

Ohio Department of Public Safety



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Letter from the Director

We are experiencing unprecedented times during the COVID-19 pandemic. So many of our employees have had to find new, innovative ways to conduct business while maintaining the same level of service as before. Through it all, the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) remains dedicated to our core mission: safety, service, and protection.

The Emergency Operations Center, also known as the EOC, played a critical role in the state's response to the pandemic and is housed within the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA). The EOC was activated for COVID-19 on March 9, 2020, before Ohio had any confirmed cases, to coordinate the state's response. This activation, which was still ongoing as of late June, serves as the longest response in the state's history and is Ohio's first full State EOC activation since the Derecho response in 2011.

During the pandemic, \$16 million in Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding became available to local law enforcement, probation and parole offices, local courts, victim services providers, and adult, juvenile, and community corrections agencies. With this federal funding, administered by the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS), agencies were able to take measures to help prevent, prepare for, and respond to the spread of COVID-19. Funding may also be used for cleaning supplies, PPE, overtime costs, new technology for virtual court hearings, inmate medical needs, and supplies for COVID-19 monitoring and testing in local jails.

As protests intensified across the state during the summer of 2020, Ohio State Highway Patrol ensured the safety of those who were peacefully protesting. Troopers did a magnificent job in keeping those expressing their First Amendment rights safe while assisting local law enforcement in protecting against criminal behavior by some. Troopers assisted cities from every corner in Ohio as well as provided support to numerous state agencies – from state parks to prisons to health care facilities – to name a few.

Governor Mike DeWine announced he will intensify efforts in Ohio to improve issues of health and economic disparities, racism, and inequity. The efforts will include new plans to improve law enforcement access to quality training, enhancing transparency between the police and the public, and recruiting more minorities to serve as peace officers. We look forward to working with Governor DeWine on these efforts.

Since 2015, the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board has been working diligently to create uniform core standards for Ohio's law enforcement agencies covering use of force, including deadly force, and hiring and recruitment. As of today, 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. These agencies serve 79 percent of Ohio's total population.

Also, this past year, Governor DeWine signed Executive Order 2019-20D, creating the Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center (ONIC) to provide forensic and intelligence analysis and investigation and case support for drug task forces and law enforcement agencies and to discover new trends and connections between drug crimes. The ONIC supports task force investigations and other law enforcement agencies with criminal case support, computer forensics, intelligence, trend analysis, dark web investigations, and more.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) through chartered fire training programs and accredited EMS training programs, scheduled 1,592 examination sessions on an as-requested basis, administering 3,812 individual examinations. The COVID-19 pandemic affected fire and EMS education, as well as testing across the state. The Education and Testing section 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 Education and Testing staff to accommodate 77 course changes to include extended completion dates, as well as 225 individual courses transitioning to a hybrid learning style. These changes ensured 2,810 students continued their education and path to certification during the state of emergency.

Additionally, over the past year, Governor DeWine signed Executive Order 2019-21D creating the Ohio School Safety Center (OSSC) within Ohio Homeland Security (OHS). The Center is responsible for assisting local schools and law enforcement with preventing, preparing for, and responding to threats and acts of violence, including self-harm, through a holistic, solutions-based approach to improving school safety. This executive order also established the Governor's Ohio School Safety Working Group, which is a multi-disciplinary team of school safety professionals devoted to improving the overall safety and wellness of Ohio's students. This group meets quarterly and is charged with developing an annual report related to the school safety climate in Ohio.

Finally, the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) introduced an innovative queuing system called "Get In Line, Online" that allows customers to get virtually in line before going to a deputy registrar license agency to conduct business. To date, all BMV agencies throughout Ohio now have the queuing system available to their customers. This new system cut down customer wait times tremendously after BMV locations resumed operations after being closed for more than a month during the pandemic.

ODPS' collective efforts will push to further create a safer Ohio. We are proud of the accomplishments we made, yet we look towards the future, challenging ourselves to do more for our state and our people. The personal responsibility to safety, service, and protection, which we uphold, empowers us to continue our progress in the years ahead.



Director Thomas J. Stickrath
Ohio Department of Public Safety

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Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center

On January 14, 2019, Governor DeWine signed Executive Order 2019-01D, establishing the RecoveryOhio Initiative that focuses on 12 key initiatives in four key areas of prevention, treatment, criminal justice, and support. To support these missions, Governor DeWine signed Executive Order 2019-20D on July 29, 2019, creating a 21st Century law enforcement data infrastructure and expand proven drug task force models.

The Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center (ONIC) provides forensic and intelligence analysis and investigation, case support for drug task forces and law enforcement agencies. Agents also work to identify new drug trends and connections between drug crimes. The ONIC supports task force investigations and other law enforcement agencies with criminal case support, computer forensics, intelligence, trend analysis, dark web investigations, and more.

The ONIC launched in December of 2019 and has since assisted with over 100 criminal investigations, analyzed over 220 cellphones, and conducted nearly 500 forensic examinations. The ONIC has partnerships with the Ohio Board of Pharmacy and the Ohio National Guard and works in collaboration with RecoveryOhio, the Ohio Task Force Commanders' Association, the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Drug Monitoring Initiative, and Crime Stoppers.



Forensic staff assists local authorities by collecting and preserving digital evidence, processing and analyzing forensic images from digital storage devices, conducting forensic video analysis, seizing and analyzing cryptocurrency, and conducting dark web investigations.

The forensic computer specialists have a wide range of professional experiences in computer forensics and digital investigations, cybersecurity, internet crimes against children, and political corruption. The two members of the team previously held law enforcement credentials, and the forensics manager holds two patents in case management and is recognized by the USDOJ as an expert witness in digital forensics. The public safety intelligence analysts provide on-site assistance, subject identification, and cyber evidence analysis such as cellphone record analysis, historical and live ping cell, phone mapping, pattern and trend analysis, link analysis, proactive intelligence reports, bulletins, “Be On The Lookout” alerts, and timelines. One analyst is also a fluent Spanish speaker.

The analysts have 46 years of combined intelligence experience from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Defense, Statewide Terrorism Analysis and Crime Center, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, Ohio Investigative Unit, Ohio National Guard, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s Office, U.S. Attorney’s Office, and the private sector.

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 #28 - Expanding Law Enforcement's Role; #56 - Decreasing the Supply of Drugs; and #73 - Data Coordination and Sharing and Care Coordination.

SOLVE will feature real-time data sharing, state-of-the-art data analytics, robust searching and reports, and crime prediction. The system will also assist law enforcement in identifying connections and networks among criminals and will integrate with state and federal deconfliction systems.

In 2019, DPS convened the Ohio Task Force Commanders' Association (OTFCA) to identify Ohio law enforcement data sharing needs and challenges. A working group of OTFCA members was developed to generate recommendations for the development of the SOLVE system. SOLVE is currently in user acceptance testing for a case management system. For more information, email SOLVE@dps.ohio.gov

STRONG Ohio



In October, Governor DeWine unveiled a series of legislative proposals to better protect Ohio citizens and law enforcement officers from those with a propensity toward violence and to provide help to individuals who are a danger to themselves or others.

The [STRONG Ohio bill](#), sponsored by Senator Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) and is part of Governor DeWine's broader STRONG Ohio violence prevention plan, will preserve constitutional rights, expand treatment options, and prevent violence through safety protection orders, thorough background checks, rigorous due

process, ongoing help to those in crisis, new state background checks, and greater penalties for gun crimes. As of June 30, 2020, the Ohio General Assembly continued to work with the DeWine Administration on this bill.

Other important elements of Governor DeWine's [overall STRONG Ohio plan](#) are already underway, including the development of new technology to help ensure thorough, accurate background check reports; the creation of the Ohio School Safety Center; the expansion of Ohio's statewide school safety tip line; and work to provide wraparound services for schools and supports to parents to manage children's lifelong wellness.

The Governor's Working Group on Reviewing of the Medical Board's Handling of the Investigation Involving Richard Strauss

In August 2019, the Ohio Department of Public Safety and other investigative partners released their findings related to the State Medical Board of Ohio's handling of the 1996 investigation of Dr. Richard Strauss. Governor DeWine formed

the investigative working group in May 2019 to review the Medical Board’s investigation after a separate investigation commissioned by Ohio State found that Strauss, who committed suicide in 2005, sexually assaulted at least 177 male students while working as a doctor in Ohio State’s athletic department and/or student health center from the late 1970s to mid-1990s.

[The working group’s](#) report revealed that Medical Board investigators knew that Strauss had been “performing inappropriate genital exams on male students for years,” yet no one with knowledge of the case moved to revoke his license or notify law enforcement.

In response to the working group’s findings, Governor DeWine called on the State Medical Board of Ohio to conduct a thorough review of all sexual assault allegations against physicians and other licensed medical personnel that were investigated and closed without action over the past 25 years. Governor DeWine also requested other health care boards to examine policies and procedures to ensure consistency with trauma-informed and best practices as they pertain to sexual assault investigations.

Governor DeWine, Attorney General Yost Announce Plans for Meaningful Law Enforcement Reform

In June 2020, Governor DeWine, along with Attorney General Dave Yost, announced several actions and proposed legislative reforms aimed at making meaningful improvements to law enforcement training, transparency, and accountability in Ohio.

The reforms and legislative recommendations came in response to a growing divide between law enforcement and members of the public across the country that intensified following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Actions taken immediately by Governor DeWine included the creation the new Ohio Office of Law Enforcement Recruitment at the Ohio Department of Public Safety to assist agencies in recruiting more minorities and women into law enforcement careers; the launch of the development a public database to house information on use-of-force incidents in Ohio; a ban on the use of chokeholds by cabinet-level agencies that possess law enforcement authority, except in situations where use-of-force would otherwise be justified; and a directive to the Ohio State Highway Patrol to begin outfitting troopers with body cameras where appropriate.

Governor DeWine also directed OCJS to reimburse local law enforcement agencies for up to six hours of law enforcement training for any officer who had not yet received training on use-of-force, implicit bias, and the de-escalation of situations involving individuals in a mental health crisis or suffering from drug or alcohol addiction issues.

Suggested legislative reform included the creation of a law enforcement oversight and accountability board; the addition of a legal requirement that requires qualified, neutral investigative agencies and prosecutors handle all officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths; the creation of a new law requiring law enforcement agencies to report use-of-force to the state; and a ban on chokeholds statewide by all law enforcement agencies except in situations where an officer is fighting for his or her own life or protecting the life of another.

The Ohio General Assembly was also encouraged to require that all basic training applicants pass a psychological exam as a condition of their acceptance into a police academy and to identify a permanent funding stream for law enforcement training to ensure that every Ohio officer receives advanced training every year.

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 approximately 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.

Traffic Safety

As a result of a data-driven approach, the Patrol made a gradual shift in operational focus to provide a more balanced approach to impact traffic safety across the entire state, in both rural and urban communities. Distracted driving continues to be a priority for Governor DeWine and the Division. In late 2018, HB 95 passed which provided law enforcement with an additional tool to combat the growing problem. The bill included an additional fine or optional traffic safety course for violations associated with distracted driving. Troopers have responded to the problem by issuing more than 8,600 distracted driving violations during the fiscal year. The introduction of legislation to make distracted driving a primary offense would be an invaluable tool to keeping Ohio's roadways safe.

The Patrol's primary focus is on traffic safety initiatives that secure our highways and communities. Last year troopers:

- Investigated 55,135 traffic crashes;
- Arrested 17,557 impaired drivers;
- Issued 67,882 seat belt citations;
- Enforced 8,603 distracted driving violations; and
- Provided assistance to 181,250 motorists.

Hands-Free Ohio

According to the Ohio State Highway Patrol, traffic fatalities on Ohio roads have increased in five of the past six years. Provisional data shows that 2019 was the second-deadliest year of the past decade with at least 1,157 people killed in Ohio traffic crashes.

In February, Governor DeWine announced details of a new bill that will strengthen Ohio's laws regarding the use of wireless devices, including smartphones, while driving. The new Hands-Free Ohio bill is sponsored by Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) and Sen. Sean J. O'Brien (D-Bazetta).



With limited exceptions, the Hands-Free Ohio bill will make driving while handling any electronic wireless device a primary offense. This includes, but is not limited to, writing, sending, or reading text-based communications; watching or recording videos; taking photos or looking at images; livestreaming; using apps; entering information into GPS navigation programs; dialing phone numbers; or holding a device for a phone call.

Currently, using a hand-held electronic wireless communications device to write, send, or read a text-based communication while driving is a secondary offense for adult drivers (ORC 4511.204). Law enforcement cannot make a traffic stop unless the driver also commits a primary traffic offense, such as running a red light. The penalty is a fine of up to \$150.

The Hands-Free Ohio bill will increase fines for drivers who habitually use devices while driving. In cases where a driver using a device causes serious injury or death, the penalties will mirror those of drunken driving. As of June 30, 2020, the Ohio General Assembly continued to work with the DeWine Administration on this bill.

The Hands-Free Ohio bill is another step in Governor DeWine's overall goal to improve the safety of Ohio's roads. Upon taking office last year, Governor DeWine learned that Ohio was facing an impending crisis of dangerous, crumbling roadway infrastructure throughout the state; he secured funding in the transportation budget to maintain, improve, and repair roads all over Ohio. In addition, because unintentional motor vehicle accidents are one of the leading causes of death for teenagers and young adults in Ohio, Governor DeWine launched the new [Ohio - Ready, Test, Drive!](#) virtual driver assessment program to more accurately assess new drivers' road readiness and help identify skills needing improvement.

Ohio – Ready, Test, Drive!

In December, Governor DeWine announced the launch of a statewide virtual driver assessment program that will better equip Ohio's new drivers with critical skills to safely navigate the roads.

Governor DeWine's "Ohio – Ready, Test, Drive!" program will install 400 customized virtual driving assessment systems in Ohio's 57 driver examination locations, as well as in many of Ohio's driver training schools. The free virtual driving systems will scientifically examine student driver preparedness and help Ohio make data-driven improvements to its overall driver's education curriculum.

The virtual driving assessment technology, which was developed through a collaboration between the Ohio Department of Public Safety and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Center for Injury Research and Prevention, will instantly assess how well student drivers are prepared to react to 10 of Ohio's most prevalent crash-causing scenarios. When used in driver training schools, the assessments will establish student drivers' baseline driving skills and assist instructors in developing customized training based on skills needing improvement. Parents or guardians of student drivers can also use the virtual driving assessment results for guidance on which specific skills need more in-car practice.

Criminal Patrol

In response to the opiate epidemic and Governor DeWine's RecoveryOhio initiative, the Patrol continued its efforts to fight drug trafficking. Last year troopers seized:

- 179 pounds of methamphetamines;
- 115 pounds of heroin;
- 291 pounds of cocaine;

- 17,121 opiate pills;
- 85 pounds of fentanyl;
- 4,088 pounds of marijuana.

Troopers also made 10,437 arrests for drug violations, 5,116 felony arrests, recovered 1,165 stolen vehicles, removed 827 illegal weapons from Ohio's roads, and served 1,289 felony warrants.

Professional Operations

In 2019, the Patrol created and implemented a statewide Diversity Training Course required for all employees. The Patrol had provided diversity training through the years, however, this training marked a critical turning point for the division: being the first statewide training facilitated by the newly established Diversity Office and a vital step toward supporting the Patrol's commitment to celebrating the diversity and individual talents of current and future employees. The initial training was just one part of a multifaceted approach developed to champion a more inclusive organizational culture. The goals of the training focused on external, police-citizen interactions from the perspective of both officers and the public, and interactions within the agency and the Patrol's culture. During the eight-hour training, personnel explored this principle as part of discussions on American history, police legitimacy, and procedural justice. The sessions utilized a small group, discussion-based format to encourage everyone to participate in the dialogue. This allowed employees to engage, share ideas and perspectives which would have been overlooked in a lecture format.

The Ohio Statistics and Analytics for Traffic Safety, or OSTATS, dashboards were launched in the fall of 2019 by the Patrol's Statistical Analysis Unit. This interactive tool has allowed post commanders to gain unprecedented access to crash and activity data to better direct limited resources. This includes separate dashboards that focus on many of Ohio's top areas of concern including OVI, speed, distracted driving, and seat belts, among others. A public version of OSTATS focusing on crashes was also introduced for use by the general public, the media, law enforcement, and safe community partners across Ohio. This innovative product provides an additional avenue to promote traffic safety messages to the citizens of Ohio while establishing an added level of transparency in the data used to guide enforcement efforts. To date, the [public version of OSTATS](#) has been viewed more than 50,000 times.

COVID-19 Mission and Response

Early March through June, as part of the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Patrol shifted its primary focus to providing essential assistance to local communities and meeting the needs of our public safety partners. Patrol personnel participated in details that included food drives and distributions, transporting personal protective equipment, security missions, and partnered with schools, community groups, and other government agencies. The division participated in 442 details and missions.

Ohio Investigative Unit

Agents with the Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) are specifically tasked with investigating Ohio's alcohol, tobacco, and food stamp fraud laws. Agents investigate suspected illegal activity in liquor permit premises such as bars, restaurants, carry-outs, etc. Investigations may be related to locations operating without a permit or involvement in crimes of drug, gambling, counterfeiting, property, and human trafficking. Agents also investigate the illegal manufacture of alcohol, as well as businesses and individuals involved in food stamp fraud. Related activities may include compliance checks to ensure liquor permit premises are not selling alcohol or tobacco products to underage individuals. Trace-back

investigations are included to determine whether alcohol was illegally sold or provided to an underage or already-intoxicated person involved in an alcohol-related crash or incident.

OIU Enforcement and Education

- Investigated 10 human trafficking or prostitution cases;
- Presented 464 Sober Truth programs to 18,006 students;
- Presented 155 Alcohol Server Knowledge courses to 1,760 bar, restaurant and carryout employees;
- Alcohol compliance checks – 428 total checks, 376 were compliant for an 88 percent compliance rate;
- Tobacco compliance checks – 1,518 total checks, 1,399 were compliant for a 92 percent compliance rate;
- Filed 157 underage tobacco sales charges;
- Charged 622 people under 21 with underage possession or consumption of alcohol;
- Charged 70 people with furnishing, selling or providing alcohol to underage individuals;
- Investigated 2,184 total cases in 2020 (FY);
- Filed 195 drug violations;
- Filed 1,468 alcohol violations;
- Initiated 92 food stamp fraud cases;
- Recorded 155 criminal food stamp fraud offenses.

COVID-19 Ohio Department of Health Mission

On May 18, 2020, Governor DeWine announced OIU would enforce the Ohio Department of Health Dine Safe Ohio orders. To help enforce these orders, agents conducted compliance checks and assisted local officials and boards of health in issuing citations. Agents were assisted by local law enforcement agencies and the Ohio Casino Commission.

The Dine Safe Ohio orders permitted restaurants to reopen on May 21, 2020, for full, dine-in service so long as all workplace safety standards were met including social distance and capacity requirements.

Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles

The BMV oversees driver and motor vehicle licensing and registration, among other services. Committed to moving Ohio forward, the BMV is continuing to make services more secure, convenient, efficient, and cost-effective for its customers.

BMV Customer Queuing System

The BMV Queuing System “Get In Line Online” allows customers to get virtually in line before going to a deputy registrar license agency to conduct business. A BMV Queuing Pilot was approved to rollout statewide in December 2019. To date, all BMV agencies throughout Ohio now have the queuing system available to their customers.



International Registration Plan

Effective July 1, 2019, the International Registration Plan (IRP) program made a full transition from external over-the-counter IRP Processing Centers, to a centralized BMV IRP Unit, by offering an updated online IRP system. The changeover was necessary as the BMV’s long-time full-service IRP vendor, Conduent, no longer offered such services.

Genesis

The BMV successfully completed its five year Driver License System database re-write titled Genesis, structured with the future in mind as well as logical function to ensure maintainability. This solution offers an easily manageable database and an effortless framework transition.

Hybrid and Electric Fuel Type Fee

Effective January 1, 2020, a new fuel type fee was applied to appropriate hybrid and electrical fuel type vehicles. The annual fee is \$100 for hybrid vehicles and \$200 for electric vehicles and is in addition to normal registration fees per Ohio Revised Code 4503.10(C) (3) and (4).

Live Chat, Interactive Voice Recognition, and Advanced Call Platform

The BMV integrated its Live Chat and Interactive Voice Recognition (IVR) application with telephone vendor Cincinnati Bell Technology Solutions (CBTS) into the call center(s) to operate in unison on an upgraded enhanced call telephony platform. Live Chat provides the opportunity for customer service representatives to switch back and forth between answering customer phone calls and taking live chat requests through the BMV website on an integrated platform. IVR technology allows a computer to interact with humans through the use of voice and dual-tone multi-frequency signaling input via a keypad. The IVR system responds with pre-recorded audio to further direct users on how to proceed. The advanced call platform supports both the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) and Live Chat applications and provides statistical reporting for both services.

COVID-19 – Ohio State of Emergency

In response to the state of emergency declared due to the COVID-19 pandemic, HB197 was passed by the legislature and signed by Governor DeWine to allow all licenses (including temporary licenses), ID cards, or vehicle registrations (including license plates and stickers) that expired on or after March 9, 2020, to be automatically extended until 90 days after Ohio's State of Emergency ends or December 1, 2020, whichever comes first.

Deputy Registrar License Agencies

Effective December 1, 2019, the deputy registrar service fee was increased from \$3.50 to 5.00 per transaction, the first increase since 2004.

All deputy registrar locations were closed effective March 19, 2020, due to COVID-19 health concerns. The deputy registrar license agencies resumed business operations on May 26, 2020.

Driver License Examination Stations

Driver license examination stations were closed March 19, 2020, due to COVID-19 health concerns. The driver exam stations reopened for knowledge and motorcycle testing on May 26, 2020. In-car/maneuverability testing resumed on June 12, 2020, with tests performed on a modified driving course with COVID-19 safety precautions in place.



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.

Coordinating the State’s COVID-19 Response

The [State Emergency Operations Center](#) (State EOC) was activated to coordinate the state’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic on March 9, 2020, before Ohio had any confirmed cases. This activation, which was still ongoing as of late June, serves as the longest response in the state’s history and is Ohio’s first full State EOC activation since the Derecho response in 2011. Activities in the State EOC include command and control of the state’s COVID-19 response, coordinating the state’s resources; situational awareness; responding to resource requests from local governments; and ensuring a clear, coordinated message from the State of Ohio through the Joint Information Center. By mid-June, the State EOC had completed 875 missions with another 48 missions still in progress. For comparison, the State EOC handled 42 missions during the last year’s activation for the Memorial Day severe weather.



These missions cover a broad spectrum including Ohio National Guard support to food banks, planning for Alternate Care Site build-outs, law enforcement support, and the procurement, warehousing, and distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Ohio EMA, working with the Ohio Department of Health's warehouse, helped coordinate the delivery of over 31 million pieces of PPE to help protect Ohioans from infection, with the vast majority sent to county EMAs for distribution at the local level. A presidential emergency declaration enabled more than 700 local entities (cities, counties, schools, and certain non-profits) to apply for federal aid to help fund their COVID-19 response.

STRONG Ohio Safety and Security Grants

As part of Governor DeWine's STRONG Ohio initiative, Ohio EMA and OHS awarded \$9 million dollars in grant funds to non-profits. These funds helped non-profits better protect themselves from violence and terrorism by improving their physical security, adding security personnel, and enhancing cybersecurity capabilities. Over 59% of the physical security grants and 50% of the personnel grants were awarded to houses of worship. Other entities awarded funds included educational services, faith-based organizations, nonprofit health care facilities, nonprofit museums, and schools.

Vigilant Guard 19: Ohio's Largest Exercise Ever



Ohio EMA, in conjunction with the [Ohio National Guard](#), held the largest exercise in Ohio's history Aug. 5-9., 2019. With more than 3,300 personnel involved in 10 different venues, it was also the largest Vigilant Guard exercise in the country, according to the U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM). The four-day exercise, which started with a cyber-attack that led to wide-spread power outages with numerous impacts around Ohio, including many cascading events, was designed to overwhelm Ohio's first responders and test coordination between the military (National Guard) and civilian (state and local) emergency management. In the exercise, it was a rough four-day stretch in Ohio as a series of events included a radiological incident, two planes colliding mid-air, a hazardous materials incident, civil disturbances, a train derailment, a dam breach, a mass casualty incident, and a biological attack at a crowded county fairgrounds. This exercise required extensive planning with NORTHCOM, the Ohio National Guard, Ohio EMA as well as multiple county and state agency partners. More than a year of planning went into the exercise. Vigilant Guard 19 was a great opportunity to identify gaps and gain experience. This was the first time the Department of Public Safety – Emergency Resource Team (DPS-ERT) staff

were used to help staff the State EOC. The DPS-ERT is composed of Public Safety employees from outside of Ohio EMA who volunteer to assist when needed during disasters.

Record Number Apply for Ohio's Safe Room Rebate Program

More than 800 Ohio homeowners applied to be part of the [Ohio Safe Room Rebate Program](#), following a series of tornadoes the previous year. On Memorial Day evening 2019, and early the next morning, a storm front traversed the state from west to east, spawning 21 tornadoes. The Dayton-area was hardest hit, with an EF-4 tornado and two EF-3 tornadoes. Driving the record-number of applications for the program was west-central Ohio, with about half of the applicants from Montgomery and surrounding counties. The Safe Room Rebate Program provides a rebate for the purchase and construction/installation of tornado safe rooms for Ohio homeowners selected for the program. A safe room is an extreme-wind shelter or space that provides protection during a tornado. It can be constructed/installed in one of several places in the home: in the basement, beneath a concrete slab-on-grade foundation or garage floor, or in an interior room on the first floor. A safe room may also be buried in the yard or be a stand-alone structure near a home. About 100 randomly-selected homeowners have been selected and could be eligible for a rebate up to 75 percent of the cost to install or construct a safe room – up to a maximum of \$4,875.

Houses of Worship Toolkit Helps Keep Congregations Safe

Emergency preparedness exercises can be a daunting and costly undertaking. Ohio EMA continues to roll out [exercise toolkits](#) that provide a free framework for different entities to conduct effective, productive, and inexpensive exercises. As part of Governor DeWine's STRONG Ohio initiative, the Houses of Worship: Targeted Disruption Tabletop Exercise Toolkit was developed to provide a free product for houses of worship to better prepare staff, worshipers, first responders, and other partners to plan for and respond to such incidents. This Toolkit provides all of the materials and information necessary to easily plan and host a tabletop exercise. The exercise covers three main objectives:

- Operational Coordination – identify both the methods and means to improve coordination between staff, volunteers, and first responders during an active aggressor incident.
- Operational Communication – evaluate communication plans and procedures between staff, volunteers, worshippers, and first responders during an active aggressor situation.
- On-Scene Security and Protection – discuss and evaluate written plans and physical protective measures in place for the house of worship (specifically addressing active aggressor incidents).

This is the fourth of five already released toolkits (including the recently released K-12 School Severe Weather Toolkit), that provide all the materials needed for a tabletop exercise. Tabletop exercises are discussion-based exercises intended to stimulate dialogue of various issues regarding a hypothetical situation. Tabletop exercises can be used to assess plans, policies, and procedures, or to assess types of systems needed to guide the prevention of, response to, or recovery from a defined incident. The Houses of Worship toolkit has been downloaded 1,754 times from 46 states and three countries. The other toolkits: Mall Active Shooter, 584 downloads, 42 states and nine countries; Business Continuity, Disruption in the workplace, 336 downloads, 30 states and four countries; K-12 Severe Weather, 106 downloads, five states and Higher Education, Coordinated Attack, 203 downloads from 30 states and four countries.

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 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;
- Collection and analysis of data submitted to the EMS Incident Reporting System and the Ohio Trauma Registry;
- Conducting administrative investigations involving possible violations of Ohio Revised Code Chapters 4765 and 4766; and
- Provide 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, advising the division and the EMFTS Board with regard to adult and pediatric trauma, and EMS issues.

The Division of EMS was active and contributed to the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff helped man the SEOC as a partner to ESF-8 lead agency, 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 PPE and transportation missions received by the SEOC. The division quickly transformed operations to a virtual office environment and assisted fire and EMS education programs in transitioning to online education. The State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services 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 remained robust and prepared to respond to all calls for assistance throughout this unprecedented time.

EMS and Fire Service Education

The primary focus of Ohio EMS education is to assure a workforce of well-trained, certified EMS providers to serve Ohio citizens.

EMS Education

The division regulates 91 accredited institutions that offer EMS training for initial certification and more than 570 approved organizations that provide EMS continuing education offerings. The division conducts a site visit for both initial and renewal applications for accredited institutions and approved continuing education programs. The division conducted 32 site visits of accredited EMS training institutions and 147 site visits of approved continuing education programs in FY 19-20.

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 a charter review including a site visit for both initial and renewal charter requests. Charter reviews are conducted to ensure course offerings and facilities meet the educational standards established through the Revised and Administrative Codes. Twenty site visits were conducted in FY 19-20.

Continuing Education

To assure 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. The division's education section conducts approximately 3,000 EMS/fire services certification renewal audits annually.



Testing

The division administers state certification examinations for firefighters, fire safety inspectors, and instructors. The written portion of the certification examination process is conducted via a web-based testing system operated by the department. Examinations are administered by chartered fire training programs and accredited EMS training programs with approval by the division. In FY 19-20, the division, through chartered fire training programs and accredited EMS training programs, scheduled 1,592 examination sessions, administering 3,812 individual examinations.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected fire and EMS education, as well as testing across the state. The Education and Testing section 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 Education and Testing staff to accommodate 77 course changes to include extended completion dates, as well as 225 individual courses transitioning to a hybrid learning style. These changes ensured 2,810 students continued their education and path to certification during the state of emergency. Fire charters worked with the Education and Testing staff to accommodate 65 course changes to included extended completion dates, as well as 35 individual courses transitioning to a hybrid learning style. These changes ensured 647 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 testing across the state continuing without interruption.

Certifications

The Certification Section oversees the administration of over 103,000 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.

Investigations

The [Office of Investigative Services](#) 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 Office of Investigative Services 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 Office of Investigative Services also coordinates all administrative 119 hearings for divisional matters and enforces compliance with discipline issued by the Ohio EMFTS Board and the Executive Director of the EMFTS Board. Lastly, the Office of Investigative Services conducts all criminal conviction reviews for prospective fire and EMS providers pursuant to Ohio Revised 9.78.

During 2020, the Office of Investigative Services in collaboration with the DPS Division of Information Technology successfully developed and implemented an online complaint form for use by the public. This new functionality has facilitated the receipt, review, and tracking of new complaints within the section. Additionally, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of Investigative Services has utilized technology with case reviews and meetings, which has enabled operations to move forward with case investigations, while minimizing in-person interactions.

Case Investigations

	2019	2020
# of Cases — EMS Investigations	366	401
# of Cases — Fire Investigations	229	224
# of Cases — Dual Fire and EMS Investigations	103	137
TOTAL CASES OPENED	698	762
# of Cases — Medical Transportation Investigations*	33	53

*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 annually. The amount awarded for each category is determined by the Ohio EMFTS Board and by the amount of funds available from seat belt fines collected during the award year.

FY 19-20 Awards	# Grants Awarded	Amount Awarded
Priority 1	747	\$2,052,561.00
Supplemental Funding	22	\$477,725.98
Priority 2-5 Traditional Research	2	\$348,709.00
RFPs	3	\$225,000.00

The [Ohio Division of EMS grants program](#) has been in existence for 25 years. In the last 10 years, the division has awarded more than \$27,500,000 in Training and Equipment funds, of which \$2,052,561 were awarded in fiscal year 2019-2020.

During the second half of the year, the Ohio Division of EMS grants program and Ohio EMS agencies were impacted by COVID-19. In response to the needs of the field, the grants program moved the annual grant submission deadline back one month and reallocated money that is traditionally earmarked for EMFTS Board-identified priorities in order to

provide up to \$1,500 of additional funding to agencies for the reimbursement of PPE expenses occurring from January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020. A total of \$425,000 was approved by the Board to help many EMS agencies recover some of their unanticipated increased PPE costs resulting from this pandemic.

Research and Analysis

The Research and Analysis Section oversees data submitted to the EMS Incident Reporting System (EMSIRS) and the Ohio Trauma Registry. In the past year, the division collected data on more than 1.7 million EMS runs made by 875 EMS agencies and medical record data for more than 34,581 trauma patients admitted to 187 reporting hospitals. Just under 7 million records are at the disposal of the EMFTS Board for system oversight and research.

In order to improve Ohio's EMS data collection, sharing, and analysis capabilities, the Division of EMS, with funding provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and support from the EMFTS Board and the ODPS Director's Office, initiated a project in FY18-19 to write the software necessary to relocate data collection from a third-party vendor to ODPS. In FY 19-20 testing and the transfer of legacy data from the vendor was completed, with the new internally managed EMSIRS moving into production in mid-December 2019. The transitioning of reporting agencies from the vendor to ODPS concluded on June 30, 2020, with the number of agencies reporting exceeding last year's count.

In FY 19-20, 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 1,800 EMS agencies, and over 2,200 hospitals representing a catchment area of more than 135 million people have resulted in over 500,000 patient entries into the registry.

Statewide Trauma System

Ohio has a legislated [trauma system](#) that ensures seriously injured people get to the right hospital, in the right manner, 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 Ohio Trauma Committee embraced this position and also granted reporting extensions of trauma registry data for first and second quarter's data of calendar year 2020.

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.

In FY 19-20, EMSC partnered with the National EMS for Children Data Analysis and Resources Center (NEDARC) to conduct a pediatric preparedness survey of all Ohio EMS agencies which occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. Of the 1,078 agencies that were surveyed, 450 responded (41.7% response rate), of which 35.7% of respondents reported having a

Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator and 23.1% meeting the minimum training requirements for pediatric skill assessment.

Medical Transportation

The Medical Transportation Section 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 16 part-time contractors, performs approximately 4,500 inspections per year of service headquarters, vehicles, satellite locations, and unannounced inspections. Due to COVID-19, inspections were temporarily suspended during the declared state of emergency. New and renewing services followed temporary guidelines in order to function until they could be inspected. Inspections resumed in June starting with new services.

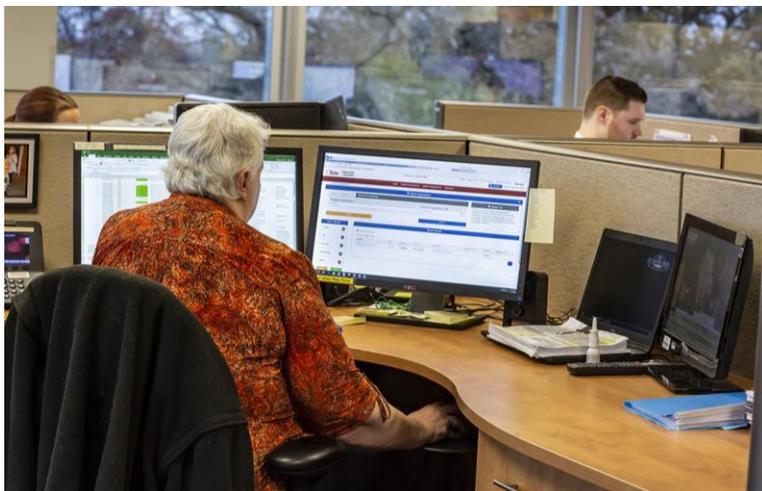
The Medical Transportation Section also began using a new online application system in FY 19-20 to license agencies. This system eliminates paper applications and forms; improves efficiency in the licensing process; provides a convenient way for agencies to manage their licenses online; and reduces costs to services through online payment of fees.

Fiscal year 2020 Inspection Activity

	Ambulance ALS / BLS	Ambulance/ MoICU	Ambulette	Air Medical
Services	94	33	337	18
Vehicles	1,367	138	1,532	78
Non-Transport Vehicles	45	30	N/A	N/A
Satellite Locations	118	146	155	48

Ohio Homeland Security

Ohio School Safety Center



On August 21, 2019, Governor DeWine signed Executive Order 2019-21D creating the Ohio School Safety Center (OSSC) within Ohio Homeland Security (OHS). The OSSC is responsible for assisting local schools and law enforcement with preventing, preparing for, and responding to threats and acts of violence, including self-harm, through a holistic, solutions-based approach to improving school safety. This executive order also established the Governor’s Ohio School Safety Working Group, which is a multi-disciplinary team of school safety professionals devoted to improving the overall

safety and wellness of Ohio's students. This group meets quarterly and is charged with developing an annual report related to school safety climate in Ohio.

In September 2019, the OSSC was awarded a \$1 million grant under the BJA STOP School Violence Grant Program to develop a state school safety center. These funds will be used to host an annual school safety summit, hire contractors to develop training, provide regional hands-on assistance to schools, as well as support the overall development of the center. The OSSC originally planned a 2020 School Safety Summit that was ultimately cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Summit was to take place June 10-12, 2020, and received 895 registrations in the first month of open registration. The team will continue to plan for the 2021 event and find relevant training, seminars, and opportunities for Ohio's schools and first responders.

OSSC team members continue to assist schools with taking a proactive approach to student safety. The team assessed 4,311 emergency management plans this year, received 2,453 calls from schools, and responded to 7,075 emails requesting assistance. The OSSC is also responsible for the management of the Safer Ohio School Tip Line. In the past year, this 24/7 service received 161 tips among the following tip types: 33 bullying, 16 self-harm, 50 threats of violence, 30 administrative complaints, 15 drug related, and 17 miscellaneous.

The main operating budget, HB 166, in 2019, included funding to procure open source media scanning tools to look for threats against Ohio schools and students. These sophisticated tools allow the OSSC to proactively scan for threats on a statewide level and have expanded the resource capacity of the center. Since implementation of one of the systems in April of 2020, the system has found roughly 2,827,638 public posts related to Ohio's K-12 schools and produced 586 alerts and 3,619 discussion points for review. It takes an expert analyst roughly 30 seconds to review each post and it is estimated that the system has been able to increase the capacity of the center and save the OSSC 23,564 hours of scanning in just 73 days using their proprietary technology and artificial intelligence.

Grants and Policies

OHS provides a programmatic overview for the law enforcement portion of the State Homeland Security Grant Program (LE-SHSP) by establishing funding priorities at the state level and reviewing local grant applications for compliance with state homeland security priorities. OHS also provides a funding allocation formula using current regional population figures and federally-designated critical infrastructure sites to determine the division of funds between the state's homeland security regions. Total pass-through funds for the FY 19 LE-SHSP was \$2.1 million. Total pass-through funds for FY 20 LE-SHSP is \$2,019,300. OHS manages a FY 19 \$1 million STOP School Violence grant award from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to support the OSSC. Additionally, OHS applied for the FY 20 BJA STOP School Violence grant for an autonomous reporting system and the FY 20 FEMA Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP) grant to create a new training program in terrorism awareness and social media platforms for the Intelligence Liaison Officer (ILO) program and the Ohio Public Private Partnership (OP3).

Critical Infrastructure

Beginning with security and vulnerability assessments, the Critical Infrastructure (CI) team completed reports detailing physical security vulnerabilities and offering security improvement strategies to 66 facilities across the state. The team utilizes an enhanced assessment template built on best practices from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and incorporates partner feedback from responding local law enforcement agencies, sheriffs, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol. This group shares knowledge of sector-based best practices when conducting assessments to help improve overall

security. The team has assessed facilities such as K-12 schools, colleges and universities, houses of worship, state and local agencies, and private sector entities, as requested. Outreach was conducted to gather data for other types of critical infrastructure sectors such as healthcare, higher education, food and agriculture, residences, and state-owned offices.

OHS fulfilled 166 SkyWatch observation tower requests around the state. The team conducted deployments with the observation towers to assist local authorities in recognizing and reporting suspicious activities. These deployments provided support for event staff and local law enforcement at a variety of events such as fairs, car shows, festivals, rallies, sporting events, concerts, and air shows.

The team continues to be program administrators for the Communication and Information Management System (CIMS). In addition to processing user applications and posting relevant products to the database, the team was vital in implementing guidance and declaring an emergency for COVID-19 through the Emergency Partner Credentialing System (EPCS). Using federal guidance and Governor DeWine's Stay at Home order as guidelines, the CI team vetted essential employees who were granted the ability to distribute credentials to their employees. This allowed employees to travel to and from worksites during the pandemic. EPCS allowed these essential employees to perform critical tasks to ensure daily necessities were met. Within the first 24 hours, 2,146 credentials were distributed to essential workers. Currently, there are 10,622 active credentials utilized by essential employees for pandemic-fighting efforts.

The team has implemented two new initiatives: the CI Asset Collection project and the Small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS) program. Developed in early 2020, the CI Asset Collection project allows the team to research and catalogue critical assets by county throughout the state to understand where facilities are located, the economic impact if these assets were to be damaged or destroyed, and how to assist facilities to enhance security to reduce vulnerabilities. The team has collected 2,660 assets thus far. The second, a highly-anticipated feature, is the sUAS program. Each CI team member passed the Airman Knowledge Test to obtain a license to fly each OHS small unmanned aircraft system, commonly referred to as drones. After the drones, nicknamed Orville and Wilbur, were registered with the Federal Aviation Administration, the team successfully completed their first drone flights in mid-June. Once initial flight training is complete, the team will utilize the drones for missions in security and vulnerability assessments, scrapyard analysis, and K-12 school site plans.

Enforcement

The OHS Enforcement Unit has continued to dedicate itself to the enforcement of Ohio's laws affecting the scrap metal and private investigator/security guard industries. This year the unit has had to adapt enforcement techniques to meet the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

When possible, the Enforcement Unit has requested records from the security and private investigation industry in order to conduct audits that ensure licensed companies are properly registering employees according to state law. Audits using the Ohio Scrap Metal and Bulk Merchandise Container Dealers website help ensure scrap metal dealers in Ohio are continuing to follow state law while conducting transactions with the public. When investigators must physically check a location, they wear nose and mouth coverings and maintain social distancing to protect themselves and the public.

Throughout the past year, the Enforcement Unit has opened 152 new criminal and administrative cases; closed 139 criminal and administrative cases; conducted compliance checks on 1,920 security guards in 598 different locations; disseminated 264 products to partners; performed 248 audits on the private investigator/security guard companies and scrap metal businesses; and responded to 78 requests for information from federal, state and local government entities and law enforcement agencies.

Cyber Intelligence Analysis

The Cyber Intelligence Unit frequently takes part in events as an opportunity to provide critical information to OHS partners as well as the public. The OHS Cyber Intelligence Unit has presented at events such as Ohio Cyber Security Day, Intelligence Liaison Officer workshops, OHS monthly classified briefings, a Chamber of Commerce Cyber Security & Ransomware Awareness event, and the Ohio Department of Administrative Services Cyber Conference. Topics at these events range from basic cyber hygiene to the dark web.

Throughout the past year, the Cyber Intelligence Unit has shared 272 informational products to partners. These products are created to inform partners of cyber threats, vulnerabilities, and incidents that could affect them. In addition to these products, the Cyber Intelligence Unit contributes to the monthly counterterrorism product disseminated by the Statewide Terrorism Analysis and Crime Center.

Work has begun on the new Ohio Homeland Security Cyber Center which will become a hub for cybersecurity and intelligence professionals in the private and public sectors to meet and share thoughts and ideas that will ultimately help Ohioans better identify and prepare for cyber threats.

Intelligence Analysis

The OHS Intelligence Analysis Unit has assisted local law enforcement with the production of 30 bulletins relating to scrap metal theft in Ohio. In addition to these bulletins, the OHS Intelligence Analysis unit has created products related to COVID-19 Hygiene Best Practices for the private security industry, and several economic products that have been added to the monthly Counterterrorism product disseminated by the Statewide Terrorism Analysis and Crime Center. The Intelligence Analysis Unit frequently provides briefings at the OHS monthly classified briefings and also at events such as the Worthington Patriot Day event.

Licensing and Registration

Private Investigator Security Guard Services (PISGS) licenses and regulates companies that provide investigative or security services and maintains a standard of excellence for the private investigator and security guard industry. PISGS licenses and regulates nearly 900 licensed company locations and more than 24,000 registered private investigators and security guards that work throughout the state. In addition to licensing the private investigator/security guard industry, the Licensing and Registration Unit has begun processing registration certifications for the scrap metal industry.

Licensing and Registration also has recently begun providing companies with digital copies of registrants' identification cards. This change, initially made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, has allowed for cost-savings measures and introduces the opportunity for technological advancements tailored to an increasingly digital world.

PISGS has also significantly increased its outreach and marketing. Throughout the past year, PISGS has hosted monthly informational seminars for industry professionals to provide clarification on licensing requirements and prevent violations. As a result of the Stay-at-Home Order, several of these seminars were held via online meeting platforms, which has helped to increase attendance and participation. This section also sends out a quarterly newsletter, The Observer, as well as the Mid-Week Minute, which broadcasts important deadlines and training opportunities. PISGS additionally publishes Tuesday Tips on social media to share relevant changes affecting the industry.

Intelligence Liaison Officer Program

During this reporting period, fervent efforts were made to audit the Intelligence Liaison Officer (ILO) master roster and update program documents, which resulted in increased participation in the faith-based, education, and public health sectors. Regional Intelligence Coordinators' (RIC) roles and responsibilities were updated and workshops were scheduled through the end of the year. The concept of a deputy RIC from each county to work alongside existing RICs was introduced. In 2019, 213 ILOs joined the program bringing the total to 1,554 statewide.

OHS K9

The K9 unit supported large events statewide and is available to local law enforcement at no cost upon request. In FY20, the OHS Explosive Detection Canine Program has planned for, completed, or responded to 208 deployments. These deployments have been statewide in support of university commencements, large scale athletic events, deploying and returning units of the Ohio National Guard, and giving talks to groups about the use of specially-trained dogs assisting law enforcement and fire service agencies. They also supported large events such as the Arnold Fitness Classic and senior leadership conferences.

Ohio Public Private Partnership

The purpose of the Ohio Public Private Partnership (OP3) is to develop effective partnerships between the public and private sectors and provide aid to Ohioans following a disaster, whether manmade or natural. The OP3 is comprised of 1,916 partners, representing 1,513 partner organizations, including 1,221 businesses and associations, 217 public sector entities, and 75 Ohio colleges and universities. In the past year, membership increased by 60 percent with the addition of 717 new partners. The OP3 organized and coordinated several regional conferences and a statewide forum. These conferences featured presentations on topics of business continuity, crisis communications, cybersecurity preparedness, emergency preparedness, homeland security, human trafficking, the opioid crisis, and weather outlooks. These presentations provide critical information intended to aid members and their organizations in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from an event.

OP3 also supported the state's Emergency Operations Center response during the COVID-19 pandemic. OP3 sent regular messages to its partners to keep them updated on continual changes during the challenging period. Partners also aided in providing supply chain information, details on testing locations, and also assisted with some logistical efforts to provide PPE to county EMAs.

Statewide Terrorism Analysis and Crime Center

The Statewide Terrorism Analysis and Crime Center (STACC) continues to support COVID-19 and protest intelligence operations. In response to the increase in overall criminal activity since the onset of COVID-19, STACC analysts are providing daily protest and threat intelligence updates, as well as situational awareness bulletins on new tactics, techniques, and procedures used during civil unrest. The STACC has reviewed online threats – including those against appointed and/or elected officials – and provided real-time analysis and information to law enforcement agencies to assist with their criminal investigations. The STACC has also created and disseminated BOLO alerts to law enforcement, as necessary.

On September 16, 2019, the STACC embarked on a joint venture with the FBI. The FBI National Threat Operations Center (NTOC) screens various tips to their center to determine if there are threats that state and local law enforcement

can/must address immediately. This began as a pilot program as a result of the school shooting in Parkland, FL. Since the STACC is uniquely positioned as one of the nation's few 24/7 statewide fusion centers, the venture allowed the FBI-NTOC to facilitate threat reporting to Ohio any time of the day or night. As a result, the FBI-NTOC is now sending Threat to Life (TTL) tips to the STACC through their eGuardian system.

The NTOC is the FBI's central intake through which the public can provide tip information about potential threats or ongoing crimes. The NTOC assesses all tips received and forwards potential TTLs originating in Ohio to the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Watch Desk as well as local FBI offices for dual routing. The OSHP Watch Desk is the single point of contact for direct dissemination of information to local agencies with jurisdiction. A TTL is an imminent or potential threat involving serious bodily injury or significant violent action, including threats to public safety; use of weapons of mass destruction; crisis calls; active shooters; threats to law enforcement; and terrorism.

Sworn personnel within OSHP's Watch Desk work in coordination with the STACC to review, document, and disseminate TTLs to local law enforcement with jurisdiction. In less than one year, the OSHP Watch Desk and STACC received 77 TTL (more than any other fusion center within the same time period) from the NTOC and provided valuable research and assistance to appropriate law enforcement agencies across the state. The STACC has become a model for the TTL process, and the Office of Partner Engagement has referred other fusion centers to the STACC for guidance and best practices.

In June 2019, the OSHP's FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) troopers joined the STACC to enhance intelligence sharing. This led to the introduction of a trooper into the STACC with additional FBI training in human intelligence (HUMINT) gathering. The HUMINT trooper gathers human intelligence from prisons, conducts firearms tracing, and assists criminal patrol and other agencies in methods to increase enforcement and seizures related to human trafficking the illegal use and possession of firearms. The establishment of this Intelligence/HUMINT Unit paid immediate dividends with patrol operations and criminal investigations including human trafficking, drug trafficking, violent extremists, and intelligence that improves officer safety.

In December 2019, the STACC developed the Top 5 Emerging Threats in Ohio product. Based on the previous threat landscape and looking forward, STACC analysts assessed that the top five emerging threats within Ohio for 2020 would be: election security, school safety, narcotics, active aggressor events, and racially/ethnically motivated violent extremism. The product informed state elected and/or appointed decision-makers on the developing threats in Ohio and provided situational awareness to state, federal, and local law enforcement, first responders, and public safety partners. The threats discussed within the product also created a baseline assessment for further analysis during the year through collaboration with various federal, state (to include surrounding state fusion centers), and local emergency services, and public/private sector partners.

The STACC debuted *Counterterrorism Monthly* in January to provide value-added intelligence to the intelligence community, law enforcement, and partner agencies to better protect against acts of terrorism and violent crime and to identify actors who may be planning attacks against Ohio, other parts of the United States, infrastructure, and key resources. The main topics of this monthly mirror the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Intelligence & Analysis Mission Centers: transnational organized crime, counterterrorism, cyber, counterintelligence, and economic security. *Counterterrorism Monthly* quickly became one of the most viewed products on Ohio Homeland Security's Communication & Information Management System (CIMS). Throughout COVID-19 and protests in 2020, viewing of STACC products significantly increased in CIMS, making it an integral way for the STACC to reach key stakeholders and partners with operational and actionable information.

During calendar year 2019, STACC OHS analysts achieved significant increases in services provided to stakeholders and partners as compared with 2018 totals. Analysts contributed to percent increases in Suspicious Activity Reports (+9%), Requests for Service (+12%), Safer Schools Tips (+130%) and Written Reports (+263%).

At the National Fusion Center Association Conference on November 4, 2019, the National Privacy, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties (P/CRCL) Award was jointly presented to the STACC, the Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence Center (PACIC), and the Western Pennsylvania All Hazards Fusion Center (WPAHFC). These centers demonstrated excellence and innovation in the protection of privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties as they undertook a peer-to-peer review session in early 2019 to assess and grade their privacy policies, suspicious activity report processes, standard operating procedures, and other practices to ensure the centers provided the highest level of protection of individuals' rights in the performance of their criminal intelligence duties.

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 \$38 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

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. This funding supports agencies in:

- *preventing* the spread of COVID-19 such as purchasing cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE);
- *preparing* for COVID-19 such as supporting proper planning, staffing, and communications to ensure effective operations and maintain the safety of criminal justice employees, citizens, and correctional populations; and
- *responding* to the spread of COVID-19 such as medical visits, hospitalizations, purchasing medical supplies, and securing alternative housing.

To date, OJCS has awarded \$2 million in CESF grant funding to 65 criminal justice agencies to aid in the fight against COVID-19.

Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board

The Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board (Ohio Collaborative) 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 today, 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. These agencies serve 79 percent of Ohio's total population. However, the total number of certified agencies only accounts for slightly over half of all of Ohio's departments.

Governor DeWine directed OCJS, which oversees the Ohio Collaborative certification process, to reach out to every agency that is not certified in these standards and assist them in moving toward certification.

Collaborative standards also exist for community engagement, body cameras, bias-free policing, employee misconduct, telecommunicators, and, at the request of Governor DeWine, law enforcement pursuits.

The 2020 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

Governor DeWine directed the Ohio Collaborative to begin developing uniform core standards related to mass protests. Members of the collaborative will examine issues surrounding best practices for interaction between law enforcement and crowds that fail to disperse, when tactics involving tear gas, pepper spray, and non-lethal projectiles are necessary and when these tactics should be considered excessive, and how to better protect members of the media from injury.

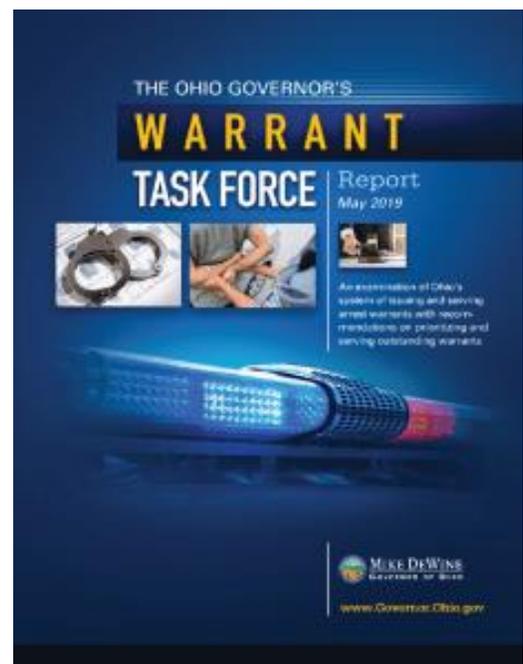
Ohio Office of Law Enforcement Recruitment

Governor DeWine announced he will create a new Ohio Office of Law Enforcement Recruitment within OCJS. The new office will assist agencies that are working to hire more minorities and women and will encourage these populations to explore a law enforcement career. The office will also develop and share 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 May 2019 report, a subcommittee of the task force 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. A survey was sent to law enforcement and courts to help consider the needs of and impact on the system's users. Members of the subcommittee also met with counties to discuss the system. Phase I of the project will include at least 10 pilot counties to be part of the initial design and development. A request for proposals was released in November 2019. ODPS and DAS are currently in the contract process for a vendor 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. 169,567 warrant entries have been entered or migrated into NCIC since March 2019 due to increased awareness and education from the Warrant Task



Force and LEADS staff. This is 903% increase in Ohio warrants available to NICS Examiners making firearm transfer decisions and law enforcement officers nationwide.

Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System

In April 2020, OCJS went live with a new Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS) Portal for use by law enforcement and criminal justice agencies. Included in this release was a new [OIBRS crime reports site](#) for the public. This website allows users to access OIBRS crime data on certain violent and property crimes occurring in Ohio. The data can be queried by law enforcement jurisdiction and year. Approximately 575 law enforcement agencies covering approximately 81 percent of the Ohio population have reported crimes through OIBRS that occurred in 2018 and/or 2019.

In February 2018, OCJS started collecting use-of-force reports through OIBRS. As of June 2020, 129 Ohio law enforcement agencies are currently reporting use of force reports to OCJS through OIBRS, covering over 1.7 million in population.

RecoveryOhio Grant Funding

Funding was a huge priority for Governor DeWine in the budget. 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) out of the Ohio Attorney General's Office. This money will go to support 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 is provided to support the recommendations of the RecoveryOhio Advisory Council and includes funding for prevention and education programs as well as quick response teams throughout the state.

Human Trafficking

Since 2012, Ohio has prioritized the development of a more coordinated and comprehensive statewide response to human trafficking by implementing critical policy changes and pursuing agency initiatives through the Governor's Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force. The task force, led by the ODPS Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, prioritizes the prevention of human trafficking, the provision of holistic care for survivors, and the prosecution of offenders. The task force and ODPS work in close partnership with multidisciplinary professionals at the federal, state, and local level to create lasting policy change that will lead to meaningful impacts in the lives of exploited men, women, and children in Ohio.

The Office of the State Anti-Trafficking Coordinator proactively applies for competitive federal funding to administer new and innovative anti-trafficking initiatives throughout the state. In 2017, OCJS was awarded over \$1.5 million in competitive funds from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to implement anti-trafficking projects through September 2020. These projects include the HHS *Look Beneath the Surface Regional Anti-Trafficking Program* and the DOJ *Improving Outcomes for Child and Youth Victims of Human Trafficking Program*.

Regional Anti-Trafficking Program

Since July 2019, OCJS has funded five regional human trafficking coordinators in southwest, northwest, central, and eastern Ohio to raise awareness of sex and labor trafficking, identify and refer victims for services, build capacity of anti-trafficking coalitions, and provide training and technical assistance to professionals. From July 2019 to March 2020, OCJS and the regional coordinators trained 6,345 professionals and identified and referred 141 victims for services, including individuals forced to work in illicit massage businesses, prostitution, domestic service, agriculture, and pornography.

Department of Justice Improving Outcomes for Child and Youth Victims

This year, OCJS built capacity of the juvenile justice and child welfare systems to identify and respond to the exploitation of minors and youth by funding State Human Trafficking Liaisons within the Ohio Department of Youth Services and the Public Children Services Association of Ohio. OCJS and the liaisons trained 929 child-serving professionals and foster parents on screening, identification, and service provision of trafficked minors, providing over 200 hours of training.

Other Anti-Trafficking Initiatives

The Office of the State Anti-Trafficking Coordinator also partnered with the Ohio State Cosmetology and Barber Board to train its inspectors and staff on how to identify potential instances of sex and labor trafficking when conducting on-site inspections of businesses, such as nail and hair salons. Further, ODPS developed a human trafficking training video to educate licensees on the nature and scope of human trafficking in Ohio, and how to recognize and respond to clients who may be victims. All licensees will be required to complete the training video as part of maintaining their license.

Lastly, the Task Force continued to engage professionals uniquely positioned to identify potential victims of human trafficking in law enforcement, social service settings, and transportation. Since July 2019, OCJS trained over 1,000 professionals, including: Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers, Homeland Security ILOs Akron METRO RTA staff, hospital staff, magistrates, adult prison staff, recovery peer supporters, juvenile parole officers, and school staff. These trainings led to the increased capacity of Ohio's professionals to identify victims and connect them with needed services.