

Bethlehem Police Reform & Reinvention Collaborative



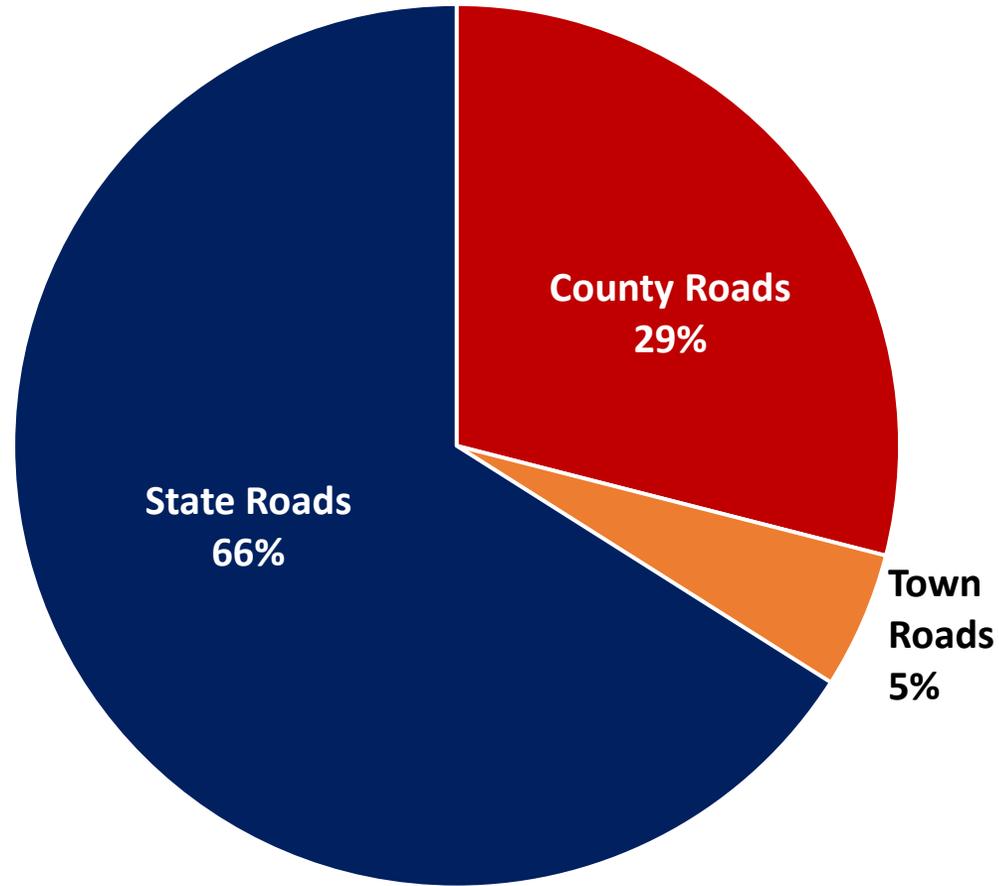
TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Community Forum December 3, 2020

What is the Purpose of Traffic Enforcement?

- Focus is on making roads **SAFE** for all users, whether drivers, cyclists, or pedestrians
- Goals are to decrease crashes, deter aggressive driving, and ensure vehicles are in compliance with State and Town traffic laws (e.g., inspections, insurance, registration, etc.)
- The purpose of traffic enforcement is NOT to generate revenues for the Town

Traffic Enforcement Can Happen on Any Road



Road Types Where Tickets Have Been Issued

Percentages are based on the total number of tickets issued by Bethlehem Police between January 2015 and October 2020

- Enforcement is focused on areas that have the highest crash rates. These tend to be State and County roads which have heavier traffic volumes and higher speed limits, particularly Rte 9W, River Rd, and Delaware Ave.
- Enforcement is also undertaken on other roads throughout town to help keep speeds down and in response to resident complaints about traffic issues (usually speeding).

Data Currently Collected

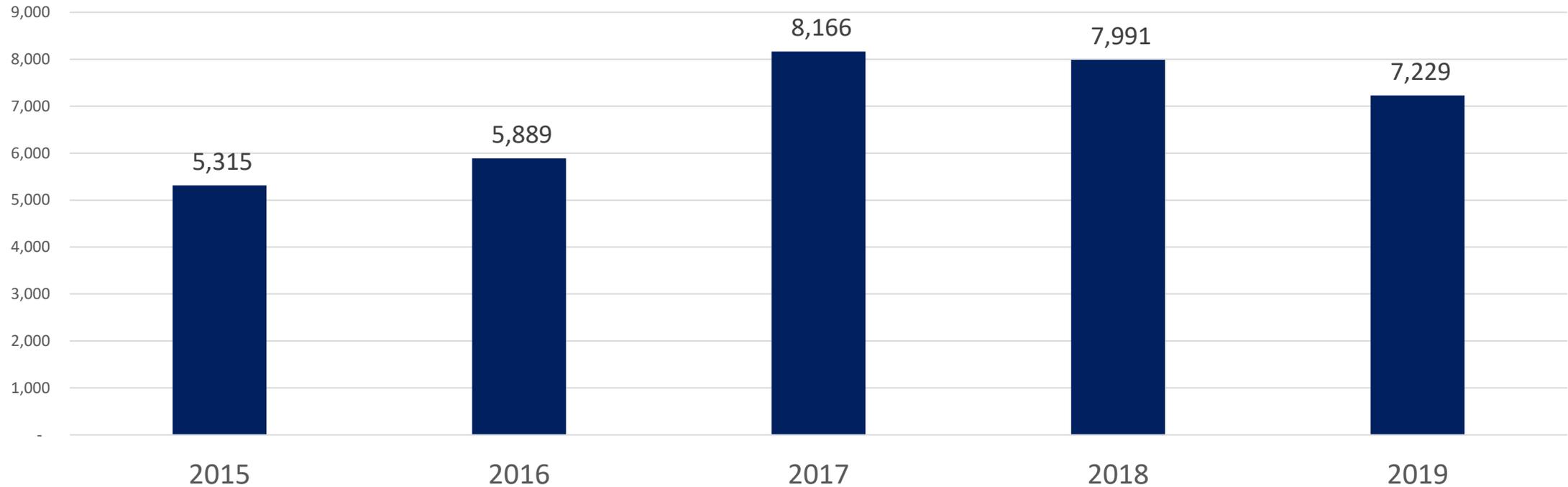
Officers currently and historically gathered the following data for traffic enforcement:

- Location of stop
- Officer making the traffic stop
- Number of tickets issued and for what violations (multiple tickets are issued when there are multiple violations, which is not uncommon)
- Age of alleged violator
- Gender of alleged violator
- Race of alleged violator (if a ticket was issued and officer populated the Race box, which is currently not required to validate a ticket)

What Current Data Don't Tell Us

- Race of alleged violator if a ticket wasn't issued
- Whether there were additional violations that were not ticketed
- How much time officers spend on Traffic Enforcement
- Whether the visible presence of officers deterred potential crimes
- How much revenue is generated by traffic tickets issued by Bethlehem police officers

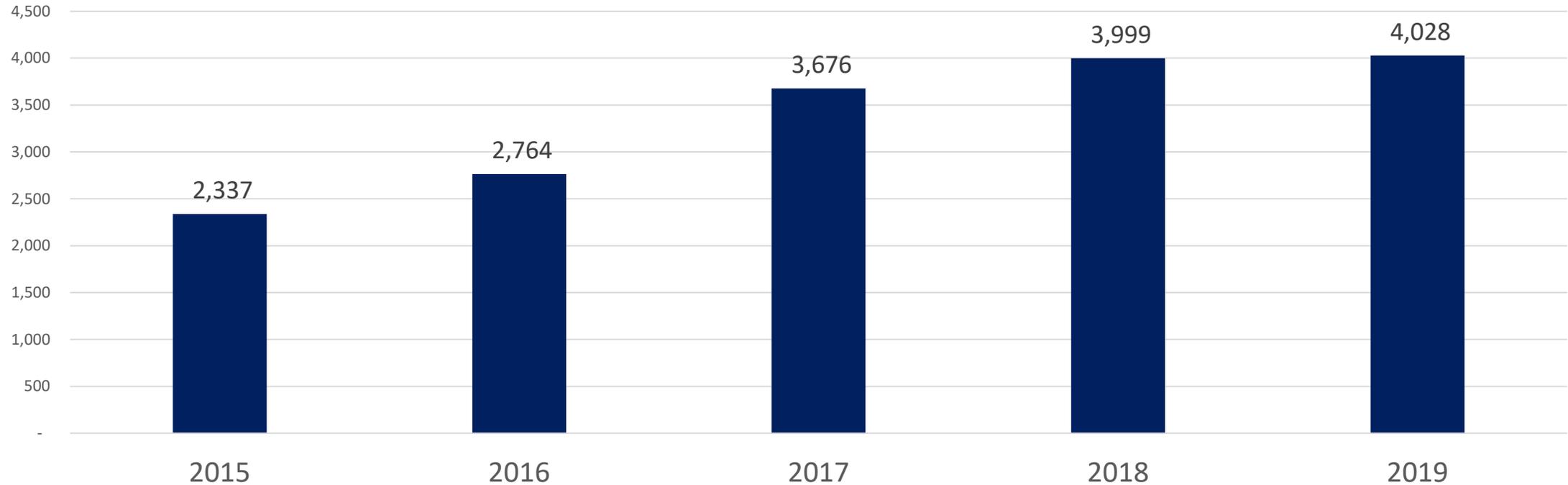
of Traffic Stops 2015-2019



NOTES

- Data are for tickets issued by the Bethlehem Police Dept and don't include tickets issued by State Police or County Sherriff's Dept
- The State has not required Police Dept's to gather data on the race or ethnicity of people stopped - so we do not have any data relating to race or ethnicity for traffic stops

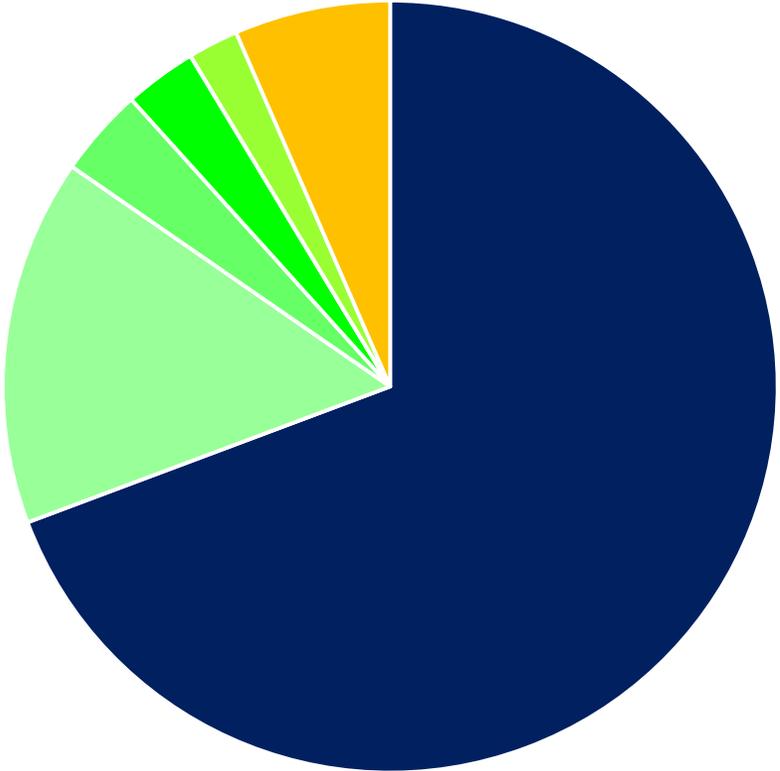
of Tickets Issued 2015-2020



NOTES

- Data are for tickets issued by the Bethlehem Police Dept and don't include tickets issued by State Police or County Sherriff's Dept
- Data indicate the number of tickets issued, not the number of people issued tickets

Race of Alleged Violators Issued Tickets 2015-2019



■ White 64% ■ Black 15% ■ Hispanic 5% ■ Asian 3% ■ Other 3% ■ Not Reported 11%

NOTES

- Data are for tickets issued by the Bethlehem Police Dept and don't include tickets issued by State Police or County Sherriff's Dept
- Data indicate the number of tickets issued, not the number of people issued tickets, on average between 2015 and 2019
- Race categories are defined by the NYS Division of Criminal Justice

Warnings vs Tickets

Bethlehem police officers are given discretion about whether to issue warnings or tickets during traffic stops. When making decisions, they consider:

- Seriousness of violation
- Demeanor of alleged violator
- Explanation given by alleged violator
- Zero Tolerance Traffic Enforcement Detail