

"PUBLIC AGENDA"

TO: Darlene Brander, Chairperson
Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Troy Cooper
Office of the Chief of Police

DATE: 2018 April 06

SUBJECT: Missing Persons Reporting
September 30, 2017 – April 1, 2018

FILE: 2,007-2

Exhibit: *National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*

Location/Phase: Part 2 Regina

Witness: Clive Weighill

Submitted by: Ashley Smith

Add'l info: P02P02P0301

Date: JUN 27 2018

Initials

I/D

Entered

53

62

ISSUE:

The Board of Police Commissioners has requested the Saskatoon Police Service (SPS) provide bi-annual statistics on missing persons in Saskatoon including the number of missing persons, the location of where they were reported missing, the number of habitual runaways, and proactive steps to prevent people from going missing. This report includes statistical information from September 30, 2017 to April 1, 2018.

RECOMMENDATION:

That this report be received as information.

DISCUSSION:

Throughout the course of this reporting period the Missing Person Unit has continued to identify patterns in the types, frequencies and issues regarding who, where, and when missing person files are reported to the SPS. The following report breaks down those statistics categorically; presenting them in a clear and concise manner illustrating the discoveries made by the Unit.

Overall

In total, the SPS has received 1603 missing person reports from September 30, 2017 to April 1, 2018. In expanding the number, this pace would result in a 12 month total of 3206 missing person reports. During this reporting period, missing persons were the seventh most frequent call for service to the SPS and generated the third most frequent investigations.

Female Youth

In this reporting period there have been 868 instances of female youth (under 18) reported missing. Among this category 780 of these reports involved a habitual missing person (reported missing two times or more) accounting for 90 percent of that type of call for service.

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Among these 780 habitual runaway cases, 10 females, who all reside in group/foster care homes, account for 298 of the occurrences (38 percent). Those 10 females have generated 20 or more missing person reports, with 4 accounting for 30 or more. One female generated 46 missing person reports.

Male Youth

In this reporting period there have been 475 instances of male youth (under 18) being reported missing. Among this category 415 of these reports involved a habitual missing person (2 times or more) accounting for 87 percent of that type of call for service.

Among these 415 habitual runaway cases 10 males, all of whom reside in group/foster care homes, account for 218 of those calls for service (53 percent). Of those 10 males, all of them have each generated 10 or more missing person reports in this reporting period. With two youth accounting for 37 and 36 calls respectively.

Adults

By comparison adult missing person cases very rarely fall under the definition of habitual. In fact, with the exception of eloped certified mental health patients, out of 260 instances, 13 adults had a repeat missing person report generated this reporting period.

In total for this reporting period, adults have accounted for 13 percent of total missing person reports. The breakdown is 122 adult males compared to 138 adult females. Of those 260 adult males and females' year-to-date, 53 of those are associated to mental health facilities (20 percent of the overall adult number):

City hospitals, where many of the adult mental health missing person calls originate, have seen 59 total calls for service in this reporting period (23 percent).

Addresses

In this reporting period, the SPS attended to a total of 365 different addresses for missing person reports.

Of those 365 addresses, police attended to 108 on repeat occasions (30 percent). SPS attended to 16 of those addresses a total of 952 times (59 percent of the total 1603 missing person reports). On those occasions where SPS attended to an address multiple times, 24 of those addresses were group homes/foster care facilities and 4 different addresses for a hospital/care home facilities.

Among those 108 repeat addresses the SPS attended to 24 addresses 1027 times, including over 90 times to 3 group homes/foster care homes.

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Long Term Cases

The SPS currently has 16 long term missing person files (two months or longer). The investigation of these missing persons is shared amongst the Missing Person Unit, the Historical Case Unit and the Major Crime Unit. The assignment of the investigation is based on the circumstances associated with the disappearance. All of these files are open investigations; however, due to the investigation's age and circumstances some are inactive.

All long term missing person cases are also entered into the Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police website for public access (<https://www.sacp.ca/>). As well, all long term missing person cases are entered on the National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains website.

Historic Missing Persons.		
Name	Age When Missing	Missing Since
Kathleen Johnston	26	October 20, 1953
William Gill	23	December 21, 1981
Peter McKay	5	December 31, 1986
Marc April	26	January 31, 1987
Andrew Wiebe	40	January 11, 1988
Shirley Lonethunder	25	December 20, 1991
William Krowchuk	52	July 9, 1998
Antoine Medzech	67	December 13, 2002
Darlene Anderson	44	November 6, 2006
Ricky Riopel	48	December 25, 2008
Hamza Al-Sharief	23	December 14, 2011
Kenneth Fehr	51	November 27, 2012
Ali Rizvi	45	June 23, 2014
Kandice Singbiel	33	July 28, 2015
Jordan Walker	21	December 2, 2015
Adhliea Johnson	35	March 16, 2016

Proactive Approaches

The SPS continues to work with community organizations such as Bethany Home, Egadz and Eagle's Nest concerning missing person cases.

The Missing Person Unit continues to have a strong and open relationship with the Ministry of Social Services liaising regularly with workers and supervisors in an open exchange of information and ideas.

The media in Saskatoon continues to be very supportive. They receive multiple requests from our Service to broadcast the names and pictures of missing persons.

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Saskatoon Victim Services has a full time Missing Person Liaison. This position has been instrumental in forging relationships with the families of missing persons, particularly those of Indigenous decent.

Internally the Missing Person Unit frequently refers cases to the Saskatoon HUB in order to provide the subject increased attention from the required specialty community organizations they would otherwise be unable to provide as a two-person unit.

As noted in a previous report the SPS changed missing person policy and procedure several years ago. There is no longer a 24 hour waiting period for reporting missing persons, as well 2 additional police officers have been added to concentrate on missing persons along with our Victim Services Missing Person Liaison. Each missing person report received is reviewed by the Watch Commander and assessed for the type of response required.

The SPS has a designated a Missing Person investigator and an alternate on each patrol platoon. These four members are the first to investigate all missing persons/habitual runaways with the goal of locating these vulnerable persons as soon as possible and/or provide the Missing Person Unit with more investigative avenues once they take over the assignment. The designation of the Missing Person investigator on each platoon has made the immediate investigation into missing people more efficient and successful.

As previously reported, the Saskatchewan Police Predictive Analytics Lab housed at SPS is an added resource that the Missing Person Unit will benefit from. The inaugural project is focused on Missing Persons and the project team, involving collaborators from SPS, the Ministry of Justice, and the University of Saskatchewan, recently (March 31, 2018) completed all Year 1 project deliverables with funding provided by Defense Research and Development Canada (DRDC). These include the preliminary development of applied tools (e.g., computer interfaces) which can be used by police and community safety partners to inform decision-making, guide preventative interventions, and assist in reducing negative outcomes for persons reported missing. In Year 2 of this project, these tools will be further developed and refined with ongoing input from police and community partners. Related to this work, SPS was asked to partner with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police - Information and Communications Technology Committee (CACP-ICT) and co-host an *Open Analytics for Community Safety and Wellbeing Conference*. Conference goals and objectives include establishing a network for community safety analytics research and practice in Canada.

Operation Runaway is an interagency community partnership initiated by EGDAZ, in collaboration with the SPS, Ministry of Social Services, Saskatoon Health Authority Mental Health and Addiction Services, and other community supports (e.g., Elders, a youth mentor), that was implemented after completing the pilot stage. The project was intended to provide an integrated, supportive, and client-centered approach to assist youth who are reported missing or are running away. In this reporting period, EGADZ reports serving 33 clients and having hosted 21 support circles. Operation Runaway is working with 14 youth who have been actively engaged over the past 3 months.

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Finally, there are two newly formed focus groups that include the SPS, Ministry of Social Services, and EGADZ. EGADZ has created a Youth Committee, from Operation Runaway comprised of habitual run-away youth. The youth committee has provided them with suggestions as to what the youth need in order to prevent them from running away from their group/foster home placements. As a result, the focus groups will be reviewing recommendations from the Youth Committee and trying to implement solutions to alleviate long standing issues as well as new concerns regarding habitual run-away youth. One focus group will be trying to develop a "host home" where identified youth can receive extra support in periods where stabilization is required. The second focus group will be trying to establish definitions for missing youth versus habitual run-away youth. They will also be conducting risk assessments of youth using an assessment tool prior to reporting youth missing to the SPS.

The Missing Person Unit regularly discusses and assesses the current process of accepting and investigating missing person files. Formal process review meetings are planned in the near future to try and resolve any issues in the above noted areas.

CONCLUSION:

The SPS continues to make positive strides in regards to missing person investigations and the relationships forged out of those successes. We continue to work closely with our community partners including; group homes, Ministry of Social Services, Saskatoon Tribal Council, and Victim Services, to ensure thorough investigations, and to reduce the overall volume of Missing Person files.

Written by: Russ Friesen, Detective Inspector
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Approved by: Mark Chatterbok, Deputy Chief
Operations

Submitted by: 
Troy Cooper
Chief of Police

Dated: 
April 10 / 18