Letter from the Director

The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) faced and addressed many challenges during the COVID-19 global pandemic. Over this past year, all ODPS divisions played critical roles helping Ohioans through these unprecedented times while remaining true to our core mission: safety, service, and protection. The state of emergency ended in June 2021. As Ohio begins to emerge from the pandemic, we continue our efforts to make Ohio a safer place to work, live, and play.

The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC), housed within the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA), was activated for the entire fiscal year helping coordinate the state’s pandemic response. Operating virtually at times, the State EOC distributed millions of doses of vaccine and coordinated the distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE). The COVID-19 State EOC activation was the longest in the state’s history and Ohio’s first full activation since 2011.

As part of the COVID-19 pandemic response, the Ohio State Highway Patrol’s primary focus shifted to provide essential assistance to local communities, while also meeting the needs of public safety partners. Patrol personnel participated in food distributions and partnered with schools, community groups, and other government agencies. State troopers provided additional security to Ohio prisons, mask relays to Battelle to ensure clean masks were available to first responders, and critical medicine relays from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to areas across the state. The Patrol also was engaged in support or collaboration in response to demonstrations in more than 178 cities in Ohio. Many of these cities saw state troopers responding in person to work side-by-side with local law enforcement.

Throughout the pandemic, Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) agents conducted investigations to ensure liquor permit premises were following the various health orders issued by ODH. OIU conducted over 30,000 visits to liquor permit establishments and issued nearly 400 administrative citations. Their cases were sent to the Ohio Liquor Control Commission for the penalty phase. Meanwhile, OIU continued working cases of human trafficking, food stamp fraud, illegal gambling, and illegal alcohol sales.

As directed by Governor Mike DeWine, the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) created the Office of Law Enforcement Recruitment to assist agencies that are working to hire more minorities and women to encourage them to explore a law enforcement career. OCJS also received nearly $16 million in Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) as part of the federal CARES Act to provide grants to local law enforcement, probation and parole offices, local courts, victim services providers, and adult, juvenile, and community corrections agencies to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Grant funds were provided to 319 criminal justice agencies.

Eighty-five percent of Ohio’s law enforcement officers work for an agency that has voluntarily complied with core standards or is in the process of certification with standards covering use of force, including deadly force, and hiring and recruitment that were set by the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board. In December 2020, the Ohio Collaborative, as requested by Governor DeWine, developed a new statewide minimum standard for law enforcement response to mass protests and demonstrations.

Governor DeWine also announced the creation of the Ohio Traffic Safety Council, led by ODPS. The Council brings together representatives from federal, state, county, and local agencies along with traffic safety partners and advocates who are all dedicated to making Ohio’s roadways safer. Other safety-focused initiatives include the Ohio School Safety Center (OSSC), where personnel housed in the Ohio Homeland Security division proactively review open source social media and websites for threats to schools, manage the state’s free 24-hour Safer Ohio School Tip Line, review and oversee K-12 emergency management plans,
offer free security, vulnerability, and threat assessment programs, and more. Staff at the OSSC also work to assist schools with preparing for and responding to natural, technological, and man-made hazards, which made them a critical support for schools as districts navigated the pandemic over the past school year.

The Division of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) contributed to the state’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic as the State Medical Director developed multiple guidance and best practice recommendations that were frequently communicated to all EMS stakeholder groups. Staff contributed expertise in PPE and transportation missions received by the State EOC. Testing and certification of Ohio’s fire service and EMS personnel continued throughout the declared state of emergency thanks to the collaborative efforts of many stakeholders who helped forge creative, alternative solutions to many of the challenges caused by COVID-19.

Committed to moving Ohio forward, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) continued making services more secure, convenient, and efficient for its customers. The “Get In Line Online” program that allows customers to scan a QR code outside of the agency and return to their car to wait for a text message alerting them to come inside. This lobby management tool is effective with social distancing guidelines and helps alleviate lines outside the door.

I know firsthand that the collective efforts of the ODPS helped create a safer Ohio for our residents during this year of COVID-19. While we proudly look back at the incredible progress that has been made during these times of extraordinary challenges, we also eagerly look forward with both fervor and hope as we strive to push this great state toward a safer post-pandemic future.

Director Thomas J. Stickrath
Ohio Department of Public Safety
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Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center

The Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center (ONIC) was established in 2019 when Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed Executive Order 2019-20D. ONIC is made up of criminal intelligence analysts and forensic computer specialists who assist law enforcement agencies and drug task forces by providing investigation and case support through the extraction and analysis of cell phones and other electronic devices. ONIC provides criminal case support, computer forensics, tactical, strategic and operational intelligence support, trend analysis, and dark web investigations.

In 2019, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed Executive Order 2019-20D creating the Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center.

CAPABILITIES AND PARTNERS

ONIC employs nine Public Safety Intelligence Analysts, two Public Safety Intelligence Managers, four Forensic Computer Specialists, four Ohio National Guard Counterdrug Analysts, and one Ohio National Guard Social Science Researcher across offices in Columbus and Cleveland.

Analysts provide on-site assistance, subject identification and cyber evidence analysis, and a variety of intelligence products ranging from cellphone record analysis, historical call detail record analysis and mapping, live cell phone ping mapping, live and historical GPS tracker analysis, pattern, trend, and link analysis, Spanish interpretation, proactive intelligence reports, bulletins and BOLOS.

Working Partnerships
- Ohio Board of Pharmacy
- Ohio National Guard

Collaborators
- RecoveryOhio
- Ohio Task Force Commanders Association (OTFCA)
- Ohio Department of Health (ODH)
- Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OHIOMHAS)
- Drug Monitoring Initiative
- Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s Office
- Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)
- Crime Stoppers
ONIC, along with RecoveryOhio, established a Monthly Drug Trends Call. The calls feature collaboration among law enforcement partners throughout Ohio and are aimed at combating the narcotics crisis from multiple angles. The calls host a group of reoccurring core presenters from multiple sector agencies including public health, law enforcement, regulatory agencies, and featured speakers from areas of expertise relevant to emerging trends. In addition to the monthly call, ONIC helped to facilitate several other reoccurring calls that focus on dedicated topics. These calls report significant findings back to ONIC/RecoveryOhio and are a part of ONIC’s efforts to establish sharing partnerships and actionable intelligence related to Ohio’s narcotics epidemic.

The RecoveryOhio Monthly Drug Trends Meeting was created to provide decision makers across diverse public sector partnerships with information sharing opportunities and actionable intelligence on emerging trends, patterns, insights, and outcomes related to Ohio’s narcotics epidemic. Due to the great response received, a need for information flow to more specific target audiences was realized, thus creating the below meetings.

The Ohio Quick Response Team (QRT) Outreach Quarterly Meeting
The goal of the meeting is to provide the QRT outreach programs a space to collaborate and give task forces who do not currently have a QRT the opportunity to hear what other task forces are doing in their communities.

National Drug Trends Meeting
The purpose of this quarterly call is to connect with Ohio’s source cities around the nation to discuss current drug trends, drug prices, and how current events impact the drug trade.

Emerging Drug Scientific Working Group (EDSWG)
By establishing EDSWG, ONIC seeks to mitigate the challenges experienced with emerging drug data through regular communications with Ohio forensic scientists in the fields of drug chemistry, and toxicology as well as participation from public universities with forensic programs.
FY2021

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<tr>
<td>• Assisted nearly 330 criminal investigations</td>
<td>• Assisted in 575 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Processed over 400 requests for assistance</td>
<td>• Analyzed over 2,028 devices</td>
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<td>• Provided 550 workups</td>
<td>• Conducted over 2,020 forensic examinations</td>
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Notable Cases and Highlights

- ONIC analysts utilized a money order transaction record database in two separate cases to identify cross-border money wires from U.S. residents suspected of sending drug proceeds across the southern border to Mexico.

- An ONIC analyst assisted on a DEA wire that helped solidify potential charges and led to the identification of the source of supply and a second wire in a heroin investigation spanning from Mexico to Ohio. The second wire on the source of supply helped in identifying the location of drugs and money. The analyst provided line reports and analysis on the wire logs, as well as identification of phone numbers and locations.

- ONIC analysts assisted a task force and federal investigators with social media analysis of a suspected street gang/drug trafficking organization, for consideration for Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization (RICO) charges.

- ONIC analysts assisted a task force and federal investigators by providing 76 target profiles in a mass drug arrest sweep. ONIC began supporting a drug task force in early 2020 by examining 20 devices seized from a search warrant that led to the location of the remains of two people missing since 2018.

- ONIC analysts assisted the Board of Pharmacy (BOP) with providing criminal case support on 21 cases by helping BOP to locate doctor shoppers to divert into treatment in the Early Intervention program. Additionally, ONIC analysts assisted BOP with 11 questionable prescribing/dispensing by doctor cases.

- An ONIC analyst provided detailed analytical reports on a 30-device case for the Hilliard Police Department. These reports led to a 51-count indictment against nine subjects of the investigation, in addition to federal indictments. The indictments included multiple felonies and were the culmination of months of intelligence analysis and cooperation between ONIC Intel, Forensics, and detectives at Hilliard PD.

- An ONIC analyst assisted a police department in showing associations between 17 individuals who are potentially acting as a street gang.
State of Ohio Law Enforcement Virtual Exchange

The State of Ohio Law Enforcement Virtual Exchange (SOLVE) was born out of Governor DeWine’s RecoveryOhio plan and supports RecoveryOhio recommendations No. 28 - Expanding Law Enforcement’s Role; No. 56 - Decreasing the Supply of Drugs; and No. 73 - Data Coordination and Sharing and Care Coordination. SOLVE is a statewide data-sharing platform for Ohio’s drug task forces and law enforcement agencies. SOLVE includes a case management system, a community collaboration page, data sharing, and analytics. SOLVE connects the disparate information from across agency platforms into a statewide system and allows the data to be analyzed for actionable intelligence. SOLVE features real-time data sharing, and will feature state-of-the-art data analytics, robust searching and reports, and crime prediction. It will identify connections and networks among criminals, and integrate with state and federal deconfliction systems.

SOLVE is currently in discovery phase with the Data Interface for reporting to the Drug Information Summary Collection Overview (DISCO).

SOLVE Community is collaborating with the Emerging Drug Scientific Working Group (EDSWG) to create a subpage for engaging in information-sharing and collaboration with both SOLVE and the Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center (ONIC).

In addition, SOLVE is including eCitation and Crash data along with Bureau of Motor Vehicles and Law Enforcement Automated Data System (LEADS) capabilities to promote continued convenience, functionality, and purpose.

SOLVE Components

- **SOLVE Platform/AWS GovCloud**: is the future of data sharing where you control your data. CJIS compliant.
- **SOLVE Community**: provides a collaborative portal to share announcements, training opportunities and access other SOLVE applications. SOLVE Community was launched January 2021.
- **SOLVE Case Management**: allows users to track all tips, cases, field interviews and criminal intelligence. SOLVE CMS launched August 2020.
- **SOLVE Connect**: is for networking and creating bilateral connections across all areas of law enforcement. SOLVE Connect allows for users to remain within the wheelhouse of their respective system while simultaneously accessing valuable data results found within SOLVE Connect.
- **SOLVE Analytics**: is a future prospect.
Ohio State Highway Patrol

The Ohio State Highway Patrol is comprised of 59 posts that serve all of Ohio’s 88 counties. State Troopers make personal contact with more than 1.1 million motorists annually and have a significant impact on millions more through community engagement and educational efforts. In addition to traffic safety services, the Patrol is responsible for the executive security of state government officials, visiting dignitaries, security at state facilities, and criminal investigations. The Patrol also provides assistance to local law enforcement agencies, when requested, to include times of civil unrest.

Although personnel strength varies, the Patrol maintains a sworn officer complement of about 1,600 officers. In addition, about 1,000 support personnel, including load limit inspectors, motor vehicle inspectors, motor carrier enforcement inspectors, dispatchers, electronic technicians, and civilian specialists complete the Patrol’s personnel strength.

To improve the life quality of those it serves, the Patrol collaborates with community and safety partners to provide professional law enforcement services that are focused on deterring crime and promoting traffic safety. The Patrol’s primary goal is to provide service with respect to the citizens of Ohio and those motorists who travel through our state.

COVID Response

2020 challenged the Patrol to extend its operations outside its core mission to fill the needs of communities around the state. While the year brought significant change, it also brought opportunity to transform the landscape of the agency’s role in communities. Troopers redefined service while maintaining safety on Ohio’s roadways.

Never before in its history had the Patrol faced such enormous opposing obstacles simultaneously and on multiple fronts. As part of the COVID-19 pandemic response, the primary focus shifted to provide essential assistance to local communities, while also meeting the needs of public safety partners.
Response to Protests and Demonstrations

Throughout 2020, the Patrol’s Criminal Intel Unit and Ohio’s primary Fusion Center, the Statewide Terrorism Analysis and Crime Center, provided critical Intel support and threat assessments related to protests tied to COVID-19 and social justice across Ohio.

As demonstrations intensified and became civil disturbances requiring law enforcement intervention, the Patrol was there to ensure the safety of those who gathered to be heard in a peaceful manner and protect the property. Troopers prioritized the safety of others above their own so that everyone could feel safe to exercise their first amendment rights while protecting property.

The Patrol was engaged in support or collaboration of 795 demonstrations in more than 178 cities in Ohio, and 250 of those demonstrations saw state troopers responding in person to work side-by-side with local law enforcement.

The Intel Unit provided detailed threat assessments on protests, demonstrations, and other events that could disrupt business at the Ohio Statehouse and the Capitol Square area. This threat information, as appropriate, was shared with the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board director, Department of Administrative Services Security Administrator, the Sergeant at Arms, and the Columbus Division of Police.

In early January, as Americans prepared for the Presidential Inauguration, the Patrol strategically prepared for possible civil unrest at the Statehouse in Columbus, with the largest contingent security detail in the Division’s history. This was a direct result from the events that occurred in Washington, D.C. on January 6. Multiple intelligence reports, social media chatter, and additional behind-the-scenes information led Patrol managers to use and exercise an abundance of caution to make sure Ohioans were safe.

A combined contingent of several hundred troopers, including Mobile Field Force, Ohio National Guard, and Ohio Air National Guard personnel, along with the unmatched level of teamwork from LEADS personnel, professional staff, and intelligence analysts collaborated to work on Operation Iron Wall.

In mid-April, when a call went out from Minnesota for support in preparation of the verdict in the Derek Chauvin trial, the Patrol provided a detail of 100 troopers to support security near the Minnesota state capitol.
Ohio Statistics for Analytics and Traffic Safety and Traffic Safety Dashboards

Ohio Statistics for Analytics and Traffic Safety (OSTATS) is a series of internal and public-facing dashboards developed by the GIS team in the Patrol’s Statistical Analysis Unit (SAU). The main OSTATS crash dashboard and accompanying user guide is available to the public at: https://statepatrol.ohio.gov/ostats.aspx.

OSTATS allows users to view crashes in their area by 19 crash variables and includes statistics by hour, day, month, and crash severity. In addition, the system allows any law enforcement agency across Ohio to display information on crashes investigated by their officers. Government officials, law enforcement, media, engineers, students, and other traffic safety partners have used OSTATS to research and develop solutions to crash issues in their local jurisdictions.

New Traffic Safety Dashboards, developed through OSTATS, are a series of internal and public-facing resources dedicated to exploration, analysis, and visualization of crash data across Ohio. Dashboards include those addressing Work Zones (www.workzonedashboard.ohio.gov), Alcohol and Drug Impaired Driving (www.ovidashboard.ohio.gov), and Distracted Driving (www.DistractedDrivingDashboard.ohio.gov).

SERVICE OPERATIONAL PLAN

The introduction of the SERVICE Operational Plan brought about collaborative community partnerships between the Patrol and the people and organizations the agency serves across Ohio.

SERVICE is an acronym for Service with Respect while Valuing Inclusion and Community Engagement. It works by the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.

In the fall of 2020 in Franklin County, following a significant increase in traffic safety and highway crime, central Ohio commanders and troopers partnered with many local law enforcement agencies and community groups for a Franklin County Urban SERVICE Initiative. The initiative was to reduce serious crashes and crime on Franklin County Interstates 270, 70, and 71.

During the first nine months of 2020, there were 14 fatal crashes on Interstate 270, which was the top route in the state for fatal crashes. In October, with the help of law enforcement and community partners, the first crime and traffic enforcement SERVICE initiative resulted in zero fatal crashes on Interstate 270 and significant reductions of crashes on all three interstates compared with data from a previous three-year average.

In Toledo, there was a significant increase in fatal crashes going into the fall of 2020. Through a combination of community partnerships and multi-agency law enforcement operations, as well as support from the Toledo Police Department and Mayor, five zones in Lucas Country were identified and worked for fatal crash reduction. Each area was strategically selected, through in-depth analytics, to provide the greatest impact on traffic safety. A focused media plan told the stories to Toledo residents of the impact and value of our efforts to make their city safer.

Additional SERVICE initiatives are underway during the current fiscal year.
Users of the public-facing Dashboards have the ability to filter data, find specific county and route statistics, and get a front seat view of what our troopers do every day to address these key traffic safety issues. In addition, interactive maps show videos of troopers enforcing violations and educating the motoring public.

Internal OSTATS Dashboards provide a quick way for field commanders to get crash and activity statistics in an interactive environment to help them better direct resources. Dashboards available to troopers include a Crash and Activity Status Report, Statewide Crashes for five years plus current, and crash and activity Dashboards focused on Alcohol and Drug Impaired Driving, Distracted Driving, Safety Belts, Speed, Commercial Vehicles, and Failure-to-Yield. A Traffic Volume Dashboard was created in response to changing traffic patterns related to the COVID-19 pandemic to monitor changes in traffic volume, vehicle speeds, crashes, and OSHP enforcement.

**Distracted Driving Corridors**

Distracted driving has proven in recent years to be a growing problem, with a large number of crashes attributed to the dangerous practice. Since 2016, there have been over 66,000 crashes in Ohio attributed to distracted driving, with 195 of them being fatal. During the same timeframe, troopers issued over 20,000 distracted driving citations. The passing of House Bill 95 in 2018 signaled another step in the right direction, where troopers were given an additional tool to combat distracted driving through increased penalties.

Since 2018, the Patrol and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) have teamed up to make Ohio’s roadways safer through the implementation of distracted driving corridors. Collaboration between the Patrol and ODOT illustrated the effectiveness of two agencies joining forces to save lives.

The Patrol began by identifying sections of roadway where distraction played a major role in crashes and citations, while also offering a viable enforcement environment for troopers. ODOT was tasked with providing eye-catching signage to alert drivers that they had entered a corridor and to place that signage along the corridor’s length. The two agencies worked in concert with each other to make an emphasized presence in these problem areas, signaling to motorists that an adjustment was required.

The Patrol and ODOT have installed 14 different corridors across Ohio, with many more on the way.

**Community Threats Awareness**

An external communications push shared with the public and media raised awareness about the many ways in which state troopers and support professional staff assist in combating threats to the community, including arresting drunk drivers, seizing illegal drugs, stopping distracted driving, and apprehending highway criminals. The four community threats identified are topics the public directly cares about and that impact their personal safety and security.
A statewide communications plan, developed by the Public Affairs Unit, established a structure for coordinating the Patrol’s external messaging on the four threats. The Public Affairs Unit, regional Public Information Officers and field commanders developed multiple stories every day highlighting the efforts, hard work, and impact of what state troopers were doing. These stories provided specific examples to Ohioans they could relate to and would remember.

These stories included events like impaired driving incidents involving crashes or egregious driving violations, road rage incidents, significant narcotics seizures, and other criminal activity on highways such as weapon seizures, identity crimes, persons wanted for violent felonies, property theft, human trafficking, domestic violence, hit-skip crashes, and vehicle thefts or recovery.

**Enforcement and Education**

State troopers continued working every day and night, in all 88 counties, focused on preventing traffic crashes and keeping families safe. The Patrol, since inception in 1933, has been fully committed to ensuring Ohio remains among the safest places in America to drive, work, and live.

According to provisional data, 1,335 people died in FY 2021 because of choices such as not wearing a safety belt, distracted driving, illegal drugs, and driving impaired. Unfortunately, during the last five years, Ohio has averaged more than three traffic fatalities and 11 overdose deaths per day.

There was an increased connection between drugs and weapons last year. During 2020, the Patrol investigated 671 incidents involving both an illegal weapon and a drug violation on traffic stops initiated by troopers. This is a significant increase compared to 2019, where 420 similar incidents were reported. Additionally, the Patrol recovered 1,746 firearms last year, a 33 percent increase from 2019.

Additionally, troopers removed a large number of pills from Ohio roads in 2020. This included significant increases in the seizure of opiate, depressant, stimulant, and hallucinogen pills. State troopers also had success in the recovery of stolen vehicles in FY 2021. Troopers recovered 1,530 stolen vehicles in 2020, a 25 percent increase from FY 2020 totals.

**FY2021**

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<th>Activity Recap</th>
<th>Criminal Patrol Illegal Drugs Seized</th>
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<tr>
<td>▪ More than one million contacts with motorists.</td>
<td>▪ 606 pounds of methamphetamines</td>
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<td>▪ Investigated 58,216 traffic crashes</td>
<td>▪ 81 pounds of heroin</td>
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<td>▪ Arrested 19,150 impaired drivers</td>
<td>▪ 344 pounds of cocaine</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Issued 76,449 safety belt citations</td>
<td>▪ 16,618 opiate pills</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Enforced 12,630 distracted driving violations</td>
<td>▪ 164 pounds of fentanyl</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Provided assistance to 174,984 motorists</td>
<td>▪ 6,133 pounds of marijuana</td>
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*Troopers also made 14,343 arrests for drug violations, 7,470 felony arrests, 1,632 arrests for weapons violations, and served 1,708 felony warrants.*
In an effort to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Ohio Department of Health ordered the closure of all restaurants and bars for on-premise consumption on March 15, 2020. In May, bars and restaurants were permitted to open with limitations. Bars found to be violating the health orders were cited with Rule 52 violations such as improper conduct – disorderly activities. In July, the Ohio Division of Liquor Control enacted Rule 80, which limited the hours in which patrons were permitted to purchase and consume alcohol.

Throughout the pandemic, Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) agents conducted investigations to ensure liquor permit premises were following the health orders. Liquor permit establishments found to be in violation were issued citations and their cases were sent to the Ohio Liquor Control Commission for the penalty phase.

Highlights from March 15, 2020 through May 10, 2021 include:

- 33,909 visits to liquor permit establishments.
  - 5,501 visits after 10 p.m., checking for Rule 80 compliance. Visits were also used to educate the liquor permit holders. Throughout the state, many liquor permit holders came up with ingenious ways to manage social distancing. Those best practices for social distancing were shared with other permit holders.
- 396 administrative citations issued.
• Agents in OIU district offices have fielded complaints and provided information to a number of law enforcement partners and local health department, solidifying partnerships.
  o OIU Cleveland District completed a number of compliance checks while working with the Cleveland Division of Police, Cleveland Division of Fire, and the Cleveland Department of Public Health. This work resulted in several administrative citations against liquor permits, as well as criminal citations against managers and operators of locations where egregious violations of the health orders were taking place.
  o Agents assisted Columbus Public Health with COVID-related health inspections at liquor permit premises within the city. Agents accompanied health sanitarians on about 132 inspections between August 2020 and May 2021.

Human Trafficking

Southeast Ohio

Athens District Office agents assisted joint task force members made up of the Ohio Attorney General’s Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Portsmouth Police Department, and the Ohio Department of Public Safety’s Intelligence Unit to investigate human trafficking activities in southeast Ohio. The investigation led to the indictment of a former Portsmouth City Council member and practicing attorney Michael Mearan. He was indicted on 18 felony counts related to human trafficking spanning 15 years.

The charges stem from criminal activity in southern Ohio from 2003 to 2018 involving six victims. Charges include one count of engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity, a first-degree felony; three counts of trafficking in person, a third-degree felony; and nine counts of promoting prostitution, a fourth-degree felony. The case went to court in June. If convicted, he faces more than 70 years in prison.

Mahoning Valley

An Akron agent working with the Mahoning Valley Human Trafficking Task Force (MVHTTF) played an instrumental part of several investigations targeting child predators and attempting to identify individuals participating in prostitution and needing assistance after being trafficked. Other cases involved child pornography and other crimes against children. OIU’s participation with this task force has led to numerous successful outcomes for cases and the rescuing of a number of individuals from trafficking or abuse.

In May, one of the investigations resulted in the arrest of a Tuscarawas County man charged with compelling prostitution, a third-degree felony; attempted unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, a fourth-degree felony; and possessing criminal tools, a fifth-degree felony. The man was arrested in Columbiana County.

Cuyahoga County

In April, two additional members of the Dong brother criminal enterprise were convicted and sentenced for their roles in 13 massage parlors in seven counties, which were fronts for prostitution. Yulian Fu was convicted on two counts of attempted promoting prostitution, grand theft, Bureau of Worker’s Compensation (BWC) fraud, and possessing criminal tools and was sentenced to two years community control. Yan Chang was convicted on two counts of possessing criminal tools and sentenced to one year of community control.

Eleven suspects were previously convicted in the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court on a wide range of charges including soliciting prostitution, procuring prostitution, promoting prostitution, filing false tax returns, BWC fraud, practicing medicine without a license, money laundering, and engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity. Numerous suspects in the criminal enterprise were ordered deported or were facing deportation hearings for their role in the criminal enterprise. Five suspects were ordered to register as tier 1 sex offenders and the primary suspect is currently serving an 18-month prison term. More than $100,000
was forfeited for restitution and costs of the investigation. This massive investigation, conducted by the OIU Cleveland District Office, coordinated activities of more than 150 federal, state, city, and county law enforcement officers.

**Food Stamp Fraud**

**Cincinnati**
In September 2020, the owners of the Busch’s Country Corner, a vendor in Cincinnati’s Findlay Market, were sentenced for illegally exchanging food stamp cards for cash. Michael Busch was sentenced to one year in federal prison and was given a $50,000 fine. Amanda Jo Busch received eight months of home confinement and ordered to serve 200 hours of community service. Both were ordered to pay restitution of $82,192. They were convicted in U.S. District Court in 2019 after a year-long investigation by OIU agents.

**Clark County**
In April 2021, agents from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General, the Clark County Sheriff’s Office, and the Clark County Prosecutor’s Office executed three search warrants at two businesses and one home in Clark County for trafficking food stamps. In addition, prescription pills were purchased from the owner. Agents and Clark County deputies seized $57,500 in U.S. currency, business records, EBT terminals, and one hand gun. Agents issued 27 administrative violations for food stamp trafficking and drug trafficking. The criminal case is pending.

**Illegal Gambling**

**Medina County**
In February 2021, agents executed a search warrant at Harsh Trading, also known as Memphis Mart, for illegal gambling. Agents seized two electronic video slot machines, four instant bingo ticket dispensers, more than $700 from the dispensers, several thousand intact Type III bingo tickets, and business records. The primary operator of the premises is a convicted felon and is prohibited from charitable gaming. Administrative charges were filed against the liquor permit for gambling – bingo game operator a convicted felon. Possible criminal charges are pending.

**Fairfield**
In January 2021, agents executed a search warrant for gambling-related violations at a Fairfield Sunoco, which resulted in a conviction and jail time. During the investigation, agents received several cash payouts.

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**TRACE-BACK INVESTIGATION**

Agents completed a trace-back investigation at Norm & Mike Inc., known as City Limits Bar & Grill, Painesville. The investigation stemmed from a fatal crash in January 2020 involving a 20 year old who drove from the bar. Agents reviewed video surveillance and clearly identified the underage individual being served by an on-duty employee. No signs of intoxication were displayed during service.

Agents issued a citation for sale of beer to a person under 21 and furnishing beer to a person under 21. The bartender was issued a criminal summons for sale/furnishing beer to a person under 21. The bartender was convicted and sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 120 days suspended if she abides by the terms of the sentencing, which were to serve the remaining 60 days beginning in January 2021, pay $170 in court costs and may no longer work in an establishment that serves alcohol.
and observed a flow of patrons consistently playing the illegal gaming machines. During the search warrant, nine electronic gambling machines and $23,140 in U.S. currency were seized. The liquor permit owner was convicted of gambling charges and sentenced to 150 days in jail. The seized machines and a portion of the money were forfeited to OIU. The manufacturer was also charged. The liquor permit was administratively cited for gambling. Ohio Lottery Agents assisted OIU with the search warrant.

**Springfield**

In March 2021, agents executed a search warrant at a Sunoco in Springfield, which resulted in criminal charges. Agents seized nine electronic gambling video devices and $8,131 in U.S. currency. The liquor permit holder was issued a summons for illegal gambling and administratively cited for gambling.

**Illegal Alcohol Sales**

**Cleveland**

After receiving numerous complaints about an outlaw motorcycle gang and their clubhouse, Cleveland agents conducted an investigation. Agents found the clubhouse served as an after-hours location where patrons would congregate after the legal liquor bars would close for the day. Agents infiltrated the club and made multiple illegal alcohol buys and were able to gather valuable intelligence regarding gang activity in the Cleveland area. In June 2020, agents, the Cleveland Division of Police, the Cuyahoga County Sheriff’s Office, and the FBI executed an illegal sales search warrant at the clubhouse. As a result of the search warrant, agents seized multiple bottles of liquor and beer, U.S. currency, and a loaded firearm. In September, the suspect was found guilty and given a $50 fine plus court costs.

**Columbus**

In February 2021, agents, with the assistance of the Columbus Division of Police, executed a search warrant for illegal sale of alcohol at The Family Social Club on Frebis Avenue in Columbus. During a previous visit, agents bought three alcoholic beverages. When agents and officers arrived during the search warrant, they observed an employee in possession of marijuana and was later found to be in possession of a loaded handgun. Agents seized 32 intact bottles of intoxicating liquor, 72 partial bottles of intoxicating liquor, 96 intact cans of beer, 210 intact bottles of beer, prescription bottles containing pills, and $151.25 in U.S. currency. The owner was issued three summonses for keeper of a place and two for illegal sales to two employees. Charges against the employee in possession of marijuana and also a firearm were submitted to the Franklin County Prosecutor’s Office for consideration.

**Drug Seizure**

While getting gas at a Toledo gas station in August 2020, agents observed a vehicle pull up to the adjacent pump. Agents smelled marijuana coming from the vehicle. Agents approached the vehicle and identified themselves as law enforcement. Agents conducted a probable cause search and discovered about 3.2 pounds of marijuana, 5.72 grams of cocaine, one bottle of “lean,” 33 schedule II pills, two digital scales, a large quantity of pre-labeled marijuana bags and $8,389 in U.S. currency. Agents seized the narcotics, paraphernalia, and currency. The case is pending.

**Partnership and Community**

Cleveland agents continued to collaborate with local police and sheriff’s offices. Agents are routinely working joint enforcement projects in areas where high rates of violent crimes occurred. Often, local law enforcement will ask OIU to assist curtailing violent crimes in their areas. As an example, from July 2020 to June 2021, the OIU Cleveland District removed 52 firearms from individuals legally prohibited from possessing them. All of these firearms were recovered during an on-scene arrest and made an immediate impact within the communities agents were assigned.
Ohio Traffic Safety Office

Federal Grants
The Federal Highway Safety Act of 1966 directed the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation to jointly administer various highway safety projects. This federal grant program provides federal funds administered through the Ohio Department of Public Safety Ohio Traffic Safety Office (OTSO) to eligible entities to be used in part for, but not limited to, traffic safety education, enforcement, and engineering projects. In Federal Fiscal Year 2021, OTSO awarded almost $22.9 million through 218 grants to state, county, and local agencies to reduce traffic fatalities.

Ohio Traffic Safety Council
On September 1, 2020, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced the creation of the Ohio Traffic Safety Council. The Council, led by ODPS, includes representatives from federal, state, county, and local agencies along with traffic safety partners and advocates who are all dedicated to making Ohio’s roadways safer. Together, they are working to identify the leading causes of motor vehicle crashes, serious injuries, and fatalities on Ohio’s roadways and to take action to save lives using proven education, engineering, enforcement, emergency response, and public policy countermeasures.

The Ohio Traffic Safety Council’s focus is on addressing the areas that have the greatest potential to reduce the number of people killed on our roadways. An emphasis is placed on data analysis, council feedback, and best practices to identify priority areas. There are currently three subcommittees based on the council’s priority areas: impaired driving, youthful driving, and distracted driving.
Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles

The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles oversees driver and motor vehicle licensing and registration, among other services. Committed to moving Ohio forward, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles is continuing to make services more secure, convenient, and efficient for its customers.

Q-Anywhere Platform
The BMV implemented a queuing (lobby management) system within its Deputy Registrar agencies in 2019 called “Get In Line Online.” Customers wait in line virtually before coming to the agency. In 2020 the system was enhanced with Q-Anywhere which allows the customer to scan a QR code outside of the agency and return to their car to wait for a text message alerting them to come inside. This lobby management tool is effective with social distancing guidelines and helps alleviate lines outside the door.

Single License Plate Issuance
Pursuant to language contained in House Bill 62 and enacted under Ohio Revised Code section 4503.19, effective July 1, 2020, customers will only receive one license plate to be displayed on the back of a motor vehicle when requesting a vehicle registration. However, two plates are still available upon request.

State-to-State (S2S) Verification Services Program
The State-to-State (S2S) Verification Service, through the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA), is a means for states to electronically check with all other participating states to determine if the applicant currently holds a driver license (DL) or identification card (ID) in another state. On April 19, 2021, Ohio joined 32 other participating states, with all remaining states expected to be implemented by the end of 2023. As part of REAL ID compliance, S2S limits a person to one REAL ID card (whether DL or ID) by enabling a state to determine if a person holds a DL or ID in another state.

BMV Web Site Redesign
The InnovateOhio Platform team focused its efforts on streamlining technology services across agencies to give Ohio citizens and businesses a better experience when interacting with state government. The website refresh includes a faster sign-in process for the state’s online BMV check-in system, improved search features, and a profile page that allows Ohioans to check their driver record or organ donor status. The site also is optimized for mobile devices. The new website officially launched on March 25, 2021.

Permanent Driver’s License Reinstatement Fee Debt Reduction and Amnesty Program (HB 285)
Based on continued interest by the Ohio Legislature to provide this opportunity to Ohioans on a permanent basis, House Bill 285 was drafted and passed in May 2020 to establish a permanent Driver's License
Reinstatement Fee Debt Reduction and Amnesty Program. The implementation date for this program was December 13, 2020.

Print-on-Demand (POD) Temporary Tags
To provide additional online conveniences for our customers, the BMV came up with a solution for citizens to acquire a temporary tag for their motor vehicle through BMV Online Services. This feature was introduced to the public on August 12, 2020, and allows the purchase of temporary tags in the following three scenarios:

- An out-of-state resident whose plates are expired/expiring while they wait on their title work to be processed for Ohio.
- A customer has purchased a vehicle from an Ohio dealer who does not sell temporary tags.
- A customer has purchased a vehicle from another person (casual sale).

Fairgrounds Testing
Due to Covid-19 health concerns and reduce driving test backlogs, Driver Exam Services and Ohio State Highway Patrol Cadets conducted closed-course modified driving tests at the Ohio State Fairgrounds for five weekends, beginning on July 11, 2020. Additional BMV employees from various departments volunteered to work to assist with processing customers at check-in and entering in test scores on site. The final date for testing at the Fairgrounds was August 16, 2020. There were 1,589 customers tested at the Fairgrounds. There were 66 BMV employees from various departments that assisted with duties at Driver Exam stations throughout the state to expedite testing.

Modified Driver Testing
With the resumption of driver testing in May 2020 and pandemic social distancing guidelines in place, the BMV implemented a modified driving skills test. The modified driving test was on a closed course that combined maneuverability testing, along with driving instruction testing. The Examiner was outside of the motor vehicle, with the tester and a licensed driver in the passenger seat. On June 1, 2021, the BMV reverted back to in-car testing.

BMV Investigations
The BMV Investigations Section opened 1,687 new investigations and closed 1,723 investigations between July 1, 2020 and June 1, 2021.

Fraudulent Document Training
The BMV Investigations Section conducted 231 sessions of the Fraudulent Document Training for 118 law enforcement, 960 Deputy Registrar employees, and 32 other personnel.
Ohio Emergency Management Agency

Ohio EMA coordinates activities to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters – both natural and man-made. Ohio EMA works closely with local, state, federal, and non-governmental partners to bring resources for recovery and support to Ohioans impacted by disasters. The four phases of emergency management – Response, Mitigation, Recovery, and Preparedness – create the foundation for a successful system. The system fosters resiliency, preparedness, and capability at all levels.

Continued Coordination of the State’s Response to COVID-19

The State Emergency Operations Center (State EOC) was activated on March 9, 2020, to coordinate the state’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A physical presence in the State EOC was reduced when Stay-at-Home orders were issued in May 2020, but emergency response efforts continued in full force. Guided by Ohio EMA’s leadership, the State EOC contributed to incident command and control, resource acquisition and support, information management, and facilitation of numerous working groups.

Ohio EMA’s role as a facilitator manifested in several areas over the last year. Early in COVID response, Ohio EMA staff facilitated executive-level planning meetings, including a table-top discussion, just before State EOC activation that provided many state agencies a running start to their internal pandemic planning and response. Ohio EMA’s Regional Operations staff was instrumental in assembling the key partners and facilitating the discussions for Alternate Care Facilities (ACF) that were stood up as a contingency for hospital overflow. On the heels of ACF buildout, regional staff engaged as a state liaison for FEMA COVID Response Assistance Field Team (CRAFT) meetings with Cincinnati and Dayton. Throughout the response, regional staff members played a key role in the facilitation of COVID Healthcare Zone discussions. As a state-agency coordination effort, EMA staff was essential in bringing fact-based information and local perspective to key issues like hot spots and local needs to the meetings.

Ohio EMA staff facilitated numerous other meetings, groups, and information-sharing opportunities as a result of the pandemic response to include over 100 virtual meetings with the county emergency management directors, regular PPE decision points and numerous calls, exercises and discussion for the one state-managed mass vaccination site at the Wolstein Center on Cleveland State University Campus.

Wolstein Center CVC established a new model for mass vaccinations

Ohio EMA coordinated the development, launch and successful culmination of the federally supported Type 1 Community Vaccination Center (CVC) in Cleveland from February through June 2021. In the 12 weeks of operations, more than 258,000 vaccines were administered, at times averaging over 6,000 appointments per day. With the support of the Ohio National Guard, Ohio Department of Health, northeast Ohio hospital systems and FEMA, the Wolstein Center CVC established a new model for mass vaccinations with improved
efficiency. The Stationary Patient Model was adapted and implemented by Ohio EMA while working in conjunction with Public Health – Dayton and Montgomery County. The Stationery Patient model, as implemented, was developed by an Ohio EMA supervisor in the course of his continued education studies.

The State EOC was activated for over 450 days – the longest activation in the history of the state. Over the past year, the State EOC completed 2,264 missions (1,300 more since this time last year). These missions covered a broad spectrum including Ohio National Guard support to food banks, corrections staffing support, testing kit provision and the procurement, warehousing, vaccination support, and distribution of PPE. Including the 43 coordinated statewide pushes of PPE, the State EOC has coordinated the distribution of almost 180 million pieces of PPE to counties, state partners, and priority non-governmental entities.

The strength of the State EOC lies within the partnerships with other state agencies and the Ohio EMA staffing that provides EOC position support in addition to their daily duties. During COVID-19 response, almost every Ohio EMA personnel contributed countless hours by providing mission support, logistical coordination, fiscal accountability, information receipt and processing, mass care coordination, and numerous other roles critical to the effectiveness of the state’s response.

Moving forward, Ohio EMA will continue its role as a leader by spearheading the recovery efforts to assist local governments and certain eligible non-profit agencies in recouping response costs through reimbursement opportunities. While the COVID-19 response has been well over a year, Ohio EMA is sure to be involved in the successful conclusion of pandemic recovery for years to come.

**Additional Ohio EMA COVID-19 Response**

The EMA Communications Branch coordinated with state agency partners to find a virtual meeting platform capable of addressing communications and cybersecurity concerns at the national, state, and local levels. These virtual platforms (Microsoft Teams) made it possible for participants to maintain a level of personal interaction and share documents and graphical information, all while teleworking and remaining socially distanced. By using virtual meeting platforms over teleconference methods, the state accomplished great cost savings.

While COVID-19 was a main priority of the year, Ohio EMA was able to successfully manage multiple secondary incidents and full-scale exercises concurrently with the pandemic. These events included civil unrest/riots across the state in the summer of 2020, Election Day support, Inauguration Day support, and winter weather impacts that saw a Governor’s proclamation of emergency for several counties in southeast Ohio, as well as a full participation Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station exercise for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and FEMA.
Disaster Recovery

During State Fiscal Year 2021, EMA’s Disaster Recovery Branch managed four federally declared disasters and 13 state disaster grant programs. During this timeframe, over $190 million was disbursed to local governments, state agencies, and non-profit organizations to assist in their recovery to both natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic. Disaster Recovery’s responsibilities for grant administration of both the federally and state-funded grant programs include:

- Assisting with applying for the grants.
- Developing scopes of work to address disaster-related damages/costs.
- Reviewing and providing input to FEMA amendments to approved projects.
- Issuing payments to applicants.
- Gathering and reviewing documents to close approved projects.

Combined, there are 17 grant programs with 1,412 applicants and 2,456 projects that total over $385 million.

Training and Exercise

EMA’s Training and Exercise Section leads the nation in best practices for virtual training during the global pandemic. The Training and Exercise Section hosted multiple acclimation meetings with out-of-state, federal, and military partners to share best practices of conducting virtual trainings.

The meetings placed the greatest focus on Incident Command Systems (ICS) trainings to ensure that the whole emergency response community understands ICS, national incident management systems, and unity of effort required to work collaboratively during emergency response.

Within the state, Training and Exercise worked closely with the Cleveland Division of Police to support ICS training for its leadership staff to prepare for the 2021 National Football League Draft from April 29 – May 1, 2021. The Training and Exercise Section coordinated over 100 trainings and provided individual acclimation meetings for hundreds.

While the state disaster exercise schedule/calendar had to be adjusted due to COVID-19 safety protocols, many exercises still occurred using virtual platforms. These included hosting the Election Security Brief for the Ohio Mayor’s Alliance, multiple COVID-19 response and mass vaccination exercises, and the release of two additional K-12 school safety toolkits in coordination with Ohio Homeland Security.

Tabletop Exercise Toolkits

- Mall Active Shooter Exercise Toolkit
- Business Continuity: Disaster in the Workplace Toolkit
- Higher Education Active Aggressor Toolkit
- Houses of Worship: Targeted Disruption Tabletop Exercise Toolkit
- K-12 School Severe Weather Toolkit
- K-12 School Active Aggressor Toolkit
- K-12 School Hazardous Material Exercise Toolkit

The tabletop exercise toolkits have been downloaded more than 3,500 times by individuals in nine countries and 46 states. These free toolkits are designed to increase reliance and encourage emergency preparedness for state and local governments, private businesses, school administrators, teachers, and the emergency responder communities.
Mitigation Information Portal

Ohio’s Mitigation Information Portal (MIP) was made available to the public in December 2020. The MIP serves as the official website for the Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch and is a one-stop-shop for hazard mitigation information. The MIP is the state repository for current and historic versions of state and local mitigation plans. The website also contains data on hazard mitigation projects that have been implemented across the state and information on funding sources for communities looking to implement mitigation actions identified in local plans. Work on the MIP was a collaborative effort between the Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch and the Ohio Department of Public Safety Information Technology and Visual Communications offices.

Ohio Emergency Medical Services

The Division of EMS, in conjunction with the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services (EMFTS) and the Firefighter and Fire Safety Inspector Training Committee, is responsible for:

- Establishing training and certification standards for fire and EMS personnel;
- Accreditation of EMS and chartering of fire training programs;
- Coordination of Trauma Committee activities and Ohio’s trauma data collection system;
- EMS grant program administration, providing funding for training, equipment, and research;
- EMS for Children (EMSC) program coordination;
- Licensing of Ohio’s medical transportation services;
- Coordination of the Regional Physician Advisory Boards;
- Coordination, collection, and analysis of data submitted to the EMS Incidence Reporting System and the Ohio Trauma Registry;
- Conducting administrative investigations involving possible violations of Ohio Revised Code Chapters 4765 and 4766; and
- Providing EMS support in the State of Ohio Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) during declared emergencies or natural disasters.

A physician active in the practice of emergency medicine and selected by the EMFTS Board serves as the state medical director. The medical director advises the division and the EMFTS Board on matters regarding adult and pediatric emergency care and other EMS issues.

The division was active and contributed to the state’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff helped man the SEOC as a partner to the ESF-8 lead agency, Ohio Department of Health (ODH), throughout the activation period. The State Medical Director developed multiple guidance and best practice recommendations that were frequently communicated to all EMS stakeholder groups. Staff contributed expertise in personal protective equipment (PPE) and transportation missions received by the SEOC. The division continued operations in a virtual office environment and assisted fire and EMS education programs in transitioning to online education. The EMFTS Board and its committees continued business through virtual meetings that significantly increased engagement by public observers. Testing and certification of Ohio’s fire service and EMS personnel continued throughout the declared state of emergency thanks to the collaborative efforts of many stakeholders who helped forge creative, alternative solutions to many of the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, Ohio’s fire and EMS sectors remained robust and prepared to respond to all calls for assistance throughout this unprecedented time.

EMS and Fire Service Education

The primary focus of the Ohio Division of EMS is to ensure a workforce of well-trained and certified EMS and fire service providers to serve Ohio citizens.

EMS Education

The division regulates 90 accredited institutions that offer EMS training for initial certification and more than 589 approved organizations that provide EMS continuing education offerings. The division conducts both initial and renewal application site visits for accredited institutions and approved continuing education programs. The division conducted 29 virtual site visits of accredited EMS training institutions and 198 virtual site visits of approved continuing education programs in FY 20-21.
Fire Service Education

The division approves the delivery of firefighter, fire safety inspector, and instructor training required for certification through the training institution chartering process. There are 62 chartered institutions offering fire service training for certification to practice in Ohio.

The division conducts fire charter reviews, which include site visits for both initial and renewal charter requests. Charter reviews are conducted to ensure course offerings and facilities meet the educational standards established through the Ohio Revised and Administrative Codes. Twenty-two site visits were conducted in FY 20-21.

Continuing Education

To ensure that Ohio has qualified and well-trained EMS and fire service providers, certificate holders are required to complete continuing education in order to renew their certifications every three years. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic that resulted in automatic extensions for all certificate holders, audits will resume beginning in July 2021.

Testing

The division administers state certification examinations for firefighters, fire safety inspectors, and instructors. The written portion of the certification examination process is conducted using a web-based testing system operated by the division. Examinations are administered by chartered fire training programs and accredited EMS training programs with approval by the division. In FY 20-21, the division, through chartered fire training programs and accredited EMS training programs, scheduled 1,604 examination sessions, administering 5,074 individual examinations.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected fire and EMS education, as well as testing across the state. The division was able to work with programs and the EMFTS Board to transition schools to virtual/hybrid learning during the state of emergency. EMS accredited schools worked with the division staff to accommodate 133 course changes to include extended completion dates, as well as 188 individual courses transitioning to a hybrid learning style. These changes ensured 2,362 students continued their education and path to certification during the state of emergency. Fire charters worked with the division to accommodate 105 course changes to include extended course completion dates, as well as courses transitioning to a hybrid learning style. These changes ensured 886 students continued their education and path to certification during the state of emergency. In addition to these changes, the testing staff was able to create guidelines to allow state testing to occur during the state of emergency, resulting in uninterrupted testing across the state.

Certifications

The division oversees the administration of 108,800 EMS and fire certificates to practice and to teach through the initial, renewal, reinstatement, and reciprocity application processes. An online application system permits students seeking initial EMS and fire service provider certifications to submit electronic applications and become certified the same day, allowing them to enter the workforce quickly utilizing recently acquired skills. Additionally, all certificate holders may quickly renew their certificates online, as required every three
years. Initial applications for EMS and fire instructors are paper applications and are processed individually, as are reinstatement and reciprocity applications.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ohio House Bill 404 extended certification deadlines for many of our certificate holders and students who were enrolled in programs when the state of emergency was declared. As a result, 6,924 certificate holders received extensions through July 1, 2021.

**Investigations**

The division is responsible for conducting all investigations involving possible violations of Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4765, and the rules promulgated thereunder, pertaining to EMS providers, firefighters, fire safety inspectors, EMS and fire instructors, EMS accredited and approved training institutions, and chartered fire training institutions. Additionally, the division is responsible for investigating potential violations of Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4766, and the rules promulgated thereunder, pertaining to the licensing of medical transportation organizations, ambulettes, ambulances, mobile intensive care units, and air medical service organizations. The division also coordinates all administrative 119 hearings for divisional matters and enforces compliance with discipline issued by the Ohio EMFTS Board and the Chief Executive Officer of the EMFTS Board. Lastly, the division conducts all criminal conviction reviews for prospective and renewing fire and EMS providers pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 9.78.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the division implemented virtual meetings, case reviews, and hearings which enabled operations to move forward with investigations while minimizing in-person interactions.

**CASE INVESTIGATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2020</th>
<th>FY 2021</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Cases — EMS Investigations</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Cases — Fire Investigations</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Cases — Dual Fire and EMS Investigations</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>114</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL CASES OPENED</td>
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<td>536</td>
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<tr>
<td># of Cases — Medical Transportation Investigations*</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>94</td>
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*Medical Transportation Investigations are included in the EMS Investigations total for statistical purposes.

**Grants**

The purpose of the grant program is to improve and enhance EMS and trauma patient care in the state by providing grant funds to eligible applicants. The EMS grant award year consists of a two-award funding cycle beginning July 1 and concluding June 30 the following year. The amount awarded for each category is determined by the Ohio EMFTS Board and the funds available from safety belt fines collected during the award year.
EMS GRANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 20-21 Awards</th>
<th># Grants Awarded</th>
<th>Amount Awarded</th>
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<tr>
<td>Priority 1 – Training and Equipment</td>
<td>676</td>
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<td>Supplemental Funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Priority 2-5 Traditional &amp; RFPs</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$198,185.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>COVID-19 PPE</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>$241,540.97</td>
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The grants program has been in existence for 25 years. In the last 10 years, the division has awarded more than $29,000,000 in Training and Equipment funds, of which $2,146,044 were awarded in FY 20-21.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the EMFTS Board approved funding assistance of up to $1,500 per agency to help recover some of the unanticipated increased PPE costs.

Research and Analysis

The division oversees data submitted to the EMS Incidence Reporting System (EMSIRS) and the Ohio Trauma Registry. In the past year, the division collected data on more than 1.9 million EMS runs made by 874 EMS agencies and medical record data for more than 43,449 trauma patients admitted to 187 reporting hospitals. Over 8.2 million records are at the disposal of the EMFTS Board for system oversight and research.

During FY 20-21, the EMSIRS system received provisional approval and later full compliance status from the National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS) to begin submitting data for research and service improvement at a national level.

In FY 20-21, the EMFTS Board renewed the financial support for all statewide EMS agencies to report all cardiac arrest data to the national Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES) program to improve surveillance and help communities increase cardiac arrest survival rates. Nationally, a total of 27 state registries, more than 2,000 EMS agencies, and over 2,500 hospitals representing a catchment area of more than 162 million people have resulted in more than 600,000 patient entries into the registry.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

The Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program is a federally funded initiative designed to ensure children receive the very best emergency care the EMS system can provide. EMSC is a broad network of services including injury prevention, accessing EMS, ambulance services, emergency room services, hospital services, and rehabilitative services.

During FY 20-21, the Ohio EMS for Children Committee updated the Ohio Pediatric EMS Guidelines and Procedures Manual. The EMFTS Board approved and published this manual as the recommended guidelines for pediatric out-of-hospital care in the State of Ohio.

Through an additional grant provided by the Federal EMS for Children Program, 52 agencies received pediatric training mannequins to assist EMS/fire agencies with hands-on education in order to help improve the management of pediatric patients.
Statewide Trauma System

Ohio has a legislated trauma system that ensures seriously injured people get to the right hospital, in the right manner and in the right amount of time. Based on data submitted to the Ohio Trauma Registry, an annual report is published that informs our stakeholders of trends and care delivered to Ohio’s trauma patients in order to benchmark care and help identify ways to improve patient outcomes.

Recognizing the stress that the COVID-19 pandemic placed on the delivery of healthcare services at the state level and the reallocation of medical and support staff that was occurring, the American College of Surgeons (ACS) postponed all reverification visits of established and provisional trauma facilities and granted an automatic 1-year extension to all expiration dates. The ACS also implemented virtual visits in order to mitigate some of the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ohio Trauma Committee embraced these efforts and also granted reporting extensions of trauma registry data for all of CY 2020.

Medical Transportation

The division is charged with licensing private, non-emergency medical transportation service organizations (ambulette), emergency medical service organizations (ambulance and mobile intensive care units (MoICU), and air medical service organizations regulated by Chapter 4766 of the Ohio Revised Code. This is accomplished through yearly inspection, certification, and licensure of all services, vehicles, and satellite stations. The Medical Transportation section, with the assistance of sixteen part-time contractors, performs approximately 4,500 inspections per year of service headquarters, vehicles, satellite locations, and unannounced inspections. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, inspections were suspended and temporary guidelines were implemented for agencies to function until normal inspections were resumed in late FY 20-21.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year 2021 Inspection Activity</th>
<th>Ambulance ALS / BLS</th>
<th>Ambulance/ MoICU</th>
<th>Ambulette</th>
<th>Air Medical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicles</td>
<td>1,366</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>1,383</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Transport Vehicles</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satellite Locations</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ohio Homeland Security

School Safety

Housed within Ohio Department of Public Safety’s Ohio Homeland Security Division, Ohio School Safety Center (OSSC) personnel proactively review open source social media and websites for threats to schools, manage the state’s free 24-hour Safer Ohio School Tip Line, review and oversee K-12 emergency management plans, offer free security and vulnerability, and threat assessment programs, and more.

The center was created in 2019 by Governor Mike DeWine and focuses on assisting schools and law enforcement in preventing, preparing for, and responding to threats, acts of violence, and self-harm. Staff at the OSSC also work to assist schools with preparing for and responding to natural, technological, and man-made hazards, which made them a critical support for schools as districts navigated the pandemic over the past year.

Governor DeWine’s $4.6 million investment over the next two state fiscal years will boost OSSC’s ability to assess the needs of local communities, provide local supports to help them proactively identify and mitigate threats to schools and students, and build their school safety programs. In addition, it will expand the use of artificial intelligence to review public social media posts for threat-based language against institutions of higher education.

Cyber Security

To strengthen cybersecurity in Ohio, the Ohio Cyber Collaboration Committee (OC3) provides a collaborative environment to develop a stronger cybersecurity infrastructure and workforce. Formed by the Ohio National Guard, the committee’s goal is to create a cyber range — a virtual environment used for cybersecurity training and technology development. Ohio Homeland Security (OHS) is chair of the OC3 Cyber Protection subcommittee, which focuses on cyber planning and risk assessment support for local public and private organizations, resources and best practices for various sectors, small businesses, and residents.

The Ohio Cyber Program within OHS connects people with real-time strategies, publications, and resources from subject-matter experts to widely develop and promote cybersecurity programs and services that improve the cybersecurity posture for the state of Ohio. Program activities provide OHS with the opportunity for improvement on cybersecurity prevention, protection, and response. This program works closely with the Ohio Cyber Security Center, the Statewide Terrorism Analysis and Crime Center (STACC), the Ohio Fusion Centers, the Intelligence Liaison Officer (ILO) Program, the Ohio School Safety Center, the Critical Infrastructure Team, and the Education and Outreach Team to provide a comprehensive and multi-faceted statewide approach.
Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services

Through research, technology, grants, administration, and programmatic initiatives, the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) serves a wide variety of agencies committed to reducing and preventing crime across Ohio. The office also serves as the state criminal justice planning agency and performs criminal justice planning for Ohio. Additionally, it administers more than $43 million in state and federal criminal justice funding annually, develops justice system public policy, collects and analyzes crime data, evaluates programs and develops technology, and provides training and products for criminal justice professionals and their communities.

Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding

OCJS was awarded nearly $16 million in Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) as part of the federal CARES Act to provide grants to local law enforcement, probation and parole offices, local courts, victim services providers, and adult, juvenile, and community corrections agencies to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To date, OCJS has awarded $13 million in CESF grant funding to 319 criminal justice agencies to aid in the fight against COVID-19.

Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board

The Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board was formed in 2015 to create uniform core standards for Ohio’s law enforcement agencies covering use of force, including deadly force, and hiring and recruitment. As of the publication of the annual report, 85 percent of all of Ohio’s law enforcement officers work for an agency that has voluntarily complied with these standards or is in the process of certification. While these certified agencies account for only 60 percent of Ohio’s departments, they serve 84 percent of Ohio’s total population.

Collaborative standards also exist for community engagement, body cameras, bias-free policing, employee misconduct, telecommunicators, pursuits, and mass protests.

The 2021 Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board report, which lists the certification status of all law enforcement agencies in the state, is available here.

Mass Protest Law Enforcement Standard

In December 2020, the Ohio Collaborative, as requested by Governor DeWine, developed a new statewide minimum standard for law enforcement response to mass protests and demonstrations. To gain certification in the new mass protest standard, agencies must develop a policy that protects public and officer safety while also upholding the constitutional rights of expression, assembly, and freedom of the press. The policy should restrict the fewest freedoms possible; limit the use of force, coercion, and intrusiveness; target only harmful behaviors and conditions; and deploy predictable and unbiased tactics.
In addition, the Ohio Collaborative updated the minimum standard for use of deadly force that now largely prohibits chokeholds and similar maneuvers. Law enforcement agencies seeking certification or recertification in the Collaborative’s primary standards must now prohibit the use of chokeholds or other vascular neck restraints in all circumstances except when officers are justified in using deadly force to defend themselves or others from serious physical injury or death.

Agency Wellness Standard
The Ohio Collaborative also recently established a new statewide minimum standard for officer wellness, focusing on the physical and mental wellness of law enforcement agency personnel. To gain certification in the new agency wellness standard, agencies must develop a policy that educates officers and executive-level staff on issues of mental and physical health. This education should include suicide prevention and the range of possible reactions to trauma, as well as the importance of exercise and nutrition as a way of reducing stress and improving overall health outcomes. Agencies must review and assess the policy annually and make adjustments as needed.

Federal Law Enforcement Certification - Safe Policing for Safe Communities
OCJS and the Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Agency Certification Program have been selected by the U.S. Department of Justice as the independent credentialing body responsible for certifying law enforcement agencies “to ensure that law enforcement agencies continue striving to provide transparent, safe, and accountable delivery of services to communities” as required by the newly issued Executive Order 13929.

This certification will be required for agencies to be eligible for Department of Justice discretionary grant funding in 2021 and will be valid for three years.

Ohio Office of Law Enforcement Recruitment
As directed by Governor DeWine, OCJS created the Office of Law Enforcement Recruitment to assist agencies that are working to hire more minorities and women to encourage them to explore a law enforcement career. The office announced the College to Law Enforcement Pathway Program that will pilot at Cedarville University and Central State University in the fall 2021 to mentor high-caliber junior and senior criminal justice majors for careers in law enforcement with special emphasis on attracting women and minorities to the field. The office also developed and shared best practices on the hiring of candidates who are best suited for the law enforcement profession.

Ohio Governor’s Warrant Task Force
Based on recommendations from the Ohio Governor’s Warrant Task Force’s report released in May 2019, a subcommittee was charged with implementing a statewide e-Warrant system. An effort started on the scope of work for the development of an electronic warrant and protection order (e-Warrant) system that allows warrants and protection orders to be requested, issued, processed, stored, and served within a single statewide database. Phase I of the project will include 10 pilot counties to be part of the initial design and development. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was released in November 2019 and LEXIS/NEXIS was selected as the vendor in early 2020 to develop the system.

Also, through the efforts of the task force, OCJS implemented the Prisoner Extradition Reimbursement Program. This grant program enables law enforcement agencies to apply for reimbursement of extradition transportation costs. Reimbursement is reserved for Tier 1 offenses only. Tier 1 offenses are defined as
felony offenses of violence that involve substantial risk to public or officer safety and the misdemeanor offenses of domestic violence and aggravated menacing.

**Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Program**
OCJS received a $6 million grant through the Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance’s Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP). The funding will create or expand first responder diversion programs in rural and urban areas across Ohio. First responder diversion programs safely divert individuals with substance use disorders from entering the criminal justice system by connecting them with treatment and supportive services to address their addiction. This is a collaborative effort involving OCJS, Cordata, Talbert House, the University of Cincinnati, multiple drug task forces from across Ohio, and Franklin County’s Safe Station program. A team of researchers from Talbert House and the University of Cincinnati will evaluate the project.

**RecoveryOhio Grant Funding**
OCJS administered $4.6 million in new RecoveryOhio grant funds to drug task forces throughout the state.

Of that, $2.1 million was given to seven new task forces established through the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC) within the Ohio Attorney General’s Office. This money funds personnel, equipment, and other needed items to establish task forces to support OOCIC, which authorizes task forces to investigate organized criminal activity that crosses city, township, and county borders.

The remaining $2.5 million was awarded to 26 drug task forces working to further Governor DeWine’s RecoveryOhio initiative, which was developed to ensure Ohio acts aggressively to address the public health crisis caused by the repercussions of the drug epidemic and mental illness.

Funding supports RecoveryOhio Advisory Council recommendations, drug prevention and education programs, and quick response teams throughout the state.

**OHIO HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE**

In January 2021, Governor Mike DeWine signed Executive Order 2021-02D to expand the Governor’s Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force to include five new state agencies to assist the Task Force in pursing new, strategic, and comprehensive strategies to combat human trafficking.

Today, 14 state agencies are members of the Task Force and work to identify the gaps and opportunities within Ohio’s systems to build a more coordinated response to the exploitation of men, women, and children in Ohio. The Task Force, led by the ODPS Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, prioritizes the prevention of human trafficking, the provision of supportive services for survivors, and the prosecution of offenders.

The ODPS Anti-Trafficking Coordinator partners with multidisciplinary professionals at the federal, state, and local levels to fill system gaps to ultimately make practical impacts in the lives of Ohioans.