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Sex Crimes Unit Investigative Section

The investigative section of the Sex Crimes Unit is composed of 24 officers who are all trained and qualified as specialists in this field.

This Unit enjoys an equal mix of both male and female officers, detectives and detective constables. In addition to investigative experience, the Unit looks for officers with demonstrated victim sensitivity.

The Unit is governed by TPS Procedure 05-05. All SCU investigators are required to have completed the Ontario Major Case Management course and the Sexual Assault Child Abuse course within 3 months of joining the squad. The officers take great pride in their abilities to manage the wide range of concerns and needs expressed by all victims of sexual assault.

In 2001, all officers gained additional experience by attending a half-day training session dealing with the special concerns of the gay and lesbian community and also received a two-day training seminar in the preparation of search warrants.

The investigative section investigates all mandated sexual assault occurrences 24 hours per day 7 days per week. Assigned officers are on call from home every day between midnight and 7:00 am but respond directly from their headquarters unit from 7:00 am to midnight.

In the year 2000, officers investigated approximately 240 occurrences of stranger sexual assaults where some form of penetration was the main reported sexual act. The Unit is projected to investigate 250 calls in 2001.

In addition to the investigations described above, officers also provide advice and assistance to all divisions throughout the Service. Each squad officer is assigned to liaison duties at a specific division. The Squad also often acts as a liaison for sexual assault investigations from other Services and Agencies by locating suspects and interviewing victims and witnesses as requested.

Using the Major Case Model, Sex Crimes Unit investigators have had recent great success in solving the Scarborough Rapist case, the York University case and joint investigations with both Peel Regional Police Service and the York Regional Police Service.

The successful investigation of sexual assault cases has been greatly enhanced by the strong relationships that exist between other agencies. Such groups include Victim Services, Woman's College Hospital, Scarborough Grace Hospital, The Hospital for Sick Children, the Centre for Forensic Sciences and over 140 other agencies, groups and hostels within the Toronto Police Service area.

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Programs

- Civilian Police College
- Employee Family Assist.
- ProAction - Cops and Kids

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- Telephone Directory

Other Sites

- City of Toronto
- Police Services Board
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Professionalism, pride, dedication, sensitivity and success are the best descriptors used for officers attached to the investigative section.



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Sex Crimes Unit

E-mail Sex Crimes Unit

40 College St., Toronto, ON , M5G 2J3

Phone: 416-808-7474

Fax: 416-808-7472

Unit Commander: Staff Inspector Jane Wilcox

The Sex Crimes Unit was created in 1989 as the Sexual Assault Squad. This was as a result of several serious predatory serial sex offender investigations and input from women's groups. It was recognized that these incidents gripped the community in fear and affected the quality of life of everyone. It was also recognized that these investigations were complex and required investigators who were not only exceptionally experienced officers but who also had the skills and empathy to deal with victims whose lives would never be the same.

Time and time again the creation of the Sex Crimes Unit has proven to be the right choice. The handpicked officers have an exceptional clearance rate, are recognized as leaders in the field and have developed many new techniques in criminal investigation. The annual Sexual Assault Investigators' Seminar held by the Unit attracts over 300 people a year from around the world to be educated on the latest techniques and to share information.

The Sex Crimes Unit has grown in number and has within its mandate the investigation of a range of sex crimes beyond those of stranger-to-stranger sexual assault. Sexual abuse in any form destroys an individual's dignity and sense of safety and freedom. Very often the victims are the most vulnerable in our society and the shame, fear, and humiliation will affect all aspects of their lives. Detective Wendy Leaver, an experienced and highly respected investigator, has taken on the role of working with the community and groups whose members are vulnerable and at risk. Through awareness, consultation, and education the community has started to work together with the police to deal with sexual abuse in a meaningful way.

Recognizing this, the Sex Crimes Unit has expanded its role to "minimize risk" of sexual abuse. The highly publicized success of sexual assault investigations in Toronto ensures that sexual predators are aware that there is a high likelihood of their crimes being discovered. It is well known that the greatest deterrent to crime is the certainty of being caught and swift and sure punishment.

The Sex Crimes Unit has also created a sub-unit in the Squad called the Behavioural

Sex Crimes Unit

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Related Links

- [13th Annual Sex Crime Unit Conference on Sex Crimes Investigations](#)
- [Be Web Aware](#)

Programs

- [Civilian Police College](#)
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- [ProAction - Cops and Kids](#)

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The Sex Crimes Unit has also created a sub-unit in the Squad called the Behavioural Assessment Section (BAS). The underlying goal of the BAS activities is crime prevention, to prevent future victims by applying inventive strategies to existing criminal investigations and potentially violent situations. This section is staffed with experienced criminal investigators, specially trained in Threat Management, Risk Assessment and Behaviour Analysis. This section is proactive in identifying sexual predators within our community and using every legal means to minimize the risk that these offenders will reoffend. Those with a proclivity for sexual offences, who we have identified, know that they are known to the police and, where necessary, by the community.

We also realize that sex offenders, generally, if not captured will continue to offend. These attacks can cover a span of many years over many jurisdictions. The Provincial Major Case Management Model, emanating out of the Campbell Commission Inquiry, is the standard followed in major cases and multi-jurisdictional cases. The use of intelligence data driven analyst programs such as ViCLAS, The Ontario Sex Offender Registry, and National DNA Data Banks, is making the world smaller for sexual predators. Many cases have been linked and offenders arrested through these systems. The Toronto Police Sexual Assault Squad has been actively involved in developing, contributing to, and using these systems to great success.

The most recent additions to the Sex Crimes Unit is the Child Exploitation Section with two sub sections, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. These two sub-units are actively working with individuals who, due to circumstance, bad choice, naivety, or fear, become prey for those who would take advantage of them sexually. These investigations range from pimping and prostitution focusing on youth to child pornography and enticement on the Internet.

Unsolved sexual assault investigations are never closed. The victims need closure. The offender must be stopped and held accountable, and the community must be protected from further abuse. With the recent advances in investigative sciences (such as DNA) and with new computer technology advances, we are now about to go back in time and reopen cases that have not yet been solved. The Toronto Police Service Sex Crimes Unit has embarked on a Sex Offence "Unsolved Case" project. Our Investigators are working with the Centre of Forensic Sciences, The National DNA Databank, and the National ViCLAS Centre. This has never been done before. We have already identified offenders through DNA identification of unsolved cases and we look forward to continued success with this project.