

"PUBLIC AGENDA"

TO: Darlene Brander, Chairperson
Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Troy Cooper
Office of the Chief

DATE: 2018 November 02

SUBJECT: Missing Persons Reporting
April 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018 inclusive (1st Quarter)

FILE: 2,007-2

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 April 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018.

RECOMMENDATION:

That this report be received as information.

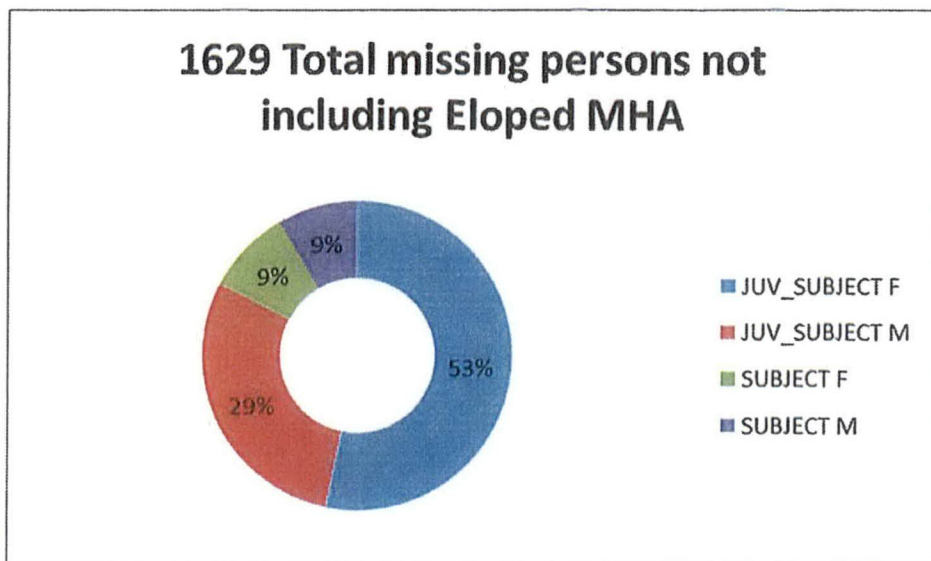
DISCUSSION:

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 1693 missing person reports from April 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018. In expanding the number, this pace would result in a 12 month total of 3386 reports generated for investigation by the Saskatoon Police Service. This includes the following numbers:

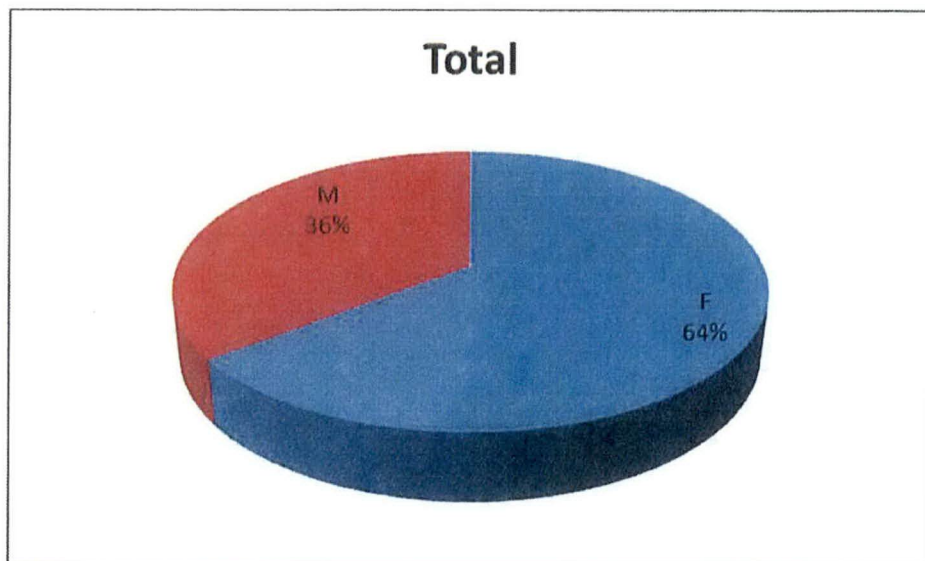
1346 Youth
283 Adults
64 Missing Eloped Persons



Female Youth

In this reporting period there have been 867 instances of female youth (under 18) reported missing. Among this category 810 of these reports involved a habitual missing person (reported missing two times or more) accounting for 93% of that type of call for service.

Among these 810 habitual runaway cases, 10 females, who all reside in group/foster care homes, account for 222 of the occurrences (27%). Those 10 females have generated 20 or more missing person reports, with 3 accounting for 25 or more. One female generated 27 missing person reports.



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Male Youth

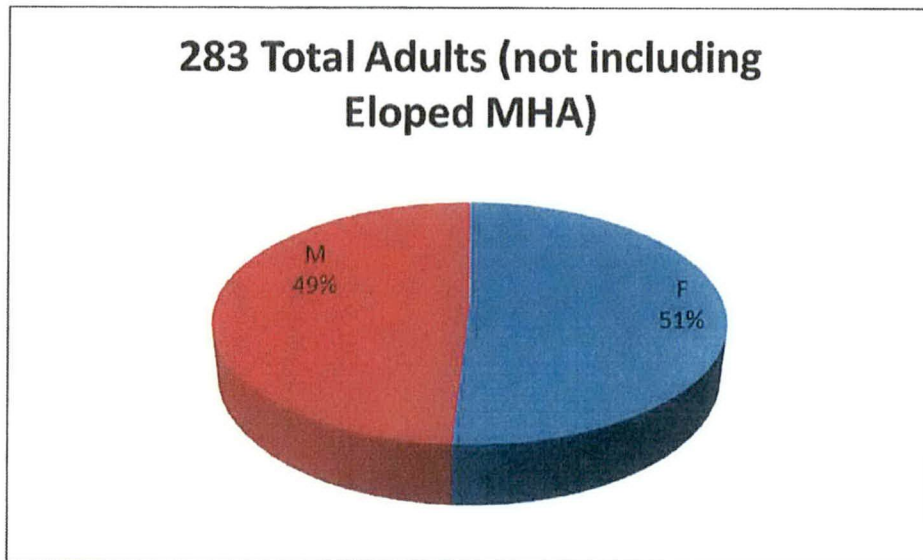
In this reporting period there have been 479 instances of male youth (under 18) being reported missing. Among this category 427 of these reports involved a habitual missing person (2 times or more) accounting for 89% of that type of call for service.

Among these 415 habitual runaway cases 10 males, all of whom reside in group/foster care homes, account for 214 of those calls for service (52%). 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 39 and 35 calls respectively.

Adults

By comparison adult missing person cases very rarely fall under the definition of habitual. The total adults reported in this period is 344. In fact, with the exception of eloped certified mental health patients, out of 283 instances, 23 adults had a repeat missing person report generated this reporting period. This can be accounted for habitual youth becoming age of majority.

In total for this reporting period, adults have accounted for 20% of total missing person reports (1693 including Elopees). The breakdown is 139 adult males compared to 144 adult females. Of those 344 adult males and females' year-to-date, 61 of those are associated to mental health facilities (17% of the overall adult number).



Addresses

In this reporting period, the SPS attended to a total of 474 different addresses for missing person reports.

City hospitals, where many of the adult mental health missing person calls originate, have seen 114 total calls for service in this reporting period (7%).

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Of 474 addresses, police attended to 27% on repeat occasions. Ten addresses comprised 37% of the missing person calls, being group homes. On those occasions where SPS attended to an address multiple times, 28 of those addresses were group homes/foster care facilities and 3 different addresses for a hospital.

Among those 126 repeat addresses the SPS attended to 28 addresses 941 times, including over 235 times to 3 group homes/foster care homes.

Long Term Cases

The SPS currently has 16 long term missing person files (2 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 investigations 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
Desmond Fischer	27	June 25 th , 2018

Proactive Approaches

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

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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.

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

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 two 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 Saskatoon Police Service 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 (SPPAL) housed at SPS; is an added resource that the Missing Person Unit will benefit from. In July 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Public Works and Government Services Canada as well as the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice regarding additional funding for further development of SPPAL (e.g., data system architecture and design). The inaugural project is focused on Missing Persons (e.g., development of applied tools for police and community safety partners). This funding agreement will provide \$937,900 over approximately two years to be used by SPS (e.g., technology services) as well as project collaborators from the University of Saskatchewan working with the Ministry of Justice on the SPPAL Missing Persons Project. This project has maintained research ethics approval from the University of Saskatchewan and work is ongoing.

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 25 clients and having hosted 29 support circles. Operation Runaway is actively working with 14 youth who have been engaged at various stages and frequency.

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Finally, two newly formed focus groups that include the Saskatoon Police Service, 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. The “Host Home” focus group is continuing their efforts to develop a home where identified youth can receive extra support in periods where stabilization is required. The second focus group has completed forming established definitions for missing youth versus habitual run-away youth. These definitions are being used in a pilot project with The Ministry of Social Services and My Homes. They are now conducting risk assessments of youth using an assessment tool prior to reporting youth missing to the Saskatoon Police Service. To date there have been 68 risk assessments completed. Of those, 26 youth were not called in as missing.

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.

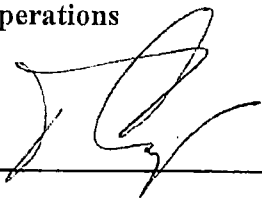
CONCLUSION:

The Saskatoon Police Service has made 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: Cst. Kimberly Donison and Sgt. David Larocque
Investigative Services Division

Approved by: Lorne Constantinoff
Inspector, Investigative Services Division

Mark Chatterbok
Deputy Chief, Operations

Submitted by: 
Troy Cooper
Chief of Police

Dated: Nov 5/18