LANARK COUNTY SITUATION TABLE

ANNUAL REPORT

2023
&
January 1-May 31, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

LANARK COUNTY SITUATION TABLE

Cover image: A Framework for Planning Community Safety and Well-being, SOLGEN

LANARK COUNTY SITUATION TABLE
_____

INTRODUCTION

The Lanark County Situation Table Project began in September 2015 with two main objectives: to establish and maintain a situation table and to undertake a community plan for safety and well-being for Lanark County and Smiths Falls. Since then, it has become a hub for community collaboration and networking.

The overall project pursues the philosophy of identifying root causes of crime and social disorder and finding ways to prevent them or mitigate harms. The situation table is a risk-intervention tool that mitigates harm, and the community plan for safety and well-being focuses on prevention and building social programs to strengthen the health and well-being of the community. The situation table has been recognized by partners as a valuable tool in helping individuals and families before situations escalate into a crisis, while enhancing networking and understanding of the supports that exist in our communities.

The purpose of this document is to provide community partners, police services boards, local municipal councils and communities with an overview of Lanark County Situation Table activities in 2023 and the first half of 2024. It will provide background and statistics for the reporting period and compared with other years.

This project has been made possible by grants from the Ministry of the Solicitor General and in-kind support from the Town of Perth, Lanark County and Lanark County OPP. Thanks to the Lanark County OPP and the Perth Police Services Board for taking the lead in establishing this model for Lanark County, to local municipalities for their support of the endeavour, and to the many partner agencies and their representatives who do the incredible front-line work to help those who need it throughout Lanark County and Smiths Falls.

HOW DOES THE SITUATION TABLE WORK?

The situation table brings front-line, acute-care, human-service agencies together to provide wrap-around support for individuals who meet a defined threshold of "acutely elevated risk" (AER). AER means someone is at imminent risk of self-harm or harming someone else. In 2023 there were representatives from 25 local agencies actively participating at the situation table, with several other agencies serving in an ad hoc capacity. Representatives work in a privacy-protective manner to rapidly connect individuals to appropriate services. Coordination support is provided by the part-time position that has been funded by provincial grants through the Perth Police Services Board. The situation table has been meeting twice monthly since December 9, 2015. It also meets on an ad hoc basis when necessary and has done so 44 times from inception to the end of May 2024.

Referrals come from agencies when they have a client who they believe meets the threshold for AER, exceeds their capacity to respond within their own agency alone, exhibits multiple risk factors and requires a multi-agency response. The situation table also has a non-AER referral process that can capture individuals who are not quite at the threshold of AER, but who still exhibit multiple risk factors and need a multi-agency response. For this process, consent must be received from an individual up front.

Privacy legislation allows, in circumstances of imminent harm, for a discussion to take place prior to consent being received for individuals who are at acutely elevated risk. Consent up front is always preferred. Once it is deemed either the AER or non-AER threshold has been met, a team of the most appropriate and relevant agencies is assembled to work with clients to connect them to services and reduce overall risk.

LANARK COUNTY SITUATION TABLE

_____

The Lanark County Situation Table uses the online Risk-Driven Tracking Database (RTD) through an agreement with and supported by the provincial Ministry of the Solicitor General (SOLGEN). This allows for nationally comparative data for analysis and for the situation table to track referrals in a de-identified format using a case number, general information about gender and age range, risk factors, study flags, agencies involved (originating and assisting) and services mobilized. No personal information is retained in the database. There are 105 risk factors and 33 study flags included in the database, encompassing a wide range of categories (e.g. addictions, mental and physical health, criminal involvement, housing).

Three individuals are licensed and trained by SOLGEN to use the RTD for the Lanark County Situation Table (the coordinator and two OPP data analysts who are authorized as data recorders for the meetings). The system includes reporting capabilities to help with trend analysis and community safety planning. Reports are specific to each situation table and the system adheres to strict privacy and security guidelines.

The Lanark County Situation Table itself does not conduct case management. Rather, the agencies involved at the intervention stage take on that role as appropriate and with consent. In addition, self-referrals are not accepted; referrals are made through one of the participating agencies. Several agencies that are not full participating members at the situation table, but that may encounter individuals who could be referred, have been made aware of the referral process and are sometimes involved.

The situation table has been an effective medium for representatives to identify systemic gaps, many of which were incorporated into the community plan for safety and well-being process.

Agencies
The following agencies are actively represented at the Situation Table as of June 30, 2024:

- Adult Probation and Parole – Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services
- Almonte General Hospital/Carleton Place Memorial District Hospital
- Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario
- ConnectWell Community Health (formerly North Lanark Community Health Centre)
- Family and Children's Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville
- Home and Community Care Support Services-South East (Ontario Health at Home)
- Lanark County Interval House
- Lanark County Mental Health
- Lanark County Paramedic Services
- Lanark County Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Program
- Lanark County Social Services (Ontario Works, Social Housing, Children's Services and Developmental Services)
- Lanark, Leeds, Grenville Addiction and Mental Health
- Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit
- Ontario Disability Support Program
- Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth
- OPP – Lanark County
- Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital
- Rideau Community Health Services

LANARK COUNTY SITUATION TABLE
_____

- RNJ Youth Services
- Rural FASD Network
- Shelter Movers
- Smiths Falls Police Service
- The Table Community Food Centre
- Upper Canada District School Board
- Victim Services of Lanark County

Ad hoc organizations include:

- Change Health Care Inc.
- Cornerstone Landing Youth Services
- Transitional Aged Youth Program
- Lanark County Community Justice Program

Four Filter Process
The Lanark County Situation Table uses the following procedure to assess AER referrals:

- Filter One – Agency determines a situation is beyond its scope and may meet threshold for AER.
- Filter Two – De-identified discussion held at situation table in order for group to determine if it meets threshold.
- Filter Three – If it meets the threshold, most relevant/appropriate agencies are determined for intervention planning.
- Filter Four – Identified agencies with a direct role meet separately to discuss limited personal/confidential information in order to inform plan to address risk factors.

In all cases, obtaining consent to provide multi-sector services and to permit any further sharing of personal and confidential information is the first priority of the combined agencies responding to the situation.

LANARK COUNTY SITUATION TABLE

_____

LANARK COUNTY SITUATION TABLE STATISTICS

Discussions

Since the Lanark County Situation Table began on Dec. 9, 2015 up to May 31, 2024, 354 discussions have been held. Of those, 277 met the threshold for AER, and 83% of those were ultimately closed with overall risk lowered. The table below shows discussion numbers from 2020 to May 31, 2024. Numbers began to increase during the pandemic.
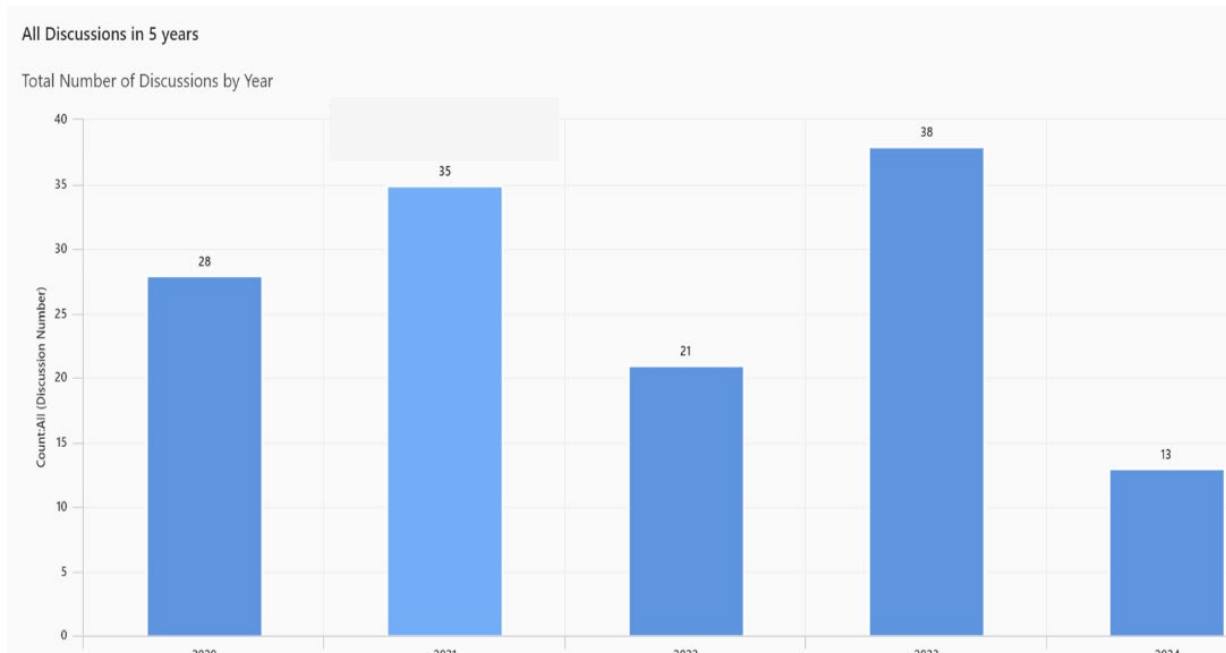

Figure 1: All Discussions In 5 Years

Previous years:
- 2015 (December only): 7
- 2016: 71 (this was the most in one year and may reflect the learning curve for determining appropriate referrals)
- 2017: 63
- 2018: 55 (The Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) began in 2018. Some referrals that would have come to the table were caught earlier through MCRT going forward.)
- 2019: 25

Agency Engagement

Since inception, police have continued to be the top referrers to the Lanark County Situation Table. This tends to be due to the 24/7 nature of police response. They are often the first ones called, and the situation table has provided a mechanism for officers to be able to refer people to more appropriate services when they need help. OPP and Smiths Falls Police Service combined represent 46% of referrals since inception and 31% last year. In the last two years, there has been an increase in referrals coming from Family and Children's Services. Probation/Parole, Lanark County Mental Health/Lanark Leeds and Grenville Addictions and Mental Health, and Victim Services have been in the top three for lead and assisting agencies in interventions.

LANARK COUNTY SITUATION TABLE
_____

The charts below show the top 15 agencies for engagement, all time and in 2023. Overall, member engagement at the situation table has been steady and consistent, with some individuals having been involved since inception.

ALL TIME AGENCY ENGAGEMENT – TOP 15

Agency	Originating Agency	Lead Agency	Assisting Agency	Total Count	% of Total
Total	**354**	**276**	**276**	**906**	**100%**
Ontario Provincial Police - Lanark County	130	6	78	214	24%
Lanark County Mental Health	10	38	116	164	18%
Victim Services of Lanark County	16	35	102	153	17%
Lanark County Social Services	16	13	95	124	14%
Lanark Leeds Grenville Addiction and Mental Health	5	18	100	123	14%
Smiths Falls Police Service	34	5	72	111	12%
Family and Children's Services of Lanark Leeds and Grenville - Lanark County	19	20	67	106	12%
Probation and Parole - Ministry of the Solicitor General - Lanark County	31	41	29	101	11%
Upper Canada District School Board - Lanark County	19	14	54	87	10%
Lanark County Interval House	5	9	65	79	9%
Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth	1	6	64	71	8%
Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital	5	3	57	65	7%
Leeds Grenville Lanark District Health Unit - Lanark County	17	11	30	58	6%
RNJ Youth Services	3	14	21	38	4%
Home and Community Care Support Services - South East - Lanark	2	6	26	34	4%
Transitional Aged Youth Program	1	4	29	34	4%
Lanark County Paramedic Services	3		29	32	4%
Rideau Community Health Services	2	2	28	32	4%
Home and Community Care Support Services - Champlain - Lanark	8	11	11	30	3%

Figure 2: All Time Agency Engagement – Top 15

2023 AGENCY ENGAGEMENT – TOP 15

Agency	Originating Agency	Lead Agency	Assisting Agency	Total Count	% of Total
Total	**38**	**25**	**25**	**88**	**100%**
Family and Children's Services of Lanark Leeds and Grenville - Lanark County	5	3	11	19	22%
Lanark County Social Services	4	3	11	18	20%
Smiths Falls Police Service	6		11	17	19%
Lanark County Mental Health	2	2	12	16	18%
Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth	1	1	13	15	17%
Ontario Provincial Police - Lanark County	4		10	14	16%

LANARK COUNTY SITUATION TABLE

RNJ Youth Services			5	9	14	16%
ConnectWell Community Health	2	2	8	12	14%
Lanark County Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Program	3	2	5	10	11%
Victim Services of Lanark County		1	9	10	11%
Ontario Disability Support Program - - Lanark County			9	9	10%
Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital	1	1	7	9	10%
Rideau Community Health Services			9	9	10%
Upper Canada District School Board - Lanark County	1	2	6	9	10%
Lanark Leeds Grenville Addiction and Mental Health	1	1	6	8	9%

Figure 3: Agency Engagement, 2023 – Top 15

Demographics

The Risk-Tracking Database allows for a range of discussion categories, including person, family, neighbourhood, environment and dwelling. For all time, most discussions (73.6%) have fallen into the "person" category. In 2023, there was a closer split between "person" and "family." (Left: All time. Below: 2023) In 2023, 38 discussions were held. Of the 25 that proceeded to intervention, 14 were individuals and 11 were families.
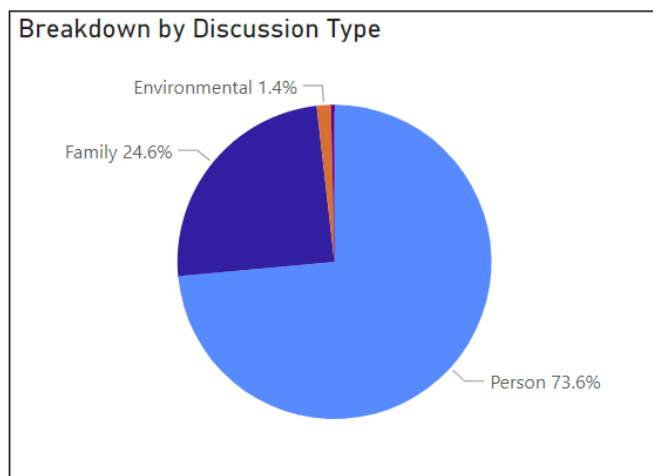
Discussion Type	Discussions	% of Total
Person	203	73.6%
Family	68	24.6%
Environmental	4	1.4%
Dwelling	1	0.4%
Total	**276**	**100.0%**

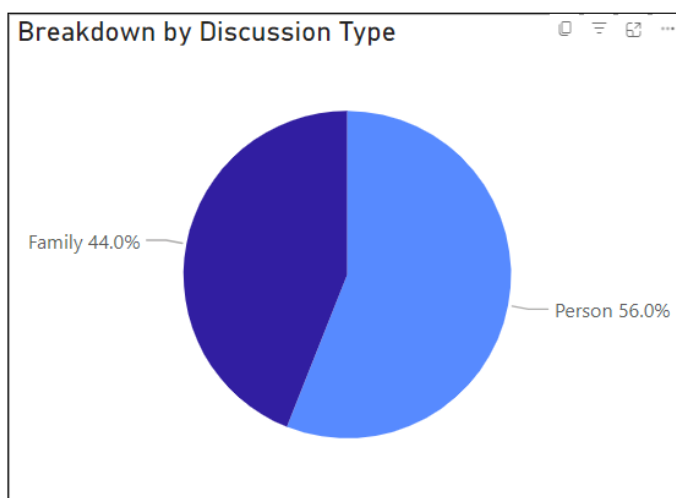*Figure 4: Breakdown by Discussion Type, All Time*

Figure 5: Breakdown by Discussion Type, 2023

In terms of age groups, the chart below spans from inception to May 31, 2024. Please note there was a change in the database a few years ago that further broke down the previous 40-59 and 60+ age groups. Data for 40-49, 50-59, 60-69 70-79 and 80+ has only been collected since that change.

LANARK COUNTY SITUATION TABLE
_____

As well, the age group chart only includes discussions that proceeded to intervention and does not include age ranges for discussions in the "family" category – only individuals. The family ages can be found later in the report.
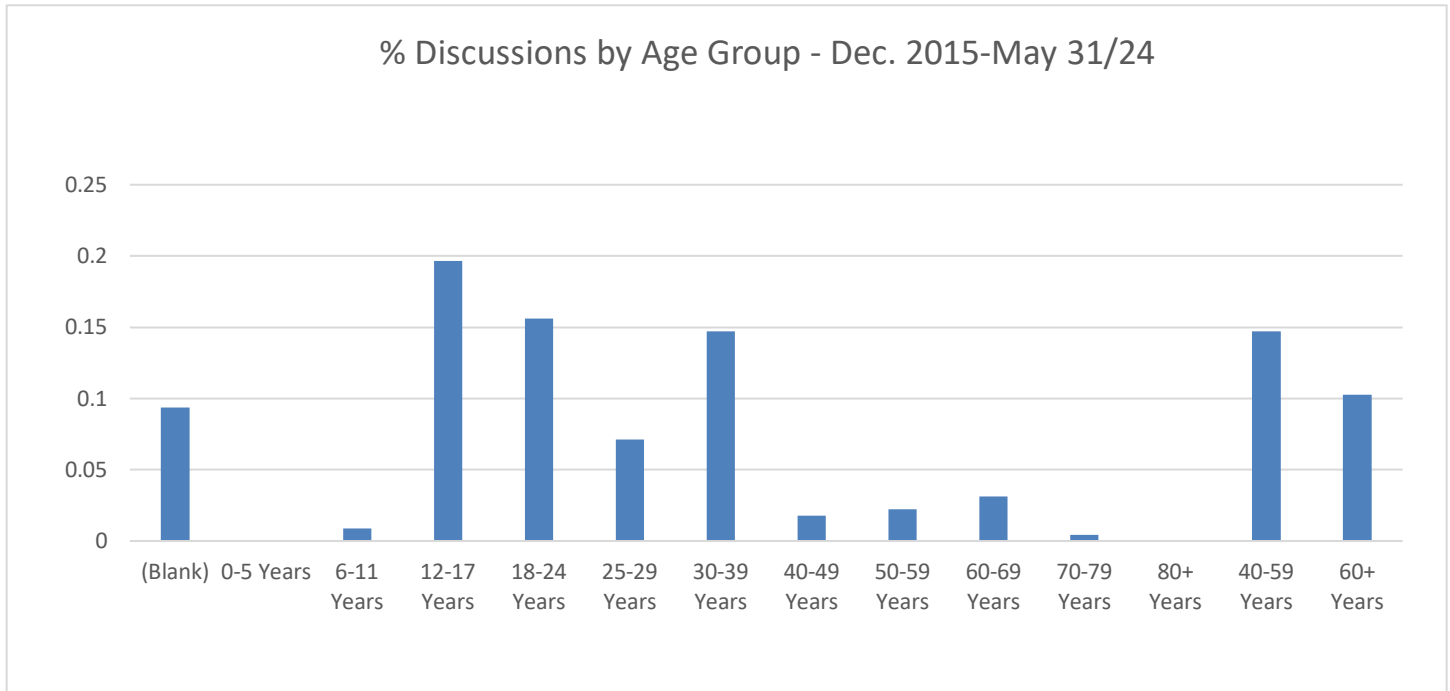

Figure 6: % Discussions by Age Group - Dec. 2015-May 31, 2024

Figure 7: Top 3 Age Groups, 2015-2024

The "Top 3 Age Groups" chart at left shows that more than half (54.4%) of individual referrals to the situation table since inception have been for youth ages 12 to 24 years.

Looking at age groups over the last five years (the pandemic years) in the chart below, it is noted there was a spike in 2021 of individuals in the 30- to 39-year age range.

LANARK COUNTY SITUATION TABLE

Discussion by Age Group

Vulnerable Age Group By Year

● 40-49 Years ● 12-17 Years ● 50-59 Years ● 18-24 Years ● 25-29 Years ● 30-39 Years ● 40-59 Years ● 60+ Years ● 60-69 Years ● 70-79 Years
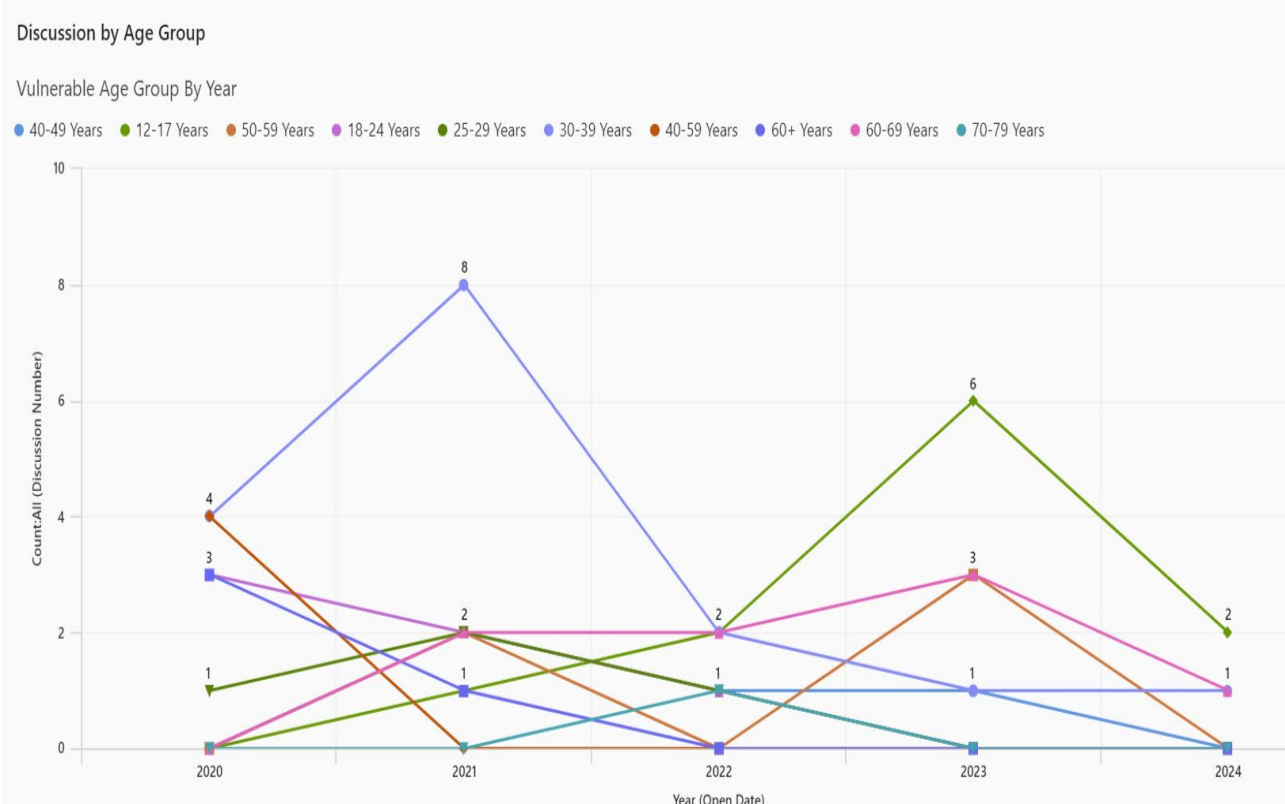
Figure 8: Discussion by Age Group, 2020-2024

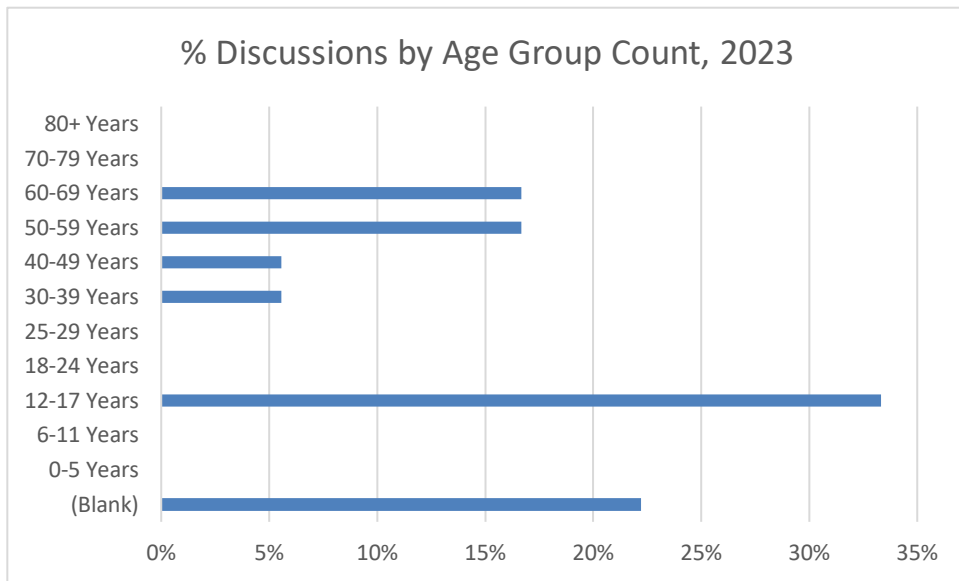In 2023, one-third of discussions involving individuals at the situation table featured youths ages 12 to 17.

% Discussions by Age Group Count, 2023

Figure 9: Breakdown by Age Group, 2023

LANARK COUNTY SITUATION TABLE

Similar to the age ranges, the "Gender" charts below only include discussions that proceeded to intervention and do not include the "Family" category. The split for all time is fairly even (below left). Females edged out males slightly in 2023 (below right).
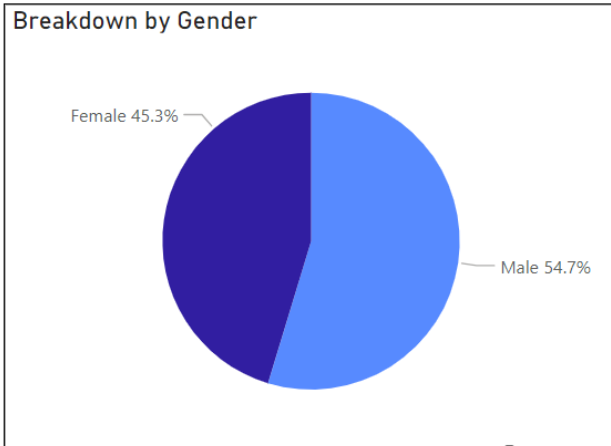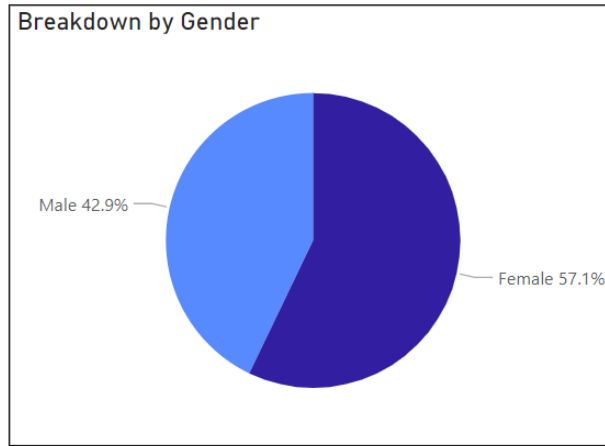

Figure 10: Breakdown by Gender, All Time

Figure 11: Breakdown by Gender, 2023

The graphs below show the ages and genders for individuals involved in family referrals from inception to May 31, 2024. Out of the total discussions for that period, 65 were in the "family" category and proceeded to intervention, with a total of 223 "affected persons." The graph on the left shows all involved, and the graph on the right shows only the non-caregivers (i.e., children and others). The 12- to 17-year category figures prominently in these referrals, along with younger children. When caregivers are included (see below left), the 30- to 39-year age group has high occurrence.
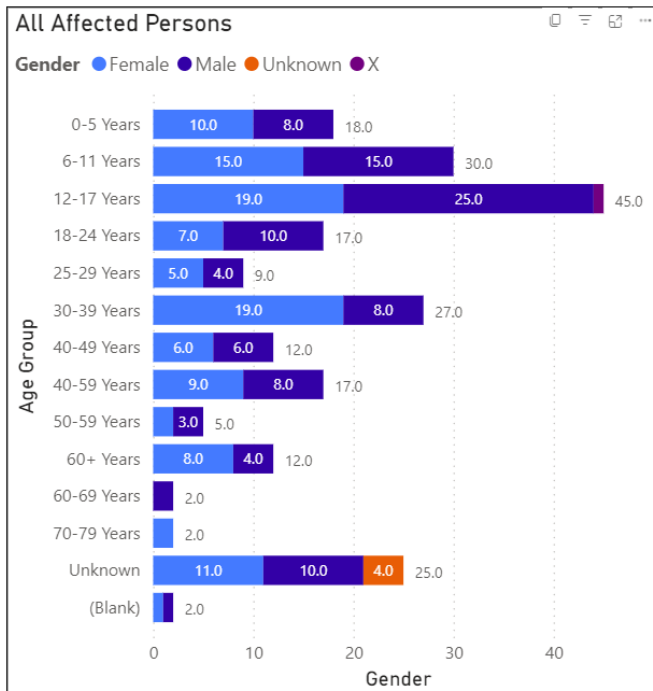

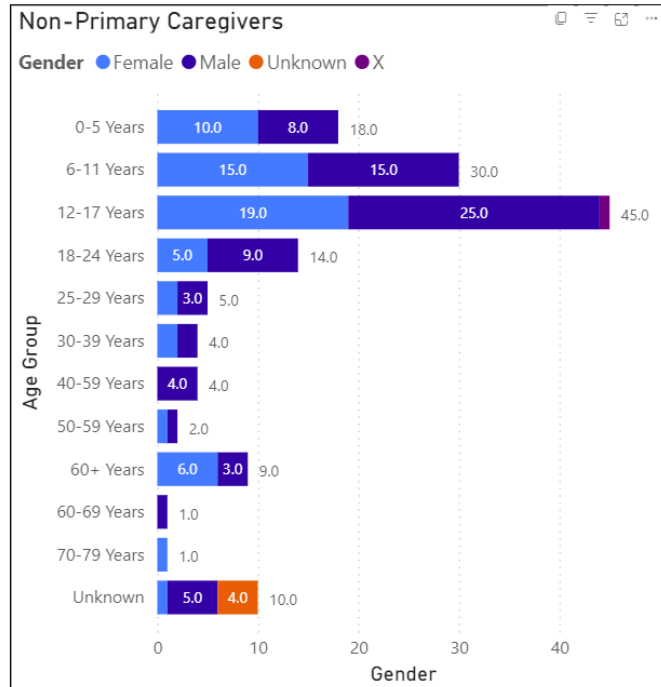*Figure 12: All Affected Persons, Family Referrals-All Time*

Figure 13: Non-Primary Caregivers, Family Referrals-All Time

LANARK COUNTY SITUATION TABLE

_____

Looking at key pandemic years (2020-2022), the graphs below tell a similar story, with a number in the 60+ age range as well. There were 20 discussions in that time period with a total of 62 "affected persons."
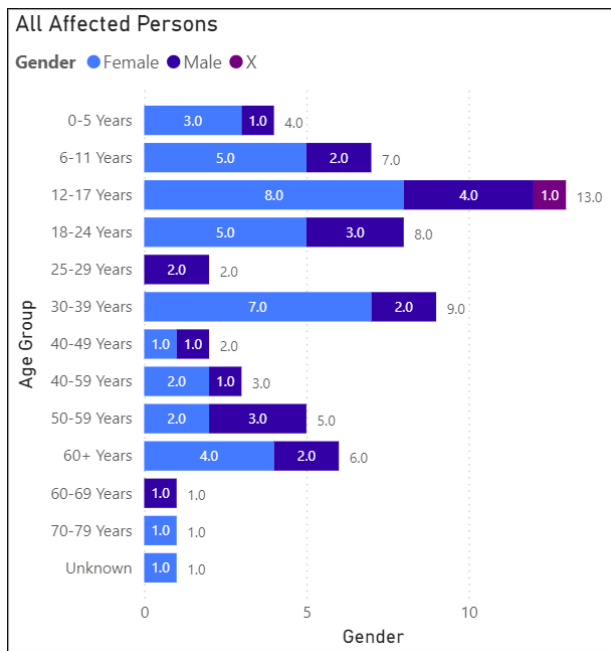

Figure 14: All Affected Persons, Family Referrals, 2020-2022
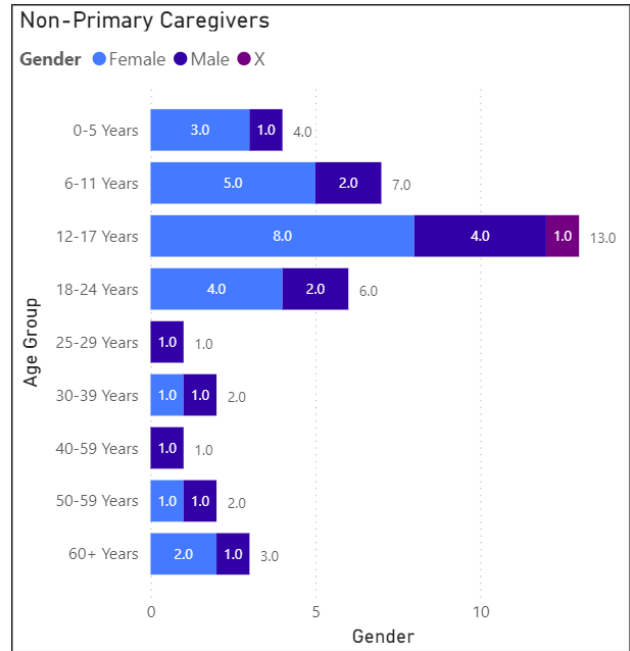

Figure 15: Non-Primary Caregivers, Family Referrals, 2020-2022

In 2023, there were 31 discussions with a total of 102 "affected persons." Again, the 12-17 age range is the most dominant.
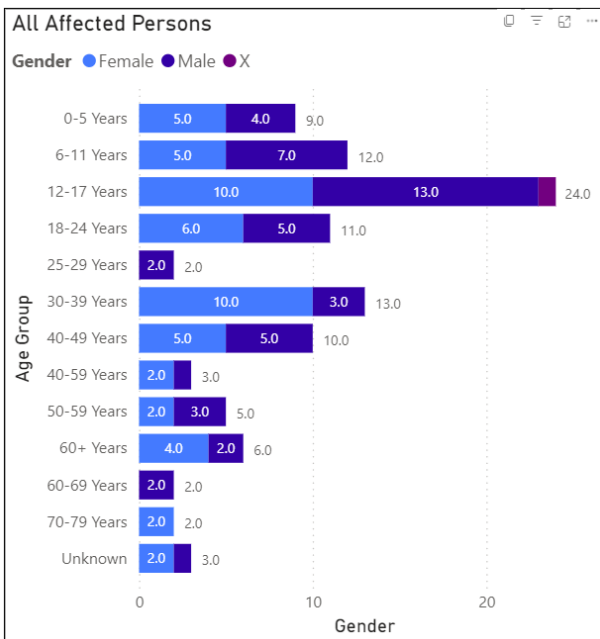

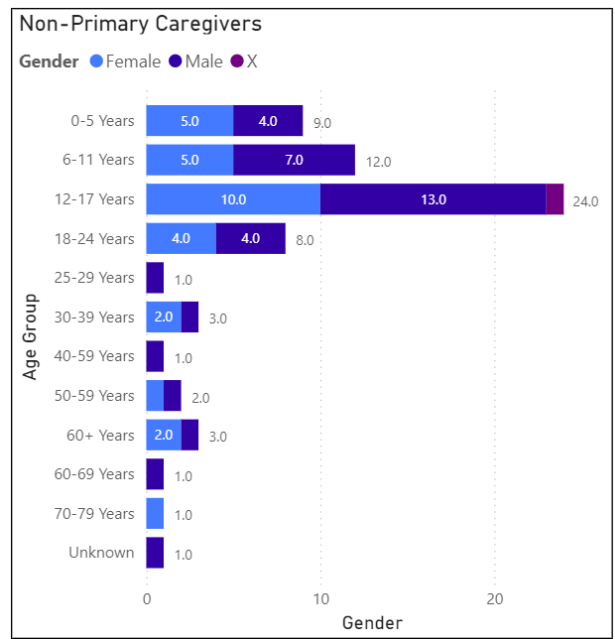_Figure 16: All Affected Persons, Family Referrals-2023_

Figure 17: Non-Primary Caregivers, Family Referrals-2023

LANARK COUNTY SITUATION TABLE

_____

Risk Factors

The RTD system places risk information into different groupings. These are defined as "characteristics and/or conditions present in individuals, families and communities that may increase the presence of crime or fear of crime in a community." There are 105 risk factors included in the RTD. These fit into 27 categories along with 13 Community Safety and Well-being high-level priorities, which allows for different types of analysis. Mental health has been a number one risk factor since the situation table began.

The chart below shows the top 15 risk factors from inception to May 31, 2024, with the top three highlighted (mental health, criminal involvement, and antisocial/negative behaviour and drugs (tied).
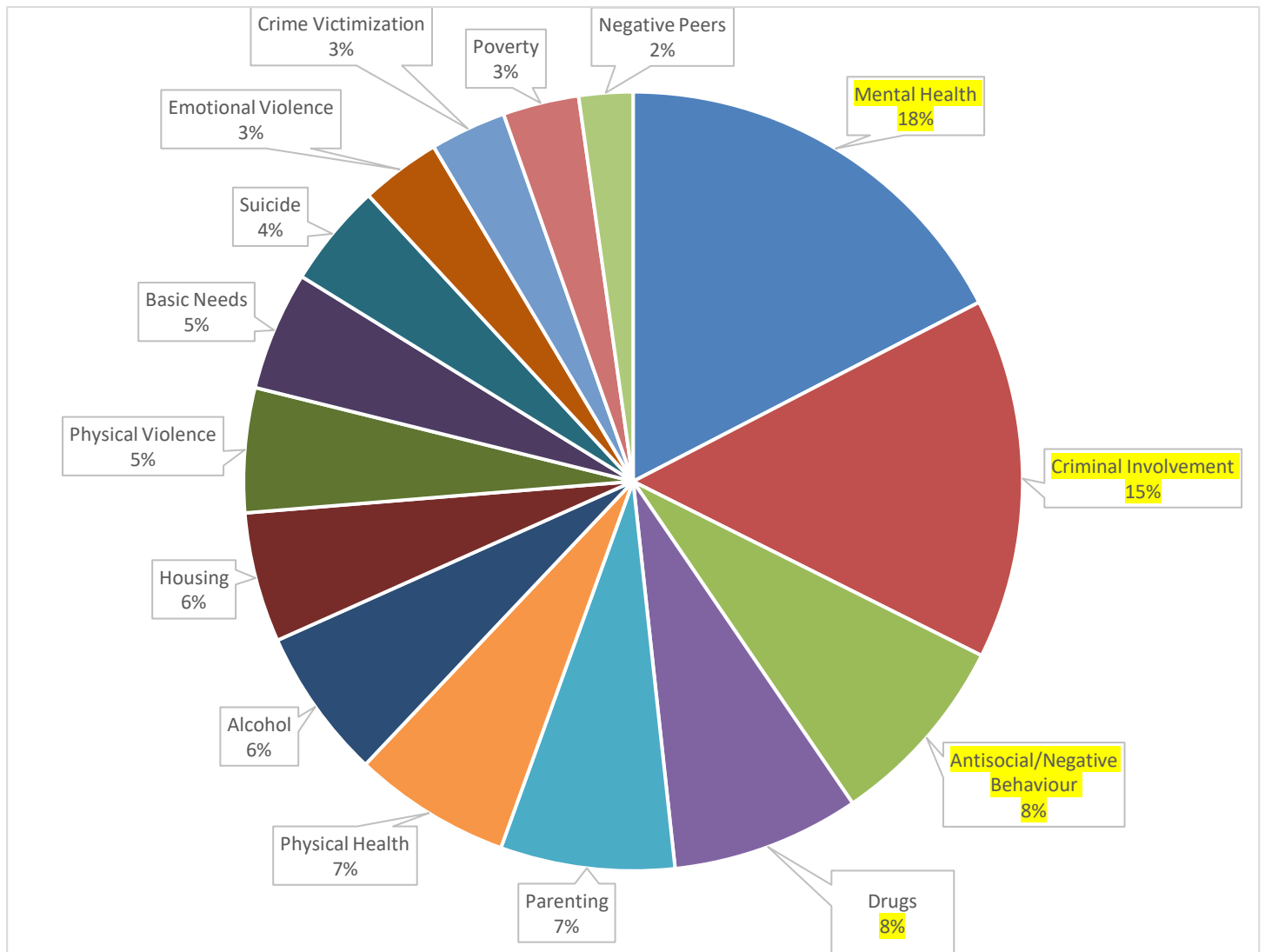

Figure 18: Overall Risk Categories, All Time

For each individual discussion, there can be numerous risk factors within a single risk category. For example, an individual who has had repeated and escalating contacts with police may be demonstrating several different criminal involvement risk factors within the single criminal involvement category (e.g. mischief, assault and theft). Criminal involvement is frequently seen as a risk due to the volume of referrals that come from police, often due to escalating

contacts. The criminal involvement category can include instances when a person is suspected, charged, arrested or convicted of an offence (as opposed to only convicted, for example).

The chart below shows the top 15 risk factors for 2023. Mental health, criminal involvement and antisocial/negative behaviour were the top three. It should be noted the database can also look at risk information by demographic, which can help to determine areas to focus prevention.
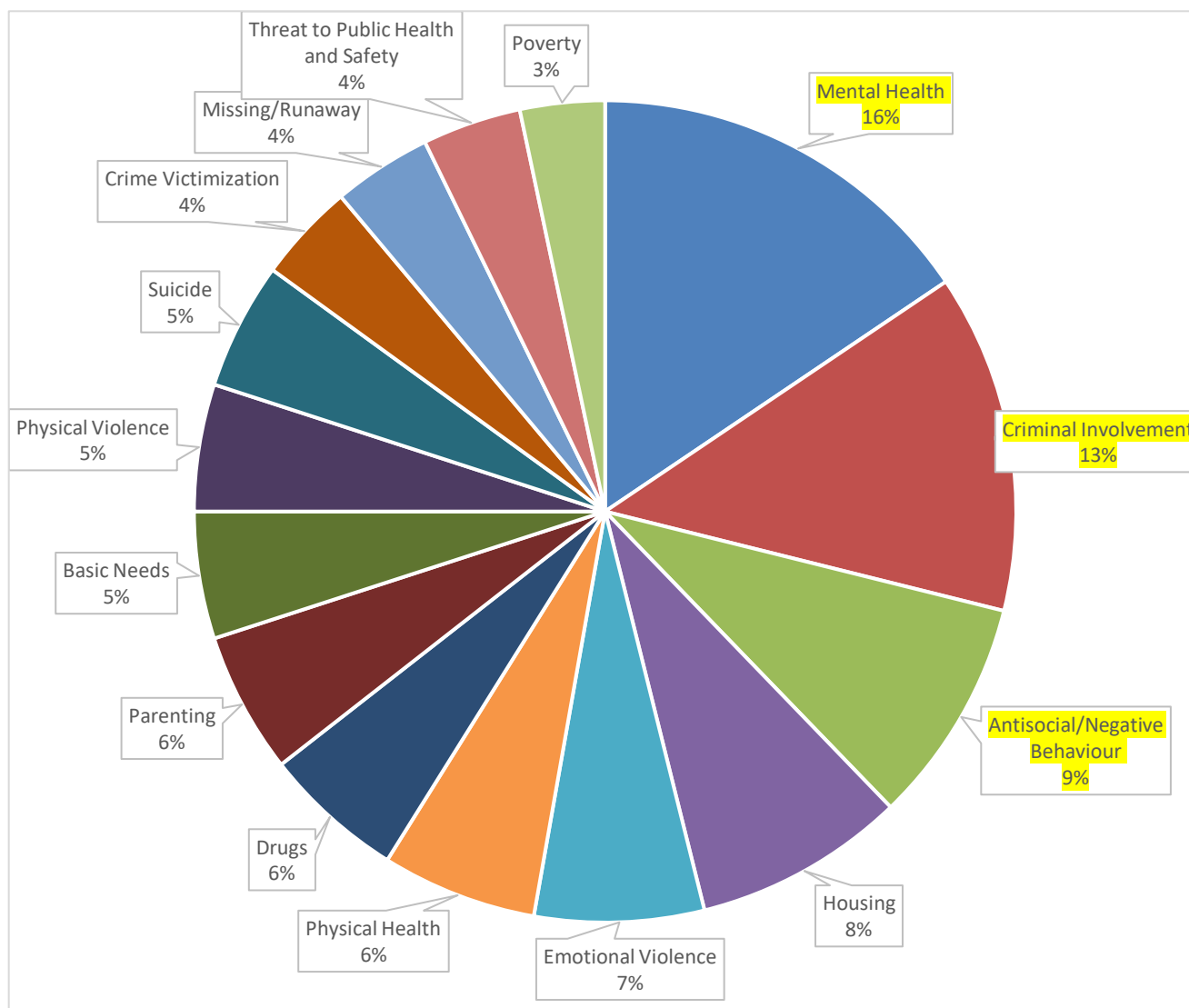

Figure 19: Overall Risk Categories, 2023

Study Flags
The RTD offers reports to show the range of study flags associated with discussions. Since inception, the most frequent study flag has been, by far, "recent escalation." An escalation in risk is often a first indicator of a need for a referral. In recent years, "risk of losing housing/unsafe living conditions" and "homelessness" have increased in frequency for study flags. In 2023, "child involved" and "custody issues/child welfare" were in the top 5 study flags, likely due to the increased number of referrals from Family and Children's Services.
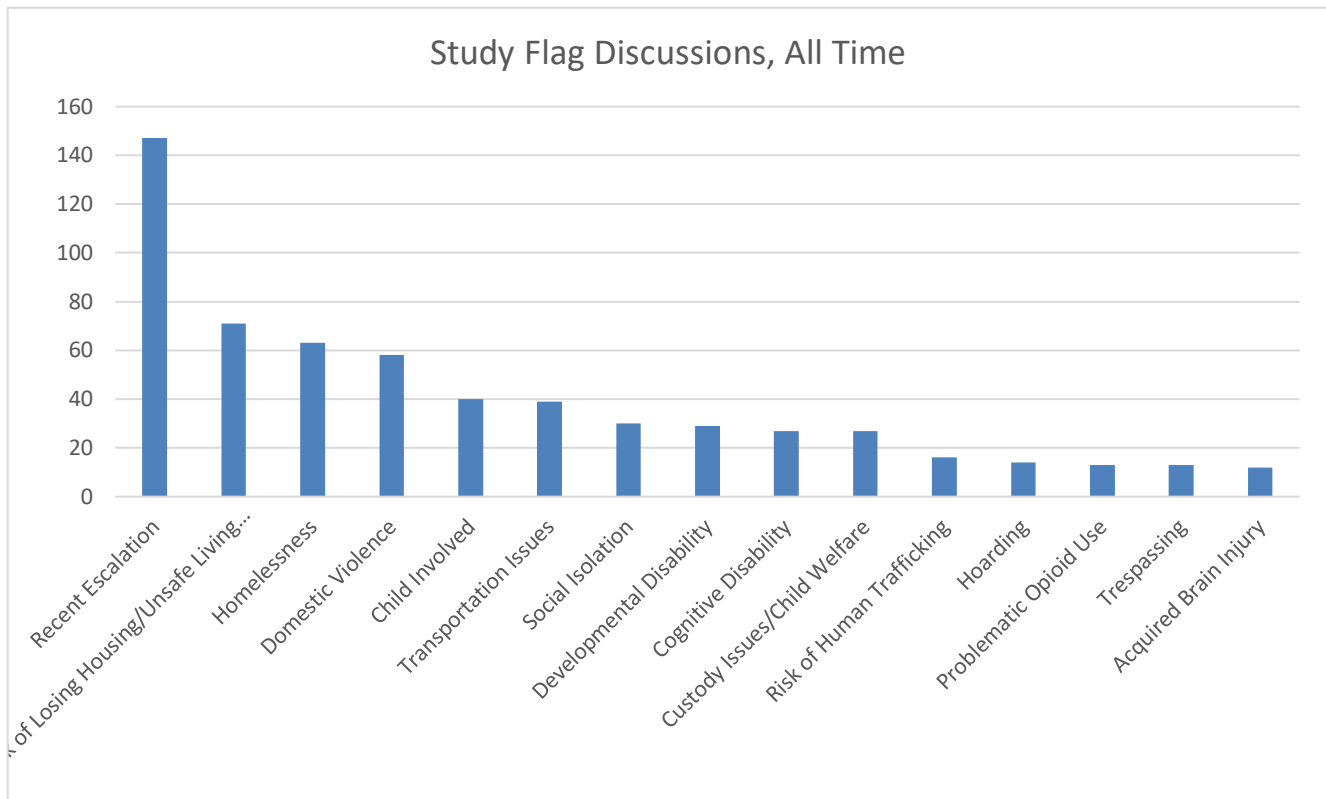
LANARK COUNTY SITUATION TABLE

_____

Study Flag Discussions, All Time

Figure 20: Study Flag Discussions, Dec. 2015-May 31, 2024

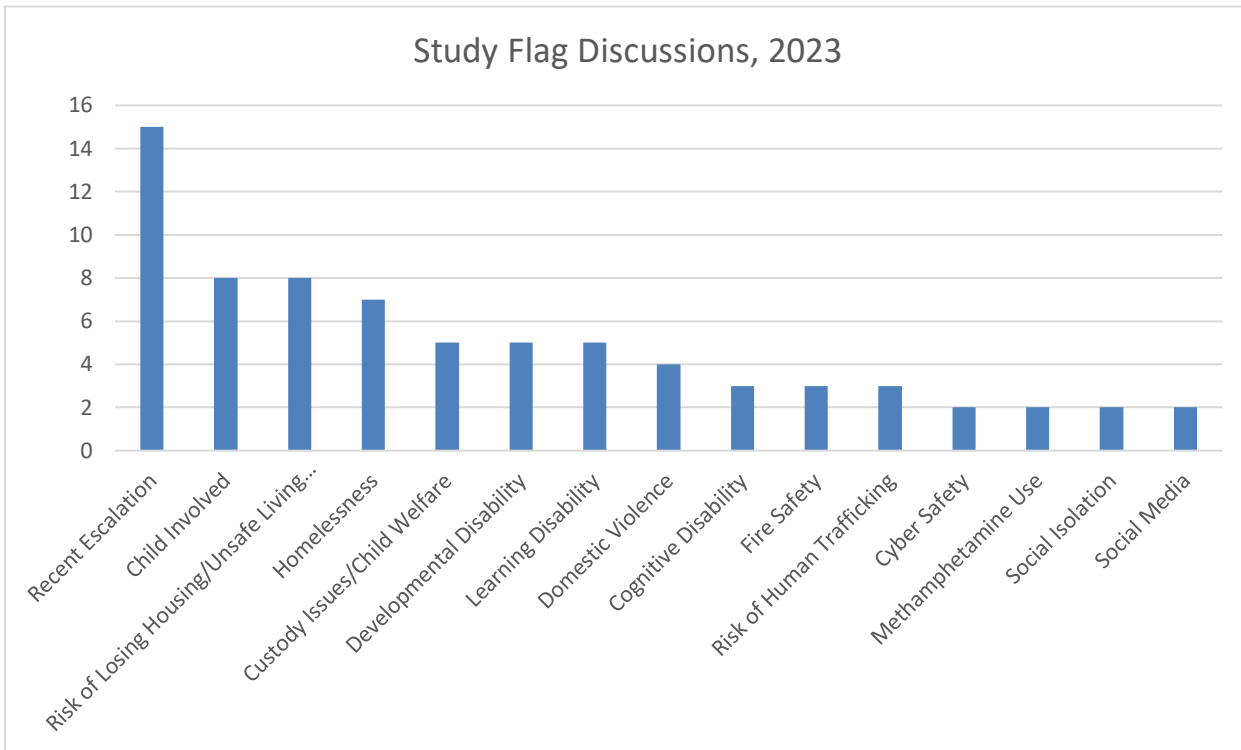**Study Flag Discussions, 2023**

Figure 21: Study Flag Discussions, 2023

LANARK COUNTY SITUATION TABLE
_____

Conclusion Reasons

Of 354 discussions held from inception to May 31, 2024, 275 proceeded to intervention, and 83% of those were closed with overall risk lowered. Of the rejected discussions, 20 were referred to the non-AER process, which began in 2019.

354
Total Discussions
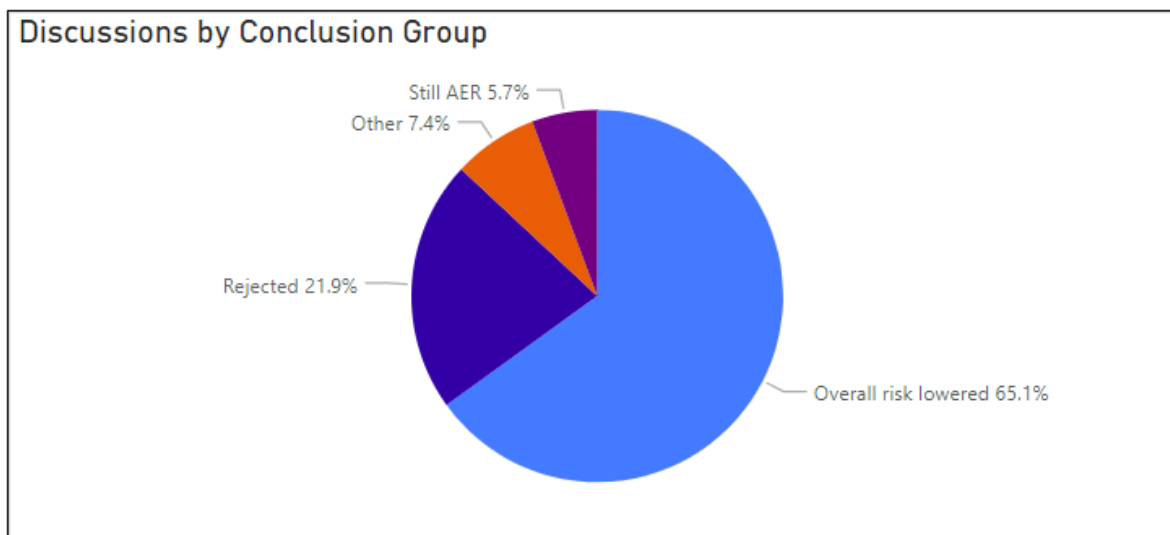
352
Total Closed Discussions

Discussions by Conclusion Group

Still AER 5.7%
Other 7.4%
Rejected 21.9%
Overall risk lowered 65.1%

Figure 22: Conclusion Reasons - All Time

The table below provides more detailed reasons for the conclusion categories. Rejected discussions can include the following reasons: "Situation not deemed to be one of acutely elevated risk," "Already connected to appropriate services with potential to mitigate the risk," "Originator has not exhausted all options to address the issue," "Already connected to appropriate personal supports with potential to mitigate the risk." Discussions that are referred to the non-AER process fall into the "Situation not deemed to be one of acutely elevated risk" category.

rtd_conclusionreason	Discussions	% of Total
Connected to services	200	56.8%
Situation not deemed to be one of acutely-elevated risk	30	8.5%
Relocated	18	5.1%
Already connected to appropriate services with potential to mitigate the risk	17	4.8%
Originator has not exhausted all options to address the issue	16	4.5%
Refused services/uncooperative	13	3.7%
Through no action of the Situation Table	12	3.4%
Already connected to appropriate personal supports with potential to mitigate the risk	11	3.1%
Connected to personal supports	9	2.6%
Connected to services in other jurisdiction	8	2.3%
Unable to locate	7	2.0%
Systemic issue	4	1.1%
Already connected to services and risk was mitigated	3	0.9%
Informed about services; not yet connected	3	0.9%
New information reveals AER did not exist to begin with	1	0.3%
	0	0.0%
Total	**352**	**100.0%**

Figure 23: Conclusion Reasons-Detail – All Time

LANARK COUNTY SITUATION TABLE
_____

In 2023 there were 38 discussions, of which 25 proceeded to intervention. Of those, 80% were closed with overall risk lowered. Eight of the rejected discussions went to the non-AER process.
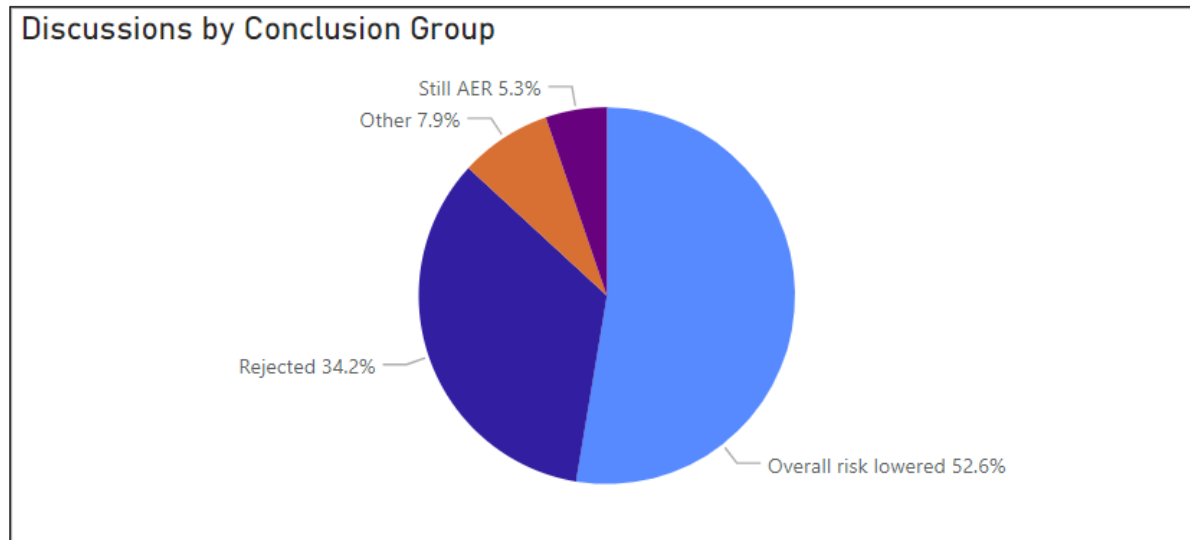

Figure 24: Conclusion Reasons, 2023

The detailed closure reasons for 2023 are in the table below.

rtd_conclusionreason	Discussions	% of Total
Connected to services	17	44.7%
Situation not deemed to be one of acutely-elevated risk	10	26.3%
Originator has not exhausted all options to address the issue	2	5.3%
Refused services/uncooperative	2	5.3%
Relocated	2	5.3%
Already connected to appropriate services with potential to mitigate the risk	1	2.6%
Connected to personal supports	1	2.6%
Connected to services in other jurisdiction	1	2.6%
Through no action of the Situation Table	1	2.6%
Unable to locate	1	2.6%
Total	**38**	**100.0%**

Figure 25: Conclusion Reasons-Detail, 2023

Services Mobilized

The Lanark County Situation Table began tracking "Services Mobilized" information on the RTD in late 2017 after it was implemented. This includes different categories of services and allows the lead agency to indicate during the report-back process whether individuals (or others) were engaged, informed of, connected to or refused a service. It also can indicate if a service is not available.

The graphs below, for all time and for 2023, show mental health, counselling, social services and housing continue to be high in terms of services needed and mobilized.

LANARK COUNTY SITUATION TABLE
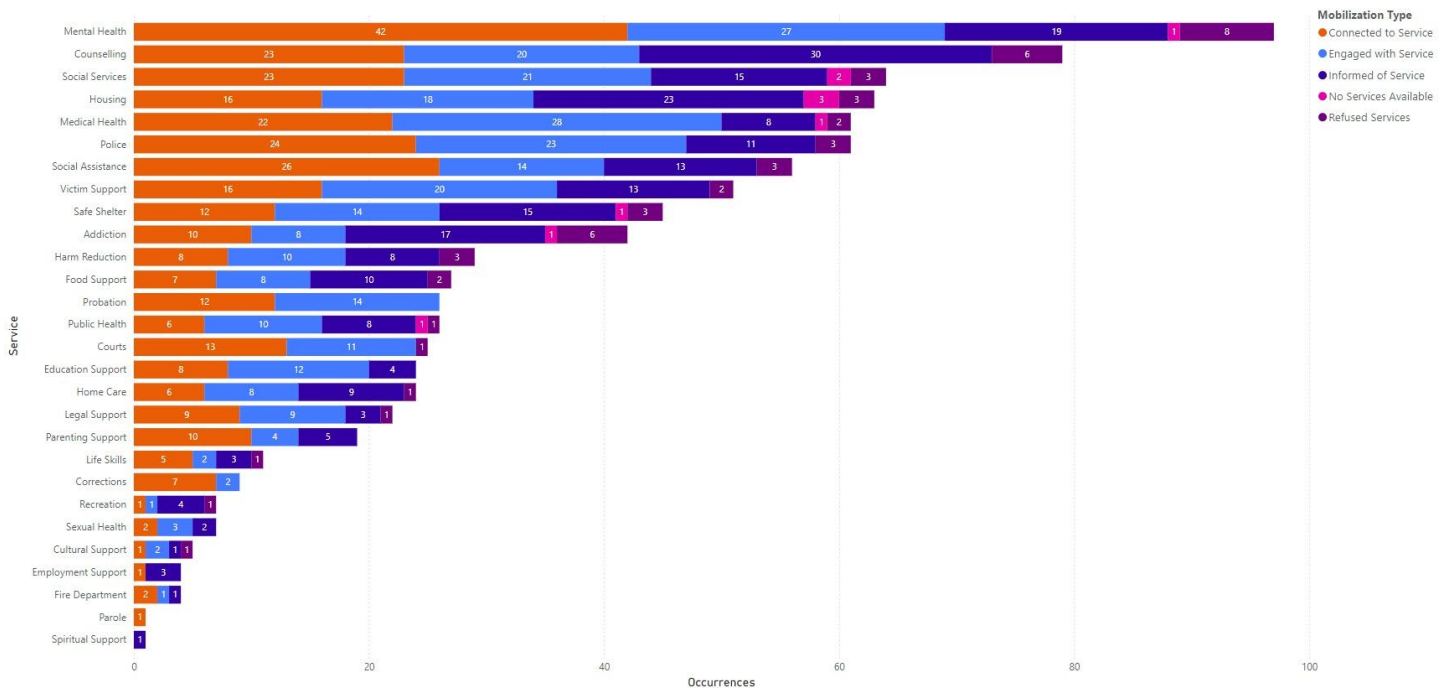
Services Mobilized – 2017-2024
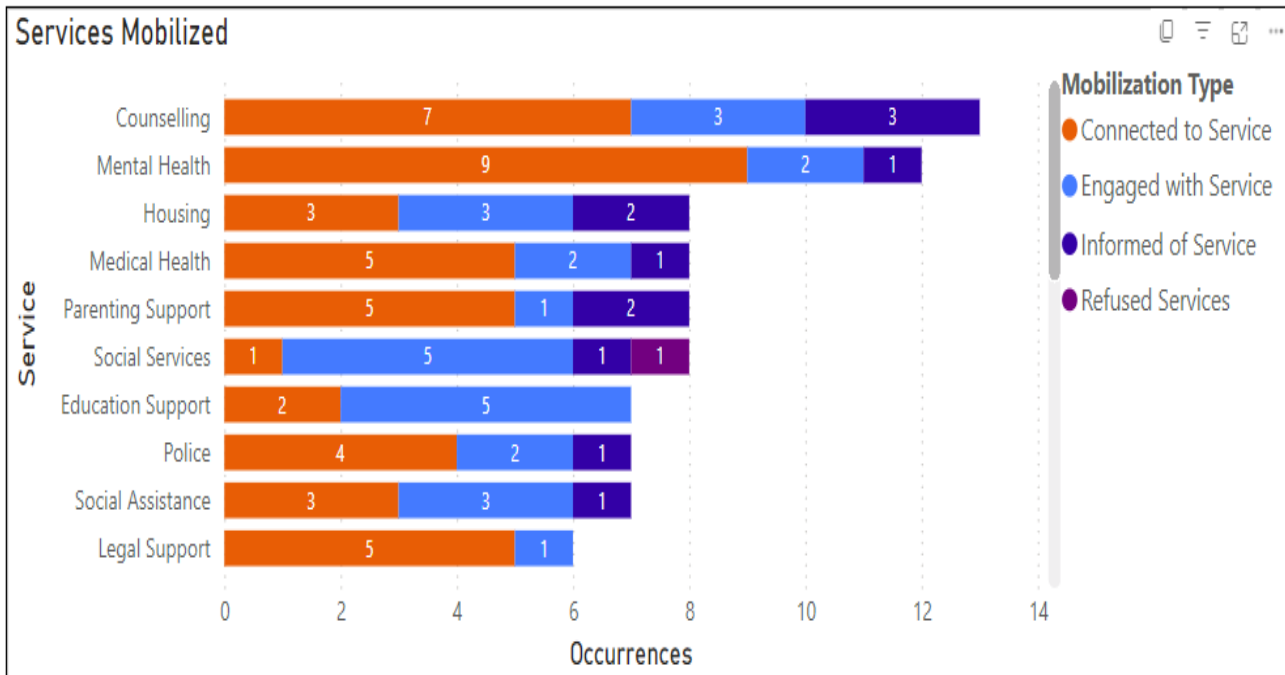

Figure 26: Services Mobilized, 2017-2024

Figure 27: Services Mobilized, 2023

LANARK COUNTY SITUATION TABLE
_____

OPP Pre- and Post-Referral Data

Since the start of the Lanark County Situation Table, Lanark County OPP has been evaluating its effectiveness in relation to calls for service pre- and post-referral for individuals referred to the situation table by the OPP. From inception to the end of May 2024, OPP have made a total of 130 out of 354 referrals – close to 37%.

The most recent analysis was for 2022 in order to allow for a one-year pre- and post-referral window. Three referrals from 2022 met the criteria for evaluation within that timeframe. One individual showed no change in the number of calls for service pre- and post-referral, and the other two saw a decrease in calls for service post referral. Overall "number of officers" interactions with the three subjects dropped by 49% and there was a 42% decrease in total officer hours. Total calls for service decreased by 57%. This was a large improvement from the previous year, which saw a significant increase in calls for service due to individuals involved experiencing significant challenges that required an elevated amount of police involvement. Most years the situation table has shown a decrease in calls for service, with 2021 being the first time there was an increase. It also highlights the anecdotally noted increase in complexity of the nature of referrals that have come to the situation table in recent years. The analysis does not include time spent by court officers or support staff after initial interactions with a subject, nor does it include any court time accrued by officers relating to any of the interactions. It can be inferred that those hours would also be reduced with fewer interactions.

CONCLUSION

The Lanark County Situation Table continues to be a valuable component of the community safety model locally. Community partners are critical to the success of the situation table, and engagement continues to be positive and consistent. This consistency and commitment are huge strengths of the situation table. It is a place where partners can come together to effectively help those needing support. The relationships and awareness that have been built between community partners has been a tremendous asset.

Thank you to the many partners and participants who have supported the work of the Lanark County Situation Table and the Community Plan for Safety and Well-being, and to the Ministry of the Solicitor General for its ongoing support of this valuable risk-intervention model.

Report by Stephanie Gray
Coordinator
Lanark County Situation Table
Community Plan for Safety and Well-being
LanarkCST@gmail.com * 613-812-3778