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POLICE SERVICES BOARD

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Registration No: 09-144
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REPORT
Police Services Board

For Information

File Class: 1-01-02-03

Cross-Reference File Class: _____

DATE: August 25, 2014

SUBJECT: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORT

FROM: Roman Boychuk, Acting Deputy Chief, Operations Support Services

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the 2013 Domestic Violence Report be received by the Peel Regional Police Services Board as an information item as part of the annual reporting requirements.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Peel Regional Police hosting of the 2013 "Impact of Family Violence: A South Asian Perspective" conference at Sheridan College, May 1st and 2nd.
- Reinforcement of Domestic Violence directive to have patrol supervisors undertake, manage, or review domestic violence investigations, to ensure the requirements of Ontario Policing Standards LE-024 continue to be met. This includes mandatory involvement in decision making in dual charge situations.
- A modest decrease in intimate partner verbal and non-intimate partner family violence calls for the second consecutive year.
- Development of an interim practice pending future direction of the DVERS Alarm program.

DISCUSSION

1. Introduction

The 2013 Domestic Violence Report has been compiled to inform the Police Services Board with an overview of the duties, functions and mandate of the Family Violence Unit

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in adherence to Ontario Police Standards LE-024 as well as Directive 1-B-713 and related directives dealing with Family Violence issues.

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

Domestic Violence 1-B-713(F) - (Main Directive)

Criminal Harassment 1-A-602(F)

Elder Abuse 1-B-701(F)

Victims and Witness Assistance 1-B-710(F)

Domestic Violence Emergency Response System (DVERS) 1-B-718(F)

2. Background

The Peel Regional Police Family Violence Unit continues to play an important role in ensuring compliance with both internal and external directives governing this service's response to matters involving Domestic/Family violence. The Family Violence Unit ensures members are routinely trained and updated in this area to maintain this compliance. The Family Violence Unit is not an investigative unit, and most domestic violence calls are investigated by front line uniform personnel. While many of these calls may be minor and many times non-criminal (verbal) matters, others are complicated and life threatening. In the more complex cases, Divisional criminal investigators may be called upon to take carriage of the investigation.

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

- a) ensuring that an adequate number of patrol officers are designated as Domestic Violence Investigators
- b) establishing a specialized unit of Domestic Violence Investigators responsible for Undertaking, managing, or reviewing all domestic violence investigations
- c) designating a domestic violence occurrence as a threshold occurrence, thereby requiring that the investigation be undertaken or managed by a criminal investigator
- d) ***Designating patrol supervisors as Domestic Violence Investigators, who will be responsible for undertaking, managing, or reviewing all domestic violence investigations.***

Most police services, including Peel, chose Model 'D' to meet organizational needs at that time. This model allowed for a limited number of officers (patrol supervisors) to receive the Ministry accredited training. The requirements of LE-024 continue to be met by Peel Regional Police by having patrol supervisors undertake, manage, or review domestic violence investigations. Some of the limitations of model 'D' have been realized, both in terms of thoroughness of investigations and liability issues, given that these investigations are conducted by front line officers who often have limited training and experience in this field. A decision was made in 2013 to move the Domestic

Violence Investigators Course from the classroom to the auditorium, which allowed a greater number of officers to receive this extensive four day training. This has resulted in the less experienced officers, who are routinely dealing with domestic violence, taking this training, and obtaining the Domestic Violence Investigator(DVI) designation.

In the absence of this expertise by the attending officer(s), some of the more subtle nuances and details of Domestic Violence can be overlooked. This is particularly significant when dealing with potential dual charge situations, where making the right decision in terms of "dominant aggressor" is critical. If charges are arbitrarily laid against both individuals, this can have a devastating impact by 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 (1-B-713) enforces this investigative aid by having supervisors, with Domestic Violence Investigator (DVI) designation, involved in any decision to charge both parties, before charges are laid. This pamphlet continues to be distributed to officers as part of their ongoing training.

All domestic calls responded to by Peel Regional Police are considered the highest priority and responded to by a minimum of two 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 such matters. An example of this is the expectation by the courts that victim statements will be videotaped whenever possible. Peel Regional Police continues to meet the Adequacy Standards. Amendments have also been made to directive 1-B-713 to encourage video recording of accused statements, which also has an impact on the time required for a thorough Domestic Violence investigation.

3. Public Awareness and Safety Issues

The requirement to give victims of domestic violence an opportunity to create a safety plan is addressed in the Adequacy Standards and the Victims Bill of Rights (1995). Access to safety planning is provided via the Peel Regional Police - Domestic Violence web page. In addition, the *'Intimate Relationship Domestic Violence/ Abuse'* pamphlet promotes victim awareness, and provides a list of safety tips. This pamphlet has been updated to reflect additional victim resources such as agency web site contact information. This pamphlet is available in English, French, Punjabi and Polish. In 2013, this pamphlet was also printed in the Urdu language. Victims are routinely referred to Victim Services of Peel, where detailed and individualized safety planning is conducted with the victim.

This service takes a precautionary approach by reporting matters to Peel Children's Aid Society where a child is, or likely to be, exposed to Domestic Violence. In making these referrals with regards to children deemed "at risk", this service exceeds the requirements of the *Child and Family Services Act*.

Historically, a victim of Domestic Violence would have been eligible to receive a Domestic Violence Emergency Response System (DVERS) alarm if in the opinion of the police or Victims 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. A major change took place in 2013 as ADT made a corporate decision to cease their donated installation and monitoring of new alarms, effective December 31st, 2012. While ADT would continue to honour existing contracts, the number of alarm systems in the community would decrease. As of the date of this report, only two (2) DVERS alarms remain in the field. This is dramatically down from thirty three (33) DVERS alarms that were installed in 2012. In recent years the DVERS emergency alarm program was augmented through the addition of the SupportLink initiative. This involves the issuance of pre-programmed "9-1-1" cellular phones to clients to allow them added safety when away from home (out of range of DVERS alarm). There are currently five (5) SupportLink phones issued. There has been less demand for these phones as more and more clients routinely possess their own cell phones.

VSOP, with members of Peel Regional Police (Family Violence Unit / Communications Services / IT Services) in an advisory capacity, continue to assess alternative options. The options being assessed will have GPS technology, which will enhance victim safety, in that the alarm is no longer restricted to a client's residence. Funding has been secured to purchase a number of alarm units, but VSOP continues to explore funding sources for the ongoing monitoring costs. To address this gap in service, until such time as a replacement program is operational, an interim practice has been developed to allow for more reliance on "premise warnings". A premise warning can be requested by VSOP, using a similar criteria as was used by previous DVERS clients, which captures similar information as was 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. There are currently fifty four (54) premise warnings on the Peel Regional Police system which were requested by VSOP under this practice.

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. (Victim Services of Peel 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 counselling services
- free language interpreter services for Domestic Violence investigations

A high priority for the Family Violence Unit is public education, promoting awareness, and facilitating access to appropriate resources, both within the service and the community in general. Presentations in public forums often focus on "Understanding the Police Response to Domestic Violence". Both the Peel Police Domestic Violence webpage and the *'Intimate Relationship Domestic Violence/Abuse'* pamphlet provide the public with information regarding domestic violence and identifies community agencies that provide assistance and support to victims and their families. A listing of support agencies in the community continues to be catalogued on the internal Family Violence departmental page. This information not only assist officers in providing resources to victims, but also alerts Peel Regional Police personnel of services that may be of benefit to a member or his/her family.

A significant development in addressing the ongoing safety needs of victims of domestic violence has been the introduction of a domestic violence high risk committee. In Peel this committee is known as REVAMP (Risk Evaluation and Management in Peel). This review committee is co-chaired by Peel Regional Police and is comprised of justice partners, which includes Police, Crown Attorney's Office, Probation and Parole, Victim Witness Assistance Program, and Peel Children's Aid for cases where children are involved. A representative from the Offender Management unit has also been added to the committee. Non-justice partners (shelters, VSOP etc.) can make referral to the REVAMP committee. Forty three (43) cases were reviewed by REVAMP in 2013.

4. Training Issues (See Appendix I)

The Family Violence Unit continues to provide ongoing classroom training to police personnel as well as delivering presentations to various service providers and community organizations. 302 police personnel received training in Domestic Violence and/or Victims' Issues in 2013. Approximately 1000 members of the public and service providers received presentations from the Family Violence Unit in 2013. This figure does not capture viewership television interviews, in particular interviews for "Bullied, Battered and Bruised", produced by Rogers. Outreach and training to various community organizations/agencies, new in 2013, included Multicultural Newcomer Services, India Rainbow – English as a Second Language, Oasis Des Femmes (French Domestic Violence Support), Rotary Club (Mississauga), Business Women's Association (Mississauga and Brampton), and University of Guelph-Humber. Public outreach also included Peel Regional Police hosting the Social Services Network (SSN) conference entitled "Impact of Family Violence: A South Asian Perspective" in May 2013 at Sheridan College.

The Family Violence Unit delivers classroom training on Domestic Violence and Victim's Issues on the following courses:

- Domestic Violence Investigators (4 day course)
- Advanced Patrol Training
- Ontario Police College Supervisor's Course
- Auxiliary Police Officer Training
- Communications Personnel

In January 2007, full time Divisional Domestic Violence Coordinators were assigned to 11, 12, 21 and 22. The coordinators in this position continue to augment the training needs of front line officers through platoon/parade training. This serves not only as a refresher, but also addresses arising policy changes or other concerns identified by the Family Violence Unit. By identifying incidents of non-compliance with departmental policy, the Divisional Family Violence Coordinators are in a position to offer one on one direction to front line staff to improve this service delivery. A tenet of this position continues to be the focus on the needs/safety concerns of the victim, which may include liaison with REVAMP. The officers filling these positions take advantage of additional training, both internally and through the Ontario Police College, as well as yearly conferences, as such training becomes available.

The number of Divisional officers who currently have the Domestic Violence Investigator (DVI) accreditation is as follows:

11 Division	- 87 officers
12 Division	- 65 officers
21 Division	- 76 officers
22 Division	- 71 officers
Airport Division	- 38 officers

Note: **644** officers currently have the DVI designation service wide.

5. Community Partnerships / Committees (see Appendix II)

Peel Regional Police continues to maintain long standing working relationships with several community/social services, focused primarily on the needs of victims, and the families of victims, impacted by Domestic Violence. The Family Violence Unit continues to be an active participant on various committees, either on a permanent or ad-hoc basis. Emerging opportunities to become involved in ad-hoc committees include the Domestic Violence Risk Management (DVRM) committee, tasked with improving and replacing the Domestic Violence Supplementary Report Form (DVSRF), and the steering committee for a series of annual conferences, titled "Impact of Family Violence: A South Asian Perspective". On May 1st and 2nd, 2013, Peel Regional Police, in partnership with Sheridan College, hosted the 3rd annual conference, with the welcoming address being made by Chief Evans. This event was well attended by various stakeholders in Peel's South Asian Community, as well as Toronto and York Region.

These partnerships and participation in numerous committees/conferences has a positive impact on the quality of service provided to victims of Domestic Violence within the region of Peel.

6. Statistical Information (see Appendix III)

Domestic Violence statistics have shown a slight increase in the number of Intimate Partner criminal charges laid when compared to 2012, but a decrease in the number of Intimate Partner Verbal and Non-Intimate Partner calls. 2013 marked the second consecutive year that calls for service were down in those two categories. This fluctuation would be considered within a normal range of variance. A contributing factor in this relative stability is the “zero tolerance / mandatory charge” approach towards Domestic Violence, led by the Province, and adopted by Peel Regional Police. Further, the Ministry of the Attorney General has created a Partner Assault Response Service (PARS) program which provides compulsory counselling for persons convicted of first time and lower-level domestic related offences. Both of these approaches are designed to break the cycle of violence, and decrease recidivism.

CONCLUSION

The response of Peel Regional Police to matters of Domestic Violence continues to be consistent with, and in some cases, exceeding the minimum requirements of various Adequacy Standards. An example of exceeding standards is the reporting of all domestics to which a child is exposed, to Peel Children’s Aid Society.

Peel’s growing diverse population continues to be a significant challenge to Peel Regional Police from a family violence perspective. With over 100 languages being spoken in the Region, front line police personnel face unique difficulties in assessing the needs of victims and their families. This service continues to partner with Multilingual Community Interpreter Services (M.C.I.S.) to provide free interpreter services for Domestic Violence investigations. In 2013 new outreach opportunities to diverse communities included presentations to Multicultural Newcomer Services of Peel, India Rainbow Community Services of Peel – ESL, and participation in the third “Impact of Family Violence: A South Asian Perspective” conference, hosted by Peel Regional Police at Sheridan College-Brampton Campus.

A primary role of the Family Violence Unit is continued education of police personnel in a wide range of topics surrounding Domestic Violence, including available support services. Training in 2013 included “Domestic Violence and the Deaf & Deafened”, to better equip officers to interact with members of the deaf community, as well as presentations by Peel Children’s Aid. Having full time Divisional Family Violence Coordinators has augmented the flow of training and information to front line staff and the public, resulting in improved service delivery to the residents of the region of Peel.

REVAMP (Risk Evaluation and Management in Peel), Peel’s domestic violence high risk review committee, continues to play a significant role in ensuring the safety of victims and their families. Often these matters are no longer on the police “radar” as the case moves through and beyond the courts. When safety concerns are identified, the various agencies collaborate, with police input, to ensure the case is managed in a coordinated fashion.

Approved for Submission:

A handwritten signature in blue ink is written over a solid black horizontal line. The signature is stylized and appears to be the initials 'PD'.

For further information regarding this report, please contact Inspector Paul Donnelly at extension 3400 or via email at Paul.Donnelly@peelpolice.ca

Authored by: Detective Rick Hawes #714

APPENDIX I

Presentations by the Family Violence Regional Coordinator in 2013.

APPENDIX II

List of the Family Violence Unit community partnerships and committee memberships.

APPENDIX III

Family Violence statistics for 2010 to 2013.

APPENDIX I

Presentations to Police Personnel (Jan 1-Dec 31, 2013)

▪ 6 x Advanced Patrol Training Courses	180	students
▪ 2 x Domestic Violence Investigators Course	100	students
▪ 1 x Auxiliary Officers Course	23	students

Presentations to Public (Jan 1-Dec 31 2013)

▪ Brampton Business & Professional Women's Association	32	attendees
▪ PCAWA Focus Group	45	attendees
▪ Oasis Des Femmes	60	attendees
▪ Peel Family Mediation Services	60	attendees
▪ University of Guelph-Humber	70	attendees
▪ Mississauga Business & Professional Women's Association	30	attendees
▪ Impact of Family Violence: A South Asian Perspective Conference	400	attendees
▪ Multi-Cultural Newcomer Services	215	attendees
▪ India Rainbow-ELS	30	attendees
▪ Rotary Club – Mississauga	60	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 victims' 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 (2013)

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

- Armagh House
- Catholic Cross- Cultural Services of Peel
- Catholic Family Services of Peel/Dufferin
- Domestic Violence Court Advisory Committee
- Family Services of Peel
- Family Justice / Child Advocacy Centre (Safe Center of Peel)
- India Rainbow Community Centre
- Interim Place I / II
- Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services – Advisory Committee
- Multilingual Community Interpreter Services (M.C.I.S.)
- Our Place Peel
- Peel Children's Aid Society
- Peel Committee Against Women Abuse (P.C.A.W.A.) (*Co-Chair*)
- Peel Committee on Sexual Assault (P.S.C.A)
- Peel Crown Attorneys Office
- Mississauga/Brampton Probation and Parole
- Region of Peel - Health
- Region of Peel – Housing
- REVAMP (Risk Evaluation and Management in Peel) (*Co-chair*)
- Salvation Army Shelter
- Social Services Network (SSN) Conference Planning Committee
- Ontario Domestic Violence Coordinators Network (*Chair*)
- Trillium Health Centre (Chantel's Place)
- Victim Services of Peel
- Victim Witness Assistance Program

APPENDIX III

The information in this appendix relates to Family Violence statistics for the current year (2013) and the three previous years (2010 to 2012).

The Family Violence occurrence categories are defined as follows:

(A) Intimate Relationship Occurrences (Charges)

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 only the number of persons charged. (Occurrence classification code 36003).

2010 - 1893	2011 - 2042	2012 - 2007	2013 - 2065
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(B) Domestic Occurrences (Intimate Partner – Verbal)

These statistics involve intimate relationship disputes where no criminal offences have been committed. (Occurrence classification code 36003).

2010 - 6693	2011- 6554	2012- 6492	2013 - 6067
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(C) Family Dispute Occurrences (Non-Intimate Partner)

These statistics relate to disputes between any family members (excluding disputes between intimate partners as above). Occurrence classification code 36007.

2010 - 5527	2011 - 5920	2012 – 5617	2013 - 5270
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The total number of domestics calls for the years 2010 to 2013 are:

2010 - 14113	2011 - 14516	2012 - 14116	2013 - 13402
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Variation in statistical numbers:

The 2013 Domestic Violence statistics have shown slight variance, with a small increase in Intimate Partner charges laid, but with a downward trend in Intimate Partner Verbal and Non-Intimate Partner calls for service.

Intimate Partner charge occurrences increased by 2.89% from 2012. Verbal Domestic calls decreased by 6.55% from 2012. Non-Intimate Partner (Family Violence) calls decreased 6.17% from 2012. The fluctuation in the statistics is within the expected norms.

<u>(A) Intimate Relationship</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
(Criminal)	1893	2042	2007	2065
<u>(B) Domestic Occurrences</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
(Verbal)	6692	6554	6492	6067
<u>(C) Family Dispute Occurrences</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
	5527	5920	5617	5270

Total number of Domestic Occurrences and Family Dispute Occurrences

<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
14113	14516	14116	13402

Domestic Violence 2013

Presentation to Police Services
Board

Chief Jennifer Evans



Domestic Violence

The Peel Regional Police Family Violence Unit continues to play an important role in ensuring compliance with both internal and external directives governing this service's response to matters involving Domestic /Family violence.



Domestic Violence Report

- Modest decrease in calls for the 2nd consecutive year
- Hosted a conference on the “Impact of Family Violence: A South Asian Perspective” (*National in 2015*)
- Continued training for officers



- All domestic calls responded to by Peel Regional Police are considered the highest priority
- Response is with minimum of 2 officers when “in progress”
- Strictly adhere to mandatory charging guidelines



In January 2001, all police services in Ontario were required by Adequacy Standard LE-024 to train Domestic Violence Investigators and to select a police response model for the investigation of domestic cases. Four models of service delivery offered:

- Peel Regional Police chose model “D” :
- ***Designated patrol supervisors as Domestic Violence Investigators, who will be responsible for undertaking, managing, or reviewing all domestic violence investigations.***



Domestic Violence Investigators

- The number of Divisional officers who currently have the Domestic Violence Investigator (DVI) accreditation is as follows:
 - 11 Division - 87 officers
 - 12 Division - 65 officers
 - 21 Division - 76 officers
 - 22 Division - 71 officers
 - Airport Division - 38 officers (*no residential base*)
- Note: **644** officers currently have the DVI designation service wide.



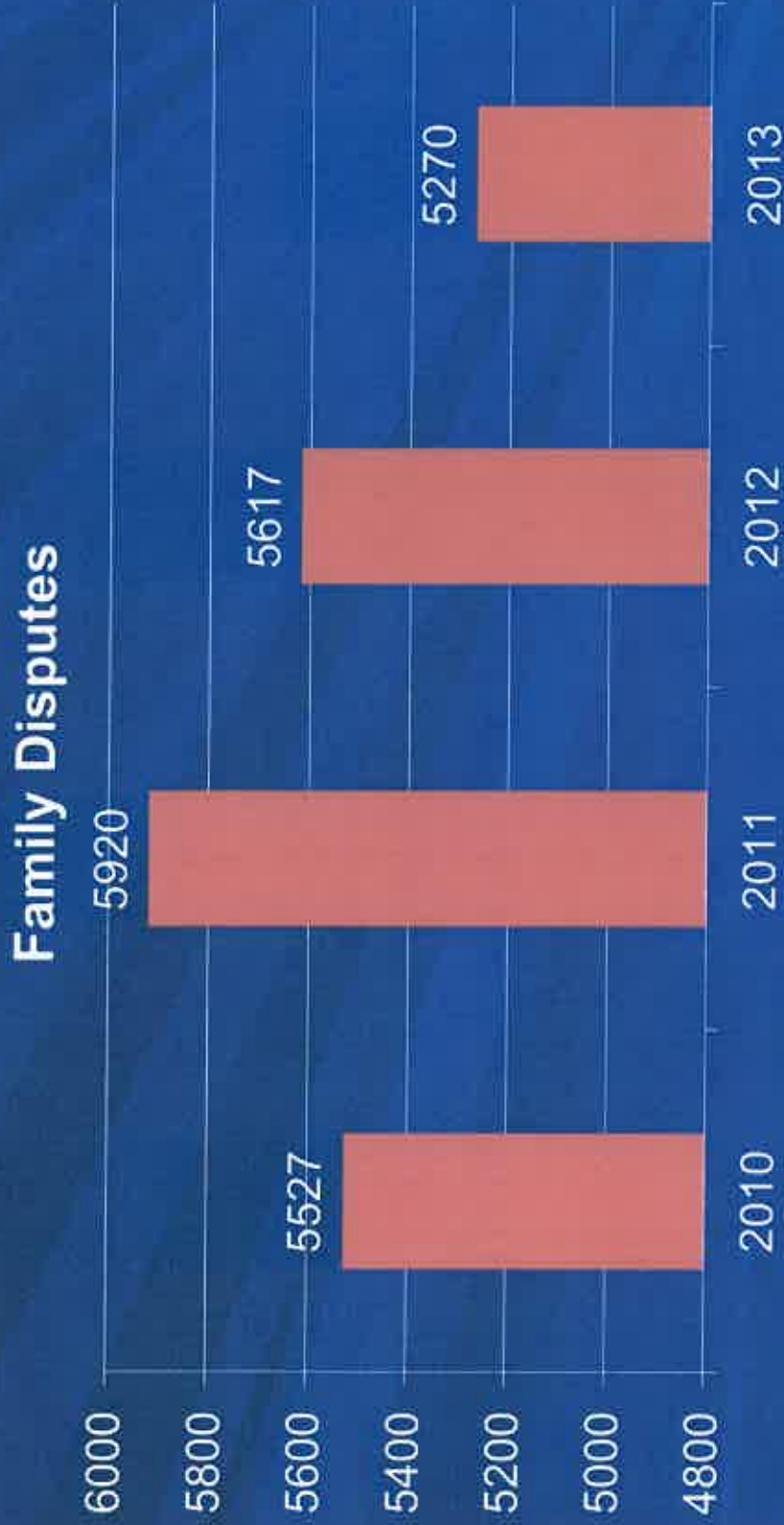
Intimate Relationship Occurrences (Charges)



Domestic Occurrences (Intimate Partner – Verbal)



Family Dispute Occurrences (Non-Intimate Partner)



Total number of Domestic calls 2010 to 2013 are:



Training to Police Personnel (Jan 1-Dec 31, 2013)

- 6 x Advanced Patrol Training Course
= 180 students
- 2 x Domestic Violence Investigators Course
= 100 students
- 1 x Auxiliary Officers Course
= 23 students



Topics covered include:

- Domestic related offences
- Mandatory policies - charging and reporting
- Cycle of Abuse
- Effects of abuse on Victim/Children
- Post arrest support for victim/witness
- Victim's safety and other victims' issues
- Criminal Harassment related domestics
- Community based support
- Mental Health and Domestic Violence
- Review applicable legislation e.g. Family Law Act
- Dominant/Primary Aggressor



Domestic Violence Report - Training

- 4 day Domestic Violence Investigators course extended to broader range of officer. Auditorium allows 70+ officers.
- Advance Patrol Training (APT) 1 hour training covers intersection Domestic Violence, Elder Abuse, and Mental Health.
- Above training augments in-house and Ontario Police College recruit training.



Presentations to Public (Jan 1-Dec 31 2013)

- Brampton Business & Professional Women's Association
- Mississauga Business & Professional Women's Association
- PCAWA Focus Group
- Oasis Des Femmes
- Peel Family Mediation Services
- University of Guelph-Humber
- Impact of Family Violence: A South Asia Perspective Conference
- Multi-Cultural Newcomer Services
- India Rainbow-ELS
- Rotary Club - Mississauga



Community Partnerships / Committees (2013)

- Victim Services of Peel
- Catholic Family Services of Peel/ Dufferin (Safe Centre)
- Family Services of Peel
- India Rainbow Community Centre
- Interim Place I / II
- Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services – Advisory Committee
- Our Place Peel
- Peel Committee Against Women Abuse (P.C.A.W.A.) (Co-Chair)
- Region of Peel – Health/Housing
- Trillium Health Centre (Chantel's Place)

