

Lee County Sheriff's Office



Youth Services Division

School Resource Officers in Lee County Schools

- 1983 – First School Resource Officer placed into a Lee County School.
- Currently, School Resource Officers are in all Lee County School District middle, high, and special schools
- School Resource Officers represent a partnership between the Board of County Commissioners, the Lee County School District, and the Lee County Sheriff's Office.
- The costs associated with the School Resource Officers have been funded evenly by the Board of County Commissioners and the Lee County School District.

Ongoing Expansion

- Following the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut, the Lee County Sheriff's Office made available to the School District of Lee County 10 additional deputies to provide rotation coverage to the 46 county elementary schools
- Charter schools and private schools across Lee County are exploring entering into a partnership with the Lee County Sheriff's Office to obtain the services of a full time School Resource Officer

Detective Case Types

- Breakdown of Crimes
 - Battery on School Official
 - Felony Battery
 - Aggravated Battery with a Weapon
 - Aggravated Assault with a Weapon
 - Threat of Violence
 - Possession of Firearm on School Property
 - Possession of Weapon on School Property
 - Cyber Stalking
 - Grand Theft
 - Burglary
 - Felony Drug
 - Bomb Threat
 - Robbery
 - Sex Crimes / Sexting
 - Felony Criminal Mischief

Crime Prevention Programs

- Crime Stoppers – For school year 2012-2013, Crime Stoppers has, to date, paid \$3,570 in reward money to students for tips related to crime in Lee County Schools.
- Do the Right Thing
- Drug House Odyssey
- School Lockdown Drill Performance Evaluation



Cadet Program

- 140 Students across six middle schools
- SROs volunteer their own time lead these programs
- Mentors students in areas of leadership, self confidence, discipline, problem solving and consequences to poor decisions making
- Education topics include cyber safety, alcohol and drug awareness, bullying identification and prevention, crime prevention



Explorer Post #18



- Program for men and women aged 14 – 21
- Designed for young adults interested in pursuing a law enforcement career
- Members mentored by Deputies from Youth Services Division

Annual Bowling Fundraiser

- Annual event held to raise funds for Summer Youth Program
- SROs solicit area businesses for donations for silent auction
- Teams of bowlers pay entry fee to participate in event
- Local bowling alley donates the use of their facility for the duration of the three hour event
- 2012 - \$14,500 raised to fund Summer Youth Program

Summer Youth Program

- Hosted Annually
- Summer 2012 –
 - 8 week long programs
 - 500 children attended at no cost to parents
 - Each week capped off by trip to Sun Splash Water Park
 - Unit provided gym equipment used for event
 - No budgetary funds used to finance event
 - All funds used generated through bowling fundraiser



Juvenile Assessment Center Comparison Data

- Data from the 2012 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, a report released by the Florida Department of Children and Families and the Office of the Governor, shows that Lee County is the statistical leader for youths using synthetic marijuana in the past 30 days and youths having sold drugs in the past year in a comparison of the 8 most populous counties in Florida
- Lee County either is nearly tied or tied in the categories for youths using marijuana in the past 30 days and carrying a handgun within the past year in a comparison of the 8 most populous counties in Florida

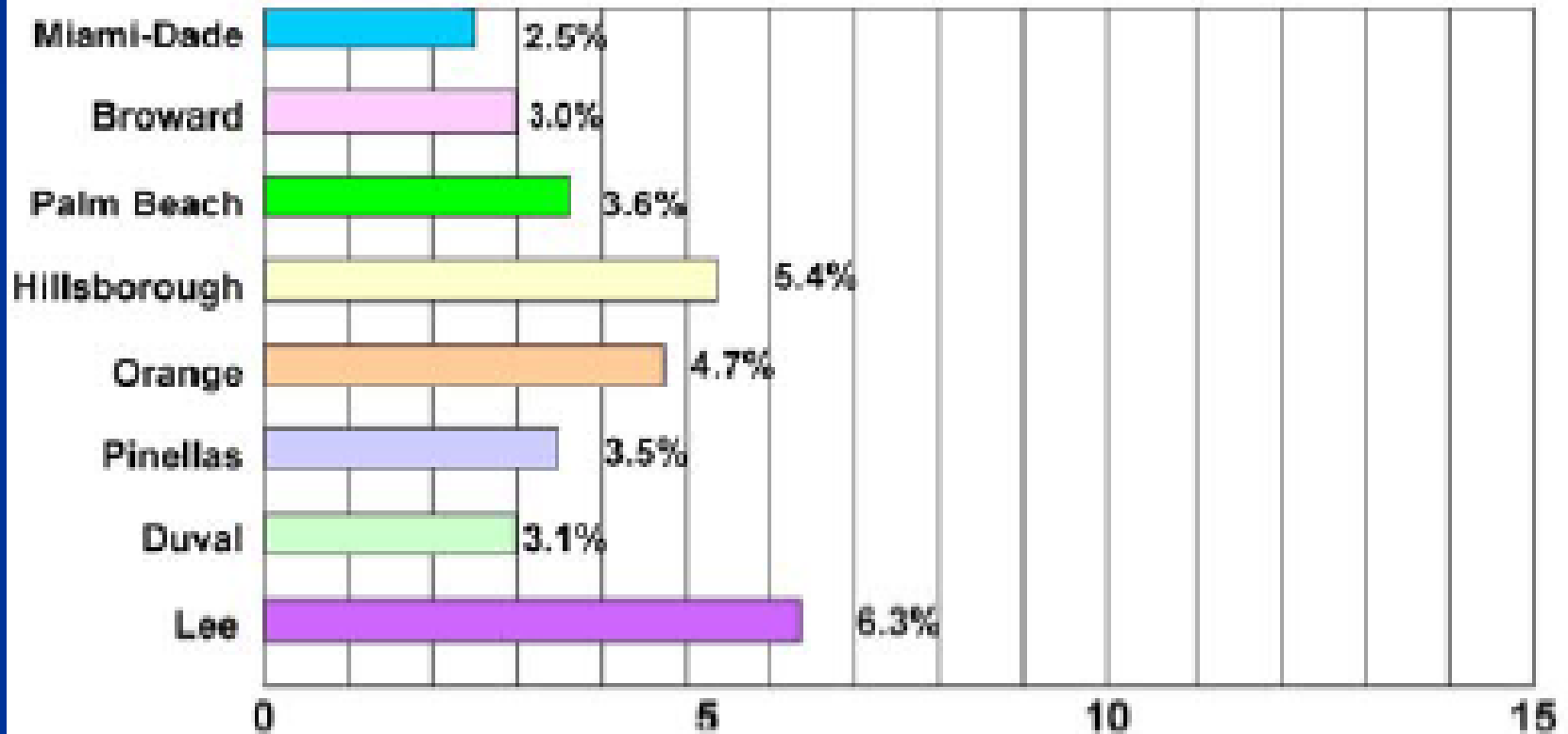
Drug Use Comparison

**Youth Using Marijuana in Past 30 Days
in 8 Most Populous Florida Counties**



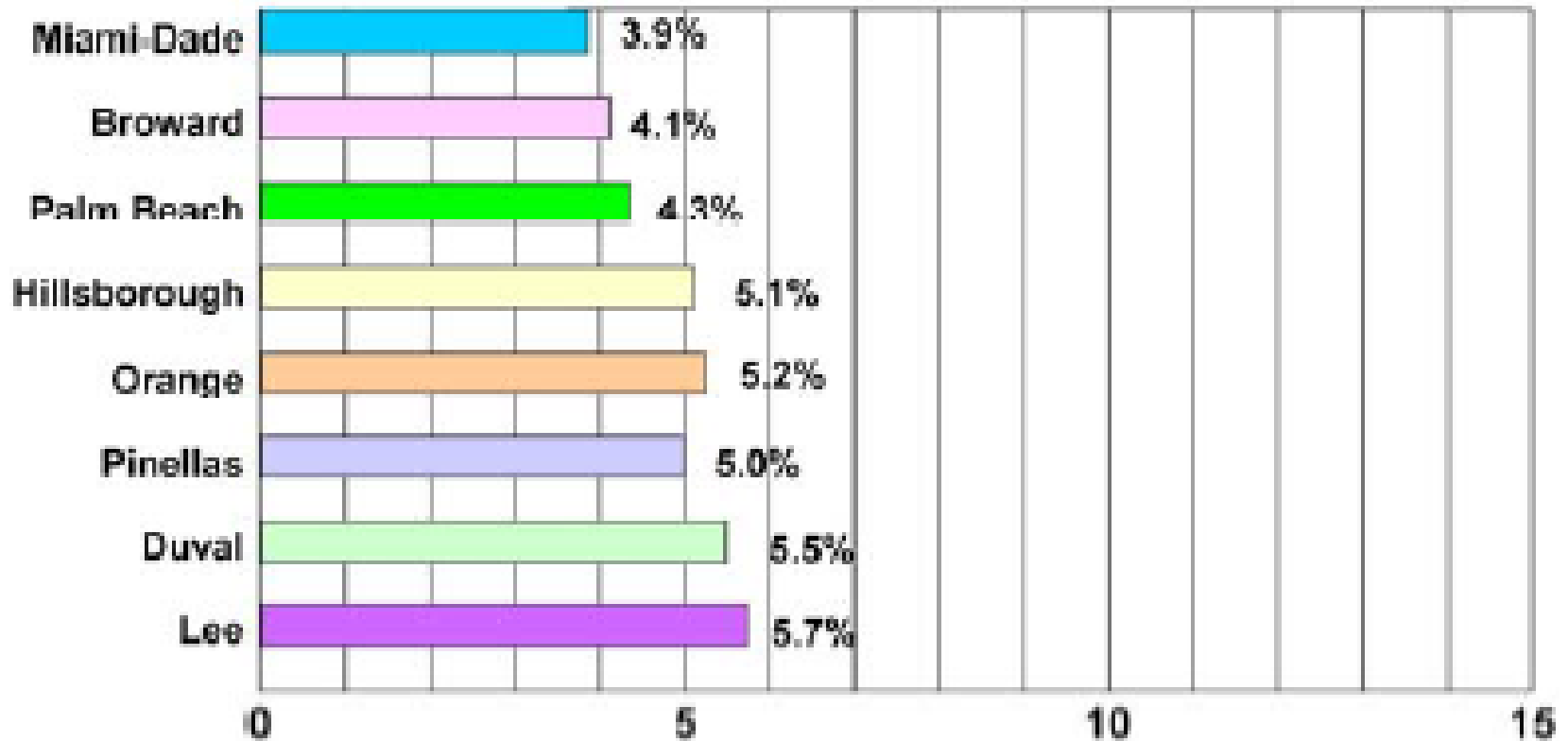
Drug Use Comparison

**Youth Using Synthetic Marijuana in Past 30 Days
in 8 Most Populous Florida Counties**



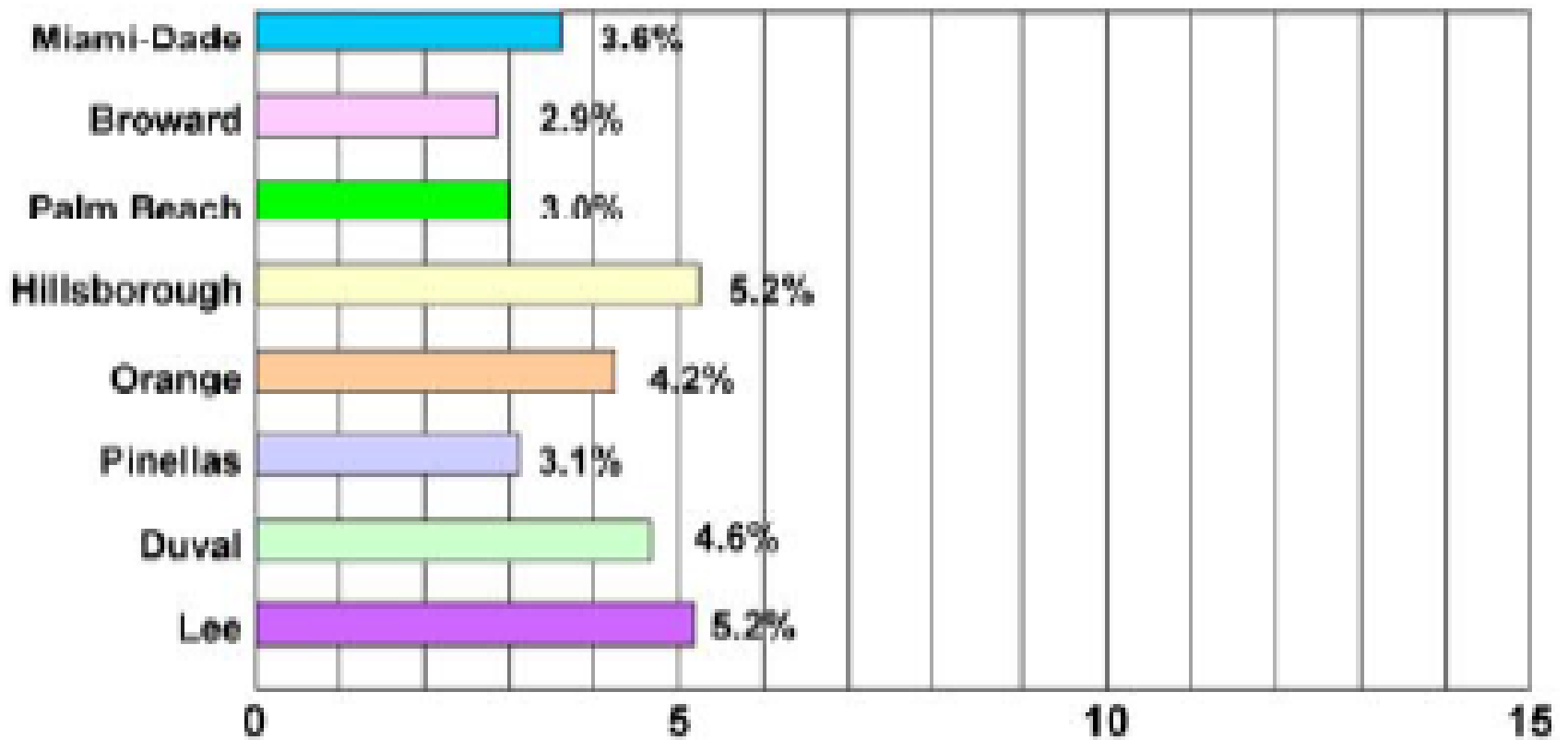
Drug Use Comparison

Youth Who Sold Drugs in Past Year
in 8 Most Populous Florida Counties



Firearm Comparison

**Youth Who Carried a Handgun in Past Year
in 8 Most Populous Florida Counties**



Gangs in Lee County Schools

- All major national gangs are represented within the student population of the Lee County School District
 - Latin Kings
 - SUR 13
 - Bloods
 - Crips

Gangs in Lee County Schools

- Local gangs represented in Lee County Schools
 - Tat Boyz (Habitat Boyz)
 - Lake Boys
 - ABM (All 'Bout Money)
 - Palmetto Court Boys
 - PJ's Boyz
 - B-Town Goons

Royal Palm Exceptional Center



- School Year 2012/2013 Numbers
- Average Student Population: 172 (actually on 04/01/13)
- Age Range of Student Population: 4-22
- Number of Referrals: 5,583 (through 04/01/13)

Royal Palm Comparison



- Ida S. Baker High School
- Average Student Population: 1,680
- Number of Referrals: 1,084 (through 04/01/13)

Violence Among Young Girls

A survey of Lee County girls in middle school and high school found that in the past year 8.3% of them had attacked someone else with the intent to harm them. (2012 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey)

Educational Programs

- G.A.T.E. – Gang Awareness Training Education
- R.A.D.I.C.A.L. – Reducing Abuse of Drugs by Interrupting Crime Through Awareness and Learning
- Cyber-Bullying
- Texting While Driving
- Sexting
- Cyber-Safety
- Bullying prevention and intervention



Special Needs Awareness

- Youth Services Supervisors Participate on Lee County School District Autism Roundtable Committee
- Youth Services members are required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of Crisis Intervention Training
- Youth Services members recently attended In-Service Training for Reducing Risk Situations for Individuals with Autism
- Additional training by Youth Services members includes:
 - Advanced Crisis Intervention Techniques
 - Youth Protective Training
 - Suicide Prevention / Intervention

Mentoring

- Assigning an SRO to any school creates an environment that allows a mentoring relationship to flourish
- Potential benefits for mentored children
 - Better academic performance
 - Better school attendance
 - Decreased likelihood of initiating illegal drug and alcohol use
 - Decreased violent behavior – less likely to be involved in bullying others

Elementary Calls for Service

- 08/08/12 through 12/20/12
 - Call Types:
 - Baker Act
 - Sex Crime
 - Suspicious Person
 - Threats of Violence
 - Burglary

Elementary Calls for Service

- 01/01/13 through 05/17/13
 - 4 – to – 1 increase over the previous reporting period.
 - Call types:
 - Medical Assistance
 - Trespass
 - Child Neglect / Abuse
 - Battery of School Official
 - Disruption of School Function
 - Missing Persons
 - Battery
 - Weapon on School Grounds
 - Criminal Mischief
 - Baker Act
 - Sex Crime
 - Suspicious Person
 - Threats of Violence
 - Burglary

Parent Pick Up and Drop Off

- Economic hardships can place added stressors upon the family:
 - Bankruptcy
 - Foreclosure
 - Job Loss – Unemployment
- Family issues can lead to potential conflict
 - Divorce
 - Injunction
 - Child Custody Issues

Training Provided to Elementary Classes by School Resource Officers

- G.A.T.E. – Gang Awareness Training Education
 - Elementary specific blocks
 - Bullying Awareness
 - Stranger Danger
 - Anger Management
 - Cyber Bullying
 - Peer Pressure
 - Decision Making and Consequences

Elementary Schools: Building the Foundation for Long-Term Success

- The increase in calls for service can be attributed to a increased level of comfort and trust felt by the students toward the elementary School Resource Officer, allowing for more interaction and open dialogue.
- Elementary aged children are highly impressionable and likely to carry forward learned concepts and behaviors through the entirety of their school career, potentially reducing problems in the future.

Youth who start offending early in childhood—age 12 or younger—are far more likely to become serious, violent, and chronic offenders later in life than are teenagers who begin to offend during adolescence. We have an opportunity to direct these young offenders to a better path because research indicates that they are at an age when interventions are most likely to succeed in diverting them from chronic delinquency.

Source: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice

It's a Relationship

- The SRO is not just a “cop in a school”.
- The SRO is a educator
- The SRO is a mentor
- The SRO is a counselor
- The SRO helps to establish a healthy learning environment for students and staff
 - Acts of school violence disrupt the normal functioning of a school, and fear of violence prevents student and teachers from concentrating on meaningful learning and teaching.

Thank You!

On Behalf of the
Lee County Sheriff's Office
and the
Youth Services Division
Thank You for Your Time