

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



2009 Gila County Gang Threat Assessment

2011

June

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Executive Summary

During spring 2010, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission's (ACJC) Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) surveyed law enforcement officers in Arizona regarding gangs and gang activity within their respective jurisdictions. The SAC gang threat assessment survey was modeled after the *National Gang Threat Assessment*, conducted by the National Alliance of Gang Investigators Associations in partnership with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Drug Intelligence Center, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. The SAC survey contained questions for law enforcement officials concerning the presence of gangs within their jurisdictions, the level of gang activity, the involvement of gang members in crime and illegal drug distribution, the extent of cross-gang coordination, and law enforcement strategies targeting gang members. The following report provides Gila County and statewide results from the 2009 gang threat assessment survey, including trend data collected during prior administrations of the gang threat assessment survey in 2007 and 2008. Additional state and county reports are available at <http://www.azcjc.gov/ACJC.Web/publications/publications.aspx?ServId=1000>.

Findings

- Only one law enforcement agency in Gila County reported that gangs were active in its jurisdiction. Unfortunately, this agency was not able to provide an estimate of the number of gang members.
- The Gila County agency experiencing gang activity reported that gangs were not expanding their membership and scope of activities. The agency also reported that gang activity had not changed over the previous six and 12-month periods but had increased slightly over the past five years.
- Burglary, drug offenses, and homicide were listed as the primary crimes being committed by gangs.
- The law enforcement agency experiencing gang activity reported that gangs had a low level of involvement in the distribution of marijuana, methamphetamine, pharmaceuticals, and powdered cocaine.
- The Aryan Brotherhood, Mexican Mafia/La Eme, and Skinheads were reported as having a low level of activity within the jurisdiction of the law enforcement agency experiencing gang activity.
- When asked about gang intervention strategies, the responding law enforcement agency reporting gang involvement identified enforcement, GIITEM, and identification of gang members as the most effective strategies for responding to gangs and gang activity in its jurisdiction.

Introduction

During spring 2010, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission's Statistical Analysis Center surveyed law enforcement officers in Arizona regarding their perceptions and experiences with gangs, gang members, and gang activity within their respective jurisdictions. This report examines and summarizes the results from the SAC gang threat assessment survey and fulfills ACJC's statutory requirement to conduct an annual survey that measures the prevalence of gang activity in Arizona using available monies per Arizona Revised Statute §41-2416. Although no funds were specifically appropriated to carry out the Arizona Gang Threat Assessment, effectively addressing gangs and gang activity presented a significant challenge to Arizona's law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice system. For this reason, ACJC continues to collect and share information on gangs and gang activity using existing resources.

Research Methods

Since 1990, ACJC has administered a gang survey to state, county, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies throughout Arizona. In 2007, the *Arizona Gang Threat Assessment* replaced the original *Arizona Gang Survey* because of feedback from the law enforcement community in Arizona requesting a more in-depth analysis of current threats posed by gangs. The *Arizona Gang Threat Assessment* was modeled after the *National Gang Threat Assessment*. The national assessment is a project of the National Alliance of Gang Investigators Associations in partnership with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Drug Intelligence Center and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearm and Explosives. The first national assessment was conducted in 2005 with surveys being sent out to hundreds of gang investigators across the nation.

Five law enforcement agencies throughout Gila County received the current Arizona Gang Threat Assessment in 2010, which asked a series of questions about gangs and gang activity within their respective jurisdictions. The survey was designed to gather information on gangs, gang members, gang activity, and other pertinent information to better understand the threat gangs pose to public safety. Of the five surveys distributed to law enforcement agencies in Gila County, three (60.0 percent) agencies returned a survey to the SAC.

Gangs in Gila County and Arizona

Total Gang Membership

Of the three agencies that responded to SAC's request for information on gangs and gang activity in Gila County, 33.3 percent (one agency) reported the presence of gangs and gang activity in its jurisdiction. This is a decrease from the two agencies that reported gangs in their respective jurisdictions during the previous year (Table 1). The single agency that reported a gang presence within its jurisdiction in 2009 was not able to estimate the number of active gang members present in its jurisdiction.

	2007		2008		2009		2009 Arizona	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	1	25.0%	2	40.0%	1	33.3%	59	75.6%
No	3	75.0%	3	60.0%	2	66.7%	19	24.4%
Unsure/Don't know	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Level of Gang Activity Over Time

The single agency that reported a gang presence in its jurisdiction was asked to rate the level of gang activity and whether gang membership and gang activities were expanding. When asked

	2007	2008	2009	2009 Arizona
Yes	100.0%	50.0%	0.0%	50.0%
No	0.0%	50.0%	100.0%	46.4%
Unsure/Don't Know	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.6%
Total Responses	1	2	1	56

whether gangs in the area were expanding their membership and scope of activities, the one Gila County agency responded that gangs within its jurisdiction were not expanding their membership and scope of activities, compared to half

of the agencies reporting a gang presence at the state level (Table 2). In both 2007 and 2008, one responding agency reported that gangs were expanding.

When considering the six months and 12 months prior to the 2009 assessment, the one responding agency reported that the level of gang activity in its jurisdiction had not changed. When asked about the previous five years, however, the agency reported that the level of gang activity had increased slightly (Figure 1).

Figure 1

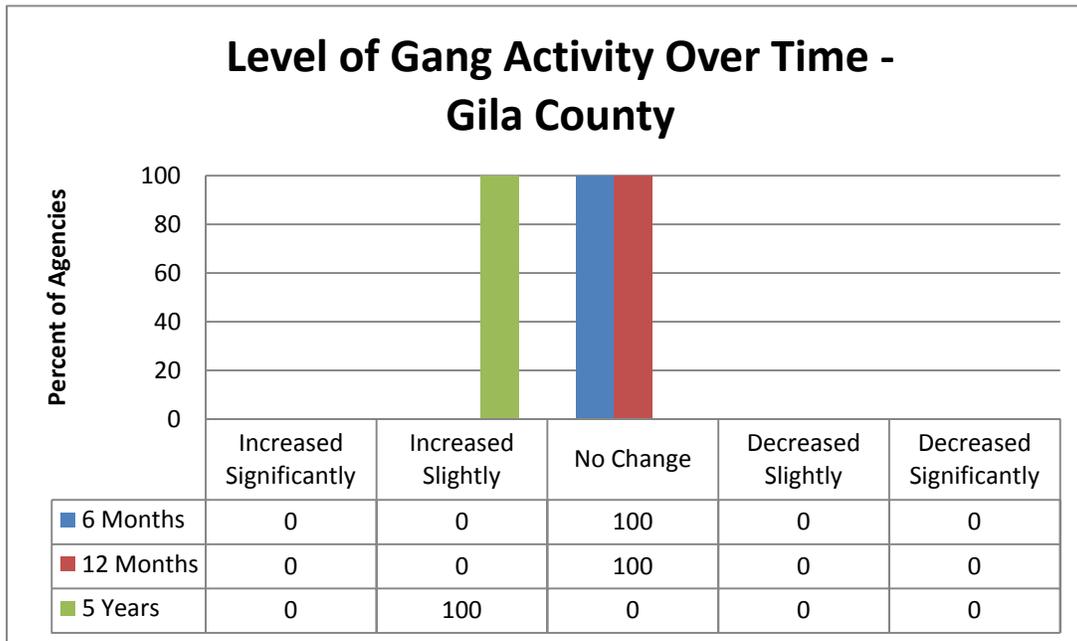
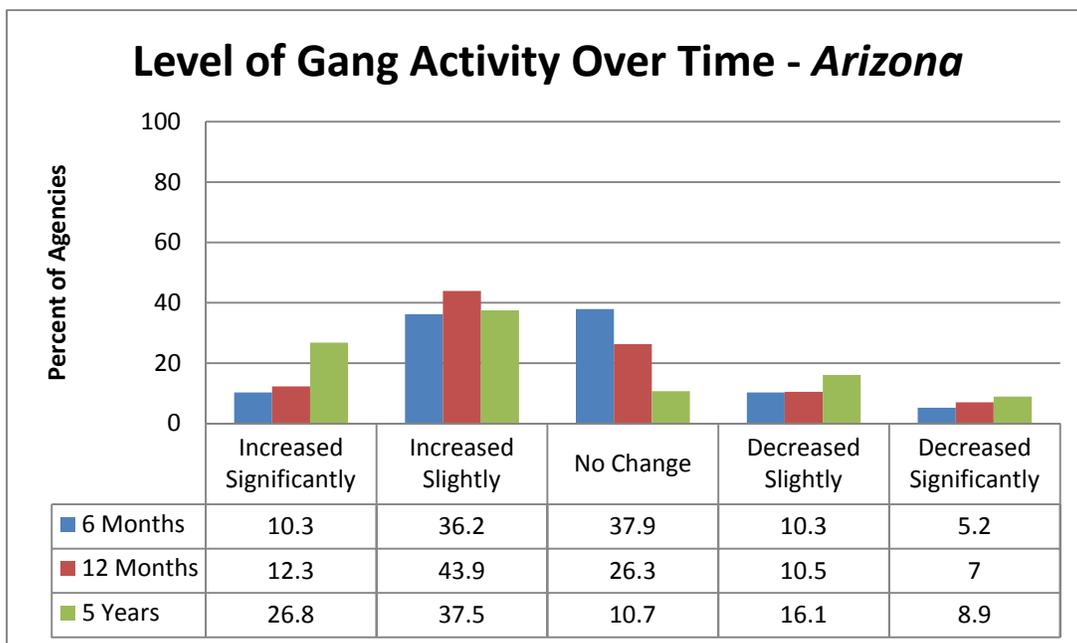


Figure 2



Gang Involvement in Crimes and Drugs

Table 3: Primary Crimes Committed by Gangs (Of the Jurisdictions Reporting Gang Activity)				
Crime	Gila County		Arizona	
	Number of Agencies	Percent of Agencies	Number of Agencies	Percent of Agencies
Burglary	1	100.0%	23	41.8%
Drug Offenses	1	100.0%	15	27.3%
Homicide	1	100.0%	4	7.3%
Number of Agencies Responding	1		55	

One agency also reported the primary crimes committed by gangs within its jurisdiction (Table 3). The question was

open-ended, and respondents were asked to list the crimes that were being committed by gangs in their jurisdictions with no limit to the number and types of crimes that could be reported. Table 3 also provides the number of agencies at the state level who reported the same crimes identified by law enforcement in Gila County.

The law enforcement agency that reported a gang presence reported that burglary, drug offenses, and homicide were the primary crimes committed by gangs in 2009.

Agencies also rated the level of gang involvement within their jurisdictions for 15 specific crime categories. Agencies ranked the level of gang involvement for each type of crime based on the following five categories: high, moderate, low, none, and unknown gang involvement. In contrast to the qualitative data in Table 3 that allows for emerging gang crimes to be revealed, the categorical question provides consistent measurements over time for the level of gang involvement across a predetermined set of violent and property crimes.

While the single Gila County agency reporting a gang presence did not report a high level of involvement in any of the crimes listed, the agency did report a moderate level of involvement in intimidation/extortion and murder (Table 4). The agency also reported a low level of gang involvement in burglary and vandalism/graffiti/tagging.

Table 4: Level of Gang Involvement in Crime (Of the Jurisdictions Reporting Gang Activity)						
	Year	High	Moderate	Low	None	Unknown
Intimidation/Extortion	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	50.0%	-	50.0%
	2009	-	100.0%	-	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>15.5%</i>	<i>31.0%</i>	<i>31.0%</i>	<i>6.9%</i>	<i>15.5%</i>
Murder	2007	-	-	100.0%	-	-
	2008	-	-	-	50.0%	50.0%
	2009	-	100.0%	-	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>3.6%</i>	<i>14.3%</i>	<i>28.6%</i>	<i>44.6%</i>	<i>8.9%</i>
Burglary	2007	-	100.0%	-	-	-
	2008	-	50.0%	-	50.0%	-
	2009	-	-	100.0%	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>22.4%</i>	<i>41.4%</i>	<i>19.0%</i>	<i>6.9%</i>	<i>10.3%</i>
Vandalism/Graffiti/Tagging	2007	-	-	100.0%	-	-
	2008	-	-	50.0%	50.0%	-
	2009	-	-	100.0%	-	-

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Arizona	2009	57.1%	28.6%	8.9%	-	5.4%
Identity Theft	2007	-	100.0%	-	-	-
	2008	-	-	-	50.0%	50.0%
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
Arizona	2009	12.3%	22.8%	21.1%	21.1%	22.8%
Prostitution	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
Arizona	2009	1.8%	5.3%	14.0%	40.4%	38.6%
Arson	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	-	-	-	100.0%
Arizona	2009	3.4%	5.2%	19.0%	46.6%	25.9%
Auto Theft	2007	-	-	100.0%	-	-
	2008	-	-	50.0%	50.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	-	100.0%
Arizona	2009	12.1%	39.7%	20.7%	19.0%	8.6%
Felonious Assault	2007	100.0%	-	-	-	-
	2008	-	-	-	50.0%	50.0%
	2009	-	-	-	-	100.0%
Arizona	2009	17.5%	35.1%	28.1%	10.5%	8.8%
Firearms Trafficking	2007	-	100.0%	-	-	-
	2008	-	-	-	50.0%	50.0%
	2009	-	-	-	-	100.0%
Arizona	2009	5.3%	22.8%	24.6%	26.3%	21.1%
Fraud	2007	-	-	100.0%	-	-
	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	-	-	-	100.0%
Arizona	2009	13.0%	14.8%	27.8%	20.4%	24.1%
Human Trafficking	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	-	50.0%	50.0%
	2009	-	-	-	-	100.0%
Arizona	2009	8.8%	17.5%	14.0%	31.6%	28.1%
Kidnapping	2007	-	-	100.0%	-	-
	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	-	-	-	100.0%
Arizona	2009	3.5%	1.8%	31.6%	42.1%	21.1%
Robbery	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	50.0%	50.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	-	100.0%
Arizona	2009	12.1%	29.3%	25.9%	20.7%	12.1%
Sexual Assault/Rape	2007	-	-	100.0%	-	-
	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	-	-	-	100.0%
Arizona	2009	1.8%	5.3%	31.6%	36.8%	24.6%

In addition to the level of gang involvement by crime type, agencies were asked to rate the level of gang involvement in the distribution of various illegal drugs. The agency with a gang presence reported that gangs had a low level of involvement in street drug sales and the wholesale of drugs (Table 5). Additionally, the agency reported that gangs had a low level of involvement in the distribution of marijuana, methamphetamines, pharmaceuticals, and powdered cocaine.

Table 5: Gang Involvement in the Distribution of Drugs (Of the Jurisdictions Reporting Gang Activity)						
		High	Moderate	Low	None	Unknown
Drugs – Street Sales	2007	-	100.0%	-	-	-
	2008	-	100.0%	-	-	-
	2009	-	-	100.0%	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>29.3%</i>	<i>36.2%</i>	<i>27.6%</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>6.9%</i>
Drugs – Wholesale	2007	-	100.0%	-	-	-
	2008	-	50.0%	-	-	50.0%
	2009	-	-	100.0%	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>5.2%</i>	<i>29.3%</i>	<i>31.0%</i>	<i>8.6%</i>	<i>25.9%</i>
Drugs – Manufacture	2007	-	-	100.0%	-	-
	2008	-	-	50.0%	50.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	-	100.0%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>10.5%</i>	<i>36.8%</i>	<i>21.1%</i>	<i>31.6%</i>
Marijuana Grows	2007	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2008	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2009	-	-	-	-	100.0%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>5.2%</i>	<i>41.4%</i>	<i>20.7%</i>	<i>32.8%</i>
Marijuana	2007	-	100.0%	-	-	-
	2008	-	50.0%	-	-	50.0%
	2009	-	-	100.0%	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>44.8%</i>	<i>29.3%</i>	<i>15.5%</i>	<i>3.4%</i>	<i>6.9%</i>
Methamphetamine	2007	100.0%	-	-	-	-
	2008	-	50.0%	-	-	50.0%
	2009	-	-	100.0%	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>31.6%</i>	<i>36.8%</i>	<i>14.0%</i>	<i>8.8%</i>	<i>8.8%</i>
Pharmaceuticals	2007	-	100.0%	-	-	-
	2008	-	-	50.0%	-	50.0%
	2009	-	-	100.0%	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>6.9%</i>	<i>24.1%</i>	<i>32.8%</i>	<i>10.3%</i>	<i>25.9%</i>
Powdered Cocaine	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	50.0%	-	50.0%
	2009	-	-	100.0%	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>6.9%</i>	<i>13.8%</i>	<i>43.1%</i>	<i>20.7%</i>	<i>15.5%</i>
Crack Cocaine	2007	-	-	100.0%	-	-
	2008	-	-	50.0%	50.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>10.3%</i>	<i>12.1%</i>	<i>29.3%</i>	<i>32.8%</i>	<i>15.5%</i>
Heroin	2007	-	-	100.0%	-	-
	2008	-	-	50.0%	-	50.0%
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>10.3%</i>	<i>29.3%</i>	<i>24.1%</i>	<i>19.0%</i>	<i>17.2%</i>
MDMA (Ecstasy) and analogs	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	50.0%	-	50.0%
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>17.2%</i>	<i>27.6%</i>	<i>29.3%</i>	<i>25.9%</i>

Level of Activity by Gang

Law enforcement agencies reported the level of activity within their jurisdictions for 26 specific gangs. The list of gangs in the Arizona Gang Threat Assessment was selected based on the gangs listed in the National Gang Threat Assessment, allowing for a state and national comparison.

According to the 2009 responses, no gangs were listed as having high or moderate levels of activity (Table 6). The Aryan Brotherhood, Mexican Mafia/La Eme, and Skinheads were listed as having a low level of involvement within the single jurisdiction reporting a gang presence.

Table 6: Level of Activity by Gang (Of the Jurisdictions Reporting Gang Activity)						
	Year	High	Moderate	Low	Not Applicable	Unknown
Aryan Brotherhood	2007	Not Included in 2007 Survey				
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	100.0%	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>5.3%</i>	<i>15.8%</i>	<i>45.6%</i>	<i>22.8%</i>	<i>10.5%</i>
Mexican Mafia/La Eme	2007	-	-	100.0%	-	-
	2008	-	-	50.0%	-	50.0%
	2009	-	-	100.0%	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>12.3%</i>	<i>15.8%</i>	<i>38.6%</i>	<i>21.1%</i>	<i>12.3%</i>
Skinheads	2007	-	100.0%	-	-	-
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	100.0%	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>5.3%</i>	<i>14.0%</i>	<i>42.1%</i>	<i>28.1%</i>	<i>10.5%</i>
18 th Street Gang	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>28.1%</i>	<i>59.6%</i>	<i>10.5%</i>
Almighty P Stone Nation	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>7.0%</i>	<i>75.4%</i>	<i>17.5%</i>
Asian Gangs (all sets)	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>12.5%</i>	<i>66.1%</i>	<i>21.4%</i>
Bandidos OMG	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>19.3%</i>	<i>66.7%</i>	<i>12.3%</i>
Black Gangster Disciples	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>3.5%</i>	<i>10.5%</i>	<i>70.2%</i>	<i>14.0%</i>
Bloods (all sets)	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>14.0%</i>	<i>14.0%</i>	<i>33.3%</i>	<i>26.3%</i>	<i>12.3%</i>
Border Brothers	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>3.6%</i>	<i>28.6%</i>	<i>57.1%</i>	<i>10.7%</i>

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Crips (all sets)	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>15.8%</i>	<i>19.3%</i>	<i>26.3%</i>	<i>28.1%</i>	<i>10.5%</i>
Gangster Disciples	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>21.1%</i>	<i>64.9%</i>	<i>10.5%</i>
Hells Angels OMG	2007	-	100.0%	-	-	-
	2008	-	-	50.0%	50.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>5.3%</i>	<i>28.1%</i>	<i>29.8%</i>	<i>29.8%</i>	<i>7.0%</i>
Hispanic Norteños (14)	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>3.5%</i>	<i>8.8%</i>	<i>40.4%</i>	<i>38.6%</i>	<i>8.8%</i>
Hispanic Sureños (SUR 13)	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	-	50.0%	50.0%
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>24.6%</i>	<i>33.3%</i>	<i>24.6%</i>	<i>12.3%</i>	<i>5.3%</i>
La Nuestra Familia	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	-	50.0%	50.0%
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>10.5%</i>	<i>64.9%</i>	<i>21.1%</i>
La Raza	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	-	50.0%	50.0%
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	-	<i>14.0%</i>	<i>73.7%</i>	<i>12.3%</i>
Latin Kings	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>31.6%</i>	<i>54.4%</i>	<i>12.3%</i>
Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13)	2007	-	-	100.0%	-	-
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	<i>5.3%</i>	<i>42.1%</i>	<i>40.4%</i>	<i>12.3%</i>
Mexikanemi (Texas Mexican Mafia)	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	-	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>78.6%</i>	<i>19.6%</i>
Neighborhood-based Drug Trafficking Groups/Crews	2007	-	100.0%	-	-	-
	2008	-	-	50.0%	50.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>8.6%</i>	<i>29.3%</i>	<i>22.4%</i>	<i>32.8%</i>	<i>6.9%</i>
Outlaws OMG	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	<i>3.6%</i>	<i>12.5%</i>	<i>69.6%</i>	<i>14.3%</i>
UBN	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>8.9%</i>	<i>66.1%</i>	<i>23.2%</i>
Vice Lords	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>10.5%</i>	<i>68.4%</i>	<i>19.3%</i>

Pagans OMG	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
Arizona	2009	-	-	8.9%	78.6%	12.5%
Texas Syndicate	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
Arizona	2009	-	-	3.5%	75.4%	21.1%

Level of Gang Coordination

The survey also contained questions regarding gangs coordinating their activity with other gangs. In 2009, the single law enforcement agency with a gang presence reported that gangs were not coordinating with other gangs in its area (Table 7).

Table 7: Gang Coordination with Other Gangs (Of the Jurisdictions Reporting Gang Activity)				
	2007	2008	2009	2009 Arizona
Yes	100.0%	50.0%	0.0%	44.6%
No	0.0%	50.0%	100.0%	42.9%
Unsure/Don't Know	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%
Total Responses	1	2	1	56

Most Effective Gang Responses

Agency respondents provided information pertaining to which strategies have been the most effective in their jurisdictions when responding to gangs. Prior to the 2009, agencies were asked to simply list any strategies that were effective within their jurisdictions. To make responses more consistent over time, researchers changed the question in the 2009 Arizona Gang Threat Assessment by instructing agency representatives to select from a number of response categories. The new response categories provide a range of activities that may not have been previously considered by the respondents during prior survey administrations. For this reason, the change in the structure of the question is a likely explanation for the large increases in some categories of interdiction, intervention, and suppression strategies.

Table 8: Effective Gang Interdiction, Intervention, or Suppression Strategies								
	2007		2008		2009		2009 Arizona	
	Number of Agencies	Percent of Agencies						
Enforcement	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	46	78.0%
GIITEM	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	34	57.6%
Identification of Gang Members	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	39	66.1%
School Programs	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	17	28.8%
Community Programs	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	8	13.6%
Joint Efforts with Other Agencies	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	29	49.2%
Gang Crime/Intelligence Data Analyses	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	22	37.3%
Law Enforcement Gang Units	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	19	32.2%
Special Prosecution Programs	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	13	22.0%

Enforcement, GIITEM, and identification of gang members were the only strategies identified by the responding agency in Gila County (Table 8).

Task Force Participation

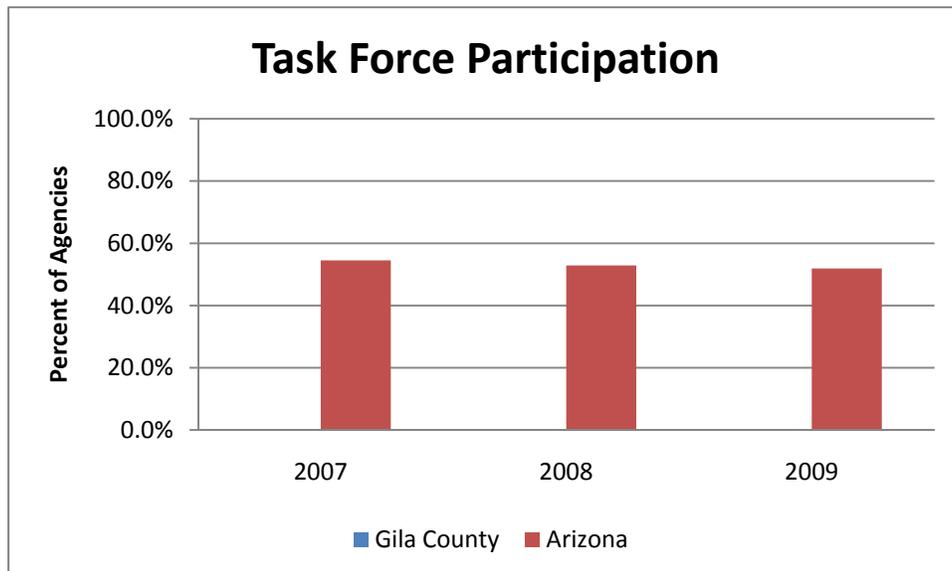
Under the direction of the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Gang Intelligence and Immigration Team Enforcement Mission (GIITEM) assists criminal justice agencies statewide with multi-agency collaboration for criminal gang enforcement and investigative strategies. GIITEM brings together law enforcement agencies from federal, state, county, municipal, and tribal jurisdictions in a coordinated, intelligence-driven approach to suppress gang presence on a large scale.

In 2006, after several years of declining resources and downsizing operations resulting from state revenue shortfalls, DPS received funding to revitalize GIITEM and enhance its mission to include combating illegal immigration and human smuggling. More specifically, GIITEM 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.

In the 2007 and 2008 Arizona Gang Threat Assessment, agencies were asked if they *participate* or *lead* a multi-agency task force. In 2009, agencies were only asked if they *participate* in a multi-agency gang task force. One agency in Gila County reported no participation in a multi-agency gang task force in 2009, nor did agencies report participation in 2007 or 2008 (Figure 3).

Figure 3



Conclusion

Gang activity continues to negatively affect one law enforcement jurisdiction in Gila County and a number of jurisdictions throughout Arizona. Only one agency of the three total respondents in Gila County reported gang involvement in crime and drug distribution within its respective jurisdiction during 2009. The law enforcement agency continued to report a low level of gang involvement in the distribution of marijuana, methamphetamines, pharmaceuticals, and powdered cocaine. The agency also cited gang involvement in burglary, drug offenses, and homicide as concerns within its jurisdiction.

The one agency in Gila County reporting a gang presence identified the Aryan Brotherhood, Mexican Mafia/La Eme, and the Skinheads as active gangs in 2009. These gangs were listed as having a low level of activity within the agency's jurisdiction.

The number of agencies reporting gangs and gang activity has decreased from two in 2008 to one in 2009. The data reveals that one law enforcement agency was concerned about gang involvement in crime within its jurisdiction during 2009. The agency reported a moderate level of gang involvement in intimidation/extortion and murder and a low level of gang involvement in burglary and vandalism/graffiti/tagging. While gangs were reported to be present in Gila County, no agencies reported participation in a multi-agency task force from 2007 to 2009.

The data collected from local law enforcement agencies illustrates what many working in the criminal justice system already know: at least one Gila County community, communities across the state, and the law enforcement agencies that serve these communities continue to face a gang problem. Through the research work of the SAC, ACJC intends for the Gila County gang profile and the state gang report to inform policy makers, practitioners, and other stakeholders on gangs and gang activity both at the state and county level.

The data collected from local law enforcement agencies and included in this report illustrates what those working in the justice system already know: that many Arizona communities and the agencies that serve them continue to face a significant gang problem. It is hoped that this report will assist policy makers and practitioners by capturing information on gang threats at the state and county level to inform discussions about Arizona's gang problem and the development of strategies to effectively address gang prevention, intervention, and enforcement.