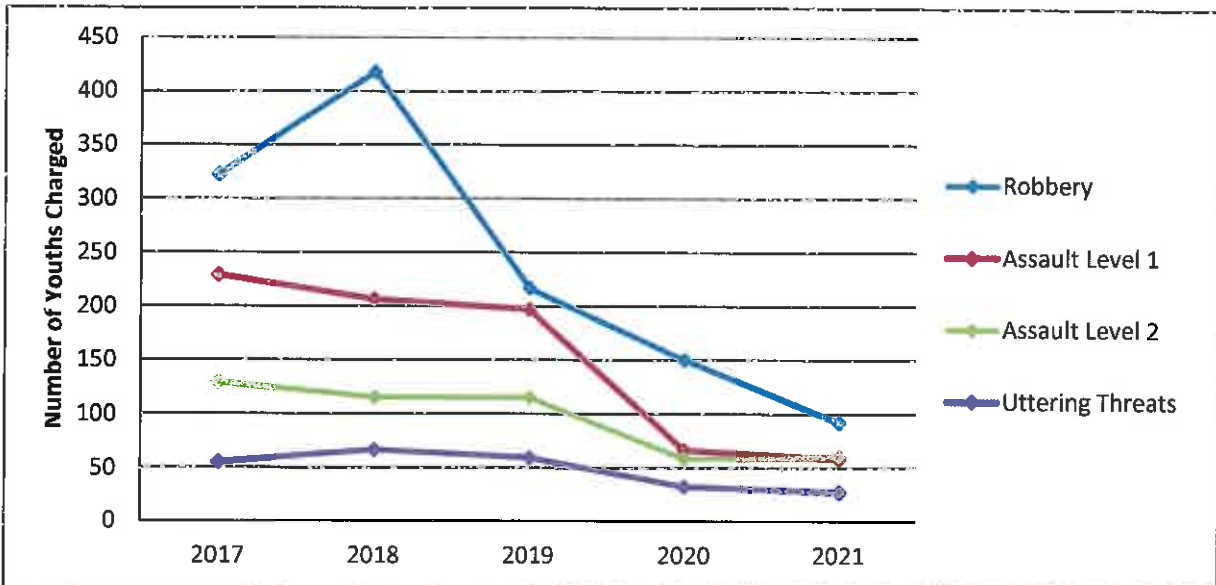
In 2021, the combined population of the Cities of Brampton and Mississauga was 1,497,090 of which 103,935 were young persons. The number of youth has remained constant for the past five years. In 2021, young persons represented 6.94% of the area population.

PRP’s Corporate Planning and Research Bureau compiled the criminal statistics and the Analytics Bureau compiled the Pre-Charge Diversion statistics for the data contained within this report.

Crimes Against Persons Committed by Young Persons

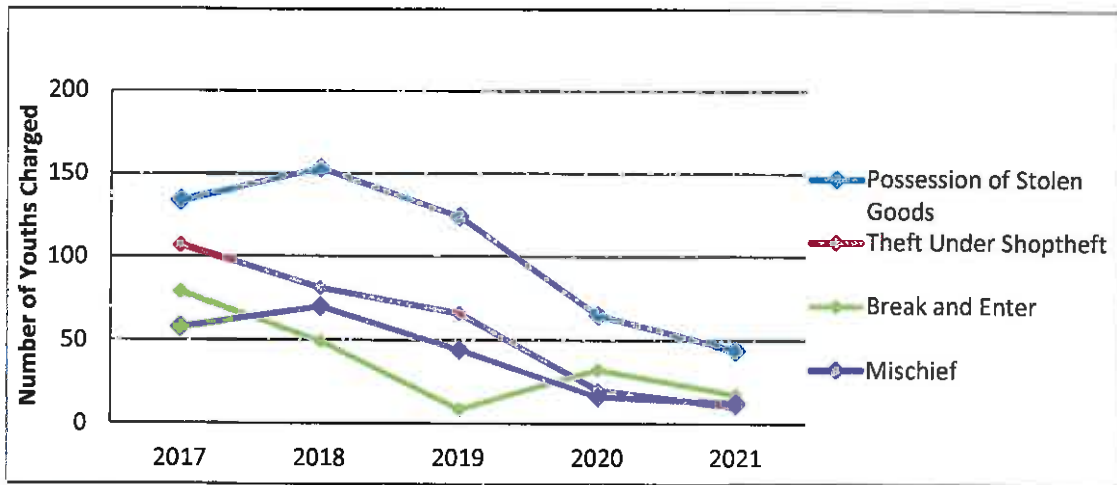
The offence of Robbery has declined since 2017, however remains the most common Crimes Against Persons Committed by youth.

Figure 1



The four most frequently occurring incident types for Crimes Against Property were Possession of Stolen Goods, Theft Under (shop theft), Break, Enter to Commit and Mischief.

Figure 2



Criminal Driving - Youth Offences

Criminal driving offences included Dangerous Driving, Fail to Remain at the Scene of an Accident, Driving While Impaired and Street Racing. While Dangerous Operation of Motor Vehicle (all types) has decreased year over year, it remains the most common criminal driving offence committed by young persons.

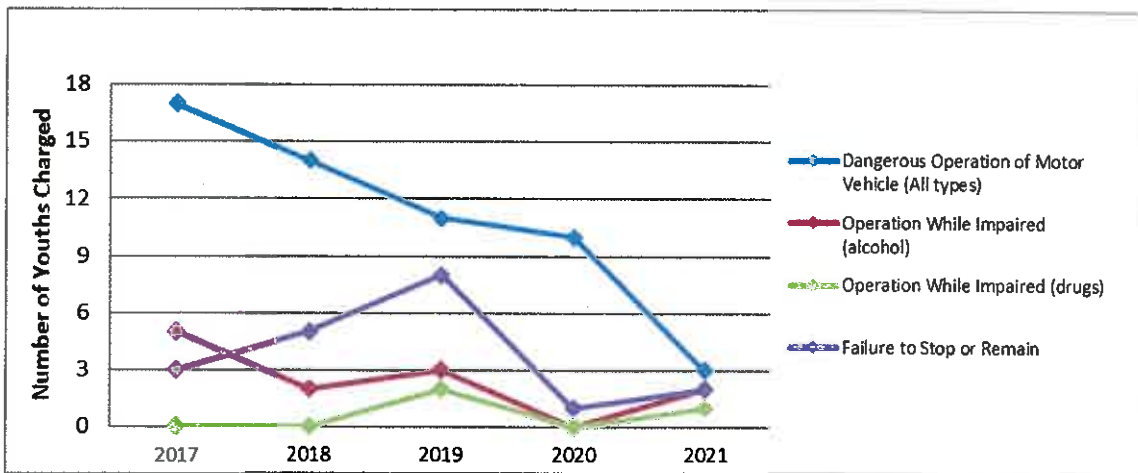


Figure 3

Drug Offences – Youth Charged

Drug Offences include Possession, Trafficking and other related controlled substance related crimes. Youth Drug Offences have decreased by 53% from the previous year.

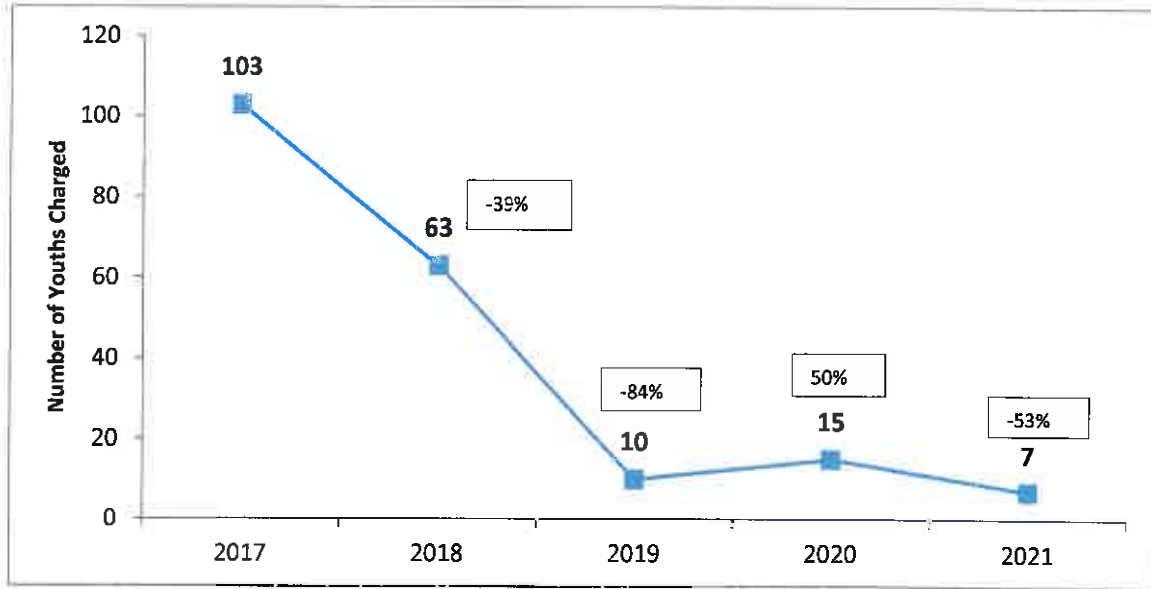


Figure 4

Total Young Persons Charged

In 2021, PRP charged 501 young persons representing 3.8% of total persons charged.

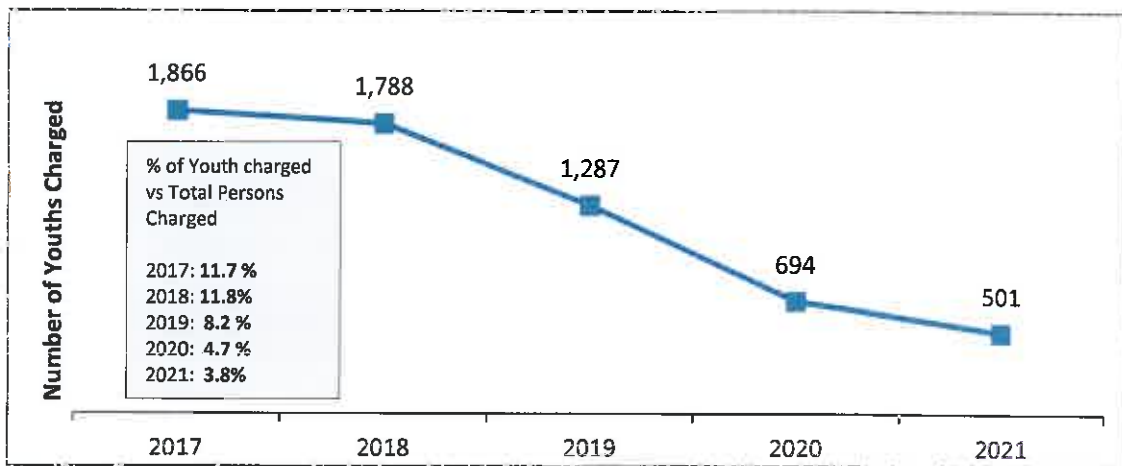


Figure 5

Continuing Work with Young People

Youth programming was impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and the dissolution of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program in November 2020. In 2021, both the Dufferin-

Peel Catholic School Board and the Peel District School Board placed in-person and virtual community safety programming on hold.

As a result, there was a significant decrease in students receiving youth education. By way of comparison;

- In 2019, with an uninterrupted school year, a team of 10 officers assigned to the YE Bureau delivered community safety programs to 136,672 students.
- In 2020, the school year was interrupted by the Ontario Teachers' Strike and the pandemic. A team of eight officers assigned to the YE Bureau delivered community safety programs to 56,536 students.
- In 2021, schools were closed for the pandemic and all learning was conducted virtually. A team of two officers assigned to the YE Bureau delivered community safety programs to 4,380 students who were primarily from Private Schools.

In November 2021, all school board partners signed the Local Police School Board protocol. The Protocol, which is provincially mandated, reflects the policy direction of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Solicitor General services that school boards and Police services establish and follow a protocol for the investigation of school-related occurrences.

In October 2021, PRP collaborated with the Tim Hortons Foundation Camp to connect with youth from priority populations. PRP was offered a unique opportunity to attend Tim Hortons Foundation camp in St. George, Ontario. DMU officers participated in leadership and mentorship programs with 25 local youth. This partnership will continue to grow in 2022 to offer the opportunity to 50% more youth in the Region of Peel.

Due to the pandemic, PRP placed the Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI) program on hold. The YIPI program will resume in 2022.

To ensure the health and safety of all staff and participants, the Peel Children's Safety Village (PCSV) restricted youth from attending the facility. The PCSV delivered community safety messaging utilizing social media platforms and combined, there were over 784,170 views.

The Ulti-Mutt Colouring Contest brought community and police together in a virtual setting where City Councillors promoted PRP messaging on social media.

PCSV continued with community initiatives including 'Helmets on Kids', where 491 children received bicycle helmets and bicycle safety education.

Pre-Charge Diversion

A significant component of the YCJA is the application of Extrajudicial Measures, a means of diverting young people away from the criminal justice system while still adhering to the principle of ensuring that young offenders are accountable for their actions. When a young person has committed an offence, the legislation directs officers to consider extrajudicial measures before laying a charge. When appropriate, PRP

refers youth who have committed a criminal offence to the 'Pre-charge Diversion Program' administered by the Associated Youth Services of Peel (AYSP).

The AYSP counsels and administers the performance of tasks that help youth to acknowledge and appreciate the significance of good citizenship and poor behaviours that lead to criminal activity.

In 2021, PRP referred 68 cases to AYSP. Not all youth matters meet the criteria for referral to the diversion program and must be dealt with through other mechanisms (Charges, Caution etc.). To ensure however, fulsome utilization of the program, the expansion of training on the Pre-Charge Diversion Program will include Divisional Youth investigative teams and Field Training Officers in 2022. This paired with quarterly reviews of the Youth Crime Dashboard (see **Technology** section for details on Dashboard) will maximize the application of Pre-Charge Diversion and AYSP services.

In 2021, 87% of the youth referred to the Pre-Charge Diversion Program completed all program requirements where:

- 93.5% of the youth who completed the referral program did not reoffend within one-year period
- 6.5% of the youth who completed the referral program did re-offend within a one-year period
- 7.3% of the youth did not complete the referral program. For those who did not complete the referral program, the recidivism rate was 50%.

In October 2020, a Memorandum of Understanding between the OHRC, PRP and The Regional Municipality of Peel Police Services Board regarding policy guidance included the objective to adopt and implement all appropriate standards, guidelines, policies, and strict regulations directives to address and end racial profiling in law enforcement. Peel Regional Police Directive I-B-515 Diversion Referral Programs was updated to meet the expectations of the community, legislation and the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Goal: 1. Community Safety and Well-being Together
Priority: 1.5 Priority populations

Equity and Inclusion Considerations

The Youth Education Bureau and the PCSV consistently review presentations to ensure the current equity and inclusion standards of the Peel District School Board, Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board and PRP are applied.

The 2021 Local Police and School Board Protocol was reviewed at length by internal and external subject matter experts, legal representatives and all school board partners to meet current and future equity and inclusion considerations.

Technology

Strategic Plan Alignment

Goal: 3. Our Work

Priority: 3.5 Service excellence through innovation, technology and risk mitigation

In 2021, Youth Engagement incorporated a technological approach to collecting and managing youth crime data and delivering community safety messages. PRP approved WebEx software to deliver virtual meetings to youth during the pandemic lockdowns to improve communication and service delivery. PRP Youth Education and PCSV are able to utilize this software to deliver material to local school boards and community groups.

PRP updated the www.peelpolice.ca webpage so members of the public may request and or review available content or book a virtual or in person youth program.

In collaboration with Youth Engagement, the PRP Analytics Bureau developed two data driven based dashboards:

- Youth Crime Dashboard
- School Occurrences

The Youth Crime Dashboard was designed to quickly and accurately identify youth crime trends through data and analytics. The dashboard is available to all members of PRP. Youth-based crime statistics can be filtered by division, method of release (including pre-charge diversion), year and criminal offence. All police divisions can create youth crime strategies for their respective areas utilizing the Youth Crime Dashboard.

The School Occurrences Dashboard was designed to quickly and accurately identify calls for service at local area schools. Information on the dashboard includes the nature of calls for service and frequency of incidents. Utilizing this information will enable quicker identification of potential areas of concern where police may be called for discretionary calls for service. Identifying these trends early will allow PRP to develop prevention strategies and offer additional support services to address the root causes of youth-related incidents.

INTERNET CHILD EXPLOITATION

Background

In late 2021, the ICE Unit was authorized to increase its compliment by one, which increased the staffing level to 1 Detective, 7 Detective Constables and 1 Online Luring Investigator for a total of 9 members.

The mandate of the PRP ICE Unit is to identify, investigate and prosecute persons involved in the online victimization of children. Both reactive and proactive investigations are undertaken.

As internet crime has no geographical boundaries, the PRP ICE Unit regularly works with Law Enforcement Partners around the world. In 2021, some of those agencies included; United States of America Department of Homeland Security (HSI) as well as numerous local and state law enforcement services in the USA, The Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA), local and

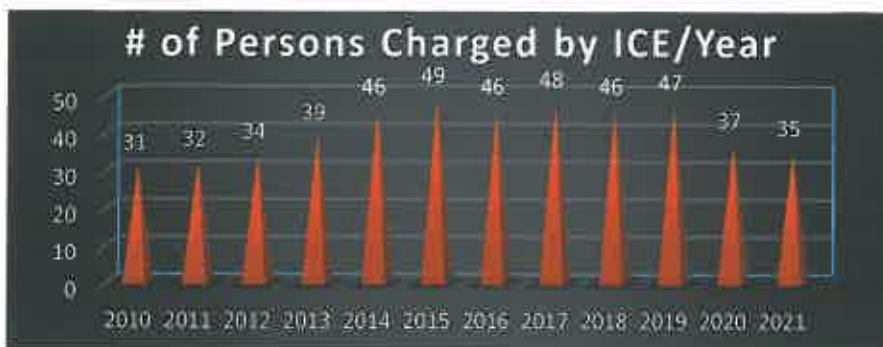
national elements of the RCMP, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), and 26 other Municipal Police Services that make up the Provincial Strategy.

External to the Law Enforcement Community, the PRP ICE Unit works closely with several Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's). One of these is the Canadian Centre for Child Protection (C3P) in Winnipeg, which operates Canada's national tip line for online child exploitation. The Centre also provides resource material that has been federally approved for dissemination in schools. By connecting the Centre with PRP's Youth Education Bureau, age appropriate information regarding online exploitation has been distributed to Peel's Youth. In addition to referring cases regarding online child exploitation, the ICE Unit is the point of contact with C3P who will also refer tips regarding any kind of abuse of children including physical abuse and underage human trafficking. When received from C3P the ICE Unit refers the tip to the appropriate bureaux within Peel Police.

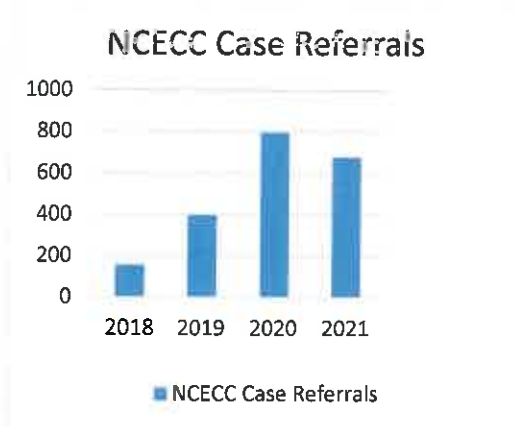
ICE investigations strive to rescue the victims of online exploitation, one of our most important community partners is the BOOST Child and Youth Advocacy Centre. BOOST offers a counselling program supported by the Provincial Strategy that is made available to the victims (and their siblings and parents) of child sexual exploitation. All identified victims are referred to this program where they receive immediate service that is paid for by the Strategy.

Findings

In 2021, the ICE Unit laid a total of 77 charges related to the online exploitation of children and 35 persons were arrested and charged with ICE related offences.



In relation to the referrals from the National Child Exploitation Crime Centre (NCECC), there was no significant change. The NCECC is a department within the RCMP Division in Ottawa that acts as the national receiver of incoming cases into Canada from other countries.



This noted trend is believed to be occurring through the ability for abusers to remain undetected on certain platforms due to the use of encryption. Therefore, a drop in the detection of child pornography causes a drop in the number of referrals being made. This type of technology creates challenges for investigators as the number of referrals are not necessarily reflective of a decrease in child pornography consumption, but demonstrates a decrease in detection.

Apart from the processing of NCECC referrals, 2021 had numerous eventful investigations and incidents. The ICE Unit had significant success in identifying high-risk offenders in 2021. The designated luring officer directly contributed to the rescue of two children in the United States from abuse, and another child in Canada. For the efforts on the case from the United States, the officer received the Canadian Association of Chief's of Police award for International Policing.

In 2021, members of the ICE Unit participated in in-depth training on categorization and on-scene triage tools. This training has improved on-scene triage which means quicker detection of illegal child pornography and reduced seizures of unrelated devices. Benefits include less time spent on resources required to analyze data in both ICE and the Digital Forensics Unit.

In the fall of 2021, the ICE Unit expanded its investigative skill-set by training 5 officers on new networks where child pornography is known to be traded. This skill set expansion will assist ICE with its sustained effectiveness in the evolution of child pornography consumption and targeting of new previously untraceable offenders. As a result of this training, ICE has already identified numerous suspects to be investigated in 2022.

In 2021, the ICE Unit also continued to support the organization by participating in numerous training efforts. Members in ICE helped develop material for the self-guided search warrant course, and participated in mentoring students on that course. Members of ICE also participated significantly in the development of training material for the in-house PRP Online Undercover Operators Course. ICE also gave instruction on the Airport Officers Orientation Course to help members of our Airport Division deal with and process persons suspected of importing Child Pornography through the Pearson International Airport.

Proposed Direction

Looking forward to 2022, there are a number of goals that have been identified.

Update the ICE Internal Website

In 2022, members from the ICE Unit, will re-design of the ICE website with a focus on providing information that will assist front-line officers. The website will provide updated information, more thorough guidance, better and more comprehensive FAQ's, and will have a section dedicated to officers who aspire to become ICE investigators. In addition, a process will be implemented to update the site annually.

Collaboration with the PRP Offender Management Unit (OMU)

Recently, the Offender Management Unit has been authorized to expand with community safety as its highest priority. Given that OMU and ICE Unit have similar overall objectives, the ICE Unit plans to work in conjunction with OMU to better monitor ICE offenders and share resources to help apprehend those who continue to pose a risk to the community. This will be achieved through regular communication and the sharing of intelligence as a result of information received through ICE investigations.

Collaboration with CBSA

In recent years, case law regarding the role of CBSA when examining digital devices at the border has complicated their ability to intercept persons possessing and importing child pornography into Canada. When it comes to the criminal investigation of child pornography consumption, the Peel ICE Unit has jurisdiction over the busiest border entry point in the country.

As a part of the memorandum of understanding the PRP ICE Unit has with CBSA at Pearson International Airport, we are encouraged to share knowledge and expertise with one another. Moving forward in 2022, it is the intention of the ICE unit to strengthen its relationship with the CBSA, which will include offering more training opportunities to their staff regarding legal updates, the examination of child pornography, and how to properly handle digital devices. By working more closely with their supervisors and administrators, it will assist in strengthening the working relationship between the two organizations. The goal of this effort is to increase the success of the CBSA at intercepting child pornography while maintaining compliance with current case law.

Unit Expansion

In order to address the very high number of incidents of online child exploitation, there is a continued need to expand the number of investigators. An additional staffing request has been made to expand the unit by two additional investigators. The additional investigators will increase the Unit's overall efficiency and effectiveness as new technologies and more sophisticated encryption, create an increase in time required to investigate individual cases.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Goal: 1. Community Safety and Well-being Together
Priority: 1.1 Crime Prevention and response

As an investigative bureau, the efforts of the ICE Unit directly contributes to the goal of community safety and well being with its highest priority being crime prevention and response. The unit works with the NCECC in Ottawa to use the latest information on relevant trends to ensure it is up to date on how technology and legal issues are evolving. The ICE Unit also uses bi-weekly

meetings so members can keep each other current on their respective investigations. Finally, as a member of the Provincial Strategy, we are in constant communication with our provincial partners on developing trends as it relates to child exploitation investigations.

Although ICE investigations tend to be reactive, there is always an emphasis on proactivity in current and future investigations. ICE investigators work to uncover crimes that would otherwise go undiscovered, and therefore contributes significantly to future crime prevention. By apprehending offenders through proactive measures, we stop them from preying on future victims which is the most effective method of crime prevention. ICE works closely with victims and families to ensure they get the support they need by connecting them to resources dedicated to victim assistance.

Organizational Wellness/Occupational Health and Safety/Risk Management

Member wellness is a top priority in the ICE Unit. The threat posed by vicarious trauma from viewing child exploitation material is a constant concern and has therefore been continuously managed. The ICE Unit takes part in the safeguarding program that sees all members meet bi-annually with a psychiatrist to ensure they remain healthy and have access to resources should they be required.

Emphasis is placed on creating a safe and positive work environment. A positive workspace creates resiliency in the face of challenges and is key to attracting future talented applicants to the office. The goal of the ICE Unit management team is to create a bureau that is desirable to work in. The success of this approach became evident in December of 2021 when we had a record number of applicants apply for a new position in ICE. All applicants were highly qualified and made for a very competitive selection process. The foundation of the ICE Unit's success is its investigators, so it is vital to be able to continue attracting competent and capable officers.

Organizational Impacts

Financial

In addition to funding received by the Region of Peel, there is also funding from the Provincial Government via the Strategy. The Strategy funding covers 70% of the wage and benefit costs of the full-time luring position. It also covers training for all the officers, as well as technology acquisitions and upgrades. The funding received from the Strategy is crucial to making the ICE Unit an effective investigative bureau capable of staying current in a rapidly changing field.

In 2021, the ICE Unit continued to receive additional Federal funding which covered approximately 50% of the salary and benefits of the additional investigator added in 2020. This funding was made available in the 2020-2021 funding year and concludes in the 2021-2022 year ending March 31, 2022.

The total 2021 budget of the ICE unit was \$1,189,960 of which \$170,500 was to be funded from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. The operational expenses for 2021 were \$1,343,513.31 and \$170,500 of that was recovered from the Ministry.

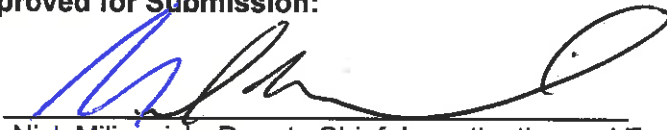
Communications Issues

The ICE Unit utilizes media releases to keep the public current on cases and investigations that meet the threshold of public safety notifications. ICE media releases have proved beneficial in the last year where they helped locate previously unknown witnesses after information about the accused and their usernames were made public.

Conclusion

The ICE Unit's mandate is aligned with the Region and PRP priorities for addressing crime and targeting priority populations. This direction is a critical step in achieving meaningful change and ensuring community safety.

Approved for Submission:



Nick Milinovich, Deputy Chief, Investigative and Emergency Services Command

For further information regarding this report, please contact Superintendent Hubert Hiltz at extension 3300 or via email at 1847@peelpolice.ca

Authored By: Hubert Hiltz, Superintendent, Investigative Services Command