

#92



FORWARDED TO
POLICE SERVICES BOARD
DATE Sept 10 09
[Signature]
CHIEF OF POLICE

Regional Municipality Of Peel
POLICE SERVICES BOARD
RECEIVED
SEP 11 2009
Registration No.: 09-368
File Class: POO

REPORT
Police Services Board

For Information

File Class: 1-01-02-03

Cross-Reference File Class: _____

DATE: August 10, 2009
SUBJECT: **YOUTH CRIME REPORT**
FROM: Dan McDonald, Deputy Chief, Operations Support Services

RECOMMENDATION

That this report be forwarded as an information item to the Peel Regional Police Services Board.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2008, 1,040 young persons were charged with crimes of violence. This figure represents a decrease of 1% from the 2007 figure of 1,051.
- In 2008, 817 young persons were charged with crimes against property which includes break and enter, fraud and theft related offences. This indicates a 6.9% decrease from the 2007 figure of 878.
- In 2008, 1,034 young persons were charged with offences such as driving, drugs and weapon related offences, reflecting a 10.2% decrease from the 1,152 youth charged in 2007.
- Overall, youth crime statistics indicate a 6.2% decrease in the number of young persons charged from 2007 to 2008 with an increase in youth population during the same time period of 1.1%.

1. Introduction

To inform the Police Services Board of the crime statistics relating to young persons for the period commencing January 1, 2008 and ending December 31st, 2008.

To review current organizational programs and strategies, as well as developing initiatives addressing Youth Crime in Peel.

RECEIVED
SEP 09 2009
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF
09-1783

YOUTH CRIME REPORT

For the purposes of this report, a young person is defined as a “person between the ages of 12-17 inclusive” as prescribed by the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

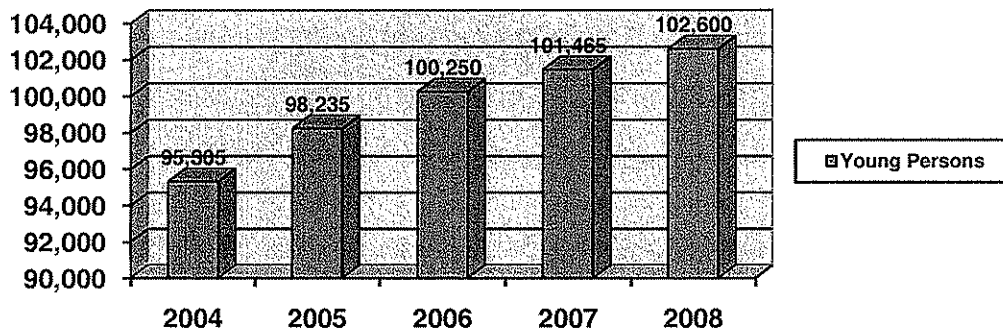
The statistics which form the basis of this report were gathered from the Peel Regional Police 2008 Annual Performance Report.

2. Discussion

The Region of Peel has experienced a steady growth in population over the past several years, reaching 1,198,854 in 2008. The population of young persons reached 102,600 in 2008, an increase of 1.1% from the 101,465 in 2007. (see Figure 1)

Figure 1

Population – Young Persons



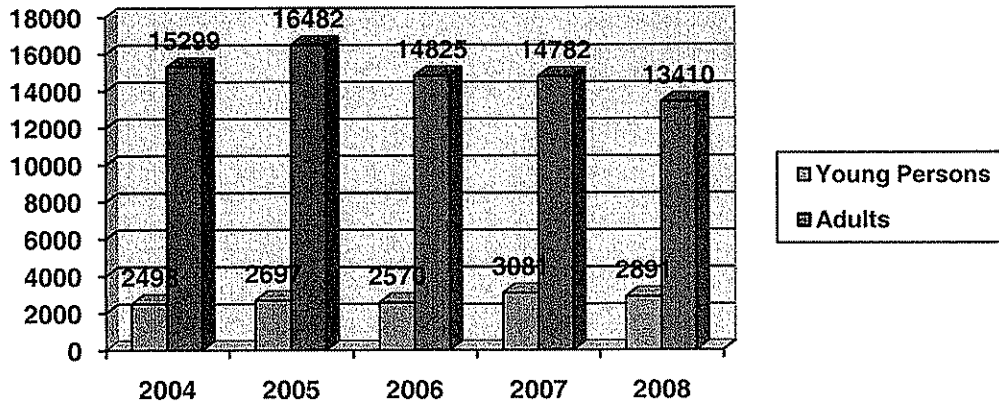
Crime statistics reported in the Peel Regional Police 2008 Annual Performance Report are broken down into three categories: crimes of violence, crimes against property, and other crimes (includes driving, drugs, weapons and other federal statute offences).

With all categories combined, 2,891 young persons were charged with criminal offences in 2008. This represents a decrease of 6.2% from the 2007 total of 3,081. (See Figure 2)

YOUTH CRIME REPORT

Figure 2

Persons Charged- All categories



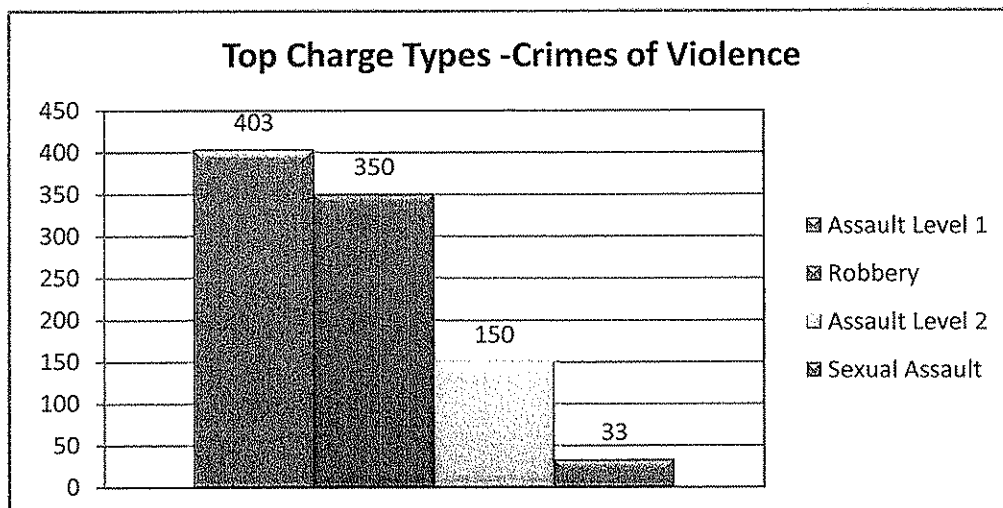
The breakdown of crime statistics by category is listed below:

Crimes of Violence

This category includes the offences of homicide and attempted homicide, assault, robbery, sexual assault and other sexual offences. In 2008, 1,040 young persons were charged with crimes of violence. This figure represents a decrease of 1% from the 2007 figure of 1,051. Young persons represented 24.9% of all persons charged in violent occurrences, up minimally from 24.5% in 2007.

Crime statistics indicate that offences of assault level 1 and robbery are the most commonly laid charges against 12 to 17 year old offenders in the crimes of violence category. This is followed distantly by assault level 2, which includes assault causing bodily harm and assault with a weapon. (See Figure 3)

Figure 3



YOUTH CRIME REPORT

Crimes Against Property

This category includes break and enter, fraud, theft and theft related offences. In 2008, 817 young persons were charged with crimes against property, reflecting a 6.9% decrease from the 2007 figure of 878. Young persons represented 17.3% of those charged in property crime occurrences, a .3% increase from 2007.

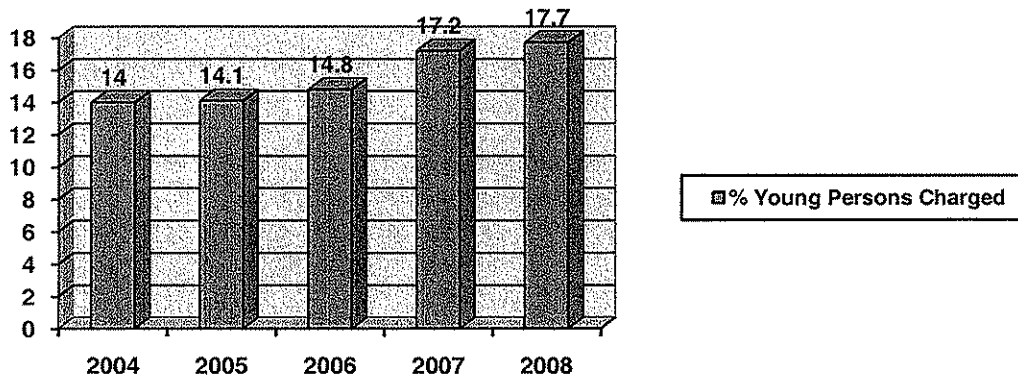
Other Crimes

This category includes driving, drugs and weapon related offences, as well as other Criminal Code and Federal Statute offences. In 2008, 1,034 young persons were charged with offences under this category. This is a decrease of 10.2% from the 1,152 youth charged in 2007.

Figure 4 provides a 5 year comparative analysis of the percentage of all persons charged, who are between the ages of 12 and 17 years. The percentage remained consistent from 2004 to 2006, but then reflected a slight increase in 2007, with 17.2% of all persons charged being young persons. In 2008, young persons represented 17.7% of all persons charged.

Figure 4

**Persons Charged – All categories
% Young Persons**



3. Conclusion

Overall, youth crime statistics indicate a 6.2% decrease in the number of young persons charged from 2007 to 2008, with an increase in youth population during the same time period of 1.1%.

The Peel Regional Police remain committed to addressing the issues surrounding youth crime in our Region. The Youth Crime Bureau facilitates the operation of several youth/school driven initiatives, including:

YOUTH CRIME REPORT

Pre-Charge Diversion Program:

Pre-Charge Diversion is an Extra-Judicial Measure as prescribed by the Youth Criminal Justice Act. It can be used in lieu of laying a criminal charge against a young person who is involved in a non-violent, first time criminal offence. The diversion program involves the young person being referred to a community agency (Associated Youth Services of Peel). The agency imposes "sanctions" on the young person, meant to hold them accountable for their actions while benefitting the youth and the community at large.

The Pre-Charge Diversion Program came into effect in the Region of Peel on January 1st, 2007. During the first year, 180 young persons (between 12-17 years of age) were referred to the program, and 176 of those successfully completed the program. The Pre-Charge Diversion Program has continued to expand as officers employ this Extra Judicial Measure. During 2008, 463 young persons were referred to the program with only 10 young persons failing to successfully complete the program.

The implementation of the Pre-Charge Diversion Program has equipped officers with another effective enforcement tool and has provided an alternative for officers when dealing with youth who commit non-violent crime.

Police/School Protocol

The Peel Regional Police, Peel District School Board and Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board, guided by the Police/School Protocol, continue to work collaboratively in an effort to promote and ensure positive school environments. The protocol outlines the roles and responsibilities of each organization in relation to criminal investigations, communication and sharing of information. The protocol was initially developed in 2000, and was revised in 2008 in response to new "Safe Schools" legislation embedded within the Education Act.

Neighbourhood Policing Unit/ Feeder School Program

The Youth Crime Bureau relies on Divisional personnel to support initiatives throughout the Region, especially in the schools. The Neighbourhood Policing Units and the Feeder School Program have a profound impact on the youth crime statistics. The Youth Crime Bureau will continue to support the Divisional units as they work toward improving the opportunities for young people and supporting them in their development.

School Police Emergency Action Response (S.P.E.A.R.)

The SPEAR program continues to be an effective tool to assist our service in dealing with school violence and ensuring the safety of our youth and students. The program has expanded with the completion of Sheridan College and Mentor College. Expansion is well under way with the University of Toronto Mississauga Campus and the addition of schools in the French Catholic Board and the French Public Board.

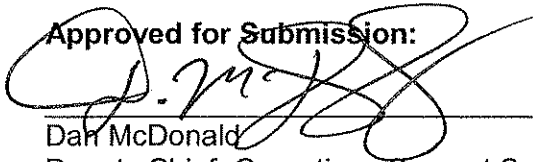
YOUTH CRIME REPORT

Additionally, the Youth Crime Bureau is working with the Peel District School Board and the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board in developing a Youth-Threat-Assessment Protocol. This protocol will help to establish information sharing and develop intervention strategies for young persons who display worrisome or potentially violent behavior.

The Youth Crime Bureau continues to be actively involved in several external committees which serve to maintain and strengthen relationships with community agencies and youth justice partners.

The Peel Regional Police Youth Crime Bureau remains committed to the enhancement of current programs and the development of new initiatives which support a safe and healthy environment for our youth and the community at large.

Approved for Submission:



Dan McDonald
Deputy Chief, Operations Support Services

For further information regarding this report, please contact Superintendent Maycock #421 at extension 3600 or via email at Susan.Maycock@Peelpolice.on.ca

Authored by: Det. D. Seal #999