



## REPORT TO THE POLICE SERVICE BOARD

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Author: Inspector Dave Mason

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Type of Report: Public

Title: Community Policing

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### RECOMMENDATION

That the Board finds that all provisions of the Community Policing Ends Policy have been complied with.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I hereby submit my monitoring report on your Ends Policy “Community Policing” according to the schedule set out. I certify that the information contained in this report is true. I report compliance to all provisions of this policy.

### DISCUSSION

#### **Board Policy Statement:**

*The mission, philosophy and values of the Durham Regional Police Service emphasize the importance of working in partnership with citizens / communities. Working in collaboration with community partners fosters trust and confidence in the police.*

*It is the policy of the Durham Regional Police Services Board that police services in Durham Region shall be delivered in partnership with communities and citizens to proactively address and resolve community problems. These partnerships will focus on the root causes of crime, aim to reduce fear of crime, and maintain and enhance high levels of community safety.*

#### **Reporting**

*An assessment of community policing in Durham Region shall rely upon quantitative and qualitative analyses of relevant data, information, and public input.*

#### **Interpretation of the Chief of Police:**

It is my interpretation that the Board End of Community Policing relates to Section 1, principle 3 of the Police Services Act, 1990 – Principle #3 identifies “The need for co-operation between the providers of police services and the communities they serve”.

Community policing and its basic principles of a shared responsibility for safe and healthy communities, through an informed and engaged citizenry, is at the core of everything we do at the Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS). This philosophy is based on the legislative requirements of the Police Services Act,

the adoption of the OACP's Community Engagement and Mobilization Model<sup>1</sup>, and reinforced in the Police Services Board's Business Plan, which directs the DRPS to Deliver Community Safety through Collaboration.

As a police service, we recognize the benefits of a community policing approach in helping us prevent and investigate crime. Our goal is to work closely with each community and its members to ensure that Durham Region is the safest community in which to live, work, and play. We have instilled an evidence-based proactive policing model to address not only the fear of crime, but also the root causes of crime.

This report will highlight a selection of examples that demonstrate how a community policing approach and its emphasis on cooperative, collaborative, and trusting relationships is threaded through the work that we do every day, in every unit, and across the communities we serve.

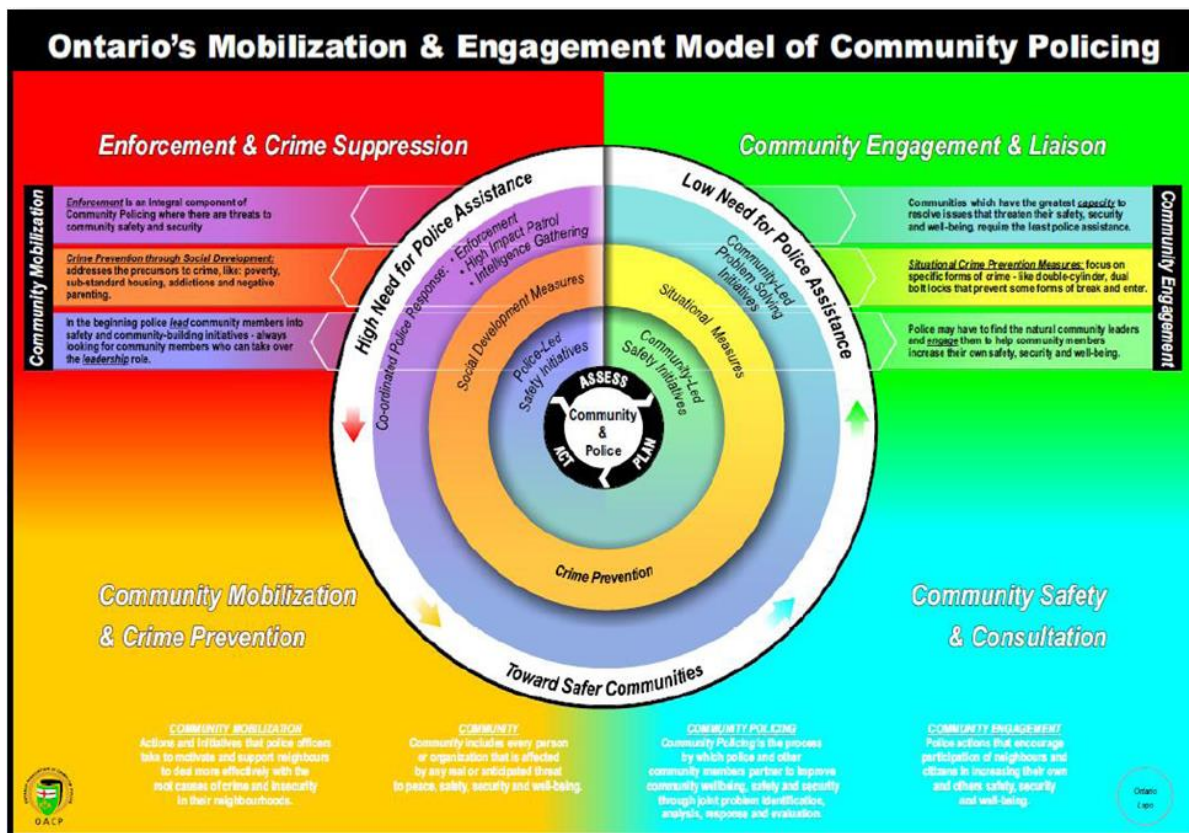


Figure 1

<sup>1</sup> Figure 1.

## EQUITY & INCLUSION UNIT

The Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) Equity & Inclusion (EI) Unit (@DRPSDiversity) is a centralized branch that leads Service-wide efforts toward a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive police service. The EI Unit's mandate is to provide strategic direction, advance core activities, and embed Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) principles throughout the organization to ultimately achieve transformative change. We aim to foster an equitable, diverse, and inclusive environment where all individuals are valued, respected, and empowered to contribute to the organization's success.

In alignment with this mandate, the DRPS 2020-2022 Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan was extended into the 2023 calendar year to ensure continuity and momentum as we transitioned to the development of the 2024 DRPS Strategic Plan.

The EI Unit manages three main portfolios: EDI Training, EDI Engagement, and Youth Engagement. These portfolios enable DRPS to implement focused strategies, facilitate important conversations, and build partnerships to advance EDI principles within our organization and the communities we serve.

### **EDI Training Portfolio Highlights**

The EI Unit coordinates the development and delivery of evidence-based corporate training Service-wide to enhance the EDI competency of DRPS members. In 2023, highlights included:

#### **OACP Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Training Course**

- June 19: the EI Unit hosted the second annual OACP EDI Course.
- 5-day course held at DRPS Education Training Centre in partnership with Halton Police Service.
- Welcomed 30 EDI practitioners from various Police Services.
- Featured over 15 Subject Matter Experts covering 15 EDI areas.
- Cumulative attendance: 55 delegates from 26 Police Services.
- DRPS to facilitate 2 OACP EDI Training courses in 2024 (May & Nov).

#### **Active Bystandership in Law Enforcement (ABLE)**

- ABLE is a comprehensive program implemented by DRPS in 2022, with 3 objectives:
  - Promote Health and Wellness
  - Reduce Mistakes
  - Prevent Misconduct
- 24 DRPS members are certified ABLE Instructors.
- ABLE sessions were integrated into the annual Block Training schedule.
- As of the year's end, all available-duty members have successfully completed the training.
- To delve deeper into the ABLE program, visit <https://www.law.georgetown.edu/cics/able/>

#### **Women in Policing – National Research Project**

- On November 9, DRPS partnered with Ontario Tech University to initiate a ground breaking national research study focusing on the experiences of women in policing.
- This study addresses a critical gap in Canadian research, as existing studies mainly focus on women in policing from other countries.
- The aim of the project is to provide insights into the current climate for women police officers in Canada.

## **EDI Engagement Portfolio Update**

The EI Unit, through evidence-based approaches, coordinates and develops EDI engagement initiatives to foster positive organizational culture and externally deliver services and programs that inspire the trust and confidence of all communities. In 2023, highlights included:

### **Black History Recognitions:**

- Engaged youth in a workshop on black excellence with author Nadine Williams.
- Participation in various events, including the Ontario Black History Society's 35th Annual Black History Month Kick-off Brunch, and the "Together We Rise Durham: Excellence through the Arts"
- Attendance at community meetings aimed at disrupting anti-Black racism and hate dialogue.
- Contribution to events like the BBPA Harry Jerome Awards and the Association of Black Law Enforcers Gala.

### **Engaging with Indigenous Community Partners:**

- DRPS attended and supported the Honouring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Gathering, Mississauga of Scugog Island 25th annual Pow Wow, Indigenous-focused back-to-school event and participation in traditional Indigenous ceremonies.

### **Pride Month:**

- Participated in 7 community Pride events, including the Durham Pride Parade.

### **6th Annual Women's Recruiting Symposium:**

- Assisted the annual women's recruiting symposium, offering valuable insights into the DRPS hiring process and career opportunities to approximately 100 female participants.

### **DRPS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Summit:**

- The EI Unit facilitated the 3rd annual DEI Summit which took place on November 8/9 at the Harmony Event Centre in Oshawa, in collaboration with the OACP and 5 other police services.
- Approximately 200 members of police services from across Canada attended the two-day event.
- Attendees had the opportunity to hear from insightful guest speakers and engage in two panel discussions:
  - A Chief's panel featuring DRPS Chief Moreira alongside Chiefs from Peel, York, and Waterloo.
  - A Women in Policing panel with participation from DRPS Inspectors Everson and Lock.

### **Diversity Advisory Committee (DAC):**

Established to collaborate with DRPS in addressing challenges impacting the diverse communities of the Durham Region, DAC has made significant strides in the past year.

In June, the EI Unit spearheaded a campaign and received 26 applications. Currently a cohort of 20 appointed citizens serve as a consultative and advisory body to the Office of the Chief of Police.

Throughout the year, DAC members actively engaged in a range of initiatives, including:

- Providing input on the Chief's 4 initiatives aimed at addressing systemic barriers.
- Offering consultation to DRPS Corporate Communications on various media-related community concerns.
- Contributing insights to the DRPS Missing Persons Project.
- Offering feedback and guidance on the DRPS Truth and Reconciliation Project.
- Participating in discussions surrounding the DRPS Race-Based Data Town Hall.
- Providing valuable input into the development of the 2024 DRPS Strategic Plan.
- Playing a pivotal role in the selection process for the Youth in Policing Initiative.
- Participating in the DRPS Citizens' Police Academy.

## **Youth Engagement Portfolio Update**

The EI Unit coordinates the delivery of youth-related programs and services to promote positive and trusting relationships between the police, youth, and the community. In 2023 highlights included:

- Supporting ProAction Cops & Kids programs in Durham, hosting 6 programs to promote positive and trusting relationships between the police, at-risk youth, and the community.
- Supporting the Durham Community Action Group with their Disrupting Anti-Black Racism and Hate project.
- Participating in the DRPS Suits for Youths event.
- Participating in the Durham Children's Aid Society – Youth Pride Durham Event.
- Participating in the Durham Community Health Centre – Get Ready for Back to School event.
- Supporting the DRP Children's Games.

## **Youth in Policing (YIP)**

The YIP Initiative is a paid personal, professional, and community development opportunity for Durham youth aged 15-18. The program has been running since 2006 in partnership with Ontario's Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. To date, the program has provided 2095 employment opportunities. In 2023, highlights included:

- Concluded 2 programs (the 2022-23 Winter Initiative and the 2023 Summer Initiative) employing 155 youth and providing 28 Leadership Team opportunities.
- Began the 2023-24 Winter Initiative, employing an additional 18 Students and 14 Leaders.
- Facilitated the 2023 IMPACT Youth Forum and 2023 Ripple Effect Youth Forum, 2 international forums bringing together over 740 participants.
- Fundraised over \$35,000 for The Refuge Oshawa and Hearth Place Cancer Support Centre.
- Participated in different learning opportunities with 25 unique community organizations.
- Engaged with over 120 members and 15 units of the DRPS.
- Continued to serve as co-chair for the provincial Youth in Policing Initiative – Community of Practice Working Group.

## **Youth Advisory Committee (YAC):**

YAC was established on June 1, 2021, and is comprised of Region of Durham youth between the ages of 16-24. The current 14 appointed youth form a consultative and advisory body to the Office of the Chief of Police. Over the last year, YAC members have been involved in consultation and participation in a variety of initiatives, such as:

- Consultation on specific issues/incidents involving youth and the police.
- Consultation on Durham Region – Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan.
- Development of the DRPS Youth Resources Brochure.
- Participated in hiring for the Youth in Policing Initiative.
- Participated in Youth Pride Durham.
- Participated in the DRP Children's Games.

## **POLICING OPERATIONS**

Policing operations are provided by five operational policing divisions. Each Division is led by an Inspector who reports to the Superintendent of Patrol Operations. The Divisions develop a Community Safety Plan in support of our common business plan goals. At the same time, these plans provide Divisional Leadership

with the ability to address the unique needs and challenges of the communities they serve. Some of the activities represented in these plans are provided below.

Each Divisional Community Safety Plan is developed to include active participation by Divisional Leadership that includes the Divisional Inspector, the Patrol Services Leader, Platoon Staff Sergeants, and the Community Response Team Sergeant.

The Divisional initiatives are championed by Divisional leadership through their specific action plans that proactively address identified strategic initiatives such as: Roadway Safety, Community Engagement, Assisting Victims of Crime, Youth Support, Durham Connect, and Improved Management of Crime Trends. Community policing initiatives and events are promoted using our website and 'X' (Twitter),

Main Account - @DRPS  
Equity and Inclusion Unit - @DRPSDiversity  
North Division - @DRPSNorthDiv  
East Division - @DRPSEastDiv  
Central East Division - @DRPSCEDiv  
Central West Division - @DRPSCWDiv  
West Division - @DRPSWestDiv

Reporting structures were established to address evolving trends within this framework through enforcement, community engagement, or project oriented response. Some of the results for 2023 are contained within this report.

## NORTH DIVISION

### **Community Engagement**

North Division conducts quarterly meetings with the members of the Community Safety Advisory Council. These community members collaborate with North Division to find community-based solutions for community concerns. In addition, officers in Community Resource Unit in North Division participated in a number of community-based events in 2023. Some examples include North Division Community Safety Day, Coffee with a Cop, Cram a Cruiser, Senior Fraud Presentations, weekly Pro-Action Cops and Kids Uxbridge Youth Curling, Drive Safe Youth Initiative and we also collaborated with Brock Community Health Centre. The North Division SLO is also a member of the Positive School Climate Committee which engages with vulnerable youth.

### **Foot and Bicycle Patrol**

In 2023, North Division focused on increasing officer visibility and opportunities to engage with citizens utilizing foot and bicycle patrols. There were over 148 hours (248 events) of foot patrols and 83 hours (18 events) of bicycle/ATV/snowmobile patrols in the downtowns, skate parks, trails, and other open areas.

## Collaborative Relationships with Four Different Communities

The Divisional leadership team has quarterly meetings with the Mayors and maintains open communication with Chief LaRocca of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation (MSIFN) community. North Division has dedicated Community Liaison Officers that maintain frequent informal meetings with the MSIFN. Monthly crime analysis statistical reports are shared with the MSIFN, Mayors, and Councils. Officers spent over 186 hours within the MSIFN community in 2023.

## Roadway Safety

North Division has made a conscious effort to conduct enforcement on the snowmobile trails during the winter months and ATV trails during the spring and summer months. Our presence on the trails afforded officers the opportunity to interact with many members of community, who use the trails for recreation, with close to 74 hours spent in 2023. North Division set a goal of reducing the rate of motor vehicle collisions throughout the Division over the 5-year average in identified high collision locations; the divisional 2022-2023 change and 5-year average statistics are captured below.

NORTH DIVISION - MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISIONS						NORTH DIVISION - ROADWAY SAFETY MEASURES			
<small>(Primary Offence Code)</small>									
	2022	2023	% CHANGE 2022 - 2023	5YR AVE	% CHANGE 2022 COMPTO 5YR AVE		2022	2023	% CHANGE 2022 - 2023
FATAL	5	6	20%	5	20%	TICKETS ISSUED	3176	3851	21%
INJURY	100	115	15%	100	15%	TRAFFIC STOPS	4421	4751	7%
PROPERTY DAMAGE	502	510	2%	472	8%	TRAFFIC CAUTIONS	537	480	-11%
MEMBER-INVOLVED	5	7	40%	7	0%	TOTAL	8134	9082	12%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>10%</b>				

Despite the 10% increase in motor vehicle collisions, North Division noted a 21% increase in roadway safety measures, including tickets issued, traffic stops and traffic cautions.

## Community Safety

North Division officers take a proactive approach to community safety by conducting compliance checks on members of the community who are on judicial release conditions as a result of criminal charges. In 2023, North Division officers conducted 79 compliance checks.

In addition, responding to an increase in drug activity and overdoses in North Division, members of the Community Resource Unit and Criminal Investigation Bureau continued to conduct proactive investigative projects to address the rising problem. The overall goal is to ensure a safe environment for the members of the community, to reduce the drug activity, and to educate the community on harm reduction and preventative measures surrounding dangerous substances.

### **Community Safety Advisory Council**

The Community Safety Advisory Council (CSAC) was established in 2021 and continued to operate throughout 2023. Currently we have representatives from all four wards as well as the Clarington Diversity Advisory Committee. The CSAC meets quarterly and was established to promote information sharing, positive relations, and awareness of police-related issues between DRPS and the various East Division communities. The purpose of this initiative is to create a sustainable way to improve service delivery and promote effective divisional planning, divisional policy, and decision-making that meets the needs of the community.

### **Community Engagement**

Community engagement continues to be a divisional priority for East Division. Throughout 2023, East Division members attended multiple community events and initiatives. East Division Central Response Unit (CRU) members also collaborated with ProAction Cops & Kids Durham Chapter to participate in programs benefiting local youth. In 2023, CRU organized and implemented the 1st annual shop with a cop at the Oshawa Centre, teaming 21 youth with an officer for a well deserved shopping spree. Thinking ahead to 2024, we plan to focus on expanding to include more identified youth.

### **Roadway Safety**

The Region of Durham in cooperation with DRPS has developed a Strategic Road Safety Action Plan (SRSAP), which incorporates VISION ZERO, to reduce the number and severity of collisions in the Region. In 2023, East Division implemented various monthly roadway safety initiatives and recorded the following results: 12% increase in traffic cautions, 40% increase in tickets, and a 28% increase in traffic stops in comparison to the divisional enforcement results achieved in 2022. Despite the increase in traffic enforcement in 2023, the total number of motor vehicle collisions in East Division saw a 10% increase from 2022 and a 29% increase when compared to the 5-year average.

### **Targeting Retail Thefts**

In 2023, East Division collaborated with external partners at the top four (4) retail complainants (Walmart, Home Depot, Real Canadian Superstore, and LCBO) in an effort to address ongoing theft and fraud occurrences. Corporate risk management policies dictate a hands-off approach by Loss Prevention Officers (LPOs), who engage police services to respond on their behalf with a delayed reactive approach. This has led to continual criminal activity as offenders have become confidently undeterred. The SMART (Support and Manage Anti-Retail Theft) program was developed, focusing on significant numbers of criminal offences occurring at the commercial Smart Centre located at Harmony Road North and Taunton Road, Oshawa. The SMART program utilized general and specific deterrence of commercial crime through collaboration between police and LPO enforcement, using Criminal Code and Provincial Offence charges, as well as trespass and diversion options. Plainclothes and uniform officers were deployed to the area for roughly 8 hours each shift, with time reserved for investigation completion and follow-up, for 6 days throughout April and May.

From these efforts, the following results were noted:



<b>Enforcement Days</b>	6
<b>Arrests</b>	22
<b>Bail Hearings</b>	2
<b>Criminal Charges</b>	27
<b>TPA Charges</b>	12
<b>HTA Charges</b>	6
<b>Youth-Related Diversions</b>	2

Looking into 2024, there are plans to include additional stores in the complex as well as expanding the program to have the initiative utilized at other big box stores within the region including Bowmanville, Whitby and Ajax. With an increase in corporate stakeholders the development of a full enforcement team will be explored.

**Compliance Checks**

In an effort to properly manage high-risk offenders in our community, compliance checks of individuals on interim release are regularly conducted to ensure court-imposed conditions are being abided by. In 2023, compliance checks increased by 77% and breaches increased by 58%, when compared with 2022.

**Foot Patrol**

In 2023, East Division uniform members routinely engaged in proactive foot patrol in downtown Bowmanville, Newcastle, and Orono, with 228 instances and over 160 hours spent. The purpose was to enhance police visibility and public trust, and reduce the fear of crime. Hundreds of hours have been spent on foot patrol, and residents, members of council, and the local Business Improvement Associations have commented on the positive impact of this program.

**CENTRAL EAST DIVISION**

**Youth Engagement**

In 2023, Central East Division officers, including members from platoons, our Community Response Unit (CRU), School Liaison Officer (SLO) and Administrative Staff, worked closely with our young residents. The SLOs responded to 330 calls for service, completing 136 General Occurrence reports and 130 follow-ups in relation to school and youth-related incidents that would otherwise require a general patrol uniformed response. Our SLOs continued to work closely with the 31 schools within our Division to provide programming and educational opportunities. Our SLO team delivered presentations with a concerted focus this year on on-line safety including content on “sexting” and “sextortion” to grade 7 & 8 students.

Central East Division officers documented over 80 positive youth engagement occurrences and in partnership with “Circle K”, front-line members issued over 200 positive “slushie tickets” to youth throughout our community. Our Division organized and led several youth events including, “Cram a Cruiser”, Chief for the Day and Pro-Action Kids and Cops events.

## **Community Engagement**

The Division sought to increase our visible presence in the community and participate in as many community events as possible. Our members participated in 96 community, cultural and faith-based events in 2023. We participated in Oshawa Fiesta Week, which celebrates numerous cultural communities and centres in our Division. Our members attended various faith-based events including Christmas events, a Menorah lighting ceremony, Canada Eid celebration and an event at First Baptist church. Our Division led the Regional “Seniors Christmas” campaign which organized the donation and distribution of 500 gifts for seniors in the community. Our School Liaison officers organized the Service’s “Chief for the day” events and participated in community events such as the Children’s Games, Remembrance Day parade, “Girls take Flight” and John Howard Society’s “Community with Brooms.” Central East Division deploys officers on foot and bike patrol throughout the most of the year. These officers continue to engage with the many social service centres, businesses in the downtown core and countless members of our community, including our most vulnerable and unhoused population.

In an effort to address ongoing crime trends, weekly meetings are held with Divisional Leadership, our Criminal Investigation Branch, Platoon Leadership, and our Crime Analyst. During these discussions, crime “hot spots” are identified for directed data-led patrols. Our Divisional leadership regularly meets with City of Oshawa officials, the Mayor and Council members ensuring effective collaboration to address the challenges our community faces. Divisional leadership met with members of the local business community, listening to their concerns and working with them to resolve problems. Our Community Response Unit Sergeant is a member of the City of Oshawa’s event planning committee and the Region’s Opioid Task Force, working to address harm reduction and combat the ongoing opioid crisis. Our Division continues to engage with the community over social media, namely our Divisional “X” handle (@DRPSCEDiv) and through media releases.

## **Roadway Safety**

Roadway safety continues to be a strategic priority for Central East Division with a focus on the “Big Four Killers” on our roadways. Our traffic complaint reporting process ensures each community initiated complaint is received by our Division’s Traffic Safety Coordinator. Our community’s population continues to increase, so did the amount of traffic accidents. CE Division observed a 14% increase in the number of collisions in 2023 over the previous year. Our Division operated ten coordinated traffic safety initiatives, issuing provincial offence notices and in some cases cautioning and educating drivers on roadway safety. The Division issued a total of 11,421 Provincial Offence Notices, an 11% increase over 2022. Enforcement was directed at high-collision intersections and school zones. Impaired driving occurrences rose slightly in 2023 and our members conducted 178 investigations removing impaired drivers from our roads.

## **Downtown Oshawa, Crime and Disorder**

Central East Division responded to over 36,646 calls for service in 2023. Crime and disorder in the downtown core continues to be a large source of community complaints and concern. Our Division created a sustained high-visibility foot and bike patrol project focused on the downtown core of the City. The objective is to reduce violence, decrease lawlessness behavior, increase public safety and ensure the enjoyment of our downtown for all members of our community. The initiative is a collaborative effort between front-line members and our Community Response Team (CRT). Between May and November, the Division deployed increased staffing to patrol the downtown. These members engaged with businesses in the downtown, social service centres, and our ever-growing unhoused community. Medical, check on the wellbeing, unwanted persons, assault and armed persons incidents were the most responded to calls for service in the downtown core. Illicit drug use and overdoses continue to be a problem with many of the Region’s total overdose incidents isolated to downtown Oshawa. Our Divisional CRT received over 150

complaints from the community, City staff and the CrimeStoppers program related to street-level drug trafficking. CRT conducted numerous street-level drug investigations, executing 23 search warrants and seizing nearly two kilograms of cocaine, fentanyl and methamphetamine as well as six firearms. The Division completed a bail compliance initiative conducting 613 checks on offenders in our community and operated an AGCO project working with that agency to conduct 132 inspections at 35 licenced establishments.

On May 30th, the initiative launched with a media event and assistance from our Auxiliary Unit and Oshawa By-Law and Corporate Security. The deployment model represented a total of 6,260 hours of foot and bike patrol. Violent and property crime both trended higher in 2023 and 2024's downtown project will begin early (March).

## **CENTRAL WEST DIVISION**

### **Roadway Safety**

A major component of our Strategic Operational Plan is Roadway Safety. For 2023, a total of 8209 provincial offence notices were issued, an increase of 19% over 2022. Central West Division continually focused on the enforcement of the "Big Four Killers" on our roadways in an effort to enhance roadway safety. The four are individually referred to as: Aggressive Driving, Distracted Driving, Seatbelt Use, and Impaired Operation. For those offences, 3274 provincial offence notices were issued in 2023, an increase of 17% over 2022. The number of reported collisions for the top four intersections in Central West decreased by 13% last year.

Central West also focused on impaired driving enforcement in 2023. These efforts resulted in the number of impaired driving arrests made by Central West officers in 2023 to be 216, an increase of 19%.

### **Central West Community Safety Advisory Team**

Three meetings were conducted in 2023, and information sharing has resulted in better awareness of issues and a more positive relationship with the community. Topics discussed include racism, poverty, bettering our community engagement, and crime trends. Through this partnership, we participated in a Community Day in June 2023, which was held on the grounds of the Regional Headquarters. In addition, we were able to assist with the DRPS Food & Toy Drive for Christmas 2023 with volunteers from the Community Safety Advisory Team and Durham College. This was a great success, with food donations going to the Salvation Army, exceeding our target.

### **Crime and Disorder Calls**

Central West Division also focused on mitigating reported incidents of crime and disorder in the area of the downtown core (an increase of 46%), motels situated along the 401 corridor (a decrease of 7%) and the Simcoe & Britannia corridor of North Oshawa (a decrease of 5%) compared to the previous year. Central West Division has a member who serves on the Business Improvement Association, and this partnership results in timely two-way information sharing regarding trends and issues.

### **Property Crime**

For 2023, residential Break and Enter incidents increased by 43 incidents, or 45% from 2022. Proactive patrols were conducted in response to crime analysis. Theft from Motor Vehicle occurrences decreased by

58 incidents or 17% in 2023 compared to last year. In 2022, Theft of Motor Vehicle occurrences increased by 114 incidents or 47% when compared to last year, a trend experienced in the majority of GTA communities.

### **Compliance Checks**

In order to properly manage offenders in the community, a strategy was implemented to conduct compliance checks on those individuals on interim release, ensuring that they were abiding by court-imposed conditions. Several initiatives were conducted throughout the year by the Community Response Team and front line members. Central West Division focused upon subjects before the courts, those released on Parole for Firearms and Violent Offences, and those bound by both the Provincial and National Sex Offender Registry (SOR). For the entire year in 2023, 807 checks were conducted, an increase of 31% over 2022. Separately, during the month of May 2023, 21 SOR checks were completed.

### **Community Engagement**

In 2023, Central West added an emphasis on the use of “X” formerly known as Twitter (@DRPSCWDiv) to engage with our community. X was utilized to highlight visits to schools by our School Liaison Officers and community concerns regarding traffic-related issues. We have increased the number of officers trained on the use of X and expect our impressions to increase in 2024. In 2023, Central West sent out 307 tweets with approximately 271000 impressions. Central West has 9% more followers than last year. We believe X is a valuable tool in engaging with our community and notifying them of issues in a timely manner, when feasible and/or appropriate.

Community engagement is a priority for Central West where members engaged in multiple community events and initiatives. On one occasion front line members of Central West attended Coco’s Cocoa for Kids charity event organized by a Whitby elementary student. All of the proceeds from the sale of hot chocolate went to Sick Kid’s Hospital. Our Community Response Unit attending weekly presentations at the Whitby Fire Services Summer camps, the Special Olympic Fundraiser event at Lonestar and assisted with the setup of Central West Community Day amongst many other events.

Central West put Durham Regional Police on the world-wide map when front line members assisted in the apprehension of a missing kangaroo. An appreciative member of the public later attended the division with hand crafted Christmas tree ornaments in remembrance of the event. It was a kind gesture by the community and highlighted the caring and compassionate members of Central West.

## **WEST DIVISION**

### **Gun Violence and Violent Crime**

The level of reported violent crime in West Division increased by 1% in 2023. 14 firearm discharges/shootings occurred in the division last year, which is a single incident higher than in 2022. There were 27 crime gun seizures by DRPS throughout the year, along with 11 firearms seized by the Toronto Police Service and Peel Regional Police at different locations in Pickering and Ajax.

West Division continues to operate a Gun Violence and Violent Crime Reduction Strategy and the following initiatives were implemented as a part of our response to the increase in violent crimes in Ajax and Pickering in 2022:

- An increase in compliance checks (1044 checks were completed in 2023 which is a 122% increase from 2022).
- Proactive patrols in dedicated areas.

- Gun Violence and Violent Crime N.O.C.C. Initiative (Notification of Community Crime).
- Proactive use of the Community Response Team to support Investigations involving violence.
- Community Healing – Town Hall held at Audley Recreation Centre and the McLean Centre to address community concerns following a firearm discharge incident.

### **Property Crime**

In 2023, property crime increased by 27% in West Division, which was primarily driven by increases in vehicle thefts (+48%) and fraud (+27%) In addition to the ongoing theft of motor vehicle incidents, West Division also experienced a 53% increase in Facebook Marketplace set ups where typically either cash or phones were stolen by individuals posing as interested buyers/sellers.

As a part of West Division’s Property Crime Reduction Strategy, members participated in the following initiatives in Ajax and Pickering throughout 2023:

- Proactive patrols and investigative resources deployed in response to crime patterns.
- Members of CIB, CRU, and frontline patrol attended Pickering Town Centre for Police Week, as well as a community town hall in Claremont and in Ajax.
- Education of seniors and vulnerable persons on how to protect themselves from being the victim of a theft or fraud.
- Education via social media to increase awareness regarding the Facebook Marketplace thefts.
- Engagement in projects to address recurring issues of retail theft.
- Information sharing with partner agencies to address multijurisdictional offending.

### **Roadway Safety**

10,137 provincial offence notices (PONs) were issued in West Division throughout the year, with enforcement being focused on high collision intersections and reported problem areas in Ajax/Pickering. There were 3,495 reported motor vehicle collisions in Ajax/Pickering, which represents a 19% increase compared to 2022 and a 39% increase when compared to the 5-year average.

Proactive Divisional RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) was conducted throughout the year. There were 213 impaired driving reports in 2023, representing a 11% decrease compared to 2021.

### **Community Engagement**

Community engagement remains a divisional priority in West Division and in 2023; there was a 12% increase in the number of proactive patrols where officers interacted with members of the community. In response to a growing demand for police presence, we continued with our Community Engagement Team that was formed within the Division to streamline the request process and to create additional opportunities for officers to attend. In addition to enhancing our level of engagement with the community, this approach allows members to build their diversity competence by learning more about the cultural background of residents living in Ajax and Pickering.

Throughout the year, West Division also facilitated six (6) meetings of the Community Safety Advisory Council, which was formed in 2019 to promote information sharing, positive relations, and awareness of police-related issues between the DRPS and the community. Topics of discussion during the meetings have included body worn cameras, community engagement, Human Trafficking and crime trends.

## **Social Development**

Throughout the year, members of West Division continue to work with the Community Safety Branch, Doors of Compassion, the Ajax Hub, and the Ajax Task Force to provide support to unsheltered community members. To continue developing relationships to support the unsheltered community in Ajax-Pickering, the Division are part of a program with various municipal and regional agencies, where frontline members regularly attend breakfast at the Ajax Hub to interact and build trust with the unsheltered community. 2023 was a landmark year in West Division for response to protests. West Division CRU staffed 16 protests. These ranged from Anti-Sogi Curriculum to Pro Palestinian demonstrations and occurred over a period of 100 days in the end of 2023. These required meticulous planning and redirection of resources to address the concerns. Sixteen separate individualized Operation Plans were drafted and approved for police response.



## **PATROL SUPPORT KEEPING OUR ROADWAYS AND WATERWAYS SAFE**

### **Roadway Safety**

A leading concern that has been expressed from our communities is roadway safety. Each Division has dedicated Traffic Safety Officers who develop strategies to address the specific needs or concerns of the community. These strategies differ amongst Divisions: North & East Divisions focus on the increasing commercial motor vehicle traffic that exists in their communities. Central East, Central West, and West Divisions employ strategies that mainly focus on high collision intersections. We continue to work closely with partners such as the Ministry of Transportation (MTO), Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Municipal by-law, Planning Departments, the Region of Durham, Road Watch, and our many community volunteer organizations. We share the goal of a safer Region through development of lasting solutions beyond enforcement; continuing to support the Region of Durham Vision Zero strategy.

### **Traffic Services Branch (TSB) – Traffic Enforcement Unit**

In an effort to focus on collision reduction, the Traffic Enforcement Unit (TEU) continued to embrace the strategy of intelligence-led enforcement, focusing on measurable outcomes. The focus of enforcement efforts, in support of Durham Region’s Vision Zero, continue to be the “Big-Four Killers; Impaired Operation, Distracted and Aggressive Driving, and Not Wearing Seat Belts. Traffic Services issued 7257 provincial offence notices which is a 41% increase from 4787 written in 2022. Of note, in 2023, TEU Officers issued 40 offence notices for stunt driving, 600 handheld device infractions, 2686 speeding infractions, 378 careless driving charges, and issued 48 seatbelt tickets.

In 2023, charges were laid in 656 Impaired related driving investigations, this was an 11% increase over impaired driving cases in 2022 (590 incidents).

The Festive RIDE team in 2023 was comprised of 12 dedicated officers working nights with a primary focus on roadway safety. The DRPS Auxiliary Unit, comprised of volunteer officers supported RIDE throughout the season. The 2023 RIDE team conducted nightly static RIDE lines; 9 of which involved volunteers with the MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) Durham Chapter. The team also worked collaboratively with the Ministry of Transportation Training and Education Branch, Enforcement Branch as well as the OPP Highway Safety Division and Detachment Enforcement Teams. The Festive RIDE Team was involved in 61.7% of all impaired arrests regionally.

The number of vehicles stopped by the Festive RIDE Team increased by 46.7%.

<b>Festive RIDE Statistics</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Result</b>
<b>Total Vehicles stopped</b>	9907	12682	28% increase
<b>Roadside Breath Tests</b>	492	533	8% increase
<b>Provincial Offence Notices Issued</b>	692	974	40% Increase
<b>Licence Suspension 3/7/30 Day</b>	41	40	
<b>Novice Driver-3 Day Licence Suspension</b>	18	19	
<b>Impaired Driving Arrests</b>	77	87	18.5% increase
<b>Criminal Code Offences</b>	35	64	150% increase
<b>Various Highway Traffic Act Offences</b>	265	692	161% increase
<b>Drug Offence Charges</b>	2	3	

In addition to Festive RIDE, conducted over the holiday season, the Traffic Services Branch focused RIDE efforts targeting Super Bowl Sunday, St Patrick’s Day and the May long weekend.

Traffic Services reached 1,108,000 Impressions on Social Media through the X account handle “DRPS Traffic Services @DRPSRoadSafety.”

**Air Support Unit (ASU)**

In 2023, the Air Support Unit (ASU) worked 220 shifts over a combined 707.8 flight hours; a 42% increase over 2022 (479.7 hours). Air 1 supported 860 calls for service in 2023. This represents a slight decrease of 6% from 2022 (917). Air 1 was first-on-scene to dispatched calls approximately 302 times, which is a 13% increase over 2022 (280).

The ASU was successful in locating 147 subjects during calls for service in 2023, representing a 15% decrease when compared to the 174 subjects located in the previous year.

2023 led to an increase in lost shifts due to maintenance and weather with 37 shifts being lost over the year. This was due to deferred maintenance to the aircraft due to lower flight hours experienced over the Pandemic period.

## **Marine Unit**

The 2023 marine season spanned from May 1st to October 8th providing 23 weeks of marine support on Lake Ontario, Scugog and Simcoe. The Marine Unit is staffed by a part-time contingent of members within the Traffic Services Branch comprised of 1 Master licensed Captain and 6 part-time cross-trained Coxswain licensed operators.

In 2023 the Marine Unit experienced an 18.8% increase in calls for service with a response rate of 91%. 465.5 hours were spent providing policing services on the waterways in 2023. In this time 457 Vessel checks were conducted which amounted to a 304% increase from the 117 checks that were reported in 2022; a considerable achievement when considering the part-time deployment model of the Unit. The unit issued 115 provincial offence notices from 11 in 2022 representing a 945% increase over 2022. Marine related enforcement infractions included safety violations, liquor and drug offences as well as violations under the Highway Traffic Act. 191 cautions were issued. 82 calls for service and/or callouts equated to an 18% increase over 2022. In 2023 there was 1 arrest for Impaired Operation. The unit was also deployed in a RIDE capacity where efforts prevented three incidents where intoxicated boaters were stopped prior to operating vessels.

The Marine Unit experienced staffing challenges that led to a reduced patrol schedule during the 2022 season. These officers spent the majority of their time training and learning the lakes within the Region. Five additional officers have received their Basic Marine Training and contributed to the patrol and enforcement efforts identified above in 2023.

The Marine Unit continued to engage with our partner enforcement and marine community stakeholders:

- Ontario Power Generation
- HOPA-Hamilton Port Authority
- Transport Canada
- Coast Guard
- JRCC-Joint Rescue Coordination Centre
- Ministry of Environment
- Parks Canada
- Department of Fisheries
- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Oshawa Parks

## **Collision Reporting Centre (CRC)**

The Police Service continues to collaborate with Accident Support Services International (ASSIL) to provide an alternative process for reporting collisions. Community members involved in minor motor vehicle collisions within the Region of Durham can report incidents at one centralized location, instead of waiting for roadside police response, which could involve substantial wait times depending on call volume.

The statistical analysis of incidents reported to the Collision Reporting Centre has been summarized and presented to the Board in the 2023 Collision Reporting Centre Board Review.



## **Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement**

Durham Region has a large variety of Commercial Motor Vehicle traffic, from light duty pick-up trucks to dual 53-foot tractor-trailer combinations. The aggregate hauling network in Durham has greatly increased due to the expansion of the 407 in recent years. With growing infrastructure and development within the area, commercial motor vehicle activity has increased substantially.

326 Commercial Motor Vehicles were involved in collisions within the Region of Durham excluding MTO roads. This was a 13.5% decrease over 2022 (377).

There were 39 Commercial Motor Vehicles (fatal and injury related) that occurred in 2023 which was a 39% decrease over 2022 (64). The Collision Investigation Unit (CIU) investigated 3 commercial motor vehicles involved in serious motor vehicle collisions or fatalities in 2023 which is 1 less than in 2022 (4).

The DRPS's primary Commercial Motor Vehicle Inspector ended his tenure in Traffic Services in 2022. As such, an additional 3 Traffic Services Enforcement Officers were trained and qualified as Commercial Motor Vehicle Inspectors in 2023 with the assistance of the Ministry of Transportation. The 3 trained commercial motor vehicle inspectors continue to support divisional and regional traffic safety initiatives.

In 2023, the Service's designated Commercial Motor Vehicle Inspectors participated in 6 CMV Blitz's. 53 CMV Inspections were completed in 2023; an increase of 17% over 2022 (45). Said inspections resulted in 100 Provincial Offence Notices and 12 Cautions. 96 Mandatory CMV inspections were completed regionally in conjunction with Divisional Traffic Safety Coordinators and the Ministry of Transportation. 12 vehicles were put out-of-service as a result of these efforts which kept 12 unsafe commercial motor vehicles off of Regional Roadways.

## **SUPPORTING OUR VULNERABLE PERSONS**

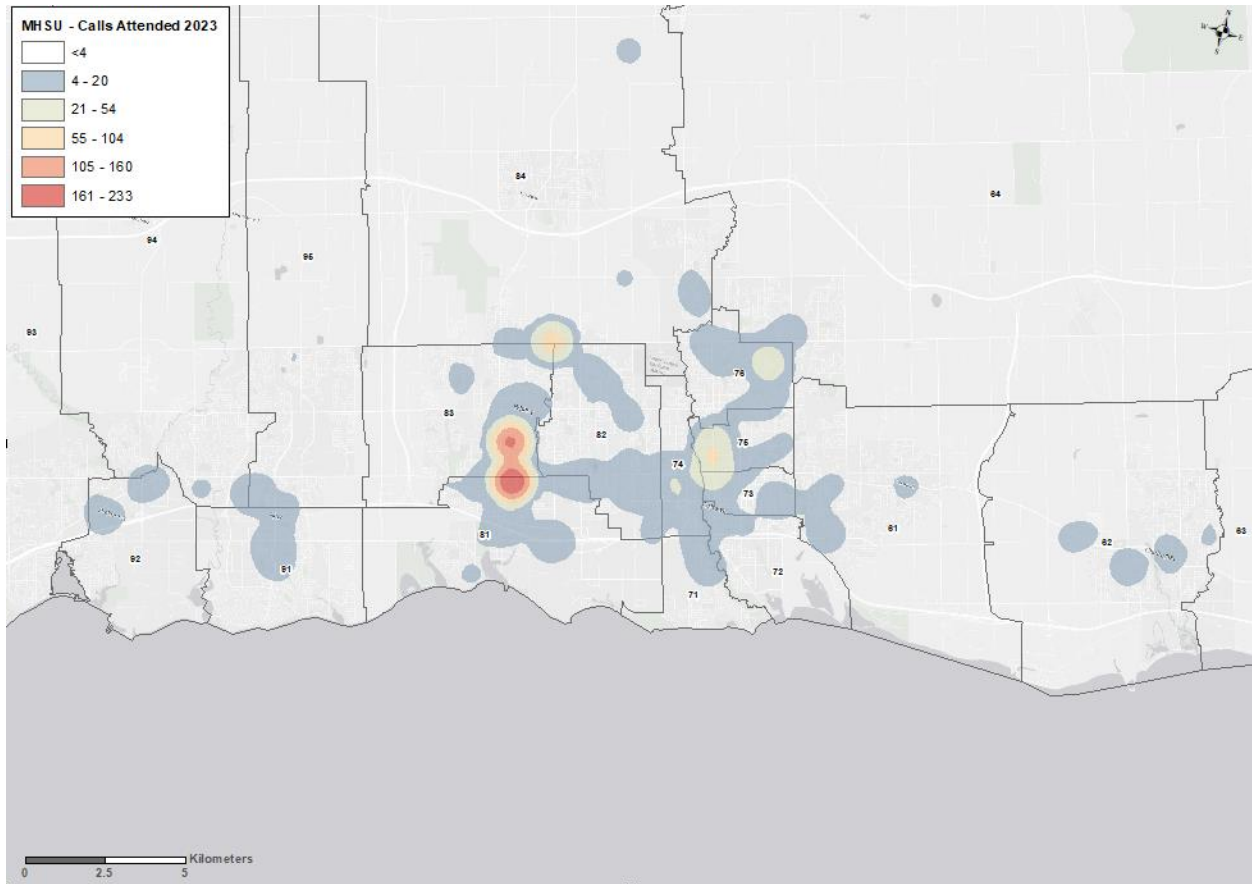
### **Mental Health Support Unit (MHSU)**

In 2023, the DRPS Mental Health Support Unit (MHSU) continued its partnership with the Home and Community Care Support Services Central East (HCCSSCE), Lakeridge Health and the Region of Durham. The MHSU currently operates with five teams, each team consisting of a police officer and a mental health nurse. These five teams allow for Regional coverage seven days a week, 17 hours a day, between 0700-0000 hours.

MHSU members review mental health related reports and conduct proactive follow-ups and check on the well-being calls in person and over the phone. MHSU members act as a resource to front line members of DRPS, providing advice and/or attending calls at their request. MHSU members provide referrals and supports to individuals referred through DRPS investigative and support units, as requested. Teams also provide a reactive response to persons requiring immediate mental health support, as well as provide referrals and service navigation to individuals and their families/caregivers/and support persons.

In 2023, members of MHSU authored 2140 reports documenting their activities and engagement with members of the public. They diverted 687 calls from frontline officer response and communications/911 calls, de-escalated 772 incidents, referred 202 individuals for support and resources and attended 187 proactive community engagement sessions/parade visits.

The heat map below visually illustrates the density of calls MHSU attended in 2023.



## **Durham Connect**

Durham Connect was established in 2015 and is a partnership of numerous multidisciplinary agencies that represent community-based organizations, as well as local, regional and provincial agencies. Each agency has the ability to serve and support vulnerable individuals within Durham Region.

The Durham Connect Situation Table has traditionally been a resource for acutely elevated risk (AER) cases for individuals and families in the Region of Durham. Cases that met the threshold of AER, at the agency level, were brought forward to the Table for presentation and voting. If approved, a multidisciplinary team with services specific to the identified risks, would assemble and provide rapid mobilization of services to “wrap around” the AER individual or family, ultimately to mitigate or reduce that risk. The Table has seen a steady decline in the number of cases brought forward as AER, which appears to be in line with provincial trends.

A major reason for the decline is suspected to be the successful proactive work being done to prevent cases of identified risk from escalating to AER. In 2019, Durham Regional Police Service added a full-time liaison officer for Durham Connect, as police were identified as the number one originating agency at the Table. The liaison officer recognized individuals/families were “falling through the cracks” until they became at and AER threshold. It was determined there was an opportunity to engage with community members at an earlier stage, effectively dealing with the risk in a proactive versus reactive manner, whilst building positive relationships between police and the community. The liaison officer created and developed the “Divisional Information Officers” (DIOs). Each platoon in the Region is represented by at least one DIO, their role is to educate, promote and increase organizational awareness of the Durham Connect program. The result of creating this internal position has been an increase in the number of referrals

to Durham Connect. This in turn has increased the number of individuals/families who can be assisted by services in a proactive approach, through referrals in internal and external supports and resources. The Durham Connect liaison officer frequently utilizes internal supports such as MHSU and OASIS (previously the Senior Support Unit) to assist in follow up with the individuals through the DRPS partnerships with Lakeridge Health and the Region of Durham.

The following is a breakdown of the DRPS incidents flagged to the attention of the Durham Connect Liaison officer through members of the DRPS and Table cases per calendar year for the Region since 2018:

Year	2018*	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
DRPS Referrals	8	195	214	292	379	377
Table Cases	65	62	13	18	11	10

\*Prior to liaison officer position being created

Durham Connect is aligned with the goals and objectives of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan through agency collaboration to provide the mitigation of elevated risk, and prevention proactively dealing with identified risks at an early stage.

### **Public Safety Unit (PSU)**

2023 was another busy year for the Public Safety Unit, as there were six deployments for the unit in a Public Order capacity. These deployments included ongoing protests regarding the conflict in Israel and Palestine, both in the Region of Durham as well as to assist the City of Toronto. The Public Safety Unit was also deployed back to the City of Ottawa to assist other teams with the visit of US President BIDEN. In addition, the Public Safety Unit was called out on 30 occasions in 2023 to conduct evidence and missing person searches for vulnerable people (elderly, very young, suicidal, dementia, etc.). On 117 other occasions, a search manager and/or on duty PSU members were consulted or deployed by the Patrol Sergeant or Duty Inspector for guidance related to missing persons calls. This represents an increase of 25% and 277% respectfully.

The Public Safety Unit has been authorized to grow to a compliment of 80 part time members from the current 55 member team. It has also seen the addition of a full time member as a Pilot Position that will hopefully lead to a confirmed member responsible for coordinating and logistics for the Unit.

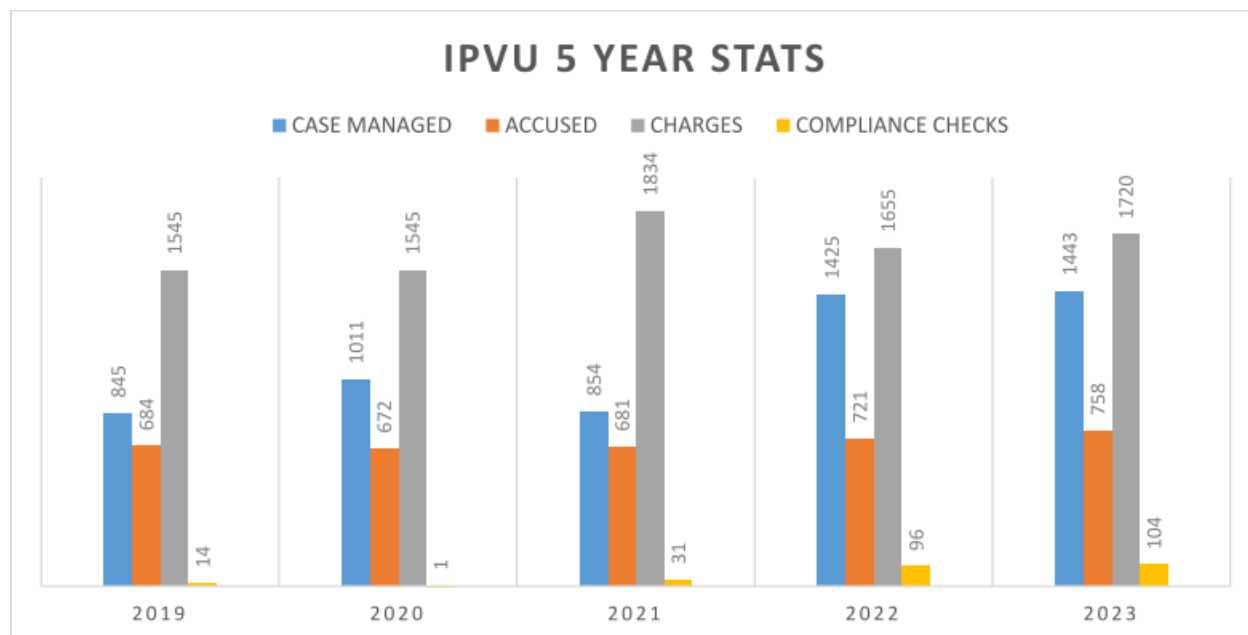
The Public Safety Unit has been active in training for 2023. This has included teaching on the Incident Command 200 and 300 Courses, the Criminal Investigative Techniques Course, and delivering the Basic Search and Rescue Course. Currently they are in development of Initial Training for all Front Line members.

## **MAJOR CRIME UNIT SUPPORTING THE INVESTIGATION OF CRIME AND DISORDER**

### **Intimate Partner Violence Unit**

In 2023, IPVU managed 1443 cases with 758 accused parties, laying 1720 criminal charges. The Unit supported Patrol Operations by case managing all Criminal Harassment and Breach of Court Order cases that were generated from domestic-related calls for service. Members conducted 104 bail and release

condition compliance checks on accused persons. The Unit’s supervising domestic violence coordinator reviewed 7,388 domestic-related incident reports, including all cases where charges were deemed not warranted. The Unit is supported by a full-time Victim Services Counsellor supporting victims of intimate partner violence. The Unit also works in partnership with several community and victim-centered organizations, including several local women’s shelters.



**Threat Assessment Unit (TAU)**

Threat Assessment is best explained as criminal profiling for violence. The Durham Regional Police Service Threat Assessment Unit (TAU) consists of a Detective with experience in the investigation of violent crime who also receives specialized training in the fields of threat assessment and risk management, and is a Certified Trainer for the Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO) protocol. In 2023, a transition began in TAU with a new Detective currently completing the Threat Assessor certification understudy with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Criminal Behavioural Analysis section. During this training period, threat assessment support for emergent DRPS cases is being provided by the OPP.

In support of the Service’s Community Threat Assessment and Intervention Protocol (C-TAIP) and Police / Schoolboard Protocol, the Threat Assessment Coordinator engaged in 289 consultations (down slightly from 303 in 2022) with the Region’s school boards and the DRPS School Liaison Officers (SLOs) who provide directed service to them. These including the Durham District Schoolboard (DDSB) Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB), Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPR), Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic School Board (PVNC), Conseil Scolaire Viamonde and CSC Mon Avenir. The Service continues to train its SLOs in the ARTO protocol to provide a more trauma-informed response to school-related incidents.

**Special Victims Unit (SVU)**

Previously called the Sexual Assault Unit, the Unit was re-named the Special Victims Unit to better represent the services and support provided by their members to the community. The SVU investigates all sexual assaults and historic sexual assaults where the victim was under the age of 18 at the time of the offence, where the suspect has not been identified, and or the sexual assaults are serial in nature. The SVU

also investigates allegations of child abuse where the victim is under 16 years of age and the suspect is in a position of trust, authority or caregiver to the victim.

The SVU works alongside the Durham Children's Aid Society and Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child & Family Services who assist with all child abuse investigations. SVU investigators also work closely with Lakeridge Health – Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Care Centre (DVSACC) and Sick Kid's Hospital. The SVU facilitates the Sexual Assault Advocate Review Committee, which is a civilian group made up of community partners who review all threshold sexual assault reports where charges are not laid. The Unit has community partnerships with Durham Rape Crisis Centre, The Denise House, Bethesda House, and Luke's Place. The Unit has also committed to being a part of the forthcoming Child and Youth Advocacy Centre – a one-stop support location for young victims of sexual offences. We expect this centre to go live sometime in late 2024 or early 2025.

In 2023, the SVU managed 1035 sexual offences, which includes indecent acts. Within that figure, 606 investigations had the primary offence as sexual assault. 87 of those sexual assault cases had a victim under the age of 18.

### **Polygraph**

The Polygraph Unit, consisted of one investigator: D/C Colin Rose, who was involved in 60 investigations while supporting the various investigative units across the region. Polygraph was incorporated into 13 of those investigations. The unit was called upon and completed 10 post arrest interviews involving incidents of sexual assault and homicide, often extensive investigations by nature, which require significant time in order to prepare and develop a plan for the interview. This level of preparation led to a confession and an apology letter written by the accused to the victim of a sexual assault. The unit assisted outside agencies including suspect interviews as part of an investigation into the death of a baby, which resulted in the father of the child being charged.

The Polygraph Unit also provided interview training to officers on an individual basis providing them with a frame work and platform to develop their interviewing skills. The unit also assisted officers in developing their interview plan for an upcoming interview, or reviewing an interview that they have already conducted, providing feedback on strategies and techniques to incorporate into their future interviews. The Polygraph Unit is responsible for the development of the content and delivery of the one week Investigative Interviewing Skills courses and Advanced Investigative Interviewing Skills courses which were both run twice for 2023. In addition, interview training was provided to new recruits four times through the course of the year as well as part of the OPC Criminal Investigative Techniques courses. The Polygraph Unit also presented to the Youth In Policing, conducting a polygraph examination demonstration which, was well received.

In 2020 and 2021, the Polygraph Unit was involved in three separate cases by conducting the post-arrest interview of the three accused and obtaining a confession in each one. Guilty pleas for the two sexual assault cases were entered and the two accused were sentenced to 5 and 7 years in 2023. The third case, was the death of a baby in which the father had been charged. The judge found him guilty relying heavily on the utterances he made during his post-arrest interview and subsequently sentenced him to 9 years for the criminal offence of manslaughter in 2023.

### **Viclas Coordinator (violent Crimes Linkage & Analysis System)**

The Viclas coordinator reports directly to the Detective-Sergeant of Special Victims Unit, this position is

responsible for collecting, reviewing, validating, and submitting the Viclas booklets completed by officers to the OPP Violent Crimes Reporting Centre. Viclas assists investigators identify serial crimes and offenders by focusing on the linkages that exist among crimes committed by the same offender.

<b>2023 Viclas Submissions</b>	
<b>Offence</b>	<b>Number of Viclas Submissions</b>
Homicide or attempts, solved or unsolved	13
Sexual Assaults, solved or unsolved	540
Non-parental abductions and attempts	12
Missing person occurrences where circumstances indicate a strong possibility of foul play and the person remains missing	0
Found human remains / unidentified body that are known or suspected to be homicide	0
Luring of a child or attempted luring of a child, solved or unsolved	5
All non-criteria Viclas submissions	75
total	645

### **Bail Compliance Dashboard Initiative**

In 2021, the Toronto Police Service provided the Durham Regional Police Service with access to its then new Firearms Bail Dashboard. Around that time, Toronto’s Firearms Bail Dashboard contained approximately 1,500 subjects on bail with firearm charges. 400 of those individuals had bail addresses outside of Toronto. 30 of them were identified as residing in Durham Region.

In July of 2022, in collaboration with TPS, DRPS launched its own Firearms Bail Dashboard which gave both services the ability to share and display firearm and bail compliance information in real time. This innovative approach, the first of its kind in Canada, helped break down geographic barriers and ultimately led to increased officer and community safety.

When the Firearm Bail Dashboard first launched in Durham, it focused solely on subjects who were on bail with charges related to firearms, murder and participation in a criminal organization. The Firearm Bail Dashboard provided frontline officers in Durham with access to real-time situational awareness and enabled them to make better, data-driven decisions.

In March of 2023, Durham’s Firearms Bail Dashboard transitioned to the Bail Compliance Dashboard. At that time, the DRPS dashboard threshold expanded to include a number of further other criminal charges, including, but not limited to, sexual assault, kidnapping, human trafficking, forcible confinement, robbery, arson, child pornography, aggravated assault and assault with a weapon.

As Durham’s dashboard continues to develop and evolve, the number of dashboard subjects that are identified and monitored through bail compliance checks steadily increases.

227 – Subjects on the Firearm Bail Dashboard (November 2022)

440 – Subjects on the Bail Compliance Dashboard (July 2023)

555 – Subjects on the Bail Compliance Dashboard (March 2024)

Of the 555 subjects currently on Durham’s Bail Compliance Dashboard, 154 are living in the Durham Region with firearm-related charges. There are also 91 identified subjects in Durham with ankle monitors

and 51 subjects on bail with DRPS-laid firearm charges who live in other jurisdictions. All of those individuals are tracked by Durham's Bail Compliance Dashboard.

As the Bail Compliance Dashboard grows and awareness of it spreads, more and more officers continue the new application to help support and guide bail compliance check efforts. As a result, overall DRPS bail compliance check numbers have dramatically increased.

1,127 – Bail compliance checks in 2021

1,688 – Bail compliance checks in 2022 (DRPS Bail Compliance Dashboard launched in July of 2022)

3,396 – Bail compliance checks in 2023

In 2024, the Bail Compliance Dashboard moved under the Offender Management Unit's umbrella. Going forward in 2024, the Bail Compliance Dashboard project will continue to grow and remove communication barriers between police agencies. TPS and DRPS will also continue to partner and communicate with law enforcement agencies across Ontario in an effort to help strengthen the overall bail system and expand this initiative province-wide.

## INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

### Investigative Services

Investigative Services is comprised of the Criminal Investigative Branch (CIB), Financial Crimes Unit (FCU), Robbery Unit, and Human Trafficking Unit (HTU). The CIB offices, located in each Division, handle investigations including shootings, sudden deaths, serious assaults, sexual assaults, missing persons, arsons, and frauds. In 2022, CIB conducted several long-term projects and regularly supported our Homicide Unit with their investigations.

### CIB - Auto thefts

Since 2018 Durham Region has experienced a 193% growth in stolen vehicles. In 2018 there were 511 vehicles taken with average of 43 a month. In 2023 we averaged 29 a week or 125 a month. With theft of motor vehicles, the trend over the next year into 2025, is anticipated that the total number of stolen in Durham to exceed 1600 vehicles.

DRPS has worked to combat this issue with many successes in 2023. Investigative Services, with Criminal Investigations and the Financial Crimes Unit, have been the driving force in these investigations. They are intensive and require the coordination of mobile surveillance, tracking warrants, search warrants, witnesses, and video provided by the public. Project KINGMAKER in East Division CIB targeted a group of criminals stealing larger SUVs. After a five month period, four people were charged with 26 criminal offences. The offences included fraudulent documents as well as a fake firearm.

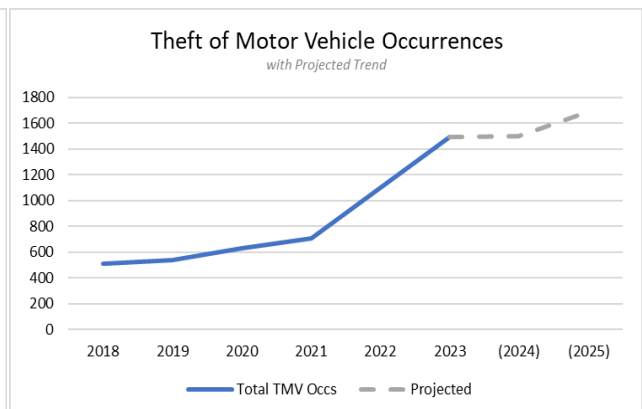
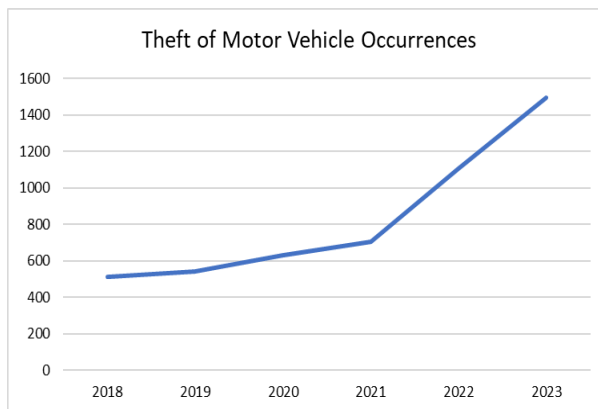
Project LEEDS was led by the Financial Crimes Unit and focused on motor vehicles that were stolen in Durham, but remained in Canada. It should be noted DRPS and partners estimate that almost 50% of all vehicles stolen in Ontario stay in Canada as fraudulent or re-VIN'd vehicles. Project LEEDS identified over 100 stolen vehicles with 40 vehicles recovered for a value exceeding \$1.5 million. These recovered vehicles were located from Nova Scotia to British Columbia.

In the fall of 2023, through a Provincial Auto Theft (PAT) Grant, DRPS received \$900,000 from the provincial government to start Project ATTIRE. This Project will centralize all stolen vehicle investigations

in the region and coordinate all activities to combat this issue plaguing our community. Community initiatives, education and working with our partner, Equite, will also be the responsibility of Project ATTIRE. After a year of Project ATTIRE, DRPS will be doing an assessment of the impact of this Project, and whether it should be part of the regular funding of the Service, when the Provincial Grant is concluded in March 2026.

Theft of Motor Vehicle	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	*2024
Total TMV Occs	511	540	630	707	1103	1495	251
% Change Year over Year		6%	17%	12%	56%	36%	
Monthly Average	43	45	53	59	92	125	126
Weekly Average	10	10	12	14	21	29	29

\*2024 numbers are to the end of Feb.



## **Financial Crimes Unit**

There were 3890 Fraud related occurrences reported in 2023, including both primary and secondary offences. Compared to 2022, that is an increase of 24%. The Financial Crimes unit was assigned 449 new occurrences to investigate. As a result, 77 arrests were made and 676 charges have been laid by the Financial Crimes Unit.

### **Unit Highlights:**

Detective Constable Laura Middleton was the first Runner Up winner of the 2023 IAFCI International Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for her work investigating Grandparent Scams. She not only led this investigation, but recognized this was a problem across the country and was instrumental in bringing together investigators from across Canada to share information and assist each other in their investigations. She progressively launched a partnership with other organizations to roll out a fraud prevention and education initiative. Through this initiative, 211 Navigators received fraud prevention training, and are now able to provide support, advice, and referral to anyone suspecting they may be a victim or target of fraud. This is an amazing accomplishment as Laura has been chosen from multiple submissions throughout North America.

### **211 Fraud Awareness Community Engagement Initiative**

FCU working in cooperation with Victim Services successfully obtained funding for 30,000 Fraud Awareness magnets, and two Fraud Awareness banners. Of special note, the banner is interactive and has a QR Code that when scanned, will take the viewer to the Fraud Alert section on the DRPS website.



The fundamental themes for this initiative are to engage the community, raise awareness of fraud, prevent victimization, and address the needs of the vulnerable sector of the population within the Durham Region.

#### **TWITTER CHAT #FraudChat @smarter\_money**

FCU members joined in the Ontario Securities Commission's Investor Office initiative, Get Smart About Money, to help people make informed financial decisions by partaking in Twitter conversations with participants from law enforcement, regulatory partners and community and industry organizations.

March – Fraud Prevention Month – Social Media awareness

June – World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – Social Media Awareness

#### **Robbery Unit**

In 2023, the Robbery Unit investigated 45 commercial robberies and 14 carjacking's involving a weapon. That is up 2% compared to the previous year. The Robbery Unit also made 55 arrests and laid 309 charges in 2023 for robbery occurrences reported in 2022 and 2023. Firearms were used in 29% of the Robberies in 2023 and 61% of Carjacking's involved the use of a weapon.

#### **Unit Highlights:**

In June 2023, Members of the Robbery Unit developed a presentation to be delivered to financial institution employees. The presentation was designed to educate bank employees on what to do in the event of a robbery. The presentation focused on methods to ensure safety of all employees and clients, as well as ways to assist investigators with the investigations. Presentations and interaction with unit members was well received, leading to requests from other financial institutions to receive the presentations.

#### **Human Trafficking Unit / CARE**

In 2023, the Human Trafficking Unit investigated 289 incidents that involved elements of human trafficking. Of these incidents, 235 individuals (120 under 18 years of age) were assisted/provided services, either due to their involvement in human trafficking or their risk of becoming involved in human trafficking-related activity. As a result of these investigations, 138 charges were laid, and 81 accused/people of interest were identified. Compared to 2022, this represents an 4% increase in investigations and a 4% increase in victims.

#### **Unit Highlights:**

In July 2023, the Human Trafficking Unit released a HT Dashboard that is geared towards frontline members. Frontline officers are typically the first point of contact with a victim and play a vital role in identifying incidents of human trafficking as well as providing crucial information to the HTU. The dashboard was created to keep members apprised of details related to ongoing investigations, in addition to supplying information concerning potential officer safety concerns. The dashboard is posted to E-Parade on a weekly basis and provides up-to-date information on our high-risk frequent missing people, at-risk individuals, persons of interest, C.A.R.E. cases and HTU statistics. A table containing all past and present C.A.R.E cases will allow frontline members, as well as members in other units, to see all individuals who are either being actively monitored and supported by the HTU, or who have previously been active with the Unit, but no longer need support/meet the threshold for involvement with the C.A.R.E. Unit.

CRIME STOPPERS - HT SIGNS - Members of the DRPS CARE Team, in collaboration with Durham Regional Crime Stoppers and the Region of Durham continued raising awareness about human trafficking (HT) with new signage in Whitby and Oshawa.

Large signs have been installed along the 401 corridor on Consumers Drive in Whitby (Motel 6) and Bloor Street West in Oshawa (Comfort Inn). These locations were selected as HT “hot spots” after an analysis of HT incidents. Permanent signage was created in an effort to raise awareness about human trafficking, and provide a constant reminder to all those traveling within these areas.

## **MONDAY NIGHT PROJECT**

The Monday Night Project (MNP) was created by the HTU in March 2023. The MNP is a safe space drop-in group, held biweekly for street sex workers (victims of sex trafficking and/or women at risk). The HTU works collaboratively with the Region of Durham, CAREA, Victim Services of Durham Region and DUO drop-in staff to provide the attendees with access to reporting of ‘bad dates’ and other offences, information sharing, housing access, clothing, food and harm reduction.

Agencies involved: 16

Individuals: 152

Total Attendees: 265

Members from the Human Trafficking Unit also presented at the following conferences:

OSCE

April 18th, 2023– National Leadership to end Human Trafficking – Virtual Presentation

Spring and Winter 2023 - OSCE Training Conference– Netherlands and Iceland Presented at a 3-day training on “Technology –facilitated trafficking in human beings” (Presenters from Canada - DRPS HT, PPSC and RCMP)

OPC

Teaching on HT Course – 2023 – (HT investigators)

## **OASIS – Older Adult Support Investigative Services**

In 2023 DRPS proactively responded to this change with the permanent establishment of the OASIS Unit. This unit is focused on supporting the needs of older adults through collaboration with community partners. Once the collaboration is established, investigators then focus on criminal code matters to reduce abuse and/ or hold the abuser accountable, as appropriate. The unit is established with one detective and two detective constables. The unit works closely with DRPS Mental Health Support Unit (MHSU, the Region of Durham Social Worker, regulatory authorities including the RHRA and Ministry of Long-Term Care, Investigations and Prosecution Unit, AG Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee, and other community partners.

A key element of the unit mandate is awareness training for the public, interest groups, professionals and police. This activity happens throughout the year in response from the host organization i.e., 2023- 93 presentation to audience total over 2,100. So far in 2024 there are 45 presentations scheduled.

## **CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH**

The Criminal Intelligence Branch is an integral part of the Serious and Organized Crime Section and underpins many investigations across the organization. Managed within the Intelligence Branch are support units which include Surveillance teams, Warrant Liaison, Lawful Access and Information Management

Units; these units are assigned on a priority basis and focused on prioritizing responses to the most serious threats to public safety. Additionally, the Criminal Intelligence Branch manages information that is collected, assessed, and disseminated to effectively embrace intelligence-led policing. Members of enforcement teams utilize focused intelligence-led enforcement initiatives based on Threat Assessment/Evidence.

### **Innovation and Modernization**

The Technical Services Section (TSS) of the DRPS continues to strive to be at the forefront of the modernization of Policing. TSS focused on three main components over the year, including; the creation of the Covert Access Interception Team (CAIT), Increasing capabilities of the Lawful Access Unit (LA) and acquiring new and innovative technology.

Through the creation of a CAIT unit the DRPS will continue to be leaders in investigative innovation; providing the best service possible to our communities. With the use of the techniques available through the development of CAIT we will ensure that investigative teams have the tools and resources in place to gather evidence needed to prosecute those who engage in criminal activity. CAIT will directly support every major investigation with options for solving more complex technical problems and advance the capability of law enforcement in the area of lawful interception of private communication.

LA engages in advanced lawful interception and related investigative steps. With the ever changing and advancements in technology LA has increased staffing and has acquired specialized training for its members in order to maintain a high level of success and modernize the manner in which intercepted data is obtained, ingested and processed for investigations and court processes. The increase in staffing and training has a broad impact on the entire Police Service providing continuous skilled products such as transcribing, Part VI monitoring, video review, subscriber database and training to sworn and civilian members.

Through training and partnerships TSS has been able to continually advance the methods and techniques employed to solve serious criminal offences. TSS has acquired advanced technological equipment that assists in collecting evidence. One example of this was the acquisition of the Cell Site Simulator (CSS). The CSS is operated through the CAIT unit. The CSS has numerous applications, including identification and locating devices. This will provide investigative benefits to the DRPS, but also have an impact on community safety by using the CSS to locate the devices of missing or vulnerable persons in our community. Intelligence Management Unit continues to work with investigators, creating and simplifying disclosure obligations, while ensuring robust security is in place to protect intelligence materials.

### **Intelligence Operations Section (IOS)**

IOS is responsible for the management and dissemination of information, the team works collaboratively with all Provincial and Federal partners. The IOS team is responsible for the monitoring of social media and leveraging technology to maximize community safety initiatives. In 2023 significant efforts were placed to provide specialized training to Divisional members to alleviate the gap in intelligence gathering. The allocation of secure computers, accompanied by training ensures the protection of tactics and DRPS infrastructure. The use of OSINT computers and training will continue into 2024.

IOS is committed to supporting the community and our members in investigating hate-motivated incidents. As a part of HCEIT (Hate Crime Extremism and Incident Team), an IOS liaison collaborates closely with 18 police services across Ontario, ensuring smooth information exchange and offering assistance where necessary in ongoing investigations. IOS takes an active role in divisional parades, providing crucial training on hate crime investigations and tracking. Offering support to members in hate-related investigations by carefully reviewing each report and providing constructive feedback, providing necessary resources such as training opportunities, credited courses, and access to conferences. IOS is working on

developing a template to assist the service and frontline members in inputting and retrieving information, providing more detailed and accurate reports. This template will assist in the tracking and reporting of hate-related incidents.

### **Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU)**

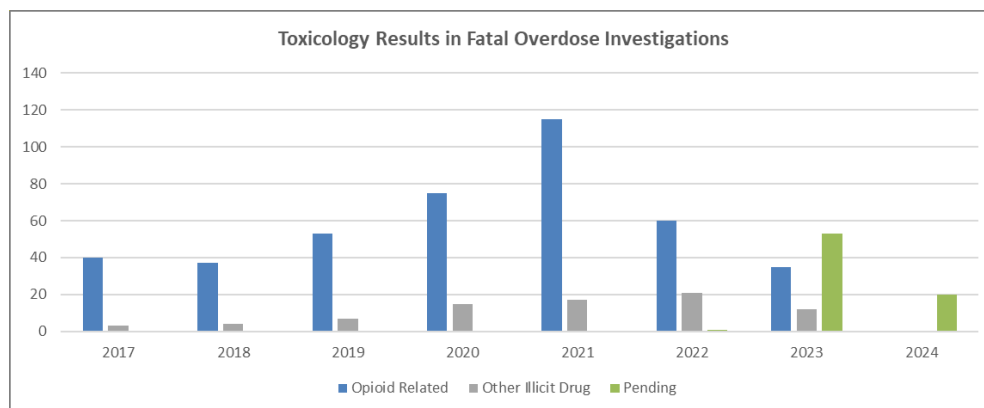
The Criminal Intelligence Branch continued to focus on traffickers and criminal networks responsible for the distribution and importation of controlled substances primarily fentanyl, heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine. The networks identified are often embedded in communities across the province, and through the use of intelligence and open communication, the team ensures a collaborative global response. In 2023 the DEU received considerable financial support from Provincial partners running projects Verdin Pandora and Econoline. As a result of these 3 projects investigators seized controlled substances with a street value of more than 9 million dollars the primary commodities being cocaine and fentanyl. These projects would not be possible without the funding provided by CISO and our external partner agencies.

DEU members routinely provide presentations to police and non-police audiences across the province. This includes regular presentations on best practices during opioid investigations to aspiring drug officers at the Ontario Police College, and educating Durham Region EMS employees on street level opioid trends.

The Intelligence Branch has been tracking the overdose/sudden death rates relating to opioid abuse (including illicit fentanyl and heroin) since 2014. Partners in this practice include the Drug Enforcement Unit, Investigative Services, and Forensic Investigative Services. These statistics have been used in a number of educational and awareness presentations to inform our health care officials, emergency services personnel, the judiciary, and the general public on the status of the opioid health crisis and the dangers of Fentanyl.

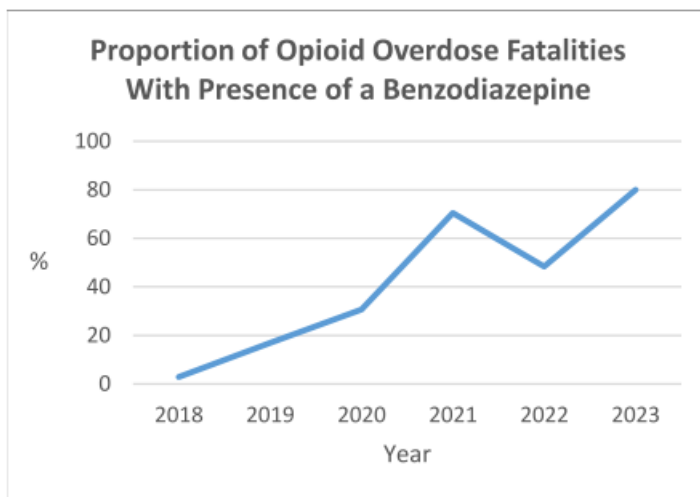
According to the Durham Region Opioid Information System (DROIS), RDPS responded to an increasing number of suspected opioid overdose calls for service every year from 2017 until hitting a peak in 2021. Annual call volume dropped in 2022, which continued through the first quarter of 2023. However, by mid-May in 2023 weekly call volume began steadily increasing and hit a monthly high in December. This contributed to the overall annual call volume being 25% higher in 2023 than in 2022. This trend has continued into 2024; during the first two months of the year, RDPS calls for service have been 90% higher than the same time last year, and have also surpassed the high call volumes experienced in 2021 by 50%

The number of overdose-related deaths investigated by DRPS also peaked in 2021, at 132 cases. Of those, 115 fatalities were attributed to opioid overdose, 107 of which were Fentanyl-related. In 2022, DRPS investigated 82 drug overdose-related deaths, 60 of which were confirmed as opioid-related. Toxicology results from 2023 investigations are still being compiled. So far 35 deaths have been confirmed as drug overdoses in 2023, 32 of which were Fentanyl-related.



The emergence of substances such as Benzodiazepines, Sedatives and Nitazenes have served to further contaminate the street level fentanyl supply and has contributed to overdose death rates across Canada, as these substances are not counteracted by Naloxone.

The Benzodiazepine trend is mirrored in opioid drug fatalities in Durham Region. The proportion of fatal opioid overdoses where toxicology reports show a presence of Benzodiazepine in the blood have increased significantly since 2018 when there was only one instance. Since then, Benzodiazepines have been present in 31% of deaths in 2020 and 70% of deaths in 2021. In the 60 confirmed opioid overdoses in 2022, 29 contained a Benzodiazepine (48%). In 2023, Bromazolam was detected in 28 of the 35 confirmed opioid overdose deaths (80%)



Members are embedded within the Drug Treatment Court and collaborate with the treatment team to reduce recidivism and promote the recovery of the participant. The police liaison officer performs a vital role which ensures the integrity of the program. By doing background checks on potential referrals police are able to prevent traffickers from entering the program and avoiding accountability while keeping the resources available for those who struggle with addiction. Additionally, by consistently monitoring the participants, the liaison officer identifies high risk situations which could impede their recovery and keeps the accountable to the court. Participating on the Opioid Task Force officers work with a diverse cross-section of community partners; including treatment providers, harm-reduction workers, public health and Ontario Tech University to develop strategies to address the opioid crisis. DRPS members recently undertook preparing a process map illustrating the variety of arrest circumstances to identify where treatment interventions and referrals could be made. This led to the circulation of information regarding PCOP so officers who release someone on the street or from cells could (on consent) share contact information with PCOP as a gateway to treatment services.

### **Gun and Gang Unit**

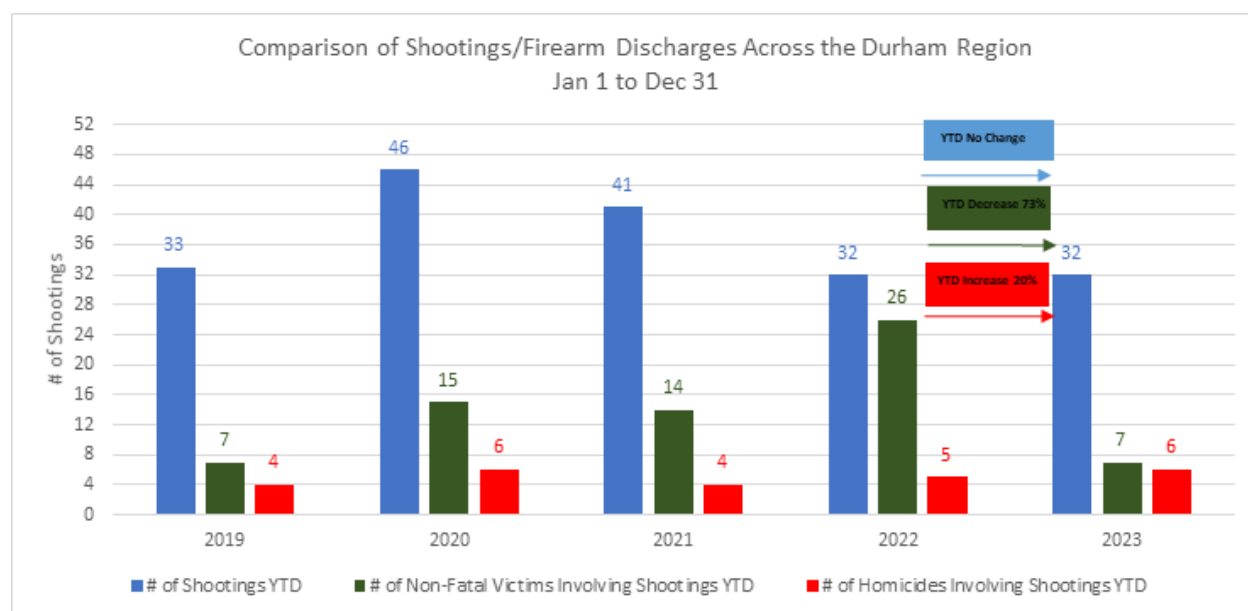
The Gun and Gang Unit has developed a strong knowledge and understanding of the current Privately Made Firearm (PMF) market. In addition to being involved in a variety of different PMF cases the unit has purchased a 3D printer and continues to be involved in creating and testing firearm parts. This expanding and ever-changing market provides illicit firearm owners with very stable firearms that are untraceable to law enforcement. Investigators have shared their knowledge of this market with members of law enforcement nationally through our membership in the Provincial Expert Advisory Committee on Organized Crime (PEACOC) and provincially on the Firearms Verification and Gun and Gang Investigator courses hosted through the Ontario Police College.

Education and mentorship have continued to be a priority for the Criminal Intelligence Branch. Members of the Gun and Gang Unit continued to provide training related to firearm and street gang trends on a variety of courses to front line and investigative members. Additionally support, guidance and mentorship continued with uniform members, community resource teams, criminal investigative bureaus and the homicide unit. Members of the Gun and Gang Unit regularly assist with shooting investigations and the

seizure of authorized and unauthorized firearms by providing recourses and sharing valuable knowledge about best practices and common law changes.

In 2023, the Gun and Gang unit continued to develop and expand the Gang Liaison Officer program that is funded with the Community Safety and Policing Grant. This program has created additional training opportunities that increase awareness around gun and gang related activities and gang prevention in our youth. In 2024 training will be provided to an approximately 40 front line members. Relationships between front line patrol, school liaison officer, Crown Attorneys, Probation and Parole Services, and other stakeholders have continued to be developed to ensure successful prosecutions and appropriate custodial sentences upon conviction, as well as managing rehabilitation and prevention efforts. This support and mentorship provide a strong commitment to community safety by increasing knowledge and confidence across the police service, thereby improving the service they provide to our communities.

Although there was a decrease (22%) in the number of crime guns seized by DRPS in 2023 compared to the previous year, the number of seizures remained high compared to the average over the last 5 years (increase of 17%). There were 32 Firearm Discharges/Shootings in 2023 which was consistent with numbers from 2022. Victims decreased by 58% with non-fatal injuries from shootings decreasing from 26 victims in 2022 to 7 victims in 2023. The number of homicide victims from shootings increased by 25% from five in 2022 to six in 2023.



## CONCLUSION

The activities and lessons learned from our decades of community policing experience are inventoried and maintained in order to inform future initiatives and to develop our newest leaders. Furthermore, the support of our Strategy, Research and Organization Performance Unit ensures that we use evidence-based approaches in our decision-making and in the evaluation of our results.

Sir Robert Peel wrote, “The police are the public and the public are the police”. We recognize that our strength comes from our community and its members. We strive to work with each community to ensure that Durham Region has the safest community in which to live, work and play. The DRPS is exceptionally proud of our community policing results and appreciates the strong engagement of the communities we serve.

### Report Approval Details

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This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Peter MOREIRA