San Francisco Department of Children. Youth and Their Families

SAN FRANCISCO GANG-FREE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

Results from Focus Groups, Key Informant Interviews and Youth Surveys

Prepared by: Resource Development Associates, Inc

August, 2002

San Francisco
Gang-Free Communities Initiative

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Acknowledgments

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Thank you to the interviewers who brought their energy and valuable hands-on experience with youth to the survey process. Interviewers were Miranda Aguilar; Luis Aroche, Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center; Ben Bautista, Straight Forward Club; Daryl Breaux, Boys and Girls Clubs of San Francisco; Derick Brown, Boys and Girls Clubs of San Francisco; Mariaynez Carrasco, Mission Neighborhood Centers, Inc.; Francis Chan, Community Youth Center; Camille Dawkins, Mission Neighborhood Centers, Inc.; Joanna Hernandez, Mission Neighborhood Centers, Inc.; Hong Le, Vietnamese Youth Development Center; Starr Miles, Soul'd Out Productions; Susana Rojas, Boys and Girls Clubs of San Francisco; Theresa Togafu, Soul'd Out Productions; Tony Tran, Community Youth Center; Tiffany Vuong, Chinatown Beacon Center; and Antwane Woods, Morrisania West.

Our gratitude also goes to the Assessment Team members who were dedicated to ensuring that the community needs assessment was inclusive. A special thanks to Joe Ramos, Coordinator of the Initiative during the community needs assessment process.

The grant that funded this work came from the US Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention.

Lastly, we would like to express our thanks to the many people, youth and adults, who gave of their time to share their experiences and opinions with us.

Executive Summary

Introduction

The City and County of San Francisco were awarded a Gang-Free Communities planning grant by the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) through a collaborative partnership among the Juvenile Probation Department, the Mayor's Criminal Justice Council, and the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families. The planning effort is guided by a Steering Committee composed of over 20 youth-serving city agencies and community-based organizations.

A year-long inclusive planning process to map out the problems and solutions for youth gang violence in San Francisco, based on OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model, was undertaken. This report presents findings from one component of this data-driven assessment, an interview study of suspected gang involved youth. The results from these interviews along with neighborhood risk factor data the School District's Youth Risk Behavior Survey data, and police data will result in the development of a plan to reduce youth gang violence in San Francisco.

Survey

Young adult staff from youth-serving organizations were enlisted to interview youth identified by these organizations as gang members, former gang members, or gang associates. The survey instrument was based upon the OJJDP assessment survey. It obtained information: demographics, reasons for joining a gang, perceived benefits of gang membership, gang structure, reasons for leaving a gang, substance use, and community social services utilized by respondents. A total of 228 interviews were completed and usable for this analysis. Of these, 163 were with males and 65 were with females.

Summary Conclusions

- Suspected gang members are receiving benefits from their participation or association with a gang, namely a sense of belonging as well as perceived financial gain.
- Programs should be targeted to the middle schools, as that is the age where the majority of youth become gang involved.
- Employment and job training programs that prepare youth for jobs with the possibility of career advancement should be expanded or fortified.
- Truancy intervention programs prepared to meet the needs of gang involved youth should be developed or enhanced.
- There are differences between the major racial/ethnic groups in terms of history of family involvement, gang structure, as well as if, when and why they might leave a gang.

Youth Interview Surveys

METHODS & PROCEDURES

Recruitment and Training of Interviewers

Young adult staff from youth-serving organizations were enlisted to interview youth identified by these organizations as gang members, former gang members, or gang associates. All interviewers had experience working with the target population and either are former gang members or long-term residents of communities in which gang activity is prevalent. Interviewers signed a confidentiality agreement and attended a four hour training on peer interview techniques and using the survey instrument. Interviews took place at social service agencies with an adult supervisor available on the premises. Interviewers were paid $20 per survey.

Survey Instrument

The Assessment Team developed a survey instrument, based upon the OJJDP assessment survey, that examined how youth get into, and out of, gangs; risk factors; the elements that attracted them to gang involvement, and the factors that keep them involved. A draft of the survey was reviewed by the peer-surveyors and members of the Assessment Team and Steering Committee for suggestions for improvement.

Consent

Interviewees signed an informed consent prior to participating in the survey. The consent was translated into Spanish, Vietnamese and Cantonese/Mandarin The consent form was separated from the survey and kept in a locked file cabinet. No identifying information was collected on the survey instrument. Following completion of the interview, the participant was provided with $20 in compensation for their time.

Description of Sample

A total of 228 interviews were completed and usable for this analysis. Of these, 163 were with males and 65 were with females. Analyses were conducted separately for males and females. The first map below illustrates the distribution throughout the city of respondents' residential zip code. Those in "other" locations included Daly City and Oakland. The second map adds respondents' ethnicity.

Analysis Notes

Missing data and "declined to state" responses for each question are excluded from analyses. For ethnic group analyses Southeast Asian is combined with Asian/PI, and "other ethnicity" is combined with biracial and multiracial.

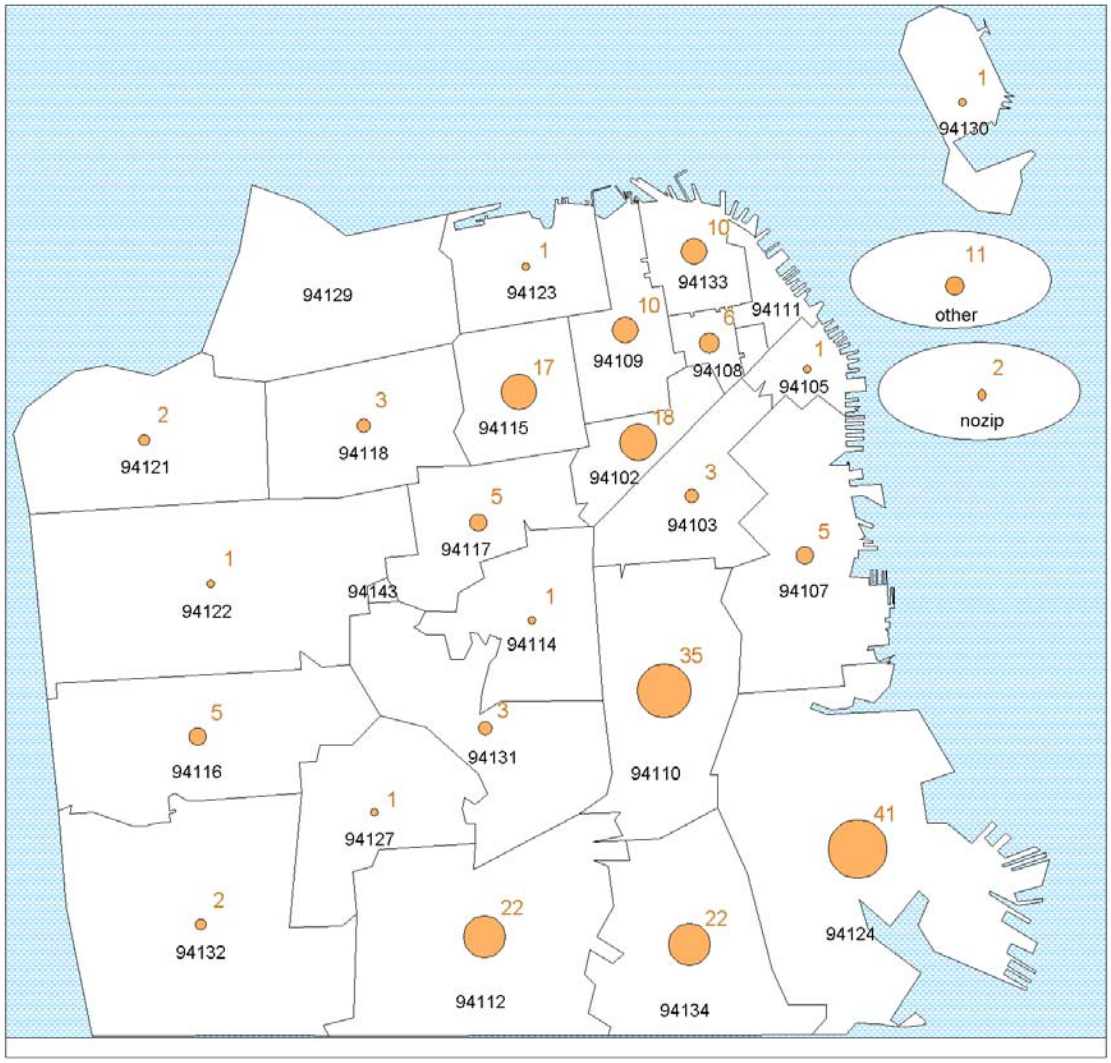
Most questions in this survey are dichotomous (yes/no) or multiple choice where the respondent is asked to select the best answer. The "n=" shown in tables and figures indicates the number who answered that particular question. If a respondent declined to state or did not answer the question, they were not included in the total.

Approximately one-third of the way into the interview respondents were asked three questions regarding their level of gang membership: 1) Are you currently a member of a gang,

set or crew?; 2) Do you currently hang around a gang but are not a member?; and 3) In the last year have you been an active gang member? In a draft version of the questionnaire, interviewers were instructed that if respondents answered no to all three questions, they were to skip past the gang-related questions. However, in the final version interviewers were instructed to ask the gang-related questions in any case as there was the possibility that interviewees might be disinclined to admit gang involvement. Unfortunately, there was some confusion regarding use of the skip pattern and resulting inconsistency in administration of the instrument. Thirty-five of the 228 (15%) interviewees answered "no" to all three questions. Of those thirty-five interviews, 13 followed the skip pattern and did not have any completed gang related questions. In twenty-two interviews the skip pattern was not followed and gang-related questions were asked regardless of admitted affiliation.

During the analysis we became concerned regarding this inconsistency and the possibility that some respondents might have been forced to answer questions resulting in some false "no" responses that should have actually been left blank or "declined to state." Thus, two individuals reviewed all 22 questionnaires in which the skip pattern was ignored in order to make an assessment of gang membership based on responses to gang-related questions (age associated or joined, gang activities, characteristics of the gang). We found that in only four interviews that it was clear, based on responses, that the interviewees were not gang-affiliated. These four, along with the 13 that followed the skip pattern were not included in analyses of the gang-related data. Interestingly enough, for 18 of the interviews where the respondent denied any gang association early in the interview it appeared, based upon subsequent responses to gang-related questions, that they in fact did have some involvement.

SF Gang Survey 2002, All Respondents

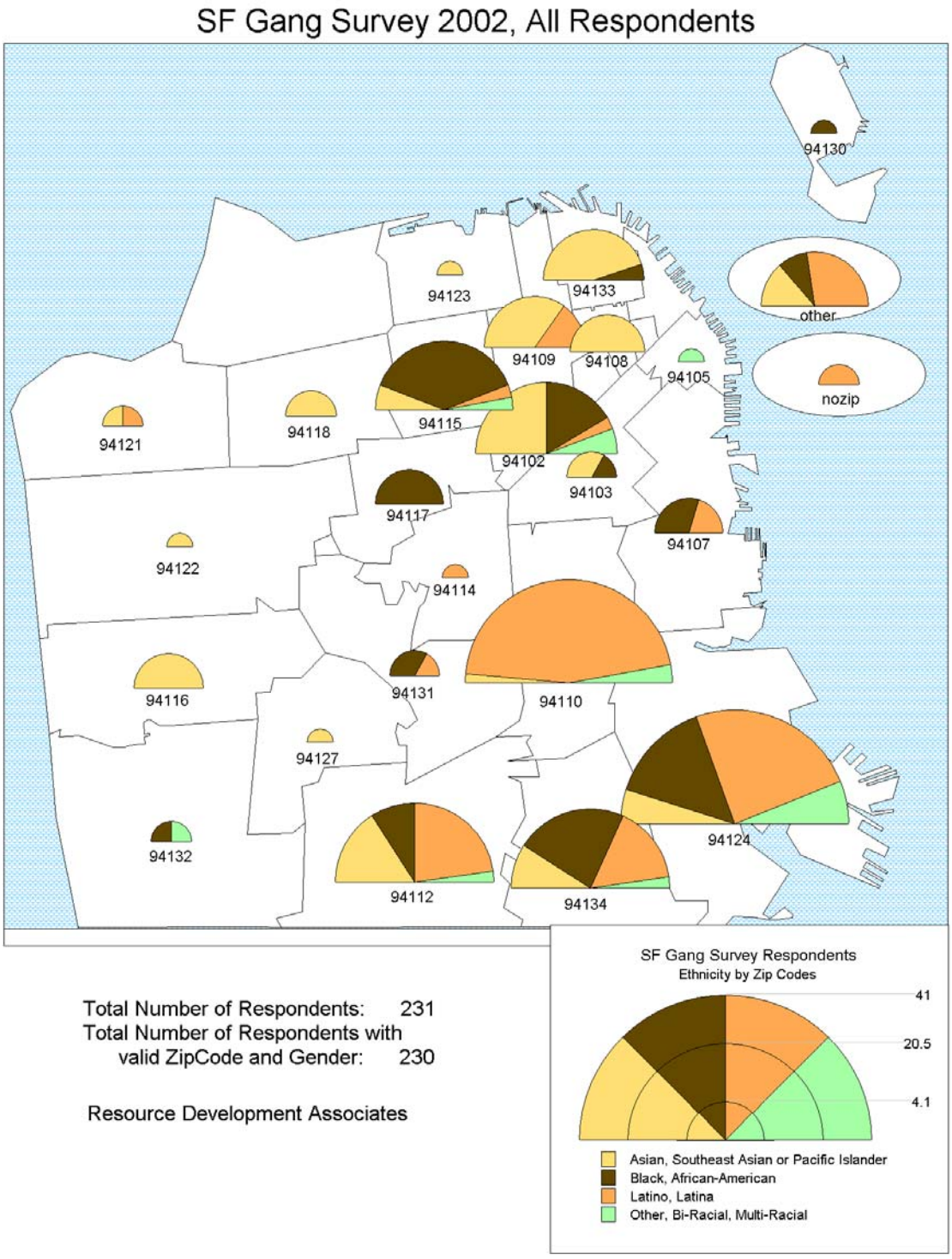


Total Number of Respondents: 231
Total Number of Respondents with valid ZipCode and Gender: 230

Resource Development Associates

SF Youth Gang Survey 2002
Number of Respondents by ZIP Code

40
20
4


SF Gang Survey 2002, All Respondents
94130
94123
94133
other
94109
94108
94105
nozip
94121
94118
94115
94102
94103
94117
94107
94122
94114
94116
94131
94110
94127
94124
94132
94112
94134
Total Number of Respondents: 231
Total Number of Respondents with valid ZipCode and Gender: 230
Resource Development Associates
SF Gang Survey Respondents
Ethnicity by Zip Codes
41
20.5
4.1
Asian, Southeast Asian or Pacific Islander
Black, African-American
Latino, Latina
Other, Bi-Racial, Multi-Racial

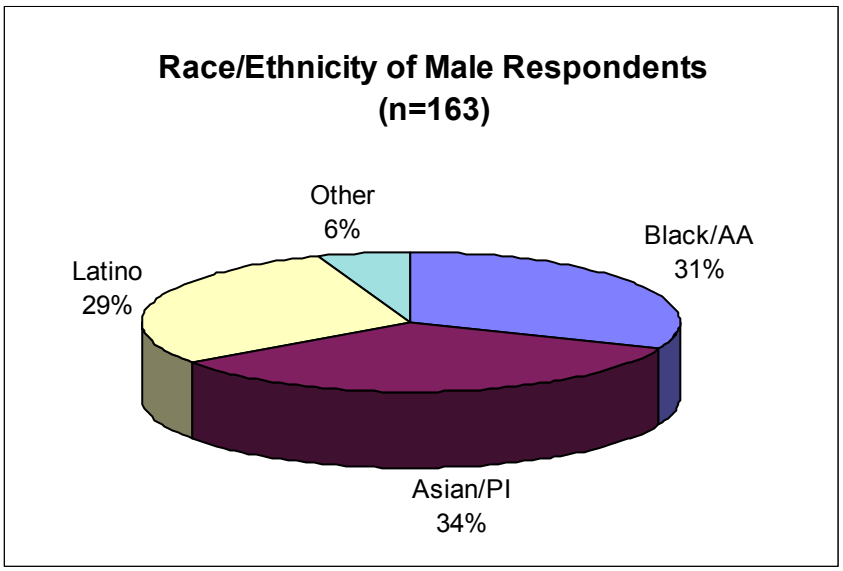
RESULTS

I. Demographics

MALES

Racial/Ethnic Distribution

There was fairly equivalent distribution among the major racial/ethnic groups surveyed as shown in the figure below. The Asian/PI category includes Southeast Asian as well. "Other" also includes respondents reporting their background as biracial and multiracial.



Country of Origin

Nearly one-quarter (24%) of male respondents were born outside of the United States. The 39 respondents come from: China (18), Southeast Asia (8), Philippines (1), Mexico (5), and Central and South America (7).

Age

The largest portion of respondents (57%) are in the 16 to 18 year age group with the average age being 17.7 years. The average age of the "Other" group was greater at 19.6 years.

Age at Time of Interview (males)						
		Age Group				
Ethnicity	Average Age	13-15	16-18	19-21	Over 21	Total
Latino	17.2	17% (8)	60% (29)	23% (11)	0% (0)	100% (48)
African American	17.9	16% (8)	54% (27)	22% (11)	8% (4)	100% (50)
Asian/PI	17.7	13% (7)	58% (32)	20% (11)	9% (5)	100% (55)
Other	19.6	0% (0)	50% (4)	13% (1)	38% (3)	100% (8)
Combined Race/ ethnicity	17.7	15% (24)	57% (93)	21% (34)	7% (12)	100% (163)

Marital and Parenting Status

Only one of the male respondents was married. However, 22 (14%) had at least one child.

Has a Child (n=161)				
Combined	African American	Asian/PI	Latina	Other
14% (22)	14% (7)	7% (4)	23% (11)	0% (0)

Living Situation

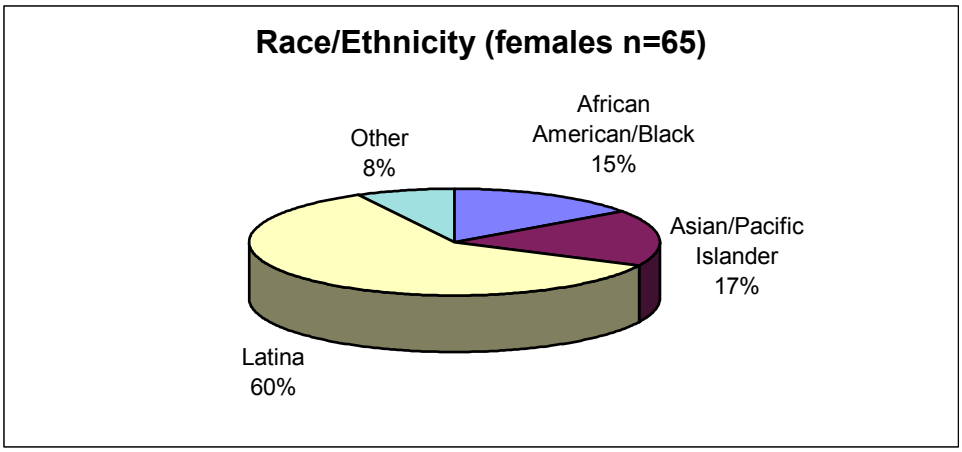
Three-quarters (77%) of all males interviewed live with their families.

Where Living Now	Combined	African-American	Asian/PI	Latino	Other
With my family	77% (122)	76% (39)	81% (44)	73% (33)	67% (6)
With other relatives	8% (13)	12% (6)	6% (3)	7% (3)	11% (1)
Apartment/house with others	8% (12)	2% (1)	11% (6)	11% (5)	0% (0)
Apartment/house by myself	4% (7)	4% (2)	2% (1)	4% (2)	22% (2)
In a group home	1% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	2% (1)	0% (0)
Other	3% (4)	6% (3)	0% (0)	2% (1)	0% (0)

FEMALES

Racial/Ethnic Distribution

Latinas constituted the majority of our sample of suspected female gang members or associates (60%). There were approximately equal proportions of African American (15%) and Asian/Pacific Islander (17%) participants and a small number who identified as Other or Multi-racial (8%). Due to the small sample size of females and disproportionate distribution by race/ethnicity, the remainder of the analysis examines the group aggregated by Race/Ethnicity rather than attempting to make comparisons by this variable.



Race/Ethnicity (females)	Number	Percentage
African American	10	15%
Asian/Pacific Islander	11	17%
Latina	39	60%
Other	5	8%
Total	**65**	**100%**

Age

The largest portion of respondents (44%) are in the 16 to 18 year age group with the average age being 18.7 years.

Age at Time of Interview (females)					
	Age Group				
Average Age	13-15	16-18	19-21	Over 21	Total
18.7	14% (9)	44% (28)	20% (13)	22% (14)	100% (64)

Marital and Parenting Status

The overwhelming majority of the females interviewed (94%) report never being married. One-quarter (25%) of girls had children.

Living Situation

A little over half (56%) of females interviewed live with their families. The next largest groups were girls who lived with other relatives (15%) followed by those in foster care (7%), in an apartment or house with others (5%), in an apartment or house by myself (5%), group home (3%), and homeless (3%).

Country of Origin

The majority of the females interviewed (85%) report they were born in the United States, 5% (n=3) were born in Mexico, 3% (n=2) were born in Hong Kong, and 1.5% each (n=1) were born in American Samoa, Vietnam, El Salvador, and Nicaragua.

II. Employment Status

MALES

Overall, 34% of the males were employed at the time of the interview. The group most likely to be employed were Latino. There is overwhelming desire for employment as evidenced by the 82% of male respondents who say they want a job.

Currently Employed (n=161)				
Combined	**African American**	**Asian/PI**	**Latino**	**Other**
34%	29%	35%	39%	22%
(54)	(15)	(19)	(18)	(2)

Wants a Job (n=137)				
Combined	**African American**	**Asian/PI**	**Latino**	**Other**
82%	90%	86%	67%	78%
(112)	(43)	(38)	(24)	(7)

FEMALES

Overall, 27% of the females interviewed reported being employed at the time of the interview. Fifty-eight percent of girls who answered this question want a job.

III. Education

MALES

Most respondents (87%) admitted to cutting class at least once. Yet three in four (74%) say they achieve mostly C's or better at school. A little over half of males (55%) report that school meets their needs. Nearly all respondents (94%) report that their family encourages them to do well in school.

FEMALES

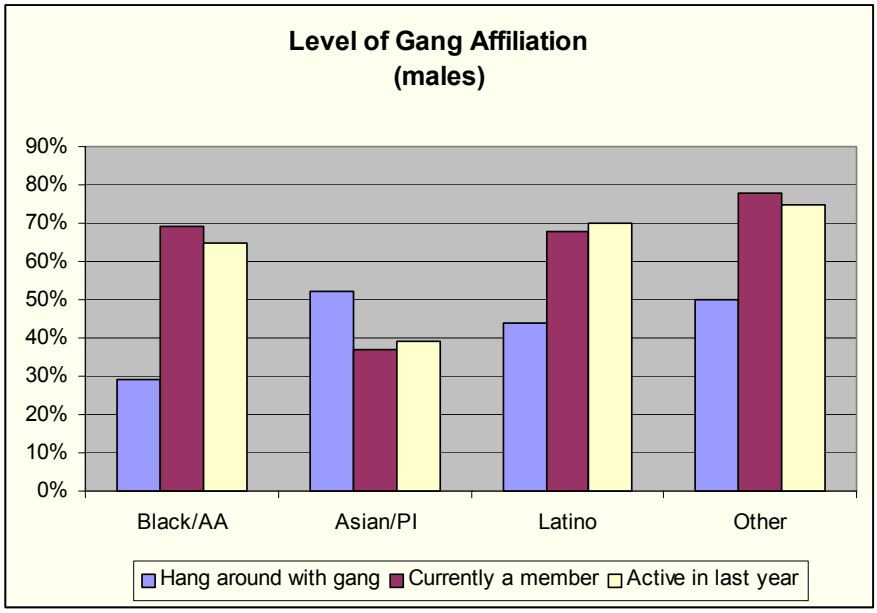
Most respondents, 83%, admitted to cutting class at least once. A little less than half (47%) say they achieve mostly C's or better at school. Half of the females (52%) report that school meets their needs and 71% report that their family encourages them to do well in school.

IV. Gang Membership

MALES

Affiliation

Respondents were asked three questions regarding their affiliation with gangs: 1. If they are currently a member of a gang, set, or crew, 2. If they have in the last year been an active member, and 3. If they hang around with a gang but are not a member. They can answer yes to one or all of these questions. Male respondents interviewed acknowledged current gang membership (58%), association in the last year (58%), or that they hang out with but are not a member of a gang (42%). The Asian/PI group was more likely to report hanging around a gang than other groups and less likely to report current or active membership.



Age Joined a Gang

Respondents were most likely to become associated with and join a gang between 12-14 years of age. There were some ethnic group differences for males: African American interviewees had a larger percentage than others joining at 11 years and younger. Asian/PI had a larger percentage joining at an older age.

Age When Joined A Gang (males)					
Age	Total Race/Ethnicity	African American	Asian/PI	Latino	Other
11 and under	17%	28%	9%	18%	0%
12 to 14	52%	47%	51%	64%	33%
15 to 19	31%	25%	40%	18%	67%

Rank in Gang

For the group of males overall, almost half (47%) describe their position or rank within the gang as a core or regular member. Twenty-nine percent report that they hang with but are not part of the gang. There was significant variation among the ethnic groups. Asian/PI respondents were much more likely to say they hang with the gang than the other groups. The African American respondents had the highest percentage of reported core or regular members. It was also notable that 39 individuals declined to answer this question.

Rank in Gang (males)	Combined (n=119)	African American (n=27)	Asian/PI (n=46)	Latino (n=39)	Other (n=7)
Leader	7%	7%	0%	13%	14%
Core or regular member	47%	67%	39%	41%	57%^
Treasurer	3%	4%	2%	3%	0%
Occasional member	8%	7%	7%	8%	14%
Hang out but not part of	29%	7%	50%	23%	14%
Veteran/Senior/O.G.	7%	7%	2%	13%	0%

FEMALES

Affiliation

Respondents were asked three questions regarding their affiliation with gangs: 1. If they are currently a member of a gang, set, or crew , 2. If they have in the last year been an active member, and 3. If they hang around with a gang but are not a member. They can answer yes to one or all of these questions. Overall about half of girls interviewed acknowledged current gang membership (57%), active membership in the last year (50%), or that they hang out with but are

not a member of a gang (50%). Eighty-five percent of the 65 girls interviews answered yes to one or more of the membership questions.

Note: Results of the remainder of the gang related questions are based upon the 59 girls with some level of gang involvement based upon their responses to items (see Methods section for more detail).

Age Joined a Gang

Girls reported first being associated with a gang as early as age 11 and as late as age 17. The average age when they first were associated with a gang was 13.

Age Joined a Gang	Total Race/Ethnicity
11 and under	5%
12 to 14	60%
15 to 17	26%
18 and over	10%

Rank in Gang

Almost half (46%) of the girls who answered the question about their position or rank in the gang reported being a core or regular gang member.

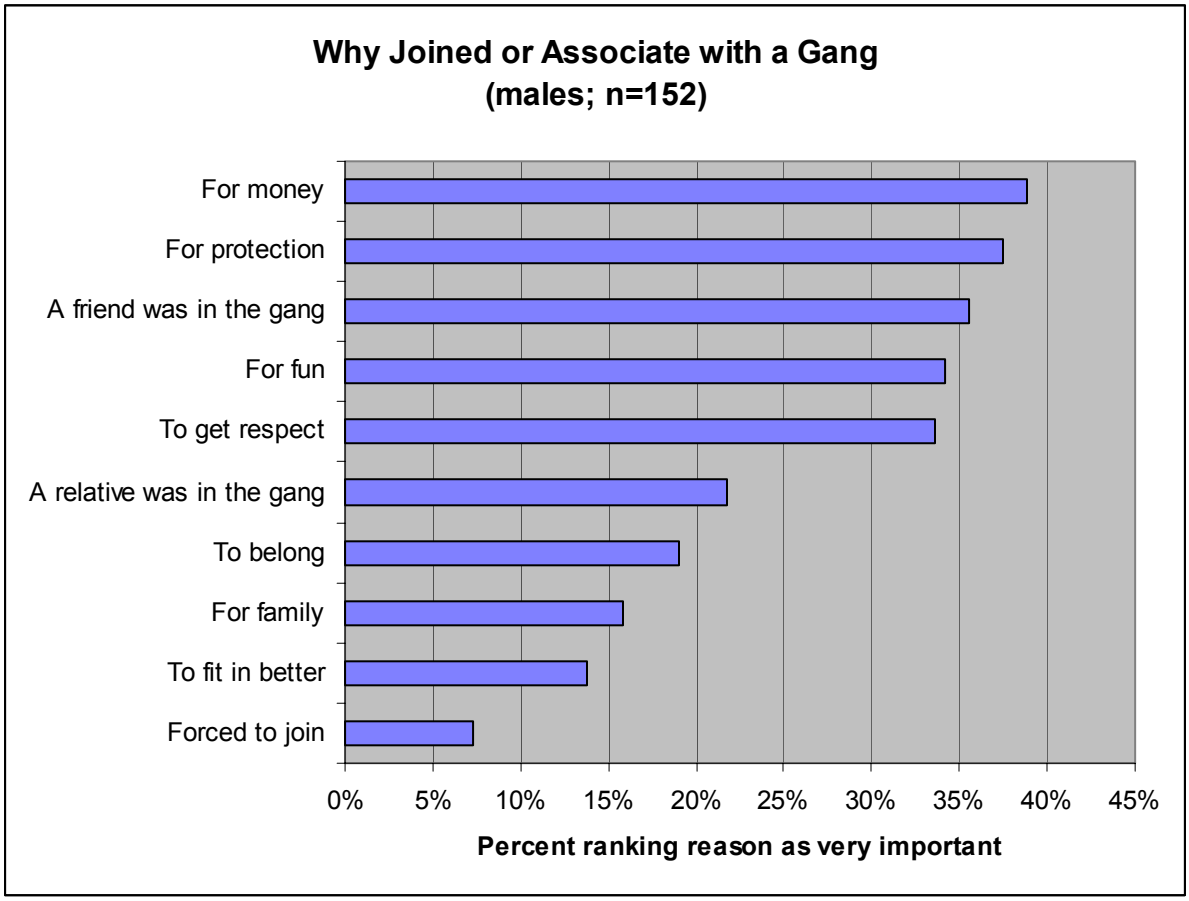
Rank in Gang (n=41)	
Leader	12%
Core or Regular Member	46%
Treasurer	2%
Occasional Member	12%
Hang out but not part of	20%
Veteran/Senior/O.G.	7%

V. Motives for Joining a Gang

MALES

Participants were asked to rank the reasons they joined or associate with a gang from 1 to 5 (1=very important, 5=not important). However, we noted inconsistencies in the administration of the question. Some participants gave each item a ranking; some participants ranked more than one item as #1, #2, #3 and so forth; and some participants did not rank every item. For this analysis, we recoded rankings of 1 and 2 as "very important" and larger numbers were ranked as "less important."

The figure below shows the percent of respondents who ranked each reason as very important. The top three reasons respondents reported for joining or associating with a gang were: #1 For money, #2 For protection, and #3 A friend was in the gang.



Additional Influences

Few respondents felt pressured by anyone to join a gang. Only 8% of males overall reported this type of influence. Neither did they feel that music influenced their choice to be in a gang. Only 8% cited music as an influence.

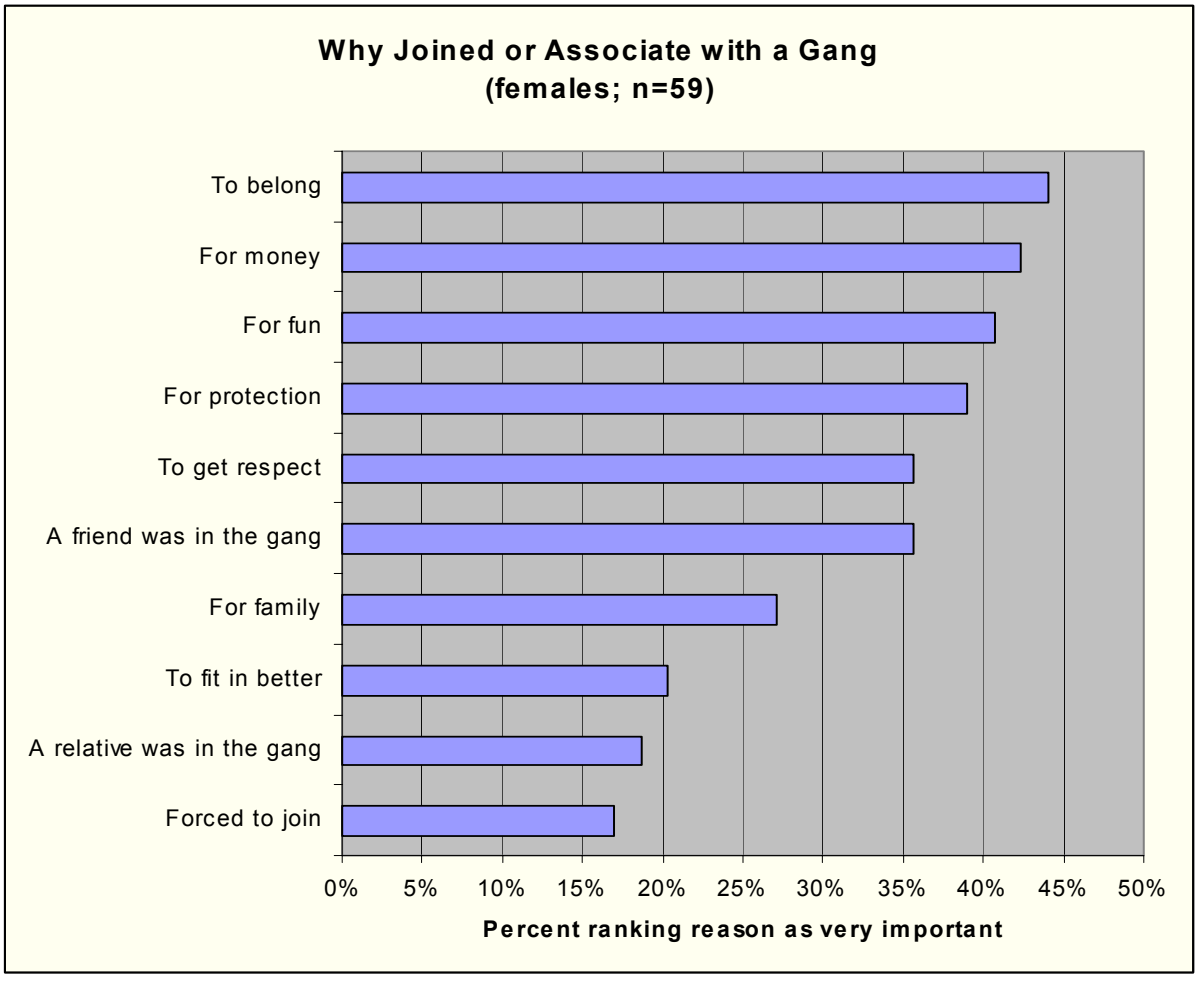
Although family was not given as a major reason for joining, over half, 59%, had family members who had been in a gang. There was significant variation by gender: African American - 71%, Asian/PI - 31%, Latino - 82%, Other - 71%.

Only about one third (30%) of males were initiated into the gang, though there was considerable variation by ethnic group (African American - 8%, Asian/PI - 26%, Latino - 58%, Other - 50%).

FEMALES

Participants were asked to rank the reasons they joined or associate with a gang from 1 to 5 (1=very important, 5=not important). However, we noted inconsistencies in the administration of the question. Some participants gave each item a ranking; some participants ranked more than one item as #1, #2, #3 and so forth; and some participants did not rank every item. For this analysis, we recoded rankings of 1 and 2 as "very important" and larger numbers were ranked as "less important."

The figure below shows the percent of respondents who ranked each reason as very important. The top three reasons respondents reported for joining or associating with a gang were: #1 To belong, #2 For money, and #3 For fun.



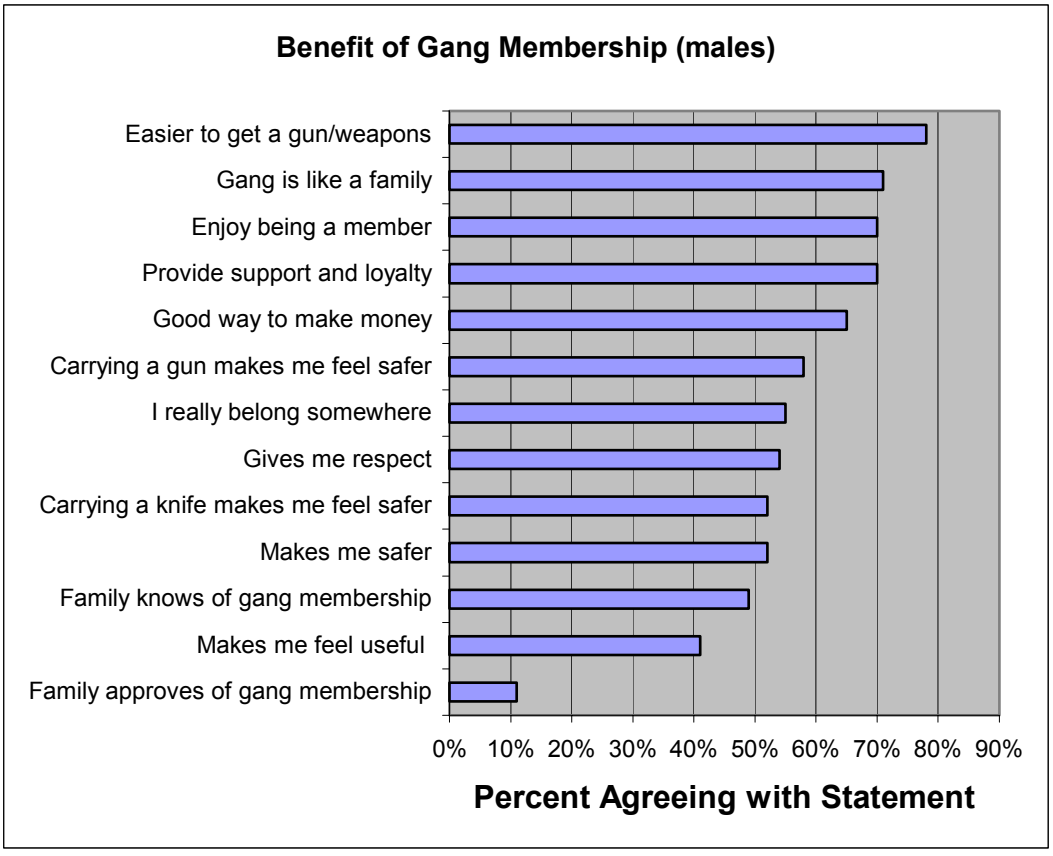
Several questions explored further the potential influences for joining a gang. Although family or having a relative in a gang was not one of the stronger motivators for joining as shown in the figure above, fifty percent of girls reported having a family member who had ever been in a gang (out of the 48 girls responding to this question). The vast majority, 85%, did not feel pressured by anyone to join the gang. Very few, 11%, saw music as influencing their choice to be in a gang.

VI. Benefits of Gang Membership

MALES

Respondents noted a number of benefits to gang membership as shown in the figure below. Each of the statements was a separate yes/no question. Percentages are of those who responded to each. The social support type benefits along with ease in obtaining a weapon were the most agreed upon benefits. Despite these reported benefits, only 33% of male respondents felt it would be okay if their brother joined a gang, and even fewer, 20%, felt it would be okay if their sister joined.

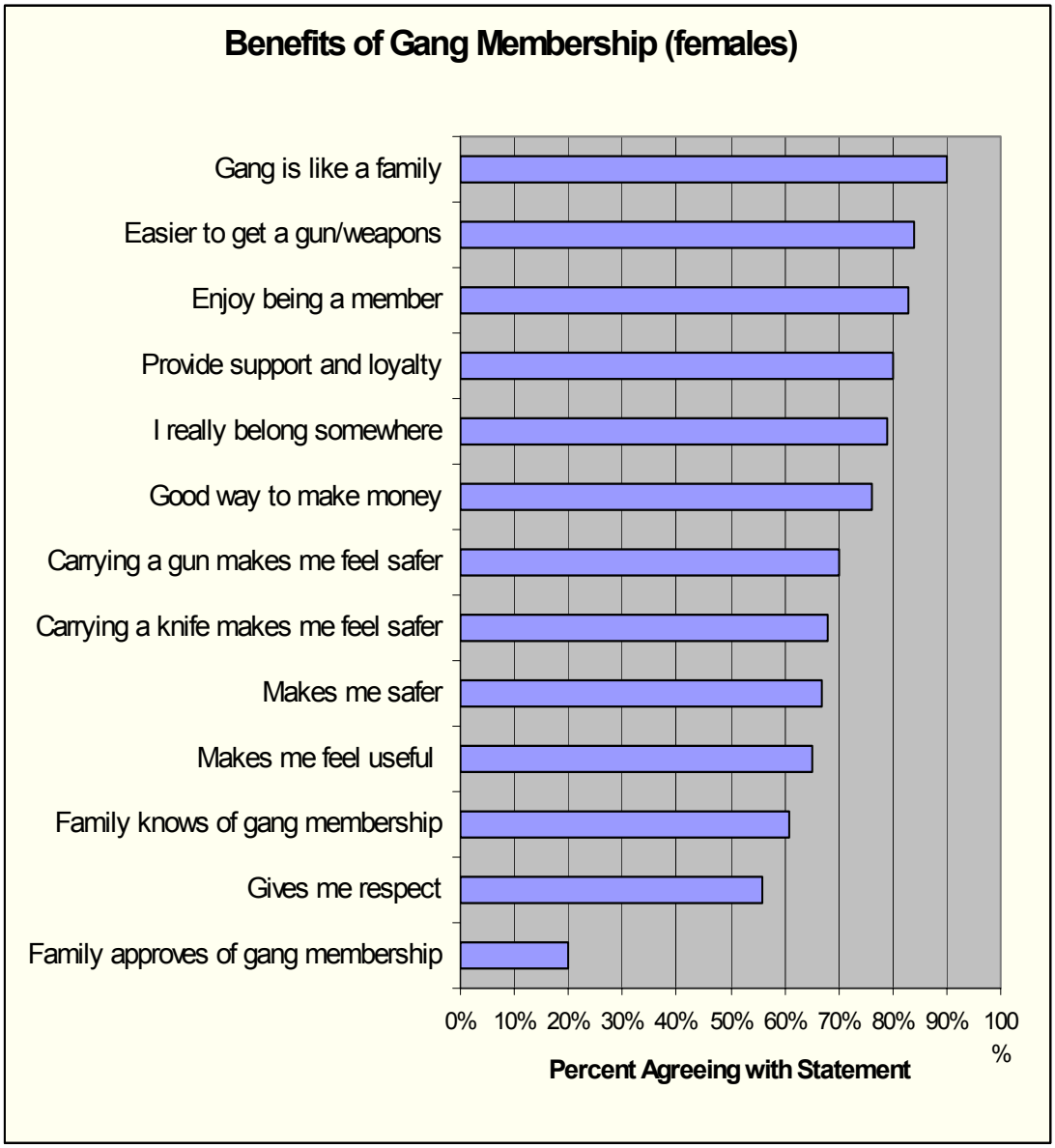
When comparing motives for joining with benefits realized there are some interesting similarities as well as contrasts. While protection was one of the highest ranked reasons for joining a gang, only 52% of males felt that being in a gang actually makes them safer. Desires for friendship were indeed fulfilled as evidenced by the large number of respondents who felt that they achieved support, loyalty and a sense of family from their association. The majority also feel that participation is a good way to make money which was high on the list of goals.



FEMALES

Respondents noted a number of benefits to gang membership as shown in the figure below. The social support type benefits along with ease in obtaining a weapon were the most

agreed upon benefits. Despite these reported benefits, only 31% of respondents felt it would be okay if their brother joined a gang, and even fewer, 20%, felt it would be okay if their sister joined.



*Each of the statements was a separate yes/no question. Thus, the number who answered each question differed for each (from 42 to 50 respondents).

VII. Gang Structure and Justice Connections

Elements of gang structure were analyzed for males as all but five female respondents reported having male members in their gang. Over a third (37%) overall reported that their

gang has a leader, though this varied by ethnicity (African American - 21%, Asian/PI - 57%, Latino -21%, Other - 63%). Almost half (46%) have a shot caller. A little over half (53%) have either a leader or a shot caller. Very few, 13%, have someone who controls the money. Although only 20% overall report that their gang has a member who controls drug sales, there were strong racial/ethnic group differences (African American - 3%, Asian/PI - 43%, Latino - 3%, Other - 50%). The membership of Latino gangs is less stable than for the other ethnicities. While only a quarter (26%) of respondents overall report that membership in their gang changes a lot, the figure was much higher for Latinos (43%). This last finding is puzzling, and contradicts the general wisdom about Latino gangs being extremely stable, intergenerational organizations.

Fifty-six percent of Latinos and 73% of African American males report having a family member in prison or the California Youth Authority, compared to 44% of youth overall, 38% of Other, and 13% of Asian/PI. However, the overwhelming majority of all youth (84%) said that members of their gang know people in the adult prison system, with some variation by ethnic group (African American - 100%, Asian/PI - 65%, Latino - 91%, Other - 88%). A small group of youth (34%) indicate that their gangs take orders from people in prison, although about half of the Latino males (52%) suggest that their gang has this connection (African American - 39%, Asian/PI - 15%, Other - 0).

VIII. Criminal Activities

Individuals were asked to indicate which is more important to their gang, territory or money. Whereas money is more important to the gangs overall, the dissimilarities among the ethnic groups are striking. The vast majority of Asian/PI youth indicated that money is more important. This contrasts sharply with the Latino gangs' focus on territory.

Which Is More Important?	Total Race/Ethnicity	African American	Asian/PI	Latino	Other
Territory	42%	50%	14%	70%	40%
Money	58%	50%	86%	30%	60%

We then asked the 152 males (45 African American, 54 Asian/PI, 45 Latino, 8 other) who had some involvement with gangs to indicate whether they had committed any of the specific crimes we listed in the past twelve months. There were three main categories of crimes: crimes against people, crimes committed for a financial gain, and crimes committed against property. Of the crimes against people, 56% of respondents overall indicated they had beaten someone up; 41% indicated that they attacked a member of another gang; and 38% indicated that they committed a violent act that resulted in someone being hurt. Of the crimes committed for financial gain, over half (57%) indicated that they sold or possessed drugs; 46% indicated they had sold or bought stolen goods; 35% indicated they had robbed someone by force or by threat of force; and 34% indicated they had sold or bought weapons. Of crimes against property, 38% indicated they had written graffiti on someone else's property; 35% that they had stolen a car; and 16% indicated they had set fire to a building or to property. Of all crimes, selling drugs and beating someone up were the crimes most commonly committed by the males surveyed.

There appear to be just a few differences across the ethnic groups with respect to the types of crimes committed. As we might anticipate given the more formal structure of their gangs, both Asian/PI and Latinos were more likely to have participated in recruiting and initiating others into the gang than were African Americans. Excluding participation in recruiting and initiations, Asians/PI are somewhat less involved in crimes against people than African Americans and much less involved than Latinos. However, while money may be more important to the Asian/PI gangs, they do not report significantly more involvement than either African American or Latino males with any of the crimes for financial gain.

Percent of Respondents Who Committed Crimes (n=152)					
Crimes against People	**Total Race/Ethnicity**	**African American**	**Asian/PI**	**Latino**	**Other**
Attacked member other gang	41%	49%	33%	38%	75%
Attacked member your gang	22%	29%	11%	31%	13%
Attacked someone with a weapon	34%	40%	28%	31%	50%
Beaten someone up	56%	53%	52%	60%	75%
Hurt someone	38%	38%	31%	42%	63%
Initiated someone	34%	7%	17%	42%	38%
Raped someone	9%	7%	6%	13%	25%
Recruited someone	22%	4%	20%	38%	38%
Drive by	19%	18%	11%	29%	25%
Threatened to attack	37%	36%	28%	42%	75%
Crimes for Financial Gain	**Total Race/Ethnicity**	**African American**	**Asian/PI**	**Latino**	**Other**
Broken into building/theft	26%	18%	24%	31%	50%
Extorted money	20%	9%	17%	31%	38%
Pimped or prostituted someone	16%	18%	6%	27%	25%
Robbed	35%	38%	17%	53%	38%
Shoplifted	41%	38%	41%	44%	50%
Sold or possessed drugs	57%	53%	46%	69%	75%
Sold or bought stolen goods	46%	44%	43%	47%	75%
Sold or bought weapons	34%	44%	17%	40%	63%

Crimes Against Property	Total Race/Ethnicity	African American	Asian/PI	Latino	Other
Graffiti	38%	31%	19%	64%	50%
Set fire to property/building	16%	7%	13%	22%	63%
Stolen car	36%	20%	44%	42%	38%
Destroyed property	41%	31%	41%	47%	75%
Stolen from car	40%	29%	43%	49%	38%

In order to ascertain how often these crimes are being committed we calculated the average number of times each crime was committed overall and for each ethnic group. The number of respondents for whom we could do this calculation went down from 152 males to 84 (24 African American, 39 Asian/PI, 16 Latino, 5 Other). The remainder of interviews checked off only if the individual had committed the crime in the last twelve months, not the number of times the crime had been committed.

We did find some individuals who reported extremely high numbers of criminal incidents. While this may be a true report of activity, it must be understand that these are unverified self-report figures. In addition, it is possible that the respondent did not understand that these were activities restricted to the past twelve months. It should be noted that we did not remove any of these possible outliers. The maximum number in the range columns represent the highest reported frequency for the crime.

When looking at just the three major ethnic groups represented, it is noteworthy that Latino males report generally much higher averages for each crime than the other groups. This pattern holds true even for those crimes that youth in the other ethnic groups also report committing quite frequently, like beating someone up or selling or possessing drugs. The African American males indicate limited participation in property crimes when compared to the other ethnic groups.

Average Number of Times Crimes Were Committed (n=84)						
Crimes against People	**Range**	**Total Race/Ethnicity**	**African American**	**Asian/PI**	**Latino**	**Other**
Attacked member other gang	0 - 50	6.0	6.9	2.9	10.9	16.7
Attacked member your gang	0 - 12	0.9	1.3	0.2	2.2	1.3
Attacked someone with a weapon	0 - 100	5.4	3.5	2.2	17.0	8.7
Beaten someone up	0 - 500	16.0	7.8	5.3	57.1	13.3
Hurt someone	0 - 100	6.5	2.5	2.4	25.5	6.7
Initiated someone	0 - 15	1.2	0.1	0.6	3.4	3.3
Raped someone	0 - 3	0.1	0.1	0	0.5	0.3
Recruited someone	0 - 20	1.0	0.1	0.8	1.9	3.3
Drive by	0 - 100	2.1	0.9	0.02	10.9	0.7
Threatened to attack	0 - 360	14.3	2.9	2.4	70.2	13.7
Crimes for Financial Gain	**Range**	**Total Race/Ethnicity**	**African American**	**Asian/PI**	**Latino**	**Other**
Broken into building/theft	0 - 150	6.8	1.2	1.5	31.8	1.0
Extorted money	0 - 20	1.3	0.1	0.6	3.6	5.0
Pimped or prostituted someone	0 - 50	0.9	0.2	0	5	0.3
Robbed	0 - 50	3.5	1.4	0.8	13.8	4.0
Shoplifted	0 - 150	7.9	2.4	4.7	24.1	8.7
Sold or possessed drugs	0 - 1000	69.2	65.5	23.6	117.7	318.2
Sold or bought stolen goods	0 - 365	19.6	9.2	5.8	69.5	22.5
Sold or bought weapons	0 - 610	10.5	3.18	0.2	56	15.5
Crimes against Property	**Range**	**Total Race/Ethnicity**	**African American**	**Asian/PI**	**Latino**	**Other**
Graffiti	0 - 100	5.9	1.7	2.5	18.9	10.8
Set fire to property/building	0 - 18	0.7	0.1	0.2	3.0	1.2
Stolen car	0 - 150	11.7	1.1	11.6	29.8	1.0
Destroyed property	0 - 100	6.8	3.3	3.3	22	5.5
Stolen from car	0 - 300	15.5	1.3	12.8	43.1	1.25

When asked the types of gang activities witnessed at school, over half of the male survey participants reported seeing fights between members of rival gangs (58%) and fights between members of the same gang (47%). Almost half of the participants reported witnessing drug

dealing at school. Thirty-seven percent reported witnessing gang recruiting, while only 22% witnessed gang initiations taking place at their school.

Witnessed Crimes at School	%	N
Drug dealing	46%	70
Fights between rival gangs	58%	88
Fights within same gang	47%	72
Hassle other gangs' members	51%	77
Initiations	22%	33
Recruiting	37%	56
Other	4%	6

The majority of members who made money from crimes kept it for themselves. There were slight differences across the ethnic groups. Sixty percent of Latinos reported they kept the money for themselves compared to 75% of Other, 70% of Asian/PI and 69% of African Americans who reported that they kept the money they made.

Gave Money from Crimes to:	%	N
Treasurer	5%	8
Gang	19%	29
Family	26%	40
Kept it	67%	102

Significantly larger numbers of Asian/PI gang members (44%) indicated that they gave money they earned to the gang, whereas just 4% of African American and 2% of Latino males gave their earnings to the gang. A similar pattern among ethnic groups was seen with gang members who report giving their money to a treasurer: only Asian/PI (11%) and Other (25%) selected this response. Twenty-nine percent of African American, 28% of Asian/PI, and 18% of Latinos reported giving money from gang activity to their family, but one-half of gang members.

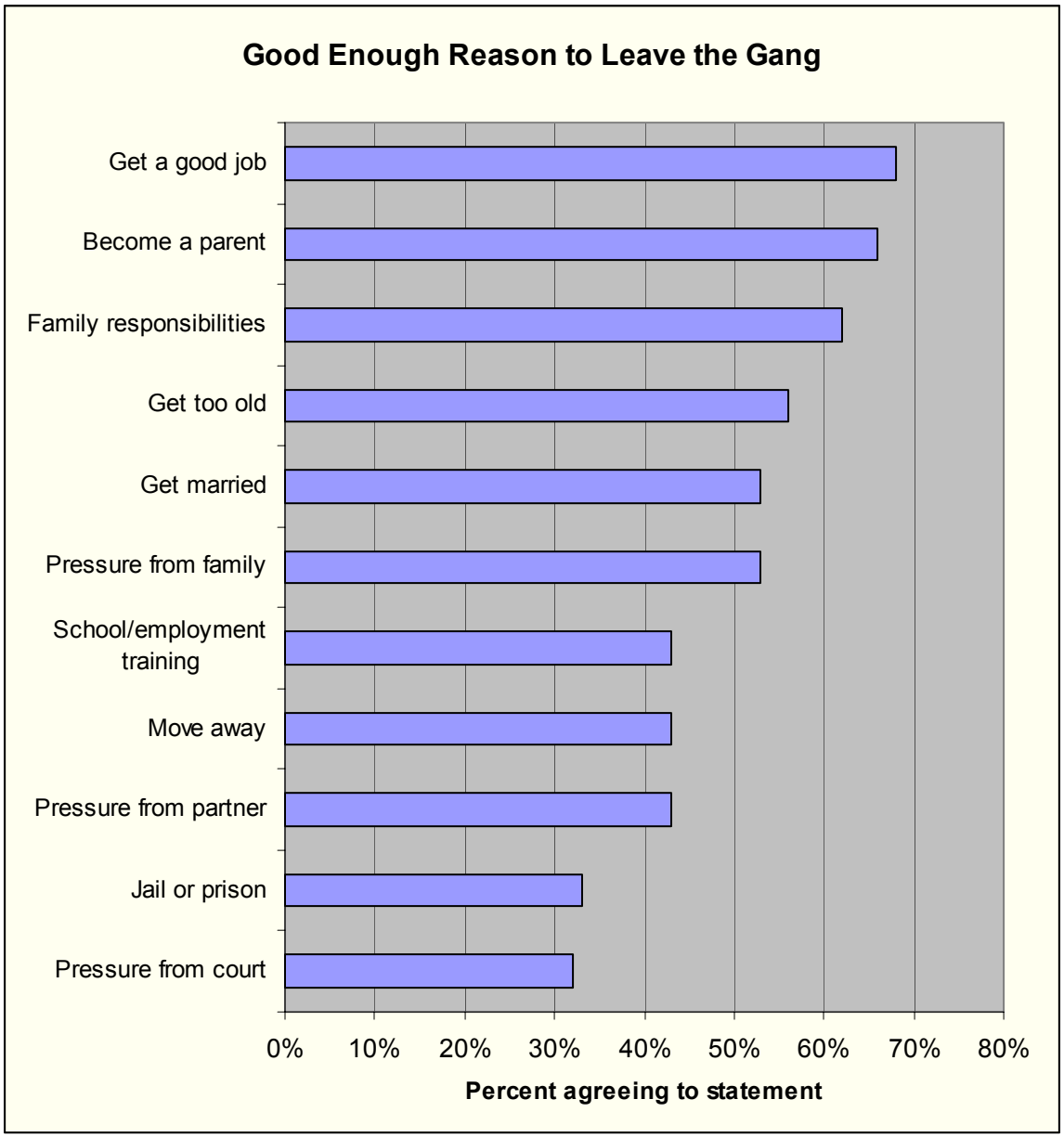
IX. Leaving the Gang

Of the 125 young men who answered this question 74% overall thought that they would leave the gang. It is outstanding that Latinos were the least likely and Asian/PIs the most likely to think they would ever leave the gang. Again this is an item in which there were a larger proportion of respondents who declined to state an opinion.

Would Ever Leave the Gang (n=125)				
Combined	**African American**	**Asian/PI**	**Latino**	**Other**
74%	78%	85%	57%	83%
(93)	(28)	(39)	(21)	(5)

Between 127 and 134 respondents answered each of a series of questions regarding good enough reasons to leave the gang. The most agreed upon reasons were ones that would result from maturing or aging out of the gang. Pressure from the legal system seems to wield little influence as respondents view it.

There were some notable differences in the responses across ethnic groups. Whereas 46% of African Americans, 34% of Latinos, and 43% of Other indicated that getting married would be a good enough reason to leave the gang, almost three-quarters of Asian/PI (73%) agreed with that statement. Similar patterns across the ethnic groups were found in response to whether family responsibilities, becoming a parent, or advice from girlfriend or boyfriend were good enough reasons to leave the gang. Another significant difference is that 64% of African American and 57% of Other agreed that moving from their neighborhood would be a good enough reason to leave the gang, compared to just 37% of Latinos and 29% of Asian/PI who felt this way.



One hundred twenty-two males responded to an open-ended question: "What would have stopped you from joining a gang?" We combined similar answers although we did not change the two part answers provided by a few respondents. The table below represents those answers provided by four or more individuals. It is notable that one-third responded that nothing would have stopped them.

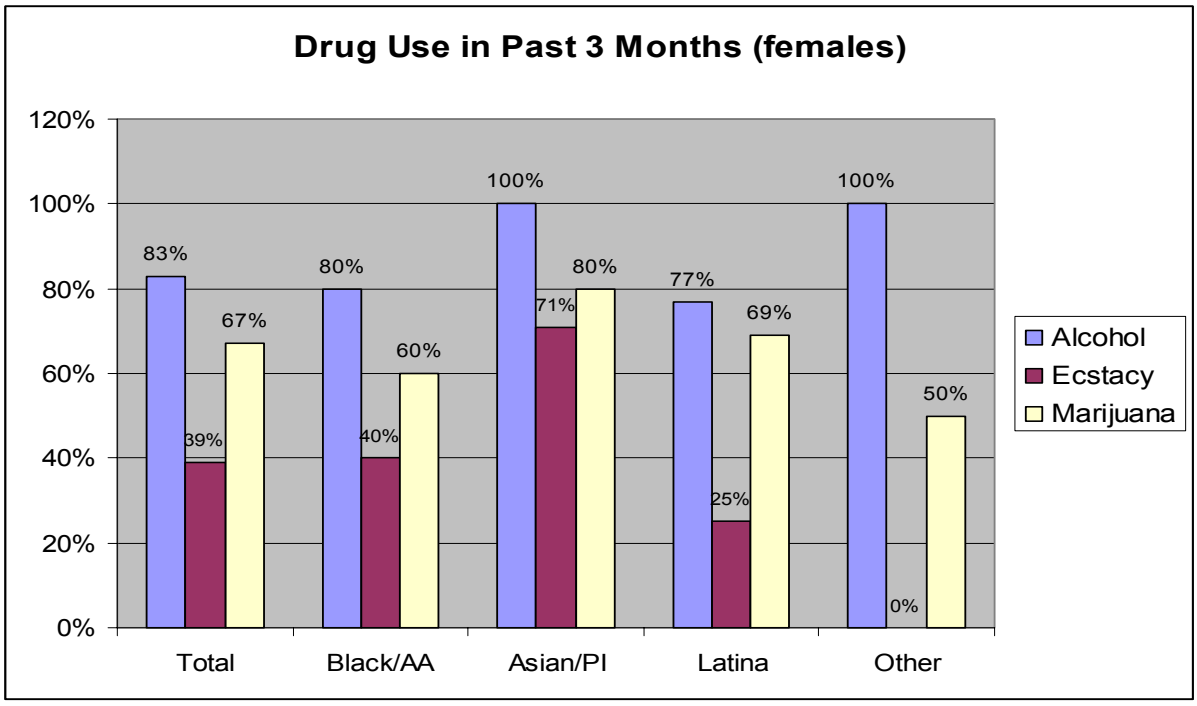
What Would Have Stopped You from Joining a Gang (n=122)					
Reason	**Total**	**African American**	**Asian/PI**	**Latino**	**Other**
Financial resources (job/money) and someone to talk to when I was young.	3%	0%	6%	0%	14%
I do not know	10%	13%	10%	0%	29%
Family support	11%	10%	8%	18%	14%
If I had known that that gang life is not easy	6%	5%	10%	0%	0%
Having something to do (after school programs/recreation)	7%	15%	2%	4%	0%
Not raised in or living in San Francisco	5%	13%	2%	0%	0%
Having money	7%	3%	13%	4%	0%
Nothing would have stopped me	36%	33%	23%	64%	29%

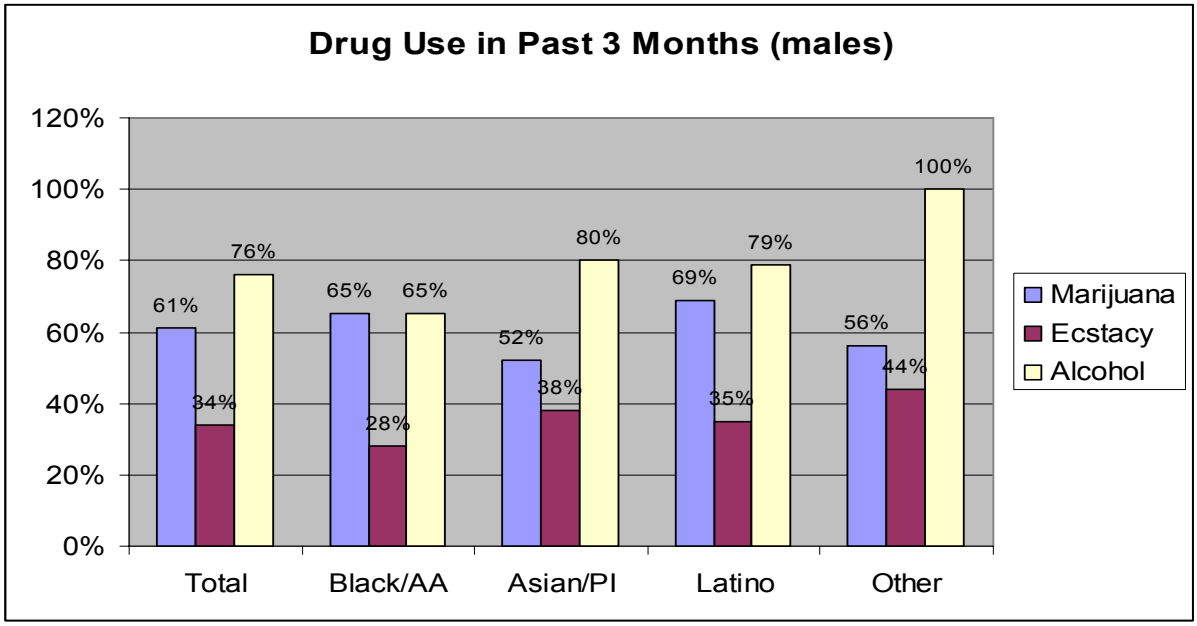
Other answers given by one or two respondents included the following:

- A job with good pay
- Joining the military
- A safer community
- A better life
- Wanting to stay out of trouble
- Having money and protection
- Work and school
- Education
- If it were not necessary to join
- If I had someone to guide me the right way
- If my friends were not hanging out in a gang

X. Substance Use

Participants were asked about the use of drugs in the three months prior to the survey. The use of alcohol by 76% of males and 83% of females is higher than the reported use of other drugs, across all ethnic groups. Asian/PI females reported a higher use of marijuana (80%) than females and males in other ethnic groups, and a much higher use of Ecstasy 71%. We also found that the only individuals who reported the use of LSD (8 males and 3 females) were Latinos. Although the numbers are small, of some significance is that 31% (n= 9) of Latinas reported the use of crack/cocaine and account for all females reporting the use of this substance.





XI. Service Utilization

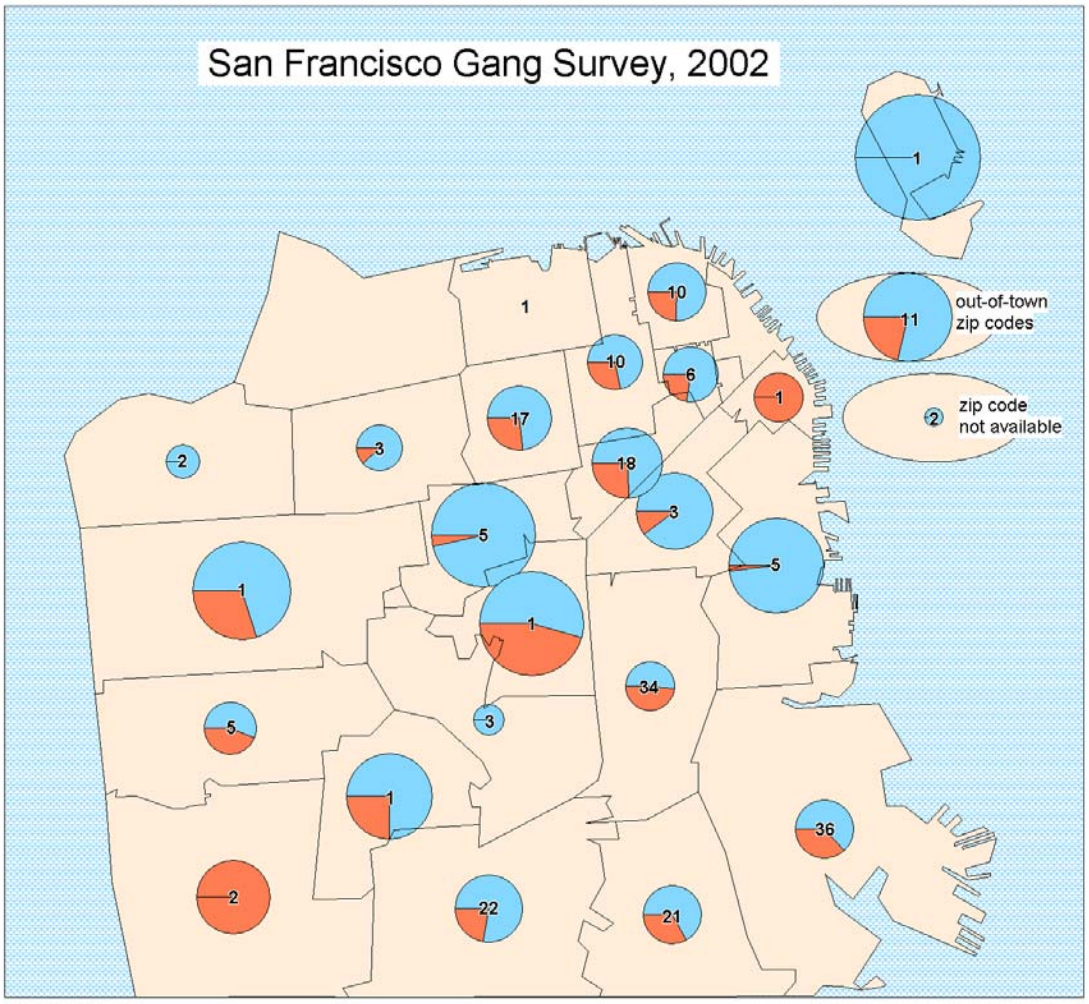
Respondents were asked which of a number of services they have ever utilized, if they were useful, and if they were in their neighborhood. The results below are for males and females combined. The great majority of respondents (86%) received at least one service. This

is in part due to the strategy of locating potential survey participants through service providers. The most frequently used services were: 1) Recreational sports (48%); 2) Counseling (45%); 3) Applying for and finding a job (43%); 4) Safe Place (43%); and 5) Job skills (40%). Most respondents found the services to be useful. However, the majority of respondents were not finding these services to be available in their neighborhood.

Services Utilized by Respondents – Male and Female (n=223)				
Service Item	**Number Using Service**	**Percent Using Service**	**Svc. Was Useful**	**Svc. in Neighborhood**
Counseling				
AA/NA	23	10%	65%	13%
Counseling	101	45%	79%	48%
Crisis	30	13%	90%	43%
Substance Abuse Counseling	35	16%	80%	34%
Support Group	51	23%	78%	47%
Service Case plan	43	19%	86%	58%
Education/Skills Building				
Computer	53	24%	85%	49%
Get GED	49	22%	76%	39%
Tutoring	56	24%	68%	41%
Volunteer	80	36%	73%	56%
Employment/Job Training				
Apply for a job	96	43%	66%	47%
Find a job	96	43%	64%	54%
Job skills	89	40%	71%	53%
Keep a job	53	24%	77%	49%

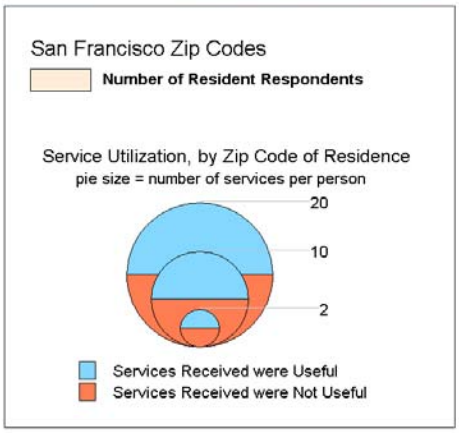
Medical	43	19%	84%	35%
Other Support Services				
Case Managementt	80	36%	89%	63%
Help with Budget	33	15%	85%	42%
Legal	43	19%	77%	42%
Mentoring	50	22%	78%	44%
Other	8	4%	75%	63%
Parenting	27	12%	59%	15%
Place to live	33	15%	79%	33%
Referrals	49	22%	69%	39%
Safe Place	97	43%	86%	64%
Transport	64	29%	78%	50%
Recreation				
Arts/Music/Theater	58	26%	83%	53%
Recreation/Sports	107	48%	87%	57%

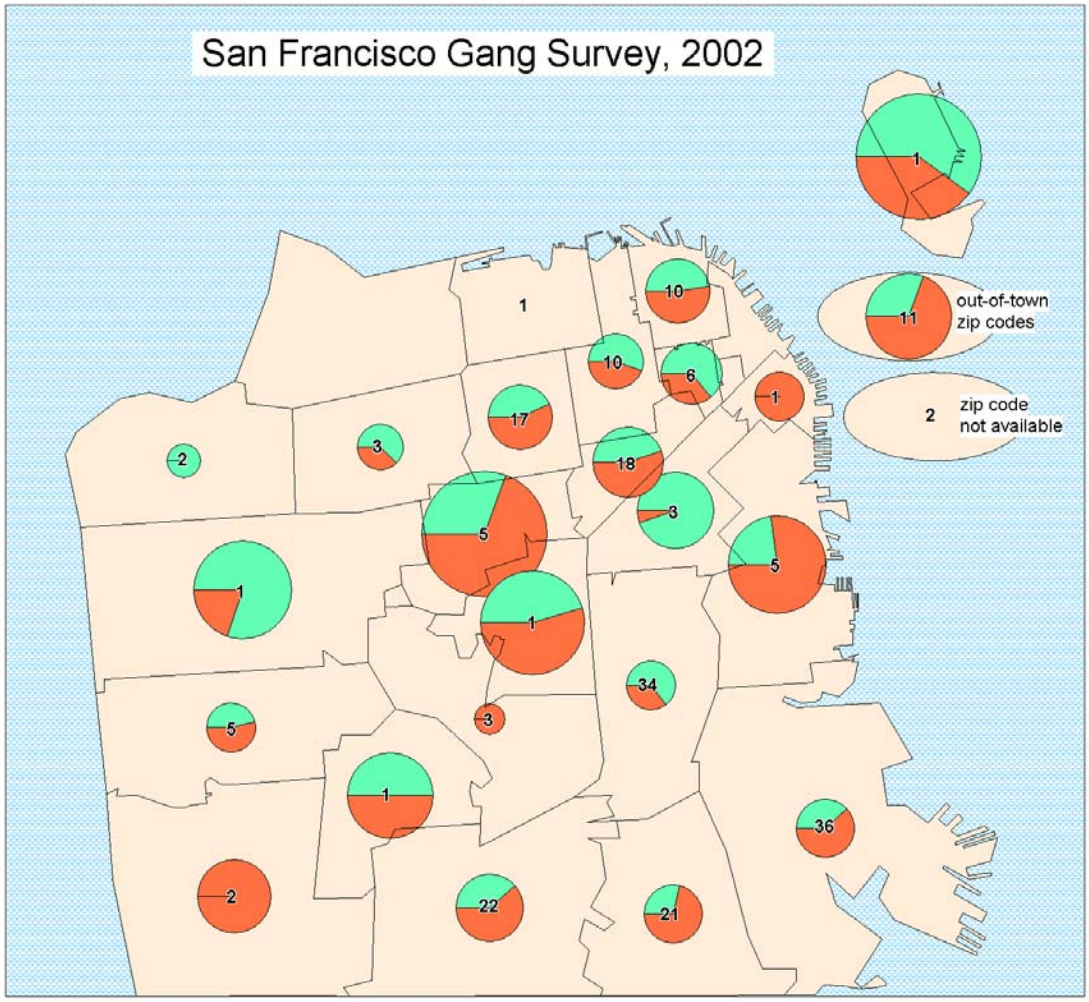
The maps on the next two pages display service utilization by zip code of residence. The first map focuses on the percentage of respondents who considered the services to be useful and the second shows the percentage of respondents who reported that the services were in their neighborhood, as defined by the respondent. The size of the circle is proportional to the average number of services utilized per person living in the zip code area. The number on the circle reflects the number of people who answered service utilization questions residing in that zip code.



Services Received Were Useful

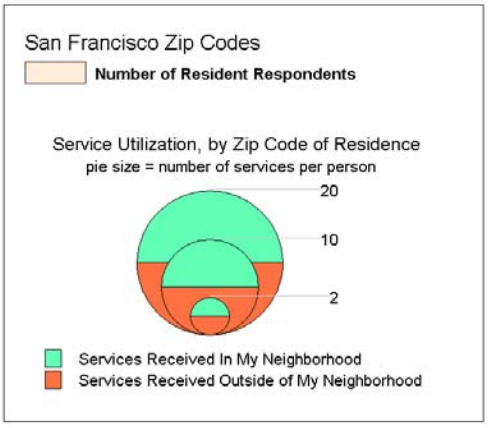
Resource Development Associates, 2002





Services Received
In My Neighborhood

Resource Development Associates, 2002



DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

From the results of these interviews with suspected gang members, it is apparent that gang members realize some valued benefits from their association, namely a sense of belonging, as well as perceived financial gain. Interventions that focus merely on educating youth on the risks of gang participation are likely to fail. Rather, interventions should focus on providing or supporting institutions (family, school, faith etc.) to compete with the gangs in the areas that participants see beneficial: monetary gain, sense of support, belonging, fun. They will also need to acknowledge the developmental stages of the target groups in terms of emerging independence, rebelling against authority, sense of immortality, as well as continuing need for support, sense of place and belonging, and need for mentor figures.

While suspected gang members identified several benefits, the results also uncovered discord stemming from their association with gangs. The majority of both males and females reported that a family member has been in a gang and most youth said that their families know about their association. However, one-third or fewer felt it would be okay for a sibling to join a gang, and even fewer respondents felt that their families approve of their gang membership. Family connections are seen as one of the most powerful motivators for leaving the gang. This suggests that affiliation with a gang may be perceived as something fluid, short-term, and serving a specific purpose.

The majority of the youth report that they want a job and they will need programs that provide a solid foundation and offer viable career paths. Employment training, placement, and support services are going to be essential to the success of any intervention strategy. Fostering job corps and other early job training experiences, and conducting strategic employer outreach will be key elements. Job programs that are community-based have the greatest potential for being utilized.

Given that the vast majority of respondents report having ever cut class there is certainly evidence to support a focused truancy intervention program. This type of program could be a referral source for other needed support programs.

Asians have fewer family members who were involved in and joined at a slightly older age, but their gangs had a different structure. Latinos have most family involvement in gangs, are least likely to see themselves ever leaving the gang, and believe they would be harmed if they tried to leave the gang. Gangs are more institutionalized in their minds as a way of life while for Asians/PI it is more or less a stage or a way to ease passage through adolescence. In stark contrast to the other ethnic groups, territory is by far more important than money for Asian gangs. For Asians in particular, family ties, marriage, parenthood, and pressure from a partner carried more weight in terms of leaving the gang.

African American gang members differ in various respects from both Asian and Latino members. The African American gangs are neither as structured nor as institutionalized as the other gangs. African American youth were very likely to have had a family member in a gang and to be influenced to join because of a family member's or friend's affiliation. Although the majority of both African American and Latino youth reported having a family member in prison or the California Youth Authority, it appears to be more common for Latino gangs to take orders from someone in prison. Membership in the African American and Asian gangs appears

to be slightly more stable than affiliation with Latino gangs, and African American gangs may include fewer youth. African American were more likely than other youth to see moving away from their neighborhood as a good reason to leave the gang, suggestive of the need to closely examine and address the environmental factors placing youth at risk for gang affiliation.

Summary Conclusions

- Suspected gang members are receiving benefits from their participation or association with a gang, namely a sense of belonging as well as perceived financial gain.
- Programs should be targeted to the middle schools, as that is the age where the majority of youth become gang involved.
- Employment and job training programs that prepare youth for jobs with the possibility of career advancement should be expanded or fortified.
- Truancy intervention programs prepared to meet the needs of gang involved youth should be developed or enhanced.
- There are differences between the major racial/ethnic groups in terms of history of family involvement, gang structure, as well as if, when and why they might leave a gang.

Focus Groups and Key Informant Interviews

The Steering Committee invested resources into conducting key informant interviews and focus groups with a variety of people who live, work and attend school within San Francisco. This process was undertaken to insure that the voices of students, parents, teachers, and other community members were heard and incorporated into the findings and recommendations for the Initiative. In all, 92 persons participated in these discussions, 20 of which were children or youth under the age of 18. We spoke with 31 individuals in law enforcement, 6 representatives from the schools, and 55 community members.

All agreed that:

- Children and youth are exposed on a daily basis to the gang lifestyle and many witness gang or set related activity in and around their schools and homes. Peer pressure has a strong influence on children and youth looking for their identities and eager to belong, especially those who are academically at-risk or without positive adult supervision.
- School personnel, students, representatives from the criminal justice system and others in the community indicated that children and youth need relevant age-appropriate and supervised after school activities. Programs that build upon the strengths and interests, and programs offer art and cultural activities are desirable.
- Community-based programs offering intensive supervision are especially critical for youth involved with the justice system. Schools could stay open seven evenings a week.
- Across the board, stakeholders recognize that parents face economic difficulties and may work long hours, leaving their children without much parental supervision. Poverty was frequently identified as a factor contributing to gang activity.
- There is significant consensus that prevention/intervention strategies should be focused on students who have not yet entered middle school. Children and youth at risk for gang involvement need to be aggressively identified at the youngest possible age by Juvenile Probation, the schools, and the community-based agencies.
- There is an obvious lack of confidence in the partnerships that are critical to the success of intervention and suppression strategies. The schools, community members, law enforcement, and judicial system do not have common goals for children and youth at-risk of or who are gang-involved, and may work in opposition to each other.
- Many individuals pointed out that a lack of resources hinders efforts to reduce the impact of gang activity. The needs cited included more security staff at schools and more police on the streets, a citywide curfew, positive role models in every neighborhood, and access to services such as grief counseling.
- Good jobs located where people live; viable and attractive economic opportunities; and work-study programs are seen by all stakeholders as essential to the long-term reduction of youth gang violence.

School Personnel generally believed that:

- In general, teachers, administrators, and school security staff lack specific training about gang awareness, identification, and intervention strategies.

- The majority of the high school and middle school principals reported that gang related activity has a limited impact on the schools, pointing to a reliance on policies banning specific colors of clothing and the use of security personnel to supervise students.
- Students having behavioral and/or disciplinary problems are transferred from school to school. The schools also have few tools to intervene with truant youth. The number of children and youth cutting class and the frequency at which this occurs are phenomenal.
- Teachers may not be supported when attempting to enforce school policies regarding disciplinary issues or gang related activity.

Community Members agreed that:

- Youth and community members believe that the systems – schools, social service agencies, and juvenile justice – fail to give families the level or types of support integral to their success.
- There is the very strong sense within the community that the impact of violent gang activity is not important to local government officials, and that neighborhoods like the Bayview are isolated and suffering because of the negative associations with gangs.
- Many individuals communicated a sense that, to them, the gangs as just another fact of everyday life in their neighborhoods.
- Some people asserted that gang activity is feared by and impacts the quality life primarily of other gang-involved youth. Several young people mentioned that trouble starts when someone affiliates with the wrong people or is in the wrong place.

Criminal Justice System representatives reported that:

- Current efforts to suppress gang activity and gangs could benefit from enhanced data collection and analysis. The Juvenile Probation Department's record system does not interface with Adult Probation's system. The Gang Task Force does not have the clerical support needed for data entry into Cal/Gang (also known as the Gang Reporting Evaluation and Tracking (G.R.E.A.T.) System).
- Law enforcement agencies and the judicial system (both adult and juvenile) should consider policies and procedures that will facilitate information sharing across agencies. Patrol officers do not have access to a juvenile's conditions of probation and as a result cannot intervene with a youth that may be observed violating those conditions.
- The Gang Task Force has consistent interaction with both the Police Department's patrol division and to the judicial system. Clear policies to facilitate referrals to the Task Force are in place. However, patrol officers not assigned to a gang unit sometimes lack the familiarity with a suspect's association with a gang that would trigger a referral.
- The structure of the Patrol Division allows for a suspect in a case to be simultaneously investigated by a district station's homicide, narcotics, and gang units.
- The Gang Task Force provides training about gangs within the Police Department and occasionally to representatives of other entities (e.g. school administrators).
- Representatives from law enforcement were critical of the way the judicial system handles

some cases involving gang-identified youth. Sometimes too few options are available to sanction youth effectively and deter gang activity.

- The Juvenile Division of the District Attorney's Office is unique in that it handles all cases involving juveniles and does not have a specialized unit or resources dedicated to cases with gang-identified youth.

Summary Conclusions

Although community members and agency representatives agreed to share their views about and experiences with youth gangs, we repeatedly heard the comment that people are tired of talking to the authorities about gang violence but seeing that nothing improves. Representatives within the various systems feel that the social problem afflicting families are beyond their sphere of influence. Regardless of their specific interests or roles, all of the stakeholders are frustrated with the current response to youth gangs in San Francisco. Initial recommendations include the following:

- It is recommended that community members and law enforcement immediately establish a framework and identify opportunities for effective collaboration.
- CBOs, the Courts, law enforcement, and all other youth-serving public and non-profit agencies should direct additional resources to the early identification of those children and youth who are at highest risk for gang involvement.
- Prevention and early intervention strategies should target children in the 5th and 6th grades.
- There should be a focused effort to increase parent involvement in the schools and to help parents reinforce at home the positive work of the schools.
- Many parents and younger parents particularly need parenting skills training.
- The San Francisco Unified School District must work with school administrators to assess the efficacy of current policies and practices aimed at reducing truancy and gang-involvement.
- All public and private youth-serving agencies, especially schools, must receive training on gang awareness, identification, and intervention. Law enforcement representatives within the juvenile system should receive training that is more consistent with training given to representatives in the adult system.
- Consideration should be given to creating specialized gang units within the Juvenile Probation Department and the Juvenile Division of the District Attorney's Office. The resulting increased level of expertise may enhance both intervention and suppression activities.
- The Courts and Juvenile Probation Department should move swiftly to set up protocols and mechanisms for sharing the conditions of probation imposed on juveniles. Partners in the community will be able to use the information about conditions of probation to support youth, monitor their progress, and intervene when necessary.

APPENDIX: YOUTH INTERVIEW SURVEY

Date of Interview: _____
Place of Interview: _____
Interviewer: _____

❍ **Male** ❍ **Female**

1. ***How old are you?*** _____

2. ***What race or ethnicity do you consider yourself to be?***
   - ❍ African American/Black
   - ❍ Asian/Pacific Islander
   - ❍ Caucasian/White
   - ❍ Hispanic/Latino
   - ❍ Native American/American Indian
   - ❍ Southeast Asian
   - ❍ Other (specify):_____
   - ❍ Bi-racial (specify):_____
   - ❍ Multi-racial (specify):_____
   - ❍ Declined to state

3. ***What language do you use most often at home?***
   _____

4. ***If you were born outside the United States, what country were you born in?***
   _____

5. ***What ZIP code do you live in now?***
   _____

6. ***Have you ever been married?***
   - ❍ Yes
   - ❍ No
   - ❍ Declined to state

   If yes: are you married now?
   - ❍ Yes
   - ❍ No
   - ❍ Declined to state

7. ***Do you have any children?***
   - ❍ Yes
   - ❍ No
   - ❍ Declined to state

   If yes: How many children do you have? ____

8. ***I am going to read you a list of choices. Please say which choice best describes where you are living now:***
   - ❍ With my family
   - ❍ With other relatives
   - ❍ In foster care
   - ❍ In an apartment or house with others
   - ❍ In an apartment or house by myself
   - ❍ In a group home
   - ❍ Homeless
   - ❍ Other (describe): _____
   - ❍ Declined to state

   If "with my family": Please tell me who else lives with you:
   - ❍ Mother
   - ❍ Father
   - ❍ Partner of mother
   - ❍ Partner of father
   - ❍ Older brothers
   - ❍ Older sisters
   - ❍ Younger brothers
   - ❍ Younger sisters
   - ❍ Grandparent(s)
   - ❍ Other relatives: _____
   - ❍ Other adults/not related
   - ❍ Other children/not related
   - ❍ Declined to state

   If any other answer: What age were you when you stopped living with your family? _____

9. ***Are you currently employed?***
   - ❍ Yes
   - ❍ No
   - ❍ Declined to state

   If yes:
   - ❍ Full-time (30 hours/week or more)
   - ❍ Part-time (Less than 30 hours/week)
   - ❍ Declined to state

   Skip to Question #14

10. ***Do you want a job?***
    - ❍ Yes
    - ❍ No
    - ❍ Declined to state

11. ***Do you look for work?***
    - ❍ Yes
    - ❍ No – **Skip to Question #13**
    - ❍ Declined to state

12. ***If you cannot find a job, why do you think you have not had success?*** _____
    _____
    _____

13. What kinds of jobs have you looked for?

_____

_____

14. *What interests you? What do like to do for fun*?

_____

_____

15. Are you enrolled in school?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

16. Are you currently attending school?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

If yes: what grade are you in? _____
If yes: what kind of school?_____
If no: what was the highest grade you completed?
_____
If no: when did you last attend school?_____

17. What are/were your grades like overall?

- ❍ Mostly A's and B's
- ❍ Mostly C's
- ❍ Mostly D's
- ❍ Mostly F's
- ❍ Declined to state

18. For your current/last time in school, please say whether you agree with each of the following statements?

If I have a problem there is a teacher or adult I can talk to.

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

My school is able to meet my needs.

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No/Why not?_____
- ❍ Declined to state

I learn about things relating to my culture in school.

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

My teachers respect my culture.

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No/Why not?_____
- ❍ Declined to state

I often feel that no one at school cares about me.

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

Even though lots of students are around I often feel lonely.

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No/Why not?_____
- ❍ Declined to state

I do not feel that I am part of the school.

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No/Why not?_____
- ❍ Declined to state

I often feel like my teachers respect me.

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No/Why not?_____
- ❍ Declined to state

In school I feel that other students respect me.

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No/Why not?_____
- ❍ Declined to state

Most of my teachers really listen to what I have to say.

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No/Why not?_____
- ❍ Declined to state

Most teachers supervise me fairly when they think I have broken a rule.

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

My family encourag(ed) me to do well in school.

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

My family meets with my teachers and attends school events.

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

19. Have you ever dropped out of school?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No – **Skip to Question # 21**
- ❍ Declined to state

If yes, what were the reasons? _____

_____

_____

20. Did you ever return to school after dropping out?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

Skip to Question #23

21. Have you ever thought of dropping out of school?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No – **Skip to Question #23**
- ❍ Declined to state

If yes, what were the reasons? _____

_____

_____

22. If you thought of dropping out but did not, why did you chose to stay in school?

_____

_____

23. Do, or did, you cut class?

- ❍ Yes/
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

If yes, what are the reasons you cut? _____

_____

If yes, how frequently did you cut?

- ❍ Every day
- ❍ Once a week
- ❍ Once a month or less
- ❍ Declined to state

24. Have you ever been suspended from school?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

If yes what were the reasons for the most recent suspension? _____

_____

25. Have you ever been expelled?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

If yes what were the reasons for the most recent expulsion? _____

_____

26. Are you currently a member of a gang/set/crew?

- ❍ Yes (circle one: **gang** **set** **crew**)
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state
- ❍ Other (specify):_____

In the rest of the interview, replace the word "gang" with the response to Question #26.

27. Do you currently hang around a gang but are not a member?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

28. In the last year have you been an active gang member?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

If the responses to Questions #26, #27, #28 are "No," skip to Question #69

29. Please describe your position or rank in the gang?_____

Are you a:

- ❍ Leader
- ❍ Core member (with gang all the time)
- ❍ Treasurer
- ❍ Regular member (involved most of the time)
- ❍ Occasional member (do not hang out often)
- ❍ Hang with but not part of
- ❍ Veteran/Senior member/OG
- ❍ Do not know

30. Why did you join or associate with a gang? Rank answers from 1 to 5. (1 = very important. 5 = not important.)

- ○ ___ For fun
- ○ ___ To belong
- ○ ___ For protection
- ○ ___ A friend was in the gang
- ○ ___ A brother, sister, or other relative was in the gang
- ○ ___ I was forced to join
- ○ ___ To get respect
- ○ ___ For money
- ○ ___ To fit in better
- ○ ___ For family
- ○ ___ Other (specify): _____

31. About how old were you when you first associated with a gang? _____

32. About how old were you when you first joined a gang? _____

33. Did anyone pressure you to join a gang?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

34. Has music influenced your choice to be in a gang?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

If yes, which music? _____

35. Were you initiated into the gang?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

If yes, how were you initiated into the gang?

_____

_____

36. What would have stopped you from joining a gang?

_____

_____

_____

37. Has any family member ever been in a gang?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

If yes, please say which of the following family members were ever in a gang (Remember that you don't have to answer this question if it makes you uncomfortable):

- ❍ Father ❍ Declined to state
- ❍ Mother ❍ Declined to state
- ❍ Other adult relative ❍ Declined to state
- ❍ Brother(s) ❍ Declined to state
- ❍ Sister(s) ❍ Declined to state

38. Do you have any family members in the Youth Authority or in the prison system?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

39. Do you have any friends in the Youth Authority or in the prison system?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

40. Please say whether you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Being in a gang makes people think I am important and give me respect.

- ❍ Agree
- ❍ Disagree
- ❍ Declined to state

Gang members provide support and loyalty.

- ❍ Agree
- ❍ Disagree
- ❍ Declined to state

Being a member of a gang makes me feel like I am a useful person for my family and friends.

- ❍ Agree
- ❍ Disagree
- ❍ Declined to state

Being a member of a gang makes me feel like I really belong somewhere.

- ❍ Agree
- ❍ Disagree
- ❍ Declined to state

I enjoy being a member of my gang.

- ❍ Agree
- ❍ Disagree
- ❍ Declined to state

My gang is like a family to me.

- ❍ Agree
- ❍ Disagree
- ❍ Declined to state

Being in a gang is a good way to make money.

- ❍ Agree
- ❍ Disagree
- ❍ Declined to state

Being in a gang makes me safer.

- ❍ Agree/Why?_____
- ❍ Disagree
- ❍ Declined to state

My family knows I am in a gang.

- ❍ Agree
- ❍ Disagree
- ❍ Declined to state

My family approves of my gang membership.

- ❍ Agree
- ❍ Disagree
- ❍ Declined to state

It would be okay with me if my brother joined a gang.

- ❍ Agree
- ❍ Disagree/Why?_____
- ❍ Declined to state

It would be okay with me if my sister joined a gang.

- ❍ Agree
- ❍ Disagree/Why?_____
- ❍ Declined to state

Being in a gang makes it easier to get a gun and other weapons.

- ❍ Agree
- ❍ Disagree
- ❍ Declined to state

Carrying a gun makes me feel safer.

- ❍ Agree
- ❍ Disagree
- ❍ Declined to state

Carrying a knife makes me feel safer.

- ❍ Agree
- ❍ Disagree
- ❍ Declined to state

41. Does your gang have a leader?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

If yes, how is the leader picked? _____

_____

42. Does your gang have a shot caller?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

If yes, how does a member get become a shot caller? _____

_____

43. Does one person in your gang control the gang's money?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

If yes, how does that person get picked?_____

_____

44. If your gang sells drugs, does one member of the gang control sells?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

If yes, how does that person get picked?_____

_____

45. Does your gang meet regularly?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

46. Does your gang have rules?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No – **Skip to Question #49**
- ❍ Declined to state

If yes: What are some of the gang's rules?

_____

_____

_____

47. What happens to a gang member if he/she breaks the rules?_____

_____

_____

48. Are specific signs or symbols used by your gang to identify its members or neighborhood?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

49. About how many members are in your gang?___

50. Are there other gangs that are particular enemies of your gang?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

51. How old are the oldest members of your gang?____

52. How old are the youngest members of your gang? ____

53. For males: does your gang have girl members?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

54. For females: does your gang have male members?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

55. Do members of your gang change a lot or stay mostly the same

- ❍ Change a lot
- ❍ Stay mostly the same
- ❍ Declined to state

56. How hard would it be for someone to leave the gang?

- ❍ Very hard
- ❍ Somewhat hard
- ❍ Not very hard
- ❍ Declined to state

57. Is there a ceremony or ritual for someone who wants to leave the gang?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

58. If you left the gang, would the gang try to harm you or your family?

- ❍ Harm me
- ❍ Harm my family
- ❍ Both
- ❍ Neither
- ❍ Declined to state

59. In the past year have you ever witnessed gang activities at your school or on school grounds, such as? (check all that apply)

- ❍ Gang members selling drugs
- ❍ Fights between rival gang members
- ❍ Fights between members of one gang
- ❍ Gang members hassling members of other gangs
- ❍ Gang recruiting
- ❍ Gang initiations
- ❍ Other: _____

60. I am now going to ask you some questions about crimes you may have committed. Please remember that you should not tell me any specific details about crimes, and do not tell me about crimes you are planning to commit in the future. I'm going to read you a list of crimes. This is for your protection and mine. Please tell me how many times you have committed the following crimes in the last 12 month:

- ❍ ___ Written graffiti on someone else's property?
- ❍ ___ Destroyed property?
- ❍ ___ Set fire to a building or property?
- ❍ ___ Stolen a car?
- ❍ ___ Stolen items from a car?
- ❍ ___ Sold or bought stolen goods (other than weapons)?
- ❍ ___ Sold or bought weapons/firearms?
- ❍ ___ Sold drugs or possessed illegal drugs?
- ❍ ___ Shoplifted?
- ❍ ___ Broken into a house, store, or building to commit theft?
- ❍ ___ Threatened to attack a person using a gun, knife, or other weapon?
- ❍ ___ Robbed someone by force or by threat of force using a weapon?
- ❍ ___ Beaten up a person with my fists?
- ❍ ___ Attacked someone with a weapon?
- ❍ ___ Attacked/fought with a member of another gang?
- ❍ ___ Attacked/fought with a member of your own gang?
- ❍ ___ Attacked someone with a weapon?
- ❍ ___ Committed a violent act where someone was hurt?
- ❍ ___ Forced someone to have sex (rape)?
- ❍ ___ Participated in a drive-by?
- ❍ ___ Pimped or prostituted someone?
- ❍ ___ Extorted money from someone?
- ❍ ___ Recruited someone into the gang?
- ❍ ___ Helped initiate a new gang member?
- ❍ __ Other (describe):_____

61. Does your gang commit crimes to make money?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

62. Does your gang commit crimes to protect its territory?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

63. Which is more important to your gang:

- ❍ Territory
- ❍ Money
- ❍ Other(specify):_____

64. If you made money from any crimes, please say what you did with it: (Check all that apply)

- ❍ Kept it for myself
- ❍ Used it for my family
- ❍ Gave it to the gang, or to other gang members
- ❍ Gave it to the gang's treasurer
- ❍ Declined to state

65. Do any members of your gang know people in the adult prison system?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

If yes: do gang members get orders from adults in prison?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

66. Do any members of your gang know people in the Youth Authority?

❍ Yes
❍ No
❍ Declined to state

If yes: do gang members get orders from juvenile in the Youth Authority?

❍ Yes
❍ No
❍ Declined to state

67. Do you think you will ever leave the gang?

❍ Yes
❍ No
❍ Declined to state

68. Would any of the following reasons be a good enough reason for you to leave the gang?

Advice/pressure from a family member/relative

❍ Yes
❍ No
❍ Declined to state

Advice/pressure from girlfriend/ boyfriend/spouse

❍ Yes
❍ No
❍ Declined to state

Advice/pressure from the court system

❍ Yes
❍ No
❍ Declined to state

Move out of neighborhood

❍ Yes
❍ No
❍ Declined to state

Getting married

❍ Yes
❍ No
❍ Declined to state

Becoming a parent

❍ Yes
❍ No
❍ Declined to state

Family responsibilities

❍ Yes
❍ No
❍ Declined to state

Getting a good job

❍ Yes
❍ No
❍ Declined to state

Getting into school or employment training program

❍ Yes
❍ No
❍ Declined to state

Going to jail or prison

❍ Yes
❍ No
❍ Declined to state

Getting too old

❍ Yes
❍ No
❍ Declined to state

Other?(describe)_____
_____
_____
_____

69. I am now going to ask you about drug use. Remember that you do not have to answer these questions, but, if you do answer, try to be as accurate as possible. In the past three months, have you used any of the following:

Alcohol?

❍ Yes
❍ No
❍ Declined to state

If yes: how many days in a week would you have three or more drinks?

❍ None
❍ One
❍ Two
❍ Three
❍ Four
❍ Five
❍ Six
❍ Every day

Marijuana?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

If yes: how many days in a week would you use marijuana?

- ❍ None
- ❍ One
- ❍ Two
- ❍ Three
- ❍ Four
- ❍ Five
- ❍ Six
- ❍ Every day

Crack or Cocaine?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

If yes: how many days in a week would you use crack or cocaine?

- ❍ None
- ❍ One
- ❍ Two
- ❍ Three
- ❍ Four
- ❍ Five
- ❍ Six
- ❍ Every day

LSD?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

If yes: how many days in a week would you use LSD?

- ❍ None
- ❍ One
- ❍ Two
- ❍ Three
- ❍ Four
- ❍ Five
- ❍ Six
- ❍ Every day

Ecstacy?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

If yes: how many days in a week would you use Ecstacy?

- ❍ None
- ❍ One
- ❍ Two
- ❍ Three
- ❍ Four
- ❍ Five
- ❍ Six
- ❍ Every day

Other drug? Describe: _____

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

If yes: how many days in a week would you use these drugs?

- ❍ None
- ❍ One
- ❍ Two
- ❍ Three
- ❍ Four
- ❍ Five
- ❍ Six
- ❍ Every day

70. In the past year have you had any arrests?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

If yes, how many times?____

71. In the past year have you had any police contacts (includes being stopped, searched, questioned, or taken to the police station)?

- ❍ Yes
- ❍ No
- ❍ Declined to state

If yes, how many times?____

72. Have you ever received any of these services from agencies in your neighborhood and if so, were they useful?:

			If Yes:		
Service	No	Yes	Useful	Not Useful	In your neighborhood?
Job skills training	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Finding a job	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Applying for a job	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Support keeping a job	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Getting a GED	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Volunteer work	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Tutoring	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Finding a place to live	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Counseling/ someone to talk to	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Support group	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Mentoring	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Safe place to hang out	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Substance use counseling	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
AA/NA	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Parenting classes	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Case management	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Crisis intervention	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Service/case planning	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Referrals to other services	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Legal assistance	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Transportation	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Help with budget	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Routine medical care	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Recreation/sports	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Computer training	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Arts/music/theater	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍
Other (specify): _____	❍	❍	❍	❍	❍