

# 2008 National Youth Gang Survey

National Youth Gang Center  
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention  
U.S. Department of Justice

OMB No: 1121-0224

Agency:

Expiration Date: 8/2009

Agency ID:

Your agency has been selected to furnish information for the 2008 National Youth Gang Survey. Your answers statistically represent those of hundreds of other law enforcement agencies that will not be surveyed—so your response is very important.

## Four Ways to Respond:

### Mail

Use the enclosed postage-paid envelope, or mail the survey to:

National Youth Gang Center  
Post Office Box 12729  
Tallahassee, FL 32317-2729

### Telephone

If you prefer to respond by telephone, you may do so by contacting our telephone survey service center, MGT of America, Inc., toll-free at (800) 326-9132, extension 4374 or 4367. Please reference the 2008 National Youth Gang Survey.

### Fax

(888) 323-7305 (toll-free)

### Internet

- ◆ Go to <http://www.iir.com/nygc>.
- ◆ Click on the link titled 2008 National Youth Gang Survey Participants. Under "Login," type *NYGC Survey*, and under "Agency ID," type
- ◆ This password is unique to your agency, ensuring confidentiality of survey responses. If you need assistance with your password, please call toll-free at (800) 446-0912, extension 296 or 274.

## Survey Instructions

- ◆ Please report data for the calendar year 2008 (January 1 through December 31).
- ◆ For the purpose of this survey, a **youth gang** is defined as "a group of youths or young adults in your jurisdiction 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 other exclusively adult gangs. Please base your responses on your records, your personal knowledge, and/or consultations with other agency personnel who are familiar with youth gangs.
- ◆ The terms "youth" and "juvenile" are not synonymous. The term "youth" is more general than the term "juvenile," which is a legal designation statutorily defined within each state. Throughout this survey, the term "youth gang" is used to capture information about gangs that is not restricted to juvenile-aged members, but also may include young adults (see "youth gang" definition above).
- ◆ Police departments should report only for their cities/towns.
- ◆ Sheriffs' departments should report only for their unincorporated service areas. Please exclude any contracted jurisdictions.



Please respond by  
February 27, 2009

# Agency Information

(please print clearly)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Law Enforcement Agency Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of Jurisdiction(s) Served** (city, town, or county)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Mailing Address**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**City**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**County**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**State**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**ZIP Code**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**First Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**MI**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Last Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Title/Rank**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Unit or Section**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Length of Time at Current Position:** Years

\_\_\_\_\_  
Months

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Telephone** (with area code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Fax** (with area code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**E-mail**

## 2008 National Youth Gang Survey Questions

1. **During 2008, were any youth gangs (as defined in the Survey Instructions) active in the city, town, or county served by your agency?**

Yes

No

Do not know

***If you answered "No" or "Do not know" to Question 1—this completes the survey. Please return the form by mail or fax.***

***If you answered "Yes" to Question 1—please continue.***

**2. How many youth gangs (as defined in the Survey Instructions) were active in your jurisdiction during 2008?**

Number of active youth gangs  
 \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Do not know

**3. Regarding the number of gangs in your jurisdiction:**

- a. What is the typical membership size per gang?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. What is the approximate membership size of the *smallest* gang? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. What is the approximate membership size of the *largest* gang? \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Regarding the number of gangs in your jurisdiction, which of the following most closely describes how this number is counted in your jurisdiction (please check only one):**

- [ ] Multiple sets and/or cliques of a larger gang affiliation are counted as one gang (e.g., Rollin 40s Crips and Grape Street Crips = one gang)
- [ ] Multiple sets and/or cliques of a larger gang affiliation are counted as separate gangs (e.g., Rollin 40s Crips and Grape Street Crips = two gangs)
- [ ] Neither of these options applies to gangs in my jurisdiction because none of them has subgroups

**5. In approximately what year did gangs begin to pose a problem in your jurisdiction?**

Year \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Do not know

**6. How many youth gang members were active in your jurisdiction during 2008? An active gang member is defined as someone who was involved in gang activity with other gang members during 2008.**

Number of active youth gang members  
 \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Do not know

**7. Please estimate either the percentage or the number of all youth gang members reported in Question 6 who are:**

Age of Gang Members	Percent	OR	Number
Under 15	_____		_____
15 to 17	_____		_____
18 to 24	_____		_____
Over 24	_____		_____
	=100%		

[ ] Do not know

**8. Please estimate either the percentage or the number of all youth gang members reported in Question 6 who are:**

Race/Ethnicity of Gang Members	Percent	OR	Number
American Indian or Alaskan Native	_____		_____
Asian	_____		_____
Black or African American	_____		_____
Hispanic or Latino	_____		_____
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	_____		_____
White	_____		_____
Individuals who are two or more races	_____		_____
	=100%		

[ ] Do not know

**9. Many agencies use specific criteria to designate or identify individuals as gang members (not gang associates). Six of these criteria are listed below. Please order the following items (from 1 to 6) by frequency of use in your agency.**

- 1= Most frequently used criterion (on this list) to identify gang membership.
- 6= Least frequently used criterion (on this list) to identify gang membership.

- \_\_\_\_\_ The individual has been designated a gang member by another law enforcement or criminal justice agency.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The individual is identified as a gang member by a reliable informant.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The individual claims to be a gang member in a custodial setting (e.g., booking, detention, confinement).
- \_\_\_\_\_ The individual claims to be a gang member in a noncustodial setting.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The individual displays symbols of gang membership such as items of clothing, "colors," tattoos, and/or hand signs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The individual is known to associate with and/or has been arrested with known gang members.

**For the purposes of this survey, gang crime is defined as:**

**Member-Based**—A crime in which a gang member(s) is either the perpetrator or the victim, regardless of the motive, or

**Motive-Based**—A crime committed by a gang member(s) in which the underlying reason is to further the interests and activities of the gang.

- 10. Please indicate the number of member-based homicides involving youth gang members that occurred in your jurisdiction during 2008.**

Number of gang member-based homicides  
 \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Do not know

- 11. Of the number reported in Question 10, please indicate the number of motive-based homicides involving youth gang members that occurred in your jurisdiction during 2008. (Note: This number should not be greater than that reported in Question 10.)**

Number of gang motive-based homicides  
 \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Do not know

- 12. Please select a response concerning incidences of gang-related crime in your jurisdiction in 2008 compared with 2007 (please check a response for each item):**

**Example: Compared with 2007, incidences of gang-related robbery decreased in 2008.**

Gang-Related Offenses	<i>Decreased</i>	<i>Stayed About the Same</i>	<i>Increased</i>	<i>No Incidences</i>
Homicide	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Robbery	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Aggravated Assault	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Burglary/Breaking and Entering	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Motor Vehicle Theft	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Larceny/Theft	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Drug Sales	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Firearms Use	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

- 13. On which of the gang-crime definitions described above are your responses to Question 12 primarily based?**

[ ] Member-based  
 [ ] Motive-based

- 14. Has your municipality (not your state) enacted one or more anti-gang statute(s) in the past five years?**

[ ] Yes  
 [ ] No  
 [ ] Do not know

- 15. If you answered "Yes" to Question 14, what type of anti-gang statute(s) is it?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**16. Does your agency regularly receive information from other sources on the release of gang members from confinement (e.g., prison, juvenile correctional facilities, residential camps, other residential correctional facilities)?**

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

**17. If you answered "Yes" to Question 16, please check below the sources from which you receive information on the release of gang members from confinement (check all that apply):**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Official notification from correction and/or probation officials
- \_\_\_\_\_ Informal notification from correction and/or probation officials
- \_\_\_\_\_ Informants
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other sources (please identify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Do not know

**18. In 2008, did your jurisdiction experience the return of gang members from confinement?**

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

*If "yes," please continue.  
If "no" or "do not know," please skip to Question 21 on the next page.*

**19. Please estimate the number of gang members who returned from confinement to your jurisdiction in 2008.**

- Number of returning gang members \_\_\_\_\_
- Do not know

**20. Please estimate to what degree the following youth gang activities in your jurisdiction were affected by gang members returning from confinement in 2008 (please check a response for each item):**

***In 2008, gang members returning from confinement have:***

	<i>Not At All</i>	<i>Very Little</i>	<i>Somewhat</i>	<i>Very Much</i>
Influenced local gang dress and demeanor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased local gang access to weapons	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased drug trafficking by local gangs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased property crime by local gangs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased violent crime by local gangs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**21. Do you currently have immigrants (persons born outside the United States) in your jurisdiction who are youth gang members?**

- Yes  
 No (All of the youth gang members in my jurisdiction were born in the United States.)  
 Do not know

*If "yes," please continue.  
If "no" or "do not know," please skip to Question 26.*

**22. In approximately what year did gang member immigrants (persons born outside the United States) begin to pose a problem in your jurisdiction?**

Year \_\_\_\_\_  Do not know

**23. How many gangs listed in Question 2 are composed primarily of immigrants (persons born outside the United States)?**

Number of immigrant youth gangs  
\_\_\_\_\_  Do not know

**24. What single country has contributed the most gang immigrants (persons born outside the United States) in your jurisdiction?**

\_\_\_\_\_  Do not know

**25. What percentage of youth gang members listed in Question 6 are immigrants (persons born outside the United States)?**

- 1-25%       51-75%  
 26-50%      76-100%

**26. Does your agency routinely monitor social networking Web sites (e.g., MySpace, Facebook) as an investigative and/or intelligence-related tool on youth gang activities in your jurisdiction?**

- Yes  
 No  
 Do not know

**27. If you answered "Yes" to Question 26, how valuable has it been in combating your local gang problem?**

- Not at all  
 Very little  
 Somewhat  
 Very much

**28. Compared with 2007, was your youth gang problem in 2008 (please check one):**

- Getting worse  
 Getting better  
 Staying about the same  
 Do not know

**This completes the survey.**

Thank you for your participation.  
Please return the completed survey form by February 27, 2009, via mail or fax to:

**National Youth Gang Center**  
Post Office Box 12729  
Tallahassee, FL 32317-2729  
Phone: (800) 446-0912 (toll-free)  
Fax: (888) 323-7305 (toll-free)