

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Statistical Analysis Center Publication

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2011 Arizona Gang Threat Assessment

September

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Executive Summary

In the summer of 2011, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission's Statistical Analysis Center surveyed law enforcement officers in Arizona regarding gangs and gang activity in their jurisdictions. The survey used for the *Arizona Gang Threat Assessment* was based upon 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 was designed to obtain from law enforcement information about the gangs in their jurisdictions and their level of activity. This report provides statewide results from the *2011 Gang Threat Assessment* and compares it to similar data collected in 2007 through 2010¹ to assess changes over time.

Results of the threat assessment from local agencies have also been aggregated to the county level for 14 of the 15 Arizona counties. The county gang threat assessment reports can be found at <http://www.azcjc.gov/ACJC.Web/publications/publications.aspx?ServId=1000>.

Findings

- Gangs were reported to be active in 46 of the 63 jurisdictions (73.0 percent) that responded to the survey in 2011. Of the agencies that reported active gangs, 35 provided estimates of the number of gang members in their jurisdiction. Together, these agencies alone estimated that there are 31,511 active gang members in their jurisdictions.
- Slightly less than half (48.8 percent) of responding agencies reported that gangs were expanding their scope of activities.
- Over half of the agencies reported that gang activity had increased in the prior 12 months and during the last five years. When asked about the six months prior to the survey, nearly two-thirds of the agencies (62.2 percent) reported gang activity had either stayed the same or decreased.
- Assault/aggravated assault was listed by nearly 67 percent of the agencies reporting on gang activities as the primary crime being committed by gangs, followed by burglary and drug offenses.
- A high level of gang involvement in the sale of marijuana was reported by 45.5 percent of responding agencies and 26.7 percent reported high levels of gang involvement in the sale of methamphetamine. The percent of agencies reporting a high level of gang involvement in heroin sales nearly doubled from 5.8 percent in 2008 to 10.3 percent in 2010 and then nearly doubled again to 20 percent in 2011.

¹ 2010 data was previously included in the 2009 report as 2009 data.

- When asked about gang intervention strategies, law enforcement agencies identified law enforcement, identification of gang members and Gang Immigration Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission (GIITEM) as the most effective strategies when responding to gangs and gang activity in their jurisdictions. Much lower percentages of agency respondents saw value in school programs, special gang prosecution units and community-based gang programs.

Introduction

During the summer of 2011, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission's (ACJC) Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) surveyed law enforcement officers in Arizona regarding their perceptions and experience with gangs, gang members, and gang activity in their jurisdictions. This report examines and summarizes the results from the survey and complies with the mandate of Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) §41-2416, which requires ACJC to conduct an annual survey that measures the prevalence of gang activity in Arizona when monies are specifically appropriated for that purpose. As in past years, no funds were specifically appropriated for this assessment; however, because effectively addressing gangs and gang activity presents a significant challenge to Arizona's law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice system 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 in Arizona. In the summer of 2007, the *Arizona Gang Survey* was replaced with the *Arizona Gang Threat Assessment* because of feedback from the law enforcement community in Arizona who requested 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.

ARS §13-105.8 and ARS §13-105.9 establish a criteria for objectively identifying criminal street gangs and gang members.

8. "Criminal street gang" means an ongoing formal or informal association of persons in which members or associates individually or collectively engage in the commission, attempted commission, facilitation or solicitation of any felony act and that has at least one individual who is a criminal street gang member.

9. "Criminal street gang member" means an individual to whom at least two of the following seven criteria that indicate criminal street gang membership apply:

(a) Self-proclamation.

- (b) Witness testimony or official statement.
- (c) Written or electronic correspondence.
- (d) Paraphernalia or photographs.
- (e) Tattoos.
- (f) Clothing or colors.
- (g) Any other indicia of street gang membership.

The current *Arizona Gang Threat Assessment* survey was distributed to 111 law enforcement agencies throughout Arizona asking them a series of questions about gangs and gang activity in their jurisdiction. 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. Surveys were sent to 14 county sheriff’s offices, 73 municipal police agencies, 7 marshals, and 17 tribal police departments. Of the 111 surveys distributed, 63 (57 percent) of the surveys were returned. A total of 71.4 percent of sheriffs, 63.5 percent of municipal law enforcement agencies, 16.7 percent of marshals and 29.4 percent of tribal police departments returned completed surveys.

Table 1: Number of Law Enforcement Agencies Responding to Arizona Gang Threat Assessment Survey, 2007-2011								
	2007		2008		2010²		2011	
	Number	Percent Returned	Number	Percent Returned	Number	Percent Returned	Number	Percent Returned
Sent a Survey	113		113		113		111	
Returned a Survey	92	81.4%	99	87.6%	78	69.0%	63	56.8%

County reports that report results specific to each Arizona county have been produced as supplements to this state report. The two Greenlee County law enforcement agencies that responded to the survey administered in 2011 reported no gang presence within their jurisdictions. As these Greenlee agencies reported no gang presence, no Greenlee County report has been produced.

Gangs in Arizona

Total Gang Membership

Of the 63 agencies that responded to our request for information on gangs and gang activity in their jurisdictions, 73.0 percent (46 agencies) reported the presence of gangs and gang activity in their jurisdiction in 2011. This is a decrease from 2010 in the percentage of responding agencies reporting active gangs in their jurisdictions (Table 2). Of the agencies that responded that there were gangs in their jurisdiction, together they estimated that there were 31,511 active gang members in their

² 2010 data was previously included in the 2009 report as 2009 data.

jurisdictions. Importantly, 11 of the agencies reporting gang activity were not able to provide an estimate of the number of active gang members in their jurisdiction. The number of active gang members reported here is likely a conservative estimate of the total number of active gang members in Arizona. The causes of underestimation include the inability of some agencies to provide estimates, other agencies not responding to the survey at all, and the likelihood that some gang members have not yet come to the attention of law enforcement.

Table 2: Number of Law Enforcement Agencies that Reported Gangs, 2007-2011

	2007		2008		2010		2011	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	57	62.0%	69	69.7%	59	75.6%	46	73.0%
No	33	35.9%	30	30.3%	19	24.4%	17	27.0%
Unsure/Don't know	2	2.2%	-	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Level of Gang Activity Over Time

Agencies that reported gangs or gang members in their jurisdiction were asked to rate the level of gang activity and if gang membership and gang activities were expanding. When asked whether gangs in their area were expanding their scope of activities, slightly less than half (48.8 percent) of responding agencies reported that gangs were expanding their scope of activities (Table 3). This continues the trend of a decreasing percentage of agencies reporting an expansion in the scope of gang activities since 2007.

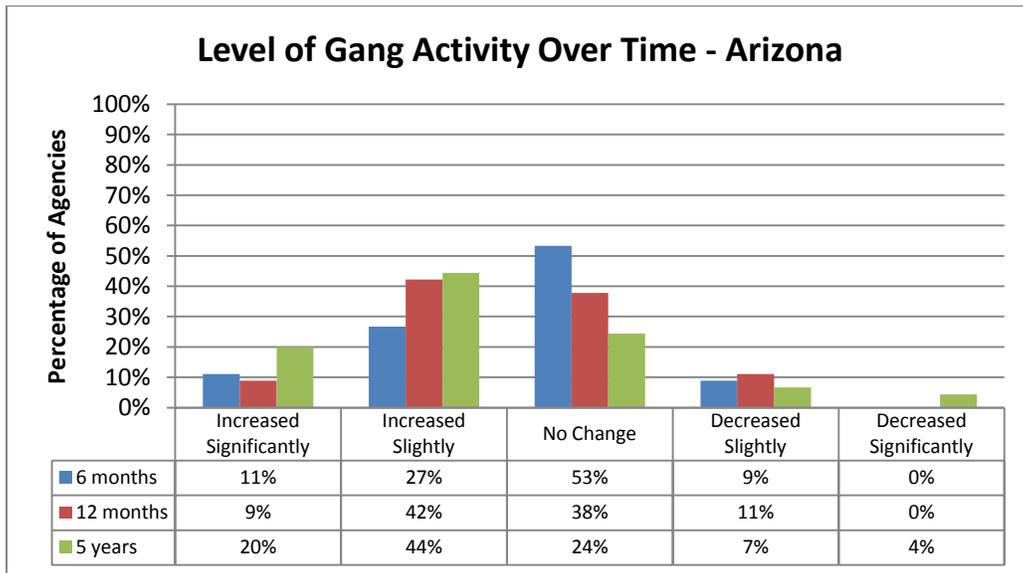
Table 3: Percentage of Jurisdictions Reporting Gangs Expanding their Scope of Activities (Of the Jurisdictions Reporting Gang Activity), 2007-2011

	2007	2008	2010	2011
Yes	65.5%	64.5%	50.0%	48.8%
No	27.3%	29.0%	46.4%	51.2%
Unsure/Don't Know	7.3%	6.5%	3.6%	-
Total Responses	55	62	56	43

When given the opportunity to provide further explanation of their responses about gang activities, many agencies reported that gangs that were expanding their activities are also more involved in drug trafficking. Some also mention an increase in home invasion by gangs and gang members.

When considering only the six months prior to their completing the 2011 assessment, 26.7 percent of agencies reported that the level of gang activity in their jurisdiction had increased slightly; this is markedly lower than the 36.2 percent reporting in 2010 (Figure 1). More than 42 percent of the agencies reported that gang activity increased slightly over the preceding 12 months and 44.4 percent reported that gang activity has increased slightly over the past five years, which is an increase from the 37.5 percent of agencies reporting slight increases in 2010.

Figure 1



Gang Involvement in Crimes and Drugs

Agencies were also asked to report the primary crimes committed by gangs in their jurisdiction (Table 4). This question was open ended and respondents were asked to list the crimes that were being committed by gangs in their jurisdiction with no limit to the number or type of crimes they could report.

Assault/Aggravated assault was reported as a primary gang crime by two-thirds of agencies who reported primary crimes (66.7 percent), followed by burglary (53.5 percent), drug offenses (37.8 percent) and drug sales (28.9 percent). Slightly more than a quarter of responding agencies (26.7%) reported theft and nearly one quarter (24.4 percent) of agencies reported criminal damage and vandalism/graffiti/tagging. Comparatively, in 2010 78.2 percent of agencies reported assault, 41.8 percent reported burglary, 30.9 percent reported criminal damage and 23.6 percent reported vandalism/graffiti/tagging as the primary crimes being committed by gangs.

Table 4: Primary Crimes Committed by Gangs (Of the Jurisdictions Reporting Gang Activity), 2011		
Crime	2011	
	Number of Agencies	Percent of Agencies
Assault/Aggravated Assault	30	66.7%
Burglary	24	53.3%
Drug Offenses	17	37.8%
Drug Sales	13	28.9%
Theft	12	26.7%
Criminal Damage	11	24.4%
Vandalism/Graffiti/Tagging	11	24.4%
Threatening and Intimidating	9	20.0%

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Drug Smuggling/Trafficking/Transport	7	15.6%
Auto Theft	7	15.6%
Robberies	5	11.1%
Homicide	5	11.1%
Weapon Offenses	4	8.9%
Drive By Shootings	3	6.7%
Property Crimes	3	6.7%
Robbery/Home Invasions	3	6.7%
Fraud/Identity Theft	2	4.4%
Alcohol Violations	2	4.4%
Disorderly Conduct	2	4.4%
Home Invasions	2	4.4%
Alien Smuggling	1	2.2%
Animal Cruelty	1	2.2%
Any illegal enterprise with a cash profit	1	2.2%
Arson	1	2.2%
Car Busts	1	2.2%
Counterfeit	1	2.2%
Criminal Trespass	1	2.2%
Drug Use	1	2.2%
Firearm Trafficking	1	2.2%
Forgery	1	2.2%
Human Trafficking	1	2.2%
Larceny	1	2.2%
Shootings	1	2.2%
Shoplifting	1	2.2%
Trafficking in Stolen Property	1	2.2%
Vehicle Theft	1	2.2%
Violent Crime	1	2.2%
Number of Agencies Responding	45	

Agencies were also asked to rate the level of gang involvement in their jurisdictions in 15 specific crimes. Agencies were given five choices to rate the level of gang involvement in each type of crime: high, moderate, low, none, and unknown. In contrast to the data above that allows for emerging gang crimes to reveal themselves, this question is intended to provide consistent measurement over time of gang involvement in a predetermined set of violent and property crimes.

The crime type with the largest percentage of agencies reporting a high level of gang involvement in 2011 was vandalism/graffiti/tagging, followed by Felonious Assault (Table 5). Vandalism/graffiti/tagging was also the most reported gang crime having a high level of gang involvement in 2007, 2008 and 2010.

Conversely, for murder and arson, 40 or more percent of the agencies reported that gangs were not involved at all in these crimes in their jurisdiction. While the previous table revealed that more than 66.7 percent of agencies reported assault as the primary crime committed by gangs, Table 5 shows

that only 24.4 percent of agencies reported that gangs had a high involvement in felonious assaults. This difference likely results from agencies including all assaults when responding to the previous question, but restricting their responses, as directed, to felonious assaults in the question that followed.

Table 5: Level of Gang Involvement in Crime (Of the Jurisdictions Reporting Gang Activity), 2007-2011						
	Year	High	Moderate	Low	None	Unknown
Vandalism/Graffiti/Tagging	2007	38.6%	49.1%	7.0%	3.5%	1.8%
	2008	51.5%	29.4%	13.2%	2.9%	2.9%
	2010	57.1%	28.6%	8.9%	-	5.4%
	2011	53.3%	24.4%	13.3%	4.4%	4.4%
Felonious Assault	2007	22.8%	33.3%	29.8%	7.0%	7.0%
	2008	25.4%	29.9%	20.9%	10.4%	13.4%
	2010	17.5%	35.1%	28.1%	10.5%	8.8%
	2011	24.4%	31.1%	31.1%	6.7%	6.7%
Burglary	2007	14.0%	50.9%	15.8%	5.3%	14.0%
	2008	11.8%	38.2%	27.9%	8.8%	13.2%
	2010	22.4%	41.4%	19.0%	6.9%	10.3%
	2011	22.2%	44.4%	22.2%	4.4%	6.7%
Intimidation/Extortion	2007	14.3%	32.1%	33.9%	5.4%	14.3%
	2008	10.3%	38.2%	25.0%	8.8%	17.6%
	2010	15.5%	31.0%	31.0%	6.9%	15.5%
	2011	13.3%	37.8%	24.4%	4.4%	20.0%
Robbery	2007	8.9%	23.2%	42.9%	12.5%	12.5%
	2008	14.7%	16.2%	42.6%	16.2%	10.3%
	2010	12.1%	29.3%	25.9%	20.7%	12.1%
	2011	9.1%	27.3%	36.4%	11.4%	15.9%
Firearms Trafficking	2007	8.9%	23.2%	35.7%	12.5%	19.6%
	2008	5.9%	14.7%	30.9%	20.6%	27.9%
	2010	5.3%	22.8%	24.6%	26.3%	21.1%
	2011	8.9%	26.7%	28.9%	13.3%	22.2%
Murder	2007	3.6%	7.1%	46.4%	30.4%	12.5%
	2008	6.0%	13.4%	28.4%	32.8%	19.4%
	2010	3.6%	14.3%	28.6%	44.6%	8.9%
	2011	6.7%	13.3%	28.9%	44.4%	6.7%
Human Trafficking	2007	1.9%	11.1%	24.1%	25.9%	37.0%
	2008	-	19.4%	16.4%	28.4%	35.8%
	2010	8.8%	17.5%	14.0%	31.6%	28.1%
	2011	4.4%	15.6%	15.6%	33.3%	31.1%
Prostitution	2007	-	3.6%	19.6%	41.1%	35.7%
	2008	2.9%	2.9%	7.4%	50.0%	36.8%
	2010	1.8%	5.3%	14.0%	40.4%	38.6%
	2011	4.4%	6.7%	20.0%	37.8%	31.1%
Auto Theft	2007	17.9%	30.4%	30.4%	7.1%	14.3%
	2008	6.0%	28.4%	32.8%	17.9%	14.9%
	2010	12.1%	39.7%	20.7%	19.0%	8.6%
	2011	4.4%	28.9%	46.7%	15.6%	4.4%
Identity Theft	2007	12.3%	22.8%	19.3%	15.8%	29.8%
	2008	7.4%	11.8%	23.5%	23.5%	33.8%
	2010	12.3%	22.8%	21.1%	21.1%	22.8%
	2011	4.4%	26.7%	28.9%	22.2%	17.8%
Kidnapping	2007	-	1.8%	44.6%	33.9%	19.6%
	2008	1.5%	4.4%	17.6%	48.5%	27.9%
	2010	3.5%	1.8%	31.6%	42.1%	21.1%

	2011	2.2%	8.9%	31.1%	33.3%	24.4%
Arson	2007	-	3.6%	21.4%	41.1%	33.9%
	2008	-	-	17.9%	50.7%	31.3%
	2010	3.4%	5.2%	19.0%	46.6%	25.9%
	2011	2.2%	6.7%	26.7%	40.0%	24.4%
Fraud	2007	3.5%	19.3%	35.1%	14.0%	28.1%
	2008	3.0%	10.6%	22.7%	27.3%	36.4%
	2010	13.0%	14.8%	27.8%	20.4%	24.1%
	2011	2.2%	20.0%	31.1%	20.0%	26.7%
Sexual Assault/Rape	2007	-	3.6%	50.0%	17.9%	28.6%
	2008	-	11.8%	20.6%	36.8%	30.9%
	2010	1.8%	5.3%	31.6%	36.8%	24.6%
	2011	2.2%	4.4%	46.7%	26.7%	20.0%

In addition to the level of gang involvement by crime type, agencies were also asked to rate the level of gang involvement in the distribution of various drugs. Approximately 29 percent of agencies reported that gangs had a high involvement in drug street sales in 2011, with an additional 37.8 percent reporting a moderate level of gang involvement (Table 6). A high level of gang involvement in the wholesale trafficking of drugs was reported by 11.4 percent of agencies and no agencies reported a high level of gang involvement in the manufacturing of drugs. In 2009, marijuana grows was added to the survey and the list of drug activities. Only 2.2 percent of agencies reported that gangs had a high level of involvement in marijuana grows, but 37.8 percent reported some, but low level of involvement. The highest percentages of sales of specific drugs reported were marijuana at 45.5 percent and methamphetamine at 26.7 percent. Few agencies reported that gangs were highly involved in sales of MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine), powdered cocaine, and pharmaceuticals, although the percentage of gangs highly and moderately involved in pharmaceutical sales has increased each year. It is also worth noting that the percent of agencies reporting a high level of gang involvement in heroin sales nearly doubled from 5.8 percent in 2008 to 10.3 percent in 2010 and then nearly doubled again to 20 percent in 2011.

Table 6: Gang Involvement in the Distribution of Drugs (Of the Jurisdictions Reporting Gang Activity), 2007-2011						
		High	Moderate	Low	None	Unknown
Drugs – Street Sales	2007	26.3%	43.9%	22.8%	1.8%	5.3%
	2008	20.6%	44.1%	19.1%	2.9%	13.2%
	2010	29.3%	36.2%	27.6%	-	6.9%
	2011	28.9%	37.8%	26.7%	2.2%	4.4%
Drugs – Wholesale	2007	10.5%	21.1%	40.4%	5.3%	22.8%
	2008	10.6%	16.7%	30.3%	12.1%	30.3%
	2010	5.2%	29.3%	31.0%	8.6%	25.9%
	2011	11.4%	31.8%	25.0%	13.6%	18.2%
Drugs – Manufacture	2007	3.6%	3.6%	41.1%	19.6%	32.1%
	2008	4.4%	5.9%	22.1%	33.8%	33.8%
	2010	-	10.5%	36.8%	21.1%	31.6%
	2011	-	15.9%	34.1%	27.3%	22.7%
Marijuana Grows	2007	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2008	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2010	-	5.2%	41.4%	20.7%	32.8%
	2011	2.2%	13.3%	37.8%	22.2%	24.4%
Marijuana – Sales	2007	36.8%	42.1%	15.8%	1.8%	3.5%
	2008	41.2%	26.5%	13.2%	4.4%	14.7%
	2010	44.8%	29.3%	15.5%	3.4%	6.9%

	2011	45.5%	27.3%	13.6%	2.3%	11.4%
Methamphetamine – Sales	2007	29.8%	36.8%	24.6%	3.5%	5.3%
	2008	23.5%	35.3%	17.6%	5.9%	17.6%
	2010	31.6%	36.8%	14.0%	8.8%	8.8%
	2011	26.7%	31.1%	22.2%	6.7%	13.3%
Crack Cocaine – Sales	2007	12.3%	17.5%	40.4%	8.8%	21.1%
	2008	13.2%	11.8%	25.0%	23.5%	26.5%
	2010	10.3%	12.1%	29.3%	32.8%	15.5%
	2011	11.1%	15.6%	33.3%	13.3%	26.7%
Heroin – Sales	2007	7.4%	16.7%	38.9%	14.8%	22.2%
	2008	5.8%	15.9%	39.1%	11.6%	27.5%
	2010	10.3%	29.3%	24.1%	19.0%	17.2%
	2011	20.0%	17.8%	28.9%	11.1%	22.2%
Pharmaceuticals –Sales	2007	5.4%	10.7%	32.1%	16.1%	35.7%
	2008	6.0%	13.4%	19.4%	22.4%	38.8%
	2010	6.9%	24.1%	32.8%	10.3%	25.9%
	2011	8.9%	24.4%	35.6%	11.1%	20.0%
Powdered Cocaine – Sales	2007	3.6%	16.1%	50.0%	7.1%	23.2%
	2008	5.9%	19.1%	36.8%	14.7%	23.5%
	2010	6.9%	13.8%	43.1%	20.7%	15.5%
	2011	2.3%	22.7%	40.9%	6.8%	27.3%
MDMA (Ecstasy) and analogs – Sales	2007	3.6%	3.6%	42.9%	21.4%	28.6%
	2008	1.4%	13.0%	20.3%	24.6%	40.6%
	2010	-	17.2%	27.6%	29.3%	25.9%
	2011	4.5%	6.8%	43.2%	15.9%	29.5%

Level of Activity by Gang

Responding agencies were also asked to rate the level of activity of 26 specific gangs in their jurisdictions. The gangs were chosen for inclusion in the Arizona assessment because they correspond to the gangs listed in the *National Gang Threat Assessment*, allowing for a state-to-nation comparison.

When agencies were asked to rate the level of activity by each gang, 11 of the 26 gangs listed were identified by one or more agencies as having high levels of activity in their jurisdiction (Table 7). The gangs reported to have high levels of activity in 2011 in the highest percentage of jurisdictions were the Hispanic Sureños/SUR 13 (31.1 percent), Bloods (22.2 percent), Mexican Mafia/La Eme (22.2 percent) and Crips (17.8 percent).

Table 7: Level of Activity by Gang (Of the Jurisdictions Reporting Gang Activity), 2007-2011						
	Year	High	Moderate	Low	Not Applicable	Unknown
Hispanic Sureños (SUR 13)	2007	19.6%	25.0%	23.2%	30.4%	1.8%
	2008	17.6%	35.3%	22.1%	14.7%	10.3%
	2010	24.6%	33.3%	24.6%	12.3%	5.3%
	2011	31.1%	17.8%	31.1%	17.8%	2.2%
Bloods (all sets)	2007	17.9%	19.6%	28.6%	28.6%	5.4%
	2008	18.8%	14.5%	26.1%	40.6%	-
	2010	14.0%	14.0%	33.3%	26.3%	12.3%
	2011	22.2%	20.0%	28.9%	20.0%	8.9%

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Mexican Mafia/La Eme	2007	7.1%	19.6%	39.3%	23.2%	10.7%
	2008	7.2%	20.3%	40.6%	18.8%	13.0%
	2010	12.3%	15.8%	38.6%	21.1%	12.3%
	2011	22.2%	17.8%	26.7%	24.4%	8.9%
Crips (all sets)	2007	14.3%	25.0%	25.0%	28.6%	7.1%
	2008	17.9%	20.9%	25.4%	32.8%	3.0%
	2010	15.8%	19.3%	26.3%	28.1%	10.5%
	2011	17.8%	26.7%	31.1%	20.0%	4.4%
Skinheads	2007	3.5%	21.1%	38.6%	31.6%	5.3%
	2008	4.3%	14.5%	33.3%	43.5%	4.3%
	2010	5.3%	14.0%	42.1%	28.1%	10.5%
	2011	8.9%	8.9%	37.8%	28.9%	15.6%
Hispanic Norteños (14)	2007	3.6%	9.1%	25.5%	52.7%	9.1%
	2008	1.5%	4.4%	35.3%	48.5%	10.3%
	2010	3.5%	8.8%	40.4%	38.6%	8.8%
	2011	6.7%	11.1%	40.0%	35.6%	6.7%
La Raza	2007	-	1.8%	7.1%	71.4%	19.6%
	2008	-	-	8.8%	73.5%	17.6%
	2010	-	-	14.0%	73.7%	12.3%
	2011	4.5%	-	6.8%	70.5%	18.2%
Neighborhood - based Drug Trafficking Groups/Crews	2007	10.9%	23.6%	20.0%	30.9%	14.5%
	2008	13.0%	18.8%	24.6%	37.7%	5.8%
	2010	8.6%	29.3%	22.4%	32.8%	6.9%
	2011	4.4%	24.4%	26.7%	24.4%	20.0%
Aryan Brotherhood	2007	Not Included in 2007 Survey				
	2008	7.4%	8.8%	39.7%	39.7%	4.4%
	2010	5.3%	15.8%	45.6%	22.8%	10.5%
	2011	4.4%	13.3%	46.7%	26.7%	8.9%
UBN	2007	-	2.1%	6.4%	66.0%	25.5%
	2008	-	-	8.2%	67.2%	24.6%
	2010	-	1.8%	8.9%	66.1%	23.2%
	2011	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	68.2%	25.0%
Hells Angels OMG	2007	3.5%	17.5%	42.1%	33.3%	3.5%
	2008	4.3%	17.4%	42.0%	34.8%	1.4%
	2010	5.3%	28.1%	29.8%	29.8%	7.0%
	2011	2.2%	24.4%	37.8%	24.4%	11.1%
Black Gangster Disciples	2007	3.6%	-	10.7%	73.2%	12.5%
	2008	-	1.4%	17.4%	76.8%	4.3%
	2010	1.8%	3.5%	10.5%	70.2%	14.0%
	2011	-	4.4%	17.8%	62.2%	15.6%
Gangster Disciples	2007	1.8%	1.8%	18.2%	61.8%	16.4%
	2008	-	2.9%	22.1%	73.5%	1.5%
	2010	1.8%	1.8%	21.1%	64.9%	10.5%
	2011	-	8.9%	22.2%	57.8%	11.1%
La Nuestra Familia	2007	-	-	7.1%	71.4%	21.4%
	2008	-	-	10.3%	75.0%	14.7%
	2010	1.8%	1.8%	10.5%	64.9%	21.1%
	2011	-	-	9.3%	74.4%	16.3%
Border Brothers	2007	-	1.8%	17.9%	64.3%	16.1%
	2008	-	4.5%	19.4%	62.7%	13.4%
	2010	-	3.6%	28.6%	57.1%	10.7%
	2011	-	4.4%	26.7%	60.0%	8.9%
Outlaws OMG	2007	-	1.8%	7.3%	78.2%	12.7%
	2008	-	1.5%	13.6%	77.3%	7.6%
	2010	-	3.6%	12.5%	69.6%	14.3%
	2011	-	-	13.6%	63.6%	22.7%

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

18 th Street Gang	2007	-	7.1%	23.2%	51.8%	17.9%
	2008	-	4.3%	21.7%	65.2%	8.7%
	2010	-	1.8%	28.1%	59.6%	10.5%
	2011	-	-	27.3%	61.4%	11.4%
Bandidos OMG	2007	-	-	5.5%	80.0%	14.5%
	2008	-	4.5%	9.0%	82.1%	4.5%
	2010	-	1.8%	19.3%	66.7%	12.3%
	2011	-	2.2%	11.1%	71.1%	15.6%
Latin Kings	2007	-	3.6%	32.1%	50.0%	14.3%
	2008	-	1.5%	30.9%	64.7%	2.9%
	2010	-	1.8%	31.6%	54.4%	12.3%
	2011	-	2.3%	40.9%	47.7%	9.1%
Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13)	2007	-	-	42.9%	42.9%	14.3%
	2008	-	6.0%	40.3%	47.8%	6.0%
	2010	-	5.3%	42.1%	40.4%	12.3%
	2011	-	-	50.0%	38.6%	11.4%
Vice Lords	2007	-	-	5.4%	78.6%	16.1%
	2008	-	-	10.1%	82.6%	7.2%
	2010	-	1.8%	10.5%	68.4%	19.3%
	2011	-	2.2%	8.9%	75.6%	13.3%
Asian Gangs (all sets)	2007	-	1.9	7.4%	79.6%	11.1%
	2008	-	-	2.9%	88.4%	8.7%
	2010	-	-	12.5%	66.1%	21.4%
	2011	-	-	6.7%	82.2%	11.1%
Pagans OMG	2007	-	-	3.6%	83.6%	12.7%
	2008	-	-	4.5%	92.4%	3.0%
	2010	-	-	8.9%	78.6%	12.5%
	2011	-	-	2.2%	84.4%	13.3%
Almighty P Stone Nation	2007	-	-	3.6%	80.4%	16.1%
	2008	-	-	1.4%	95.7%	2.9%
	2010	-	-	7.0%	75.4%	17.5%
	2011	-	2.2%	2.2%	82.2%	13.3%
Texas Syndicate	2007	-	-	5.5%	81.8%	12.7%
	2008	-	-	2.9%	92.8%	4.3%
	2010	-	-	3.5%	75.4%	21.1%
	2011	-	2.3%	4.5%	81.8%	11.4%
Mexikanemi (Texas Mexican Mafia)	2007	-	-	7.3%	78.2%	14.5%
	2008	-	-	1.4%	92.8%	5.8%
	2010	-	-	1.8%	78.6%	19.6%
	2011	-	-	6.7%	80.0%	13.3%

Level of Gang Coordination

Agencies were also asked if the gangs in their area were coordinating their activity with other gangs. Approximately 57 percent of agencies reported that gangs in their jurisdiction were coordinating with other gangs (Table 8). Agency responses indicated that gangs were coordinating with other gangs in drug smuggling and drug trafficking activity as well as other ways to make money.

Table 8: Gang Coordination with Other Gangs (Of the Jurisdictions Reporting Gang Activity), 2007-2011				
	2007	2008	2010	2011
Yes	33.9%	48.4%	44.6%	57.1%
No	57.1%	39.1%	42.9%	42.9%
Unsure/Don't Know	8.9%	12.5%	12.5%	-
Total Responses	56	64	56	42

Most Effective Gang Responses

Agency respondents were also asked which strategies have been the most effective in their jurisdiction in responding to gangs. Prior to 2009 agencies were asked to simply list any strategies that were effective in their jurisdiction. To make responses more consistent over time, in 2009 the question was changed to provide response categories from which agency representatives were instructed to choose. Because the survey identified a range of activities that might not come to mind for all respondents, the change in the structure of the question is likely to account for at least some part of changes in the response rates over time for the various interdiction, intervention and suppression strategies.

Law enforcement was the strategy identified by the largest percentage (87.0 percent) of agencies as an effective gang response in their jurisdictions (Table 9). Law enforcement was followed by identification of gang members (82.6 percent), GIITEM (67.4 percent) and joint efforts with other agencies (58.7 percent).

Table 9: Effective Gang Interdiction, Intervention, or Suppression Strategies (Of the Jurisdictions Reporting Gang Activity), 2007-2011								
	2007		2008		2010		2011	
	Number of Agencies	Percent of Agencies						
Law Enforcement	22	38.6%	23	33.3%	46	78.0%	40	87.0%
Identification of Gang Members	6	10.5%	6	8.7%	39	66.1%	38	82.6%
GIITEM	13	22.8%	7	10.1%	34	57.6%	31	67.4%
Joint Efforts with Other Agencies	2	3.5%	10	14.5%	29	49.2%	27	58.7%
Gang Crime/Intelligence Data Analyses	6	10.5%	6	8.7%	22	37.3%	21	45.7%
Law Enforcement Gang Units	5	8.8%	5	7.2%	19	32.2%	19	41.3%
School Programs	9	15.8%	9	13.0%	17	28.8%	12	26.1%
Community Programs	7	12.3%	8	11.6%	8	13.6%	11	23.9%
Special Prosecution Programs	2	3.5%	4	5.8%	13	22.0%	8	17.4%

Task Force Participation

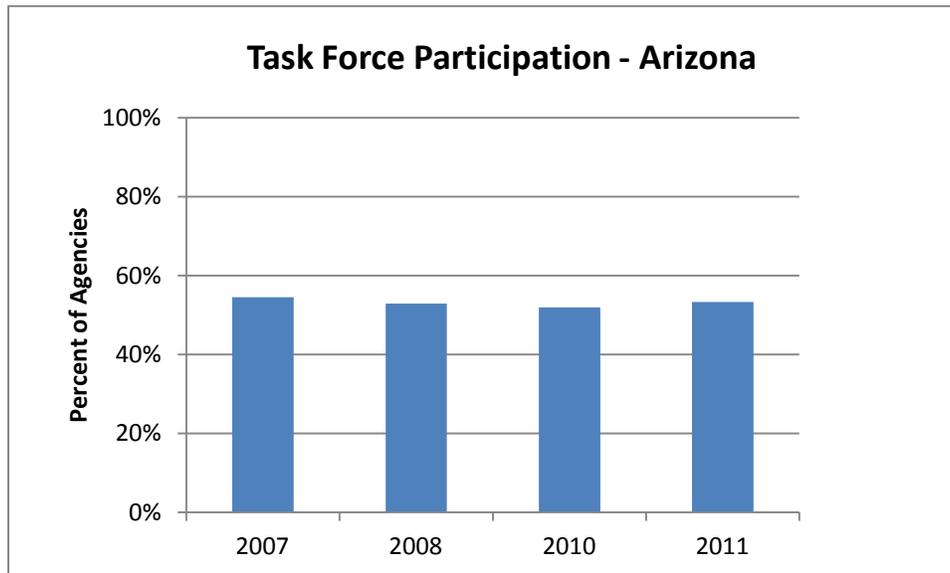
Under the direction of the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS), the GIITEM assists criminal justice agencies statewide with multi-agency collaborations for criminal gang enforcement and investigative strategies. GIITEM brings together law enforcement agencies from state, county, municipal, federal,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

In 2006, after several years of declining resources and downsizing of operations because of state revenue shortfalls, DPS received funding to revitalize GIITEM and add to their mission 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 *2008 Arizona Gang Threat Assessment*, agencies were asked if they *participate* or *lead* a multi-agency task force. In 2011 agencies were only asked if they *participate* in a multi-agency gang task force. A little more than half of the agencies (53.3 percent) reported that they participate in a task force, which is similar to the percentages in 2007, 2008 and 2010. Of those agencies reporting task force involvement, the majority reported participation in GIITEM. Additional gang task forces listed by law enforcement agencies include, the East Valley Fusion Center, East Valley Gang Task Force and the FBI Desert Hawk Fugitive Task Force. For those agencies that did not report participating in a multi-agency task force, some reported that they do not participate because of lack of manpower and/or funding.

Figure 2



Conclusion

Gang activity continues to affect many communities in Arizona, with law enforcement agencies reporting significant gang involvement in crime and drug distribution. Law enforcement agencies continue to report a high level of gang involvement in the sale of marijuana and methamphetamine. Law enforcement agencies also cited gang involvement in assault/aggravated assault, burglary, drug sales and drug offenses, theft, criminal damage, vandalism/tagging/graffiti and threatening and intimidating as the most predominant gang activities in their jurisdictions.

The most active gangs identified by Arizona law enforcement agencies were the Hispanic Sureños (SUR 13), followed by the Bloods, Mexican Mafia/La Eme and Crips. Other gangs that agencies reported high levels of activity in their jurisdiction include neighborhood-based trafficking groups/crews, Aryan Brotherhood, Hells Angels OMG, Skinheads, Hispanic Norteños (14), Black Gangster Disciples, Gangster Disciples, and La Nuestra Familia.

In the period from 2007 to 2010, the percentage of law enforcement agencies reporting gang presence in their jurisdictions increased. The percentage of agencies reporting gang presence then decreased from 75.6 percent to 73.0 percent in the period from 2010 to 2011. Reported levels of gang involvement in the distribution of drugs were mixed in the 2011 study with some indicators increasing and some decreasing. The percentage of responding agencies reporting high levels of drug street sales fell slightly from 29.3 percent in 2010 to 28.9 percent in 2011. In contrast, the number of agencies reporting high levels of drug wholesaling grew from 5.2 percent in 2010 to 11.4 in 2011. The percentage of agencies reporting High levels of gang involvement in the sale of Marijuana, Crack Cocaine, Heroin, Pharmaceuticals, MDMA (Ecstasy and analogs) each grew from 2010 to 2011. It is

worth noting that the percent of agencies reporting a high level of gang involvement in heroin sales nearly doubled from 5.8 percent in 2008 to 10.3 percent in 2010 and then nearly doubled again to 20 percent in 2011. Reported gang involvement in the sale of methamphetamine and powdered cocaine fell 2010 to 2011.

Although a lower percentage of agencies reported that gangs are expanding in their membership and numbers in 2011, many agencies reported that gang coordination with other gangs in their jurisdiction has increased. Finally, there has been little change over time in the percentage of agencies participating in multi-agency gang task forces from 2007 to 2011.

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 state gang report and the county gang profiles will assist policy makers and practitioners by capturing information on gangs and gang activity at the state and county level and sharing that information with those working on the gang problem in Arizona.