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REPORT
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DATE: November 1, 2018

SUBJECT: **2017 FAMILY VIOLENCE ANNUAL REPORT**

FROM: Marc Andrews, Deputy Chief, Operations Support Command

RECOMMENDATION

That, as part of the annual reporting requirements, the 2017 Family Violence Report be received as an information item by the Regional Municipality of Peel - Police Services Board.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

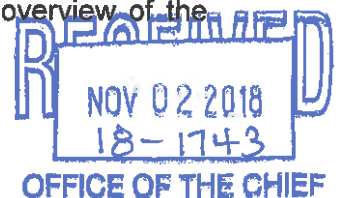
- The Peel Regional Police Family Violence Unit plays a key role, in support of Corporate Development, in training officers and ensuring compliance with established investigative standards related to incidents of family violence.
- The Unit exceeds the recommended standards set out in the National Framework for Collaborative Police Action on Intimate Partner Violence Framework in a number of areas.
- Statistics related to the unit are provided.

DISCUSSION

1. Background

The Peel Regional Police (PRP) Family Violence Unit continues to play a key role in ensuring compliance with both internal and external legislation governing this Service's response to matters involving family violence. The Family Violence Unit is not an investigative unit; its primary function is to ensure that officers are effectively trained and consistently updated on evolving legislation. The Unit is also responsible for ensuring that PRP complies with provincial adequacy standards and emerging best practices.

This report serves to inform the Regional Municipality of Peel - Police Services Board (PSB) of the function and mandate of the Family Violence Unit. It provides an overview of the



responsibilities of the Family Violence Unit and its adherence to Ontario Police Standards LE-024, as well as PRP Directive I-B-713 (F), along with additional directives relating to family violence issues.

2. Findings

In March 2016, the National Framework for Collaborative Police Action on Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) was released by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and the University of New Brunswick. The report was created to share best practices and to develop and implement a comprehensive and collaborative response to the issues of Intimate Partner Violence on a national level. It also provided police services and community partners across Canada with a shared language and understanding of IPV and how using this more inclusive terminology would provide better clarification to officers with respect to applicable offences.

Peel Regional Police had already moved away from the term “Domestic Violence” and changed to “Family Violence.” A continued review of best practices, including the report presented by the National Framework, supported a name change from “Family Violence” to “Family and Intimate Partner Violence” to better reflect the investigative differences and significance of limited discretion.

In March 2018, the Peel Regional Police Chief’s Management Group approved the name change from “Family Violence” to “Family and Intimate Partner Violence” (FIPV). The Service has utilized the name, “Family and Intimate Partner Violence” since that time. This report relates information from the calendar year 2017; as such, the terminology applicable to that period is utilized.

Future Annual Reports will reflect the new terminology and will be known as the Family and Intimate Partner Violence Annual Report.

The Family Violence Unit is the policy centre for the following directives:

<u>Issue</u>	
<u>Number</u>	<u>Subject</u>
I-A-603 (F)	Mental Health Policy
I-B-701 (F)	Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse
I-B-710 (F)	Victim and Witness Assistance
I-A-602 (F)	Criminal Harassment
II-A-213 (F)	Project Guardian - Pilot Project
I-B-713 (F)	Family and Intimate Partner Violence

The majority of domestic incidents calls received by PRP are investigated by front line Divisional uniform personnel. While many of these calls are non-criminal in nature, others may be more complex and potentially indicative of a threat to a person's safety. In cases deemed to be multifaceted, processes are in place requiring that the respective divisional Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) be called upon to take carriage of the investigation.

Adequacy Standard LE-024 – Training Models

Commencing January 2001, all police services in Ontario were required by Adequacy Standard LE-024 to train Domestic Violence Investigators (DVI's) and to select a police response model for the investigation of domestic cases. The four models of service delivery offered were:

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

Some police services, including PRP, chose Model #4 to meet organizational needs.

The selected model allows for a limited number of officers (patrol supervisors) to receive the then Ministry of Solicitor General accredited training. The requirements of LE-024 continue to be met by PRP by having patrol supervisors review and acknowledge the thoroughness of all domestic violence investigations.

The Domestic Violence Investigator's (DVI) course is an extensive four (4) day course held at the Emil V. Kolb Centre for Police Excellence, 180 Derry Road, Mississauga that awards officers with the DVI designation upon completion. To date, priority is given to supervisors and acting supervisors. PRP currently has **778** officers with the designation of DVI.

Domestic Violence training is crucial. Absent this training, some of the more subtle nuances and details of domestic violence can be overlooked. This is particularly critical when dealing with potential dual charge situations and making the right decision in terms of "dominant aggressor". If charges are arbitrarily laid against both individuals, it can lead to re-victimizing a person who is truly a victim of domestic violence. The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services recognizes the negative impact of dual charging and has created an investigative aid to guide officers in these situations. The Domestic Violence directive (I-B-713) reinforces this investigative aid by having supervisors with DVI

designation involved in any decision to charge both parties before charges are laid. This guide continues to be distributed to officers as part of their ongoing training.

All domestic dispute calls received by PRP are considered of the highest priority (Priority E), and responded to by a minimum of two (2) officers when in progress. The mandatory charging guidelines, as directed by the Province, are strictly adhered to. Where reasonable grounds exist to believe that an offence has occurred, within an *intimate partner relationship*, officers shall lay charges.

This service'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 videotaped whenever possible. PRP continues to meet the Adequacy Standards. Amendments have also been made to Directive I-B-713 to encourage video recording of accused statements, which also has an impact on the time required for a thorough domestic violence investigation.

Divisional Domestic Violence Coordinators

In January 2007, full time Divisional Domestic Violence Coordinators were assigned to 11, 12, 21 and 22 Divisions; with an additional coordinator also assigned to the Airport Division. The coordinators augment the training needs of front line officers through platoon/parade training. This serves not only as a refresher, but also addresses policy changes or other concerns identified by the Family Violence Unit. By identifying incidents of non-compliance with departmental policy, the Divisional Domestic Violence Coordinators are in a position to offer one-on-one direction and training to front line staff to improve this service delivery.

The Regional Domestic Violence Coordinator liaises regularly with the Divisional Domestic Violence Coordinators and hosts quarterly meetings. These meetings provide an opportunity for ongoing support for the officers, answers inquiries from investigators, provides mentoring and identifies quality control and NICHE tasking deficiencies. Additionally, by meeting as a group, concerning trends are identified and brought to the attention of managers. Coordinators continue to focus on the needs/safety concerns of the victim, which may include liaising with the Risk Evaluation and Management in Peel (ReVAMP) committee.

Divisional Coordinators are also encouraged to take part in additional training, both internally and through the Ontario Police College (OPC), including an annual OPC Domestic Violence conference; when such training is available.

National Framework for Collaborative Police Action on Intimate Partner Violence

In March 2016, the National Framework for Collaborative Police Action on Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) was released by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and the University of New Brunswick.

The report was created to share best practices and to develop and implement a comprehensive and a collaborative response to the issue of Intimate Partner Violence on a national level. The report covered topics such as investigative guidelines for Canadian police services, management of victims and perpetrators of IPV, as well as outreach and education.

In 2017, Peel Regional Police conducted an internal audit to evaluate current practices and identify areas for development. The audit concluded that Peel Regional Police exceeds the recommended standards set out in the Framework in a number of areas including: investigations and risk assessment; officer training; stakeholder engagement; and, risk/safety planning. The recommended practices contained in the Framework as it relates to criminal investigations, training, victim services and offender management are included in PRP's directives.

Domestic Violence Investigations

Peel Regional Police 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 an offence has occurred, within an *intimate partner relationship*, officers shall lay charges. The Service has comprehensive directives that speak to criminal and domestic violence investigations. The directives include detailed steps on how domestic related investigations are documented. This is to ensure that officers are conducting a comprehensive investigation.

A Domestic Violence Risk Management form is mandated to be completed and must be reviewed and signed by a trained Domestic Violence Investigator who is a Sergeant/Detective or of a higher rank. Officers will discuss safety planning with the victim and refer the victim to Victim Services of Peel. In the case of an extreme risk or threat, the PRP Threat Assessor, who works out of the Offender Management Unit, is consulted. The Threat Assessor is well versed in IPV risk assessment tools, and generally would use the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment guide for DV cases, dependent on the complexity of the offender. Related information is provided in conjunction with a number of varied training courses. Officers are able to identify high risk DV cases and refer them to the Threat Assessor for the purposes of categorizing the level of risk and strategizing case management suggestions.

Directives require officers to videotape interviews and when not readily available, that they take a written statement that is to be followed up by a video statement. A KGB statement is to be taken when criminal charges are anticipated (A KGB statement refers to *R v B (KG)* - a 1993 Supreme Court of Canada decision serving to guide police process in relation to the admissibility of prior inconsistent statements as proof of the truth of their contents).

In providing follow-up to the post court judicial process, the PRP Offender Management Unit is the policy centre for the Federal and Provincial Sex Offender Registry and high risk individuals. The local courts utilize the Partner Assault Response Program (PARS). There are two agencies, John Howard Society and Bridge that assist in offender treatment.

Safety Issues and Public Awareness

Peel Children's Aid

Peel Regional Police 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 has two (2) Domestic Violence Teams solely dedicated to providing support for children who have been exposed to intimate partner violence. This practice exceeds the requirements of the Child and Family Services Act.

Project Guardian – SupportLink

In the past, victims of Domestic Violence would have been eligible to receive a Domestic Violence Emergency Response System (DVERS) alarm. Candidates were selected if, in the opinion of the police or Victim Services of Peel (VSOP), the victim was at significant risk and they met the eligibility criteria. These alarms were provided, free of charge, by ADT Alarms with the program being administered by VSOP. The SupportLink initiative involved the issuance of pre-programmed "9-1-1" cellular phones to clients to allow them added safety when away from the home (out of range of DVERS). In November 2014, The DVERS alarm program was suspended and in early 2015, SupportLink phones were phased out. To address this gap in services, until such time as a replacement program was operational, an interim practice was developed to allow for more reliance on "premise warnings". A premise warning was initiated by police or requested by VSOP using similar criteria as was used by previous DVERS clients. This captured similar information, previously recorded on a DVERS alarm, for the benefit of officers responding to a residence. This interim practice was communicated to all members through a Corporate Communication.

Victim Services of Peel, along with members of the PRP Family Violence Unit, conducted research into personal safety devices with GPS technology; GPS technology would enhance victim safety in that the alarm would no longer be restricted to a client's residence. Victim Services of Peel selected a model manufactured by Safe Tracks GPS Canada; VSOP applied for and received funding from Region of Peel's Community Investment Funding Grant to purchase 10 of these devices. The pilot project has been named, "Project GUARDIAN". A procedure manual was drafted by VSOP as they are the program administrators, coordinators, and operators of the project. Peel Regional Police's obligation is to support the project in terms of Premise Warnings and response in emergent situations or criminal investigations.

On December 1, 2017, VSOP launched Project GUARDIAN. Criteria and suitability for the program is determined by VSOP. The criterion includes: the accused does not reside with the client; the incident is reported to police; there is a court order of protection (restraining order, peace bond, recognizance etc.) in place; and, the individual is at high risk of being the victim of physical violence. In December 2017, three clients were approved for the launch of the program and received the devices. The program continues to be piloted and will be evaluated after a one year period.

Risk Evaluation and Management in Peel (ReVAMP)

Peel Regional Police has been involved in developing and implementing a comprehensive and collaborative response strategy for dealing with intimate partner violence. The Risk Evaluation and Management Committee was developed to address the ongoing safety needs of victims of intimate partner violence.

This review committee is co-chaired by PRP and is comprised of justice partners including Police, Peel Crown Attorney's Office, Brampton Probation and Parole, Mississauga Probation and Parole, Victim Witness Assistance Program, and Peel CAS (when children are involved). A representative from the PRP Offender Management Unit was also added to the committee. Non-justice partners (shelters, VSOP etc.) can make referrals to the ReVAMP committee. Seventeen (17) new cases were reviewed by ReVAMP in 2017.

Public Education and Awareness

The Family Violence Unit's highest priority is public education, promoting awareness, and facilitating access to appropriate resources, both within the service and the community in general. Presentations by PRP in public forums often focus on "Understanding the Police Response to Domestic Violence".

The requirement to give victims of IPV an opportunity to create a safety plan is addressed by the Adequacy Standards LE-024 and the Victims Bill of Rights (2015). Access to safety planning tips and suggestions are available to the public. Both the PRP Domestic Violence webpage and the Intimate Relationship Domestic Violence/Abuse pamphlet provide the public with information regarding domestic violence and also identify community agencies that provide assistance and support to victims and their families. A listing of support agencies in the community continues to be updated on the internal Family Violence Unit departmental page. This information not only assists officers in providing resources to victims, but also alerts PRP personnel to services that may be of benefit to a member or his/her family. The Intimate Relationship Domestic Violence/Abuse pamphlet is available in English, French, Punjabi, Chinese, Polish, and Urdu. Victims are routinely referred to Victim Services of Peel, where detailed and individualized safety planning is conducted with the victim.

Additional services available to victims of Domestic Violence include, but are not limited to:

- Referral to Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP), which assists the victim through all stages of the court process, once the matter has proceeded beyond the Bail Hearing stage. (VSOP deals with victims through the Bail Hearing phase)
- Affordable alternative housing support
- Community-based support systems for victims and children exposed to Domestic Violence (also available to offenders)
- Counseling services for victims and families (also available to offenders)
- First and second stage shelters
- Language/culturally specific counseling services
- Free language interpreter services for Domestic Violence investigations through Multilingual Community Interpreter Services (MCIS)

Presentations: Internal and to Victim Services of Peel; Jan 1-Dec 31, 2017 (Appendix I)

Peel Regional Police hosts an extensive four (4) day DVI training course twice a year for police and our partners. Incorporated into the training are presentations from our multiagency partners who work with victims of IPV on a daily basis.

In 2017, 40 personnel received training in Domestic Violence and/or Victims' Issues through the Domestic Violence Investigator's Course. The Family Violence Unit continues to provide additional classroom training to police personnel as noted below.

Training was provided within the following courses:

Internal:

- Domestic Violence Investigators (4 day course)
- Advanced Patrol Training
- Auxiliary Police Officer Training
- Communications Personnel-new call takers
- Post OPC Recruit classes
- Victim Services of Peel-counselors, new volunteers, and relief staff

External:

- Ontario Police College-Domestic Violence Coordinators conference
- Ontario Police College-Domestic Violence Investigator's Course (pilot)

Community Partnerships / Committees (see Appendix II)

The Family Violence Unit is an active participant on various external committees. Our Service continues to maintain long standing, working relationships with several community/social services agencies. These agencies focus primarily on the needs of victims and the families of victims impacted by domestic violence.

Partnerships and participation on numerous committees/conferences has a positive impact on the quality of service provided to victims of Domestic Violence within the Region of Peel.

In terms of IPV training or education modules for multiagency partners, PRP exceeds the level set out in the Framework report. The partners that PRP collaborates with are well versed in IPV, as the majority of their work involves IPV.

Beyond formal partnerships, efforts to expand community engagement with an end to reduce intimate partner violence continue through innovative approaches including providing presentations to some of the Chief's Community Advisory Groups.

Statistical Information (see Appendix III)

As listed in the appendices, Domestic Violence statistics have shown a decrease in the number of Intimate Partner criminal charges laid when compared to 2016. There was, however, an increase in the number of Intimate Partner Verbal and Non-Intimate Partner calls.

3. Organizational Wellness / Risk Management

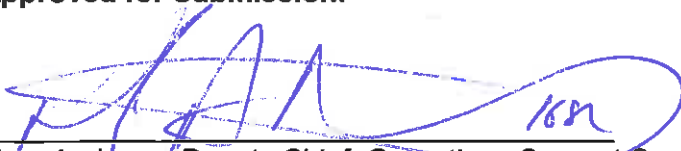
- a) No Organizational Wellness issues identified.
- b) No Risk Management issues identified.

CONCLUSION

The response of PRP to matters of Domestic Violence or Intimate Partner Violence 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.

The PRP Family Violence Unit continues to work collaboratively with operational divisions to ensure that training needs are met and that best practices are adhered to. This is in keeping with our 2017-2019 Strategic Plan's *Strategic Objective 1.4 providing assistance to victims of crime* and *Strategic Objective 3.1 Maintain public trust, confidence and satisfaction by delivering quality services and ensuring transparency and accountability.*

Approved for Submission:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Andrews', with a large flourish extending to the right.

Marc Andrews, Deputy Chief, Operations-Support Command

For further information regarding this report, please contact Inspector Taufic Saliba at extension 3609 or via e-mail at taufic.saliba@peelpolice.ca

Authored By: Detective Tracy Noonan #2057 and A/Sergeant Joy Brown #1333

APPENDIX I**Presentations: Internal and to Victim Services of Peel - 2017**

3	Advanced Patrol Training Courses	90 attendees
1	Domestic Violence Investigators Course	40 attendees
1	Auxiliary Officers Course	19 attendees
3	Post OPC Recruits	96 attendees
3	New Call Takers (Communications)	18 attendees
1	Victim Services of Peel Volunteers	28 attendees

Topics Covered include:

- Domestic related offences
- Mandatory policies - charging and reporting
- Cycle of Abuse
- Effects of abuse on Victim/Children
- May/les and Hadley inquest implications
- Aim of police investigation
- Enhanced investigations
- Post arrest support for victim/witness
- Victim's safety and other victim issues
- Criminal Harassment related domestics
- Firearms and Weapons in domestics
- Identifying the Primary Aggressor
- Risk Factors
- Police Perpetrated Domestic Violence
- Strangulation Investigations
- Cultural Issues
- Interpreter Services
- Court Orders and Child Custody
- Community based support
- Mental Health and Domestic Violence
- Review applicable legislation e.g. Family Law Act

APPENDIX II**Community Partnerships / Committees - 2017**

The Family Violence Unit has a community partnership and/or committee membership with the following agencies:

- Armagh House
- Brampton Probation and Parole
- Catholic Cross- Cultural Services of Peel
- Catholic Family Services of Peel-Dufferin
- Domestic Violence Court Advisory Committee (DVCAC)
- Family Justice / Child Advocacy Centre (Safe Center of Peel) (SCoP)
- Family Services of Peel
- Hope 24/7 Crisis Line
- India Rainbow Community Services of Peel
- Interim Place North
- Interim Place South
- Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services
- Multilingual Community Interpreter Services (M.C.I.S.)
- 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) (*Co-chair*)
- 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)

APPENDIX III

The information in this appendix relates to Family Violence statistics for the year (2017) and the four previous years (2013 to 2016).

The Family Violence occurrence categories are defined as follows:

(A) Intimate Relationship Occurrences (Total Cleared)

Statistics for this category relate to occurrences 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 otherwise. (Occurrence classification code 8999.0502).

Intimate Relationship Occurrences					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total Cleared	2,172	2,137	2,199	2,407	2,402
Cleared by Charge	2,122	2,105	2,150	2,347	2,329
Cleared by Other	50	32	49	60	73

Source: OCCDIV 2013-2017

(B) Domestic Occurrences (Intimate Partner – Not cleared by charge)

These statistics involve intimate relationship disputes where no criminal charges have been laid. (Occurrence classification code 8999.0502).

Intimate Relationship Occurrences					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No Criminal Charges	5,960	5,970	6,310	6,521	7,024

No Criminal Charges = Actual - Cleared by Charge

(C) Family Dispute Occurrences Non-Intimate Partner (Total Cleared)

These statistics involve non-intimate partner, including child, parent, siblings, cousins etc where occurrences were either cleared by charged or cleared otherwise. (Occurrence classification code 8999.0506)

Family Dispute Occurrences - Non Intimate Partner					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total Cleared	1,005	935	958	1,019	1,001
Cleared by Charge	812	769	793	868	788
Cleared by Other	193	166	165	151	213

Source: OCCDIV 2013-2017

(D) Family Dispute Occurrences Non-Intimate Partner (Non-Intimate - verbal)

These statistics relate to verbal domestic disputes between non-intimate partners where no criminal charges were laid. (Occurrence classification code 8999.0506).

Family Dispute Occurrences - Non Intimate Partner					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No Criminal Charges	4,265	4,463	4,727	5,066	5,660

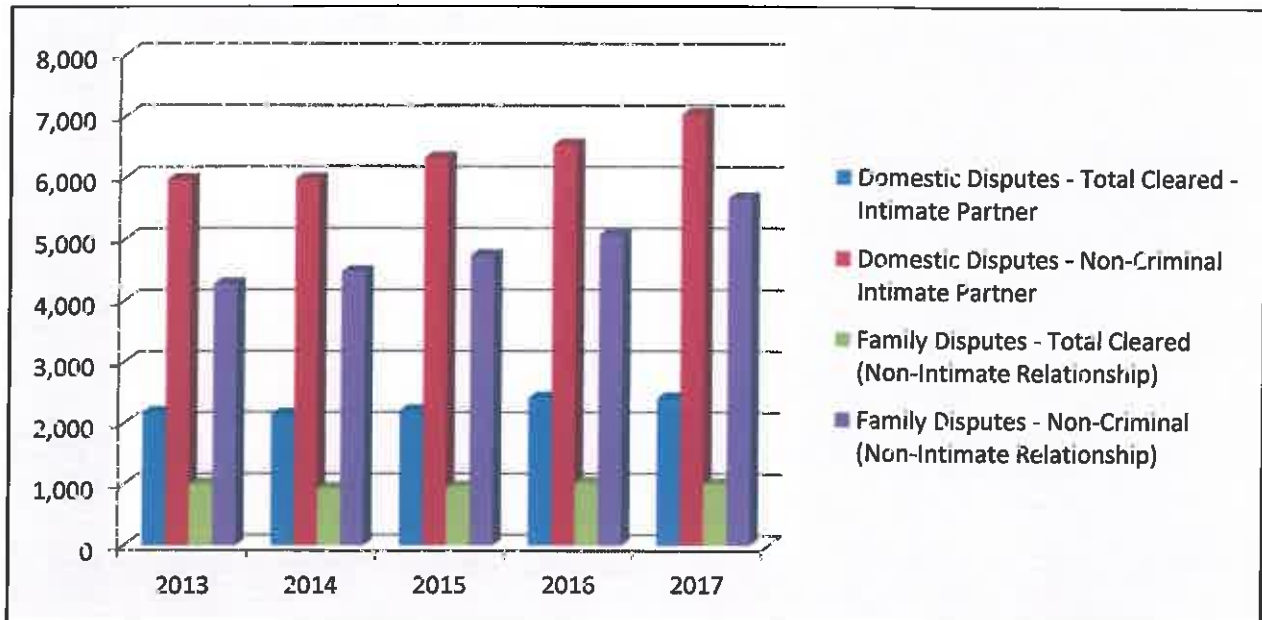
No Criminal Charges = Actual - Cleared by Charge

The total number of domestic occurrences (Intimate Partner and Family Disputes) for the years 2013 to 2017) are:

2013 – 13,402 2014 – 13,505 2015 – 14,194 2016 – 15,013 2017 – 16,087

Note: numbers may vary from what is currently available on Niche, due to the date the report was run and charges may have been updated

Graph illustrates the numbers provided above on page 13 -14.



Variation in statistical data:

The 2017 Domestic Violence statistics have shown slight variance, with a decrease in intimate partner charges laid and non-intimate partner charges from the previous year. It also showed an upward trend in intimate partner verbal and non-intimate partner verbal occurrences. The fluctuation in the statistics below is within the expected norms.

Variance 2016 – 2017:

Intimate Partner Relationship occurrences have decreased **2%** from 2016
 Intimate Partner occurrences not cleared by charge have increased by **8%** from 2016
 Non-Intimate Partner charges (Family Violence) calls decreased **2%** from 2016
 Non-Intimate Partner non-criminal calls increased **12%** from 2016

Please see the accompanying chart:

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Variance 1 year		Variance 5 years	
						#	%	#	%
Intimate Partner Occurrences - Total Cleared	2172	2137	2199	2407	2402	-5	-2%	230	11%
Intimate Partner – Not Cleared by Charge	5960	5970	6310	6521	7024	503	8%	1064	18%
Family Dispute - Non-Intimate Total Cleared	1005	935	958	1019	1001	-18	-2%	-4	-4%
Family Dispute - Non-Intimate Relationship - Verbal	4265	4463	4727	5066	5660	594	12%	1395	33%