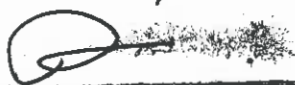




FORWARDED TO
POLICE SERVICES BOARD

DATE JUNE 8, 2021


CHIEF OF POLICE

04-06-21

REPORT
Police Services Board

For Information

File Class: 1-01-02-01

PSB REC: JUN 08, 21
LOG #32-21
FILE CLASS: P01

Cross-Reference File Class: _____

DATE: June 3, 2021

SUBJECT: **2020 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:

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

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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
- Powercase 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 (7) 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
- EveryMind (formerly Peel Children's Centre)
- 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 2020, SVU received 509 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.

Calls for Assistance Received from the CAS

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1055	880	773	693	708	509

Special Victims Unit Child Abuse Investigations

In 2020, there was a 14% decrease from 2019 in the number investigations involving Sexual Offences Against Children. There was also a 41% decrease in the number of Physical Assaults Against Children from 2019. There was one neglect investigation, which was the same as in 2019. Overall, there was a 27.5% decrease in the number of investigations conducted from the previous year.

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	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2019-20 Change
Sexual Offences Against Children	111	123	145	230	197	-14%
Physical Assaults Against Children	226	230	226	234	139	-41%
Neglect	2	0	3	1	1	0%
Total Investigations	339	353	374	465	337	-27.59%

Strategic Plan Alignment

Goal: 1. Community Safety and Well-being Together

Priority: 1.5 Priority Populations

Organizational Wellness/Occupational Health and Safety/Risk Management

- a) Given the sensitive and graphic nature of investigations, members assigned to SVU are designated as "high risk", and are subject to the PRP Safeguarding program. PRP is committed to the well being of all our personnel; and,
- b) 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 that were 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 of the existence of abuse and neglect of elderly and/or vulnerable adults. It also provides instructions for the action to be taken when it is encountered.

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

- Act as a liaison for all frontline officers and all PRP bureaux 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 involving Elder Abuse/Vulnerable Person(s) and provide investigative assistance to PRP officers and ensure community members have the support and resources they require.
- **4041** occurrences were reviewed in 2020.

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 P.R.P. 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

2020 population estimates for the City of Brampton and City of Mississauga are as follows:

Total Population	1,461,432
Population 60+	295,525
Percentage of population 60+	20.2%

Source: PRP Corporate Planning and Research Bureau

Findings

Between January 1st, 2020 and December 31st, 2020 the Elder Abuse Coordinator reviewed 4,041 police occurrences involving Elder person(s) / Vulnerable adult(s). This was a 13% increase from the 3,575 occurrences that were reviewed in 2019. This increase in occurrences could be attributed in part to the following;

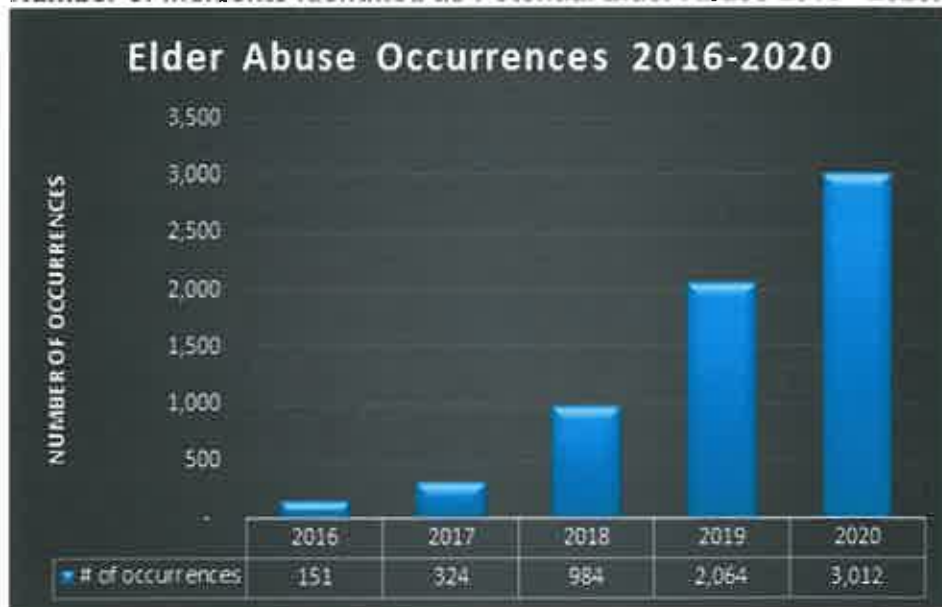
- An aging population within our Region
- Ongoing education, information and awareness of Elder Abuse that promotes the reporting of such incidents

- The completion of training to Record Services on the proper coding of occurrences that directly or indirectly involve persons 60 years of age or older; and
- The current COVID-19 Pandemic that is contributing to isolating seniors from family and community supports.

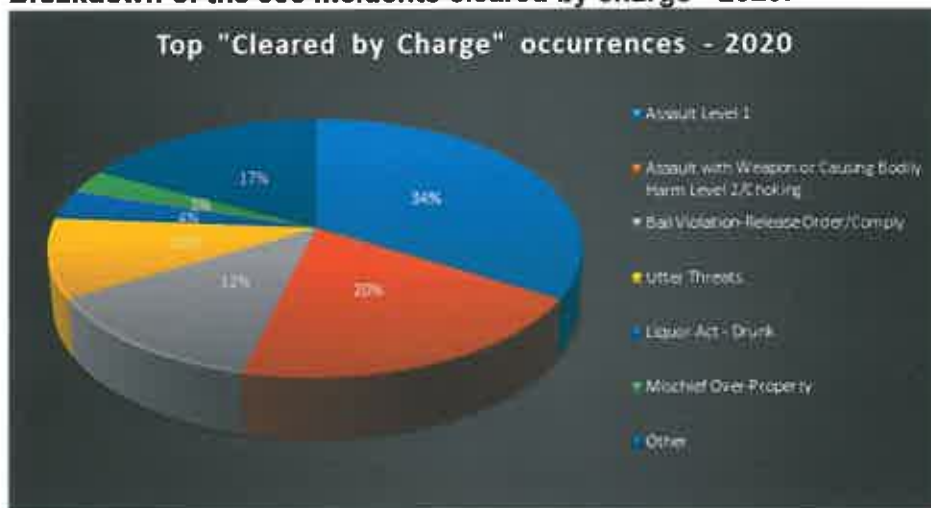
Of the 4,041 police occurrences reviewed by the Elder Abuse Coordinator, 3,012 incidents were further investigated for Elder/Vulnerable Abuse or the potential or Elder/Vulnerable Abuse and were resolved as follows:

- 306 were cleared by charge,
- 66 were cleared other
- 2640 were either solved but deemed non-criminal, or are still under investigation.

Number of Incidents Identified as Potential Elder Abuse 2016 - 2020:



Breakdown of the 306 incidents cleared by charge - 2020:



Presentations

In 2020, the Elder Abuse Coordinator provided 11 internal training sessions to various PRP personnel including: Officers attending the Mental Health Course, New Recruits and Divisional Mobilization Training.

Externally, presentations were delivered to various community members and groups, including: emergency medical services, community agency workers, long-term care service providers, residents, caregivers, elders living in their own home, volunteers and neighbourhood associations.

The presentations were designed to educate the participants as to the issues surrounding elder abuse and vulnerable person abuse.

Senior Safety Calendars

The Elder Abuse Coordinator worked with 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 Organization within the Region. The Senior Safety Calendar is extremely popular with Seniors, and demonstrates to the Public one of the many ways that Peel Police 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' issues. The role of the 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.S.)

- Peel Elder Abuse Prevention Network (P.E.A.P.N.)
- Vulnerable Person Registry Committee (V.P.R.C)

Strategic Plan Alignment

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

Conclusion

As the percentage of reported Elder Abuse incidents continues to rise in the Region of Peel, the Elder Abuse Coordinator and Peel Regional Police will in collaboration with community partners, continue to provide resources and education to address this complex issue.

FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Background

Note: In April 2021 the Peel Regional Police Service completed a comprehensive overhaul of the service delivery model in the area of Intimate Partner Investigations. Evaluations/details of those changes are NOT reflected in this report or the paragraphs which follow. This report provides information on services for the year 2020. Updates on service innovations for 2021 will follow throughout 2021 and be highlighted in the coming "2022 Annual Persons at Risk Report".

The Peel Regional Police (PRP) 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. A function of IPV is to ensure that officers are effectively trained and updated on evolving legislation.

IPV was 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

Findings

Adequacy Standard LE-024 – Training Models

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. The four models of service delivery offered are:

1. Ensuring that an adequate number of patrol officers are designated as Domestic Violence Investigators, or;
2. Establishing a specialized unit of Domestic Violence Investigators responsible for undertaking, managing, or reviewing all domestic violence investigations, or;
3. Designating a Domestic Violence occurrence as a threshold occurrence under the police service's criminal investigation management plan, thereby requiring that the investigation be undertaken or managed by a criminal investigator, or;
4. Designating patrol supervisors as Domestic Violence Investigators who will be responsible for undertaking, managing, or reviewing all domestic violence investigations.

PRP used a combination of Model #1 and #4 to meet organizational needs but will also incorporate #2 by implementing the new Intimate Partner Violence Unit in 2021. The selected models allow for a variation of supervisors and front line/specialty bureau officers to receive the Ministry of the Solicitor General accredited training. The requirements of LE-024 continues to be met by PRP by having patrol supervisors review and acknowledge the thoroughness of all domestic violence investigations.

Domestic Violence Investigator Training

The Domestic Violence Investigator's (DVI) Course is an extensive four day course held twice yearly at the Emil V. Kolb Centre for Police Excellence. Upon completion, officers are awarded the DVI designation. Historically, priority was given to supervisors and acting supervisors, however, PRP has since adopted a more inclusive approach and includes front line officers and those in investigative bureaus who are exposed to these types of investigations. PRP currently has **845** officers with the DVI designation.

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Investigations

IPV calls remain the number one call for service and are considered to be of the highest priority. Due to the high risk inherent in intimate partner situations, officers shall use extreme caution and adhere to proven safety procedures when responding to intimate partner incidents. All Intimate Partner Violence calls are responded to by a minimum of two officers.

PRP's adherence to Provincial Adequacy Standards has resulted in an increase in the time required to thoroughly investigate domestic dispute matters. An example of this is the expectation by the courts that victim statements should be video recorded whenever possible. When interviewing an accused person for IPV related offences, officers shall ensure that all attempts are made to obtain a video recorded statement. As per Directive I-B-727(F) (Video Recording of Interviews) it is the policy of this Service to digitally record all interviews with suspects of criminal offences or persons arrested for criminal offences, who have been returned to a police facility. This has an impact on the time required for a thorough IPV investigation.

PRP is in compliance with the charging guidelines of the Province of Ontario. The mandatory charging guidelines, as directed by the Province are strictly adhered to; where reasonable grounds exist to believe that a criminal offence has occurred, within an intimate partner

relationship, officers shall lay charges. The Service has comprehensive directives that speak to intimate partner investigations. These directives include detailed steps on how domestic related investigations are documented to ensure that officers are conducting thorough investigations.

Safety Issues and Public Awareness

a) Peel Children's Aid

PRP takes a precautionary approach in dealing with matters where a child is likely to be exposed to domestic 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 domestic violence. They conduct child welfare assessments and provide ongoing work with families, youth and children who have experienced and been exposed to domestic 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.*

b) 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. The criterion includes:

- The individual is living in Peel Region (Mississauga or Brampton).
- The individual is not living with the accused.
- The individual has reasonable grounds for feeling at risk (e.g. prior violent acts committed against them, threats of violence).
- The individual is using and abiding by all additional reasonable protective orders available to them (e.g. restraining orders, bail conditions, peace bonds) or are in the process of seeking such protective orders.
- The individual indicates an understanding of, and agree to the use, and limitations of, the GPS Tracker.
- The individual is willing to prepare a Personal Safety Plan in cooperation with the Project GUARDIAN Coordinator.
- The individual is willing to remain in contact with the Project GUARDIAN Coordinator with regards to updates on their situation and to review their Personal Safety Plan.
- The individual accepts the terms of use agreement, including the return of the GPS Tracker upon cessation of need or failure to comply with the terms of use.
- The individual does not already have a GPS Tracker.

- The individuals willing to complete the application sign the user agreement and any other required legal documents pertinent to this project.
- The individual participates in completing an ODARA (Ontario Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment) tool if it is related to intimate partner violence.
- The individual understands that the GPS Tracker is not a long term safety tool, and that other means of protection, planning and safety must be in place before receiving a Tracker.

In 2020, 6 clients were offered services by the program but no new clients enrolled. There were zero actual alarms and zero false alarms triggered when the units were out of service. The program continues to be piloted through 2021.

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.

In order to provide the public with information regarding family and intimate partner violence and identify community agencies that provide assistance and support to victims and their families the following have been made available:

- In November 2020 PRP partnered with the Region of peel, City of Brampton, City of Mississauga, Town of Caledon, Ontario Provincial Police and numerous Regional community agencies and launched the Awareness Campaign “It’s Not Okay” to generate increased access to information and resources related to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV).

Over the ten-day period of the campaign, the PRP Family and Intimate Partner Violence related webpage had an increase in access by 60%. Therefore demonstrating the widespread effectiveness of these campaigns to inform the community.

Community Partnerships / Committees (Appendix I)

- The PRP is formally represented through membership and participation throughout the Region of Peel’s Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. One of the priorities of this plan is Family and Intimate Partner Violence which has been invaluable in ensuring service alignment to community needs and interests
- 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 Family and 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.

Statistical Information

Family and Intimate Partner Violence statistics have shown a decrease in the number of Intimate Partner criminal charges laid when compared to 2019 and a decrease in the number of Intimate Partner verbal and non-intimate partner calls.

The Family and Intimate Partner Violence occurrence categories are defined as follows:

(A) Intimate Partner Violations (Total Cleared)

Statistics for this category relate to occurrences involving intimate relationships involving persons who are married, living common-law, same-sex couples and dating relationships, whether past or current.

These figures identify the number of occurrences **Cleared by Charge** or **Cleared by Other**:

Examples of Cleared by Other include but are not limited to; death/suicide of the accused, the accused was involved in an Intimate Partner Verbal Dispute (No Charges) incident in conjunction with a unrelated offence and was cleared by departmental discretion for the unrelated offence.

Intimate Partner Violations (Total Cleared)

Intimate Partner					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Cleared	2,407	2,402	2,706	3,053	2,975
Cleared by Charge	2,347	2,329	2,660	3,017	2,951
Cleared by Other	60	73	46	36	24

Source: OccDiv 2016-2020

(B) Intimate Partner Violations (Verbal – No Charges)

These statistics involve intimate relationship verbal disputes where **No Criminal Charges** were laid:

Intimate Partner Violations (Verbal-no charges)

Intimate Partner					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
No Criminal Charges*	6,935	7,375	7,593	8,047	7,520

Source: OccDiv 2016-2020

*Includes Unfounded occurrences

(C) Family Dispute Violations (Total Cleared)

These statistics involve family incidents (non-intimate partner), including child, parent, siblings, cousins etc. where occurrences were either **Cleared by Charge** or **Cleared by Other**.

Family Dispute Violations (total cleared)

Family Dispute					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Cleared	1,019	1,001	1,090	1,189	1,068
Cleared by Charge	868	788	880	963	853
Cleared by Other	151	213	210	226	215

Source: OccDiv 2016-2020

(D) Family Dispute Violations (Verbal – No Charges)

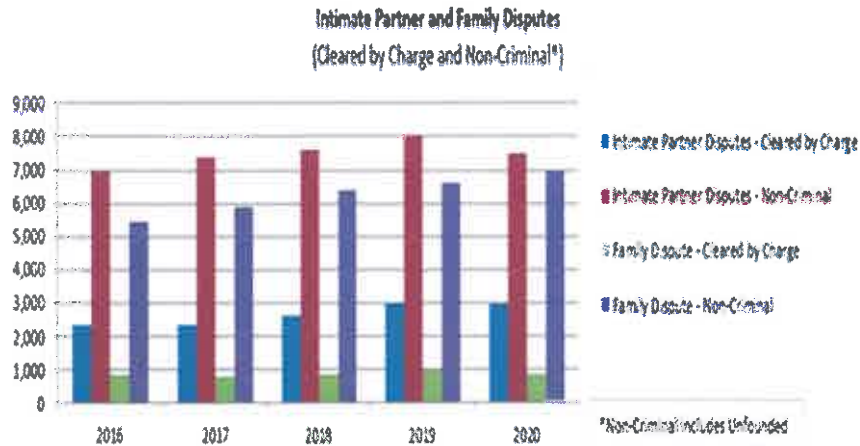
These statistics relate to verbal family disputes (parent/child, siblings etc.) where **No Criminal Charges** were laid:

Family Dispute Violations (Verbal- No Charges)

Family Dispute					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
No Criminal Charges	5,439	5,899	6,386	6,602	6,944

Comparative data for bar graph below	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Intimate Partner Disputes - Cleared by Charge	2,347	2,329	2,660	3,017	2,951
Intimate Partner Disputes - Non-Criminal*	6,935	7,375	7,593	8,047	7,520
Family Dispute - Cleared by Charge	868	788	880	963	853
Family Dispute - Non-Criminal*	5,437	5,899	6,385	6,602	6,944

*Includes Unfounded occurrences



Proposed Direction

In April 2021 PRP developed a centralized Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Unit. The development of this unit will also be accompanied by a comprehensive review and service innovation in the PRP service delivery model in the area of Intimate Partner Investigations. The objectives will be (but not limited to);

- more effective and efficient service delivery
- alignment to the Region of Peel's Community Safety and Well-being Plan,
- Reduced reliance on uniform response to these incidents providing for a more welcoming and culturally appropriate response
- More consistent service delivery, opportunity for overall enhanced care and management of survivors and an increased ability to monitor high risk offenders.

The Unit will be embedded in the William B. Davis Centre for Families and have partnered with the Safe Centre of Peel to provide wrap around support for survivors. The IPV Unit is aligned with the Region of Peel and PRP priorities for addressing family violence and priority populations. This direction is a critical step in achieving meaningful change. Nationally, this model is one of the few that has aligned our service delivery for Intimate Partner Violence with the family justice model and is congruent with the Region of Peel's Community Safety and Well-Being plan. The Unit was operationalized on April 20th, 2021.

In November 2020, PRP collaborated with the Safe Centre of Peel (SCoP) and initiated a 6 month Non-Criminal Intimate Partner Dispute Referral Pilot Project. The pilot project is an intervention opportunity where PRP and SCoP can provide support and services earlier to families where there is high conflict and non-criminal abuse. It is a proactive approach aimed at reducing calls for service involving the same individuals for similar situations and to prevent the severity of the incidents from escalating. The pilot project has been extended until June 2021 and SCoP will be seeking additional funding to implement this organization wide.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Goal: Community Safety and Well-being Together

Priority: 1.3 Intimate partner and family violence

1. Organizational Wellness/Occupational Health and Safety/Risk Management

- c) 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,
- d) 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

The response of PRP to matters of IPV continues to meet, and in some cases, exceed the requirements of established adequacy standards. PRP exceeds the levels set out in the 2016 National Framework for Collaborative Police Action on Intimate Partner Violence.

YOUTH CRIME

Background

The 2020 Youth Crime Report provides insight into crime statistics and trends, related to young persons investigated by the Peel Regional Police (PRP). The PRP Corporate Planning and Research Bureau compiled the statistics within this report.

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, the Government of Ontario imposed 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 2020 Youth Crime Statistics reflected in this report correlates highly with the limits placed 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 the ages of 12 and 17 years. This legislation includes multi-disciplinary approaches where PRP takes reasonable steps to prevent youth crime, to 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. This ensures accountability through meaningful consequences and effective rehabilitation and reintegration, and reserves the most serious intervention for the most serious crimes with the goal being to reduce incarceration for non-violent young persons.

Findings

Population

In 2020, the combined population of the Cities of Brampton and Mississauga was 1,461,432 of which 104,090 were young persons. The number of youth has remained constant for the past five years. In 2020, Young Persons represented 7.12% of the area population.

a) Crimes Against Persons

Crimes against persons includes offences of Assault, Robbery, Sexual Offences, Criminal Harassment and Threatening.

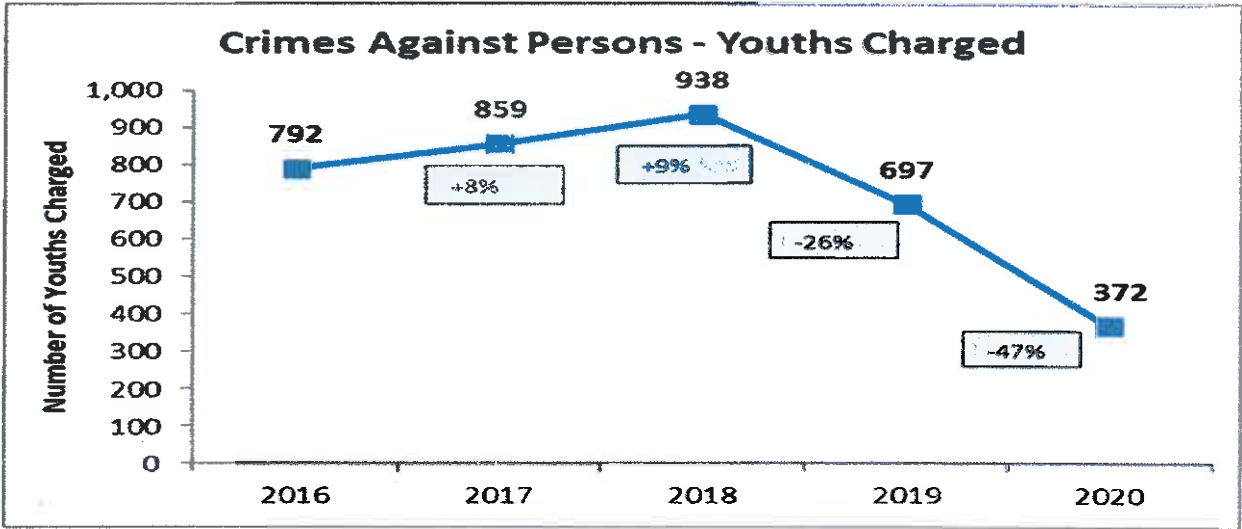


Figure 1

The four most frequently occurring incident types for Crimes against persons were Robbery, Assault (Level 1 and Level 2) and Uttering Threats.

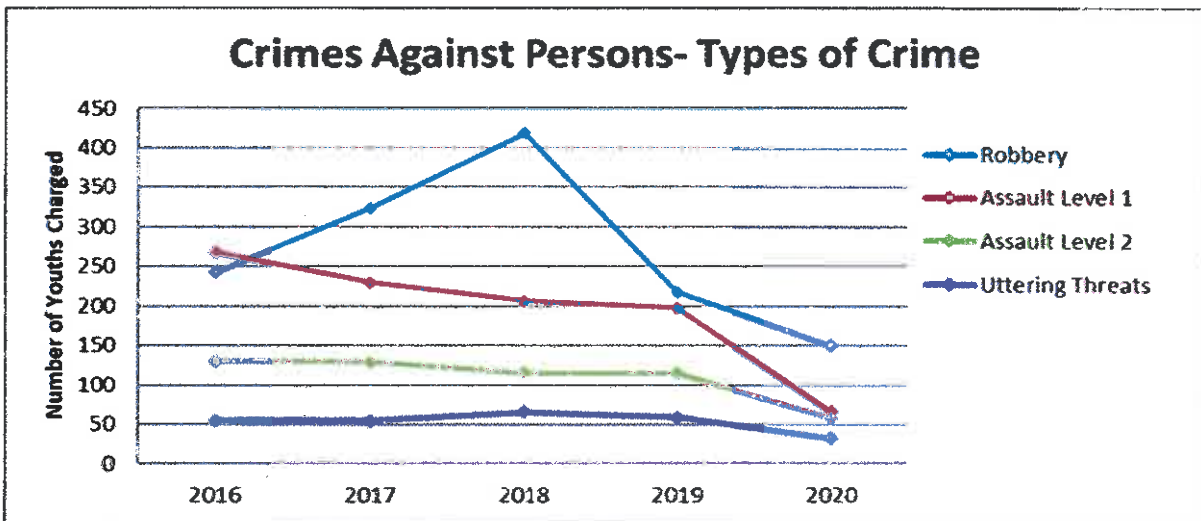


Figure 2

b) Crimes Against Property

Crimes against property include offences such as Break, Enter to Commit an Offence, Theft, Possession of Property Obtained by Crime, Fraud, Mischief and Arson.

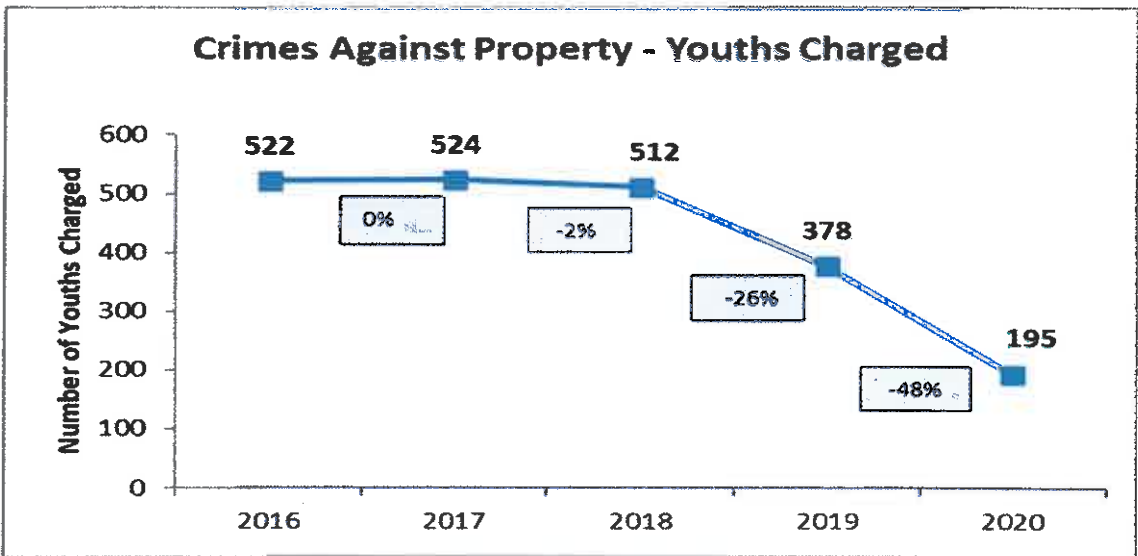


Figure 3

The four most frequently occurring incident types for crimes against property were Possession of Stolen Goods, Break, Enter to Commit an Offence, Theft Under \$5,000 (shop theft) and Mischief.

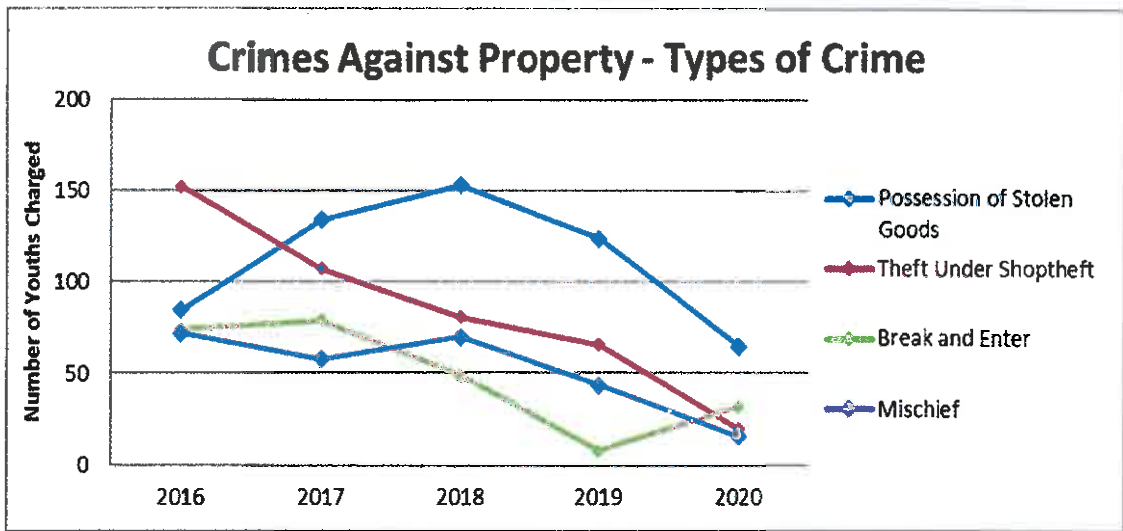


Figure 4

c) Criminal Driving Offences

Criminal driving offences include offences such as Dangerous Driving, Failing to Remain at the Scene of an Accident, Driving While Impaired and Street Racing.

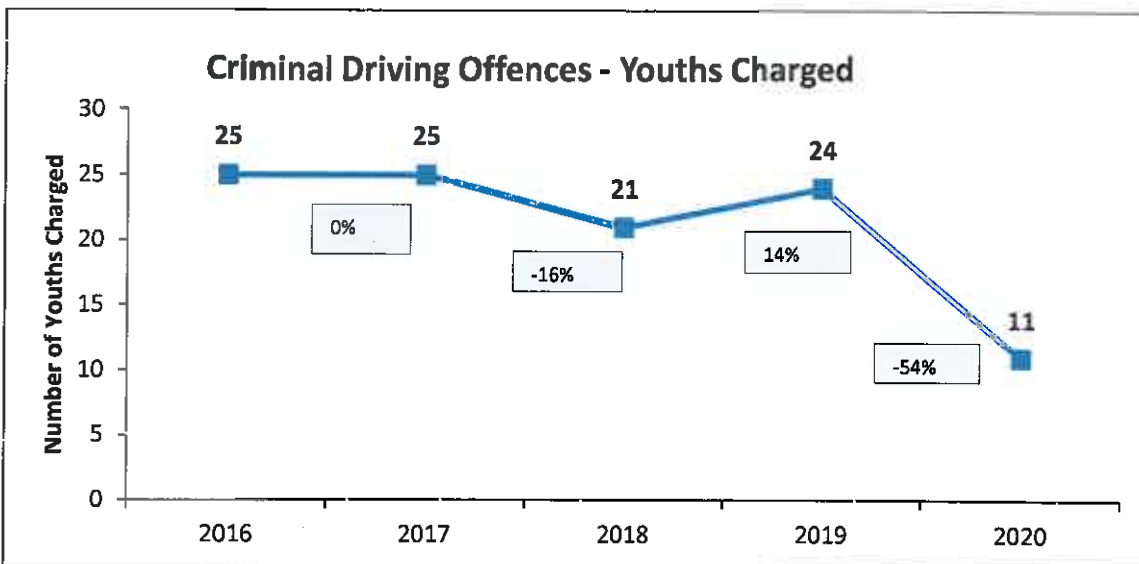


Figure 5

Dangerous Operation of Motor Vehicle (all types) remains the most common criminal driving offence committed by young persons.

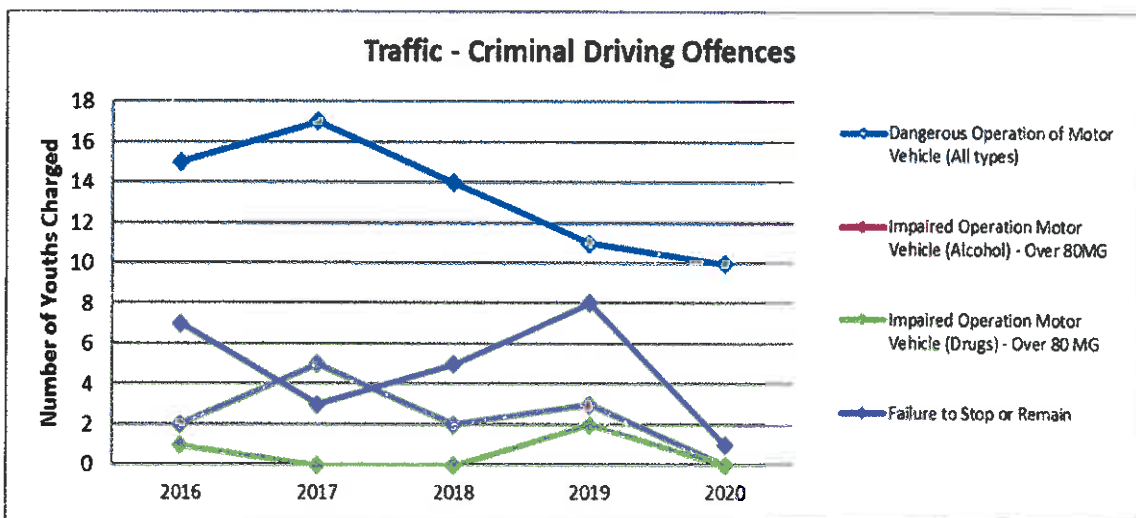


Figure 6

d) Drug Offences

Drug offences included Possession, Trafficking and other related crimes.

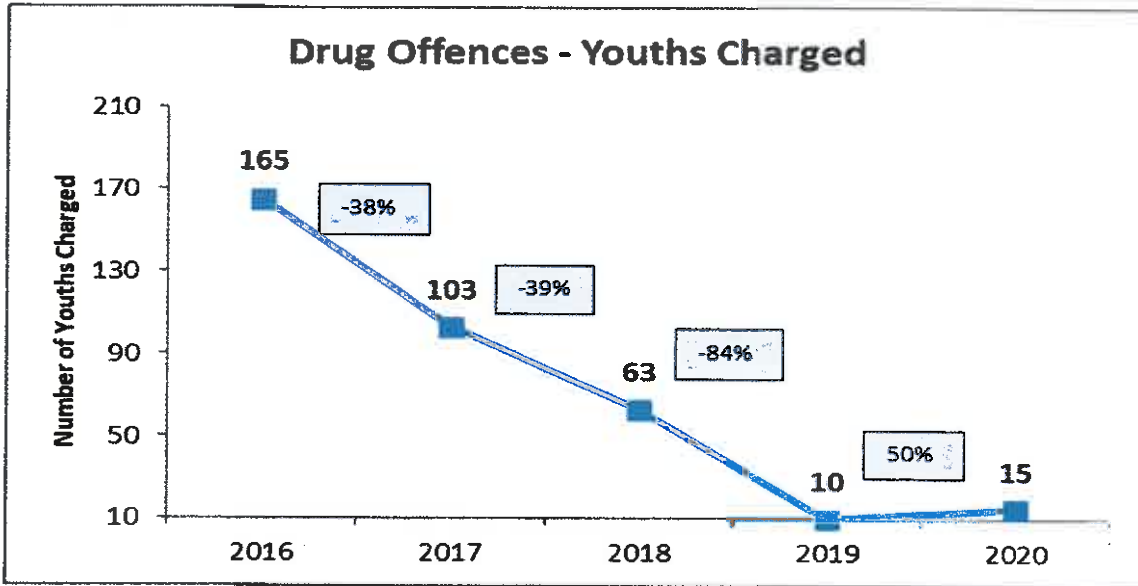


Figure 7

e) Total Young Persons Charged

In 2020, young persons represented 5.3% of all persons charged by PRP with 694 young persons charged, signaling a decrease of 593 or 46% in comparison to 2019.

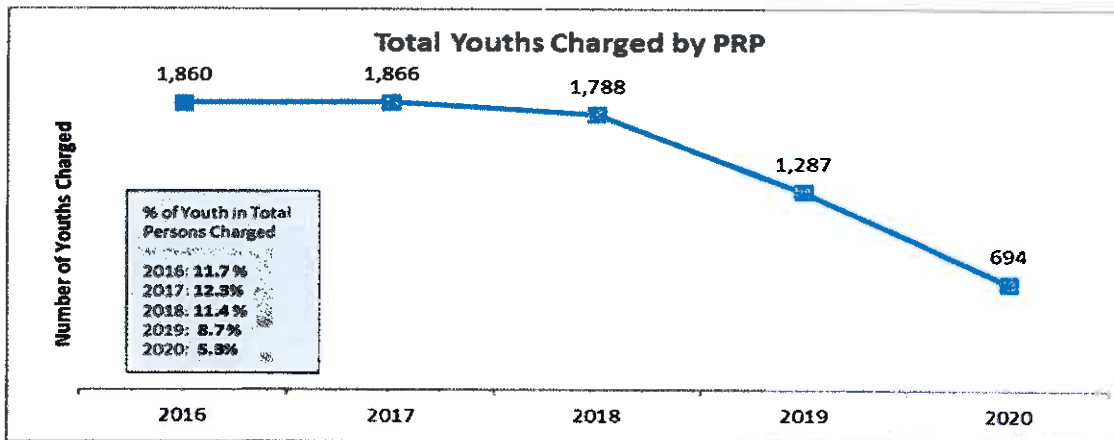


Figure 8

The following chart summarizes the comparative analysis of statistics, on both youth and adult offenders, related to 2019 and 2020.

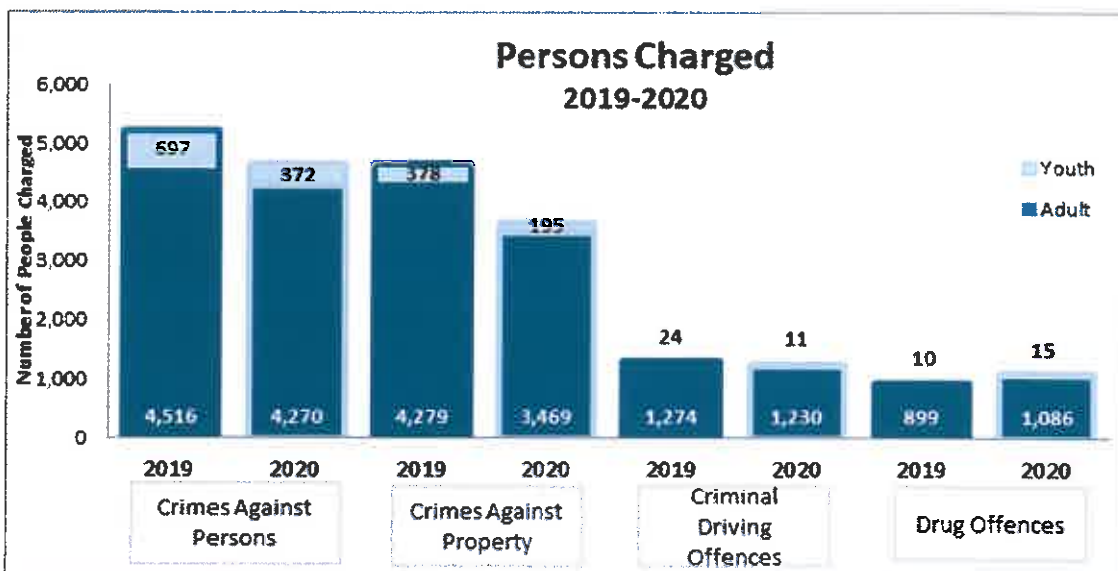


Figure 9

Continuing Work with Young People

- The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the programming that could be offered to young persons in 2020. However, between January and March 2020, prior to the COVID-19 restrictions 13,458 youth received programming from Youth Education officers.
- Youth Education Officers continued working with the respective school boards in an effort to engage youth virtually across social media to deliver community safety messaging. In November 2020, the School Resource Officer program was cancelled and the role of police within the schools is currently under review.
- Due to the pandemic, PRP placed the Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI) program on hold. It is hoped (pandemic permitting) to resume in 2022.
- To ensure 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. Combined there were 343,485 views of PCSV posts on social media platforms. PCSV continued with community initiatives including 'Helmets on Kids' where 20 children from the Malton community received bicycle helmets.

Pre-Charge Diversion

A significant component of the Y.C.J.A. is the application of Extrajudicial Measures, a means by 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. Legislation directs officers to consider extrajudicial measures when a young person has committed an offence before laying a charge. Where appropriate, PRP refers youth who have committed a criminal offence to the 'Pre-charge Diversion Program' administered by '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 breaking the law.

In 2020, PRP referred 534 cases to AYSP, compared to the 455 referrals made in 2019. This represented an increase in referrals of 79 cases (or 17%). Each month, the Pre-charge Diversion Program Coordinator examines the frequency of referrals compared to the use of Cautions by officers. In 2020, officers referred 55% of all occurrences that met the criteria of the diversion program to AYSP. This represents a 2% increase when compared to the 53% of all cases referred in 2019.

Each month an analysis is conducted on the recidivism rate of youth in comparison with the same period from the previous year. In 2020, 91% of the youth referred to the Pre-Charge Diversion Program, successfully completed all the program requirements where:

- 88% of the youth who successfully completed the referral program did not reoffend within a one-year period
- 12% of the youth who successfully completed the referral program did reoffend within the one-year period
- 9% of the youth did not complete the referral program. For those who did not complete the referral program, the recidivism rate was 16%.

The Pre-charge Diversion Program enabled 534 young people to have a second chance and learn from their mistakes, in lieu of placing them into the criminal justice system. The Pre-Charge Diversion program is having a positive impact to youth.

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 current presentations to ensure the current equity and inclusion standards of the Peel District School Board, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board and PRP are applied.

Organizational Wellness/Occupational Health and Safety/Risk Management

To ensure a safe working environment during the COVID-19 pandemic, an evaluation of the current practices of face-to face presentations was undertaken. Subsequently, alternative delivery models were utilised. Alternative models included internet-based videos, social media platforms and virtual meetings. By using these platforms to deliver programs, officers reduced the risks from unnecessary exposure to the COVID-19 virus to themselves and the community.

Organizational Impacts

Technology

PRP have approved WebEx software for the organization for the use of virtual meetings. PRP Youth Education and PCSV are able to utilize this software to deliver material to local schools.

Conclusion

The PRP 2020 Youth Crime Report lists important data on the involvement of youth in policing related activities. Overall, the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions has had profound impact on the data. The number of youths charged with a criminal offence statistically reduced over the past year by 46%. To meet community needs during the pandemic, the PRP Youth Education Bureau and PCSV reconfigured their service delivery model to accommodate a virtual environment. While waiting for in person opportunities to resurface, PRP Youth Education Bureau will continue to form community-based partnerships to contribute to a safer community together.

INTERNET CHILD EXPLOITATION

Background

The Internet Child Exploitation Unit is comprised of 1 Detective, 6 Detective Constables, 1 Online Lurer, plus 1 accommodated officer. In 2020, the ICE Unit expanded by one investigator resulting from a grant provided by the federal government. Within the Unit, a designation of Victim ID officer was created for one of the investigators. The function of this role will be to spearhead victim ID efforts within the Peel ICE Unit, in addition to their regular investigative duties.

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.

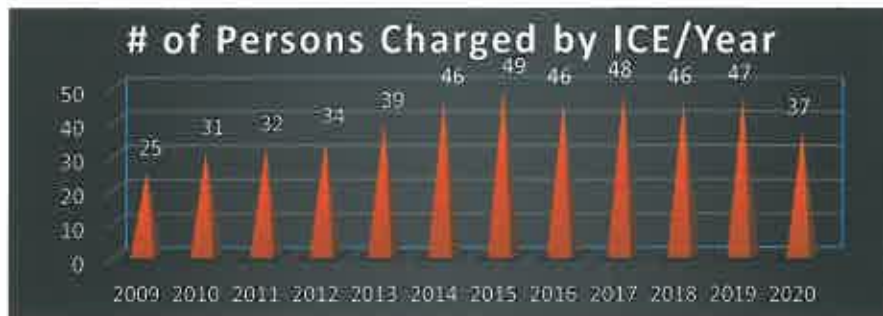
As internet crime has no geographical boundaries, the PRP ICE Unit regularly works with Law Enforcement Partners around the world. In 2020, some of those agencies included; INTERPOL, United States of America Department of Homeland Security (HSI), Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA), The Department of Internal Affairs Digital Child Exploitation Team in New Zealand, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), 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 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.

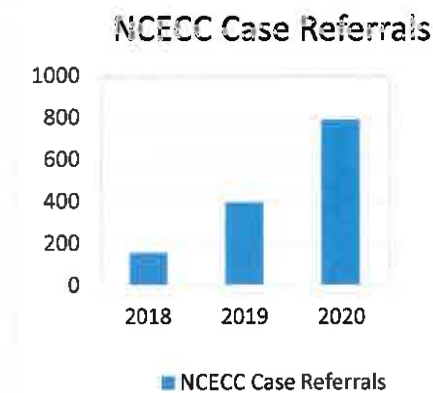
ICE investigations strive to rescue the victims of online exploitation, one of our most important community partners is the BOOST Child and Youth Advocacy Centre. BOOST offers a counselling program supported by the Provincial Strategy that is made available to the victims (and their siblings and parents) 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 2020, the ICE Unit laid a total of 109 charges related to the online exploitation of children and 37 persons were arrested and charged with ICE related offences.



There was a continued exponential growth of cases, specifically in regards to the files received from the National Child Exploitation Crime Centre (NCECC). 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.



As the chart above illustrates, there is a doubling of referrals from the NCECC each year since 2018. This exponential growth is not a problem unique to the Region of Peel, and reports indicate that this phenomenon is occurring all over the world. With both offenders and victims spending more of their time online it was predictable that there would be more opportunities for more offences to be committed.

Other factors that contribute to this trend are the fact that there is an increase in offenders using mobile devices to access their child pornography collections that are being kept on cloud-based storage. This has resulted in more offences being detected and subsequently reported, leading to a substantial increase in case referrals. Ultimately, a triage is required for these referrals and

the Peel ICE Unit works to identify the most serious cases sent and pursue the investigations that will best protect the public and victims.

In 2020, the Peel ICE Unit also took part in a worldwide project targeting offenders who were utilizing an application that combined both cloud-based storage with a chatting function. This particular platform has become popular with offenders who seek to obtain child pornography and in 2020 the Peel ICE Unit executed ten (10) search warrants against such offenders. Of note, the Peel ICE Unit was the first Unit in Canada to complete its list of referrals on this project.

In 2019 a need was identified to create new processes to make the office more efficient in relation to caseload. The approach was to use triage, training, and technology to streamline and speed up the rate at which an officer can process a case. Most of the progress in 2020 was a result from the new triage process and improvements in technology.

The ICE Unit worked with the software provider that supplies our categorization program to help develop an AI (Artificial Intelligence) add-on application that would assist the officers in identifying images that meet the Criminal Code definition of child pornography (CP). This will ultimately help reduce the strain on organizational resources in decreasing the amount of time it takes officers to categorize the massive collections. Additionally will mitigate the risk of vicarious trauma to investigators.

In late 2020, the Peel ICE Unit was the first police organization to use AI on active case categorizations, which will start to teach the algorithms to be more efficient at identifying criminal files of child pornography.

PRP ICE implemented the new triage software in late 2020 to help identify CP during the execution of warrants. This acquisition, combined with a substantial hardware upgrade for the officers work laptops enabled increase efficiency at processing image and video files. The combination of the hardware and triage upgrade will help officers search devices on the scene of search warrants at a much faster rate than previous.

Proposed Direction

There are a number of goals that have been identified for 2021.

Staffing Assessments

In 2020, PRP received federal funding to increase the compliment by one investigator. It is unknown if this funding will extend beyond 2022. This combined with the compounding numbers of investigative intakes will create potential staffing pressures to respond to demand. Those pressures will be monitored closely to ensure any service gaps are avoided for these priority investigations.

Victim Identification

In 2020, one of the officers in the ICE Unit was formally designated as the Victim ID officer. Moving forward, this role will be firmly established in the internal PRP ICE procedure and the officer will be identified on the internal Intranet ICE web page. This will be in an effort to place more emphasis on the need to focus on not just identifying offenders but to identify victims as well. In addition to their regular investigative duties, this officer will spend time liaising with provincial and federal partners in an effort to ensure that victims of child pornography or the young

victims of the unlawful sharing of intimate images in the Region of Peel are placed on national and international databases. This will help better protect them from having their images indiscriminately shared or in some cases lead to the discovery of new offences by historical offenders.

Training for the Victim ID officer will be sought, to equip them with investigative techniques that will assist in the identification of unknown children or verify suspected victims in seized collections. This will give the ICE Unit a greater capacity to find and identify victims of child pornography and provide stronger evidence for the court process.

Image Categorization Streamlining

One of the constant challenges facing ICE investigators is the ever-increasing size of file collections seized from offenders. This is an issue, which affects all ICE Units across Canada. The current categorization technology cannot keep up with the increasing size of offender collections. These large collections cause strain to operational resources in relation to the time it takes to sort and categorize collections.

In 2019, the ICE Unit processed 12 TB of data, analyzed 2.35 million unique images and 166,000 unique videos. In 2020, the ICE Unit processed 22 TB of data, 5.6 million unique images and 181,000 unique videos. Of note, in 2020 one case had over 2 million unique images on one single hard drive.

For 2021, there will be efforts made to work collaboratively with the Ministry of the Attorney General along with our Strategy and RCMP partners to establish a better approach to categorizing collections. There will be emphasis on how to better leverage other aggravating factors of a collection besides just the total number of files. This will reduce the need to categorize collections whose size has past the point of contributing any more to the strength of the investigation or to a more significant prosecution/sentence.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Goal: 1. Community Safety and Well-being Together

Priority: 1.1 Crime Prevention and response

Organizational Wellness/Occupational Health and Safety/Risk Management

- e) Member wellbeing is a top priority in the ICE Unit. The threat posed by vicarious trauma from viewing child exploitation material is a constant concern and is 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, and,
- f) 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.

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 71% 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 that protects the public.

Additionally during 2020, the Unit received 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 2020 budget of the ICE unit was \$1,192,040 of which \$170,500 was to be funded from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. The operational expenses for 2020 were \$1,375,634 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 requiring the public to be notified. ICE media releases have proved beneficial in the last year where they helped locate previously unknown victims 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 targeting priority populations. This direction is a critical step in achieving meaningful change and ensuring community safety.

This report is the product of five (5) combined annual area statements previously reported upon separately. All five areas continue to convey positive progression, stand by the goals and priorities within the strategic plan and are well positioned for continued success into 2021.

Approved for Submission:



Nick Milinovich, Deputy Chief, Investigative and Emergency Services Command

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APPENDIX I

Community Partnerships / Committees – 2020

Peel Regional Police maintain a strong community partnership and/or committee membership with the following agencies in relation to Family and Intimate Partner Violence:

- Armagh House.
- Catholic Cross Cultural Services.
- Catholic Family Services of Peel-Dufferin.
- COVID-19 Committee's:
 - Family Violence Community Response Table.
 - Court committee.
 - Violence against women committee.
 - Working with men using abuse in their relationships committee.
- Working with Men Action Table.
- Davis Centre Leadership Table.
- Domestic Violence Court Advisory Committee (DVCAC).
- Family and Intimate Partner Violence Awareness Campaign (Region of Peel).
 - FIPV Awareness Campaign - Working Group.
 - FIPV Awareness Campaign - Action Table.
- Family Justice / Child Advocacy Centre.
- Family Services of Peel.
- Hope 24/7 Crisis Line.
- Indus Community Services of Peel.
- Embrave North.
- Embrave South.
- Ministry of the Solicitor General.
- Multilingual Community Interpreter Services (M.C.I.S.).
- Ontario Domestic Violence Coordinators Network (ODVCN).
- Peel Children's Aid Society (CAS).
- Peel Committee Against Women Abuse (P.C.A.W.A.).
- Peel Crown Attorney's Office.
- Probation and Parole (Brampton and Mississauga).
- ReVAMP (Risk Evaluation and Management in Peel).
- Safe Center of Peel (SCoP).
- Ontario Domestic Violence Coordinators Network (ODVCN).
- Salvation Army Family Life Resource Centre.
- Trillium Health Centre (Chantel's Place).
- Victim Services of Peel (VSOP).
- Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP).
- Ontario Domestic Violence Death Review Committee.