

2005-2006
Annual Report



Florida D.A.R.E. Training Center

Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Gerald M. Bailey, Commissioner

Drug Abuse Resistance Education – D.A.R.E.

The Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Program was developed and implemented in California in 1983 through the combined efforts of the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles Unified School District. The initial 17-week curriculum was designed to provide awareness and facts to elementary school students with the intent that knowledge would help them to resist peer pressure to experiment with alcohol and other drugs. In order to provide a more solid foundation for children, gang and violence prevention strategies were included in that curriculum.

In 1988, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the Florida Department of Education (DOE) entered into a partnership to bring a statewide drug prevention program to Florida's schools. The D.A.R.E. Program was determined to be the best drug prevention program available and selected for implementation in Florida.

The primary role and responsibility of FDLE in the D.A.R.E. Program is to serve as the state administrator. This administration includes the preparation and oversight of the budget; training and certification of officers; and preparation of the D.A.R.E. Annual Report. Additionally, the FDLE is responsible for ensuring compliance with national standards, delivery of technical assistance, and providing statewide program management.

In August of 2004, the D.A.R.E. Program was re-designed into the *New D.A.R.E.* model of technology and science. Additionally, the *New D.A.R.E.* elementary program has been reduced to a 10-week curriculum with follow-up courses taught at the middle and high school level.

The *New D.A.R.E.* Program listens to concerns from community leaders and observes trends throughout the country to create cutting edge curriculum addressing the issues faced by children. In 2006, two supplemental lessons were introduced to enhance the D.A.R.E. curriculum covering bullying and gang violence. A third supplemental lesson addressing the growing methamphetamine epidemic is being developed and will be available in the near future.

The *New D.A.R.E.* curriculum incorporates innovative prevention science and research-based strategies designed to improve students' skills and outcomes.

New D.A.R.E....

- Is a science-based prevention program
- Utilizes active learning
- Targets communication and refusal skills
- Teaches decision-making skills throughout lessons
- Promotes accurate normative beliefs
- Supports positive peer pressure influence
- Promotes high self-efficacy
- Creates a working knowledge of risk
- Develops healthy attitudes
- Is a community based program
- Meets national health education standards

New D.A.R.E. officers are trained to support and guide children on how to use research-based refusal strategies in high-stakes peer-pressure environments. *New D.A.R.E.* students see

tangible proof of how substance abuse diminishes mental activity, emotions, coordination, and movement. Rigorous scientific evaluation has documented that children who complete the *New D.A.R.E.* Program have improved decision-making skills, view drug use as unacceptable, and are less likely to ever use drugs.

In preparing officers for their role within the school system all officers trained under the *New D.A.R.E.* Program are dually-certified as D.A.R.E. officers as well as School Resources Officers (SRO). This creates a well-trained officer with a broad base of knowledge thereby maximizing the impact on the students.

Florida D.A.R.E. Mentor/Training Staff

Special Agent Supervisor Jeff Fortier	Statewide D.A.R.E. Coordinator FDLE Tallahassee, Pensacola and Jacksonville Regional Operations Center
Special Agent Dale Crosby	FDLE Orlando and Tampa Bay Regional Operations Center
Special Agent Kevin A. Sapp	FDLE Ft. Myers and Miami Regional Operations Center
Special Agent Joel Norred	FDLE - Retired
Deputy Mary Mott	Volusia County Sheriff's Office
Sergeant Monica Sauls	Highlands County Sheriff's Office
Officer Michael Wordly	Miami-Dade Police Department
Officer Christi Encarnacion	Davie Police Department
Sergeant Jeff Phillips	Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Captain Amy Schmidt	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Trooper Scott Staggs	Tennessee Highway Patrol
Deputy Margaret Derenge	Union County Sheriff's Office, North Carolina
Dr. Susan Bridges-Tompkins	Statewide D.A.R.E. Educator
Crime Lab Analyst Sandy James	FDLE
Administrative Assistant Mable Wimberly	FDLE

Services Provided by FDLE

Services provided by FDLE are continuous throughout the year. FDLE's dedication begins with the special agents and staff assigned to ensure that the highest quality is achieved. Services provided are as follows:

1. Assist in the prevention of future drug crimes and acts of violence by providing D.A.R.E. training to federal, stated and local law enforcement agencies in Florida as well as other states and countries.
2. Develops guidelines for the Florida D.A.R.E. Program.
3. Serves as a liaison with the national D.A.R.E. policy making board.
4. Oversight of the Florida D.A.R.E. Training Center Accreditation.

5. Conducts statewide audits of local D.A.R.E. programs to ensure compliance of standards.
6. Conduct background investigations on potential D.A.R.E. officer candidates.
7. Maintain training records on all D.A.R.E. officers in Florida.
8. Provide D.A.R.E. trainers to other state training centers within the southeast region.
9. Substitute for local D.A.R.E. officers who may be absent from the classroom.
10. Assist local law enforcement agencies in identifying supplemental funding resources to enhance their D.A.R.E. program.
11. Serve as support for the annual Florida D.A.R.E. Day.
12. Provide an annual report of D.A.R.E. related activities throughout Florida.
13. Provide workshops and presentations to civic, business, and other community based organizations, concerning drug and violence prevention.
14. Coordinate the statewide evaluation of the Florida D.A.R.E. Program.

Florida D.A.R.E. Fiscal Year 2005-06 Update

During fiscal year 2005-06, 81 new officers were trained and 7 officers were re-certified in the D.A.R.E. Officer Training Program. There were 4 D.A.R.E. officer training classes conducted by the Florida D.A.R.E. Training Center this year. There are 167 law enforcement agencies across the state that teach the D.A.R.E. Program that includes 4 state agencies, 48 sheriffs' offices, 113 police departments, and 2 tribal law enforcement agencies.

There are currently 594 active D.A.R.E. officers in the state of Florida. These officers taught the D.A.R.E. elementary curriculum to 242,852 students in grades kindergarten through fourth and 190,672 fifth and sixth grade students. Additionally, the D.A.R.E. middle school curriculum was taught in 26 schools reaching 6,810 middle school students. D.A.R.E. is now being taught in 89% of the school districts in the state of Florida, representing 60 out of the 67 school districts and 938 public and private schools.

National D.A.R.E. News

A new D.A.R.E. research-driven curriculum known as "TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR LIFE" is now in the fifth and final year of evaluation by leading prevention experts at the University of Akron. With funding from the world's largest health care philanthropy, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, over 19,000 students in six cities have been monitored from the 7th through 11th grades with regular surveys on attitudes and behaviors.

Preliminary study findings show that instructor type matters to teens. Police instructors were perceived as more credible than non-police instructors. In addition to examining the impact of the new curricula for D.A.R.E., the study also was interested in the degree to which the D.A.R.E. officers delivered the curricula as designed. D.A.R.E. officers' delivery of program content ranked in the very high end of the range as compared to other studies, which suggests that D.A.R.E. officers are equal to, and in some cases, better than other types of instructors in delivering substance abuse prevention programs as designed. According to Dr. Sloboda, the principal investigator of the study, **"The D.A.R.E. network has the ability to rapidly diffuse through national training new and effective prevention programs and to monitor the quality of delivery. Simply put, there is no comparable national prevention delivery network like D.A.R.E. in the US."**

The five-year study, (formally known as the Adolescent Substance Abuse Prevention Study) is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and is one of the nation's largest and most comprehensive prevention research effort to date. It is currently underway in six U.S. cities—Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Newark (NJ), New Orleans, and St. Louis. It involves over 19,000 students from 83 high schools and their 122 middle schools. These high schools and middle schools were randomly assigned to receive the program or to a control group for comparison purposes.