

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



**Annual School Resource Officer Census
2008 - 2009**

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 849 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.

DJJDP - Center has documented an increase in SRO presence for the past fourteen years. The placement of 36 new SROs this year in schools shows an increase of 4.42% from last year. The 849 SROs currently working in schools reflect an increase of 606 SROs (over 249% increase) from the first 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 thirty of the state's 375 high schools have SROs assigned exclusively to cover them which means that the SRO is not shared with another school. Three hundred and fifteen of the 450 middle schools have exclusive SRO coverage. Twenty percent of elementary schools receive some form of service from SROs.

As part of this year's census, school systems were asked about gang presence in their schools. Five hundred and sixty-eight schools (almost 25% of all schools) reported having a gang presence with one school system declining to report. Other significant findings from the census include how the SRO positions are funded and the compliance weapons they carry. Four hundred and sixty-five SRO positions (55% of all SROs) are funded locally. Three hundred and thirty-six positions (approximately 40% of all SROs) are supported through state funds. Eight hundred and twenty-one of the 849 SROs either carry pepper spray, a taser, or both.

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Purpose and Methodology

Annual School Resource Officer Census

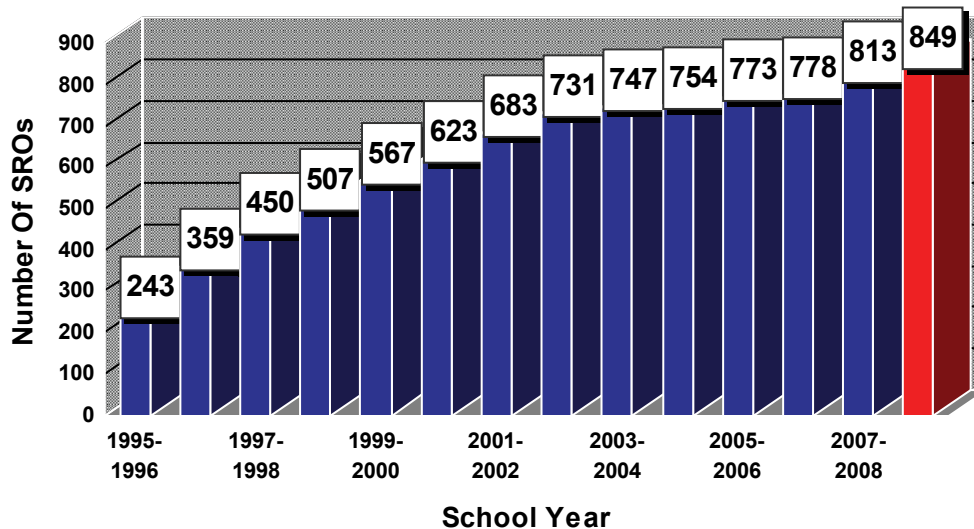
Purpose of the School Resource Officer Census

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, as well as preliminary data on gang presence in schools.

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 e-mail, telephone and/or in person to collect the data for the census. Each LEA is asked the following questions about the SROs: 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 taser. All the information is entered into a database, then analyzed.

School Resource Officer Growth: 1995-2009



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LEA Coverage

North Carolina County LEA Coverage of School Resource Officers: 2008 - 2009

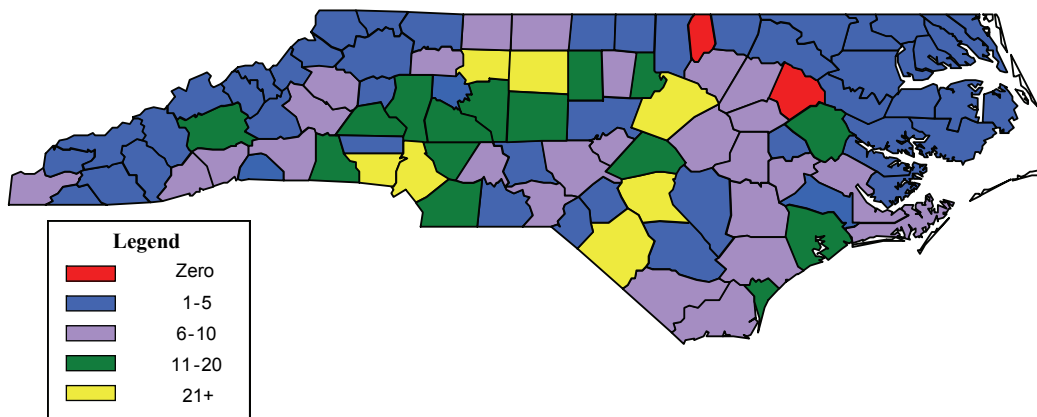
Description	Number	Percent
Local Education Agencies with SROs	113	98%
Local Education Agencies without SROs	2	2%
Total	115	100%

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. 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; 13% have eleven to twenty SROs; and 6% 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 2008-2009



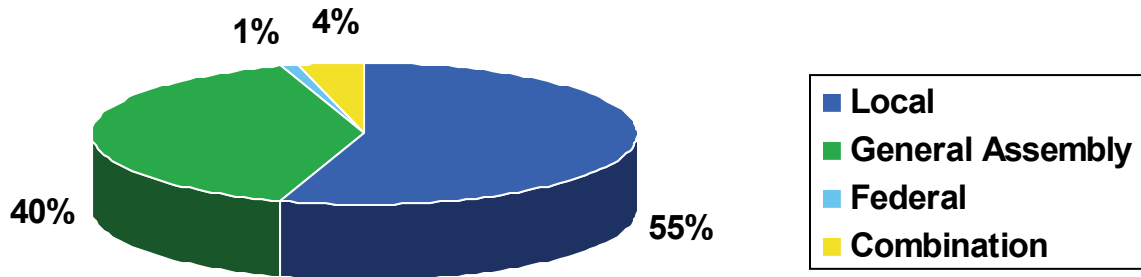
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Funding

School Resource Officer Funding: 2008 - 2009

Funding Source for SROs	Positions	Percentage of Total
Local Only	465	55%
General Assembly (State) Only	336	40%
Federal Only	12	1%
Combination Of Funding Sources	36	4%
Total	849	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 that are designated "At-Risk Student Services / Alternative Schools", PRC #069 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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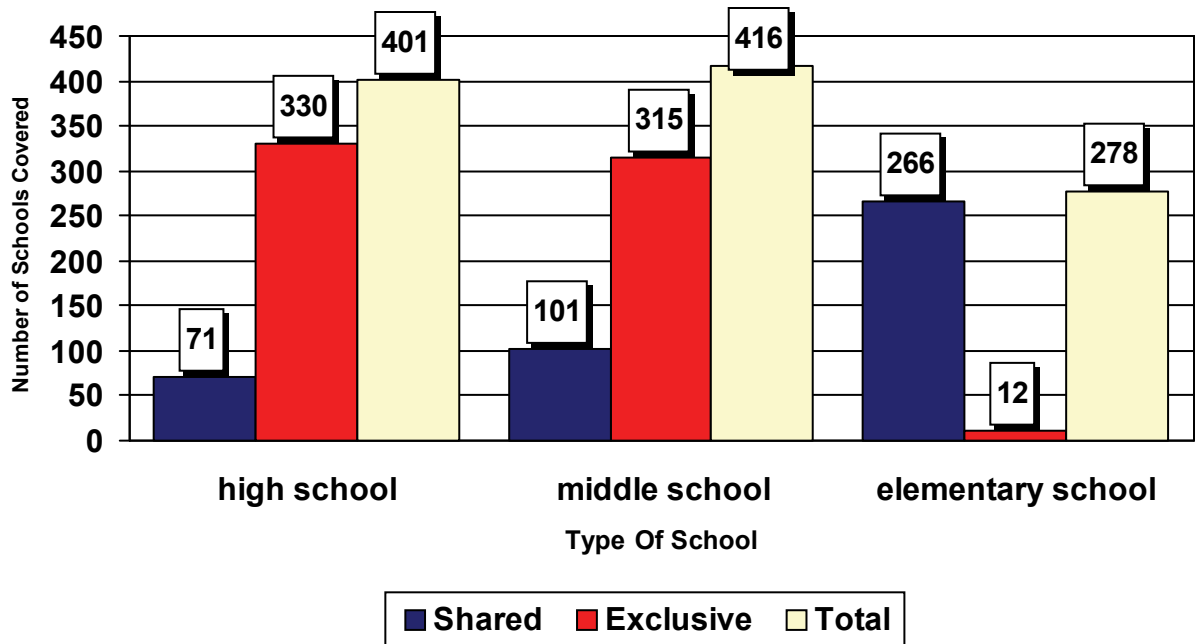
School Coverage

School Resource Officer School-Type Coverage: 2008 - 2009

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	375	330 (88%)	71 (19%)
Traditional Middle Schools	450	315 (70%)	101 (22%)
Elementary Schools	1,339	12 (.8%)	266 (20%)
Alternative Schools	77	40 (52%)	18 (23%)
Non-Traditional Schools	61	32 (52%)	18 (30%)
Early College	43	2 (5%)	8 (19%)
Special Education Schools	21	2 (10%)	1 (5%)
Subtotal	2,366	733 (31%)	483 (20%)
Total Number of Schools Covered		1,216 (51%)	

* 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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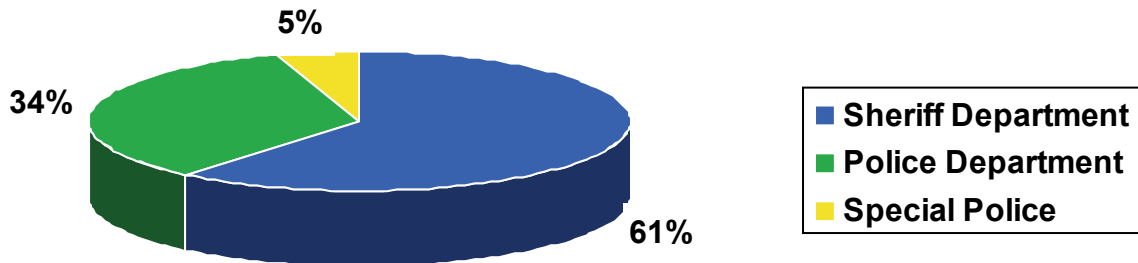
SRO Affiliation

School Resource Officer Law Enforcement Affiliations in North Carolina: 2008 - 2009

SRO Affiliation	Number of SROs	Total SROs (by percent)
Sheriff Departments	517	61%
City/Town Police Departments	292	34%
Special Police	40	5%
Total	849	100%

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 61%. City/Town police departments employ 34% 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 5%.

SRO Law Enforcement Assignments 2005-2006



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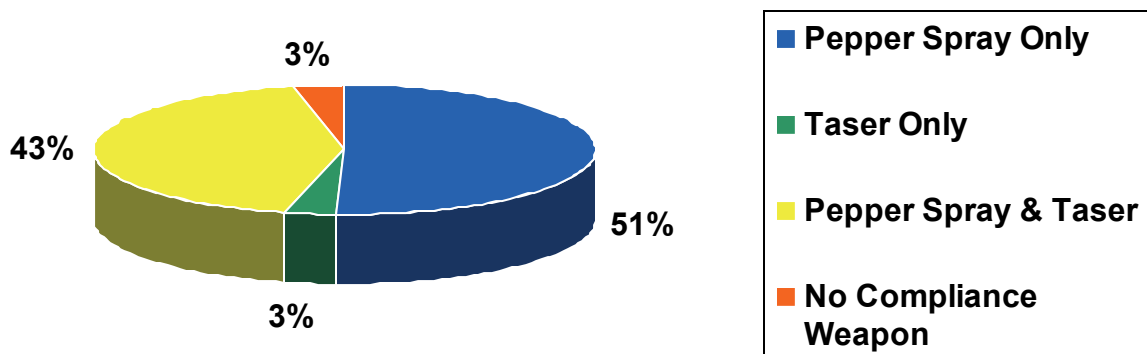
Compliance Weapons

**School Resource Officers and Compliance Weapons:
2008 - 2009**

Type of Compliance Weapon	Number of SROs	Percentage of Total
Pepper Spray Only	429	51%
Taser Only	29	3%
Pepper Spray & Taser	363	43%
No Compliance Weapon	28	3%
Total	849	100%

School Resource Officers may carry compliance weapons, such as pepper spray or a taser. This year DJJDP - Center identified the number of SROs that carried a compliance weapon. Eight hundred and twenty-one of the 849 SROs either carry pepper spray, a taser, or both.

School Resource Officers and Compliance Weapons



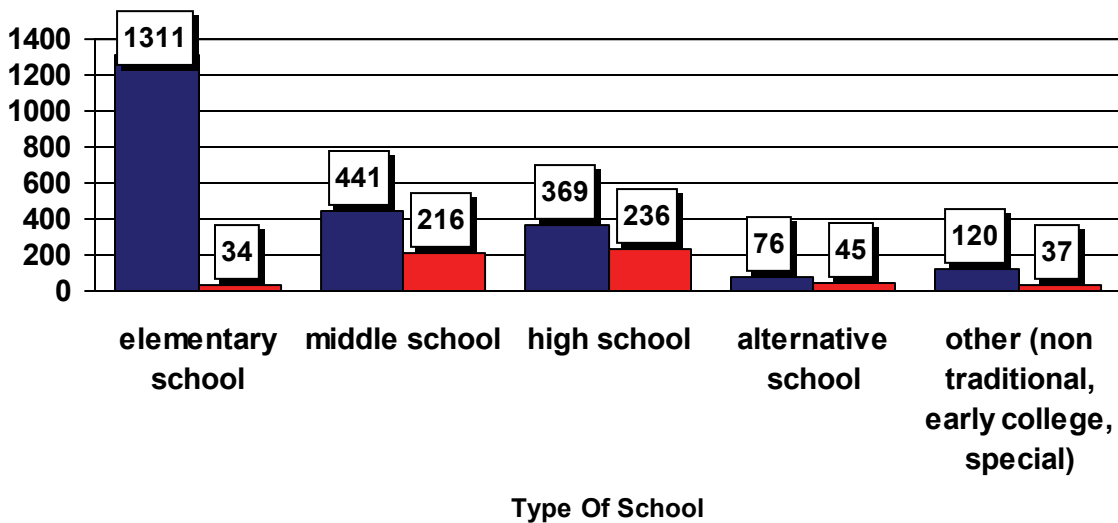
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Gang Presence in Schools

In response to the North Carolina Street Gang Prevention and Intervention Act, Session Law 2008-56, Senate Bill 2007-1358, DJJDP – Center sought to collect baseline data on gang activity in schools. Each LEA was asked to report if there was a gang presence in any school in their district using the following definition of gang: *a group of three (3) or more persons that has a distinct name, is known by a common identifying symbol or sign, has some degree of organization and permanence, and is involved in delinquent behavior or commits criminal acts.*

Of the 115 school systems throughout the state, only one school district declined to report. Of the 114 reporting LEAs, 76 (67%) stated that there was a gang presence in one or more schools in their district. Data collected represents 2,317 schools. Gang presence was identified in 568 schools. *The following table represents the total number of schools and gang presence in the 114 LEAs that did provide information.

Grade Level	Total Number of Schools by Type*	Number of Schools With Gang Presence (% of total schools)
Traditional High Schools	369	236 (64%)
Traditional Middle Schools	441	216 (49%)
Elementary Schools	1,311	34 (3%)
Alternative Schools	76	45 (59%)
Non-Traditional Schools	58	30 (52%)
Early College	41	4 (10%)
Special Education Schools	21	3 (14%)
Total Schools Reporting	2,317*	568 (25%)



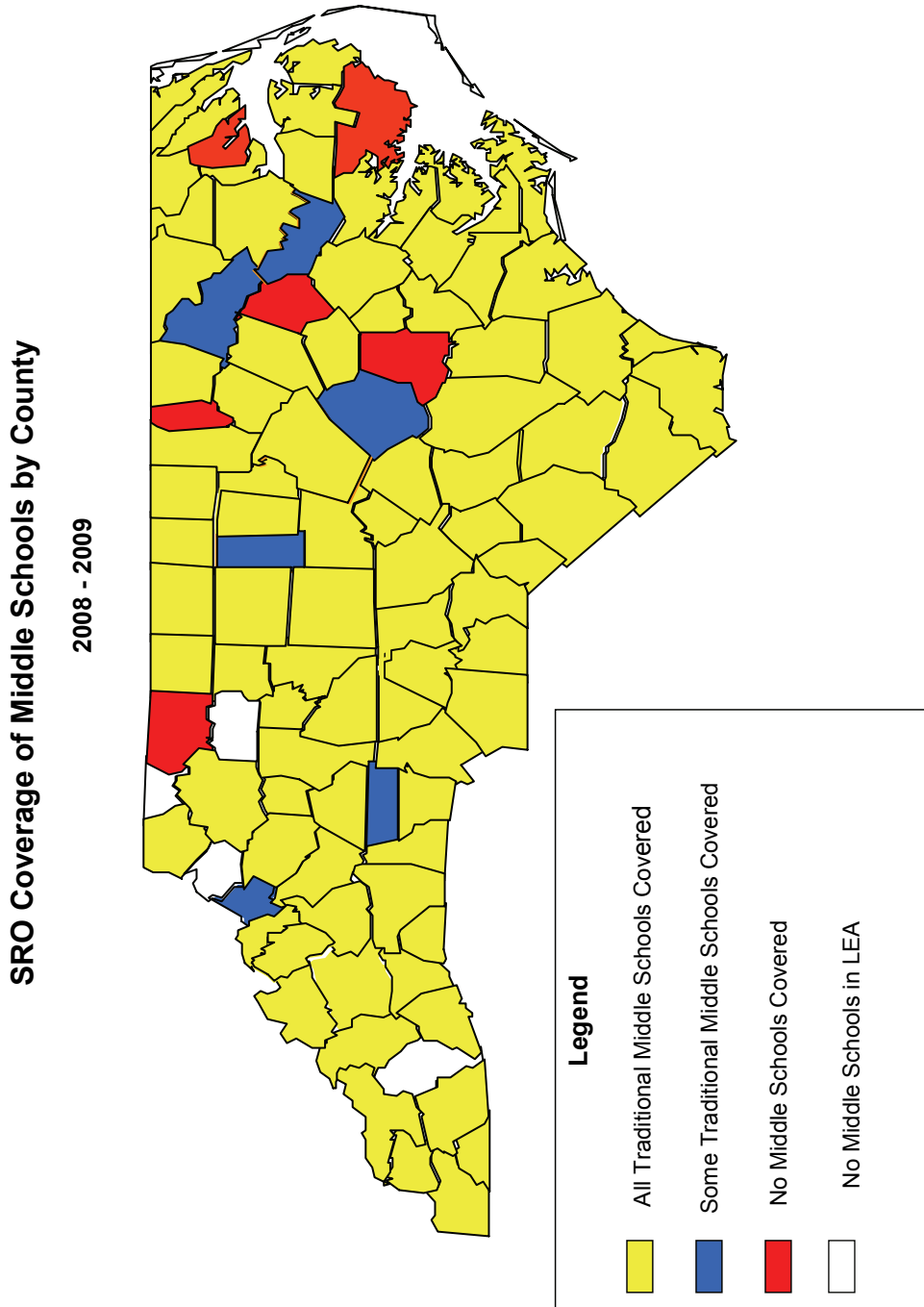
■ Total Schools ■ Gang Presence

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Appendix

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**Appendix B:
SRO Presence in Middle Schools**



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Appendix C:
SRO Presence in City LEAs

