



NEW JERSEY
Safe Routes to School

New Jersey Crossing Guard Training and Resources Program 2017



CROSSING GUARD TRAINING PROGRAM BACKGROUND

Trainings

2013 (pilot)

- Essex, Middlesex, and Burlington
- 75 officers

2014

- Mercer, Monmouth, Bergen, Atlantic, and Union
- 179 participants from 130 municipalities

2015

- Ocean, Camden, Essex/Hudson, Morris, and Passaic
- 146 participants from 110 municipalities

2016

- Gloucester, Bergen, Somerset, and Monmouth
- 114 participants from 83 municipalities



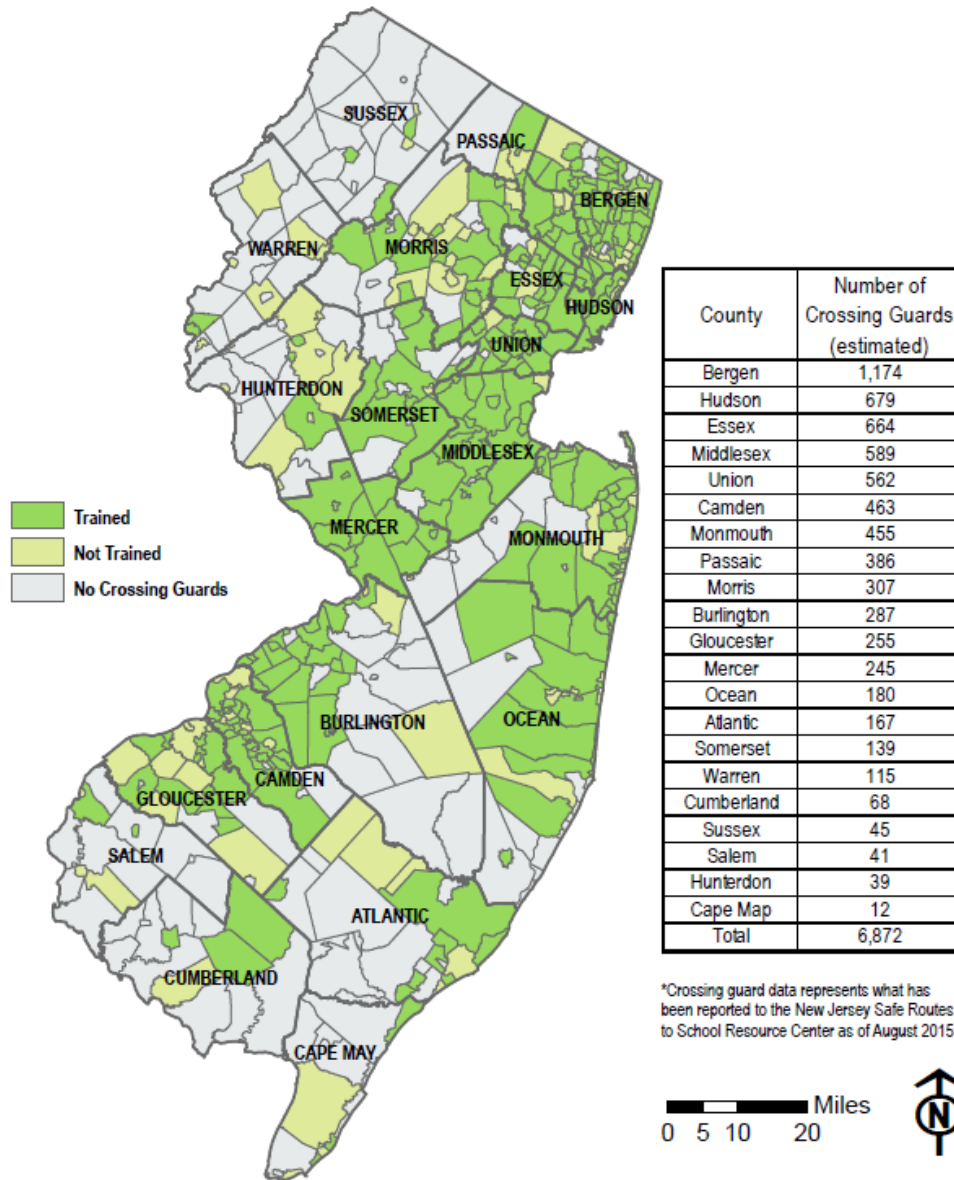
CROSSING GUARD TRAINING PROGRAM SUMMARY FIFTH PROGRAM YEAR

2017

- 110 crossing guard supervisors/trainers trained from 79 communities
 - Camden County Police Academy
 - Essex County College Public Safety Academy
 - Ocean County Police Academy
 - Somerset County Police Academy
- 4-hour session included classroom & field instruction



Crossing Guard Supervisors Trained in New Jersey (2013 - June 2017)



Over five years, supervisors from 290 municipalities have been trained. The training has reached approximately 73% of the municipalities that have crossing guards.

Over the years, municipalities have sent multiple officers to the training, as well as new supervisors as they take on the supervisory role.

CROSSING GUARD TRAINING PROGRAM SUMMARY FIFTH PROGRAM YEAR

NJ - Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Involving Days Away from Work

2011-2012

- **170 injuries and illnesses**
- **70 (41%)** slip, trip & fall injuries
(Includes sprains, strains, fractures, etc.)
- **40 (23%)** motor vehicle related injuries
- Remainder were illnesses

2015

- **60 injuries and illnesses**
- **40 (66%)** slip, trip & fall injuries
(Includes sprains, strains, fractures, etc.)
- **For half of these cases** ice, sleet, snow is a secondary source of injury or illness
- **Half of these cases** involved 31 or more days away from work

Source: NJ Dept of Labor & Workforce Development Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses
(Fewer than 15 cases is not publishable)

CROSSING GUARD TRAINING PROGRAM

FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON

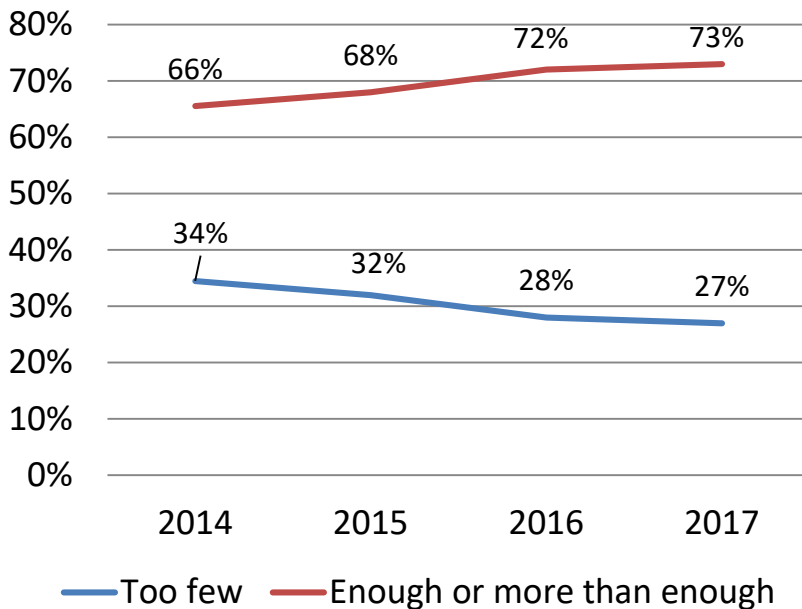
- Covers pre-training questionnaires from 2013-2017
- The questionnaire has changed slightly over time – some years are missing from comparisons
- Apparent trends can be reviewed in the coming years to see if they hold



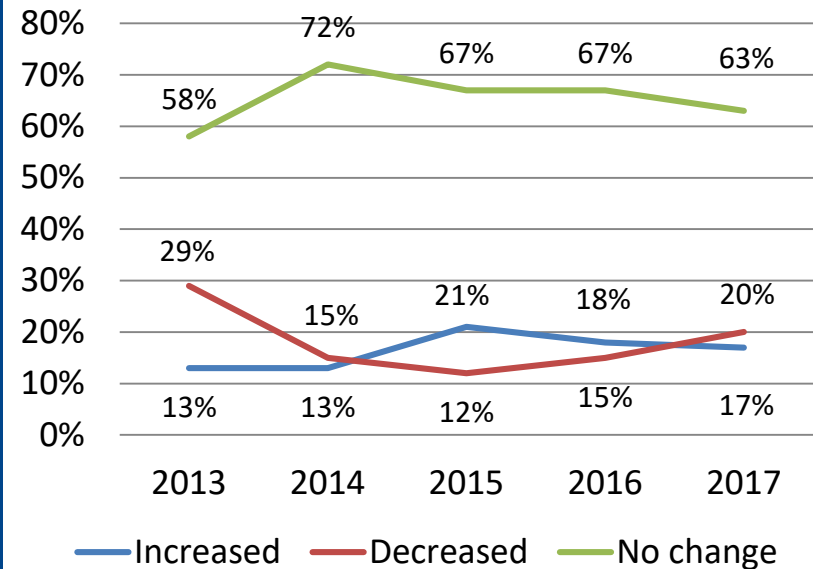
Size of Municipal Crossing Guard Forces

The number of municipalities reporting enough or more than enough guards has increased since 2014.

How many crossing guards does your municipality employ?



Have there been increases or decreases in your municipal crossing guard force in the past 3 years?

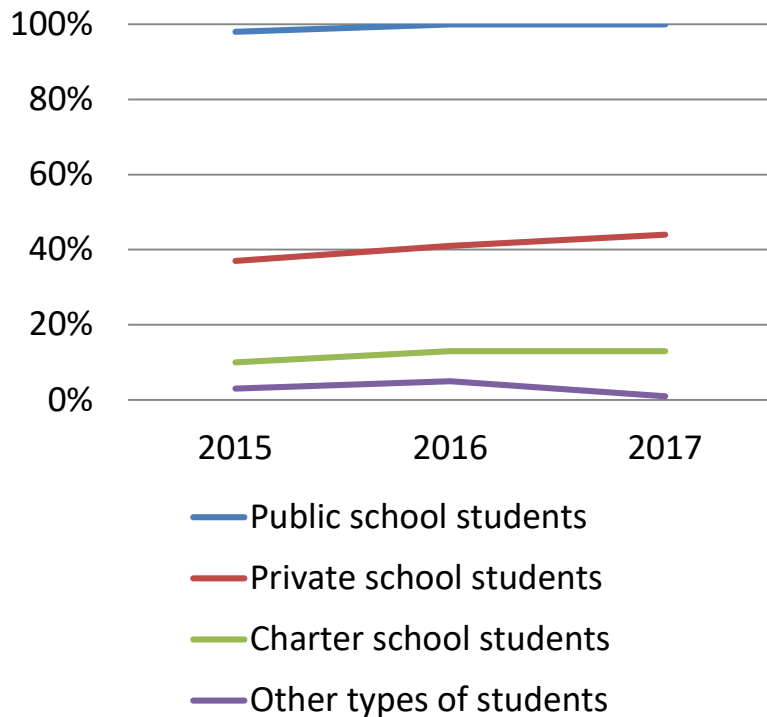


In a given year, about 60 to 70% of forces experience no change in size, while about 30-40% increase or decrease in size.

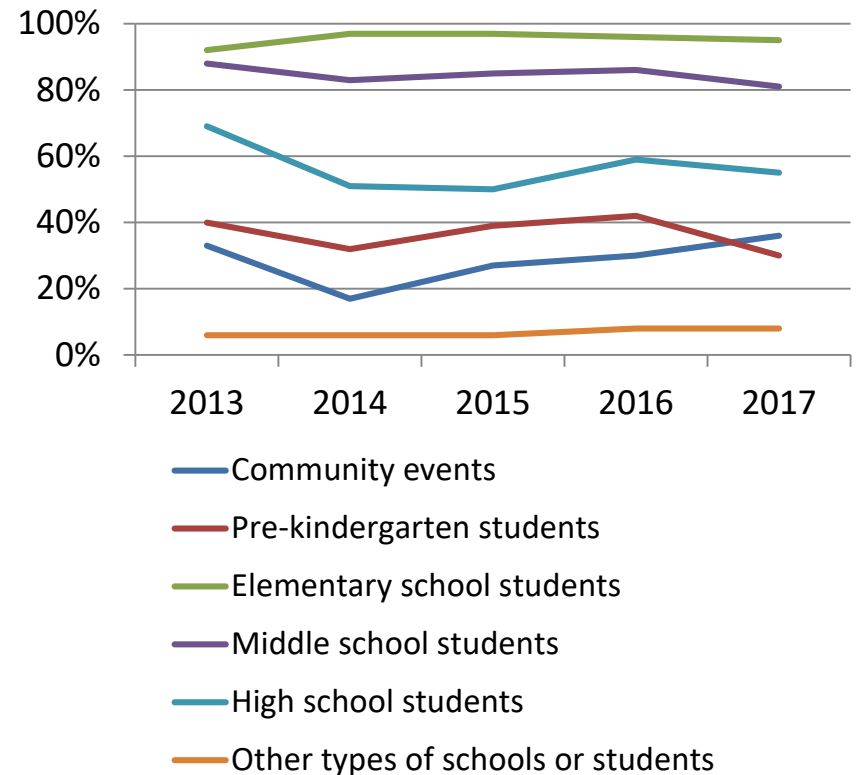
Guard Placement at Schools

- The placement of guards at charter and private schools has increased slightly since 2015.
- Many municipalities do not place guards for high school or pre-k students.

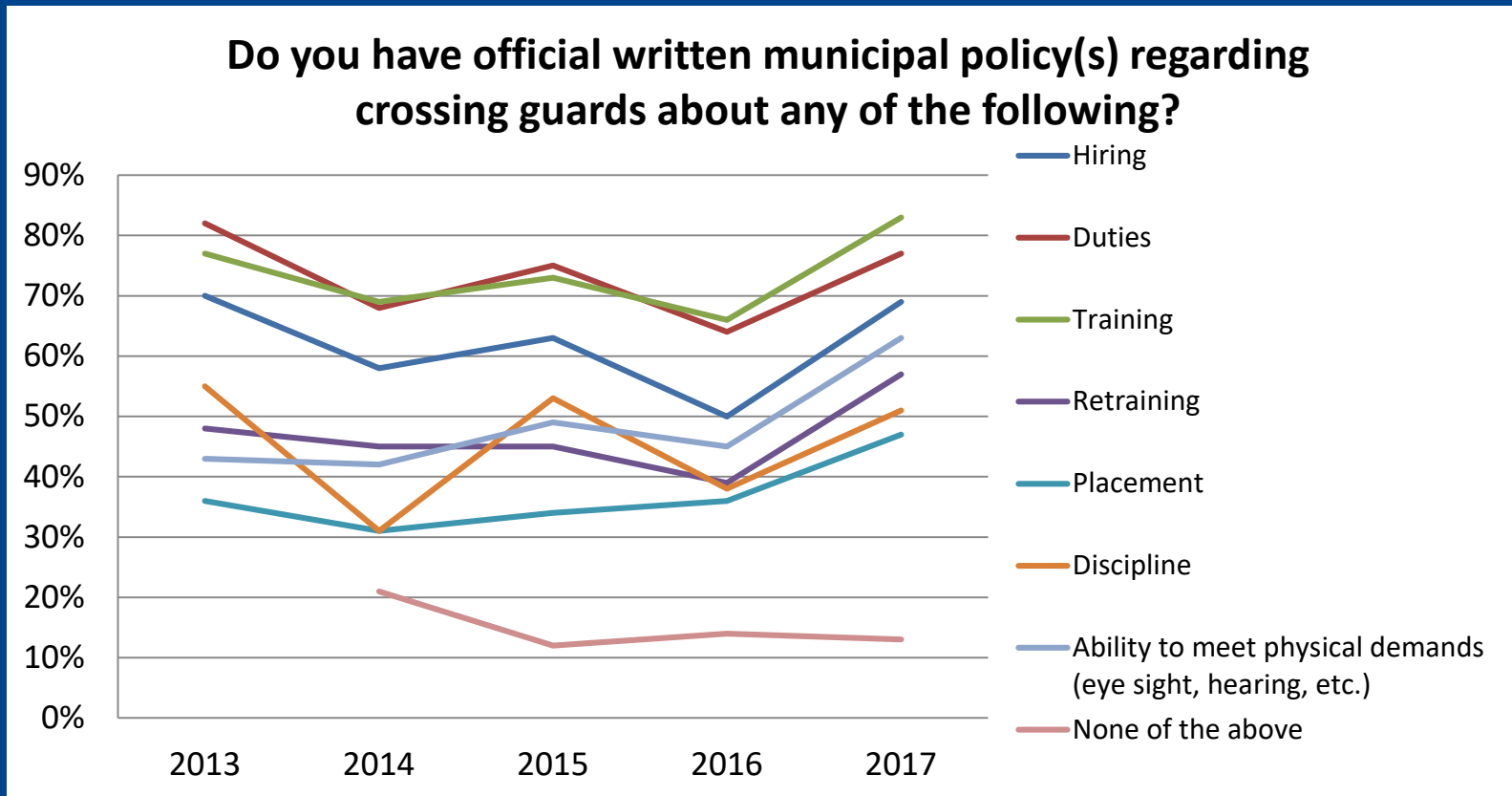
What types of schools are guards placed for?



Who are guards provided for?

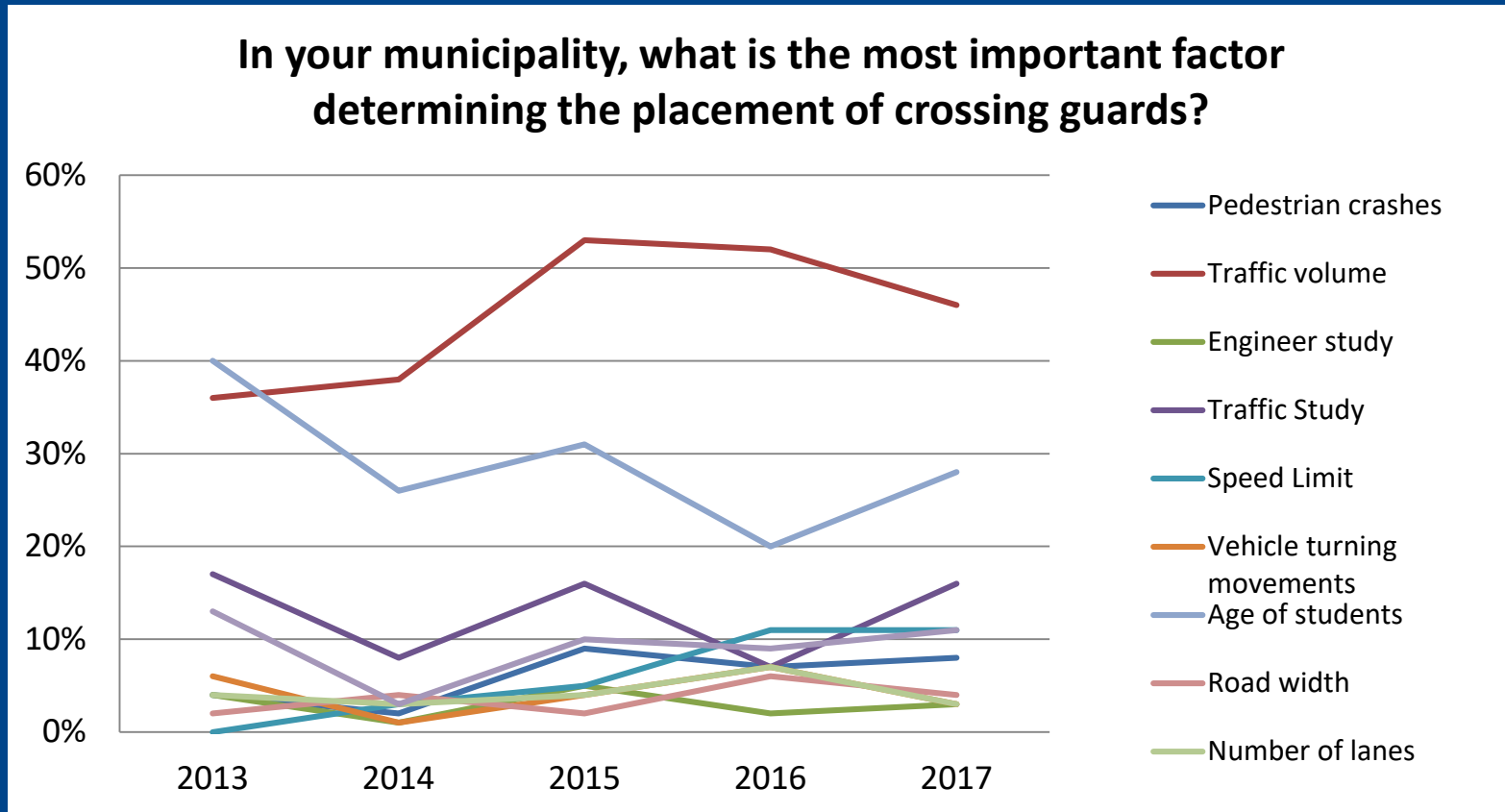


Municipal Crossing Guard Policies



- Policies covering duties, training, and hiring have remained the most common.
- Policies addressing placement and medical fitness have increased in number.

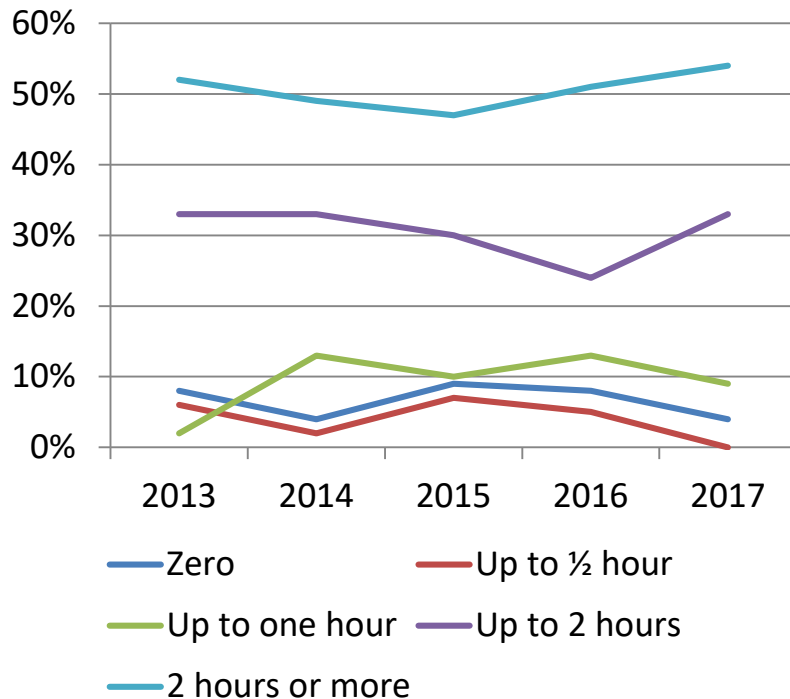
Determinants of Guard Placement



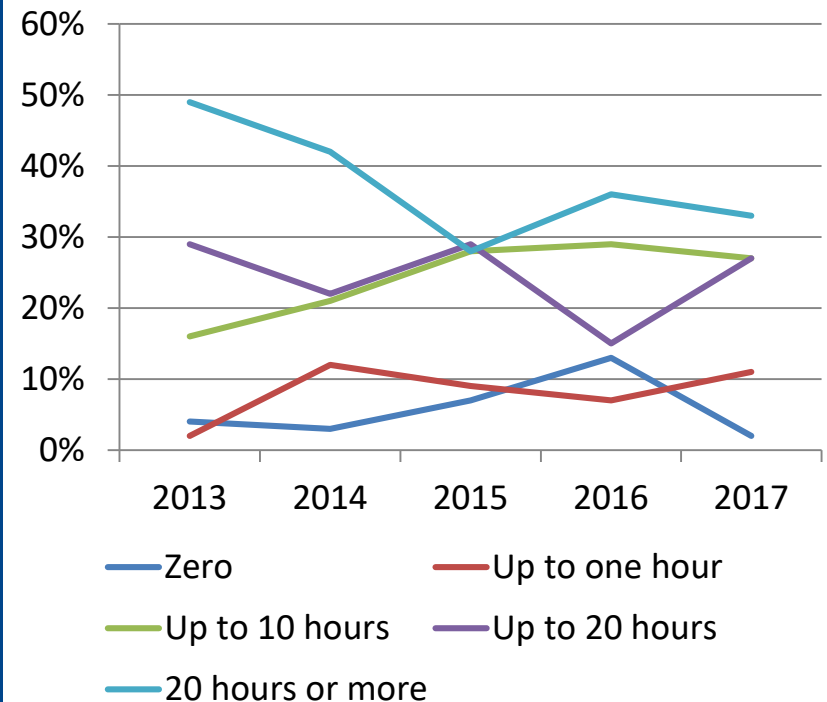
- Traffic volume continues to be the most important determinant, followed by the age of the students, though this factor has decreased in importance since 2013.
- Speed limit has increased in importance.

Amount of Training Provided

How many hours of classroom training do your new crossing guards receive annually?



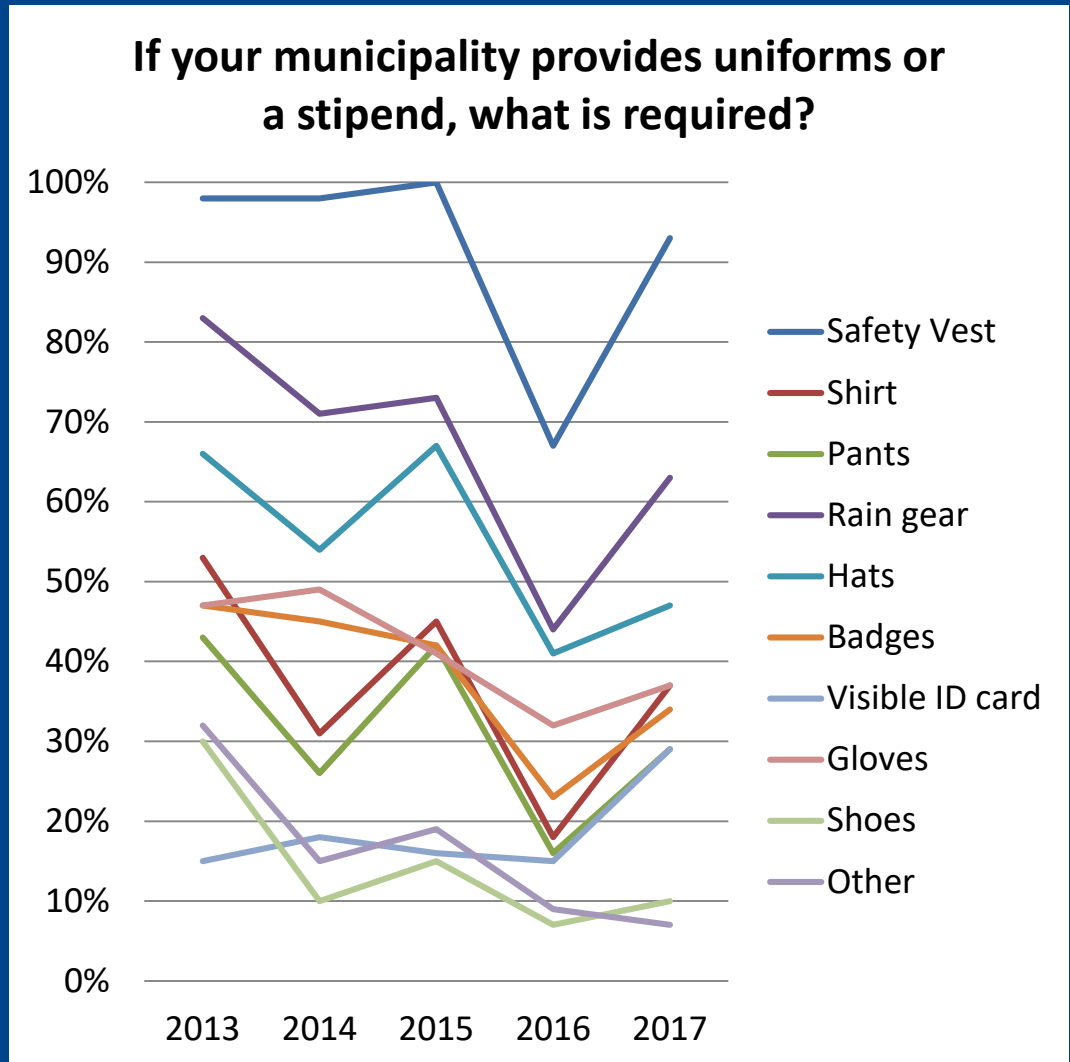
How many hours of field training do your new crossing guards receive?



- About half of municipalities provide the required 2 hours of classroom training, while less than half provide the required 20 hours of field training.

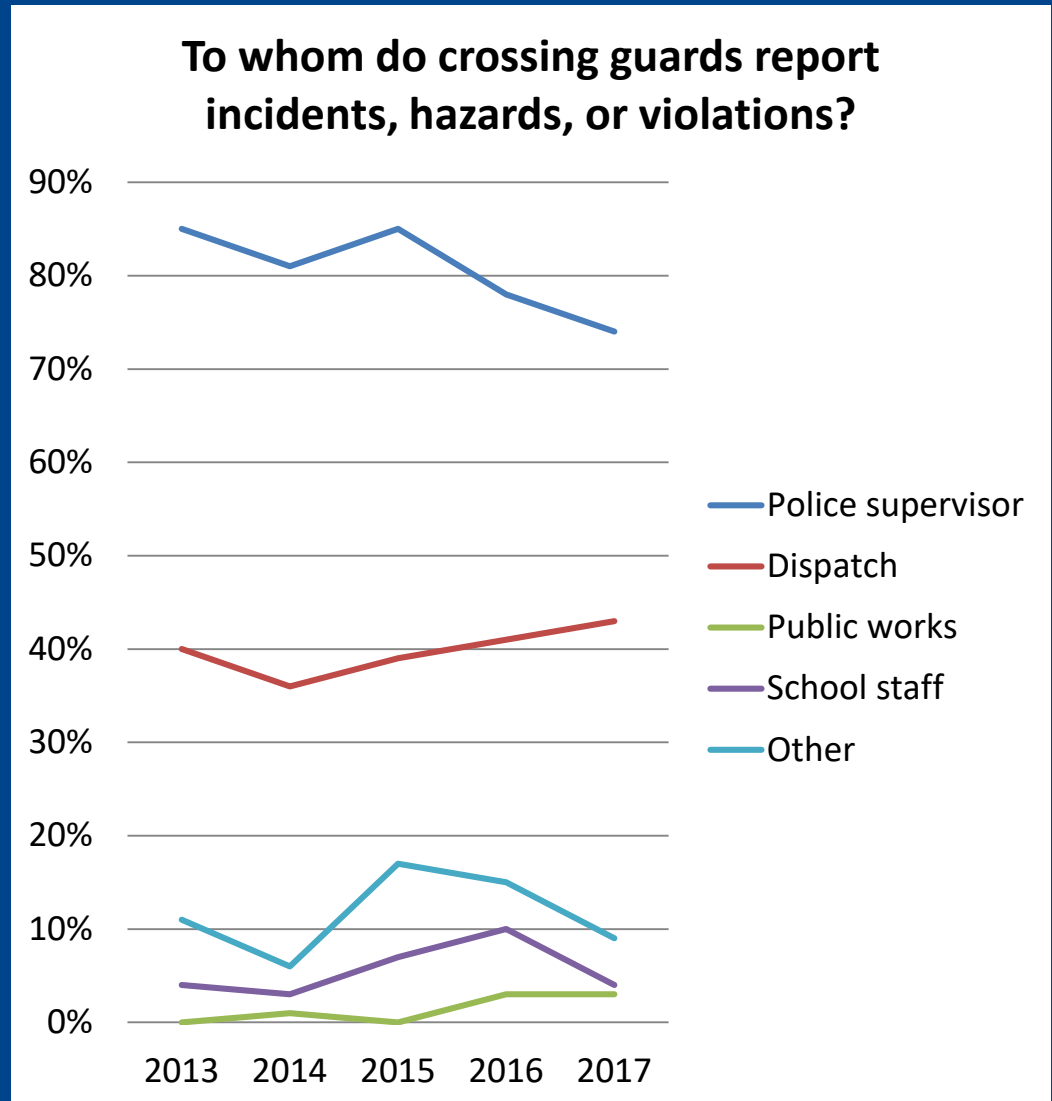
Types of Required Gear

- The most commonly required gear are safety vests, rain gear, and hats.
- Generally, municipalities have become less likely to provide various elements of a uniform over time.
- The use of visible ID cards has increased (in lieu of badges).



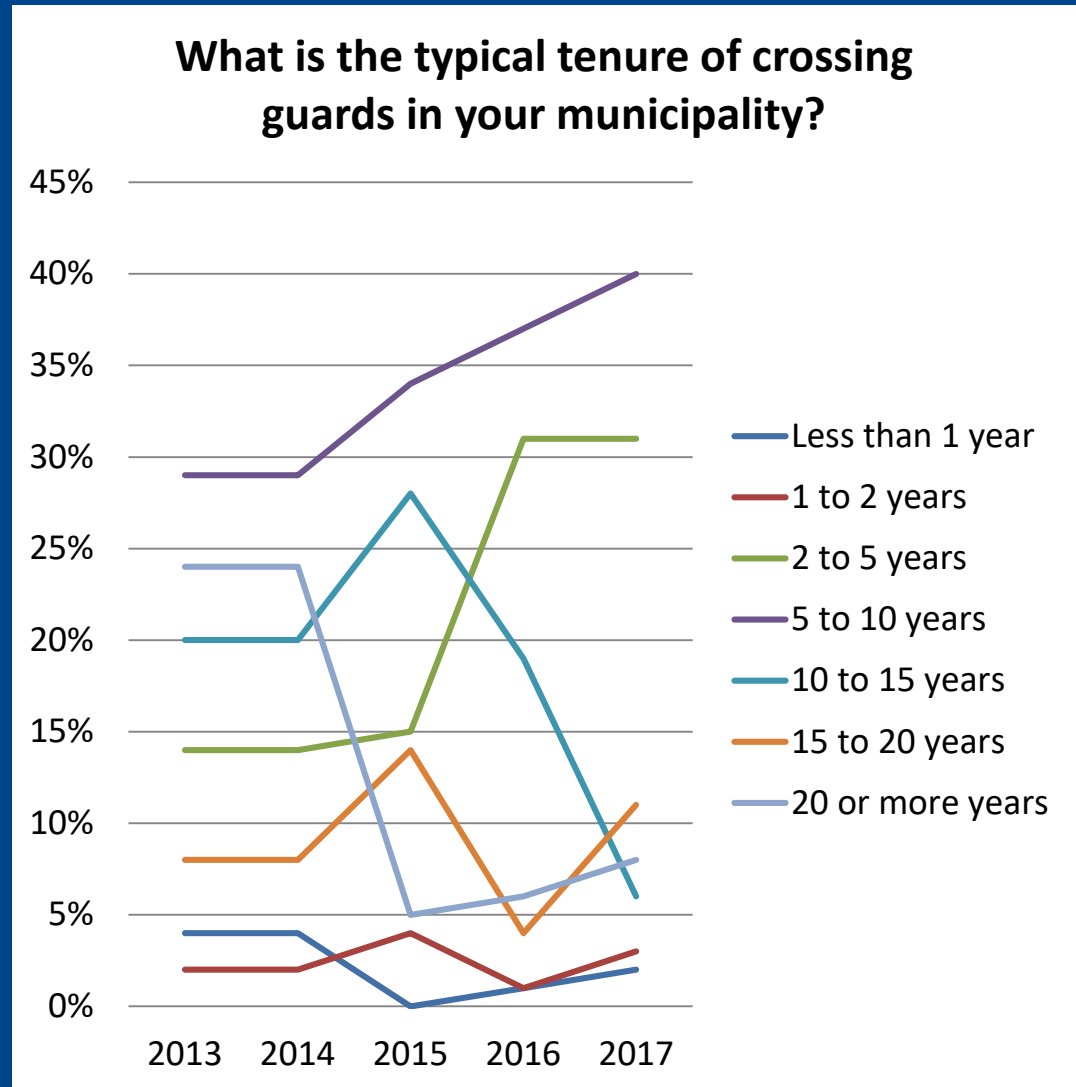
Reporting Incidents

In most municipalities guards report incidents to the police supervisor, though use of this practice has decreased overall since 2013.



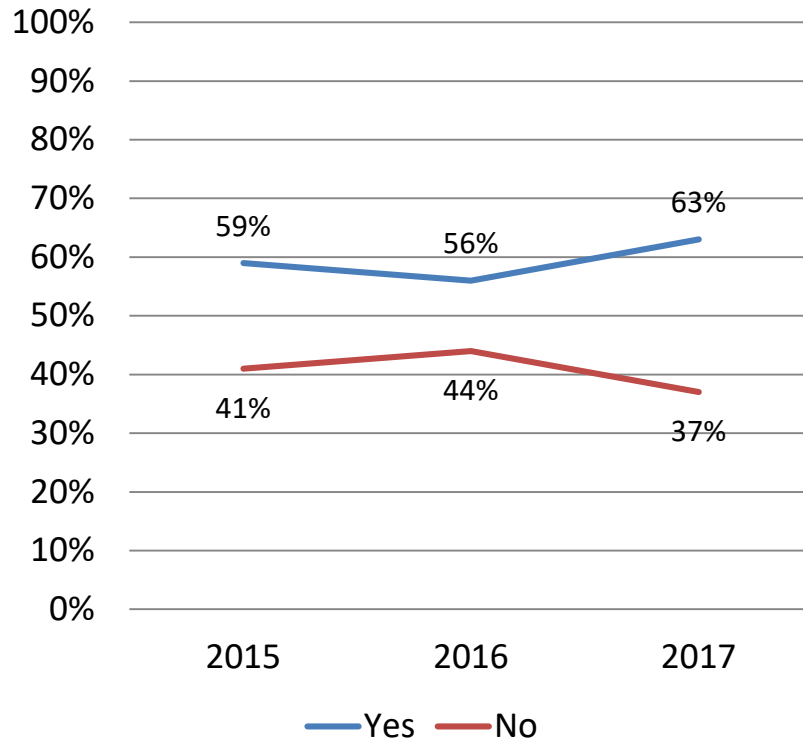
Typical Guard Tenure

The percentage of guards serving for more than 10 years has decreased significantly. They have mainly been replaced by guards serving between 2 and 10 years.

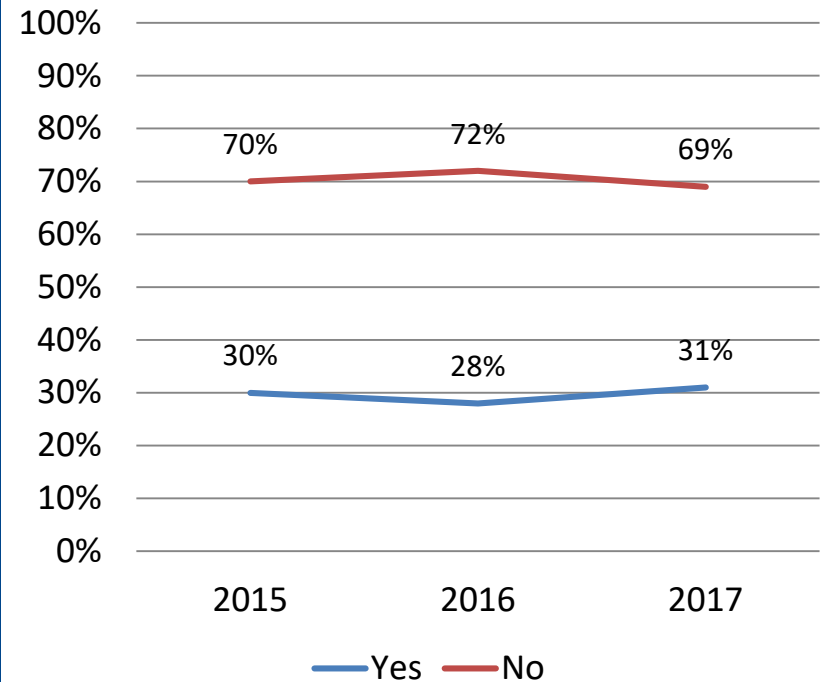


Medical Exams

Does your department perform initial medical exams?



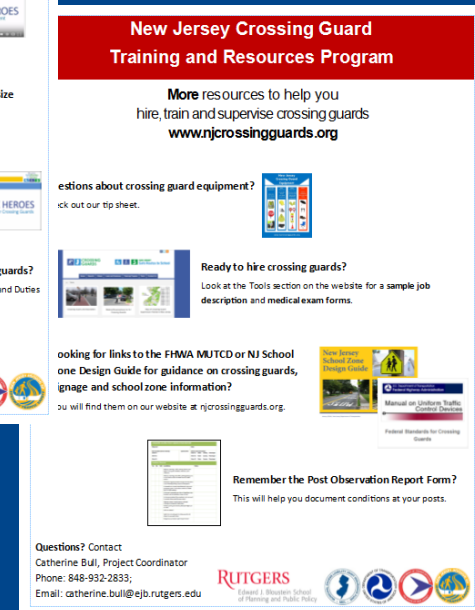
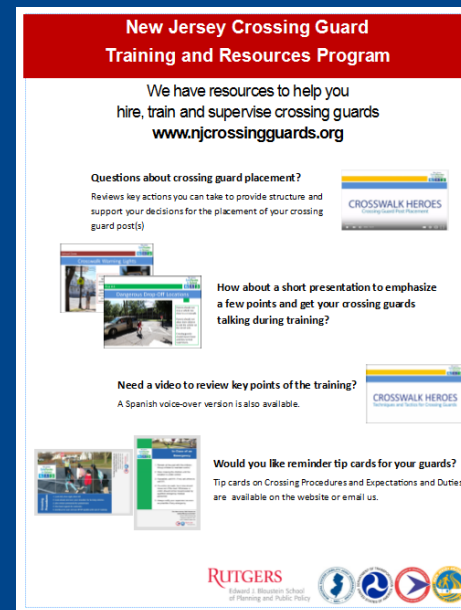
Does your department perform regular age-based medical exams?



- Police departments are more likely to require initial medical exams for newly hired crossing guards. Age-based medical exams are used by almost 1/3 of departments.

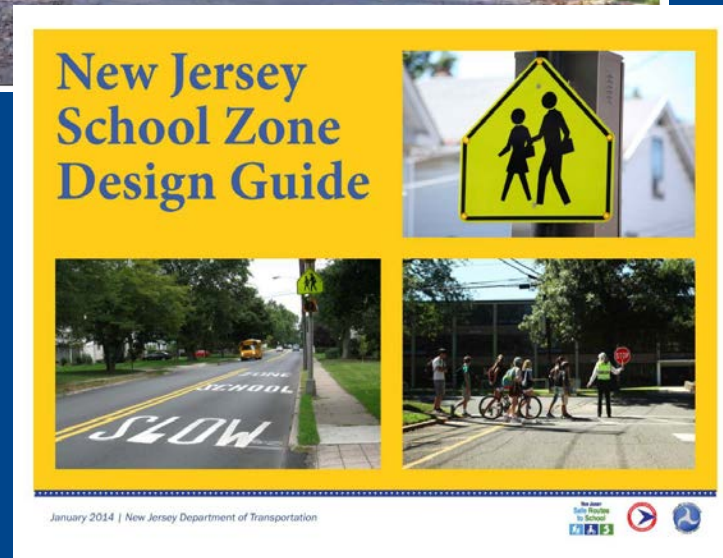
CROSSING GUARD TRAINING PROGRAM RESOURCES

- WEBSITE - 2017
 - 10,568 page views by 2,651 users
 - 79.7% new visitors
 - Most visited pages - Home, Training, Laws & Guidance
 - 62.6% reached the site through an online search, 22% was direct traffic
- CROSSWALK HEROES VIDEO – over 20,700 YouTube views
- HÉROES DE CRUCE DE PEATONES – 374 YouTube views



CROSSING GUARD TRAINING PROGRAM RESOURCES

- Traffic safety officers frequently request information on placement
 - School Zone Design Guide
 - Crossing Guard Post Placement Video – 359 YouTube views
 - Crossing Guard Supervisor Manual



CROSSING GUARD TRAINING PROGRAM

REQUESTS FOR TRAINING

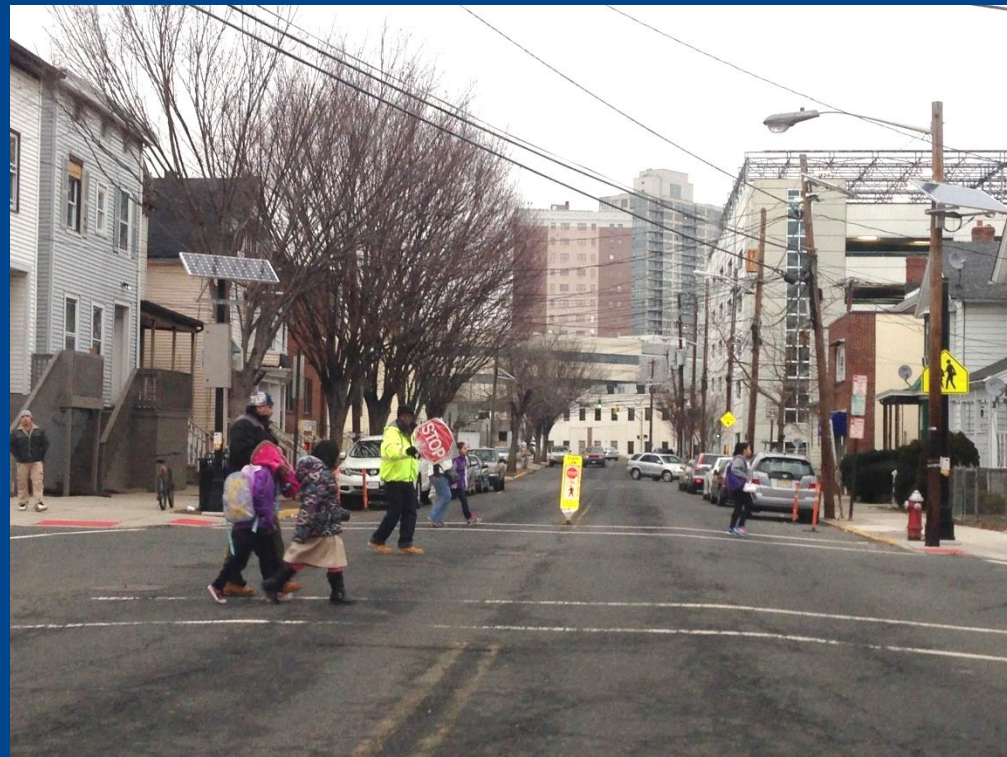
- Conducted direct training of crossing guards in Elizabeth and Lakewood
- Conducted an additional training in Camden County by request of the County Division of Highway Traffic Safety. Both crossing guards and supervisors attended.
- Attended training in Linden as part of the NJDHTS grant
 - Training script improvements
 - Linden policy



CROSSING GUARD TRAINING PROGRAM

LESSONS LEARNED

- Crossing Guard positioning at their posts
 - Guards are crossing children on 2-3 legs of an intersection
 - Guards are placing themselves in the middle of the intersection
- Children/Teens/Parents do not listen to Crossing Guards



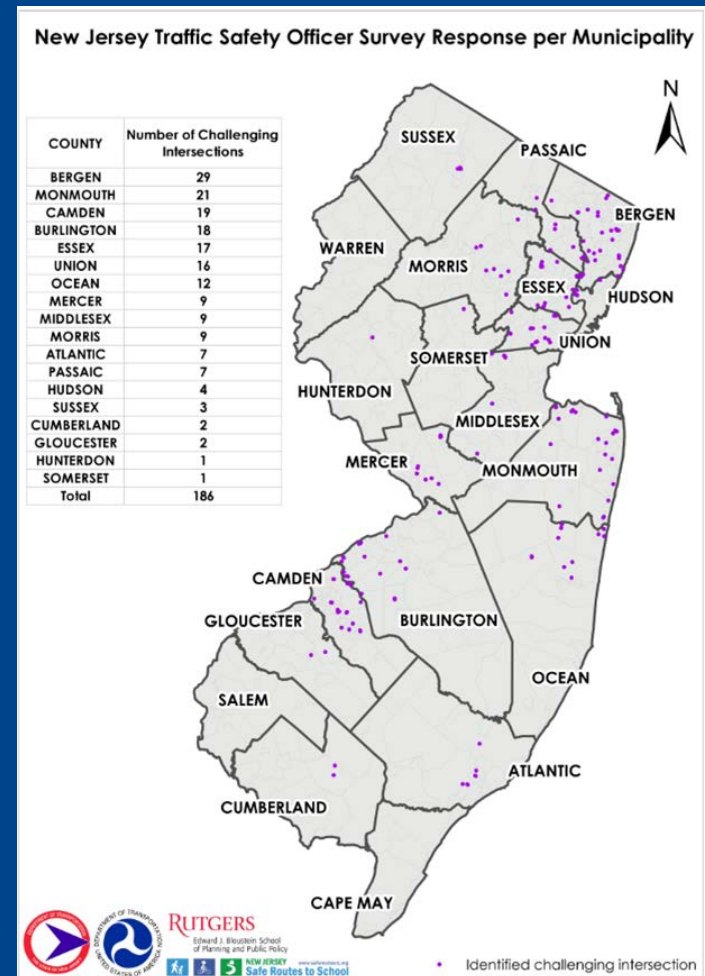
TRAFFIC SAFETY OFFICER SURVEY

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AT SCHOOL CROSSINGS

Challenging School Crossings

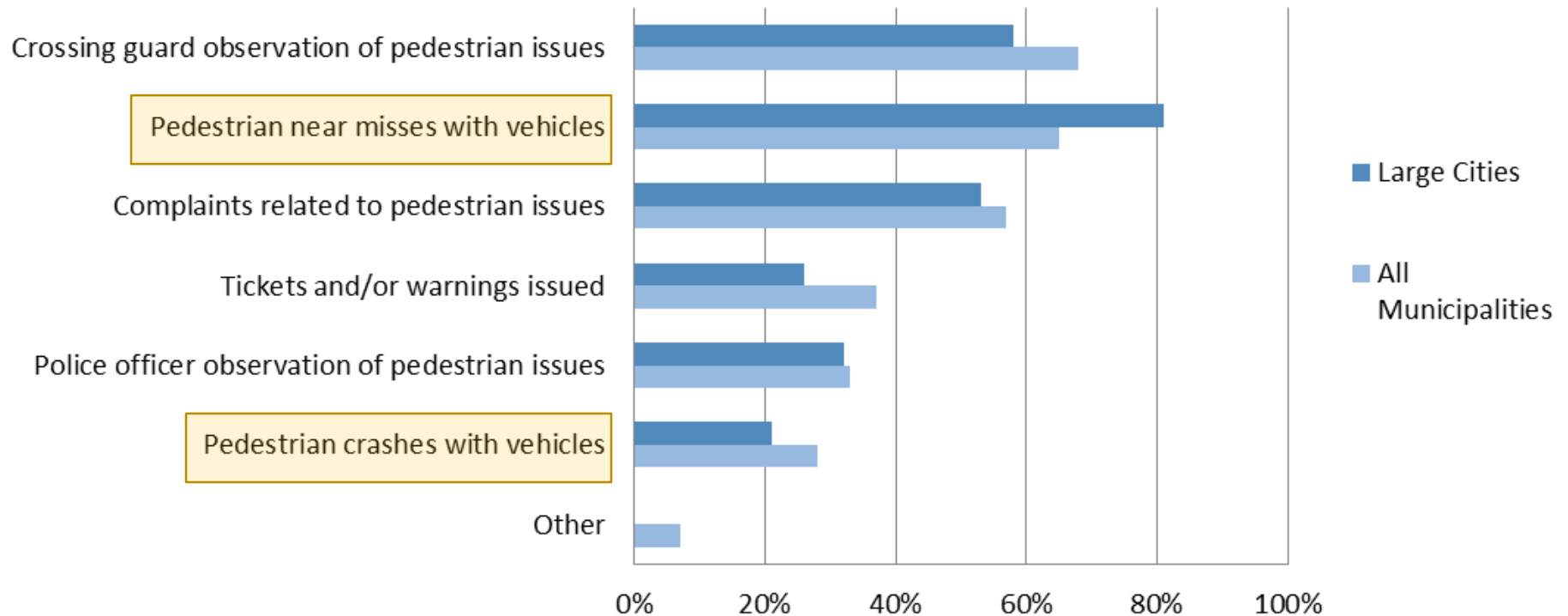
Survey of NJ Police Officers via Crossing Guard Supervisor training program and Police Traffic Officers Association

- 176 valid responses
- 30% - No problem reported
- 186 intersections identified (up to 3 intersections per municipality)



Key Findings

Are you aware of any of the following issues at the intersections?



Key Findings

- Predictable is preventable
- Leverage expert local knowledge
 - Surveys, interviews with police departments & crossing guards
- How to track near-miss incidents/
Limits of crash data
- Crossing Guard safety is often overlooked
- Roadway engineering vs. safer driving

Next Steps

- Roundtable discussion to determine next steps
- Case Study



CROSSING GUARD TRAINING PROGRAM

TRAFFIC OFFICER FOCUS GROUP - URBAN

Challenges in the School Zone

- Design issues in the school zone affecting drop-off and pick-up procedures
 - gridlock, double parking, school and transit buses, and blocked crosswalks
- Literature Review
- Film arrival and dismissal

Next Steps

- Interview experts in effective school zone design
- Explore programmatic options
 - Community traffic committee

CROSSING GUARD TRAINING PROGRAM

NEXT STEPS

- Three Spring 2017 trainings
- NJMEL Video on Challenging Crossings
 - Sun glare
 - Whistle Use
 - Noise
 - Turning movements
 - Signal timing
 - Multi-lane crossings
 - Multi-leg crossings

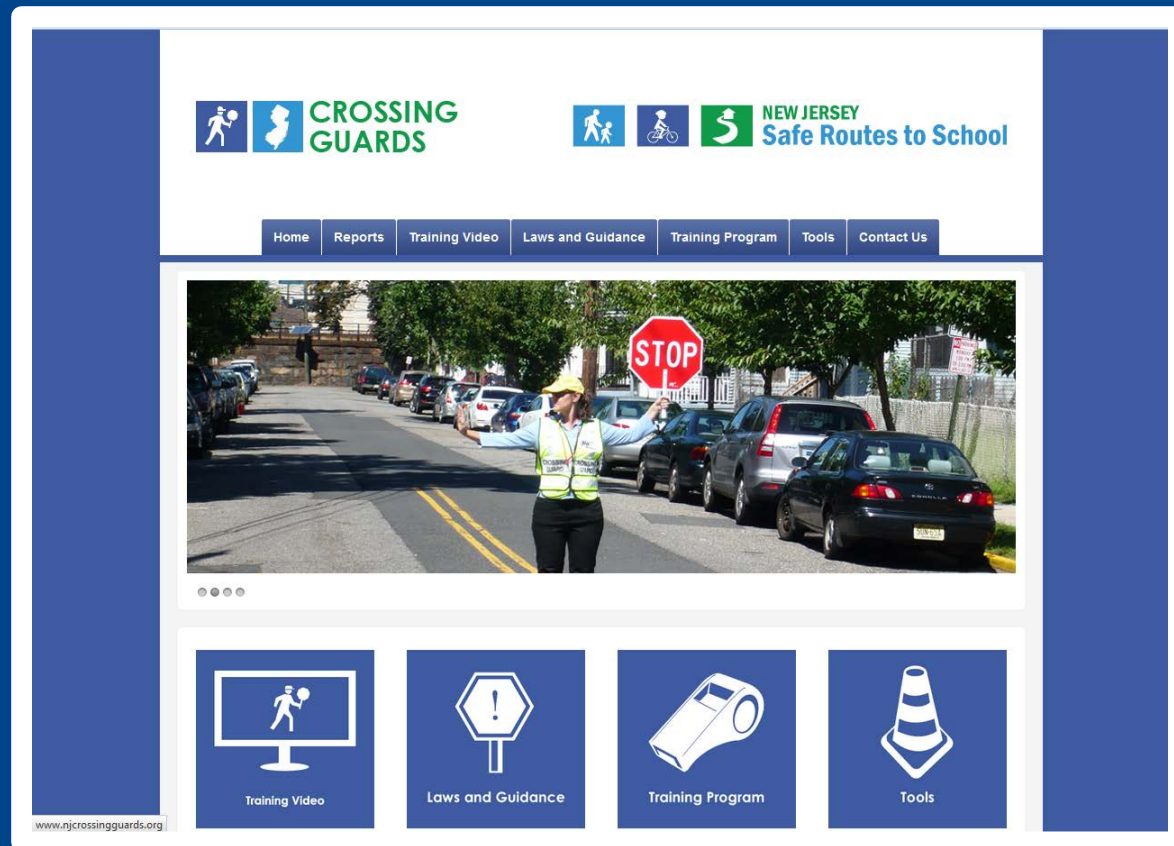


CROSSING GUARD TRAINING PROGRAM ONGOING

- Promote Crossing Guard appreciation events/awards
- Reach communities with no local police department – collaborate with State Police
- Collaborate with others working on pedestrian safety



CROSSING GUARD TRAINING PROGRAM WEBSITE



www.njcrossingguards.org

PARTNERSHIPS

- NJ Department of Transportation
- NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety
- Federal Highway Administration
- NJMEL-JIF
- AAA
- NJ Department of Health, Division of Occupational Safety & Health
- NJ Police Traffic Officers Association
- NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police
- NJ Highway Traffic Safety Policy Advisory Council
- County and regional police academies

