



09-06-25

REPORT

Peel Police Service Board

For Information

File Class: 1-02-02-01

Cross-Reference File Class: _____

Date: **May 1, 2025**

Subject: **2024 ANNUAL PERSONS AT RISK REPORT**

From: **Nick Milinovich, Deputy Chief, Investigative and Emergency Services Command**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Peel Police Service Board (P.P.S.B.) receive the 2024 Persons at Risk Annual Report, as part of the annual reporting requirements.

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:

1. **Child Abuse and Neglect** – Special Victims Unit
2. **Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse** – Community Mobilization and Well-Being
3. **Family and Intimate Partner Violence** – Family, and Intimate Partner Violence
4. **Youth Crime Report** – Youth Engagement
5. **Internet Child Exploitation** – Internet Child Exploitation Unit

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

1. Background

One of the core responsibilities of the Peel Regional Police (P.R.P.) Special Victims Unit (S.V.U.) 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, S.V.U. pledges to be sensitive to the needs of victims while providing assistance and support during investigations, working cooperatively with The Children's Aid Society (C.A.S.) of the Region of Peel (the Region) and community partners.

All investigations in S.V.U. are conducted in accordance with the P.R.P. Criminal Investigation Management Plan and the Region Child Abuse Investigation Protocol.

The Enhanced Violence Against Women Protocol spear headed by the Peel Committee Against Women Abuse (P.C.A.W.A.) came into effect in 2018. P.R.P. were actively involved in the protocol's 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 have been since 1995, to be investigated in accordance with the Ontario Major Case Management System established guidelines. Officers within S.V.U. 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 Operators 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 (P.E.A.C.E.) Interviewing Course
- Phased Interview Model for Suspects (P.I.M.S.) Course

S.V.U. liaises and works collaboratively with social services and community agencies within the Region. The Region of Peel Child Abuse Investigation Protocol guides these relationships. Participating agencies include the following:

- Trillium Health Partners
- Peel C.A.S.
- 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 the Region. The Protocol directs P.R.P. and the C.A.S., to work together and investigate incidents of a criminal nature jointly.

2. Findings

In 2024, S.V.U. received 275 consults requiring assistance directly from the C.A.S. The consults/referrals for assistance were for information and/or a consultation on an incident they were investigating, with some incidents leading to a joint investigation. The review of referrals is an ongoing joint process between P.R.P. and C.A.S. to maintain and refine the reporting criteria and achieve a consistent method of evaluating occurrences.

Note: SVU collects statistics for the total amount of C.A.S. consults, via referral forms received from C.A.S. The total does not include other methods of correspondence between C.A.S./S.V.U. including email, phone calls and faxes received from C.A.S.

Calls for Assistance Received from the C.A.S.

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
708	509	725	377	287	275

C.A.S. Consultations - Breakdown

Incident Type	2024
Non-Joint Investigations	123
Physical Assault Joint Investigations	119
Sexual Assault Joint Investigations	33
Total Consults	275

Child Abuse Investigations

In 2024, there was a 33% decrease from 2023 in the number of investigations involving sexual offences against children. Conversely, there was a 10.5% increase in the total number of physical assaults against children from 2023. There were three (3) neglect investigations, which is a decrease of four (4) incidents from previous year. Overall, there was a 4.9% decrease in the number of total victims from 2023 to 2024.

The following table lists the number of physical, sexual and neglect investigations undertaken in the *Region in relation to children under the age of 18*.

ABUSE TYPE	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2023-24 variation
Sexual Offences Against Children	238	302	318	292	209	- 28.42%
Physical Assaults Against Children	695	435	502	475	528	+ 11.16 %
Neglect	1	8	6	7	3	- 4 incidents
Total Investigations	934	745	826	774	740	-4.39%

Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics & Methodology

ABUSE TYPE	2024
Sexual Offences Against Children	209
Physical Assaults Against Children	528
Neglect	3
Total Investigations	740

Methodology:

- Victim report violation codes: Aggravated Assault, Assault, Assault with a Weapon, Attempted Murder, Sex Assault, Sex Assault with a Weapon, Invitation, Interference, Sexual Exploitation, Child Pornography, Making Sexually Explicit Material Available to a Child
- All victims were under the age of 18 at the time of the offence
- The relationship between the offender and victim excludes spouse, girlfriend/boyfriend, ex-girlfriend/ex-boyfriend, intimate relationship, spouse and separated or divorced

- Reports were excluded where the offender/culprit was under the age of 18 (youth on youth assaults, bullying and high school fights)¹
- Neglect related occurrences (Fail to Provide Necessaries and Abandon Child) numbers were extracted using *Criminal Code* section numbers 215(1), and (2) and 218. One (1) occurrence under s.215 was removed, as the victim was not a youth
- The count reflects the number of victims, not the occurrence numbers (a number of reports have multiple victims)
- Unfounded reports were excluded
- The data pertains to all investigations within P.R.P., not just S.V.U.

The following is a detailed breakdown of the sexual and physical offences against children (not including Neglect related offences):

ABUSE TYPE	2023	2024
Aggravated Assault Level 3	5	2
Assault Level 1	317	335
Assault With Weapon/Causing Bodily Harm/Choking	148	187
Attempted Murder	5	4
Invitation to Sexual Touching	9	2
Sexual Assault	160	138
Sexual Assault with Weapon/ Cause Bodily Harm/Choking	4	2
Sexual Exploitation	6	3
Sexual Exploitation of person with disability	NIL	NIL
Sexual Interference	111	63
Sexually Explicit Material to Child with Intent	2	1
Totals	767	737

3. Proposed Direction

The proposed direction of the S.V.U. 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 P.R.P., the C.A.S. and our community.

S.V.U. 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

4. Strategic Plan Alignment

Goal: 1. Community Safety and Well-Being

Objective: 1.1 Identify and effectively respond to citizen calls for service and community crime trends.

¹ Sexually motivated incidents involving youth on youth were not excluded, as this was included in the previous year's data.

S.V.U. contributes to the achievement of the C.S.W.B. with a focus on crime prevention and response.

Additionally, S.V.U. members maintain ongoing communication with external stakeholders to identify emerging trends and determine which situations and issues require additional support and strategic intervention.

S.V.U. continues to seek opportunities to coordinate with our partners to provide culturally responsive information and education, with the objective to promote safety and well-being for victims and family members.

5. Equity and Inclusion Considerations

Members of S.V.U. 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.

- a. The Religious and Cultural Guidebook from the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Bureau (D.E.I.) 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 2024 incorporates a re-emphasis on frontline policing, adoption of C.S.W.B. model within the parameters of the S.V.U.
- c. S.V.U. continues to implement a C.S.W.B. approach and intervention to investigations, through engagement, with external agencies Victim Services of Peel (V.S.O.P.), C.A.S., Chantel's Place, Embrave and Seva Food Bank. This is demonstrated through the coordination of education and enforcement, when addressing the root causes of crime and social disorder.
- d. S.V.U. investigators continue to work cohesively and proactively with C.S.W.B. in relation to investigations where the root cause of the situation is based upon mental health and addictions and/or socioeconomic challenges. S.V.U. has adopted a philosophy and approach centered on enhancing community safety through partnerships aimed at reducing crime, victimization, and social disorder.

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

- a. Given the sensitive and graphic nature of investigations, members assigned to S.V.U. are designated as "high risk" and are subject to the wellness check-in program. P.R.P. is committed to the well being of all our personnel.
- b. Established protocols and partnerships maintained with social services and community agencies contribute to ensuring that P.R.P. can respond professionally to incidents of physical and sexual abuse.

Conclusion

Members of S.V.U. continue to work collaboratively with internal areas of the organization, and community partners within the Region. The Child Abuse Investigation Protocol is 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.

ELDER AND VULNERABLE ADULT ABUSE

1. Background

This report provides information about the mandate of P.R.P.'s Elder Abuse and Vulnerable Adult Coordinator and the number of related investigations undertaken in adherence to Ontario Policing Standards LE-021. P.R.P. 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:

- a. Act as a liaison for all frontline officers and all P.R.P. bureaux when they require assistance in the investigation of Elder/Vulnerable Person Abuse
- b. Provides assistance by referring members of the community to external partners and community groups. These groups work collaboratively with the Elder Abuse and Vulnerable Adult Coordinator to provide support and resources for victims, people in need, family members and caregivers
- c. Coordinate training programs, conduct lectures, and disseminate information to members of this service and the public
- d. Review all police occurrences identified as "Elder Abuse" or "Vulnerable Person Abuse" which is any occurrence involving a person 60 years of age or more or who is considered a "Vulnerable" (18+) person, who has been the victim, the accused or the complainant of abuse or suspected abuse
- e. 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 P.R.P. 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.

60 years of age 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

2021 population estimates for the City of Brampton and City of Mississauga are as follows:

Total Population 1,374,445

Source: Statistics Canada; 2021 Census of Population.

2021 population estimates for age cohort over 60 years old estimates for the City of Brampton and City of Mississauga are as follows:

Population 60+ 283,455
Percentage of population 60+ 20.6%

Source: Statistics Canada; 2021 Census of Population.

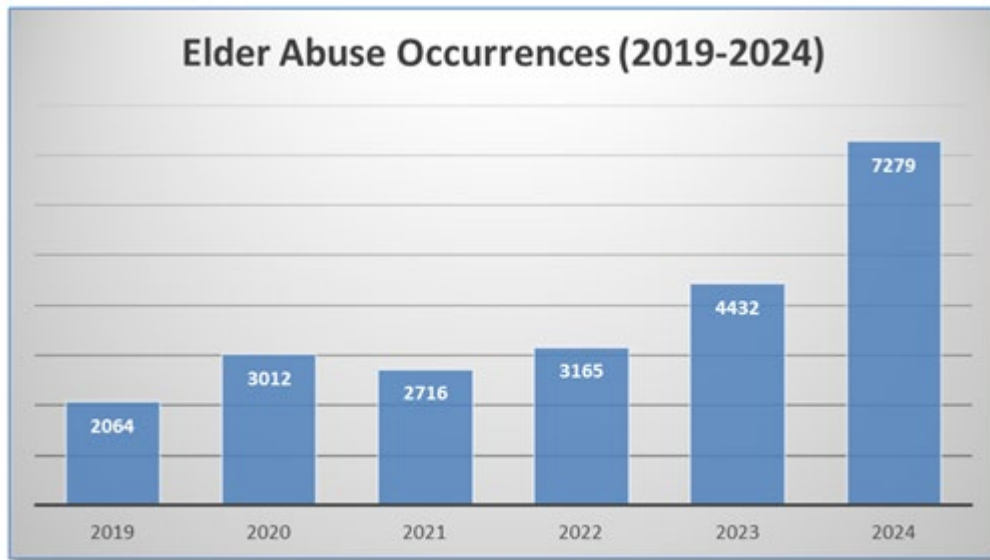
2. Findings

Between January - December 2024, the Elder Abuse and Vulnerable Adult Coordinator reviewed 7279 Police occurrences involving Elder person(s)/Vulnerable adult(s). This was a 64% increase from the 4432 occurrences reviewed in 2024.

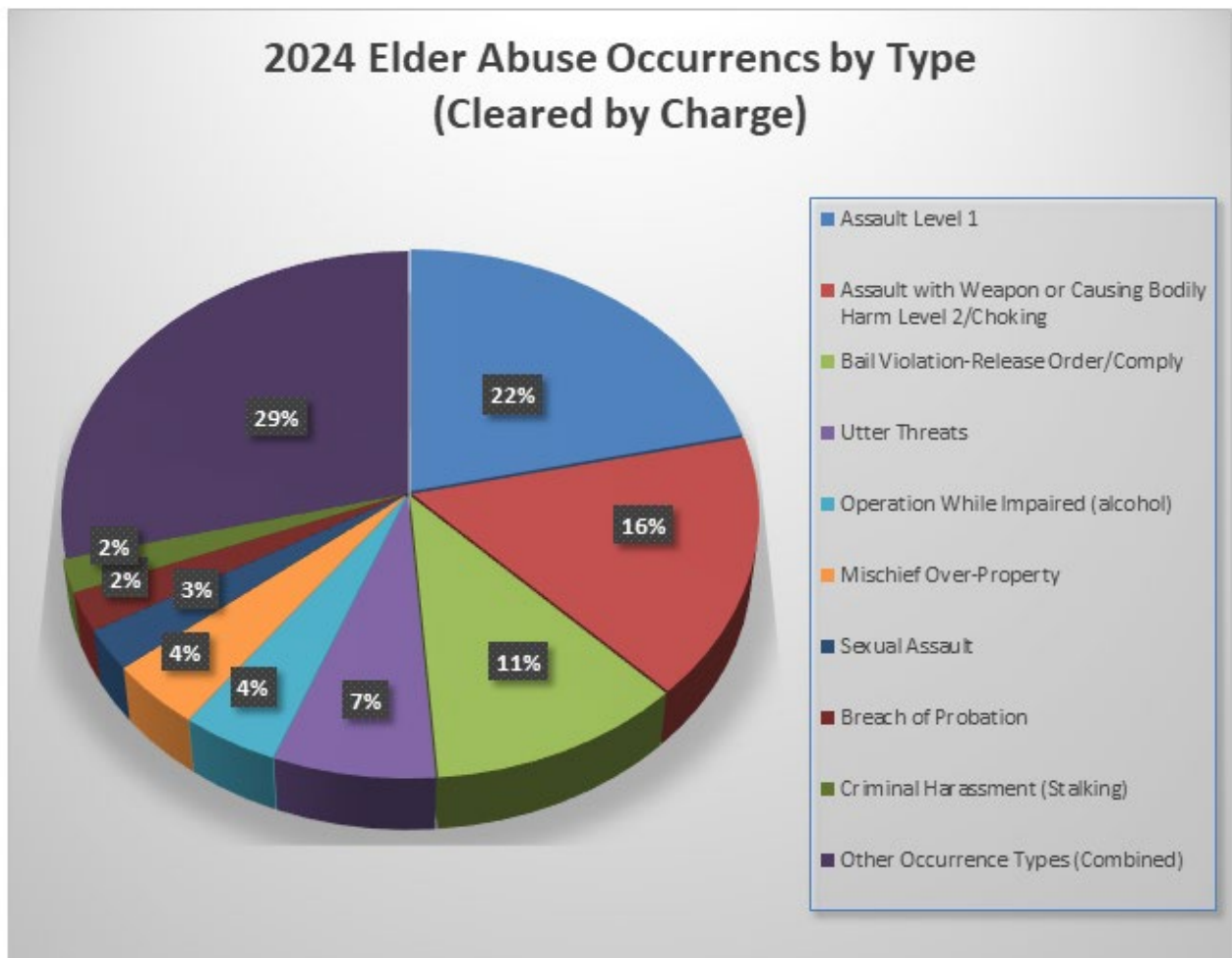
These 7279 occurrences were resolved as follows:

Occurrence Status	Count of Occ	%
Complete - solved (non-criminal)	3555	49%
Open/still under investigation	1623	22%
Cleared by charge (includes charges recommended)	881	12%
Insufficient evidence to proceed	682	9%
Unfounded	236	3%
Clr other: Departmental discretion	232	3%
Clr other: CSC identified - vic/comp request no further action	59	1%
Clr other: CSC under 12 years of age	6	0%
Victim/complainant declines to proceed (no CSC identified)	3	0%
Clr other: Death of CSC (not suicide)	1	0%
Clr other: Death of witness/complainant	1	0%
Total	7279	100%

Number of Incidents Identified as Potential Elder Abuse 2019 - 2024:



Breakdown of the 881 incidents cleared by charge - 2024:



Community Referrals

Upon review of the 7279 occurrences, the Elder Abuse and Vulnerable Adult Coordinator provided 302 consultations to community members to offer education and resources. Of those consultations, the Elder Abuse and Vulnerable Adult Coordinator made 35 direct referrals to Social Services, Public Guardian and Trustee and to internal P.R.P. Bureaus. This included referrals to Crisis Outreach and Support Team (C.O.A.S.T.) and the Divisional Mobilization Unit for follow up and continued support for elder and vulnerable persons within the community.

Presentations

In 2024, the Elder Abuse and Vulnerable Adult Coordinator provided 10 internal training sessions to various P.R.P. personnel, including officers attending the mental health course, new recruits and divisional mobilization training.

Externally, 25 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 Calendar

The Elder Abuse and Vulnerable Adult 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. 7000 calendars were distributed to various seniors' groups and organizations within the Region. The Senior Safety Calendar is extremely popular with seniors and demonstrates to the public one of the many ways that P.R.P. is dedicated to making the Region "A Safer Community Together."

Elder Abuse Committee Involvement

The Elder Abuse and Vulnerable Adult Coordinator sits on three (3) committees in the Region 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 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.)

3. Strategic Plan Alignment

Goal: 1. Community Safety and Well-Being

Objective: 1.4 Align with the C.S.W.B. Plan to implement strategies identifying/supporting victims/offenders/priority populations.

4. Equity and Inclusion Considerations

Addressing elder abuse in the Region requires a comprehensive approach that considers equity and inclusion. Below are some key considerations:

- a. **Respecting Different Cultures:** The Region has people from many cultures, each with their own views on aging and family. It's important to understand and respect these differences when helping with elder abuse. Support should be sensitive to different cultural needs.
- b. **Language Help:** Some elders might struggle to get help because of language barriers. Offering support in multiple languages spoken in the Region ensures everyone can get the help they need.
- c. **Making Services Accessible:** Some older adults have disabilities or mobility issues. Services like hotlines or shelters need to be easy for everyone to use, including those with disabilities.
- d. **Involving the Community:** Work with community leaders, religious groups, and others to talk about elder abuse and how to stop it. This helps reach out to older adults who might be isolated or at risk of abuse.

Conclusion

Elder abuse continues to be a priority for P.R.P. with the continued growth in our aging community. The Elder Abuse and Vulnerable Adult Coordinator will continue to represent P.R.P. 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 2024-2027 Strategic Plan "Community Safety and Well Being Together" by focusing on a plan to implement strategies and initiatives identifying and supporting victims, offenders and priority populations.

FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

1. Background

All police services in Ontario are required by *Adequacy Standard* LE-024 to implement one (1) 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. P.R.P. continues to meet organizational needs and has developed and implemented a specialized Intimate Partner Violence (I.P.V.) Unit responsible for undertaking, managing, and reviewing all intimate partner investigations.

The P.R.P. I.P.V. Unit plays a key role in ensuring compliance with both internal and external legislation governing this Service's response to matters involving intimate partner violence.

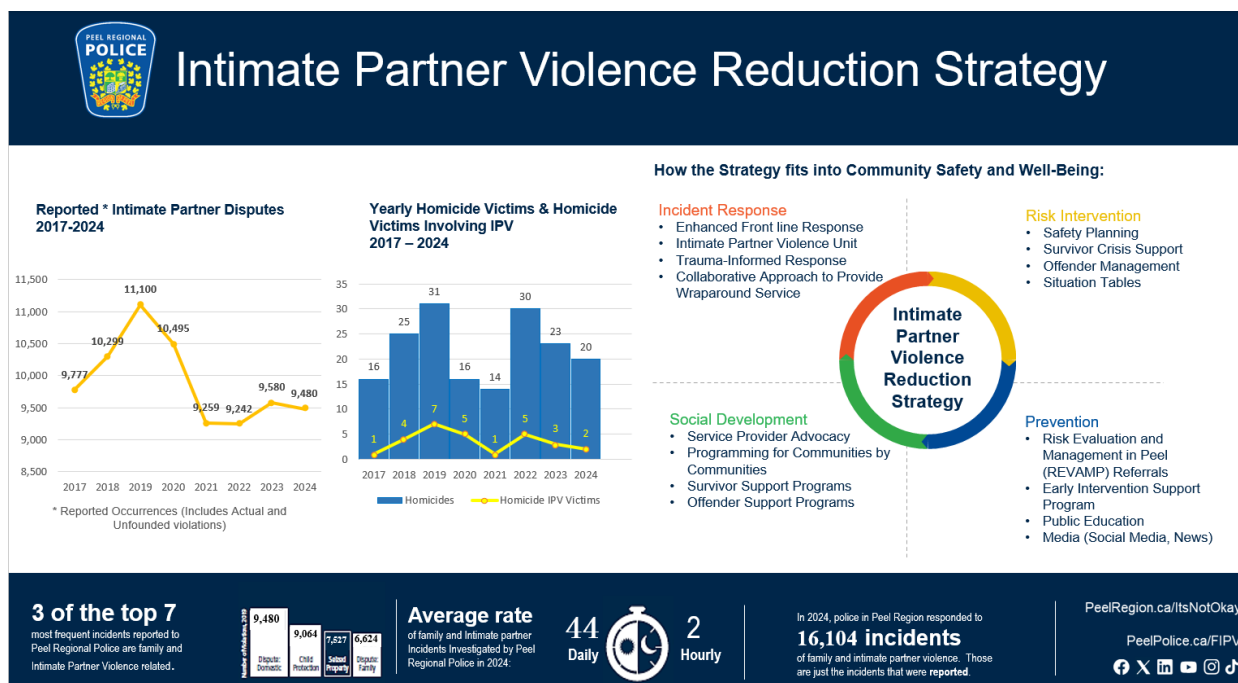
The I.P.V. Unit consists of 61 Detective Constables, eight (8) Detectives, and two (2) Detective Sergeants. The I.P.V. Unit is located within the Safe Centre of Peel at 60 West Drive in the City of Brampton. The Safe Centre of Peel, led by Catholic Family Services of Peel Dufferin (C.F.S.P.D) is based on the family justice centered 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 24 victim support agencies.

The I.P.V. Unit is the policy centre for the following P.R.P. directives:

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

Family and I.P.V. is one of the top priorities of P.R.P. and aligns with the priorities of the C.S.W.B. framework. C.S.W.B. has been invaluable in ensuring service alignment to the communities' needs and interests.

I.P.V. Reduction Strategy



2. Findings

I.P.V. calls remain the number one call for service for P.R.P. 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 I.P.V. Unit is contacted and I.P.V. investigators take carriage of the investigation. The victim is transported to the Safe Centre of Peel where an interview is conducted by a specially 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 of Ontario, 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. P.R.P. remains in compliance with the mandatory charge guidelines set by the Province of Ontario. P.R.P. 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 I.P.V.

The development of the I.P.V. Unit has provided:

- Enhanced relationships with our community partners creating a more collaborative information exchange
- A more effective and efficient level of service delivery
- A reduction in workload for frontline 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 I.P.V.
- Less barriers and a dedicated focus on building positive relationships between P.R.P. and the community
- Robust referral process for survivors of I.P.V.

Statistics

There were 820 referrals made to the Safe Centre of Peel from the P.R.P. I.P.V. Unit between January 2024 and December 2024.

a. 2024 Regional I.P.V. Report

- i. There were 9,480 occurrences with the I.P.V. violation code in 2024.
 - May to December 2023 – 6,652
 - May to December 2024 – 6,508 (This is a 2% decrease from 2023 during the same time period).
- ii. 3,260 I.P.V. occurrences were cleared by charge in 2024 and were eligible to be assigned to the I.P.V. Unit.
- iii. 2,835 I.P.V. occurrences were assigned to the I.P.V. Unit.
- iv. There were two (2) I.P.V. related homicides in 2024.

b. Charges Laid on I.P.V. Occurrences

- i. In 2024, there were 7,378 charges laid by the I.P.V. Unit.
- ii. There were 9,354 charges laid on occurrences with an I.P.V. violation code.
- iii. There were 1,918 I.P.V. related charges that were laid on occurrences that were not assigned to the Unit. When the I.P.V. Unit is unable to take carriage of a call, divisional officers take carriage of the investigation.

c. Top Five (5) Charges Laid on I.P.V. Occurrences

- i. Assault
- ii. Utter Threat to Cause Death or Bodily Harm
- iii. Assault with A Weapon
- iv. Fail to Comply with release order - other than to attend court (Form 11)

- v. Chokes, Suffocates or Strangles

NICHE Violations

There were 9,476 intimate partner dispute violations in 2024.

Domestic Violence Investigator Training

Members of the I.P.V. Unit receive three (3) days of extensive specialized training in relation to I.P.V. The training includes trauma informed response, interviewing and anti-racism training. The training provides an opportunity to build a trauma informed response that produces a more thorough investigation, decreases potential for future harm, and provides overall better victim care and management.

The Domestic Violence Investigator's (D.V.I.) course is offered to frontline officers and those in investigative bureaus who are exposed to these types of investigations. Upon completion, officers are awarded the D.V.I. designation. P.R.P. currently has 1213 officers with the D.V.I. designation.

Safety Issues

a. Children's Aid Society

P.R.P. takes a precautionary approach in dealing with matters where a child is likely to be exposed to I.P.V. These incidents are reported directly to C.A.S. C.A.S. address a variety of service needs for children and families experiencing struggles with I.P.V. They conduct child welfare assessments and provide ongoing work with families, youth and children who have experienced and been exposed to I.P.V., including intervention plans and referrals to other agencies for support. C.A.S. has two (2) domestic violence teams solely dedicated to providing support for children who have been exposed to I.P.V.

b. Project Guardian – Support Link

In December 2017, V.S.O.P. launched "Project Guardian," which replaced the previous personal alarm system, Domestic Violence Emergency Response System (D.V.E.R.S.). "Project Guardian" is a pilot project sponsored by V.S.O.P. 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 two-way hands-free voice technology who in turn notifies the appropriate police service. Criteria and suitability for the program is determined by V.S.O.P.

In 2024, 23 clients were offered services to the program and 17 new clients were enrolled. There were two (2) alarms, and nine (9) false alarms triggered. The program continues to be piloted through 2025.

c. Risk Evaluation and Management in Peel (R.E.V.A.M.P.)

Every court jurisdiction in Ontario must have a functioning domestic violence high-risk committee. The R.E.V.A.M.P. committee identifies, monitors and manages high-risk I.P.V. 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 Assistant Crown attorney, a victim witness assistance program manager, and representatives from P.R.P., Peel Probation and Parole, V.S.O.P., and C.A.S.

In 2024, 272 cases were reviewed and monitored, and there were 60 new referrals.

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 P.R.P.

The I.P.V. Unit provided the public with information regarding I.P.V. and identified community agencies that provide assistance and support to victims and their families.

P.R.P. brought awareness to the I.P.V. Unit upon its development through the 2024 Family and Intimate Partner Violence (F.I.P.V.) campaign.

I.P.V. Campaign - 2024 F.I.P.V. Social Media - #BreakTheSilence

P.R.P. collaborated and formed a partnership with the Region, the City of Brampton, the City of Mississauga, the Town of Caledon, Ontario Provincial Police (O.P.P.) and 26 community organizations. This partnership developed and strategized a public education and awareness campaign “Break the Silence” in order to generate awareness and increased access to information and resources related to I.P.V.

The social media strategy garnered over 518,458 total impressions through social media platforms including Instagram, Facebook, X and LinkedIn, with P.R.P.’s social media achieving the most views.



Region of Peel

Published by Hootsuite



November 26, 2024

Did you know intimate partner violence is an epidemic in Peel?

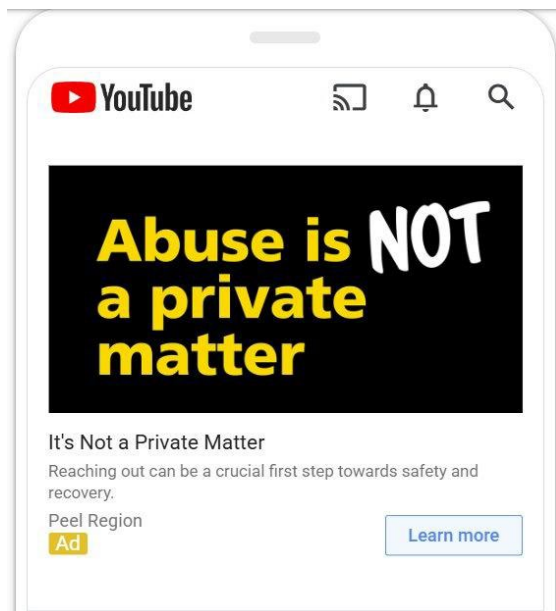
In 2023:

Peel Police responded to just over 16,000 incidents of family and intimate partner violence. That's 44 disputes every day or almost 2 every hour.... See more

NOT
It's 'easy
to leave
an abusive
relationship.

Fact: It can take an average of seven tries to leave an abusive situation. Survivors of abuse may feel isolated and trapped, making it difficult to get help.

The digital media strategy increased awareness by over four (4) million impressions and utilized YouTube, Reddit (a new digital tactic), StackAdapt, and Google Ads.



The campaign reached a record high of over 24 million total estimated impressions through all Out-of-Home (O.O.H.) advertising tactics. This indicates heightened visibility in the community. Condo screens ads had the highest reach (8.5 million impressions), followed by Erin Mills Town Centre (5.5 million impressions).



**(source: 2024 Break the Silence campaign evaluation)

3. Proposed Direction

Continue to take steps that align directly with the C.S.W.B Plan and the I.P.V reduction strategy.

Safe Centre Response Teams (S.C.R.T.)

In 2023, the Safe Centre of Peel launched a new pilot program called the S.C.R.T. This pilot program is developed through collaboration between the Safe Centre of Peel and P.R.P. This program has been created to respond to verbal family and intimate partner situations. The team consists of mobile support workers with experience in Gender-based violence (G.B.V.) and specially trained police constables, who will attend these calls for service to provide early intervention help and assist families in accessing supports and services. In 2024, the program was expanded and added additional police constables and another mobile support worker to increase service delivery to the community.

The key functions of the S.C.R.T.:

- a. 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
- b. Help bridge the gap between identifying risk factors and direct intervention, thereby reducing the number of families looking for help being overlooked
- c. Ensure a range of existing prevention and intervention services are provided in a timely manner in order to reduce the risk of harm and increase the safety of family members

Statistical Overview (S.C.R.T. Calls for Service 2024):

Type of Call	Citizen Initiated Total Calls
Assist Agency	1
Assist Citizen	1
Breach Order	1
Criminal	10
Harassment	2
Custody Dispute	1
Dispose Weapon	1
Disturbance	1
Domestic Family	168
Domestic IPV	268
Impaired Driver	1
Intoxicated Person	2
Landlord Tenant	1
Medical Assist	1
MVCPI	1
Premise Check	1
Stolen Auto	1
Grand Total	461

4. Strategic Plan Alignment

Goal: 1. Achieve Community Safety and Well-Being in Collaboration with Partners

Priority: 1.6 Support awareness, education, response and advocacy for partners, related to intimate partner and family violence

The P.R.P. I.P.V. Unit will continue to support awareness of I.P.V. through its participation and support of the F.I.P.V. campaign.

The I.P.V. Unit will continue engaging and advocating with our community partners through supporting and partnering with them in their initiatives. I.P.V. has and will continue to join with our community partners for the following events:

- a. Embrace Agency hosts an annual “Steps to End Violence Event” walk to raise funds to end gender-based violence (G.B.V.) in our community.
- b. “Take Back the Night” advocates ending sexual and gender-based violence, including domestic and relationship violence in all forms.
- c. “Dress Purple Day” raises awareness about the important role that individuals and communities play in supporting vulnerable children, youth and families.
- d. Catholic Family Services Peel-Dufferin (C.F.S.P.D.) Candle light vigil- to honour women who have experienced G.B.V. and those who lost their lives;
- e. Armagh House’s “Coldest Night of the Year” Fundraiser to support Habitat for Humanity and their efforts to provide homes for I.P.V. victims and their families; and
- f. November is Woman Abuse Prevention Month, and C.A.S. hosts an annual volleyball tournament that supports the Sera Food Bank."

5. Equity and Inclusion Considerations

Members of I.P.V. continue to build cultural competence by deepening their understanding of diverse values, traditions and communication styles. This ongoing development enhances their ability to interact respectfully and effectively with individuals from all backgrounds and ensures the delivery of culturally sensitive and equitable services to everyone who lives, works and visits the Region of Peel.

- a. Reflecting the diversity of the community they serve, I.P.V. officers collectively speak 18 different languages and represent a wide range of cultural backgrounds, further strengthening their ability to connect with and support victims and their families in meaningful and inclusive ways.
- b. I.P.V. works cooperatively with a network of diverse community partners to ensure victims have access to culturally relevant supports. When appropriate, I.P.V. officers refer individuals to these community agencies so their specific cultural, linguistic and social needs can be met in a safe and respectful environment.
- c. The Religious and Cultural Guidebook, developed by P.R.P. D.E.I. Bureau, serves as a key resource for I.P.V. investigators when religious or cultural beliefs may influence or impact the circumstances of an investigation. It supports members in conducting respectful, informed and culturally sensitive investigations.
- d. When laying charges in criminal matters involving individuals identified as experiencing a mental health crisis, living with a mental illness, dementia, cognitive delay, or an acquired brain injury, I.P.V. investigators utilize the Alternative Resolution Court (A.R.C.). A.R.C. is a specialized court

in the Region designed to provide appropriate resources for hearing such cases and offering the highest level of support to the accused.

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

- a. Due to the sensitive and often graphic nature of I.P.V. investigations, members assigned to the I.P.V. Unit are designated as 'high risk' and are required to participate in the annual P.R.P. wellness check-in program. The risk of vicarious trauma resulting from ongoing exposure to victim-related cases remains a significant concern and is actively monitored and managed. P.R.P. remains firmly committed to supporting the mental health and overall well-being of all service members.
- b. Established protocols and strong partnerships with community agencies play a critical role in P.R.P.'s ability to effectively respond to incidents of I.P.V. These collaborative efforts not only enhance service delivery to those affected but also serve as an important aspect of organizational risk management. This ensures consistent, coordinated responses that reduce liability, support victim safety and strengthen public trust.

Conclusion

P.R.P.'s response to I.P.V. consistently meets—and in some cases exceeds—established adequacy standards. As part of its commitment to prevention and early intervention, P.R.P. has continued and expanded the S.C.R.T. pilot, which offers support and services to individuals involved in non-criminal verbal intimate partner incidents.

P.R.P. maintains long-standing, collaborative relationships with several community and social service agencies that focus primarily on supporting victims of I.P.V. and their families. These partnerships enhance our ability to provide comprehensive, trauma informed care and connect individuals with the specialized resources they need.

Beyond formal partnerships, P.R.P. remains committed to reducing I.P.V. through proactive community engagement and strategic media communications. Innovative approaches include ongoing education, collaboration, and strategy development with external partners to identify and support victims effectively.

YOUTH CRIME REPORT

1. Background

The 2024 Youth Crime Report provides insight into crime statistics and trends, related to young persons investigated by the P.R.P.

The *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (Y.C.J.A.) defines a young person as someone between the ages of 12 to 17 years. This legislation includes multi-disciplinary approaches where P.R.P. takes reasonable steps to prevent youth crime in order 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 P.R.P. also respect the interests of victims and witnesses. This ensures accountability through meaningful consequences, effective rehabilitation, reintegration, and reserves the most serious intervention for the most serious crimes with the goal being to reduce incarceration for non-violent young persons.

2. Findings

Population

The 2021 Statistics Canada population data for the Region was 1,374,445, of which 102,905 (7.5%) were considered young persons (12 – 17 years of age). The next census data compilation will be completed in 2026.

Youth Crime Statistics

The youth crime statistics prepared by P.R.P.'s Corporate Planning and Research Bureau, include comparison data from 2020-2024 for: Crimes Against Persons, Crimes Against Property, Criminal Driving Offences and Drug Offences. In addition, total young persons charged, and a comparative analysis of persons charged (both youth and adult offenders) for 2023-2024.

a. Crimes Against Persons

Crimes Against Persons includes offences of Assault, Robbery, Sexual Offences, Criminal Harassment and Threatening.

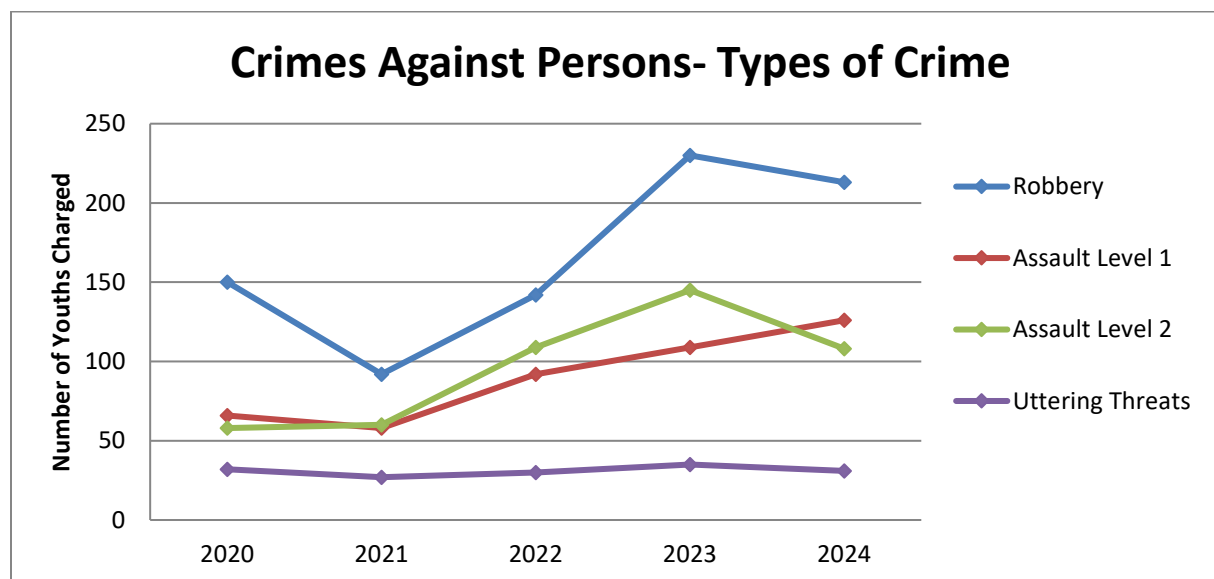


Figure 1

Decreases from 2023 were also seen in other areas. In reviewing year-over-year data, several notable trends emerged in key crime categories. Uttering threats saw a slight decrease, with 31 incidents reported in 2024 compared to 35 in 2023. Robberies also declined, with 213 occurrences in 2024, down from 230 the previous year. Finally, Level 2 assaults showed a significant drop, with 108 cases reported in 2024 compared to 145 in 2023.

b. Crimes Against Property

Crimes Against Property include offences such as Break, Enter with Intent to Commit an Indictable Offense, Theft Under \$5,000, Possession of Property Obtained by Crime, Fraud, Mischief and Arson.

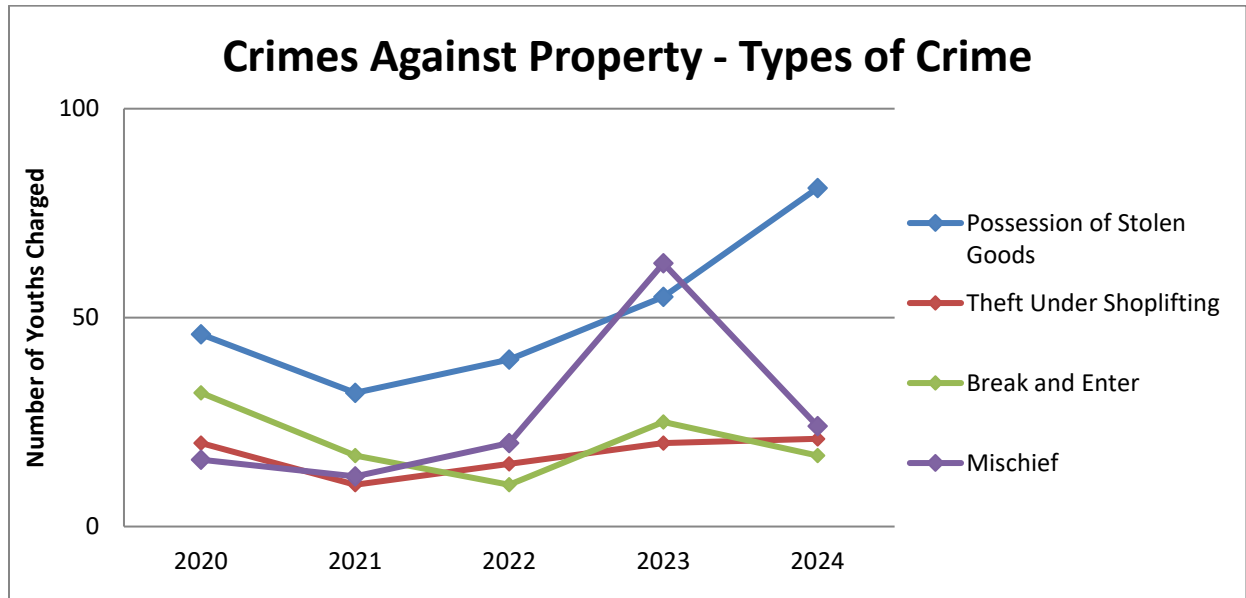


Figure 2

Youth charged with Crimes Against Property violations decreased 7% from 212 in 2023 to 198 in 2024. Mischief Over & Under had the largest decrease of 62% from 63 in 2023 to 24 in 2024. Break and Enters also decreased 32% from 25 in 2023 to 17 in 2024.

c. Criminal Driving Offences

Criminal Driving Offences include Dangerous Driving, Fail to Remain at the Scene of an Accident, Driving while Impaired and Street Racing.

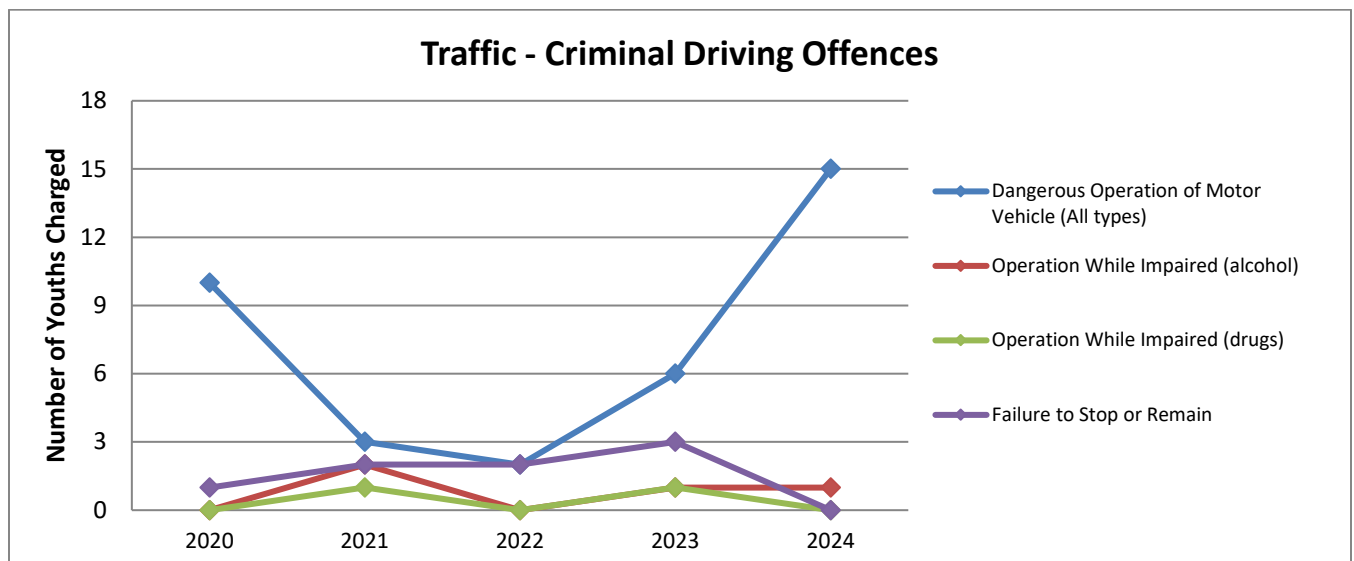


Figure 3

Youth charged with criminal driving offences increased 46% from 11 in 2023 to 16 in 2024.

d. Drug Offences

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

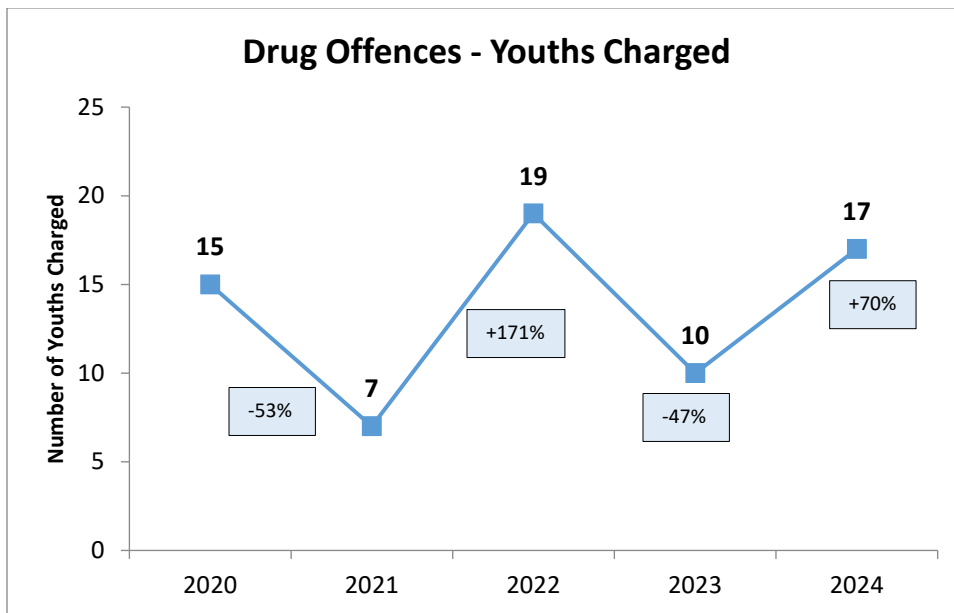


Figure 4

Youth charged with Drug offences increased 70% from 10 in 2023 to 17 in 2024.

e. Total Youth Charged

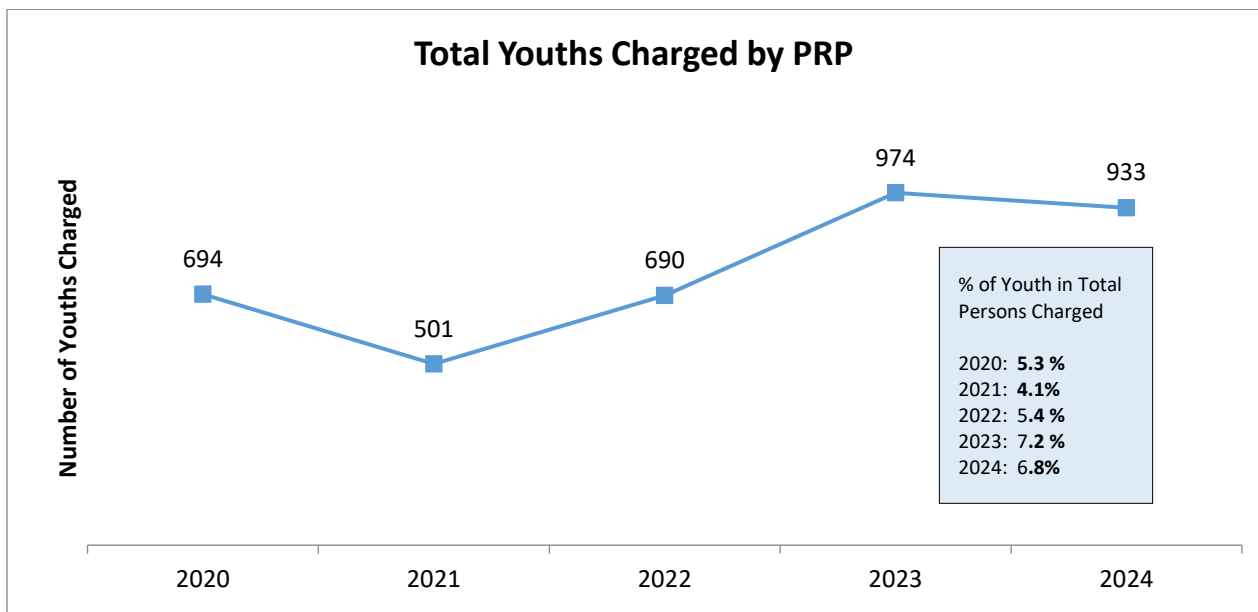


Figure 5

Youth charged by P.R.P. decreased 4% from 974 in 2023 to 933 in 2024. This followed a 41% increase from 690 in 2022 to 974 in 2023.

f. Total Persons Charged

The following chart summarizes the comparative analysis of statistics of both youth and adult offenders, related to 2023 and 2024.

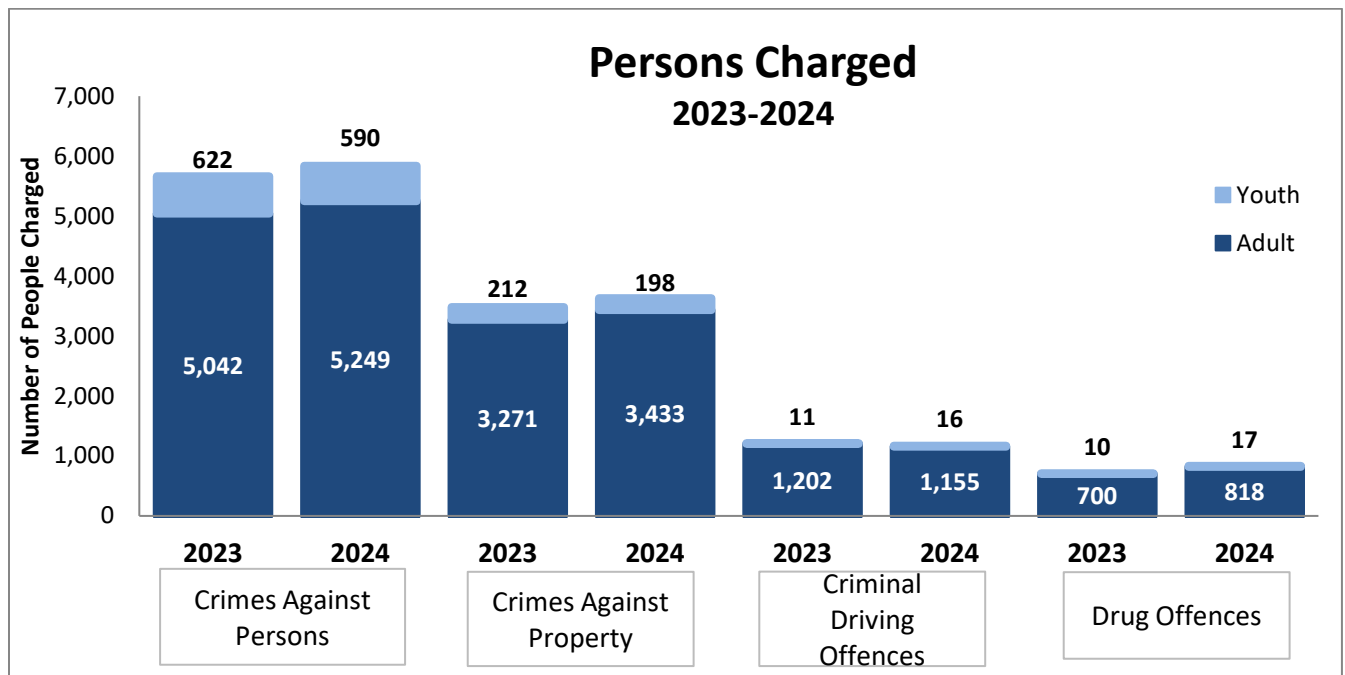


Figure 6

Pre-Charge Diversion

A significant component of the Y.C.J.A. is the application of Extrajudicial Measures (E.J.M.), 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 E.J.M. when a young person has committed an offence before laying a charge. Where appropriate, P.R.P. refer youth who have committed a criminal offence to the pre-charge diversion program administered by the Associated Youth Services of Peel (A.Y.S.P.).

In respect to policy guidance, a Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.) between the Ontario Human Rights Commission (O.H.R.C.), P.P.S.B. and P.R.P. was signed in October 2020, which included the objective to adopt and implement all appropriate standards, guidelines, policies and strict directives to address and end racial profiling in law enforcement. P.R.P. Directive I-B-515 (Diversion Referral Programs), reflects the expectations of the community, legislation and the O.H.R.C.

The A.Y.S.P. counsels and administers task performance and group counselling that help youth identify the behaviours that lead to criminal activity and help them understand the significance of their relationship with family, peers and the community they live in.

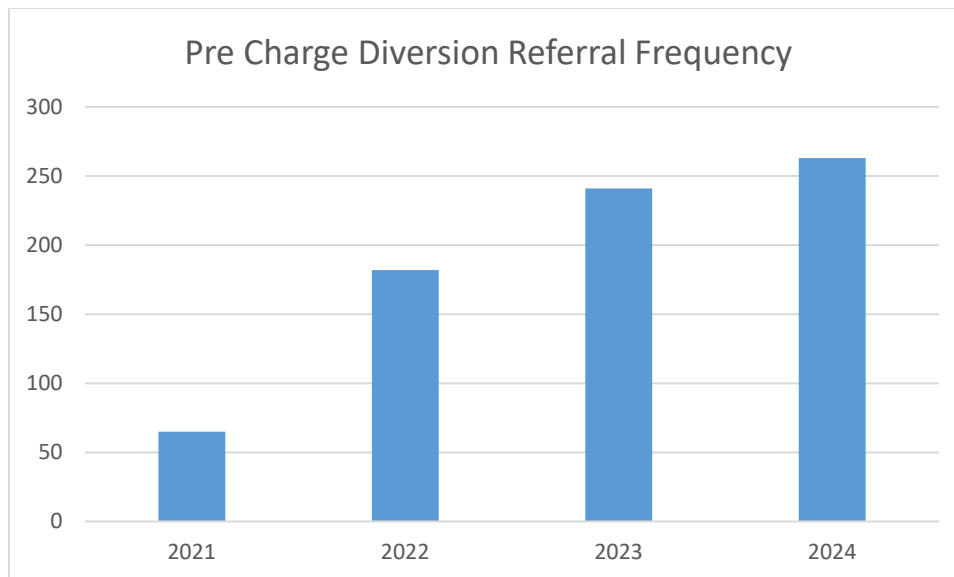


Figure 7

In 2024, P.R.P. referred 263 cases to the A.Y.S.P., compared with 246 cases in 2023, 191 cases in 2022 and 65 cases in 2021. This represented an increase of 6.9% in 2024 from 2023.

85% of the youth referred to the pre-charge diversion program in 2023 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:

- 85% of the youth referred to the pre-charge diversion program did not reoffend within a 12-month period
- 6% were deemed closed administratively (for reasons where youth ill or left the country)
- 3% were transferred out to other areas as needed
- 6% were returned to the police as unsuccessful

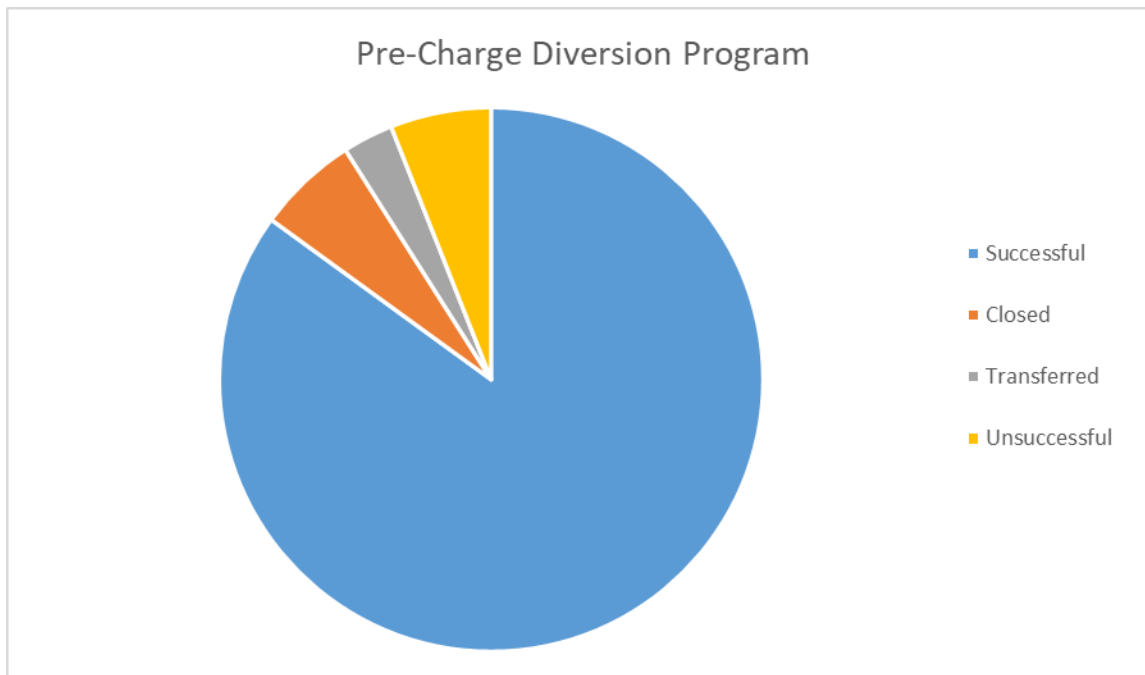


Figure 8

3. Strategic Plan Alignment

Goal: 1. Community Safety and Well-Being

Objective:

1.4 Align with the C.S.W.B. Plan to implement strategies identifying/supporting victims/offenders/priority population

Conclusion

It is recommended that the 2024 Youth Crime Report be received for information purposes by the Chief's Management Group.

INTERNET CHILD EXPLOITATION (I.C.E.) UNIT

1. Background

In 2024, I.C.E. maintained a compliment of one (1) Detective, eight (8) Detective Constables and one (1) Online Luring Investigator for a total of 10 members in the office.

The mandate of P.R.P. I.C.E. 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, P.R.P. I.C.E. regularly works with law enforcement partners around the world. In 2024, some of those agencies included United States of America (U.S.A.) Department of Homeland Security (D.H.S.) as well as numerous local and state law

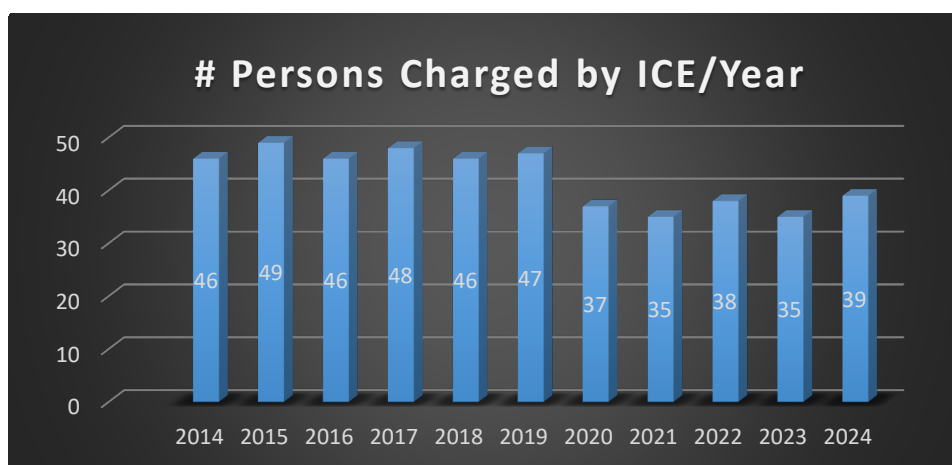
enforcement services in the U.S.A., including the C.B.S.A., local and national elements of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (R.C.M.P.), Ontario Provincial Police (O.P.P.) and 27 other municipal police services that make up the Provincial Strategy.

External to the law enforcement community, I.C.E. works closely with several Non-Governmental Organizations (N.G.O.). One of these is the Canadian Centre for Child Protection (C.C.P.) 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, I.C.E. is the point of contact with C.C.P. who will also refer tips regarding any kind of abuse of children including physical abuse and underage human trafficking. When received from C.C.P., I.C.E. refers the tip to the appropriate bureau within P.R.P.

I.C.E. investigations strive to rescue the victims of online exploitation. One of our most important community partners is the Victim Services of Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry, and Akwesasne (S.D.G.A.). Victim Services of S.D.G.A. offers a counselling program supported by the Provincial Strategy that is made available to the victims (and their siblings/parents) of child sexual exploitation. All identified victims are referred to this program where they receive immediate service that is paid for by the Provincial Strategy.

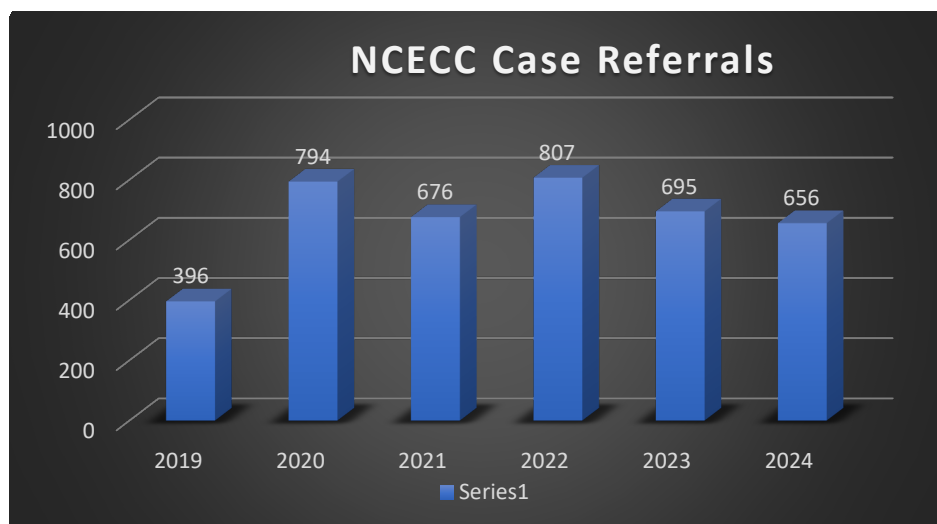
2. Findings

In 2024, I.C.E. laid a total of 131 charges related to the online exploitation of children and 39 persons were arrested and charged with I.C.E. related offences. The Unit also obtained a total of 113 judicial authorizations in 2024. While looking at the graph below, it is evident that after 2019, there was an approximate 20% drop in the average number of arrests from year to year. It is worth noting that this is a Provincial wide trend, and not something that is isolated to our Region. This is generally attributed to the increase in the amount of work that must be done on each case due to resources and technical legal hurdles that must be overcome with each investigation.

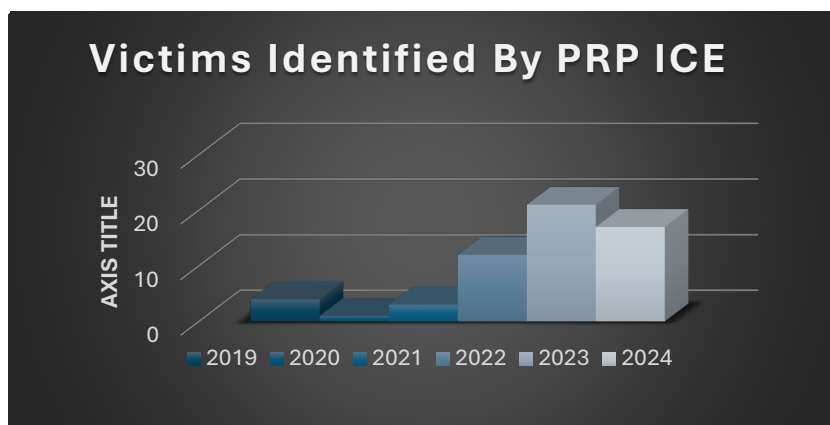


In 2024, I.C.E. handled a total of 920 occurrences, with 656 originating from the National Child Exploitation Crime Centre (N.C.E.C.C.) in Ottawa. Most N.C.E.C.C. referrals stem from the U.S.-based National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (N.C.M.E.C.), which receives reports from internet companies such as Google and Microsoft, social media platforms like Meta (Facebook and Instagram), and messaging apps including Snapchat and Kik. The N.C.E.C.C., a division of the R.C.M.P., acts as the national point of intake for international child exploitation reports, assessing and forwarding cases to the appropriate Canadian police services based on jurisdiction.

The 656 cases referred from the N.C.E.C.C. represent a slight decrease from 695 in 2023, though this is not viewed as part of a broader downward trend. Rather, the volume appears to have stabilized following a sharp rise between 2019 and 2020. The modest decline in 2024 can be partially attributed to the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in *R. v. Bykovets* (February 29, 2024), which extended privacy protections to Internet Protocol (I.P.) addresses. As a result, the N.C.E.C.C. must now obtain judicial authorization before forwarding N.C.M.E.C. reports to the appropriate police services, increasing workload and delaying case referrals.



In 2024, I.C.E. identified 16 victims. Despite the drop since 2023, this figure remains well above pre-2022 levels. The increase in identified victims in recent years reflects advancements in data analysis and investigative techniques.

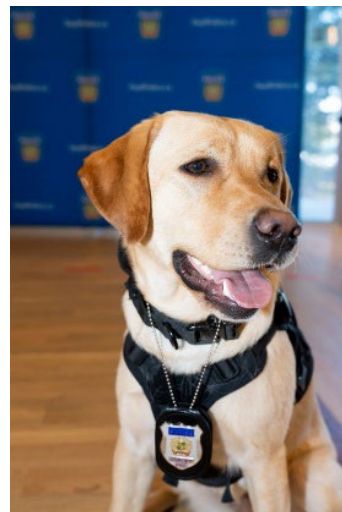


Service members in I.C.E. also had to adapt to new disclosure timelines imposed by the Ontario Court of Justice. Fortunately, due to training and procedures already in place, there were no cases withdrawn in 2024 due to the late or non-disclosure of evidence from the P.R.P. I.C.E. unit.

Electronic Storage Detection Canine (E.S.D.K9.)

In 2023 P.R.P.'s I.C.E. became the first organization in Canada to deploy an E.S.D.K9. An E.S.D.K9. is a dog that is trained to detect via scent items of digital storage.

In 2024 the E.S.D.K9 conducted searches in 29 warrants. In 17 of those warrants, 44 devices were found. This represents a 60% success rate of finding devices missed at warrants and in some cases, devices found did have child exploitation material on them. In addition to I.C.E. search warrants, the E.S.D.K9 was used to help other bureaus in P.R.P. A notable success occurred in January of 2024 when the E.S.D.K9 was used to conduct a consensual search of an I.P.V. victim's car. In this event, the E.S.D.K9 and the handler located and removed a digital tracking tag that had been secretly placed on the victim's car. The surreptitious tracking of a victim's car by their abuser represents a significant threat to victims. Fortunately, this threat was effectively mitigated through the abilities of the E.S.D.K9.



In addition to assisting with warrant executions, the E.S.D.K9 continued to play a vital role in supporting victims during emotionally difficult interviews. In 2024, the E.S.D.K9 provided comfort to a victim who experienced stress-induced seizures while giving a statement, supported an individual who had just learned that family members were victims of homicide and was specifically requested by a victim to be present during their interview to help them cope while recounting their trauma. These are just a few examples of how the E.S.D.K9 has helped ease the burden of an otherwise distressing experience. By reducing anxiety and emotional strain, the E.S.D.K9 not only supports individual victims but also helps foster trust in police services by encouraging others to come forward, ultimately contributing to greater community safety.

During 2024, P.R.P. continued to see other police services follow P.R.P.'s lead on E.S.D.K9. In the fall of 2024 Durham Regional Police (D.R.P.) acquired and deployed an E.S.D.K9, and both York Regional Police (Y.R.P) and Ottawa Police Service (O.P.S.) commenced processes to acquire an E.S.D.K9. It is anticipated that both services will obtain and deploy E.S.D.K9's in 2025. In all these examples, P.R.P. I.C.E. assisted the other jurisdictions in navigating the approval process both with the charity "Our Rescue" and within their own organizations.

Investigations and Projects

In 2024, there were numerous investigations of note, including an offender who victimized a young girl from Northern Canada. The offender who, in addition to consuming child pornography, also surreptitiously recorded over a dozen female co-workers and family members; and an offender who in addition to child pornography charges was also charged with Obstructing Police after he tried to destroy evidence of child pornography being kept on an elaborate computer setup in his backyard shed.

In June of 2024, members of I.C.E. also hosted efforts in the Provincial Strategy led "Project Orchard", which was an online undercover project that took place in June. This project saw P.R.P.'s I.C.E. unit combine forces with I.C.E. officers from Y.R.P. to more effectively target online offenders searching for children to exploit. By combining investigators from two (2) services into one (1) area for a weeklong online undercover project, officers were able to more effectively identify and arrest online offenders looking for children to exploit both on the internet and in-person. Online undercover investigations that would normally last for months were able to be completed in only a couple of weeks, a few days, or in some cases a few hours. Shorter online undercover investigations are more efficient, less taxing on investigators, easier to prosecute, and enhance public safety by enabling quicker arrests. In one such case, members of the P.R.P. and Y.R.P. I.C.E. units arrested a previously convicted sex offender, along with several other offenders.

In 2024, I.C.E. continued to support "Project Juno", an initiative led by the P.R.P. Human Trafficking Unit focused on identifying and targeting individuals attempting to exploit young victims of human trafficking online. The Human Trafficking Unit utilized the online undercover expertise of I.C.E. investigators to work on discovering, identifying, and arresting suspects who were looking to exploit underage human trafficking victims. Over a five (5) day period, I.C.E. members helped identify 10 suspects targeting young

victims of human trafficking, all of whom were subsequently taken into custody by the Human Trafficking Unit officers.

In 2024, I.C.E. continued to support the organization through active involvement in various training initiatives. Members mentored fellow officers and shared their expertise both within and beyond P.R.P. Internally, I.C.E. members provided instruction in the Search Warrant Writing Course, Advanced Search Warrant Course, and Communicators Training Course. Externally, they delivered training to Toronto Pearson International Airport (T.P.I.A), C.B.S.A. officers, participated in the Provincial Strategy Annual I.C.E. Conference, and taught at the Crown Summer School Cyber-Crime Course. The specialized knowledge within the Unit remains in high demand, and its members are committed to supporting colleagues and partners across all jurisdictions.

3. Proposed Direction

Expanding Online Undercover Capacity

Building off P.R.P.'s I.C.E. Unit's expansion in 2024, the intention is to increase P.R.P.'s online undercover investigative capacity. For several years, the I.C.E. Unit has only had a single designated online undercover luring officer. This has become problematic as the caseload and complexity of online investigations has increased over time which has imposed increased strain on the lone investigator. The introduction of a second designated online undercover investigator will both expand the Unit's investigative capacity while simultaneously reducing the workload of the primary undercover investigator. Having two (2) undercover investigators allows them to collaborate and work on more complex cases that were previously challenging for a single investigator to manage.

Increase Participation in Combined Jurisdiction Projects

Looking ahead in 2025, there will be an increase in child exploitation projects that will involve collaboration with other organizations. It is the aim of the P.R.P. I.C.E. Unit to be a full participant in projects that are being spearheaded by the Ontario's Provincial Strategy, N.C.E.C.C., and other agencies who are seeking assistance. Collaboration with other agencies increases the capability of P.R.P.'s I.C.E. unit by creating connections and makes available resources that would not typically be accessible for day-to-day investigations. It is crucial for an organization as large as P.R.P. to be recognized as an active participant in cross-jurisdictional and joint-force investigations.

Expanding Community Engagement via Local School Boards

In late 2024, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (D.P.C.D.S.B.) contacted the P.R.P.'S Crime Prevention office to connect with members of the I.C.E. Unit to discuss self-exploitation and sexploitation amongst school age children. The I.C.E. Unit will seek to collaborate closely with the D.P.C.D.S.B. to deliver needed information and education to both staff and parents on how to better protect themselves against online threats.

Increasing Digital Forensic Capacity in I.C.E.

Currently, I.C.E. has one (1) designated digital forensic officer working to support nine (9) investigators. The workload generated by the nine (9) investigators exceeds the capacity of the single digital forensic officer, requiring the Unit to rely on additional members of the Digital Forensics Bureau to complete the necessary analytical work. Given that much of the evidence in I.C.E. investigations is digital, timely forensic analysis is essential for the Unit to effectively meet its mandate. The I.C.E. Unit will seek ways to increase I.C.E. designated digital forensic capacity in the future, whether that be through additional grant funding or through the new deployment of digital forensic resources in P.R.P.

4. Strategic Plan Alignment

Goal: 1. Achieve Community Safety and Well-Being in Collaboration with Partners

Priority: 1.1 Identify and respond effectively to citizen calls for service and community crime trends

As an investigative bureau, the efforts of the I.C.E. Unit directly contribute to the achievement of the community safety and well-being goal of community safety and well-being with our community. The I.C.E. Unit works with the N.C.E.C.C. in Ottawa to use the latest information on relevant trends to ensure they are up to date on how technology and legal issues are evolving. Bi-weekly meetings among I.C.E. Unit members ensure ongoing updates on individual investigations, fostering collaboration, shared ownership, and collective engagement in the Unit's overall caseload. In addition, as a member of "The Strategy", the I.C.E. Unit consistently communicates with provincial partners on developing trends and new emerging issues.

Given the proactive nature of I.C.E. Unit's work, the approach to community safety is equally forward-looking. I.C.E. investigations often uncover crimes that would otherwise remain undetected, making a significant contribution to crime prevention. In 2024, enhanced investigative and analytical efforts led to the identification and safeguarding of a substantial number of victims. By proactively apprehending offenders, the I.C.E. Unit prevents the creation of future victims—one of the most effective forms of crime prevention. I.C.E. also works closely with victims and their families, ensuring they are connected to appropriate support services and victim assistance resources.

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

Due to the sensitive and often graphic nature of I.C.E. investigations, members assigned to the I.C.E. Unit are designated as 'high risk' and are required to participate in the I.C.E. Safeguarding program where members meet bi-annually with a psychiatrist. The risk of vicarious trauma resulting from viewing child exploitation material remains a significant concern and is actively monitored and managed.

The most notable improvement in officer wellness has been the addition of the E.S.D.K9 to the office. The E.S.D.K9 is present in the office daily and regularly interacts with I.C.E. members, providing a pleasant and healthy distraction from their work. Since the introduction of the E.S.D.K9, the I.C.E. Unit also has a regular stream of visitors who come to visit the dog for their own well-being, which in turn relaxes the atmosphere in the Unit. In addition, feedback from the psychiatrist who administers the I.C.E. Safeguarding program, indicates that there has been an improvement in well-being amongst the members because of the E.S.D.K9's presence.

Emphasis is also placed on ensuring a positive and empowered workplace. I.C.E. 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.

Fostering a positive and supportive work environment is essential to the well-being of the I.C.E. Unit. A workplace where members feel valued and engaged builds resilience against the effects of vicarious trauma from exposure to child abuse material and helps attract high-caliber officers to the Unit when vacancies arise.

Organizational Impacts

Financial

In addition to funding received by the Region, there is also funding from the Provincial Government via the Provincial Strategy. The Provincial 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 Provincial Strategy is crucial to making the I.C.E. Unit an effective investigative bureau capable of staying current in a rapidly changing field that protects the public.

Additionally, in December of 2024, the federal government granted P.R.P.'s I.C.E. Unit \$174,653 to be used for software licencing and hardware acquisition. This additional federal funding was spent early in 2025, as the fiscal year for funding did not end until March 31st 2025.

The 2024 I.C.E. Unit budget was \$1,406,800 in addition to \$170,500 that was added by the Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Ministry of Correctional Services. The operational expenses for 2024 were \$1,614,003.63 and \$170,500 of that was recovered from the Ministry.

Communications issues

The I.C.E. Unit issues media releases for investigations that meet the threshold for public notification, ensuring the community remains informed and engaged in matters impacting their safety. Additionally, the I.C.E. Unit contributes to communication efforts of the Provincial Strategy by providing data and reports needed to compile aggregate data for provincial wide information or media releases.

As part of the I.C.E. Unit's preventative strategy to combat online child exploitation, members engaged directly with Peel residents in 2024 through collaborations with the Peel District School Board—delivering presentations to both staff and parents to raise awareness and promote online safety.

Conclusion

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

Risk intervention is addressed by working with the Threat Assessment Unit to evaluate I.C.E. high-risk offenders and provide opinions that assist in detention and sentencing hearings. In addition to utilizing Major Case Management (M.C.M.) bulletins and Violent Crime Linkage Analysis System (V.i.C.L.A.S.) reports for other police services, the I.C.E. Unit also use media releases to alert the public of offenders who may have victimized people in other jurisdictions.

In support of crime prevention, the I.C.E. Unit collaborates with non-governmental organizations that focus on educating and supporting the public to help prevent children from becoming victims. These efforts, combined with a partnership with the P.R.P.'s Offender Management Unit (O.M.U.), enhance the I.C.E. Unit's ability to disrupt offender activity and prevent further victimization.

The I.C.E. 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 develop technological solutions that help solve cases and identify victims. The Unit also supports social development by collaborating with victim service networks to assist victims and their families in recovering from the impact of online child exploitation.

The I.C.E. Unit's mandate is aligned with the Region and P.R.P. priorities for addressing crime targeting priority populations. This direction is a critical step in achieving meaningful change and ensuring community safety.

Approved for Submission



Nick Milinovich, Deputy Chief, Investigative and Emergency Services Command

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