

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

WHAT'S THE TEA?



WHAT IS A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER?

HALF OF ALL U.S. PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAVE AT LEAST ONE SRO

SROs are sworn law enforcement officers.
SROs work for the local law enforcement agency.
SROs are trained and armed officers in schools.

WHY DO WE HAVE SROS?

- Juvenile crime increased in the 90s
- Rise in mass shootings (Columbine High School 1999).
- Implementation of zero-tolerance policies.
- Government funding school law enforcement (COPS grant in 1999)



SROS CLAIM EFFICACY

Anecdotal evidence from The National Association of SROs shows prevention of 12 **potential** violent incidents. Majority claimed to prevent subsequent violence after threats against school.

EVIDENCE DEMONSTRATES NEGATIVE OUTCOMES OF SROS

Higher rates of violent incidents and no improvement in school safety.
Higher rates of law enforcement referrals for black students.
Negative effect on school climate.
Increase in the school to prison pipeline.
Removes at-risk students from school.
Removing students reduces academic achievement.
Removing students increases drop-out rates.



ALTERNATIVES TO SROS

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

Avoid criminalization and utilize dispute resolution and mediation in response to student conduct.
Decrease suspensions and improve relations between students and teachers.
Oakland, CA is a model program.



ACLU Report on SROs <https://www.aclu-wa.org/story/school-resource-officers-when-cure-worse-disease>

National Association of SRO: <https://www.nasro.org>

Report on Oakland Restorative Justice: <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles/ojdp/grants/250995.pdf>

Peer Reviewed Research

Na & Gottfredson. (2013). Police officers in schools: Effects on school crime and the processing of offender behaviors. *Justice Quarterly*.

Zamani-Gallaher & Fuller. (2016). Altering the pipeline to prison and pathways to postsecondary education. *Office of Community College Research and Leadership*

Jennings, Khey, Maskaly, & Donner. (2011). Evaluating the relationship between law enforcement and school security measures and violent crime in schools. *Journal of Police Crisis Negotiations*.

Fisher & Hennesy. (2016). School resource officers and exclusionary discipline in U.S. High Schools: A systematic review and meta analysis. *Adolescent Research Review*.



HELPFUL LINKS