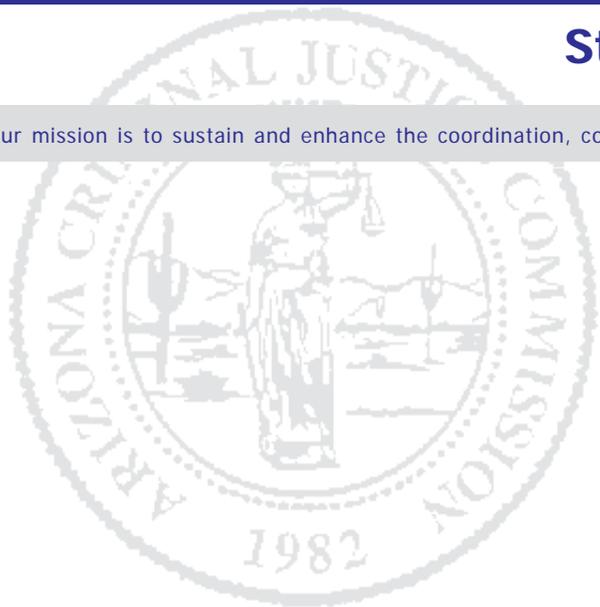


Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Statistical Analysis Center Publication

Our mission is to sustain and enhance the coordination, cohesiveness, productivity and effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System in Arizona



2006 Gangs in Arizona

2007

September

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the summer of 2006 the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission surveyed law enforcement and prosecutors on issues regarding gangs and gang activity in Arizona. This study, done to fulfill the requirements set out in Arizona Revised Statute (ARS) §41-2416, is intended to provide relevant and timely information about gangs, gang members and gang activity to criminal justice policymakers and practitioners.

Representatives of law enforcement and prosecutor agencies in Arizona were asked to complete a survey that contained questions aimed at assessing a jurisdiction's gang problem and the severity of that problem during calendar year 2005. Specific information regarding the types of criminal activity associated with gangs was reported by responding agencies, which allowed for a general description of gang activity in Arizona in areas such as drug use, sales, and trafficking, firearms use, and assaults. Responding agencies also provided estimates of the number of gang members in their jurisdiction, as well as demographic information on gang members.

Also included in this report is data from the Arizona Youth Survey, which was conducted in the spring of 2006 and provides information on gang membership among 8th, 10th, and 12th grade youth. Students self-reported gang membership, friendships with gang members, and age of initiation in gangs. These data also allowed for the comparison of self-reported gang members to non-gang members to better understand the relationship between gang involvement and delinquency and drug use.

FINDINGS

Many law enforcement agencies in Arizona (42.7 percent) reported that gangs were active in their jurisdiction. Of those agencies, approximately 70 percent reported that the gang problem was very serious or somewhat serious, and 43 percent reported that the gang problem got worse between 2004 and 2005. Very few agencies reported that their gang problem lessened from 2004 to 2005. Increased levels of gang membership between 2004 and 2006 are also shown in student responses to the Arizona Youth Survey.

Drug offenses and assaults were the two most frequently reported criminal activities involving gang members, followed by graffiti, theft, burglary and criminal damage. One-third of agencies with a gang problem reported that gangs in their jurisdictions were involved in human smuggling. Methamphetamine was the most frequently reported drug to be used, sold or trafficked by gang members, followed by marijuana and cocaine/crack.

Neighborhood-based street gangs were reported by more than 70 percent of law enforcement agencies with gang problems to have a significant affect on their gang

problem. Additionally, more than half of the respondents reported that gang members returning from prison and migrating from California affected their gang problem

The percentage of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders who self-reported current gang membership increased from 3.0 in 2004 to 3.6 in 2006. Extrapolating the percentage of self-reported gang members in the sample to the entire population of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders in Arizona yields an estimate of approximately 8,300 youth gang members in those grades. It is worth noting that this estimate does not include youth in other grades and youth who are not attending school. Importantly, approximately 90 percent of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders in our sample reported no gang involvement and no interest in future gang involvement.

Students reporting gang membership also reported a higher level of drug use and violence than non-involved youth. More than 50 percent of youth gang members had attacked someone with the intent to harm them in the past year. Almost 40 percent had sold drugs in the same time period. Nearly two-thirds had used marijuana in their lifetime, more than 25 percent had used cocaine, and 18 percent had used methamphetamine—percentages that are considerably higher than students who did not belong to a gang.

Participation among agencies in the statewide gang task force Gang and Immigration Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission (GIITEM) provides agencies with intelligence and support not otherwise available, as does the use of the statewide gang database GangNET. Thirty-three agencies reported participation in GIITEM in the summer of 2006. Twenty-three agencies reported that they used GangNET. For those agencies not participating in GIITEM or GangNET, lack of personnel was the most frequently cited barrier to participation.

INTRODUCTION

During the summer of 2006, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) surveyed law enforcement officers and county prosecutors regarding their experiences and perceptions of gangs, gang members, and gang activity in Arizona. Earlier in 2006, ACJC conducted a survey of 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students in Arizona, which included questions on gangs and gang membership. This report pulls together data from these two research efforts to provide policy makers, criminal justice personnel, and the public with information on gangs and gang activity in Arizona. This study also fulfills the requirements set out in Arizona Revised Statute (ARS) §41-2416, which requires that ACJC conduct an annual survey that measures the prevalence of gang activity in Arizona, when monies are specifically appropriated for that purpose. Although no funds were appropriated to ACJC for a gang survey, the issue of gangs, gang members, and gang activity in Arizona is of sufficient concern for ACJC to dedicate a portion of existing funds to collect useful data and information on gangs and their activities and share that information with Arizona's criminal justice community.

RESEARCH METHODS

Since 1990, ACJC has periodically administered a gang survey to state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies in Arizona. These surveys have been an instrumental part of previous gang reports and revised versions are used to present the current perspectives of law enforcement and prosecution on gangs in Arizona.

In August 2006, surveys were distributed to 128 criminal justice agencies throughout Arizona. The surveys were designed to capture information on gangs, gang members, and gang activity from law enforcement officers and county prosecutors. In order to institutionalize the annual reporting of gang and gang activity in Arizona in a meaningful way, at the same time recognizing the methodological weaknesses of asking respondents to reflect on activities several months prior to completing a survey, respondents were asked to provide information on gangs, gang members, and gang activity during calendar year 2005. Surveys were faxed to 15 county sheriffs, 80 municipal law enforcement agencies, 15 county prosecutors and 18 tribal police agencies. Of the 128 surveys distributed, 97 (75.8 percent) of the surveys were returned. A total of 86.7 percent of prosecutors' offices responded and 74.3 percent of law enforcement agencies responded.

Earlier in the spring of 2006, ACJC administered a school-based survey to more than 60,000 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students from 362 schools statewide. The *2006 Arizona Youth Survey* included questions that measure risk and protective factors, drug use, and anti-social behavior including gang involvement. Results from this survey are included in this report to provide policymakers, criminal justice personnel, and the

public with a unique perspective on youth gang members and gang activity—that of the youth who self-report gang membership.

Before reporting on the results of the data collected on gangs, gang members, and their activities, current Arizona legislation on gangs and gang members is reviewed.

ARIZONA LEGISLATION

In 1994 the Arizona State Legislature implemented several gang-related definitions and sentencing provisions designed to enhance gang reduction and prevention strategies. ARS §13-105.8 includes seven gang member identification criteria developed by the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS). These criteria are used by the majority of police departments in Arizona to determine gang membership. The Gang Member Identification Criteria (GMIC) is a statewide standard designed to assist criminal justice agencies with objectively identifying gang membership. To be identified as a gang member in Arizona, an individual must meet at least two of the GMIC which are:

- (1) Self proclamation of gang membership;
- (2) Witness testimony or official statement;
- (3) Written or electronic correspondence referencing gang membership;
- (4) Gang paraphernalia or photographs;
- (5) Gang tattoos;
- (6) Display of gang clothing or colors; and
- (7) Any other indicia of street gang membership.

Each of these criteria is described in full in Table 1.

Table 1: Gang Member Identification Criteria

Self-Proclamation	The self-admission of gang membership or association with a street gang. Self-proclamation can be documented in all records of contact using suspect, victim and/or witness accounts by criminal justice agencies.
Witness Testimony or Official Statement	May include court testimony, depositions, or interviews with suspects, victims, witnesses or confidential informants.
Written or Electronic Correspondence	Includes information making reference to any gang activity, incidents, names or nicknames. These references may be found in letters, notes, tapes or documents, and can be noted in records of contact, intelligence information and incidents of criminal investigation by law enforcement agencies.
Paraphernalia or Photographs	Include photographs or drawings depicting gang membership, association, or involvement. Also included are rings, calling cards, weapons, or other symbols referring to the gang, whether in or out of the control or possession of the gang member. These objects aid in the identification of individuals and groups by showing locations, documents or propaganda relating to the gang.
Tattoos	Used in identifying a specific gang moniker or symbol, regardless of gang type. The tattoos may be covered up, burned out or old tattoos.
Clothing and Colors	Includes the type, color or manner in which clothing is worn. Other signs include rags, patches, belt buckles, bandannas, hats, vests, specific colors, accessories and/or jewelry. The type of gang may be a street, prison, motorcycle or other gang.
Any Other Indicia of Street Gang Membership	This indicator of street gang membership provides for the recognition of new or innovative ways the ever-changing gang culture may devise for self-recognition or recognition by others.

DEFINITION OF A GANG

In general terms, a gang is a loosely organized group of at least three people that perceive themselves as a gang, associate regularly, and collaborate in committing delinquent and/or criminal offenses. The group usually has a name and may have a leader or leaders. The group may also have identifying signs such as distinctive symbols, clothing, jewelry, tattoos, colors or hand signs. While gangs vary in degree of organization, the presence or strength of leaders, identifying signs, and the nature of illegal activities, the essential elements for classification as a gang are the gang's perception of itself as a gang and collaboration in violating the law.

Arizona Revised Statute §13-105 defines a criminal street gang as "...an ongoing formal or informal association of persons whose members or associates individually or collectively engage in the commission, attempted commission, facilitation or solicitation of any felony act and who has at least one individual who is a criminal street gang member." As previously stated, ARS §13-105.8 defines a criminal street gang member as an individual that meets at least two of the Gang Member Identification Criteria.

GANG SENTENCING

The legislation described above also amended ARS §13-604(T) and §13-2308 to increase the presumptive minimum and maximum sentence for convicted street gang members by three years. This increased sentence is in addition to any other enhanced sentencing that may be applicable. Additionally, ARS §13-604(T) mandates that "a person convicted of any felony offense with the intent to promote, further, or assist any criminal conduct by a criminal street gang shall not be eligible for suspension of sentence, probation, pardon, or release from confinement on any basis except as authorized by ARS §31-233 (a) or (b) until the sentence imposed by the court has been served, the person is eligible for release pursuant to ARS §41-1604(7) or the sentence is commuted."

Arizona Revised Statute 13-2308 (F, G and H) outlines the sentencing provisions for identified gang members. Subsection (F) states that assisting a criminal syndicate is a class 4 felony. The statute continues that assisting a criminal syndicate, if committed for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with any criminal street gang for the intent to promote, further, or assist any criminal conduct by the gang, is a class 3 felony. Subsection (G) mandates that any person who violates subsection A, paragraph 1, 2, 3 or 4 of this section for the benefit of, at the discretion of, or in association with any criminal street gang, with the intent to promote, further, or assist any criminal conduct by the gang, is guilty of a class 2 felony. Subsection (H) states that the use of a common name, or common identifying sign or symbol shall be admissible and may be considered in proving the combination of persons or enterprises required by this section.

Arizona Revised Statute §13-1202A.3, which describes the crime of threatening or intimidating, states that "a person commits threatening or intimidating if such person threatens or intimidates by word or conduct: (3) to cause physical injury to another person or damage to the property of another in order to promote, further or assist in the interests of or to cause, induce or solicit another person to participate in a criminal street gang, a criminal syndicate or a racketeering enterprise." Subsection (B) states that threatening or intimidating pursuant to subsection (A), paragraph 3 is a class 4 felony.

ENFORCEMENT

Enforcing the laws related to gangs and gang-related activity is a multi-level effort in Arizona. Individual law enforcement agencies work to combat gang crime in their communities, the state-level Gang and Immigration Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission (GIITEM) works to coordinate local and statewide collaborative efforts, and federal law enforcement agencies also work to effectively combat gangs in Arizona. Recently, GIITEM received a significant increase in financial support for its mission, giving it a larger role in addressing Arizona's gang problem. Therefore, this section begins with a brief discussion of GIITEM and reports results from the law enforcement surveys that directly apply to its mission.

STATE GANG TASK FORCE

Under the direction of DPS, GIITEM assists criminal justice agencies statewide with criminal gang enforcement and investigative strategies. GIITEM brings together law enforcement agencies from municipal, county, state, federal, and tribal jurisdictions in a coordinated, intelligence-driven approach to deal with gangs.

In 2006, after several years of declining resources and downsizing of operations because of state revenue shortfalls, DPS received funding to revitalize GIITEM and added to its mission the combating of illegal immigration and human smuggling. The new GIITEM task force is charged with:

- (1) Deterring criminal gang activity through investigations, arrest and prosecution;
- (2) Dismantling gang-related criminal enterprises;
- (3) Deterring border-related crimes;
- (4) Disrupting human smuggling organizations;
- (5) Collecting, analyzing, and disseminating gang and illegal immigration intelligence; and
- (6) Providing anti-gang awareness training to communities and schools.

The Gang and Immigration Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission also maintains a statewide gang database, GangNET. GangNET contains information on thousands of gang members, associates, and affiliates in Arizona and provides participating agencies with access to photographs and information about the individual's physical features (e.g. height, weight, tattoos).

The state gang database provides a variety of benefits to its users. It provides enhanced safety to law enforcement officers by identifying potentially dangerous individuals. The database also allows agencies to obtain information about the organization of gangs and identifies key gang members and other individuals loosely

affiliated with gangs who are involved in criminal activity. In an effort to further coordinate and encourage statewide information sharing about gangs and gang members, GIITEM staff is adding new agency members to GangNET through a memorandum of understanding that outlines the process for sharing data and defines the roles and responsibilities of agencies utilizing GangNET.

GIITEM Participation

At the time the law enforcement survey was administered, 33 agencies who responded to ACJC’s survey reported participation with GIITEM. Respondents who indicated that they did not participate in GIITEM were asked to identify the factors preventing participation (Table 2). Lack of personnel was the most commonly cited factor, followed by lack of funding. The downsizing of GITEM prior to 2006 also was reported to be a barrier to participation.

Table 2: Factors Preventing Participation in GIITEM	
Factor	Number
Lack of Funding	7
Lack of Necessary Equipment	1
Lack of Necessary Technology	0
Lack of Personnel	26
Lack of Training	3
Other Factors Preventing Participation	
“GIITEM not active in area”	
“GIITEM was disbanded”	
“Lack of support from administration”	
“No gang problem (yet)”	
“No local GIITEM unit”	
“Not a serious need in Yavapai county”	
“Requested personnel to assign - but was not approved”	
“Sovereignty”	
“Used to participate but GIITEM was downsized”	
“Waiting on GangNet”	

Task Force Participation Other Than GIITEM

Seven agencies reported participation in both GIITEM and gang task forces other than GIITEM. A total of 23 agencies reported participation in task forces other than GIITEM. Respondents who indicated that they did not participate in task forces other than GIITEM were asked to identify the factors preventing participation. Similar to barriers to GIITEM participation, lack of personnel was the most commonly cited factor (Table 3).

Respondents were also asked to cite any other factors preventing participation that were not already listed.

Table 3: Factors Preventing Participation in Task Forces <i>Other Than</i> GIITEM	
Factor	Number
Lack of Funding	7
Lack of Necessary Equipment	0
Lack of Necessary Technology	0
Lack of Personnel	21
Lack of Training	3
Other Factors Preventing Participation	
"Gang problem at a minimum."	
"Get more by working within Narcotics."	
"Sovereignty"	

Factors Preventing Participation in Any Gang Task Force

Seventeen agencies that acknowledged the presence of gangs or gang activity in their jurisdictions reported not participating in gang task forces of any kind. These agencies reported that lack of personnel and lack of funding were the primary factors preventing participation in gang task forces.

GangNET

GangNET was developed by a private company for use in California as a comprehensive gang database. It was then marketed across the nation and is now in use in several states, including Arizona. Primary benefits of GangNET include the ability to keep photographic detail of identifying features of alleged gang members, aliases, and detailed information on gang membership in a central location that can be accessed and updated by officers in the field. This allows for participating agencies to share gang information and gang intelligence easily across jurisdictional boundaries. Twenty-four agencies in Arizona reported using GangNET in 2005 (Table 4).

Table 4: Number of Agencies by County Participating in Task Forces and Gang Information Sharing Strategies					
	Participate in GIITEM	Participate in Other Taskforce(s)	Use GangNET	Receive Gang Information from Other Agencies	Disseminate Gang Information to Other Agencies
Apache	1	2	1	1	1
Cochise	1	1	1	1	1
Coconino	2	0	1	1	1
Gila	0	0	1	1	0
Graham	0	0	0	0	0
Greenlee	1	0	0	0	0
La Paz	0	0	0	0	0
Maricopa	4	6	11	11	11
Mohave	2	3	0	0	0
Navajo	0	2	2	2	0
Pima	0	2	1	1	1
Pinal	3	3	1	1	2
Santa Cruz	1	1	1	1	1
Yavapai	1	2	1	1	1
Yuma	0	1	3	3	2

LAW ENFORCEMENT GANG SURVEY RESULTS

The Gang Problem

Representatives of law enforcement agencies in Arizona were asked to complete a survey that contained questions about gangs and gang activity in their jurisdiction. Of the 113 law enforcement agencies in Arizona that were sent surveys, 82 responded (72.6 percent). Forty-seven of the 82 agencies that responded to the survey reported having active gangs (Table 5).

Table 5: During 2005, were there any gangs active in your agency's jurisdiction?

	Number	Percent
Yes	47	57.3%
No	35	42.7%

Table 6: How serious is the gang problem in your jurisdiction?

Very Serious	10.9%
Somewhat Serious	58.7%
Not Very Serious	23.9%
Not at all Serious	6.5%

Those that reported active gangs were also asked to indicate the level of seriousness of the gang problem in their jurisdiction. Nearly 70 percent reported that the gang problem in their jurisdiction was either very serious or somewhat serious (Table 6).

Half of the agencies reporting a gang problem in their jurisdiction responded that the problem was about the same in 2005 as it was in 2004 (Table 7). Another 43.2 percent reported that the problem was getting worse, while 6.8 percent said their gang problem was getting better.

Table 7: Compared to 2004, was the gang problem in 2005

Getting Worse	43.2%
Staying About the Same	50.0%
Getting Better	6.8%

Active Gang Member Profile

Law enforcement respondents who reported a gang problem in their jurisdiction were also asked to report demographic information on the gang members in their jurisdiction.

Agency representatives provided an estimate of the number of gangs and active gang members in their jurisdiction. Added together, the total number of gangs in Arizona was reported to be 631 with 14,949 active gang members. Table 8 reports the number of jurisdictions by the number of active gangs in their jurisdiction.

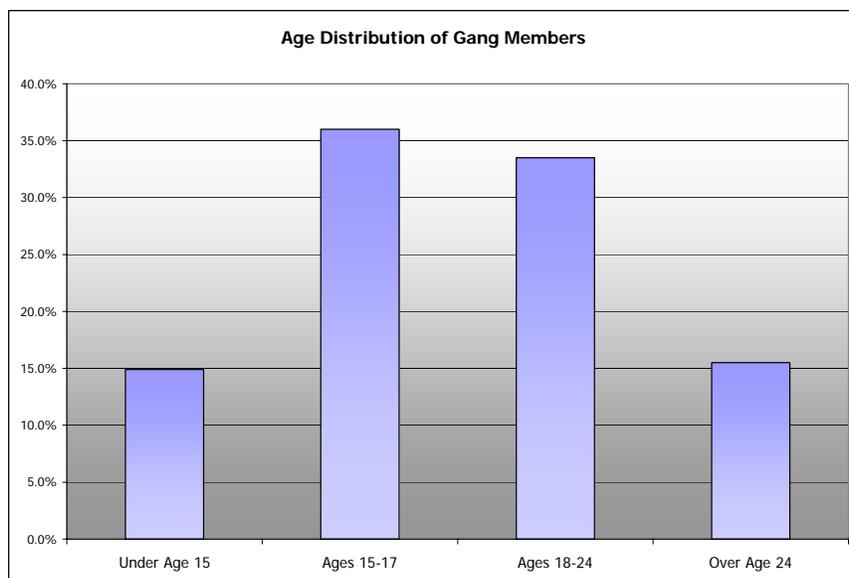
Table 8: Number of Gangs in Arizona Jurisdictions

Number of Gangs	1-2	3-5	6-10	11-20	21-30	31-70	71-80	81-255	256
Agencies Reporting	6	10	12	4	1	0	2	0	1

Arizona law enforcement respondents who reported a gang problem in their area were also asked to report the percentage of gang members in their jurisdiction by age range. Approximately half of the gang members in Arizona are estimated to be juveniles and half adults (Table 9 and Chart 1). This diverges slightly from recent findings from the National Youth Gang Survey that revealed that approximately 60 percent of gang members in the United States in 2004 were adults and approximately 40 percent were juveniles.¹ In Arizona, nearly 70 percent of gang members are reported to be between the ages of 15 and 24.

Age	Percent
Under Age 15	14.9%
Ages 15-17	36.0%
Ages 18-24	33.5%
Over Age 24	15.5%

Chart 1



In the 2006 Arizona Youth Survey, 3.6 percent of students indicated current gang membership (3.2% reported that they now belong to a gang and 0.4 percent reported that they belong to a gang but want out). An additional 6.6 percent of students indicated either past gang membership or a desire to join a gang. Extrapolating 3.6 percent of the sample to the entire population of 8th, 10th and 12th grade

students in Arizona yields an estimate of more than 8,000 active youth gang members in the 8th, 10th, or 12th grades alone. The Arizona Youth Survey data does not include youth who are not enrolled in school, 9th grade students, 11th grade students, or those in juvenile detention or juvenile corrections at the time the survey was administered. The number of youth self-reporting gang membership suggests that the number identified by law enforcement is an underestimate. This is likely a result of stricter criteria by which law enforcement identify gang members (i.e., the gang membership identification criteria described on page 3 of this report) than simply self report.

Law enforcement agencies were also asked to estimate the percentage of active gang members in 2005 that were female. The average percentage of female gang membership across all law enforcement agencies was 4.6 percent. Here again there are slight differences from data collected by the National Youth Gang Center. Their 2004

¹ <http://www.iir.com/nygc/nygsa/demographics.htm#anchorage>

survey of law enforcement agencies showed that among agencies reporting a gang problem, the average percentage of female gang members was slightly less than 10 percent.² However, other methods of research, including the Arizona Youth Survey, have yielded higher estimates of female gang membership. According to data from the 2006 Arizona Youth Survey, 35.9 percent of self-reported youth gang members are female.

Finally, respondents were asked to describe the racial and ethnic composition of gang members in their jurisdictions (Table 10). These data suggest that in most jurisdictions there is diversity in the racial and ethnic composition of gang members. Of the 47 agencies that responded to the survey and reported gang activity, 18 (38 percent) reported that three-fourths or more of their gang members were made up of a single race/ethnicity. Of the eighteen agencies that reported a single race/ethnicity making up at least 75 percent of their total gang membership, nine reported that their gang population was made up of predominately Hispanic/Latinos, eight reported that Native Americans made up the majority of their gang population, and one jurisdiction reported that their gang members predominately Caucasians. These data also suggest that a relatively small percentage of gang members in Arizona are of Asian descent.

	0%	0.1%- <5%	5.1%- 25%	25.1%- 50%	50.1%- 75%	75.1%- 100%
Caucasian/White	12	7	11	7	0	1
African-American/Black	19	7	9	2	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	5	0	3	8	13	9
Native American	15	7	5	3	0	8
Asian	34	2	1	0	0	0
Other	35	1	0	0	0	0

Gang Types and Local Gang Problems

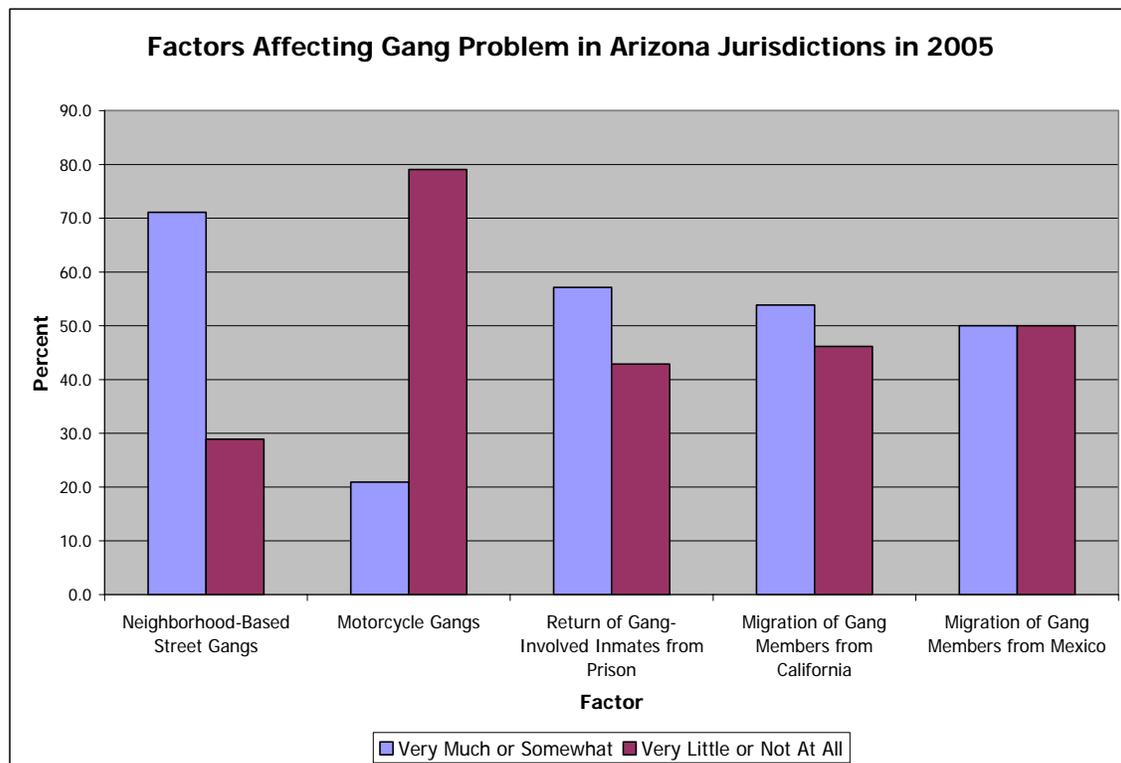
In jurisdictions that reported active gangs, respondents were asked the degree to which neighborhood-based street gangs, motorcycle gangs, gang members returning from prison, migration of gang members from California, and the migration of gang members from Mexico affected the gang problem in their jurisdiction (Table 11). More law enforcement agencies rated neighborhood-based street gangs as a factor that “very much” affects the gang problem in their jurisdiction than any of the other factors. Of those answering the question regarding how much neighborhood-based street gangs affect the gang problem in their jurisdiction, 35.6 percent responded very much, and 2.2 percent responded not at all. Of the factors asked about, motorcycle gangs were reported by the fewest agencies to have had a significant impact on their gang problem.

² <http://www.iir.com/nygc/nygsa/demographics.htm>

Table 11: Factors Affecting Gang Problem in Jurisdiction by Percentage of Law Enforcement Agencies				
	Very Much	Somewhat	Very Little	Not At All
Neighborhood-Based Street Gangs	35.6%	35.6%	26.7%	2.2%
Motorcycle Gangs	2.3%	18.6%	39.5%	39.5%
Return of Gang-Involved Inmates from Prison	9.5%	47.6%	28.6%	14.3%
Migration of Gang Members from California	15.4%	38.5%	33.3%	12.8%
Migration of Gang Members from Mexico	15.0%	35.0%	30.0%	20.0%

When “very much” and “somewhat” are considered as affirmative responses to the question of which types of gangs affect an agency’s gang problem, and “very little” and “not at all” are considered negative responses, neighborhood-based street gangs, gang-involved inmates returning from prison, and the migration of gang members from California were considered by the majority of agencies with a gang problem to be contributors to their problem (Chart 2). The same number of agencies reported a significant affect of gang members migrating from Mexico on their local gang problem as reported little or no affect of gang members migrating from Mexico on their gang problem. Motorcycle gangs were considered by the majority of agencies to not be a significant contributor to their gang problems in 2005.

Chart 2



Criminal Activity

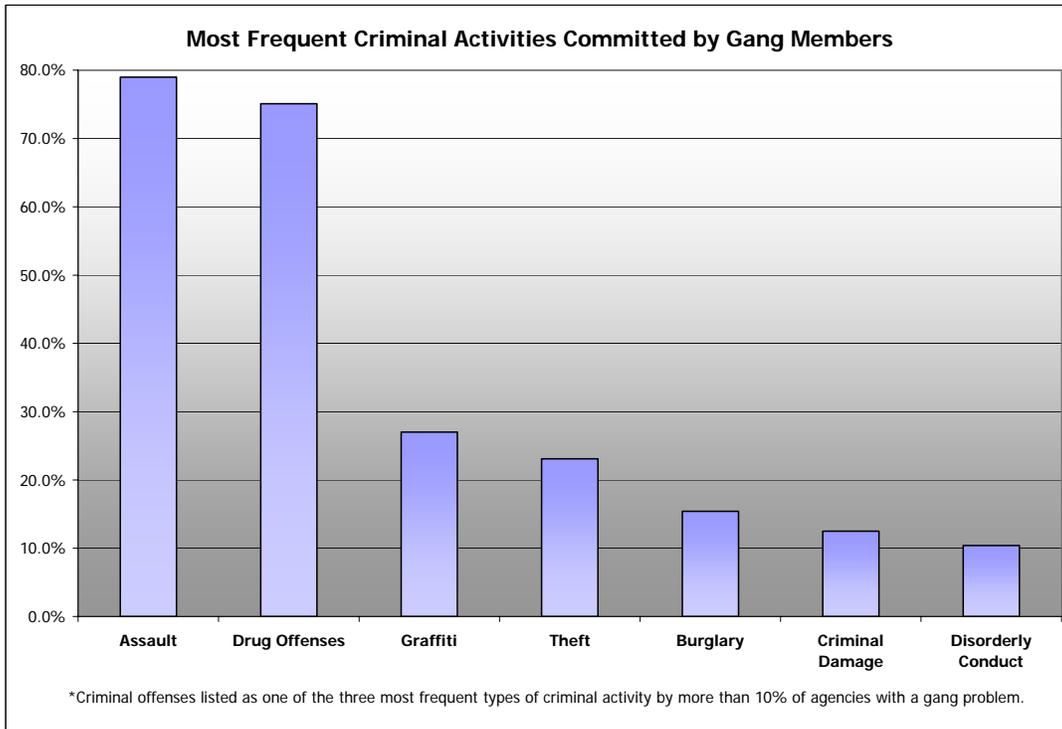
Multiple questions were asked regarding criminal activity by gangs and gang members. One of the questions asked agencies to report the three most frequent types of criminal activity committed by gangs and gang members in their jurisdiction (Table 12). Drug offenses and assault were the most frequently listed offenses committed by gang members in jurisdictions with a gang problem. Drug offenses were listed by 43.9 percent of respondents as the most frequent criminal activity committed by gang members in their jurisdiction, followed by assault and graffiti, which were each listed by 22 percent of respondents.

Table 12: Three Most Frequent Types of Criminal Activity of Gang Members (Percent of Respondents)			
	Most Frequent	Second Most Frequent	Third Most Frequent
Drug Offenses	43.9%	15.0%	16.2%
Assault	22.0%	30.0%	27.0%
Graffiti	22.0%	5.0%	0.0%
Criminal Damage	7.3%	2.5%	2.7%
Shootings/Drive by Shootings	2.4%	0.0%	2.7%
Alcohol Offenses	2.4%	0.0%	2.7%
Theft	0.0%	15.0%	8.1%
Burglary	0.0%	10.0%	5.4%
Disorderly Conduct	0.0%	5.0%	5.4%
Intimidation	0.0%	2.5%	5.4%
Car Theft	0.0%	2.5%	2.7%
Homicide	0.0%	2.5%	2.7%
Possession of Stolen Property	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%
Property Crimes	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%
Robbery	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%
Fights	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%
Weapons Violations	0.0%	0.0%	5.4%
Vandalism	0.0%	0.0%	5.4%
Forgery	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%
People Crimes	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%
Misc. Criminal Activity	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	*99.9%

*Does not equal 100% because of rounding.

Chart 3 summarizes the criminal activity questions into a measure of the predominant types of criminal activity engaged in by gangs and gang members in Arizona. The percentages reported in this chart are the percentage of agencies that identified the listed crime types as one of the three most frequent offenses committed by gang members in their jurisdictions. Assaults and drug offenses are the two types of crimes in which gang members in many jurisdictions are involved, followed by graffiti, theft, burglary, criminal damage to property, and disorderly conduct.

Chart 3



Drugs and Gangs

Half of the respondents in jurisdictions with a gang problem reported that gang involvement in drug sales had stayed the same between 2004 and 2005. Nearly 45 percent reported an increase in gang involvement in drug sales (Table 13).

Table 13: Involvement of Gang Members in Drug Sales, 2004 to 2005

Increase	44.4%
Stay about the same	50.0%
Decrease	5.6%

Table 14: Extent of Gang Involvement in Drug Sales in 2005

Heavily Involved	22.5%
Somewhat Involved	52.5%
Minimally Involved	22.5%
Not Involved	2.5%

Method of Dealing Drugs by Gang Members in 2005

Deal drugs as organization	6.5%
Deal drugs independently of gang	45.2%
Deal drugs both as organization and individual	48.4%

Seventy-five percent of respondents reporting a gang problem listed gangs as either heavily involved or somewhat involved in drug sales in 2005 (Table 14). Only 2.5 percent of agencies with a gang problem reported that gang members were not involved in drug sales in their jurisdiction.

Law enforcement respondents were also asked to list the three drugs most frequently trafficked, sold or used by gang members in their jurisdictions. Methamphetamine received the most responses for the most frequently trafficked, sold and used drug

(Table 15). Marijuana received the most responses for the second most frequently trafficked, sold and used drug. Cocaine and/or crack received the most responses for the third most trafficked, sold and used drug.

Table 15: Top Three Drugs Trafficked, Sold, and Used by Gang Members (Number of Respondents)			
	Most Frequent	Second Most Frequent	Third Most Frequent
Trafficked by gang members in your jurisdiction?			
Methamphetamine	26	9	1
Marijuana	10	23	4
Cocaine/Crack	1	4	14
Sold by gang members in your jurisdiction?			
Methamphetamine	25	10	1
Marijuana	11	22	5
Cocaine/Crack	1	5	13
Used by gang members in your jurisdiction?			
Methamphetamine	24	9	2
Marijuana	15	22	2
Cocaine/Crack	1	6	12

Firearms and Gang Members

More than 60 percent of law enforcement agencies with a gang problem in their jurisdiction reported that firearms are used often or sometimes in assault related crimes by gang members (Table 16). In addition, nearly 60 percent of respondents reported that gangs in their jurisdictions are involved in firearms trafficking.

Table 16: Frequency of Firearm Use by Gang Members in Assault-Related Crimes	
Often	18.9%
Sometimes	43.2%
Rarely	27.0%
Never	10.8%

PROSECUTION SURVEY

Thirteen of the fifteen county prosecutors' offices that were sent a gang survey responded to the survey. Of those, six reported a gang problem, including the three largest counties in Arizona: Maricopa, Pima, and Pinal. Four others reported that they did not know whether their jurisdiction had a gang problem, with one noting that law enforcement agencies in that jurisdiction keep those statistics.

The most frequent criminal activity noted by the five prosecutor agencies that responded to this question was assault followed by drug crimes (Table 17). This is consistent with the results from law enforcement agencies who also reported that assaults and drug offenses were the crimes most frequently committed by gang members.

Generally consistent with data from the law enforcement survey, county attorney respondents reported that methamphetamine, marijuana, heroin, and cocaine, in this order, were the drugs that were used, sold and trafficked most frequently by gang members.

Of the five county attorney offices that were able to provide information regarding the factors affecting the gang problem in their jurisdiction, neighborhood-based street gangs and migration of gang members from California were listed by three as being very much a factor affecting their gang problems in 2005.

Table 17: Type of Criminal Activity by Gang Members
(Number of Respondents Reporting)

Assault	4
Drug Crimes	3
Violent Crimes	1
Criminal Damage	1
Auto Theft	1
Theft	1
Robbery	1
Burglary	1
Drive-by-Shootings	1
Firearm Offenses	1

Table 18: Factors Affecting the Gang Problem in 2005
(Number of Prosecuting Agencies)

	Very Much	Somewhat	Very Little	Not At All
Neighborhood-Based Street Gangs	3	2	0	0
Motorcycle Gangs	0	1	4	0
Return of Gang-Involved Inmates from Prison	2	3	0	0
Migration of Gang Members from California	3	0	0	0
Migration of Gang Members from Mexico	1	1	2	0

ARIZONA YOUTH SURVEY GANG RESULTS

The Arizona Youth Survey, administered every two years by the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission's Statistical Analysis Center, collects a wide variety of data on Arizona youth, including self-reported gang involvement. These data allow for an understanding of the level of delinquency, drug use, and gang involvement among Arizona youth. To facilitate the strategic use of these data, state, county, and some city reports are made available to policymakers and service providers through the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission's web site.

Of the 53,478 Arizona 8th, 10th and 12th grade students who responded to the question "Have you ever belonged to a gang?", 3.2 percent reported that they currently belong to a gang and 0.4 percent reported that they belong to a gang, but would like to get out (Table 19). Extrapolating the 3.6 percent of 8th, 10th, and 12th grade respondents who self-

Response	Percent
No	89.8%
No, but would like to	1.4%
Yes, in the past	5.2%
Yes, belong now	3.2%
Yes, but would like to get out	0.4%

reported gang membership to the entire population of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders in Arizona yields an estimated 8,400 active youth gang members. It is important to note that this estimate does not include youth gang members in grades other than those

	No		Yes	
	2004	2006	2004	2006
Apache	94.2%	93.6%	5.8%	6.4%
Cochise	97.0%	96.4%	3.0%	3.6%
Coconino	96.1%	94.2%	3.9%	5.8%
Gila	96.5%	96.1%	3.5%	3.9%
Graham	95.4%	98.3%	4.6%	1.7%
Greenlee	98.4%	97.8%	1.6%	2.2%
La Paz	96.6%	96.7%	3.4%	3.3%
Maricopa	97.5%	96.7%	2.5%	3.3%
Mohave	96.9%	97.0%	3.1%	3.0%
Navajo	96.4%	95.3%	3.6%	4.7%
Pima	97.2%	96.6%	2.8%	3.4%
Pinal	94.8%	94.7%	5.2%	5.3%
Santa Cruz	95.9%	94.7%	4.1%	5.3%
Yavapai	97.3%	96.0%	2.7%	4.0%
Yuma	95.5%	95.6%	4.5%	4.4%
Arizona	97.0%	96.4%	3.0%	3.6%

surveyed and it does not include data on youth who are not attending school.

Gang Membership

The percentage of students reporting active gang membership increased from 3.0 percent in 2004, to 3.6 percent in 2006. The data in eleven of the fifteen counties in Arizona showed slight-to-modest increases in self-reported youth gang membership from 2004 to 2006 (Table 20). The other four counties showed slight-to-modest declines.

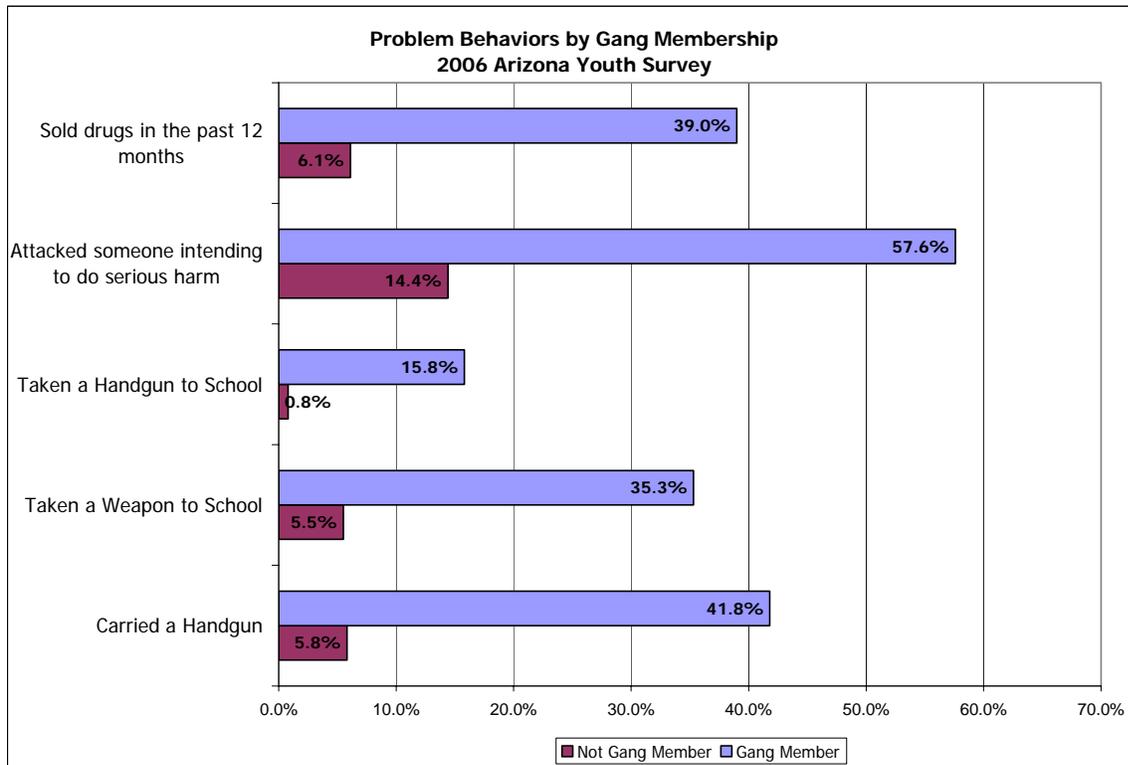
Gang Membership and Problem Behavior

Arizona Youth Survey respondents in 2006 who self reported gang membership also reported much higher lifetime drug use than those who did not report gang membership (Table 21). For example, more than twice as many gang-involved youth have used marijuana in their lifetimes than non-gang involved youth and more than five times as many gang-involved youth have tried ecstasy or LSD in their lifetimes than non-gang involved youth.

Table 21: Drug Use by Gang Membership 2006 Arizona Youth Survey							
	Marijuana	LSD	Cocaine	Inhalants	Meth	Heroin	Ecstasy
Gang Member	65.4%	15.7%	25.7%	29.9%	17.8%	9.4%	14.3%
Not a Gang Member	28.0%	3.1%	6.2%	12.2%	3.9%	1.7%	2.6%

In addition to higher rates of drug use by youth gang members self-reported youth gang members also report higher rates of drug sales. Statewide, 39 percent of self-reported gang members reported selling drugs in the past 12 months compared to 6 percent of those who were not gang members. Self-reported gang members also reported significantly higher levels of violence and weapon carrying than non-gang members (Chart 4).

Chart 4



Age of Gang Initiation

Of those who self-reported gang participation past or present, two-thirds reported joining at 13 years or younger. Compared to the 2004 data, youth gang members in 2006 joined their gangs at a slightly older age (Chart 5). In 2006 the average age of initiation for gang members to join a gang was 12.8, while in 2004 the average age of initiation was 12.6. Table 22 contains 2004 and 2006 Arizona Youth Survey data on average age of gang initiation by county.

Chart 5

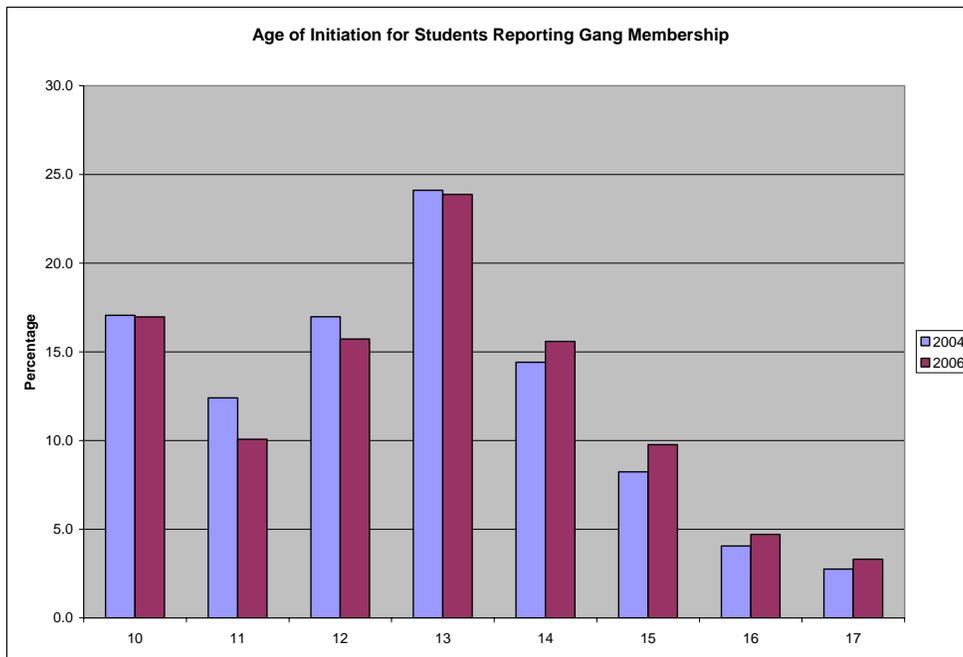


Table 22: Age of First Gang Involvement by County, 2004 and 2006
Arizona Youth Survey

		≤10	11	12	13	14	15	16	≥17
Arizona	2004	17.1%	12.4%	17.0%	24.1%	14.4%	8.2%	4.1%	2.8%
	2006	17.0%	10.1%	15.7%	23.9%	15.6%	9.8%	4.7%	3.3%
Apache	2004	13.0%	11.6%	8.7%	15.9%	20.3%	17.4%	8.7%	4.3%
	2006	12.9%	5.9%	15.8%	20.8%	17.8%	11.9%	6.9%	7.9%
Cochise	2004	15.7%	13.9%	21.7%	22.6%	15.7%	6.1%	1.7%	2.6%
	2006	13.8%	8.6%	17.2%	27.6%	9.5%	17.2%	5.2%	0.9%
Coconino	2004	16.1%	9.2%	18.4%	16.1%	16.1%	10.3%	9.2%	4.6%
	2006	18.8%	8.5%	17.9%	28.2%	12.8%	7.7%	4.3%	1.7%
Gila	2004	20.3%	7.8%	14.1%	17.2%	21.9%	7.8%	9.4%	1.6%
	2006	15.5%	9.5%	21.4%	16.7%	17.9%	11.9%	4.8%	2.4%
Graham	2004	11.4%	20.0%	14.3%	22.9%	20.0%	8.6%	2.9%	0.0%
	2006	13.3%	6.7%	17.8%	20.0%	11.1%	20.0%	4.4%	6.7%
Greenlee	2004	0.0%	11.1%	33.3%	22.2%	0.0%	22.2%	11.1%	0.0%
	2006	63.6%	0.0%	9.1%	18.2%	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	0.0%
La Paz	2004	20.6%	5.9%	5.9%	29.4%	11.8%	11.8%	5.9%	8.8%
	2006	15.6%	3.1%	18.8%	21.9%	34.4%	3.1%	3.1%	0.0%
Maricopa	2004	17.6%	11.9%	19.5%	25.9%	13.1%	7.0%	2.8%	2.2%
	2006	17.3%	10.9%	15.4%	23.5%	16.6%	8.6%	4.7%	2.9%
Mohave	2004	22.7%	12.4%	10.3%	21.6%	14.4%	13.4%	4.1%	1.0%
	2006	20.3%	8.1%	7.3%	21.1%	13.8%	11.4%	8.1%	9.8%
Navajo	2004	18.4%	8.8%	18.4%	25.4%	14.0%	8.8%	2.6%	3.5%
	2006	19.0%	11.2%	19.0%	16.4%	13.8%	10.3%	5.2%	5.2%
Pima	2004	20.8%	14.9%	15.5%	19.9%	13.4%	8.0%	3.9%	3.6%
	2006	18.9%	9.4%	14.6%	23.6%	12.9%	11.3%	5.1%	4.1%
Pinal	2004	13.3%	12.7%	12.7%	29.1%	12.0%	10.8%	7.0%	2.5%
	2006	12.8%	10.4%	21.8%	25.6%	14.7%	10.0%	0.9%	3.8%
Santa Cruz	2004	13.1%	16.9%	15.4%	23.8%	16.9%	7.7%	4.6%	1.5%
	2006	11.1%	9.6%	12.6%	27.4%	17.0%	13.3%	5.9%	3.0%
Yavapai	2004	20.6%	14.7%	8.8%	26.5%	11.8%	0.0%	5.9%	11.8%
	2006	15.7%	10.2%	13.0%	30.6%	10.2%	12.0%	4.6%	3.7%
Yuma	2004	7.3%	10.9%	13.6%	27.3%	22.7%	9.1%	5.5%	3.6%
	2006	16.1%	8.8%	17.3%	27.3%	16.5%	8.8%	4.0%	1.2%

CONCLUSION

Gang activity continues to challenge Arizona's criminal justice system, with a significant number of youth claiming gang membership and a number of law enforcement and prosecution agencies citing it as a serious problem in their jurisdictions. Of particular concern is the participation of gangs and gang members in drug sales and violence that was noted by a large percentage of law enforcement agencies. Both law enforcement and prosecution agencies cited drug offenses and assaults as the two most frequent criminal activities in which gang members participate. Still another area of significant agreement between law enforcement and prosecutor agencies was the finding that neighborhood-based gangs and the migration of gang members from California are major contributors to the gang problems in their areas.

Also of serious concern is that 3.6 percent of 8th, 10th, and 12th grade youth responding to the Arizona Youth Survey in 2006 reported current gang involvement. Although 3.6 is a relatively low percentage, this represents a large number of Arizona youth. According to estimates culled from the law enforcement survey, youth under the age of 18 make up about half of gang members. This suggests the number of gang members in the state, including those that have not yet come to the attention of law enforcement, far exceeds the approximately 15,000 gang members reported on the law enforcement surveys.

Although the nation and Arizona experienced declines in crime rates from 2000 to 2005, more than 40 percent of law enforcement agencies in areas with a gang problem report that gang activity increased between 2004 and 2005. Nearly 45 percent of agencies reported that gangs are increasing their participation in drug sales, with both law enforcement and prosecutors reporting that marijuana and methamphetamine are the most frequently used, sold, and trafficked drugs by gang members.

The data throughout this report, some of which is summarized above, clearly indicates that Arizona continues to have a significant gang problem. It is hoped that this report provides policymakers and practitioners with information that contributes to discussions about Arizona's gang problem and provides some insights that will enhance the effectiveness of gang prevention, intervention, and enforcement strategies.

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