

**FY 2006-2007**  
**Drug Abuse Resistance Education**  
**Annual Report**



**Florida DARE Training Center**

**Florida Department of Law Enforcement**  
***Gerald M. Bailey, Commissioner***

***January 2008***

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## **Drug Abuse Resistance Education**

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) has been actively involved with Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program (DARE) since 1988. DARE is a statewide diversion and prevention program for drug abuse for juveniles administered throughout Florida's schools.

The primary role and responsibility of FDLE in the DARE Program is to serve as the state administrator. This administration includes, but is not limited to, the preparation and oversight of the budget, training and certification of officers, and preparation of this annual report. Additionally, FDLE is responsible for ensuring compliance with national standards, delivering technical assistance, and providing statewide program management.

DARE 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 our children, gang and violence prevention strategies were included in that curriculum.

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

In August of 2004, the DARE Program was re-designed in the *New DARE* model of technology and science. Additionally, the *New DARE* elementary program has been reduced from a 17-week curriculum into a 10-week curriculum with follow-up courses taught at the middle and high school level.

The *New DARE* Program listens to concerns from community leaders and observes trends throughout the country to create cutting edge curriculum addressing the issues faced by our children. In 2006, two supplemental lessons were introduced concerning "Bullying and Gang and Group Violence" in response to these concerns. A third supplemental lesson concerning the growing methamphetamine epidemic is being developed and will be available in the near future.

The *New DARE* curriculum incorporates innovative prevention science and research-based strategies designed to improve students' skills and outcomes, including:

- 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; and
- Meets national Health Education Standards.

*New DARE* officers are trained to support and guide children on how to use researched-based refusal strategies in high-stakes, peer-pressure environments. *New DARE* students see tangible proof of how substance abuse diminishes mental activity, emotions, coordination, and movement.

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

## **2007 FDOA Board of Directors**

President, Deputy Larry Stripling  
Martin County Sheriff's Office

Vice President, Deputy Sal Anicito  
St Lucie County Sheriff's Office

Secretary, Officer Chris Taylor  
Winter Springs Police Department

Treasurer, Detective Dennis Bowers  
Sarasota Police Department

Sergeant at Arms, Cpl. Rob Hogan  
Lee County Sheriff's Office

## **Mentor/Training Staff**

SAS Jeff Fortier	Statewide DARE Coordinator Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Special Agent Dale Crosby	Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Special Agent Kevin A. Sapp	Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Special Agent Joel Norred	Florida Department of Law Enforcement- Retired
Sergeant Monica Sauls	Highlands County Sheriff's Office
Officer Michael Wordly	Miami-Dade Police Department
Deputy Margaret Derenge	Union County Sheriff's Office, North Carolina
Deputy Michelle Wells	Lee County Sheriff's Office, Mississippi
Deputy Carol Schley	Macon County Sheriff's Office, North Carolina
Deputy Arlene Sharpe	Richland County Sheriff's Office, South Carolina
Officer Jackee Nester	Hollywood Police Department - Retired
Deputy Joe McCollum	Orange County Sheriff's Office
Deputy Alex Roman	Orange County Sheriff's Office

## **Staff**

Dr. Susan Bridges-Tompkins	Statewide DARE Educator
Sandy James	Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Adm. Asst. Mable Wimberly	Florida Department of Law Enforcement

## **Services Provided by FDLE**

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

- Assist in the prevention of future drug crimes and acts of violence by providing DARE training to federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in Florida as well as other states and counties;
- Develop guidelines for the Florida DARE Program;
- Serve as a liaison with the national DARE policy making board;
- Provide oversight of the Florida DARE Training Center accreditation;
- Conduct statewide audits of local DARE programs to ensure compliance of standards;
- Conduct background investigations on potential DARE officer candidates;
- Maintain training records on all DARE officers in Florida;
- Provide DARE trainers to other state training centers within the southeast region;
- Substitute for local DARE officers who may be absent from the classroom;
- Assist local law enforcement agencies in identifying supplemental and/or alternative funding resources to enhance their DARE Program;
- Serve as support for the annual Florida DARE Day;
- Provide an annual report of DARE related activities throughout Florida;
- Provide workshops and presentations to civic, business, and other community based organizations, concerning drug and violence prevention; and
- Coordinate the statewide evaluation of the DARE Program in Florida.

## **FY 2006-07 Update**

The Florida DARE Program added new programs and/or re-established programs throughout the state during this calendar year. During FY 2006-07, 77 new officers were trained, two officers were re-certified in the DARE Officer Training Program and two officers were trained to become training mentors. There were **four** DARE officer training classes conducted by the Florida DARE Training Center this year.

There are currently 347 active DARE officers in the state of Florida teaching the new curriculum. These officers taught the DARE elementary curriculum in 4,123 classes to 101,432 fifth and sixth grade students and 132,067 students in grades Kindergarten through Fourth. Additionally, the DARE middle school curriculum was taught in 426 middle school classes reaching 9,353 middle school students. The DARE senior high school curriculum was not reported as being taught this school year. In FY 2005-06, the DARE curriculum was presented to 440,334 students. In FY 2006-07, the curriculum was presented to 245,051 students, a 44% decrease in the number of students attending DARE classes. This decrease can be attributed to a reduction in the number of active DARE officers from 594 in FY 2005-06 to 394.

The DARE Program is now being taught in 92% of the school districts in the state of Florida, representing 62 out of the 67 school districts and 950 public and private schools.

There are 164 law enforcement agencies across the State that teach the DARE program including four state agencies, 47 sheriffs' offices, 111 police departments and two Indian law enforcement agencies.

## **FY 2006-07 Expenditures**

The Florida DARE Training Center budget is allocated four full-time positions: one special agent supervisor assigned as the Statewide Coordinator, two special agent positions assigned as Regional Coordinators and mentors (instructors) and one Administrative Assistant.

	<b>Expenditures</b>
Salaries & Benefits	\$328,764
Other Personal Services	\$ 12,200
Expenses	\$ 69,025
Contracted Services	\$ 335
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$410,324</b>



## **DARE Training Center**

The Florida DARE Training Center hosted four DARE officer trainings in FY 2006-07 and assisted the Florida DARE Officers' Association with their annual state training conference in St. Pete Beach. One of the DARE officer trainings was presented in Ocala to assist the Marion County Sheriff's Office in training the entire School Resource Unit in becoming DARE officers.

Along with assisting agencies with DARE units, FDLE DARE Regional Coordinators assisted DARE America in developing the national curriculum to combat over-the-counter and prescription drug abuse. With over-the-counter and prescription drug abuse on the rise, DARE America saw the importance of developing a curriculum to assist agencies and communities in combating this new problem. The Florida DARE Training Center also participated in developing the new DARE Community Resource Program which replaced the old DARE Parent Program. The new Community Resource Program targets the community by teaching them how to identify current drug trends, internet child safety, bullying, and gangs. These lessons can be taught as a series of lessons or as a stand alone lesson. This allows the DARE officer flexibility to provide specific training to a variety of community partners. Many of these lessons were piloted throughout Florida by local DARE officers.

## **Officer Training Evaluations**

Below are comments provided by law enforcement officers who completed the 80-hour DARE officer training course in Altamonte Springs, Florida during the 2007 training calendar.

- Probably some of the best training I've had. Instructors were laid back and make learning new material fun. Instructors were great.
- Overall, this course was superb. It was a lot more work than I anticipated but by the end of the first week, it all started to come together.
- DOT was a well organized effort. I not only learned a lot about the DARE Program, but I also learned a lot about myself. I met many great people and developed new friendships.
- This course has been the best training that I have ever received as a law enforcement officer. This class will change my career and my life. All instructors were excellent! Thank you for my experience
- This course was phenomenal. It was very well prepared and presented. The instructors were outstanding. Nice Job!
- The class was a little tense but needed due to the modeling of children. Very good class. Keep up the good work!!

## **DARE News**

### Student to represent state on DARE Board

**Trey Christy**

News-Sun 10/23/2007

SEBRING - A trip to the nation's capital is in store this weekend for Sebring High School junior Ricki Albritton, who was chosen to represent all of Florida on the DARE Youth Advisory Board.

DARE stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education, and Albritton was seen as a perfect candidate by Highlands County Sheriff's Office School Resources and Crime Prevention Sergeant Monica Sauls.

"Sergeant Sauls came to me and said 'I know your outgoing personality, you would be great for this'," Albritton said. "I love talking to people and meeting new people."

The weekend DARE Youth Advisory Board Conference, from Friday through Sunday, will cover a range of subjects - including a lesson on club drugs and over-the-counter and prescription drugs to test the lessons impact on the brightest students the nation has to offer.

"The youth advisory board has been in existence since 2000 and they got the advisory board together ... to find out cultural trends of the students in the different areas, from technological trends to drug trends," Sauls said. "They ask what DARE can do to reach students, making it more effective in the classroom. They use (the board) to test some of the material, asking them 'is this relevant to you and can it be used in your daily life?'"

The DARE web site says there has been an alarming increase in the abuse of prescription drugs and over-the-counter medicines, so the newest lesson comes at a very important time.

The drug-awareness focus is integrated into the program, but the weekend will also include longer sessions on public speaking and "Marketing Yourself," two sessions Albritton can't wait to immerse herself in.

"I went to church camp this summer and we learned a lot about personal stuff. I was listening to public speakers and I want to be a public speaker myself," she said. "I don't know what I want to public speak in, but I love being on the stage. I used to clog and loved going to nationals and qualifying for the Junior Olympics."

For two years, she will be asked to do public speaking for DARE association programs and events across Florida and meet with the board a couple of times a year and participate in special projects, Sauls said of Albritton's duties in her new position.

Albritton said her duties as a DARE representative once she returns to Florida are

simple.

"To represent what DARE students or a drug-free kid would be - active in sports, being involved, I'm in SGA (student government association) as the historian this year and I play varsity volleyball," she said. "I don't know what the year holds for me as a state DARE representative, but I will represent it in school and life."

This is why Sauls originally submitted Albritton's application.

"What they are looking for are young men and women who are actively involved in their school and community as well as keeping their grades up, and she is well rounded physically, mentally and spiritually," Sauls said. "DARE wanted someone that was well rounded and she is definitely a jack of all trades, but she masters all of those trades too."

Albritton will continue to represent Florida on the DARE Youth Advisory Board until graduation.

## Fort Myers Police Department **Fort Myers police officer wins DARE award**

*The News-Press - June 2007*

A Fort Myers police officer won officer of the year in Florida's Drug Abuse Resistance Education program.

Officer Mark Hitchcock was selected for his qualifications and commitment to ensuring that children of Fort Myers are educated in the dangers of using illegal drugs, according to a report from Shelly Flynn, police spokeswoman.

Hitchcock made over 20 appearances with the police department's DARE vehicles and the DARE robot at community events this past year. He works in nine elementary schools and four middle schools teaching the 10-week program, reaching over 1,400 students. He also manages to teach several pre-kindergarten classes each year.

Since becoming a DARE officer in 2005, Hitchcock has been increasingly successful in organizing the annual DARE graduation, Flynn reports. The graduation recognizes children who have taken an active role in the program. Officer Hitchcock encourages family participation and enlists community role models to assist with the event.

Hitchcock's initiative exposed almost 4,000 people to the importance of the worthwhile DARE Program in the Lee County School District. And home-school students aren't left out either. The officer is coordinating parent classes that will be offered throughout the summer.

## Youth Drug Use at a Five-Year-Low

*National Survey on Drug Use and Health - September 2007*

"25 Percent Drop in Marijuana Use by Teen Boys "

**WASHINGTON** -- Overall illicit drug use among teens ages 12-17 is at a five year low, according to the largest and most comprehensive study of drug use in the United States, released today. But when it comes to youth, non-medical use of painkillers continues to be an area of concern, with more recent initiates (2.2 million) than any illicit drug, reveals the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH).

**Since 2002, current illicit drug use among 12- to 17-year-olds is down from 11.6 percent (2002) to 9.8 percent (2006), marking a cumulative decrease of 16 percent. In that same time period, current marijuana use also decreased 18 percent (from 8.2 percent in 2002 to 6.7 percent in 2006).**

The decline in marijuana use was particularly pronounced in male youths, from 9.1 percent in 2002 to 6.8 percent in 2006, or a decrease of 25 percent.

Abuse of prescription drugs among youth, however, continues to be an area of concern. Non-medical use of painkillers was the illicit drug use category with the largest number of recent initiates among persons aged 12 or older (2.2 million). According to the study, seven million persons aged 12 or older used prescription-type psychotherapeutic drugs non-medically in the past month.

"Teens are getting the message about the harms of marijuana and are changing their behavior -- for the better," said John P. Walters, Director of National Drug Control Policy. "However, youth abuse of prescription drugs remains a troubling concern.

With prescription drug abuse, we're confronting a different kind of drug threat-one that lurks not in dark alleys, but in medicine cabinets within our homes. Parents have been vital to reducing teen use of street drugs, and now they must engage to prevent the abuse of prescription drugs."

## **DARE Program improves public image of police**

Accepted for publication in *Health Education Research*

Augustine Hammond, Ph.D.

Department of Political Science, Augusta State University,

Augusta, GA

### **Research Summary:**

The study has provided findings with important implications for prevention programming, and agencies concerned with improving the public image of the police and police functions.

Given the possibility that program outcomes are related to attitudes toward program instructors, the more positive evaluation of police instructors by students in this study suggests that DARE Programs delivered by police officers are more likely to have a positive impact.

Consequently, we suggest that police officers may be appropriate deliverers of prevention programs for the majority of adolescents. The use of police officers as instructors of prevention programs has the potential of not only helping improve the effectiveness of prevention programs but would also help create and sustain a more positive image of the police or at least abate the negative image held by adolescents.

The positive image of the police developed among students may create a situation where the students could relate cordially to the police, report crime voluntarily and cooperate in curbing crime in schools. With schools being a microcosm of the wider community, it is expected that the cordial relationship developed between the police and students in schools would be transferred to the community. This might engender more positive community engagement and meaningful police-community partnerships toward effective and efficient policing.

This is particularly important considering that community policing has become a dominant approach to policing in the United States of America in recent years.

## National News

### National DARE Day Proclamation



**THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary**

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#### **National DARE Day 2007**

Every year the President of the United States declares a National DARE Day.

*A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America:*

Each year, Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) teaches millions of children across our country how to resist drugs and violence. On National DARE Day, we honor the individuals who help our Nation's young people avoid the dangers of substance abuse and become productive citizens.

For more than two decades, DARE Programs have taught America's youth about the devastating effects of drug use and encouraged them to lead drug-free and violence-free lives of purpose. By opening the lines of communication between law enforcement, educators, and students, all those involved in DARE help save lives and stop drug use before it starts.

My Administration is dedicated to fighting drug use throughout our country. The National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign is working with the Partnership for a Drug-Free America to teach our youth about resisting the pressure to use drugs. Additionally, the Helping America's Youth initiative, led by First Lady Laura Bush, encourages community partnerships that bring together families, faith-based and community organizations, and schools to help make a positive impact on the lives of young people. Through the Strategic Prevention Framework and the Drug Free Communities Program, we are also helping communities to develop effective local strategies to prevent substance abuse. By working together, we can reduce illicit drug use and help every child realize the promise of our country.

Youth development programs like DARE encourage our Nation's children to make healthy choices that lead to a better future. This year's National DARE day is an opportunity to renew our commitment to building strong, drug-free communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 12, 2007, as National DARE Day.

I urge all young people to make good decisions and call upon all Americans to recognize our collective responsibility to combat every form of drug abuse and to support all those who work to help our children avoid drug use and violence.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

GEORGE W. BUSH