



WORTHINGTON DIVISION OF POLICE

Memorandum

Integrity, Respect, Commitment, Honesty, Professionalism

To: **Chief Robert Ware, II**

From: **Lt. Michael Holton**

Date: **January 27, 2021**

Subj: **Traffic Citation & Traffic Warning Data Review for 2020**

Refer to the table for race and gender information of the 1615 individuals that were issued traffic citations and/or written traffic warnings during 1594 self-initiated traffic contacts in the City of Worthington in 2020. (Writer's note: An individual that commits multiple violations may be issued both a traffic citation and a written traffic warning.)

Be advised that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the overall number of self-initiated traffic contacts (1594), violators issued traffic citations (706), and violators issued written traffic warnings (909) in 2020 is far lower than the Worthington Division of Police normally conducts on an annual basis. For example, during 2019 the Worthington Division of Police initiated 6683 traffic contacts, issued traffic citations to 1757 violators, and written traffic warnings to 5202 violators. (Writer's note: An individual that commits multiple violations may be issued both a traffic citation and a written traffic warning.)

To maintain the five reporting categories as identified by National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the Ohio Collaborative, the following adjustments were made and included in the "Unknown" male or female category:

- Seven (7) females were issued citations where race was not identified
- Twenty (20) written warnings were issued to females where race was not identified

- Twenty-nine (29) males were issued citations where race was not identified
- Twenty-four (24) written warnings were issued to males where race was not identified

**Number of Individuals Issued Traffic Citations and/or Traffic Warnings - 2020
01-01-20 through 12-31-20**

Race	Male	Percent of total	Female	Percent of total
White	617	38.20%	495	30.65%
Black	232	14.37%	140	8.67%
Asian	22	1.36%	23	1.42%
Indian	3	0.19%	3	0.19%
Unknown	53	3.28%	27	1.67%
Individuals Issued a Traffic Citation and/or a Traffic Warning	927		688	Total: 1615

Note these numbers represent data for 1615 individuals issued traffic citations and/or written traffic warnings during traffic contacts between 01-01-20 and 12-31-20. The new database for

complete collection of traffic citations and written traffic warnings commenced in January 2020. This is being utilized to avoid the complex variables and address outcomes of conflicted baseline data that might be generated from the 2010 US Census data in which we are unable to delineate licensed drivers within the confines of our jurisdictional boundary. Please be aware that we deal with the crossroads of two major federal interstates, two interstate routes, and one US route. Without a verifiable benchmark, it is difficult to determine what percentage of self-initiated traffic stops would indicate racially biased policing. The objective of using a baseline value and thus benchmarking is to understand if there is a causal relationship between a characteristic of the driver (e.g., race, gender, and/or age) and the decision by police to initiate a traffic stop.

The most reliable benchmarks look to develop a profile of who should be stopped within a jurisdiction in the absence of any biased decision-making. Noting there are complicating factors, such as the diverse driving behaviors of various groups (e.g., racial, ethnic, gender, and age groups) that travel our roadways. Additionally, nonresidents (commuters) also travel on our jurisdiction's roads, are involved in traffic crashes, and are stopped by police officers for traffic violations.

Effective January 2020, the Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Agency Certification Program requires law enforcement agencies wishing to obtain certification from the Ohio Collaborative collect and document race and gender information on all traffic contacts. In anticipation of the new Ohio Collaborative guidelines, effective July 14, 2019, the Worthington Division of Police began collecting race and gender information of individuals issued written traffic warnings as well as traffic citations.

It is a requirement that the sex and race category be noted on traffic citations and traffic warnings. They are identical to the categories defined by National Crime Information Center (NCIC). The definitions from the NCIC are listed below:

Value	Definition
I = Indian	American Indian or Alaskan Native – a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Americas and maintaining cultural identification through tribal affiliations or community recognition
A = Asian	Asian or Pacific Islander - a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent or the Pacific Islands
B = Black	Black - a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa
W = White	White - a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East
U = Race is unknown	Unknown