

Quick Facts

# Assigning Value to Peel Regional Police's School Resource Officer Program

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# PEEL REGIONAL POLICE SRO PROGRAM

## KEY FINDINGS

- Students report being less fearful.
- Learning outcomes improved.
- Mental health improved.
- Students miss less school.
- Fewer incidents of crime and bullying.
- School staff spend less time on discipline, property damage.
- Students can avoid courts and criminal records when appropriate.
- Help from social services and health-care systems more likely.
- Less pressure on the police force front lines.
- Officers acquire skills on engaging with the community they serve.

## STUDY DETAILS

2014  
to 2017

5

Peel high schools  
from diverse  
neighbourhoods

### INTERVIEWS



23 SROs

11 sergeants and  
staff sergeants

44 school  
administrators

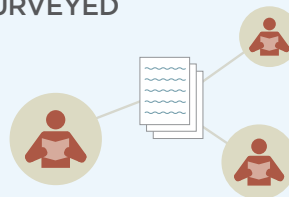
8 students

SRO Activity Data: Review of daily records kept by SROs working in the five schools from September 2015 through February 2016



10 Ride-alongs

### SURVEYED



620 Grade 9 students in  
September 2015

655 Grade 9 students in  
March 2016

## PEEL SRO STATISTICS

\$9 million



Total cost: 9 million a year



60 SROs

8 sergeants

4 staff  
sergeants

9 civilians

# SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT ANALYSIS

**\$11**

Benefits valued at \$11 for each \$ of the program's cost

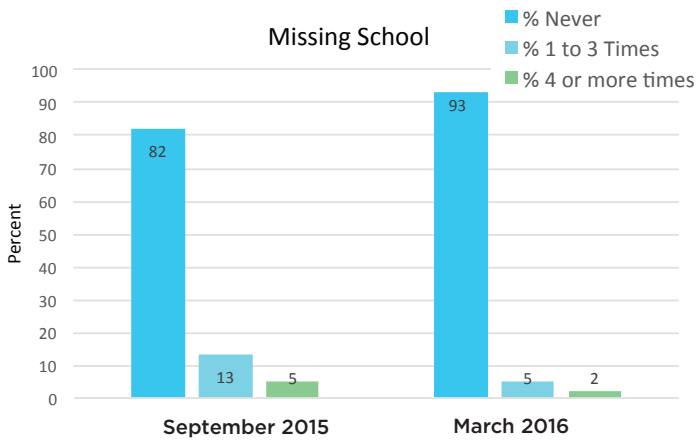


**80%**

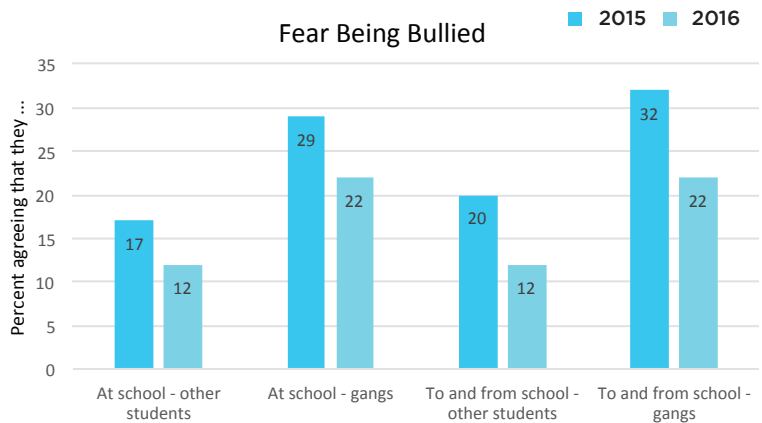
of assessed value is realized by students, especially those who have been victimized

## DATA FROM THE STUDENT SURVEY ILLUSTRATING THE VALUE OF PEEL POLICE'S SRO PROGRAM

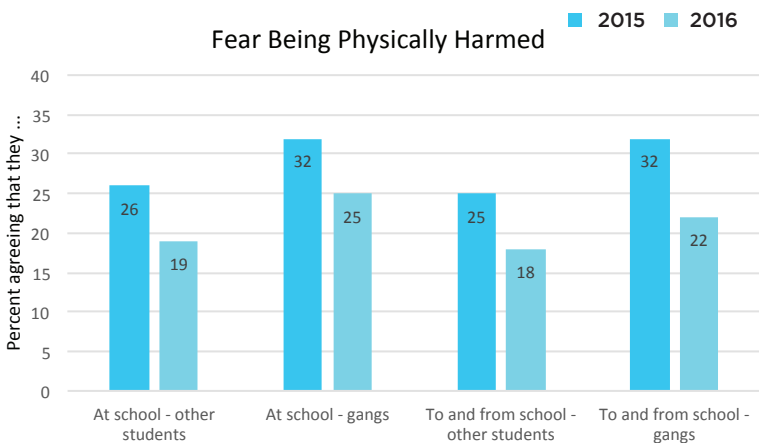
### 1. The Likelihood that Students will Miss School Because of Bullying Decreases Over Time



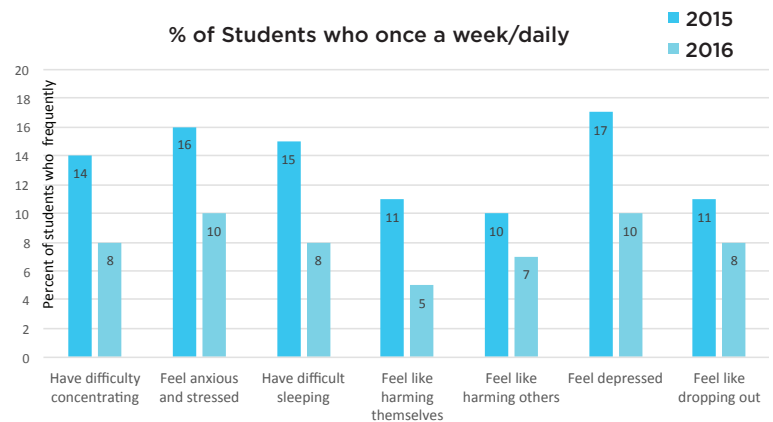
### 2. Students' Fear of Being Bullied Decreases Over Time



### 3. Students' Fear of Being Physically Harmed Decreases Over Time



### 4. Students' Mental Health Improves Over Time as Do Learning Outcomes



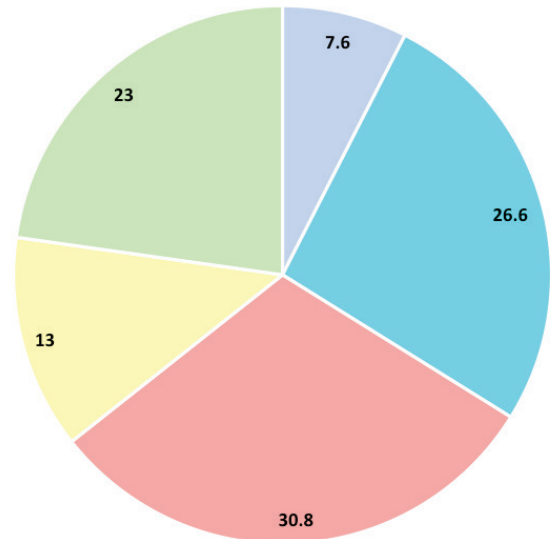
# WHAT DO SROs DO?

SROs perform 20 different activities, including:

- Criminal calls and general patrol
- Intelligence gathering and crime prevention
- Education
- Emergency preparedness
- Administrative work
- Relationship building

Percentage of time SROs spend in key activities: September 2015-February 2016

- Enforcement/gather information
- Enforcement/apply knowledge
- Prevention/gather information
- Prevention/apply knowledge
- Administration



## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

### SROs

"I think one big challenge is connecting with the kids because...there is just a lot of negativity about the police on TV...So you kind of try to break that barrier and try to build positive relationships with them and show them we're here for them."

"Just our mere presence in the school... just that alone. I mean, who knows how much we deter just from that? How much bullying or criminal offences or misbehaviours do not happen because of us just being there."

"You're not looking to arrest kids...You don't benefit from that. You're actually trying to help them out."

"You're not going to win over every kid, but you put the effort in. You're at the school every day, you're walking the hallways, you're connecting with them...I think that's all you can do is just keep trying."

"They see us and they get to know us, they call us by first names. We get to know the schools, we get to know the students, as well as their parents and extended families, and you're not seen as such a negative thing."

### Grade 9 Students

"I was bullied throughout last year and that was a big issue for me. Like all of Grade 8...This school is a lot safer compared to all the other schools..."

"I can focus on my studying and long-term goals without worrying..."

"Would you talk to the police? Absolutely. My friends who go to schools where there are no police have a pretty different view though...like the police are bad and they don't want to have any communication with them...Here it's more like they are like your friends; you speak to them if you have any problems."

### School Administrators

"The value is they know the kids, they understand community needs, and they really work hard to work for the kids and not against the kids."

"It offers the opportunity for early intervention and deterrence for those students that have made mistakes but are willing to change their ways."

"I think a lot of students in our area specifically are raised to be fearful of police authority, so it's nice for them to have that opportunity to build that relationship with an officer and to feel that sense of safety."

"The SRO really adds to the sense of safety so that everyone in the school can focus on education."

"Without the SRO, we would be calling 911 all the time."

"Don't cancel the program and then expect the schools to be the same in five years. Communities can expect real problems if the SRO program is discontinued."