



SASKATOON _____
POLICE SERVICE

TO: Shirley Greyeyes, Chairperson
Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Cameron McBride
Office of the Chief

DATE: 2026 March 04

SUBJECT: Annual Missing Persons Reporting
January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

FILE #: 2,007-2

ISSUE:

As part of our annual reporting process the Saskatoon Police Service (SPS) provides statistics on missing persons in Saskatoon and the various initiatives taken to resolve missing person investigations. This report includes statistical information from January 1st to December 31st, 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

That this report be received as information.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Goal 2 of the 2025 Business Plan for SPS identifies the need to “maintain core policing operations and address community concerns” that affect public safety. Some of the underlying conditions that contribute to the high incidence of missing person investigations in our community include addictions, mental health, persons experiencing homelessness, poverty, and rapid population growth in the Saskatoon Central Metropolitan Area (CMA). Successful, missing person investigations require strong partnerships with various agencies and community groups that are in contact with and offer support to those who are missing.

Goal 5 of the 2025 Business Plan is to “enrich relationships between the Saskatoon Police Service and communities served”. SPS remains focused on the number of youths who are missing from the Ministry of Social Service’s care. As part of this strategy the Missing Person Unit (MPU) works with group homes, Social Services, and other partners in an attempt to identify why youth run, develop case plans, and connect them with supports where possible.

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In partnership with Egadz the MPU continues to promote the Missing Youth Sask App/Risk Assessment Tool which is approved for use by Social Services in group homes city wide. There has been a strong correlation between use of the app in the Egadz operated homes and a decrease in missing person reports to SPS.

DISCUSSION:

Throughout the course of this reporting period, the Missing Person Unit, with assistance from the Corporate Strategy Advisor, compiles various statistics relating to missing person reports in our community. The following report provides the statistics categorically; presenting them in a clear and concise manner while illustrating the nature of missing person investigations in Saskatoon.

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

Missing person reports received by SPS decreased by 8.1% in 2025 versus 2024.

Missing person reports received by SPS have decreased on an annual basis two years in a row.

In 2025 SPS received 970 fewer reports than 2023, or an overall decrease of 22.7%.

In 2025 youth reports decreased by 10.3% versus 2024. Adult reports decreased by 2.7% during this same time period. Eloped Patients are those individuals that have left a hospital or psychiatric unit without being discharged and who are certified by law.

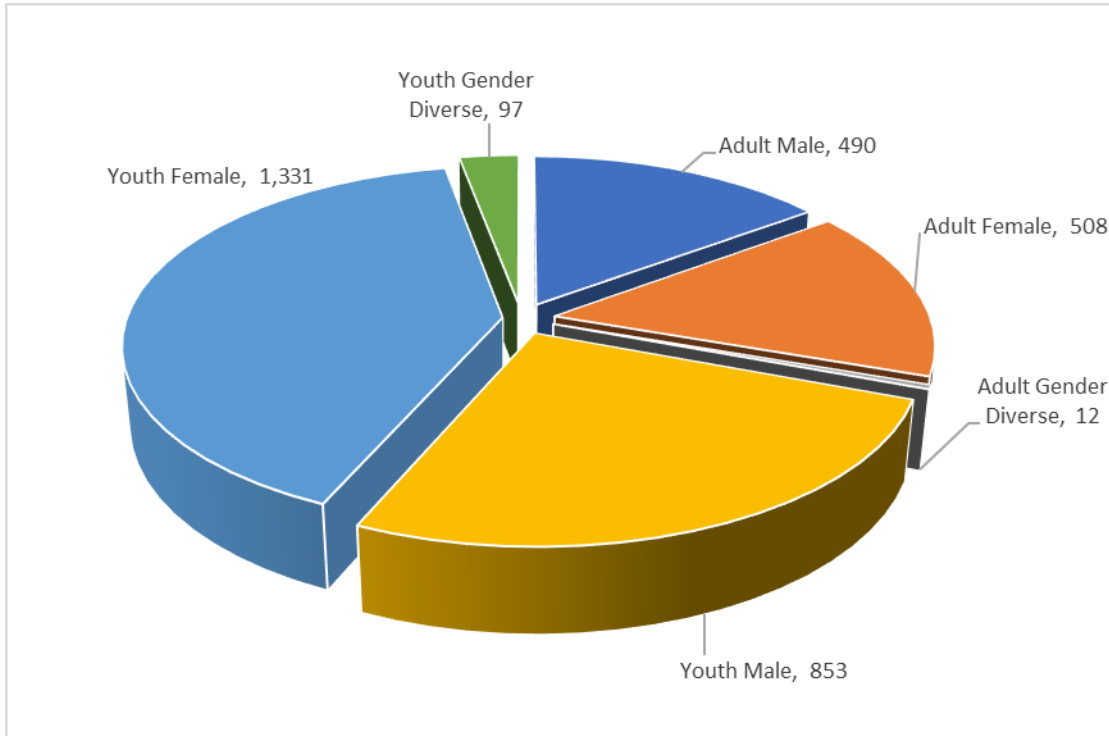
The following chart shows the comparative numbers from 2023 to 2025:

	Youth	Adult	Eloped Patients	Grand Total
2025	2,281	1,010	9	3,300
2024	2,542	1,038	10	3,590
Difference	(261)	(28)	(1)	(290)
% Change vs 2024	-10.3%	-2.7%	-10.0%	-8.1%
2023	3,351	903	16	4,270
Difference	(1070)	107	(7)	(970)
% Change vs 2023	-32.0%	11.8%	-43.4%	-22.7%

The above data is consistent with an overall reduction in missing person calls for service received in communications for 2025:

	2025	2024	Difference	% Change
Calls for Service	4,870	5,480	-610	-11.1%

Breakdown of Missing Person Subjects by Age and Gender, 2025



	Female	Male	Gender Diverse	Grand Total
Youth (under 18)	1,331	853	97	2,281
Adult	508	490	12	1,010
Grand Total	1,839	1,343	109	3,291

REPORTED MISSING PERSONS:

In the 2025 reporting period there were 3,291 missing persons, not including the eloped mental health patients. Of the 3,291 missing persons, 56% were female, 41% were male and 3% were gender diverse. Youths accounted for 69% of all reported missing persons.

Female Youth

Female youth (under 18 years old) represented 40% of all reported missing persons.

Male Youth

Male youth (under 18 years old) represented 26% of all reported missing persons.

Gender Diverse Youth

Gender Diverse youth (under 18 years old) accounted for 3% of all reported missing persons.

HABITUAL MISSING PERSONS:

A **Habitual Missing Person** is an individual who has been reported missing two or more times within the year. In this reporting period habitual missing persons accounted 69% of all missing person reports. 395 of the 1,391 individuals reported missing in 2025 were habitual.

In 2025 28% of the persons reported missing accounted for nearly seventy percent of all reports.

Female youth comprised the largest proportion of habitual missing persons, accounting for 50% of habitual missing reports. In comparison, male youth accounted for 30% of habitual missing person reports. Gender diverse youth accounted for 4% of habitual missing person reports. In total the 1,918 habitual missing youth reports accounted for 84% of all missing youth reports and 58% of all missing person reports in 2025.

Many reports involving habitual youth are mandated by the Ministry of Social Services and are for youth absent from care. Although there are often welfare concerns for these youth, it is not uncommon for these reports to involve youth whose location is believed to be known at the time of reporting. In these instances, the location is either not a residence approved by the Ministry or care home staff lack the capacity to make reasonable efforts to locate.

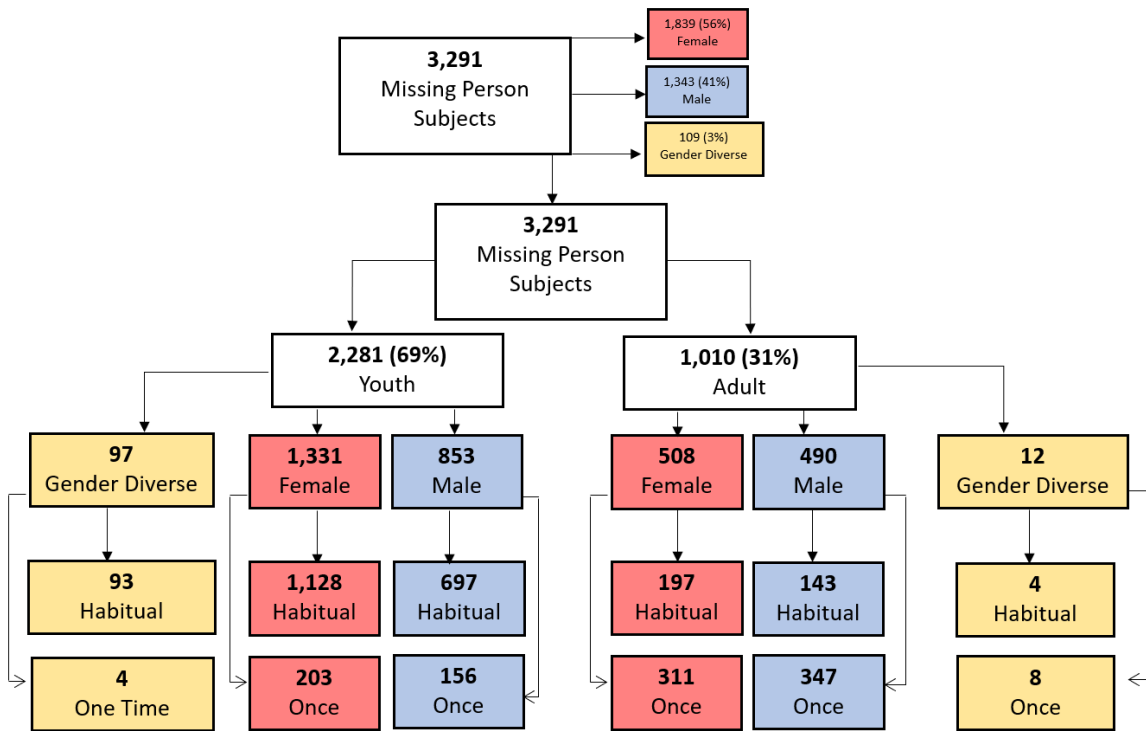
Despite these high numbers, habitual missing youth reports have declined dramatically since 2023 by 1,026 reports or 35%. Furthermore, the top 20 youth accounted for 941 reports in 2023, but declined to 578 reports in 2025.

In 2025 habitual adult reports accounted for 34% of all missing adult reports and 10% of all missing person reports.

The following table provides specifics on the gender and age classification of habitual missing person incidents:

Gender	Age Group	Habitual (2x or more)	One Time	Total
Female	Youth (Under 18)	1,128	203	1,331
	Adult	197	311	508
Male	Youth (Under 18)	697	156	853
	Adult	143	347	490
Gender Diverse	Youth (Under 18)	93	4	97
	Adult	4	8	12
Grand Total		2,262	1,029	3,291

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LOCATIONS:

In this reporting period, the top 10 addresses accounted for 32% of missing person reports.

Nine out of the ten addresses below are for youth in care.

Top 10 Most Frequent MP Locations	Number of MP Reports	% of Total MP Reports
Location 1	297	9.0%
Location 2	207	6.3%
Location 3	129	3.9%
Location 4	121	3.7%
Location 5	74	2.1%
Location 6	66	2.0%
Location 7	49	1.5%
Location 8	44	1.3%
Location 9	38	1.2%
Location 10	36	1.1%
Total of Top 10 Locations	1,061	32.2%

LONG TERM MISSING PERSON INVESTIGATIONS:

The SPS currently has 21 long-term missing person investigations. All of these investigations are open investigations. Long-term missing person files remain open until the individual or their remains are located allowing for ongoing review and the submission of new information for investigative follow-up. Since the last reporting period two additional investigations have been designated long term. Of the 21 missing person investigations, 16 are male and 5 are female. Further to that, 14 are Caucasian (4 females, 10 males), 4 are indigenous (1 female, 3 males), 2 are Middle Eastern (both males) and 1 is African American/Jamaican (male).

Two of the long-term investigations being held by the Saskatoon Police Service involve Canadian citizens who are missing outside of Canada, and last seen in another country.

Where appropriate, long-term missing person investigations have been entered into the Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police website for public access (<http://www.sacp.ca/>) and Crime Stoppers.

During 2025, the Missing Person Task Force Sergeant continued to work with the National Center for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains (NCMPUR). NCMPUR is operated by the RCMP and assists law enforcement with their missing persons and unidentified remains investigations. NCMPUR offers a number of services to law enforcement. Some of the services offered include publication to Canada’s Missing, participation in the National Missing Person DNA Program (NMPDP), and assistance with international investigations. SPS has formally engaged NCMPUR services in some capacity on all long-term investigations.

One of the main services offered to law enforcement by NCMPUR is the National Missing Person DNA Program. Biological samples can be submitted to NCMPUR in order to generate DNA profiles of the missing person and or family members in an attempt to help identify remains found in Saskatchewan and or across the country. During the course of the year, SPS submitted two files to NCMPUR to have DNA profiles generated and entered into the NMPDP. Of the 21 long term files DNA has now been submitted on 19 files.

Saskatchewan Association of Cold Case Investigators (SACCI)

The Saskatchewan Association of Cold Case Investigators (SACCI) has been meeting formally as a legal entity since 2012. SACCI brings together Cold Case Investigators from across the province including the Coroner’s Office to discuss historical cases and brainstorm strategies for the benefit of unsolved investigations. Investigators from the MPU and the Historical Case Unit participate in SACCI meetings.

Saskatchewan Missing Person Partnership (SMPP)

The Missing Person Task Force Sergeant continues to participate as an active member of the Saskatchewan Missing Person Partnership (SMPP).

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Established by the Government of Saskatchewan in 2005 the SMPP is a unique, collaborative approach between community agencies, Indigenous groups, police agencies, search and rescue, and government ministries. The SMPP is chaired by the Ministry of Justice and aims to share education and awareness resources to prevent people from going missing, help coordinate policies and legislation and to support agencies that provide services for families of missing persons.

The meetings held at the beginning of the year focus on planning for Missing Persons Week that occurs at the beginning of May.

Missing Persons Week

Missing Person Week was April 27 – May 3, 2025. The theme was “Coming Together for Hope” and featured a number of events held across the province. Some of the events included SMPP sponsored activities for families in Regina, a media event to begin the week, and the annual Walk to Honour the Missing in Wascana Park.

In Saskatoon the City of Saskatoon hosted a knowledge sharing event at the Cosmo Civic Center in conjunction with Red Dress Day. Members from different areas of the Saskatoon Police Service were on hand to answer questions from the community. A Red Dress Day Walk was also held and began at the Wicanhpi Duta Win (Red Star Woman) fancy-dancer statue at SPS.

The Saskatoon Police Service also created online content during Missing Persons Week designed to bring attention to missing person investigations. Four different long-term investigations were featured on our social media. Investigators worked with families to collect photos of their loved ones and personal memories in an effort to capture the public’s attention and elicit new information.

[Eddie Burwell](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=699951332474570>

[Desmond Fischer](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1336975387379744>

[Ricky Riopel](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1413125426788016>

[Kandice Singbeil](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=693234123262847>

PROACTIVE INITIATIVES:

Community Collaboration

The SPS continues to work collaboratively with community organizations that provide essential residences, care homes and support services within Saskatoon. SPS works together on the issue of persons “missing from care” by routinely connecting with organizations, including the

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Salvation Army, Hope Restored Canada, Quint Saskatoon, Sanctum Group, St. Mary’s Emergency Shelter, Saskatoon Tribal Council, YWCA, Egadz, John Howard Society, Eagle’s Nest, Complex Needs Emergency Shelter, Prairie Harm Reduction, Ranch Ehrlo and CUMFI.

Operation Runaway

Operation Runaway was developed in the spring of 2017 as an interagency community partnership initiated by Egadz, in collaboration with the SPS, Ministry of Social Services, Saskatoon Health Authority Mental Health and Addiction Services and other community supports. The project was intended to provide an integrated, supportive and client-centered approach to assist youth who are reported missing or are running away.

During 2025, members of the SPS Missing Person Unit continued to attend and participate weekly in the Operation Runaway “circle” meetings. This involvement has the potential to enhance police relationships with habitually missing youth and has improved inter-agency cooperation. In addition, MPU members have been able to refer at-risk youth to this program, which is a crucial first step for connecting youth with supports and creating opportunities that strengthen self determination.

The Missing Youth Sask App is a risk assessment tool that assists group home workers navigating the decision-making process in relation to whether to report a youth missing. Between 2021 and 2023 there was a 41% reduction of missing person reports to SPS in the Egadz operated My Home locations using the App. During this same time period habitual youth missing person reports to SPS increased by 56%. In May 2024 another group home began using the app. Reporting then decreased from 565 incidents in 2023 to 265 incidents in 2024.

Relationship Building

The MPU continued to build relationships with a number of community organizations and businesses such as Egadz Outreach Workers, Ministry of Social Services, Mustard Seed, Friendship Inn, Saskatoon Food Bank, Saskatoon Crisis Intervention Service, Saskatoon Indian & Metis Friendship Centre, Saskatoon Health Authority (Protective Services and Brief & Social Detox), Saskatoon Fire Department and the Bridge. Investigators also continued to build relationships with Canada Border Services Agency, US Customs and Border Protection, US Dept of Homeland Security, Interpol, National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains and various Canadian police agencies. Collaboration with these organizations has proven to be invaluable when it comes to locating missing persons

Missing Person Family Liaison

Saskatoon Victim Services continues to support investigations and the families of the missing through the Missing Person Family Liaison position. The position has been instrumental in helping forge positive relationships with the families of missing persons and helping to facilitate open and honest communication between the families and investigators. During 2025, Victim Services assisted families in a number of active investigations as well as historical investigations.

SPS INTERNAL COLLABORATIONS:

One of the Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (National Inquiry) was for the standardization of protocols that ensure all cases are thoroughly investigated. There is no waiting period to file a report with SPS. Reports are received regardless of where the missing person resides or where they went missing from.

In addition to conducting investigations to locate missing persons the MPU also reviews each case and assesses the individual circumstances surrounding the person being reported missing. If through investigation additional risks or concerns are identified other sections of the service are contacted for assistance and their expertise.

Major Crime Investigations

Each missing person report that is received by the service has the potential to escalate into a major case investigation or homicide. The MPU is embedded within the Major Crime Section and works collaboratively with detectives using the principles of Major Case Management when investigations intersect. The Mackenzie Trottier investigation is an example of this. Mackenzie was first reported missing on December 30, 2020. The file was transferred to the Major Crime Section and after extensive investigation SPS began searching the Saskatoon landfill for evidence relating to her disappearance. On August 1, 2024 a full recovery of Mackenzie’s remains were made.

Patrol Missing Person Constables

There are eight dedicated patrol members across four platoons assigned as Missing Person Constables. They are responsible for conducting the initial missing person investigations until the file is resolved or transferred to the MPU. This framework helps to ensure a consistent investigative response from SPS, a continuous chain of investigation, and addresses the high turnover of investigators identified in the National Inquiry.

The Patrol Missing Person Constables receive in-service training provided by the MPU on an ongoing annual basis. The training aims to develop investigative skills, enhanced knowledge of effective risk assessments and provides education on available community resources. Throughout the year, the MPU provides ongoing support and guidance to Patrol during complex investigations and offers mentoring on best practices.

In 2025 the family of Meagan Gallagher was invited to participate in the annual training offered to our Patrol Constables. This was intended to help underscore the importance of communication with families during Missing Person investigations and provide the family an opportunity to

discuss their experiences with SPS. During Missing Persons Week the Public Relations and Strategic Communications Section released a [video](#) featuring the initiative.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1465472171498137>

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Public Relations and Strategic Communications

During 2025, the Public Relations and Strategic Communications Section assisted the Missing Person Unit with numerous requests for public assistance and also in working with the various media outlets in the city. In 2025 there were over 60 media releases issued for missing persons which is consistent with releases issued in 2024. Alert fatigue is an ongoing concern for investigators and SPS continues to evaluate the criteria and policy for issuing a media release.

Saskatoon HUB

In cases where missing person investigations were concluded and there continued to be an acute elevated risk identified for individuals and/or families, the MPU has made referrals to HUB. HUB is a valuable asset in providing an immediate and coordinated mobilization of resources that target factors such as addictions, mental health concerns, housing, absent education plan, need for income assistance or criminal justice system matters.

Public Safety Unit (PSU)

High risk missing person investigations involve the immediate need to deploy police resources to assist in the investigation. Sometimes this may necessitate that search and rescue efforts be initiated by PSU to canvas the last known area for the missing person. Investigators in the MPU work closely with search managers to ensure the timely exchange of information and deployment of resources to locate the missing person.

Police and Crisis Team (PACT)

On top of the high volume of calls that PACT responded to for people suffering from mental health and addictions crises, they were also invaluable partners to the MPU. PACT initiated missing person investigations after identifying vulnerable people that otherwise may have gone unreported. Through information sharing agreements, lifestyle history, risk and protective factors, family and other supports were identified, resulting in numerous missing people being located. Finally, PACT has provided follow-up support for individuals that were located and found to have continued concerns for their welfare.

VICE and Integrated Child Exploitation (ICE) Sections

The MPU investigators are trained in the use of social media as an investigative tool. Investigators use this knowledge to reach out to and communicate with those that are missing, especially the youth. During some of the investigations, youth have been identified as being sexually exploited or appear to be at risk for sexual exploitation and or human trafficking. These cases are then referred to the appropriate units (for example ICE, Sex Crimes, Vice-Human Trafficking) for their continued investigations.

The SPS Vice and Human Trafficking Unit also participates in Operation No Go which is a collaborative multi-agency approach to assisting persons who are involved or at risk of being involved in sexual exploitation or human trafficking.

CONCLUSION:

In 2025 missing person reports to the SPS decreased for the second straight year. The reduction of nearly 1,000 reports since 2023 is significant especially considering the population growth experienced in the Saskatoon CMA. The reduction was driven primarily by youth and habitual youth reporting with habitual youth reports decreasing by 35% versus 2023. The Missing Person Unit will continue to work closely with community partners and other agencies seeking positive outcomes for all missing persons and their families.

Written by: Sgt Aaron Moser, Missing Person Task Force
Reviewed by: S/Sgt Andrew Johnstone, Interpersonal Violence
Insp. Tyson Lavallee, Investigative Services Division
Supt James Oliver, Criminal Investigations Bureau
Darren Pringle, Deputy Chief Operations
Approved by: Cameron McBride, Chief of Police