

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



**Annual School Resource Officer Census  
2005-2006**

## 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, the DJJDP – Center has determined that there are 773 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 773 SROs currently working in schools reflect an increase of 540 SROs (over 200% increase) from the DJJDP – Center recorded baseline of 243 in 1996. One hundred thirteen of the 115 school districts have at least one identified SRO and 99 counties have an SRO presence in at least one school. Three hundred forty-five of the state’s 390 high schools have SROs assigned exclusively to cover them which means that the SRO is not shared with another school. Three hundred and six of the 424 middle schools have exclusive SRO coverage. Eight percent of elementary schools receive some form of service from SROs. The SRO role of law-related education teacher appears to dominate the services provided, although the other roles of law enforcement officer and law-related counselor are also filled.

Some other notable highlights from this year’s census are the growth in the total number of SROs and a shift in how they are funded. The placement of 19 new SROs in schools shows an increase of 2.5% from last year. Three hundred thirty-nine SRO positions (44% of all SROs) were funded locally this year. Ninety-six percent of all SRO funding came from state and local entities (up 6% from last year). This increase was necessary due to a 24% decrease in federal funding. These trends note the value that communities place on having SROs in schools.

# NC Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention – Center for the Prevention of School Violence’s

## Purpose and Methodology

### Annual School Resource Officer Census

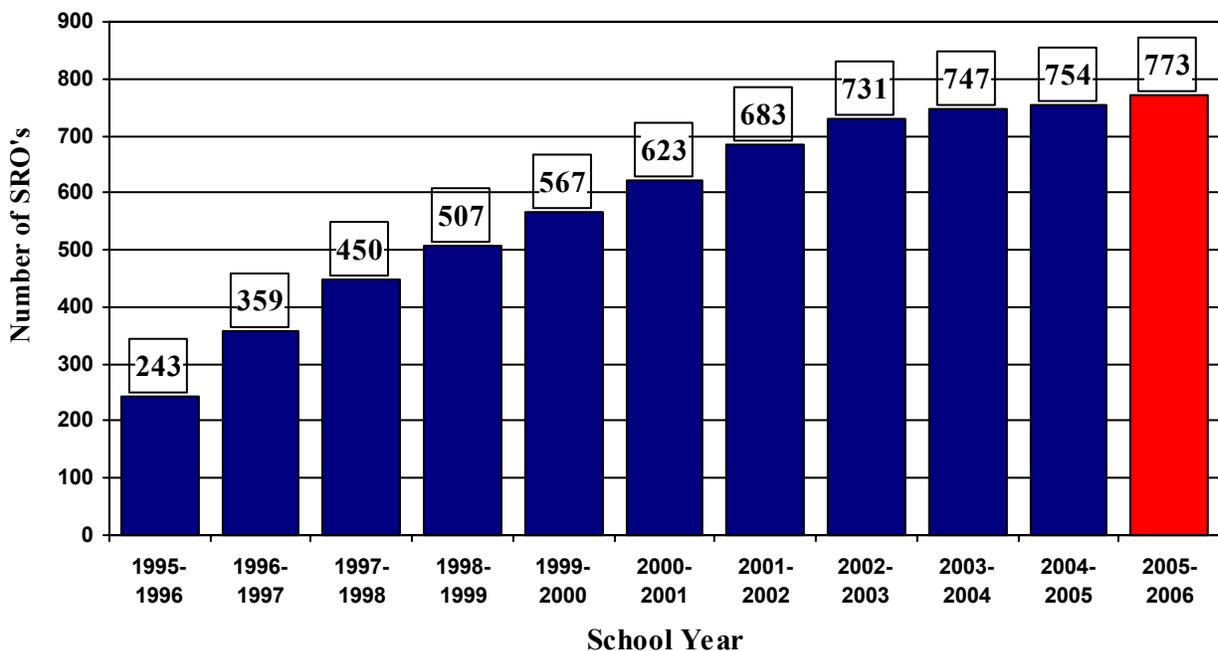
#### Purpose of the School Resource Officer Census

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 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. All the information is entered into a database then analyzed.

#### School Resource Officer Growth: 1995-2005



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## LEA Coverage

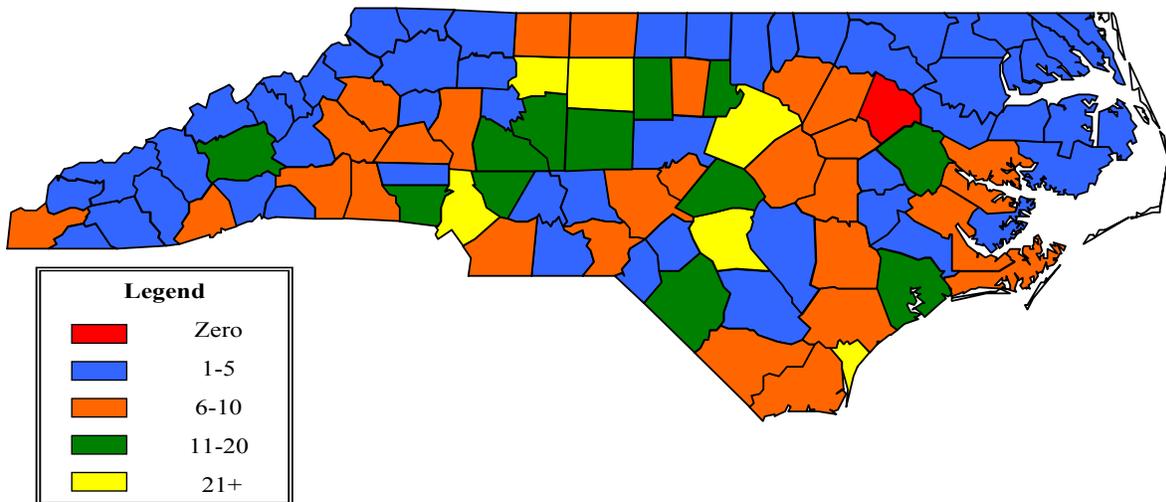
### North Carolina LEA and County Coverage of School Resource Officers: 2005-2006

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

Local Education Agencies without School Resource Officers:  
     Edgecombe  
     Mount Airy

Ninety-nine counties and fourteen of the fifteen LEA city districts 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 25% of NC's LEAs have six to ten SROs; 10% have eleven to twenty SROs; and 5% of LEAs reported having more than twenty-one SRO's. \*\*See appendices A, B, and C for maps of high school, middle school, and city LEA coverage.

### SROs in NC County Local Education Agencies 2005-2006



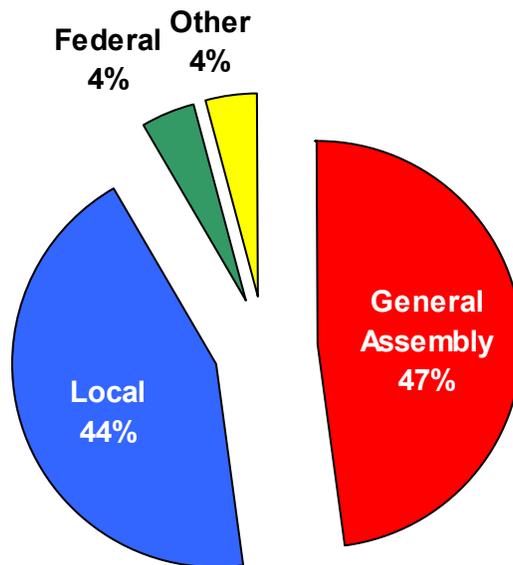
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<b>Funding</b>
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## School Resource Officer Funding: 2005-2006

Funding Source for SROs	Positions	Percentage of Total
General Assembly allocation only (state)	369	47.7%
Local Only	339	43.9%
Federal Only	32	4.1%
Combination of funding sources	33	4.3%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>100%</b>

### School Resource Officer Funding Sources



### Description of funding sources

- State allocation only - allotted funds for at-risk youth that are designated “line item sixty-nine” funding
- Local Only - law enforcement agency and/or school system funding
- Federal Only - most common federal funding is Cops in Schools through the U.S. Department of Justice’s Community-Oriented Policing Office

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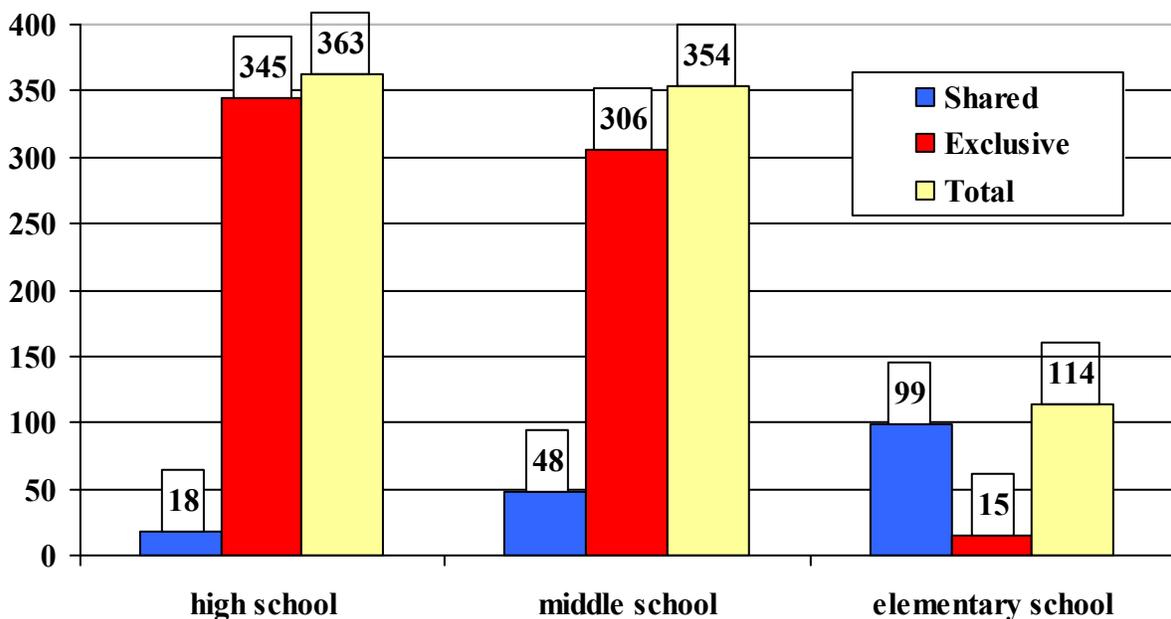
## School Coverage

### School Resource Officer School-Type Coverage: 2005-2006

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	390	345 (88.5%)	18 (4.6%)
Middle Schools	424	306 (72.1%)	48 (11.3%)
Elementary Schools	1,333	15 (1.4%)	99 (7.4%)
Alt. Learning Programs/Schools	216	27 (12.5%)	12 (5.6%)
Special Education Schools	15	1 (7.1%)	2 (14.3%)
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,378</b>	<b>694 (29.2%)</b>	<b>179 (7.5%)</b>
<b>Total Number of Schools Covered</b>		<b>873 (36.7%)</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

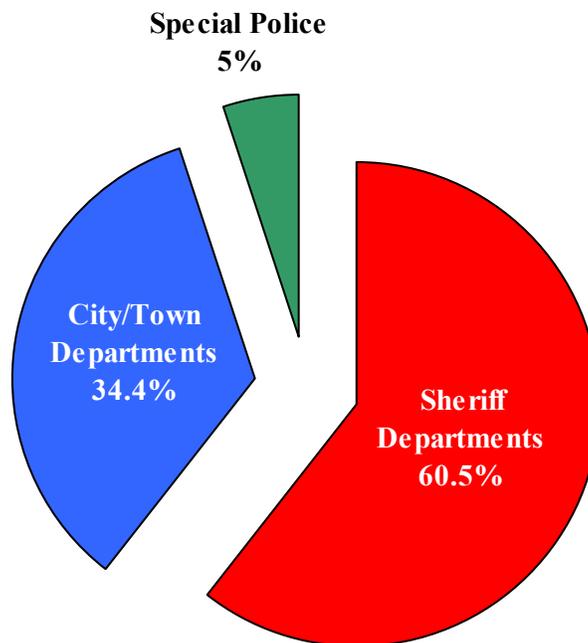
#### School Resource Officer Law Enforcement Affiliations in North Carolina: 2005 –2006

	Number of SROs	Total SROs* (by percent)
Sheriff Departments	468	60.5%
City/Town Police Departments	266	34.4%
Special Police	39	5.0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>773</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 61.5%. City/Town police departments employ 34.4% 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

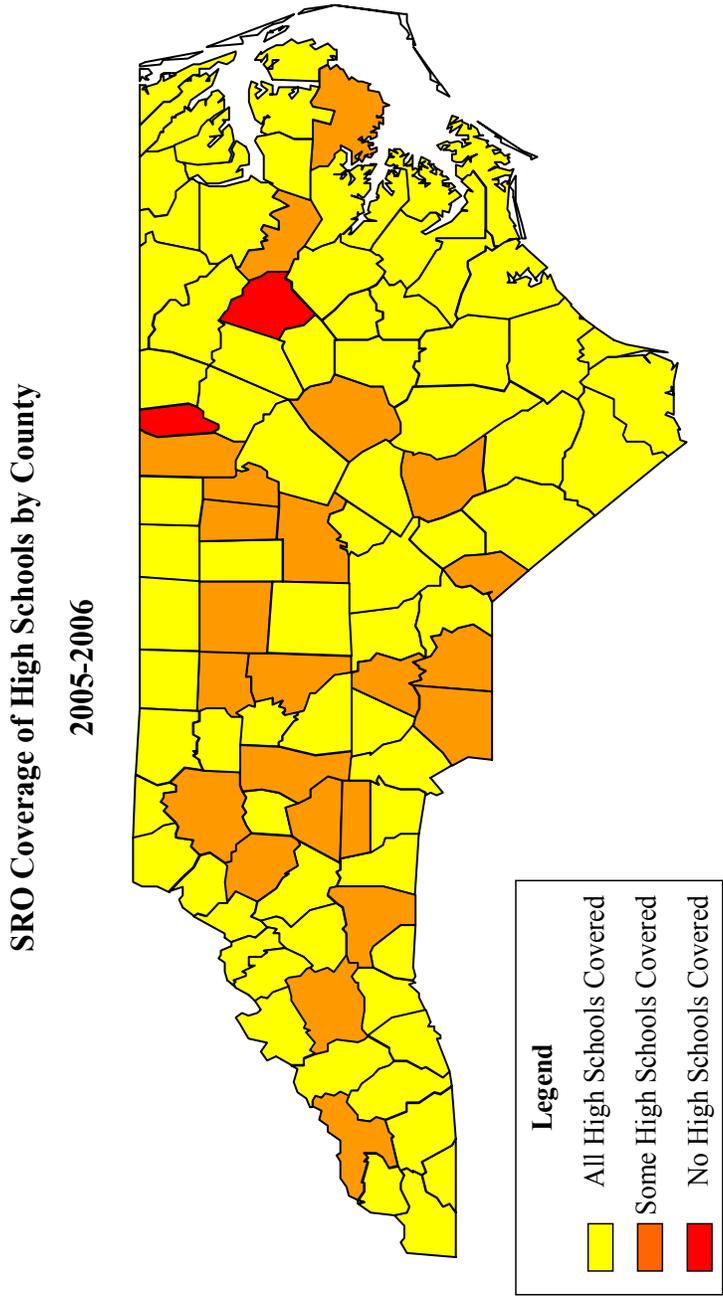


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**Appendix**

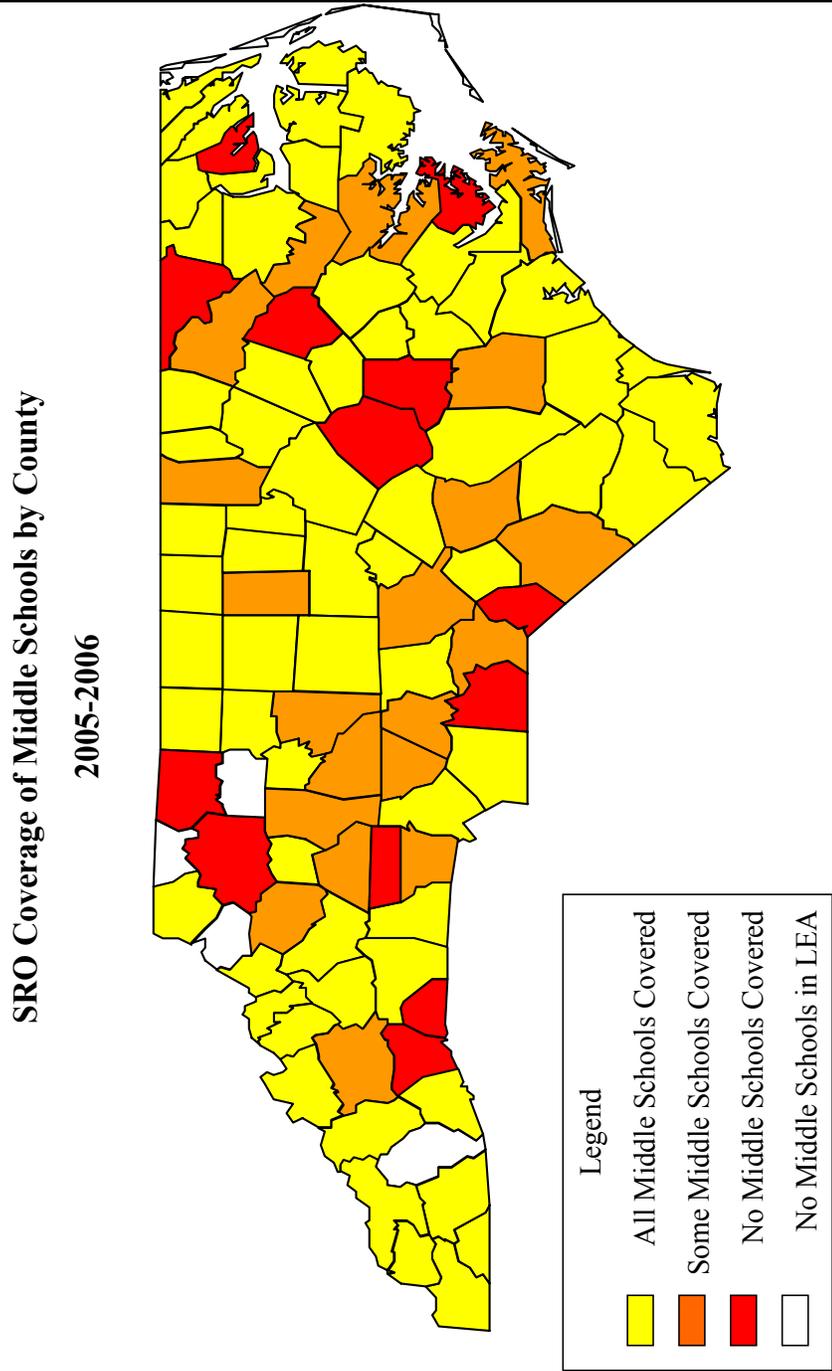
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## Appendix A: SRO Presence in High Schools



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## Appendix B: SRO Presence in Middle Schools



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## Appendix C: LEA City SRO Coverage

SROs in City Local Education Agencies  
2005-2006

