

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Statistical Analysis Center Publication

Our mission is to sustain and enhance the coordination, cohesiveness, productivity and effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System in Arizona



2009 Pinal County Gang Threat Assessment

2011

ARIZONA CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION



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Executive Summary

During spring 2010, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission's (ACJC) Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) surveyed law enforcement officers in Arizona regarding gangs and gang activity within their respective jurisdictions. The SAC gang threat assessment survey, titled the *Arizona Gang Threat Assessment*, was modeled after the *National Gang Threat Assessment*, conducted by the National Alliance of Gang Investigators Associations in partnership with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Drug Intelligence Center, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. The 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 Pinal County and statewide results from the 2009 survey administration, including trend data collected during prior administrations of the gang threat assessment survey in 2007 and 2008. Additional state and county reports are available at <http://www.azcjc.gov/ACJC.Web/publications/publications.aspx?ServId=1000>.

Findings

- All six Pinal County agencies that responded to the survey in 2010 reported an active gang presence within their respective jurisdictions. Five of the agencies reporting a gang presence also provided estimates of the number of gang members within their jurisdictions. The agencies estimated that there were 516 active gang members across their jurisdictions.
- Three of the agencies in Pinal County that reported a gang presence in 2009 also reported that gangs were expanding their membership and scope of activities. Half of the agencies with a gang presence reported that gang activity had not changed during the six months prior to taking the survey, and half of the agencies reported that gang activity increased slightly during the prior 12 months. When asked about the last five years, 33.3 percent of agencies reported that gang activity had increased significantly, and 33.3 percent of agencies reported that gang activity had increased slightly.
- Agencies that provided primary crimes committed by gangs within their jurisdictions listed assault/aggravated assault, drug offenses, and drug sales as the most recognized primary crimes committed by gangs.
- Half of the agencies with a gang presence in 2009 reported that gangs had a high level of involvement in the distribution of marijuana. More than 30 percent of agencies reported high involvement in the distribution of crack cocaine, methamphetamine, and powdered cocaine.
- When asked about gang intervention strategies, law enforcement agencies identified enforcement as the most effective strategies for responding to gangs and gang activity in their jurisdictions.

Introduction

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

Research Methods

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

Twelve law enforcement agencies throughout Pinal County received the *Arizona Gang Threat Assessment*, which was administered in 2010 and contained a series of questions about gangs and gang activity within the respective law enforcement jurisdictions during 2009. The survey was designed to gather information on gangs, gang members, gang activity, and other pertinent information to better understand the threat gangs pose to public safety. Of the 12 surveys distributed to law enforcement agencies in Pinal County, six (50.0 percent) agencies returned a survey to the SAC.

Gangs in Pinal County and Arizona

Total Gang Membership

Of the six agencies that responded to the SAC's request for information on gangs and gang activity in Pinal County, all six reported the presence of gangs and gang activity in their respective jurisdictions. This is a decrease from the eight agencies that reported gangs in their jurisdictions during the previous year (Table 1). Of the agencies that indicated a gang presence within their jurisdictions, five agencies estimated that 516 active gang members were present across their jurisdictions in 2009. The remaining agency reporting gang activity was not able to provide an estimated number of gang members within its jurisdiction. Thus, the number of gang members reported is a conservative estimate of the number of gang members in Pinal County. Other potential causes of underestimation include the inability of the remaining agency to provide estimates, failure of other agencies to respond to the survey and the likelihood that some gang members have not yet come to the attention of law enforcement.

	2007		2008		2009		2009 Arizona	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	5	71.4%	8	80.0%	6	100.0%	59	75.6%
No	2	28.6%	2	20.0%	0	0.0%	19	24.4%
Unsure/Don't know	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Level of Gang Activity Over Time

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

	2007	2008	2009	2009 Arizona
Yes	60.0%	50.0%	60.0%	50.0%
No	40.0%	33.3%	40.0%	46.4%
Unsure/Don't Know	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	3.6%
Total Responses	5	6	5*	56

whether gangs in the area were expanding their membership and scope of activities, three (60.0 percent) of the Pinal County agencies that responded to the question in Table 2 reported that gangs within

their jurisdictions were expanding their membership and scope of activities, compared to half of the

agencies reporting expanded membership and activities at the state level.

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

When considering the six months prior to the 2009 assessment, one agency (16.7 percent) with a gang presence reported that the level of gang activity in its jurisdiction increased slightly, 50.0

percent of agencies reported no change, 16.7 percent reported that activity decreased slightly, and 16.7 percent reported a significant decrease in gang activity. Half of the agencies with a gang presence reported that gang activity increased slightly over the preceding 12 months, 33.3 percent reported no change, and 16.7 percent of agencies reported that activity decreased significantly. When asked to assess the level of gang activity over the past five years, 33.3 percent reported that activity increased significantly, 33.3 percent reported that activity increased slightly, 16.7 percent reported no change, and 16.7 percent of agencies with a gang presence reported a significant decrease in gang activity (Figure 1).

Figure 1

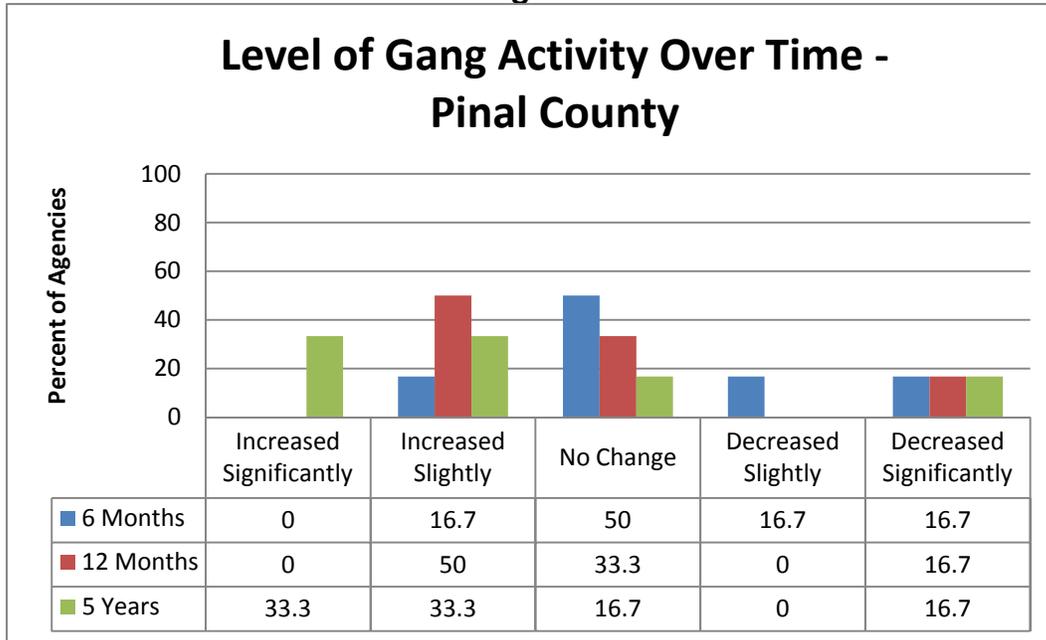
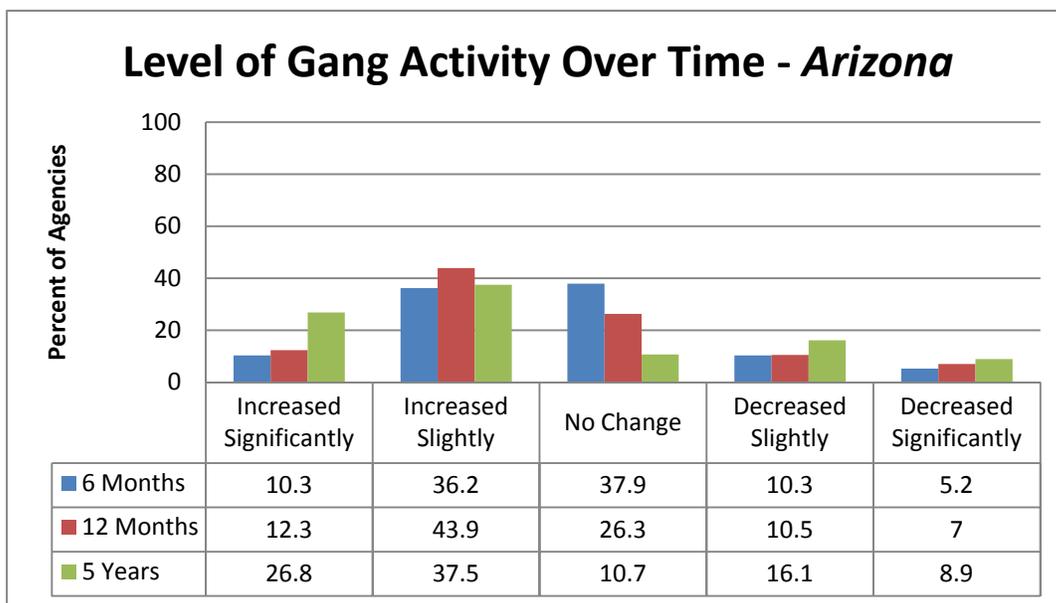


Figure 2



Gang Involvement in Crimes and Drugs

Table 3: Primary Crimes Committed by Gangs (Of the Jurisdictions Reporting Gang Activity)				
Crime	Pinal County		Arizona	
	Number of Agencies	Percent of Agencies	Number of Agencies	Percent of Agencies
Assault/Aggravated Assault	3	60.0%	43	78.2%
Drug Offenses	3	60.0%	15	27.3%
Drug Sales	3	60.0%	13	23.6
Burglary	2	40.0%	23	41.8%
Criminal Damage	2	40.0%	17	30.9%
Theft	2	40.0%	10	18.2%
Auto Theft	1	20.0%	7	12.7%
Disorderly Conduct	1	20.0%	2	3.6%
Drive-by Shootings	1	20.0%	8	14.5%
Drug Smuggling/Trafficking/Transport	1	20.0%	6	10.9%
Home Invasions	1	20.0%	1	1.8%
Human Smuggling	1	20.0%	4	7.3%
Robbery/Armed Robbery	1	20.0%	9	16.4%
Threatening and Intimidation	1	20.0%	13	23.6%
Number of Agencies Responding	5*		55	

*Only five of the six agencies reporting a gang presence responded to this question.

Agencies were asked to report the primary crimes committed by gangs within their respective jurisdictions (Table 3). This question was open-ended, and respondents were asked to list the crimes that were being committed by gangs in their jurisdictions with no limit to the

number and types of crimes that could be reported. Table 3 also provides the number of agencies at the state level who reported the same crimes identified by law enforcement in Pinal County.

Pinal County law enforcement agencies that responded to the question in Table 3 reported assault/aggravated assault (60.0 percent of agencies), drug offenses (60.0 percent), and drug sales (60.0 percent) as some of the primary crimes committed by gangs within their respective jurisdictions. Other crimes listed by multiple agencies in Pinal County include burglary (40.0 percent), criminal damage (40.0 percent), and theft (40.0 percent). One agency experiencing a gang presence did not respond to the question in Table 3.

Law enforcement agencies also rated the level of gang involvement within their jurisdictions for 15 specific crime categories. Agencies ranked the level of gang involvement for each type of crime based on the following five categories: high, moderate, low, none, and unknown gang involvement. This categorical question provides consistent measurements over time for the level of gang involvement across a predetermined set of violent and property crimes.

In 2009, 60.0 percent of the Pinal County agencies responding to the question reported high gang involvement in vandalism/graffiti/tagging. Additionally, agencies with a gang presence reported a high level of involvement in burglary (33.3 percent), intimidation/extortion (33.3 percent), arson (16.7 percent), auto theft (16.7 percent), felonious assault (16.7 percent), and human trafficking (16.7 percent).

Table 4: Level of Gang Involvement in Crime (Of the Jurisdictions Reporting Gang Activity)						
	Year	High	Moderate	Low	None	Unknown
Vandalism/Graffiti/Tagging*	2007	60.0%	40.0%	-	-	-
	2008	50.0%	12.5%	25.0%	12.5%	-
	2009	60.0%	20.0%	20.0%	-	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>57.1%</i>	<i>28.6%</i>	<i>8.9%</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>5.4%</i>
Burglary	2007	-	60.0%	20.0%	-	20.0%
	2008	12.5%	25.0%	25.0%	12.5%	25.0%
	2009	33.3%	33.3%	16.7%	16.7%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>22.4%</i>	<i>41.4%</i>	<i>19.0%</i>	<i>6.9%</i>	<i>10.3%</i>
Intimidation/Extortion	2007	20.0%	20.0%	40.0%	-	20.0%
	2008	-	50.0%	12.5%	12.5%	25.0%
	2009	33.3%	33.3%	16.7%	16.7%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>15.5%</i>	<i>31.0%</i>	<i>31.0%</i>	<i>6.9%</i>	<i>15.5%</i>
Arson	2007	-	20.0%	20.0%	-	60.0%
	2008	-	-	42.9%	14.3%	42.9%
	2009	16.7%	-	16.7%	50.0%	16.7%
<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>
Auto Theft	2007	40.0%	-	40.0%	-	20.0%
	2008	-	37.5%	25.0%	12.5%	25.0%
	2009	16.7%	33.3%	33.3%	16.7%	-
<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>
Felonious Assault	2007	40.0%	20.0%	40.0%	-	-
	2008	37.5%	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%	25.0%
	2009	16.7%	33.3%	33.3%	16.7%	-
<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	2007	-	40.0%	20.0%	-	40.0%
	2008	-	37.5%	-	25.0%	37.5%
	2009	16.7%	33.3%	-	33.3%	16.7%
<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	2007	-	-	20.0%	20.0%	60.0%
	2008	-	-	25.0%	25.0%	50.0%
	2009	-	50.0%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%
<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>
Robbery	2007	-	20.0%	60.0%	-	20.0%
	2008	-	25.0%	37.5%	25.0%	12.5%
	2009	-	50.0%	33.3%	16.7%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>12.1%</i>	<i>29.3%</i>	<i>25.9%</i>	<i>20.7%</i>	<i>12.1%</i>
Firearms Trafficking	2007	-	60.0%	20.0%	-	20.0%
	2008	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%	25.0%	37.5%
	2009	-	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>5.3%</i>	<i>22.8%</i>	<i>24.6%</i>	<i>26.3%</i>	<i>21.1%</i>
Fraud	2007	-	-	40.0%	20.0%	40.0%
	2008	-	-	37.5%	12.5%	50.0%
	2009	-	16.7%	50.0%	16.7%	16.7%
<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>
Kidnapping	2007	-	-	20.0%	20.0%	60.0%
	2008	-	-	25.0%	25.0%	50.0%
	2009	-	-	50.0%	33.3%	16.7%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>3.5%</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>31.6%</i>	<i>42.1%</i>	<i>21.1%</i>
Murder	2007	-	20.0%	60.0%	-	20.0%
	2008	12.5%	12.5%	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%
	2009	-	-	50.0%	33.3%	16.7%
<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	2007	-	-	-	40.0%	60.0%
	2008	-	-	12.5%	37.5%	50.0%

	2009	-	-	33.3%	16.7%	50.0%
<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	2007	-	-	40.0%	20.0%	40.0%
	2008	-	12.5%	25.0%	-	62.5%
	2009	-	-	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>5.3%</i>	<i>31.6%</i>	<i>36.8%</i>	<i>24.6%</i>

*Only five of the six agencies reporting a gang presence responded to this question.

In addition to the level of gang involvement by crime type, agencies rated the level of gang involvement in the distribution of various illegal drugs. Half of the agencies with a gang presence in Pinal County reported that gangs had a high level of involvement in drug street sales (Table 5). Additionally, one-half of the agencies with a gang presence reported a moderate level of involvement in the wholesale of drugs. Half of the agencies with a gang presence reported that gangs in their jurisdictions had a high level of involvement in the distribution of marijuana. Agencies also listed that gangs had a high level of involvement in the distribution of crack cocaine (33.3 percent), methamphetamine (33.3 percent), and powdered cocaine (33.3 percent)

Table 5: Gang Involvement in the Distribution of Drugs (Of the Jurisdictions Reporting Gang Activity)						
		High	Moderate	Low	None	Unknown
Drugs – Street Sales	2007	60.0%	-	40.0%	-	-
	2008	25.0%	50.0%	12.5%	-	12.5%
	2009	50.0%	33.3%	-	-	16.7%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>29.3%</i>	<i>36.2%</i>	<i>27.6%</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>6.9%</i>
Drugs – Wholesale	2007	-	40.0%	20.0%	-	40.0%
	2008	-	28.6%	28.6%	-	42.9%
	2009	-	50.0%	33.3%	-	16.7%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>5.2%</i>	<i>29.3%</i>	<i>31.0%</i>	<i>8.6%</i>	<i>25.9%</i>
Marijuana Grows	2007	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2008	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2009	-	16.7%	50.0%	-	33.3%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>5.2%</i>	<i>41.4%</i>	<i>20.7%</i>	<i>32.8%</i>
Drugs – Manufacture*	2007	20.0%	-	20.0%	20.0%	40.0%
	2008	-	-	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%
	2009	-	-	40.0%	20.0%	40.0%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>10.5%</i>	<i>36.8%</i>	<i>21.1%</i>	<i>31.6%</i>
Marijuana	2007	20.0%	40.0%	40.0%	-	-
	2008	50.0%	25.0%	-	-	25.0%
	2009	50.0%	16.7%	16.7%	-	16.7%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>44.8%</i>	<i>29.3%</i>	<i>15.5%</i>	<i>3.4%</i>	<i>6.9%</i>
Crack Cocaine	2007	40.0%	20.0%	20.0%	-	20.0%
	2008	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%	12.5%	12.5%
	2009	33.3%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>10.3%</i>	<i>12.1%</i>	<i>29.3%</i>	<i>32.8%</i>	<i>15.5%</i>
Methamphetamine	2007	40.0%	20.0%	40.0%	-	-
	2008	25.0%	50.0%	-	-	25.0%
	2009	33.3%	33.3%	16.7%	-	16.7%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>31.6%</i>	<i>36.8%</i>	<i>14.0%</i>	<i>8.8%</i>	<i>8.8%</i>
Powdered Cocaine	2007	-	20.0%	40.0%	20.0%	20.0%
	2008	12.5%	25.0%	37.5%	-	25.0%
	2009	33.3%	16.7%	33.3%	-	16.7%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>6.9%</i>	<i>13.8%</i>	<i>43.1%</i>	<i>20.7%</i>	<i>15.5%</i>

Heroin	2007	-	-	40.0%	20.0%	40.0%
	2008	-	25.0%	50.0%	-	25.0%
	2009	-	16.7%	66.7%	-	16.7%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>10.3%</i>	<i>29.3%</i>	<i>24.1%</i>	<i>19.0%</i>	<i>17.2%</i>
MDMA (Ecstasy) and analogs	2007	-	-	20.0%	40.0%	40.0%
	2008	-	-	37.5%	-	62.5%
	2009	-	16.7%	33.3%	33.3%	16.7%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>17.2%</i>	<i>27.6%</i>	<i>29.3%</i>	<i>25.9%</i>
Pharmaceuticals	2007	-	-	40.0%	20.0%	40.0%
	2008	12.5%	25.0%	12.5%	12.5%	37.5%
	2009	-	16.7%	66.7%	-	16.7%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>6.9%</i>	<i>24.1%</i>	<i>32.8%</i>	<i>10.3%</i>	<i>25.9%</i>

*Only five of the six agencies reporting a gang presence responded to this question.

Level of Activity by Gang

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

According to the 2009 responses, four of the 26 gangs were identified by Pinal County agencies as having high levels of activity (Table 6). Pinal County law enforcement agencies identified the Bloods (33.3 percent), Crips (33.3 percent), the Hispanic Sureños/SUR 13 (16.7 percent), and neighborhood-based drug trafficking groups/crews (16.7 percent) as having high levels of activity in 2009. Additionally, one agency reported that the Hells Angels OMG had a moderate level of activity within its jurisdiction.

	Year	High	Moderate	Low	Not Applicable	Unknown
Bloods (all sets)	2007	60.0%	20.0%	-	-	20.0%
	2008	25.0%	37.5%	12.5%	25.0%	-
	2009	33.3%	16.7%	16.7%	33.3%	-
<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)	2007	40.0%	40.0%	-	-	20.0%
	2008	25.0%	37.5%	-	25.0%	12.5%
	2009	33.3%	16.7%	16.7%	33.3%	-
<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)	2007	20.0%	20.0%	-	40.0%	20.0%
	2008	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%	50.0%
	2009	16.7%	-	33.3%	50.0%	-
<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>
Neighborhood-based Drug Trafficking Groups/Crews	2007	20.0%	40.0%	-	20.0%	20.0%
	2008	12.5%	-	37.5%	25.0%	25.0%
	2009	16.7%	33.3%	33.3%	16.7%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>8.6%</i>	<i>29.3%</i>	<i>22.4%</i>	<i>32.8%</i>	<i>6.9%</i>
Hells Angels OMG	2007	-	20.0%	20.0%	60.0%	-
	2008	-	12.5%	25.0%	62.5%	-
	2009	-	16.7%	16.7%	66.7%	-
<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>

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Border Brothers	2007	-	-	20.0%	20.0%	60.0%
	2008	-	-	25.0%	62.5%	12.5%
	2009	-	-	50.0%	50.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	<i>3.6%</i>	<i>28.6%</i>	<i>57.1%</i>	<i>10.7%</i>
Mexican Mafia/La Eme	2007	-	40.0%	40.0%	20.0%	-
	2008	-	12.5%	25.0%	25.0%	37.5%
	2009	-	-	50.0%	50.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>12.3%</i>	<i>15.8%</i>	<i>38.6%</i>	<i>21.1%</i>	<i>12.3%</i>
Skinheads	2007	-	-	40.0%	60.0%	-
	2008	-	-	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%
	2009	-	-	50.0%	33.3%	16.7%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>5.3%</i>	<i>14.0%</i>	<i>42.1%</i>	<i>28.1%</i>	<i>10.5%</i>
Aryan Brotherhood	2007	Not Included in 2007 Survey				
	2008	-	-	37.5%	50.0%	12.5%
	2009	-	-	33.3%	50.0%	16.7%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>5.3%</i>	<i>15.8%</i>	<i>45.6%</i>	<i>22.8%</i>	<i>10.5%</i>
Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13)	2007	-	-	60.0%	40.0%	-
	2008	-	-	25.0%	62.5%	12.5%
	2009	-	-	33.3%	50.0%	16.7%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	<i>5.3%</i>	<i>42.1%</i>	<i>40.4%</i>	<i>12.3%</i>
UBN*	2007	-	-	-	50.0%	50.0%
	2008	-	-	-	71.4%	28.6%
	2009	-	-	20.0%	80.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>8.9%</i>	<i>66.1%</i>	<i>23.2%</i>
Gangster Disciples	2007	-	-	-	80.0%	20.0%
	2008	-	-	12.5%	87.5%	-
	2009	-	-	16.7%	83.3%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>21.1%</i>	<i>64.9%</i>	<i>10.5%</i>
Hispanic Norteños (14)	2007	-	-	20.0%	40.0%	40.0%
	2008	-	-	12.5%	50.0%	37.5%
	2009	-	-	16.7%	83.3%	-
<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>
18 th Street Gang	2007	-	-	20.0%	40.0%	40.0%
	2008	-	-	-	75.0%	25.0%
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>28.1%</i>	<i>59.6%</i>	<i>10.5%</i>
Asian Gangs (all sets)	2007	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2008	-	-	-	87.5%	12.5%
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	-	<i>12.5%</i>	<i>66.1%</i>	<i>21.4%</i>
Bandidos OMG	2007	-	-	-	80.0%	20.0%
	2008	-	-	-	85.7%	14.3%
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>19.3%</i>	<i>66.7%</i>	<i>12.3%</i>
Black Gangster Disciples	2007	-	-	-	80.0%	20.0%
	2008	-	-	12.5%	87.5%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>3.5%</i>	<i>10.5%</i>	<i>70.2%</i>	<i>14.0%</i>
La Raza	2007	-	-	-	60.0%	40.0%
	2008	-	-	-	50.0%	50.0%
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	-	<i>14.0%</i>	<i>73.7%</i>	<i>12.3%</i>
Mexikanemi (Texas Mexican Mafia)	2007	-	-	-	60.0%	40.0%
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	-	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>78.6%</i>	<i>19.6%</i>

Outlaws OMG	2007	-	-	-	80.0%	20.0%
	2008	-	-	14.3%	71.4%	14.3%
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	<i>3.6%</i>	<i>12.5%</i>	<i>69.6%</i>	<i>14.3%</i>
Pagans OMG	2007	-	-	-	80.0%	20.0%
	2008	-	-	-	85.7%	14.3%
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	-	<i>8.9%</i>	<i>78.6%</i>	<i>12.5%</i>
Texas Syndicate	2007	-	-	-	60.0%	40.0%
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	100.0%	-
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	-	<i>3.5%</i>	<i>75.4%</i>	<i>21.1%</i>
Almighty P Stone Nation	2007	-	-	-	80.0%	20.0%
	2008	-	-	-	100.0%	-
	2009	-	-	-	83.3%	16.7%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	-	<i>7.0%</i>	<i>75.4%</i>	<i>17.5%</i>
La Nuestra Familia	2007	-	-	-	60.0%	40.0%
	2008	-	-	-	75.0%	25.0%
	2009	-	-	-	83.3%	16.7%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>10.5%</i>	<i>64.9%</i>	<i>21.1%</i>
Latin Kings	2007	-	-	60.0%	40.0%	-
	2008	-	-	12.5%	75.0%	12.5%
	2009	-	-	-	83.3%	16.7%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>31.6%</i>	<i>54.4%</i>	<i>12.3%</i>
Vice Lords	2007	-	-	-	60.0%	40.0%
	2008	-	-	-	87.5%	12.5%
	2009	-	-	-	83.3%	16.7%
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>2009</i>	-	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>10.5%</i>	<i>68.4%</i>	<i>19.3%</i>

*Only five of the six agencies reporting a gang presence responded to this question.

Level of Gang Coordination

The survey also contains questions regarding gangs coordinating their activity with other gangs. In 2009, four agencies in Pinal County reported that gangs were coordinating with other gangs within their jurisdictions (Table 7). One agency with a gang presence did not respond to this question. Agency responses indicated that gangs were coordinating with other gangs to expand their drug sales, to recruit members, and to combat other, more dominant gangs.

Table 7: Gang Coordination with Other Gangs (Of the Jurisdictions Reporting Gang Activity)				
	2007	2008	2009	2009 Arizona
Yes	80.0%	50.0%	80.0%	44.6%
No	20.0%	33.3%	20.0%	42.9%
Unsure/Don't Know	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	12.5%
Total Responses	5	6	5*	56

*Only five of the six agencies reporting a gang presence responded to this question.

Most Effective Gang Responses

Agency respondents provided information pertaining to which strategies were the most effective in their respective jurisdictions when combating gangs. Prior to the 2009 assessment, agencies were asked to simply list any strategies that were effective within their jurisdictions. To make responses more consistent over time, researchers changed the question in the 2009 Arizona Gang Threat Assessment by instructing agency representatives to select from a number of response categories.

The new response categories provide a range of activities that may not have been previously considered by the respondents during prior survey administrations. For this reason, the change in the structure of the question is a likely explanation for the large increases in some categories of interdiction, intervention, and suppression strategies.

Enforcement was the strategy identified by five of the six agencies as an effective response to gang activity (Table 8). Additionally, four agencies reported GIITEM as an effective response to gangs, and four agencies reported identification of gang members as another effective response.

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

	2007		2008		2009		2009 Arizona	
	Number of Agencies	Percent of Agencies						
Enforcement	1	20.0%	2	25.0%	5	83.3%	46	78.0%
GIITEM	3	60.0%	2	25.0%	4	66.7%	34	57.6%
Identification of Gang Members	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	66.7%	39	66.1%
Joint Efforts with Other Agencies	1	20.0%	2	25.0%	2	33.3%	29	49.2%
Special Prosecution Programs	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	33.3%	13	22.0%
Community Programs	1	20.0%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%	8	13.6%
Gang Crime/Intelligence Data Analyses	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%	22	37.3%
Law Enforcement Gang Units	0	0.0%	1	12.5%	1	16.7%	19	32.2%
School Programs	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%	17	28.8%

Task Force Participation

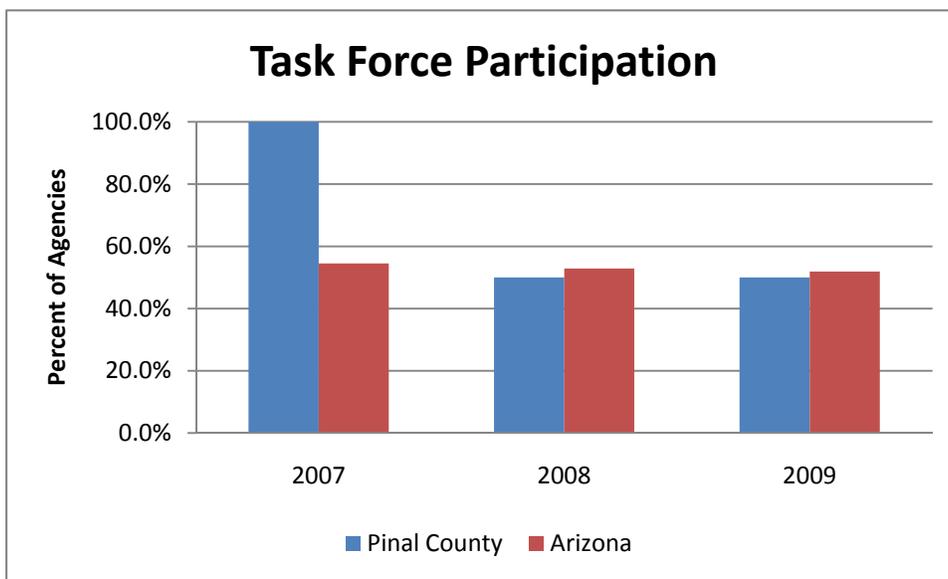
Under the direction of the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Gang Intelligence and Immigration Team Enforcement Mission (GIITEM) assists criminal justice agencies statewide with multi-agency collaboration for criminal gang enforcement and investigative strategies. GIITEM brings together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

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

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

In the 2007 and 2008 Arizona Gang Threat Assessment, agencies were asked if they *participate* or *lead* a multi-agency task force. In 2009, agencies were only asked if they *participate* in a multi-agency gang task force. Two of the four Pinal County agencies that responded to the question reported that they participated in a multi-agency task force, which was a decline from 2007. Responding agencies reported that they were participating in GIITEM.

Figure 3



*Only four of the six agencies reporting a gang presence responded to this question.

Conclusion

Gang activity continues to negatively affect many law enforcement jurisdictions in Pinal County and throughout Arizona. Multiple agencies reported significant gang involvement in crime and drug distribution within their respective jurisdictions during 2009. Similar to the findings for 2008, law enforcement agencies continued to report a high level of gang involvement in the distribution of marijuana, crack cocaine, and methamphetamine. Law enforcement agencies also cited gang involvement in assault/aggravated assault, drug offenses, and drug sales as major concerns within their jurisdictions.

The most active gangs identified by Pinal County law enforcement agencies were the Bloods, Crips, Hispanic Sureños (SUR 13), and neighborhood-based drug trafficking groups/crews. The Hells Angels OMG was also moderately active in one of the reporting jurisdictions.

Over the past three years, law enforcement agencies in Pinal 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 five agencies in 2007 to six agencies in 2009. The data also reveals that law enforcement agencies were concerned about increased gang involvement in many types of crimes within their jurisdictions during 2009. In addition, a larger percentage of agencies reported high levels of gang involvement in the distribution of marijuana and powdered cocaine. Three agencies reported that gangs were expanding their scope of activities, and four agencies reported that gangs were coordinating with other gangs.

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