

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 Yuma County Gang Threat Assessment

2011

ARIZONA CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION



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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, titled the *Arizona Gang Threat Assessment*, 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 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 Yuma County and statewide results from the 2009 survey administration, 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

- Six of the seven Yuma County agencies that responded to the survey in 2010 reported an active gang presence within their respective jurisdictions. Of the agencies that reported at least one active gang, four agencies provided estimates of the number of gang members within their jurisdictions. These agencies estimated that there were 4,310 active gang members across the four jurisdictions.
- Five of the six Yuma County agencies with a gang presence reported that gangs were expanding their membership and scope of activities. More than 60 percent of the responding agencies reported that gang activity had increased during the prior six months. More than 80 percent of agencies reported that gang activity had increased during the previous 12 months. When asked about the five years prior to taking the 2009 survey, half of the agencies reported that gang activity had increased significantly or slightly while 16.7 percent of agencies reported that gang activity had not changed and 33.3 percent reported activity had decreased slightly.
- Approximately 67 percent of the agencies with a gang presence reported that gangs had a high level of involvement in the distribution of marijuana, and 40 percent of agencies reported a high level of involvement in the distribution of methamphetamine.
- The Hispanic Sureños/SUR 13, Mexican Mafia/La Eme, and the Hispanic Norteños/14 were the gangs reported as having a high level of involvement in Yuma County.
- When asked about gang intervention strategies, law enforcement agencies with a gang presence identified enforcement, identification of gang members, and joint efforts with other agencies as the most effective strategies in response to gangs and gang activity in their jurisdictions.

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 *Arizona Gang Threat Assessment* 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 presents 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, the 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, Firearms, and Explosives. The first national assessment was conducted in 2005 with surveys being sent out to hundreds of gang investigators across the nation.

Seven law enforcement agencies throughout Yuma County received the *Arizona Gang Threat Assessment*, which asked a series of questions about gangs and gang activity within their respective law enforcement jurisdictions during 2009. 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 seven surveys distributed to law enforcement agencies in Yuma County, all seven (100.0 percent) agencies returned a survey to the SAC.

Gangs in Yuma County and Arizona

Total Gang Membership

Of the seven agencies that responded to SAC's request for information on gangs and gang activity in Yuma County, 85.7 percent (six agencies) reported the presence of gangs and gang activity in their respective jurisdictions. This is an increase from the five agencies that reported gangs in their jurisdictions during the previous year (Table 1). Of the agencies that indicated a gang presence within their jurisdictions, four agencies estimated a total of 4,310 active gang members present across their jurisdictions in 2009. The remaining two agencies reporting gang activity were not able to provide an estimated number of gang members within their jurisdictions. Thus, the number of gang members reported is a conservative estimate of the number of gang members in Yuma County. The causes of the underestimation include the inability of some agencies to provide estimates and the likelihood that some gang members have not yet come to the attention of law enforcement.

	2007		2008		2009		2009 Arizona	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	2	66.7%	5	83.3%	6	85.7%	59	75.6%
No	1	33.3%	1	16.7%	1	14.3%	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

Agencies that reported a gang presence within their jurisdictions were asked to rate the level of gang activity and whether gang membership and activities were expanding in 2009. When asked whether

	2007	2008	2009	2009 Arizona
Yes	100.0%	60.0%	83.3%	50.0%
No	0.0%	40.0%	16.7%	46.4%
Unsure/Don't Know	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.6%
Total Responses	2	5	6	56

gangs in the area were expanding their membership and scope of activities, five (83.3 percent) of the Yuma County agencies reporting a gang presence responded that gangs within their jurisdictions were expanding their membership and

scope of activities, compared to half of the agencies reporting expanding membership and activities at the state level (Table 2). This is a continued increase in the number of agencies reporting expansion in 2007 and 2008.

When given the opportunity to provide further explanation of their responses regarding gang membership and gang activities, the agencies with expanding gang membership and activity reported that gangs were becoming more involved in drug smuggling, drug trafficking, burglary, and tagging.

When considering the six months prior to the 2009 assessment, two agencies reported that the level of gang activity in their respective jurisdictions increased significantly, two reported that activity had increased slightly, one reported no change, and one reported a slight decrease in gang activity. During the preceding 12 months, two agencies reported that gang activity increased significantly,

three reported that activity increased slightly, and one reported that activity decreased slightly. When asked to assess the level of gang activity over the past five years, one agency reported that activity increased significantly, two reported that activity increased slightly, one agency reported no change, and two agencies reported a slight decrease in gang activity (Figure 1).

Figure 1

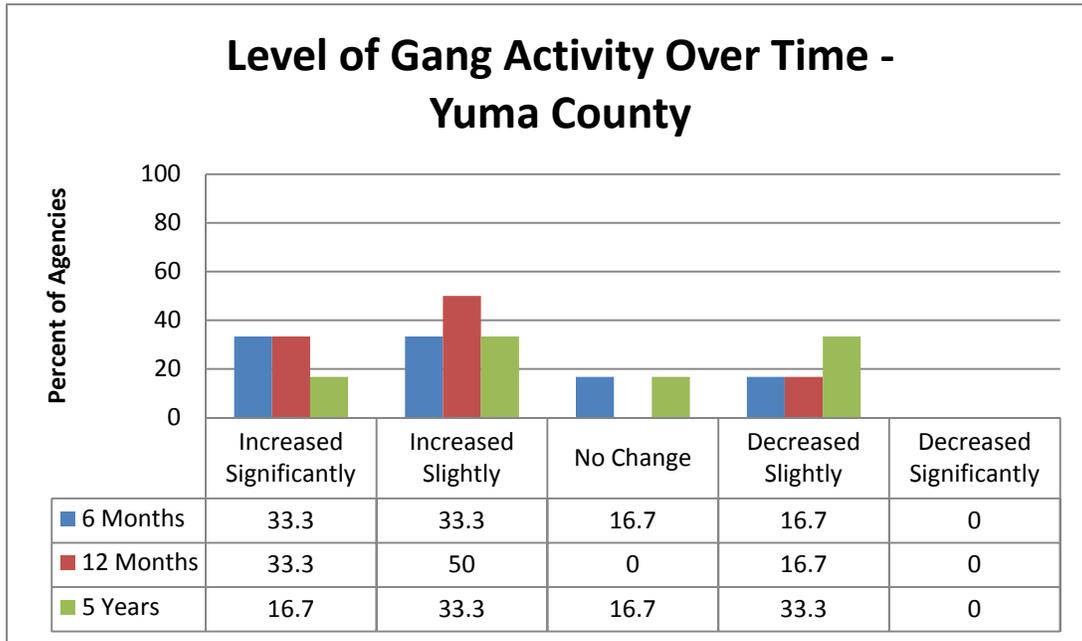
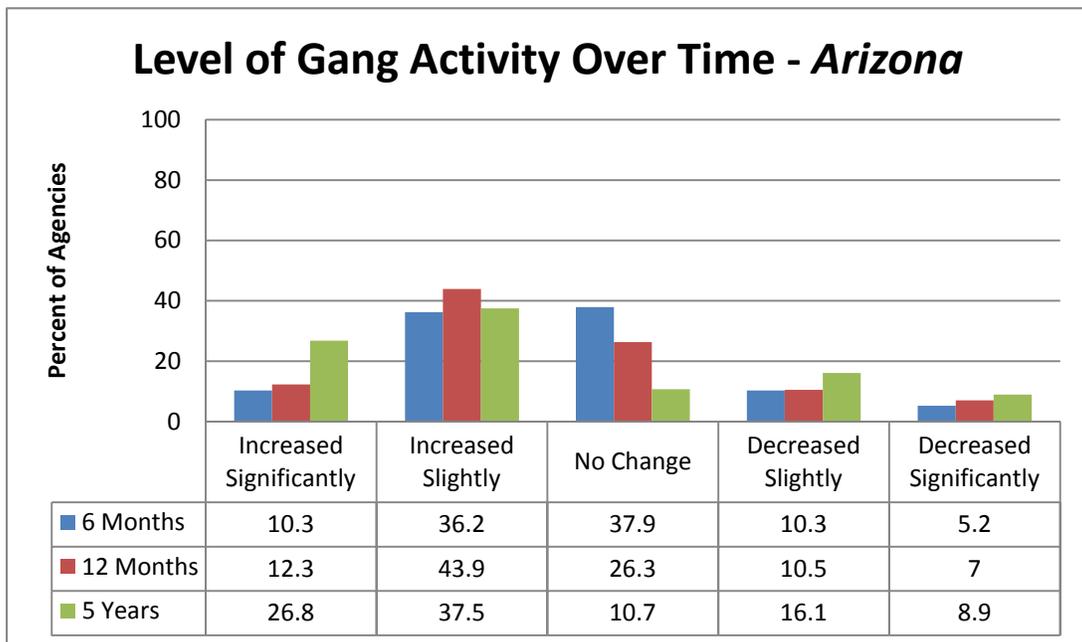


Figure 2



Gang Involvement in Crimes and Drugs

Table 3: Primary Crimes Committed by Gangs (Of the Jurisdictions Reporting Gang Activity)				
Crime	Yuma County		Arizona	
	Number of Agencies	Percent of Agencies	Number of Agencies	Percent of Agencies
Assault/Aggravated Assault	5	83.3%	43	78.2%
Drug Smuggling/Trafficking/Transport	3	50.0%	6	10.9%
Auto Theft	2	33.3%	7	12.7%
Burglary	2	33.3%	23	41.8%
Vandalism/Graffiti/Tagging	2	33.3%	13	23.6%
Alcohol Crimes/Minor in Consumption/DUI	1	16.7%	3	5.5%
Criminal Damage	1	16.7%	17	30.9%
Drug Offenses	1	16.7%	15	27.3%
Drug Possession	1	16.7%	4	7.3%
Drug Sales	1	16.7%	13	23.6%
Drug Use	1	16.7%	4	7.3%
Extortions	1	16.7%	1	1.8%
Human Smuggling	1	16.7%	4	7.3%
Property Crimes	1	16.7%	3	5.5%
Theft	1	16.7%	10	18.2%
Weapon Offenses	1	16.7%	4	7.3%
Number of Agencies Responding	6		55	

Agencies were asked to report the primary crimes committed by gangs within their respective jurisdictions (Table 3). This 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 Yuma County.

Five of the six Yuma County agencies with a gang presence reported assault/aggravated assault as a primary crime committed by gangs within their respective jurisdictions. Other crimes listed by two or more agencies in Yuma County include drug smuggling/trafficking/transport, auto theft, burglary, and vandalism/graffiti/tagging.

Law enforcement 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. This categorical question provides consistent measurements over time for the level of gang involvement across a predetermined set of violent and property crimes.

In 2009, four of the Yuma County agencies reported a high level of gang involvement in vandalism/graffiti/tagging (Table 4). Additional crimes identified by at least one agency for having a high level of gang involvement include burglary (50.0 percent), felonious assault (40.0 percent), firearms trafficking (16.7 percent), and human trafficking (16.7 percent).

Table 4: Level of Gang Involvement in Crime (Of the Jurisdictions Reporting Gang Activity)						
	Year	High	Moderate	Low	None	Unknown
Vandalism/Graffiti/Tagging	2007	50.0%	50.0%	-	-	-
	2008	40.0%	40.0%	-	-	20.0%
	2009	66.7%	33.3%	-	-	-
Arizona	2009	57.1%	28.6%	8.9%	-	5.4%

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Burglary	2007	50.0%	50.0%	-	-	-
	2008	20.0%	40.0%	20.0%	-	20.0%
	2009	50.0%	33.3%	16.7%	-	-
<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>
Felonious Assault	2007	100.0%	-	-	-	-
	2008	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%
	2009	40.0%	20.0%	40.0%	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>17.5%</i>	<i>35.1%</i>	<i>28.1%</i>	<i>10.5%</i>	<i>8.8%</i>
Firearms Trafficking	2007	50.0%	-	-	-	50.0%
	2008	-	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	40.0%
	2009	16.7%	16.7%	-	33.3%	33.3%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>5.3%</i>	<i>22.8%</i>	<i>24.6%</i>	<i>26.3%</i>	<i>21.1%</i>
Human Trafficking	2007	-	-	50.0%	-	50.0%
	2008	-	-	40.0%	-	60.0%
	2009	16.7%	50.0%	-	33.3%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>8.8%</i>	<i>17.5%</i>	<i>14.0%</i>	<i>31.6%</i>	<i>28.1%</i>
Auto Theft	2007	50.0%	50.0%	-	-	-
	2008	-	40.0%	40.0%	-	20.0%
	2009	-	50.0%	16.7%	33.3%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>12.1%</i>	<i>39.7%</i>	<i>20.7%</i>	<i>19.0%</i>	<i>8.6%</i>
Intimidation/Extortion	2007	50.0%	50.0%	-	-	-
	2008	-	60.0%	20.0%	-	20.0%
	2009	-	33.3%	66.7%	-	-
<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>
Fraud	2007	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2008	-	-	20.0%	20.0%	60.0%
	2009	-	20.0%	-	40.0%	40.0%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>13.0%</i>	<i>14.8%</i>	<i>27.8%</i>	<i>20.4%</i>	<i>24.1%</i>
Murder	2007	-	-	100.0%	-	-
	2008	20.0%	20.0%	-	40.0%	20.0%
	2009	-	16.7%	33.3%	50.0%	-
<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>
Robbery	2007	50.0%	-	50.0%	-	-
	2008	-	20.0%	60.0%	-	20.0%
	2009	-	16.7%	33.3%	33.3%	16.7%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>12.1%</i>	<i>29.3%</i>	<i>25.9%</i>	<i>20.7%</i>	<i>12.1%</i>
Sexual Assault/Rape	2007	-	-	50.0%	-	50.0%
	2008	-	-	20.0%	40.0%	40.0%
	2009	-	-	66.7%	33.3%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>5.3%</i>	<i>31.6%</i>	<i>36.8%</i>	<i>24.6%</i>
Arson	2007	-	-	-	50.0%	50.0%
	2008	-	-	-	60.0%	40.0%
	2009	-	-	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>3.4%</i>	<i>5.2%</i>	<i>19.0%</i>	<i>46.6%</i>	<i>25.9%</i>
Identity Theft	2007	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2008	-	20.0%	20.0%	-	60.0%
	2009	-	-	16.7%	33.3%	50.0%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>12.3%</i>	<i>22.8%</i>	<i>21.1%</i>	<i>21.1%</i>	<i>22.8%</i>
Kidnapping	2007	-	-	50.0%	-	50.0%
	2008	-	-	-	40.0%	60.0%
	2009	-	-	16.7%	66.7%	16.7%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>3.5%</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>31.6%</i>	<i>42.1%</i>	<i>21.1%</i>
Prostitution	2007	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2008	-	-	-	60.0%	40.0%
	2009	-	-	16.7%	16.7%	66.7%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>5.3%</i>	<i>14.0%</i>	<i>40.4%</i>	<i>38.6%</i>

In addition to the level of gang involvement by crime type, agencies rated the level of gang involvement in the distribution of various illegal drugs. Two agencies in Yuma County reported that gangs had a high level of involvement in drug street sales, and two agencies reported a moderate level of involvement (Table 5). A large percentage of agencies experiencing a gang presence reported a high level of gang involvement in the distribution of marijuana (66.7 percent), followed by methamphetamine (40.0 percent).

Table 5: Gang Involvement in the Distribution of Drugs (Of the Jurisdictions Reporting Gang Activity)						
		High	Moderate	Low	None	Unknown
Drugs – Street Sales	2007	50.0%	50.0%	-	-	-
	2008	-	60.0%	20.0%	-	20.0%
	2009	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	-	-
<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	-	50.0%	-	-	50.0%
	2008	-	-	50.0%	-	50.0%
	2009	-	16.7%	50.0%	16.7%	16.7%
<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	-	-	-	20.0%	80.0%
	2009	-	-	50.0%	33.3%	16.7%
<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	-	-	50.0%	33.3%	16.7%
<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	50.0%	50.0%	-	-	-
	2008	60.0%	-	-	-	40.0%
	2009	66.7%	16.7%	16.7%	-	-
<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	50.0%	50.0%	-	-	-
	2008	40.0%	20.0%	-	-	40.0%
	2009	40.0%	60.0%	-	-	-
<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>
MDMA (Ecstasy) and analogs	2007	50.0%	-	50.0%	-	-
	2008	-	-	40.0%	-	60.0%
	2009	-	50.0%	-	16.7%	33.3%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>17.2%</i>	<i>27.6%</i>	<i>29.3%</i>	<i>25.9%</i>
Pharmaceuticals	2007	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2008	-	-	40.0%	-	60.0%
	2009	-	50.0%	33.3%	-	16.7%
<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>
Heroin	2007	-	50.0%	50.0%	-	-
	2008	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	-	40.0%
	2009	-	33.3%	33.3%	16.7%	16.7%
<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>
Crack Cocaine	2007	-	-	100.0%	-	-
	2008	-	-	20.0%	20.0%	60.0%
	2009	-	16.7%	-	33.3%	50.0%
<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>
Powdered Cocaine	2007	-	-	100.0%	-	-
	2008	-	-	40.0%	20.0%	40.0%
	2009	-	16.7%	16.7%	50.0%	16.7%
<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>

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, three of the 26 gangs were identified by Yuma County agencies as having high levels of activity (Table 6). Yuma County law enforcement agencies identified the Hispanic Sureños/SUR 13 (33.3 percent), Mexican Mafia/La Eme (33.3 percent) and the Hispanic Norteños/14 (16.7 percent) as having high levels of activity in 2009. In addition to the Hispanic Sureños/SUR 13 (33.3 percent) and Hispanic Norteños/14 (33.3 percent), agencies reported that the neighborhood-based drug trafficking groups/crews (50.0 percent), Hells Angels OMG (33.3 percent), and Mara Salvatrucha/MS-13 (33.3 percent) had a moderate level of activity in their jurisdictions.

Table 6: Level of Activity by Gang (Of the Jurisdictions Reporting Gang Activity)						
	Year	High	Moderate	Low	Not Applicable	Unknown
Hispanic Sureños (SUR 13)	2007	100.0%	-	-	-	-
	2008	-	-	75.0%	25.0%	-
	2009	33.3%	33.3%	16.7%	16.7%	-
<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>
Mexican Mafia/La Eme	2007	-	-	50.0%	-	50.0%
	2008	-	20.0%	60.0%	20.0%	-
	2009	33.3%	-	33.3%	33.3%	-
<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>
Hispanic Norteños (14)	2007	50.0%	-	50.0%	-	-
	2008	-	-	50.0%	50.0%	-
	2009	16.7%	33.3%	33.3%	16.7%	-
<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>
Neighborhood-based Drug Trafficking Groups/Crews	2007	-	50.0%	-	-	50.0%
	2008	-	20.0%	-	60.0%	20.0%
	2009	-	50.0%	16.7%	33.3%	-
<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>
Hells Angels OMG	2007	-	50.0%	-	50.0%	-
	2008	-	-	40.0%	60.0%	-
	2009	-	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	-
<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>
Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13)	2007	-	-	50.0%	-	50.0%
	2008	-	-	60.0%	40.0%	-
	2009	-	33.3%	50.0%	16.7%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>5.3%</i>	<i>42.1%</i>	<i>40.4%</i>	<i>12.3%</i>
18 th Street Gang	2007	-	-	-	50.0%	50.0%
	2008	-	-	-	80.0%	20.0%
	2009	-	-	50.0%	33.3%	16.7%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>28.1%</i>	<i>59.6%</i>	<i>10.5%</i>
Border Brothers	2007	-	-	-	50.0%	50.0%
	2008	-	-	-	75.0%	25.0%
	2009	-	-	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>3.6%</i>	<i>28.6%</i>	<i>57.1%</i>	<i>10.7%</i>
Crips (all sets)	2007	-	50.0%	-	-	50.0%
	2008	-	-	25.0%	75.0%	-
	2009	-	-	33.3%	50.0%	16.7%
<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>

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La Nuestra Familia	2007	-	-	-	50.0%	50.0%
	2008	-	-	-	60.0%	40.0%
	2009	-	-	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%
<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>
Latin Kings	2007	-	-	50.0%	-	50.0%
	2008	-	-	25.0%	75.0%	-
	2009	-	-	33.3%	50.0%	16.7%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>31.6%</i>	<i>54.4%</i>	<i>12.3%</i>
Outlaws OMG	2007	-	-	-	50.0%	50.0%
	2008	-	20.0%	-	80.0%	-
	2009	-	-	33.3%	66.7%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	<i>3.6%</i>	<i>12.5%</i>	<i>69.6%</i>	<i>14.3%</i>
Aryan Brotherhood	2007	Not Included in 2007 Survey				
	2008	-	-	40.0%	60.0%	-
	2009	-	-	16.7%	66.7%	16.7%
<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>
Bandidos OMG	2007	-	-	-	50.0%	50.0%
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	16.7%	83.3%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>19.3%</i>	<i>66.7%</i>	<i>12.3%</i>
Bloods (all sets)	2007	-	-	-	50.0%	50.0%
	2008	-	-	20.0%	80.0%	-
	2009	-	-	16.7%	66.7%	16.7%
<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>
La Raza	2007	-	-	-	50.0%	50.0%
	2008	-	-	-	80.0%	20.0%
	2009	-	-	16.7%	66.7%	16.7%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	-	<i>14.0%</i>	<i>73.7%</i>	<i>12.3%</i>
Pagans OMG	2007	-	-	-	50.0%	50.0%
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	16.7%	83.3%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	-	<i>8.9%</i>	<i>78.6%</i>	<i>12.5%</i>
Skinheads	2007	-	-	50.0%	50.0%	-
	2008	-	-	40.0%	60.0%	-
	2009	-	-	16.7%	66.7%	16.7%
<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>
Vice Lords	2007	-	-	50.0%	-	50.0%
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	16.7%	66.7%	16.7%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>10.5%</i>	<i>68.4%</i>	<i>19.3%</i>
Almighty P Stone Nation	2007	-	-	-	50.0%	50.0%
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	66.7%	33.3%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	-	<i>7.0%</i>	<i>75.4%</i>	<i>17.5%</i>
Asian Gangs (all sets)	2007	-	-	-	50.0%	50.0%
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	66.7%	33.3%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	-	<i>12.5%</i>	<i>66.1%</i>	<i>21.4%</i>
Black Gangster Disciples	2007	-	-	-	50.0%	50.0%
	2008	-	-	-	80.0%	20.0%
	2009	-	-	-	66.7%	33.3%
<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>
Gangster Disciples	2007	-	-	50.0%	-	50.0%
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	66.7%	33.3%
<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>

Mexikanemi (Texas Mexican Mafia)	2007	-	-	-	50.0%	50.0%
	2008	-	-	-	80.0%	20.0%
	2009	-	-	-	66.7%	33.3%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	-	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>78.6%</i>	<i>19.6%</i>
Texas Syndicate	2007	-	-	-	50.0%	50.0%
	2008	-	-	-	80.0%	20.0%
	2009	-	-	-	66.7%	33.3%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	-	<i>3.5%</i>	<i>75.4%</i>	<i>21.1%</i>
UBN	2007	-	-	-	50.0%	50.0%
	2008	-	-	25.0%	75.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	66.7%	33.3%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>8.9%</i>	<i>66.1%</i>	<i>23.2%</i>

Level of Gang Coordination

The survey also contains questions regarding gangs coordinating their activity with other gangs. In 2009, three of the five agencies in Yuma County reported that gangs were coordinating with other gangs within their jurisdictions (Table 7).

Table 7: Gang Coordination with Other Gangs (Of the Jurisdictions Reporting Gang Activity)				
	2007	2008	2009	2009 Arizona
Yes	0.0%	60.0%	60.0%	44.6%
No	100.0%	20.0%	40.0%	42.9%
Unsure/Don't Know	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%	12.5%
Total Responses	2	5	5	56

Agency responses indicated that gangs were coordinating with prison gangs to enhance smuggling activities as well as to unify the work of street gangs with Mexican drug cartel organizations.

Most Effective Gang Responses

Agency respondents provided information pertaining to which strategies were the most effective in their respective jurisdictions when combating gangs. Prior to the 2009 assessment, 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.

All strategies, except community programs, were identified by at least one agency as being effective in dealing with gangs (Table 8). The most common responses were enforcement (100.0 percent), identification of gang members (83.3 percent), joint efforts with other agencies (66.7 percent), gang crime/intelligence data analyses (50.0 percent), and GIITEM (50.0 percent).

Table 8: Effective Gang Interdiction, Intervention, or Suppression Strategies

	2007		2008		2009		2009 Arizona	
	Number of Agencies	Percent of Agencies						
Enforcement	2	100.0%	2	40.0%	6	100.0%	46	78.0%
Identification of Gang Members	1	50.0%	0	0.0%	5	83.3%	39	66.1%
Joint Efforts with Other Agencies	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	66.7%	29	49.2%
Gang Crime/Intelligence Data Analyses	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	50.0%	22	37.3%
GIITEM	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	50.0%	34	57.6%
Law Enforcement Gang Units	1	50.0%	1	20.0%	2	33.3%	19	32.2%
School Programs	0	0.0%	1	20.0%	2	33.3%	17	28.8%
Special Prosecution Programs	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%	13	22.0%
Community Programs	0	0.0%	1	20.0%	0	0.0%	8	13.6%

Task Force Participation

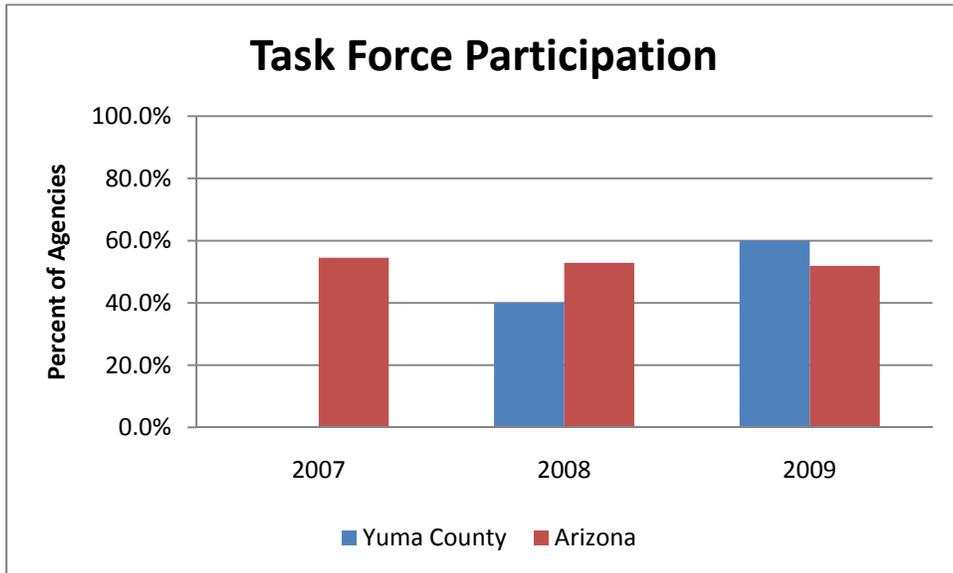
Under the direction of the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Gang Intelligence and Immigration Team Enforcement Mission (GIITEM) assists criminal justice agencies statewide with multi-agency collaboration for criminal gang enforcement and investigative strategies. GIITEM brings together 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. Three of the five Yuma County agencies that responded to the question participated in a multi-agency task force, which is an increase from previous years. Agencies indicated that they collaborated with GIITEM, US Marshals, and FBI Safe. Two agencies indicated that they are interested in participating, but the agencies currently lack the manpower.

Figure 3



Conclusion

Gang activity continues to negatively affect many law enforcement jurisdictions in Yuma County and throughout Arizona. Multiple agencies reported significant gang involvement in crime and drug distribution within their respective jurisdictions during 2009. Similar to the findings for 2008, law enforcement agencies continued to report a high level of gang involvement in the distribution of marijuana and methamphetamine. Law enforcement agencies also cited gang involvement in assault/aggravated assault, drug smuggling/trafficking/transport, auto theft, burglary, and vandalism/graffiti/tagging as concerns within their jurisdictions.

The most active gangs identified by Yuma County law enforcement agencies were the Hispanic Sureños (SUR 13), Mexican Mafia/La Eme, and Hispanic Norteños (14). Other gangs for which Yuma County agencies reported moderate levels of activity include neighborhood-based drug trafficking groups/crews, the Hells Angels OMG, and Mara Salvatrucha/MS-13.

Over the past three years, law enforcement agencies in Yuma County have reported an increase in the presence of gangs and the problems associated with gangs in their jurisdictions. The number of agencies reporting gangs and gang activity has increased from two agencies in 2007 to six agencies in 2009. The data also reveals that law enforcement agencies were concerned about increased gang involvement in many types of crimes within their jurisdictions during 2009. More than 80 percent of agencies reported that gangs were expanding their scope of activities, and 60 percent reported that gangs were coordinating with other gangs. With a higher number of agencies reporting a gang presence within their jurisdictions, the number of agencies that participated in a multi-agency task force also increased from no agencies in 2007 to three agencies in 2009.

The data collected from local law enforcement agencies illustrates what many working in the criminal justice system already know: Yuma County communities, communities across the state, and the law enforcement agencies that serve these communities continue to face a significant gang problem. Through the research work of the SAC, the ACJC intends for the Yuma 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.