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REPORT Police Services Board

For Information

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DATE: June 2, 2023

SUBJECT: **2022 PERSONS AT RISK ANNUAL REPORT**

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the 2022 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 Safety and public awareness.

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 years of age) 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
- Shaken Baby and Advanced Head Trauma Conference
- Forensic Interviewing Course
- Search Warrant Course
- Advanced 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 2022, SVU received **377** consults requiring assistance directly from the Children's Aid Society. The consults/referrals for assistance were for information and/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.

Calls for Assistance Received from the CAS

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*
693	708	509	725	377

***Note:** In 2022, SVU collected statistics for the total amount of *CAS Consult/Referral Forms* received (from CAS). The total does not include other methods of correspondence between CAS/SVU. Therefore, the total number of calls for assistance is lower than in previous years.

CAS Consultations - Breakdown

Incident Type	Total
Non joint Investigation	224
Other joint Investigation	7
Physical Assault Investigation	80
Sexual Assault Investigation	66
Total Consults	377

Child Abuse Investigations

In 2022, there was a 10.8% increase from 2021 in the number of investigations involving Sexual Offences against Children. There was also a 15.4% increase in the number of Physical Assaults against Children from 2021 (an additional 67 incidents from the previous year). There were 6

neglect investigations, which was a decrease of two cases. Overall, there was a 10.8% increase in the number of total victims from 2021 to 2022.

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

ABUSE TYPE	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2021-22 variation
Sexual Offences Against Children	378	306	238	302	318	+5.2%
Physical Assaults Against Children	647	694	695	435	502	+15.4%
Neglect	3	1	1	8	6	-25%
Total Investigations	1028	1001	644	745	826	+10.8%

Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics & Methodology

ABUSE TYPE	2022
Sexual Offences Against Children	318
Physical Assaults Against Children	502
Neglect	6
Total Investigations	826

Methodology:

- 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 were under 18 at the time of the offence
- The relationship between the offender and victim excludes: spouse, girlfriend/boyfriend, ex-girlfriend/ex-boyfriend
- Reports were also excluded where the offender/culprit was also under 18 years of age (There were numerous reports involving fights at schools etc., where the accused was also underage- by definition this does not meet the child abuse criteria)
- Neglect related occurrences (Fail to provide necessities and Abandon child) numbers were extracted using Criminal Code section numbers (215(1) and (2) and 218).
- The count reflects the number of victims, not the occurrence numbers (Many reports have multiple victims)
- Unfounded reports were excluded
- The data pertains to all investigations within PRP, not just SVU

ABUSE TYPE	Totals
Aggravated Assault Level 3	2
Assault Level 1	323
Assault With Weapon/Causing Bodily Harm/Choking	171
Attempted Murder	6
Invitation to Sexual Touching	4
Sexual Assault	221
Sexual Assault With Weapon/ Cause Bodily Harm/Choking	1
Sexual Exploitation	4
Sexual Exploitation of person with disability	1
Sexual Interference	85
Sexually Explicit Material to Child with Intent	2
Grand Total	820

Proposed Direction

The proposed direction of SVU is to continue with our goals and objectives to protect and support children by conducting thorough investigations into allegations regarding child abuse, through full co-operation between the Peel Regional Police, the Peel Children's Aid Society and the community.

SVU key goals and objectives:

- Promote public safety in the areas of child abuse and sexual assault
- Identify and successfully prosecute offenders
- Educate and increase public awareness of community concerns
- Provide assistance and support to victims

Strategic Plan Alignment

Goal: 1. Community Safety and Well-being Together

Priority: 1.5 Priority populations

Equity and Inclusion Considerations

Members of SVU continue to develop understanding and awareness related to differing beliefs, which enable us to provide culturally sensitive services to all individuals that live, work and visit the Region of Peel.

- a) The Religious and Cultural Guidebook (Equity and Inclusion Bureau) is utilized as a resource for our members, when conducting investigations where religious or cultural beliefs might play a role, or impact the situation in some capacity.
- b) Management Action Plan for 2023 incorporates a re-emphasis on Front-line Policing, adoption of Community Safety Well-Being (CSWB) model within the parameters of the Special Victims Unit.
- c) SVU will commit to CSWB approach and intervention to investigations, through engagement, with external agencies (VSOP, Peel CAS, Chantel's Place, Embrace and Hope 24/7), education and enforcement, when addressing the root causes of crime and social disorder.
- d) SVU investigators continue to work cohesively and proactively with CSWB in relation to investigations where the root cause of the situation is based upon Mental Health and Addictions. SVU adopt a philosophy and a concept focused on increasing community safety in partnership with the community by reducing crime, victimization, and social disorder.

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 Wellness Check-In 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 ADULT 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 of 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, the Accused or the Complainant of abuse or suspected abuse
- Review police occurrences that involve personal injury or threat of personal injury, loss of property, 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 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

2022 population estimates for the City of Brampton and City of Mississauga are as follows:

Total Population	1,374,445
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Source: Stats Canada

2022 population estimates for age cohort over 60 years estimates for the City of Brampton and City of Mississauga are as follows:

Population 60+	283,480
Percentage of population 60+	20.6%

Source: Stats Canada

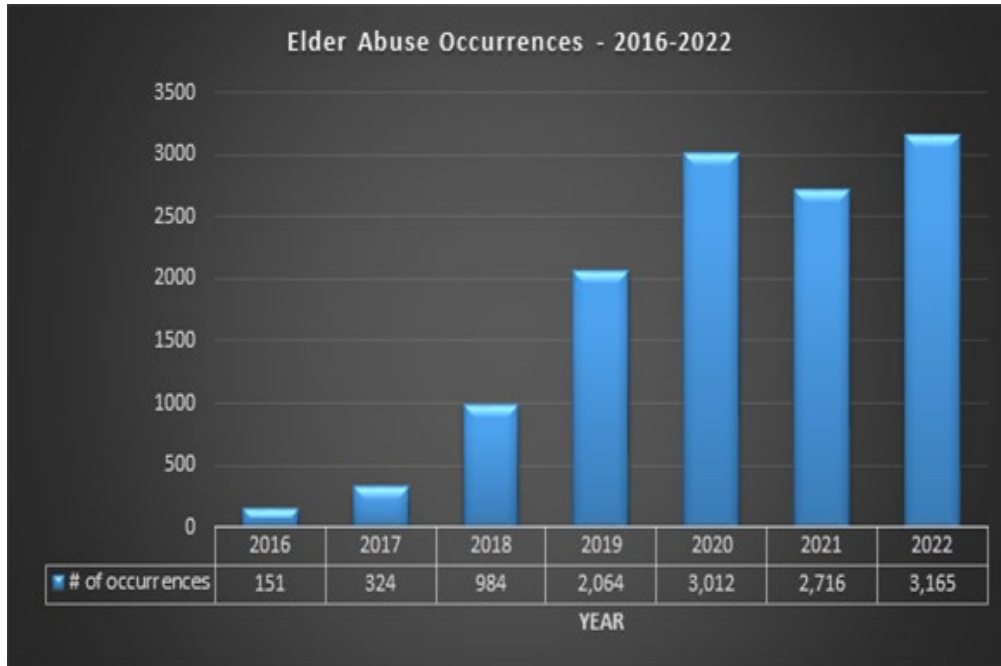
Findings

Between January 1st, 2022 and December 31st, 2022 the Elder Abuse Coordinator reviewed **3842** Police occurrences involving Elder person(s) / Vulnerable adult(s). This was a 9% increase from the **3509** occurrences reviewed in 2021.

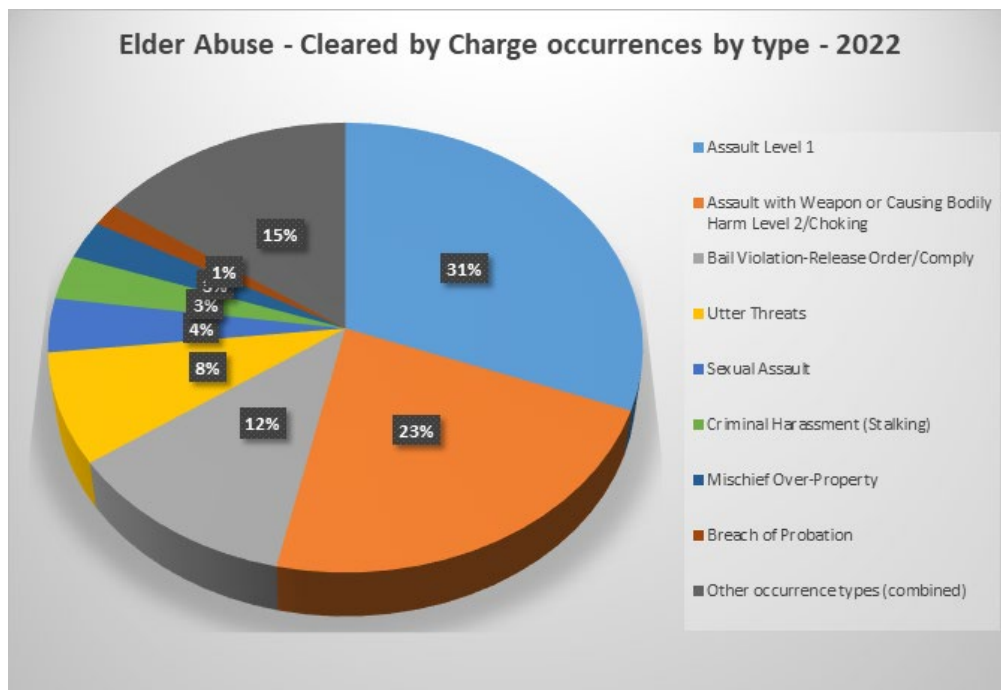
Of the **3842** police occurrences reviewed by the Elder Abuse Coordinator, **3165** of these occurrences were further investigated for Elder/Vulnerable Abuse or the potential of Elder/Vulnerable Abuse. These 3165 occurrences were resolved as follows:

- 438 occurrences were cleared by charge
- 84 occurrences were cleared other
- 2021 occurrences were solved but deemed non-criminal

Number of Incidents Identified as Potential Elder Abuse 2016 - 2022:



Breakdown of the 351 incidents cleared by charge - 2022:



Community Referrals

Upon review of the 3842 occurrences, the Elder Abuse Coordinator provided 375 consultations to community members to offer education and resources. Of those consultations, the Elder Abuse Coordinator made 46 direct referrals to Social Services, Public Guardian and Trustee and to internal Peel Regional Police Bureaus. This included referrals to COAST, Divisional Mobilization Unit and Community Mobilization for follow up and continued support for elder and vulnerable persons within the community.

Presentations

In 2022, the Elder Abuse Coordinator provided eight internal training sessions to various PRP personnel including Officers attending the Mental Health Course, Recruits Constables and newly hired Communication Call Takers.

Externally, 37 virtual and in-person presentations were delivered to community members comprised of emergency medical services, community agency workers, long-term care service providers, residents, and 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. Seven thousand calendars were distributed to various seniors groups and organizations within the Region which was an increase of two thousand from the previous year. 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. 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 and Partners 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)
- Coalition on Hoarding in Peel (C.H.I.P)

Conclusion

Elder Abuse continues to be a priority for Peel Regional Police with the continued growth in our aging community. With programming and services opening up to in-person attendance while maintaining virtual options, initiatives to support seniors continue to grow. 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 57 Detective Constables, 8 Detectives, and 1 Detective Sergeant. The IPV Unit is located within the Safe Centre of Peel at 60 West Drive in the City of Brampton. The Safe Centre of Peel, led by Catholic Family Services of Peel Dufferin is based on the Family Justice Centre Model. Safe Centre of Peel 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 17 victim support agencies.

IPV is the policy centre for the following PRP directives:

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

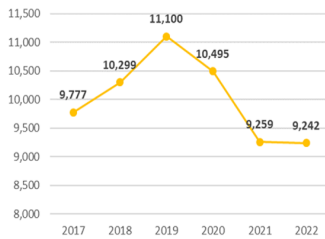
Family and Intimate Partner Violence is one of the top priorities of PRP and aligns with the priorities of the Community Safety and Well-Being framework. CSWB has been invaluable in ensuring service alignment to the communities' needs and interests.

Intimate Partner Violence Reduction strategy



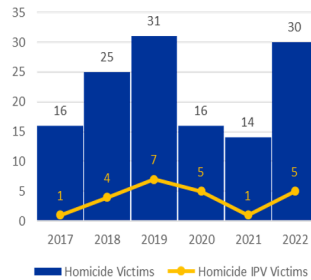
Intimate Partner Violence Reduction Strategy

Reported * Intimate Partner Disputes 2017-2022



* Reported Occurrences (Includes Actual and Unfounded violations).

Yearly Homicide Victims & Homicide Victims Involving IPV 2017 – 2022



How the Strategy fits into Community Safety and Well-Being:

Incident Response

- Enhanced Front line Response
- Intimate Partner Violence Unit
- Trauma-Informed Response
- Collaborative Approach to Provide Wraparound Service
- SCRT

Risk Intervention

- Safety Planning
- Survivor Crisis Support
- Offender Management
- Situation Tables



Social Development

- Service Provider Advocacy
- Programming for Communities by Communities
- Survivor Support Programs
- Offender Support Programs

Prevention

- Risk Evaluation an Management in Peel (REVAMP) Referrals
- Early Intervention Support Program
- Public Education
- Media (Social Media, News)

3 of the top 4
most frequent incidents reported to Peel Regional Police are family and intimate partner violence related.

Category	Number of Incidents in 2022
Dispute: Domestic	9,242
Child Protection	8,092
Sexual Assault	7,654
Dispute: Family	6,566

Average rate of family and intimate partner incidents investigated by Peel Regional Police in 2022:

43 Every Day  **2+ Every Hour**

In 2022, police in Peel Region responded to **15,808 incidents** of family and intimate partner violence. Those are just the incidents that were reported.

PeelRegion.ca/ItsNotOkay
PeelPolice.ca/FIPV



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 investigators 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 wrap around support 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 1571 referrals made to the Safe Centre of Peel from the IPV unit between January 2022 and December 2022.

2022 Regional IPV Report

- There were 9,271 occurrences with the Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) violation code in 2022.
 - May to December 2021 – 6,194
 - May to December 2022 – 6,256 (This is a 1% increase from 2021 during the same time period.)
- 3,415 IPV Occurrences were cleared by charge in 2022, and were eligible to be assigned to the IPV unit.
- 2,595 IPV Occurrences were assigned to the IPV Unit.
- There were 5 IPV related homicides in 2022.

Charges Laid on IPV Occurrences

Note: For 2021 STATS – Starting from May until December (IPV created May 2021)

- In 2021 there were 3,741 charges laid by the IPV Unit.
- There were 5152 charges laid on occurrences with an IPV violation code.
- There were 1,411 IPV related charges that were not assigned to the unit.

- In 2022 there were 6,877 charges laid by the IPV Unit.
- There were 8,930 charges laid on occurrences with an IPV violation code.
- There were 2,053 IPV related charges 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
- Chokes, Suffocates or Strangles

NICHE Violations

- There were 9,242 Intimate Partner events in 2022.

Domestic Violence Investigator Training

Members of the IPV Unit received three 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 **945** officers with the DVI designation.

Safety

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 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 2022, 17 clients were offered services to the program and 2 new clients were enrolled. There were 4 alarms and 4 false alarms triggered. The program continues to be piloted through 2023.

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 2022, 282 files were reviewed and monitored and there were 59 new referrals.

B-Safer - Intimate Partner Violence Risk Assessment

IPV and community partners at the Safe Centre of Peel participated in joint training on the B-Safer risk assessment tool to better determine and evaluate risk in relation to IPV victims. The risk assessment tool has been implemented in the IPV unit as well as with the community partners provided more consistency.

Project Keep Safe

IPV officers participated in Project Keep Safe conducting regular compliance checks on known IPV offenders who are out on bail ensuring they are abiding by their conditions. Officers also executed numerous outstanding warrants on IPV offenders. Between June 2022 and December 2022, 48 arrests were made, 160 addresses were checked, and 127 compliance checks were completed.

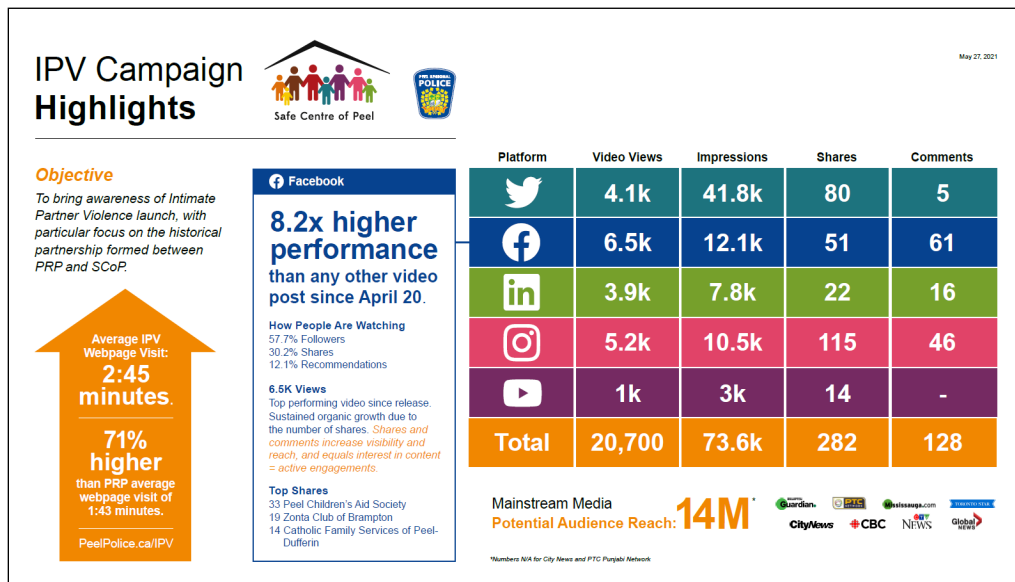
Public Education and Awareness

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.

- 10th Anniversary International Women’s Day Virtual IPV event
- Cupid Sting Instagram Live – Women Abuse Prevention Month
- RED 88.9 FM – 16 Days of activism against gender-based violence
- Tinu Ark of Mercy Raising the Village
- Development of Keeping Families Safer video
- Development of the Signal for Help video
- Precious Shelter IPV presentation
- PRP brought awareness to the IPV Unit upon its development through the 2022 IPV Campaign. 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).

IPV Campaign - 2022 FIPV Social Media - #BreakTheSilence



Proposed Direction

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

Safe Centre Response Teams

The Safe Centre of Peel launched a new pilot program called the Safe Centre Response Teams (SCRT). This pilot program is developed through collaboration between Safe Centre of Peel and Peel Regional Police. This program has been created to respond to verbal family and intimate

partner situations. The team consists of a mobile support worker with experience in gender-based violence and a specially trained police constable, who will attend these calls for service to provide early intervention help and assist families in accessing supports and services.

The key functions of the Safe Centre Response Team:

- Connect families with existing community services to help stabilize the family situation over the short term and help increase their resiliency over the extended period.
- Help bridge the gap between identifying risk factors and direct intervention, thereby reducing the number of families looking for help being overlooked.
- Ensure a range of existing prevention and intervention services are provided in a timely manner, to reduce the risk of harm and increase the safety of family members.

Safe Centre Response Team Statistics:

2023: January 18th to June 4th – 117 incidents attended and 29 SCRT follow ups

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 Wellness Check-in program annually. The threat posed to IPV members by vicarious trauma from the continuous victim management is a constant concern and will be continuously managed. 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

The response to PRP IPV matters continues to meet, and in some cases, exceed the requirements of established adequacy standards. PRP continues to provide prevention and early intervention through a new Safe Centre Response Team that provides supports and services to people involved in non-criminal verbal intimate partner incidents.

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 and media communications, PRP continues with innovative approaches including educating, collaborating and developing strategies with our external partners to identify and support victims.

YOUTH CRIME REPORT

Background

The 2022 Youth Crime Report provided 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 criminal statistics and PRP Analytics software compiled the Pre-Charge Diversion statistics within this report. Stats Canada is the source for the Region of Peel population.

The fluctuation in 2022 Youth Crime Statistics reflected in this report correlates highly with the lifting of Covid-19 related restrictions imposed during the pandemic.

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. In late 2022, the Province of Ontario introduced plans to lift pandemic related restrictions at schools and other areas in the community and in October 2022, the federal government lifted border restrictions.

In October 2020 the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ontario Human Rights Commission and Peel Regional Police and Regional Municipality of Peel Police Services Board which proposed remedies that aim to end systemic racism and discrimination in policing, promote transparency and enhance Black, other racialized and Indigenous communities' trust in policing throughout Peel Region.

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

The 2021 Stats Canada population data states the combined population of the Cities of Brampton and Mississauga to be 1,374,445 of which 102,930 were young persons. The number of youth has remained constant for the past five years. In 2021, young persons aged 12 to 17 represented 7.5% of the area population.

Youth Crime Statistics

The youth crime statistics include crimes against persons, crimes against property, criminal driving offences and drug offences. The total youth crimes combine the totals of these offences to compare with previous years for analysis.

a) Crimes Against Persons

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

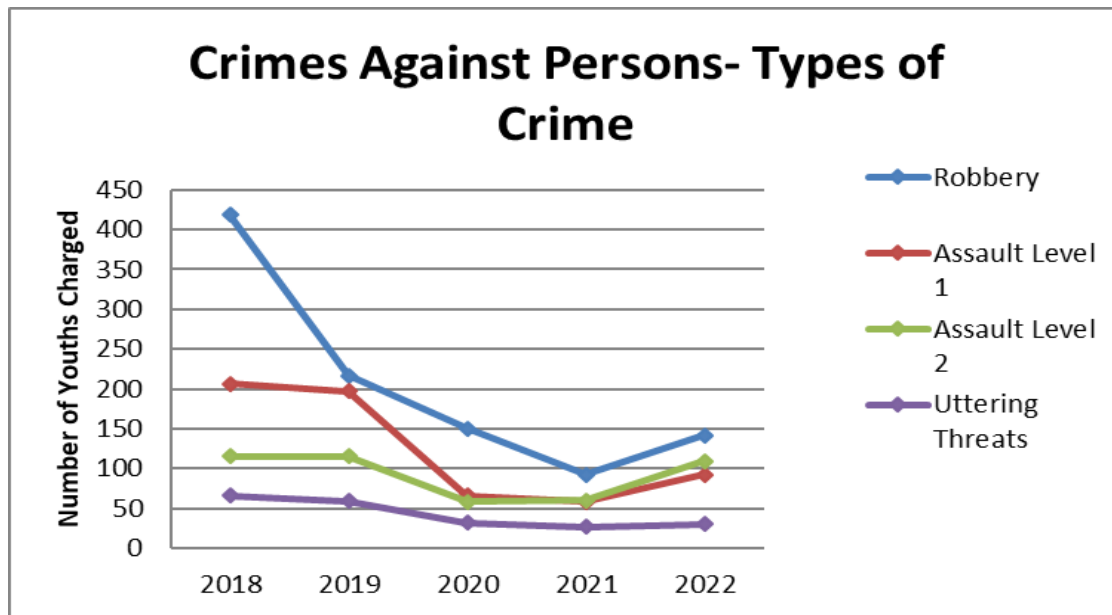


Figure 1

The four most frequently occurring incident types for crimes against persons were Robbery, Assault (level 1 and level 2) and Uttering Threats. While there is an increase in the number of Robbery and Assaults from 2021 to 2022, the frequency of these offences are significantly lower when compared to the pre-pandemic years of 2018 and 2019.

b) Crimes Against Property

Crimes against property include offences such as Break, Enter to Commit an Offence, Theft Under \$5,000, Possession of Property Obtained by Crime, Fraud Mischief and Arson.

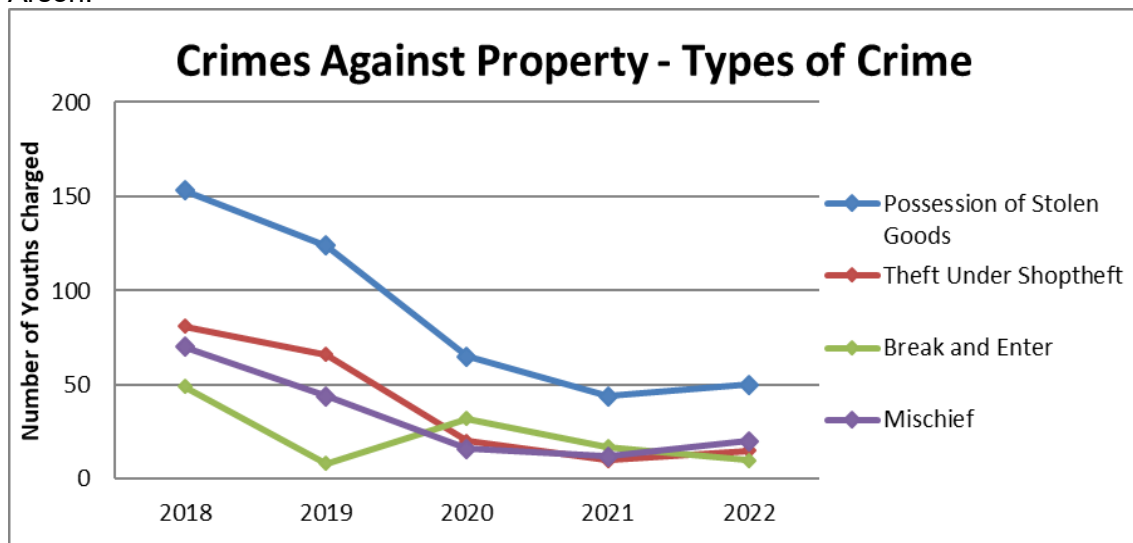


Figure 2

The four most frequently occurring incident types for crimes against property were Possession of Stolen Goods, Mischief, Theft under (shop theft) and Break, Enter to Commit. The reduction in Break, Enter to commit offences continues to reduce while possession of stolen property remains the most frequent property offence.

c) Criminal Driving Offences

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

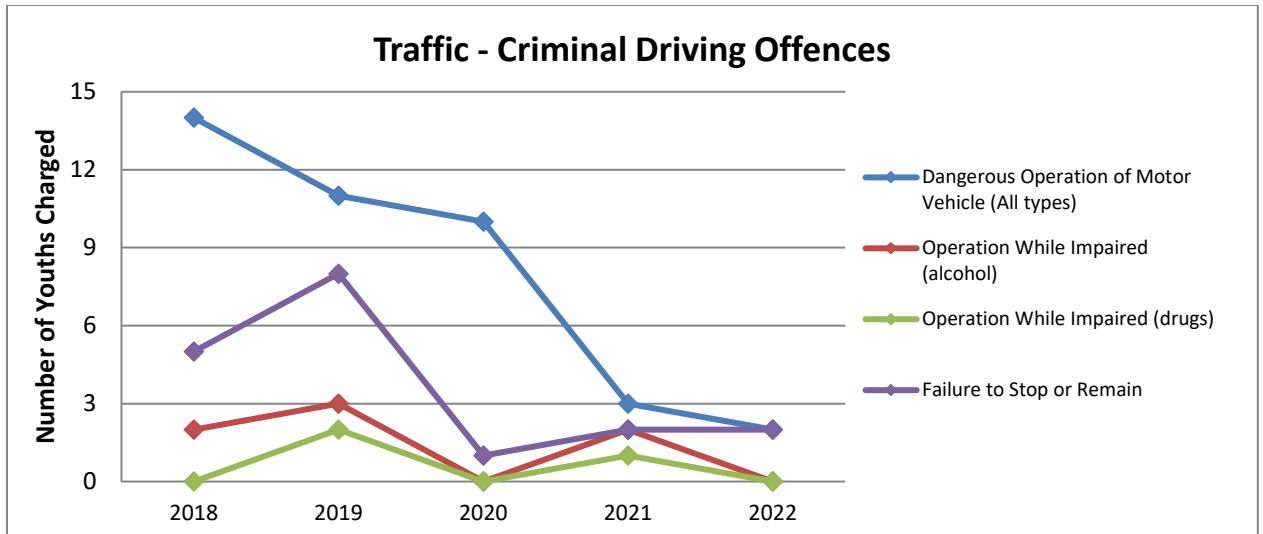


Figure 3

While Dangerous Operation of Motor Vehicle (all types) has decreased year over year. Dangerous Operation of Motor vehicle and failure to stop or remain offences are the most frequent criminal driving offences for youth.

d) Drug Offences

Drug offences includes Possession, Trafficking and other related controlled substance related crimes.

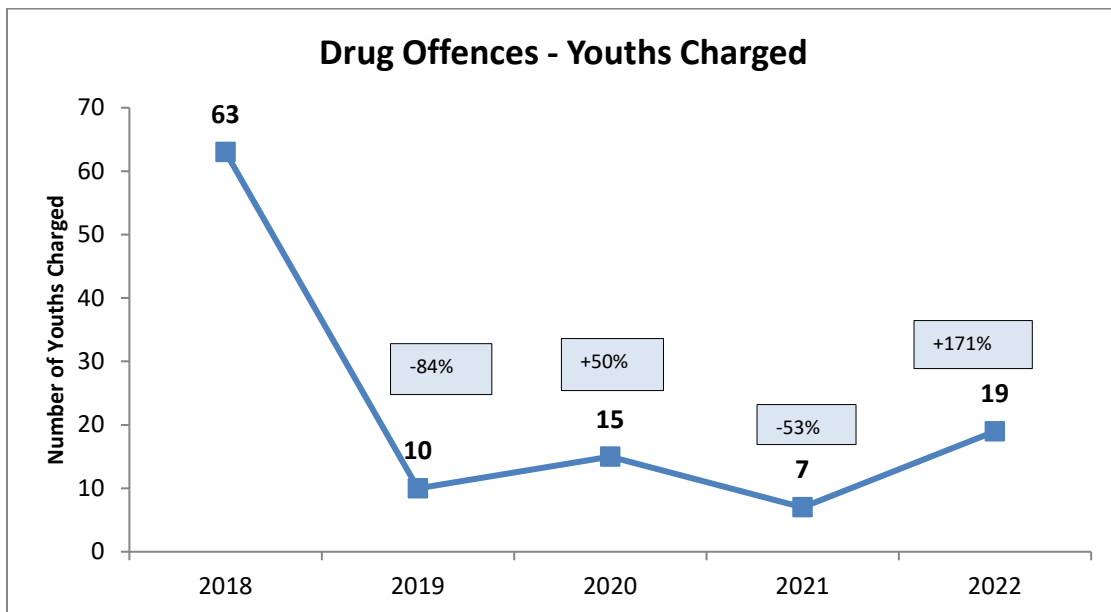


Figure 4

Youth Drug Offences have increased from seven offences in 2021 to 19 offences in 2022. While there is a significant increase the 2022 drug offences are 16% less than the five-year average of 22.8 drug offences.

e) Total Young Persons Charged

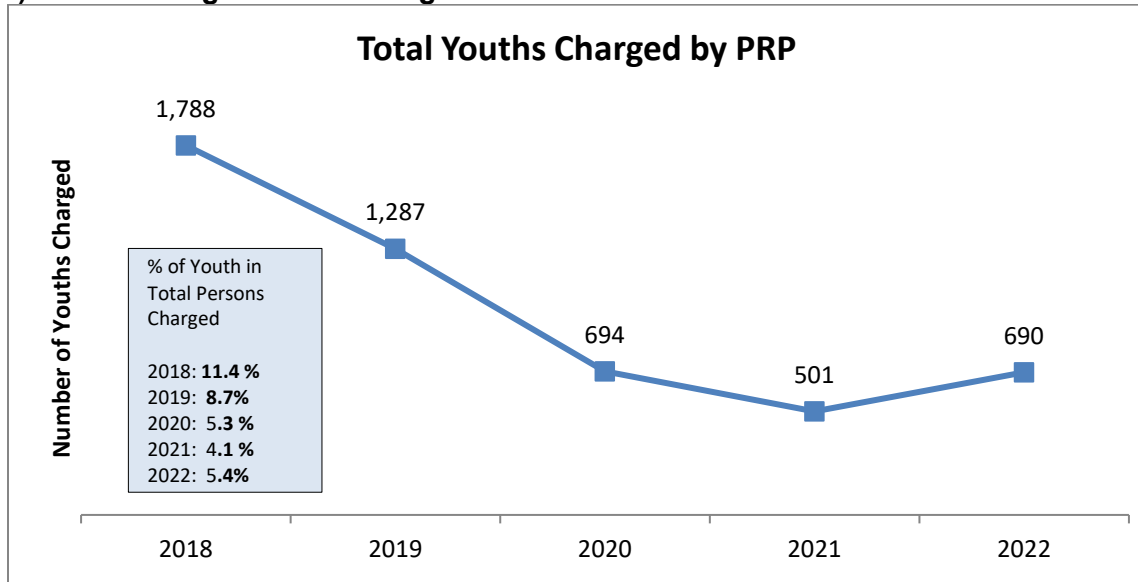


Figure 5

In 2022, there was a 37.7% increase in total youth charged when compared to 2021. The total youth charged in 2022 is very similar to those charged in 2020.

In 2022, PPR charged 690 young persons representing 5.4 % of the total persons charged.

In 2021, PRP charged 501 young persons representing 4.31% of total persons charged.

In 2020, PRP charged 694 young persons, which was 5.3% of total persons charged.

The following chart summarizes the comparative analysis of statistics of both youth and adult offenders, related to 2021 and 2022.

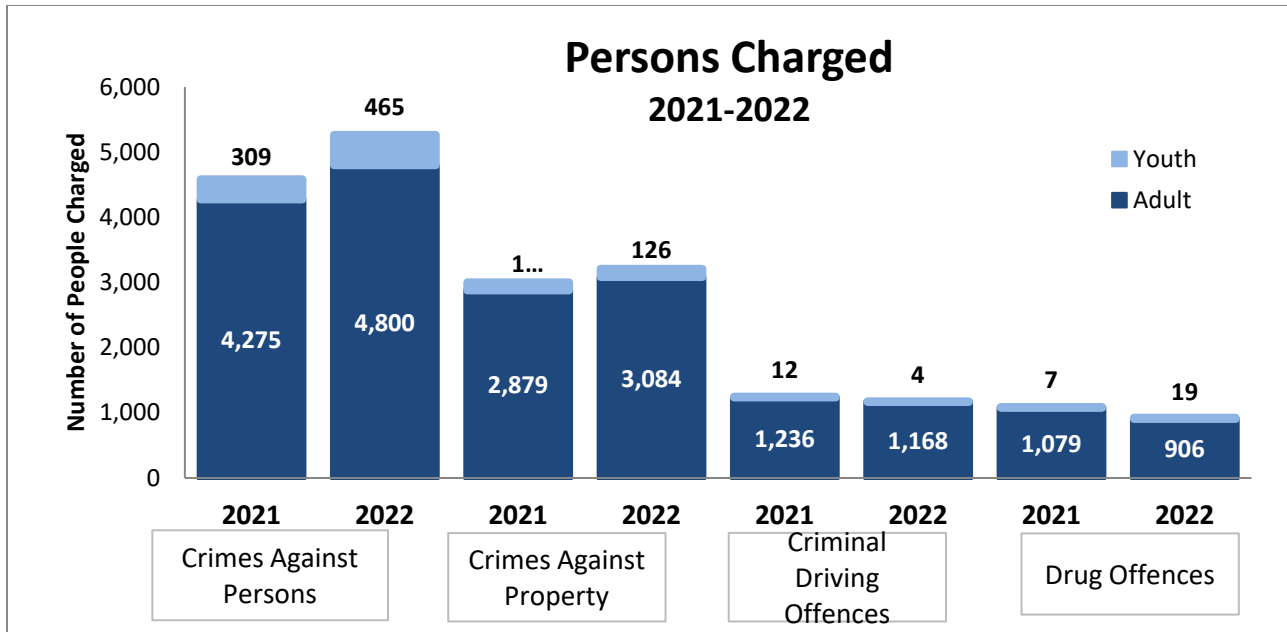


Figure 6

Continuing Work with Young People

a. Local Police School Board Protocol

In November 2021, all coterminous school board partners signed the provincially mandated Local Police School Board protocol. At the root of effective school-police partnerships is a common understanding of each partner’s roles and responsibilities. In 2022, PRP Divisional command teams met with their respective PDSB and DPCSB family of school command teams. To ensure compliance with the Local Police School Board Protocol, PRP and PDSB command teams met through to discuss incidents to ensure compliance with the Local Police School Board Protocol.

b. Youth Education

The role of pro-active police youth education at the school boards evaluation continues by the respective boards.

Three key factors affected youth programming: The Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 dissolution of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program and both the Dufferin- Peel Catholic School Board and the Peel District School Board placing a hold on police community safety programming for the 2022 school year.

As a result, there was a significant decrease with students receiving youth police based community safety education. The 1,105 students who received Youth Education (YE) were primarily from Private Schools. The steady decrease in youth programming

- In 2019, with a team of 10 officers assigned to the YE Bureau the number of students during a full school year received YE is 136,672
- In 2020, with a team of 8 officers assigned to the YE Bureau the number of students during a partial school year receiving YE decreased to 56,536.

- In 2021, with a team of 2 officers assigned to the YE Bureau the number of students during a closed school year receiving YE decreased to 4,380.

c. Youth In Policing Initiative

Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI) is an eight-week summer job placement for 25 youth between the ages of 14 and 18, from priority populations in the Regional of Peel. The 2022 YIPI program received a record setting of 73 applications. Funding for the program includes 20 YIPI positions from the Ministry of Children Community Social Services and 5 YIPI positions from the Peel Police Service Board. Following an extended pause during the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2022 YIPI program included Sheridan College where the YIPI students were on campus approximately 50% of the time. The YIPI students were able to meet the officers, civilian staff and to post secondary education offered at Sheridan College. Local and national news outlets featured the program, which gained positive attention from many provincial agencies and across Canada.

d. Peel Children's Safety Village

The Peel Children's Safety Village (PCSV) continued offering interactive programs to youth from junior kindergarten to grade five. In 2022, the school boards evaluated the PCSV programming and progressively permitted the respective youth to attend the facility as a field trip off school property. 9,869 youth from junior kindergarten to grade five attended the PCSV.

To connect the PCSV with the community by utilizing social media platforms there were 219,032 views of PCSV initiated posts on social media platforms. PCSV continued with community partnerships and safety initiatives including 'Helmets on Kids'. 491 children received community funded bicycle helmets.

e. Youth Based Partnerships

A partnership between PRP and Tim Horton's Foundation Camp (THFC). This partnership provides PRP opportunities to engage with youth from priority populations in a positive learning, activity based environment. In October 2021, PRP collaborated with Tim Hortons Foundation Camp to connect with youth from priority populations. PRP pursued a unique opportunity to attend Tim Hortons Foundation camp in St. George Ontario where DMU officers were able to participate in leadership and mentorship programs local youth from Brampton. This partnership will continue to grow throughout 2022 where 60 youth participated. The program continues to grow into 2023.

PRP brought together Youth Service Providers in the Region of Peel. This community outreach is connecting PRP with agencies that deliver programs to youth in priority populations including but not limited to Brampton, Acorn Place, Malton and the Children's Aid Society.

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 the Associated Youth Services of Peel (AYSP).

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

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

In 2022, PRP referred 191 cases to AYSP, compared to the 68 referrals made in 2021. This represented an increase in referrals of 123 cases (or 280%). Applying the Niche driven Youth Crime Dashboard, the Pre-charge Diversion Coordinator examines the frequency of referrals compared to the use of Cautions by officers. In 2022, officers referred 56% of all occurrences that met the criteria of the diversion program to AYSP.

In 2022, 90% of the youth referred to the Pre-Charge Diversion Program, successfully completed all the program requirements.

Analysis is conducted on the recidivism rate of youth in comparison with the same period from the previous year where:

- 88% of the youth who successfully completed the referral program did not reoffend within one-year period
- 12% of the youth who successfully completed the referral program did reoffend within the one-year period
- 10.3% of the youth did not complete the referral program. For those who did not complete the referral program, the recidivism rate was 35%.

Strategic Plan Alignment

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

In 2022 PRP have been working closely with AYSP through a Community Safety and Well-Being framework to support and deliver the best service to at-risk youth who have been involved with minor criminal offences. Extending the partnership to include PRP with select volunteer youth group counselling sessions commenced in July 2022. These

counselling sessions build bridges to connect youth with police in a positive manner where youth were linked to PRP youth sports and special interest programs delivered by Distinctionz Soccer Club, Brampton Bulldogs Football team and the Pro-action mechanics program. Keeping youth positively engaged has many benefits with their personal development, their family and the local community.

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 and Dufferin-Peel Catholic Scholl 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 and the coterminous school board partners to meet current and future equity and inclusion considerations. The application of the protocol continues to be monitored and evaluated by all coterminous partners.

Technology

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

In 2022, through analytics, youth crime statistics are using new technology to collect niche-based data, processing the data so members may analyze youth based incidents. The platforms are on excel based dashboards. The two excel based dashboard programs:

- Youth Crime Dashboard 2019 – YTD
- School Occurrences 2019- YTD

The dashboards are available to all PRP members on the intranet platform.

The Youth Crime 2019 – YTD Dashboard quickly and accurately identifies youth crime trends through analytics. When youth crimes are entered on NICHE it is automatically transferred to the excel spreadsheet. Youth based crime statistics may search by division, method of release including pre-charge diversion, year and criminal offence. The Youth Crime Dashboard assist uniform divisions to create youth crime strategies and assists Youth Investigative Bureaus with current youth crime data.

The School Occurrences 2019 – YTD Dashboard quickly and accurately identifies calls for service at local area schools. Data is collected through NICHE and is automatically entered onto an excel spreadsheet which updated weekly. Information on the dashboard includes the highest frequency of calls for service by violation, location and age. Identifying these trends early will allow PRP to develop strategies to investigate offences and offer additional support services to address root causes of youth related incidents.

To comply with retention policies and secure channels of communication with local area school boards, PRP have utilized Liquid Files to transfer data containing confidential youth records. The YCJA allows police to share confidential youth information with local area school boards. Without the convenience of School Resource Officers, the sharing of information is dependent on electronic means. A review of this process identified key areas of interest for the organization including:

- the need for a secure channel to transfer confidential information
- a means to process to each request,
- a secure channel to share confidential information
- a suitable method to store data while complying to retention policies.

The Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) allows the sharing of confidential YCJA information to School Boards. To protect the security of the YCJA information while sharing confidential information in a secure process, the Liquid Files electronic file-sharing programming is efficient and effective. This process is secure and complies with retention periods without creating extra work for personnel.

Conclusion

The Peel Regional Police 2022 Youth Crime Report lists important data on the involvement of youth in policing related activities. Overall, the progressive removal of Covid-19 pandemic restrictions had a profound impact to the data. The number of youth charged with a criminal offence increased by 5.4%. The number of youth charged in 2022 is 53% lower when compared to 2019 statistics. To meet the needs of the community during and immediately following the pandemic the Peel Regional Police have explored community based partnerships virtually and in person. While opportunities begin to resurface Peel Regional Police will continue partnerships that adhere to the Ministry of Children Community Social Services Youth Justice Services to contribute to a safer community for youth.

INTERNET CHILD EXPLOITATION

Background

The ICE Unit maintains a compliment of 1 Detective, 7 Detective Constables and 1 Online Luring Investigator for a total of 9 members in the office.

The mandate of the PRP ICE Unit is to locate, identify, and rescue victims of child sexual abuse by identifying, locating, and prosecuting persons involved in the online victimization of children. Both reactive and proactive investigations are undertaken.

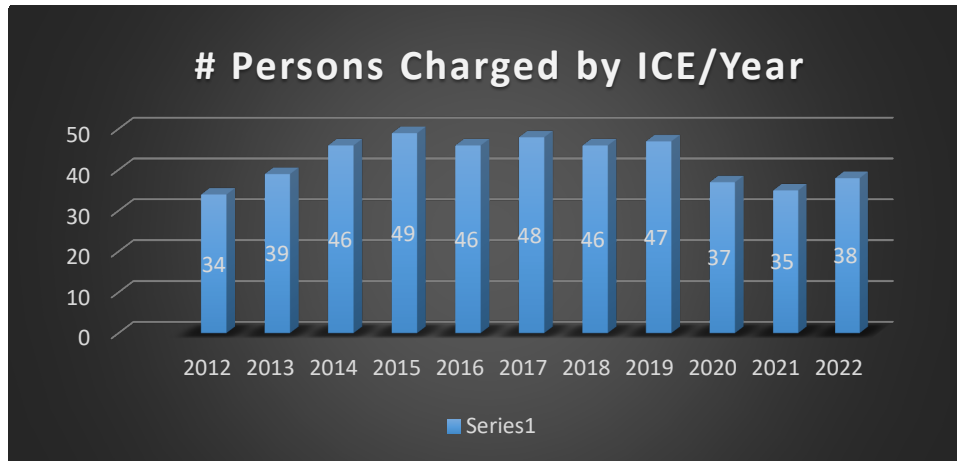
As internet crime has no geographical boundaries, the PRP ICE Unit regularly works with law enforcement partners around the world. In 2022, some of those agencies included; United States of America Department of Homeland Security (HSI) as well as numerous local and state law enforcement services in the 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. 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.

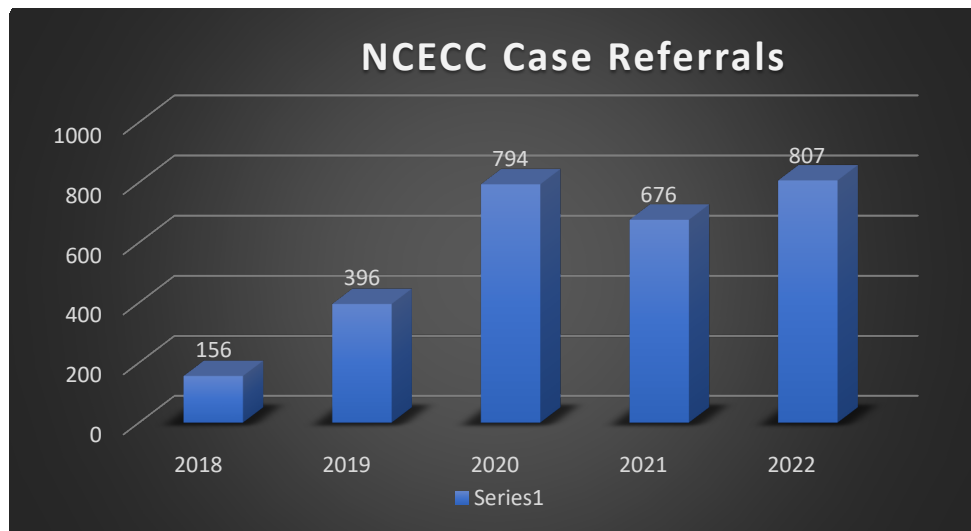
ICE investigations strive to rescue the victims of online exploitation, one of our most important community partners is the BOOST Child and Youth Advocacy Centre. BOOST offers a counselling program supported by the Provincial Strategy that is made available to the victims (and their siblings and parents) 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

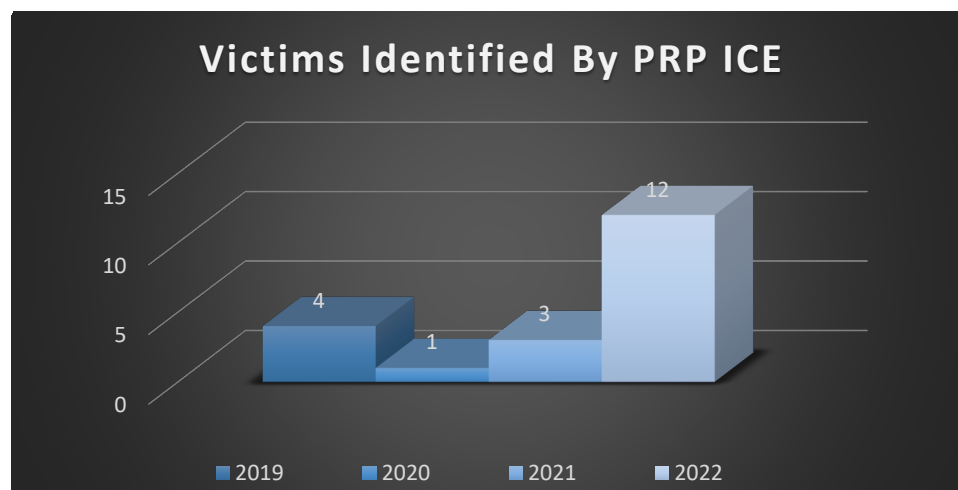
In 2022, the ICE Unit laid a total of 129 charges related to the online exploitation of children and 38 persons were arrested and charged with ICE related offences. This demonstrates an increase over the numbers in 2021 that saw 35 persons arrested with 77 charges. The unit also obtained a total of 164 judicial authorizations in 2022.



In Total, the ICE unit handled 984 occurrences in 2022. There was a measurable increase over 2021 in case referrals from the NCECC, which are largely cases sent from Internet web based services like Google, Facebook, and messaging applications. The NCECC (National Child Exploitation Crime Centre) is a department within the RCMP Division in Ottawa that acts as the national receiver of incoming cases into Canada from other countries. However, in spite of the fact that the ICE Unit saw a record number of NCECC referrals in 2022 (807), statistically speaking it still represents a levelling off of the exponential growth of referrals seen since 2018.



Another metric that saw a significant increase in 2022 was the number of victims of child pornography that were pro-actively identified. 2022 saw a 3 to 4-fold increase of identified victims over previous years. In 2022 we saw a record 12 victims that were pro-actively identified and safeguarded from further harm.



This success can be attributed to the improvements in the skillset of the investigators that have come about in recent years. Since 2021, the skillset of the investigators has been expanded to allow them to target offenders in online spaces that are more lucrative in regards to finding the worst offenders. Training improvements and skill expansion has also made them better at combing through data more efficiently and identifying more victims within the collections. Better triage of the caseload combined with more effective examination of data has resulted in more victims being identified and protected from further harm.

In regards to relevant investigations in 2022, members of ICE arrested and charged an offender who in addition to consuming child pornography was abusing vulnerable persons. The pro-active investigation was significant because officers quickly learned that the offender had worked for 20 years at a summer camp near Kingston Ontario, that was meant for mentally challenged individuals of varying ages. As the investigation progressed, members of ICE ended up re-arresting the accused for hands on sexual offences in relation to the camp, and a media release was put out informing the public of this arrest.

In 2022, members of the ICE Unit also participated in the Provincial Strategy led Project Maverick, which involved a concentration of offenders being targeted in the month of October. In that Project, PRP ICE charged 8 persons and laid a total of 14 counts. One of the offenders had a history of hands on sex abuse, and another accused was charged in part for having a realistic child sex doll. Additional information from another accused on that project was forwarded to law enforcement in the Philippines to assist them in investigating abuse of a child in that country. That child was identified and rescued by Philippine authorities.

In 2022, the ICE Unit continued to expand the skill set of its membership. Several members of the office obtained the 200 level qualification on Magnet Forensics Axiom software. This has allowed investigators to process evidence more quickly and more effectively. It has also improved the evidence presentation in the officer's briefs to the Crown Attorney's office, which helps the cases proceed faster and protect them from getting stalled in the court process.

In 2022, the ICE Unit also continued to support the organization by participating in numerous training efforts. Members in ICE continued to mentor officers involved in the internal search warrant writing course, the new online undercover course, and ICE also gave instruction on the Airport Officers Orientation Course to help members of our Airport Division deal with and process persons suspected of smuggling Child Pornography through the Pearson International Airport.

Proposed Direction

Looking forward to 2023 there are a number of goals that have been identified.

Continued Skillset Expansion

The training and skills developed within the ICE Unit in 2021 and 2022 has produced positive results in regards to identifying higher value targets in investigations, finding better evidence to support stronger briefs to the Crown's office, and most importantly more victims identified and protected. More training on forensic tools like Magnets Axiom software will be offered to more members of the office along with more training on peer to peer networks. Officers will also be offered continuous training on utilizing updated versions of the Semantics 21 categorization which is used on all investigations. Besides providing better results in the investigations, the development of these skill sets is required to help offset the increased strain and demand on the Digital Forensics Unit (DFS) which the ICE Unit relies upon heavily for support and data analysis. By increasing the skills of the ICE Unit in this way, it gives a better foundation with which to engage members of the DFS, our Crown's office, and it generates higher quality testimony when required in the courts.

Electronic Storage Detection Canine and Handler

In 2022, the ICE Unit was approved to acquire and deploy the first Electronic Storage Detection(ESD) canine in Canada. The ESD canine will be used to help officers locate digital storage devices at search warrants which can be difficult to locate if they are hidden from discovery or concealed in clutter. There has been a lot of success deploying ESD Canines in the USA, where the dogs have found evidence that was crucial to investigations. Deploying a dog with the ICE Unit in Peel will be ground breaking in Canada and makes Peel Police an innovative leader in the field of online child exploitation. The dog will make searching for devices faster and more efficient and most importantly will greatly reduce the chance that investigators will leave anything behind at search warrants.

The ESD canine will also have a secondary role as an emotional support dog for members of the ICE Unit, for victims of crime, and even non-suspect occupants of a residence where a warrant has been executed. The presence and addition of the ESD canine will provide more resilience not just to members of the ICE Unit but to members of PRP as a whole.

ESD Statistics (2023 – Harley become a member of PRP in January of 2023)

Harley has assisted on nine ICE search warrants and one warrant with 11 CIB.

Total number of devices located and seized directly attributed to Harley, 18.

Harley has assisted Homicide on two field searches.

She has assisted Vice by providing emotional support to one of their victims during court testimony and has support six victims providing interviews for the Special Victims Unit.

Greater Engagement in the Ontario Provincial Strategy.

With the pandemic mostly behind us, it is expected that in 2023 a return to pre-pandemic normalcy in regards to engagement within the Ontario Provincial Strategy. It is expected that greater opportunities to collaborate within the province and across the country will increase and the PRP ICE Unit plans to be a full participant. Preliminary direction from the Strategy Leadership indicates a desire for more joint investigations between services, drawing more on expertise within the Strategy, and more in person engagement, teaching, problem solving, and collaboration. PRP ICE will enthusiastically support these efforts.

Greater Engagement with the Community in Peel.

As stated above, with the pandemic now in the background, it will allow for the return of pre-pandemic engagement with community members. The ICE Unit plans to work in coordination with the Peel Police Crime Prevention Office to create presentations and opportunities to engage directly with the public and provide guidance and education regarding the issues of online child exploitation.

Also, with the arrival of an ESD Canine in the office, it allows for a further conduit to engage with the public both through social media and at events like PRP open houses.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Goal: 1. Community Safety and Well-Being Together

Priority: 1.1 Crime Prevention and response

Community Safety and Well-Being goal priority of crime prevention and response. The ICE Unit works with the NCECC in Ottawa to use the latest information on relevant trends to make sure we are 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 up to date on their respective investigations, which creates buy-in with all members of the office on all investigations. Lastly, as a member of the Strategy, we are in constant communication with our provincial partners on what trends are developing and what new problems arise.

Because the nature of ICE work is largely proactive so is our response to community safety. ICE investigators work to uncover crimes that would often otherwise go un-discovered, and therefore contributes significantly to future crime prevention. In 2022, the ICE Unit saw a record number of victims that were pro-actively identified and safeguarded through better investigative and analytic efforts. By apprehending offenders through pro-active measures, we stop them from creating future victims which is the most effective manner 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 participates in the Wellness Check-In program bi-annually with a psychiatrist to ensure they remain healthy and have access to resources should they be required.

Emphasis is placed on ensuring a positive and empowered work place. ICE officers provide input concerning the day-to-day administration of the office which gives them buy in and makes them invested in its success. They are provided the means and resources to do their jobs, which makes them feel enabled to accomplish their tasks. Open communication and a tight knit supportive team atmosphere have been crucial to protecting the officers' well-being as they do their work.

Moving forward, the addition of an ESD canine will be a strong progressive step to better safeguarding in the ICE Unit, and go a long way to creating and keeping a helpful and supportive work environment.

The goal of the ICE Unit management team is to create a bureau that is desirable to work in. Personnel retention in ICE is a priority and the office has a very stable membership. In addition to that, 2022 saw more than a dozen officers express interest in joining the ICE Unit in the future, which provides the office with a large pool of officers to draw from to fill any future vacancies should they occur. 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 for recruitment. A positive workspace creates resiliency in the face of challenges, is key to attracting future talented applicants to the office, and it is vital to keeping the ICE Unit up and running. To date there have been no absences because of work related stress.

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACTS

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 that protects the public.

In March of 2022, the Federal funding to ICE ceased and was not renewed. This covered approximately 50% of the salary and benefits of the additional investigator added in 2020 which has remained in the unit since then.

The total 2022 budget of the ICE unit was \$1,237,910 of which \$170,500 was to be funded from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. The operational expenses for 2022 were \$1,495,343 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. We have seen the benefit of media releases in 2022 that did result in other victims coming forward and resulted in new charges that likely would have gone undetected without a media release. The ICE Unit also plans to be more engaged with the public in 2023 by using the ESD canine as a vessel for public engagement.

CONCLUSION

The actions of the ICE Unit are meant to align with the goal of creating better community safety and well-being. Members of ICE routinely share knowledge and expertise through internal training and assistance provided to both uniform and other bureaus.

We address risk intervention by using the Threat Assessment Unit who evaluates our high-risk offenders and provides opinions that assist in detention and sentencing hearings. We also use media releases to alert the public of offenders who may have other victims in other jurisdictions. We also utilize MCM bulletins and ViCLAS reports for cases that meet the threshold.

In regards to crime prevention, ICE cooperates with NGO's that educate and support citizens in an attempt to prevent children from becoming victims in the first place. This combined with closer collaboration with members of OMU will increase efforts to obstruct the efforts of offenders to commit more crimes and target more victims.

Finally, the ICE Unit works to improve social development by working within the Provincial Strategy to advocate with various levels of government and private sector entities to increase awareness of children's safety online and come up with technological solutions that help solve cases and identify victims. We also improve social development by working with victim service networks to help victims and their families recover from the aftermath of online child exploitation crimes.

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.

Approved for Submission:



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