

GANGS AND GANG ACTIVITY IN ILLINOIS

**An overview of the 1995 National Youth Gang Center Survey, and
A summary of 1996 interviews conducted by the Illinois Criminal
Justice Information Authority**

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Introduction

Gangs, and the criminal activity they commit, are growing concerns to Illinois communities. Until recently, there has been little systematic information concerning gang presence statewide. This paper reports on two research efforts that explore the numbers of gangs in selected Illinois cities, their demographic makeup, criminal activities in which gang members engage, and measures that these cities have used to address gangs and gang problems.

In late 1995 and early 1996, the National Youth Gang Center (NYGC) conducted a national survey of 4,120 police and sheriffs' departments, including 229 Illinois agencies. The survey focused on gangs and gang member presence in each jurisdiction.

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority expanded on this research in 1996 by conducting telephone interviews with 57 of the Illinois police departments that had responded to the NYGC survey.

Both the mailed survey and the interview data are summarized here to present a more detailed view of gangs and gang members in selected Illinois jurisdictions.

Summary of the 1995 National Youth Gang Center Survey

Who was Surveyed? The 4,120 jurisdictions surveyed in the national study included 206 police jurisdictions and 23 sheriff jurisdictions in Illinois. The sampled jurisdictions were not chosen randomly. Rather, the NYGC used a

composite list of city and county jurisdictions that had previously reported a gang problem in earlier national surveys, as well as others that had reported no gang problem. In addition, the NYGC used a list of members of Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) projects.

The 4,120 localities in the 1995 survey included 1,877 agencies that had reported having a youth gang problem sometime in the last 25 years, and 2,243 localities that had not reported a gang problem in the time period or who had never been surveyed.

The NYGC tried to send the survey to every agency that had ever reported gang activity. The goal was to survey the "universe" of all places with a gang problem, nationwide. One advantage of this purposive sample was the scope of the study. This was the first large-scale survey to include substantial numbers of rural and suburban counties along with urban jurisdictions. However, the NYGC 1995 sample was not random. Therefore, it is not necessarily representative of police and sheriff's jurisdictions nationwide, or in Illinois.

What were the results? Police responding to the survey were asked to indicate if they had a youth gang problem in the 1970s, the 1980s, from 1990 to 1994, and in 1995. "Youth gang" as defined in the 1995 NYGC survey (see attached questionnaire) is:

A group of youths in your jurisdiction, aged approximately 10 to 22, that you or other responsible persons in your agency or community are willing to identify or classify as a

'gang.' Do **not** include motorcycle gangs, hate or ideology groups, prison gangs, or adult gangs.

National results from the 1995 National Youth Gang Survey are available in a Program Summary (U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, August 1997).

The survey revealed that 86 percent of surveyed Illinois police jurisdictions and 83 percent of sheriff's departments reported a "youth gang problem" in 1995 (see Figure 1). This is not surprising, given the way jurisdictions were chosen.

Most of the surveyed Illinois police departments believed gang presence was growing in their city. When asked in 1996 about gang problems in earlier years, fewer reporting officials recalled problems in the '70s, '80s or early '90s than in 1995.

Responding police officials perceived a growing gang presence in all types of communities, but rural officials

perceived the sharpest increase (see Figure 2).¹ The majority of the 20 responding cities in Illinois rural counties had not

¹ Our definition of rural versus urban counties is based on Metropolitan Statistical Areas defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. A county can qualify as an MSA in two ways: if it includes a city of at least 50,000 population, or if it includes

Figure 1. Gang Problems in Selected Police and Sheriff's Jurisdictions in Illinois

(N=206 Police; N = 23 Sheriffs; Percent with Gang Problem)

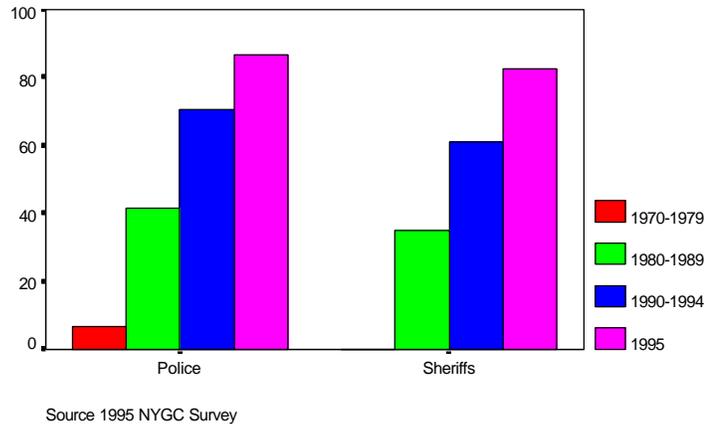
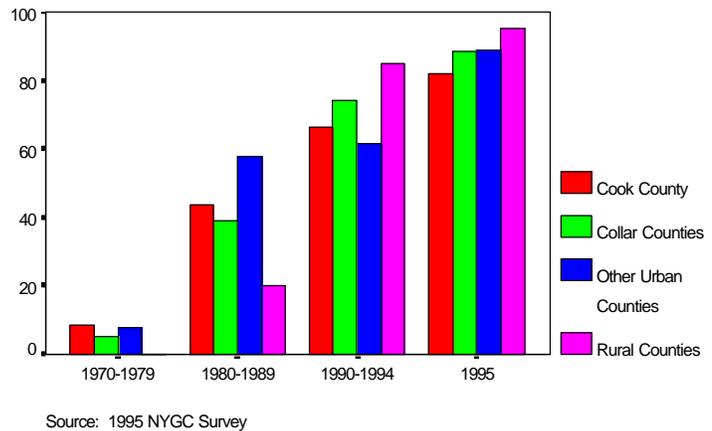


Figure 2. Gang Presence in Selected Illinois Police Jurisdictions, 1970 - 1995

(Percent)



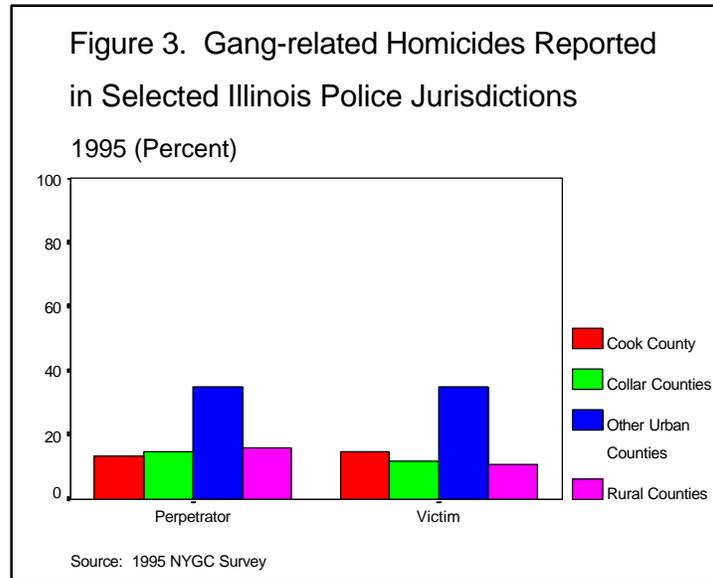
an urbanized area of at least 50,000 population with a total metropolitan population of at least 100,000. The county may contain the main city of an urbanized area, or it may have strong economic or social ties to the central county. Based on this definition, there are 26 urban counties and 76 rural counties in Illinois. The five collar counties are DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will.

experienced any gang criminal activity until the 1990s. Thus, gangs are seen as a serious, new situation for law enforcement in smaller communities in Illinois.

About 15 percent of the surveyed police jurisdictions in Cook County, the collar counties and rural counties reported at least one gang-related homicide in 1995 (see Figure 3). A homicide was defined as gang-related if the perpetrator or victim was a gang member. Fully 35 percent of urban county police jurisdictions outside of Cook and the collar counties reported at least one gang-related homicide, compared to only 15 percent in Cook and the collar counties. Officials in many cities in Cook and the collar counties, however, found the NYGC survey question on homicide confusing because it asked for gang-involved perpetrators and victims separately. This was corrected in the second NYGC survey.

Asked if their youth gang problems were worsening, improving, or remaining the same, just about a third of the surveyed agencies in Cook and the collar counties said their youth gang problems were getting worse, along with nearly half the respondents in other urban counties, and 26 percent of respondents in rural counties.

Surveyed police jurisdictions throughout Illinois are responding to local gang problems. The 1995 survey showed that most jurisdictions had either



a street gang unit or officer, or a gang prevention unit or officer. More than 90 percent of responding agencies in Cook and the collar counties had a gang program. Even in rural and urban areas outside of Cook and the collar counties, 74 percent had a gang program.

1996 Telephone Interview Data from the Authority

The NYGC written survey provided a baseline assessment of gang presence on a national and state level in 1995, but little detail. The survey's brevity and limited scope helped to ensure a high response rate (83 percent of surveys were returned). However, the Authority wanted more detailed knowledge of gangs, gang members and their activities in Illinois. Therefore, we followed up on the NYGC Illinois sample by conducting person-to-person telephone interviews with officers at 57 police departments.

We selected 62 of the first 178 Illinois police departments that responded to the NYGC survey and indicated they had a 1995 gang problem. Our

selection was based on three criteria: population, region, and prior gang homicides. In Cook County, we chose departments in a jurisdiction with a population of 38,000 or more (11 cities). Outside of Cook County, the population criterion was 20,000 or more (48 cities). We also included any jurisdiction reporting that in 1995 they had a homicide committed by a gang member (3 additional cities in Cook County). Like the NYGC survey, this sample of 62 cities is not a representative sample of all Illinois jurisdictions. It is a purposive sample of cities across the state that have reported a gang problem.

Of the 62 sampled jurisdictions, the Authority completed 57 interviews for a completion rate of 92 percent. The 57 interviews included all of the 14 cities sampled in Cook County, 21 of the 24 cities sampled in collar counties, 16 of the 17 sampled in other urban counties, and six of the seven sampled in rural counties.

The data from the telephone interviews were more qualitative than the 1995 NYGC survey. The interviews included questions on the definition of a gang, the demographic composition of gang members, descriptions of the types of activities gang members engaged in, and community programs addressing the gang problem (see questionnaire, attached). The results of the telephone interviews were presented to the Governor's Commission on Gangs in October 1996.

Definition of Gang

Instead of defining "gang" for the interviewed departments, the Authority asked each

department for its definition of a gang. All but three of the 57 interviewed officials were able to cite a formal or informal definition.

The majority (58 percent) of the interviewed jurisdictions said that they use the official Illinois State Police definition of a gang.

Thirteen jurisdictions (23 percent) use the state police definition as a basis, but modify or expand it, adding "tattoos," for example. The state police definition is as follows (see the Statewide Organized Gang Database Act):

Street gang or gang or organized gang means any combination, confederation, alliance, network, conspiracy, understanding or simulate, conjoining, in law or in fact, of three or more persons with an established hierarchy that, through its membership or through the agency of any member, engages in a course or pattern of criminal activity.

Many jurisdictions (43) also had their own definition of a "gang," and there were commonalities in those definitions. Sixty-eight percent of jurisdictions interviewed included "an organized group or association" as part of their definition; 60 percent included "involved in criminal activity;" and 44 percent included "showing colors, signs, symbols, graffiti." Some jurisdictions drew a distinction between "gang motivation" and "gang membership" when compiling statistics regarding gang-related crimes; however, this distinction was not uniform from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

When asked for the number of gang members or gangs in their cities, jurisdictions ran into additional definitional issues. For example, how

should factions of a gang be counted? Gang members who do not live in the same city in which they commit crimes also complicate definitions. One Cook County official said, “Gang members arrested are from Chicago... not residents of [his community]. They’re passing through. They’re so mobile today.”

Ties to “Big City” Gangs

In the telephone interviews, officials were asked whether their gangs had adopted the name of a big city gang. Eighty-nine percent of collar, 93 percent of other urban, and 83 percent of rural county police departments said that they had (see Figure 4). The most frequently mentioned gangs were the Gangster Disciples (84 percent), Vice Lords (68 percent), and the Latin Kings (65 percent). Connections to the Four Corner Hustlers were most frequent in cities outside of Cook County.

	Most Frequently Mentioned Gangs in Selected Police Jurisdictions (Percent)			
	Cook	Collar	Other Urban	Rural
Gangster Disciples	64	74	88	100
Vice Lords	64	79	81	100
Latin Kings	71	89	63	33
Black P-Stones	57	32	38	50
Satan Disciples	21	42	13	0
Four Corner Hustlers	7	26	44	33
Maniac Latin Disciples	21	37	13	0
Black Gangster Disciples	14	5	19	33
Simon City Royals	29	21	31	0
(N)	(14)	(19)	(16)	(6)

Source: 1996 Authority Interviews
Figure 4

Many officials pointed out that links to big city gangs are not easily assessed. Local gangs may take on the name of a “big city gang” for prestige, yet not have any formal economic or hierarchical tie to the gang. In one city, for example, there are two factions of Latin Kings, one having the sanction of the “real” Kings, and the other an “illegal” group aspiring to be Kings.

Gang Migration

A common theme from many interviewees was the need for cross-jurisdictional cooperation. One officer said, “Gangs know no boundaries, but gang enforcement is restricted by boundaries.” Authorities in one Cook County city have noticed that “diffusion” occurs as well as migration. Gang members will decide to commit offenses across a neighboring border, possibly to avoid prosecution.

Ninety-two percent of the interviewed police officials said they were aware of gang members migrating to their jurisdictions and 77 percent said they were aware of their local gang members migrating to other locales. For cities in Cook and the collar counties, migration is mostly from Chicago. Outside of the Chicago area, cities experiencing migration tend to be close to a major route connecting their cities to Chicago or to East St. Louis, or the migration is from other nearby cities.

More of the police jurisdictions reported intrastate than interstate connections between gangs. Only 19 percent (11 cities) mentioned migration from cities in neighboring states, including Minneapolis, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Decatur, Indianapolis, and the Quad Cities

(Iowa). Nine cities mentioned migration from further afield, including California, Mexico, Texas, Guatemala, Puerto Rico, and Mississippi.

While information on migration patterns is inconclusive, there may be a relationship between the presence of gangs and towns with colleges, towns with correctional facilities, or jurisdictions near major interstates. For example, the police department in one college town had experienced a “push to expand” by the Vice Lords and Four Corner Hustlers, beginning in 1992. However, another city outside of Chicago said that most gang members who move to town do so for family reasons, “to escape the city.”

Ethnicity

Gangs in cities located in rural, collar and other urban counties have a higher level of ethnic diversity than those in Cook County. In areas outside Cook County, the youth population creates an environment where traditionally African-American gangs, such as the Gangster Disciples, or traditionally Latino gangs, such as the Latin Kings, are likely to have members of many differing ethnic groups. Fifty-eight percent of interviewed departments in urban counties outside the collar counties, 57 percent of collar counties, and 33 percent of those in rural counties mentioned the presence of “ethnically mixed” gangs, compared to 28 percent for cities in Cook County.

Gangs and Drugs

A component of the Authority’s interview addressed the possible association between gang membership and the sale and distribution of

illegal drugs (see attached questionnaire). Sixty-three percent of the interviewed jurisdictions indicated that the gangs in their jurisdiction were “heavily” involved in drug sales, and 87 percent stated that gangs were at least “somewhat” involved in drug sales.

The officials interviewed reported a total of 2,239 arrests in 1995 for the manufacture and delivery of controlled substances. Respondents said their gangs most often sold marijuana (95 percent), although crack cocaine (82 percent) and powder cocaine (51 percent) also were mentioned often as drugs sold by gang members. In only three jurisdictions was marijuana the only drug listed as being sold. Crack cocaine, powder cocaine and marijuana were most often mentioned in both urban and rural jurisdictions.

Gang members who engage in drug distribution may sell drugs for personal profit, or may sell drugs to further the gang as a whole. The majority of jurisdictions interviewed (64 percent) had experienced both types of drug distribution by gang members.

Because drug manufacturing and distribution tends to be lucrative, many jurisdictions felt there was a level of admiration and respect given to gangs and gang members by young people in their community (10 explicitly mentioned this). This respect may lead to an aspiration to join a gang, and may explain the perception that gang members are getting younger. As one official stated, “It’s a fantasy for the younger kids, trying to associate with the gangs....It’s knowledge of

gangs, glorified on TV, stylish look, rap music, cool....”

Age and Gender

Among the 12 officials who indicated that gang-related violence had gotten worse in their city, five reported that younger gang members were more violent. Although the younger “peripheral gang members” are not “active members” or “hard-core members,” they are reportedly committing more criminal activity. Some of these officials indicated that gang leaders might put younger members at greater risk for arrest, because the juvenile system protects them from the harsher, more punitive consequences of adult courts.

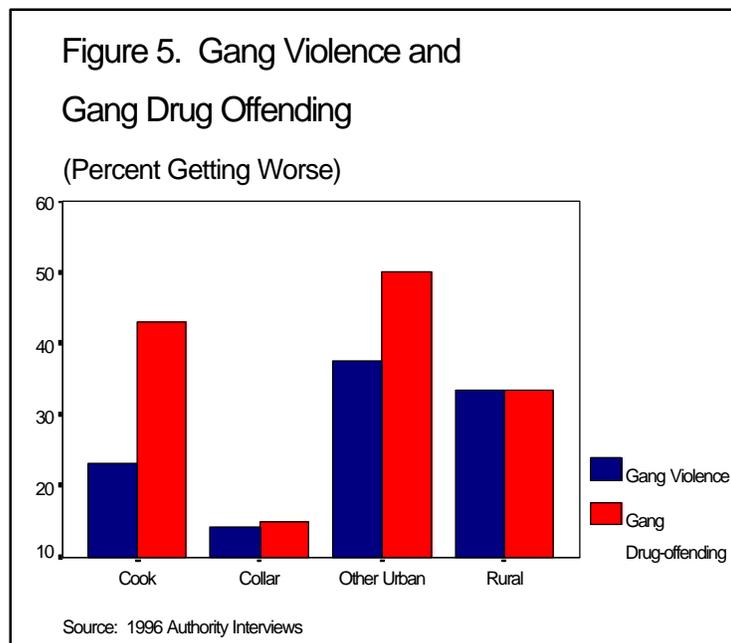
Typically, officials interviewed said women aided and abetted male gang members by carrying guns, holding drugs, or providing shelter. Police officials also reported an awareness of all-female gangs committing violent acts. Twenty-three percent of the jurisdictions interviewed had all-female gangs and another eleven percent had mixed-gender gangs. They were uncertain whether a change in the amount of violence committed by women and younger gang members was present.

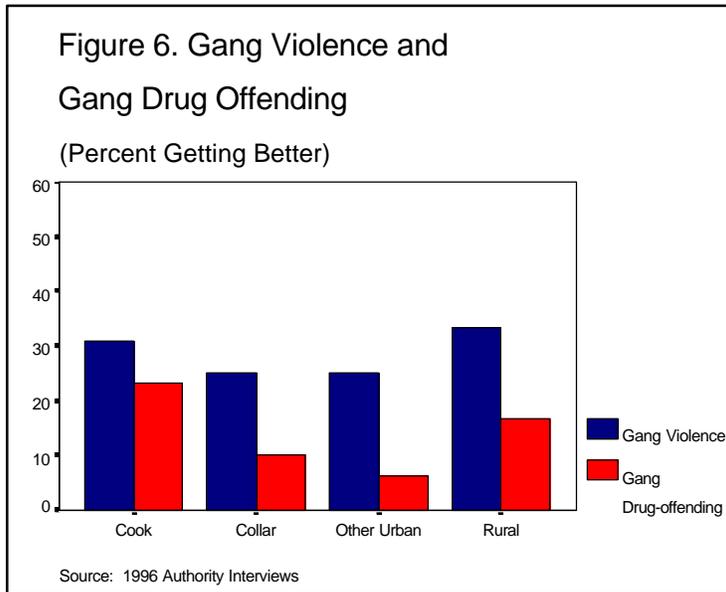
How Gang Violence and Drug Offenses are Changing

We asked officials if gang violence and gang drug offenses in their city were increasing, decreasing or remaining the same. Overall, 48

percent said gang violence had stayed the same and slightly more than half said drug offenses had stayed the same. One quarter said gang violence was getting worse and 27 percent said it was improving. Even more said gang drug offenses were getting worse (34 percent), and many fewer (13 percent) said drug offenses were getting better. Those who said gang violence had improved attributed this success to a proactive police effort, a coordinated community response, and a multi-faceted approach to gangs in their community. Those who said it was getting worse indicated it was because gangs were more mobile, were becoming smarter, and had more affiliations.

Collar county respondents were the most likely to indicate that both gang violence and gang drug offense had stayed the same (62 percent for violence, and 75 percent for drug-offending – see Figures 5 and 6). Cities located in urban counties outside the collar were most likely to say both





gang violence and drug offense were getting worse (38 percent for violence, and 50 percent for drug-offending). Forty-three percent of Cook County officials reported an increase in drug offenses, as did 33 percent of rural county officials.

Police and Community Responses to Gangs

Communities statewide appear to be using a whole range of programs to intervene and contain gangs and gang activity. Many officials interviewed believe the ideal way to control gangs and gang violence is through a three-pronged approach: prevention, intervention, and suppression.

About one-third of interviewed police jurisdictions indicated they had gang-awareness and gang prevention programs, such as DARE or GREAT (see Figure 7). More traditional police methods, such as suppression and zero tolerance for criminal activity, were mentioned by about

20 percent of interviewed jurisdictions, but a similar proportion also mentioned youth activities and outreach to parents. Several officials also mentioned multi-jurisdictional task forces as an important part of their response to gangs.

Have these programs worked?

One large jurisdiction in the collar counties attributed its 1995 reduction in gang homicides and other serious violence to a vigorous effort that included

“locking up core shooters.” Another collar county city noted that while overall gang-related violence had declined, gang-related shootings had increased, despite a number of prevention programs. One Chicago suburb pointed to the Peer Jury program as being effective with first offenders. An official in a city outside of the collar counties said that violence had declined because of “constant pressure.”

Other officials credited “better management of rental units by landlords,” “aggressive enforcement of anti-loitering policies,” “community involvement,” “cigarette law enforcement,” “parent notification and education,” and “keeping citizens aware.”

Conclusions

Interviews with 57 selected departments indicate that gang violence in the mid-1990s is found not only in Cook County and the surrounding counties, but also in other urban and rural

Police and Community Response to Gangs
(N = 57; Number of Mentions)

Gang Awareness, Prevention and Education

- 19 Gang Awareness Programs
- 17 DARE, GREAT, VEGA
- 16 Education Programs
 - 7 Adult Awareness
 - 6 Prevention Programs
 - 5 Speaker's Bureau

Suppression

- 12 Zero Tolerance for Crime
- 11 Suppression
 - 6 Arrest
 - 6 Gang Crimes Unit
 - 5 Road Work

Intervention

- 8 Parent Outreach
- 6 Talk

School Programs

- 16 School Programs
 - 6 Grade School Program
 - 6 Police Liaison in Schools

Community Programs

- 11 Multi-jurisdictional Task Forces
 - 8 Youth Activities
 - 6 Neighborhood Watch
 - 5 Community Program
 - 5 Community-oriented Policing

Source: 1996 Authority Interviews

Figure 7

counties of Illinois. Many of the urban county police departments interviewed have faced gangs and gang violence for several decades, yet the majority of the rural county jurisdictions interviewed by the Authority had not seen the emergence of gangs until the early 1990s. The six rural county jurisdictions interviewed paint a picture of gangs and gang activity that is similar to that traditionally seen in cities in urban counties. All of them had more than one gang in town, and one had seven. Four of the six had a

gang-related shooting in 1995. One official said, “[We’ve had] no homicides, a moratorium. Lots of shooting, all of the time.”

Four of the six officials from these rural county cities said their gang members were heavily involved in drug sales and all said their gang members were somewhat involved in drug sales. Three mentioned the influence of a college or prison. One official said gang members were “...coming to deal drugs to college students in a wide open market. [They] pose as students. It’s a front. They’re not really attending college.” Another said, “Gangs come to the area for drugs. Also, the area has a prison and upon release, gang members may stay in the area.”

In all areas of the state, most interviewed officials indicated that gang members in their locales are at least somewhat involved in drug sales. Interviewed officers believe younger gang members are becoming increasingly violent. Though a fifth of the jurisdictions reported all-female gangs, more reported that females assist male gang members.

Respondents called for a multi-jurisdictional approach to containing gang criminal activity. Most interviewed police officers say their departments and their communities are using a range of approaches to respond to the gang problems they have been encountering, from gang awareness and education, through strict law enforcement action in the face of crime, to community programs for youth. Many agreed with the official who said that, “It needs to be the entire community responding.”

Police and sheriff's departments across Illinois are dealing with a serious gang problem, one that looks much the same whether it is in urban or rural areas. Officials who were interviewed were very concerned about the threat to their communities from gangs. As one respondent pointed out, "Gang activity, more than any other issue, affects the overall quality of life within a community, and greater resources need to be applied to try to find an answer to the problem."

The NYGC has recently completed a second survey of police and sheriff's jurisdictions to determine the state of the gang problem. For the first time, they used a stratified, random sample. All cities (over 25,000 population) and all suburban counties were surveyed. In addition, random samples of small cities and towns (under 25,000 population) and rural counties were surveyed. Such a sample should provide representative data for a more accurate picture of how communities nationwide are experiencing gangs.

References

Mobilizing Illinois: Report & Recommendations to the Governor, Governor's Commission on Gangs, October 1996

National Youth Gang Center. 1995 National Youth Gang Survey: Program Summary, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, August 1997.

The Statewide Organized Gang Database Act and the Illinois Streetgang Terrorism Omnibus Prevention Act, P.A. 87-932, Art. II, approved Art. 27, 1992, eff. Jan. 1, 1993, 740 ILCS 147/10 Definitions.

Ayad Jacob assisted with this project. For more information on gangs, nationally and in Illinois, contact John Moore at the National Youth Gang Center, P.O. Box 12729, Tallahassee, FL 32317, 1-850-385-0600, www.iir.com/nygc.



1995 National Youth Gang Survey
Page 2 of 2

1. On the basis of your personal knowledge and information you may be able to obtain from persons familiar with past time periods, please indicate when your jurisdiction experienced youth gang problems (please fill in the circles for all time periods that apply):
- 1970-79 1980-89 1990-94 We have had no prior gang problems. Do not know.
2. Have any youth or street gangs been active in your jurisdiction in 1995? Yes No
If you marked "No," skip to question 1.
3. In your jurisdiction in 1995, on the basis of records or your best estimate, what is the number of
Active Youth Gangs: Youth Gang Members: Do Not Know.
4. In your jurisdiction in 1995, on the basis of records or your best estimate, how many homicides involved gang members as:
Perpetrators Victims Do Not Know.
5. Does your agency have the following?
- Youth/Street Gang Unit or Officer(s)
 Gang Prevention Unit or Officer(s)
 Both Types
 One Combined Type
 None
6. In your judgment, are your youth gang problems: Getting worse
 Getting better
 Staying about the same
7. ANSWER ONLY IF DIRECTED HERE FROM QUESTION 2. In your judgment, what is the likelihood that youth gang problems will develop in your jurisdiction in the near future?
- High Medium Low None

Please re-enter your telephone number from page one. This number provides a link between your first and second pages.

(Area Code) & Telephone Number

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Thank you for your assistance!

Illinois Youth Gang Survey, 1996: Interview Schedule
Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

Hello, (name). This is Carolyn Rebecca Block (Becky) from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. Thank you for taking the time to talk to me. We are working with the Attorney General's staff to help support the Governor's Commission on Gangs in Illinois. As you may know, the Commission on Gangs has been charged with "formulating a state-wide response to criminal street gangs in Illinois," and specifically to "identify the nature and scope of criminal street gangs in Illinois, and develop a comprehensive response to the problem." The Commission is planning a meeting in July, leading to a final report to the Governor by late summer.

One of the things we're doing is to use data from the National Youth Gang Center, which recently conducted a nationwide survey of law enforcement agencies, the National Youth Gang Survey. We called you because you responded to the survey by indicating that _____ (name of jurisdiction) experienced "youth gang problems" in 1995. It would be helpful to the Governor's Commission on Gangs if you could take a few minutes to give us a little more detail about the gang activity in _____ (jurisdiction).

We have found that it takes about a half hour to do this survey. Some departments need to check on some numbers and get back to us. Others give us their best estimate. I could FAX you the questionnaire, so that you can follow along. Would you like me to do that?

NOTE: In the National survey, Youth Gang was defined as: "a group of youths in your jurisdiction, aged approximately 10 to 22, that you or other responsible persons in your agency or community are willing to identify or classify as a 'gang.' Do not include motorcycle gangs, hate or ideology groups, prison gangs, or adult gangs." In this survey, we don't want to limit the discussion to any specific age group. Please include adults as well as youths, if appropriate, when you respond to the rest of these questions.

1 To start off, when you replied to the national survey that (name of jurisdiction) had "youth gang problems," could you tell me in a few words what that means in (jurisdiction)? Probe: What is a "gang"? What is "problems"? (Eg: graffiti, drugs, violence, recruiting.) Does your department have an official definition? (If so, ask them to FAX it to 312-793-8422.)

2 In the national survey, you indicated that there were about (xx) active youth gangs with (xxx) members in (jurisdiction) in 1995. How many gangs are there today?

(Either estimate, or look up and get back to me. Check here if no records at all . . .)

_____ (active gangs) _____ (gang members)

3. Could you tell me something about the nature of those gangs?

A. What are the names of the gangs in (name of jurisdiction)?

(Probe: use attached check list; add additional names or varieties when mentioned.)

Have any of the gangs in (name of jurisdiction) adopted the name of a gang from Chicago, St. Louis, Los Angeles, or another big city gang?

_____ NO _____ YES. *(Note on check list.)*

B. How many of the xx gangs in (name of jurisdiction) . . .
 are Latino? _____
 are African-American (nonLatino)? _____
 are white (nonLatino) white _____
 are Asian or other _____ (specify if "other") _____
 are of mixed ethnicity? _____ (please specify the mix) _____
(Either estimate, or look up and get back to me. Check here if no records at all ____)

C. What about the age of gang members? *(Remember, we are also including adult gang members, if applicable.)*

i. What is the typical age of:
 the most active (core) members _____ (____ to ____)
 the peripheral members _____ (____ to ____)

(Either estimate, or look up and get back to me. Check here if no records at all ____)

ii. Are these age patterns different for different types of gang-related offenses?
 _____ NO.

_____ YES. If YES. Could you specify the different age patterns?

Serious Violent Offenses (homicide, battery): typical age _____, age range ____ to ____

Other Violent Offenses: typical age _____; age range ____ to ____

Serious Drug Offenses (dealing): typical age _____, age range ____ to ____

Other Drug Offenses (possession of pot): typical age _____; age range ____ to ____

Other Offenses (vandalism): typical age _____, age range ____ to ____

iii. Have you noticed any *change* in the ages of active gang members recently? Are active gang members getting younger? Getting older? Or not changing?

_____ NO CHANGE.

_____ GETTING YOUNGER. Probe Please explain; Typical ages of new recruits; Are younger members involved in crime? What kind of crime?

_____ GETTING OLDER. Probe Please explain; Are older members being recruited? Are older members migrating to the city?

D. What about female gangs or gang members?

i. Do you have any all-female gangs in (name of jurisdiction)?

_____ NO.

_____ YES. If YES, please describe

Probe: Name of gang, number of members, kind of gang activity

ii. Are female gangs or female members of other gangs active in:

violent offenses? _____ NO

_____ YES. If YES please describe.

Probe type of violence, committed with/without male co-offenders:

drug offenses? NO.
 YES. If YES please describe
Probe: type of violence, committed with/without male co-offenders:

other offenses? NO
 YES If YES please describe
Probe: type of violence, committed with/without male co-offenders

iii Could you estimate the percent of gang members in (name of jurisdiction) who are females?

Active (core) members %
Peripheral members %

(Either estimate, or look up and get back to me. Check here if no records at all)

Would your estimate be different for different gangs? If so, please explain

Latino gangs (name) Core members: %; other members %
Black gangs (name) Core members %; other members %
Other gangs (name) Core members: %; other members %

iv Has there been any change in female gang activity since 1995?
 NO
 YES. If YES, please describe the change. Probe: Increase/decrease in numbers; More/less active in core of gang; More/less violent

3. In the National survey, you mentioned that there were (number/ no) gang-related homicides in 1995. What about other kinds of gang-related violence?

Either estimate, or look up and get back to me. Check here if no records at all .

DATA SOURCE:

A. During 1995, were there any instances of gang-related shootings (firearm batteries)?
 NO.
 YES If YES: How many in 1995?
i. Of these , in how many was someone hit or injured?
ii. Were any of these drive-by shootings (shooting from cars)?
 NO YES If YES: How many in 1995?

B. What about other kinds of gang-related violence (e.g.: Mob Action, threats, intimidation)? NO. YES. If YES, please estimate the number in 1995
Number Kind of crime
Number Kind of crime

C. Has gang-related violence in (name of jurisdiction) gotten worse, better, or stayed the same since 1995? (Circle one answer.)
If "worse" or "better": Why do you think this is happening?

4 Has (name of jurisdiction) experienced other kinds of gang-related crimes (e.g.: burglary, theft, harassment)?

NO.

YES. If YES, please estimate the number in 1995

Number Kind of crime

Number Kind of crime

(Either estimate, or look up and get back to me. Check here if no records at all)

5. We are also interested in gang activity involving drugs (not just possession and use but also dealing).

A. To what extent are gang members involved in drug sales in (name of jurisdiction)?

(NOTE: this refers to distribution or sales, not simple possession.)

not involved (skip to ques. 6)

minimally involved

somewhat involved

heavily involved

If INVOLVED (in any way): How many arrests of gang members were there in 1995 for manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance?

(Either estimate, or look up and get back to me. Check here if no records at all)

B. If INVOLVED, what kind of street gang involvement is there? Do street gangs deal drugs as an organization, do individual gang members deal drugs independently of the gang, or do both kinds of involvement occur?

Street gangs run an organizational gang business

Probe: name of gangs

Individual gang members deal drugs independently of the gang

Probe: members of which gangs?

C. Does drug sale involvement differ for different gangs?

NO

YES If YES, please explain. Probe: Latino vs. Black gangs Involvement of younger vs. older members: Involvement of females vs. males

D. What are the drugs most commonly sold by (name of jurisdiction) gang members?

rock or crack cocaine

powdered cocaine

heroin

marijuana

PCP

LSD/ Methamphetamine

other (please specify:

Probe: has this changed since 1995? If so, how?

E. Has gang-related drug offending in (name of jurisdiction) gotten worse, better, or stayed the same since 1995? (Circle the answer.)

If "worse" or "better": Why do you think this is happening?

5. A few questions about gang migration.

A. Are you aware of street or drug gang members from other places migrating at any time to your jurisdiction? (Note: Please do not include crosstown "raids" or brief - i.e. less than a day of two - appearances of gang members from neighboring cities or towns.)

___ NO

___ YES If YES:

i. Where are the migrant gang members from? _____

ii. Do you know why they are coming to (name of jurisdiction)?

Probe Family reasons, Work-related (migrant workers), To set up a branch drug business, Because they were released from a local prison

iii. What year did your department become aware of gang migration? 19____.

iv. Since that time, what would you estimate the number of gang migrants to be? _____ (number)

How many of this number have shown up in 1995? _____
1996? _____ (number)

B. Are you aware of areas to which your local, resident gang members have migrated?

___ NO

___ YES. To which cities or towns? _____

How many in 1995? _____

6. In the National survey, you indicated that you have (youth/street gang unit or officers, or gang prevention unit or officers, or both). Could you give us a little more detail about the gang unit in (name of jurisdiction)?

A. When was the unit organized? 19__ (year)

B. How did it come to be organized? Was there a particular incident that inspired it?

C. How many personnel does the unit currently have?

___ full time sworn _____ part time sworn

___ full time civilian _____ part time civilian

D. Where is the unit placed within the department? What is its relationship to other units?

- E. Does the gang unit or the department collect information about gangs in a database?
_____ NO _____ YES. If YES, what do you use?
_____ LEADS (probe participate in ISP LEADS Gang file? own or shared terminal?)
_____ GRIP or other shared system _____ our own in-house system (please describe below.)

7. What street gang intervention, prevention or suppression program(s) are there in (name of jurisdiction)? What about municipal ordinances (e.g.: curfew, beeper laws, truancy)? How successful have these measures been? Could you describe the current situation? (Probe: Ask for names or contacts for programs inside or outside of the department, such as agencies, youth organizations, churches, community organizations, etc. Record below.)

8. Have there been any studies or reports done on the gangs in (name of jurisdiction)?
_____ NO
_____ YES If YES: Can you give me a reference to the report?

9. Overall, if you had to choose the single most important thing to tell me about the gangs and gang activity in (name of jurisdiction), what would it be?

Thank you very much for your time and your help!

Illinois Street Gangs

Ambrase	Insane Dueces	Metros (Metro East)
Ashland Vikings	Insane Unknowns	Mickey Cobra
Assyrian Eagles	Insane Vice Lords	Milwaukee Kings
Bishops	Insane Popes	Noble Knights
Black P-Stone (Black Stones, P-Stones, El Rukns)	Insane Two-Two Boys	Orchestra Albany
Black Souls(Mad Black Souls)	Joustars	Park Avenue Players
Black Disciples	Kenmore Boys	Party Gents
Black Gangsters(New Breeds LLL)	Kents	Party Knights
Bloods	King Cobras	Party People
C-Notes	Krazy Get Down Boys(KGB)	Party Players
Campbell Boys	La Raza	Paulina Berry Community
Conservative Vice Lords	Latin Brothers	Popes
Cobra Stones	Latin Counts	Puerto Rican Stones(P-R Stones)
Cullerton Dueces(Cullerton Boys)	Latin Dragons	Pachucos(Latin Pachucos)
Crips	Latin Disciples	Racine Boys
Ebony Vice Lords	Latin Eagles	Satan Disciples
El Rukns	Latin Homeboys	Simon City Royals(Royals)
Four Corner Hustlers	Latin Jivers	Spanish Gangster Disciples
Freaks	Latin Kings	Spanish Cobras
Future Stones	Latin Lovers	Spanish Lords/Spanish Vice Lords
Gangster Disciples	Latin Queens(Latin Kings)	Traveling Vice Lords
Gaylords	Latin Pachucos	Two-Sixers(Two-Six Nation)
Ghetto Brothers Organization	Latin Saints	Two-Two Boys
Harrison Gents	Latin Souls	Undertaker Vice Lords
Imperial Gangsters	Mafia Insane Vice Lords	Unknown Vice Lords
	Maniac Latin Disciples	Vice Lords
		Villa Lobos
		White Crips(Crips)
		12th Street Players
		Warlords
		Yates Boys Organization

Illinois Youth Gang Survey, 1996: Interview Schedule
Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

Hello, (name) This is Carolyn Rebecca Block (Becky) from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. Thank you for taking the time to talk to me. We are working with the Attorney General's staff to help support the Governor's Commission on Gangs in Illinois. As you may know, the Commission on Gangs has been charged with "formulating a state-wide response to criminal street gangs in Illinois," and specifically to "identify the nature and scope of criminal street gangs in Illinois, and develop a comprehensive response to the problem." The Commission is planning a meeting in July, leading to a final report to the Governor by late summer.

One of the things we're doing is to use data from the National Youth Gang Center, which recently conducted a nationwide survey of law enforcement agencies, the National Youth Gang Survey. We called you because you responded to the survey by indicating that _____ (name of jurisdiction) experienced "youth gang problems" in 1995. It would be helpful to the Governor's Commission on Gangs if you could take a few minutes to give us a little more detail about the gang activity in _____ (jurisdiction).

We have found that it takes about a half hour to do this survey. Some departments need to check on some numbers and get back to us. Others give us their best estimate. I could FAX you the questionnaire, so that you can follow along. Would you like me to do that?

NOTE: In the National survey, Youth Gang was defined as "a group of youths in your jurisdiction, aged approximately 10 to 22, that you or other responsible persons in your agency or community are willing to identify or classify as a 'gang.' **Do not** include motorcycle gangs, hate or ideology groups, prison gangs, or adult gangs." In this survey, we don't want to limit the discussion to any specific age group. *Please include adults as well as youths, if appropriate, when you respond to the rest of these questions.*

1. To start off, when you replied to the national survey that (name of jurisdiction) had "youth gang problems," could you tell me in a few words what that means in (jurisdiction)?
(Probe: What is a "gang"? What is "problems"? (Eg: graffiti, drugs, violence, recruiting.) Does your department have an official definition? (If so, ask them to FAX it to 312-793-8422.)

2. In the national survey, you indicated that there were about (xx) active youth gangs with (xxx) members in (jurisdiction) in 1995. How many gangs are there today?
(Either estimate, or look up and get back to me. Check here if no records at all _____.)
(active gangs) _____ (gang members)

3. Could you tell me something about the nature of those gangs?

A. What are the names of the gangs in (name of jurisdiction)?

(Probe: use attached check list; add additional names or varieties when mentioned.)

Have any of the gangs in (name of jurisdiction) adopted the name of a gang from Chicago, St. Louis, Los Angeles, or another big city gang?

_____ NO

YES *(Note on check list.)*

B. How many of the xx gangs in (name of jurisdiction)
 are Latino? _____
 are African-American (nonLatino)? _____
 are white (nonLatino) white _____
 are Asian or other _____ (specify if "other") _____
 are of mixed ethnicity? _____ (please specify the mix) _____
(Either estimate, or look up and get back to me. Check here if no records at all .)

C. What about the age of gang members? *(Remember, we are also including adult gang members, if applicable.)*

i. What is the typical age of
 the most active (core) members _____ (_____ to _____)
 the peripheral members _____ (_____ to _____)

(Either estimate, or look up and get back to me. Check here if no records at all .)

ii. Are these age patterns different for different types of gang-related offenses?
 _____ NO
 _____ YES. If YES: Could you specify the different age patterns?

Serious Violent Offenses (homicide, battery): typical age _____; age range ____ to ____

Other Violent Offenses: typical age _____; age range _____ to _____

Serious Drug Offenses (dealing): typical age _____; age range ____ to ____

Other Drug Offenses (possession of pot): typical age _____; age range _____ to _____

Other Offenses (vandalism): typical age _____; age range _____ to _____

iii. Have you noticed any *change* in the ages of active gang members recently? Are active gang members getting younger? Getting older? Or not changing?

_____ NO CHANGE.

_____ GETTING YOUNGER. Probe: Please explain; Typical ages of new recruits; Are younger members involved in crime? What kind of crime?

_____ GETTING OLDER. Probe: Please explain; Are older members being recruited? Are older members migrating to the city?

D. What about female gangs or gang members?

i. Do you have any all-female gangs in (name of jurisdiction)?

_____ NO

_____ YES. If YES, please describe

Probe: Name of gang, number of members, kind of gang activity

ii. Are female gangs or female members of other gangs active in:
 violent offenses? _____ NO

_____ YES. If YES please describe.

Probe: type of violence, committed with/without male co-offenders

drug offenses? _____ NO.
 YES. If YES please describe
 Probe: type of violence, committed with/without male co-offenders

other offenses? _____ NO.
 YES. If YES please describe.
 Probe: type of violence, committed with/without male co-offenders:

iii. Could you estimate the percent of gang members in (name of jurisdiction) who are females?

Active (core) members _____ %

Peripheral members _____ %

(Either estimate, or look up and get back to me. (check here if no records at all _____))

Would your estimate be different for different gangs? If so, please explain:

Latino gangs (name) _____	Core members _____	%: other members: _____	%.
Black gangs (name) _____	Core members: _____	%: other members _____	%
Other gangs (name) _____	Core members: _____	%: other members _____	%

iv. Has there been any change in female gang activity since 1995?

_____ NO

_____ YES. If YES, please describe the change Probe: Increase/decrease in numbers; More/less active in core of gang, More/less violent

3. In the National survey, you mentioned that there were (number/ no) gang-related homicides in 1995. What about other kinds of gang-related violence?

Either estimate, or look up and get back to me. (check here if no records at all _____)

DATA SOURCE: _____

A. During 1995, were there any instances of gang-related shootings (firearm batteries)?

_____ NO.

_____ YES. If YES: How many in 1995? _____

i. Of these _____, in how many was someone hit or injured?

ii. Were any of these drive-by shootings (shooting from cars)?

_____ NO. _____ YES. If YES: How many in 1995? _____

B. What about other kinds of gang-related violence (e.g.: Mob Action, threats, intimidation)? _____ NO. _____ YES. If YES, please estimate the number in 1995

Number _____ Kind of crime _____

Number _____ Kind of crime _____

C. Has gang-related violence in (name of jurisdiction) gotten worse, better, or stayed the same since 1995? (Circle one answer.)

If "worse" or "better": Why do you think this is happening? _____

4 Has (name of jurisdiction) experienced other kinds of gang-related crimes (e.g.: burglary, theft, harassment)?

NO

YES. If YES, please estimate the number in 1995

Number Kind of crime

Number Kind of crime

(Either estimate, or look up and get back to me. (check here if no records at all .))

5. We are also interested in gang activity involving drugs (not just possession and use but also dealing).

A. To what extent are gang members involved in drug sales in (name of jurisdiction)?

(NOTE: this refers to distribution or sales, not simple possession.)

not involved (skip to ques 6) _____ minimally involved

somewhat involved _____ heavily involved

If INVOLVED (in any way) How many arrests of gang members were there in 1995 for manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance? _____

(Either estimate, or look up and get back to me. (check here if no records at all .))

B. If INVOLVED, what kind of street gang involvement is there? Do street gangs deal drugs as an organization, do individual gang members deal drugs independently of the gang, or do both kinds of involvement occur?

_____ Street gangs run an organizational gang business

Probe name of gangs _____

_____ Individual gang members deal drugs independently of the gang

Probe members of which gangs? _____

C. Does drug sale involvement differ for different gangs?

_____ NO

_____ YES If YES, please explain. Probe: Latino vs. Black gangs: Involvement of younger vs. older members: Involvement of females vs. males.

D. What are the drugs most commonly sold by (name of jurisdiction) gang members?

_____ rock or crack cocaine _____ powdered cocaine

_____ heroin _____ marijuana

_____ PCP _____ LSD/ Methamphetamine

other (please specify: _____)

Probe: has this changed since 1995? If so, how?

E. Has gang-related drug offending in (name of jurisdiction) gotten worse, better, or stayed the same since 1995? (Circle the answer.)

If "worse" or "better": Why do you think this is happening? _____

5. A few questions about gang migration.

A. Are you aware of street or drug gang members from other places migrating at any time to your jurisdiction? (Note: Please do not include cross-town "raids" or brief - ie: less than a day of two - appearances of gang members from neighboring cities or towns)

NO.

YES. If YES:

i. Where are the migrant gang members from? _____

ii. Do you know why they are coming to (name of jurisdiction)?

Probe: Family reasons, Work-related (migrant workers), To set up a branch drug business, Because they were released from a local prison

iii. What year did your department become aware of gang migration? 19 _____

iv. Since that time, what would you estimate the number of gang migrants to be?
_____ (number)

How many of this number have shown up in 1995? _____

1996? _____ (number)

B. Are you aware of areas to which your local, resident gang members have migrated?

____ NO

YES To which cities or towns? _____

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6. In the National survey, you indicated that you have (youth/street gang unit or officers, or gang prevention unit or officers, or both). Could you give us a little more detail about the gang unit in (name of jurisdiction)?

A. When was the unit organized? 19 ____ (year)

B. How did it come to be organized? Was there a particular incident that inspired it?

C. How many personnel does the unit currently have?

_____ full time sworn _____ part time sworn

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D. Where is the unit placed within the department? What is its relationship to other units?

- E Does the gang unit or the department collect information about gangs in a database?
 NO YES. If YES, what do you use?
 LEADS (probe: participate in ISP LEADS Gang file? own or shared terminal?)
 GRIP or other shared system our own in-house system (please describe below.)

7 What street gang intervention, prevention or suppression program(s) are there in (name of jurisdiction)? What about municipal ordinances (e.g.: curfew, beeper laws, truancy)? How successful have these measures been? Could you describe the current situation?
(Probe: Ask for names or contacts for programs inside or outside of the department, such as agencies, youth organizations, churches, community organizations, etc. Record below.)

8. Have there been any studies or reports done on the gangs in (name of jurisdiction)?
 NO.
 YES. If YES: Can you give me a reference to the report?

9. Overall, if you had to choose the single most important thing to tell me about the gangs and gang activity in (name of jurisdiction), what would it be?

Thank you very much for your time and your help!

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Assyrian Eagles	Insane Vice Lords	Milwaukee Kings
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Black Souls(Mad Black Souls)	Jousters	Park Avenue Players
Black Disciples	Kenmore Boys	Party Gents
Black Gangsters(New Breeds LLL)	Kents	Party Knights
Bloods	King Cobras	Party People
C-Notes	Krazy Get Down Boys(KGB)	Party Players
Cambell Boys	La Raza	Paulina Berry Community
Conservative Vice Lords	Latin Brothers	Popes
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Ebony Vice Lords	Latin Eagles	Satan Disciples
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	Maniac Latin Disciples	Vice Lords
		Villa Lobos
		White Crips(Crips)
		12th Street Players
		Warlords
		Yates Boys Organization