

**The Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention -
Center for the Prevention of School Violence**



**Annual School Resource Officer Census
2006 - 2007**

NC Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention - Center for the Prevention of School Violence

Executive Summary

The assignment of law enforcement officers to schools continues to take place in North Carolina. The Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention - Center for the Prevention of School Violence (DJJDP - Center) has been involved with the trend of placing School Resource Officers (SROs) in schools since the Center's establishment in 1993. Beginning in 1996, a trend of increased numbers of active SROs has been evidenced.

Using a definition developed through research, DJJDP - Center has determined that there are 778 SROs currently working in schools across North Carolina. The definition is of critical importance since it distinguishes law enforcement officers who only visit schools occasionally from those who are permanently assigned to schools. Specifically, the Center's definition for an SRO is:

A certified law enforcement officer who is permanently assigned to provide coverage to a school or a set of schools. The SRO is specifically trained to perform three roles: law enforcement officer; law-related counselor; and law-related education teacher. The SRO is not necessarily a DARE officer (although many have received such training), security guard, or officer who has been placed temporarily in a school in response to a crisis situation but rather acts as a comprehensive resource for his/her school.

DJJDP - Center's definition excludes non-law enforcement agency security guards, law enforcement officers who are rotated in and out of schools as part of their regular duties, and off-duty law enforcement officers who work in schools for extra pay. Instead, the definition emphasizes the permanent assignment and specialized training that characterize a programmatic approach to placing law enforcement officers in schools.

The 778 SROs currently working in schools reflect an increase of 535 SROs (over 200% increase) from DJJDP - Center recorded baseline of 243 in 1996. One hundred and thirteen of the 115 school districts have at least one identified SRO and 98 counties have an SRO presence in at least one school. Three hundred and nine of the state's 376 high schools have SROs assigned exclusively to cover them which means that the SRO is not shared with another school. Three hundred and four of the 444 middle schools have exclusive SRO coverage. Eight percent of elementary schools receive some form of service from SROs. This year DJJDP - Center identified the number of SROs that carried a compliance weapon. Six hundred and forty-three of the 778 SROs either carry pepper spray, a stun gun, or both.

The placement of 5 new SROs in schools shows an increase of 0.6% from last year. Three hundred and sixty-five SRO positions (47% of all SROs) were funded locally this year. Ninety-three percent of all SRO funding came from state and local entities (up 1% from last year). This is the twelfth straight year DJJDP - Center has documented an increase in SRO presence. With the N.C. Attorney General and the Secretary of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety recommending in a recent report to the Governor, that every middle school in the state should have an SRO this trend should continue.

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Purpose and Methodology

Annual School Resource Officer Census

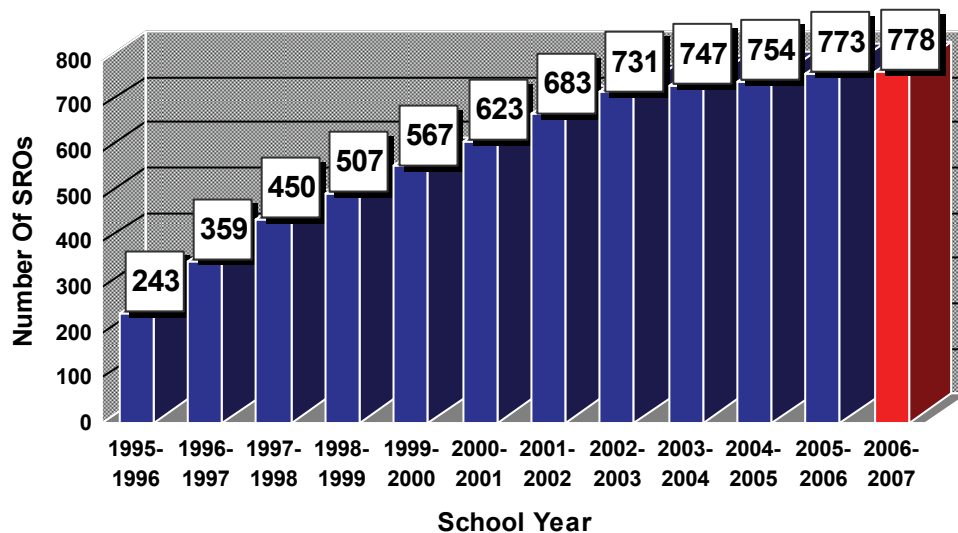
Purpose of the School Resource Officer Census

The Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention – Center for the Prevention of School Violence (DJJDP – Center) has conducted an annual census of School Resource Officer (SRO) programs in North Carolina since the 1995 - 1996 school year. The census provides policymakers and citizens with a descriptive understanding of how the SRO program approach is being utilized. This report also provides important information about program growth, funding and coverage in North Carolina.

School Resource Officer Census Methodology

DJJDP – Center conducts the annual census of SROs through the following methods. All 115 Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are contacted by telephone and/or e-mail in order to collect the data for the census. Each LEA is asked the following questions: how many total SROs are in the LEA; what are the SRO names and to which school/s are they assigned; what is/are the law enforcement department's name(s); and how is each officer's position funded. This year DJJDP - Center added the following question: do the SROs carry pepper spray or a stun gun. All the information is entered into a database, then analyzed.

School Resource Officer Growth: 1995-2007



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LEA Coverage

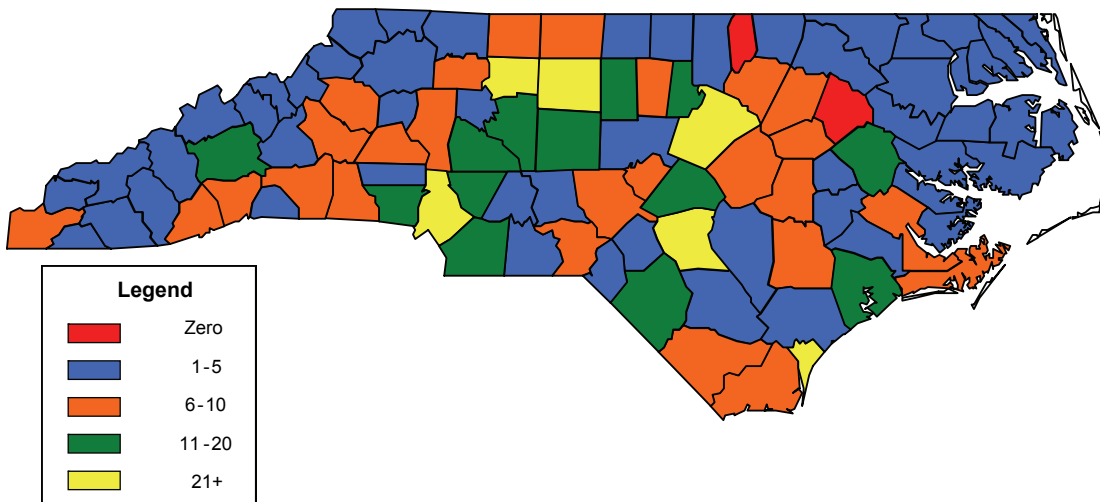
North Carolina County LEA Coverage of School Resource Officers: 2006 - 2007

Description	Number	Percent
Local Education Agencies with SROs	113	98.3%
Local Education Agencies without SROs	2	1.7%
Total	115	100%

Local Education Agencies without School Resource Officers:
Edgecombe
Vance

Ninety-eight counties and all fifteen city local education agencies have at least one SRO to provide services to their area schools. Approximated findings from this year's census are: almost 60% have one to five SROs; over 23% of NC's LEAs have six to ten SROs; 11% have eleven to twenty SROs; and 5% of LEAs reported having more than twenty-one SROs. **See appendices A, B, and C for maps of high school, middle school, and city LEA coverage.

SROs in NC County Local Education Agencies 2006 - 2007



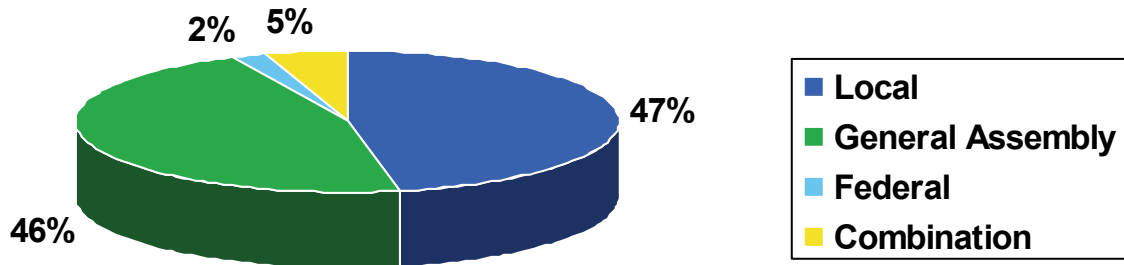
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Funding

School Resource Officer Funding: 2006 - 2007

Funding Source for SROs	Positions	Percentage of Total
Local Only	365	46.9%
General Assembly (State) Only	357	45.9%
Federal Only	18	2.3%
Combination Of Funding Sources	38	4.9%
Total	778	100%

School Resource Officer Funding Sources



Description Of Funding Sources

- Local Only - law enforcement agency and/or school system funding
- General Assembly (State) Only - allotted funds for at-risk youth that are designated "line item sixty-nine" funding
- Federal Only - most common federal funding is the COPS in Schools (CIS) program through the U.S. Department of Justice's Community-Oriented Policing Office
- Combination Of Funding Sources - combination of state, local, and/or federal funding

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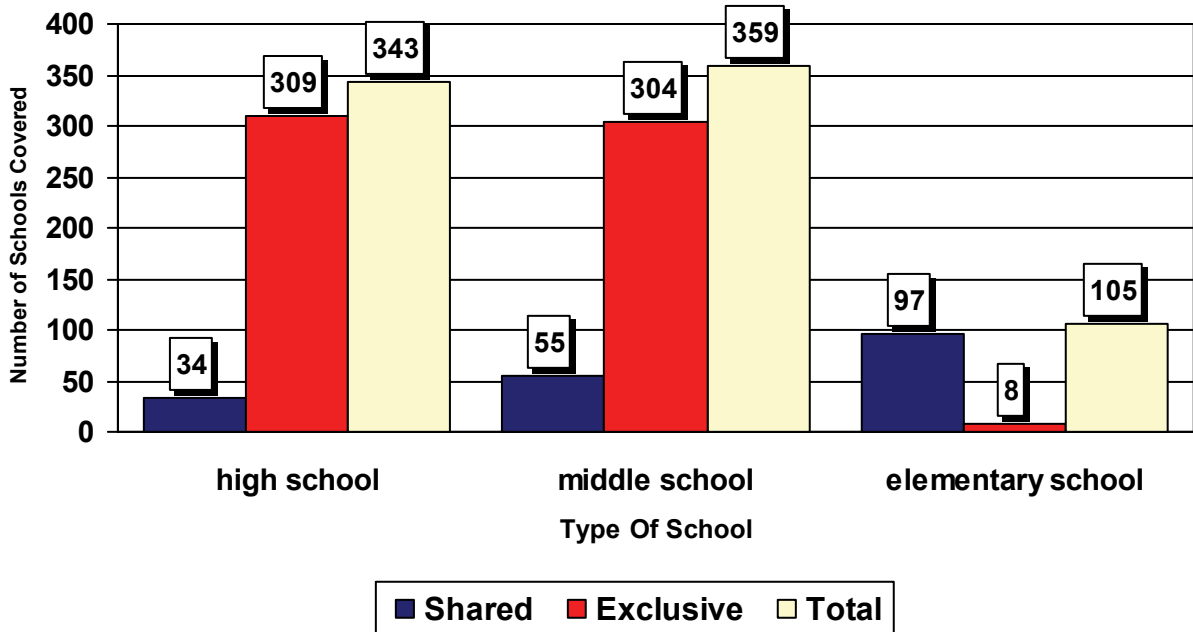
School Coverage

School Resource Officer School-Type Coverage: 2006 - 2007

Grade Level	Total Number of Schools by Type	Number of Schools With Exclusive SRO* (% of total schools)	Number of Schools With Shared SRO** (% of total schools)
High Schools	376	309 (82.2%)	34 (9.0%)
Middle Schools	444	304 (68.5%)	55 (12.4%)
Elementary Schools	1,383	8 (0.6%)	97 (7.0%)
Alt. Learning Programs/Schools	217	28 (12.9%)	6 (2.8%)
Special Education Schools	18	2 (10.5%)	3 (15.8%)
Subtotal	2,438	651 (26.7%)	195 (8.0%)
Total Number of Schools Covered			846 (34.7%)

* Schools with an exclusive SRO do not share the services of the officer with another school.
 **Schools with a shared SRO split the services of the officer between two or more schools.

Number of Schools Covered by Grade Level



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SRO Affiliation

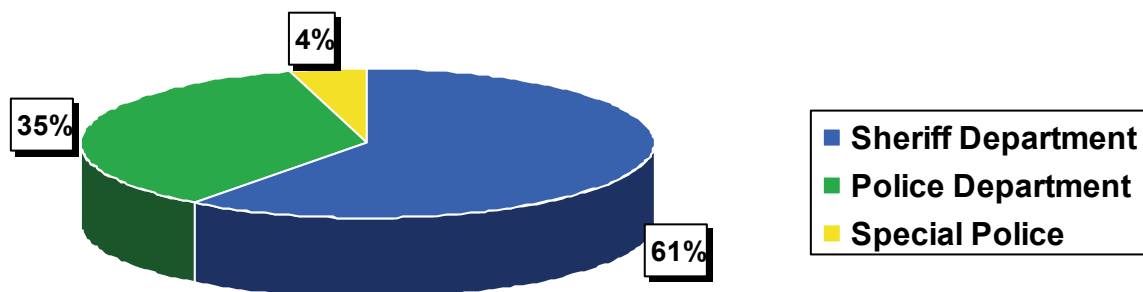
School Resource Officer Law Enforcement Affiliations in North Carolina: 2006 - 2007

SRO Affiliation	Number of SROs	Total SROs* (by percent)
Sheriff Departments	470	60.5%
City/Town Police Departments	274	35.2%
Special Police	34	4.4%
Total	778	100.1%

*Numbers do not add to 100%, due to rounding

School Resource Officers spend their working hours in schools but are typically employed by law enforcement agencies. Sheriff departments constitute the majority of SRO positions with 60.5%. City/Town police departments employ 35.2% of SRO positions. "Special Police" refers to police departments established by school systems but comprised of sworn police officers; "Special Police" in SRO positions total 4.4%.

SRO Law Enforcement Assignments



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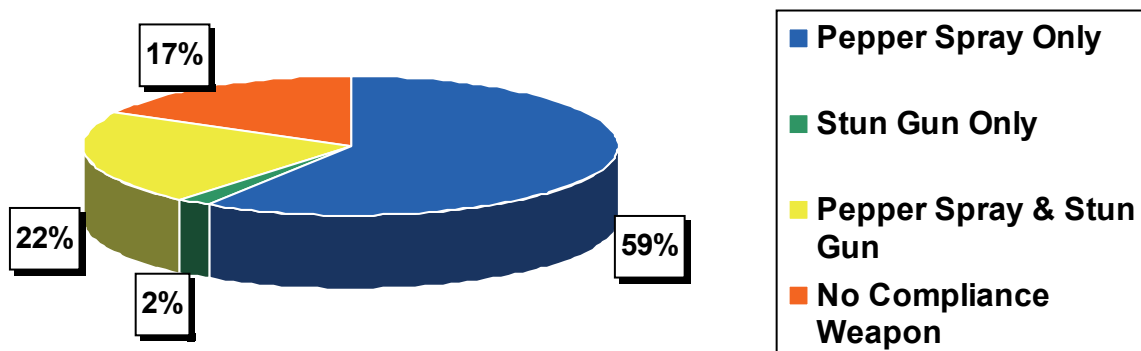
Compliance Weapons

School Resource Officers and Compliance Weapons: 2006 - 2007

Type of Compliance Weapon	Number of SROs	Percentage of Total
Pepper Spray Only	459	58.9%
Stun Gun Only	16	2.1%
Pepper Spray & Stun Gun	168	21.6%
No Compliance Weapon	135	17.4%
Total	778	100%

School Resource Officers may carry compliance weapons, such as pepper spray or a stun gun. This year DJJDP - Center identified the number of SROs that carried a compliance weapon. Six hundred and forty-three of the 778 SROs either carry pepper spray, a stun gun, or both.

School Resource Officers and Compliance Weapons

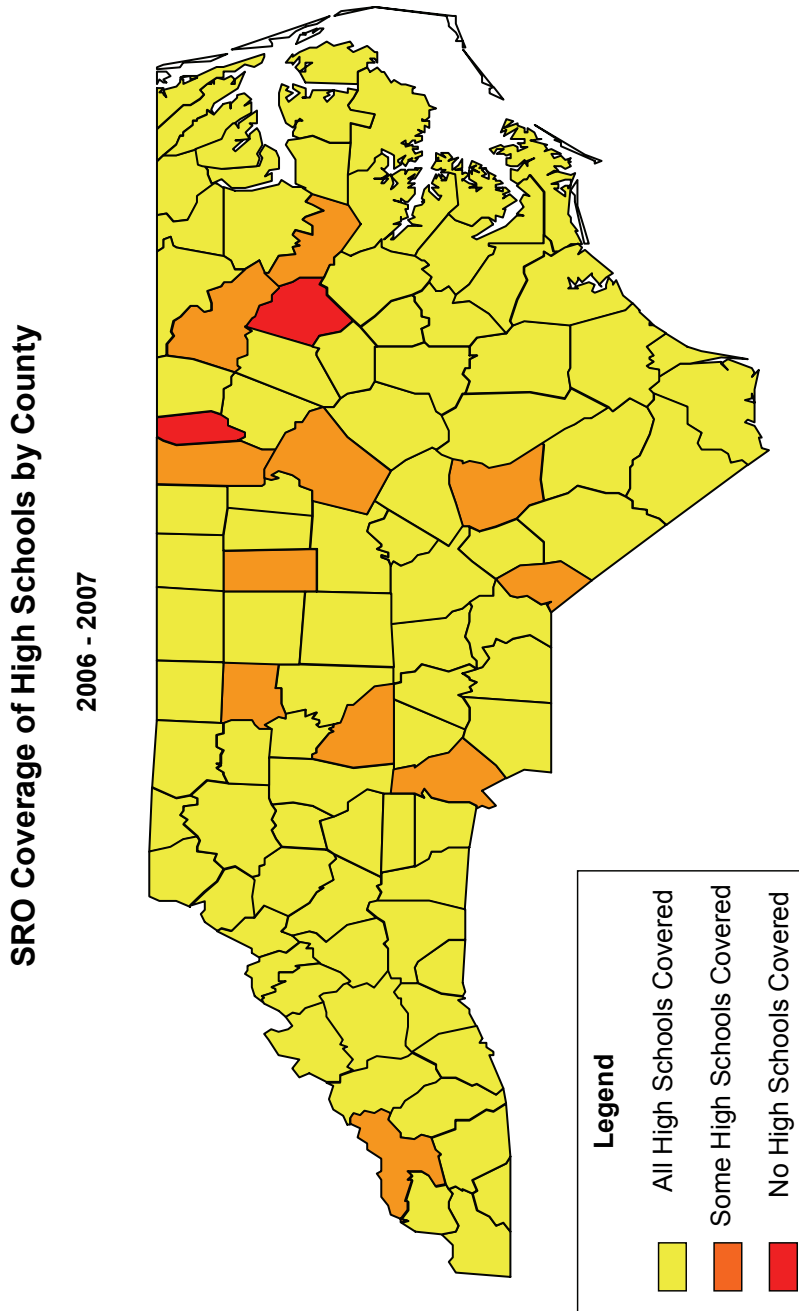


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Appendix

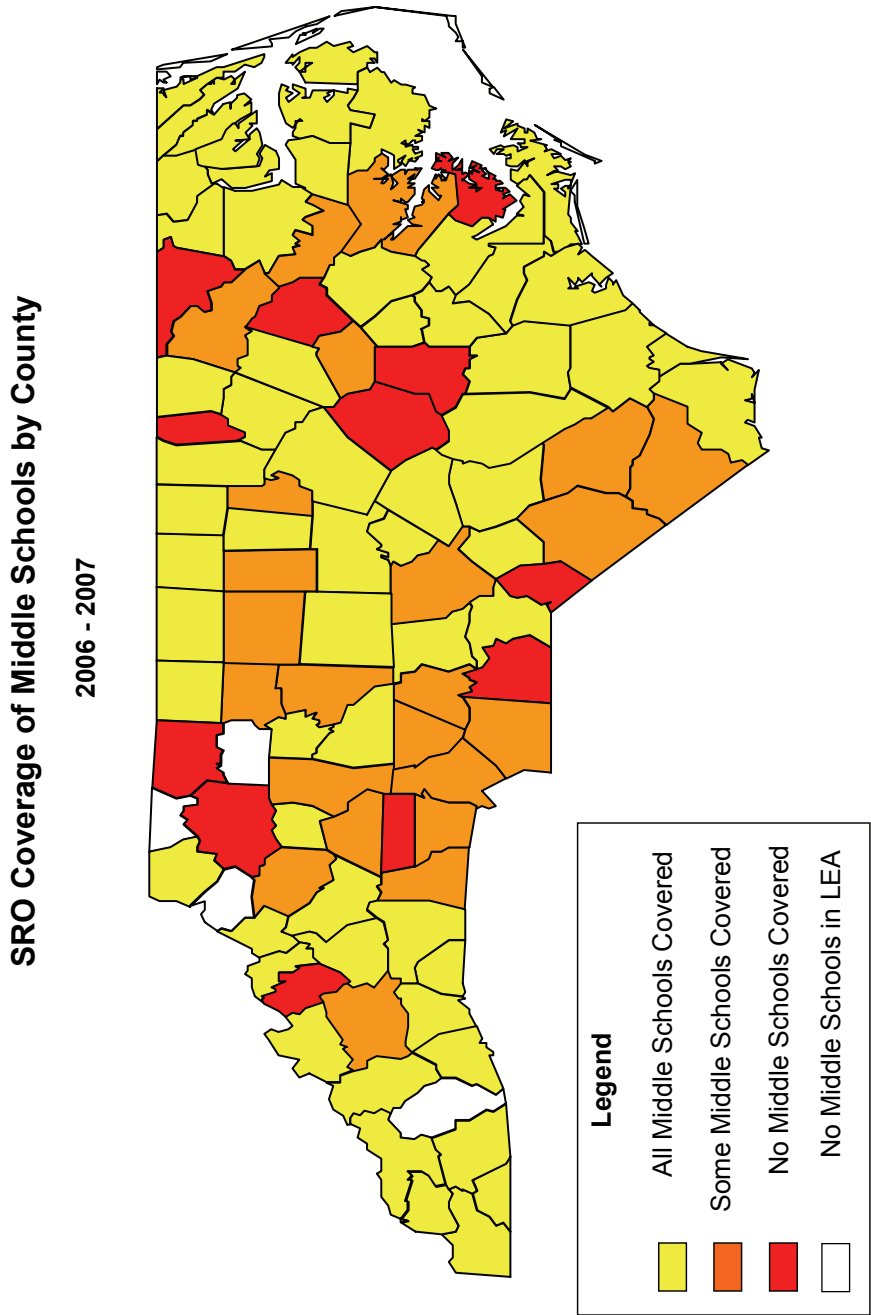
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Appendix A:
SRO Presence in High Schools



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Appendix B:
SRO Presence in Middle Schools



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Appendix C:
SRO Presence in City LEAs

SRO Coverage in City Local Education Agencies

2006 - 2007

