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8 Nov. 2024

Dear Police Officer:

I want to invite you to contribute your anonymous input to the NGCRC's 2024 National Law Enforcement Survey of the largest 5,000 police departments in the United States. The survey (a copy provided below) allows all respondents to be completely anonymous.

This kind of national survey helps establish a known quantitative parameter for various aspects of the gang issue. There are so many new and emerging issues to pick from. We cannot measure everything. But we can do some good work here. So I am inviting you to submit three survey items to add to the new national survey project.

If you are employed as a sworn police officer of any municipal police department in the United States, or the U.S. Territories of Guam, Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico, then you are invited to complete the survey and email it directly to me at my email address: gangcrime@aol.com

Cordially,

George W. Knox

George W. Knox, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
NGCRC

GWK/yc

ENC: Copy of survey current draft

Dear Municipal Law Enforcement Officer:

I am contacting you to ask that you take a couple minutes to complete this anonymous questionnaire as part of an important research project that will be useful for law enforcement regarding the issue of gangs. This survey research will result in a national needs assessment which we expect will help justify additional resources for municipal and county law enforcement agencies.

Our agency, the National Gang Crime Research Center, has systematically monitored the gang problem since 1990. The intelligence and information developed by our agency shows the gang problem is now affecting most communities in the United States. If you are lucky enough to have a community that remains untouched by the gang problem, then we still need to hear from you.

We can reward you directly with useful information if you send back a completed questionnaire within thirty (30) days: then we will be able to send you a complete copy of our report analyzing the gang problem in the USA today. So you will get rapid useful information at no cost as a responding agency. The report will be sent only to responding agencies.

Why is it important for you to respond to this survey? New federal gang legislation is likely to make additional resources available to agencies like yours if there is a proven need, and the report we intend to release may justify additional resources for your agency. From our experience we also know that state laws could also be strengthened as a result of this kind of report and it is our belief that some special attention in that direction would be a healthy development.

I do hope that you can give expeditious positive consideration to this request that you complete the survey and return it as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Cordially,

George W. Knox, Ph.D.  
Director, National Gang Crime Research Center  
[www.ngcrc.com](http://www.ngcrc.com)

ENC:

- (1) Survey
- (2) Return postage paid envelope

## **THE 2024 NGCRC NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT GANG ANALYSIS SURVEY**

(1) Are gangs a problem in your jurisdiction?

Yes  No

IF YES (check one):  Major Problem  Moderate problem  Minor problem

(2) Have you ever received a copy of *The Gang Specialist* (free newspaper distributed by the National Gang Crime Research Center) about gangs?  Yes  No

If yes, did you find these materials useful?  Yes  No

- (3) Does your agency employ intelligence analysts to address crime problems like gangs?  
 Yes  No
- (4) To what extent do community leaders in your jurisdiction deny the gang problem? (CHECK one rating, higher the number higher the denial, lower the number the lower the level of denial)  
 NO DENIAL 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 HIGH DENIAL
- (5) Where do gangs do most of their recruiting in your jurisdiction?  
 Within families  Within schools  On the streets  Neighborhood hangouts  Other
- (6) What kinds of problems do gang members cause in your jurisdiction (Check all that apply):  
 Violence  Drug sales  Graffiti  Burglary  Robbery  Drive-by shootings  Arson  
 Prostitution  Car theft  Extortion  Retail theft  Criminal damage to property
- (7) What kinds of problems do gang female members cause in your jurisdiction (Check all that apply):  
 Violence  Drug sales  Graffiti  Burglary  Robbery  Drive-by shootings  
 Arson  
 Prostitution  Car theft  Extortion  Retail theft  Criminal damage to property
- (8) Please estimate the percent of total crime in your jurisdiction that is caused by gangs or gang members? \_\_\_\_\_%
- (9) How many gang-related school incidents that resulted in violence have your police officers responded to in the past year in your school district?  Zero  1-5  6-10  11-15  15 or more
- (10) What grade would you give your agency for providing gang prevention programming in your local school system?  
 A  B  C  D  F
- (11) In your opinion, is it hard to get gang members to be confidential informants?  Yes  No
- (12) In what year did gangs first become recognized as a problem in your jurisdiction?  
 19\_\_\_\_\_ or check:  Not yet recognized as a problem
- (13) How many sworn police officers are employed by your Department:  
 Full-time and  Part-time
- (14) Do your police officers receive training in “gang awareness” or handling gang problems?  
 PRE-SERVICE TRAINING:  Yes  No IN-SERVICE TRAINING:  Yes  No
- (15) What grade would you give your agency for providing trauma-informed assistance for crime victims, witnesses, and survivors?  A  B  C  D  F
- (16) What would you estimate the total core and periphery gang membership in your jurisdiction to be: \_\_\_\_\_ total members
- (17) If you included “wannabe’s” and “associates”, what would you estimate the total gang membership in your jurisdiction to be: \_\_\_\_\_ total members.
- (18) If you included all gang members, wannabe’s, as well as KKK, Motorcycle gangs, skinheads, white racist extremist groups, what would you estimate the total gang membership in your jurisdiction to be: \_\_\_\_\_ total members

(19) If you included all gang members (wannabe's, KKK, Motorcycle gangs, skinheads, etc), what would your estimate be of the breakdown by type of offender (underage juvenile/old enough to be tried as an adult)

\_\_\_\_% are underage juveniles

\_\_\_\_% are old enough to be tried as adults

(20) Have you recently received any printed reports or periodicals from the U.S. Department of Justice (i.e., the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, OJJDP, etc) about gangs?

\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

If yes, did you find these materials useful? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

(21) Have you noticed an increase in gang graffiti or tagging in the last year? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

(22) In your opinion, why do girls join gangs? \_\_\_Problems in their family life \_\_\_A replacement for their family \_\_\_Brought into the gang by family members \_\_\_Excitement

(23) Generally, what are the roles of the females in the gang?

\_\_\_Male gang activities \_\_\_Traditional female roles \_\_\_Sex objects \_\_\_Other

(24) What types of victimization do female members experience in the gangs the most?

\_\_\_Sexual violence \_\_\_Physical violence \_\_\_Psychological abuse \_\_\_Other

(25) Why do girls leave the gangs? \_\_\_Growing older \_\_\_Family/marriage \_\_\_Getting a steady and legal job \_\_\_Other

(26) Is any state or federal correctional institution located in or very near your community/jurisdiction?

\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

(27) Do most of your officers understand the widespread impact of trauma and how to recover from it?

\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

(28) Have gang members recently made even temporary visits (of at least a few days, for whatever reasons) to your \_\_\_\_\_ community/jurisdiction? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No Were any of these gang members from Chicago? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

(29) Which do you believe accounts for most of the gang problem in your area of the United States?

\_\_\_The gangs arose by normal residential relocation and local genesis

\_\_\_The gangs arose by deliberate migration of gangs into new areas

(30) Have you seen cases where a parent relocates to your area (knowing their child was involved with a gang and perhaps thinking they can simply "move away" from the problem), and basically "transplants" the gang problem to your area? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

(31) Do you consider any of the gangs in your jurisdiction to be an "organized crime" problem? \_\_\_Yes

\_\_\_No

(32) What is the current population estimate of your \_\_\_\_\_ community/jurisdiction? \_\_\_\_\_ total population

(33) Do you believe the federal government should play a greater role in the prosecution of gang crimes?

\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

(34) Are any gangs in your jurisdiction getting involved with or active in politics? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

(35) Does your agency work directly with former gang members? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

(36) How effectively are your sworn police officers trained to recognize the signs and symptoms of trauma? (Check one) NOT TRAINED \_\_\_0 \_\_\_1 \_\_\_2 \_\_\_3 \_\_\_4 \_\_\_5 \_\_\_6 \_\_\_7 \_\_\_8 \_\_\_9 \_\_\_10  
HIGHLY TRAINED

(37) Are the gang members in your area predominantly racial and ethnic minorities? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

(38) How many sworn officers from your department are assigned to work full-time on the gang problem? \_\_\_\_\_

(39) What are the names of the largest three gangs in your area:

#1: \_\_\_\_\_  
#2: \_\_\_\_\_  
#3: \_\_\_\_\_

(40) Does your Department have a special unit to handle gang problems? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

(41) Do you believe some gangs can migrate to jurisdictions such as your own? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

(42) Do you believe any of the gang problem in your jurisdiction is due to “gang migration”? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

(43) Does your Department have a strategic plan for dealing with gangs? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

(44) Please estimate to what extent the gang problem in your area arose because of “gang migration” (i.e., outside gangs coming into your area to develop their own local franchises or local chapters).  
NOT A \_\_\_0 \_\_\_1 \_\_\_2 \_\_\_3 \_\_\_4 \_\_\_5 \_\_\_6 \_\_\_7 \_\_\_8 \_\_\_9 \_\_\_10 MAJOR  
FACTOR FACTOR

(45) Please estimate to what extent the gang problem in your area arose because of the “copy cat” phenomenon (i.e., youths who use names of national groups without really having ties to the same groups in other areas).  
NOT A \_\_\_0 \_\_\_1 \_\_\_2 \_\_\_3 \_\_\_4 \_\_\_5 \_\_\_6 \_\_\_7 \_\_\_8 \_\_\_9 \_\_\_10 MAJOR  
FACTOR FACTOR

(46) Do you feel that “hate groups” (KKK, neo-nazis, skinheads, etc) are a crime problem in your area? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

(47) Do you feel that motorcycle gangs are a crime problem in your area? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

(48) Have any gang members in your jurisdiction used the phrase “Growth and Development” or “Better Growth and Development” to refer to the Gangster Disciples or Black Gangster Disciples respectively? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

(49) Do you feel that if less attention was given to gangs on television, in newspapers, and in movies that fewer people would join a gang? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

(50) Do you feel that “rites of passage” or mentoring programs for juveniles would be useful for gang prevention in your jurisdiction? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

(51) In your opinion, which is the most effective law enforcement strategy for dealing with gang

problems? (CHECK one response only) Prevention Suppression Both prevention and suppression

(52) Do you believe that a very aggressive gang suppression policy by your agency could substantially reduce the gang crime problem in your area? Yes No

(68) In your opinion, do you expect the problem gang involvement in mass shootings to increase or decrease within the next two years?  
Increase Decrease Remain about the same

(69) In your opinion, do you expect the problem gang involvement in organized retail theft to increase or decrease within the next two years?  
Increase Decrease Remain about the same

(70) Do you believe parents should be held financially responsible for crimes committed by their children? Yes No

(71) Do you think that for some children that the gang has become a kind of "rites of passage" ceremony-substitute? Yes No

(72) Has your jurisdiction seen an increase in Asian and/or Chinese gang activity? Yes No

(73) Has your jurisdiction seen any gang activities by Asian gangs or Chinese Transnational Organized Crime Groups? Yes No

(74) In your jurisdiction, what kind of things are gangs or gang members involved in? (Check all that apply)  
Home invasions Extortion Skimming fraud at ATMs, gas stations, or retail stores Credit card/check fraud Prostitution Illegal immigrant smuggling Weapons trafficking  
Money laundering Counterfeiting commercial goods Counterfeiting US currency Counterfeiting government ID's Drive-by shooting Shooting at police Organized retail theft

(75) Do you want a full copy of the printed preliminary report sent to you at no charge by the National Gang Crime Research Center? Yes No  
(If YES, print in the right margin who and where we should send the report. Or affix a business card which has the full mailing address information.)

**For Question #75: Send Printed Report From This Survey To**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City,ST,ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_