



SASKATOON POLICE SERVICE

“PUBLIC AGENDA”

TO: Shirley Greyeyes, Chairperson
Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Cameron McBride
Office of the Chief

DATE: 2024 August 06

SUBJECT: Quarterly Crime Activity and Trends – April 1 to June 30, 2024

FILE #: 9,016

ISSUE:

To keep the Board of Police Commissioners up to date on current crime trends.

RECOMMENDATION:

That this report be received as information.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

This report supports the strategic themes of Communication and Crime and Safety by enhancing communications with the public and explaining some strategies used to combat the changing facets of crime.

DICUSSION:

This report covers the period April 1 to June 30, 2024. The Saskatoon Police Service (SPS) will provide an overview of crime activity and trends which are being investigated. Some of the highlights will carry on from the Quarter 1 report to the Board of Police Commissioners dated May 3, 2024.

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Homicides

Saskatoon has experienced five homicides in the second quarter of 2024, homicides year to date.

	File	Date	Address	Charges	Factors
Quarter 1 of 2024					
1	24-16061	Feb 2 nd	600 block Lisgar Ave	Y	Illicit Drugs
2	24-18906	February 10 th	200 block Ave K North	Y	Argument
3	24-21779	February 17 th	200 block Ave I South	Y	Robbery (home invasion)
4	24-22666	February 19 th	200 block 20 th Street West	Y	Random Event
5	24-22540	February 19 th	1000 block Matheson Drive	Y	Not intentional
6	24-31357	March 9 th	100 block Ave T South	Y	Negligence
Quarter 2 of 2024					
7	24-47411	April 15 th	3200 block 33 rd Street West	Y	Gang Motivated
8	24-47284	April 15 th	10 block Chandler Pl	N	
9	24-47835	April 16 th	200 block Ave O South	N	
10	24-71628	June 3 rd	800 block 22 nd Street West	Y	Suspected Random Event
11	24-76275	June 12 th	400 block Forrester Rd	N	

SPS continues to place an emphasis on all of our homicide investigations including those which are longer term investigations:

- August 6, 2024 the SPS announced the recovery of Mackenzie Trottier after a three month search of the City of Saskatoon Landfill (20-132268);
- July 24, 2024 the SPS announced the laying of charges related to the murder of Nicholas Bell in 2023 (23-166734);
- June 6, 2024, the SPS announced the laying of charges related to the murder of Eagleson Thomas in 2020 (20-93175);
- January 19, 2024, the SPS announced the laying of charges related to the murder of Darren Greschuk in 2006 (06-71839).

Interpersonal Violence

The Interpersonal Violence Section is divided into four areas having 14 employees assigned within it:

- The Sex Crimes Unit
- The Child Abuse Unit
- The Domestic Violence Unit
- Violent Crime Linkage Analysis System (ViCLAS) Detail

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The investigations of the Interpersonal Violence Section are very complex with the risk of inflicting additional trauma on victims through the sharing of these investigations. With this in mind this report will have a focus on some specific initiatives conducted by the Section:

- The investigation of 6 historical sexual assaults reported in the second quarter of 2024.
- Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review (VACR)
 - The VACR, which is supported by the Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety, is a collaborative process which allows community experts to work with the SPS on closed sexual assault files and help determine challenges and identify opportunities to improve investigation outcomes in cases that were deemed unfounded.
 - Thus far in 2024 the VACR process has reviewed 109 investigations resulting in recommendations about training for front line responders, standardized practices, and training to better meet the needs of person with complex health or unique cognitive needs.
- The ViCLAS Detail conducts linkage analysis of certain violent crime types in an effort to identify persons of interest who may be responsible for the crime. The analyst will forward the information to the investigator for follow-up. The ViCLAS Detail is also linked to the Provincial ViCLAS Center to ensure the sharing of information across policing organizations.

The 2024 Mid-Year Business Plan update identifies that the SPS is developing an Intimate Partner Violence Response Team to better respond to intimate partner violence (Goal 1, Activity 1.1.1). This initiative is being developed to co-produce community safety with a non-government organization with the goal to intervene early in the cycle of intimate partner violence in order to reduce victimization. When in place this initiative is expected to have a positive impact, reducing incidents of reported violence to the SPS. In this quarter reported assaults remain significantly higher than the five-year average.

Warrant to Arrest Investigations

The Coroner Inquest into the Death of Myles Sanderson had as one of its recommendations that the Saskatoon Police Service consider establishing a dedicated team tasked with arresting individuals who are subject to outstanding warrants to arrest. In June 2024 the SPS reviewed its submissions to the Canadian Police Information Centre for persons with warrants to arrest which showed that the SPS has entered 6,494 people onto the system, many of whom had multiple warrants to arrest for them. Having a targeted approach to the investigation of warrants to arrest is also expected to have a positive impact, reducing violent crimes reported to the SPS as the persons responsible for those crimes will be less likely to be at large in the public domain. This initiative is also expected to reduce reported violent crime, which includes assaults, to the SPS.

This recommendation was one consideration into an Operational Plan, Project CLAMPDOWN.

Project CLAMPDOWN

The pillars of project included:

1. To provide a highly visible presence and enforcement within identified hotspots or areas of significant crime;
2. To assist Patrol by providing assistance for in-progress priority violent crimes;
3. To execute high priority violent offender fugitive arrest warrants and/or court-imposed condition checks.

The results of the Project included:

Measured Activity:

- Generated 567 calls for service;
- Investigated 261 warrant to arrest of priority violent offenders;
- Assisted Patrol on 123 in-progress calls for service;
- Self-generated 110 investigations including proactive stops (traffic stops, bylaw enforcement) or door knocks on individuals subject to a warrant to arrest;
- 73 high visible hotspot walkthroughs;
- 117 arrests, in partnership with Patrol;
- 182 new charges on 61 individuals.

Items seized:

- 19 knives/machetes;
- 8 firearms (5 imitations, 2 sawed off .22cal, and 1 homemade staple gun .22cal);
- 7 bear sprays;
- 5 other weapons;
- 3 blunt instruments;
- A number of drugs, ammunition, stolen property, and illegal cigarettes were also seized.

Tactical Support Unit (TSU) Warrant Assignment

Since the inception of a full time TSU these officers have been deployed in support of Patrol operations when not engaged in a tactical operation. The TSU worked in support of Project CLAMPDOWN and since July 1st they have redeployed to conduct warrant to arrest investigations when not engaged in a tactical operation. These investigations are aimed towards arresting persons who have a warrant to arrest for a violent crime; such as assault, sexual assault and assault with a weapon. The operational premise is that this focus will reduce incidents of violent crime and re-victimization by arresting persons who are alleged to have committed these crimes in the past.

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After three weeks of operations the TSU Warrant Assignment has had the following results:

- 24 persons arrested;
- 66 total investigations on outstanding warrant to arrests.

A typical investigation could involve any number of investigational leads, for example:

- Door knocks at last known address;
- Follow-up with neighbors, friends, and family;
- Background checks using open source information such as social media;
- The development of confidential source information;
- Information sharing with other SPS investigators or other police agencies;
- Follow-up with other government agencies.

The SPS continues to work with other police agencies and prosecutors to ensure it has the proper procedures and practices in place to ensure warrants to arrest are investigated properly including being able to demonstrate to the courts that the SPS is taking consistent and demonstrable steps to bring persons into custody.

CONCLUSION:

The SPS recognizes that violent crime continues to be a community wide concern which requires a coordinated approach and a combination of proactive and reactive measures to provide a safe and secure community for everyone.

ATTACHMENTS:

Quarterly Statistical Board Report – Quarter 2

Investigation Profile 1 - *Campground Robbery*

Investigation Profile 2 - *Robbery Investigation Links other Incidents*

Investigation Profile 3 - *Crime Reduction Team - Enforcement Project*

Written and

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Submitted by: Cameron McBride, Chief of Police

	Quarter 2				2019-2023 5-Year Avg
	2024	2023	Actual Change	% Change	
VIOLENT CRIMES					
Homicides	5	4	1	25%	3
Attempted Murder	-	2	(2)	-1	1
Sexual Violations	138	134	4	3.0%	115
Commodification of Sex Activity	-	3	(3)	-100.0%	6
Assaults	785	731	54	7.4%	592
Robbery	153	110	43	39.1%	84
Criminal Harassment (Stalking)	67	40	27	67.5%	44
Uttering Threats	111	118	(7)	-5.9%	110
Kidnapping/Hostage Taking/Abduction	19	14	5	35.7%	18
Other Violent Crimes	42	38	4	10.5%	26
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIMES	1,320	1,194	126	10.6%	999
PROPERTY CRIMES					
Arson	35	30	5	16.7%	30
Break and Enter - Residential	179	219	(40)	-18.3%	215
B&E-Residential Detached Building	125	184	(59)	-32.1%	131
Break and Enter - Non Residential	178	305	(127)	-41.6%	263
Break and Enter to Steal Firearm	-	6	(6)	-100%	4
Theft Over \$5,000	74	107	(33)	-30.8%	47
Theft Under \$5,000	2,074	2,218	(144)	-6.5%	1649
Theft of Motor Vehicle	219	309	(90)	-29.1%	246
Possession of Stolen Property	95	103	(8)	-7.8%	90
Fraud	589	623	(34)	-5.5%	510
Graffiti	98	93	5	5.4%	87
Mischief/Wilful Damage	871	855	16	1.9%	636
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIMES	4,537	5,052	(515)	-10.2%	3908
OTHER CRIMES					
Controlled Drug and Substance Act	118	103	15	14.6%	166
Weapons Possession	263	272	(9)	-3.3%	219
Firearm Administration	5	4	1	25%	6
Other Criminal Code	1,715	2,271	(556)	-24.5%	1840
Criminal Code Traffic	210	168	42	25.0%	165
TOTAL OTHER CRIMES	2,311	2,818	(507)	-18.0%	2396

Note: Data was taken from the RMS on July 12, 2024. Crime and other statistics are constantly being updated. As a result, previous data may differ from previously published reports.

 SASKATOON POLICE SERVICE BE THE DIFFERENCE	Quarterly Statistical Board Report				
	Quarter 2, April 1-June 30,				
	Quarter 2				
	2024	2023	Actual Change	% Change	2019-2023 5- Year Avg
TRAFFIC TICKETS ISSUED					
Provincial Traffic Safety Act (except speeding)	2,687	2,589	98	3.8%	2,861
Provincial Vehicle Equipment Regulations	488	680	(192)	-28.2%	348
Other Provincial	102	84	18	21.4%	112
Other Municipal Traffic Bylaws	130	53	77	145.3%	95
Speeding (Provincial and Municipal)	934	974	(40)	-4.1%	2,572
CTSS/SPS (in Saskatoon only)	1,518	1,664	(146)	-9%	1,327
Possess,consume, distribute cannabis in vehicle	13	16	(3)	-18.8%	11
TOTAL TICKETS ISSUED	5,872	6,060	(188)	-3.1%	7,326
COLLISIONS					
Property Damage	809	843	(34)	-4.0%	785
Personal Injury	142	145	(3)	-2.1%	110
Fatality	5	1	4	N/A	1
TOTAL COLLISIONS	971	996	(25)	-2.5%	900
OTHER TRAFFIC					
Dangerous Operation of Motor Vehicle	82	68	14	20.6%	59
Impaired Operation of Motor Vehicle	67	74	(7)	-9.5%	82
Other Criminal Code Traffic	61	26	35	134.6%	24
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE TRAFFIC	210	168	42	25.0%	165
CALLS FOR SERVICE					
Total Calls for Service	41,998	40,453	1,545	4%	33,837
Dispatched	28,114	26,322	1,792	7%	22,597
Non Dispatched	13,884	14,131	-247	-2%	11,240
Note: Data was taken from the RMS on July 12th, 2024. CTSS numbers provided by the SPS Patrol Support Division. Crime and other statistics are constantly being updated. As a result, previous data may differ from previously published reports.					

	Quarter 1 & 2			
	2024	2023	Actual Change	% Change
VIOLENT CRIMES				
Homicides	10	6	4	67%
Attempted Murder	1	2	(1)	-0.5
Sexual Violations	276	261	15	5.7%
Commodification of Sex Activity	1	5	(4)	-80.0%
Assaults	1,425	1,325	100	7.5%
Robbery	260	204	56	27.5%
Criminal Harassment (Stalking)	120	77	43	55.8%
Uttering Threats	220	204	16	7.8%
Kidnapping/Hostage Taking/Abduction	32	28	4	14.3%
Other Violent Crimes	75	77	(2)	-2.6%
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIMES	2,420	2,189	231	10.6%
PROPERTY CRIMES				
Arson	57	89	(32)	-36.0%
Break and Enter - Residential	347	341	6	1.8%
B&E-Residential Detached Building	230	305	(75)	-24.6%
Break and Enter - Non Residential	333	622	(289)	-46.5%
Break and Enter to Steal Firearm	2	8	(6)	-75%
Theft Over \$5,000	134	170	(36)	-21.2%
Theft Under \$5,000	3,846	4,057	(211)	-5.2%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	423	581	(158)	-27.2%
Possession of Stolen Property	163	208	(45)	-21.6%
Fraud	1,141	1,182	(41)	-3.5%
Graffiti	138	177	(39)	-22.0%
Mischief/Wilful Damage	1,451	1,537	(86)	-5.6%
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIMES	8,265	9,277	(1,012)	-10.9%
OTHER CRIMES				
Controlled Drug and Substance Act	216	190	26	13.7%
Weapons Possession	484	474	10	2.1%
Firearm Administration	18	10	8	80%
Other Criminal Code	3,611	4,605	(994)	-21.6%
Criminal Code Traffic	369	307	62	20.2%
TOTAL OTHER CRIMES	4,698	5,586	(888)	-15.9%

Note: Data was taken from the RMS on July 12, 2024. Crime and other statistics are constantly being updated. As a result, previous data may differ from previously published reports.

 SASKATOON POLICE SERVICE BE THE DIFFERENCE	Quarterly Statistical Board Report Quarter 1&2 , Jan 1-June 30,			
	Quarter 1&2			
	2024	2023	Actual Change	% Change
TRAFFIC TICKETS ISSUED				
Provincial Traffic Safety Act (except speeding)	5,276	6,348	(1,072)	-16.9%
Provincial Vehicle Equipment Regulations	1,168	1,131	37	3.3%
Other Provincial	186	313	(127)	-40.6%
Other Municipal Traffic Bylaws	183	121	62	51.2%
Speeding (Provincial and Municipal)	1,908	2,728	(820)	-30.1%
CTSS/SPS (in Saskatoon only)			-	#DIV/0!
Possess,consume, distribute cannabis in vehicle	29	27	2	7.4%
TOTAL TICKETS ISSUED	8,750	10,668	(1,918)	-18.0%
COLLISIONS				
Property Damage	2,043	1,881	162	8.6%
Personal Injury	301	267	34	12.7%
Fatality	6	1	5	N/A
TOTAL COLLISIONS	2,376	2,160	216	10.0%
OTHER TRAFFIC				
Dangerous Operation of Motor Vehicle	156	141	15	10.6%
Impaired Operation of Motor Vehicle	118	127	(9)	-7.1%
Other Criminal Code Traffic	95	39	56	143.6%
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE TRAFFIC	369	307	62	20.2%
CALLS FOR SERVICE				
Total Calls for Service	76,663	73,748	2,915	4%
Dispatched	50,496	47,149	3,347	7%
Non Dispatched	26,167	26,599	-432	-2%

Note: Data was taken from the RMS on July 12th, 2024. CTSS numbers provided by the SPS Patrol Support Division. Crime and other statistics are constantly being updated. As a result, previous data may differ from previously published reports.



Investigation Profile #1

Campground Robbery

At around 1:20 p.m. on June 5, 2024, police were called to a campground in the 1600 block of Avenue P South for a report of an armed robbery in progress. Upon arrival, officers learned that a 75-year-old woman had been inside her camper when she saw an unknown woman stealing her bike from her campsite. When she exited her camper and confronted the suspect, the woman produced a knife and demanded the victim return to her camper. The suspect then followed the victim into the camper and proceeded to steal several of her belongings, including the keys to her truck. The victim was again held at knife-point while the suspect made her load the stolen items into the truck and demanded that she get in the back seat. As the suspect started the truck, the woman escaped to a neighbouring campsite to call for help. The suspect then fled the scene in the stolen truck. The victim was not physically injured during the robbery.

The next morning, police were called to a parking lot in the 700 block of Saskatchewan Crescent West where the stolen truck was located damaged and abandoned.

The suspect is described as an approximately 5'2" woman with a slim build and red/auburn hair that was tied in a pony tail. She was wearing black sweats with a white and blue/grey stripe down the side, a black jacket with a hood, and a black Puma backpack at the time of the robbery.



Investigation Profile #2

Robbery Investigation Links Other Incidents

On June 17, 2024 at approximately 4:50 p.m., police were called to the 600 block of Spadina Crescent East for a report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers located the 79-year-old male victim suffering from what were believed to be non-life-threatening injuries. The victim told officers he had been sitting on a bench outside of a hotel when he was approached and assaulted by two unknown youths. The suspects had fled the scene prior to police arrival.

While speaking with the man, officers were approached by a 31-year-old woman who reported being sexually assaulted by a youth male matching the same description of one of the youths from the assault.

Through continued investigation, officers later attended to the 200 block of 1st Avenue South where it was reported that a youth male from larger group of youths had stolen a fire extinguisher from a mall and attempted to steal another person's property. Officers arrived in the area and arrested two youth suspects; upon search of their persons, a knife and imitation firearm were seized.

As a result of further investigation, it was determined that the same two youth were involved in all three separate incidents. As a result, a 16-year-old male is facing charges relating to assault (x2), sexual assault, possession of a weapon, and robbery. The 11-year-old male was not charged.



Investigation Profile #3

Crime Reduction Team - Enforcement Project

As members of the Crime Reduction team were participating in a crime disruption project on the streets, they identified two subjects known to them driving a vehicle without a license. They initiated a traffic stop and as they approached the vehicle, officers immediately observed a large double-sided dagger, a set of brass knuckles, and a staple gun with a .22 caliber barrel attachment piece (also known as a zip gun) laying on the back-passenger seat. Further investigation revealed that the subjects were in possession of:

- 9.21 grams of both hard and soft cocaine, mainly prepackaged for individual sale amounts.
- 4 gabapentin pills.
- A collapsible baton.
- \$295.00 dollars in Canadian currency, consisting of 14x 20.00 bills and 3x 5.00 bills.

One of the individuals was also found to be breaching conditions to not be in possession of a weapon. The two were transported to SPS detention and 19 criminal code charges were laid against the 38-year-old male and the 31-year-old female.



Investigation Profile #4 Forrester Rd. Homicide

The SPS is investigating a homicide in the 400 block of Forrester Road.

Just after 6:00 a.m. on June 12, 2024, police received a report of an injured man. Responding officers found a man suffering from life-threatening injuries being attended to by paramedics. The 66-year-old man was transported to hospital where he later succumbed to his injuries.

Initial response included members from Major Crimes, Forensic Identification, AROs for guarding and patrol members to canvass the scene, search for weapons and identify cameras that may have recorded witnesses, suspects or other evidence.

Investigators in the Major Crime Section are asking residents living in the area of Hull Crescent (facing the school), Forrester Road, Olmstead Road, Cooper Way and Cooper Crescent to review any security cameras on their properties for signs of suspicious activity between the hours of 2:00 and 6:00 a.m. Residents are also asked to check their yards and disposal bins for discarded evidence that may be relevant to the investigation.

Investigators are searching for any information, including video surveillance, particularly in the area of the 400 block of Forrester Road. This would include any suspicious activity between 2:00 and 6:00 a.m. on June 12th.

Any information you have could assist police, all tips are valuable to investigators. Anyone with information relating to the homicide is asked to contact police directly at 306-975-8300 or submit an anonymous tip to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

Help the SPS solve crimes in your neighbourhood, sign-up for the Security Camera Registry