



STATE OF MAINE
Department of Public Safety
Maine State Police
42 State House Station
Augusta, Maine
04333-0042

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR
MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK
COMMISSIONER

COL. JOHN COTE
CHIEF
LT COL BILL HARWOOD
DEPUTY CHIEF

Susan Herman, Chief Deputy
Office of the Attorney General
6 Statehouse Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0006

January 29, 2020

Dear Chief Deputy Herman:

This letter is in response to a request from Attorney General Aaron Frey dated January 16, 2020 for information which may help to 'explore available techniques for (or to enhance) the collection and compilation of profiling data'.

Currently, related data is primarily collected and documented by the State Police during roadside traffic stops or the investigation of criminal complaints. During a roadside traffic stop, personal information described in LD 1475 is limited to the descriptors of age, race, and gender. This information is only required to be captured when a Violation Summons and Complaint (traffic citation) is issued. Because the number of total traffic stops far exceeds the stops where a citation is issued it is virtually impossible to determine the number of times our officers interact with people in the categories described in this statute. Maine law enforcement is currently moving to an electronic citation process. This will not, however increase or impact the type of data that is collected but may allow for improved analysis of the aggregate data across the State.

In terms of our interaction with citizens during criminal investigations, relevant data is captured in our records management system pertaining only to complainants and suspects and is limited to age, sex, race and ethnicity. The State Police serves as the repository for Uniform Crime Report data from all Maine law enforcement agencies. Agencies are required to submit data from only specific categories of crimes. This data is compiled and submitted to the Department of Justice annually which results in Maine's published 'crime statistics'. It is important to note that the relevant data received and aggregated for statewide crimes is currently limited to age, sex, race and ethnicity for individuals

charged with one of these specific crimes. As agencies are required to transition to a new system over the next few years this will additionally provide the same data for victims and non-charged suspects.

In summary, the data that we collect and document is limited to common physical descriptors and does not include many of the categories articulated in the statute. Our enforcement and investigative activities are solely based on conduct, behavior, and the investigation of crime. The information that we compile for Maine law enforcement agencies is currently limited to charged suspects in specific crimes and does not include most of the categories in 5 MRSA §200-K Sec. 4.

Please let me know if there is additional information that I can provide that might be helpful in your efforts on this important topic.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maj. C. Grotton', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Maj, Christopher Grotton
Maine State Police

Pc: Col. John Cote
Comm. Michael Sauschuck