



# 2007 Census of Law Enforcement Gang Units

Bureau of Justice Statistics  
U.S. Department of Justice

Chief John Q. Smith  
Akron Police Department  
Akron, OH

Dear Chief Smith:

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), through contract with the Institute for the Study and Prevention of Violence at Kent State University, is conducting a study of the law enforcement community's response to street gang. The 2007 Census of Law Enforcement Gang Units corresponds with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)'s initiative for the improvement of knowledge, policy, practice, and training on gang prevention and anti-gang enforcement. The Census will focus on large police agencies nationwide with at least one officer dedicated primarily to gang activity. The goal is to collect data regarding how law enforcement agencies are organized to deal with gangs, the gang problems they face, and the types of tactics they employ.

We request that you participate in this important survey effort. The information collected will assist law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice community as a whole in the development of more effective programs to prevent gang violence and enforce anti-gang laws when such violence does occur. Findings will be available from the BJS website ([www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs)) in 2009.

Although this survey is voluntary, we need and appreciate your cooperation to make the results comprehensive, accurate, and timely. We have designed the questionnaire to be as straightforward and concise as possible and ask that you complete it within 14 days. If you have any questions contact Dr. Thomas Brewer, principal investigator, at: 330-672-0315 and/or [twbrewer@kent.edu](mailto:twbrewer@kent.edu).

Sincerely,

Director,  
Bureau of Justice Statistics

The Census of Law Enforcement Gang Units is endorsed by the following agencies:



# 2007 Census of Law Enforcement Gang Units

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**Burden Statement**

The Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended (42 USC 3732), authorizes this information collection. Federal agencies may not conduct or sponsor an information collection, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information, unless it displays a currently valid OMB Control number. The OMB control number for this collection is 1121-XXXX. Although this survey is voluntary, we urgently need and appreciate your cooperation to make the results comprehensive, accurate, and timely. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average one hour per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate, or any other aspects of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 810 Seventh St NW, Washington, DC 20531.

## SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

**1. Please provide the official name of your gang unit:  
(for example, 'Union City Gang Unit')**

**2. What year was the gang unit created?**

**3. Does your gang unit routinely address any of the following types of groups?**

- a. Street gangs  Yes  No
- b. "Wannabe" gangs (emulate the gang lifestyle but commit few actual crimes)  Yes  No
- c. Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMG)  Yes  No
- d. Hate groups (for example, Aryan Nation)  Yes  No
- e. Prison gangs  Yes  No
- f. Terrorist organizations  Yes  No
- g. Organized crime families (e.g. mafia)  Yes  No
- h. Other  Yes  No

**4. Does your jurisdiction make use of civil gang participation injunctions?**

Yes  No

**5. Does your unit have a formal definition someone must meet in order to be classified as a gang member?**

Yes  No

**If yes, is that definition set by statute?**

Yes  No

**What is this definition?**

**6. Does your unit have a formal definition a group must meet in order to be classified as a gang?**

Yes  No

**If yes, is that definition set by statute?**

Yes  No

**What is this definition?**

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**SECTION 2 – PERSONNEL**

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**7. Report the number of full-time equivalent employees assigned to your gang unit by the following categories as of August 1, 2007**

**Total sworn personnel assigned to gang unit**

	<b>Uniformed Officers?</b>	<b>Plainclothes Officers?</b>
<b>a. Full-Time</b> [ ]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>b. Part-Time</b> [ ]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**Total sworn personnel assigned to gang unit by gender**

	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
<b>a. Full-Time</b>		
<b>b. Part-Time</b>		

**Total sworn personnel assigned to gang unit by race/ethnicity**

	<b>Full-Time</b>	<b>Part-Time</b>
<b>a. White (non-Hispanic officers)</b>		
<b>b. Black (non-Hispanic officers)</b>		
<b>c. Hispanic officers</b>		
<b>d. Asian officers</b>		
<b>e. American Indian or Alaskan Native officers</b>		
<b>g. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander officers</b>		
<b>h. Two or more races</b>		
<b>i. No information available*</b>		

\* This category should be used to report officers for whom no information on race or Hispanic origin is available.

**Total non-sworn personnel assigned to gang unit**

	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
<b>a. Full-Time</b>		
<b>b. Part-Time</b>		

**8. How are officers primarily selected or assigned to your gang unit?**

- Competitive selection process when vacancies/opportunities occur (e.g., promotion board)
- Command staff identifies line officers who are then assigned to the unit
- Current gang unit officers identify line officers who are then assigned to the unit
- Other

**9. Which of the following best describe the formal selection standards/criteria for gang unit officers?**

Mark (X) one for each:

	<b>Standard set the same for all officers</b>	<b>Standard set higher for gang unit officers</b>	<b>Not used as a selection standard</b>
<b>a. Complaint history</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>b. Discipline history</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>c. Use-of-Force record</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>d. Financial/credit history</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**10. Is there a maximum amount of time that officers can serve in the gang unit?**

- Yes       No

**If yes, what is the maximum time? (Include all possible extensions)**

<b>Years</b>	<b>Months</b>

**11a. Do you specifically recruit officers with any of the following characteristics?**

- a. Minority officers**       Yes     No
- b. Female officers**       Yes     No
- c. Officers who speak foreign languages**       Yes     No
- d. Officers raised in neighborhoods similar to those typically served by the gang unit**       Yes     No

**11b. Do you have *difficulty* recruiting officers with any of the following characteristics?**

- a. Minority officers  Yes  No
- b. Female officers  Yes  No
- c. Officers who speak foreign languages  Yes  No
- d. Officers raised in neighborhoods similar to those typically served by the gang unit  Yes  No
- e. Other characteristics your unit looks for in potential members

**12. Do new members of your gang unit receive any formal training related to gangs?**

- a. A specialized training at an academy or other formal setting  Yes  No
- b. On-the-job training  Yes  No
- c. Other  Yes  No

**13. Do members of the gang unit receive periodic training on gang issues at conferences or other formal settings outside of your agency?**

Yes  No

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**SECTION 3 – OPERATIONS**

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**14. Do officers in your gang unit regularly respond to general calls for service (not necessarily gang related)?**

- Yes       No

**15. Rank the following functions in terms of how your unit spends the greatest proportion of time? (1= the unit spends the greatest proportion of time on this function 5=equals the least amount of time) Use each number only once.**

- a. Investigation
- b. Intelligence
- c. Support
- d. Field Contact/Suppression
- e. Prevention programs

**6. Does your gang unit utilize any of the following types of patrol or operational activities?**

- a. Foot patrol                       Yes    No
- b. Bicycle patrol                    Yes    No
- c. Directed/targeted patrol of high crime areas                       Yes    No
- d. Routine patrol                    Yes    No
- e. Undercover gang infiltration    Yes    No
- f. Undercover surveillance operations                       Yes    No
- g. Other                                 Yes    No

**17. Do any of the following agencies assign personnel to work with the gang unit on a regular basis?**

- a. Housing authority management    Yes    No
- b. Probation                           Yes    No
- c. Parole                                 Yes    No
- d. State or local prosecutor            Yes    No
- e. Officials from local, state, and/or federal detention facilities    Yes    No
- f. Other                                  Yes    No

**18. Does your gang unit participate in any local/regional task forces that primarily investigate gangs?**

- Yes       No

**If Yes, what is the name of the task force?**

**19. Does your unit work with federal law enforcement agencies in any of the following capacities?**

- a. Investigation of crimes  Yes  No
- b. Participation in federal task force  Yes  No
- c. Screening of selected cases  Yes  No
- d. Participation in enforcement/operational planning  Yes  No
- e. Other  Yes  No

**SECTION 4 – GANG INFORMATION**

**20. Do your gangs finance themselves through any of the following sources?**

- a. Weapons trafficking  Yes  No
- b. Drug trafficking  Yes  No
- c. Street-level drug sales  Yes  No
- d. Human trafficking  Yes  No
- e. Gambling  Yes  No
- f. Gang members maintain legitimate employment and pay dues to the gang  Yes  No
- g. Prostitution  Yes  No
- h. Sales of forged identity documents  Yes  No
- i. Economic crimes (e.g. credit card theft, forged checks, mortgage fraud)  Yes  No
- j. Pornography  Yes  No
- k. Other  Yes  No

**SECTION 5 – INTELLIGENCE**

**21. Does your department/unit track 'gang-related' or gang-motivated' incidents, offenses, and/or arrests?**

Yes *If yes, please supply the total number of 'gang-related' and/or 'gang-motivated' arrests in each of the following categories over the most recent 12 month period available (please check the box(es) to indicate whether the counts refer to arrests that are gang-related, gang-motivated, or both)*

	Related	Motivated	Both	Total No
a. Homicide	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b. Other Violent Offenses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
c. Property Offense	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
d. Narcotics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
e. Economic Crimes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
f. Misdemeanors (not included in above categories)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

No

**22. Does your unit monitor gang graffiti?**

Yes  No

**23. Does your gang unit track individual gang members?**

Yes  No

**If yes, how is it done? Mark (X) all that apply**

- Paper System
- Computerized System  
*If computerized system, please specify*
  - Gangnet
  - Rissnet
  - VGTOF
  - GRIP
  - CalGangs
  - System created within the department
  - Other

**24. Does anyone routinely audit your gang databases to remove?**

- a. Deceased members  Yes  No
- b. Incarcerated members  Yes  No
- c. Inactive members  Yes  No

**25. Does your gang unit employ any of the following technologies as part of gang investigation?**

- a. Monitoring internet sites (e.g., MySpace)  Yes  No
- b. Closed circuit cameras located in gang neighborhood  Yes  No
- c. GPS tracking devices  Yes  No
- d. Crime analysis software (e.g., Linkage analysis, GIS)  Yes  No
- e. Electronic listening devices  Yes  No
- f. Other  Yes  No

**26a. Does your department share *criminal intelligence information* gathered by the gang unit with any of the following groups?**

- a. Command staff within my department  Yes  No
- b. Other units/bureaus within my department  Yes  No
- c. Neighboring law enforcement agencies  Yes  No
- d. Other criminal justice agencies (e.g., courts, prosecutors)  Yes  No

**26b. Does your department share *non-intelligence information* gathered by the gang unit with any of the following groups?**

- a. Command staff within my department  Yes  No
- b. Other units/bureaus within my department  Yes  No
- c. Neighboring law enforcement agencies  Yes  No
- d. Other criminal justice agencies (e.g., courts, prosecutors)  Yes  No
- e. Non-criminal justice agencies  Yes  No
- f. Media outlets  Yes  No
- g. The general public  Yes  No

**27. How much of your gang unit activity is spent on investigating the following types of crimes. Mark (X) on box for each crime type?**

	None	<25%	26-50%	51-75%	>76%
a. Serious violent felonies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Economic crimes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Prostitution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Narcotics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Graffiti	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Immigration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



28. Does your gang *submit* records to the NCIC Violent Gang and Terrorist Organization File (VGTOF)?

Yes *If yes, enter the number of submissions during the past month*

No

29. Does your gang unit *run queries* on the NCIC Violent Gang and Terrorist Organization File (VGTOF)?

Yes *If yes, enter the number of queries during the past month*

No

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**SECTION 6 – PREVENTION/INTERVENTION**

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30. Does your gang unit, as part of its official responsibility, participate in formalized programs aimed at preventing youth involvement in gangs? This does not include on-the-street contacts aimed at preventing gang involvement?

Yes

**If yes, do you include ex-gang members in your prevention programs?**

Yes     No

No

31. Does your gang unit participate in the following activities?

a. Prevention activities with youth not involved in gangs     Yes     No

b. Prevention activities with gang-involved youth     Yes     No

c. Instructing G.R.E.A.T. or other gang prevention programs     Yes     No

d. Providing gang prevention literature to community members, families, youth, etc     Yes     No

e. Prevention activities with faith-based organizations     Yes     No

f. Other     Yes     No

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**Return Instructions**

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**To return via fax:**

ATTN: BJS Census of Law Enforcement Gang Units  
(330) 672-4711

**To return via U.S. Mail or commercial carrier:**

BJS Census of Law Enforcement Gang Units  
Institute for the Study and Prevention of Violence  
Kent State University  
230 Cartwright Hall  
Kent, OH 44242

**To return via e-mail:**

Completed forms may be scanned into an Adobe Acrobat file and e-mailed to:

[twbrewer@kent.edu](mailto:twbrewer@kent.edu)