Name

Institution

Course

Date

Question and Answer

**Responses based on pages 2, 3, and 4 of the report**

1. What is a school resource officer, and what are the typical activities they engage in?

A resource officer is a “career law enforcement officer, with sworn authority, deployed in community-oriented policing, and assigned by the employing police department or agency to work in collaboration with school and community-based organizations” (2).

Resource officers engage in activities such as guiding and counseling learners.

1. What is it about the nature of roles of a school resource officer that might confuse a student and/or put the student at risk when engaging with an SRO?

The nature of SRO's roles requires that they serve as trusted mentors and police officers at the same time, an aspect that can confuse learners or put that at risk of exposing themselves to the possibility of being arrested or sharing information that can be used against them. Students may get mixed up on whether to share some information with SRO to get the right counsel or not out of fear that they may be exposing themselves or their friends to possible police action (3).

1. In your K-12 (elementary, middle school, and high school) academic experience, did you have school resource officers in your schools? What are some of the positive and negative experiences you remember of the school resource officers? If you didn't study in schools with SROs, then Google and provide a response including some of the positive and negative experiences of students who encounter school resource officers or ask a friend, not in this class for their feedback.

In my K12, I had an experience of SROs in my school, in which I learned about the positive and negative impact they have on learners. One positive experience about the SROs is the general feeling the schools are safe because of their presence. I knew in case of any insecurity; they would step in to save the situation. I also saw they help learners who had issues such as stress and at risk of falling into drug abuse overcome their challenges. The negative experience is had with the SROs was seeing them report students over what I can term as petty offenses. I felt that sometimes they needed to understand that students are not grownups and that they can be sometimes driven by adolescence to make mistakes here and there that can be best remedied through counseling and guidance.

Responses based on page 5 of the report

1. What led to the wide-scale adoption of SROs in school systems across the U.S.?

Fears about school violence resulted in the implementation of "zero-tolerance policies" that saw rapid adoption of SROs in schools across the country.

**Responses based on page 8 [School House Hype] of the report**

1. According to reports and studies, explain just how likely a student is to suffer from serious crime and violence in schools.

From the reports, students are less more likely to suffer from violent crimes in school.

1. What did a report suggest about the impacts on school safety from increasing SROs in school systems and increasing suspensions?

The report suggests that increasing SROs in school systems and increasing suspensions is not likely to keep communities safe.

1. What did research by Aaron Kupchick and Nicole Bracy suggest about the impacts of media on public perceptions of school safety and serious crime prevalence in schools?

The research by Kupchick and Bracy suggests that media is responsible for stroking parental fear of violence at schools, which in turn results in legitimizing the draconian zero-tolerance responses to learners' behavior.

**Responses based on pages 11 and 12 of the report**

1. According to the report, by what other means can school systems provide safe learning environments without investing in SROs?

The alternative means to make schools safer without relying on the services of the SROs include improving the relationship between the learners and teaching staff, learners and parents, and parents and teaching staff. Also, learning institution can implement fair rules and regulations and having adults who are not SROs in the school environment to play the role of supporting, caring and helping where need arise.

1. The report suggests that there might be a trend for some school systems to cut the size of SROs because of school budget limitations. In your opinion, should schools maintain the size of SROs just because they provide some teachers and students with an increased sense of safety?

I think the schools should just maintain SROs because of their contribution to the safety of the learners and teachers. Instead, they should look for alternative ways of enhancing security within the learning environment without relying on the presence of the SROs in schools. Schools with straining budgets should reduce the number of SROs because they can find alternative means to improve security. Also, the SROs do not guarantee the school environment total safety.

**Responses based on pages 13 and 14 of the report**

1. From page 13, briefly summarize the findings about what the presence of SROs in schools leads to and how schools are relying on SROs.

The presence of SROs in schools is linked to the surge in the number of referrals to the justice system. The referrals are largely about minor offenses. In essence, the crowding of juvenile systems is linked to the use of SROs in schools.

1. Explain what you understand from the infograph on page 14. Please explain properly.

The infograph shows that schools with a high number of SROs is about three times more likely to report arrests than schools with a low number of SROs. The study indicates that a school with a high number of SROs is about four times more likely to report the arrest of students over a minor offense of disorderly conduct than those with a low number of SROs. The inforgraph further reveals that the rates of arrests because of alcohol/public intoxication charge rate, assault charges, and drug-related charges are very low in schools with a high number SROs and those with a low number of SROs. However, in the former, the rates are slightly high in all categories than the latter. The rates of cases of learners charges because of being found with weapons in school is very low across the board, but it is the only category of charges that see schools with a low number of SROs report higher rates than those with a low number of SROs.

**Responses based on pages 17, 18, and 19 of report**

1. According to the report, how do SROs disrupt student learning and contribute to the schools-to-prisons pipeline?

According to the report, SROs send youth into the justice system through arrests and referrals. Secondly, in many districts, arrest or referral of s student to the justice system implies suspension and expulsion from school, impacting their education. SROs also affect students' access to learning opportunities, which can trigger violent behavior that may send them to prisons.

1. From the information you have gained from this report so far, how have your original positions on SROs in schools changed or deepened? Any additional thoughts?

The information I have gained from this report has changed my position on the presence of SROs in schools across the U.S. I think the SROs presence in schools has positive and negative effects on the student educations, security of the learners, and the general security of the school environment. In as much as there are some values of having SROs in schools, the negative effects of their presence is higher.

My thoughts are that the report is valuable and can be used to trigger a debate on the need to review the use of SROs in our schools. Security is needed in schools, but it should not be all about the hardware. Working on the software of the society and school community is the best way to improve security in schools and beyond.