

East Cocalico Township Police Department

2020 Yearly Report

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2020 was a year that threw numerous curveballs at staff and members of the East Cocalico Township Police Department. This seems to describe 2020 for many reasons, but it does not truly give the best big picture. It was the resilience of this department and its members, which resonates with me. Just as many people across this great country endured and overcame so much heartache. The Department experienced the lowest of days through sickness, the loss of a member and the loss of a great friend of the Police Department. Actions of others in another part of the country contributed to feelings and actions of unrest, laid at the feet of those who would never participate in such criminality. Finally, an understanding came to light that the many individuals and groups of this great community came to support, to uplift and to stand with the officers and staff that provide some of the most professional community-oriented police services in Lancaster County and throughout Pennsylvania.

The entire country has navigated through the pandemic of Covid-19. Each person knows the daily struggles and triumphs that have gone on throughout the last year. I think reviewing the details of Covid-19 and the ongoing issues it has presented would be lost with each reader. I feel it unnecessary to recount the many actions taken to combat Covid-19. The members of the department, as well as the citizens of our area know and acknowledge what each of us did to make it through this time. I will however review a few items, which will record the department's efforts in this report.

The first item, which may be the most important, is the unwavering support the East Cocalico Township Police Department received throughout the last year. The citizens, business and many others have made it clear to the members of the department that we live in an area that not only appreciates the police but openly and proudly supports first responders. The department has received more lunches, gift cards for food items and gift baskets than I have seen in my career. More than not have officers been told, "Thank you for what you do", at businesses, schools and other locations. This resonates with the members of the department and was

one of the biggest factors in helping us through several low times throughout the last year.

Secondly, the adjustments allowed by the East Cocalico Township Board of Supervisors put officers and staff at ease of knowing they are an important part of the community. By allowing officers to remain at home for one week, on a standby basis, was an integral part of making sure staffing levels could be maintained if an outbreak occurred, within the department. We were fortunate that an emergency schedule was not needed or implemented, but the fact that actions were taken speaks volumes for the forward thinking of the Township.

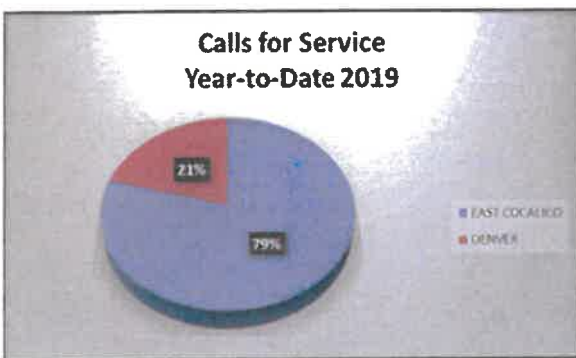
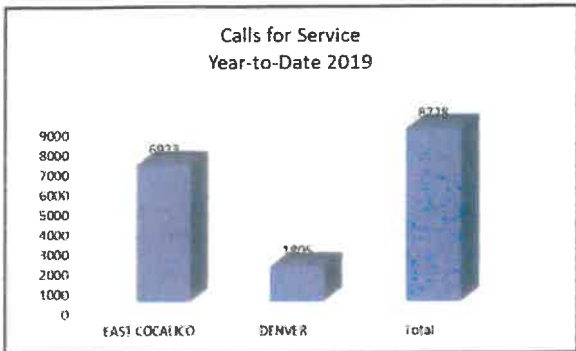
Another part of scheduling and support was that officers and staff were permitted to take leave if they or family members had symptoms of Covid-19. We were very fortunate that this effected only a few individuals throughout the year.

Finally, the assistance and understanding from other agencies was paramount to a successful outcome throughout the pandemic. The Reamstown and Reinholds Ambulance Associations graciously understood that we would not be responding, unless necessary to emergency medical calls. The Emergency Management Coordinator was in contact and always available when needed for provide supplies and guidance during the pandemic. Working together with these agencies is a constant in this community. I have confidence this support will continue and thrive.

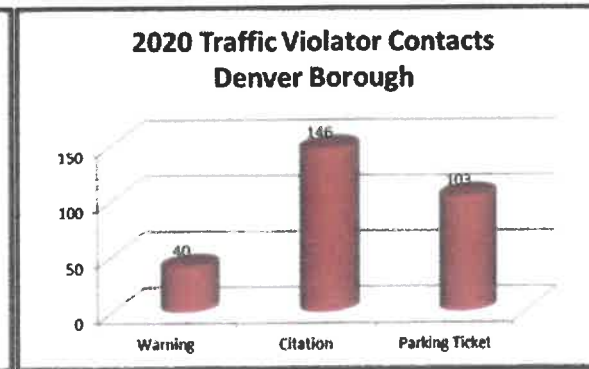
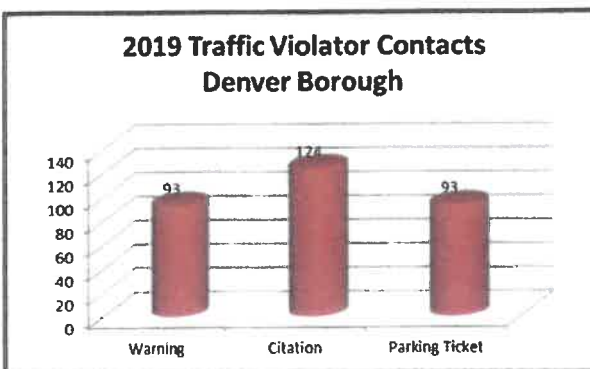
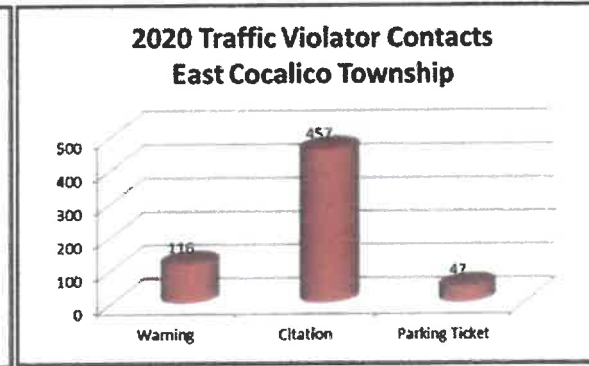
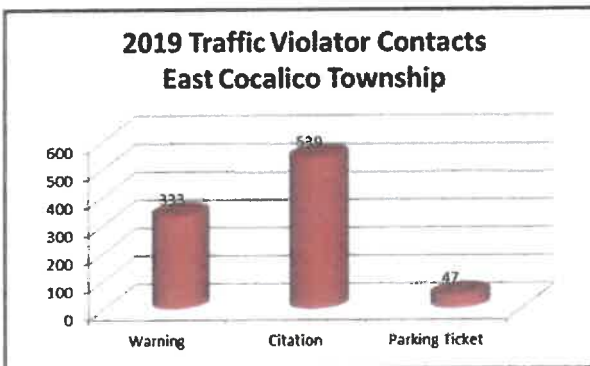
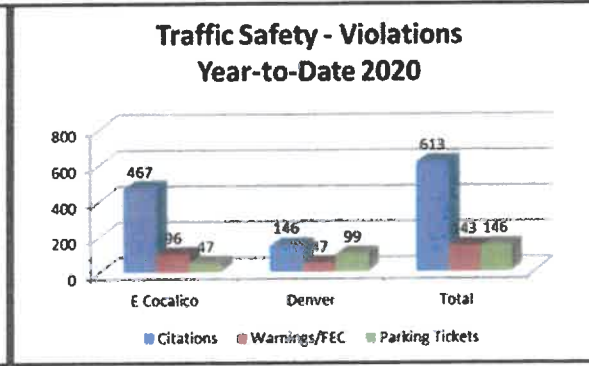
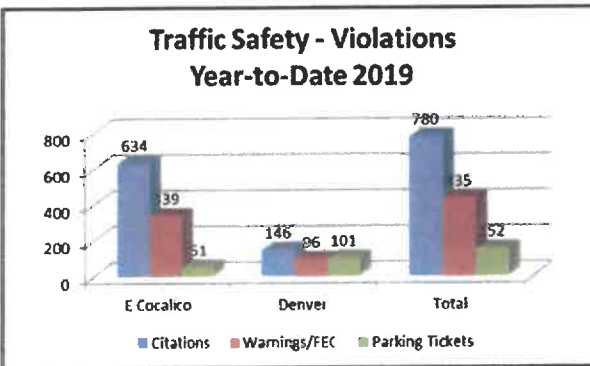
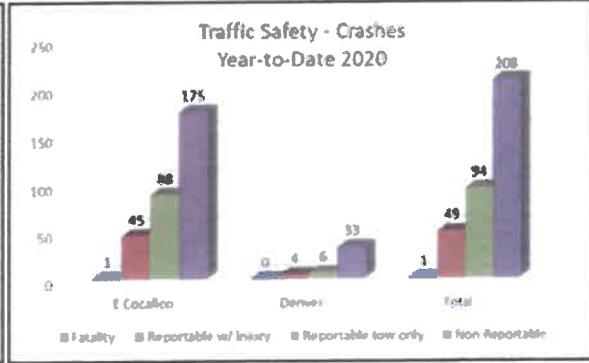
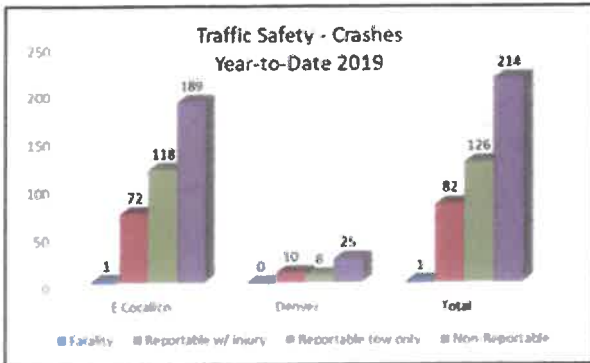
With the thought of Covid-19 soon to be in the past, providing several statistics regarding call volumes comparing 2019 to 2020 will provide a final overview of this past year.

Total calls for service for 2019 was 8728. 2020 recorded 7642 calls for service. This number is understandable but still shocking for our department. Having a total of 1086 less calls for service proves that many people throughout the community were able to live through the pandemic in a mature manner, but also proves that these same people understood the seriousness of the fight and complied with the sometime overreaching rules set forth in Pennsylvania.

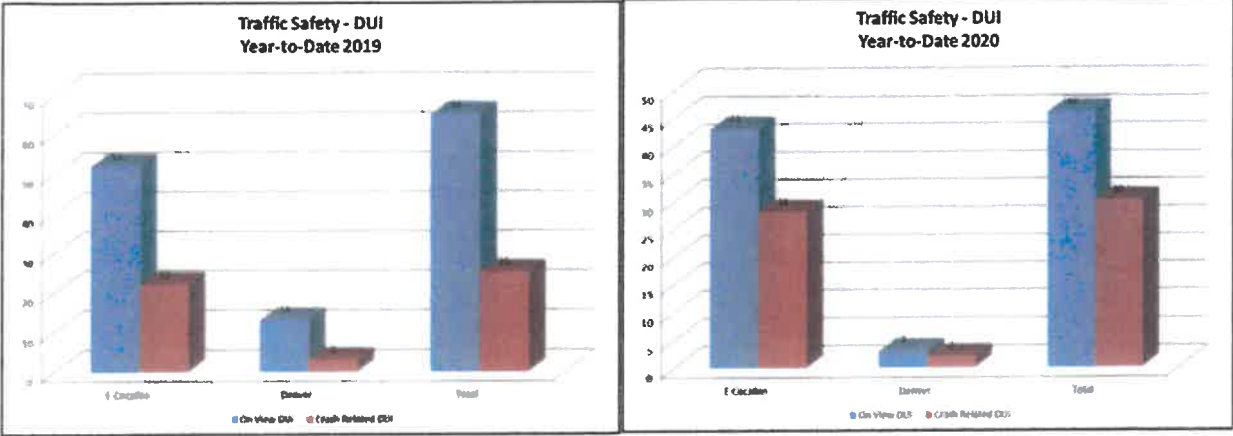
Calls for Service 2019/2020 Comparison



Traffic Safety 2019/2020 Comparison



Driving Under the Influence 2019/2020 Comparison



Moving on to a low point for the East Cocalico Township Police Department was the loss of Officer Brennan Lied. March 10, 2020 was only a month past Officer Lied's joining the department. I and many other members quickly knew that Brennan was going to be an excellent police officer. Brennan had previously worked for the East Earl Township Police Department and came highly recommended. His background and previous employment all indicated Brennan was ready to embark on a long and successful career. His love of the area, his interest and goal of eventually becoming an investigator within the department and his quiet calm demeanor made everyone aware of the person we had hired.

Tragically, Officer Lied's time with the department was cut short. While on his way to spend time with his fiancé, after completing a tour of duty, he was involved in a motorcycle accident on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Witness account all indicate no bad driving or excessive speed was involved. I immediately travelled to the hospital and Sgt. Progin and Sgt. Sola accompanied the department Chaplain to Brennan's father's home. I later travelled to the father's residence and spoke to the family. My brief interaction with the Lied's proved that Brennan was not only an important part of the family but was an individual that could aspire and accomplish any goal he set out to achieve.

Due to Covid-19, a formal funeral attended by many police departments throughout the area and beyond was not possible. But the department was able to escort Brennan from the Chester County Hospital back to East Cocalico. The procession drove past his Grandmother's residence and the backyard I am told Brennan loved to play as a child. I hope this gesture and honor by our local fire departments attending was enough to honor Brenna and his family.

Brennan Lied will be forever missed. The officers of the department have asked to name the newly renovated conference/training room in the department in Brennan's honor. I immediately approved this request, and I am working with the Township to accomplish this important task.

Only a few days after Brennan's passing, the department learned of the untimely passing of the East Cocalico Township Financial Director, Elizabeth Doreman. "Liz" was a person that can only be described as one of the nicest human beings I have ever met. She once joked that she may be small in stature, but I should remember that the Italian in her will come out if needed. We both laughed

and I was always grateful for her guidance and friendship not only to me but with every member of the department. Always caring, always looking out for "her" officers and always holding a special place for the East Cocalico Township Police Department. Even though a year has gone by, the loss of Liz resonates throughout the department.

I would be remiss if I failed to speak about the issues that led to civil unrest which effected law enforcement and the entire country in 2020. It should be clear, there are specific differences between peaceful demonstrations and chaos. One of the founding principles of the United States of America is freedom. Freedom and the changes it can bring when individuals or groups gather to demonstrate can reshape how people are treated, how people live in peace and enjoy equality that is to be protected by law enforcement.

When a tragedy like the murder of George Floyd occurs, it provokes emotions that must be addressed. It brings the issue of police misconduct into full view, which can shake an entire country and its people.

It must be understood that bad conduct occurs. If it is hidden, if it goes uninterrupted, law enforcement will continue to be negatively affected. But when it is interrupted, when a police officer stops another from bad conduct, when we recognize the issue, it can be changed.

I believe the two, most important ways to effect this change are having correct legal policies in place and proper training. A policy, which directs and officer that they have a duty to act, we have crossed into a age of law enforcement where I am proud to serve. If an officer, even those with only a few days experience, are duty bound to stop the improper action of another we have moved in the proper direction.

Several new officers have joined the department since the George Floyd incident. I am duty bound to tell them, to read them a policy which directs them to act when they see something occurring that must be stopped. This is a policy that must be stressed. It must be practiced and it must be used by all police officers of the East Cocalico Township Police Department.

The other factor, which can be the difference between successful outcomes and tragedy is training. Training officers on the various aspects of law enforcement needs to be an ongoing process where the officers are always learning. Our police department is lucky to have Township Supervisors who support the Chief of Police by having a significant training budget. We are extremely lucky to have officers that are constantly looking to better themselves by attending training.

Our department has an approach to use of force training that is exceptional. Officer Keith Neff recognized the need for a proper use of force training many years ago. Officer Neff attended trainings, which allowed him to become an instructor and mentor to many on use of force. Neff has even been gracious enough to train other agencies, including the Lancaster County Coroner's Office, in proper self-defense and proper techniques.

Officer Neff conducts yearly use of force training for our department. Each year a varying times Neff will take several officers to a nearby martial arts studio to physically train officers and provide documentation on this training. Neff has recognized the need to eventually have someone successfully step into this important role and has been assisted by Officer Zachary Weaver for several years. My hope is to have Officer Weaver certified during 2021.

During 2020, the members of the department also attended civil disturbance training held at the Pennsylvania State Police Academy in Hershey. This intensive one-day training helped the officers understand proper techniques to safely allow citizens to exercise their rights, but to stop these gathers from turning into situations where lives or property is lost. It is my hope is there will never be a need for this training to be implemented.

An accomplishment during 2020, which may be one of the most important policy changes occurring in many years is the implementation of body worn cameras. The timely purchase and implementation of body worn cameras will protect both the public and the officers of this department. Public trust takes many years to build, many more to maintain and the use of body worn cameras has only enhanced this trust we have been given by the citizens of the Cocalico Area.

East Cocalico Township leadership recognized the need for body worn cameras and the upgrade to the mobile video recorders used in each patrol car. A decision to purchase Getac equipment due to its functionality and cost was made mid-year of 2020. Implementation occurred in late November with the officers taking very little time to become accustomed to the cameras and their use.

I am extremely grateful to Officer Christopher Luongo for his expertise and patience with installing the mobile video recorders in each vehicle. Officer Luongo successfully installed equipment in eight vehicles within a weeks' time. Luongo's graciousness saved the Township several thousand dollars by not having to depend on an outside company to complete the install. This again demonstrates the fine individuals that strive to make the East Cocalico Township Police Department one of the best in Lancaster County.

In early 2020, the department instituted a new policy manual called Lexipol. Lexipol helps agencies enhance personnel safety, increase transparency, and reduce risk by providing state-specific policies and related training

Lexipol's policies are legally vetted, up to date and incorporate industry best practices. Using this policy content will help the department ensure it is functioning in accordance with the law and with proven practices that enhance safety.

Myself, along with other members of the department are reviewing and customizing each policy as needed. I began issuing policies to staff on June 1, 2020 and hope to have the complete manual in place by the Summer of 2021. Working with Lexipol is an important step in realizing our vision to provide the highest level of professionalism and service to our community.

In early 2020, Cpl. Gail Sizer and Cpl. David Fisher retired from the department. Cpl. Sizer retired after 25 years of service to the community. Cpl. Sizer was a very active street/patrol supervisor, as well as a Field Training Officer for new hires. Cpl. Sizer was a negotiator on the Lancaster County SERT and highly respected throughout the county. Cpl. Fisher was also a very active street/patrol supervisor. Cpl. Fisher was on the Lancaster County Accident Reconstruction Team, as well as being certified in car seat installation. The department lost over 50 years of experience when Cpl. Sizer and Cpl. Fisher retired. New officers are stepping up to help fill the needs of the department.

Successful continuation of the SRO program, which has become an integral part of the School District, Department and the Cocalico Community. Officer Eric Fisher continues to broaden the program and his work does not go unnoticed. The compliments and appreciation from students, faculty and parents highlights Officer Fisher's hard work.

For several years, the department has been utilizing the CRIMEWATCH Network. The CRIMEWATCH Network is a platform that creates transparency in local law enforcement and gives the community instant access to information that impacts the safety of our community. CRIMEWATCH enhances the way Law Enforcement releases information and the methods for which the press and public receive and share public safety news. CRIMEWATCH provided the following charts relating to the level of activity the department CRIMEWATCH page generated in 2020.

Please See Following Pages for Statistics from Crimewatch

TOTAL ENGAGEMENT

2020 Highlights



Impressions

1,345,462



Facebook Likes

4,828

Compared to 2019: 4,499



Tips

15

Compared to 2019: 30



Subscribers

1,182

Compared to 2019: 698

10,000

Total Service Population

257,046

Total Visits to CRIMEWATCH

711,704

Total Actions on CRIMEWATCH

128

Total Content Created on CRIMEWATCH

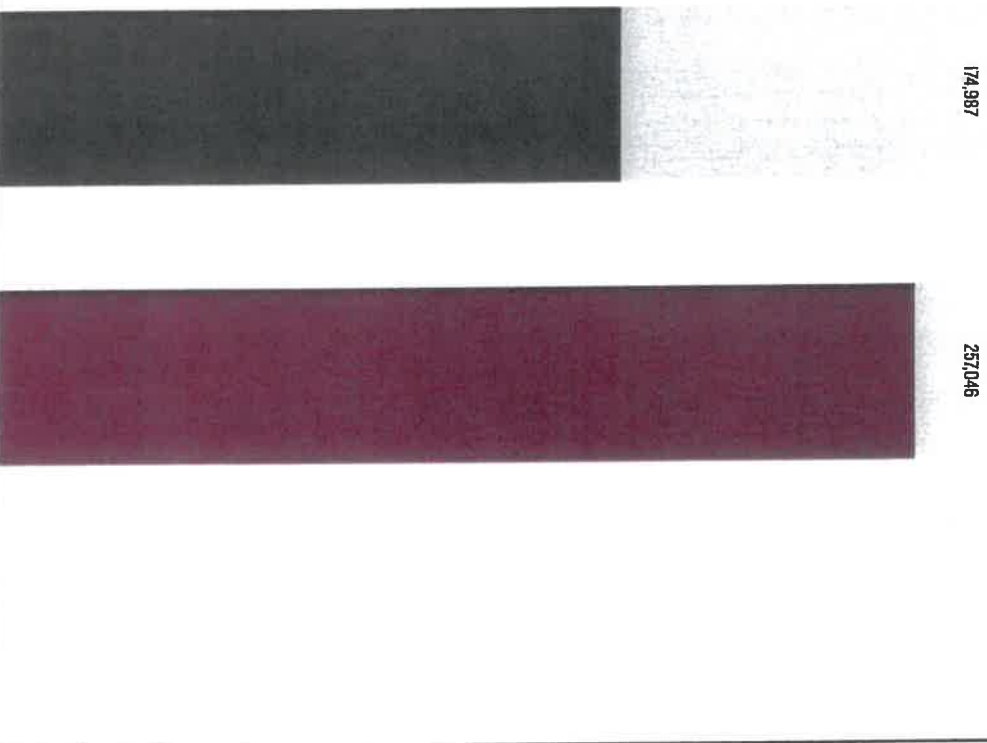


TOTAL ENGAGEMENT

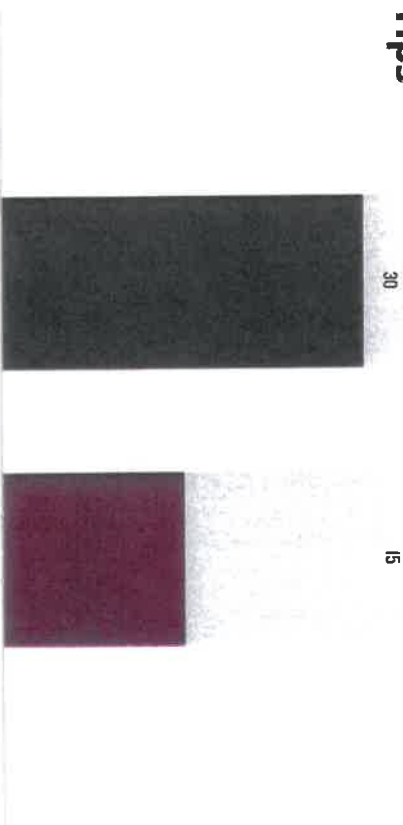
2020 Visits, Tips, and Content

Please Note: While visually similar, each chart is set to a different scale. Please refer to the labels for accurate figures.

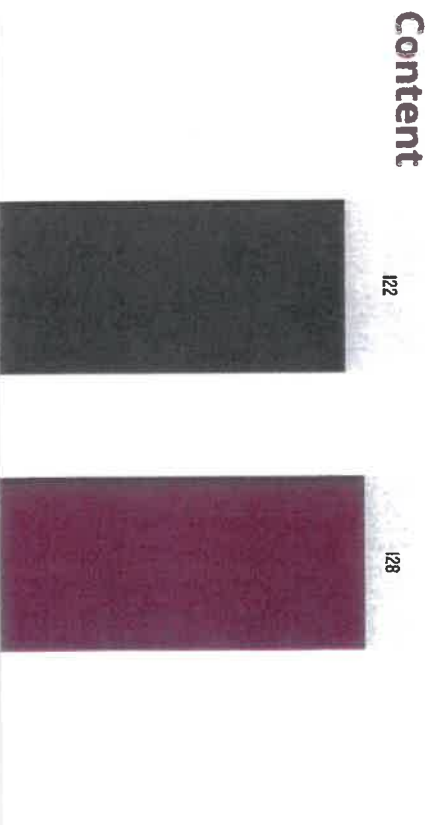
Visits



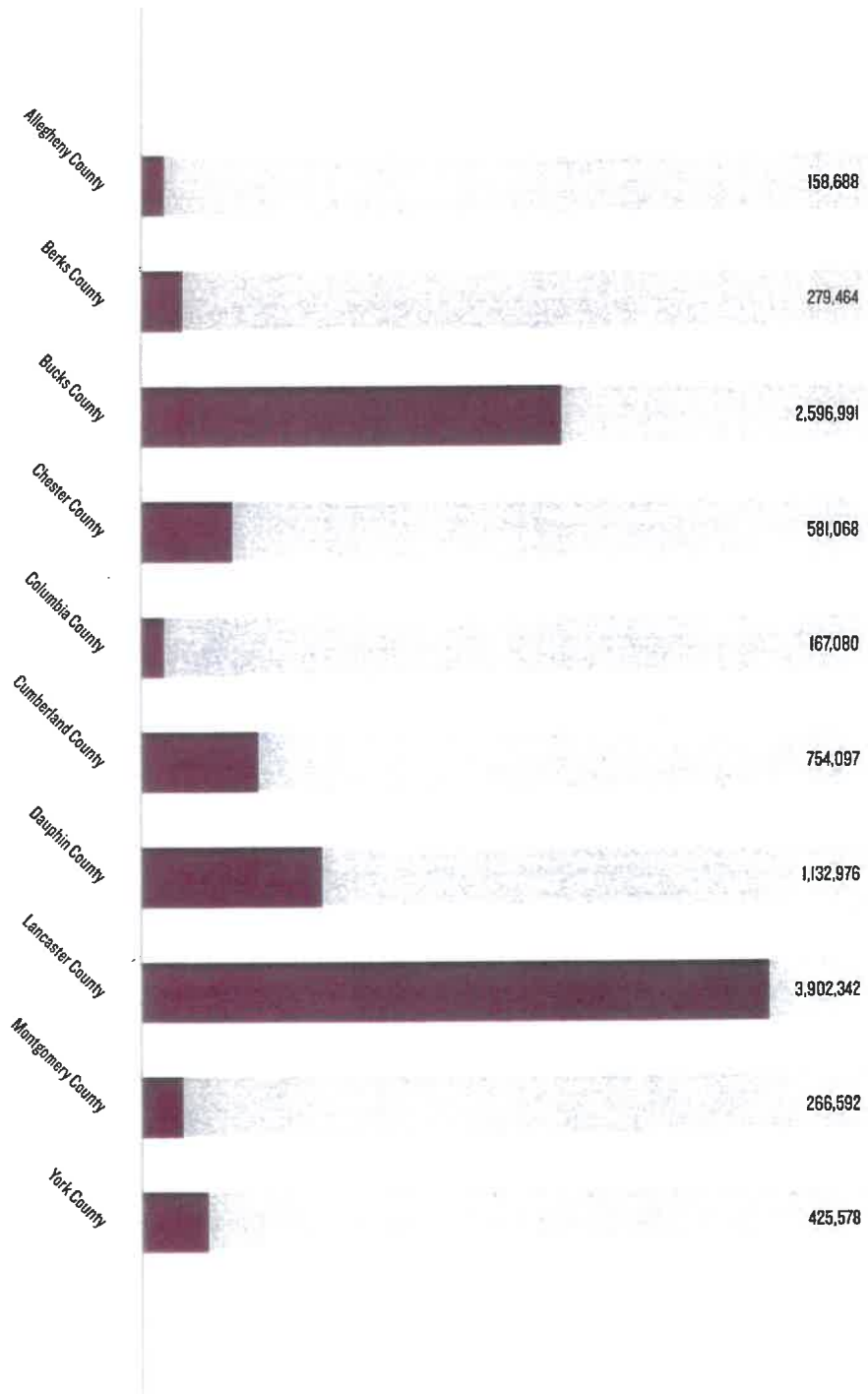
Tips



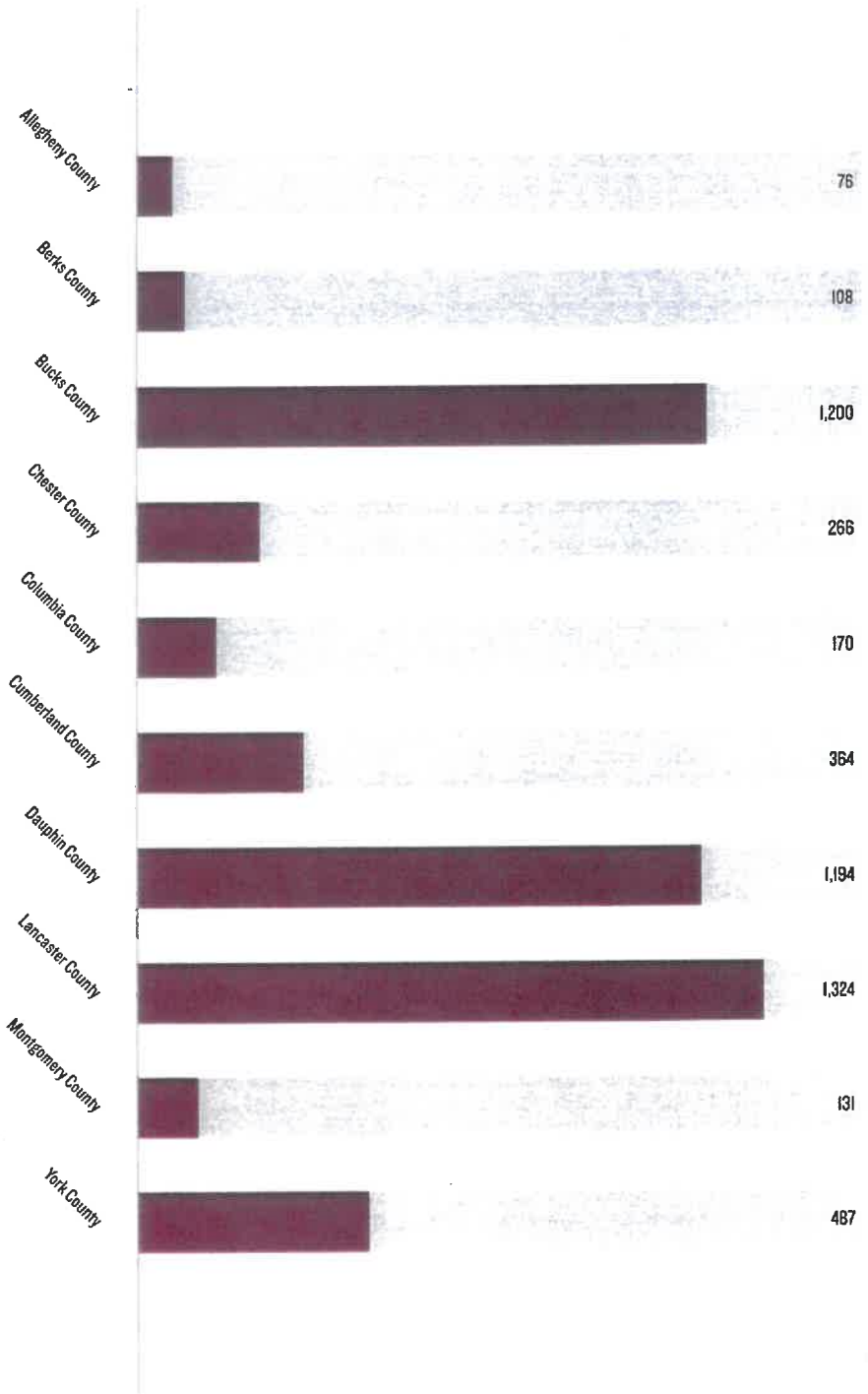
Content



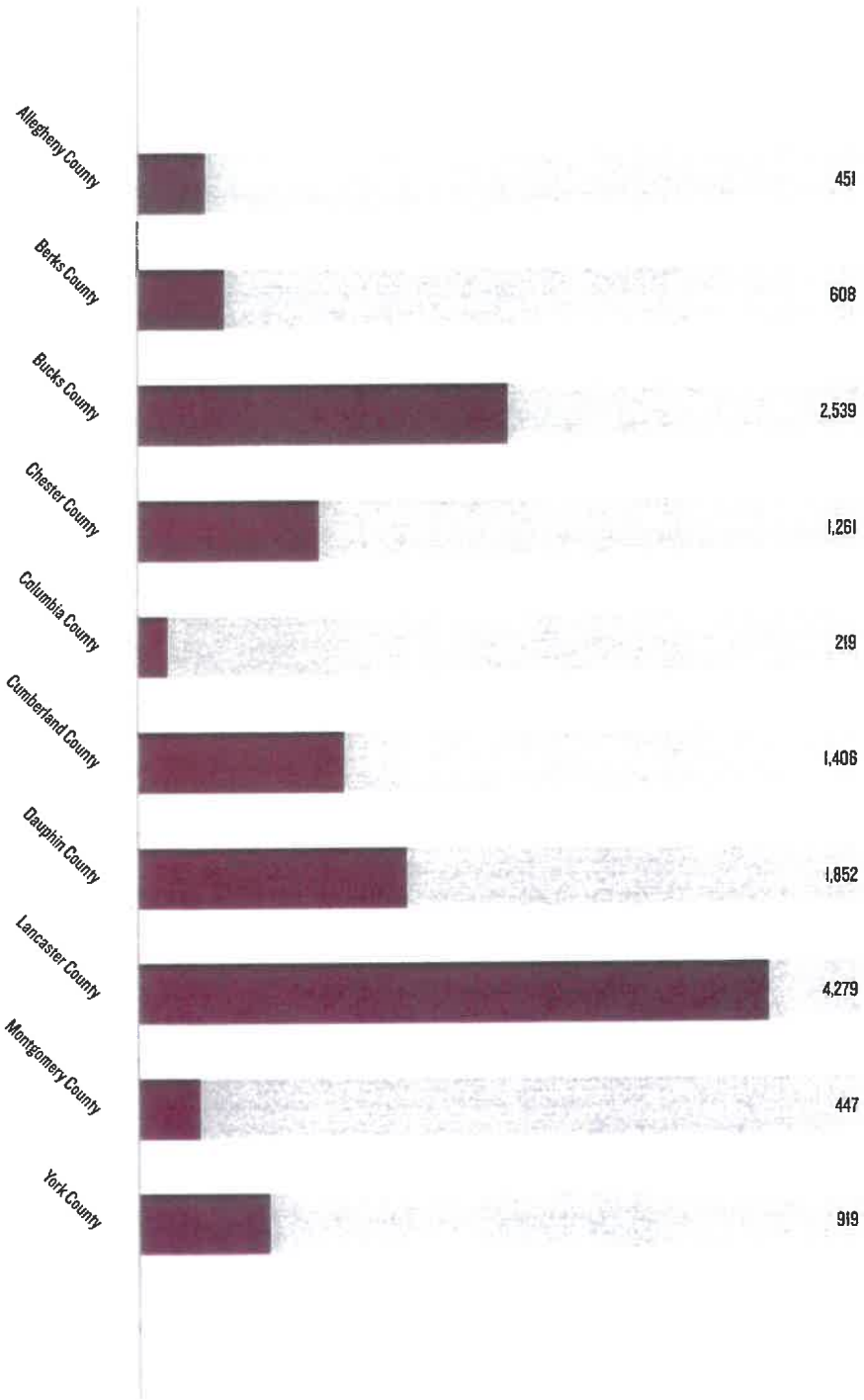
2020 Visits Per County



2020 Tips Per County



2020 Content Per County



I would like to concluded this report by saying thank you to the many supporters of the East Cocalico Township Police Department. Having the support and backing of the East Cocalico Township Board of Supervisors and the members of Denver Borough Council makes the job of our Officers much easier. The budgetary support along with the knowledge, that the success and future of the Department is paramount to the continued success of the Cocalico Community is what makes working for the East Cocalico Township Police Department a place we are all proud to serve.

COMMUNITY FIRST!

Respectfully Submitted,

Chief Darrick Keppley