

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Statistical Analysis Center Publication

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2009 Graham County Gang Threat Assessment

2011

June

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Executive Summary

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

Findings

- One of the three Graham County law enforcement agencies that responded to the survey reported an active gang presence within its jurisdiction in 2009. Unfortunately, this agency was not able to provide an estimate of the number of gang members.
- The one agency with a gang presence reported that gangs were expanding their membership and scope of activities. The agency also reported that gang activity increased significantly during the prior six month and five year periods. When asked about the prior 12 months, the agency reported that gang activity had increased slightly.
- Assault/aggravated assault, drug offenses, and theft were listed as the primary crimes being committed by gangs.
- The single agency with a gang presence reported that gangs had a high level of involvement in the distribution of marijuana and methamphetamine.
- The Bloods was the only gang reported as having a high level of involvement within the jurisdiction of the agency with a gang presence. The Crips, Hispanic Sureños (SUR 13), and the Mexican/Mafia reportedly had a moderate level of involvement within the same jurisdiction.
- When asked about gang intervention strategies, the single agency reporting a gang presence identified gang crime/intelligence data analyses, GIITEM, and joint efforts with other agencies as the most effective strategies for responding to gangs and gang activity.

Introduction

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

Research Methods

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

Four law enforcement agencies throughout Graham County received the *Arizona Gang Threat Assessment* in 2010, which asked a series of questions about gangs and gang activity within their respective jurisdictions during 2009. The survey was designed to gather information on gangs, gang members, gang activity, and other pertinent information to better understand the threat gangs pose to public safety. Of the four surveys distributed to law enforcement agencies in Graham County, three (75.0 percent) agencies returned a survey to the SAC.

Gangs in Graham County and Arizona

Total Gang Membership

Of the three agencies that responded to SAC’s request for information on gangs and gang activity in Graham County, one agency (33.3 percent) reported the presence of gangs and gang activity within its jurisdiction. The number of agencies that reported gang activity in Graham County has remained the same from 2008 to 2009 (Table 1). The single agency with a gang presence within its jurisdiction in 2009 was not able to estimate the number of active gang members.

	2007		2008		2009		2009 Arizona	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	0	0.0%	1	25.0%	1	33.3%	59	75.6%
No	3	100.0%	3	75.0%	2	66.7%	19	24.4%
Unsure/Don't know	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Level of Gang Activity Over Time

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

	2008	2009	2009 Arizona
Yes	-	100.0%	50.0%
No	-	0.0%	46.4%
Unsure/Don't Know	-	0.0%	3.6%
Total Responses	0	1	56

The agency reported that gangs within its jurisdiction were expanding their membership and scope of activities (Table 2).

When given the opportunity to provide further explanation of their response about gang membership and gang activities, the one agency with a gang presence reported that the jails have seen a higher number of gang members and graffiti.

Looking at the six months prior to the 2009 assessment, the agency with a gang presence reported that gang activity increased significantly. The agency also reported that gang activity increased slightly in the past 12 months and increased significantly over the past five years (Figure 1).

Figure 1

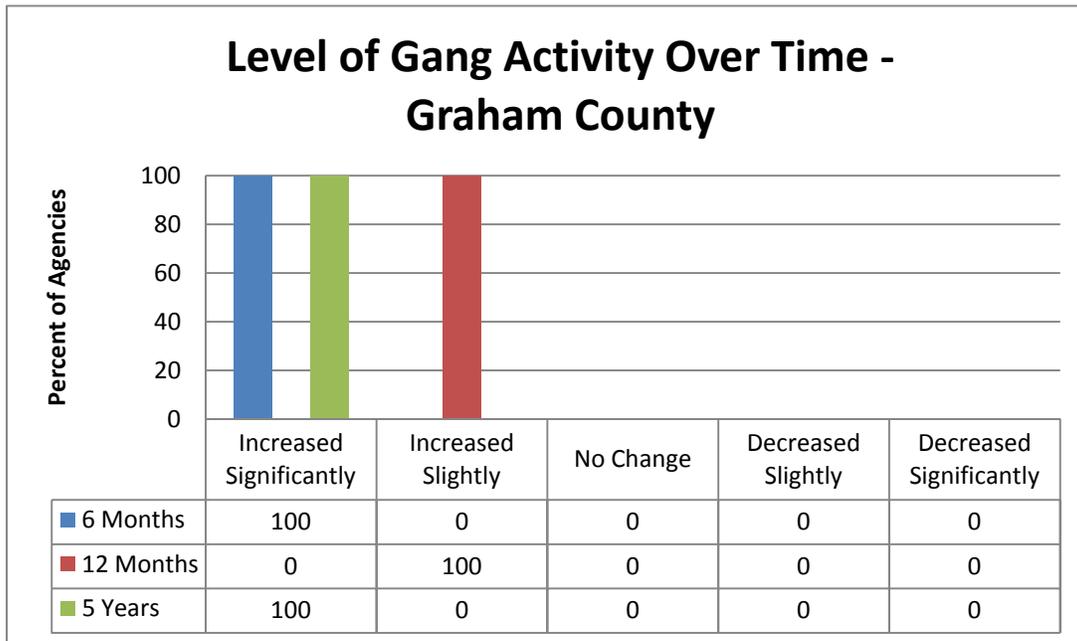
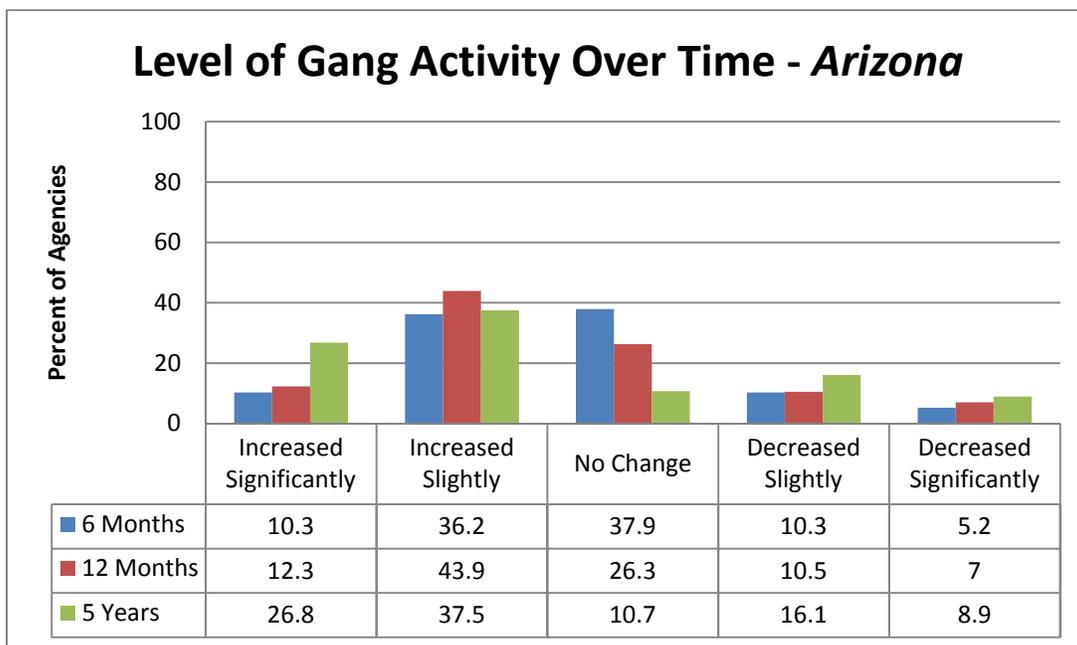


Figure 2



Gang Involvement in Crimes and Drugs

Table 3: Primary Crimes Committed by Gangs (Of the Jurisdictions Reporting Gang Activity)				
Crime	Graham County		Arizona	
	Number of Agencies	Percent of Agencies	Number of Agencies	Percent of Agencies
Assault/Aggravated Assault	1	100.0%	43	78.2%
Drug Offenses	1	100.0%	15	27.3%
Theft	1	100.0%	10	18.2%
Number of Agencies Responding	3		55	

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

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

The responding agency reported that assault/aggravated assault, drug offenses, and theft were the primary crimes being committed by gangs in its jurisdiction (Table 3).

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

The agency in Graham County with a gang presence reported a high level of gang involvement in robbery and vandalism/graffiti/tagging (Table 4). Additionally, a moderate level of involvement was reported for auto theft, burglary, and fraud. Low level involvement was reported for felonious assault, human trafficking, identity theft, and intimidation/extortion.

Table 4: Level of Gang Involvement in Crime (Of the Jurisdictions Reporting Gang Activity)						
	Year	High	Moderate	Low	None	Unknown
Robbery	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	100.0%	-	-	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>12.1%</i>	<i>29.3%</i>	<i>25.9%</i>	<i>20.7%</i>	<i>12.1%</i>
Vandalism/Graffiti/Tagging	2008	-	-	100.0%	-	-
	2009	100.0%	-	-	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>57.1%</i>	<i>28.6%</i>	<i>8.9%</i>	-	<i>5.4%</i>
Auto Theft	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	100.0%	-	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>12.1%</i>	<i>39.7%</i>	<i>20.7%</i>	<i>19.0%</i>	<i>8.6%</i>
Burglary	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	100.0%	-	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>22.4%</i>	<i>41.4%</i>	<i>19.0%</i>	<i>6.9%</i>	<i>10.3%</i>
Fraud	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	100.0%	-	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>13.0%</i>	<i>14.8%</i>	<i>27.8%</i>	<i>20.4%</i>	<i>24.1%</i>
Felonious Assault	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	-	100.0%	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>17.5%</i>	<i>35.1%</i>	<i>28.1%</i>	<i>10.5%</i>	<i>8.8%</i>
Human Trafficking	2008	-	-	100.0%	-	-
	2009	-	-	100.0%	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>8.8%</i>	<i>17.5%</i>	<i>14.0%</i>	<i>31.6%</i>	<i>28.1%</i>
Identity Theft	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	-	100.0%	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>12.3%</i>	<i>22.8%</i>	<i>21.1%</i>	<i>21.1%</i>	<i>22.8%</i>
Intimidation/Extortion	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	-	100.0%	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>15.5%</i>	<i>31.0%</i>	<i>31.0%</i>	<i>6.9%</i>	<i>15.5%</i>
Arson	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>3.4%</i>	<i>5.2%</i>	<i>19.0%</i>	<i>46.6%</i>	<i>25.9%</i>
Firearms Trafficking	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>5.3%</i>	<i>22.8%</i>	<i>24.6%</i>	<i>26.3%</i>	<i>21.1%</i>
Kidnapping	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>3.5%</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>31.6%</i>	<i>42.1%</i>	<i>21.1%</i>
Murder	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>3.6%</i>	<i>14.3%</i>	<i>28.6%</i>	<i>44.6%</i>	<i>8.9%</i>
Prostitution	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>5.3%</i>	<i>14.0%</i>	<i>40.4%</i>	<i>38.6%</i>
Sexual Assault/Rape	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	-	-	-	100.0%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>5.3%</i>	<i>31.6%</i>	<i>36.8%</i>	<i>24.6%</i>

In addition to the level of gang involvement by crime type, agencies were asked to rate the level of gang involvement in the distribution of various illegal drugs. The one agency with a gang presence in Graham County reported a moderate level of involvement in street drug sales and a low level of involvement in the wholesale of drugs (Table 5). Additionally, the agency reported a high level of involvement in the distribution of marijuana and methamphetamines.

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

Level of Activity by Gang

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

According to the 2009 response from the one agency with a gang presence in Graham County, the only gang that was reported to have a high level of activity was the Bloods (Table 6). Gangs that were reported to have a moderate level of involvement were the Crips, Hispanic Sureños (SUR 13), and Mexican Mafia/La Eme.

Table 6: Level of Activity by Gang (Of the Jurisdictions Reporting Gang Activity)						
	Year	High	Moderate	Low	Not Applicable	Unknown
Bloods (all sets)	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	100.0%	-	-	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>14.0%</i>	<i>14.0%</i>	<i>33.3%</i>	<i>26.3%</i>	<i>12.3%</i>
Crips (all sets)	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	100.0%	-	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>15.8%</i>	<i>19.3%</i>	<i>26.3%</i>	<i>28.1%</i>	<i>10.5%</i>
Hispanic Sureños (SUR 13)	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	100.0%	-	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>24.6%</i>	<i>33.3%</i>	<i>24.6%</i>	<i>12.3%</i>	<i>5.3%</i>
Mexican Mafia/La Eme	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	100.0%	-	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>12.3%</i>	<i>15.8%</i>	<i>38.6%</i>	<i>21.1%</i>	<i>12.3%</i>
Aryan Brotherhood	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	-	100.0%	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>5.3%</i>	<i>15.8%</i>	<i>45.6%</i>	<i>22.8%</i>	<i>10.5%</i>
Border Brothers	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	-	100.0%	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>3.6%</i>	<i>28.6%</i>	<i>57.1%</i>	<i>10.7%</i>
Hispanic Norteños (14)	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	-	100.0%	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>3.5%</i>	<i>8.8%</i>	<i>40.4%</i>	<i>38.6%</i>	<i>8.8%</i>
Neighborhood-based Drug Trafficking Groups/Crews	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	-	100.0%	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>8.6%</i>	<i>29.3%</i>	<i>22.4%</i>	<i>32.8%</i>	<i>6.9%</i>
Skinheads	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	100.0%	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>5.3%</i>	<i>14.0%</i>	<i>42.1%</i>	<i>28.1%</i>	<i>10.5%</i>
18 th Street Gang	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>28.1%</i>	<i>59.6%</i>	<i>10.5%</i>
Almighty P Stone Nation	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>7.0%</i>	<i>75.4%</i>	<i>17.5%</i>
Asian Gangs (all sets)	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>12.5%</i>	<i>66.1%</i>	<i>21.4%</i>
Bandidos OMG	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>19.3%</i>	<i>66.7%</i>	<i>12.3%</i>
Hells Angels OMG	2008	-	-	100.0%	-	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>5.3%</i>	<i>28.1%</i>	<i>29.8%</i>	<i>29.8%</i>	<i>7.0%</i>
Latin Kings	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>31.6%</i>	<i>54.4%</i>	<i>12.3%</i>
Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13)	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-

Arizona	2009	-	5.3%	42.1%	40.4%	12.3%
Mexikanemi (Texas Mexican Mafia)	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
Arizona	2009	-	-	1.8%	78.6%	19.6%
Outlaws OMG	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
Arizona	2009	-	3.6%	12.5%	69.6%	14.3%
Pagans OMG	2008	-	-	-	-	100.0%
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
Arizona	2009	-	-	8.9%	78.6%	12.5%
Texas Syndicate	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
Arizona	2009	-	-	3.5%	75.4%	21.1%
UBN	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
Arizona	2009	-	1.8%	8.9%	66.1%	23.2%
Vice Lords	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
Arizona	2009	-	1.8%	10.5%	68.4%	19.3%
Black Gangster Disciples	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	-	100.0%
Arizona	2009	1.8%	3.5%	10.5%	70.2%	14.0%
Gangster Disciples	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	-	100.0%
Arizona	2009	1.8%	1.8%	21.1%	64.9%	10.5%
La Nuestra Familia	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	-	100.0%
Arizona	2009	1.8%	1.8%	10.5%	64.9%	21.1%
La Raza	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	-	100.0%
Arizona	2009	-	-	14.0%	73.7%	12.3%

Level of Gang Coordination

The survey also contained questions regarding gangs coordinating their activity with other gangs. The one agency with a gang presence in Graham County reported that gangs were not coordinating with other gangs (Table 7).

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

Most Effective Gang Responses

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

Gang crime/intelligence data analyses, GIITEM, and joint efforts with other agencies were the effective strategies reported (Table 8).

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

Task Force Participation

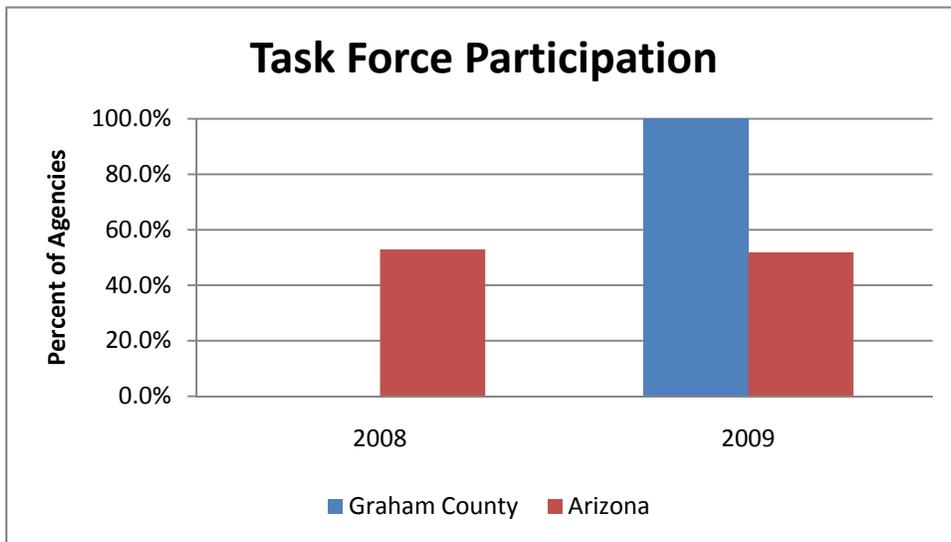
Under the direction of the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Gang Intelligence and Immigration Team Enforcement Mission (GIITEM) assists criminal justice agencies statewide with multi-agency collaboration for criminal gang enforcement and investigative strategies. GIITEM brings together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

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

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

In the 2007 and 2008 Arizona Gang Threat Assessment, agencies were asked if they *participate* or *lead* a multi-agency task force. In 2009, agencies were only asked if they *participate* in a multi-agency gang task force. In 2009, the agency with a gang presence reportedly participated in a multi-agency task force (Figure 3). The agency noted that they participated in GIITEM.

Figure 3



Conclusion

Gang activity continues to negatively affect one law enforcement jurisdiction in Graham County and a number of jurisdictions throughout Arizona. One of the three total respondents from Graham County reported gang involvement in crime and drug distribution within their respective jurisdictions during 2009. The one agency reported a high level of gang involvement in the distribution of marijuana and methamphetamines. The agency also cited gang involvement in assaults/aggravated assaults, drug offenses, and theft as concerns within its jurisdiction.

The only gang identified by the single Graham County law enforcement agency as having a high level of involvement within the jurisdiction was the Bloods. Additionally, the Crips, Hispanic Sureños (SUR 13), and Mexican Mafia/La Eme were reported to have a moderate level of involvement in the same jurisdiction.

Over the past three years, law enforcement agencies in Graham County have reported an increase in the presence of gangs and the problems associated with gangs in their jurisdictions. The number of agencies reporting gangs and gang activity has increased from zero in 2007 to one in 2009. The data reveals that the one law enforcement agency was concerned about gang involvement in crime within its jurisdiction during 2009. The agency reported a high level of involvement in robbery and vandalism/graffiti/tagging by gangs. Contrary to the response from 2008, the agency with a gang presence in Graham County reported being involved in a multi-agency task force in 2009.

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