

A/Sgt Paul McCormack

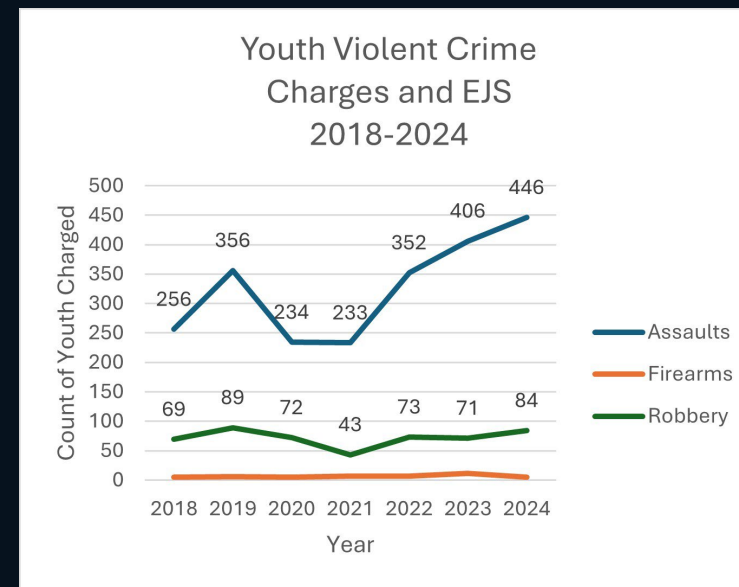
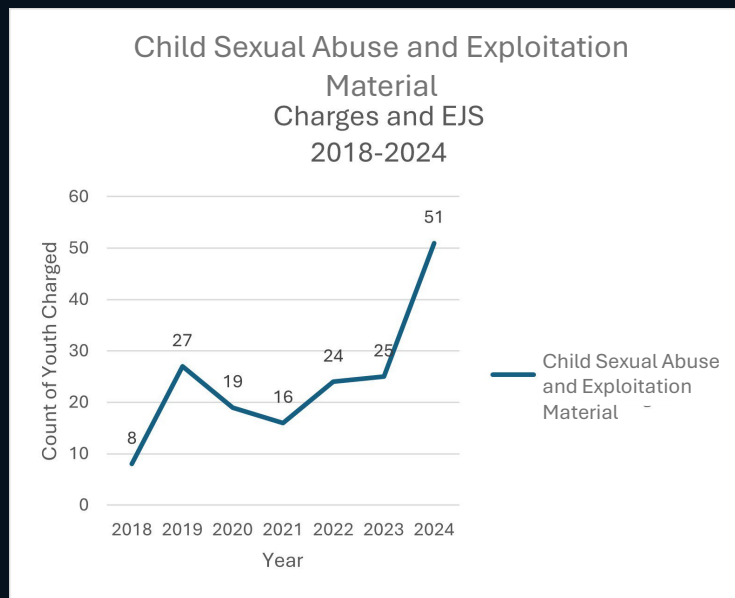
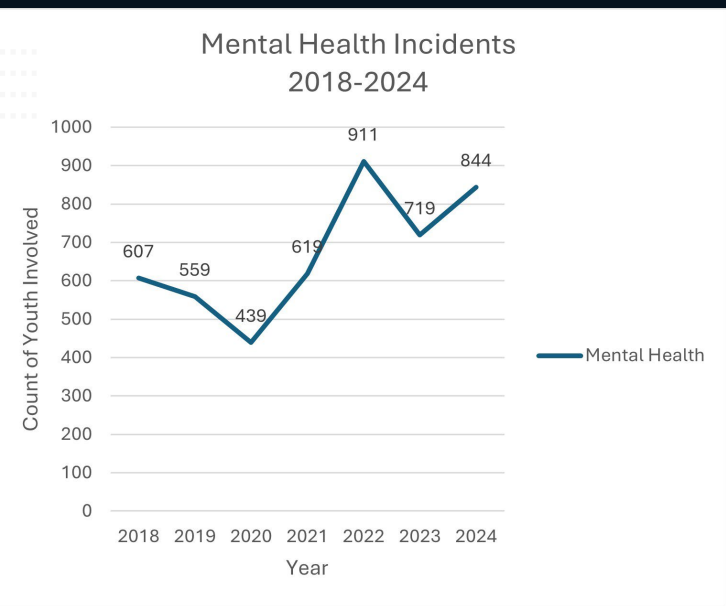
Jessica Ripley

**Community Youth Unit  
Presentation to PSB  
October 2025**



# Current Youth Trends

- **Social Media**
  - Cyber-Bullying/Sextortion
  - Sexting
  - Online Gaming/Gambling
- **Criminal Behaviors**
  - Increase in youth violence and assaults
  - Increase in sharing of intimate images / radicalization
- **Vulnerable Youth**
  - Homelessness, missing youth, luring sex trade/HT



# Youth Incidents

- Mental health incidents have seen a steady increase of 39% since 2018.
- Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Material (CSAEM) has substantially increased from 8 to 51 incidents since 2018.
- Youth assaults have seen a sharp increase of 91% (233 to 446) since 2021

# Community Partnerships



# Ottawa Police Youth Strategy Overview

## Mission

*Collaborate with partners to address root causes to reduce victimization and youth criminality.*

## Pillars

- Community Partnerships
- Recognition of impact of root causes (risk & protective factors)
- Continuum of responses
- Ongoing training
- Evidence-based

## Outcomes

- Short-term: Provide the right response at the right time to the right person
- Long-term: Reduction in both the frequency and severity of victimization and offending

# Ottawa Police Youth Strategy

**SOCIAL DEV. | PREVENTION | RISK INTERVENTION 80%**

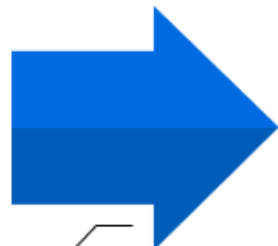
**INCIDENT RESPONSE 20%**

**Proactive  
Engagement with  
Youth & Partners**



Education and  
Awareness

**Early  
Intervention**



Children, Youth and Family  
support – MH, Gangs,  
Missing Youth, HT

**Diversion & Risk  
Mitigation**



Pre-charge diversion, School based  
violence, Threat assessment,  
Mental Health Court

**Progressive Accountability  
Measures**



Application of YCJA  
Principles

**Positive  
Reintegration**



Partnering with schools  
and YJ Partners

**CSWB PERSPECTIVE**

# Ottawa Police Youth Strategy Operations

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT | PREVENTION | RISK INTERVENTION 80%

INCIDENT RESPONSE 20%

## Proactive Engagement with Youth & Partners

- Partnership development and collaboration (School safety, HT, Mental health, Substance use health)
- Youth, parent, community presentations
- Youth Programs & consultation, YAC, YIPI, Cadets
- Pro-active youth engagement within community & schools
- Provide youth subject matter expertise to OPS Units

## Early Intervention

- Under-12 Strategy: Crossroads and Intersections Progs.
- Under 18s: youth and family support
- Missing Youth: Early intervention & follow-up
- High risk youth interventions (HT, gang involvement, group homes)
- CAS-OPS Liaison (Secondment Agreement)
- Youth mental health-intervention & follow-up

## Diversion & Risk-Mitigation

- Pre-Charge Diversion partnership
- YLS/CMI Screening
- Youth Mental Health Court partnership & support
- Participation in School Based Violence Threat Risk Assessments (VTRA, CIRC)
- SAFETY Table for youth elevated risk of HT & STAY Table for missing youth

## Progressive Accountability Measures

- Application of YCJA Principles of Progressive and Meaningful Accountability Measures
- Youth Investigations

## Positive Reintegration

- Partnering in school re-integration process (post suspension)
- Collaboration & information sharing with youth justice partners



# Community Youth Unit (CYU)

## New youth service delivery model

The Community Youth Unit (CYU) has three teams:

1. Central Command Team
2. Community Youth Engagement Team (CYET)
3. Community School Engagement Team (CSET)

**Community Youth Engagement Team (CYET)** officers - This team focuses on direct engagement with vulnerable and at-risk youth in various community settings, enhancing positive relationships and providing support.

**Community School Engagement Team (CSET)** officers - This team works closely with school principals and students to address issues within the school environment and promote safety and well-being while reducing calls for service to patrol.

# Community Youth Unit (CYU) 2026 Priorities

- Increased capacity & support for our Community School Engagement Team (CSET)
- Enhanced focus on specialized training for our CYU Team in collaboration with community-based organizations
- Focus on accountability & measurable outcomes



Questions?