

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



**Annual School Resource Officer Census  
2007 - 2008**

## 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 813 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 813 SROs currently working in schools reflect an increase of 570 SROs (over 230% increase) from DJJDP - Center recorded baseline of 243 in 1996. One hundred and twelve of the 115 school districts have at least one identified SRO and 97 counties have an SRO presence in at least one school. Three hundred and twenty-one of the state's 369 high schools have SROs assigned exclusively to cover them which means that the SRO is not shared with another school. Three hundred and thirteen of the 452 middle schools have exclusive SRO coverage. Seven percent of elementary schools receive some form of service from SROs.

Other significant findings from this year's census include how the SRO positions are funded and the compliance weapons they carry. Four hundred and two positions (approximately 50% of all SROs) are supported through state funds. Three hundred and fifty-two SRO positions (43% of all SROs) are funded locally. Six hundred and eighty-three of the 813 SROs either carry pepper spray, a stun gun, or both.

For the thirteenth straight year DJJDP - Center has documented an increase in SRO presence. The placement of 35 new SROs in schools shows an increase of 4.5% from last year. This year reflects the greatest increase in SRO positions since the 2002-2003 school year.

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## Purpose and Methodology

### Annual School Resource Officer Census

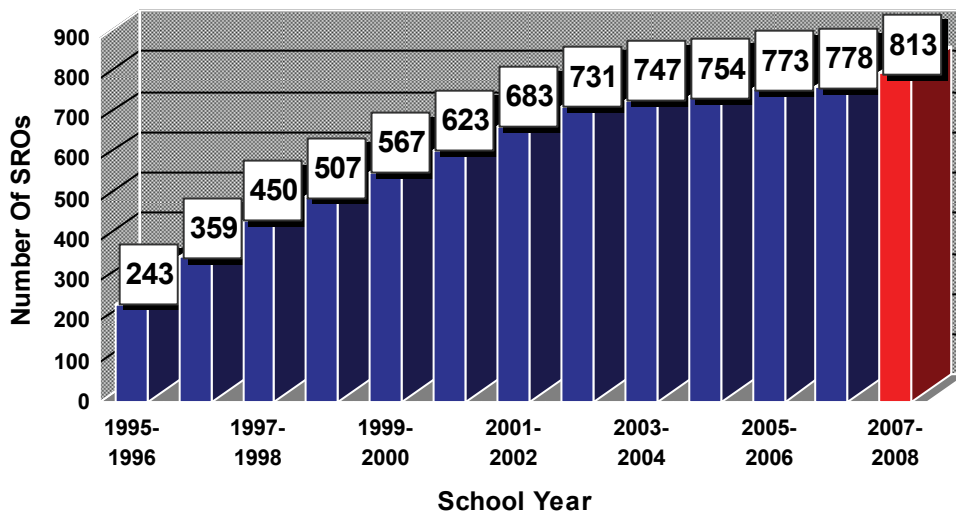
#### Purpose of the School Resource Officer Census

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); how is each officer's position funded; and do the SROs carry pepper spray or a stun gun. All the information is entered into a database, then analyzed.

### School Resource Officer Growth: 1995-2008



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## LEA Coverage

### North Carolina County LEA Coverage of School Resource Officers: 2007 - 2008

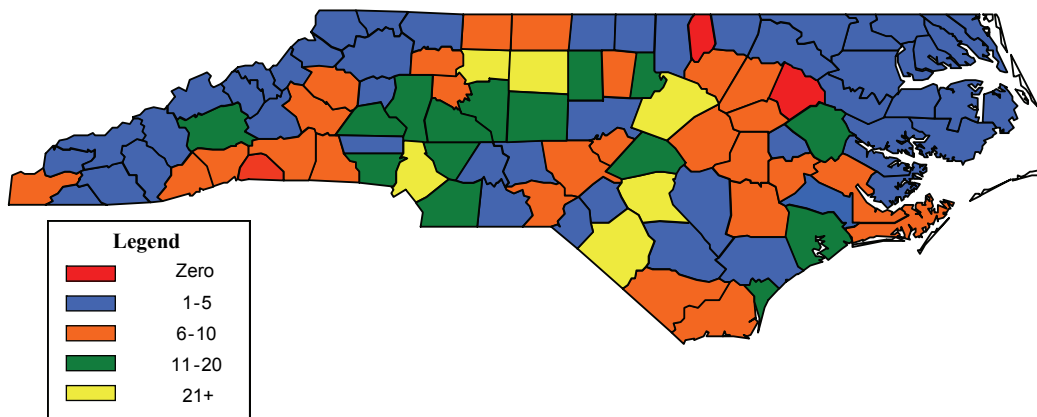
Description	Number	Percent
Local Education Agencies with SROs	112	97%
Local Education Agencies without SROs	3	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100%</b>

Local Education Agencies without School Resource Officers:

- Edgecombe
- Polk
- Vance

Ninety-seven counties and all fifteen city local education agencies have at least one SRO to provide services to their area schools. Of the school systems with SROs, approximated findings from this year's census are: 57% have one to five SROs; 24% of NC's LEAs have six to ten SROs; over 13% have eleven to twenty SROs; and 5% of LEAs reported having more than twenty-one SROs.

**SROs in NC County Local Education Agencies  
2007-2008**



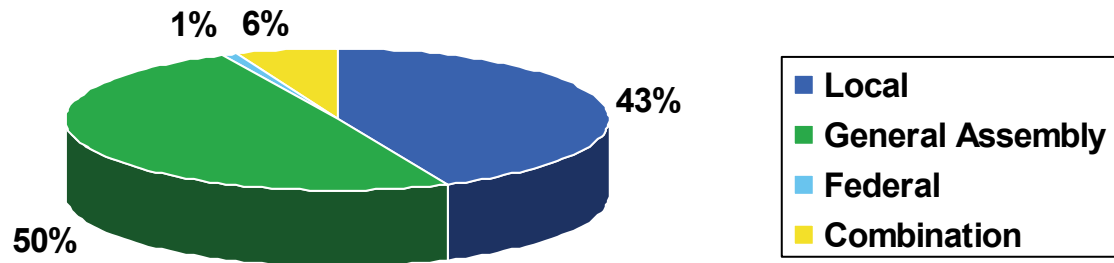
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### Funding

#### School Resource Officer Funding: 2007 - 2008

Funding Source for SROs	Positions	Percentage of Total
Local Only	352	43%
General Assembly (State) Only	402	50%
Federal Only	12	1%
Combination Of Funding Sources	47	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 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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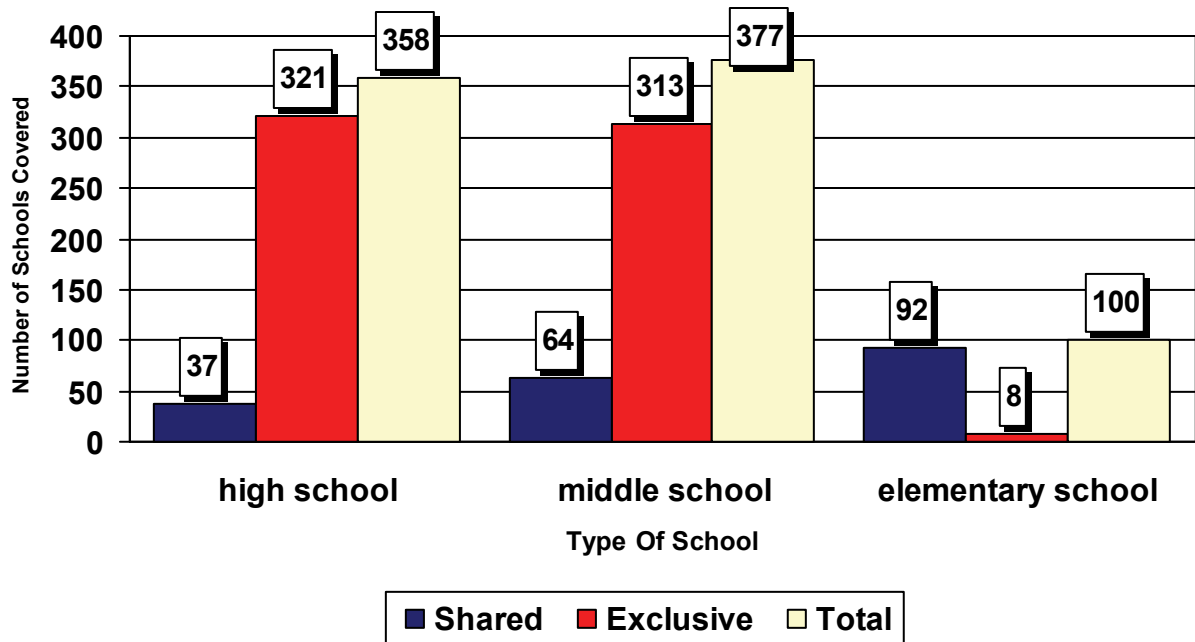
### School Coverage

#### School Resource Officer School-Type Coverage: 2007 - 2008

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)
Traditional High Schools	369	321 (87%)	37 (10%)
Traditional Middle Schools	452	313 (69%)	64 (14%)
Elementary Schools	1337	8 (.6%)	92 (7%)
Alternative Schools	78	39 (50%)	11 (14%)
Non-Traditional Schools	64	2 (3%)	16 (25%)
Early College	37	1 (3%)	3 (8%)
Special Education Schools	21	4 (19%)	2 (10%)
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,353</b>	<b>688 (29%)</b>	<b>225 (10%)</b>
<b>Total Number of Schools Covered</b>		<b>913 (39%)</b>	

\* Schools with an exclusive SRO do not share the services of the officer with another school.

#### Number of Schools Covered by Grade Level



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### SRO Affiliation

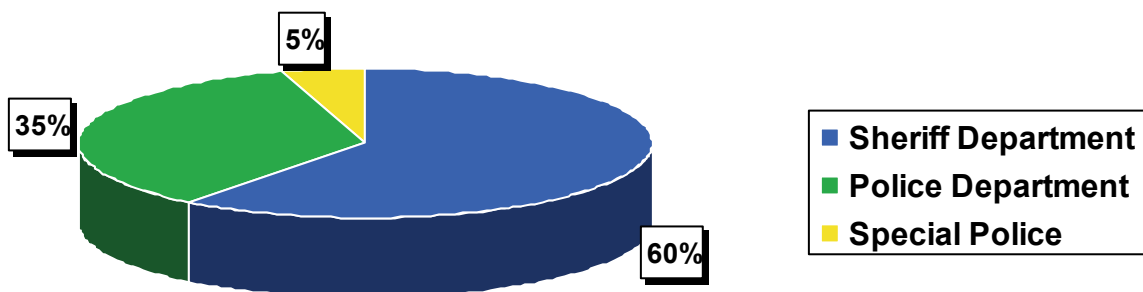
#### School Resource Officer Law Enforcement Affiliations in North Carolina: 2007 - 2008

SRO Affiliation	Number of SROs	Total SROs* (by percent)
Sheriff Departments	493	60.6%
City/Town Police Departments	281	34.5%
Special Police	39	4.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>99.9%</b>

\*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 60.6%. City/Town police departments employ 34.5% 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 4.8%.

### SRO Law Enforcement Assignments



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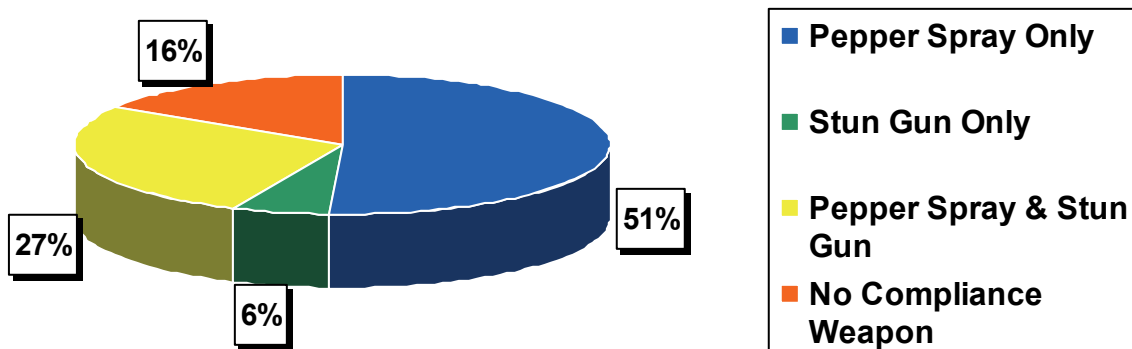
### Compliance Weapons

#### School Resource Officers and Compliance Weapons: 2007 - 2008

Type of Compliance Weapon	Number of SROs	Percentage of Total
Pepper Spray Only	414	51%
Stun Gun Only	47	6%
Pepper Spray & Stun Gun	222	27%
No Compliance Weapon	130	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>100%</b>

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 eighty-three of the 813 SROs either carry pepper spray, a stun gun, or both.

#### School Resource Officers and Compliance Weapons



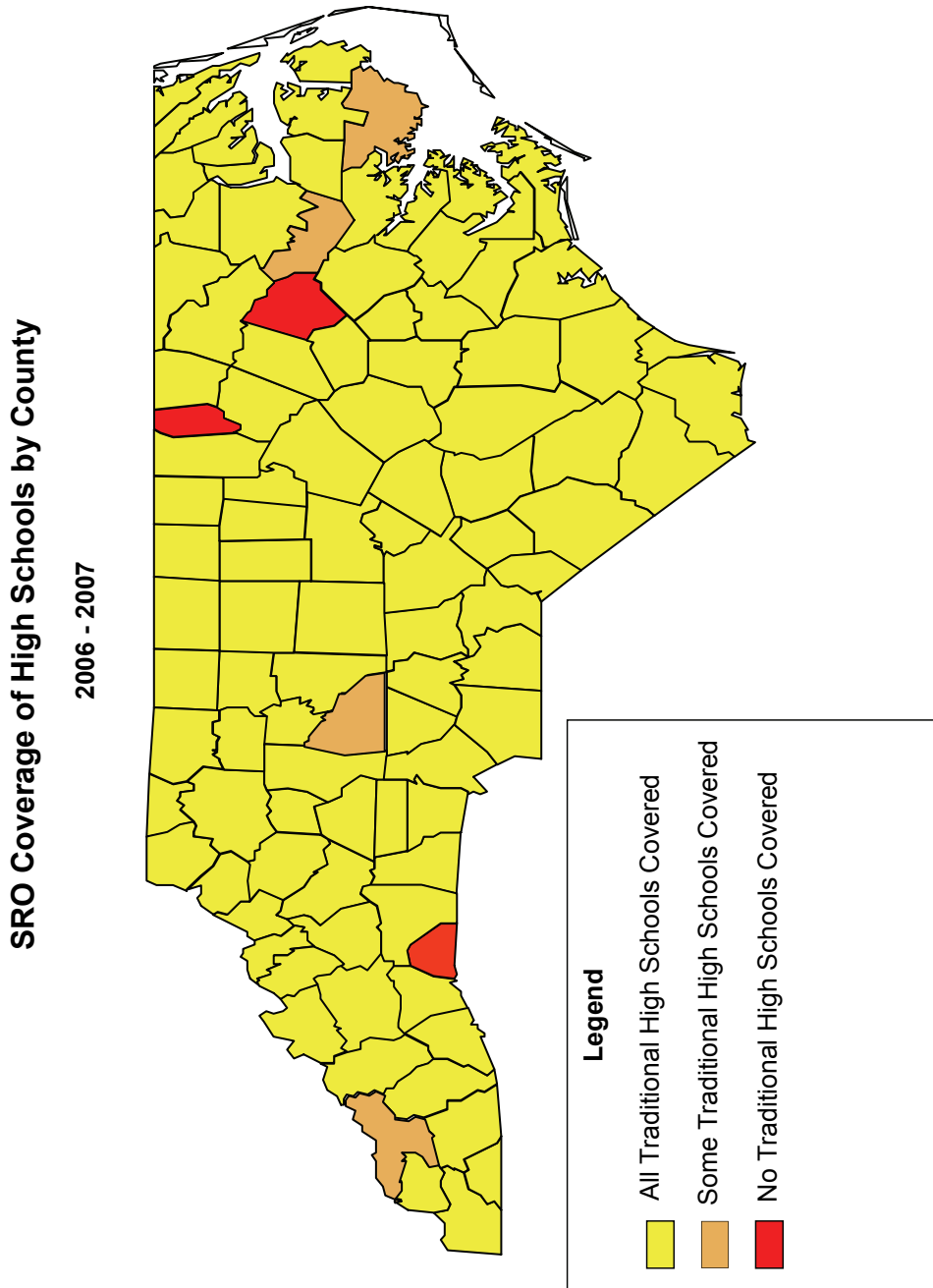


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**Appendix**

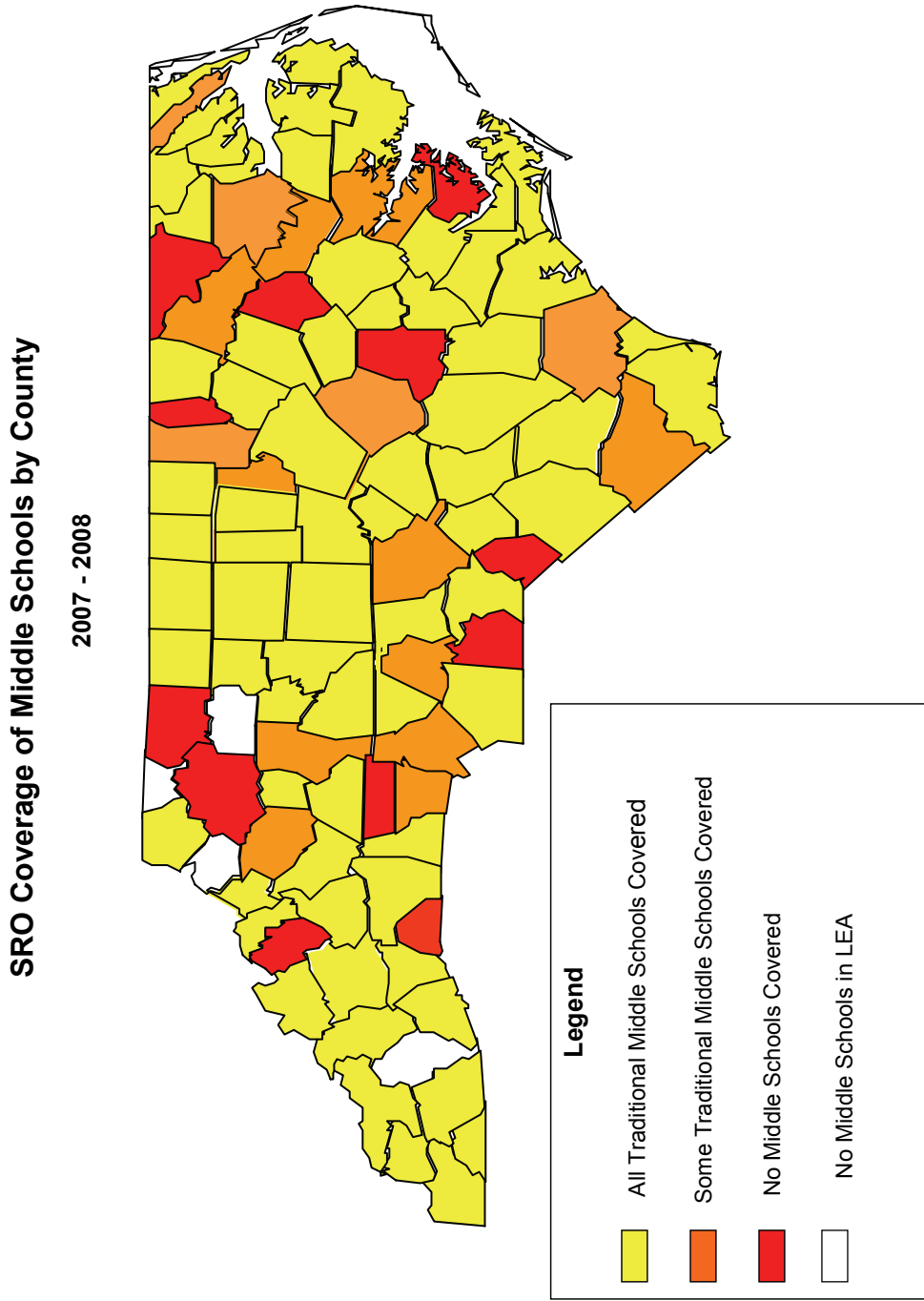
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## Appendix A: SRO Presence in High Schools



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Appendix B:



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Appendix C:  
SRO Presence in City LEAs

