
Appendix A: 1997 National Youth Gang Survey Form for the Representative Sample

Your agency has been selected to furnish information for the **1997** 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. **Please return the survey by August 31, 1998.**

Please return the completed survey form by fax or by mail to:

National Youth Gang Center
Institute for Intergovernmental Research
Post Office Box 12729
Tallahassee, FL 32317-2729
Telephone Number: 800-446-0912
Fax Number: 888-323-7305 (*This is a toll-free fax number.*)

Survey Instructions

1. Please report data for **Calendar Year 1997** (January 1 through December 31).
2. 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.
3. Police departments should report only for their city/town.
4. Sheriff’s departments should report **only for their unincorporated service area and any contracted jurisdictions.**

Agency Information

1. Name of Jurisdiction Served (City, Town, or County): _____
2. Law Enforcement Agency Name: _____
3. Agency Mailing Address:
Street: _____
City: _____ County: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
4. Name of Person Completing Survey:
First Name: _____ MI: _____ Last Name: _____
5. Title/Rank: _____
6. Telephone Number, With Area Code: _____ – _____ – _____
7. Fax Number, With Area Code: _____ – _____ – _____

8a. Is your agency part of a Multijurisdictional Gang Task Force?

Yes No

8b. If so, do the responses to this survey include the other jurisdictions in the Task Force?

Yes No

8c. If your responses **do** include other jurisdictions, please list the names of other law enforcement agencies in the Multijurisdictional Gang Task Force:

Survey Questions

1. During **1997**, were any youth gangs active in the city, town, or county served by your agency?

Yes No Do not know

IF YOU ANSWERED “YES” TO QUESTION 1, PLEASE CONTINUE.

IF YOU ANSWERED “NO” or “DO NOT KNOW” TO QUESTION 1, THAT COMPLETES THE SURVEY. PLEASE RETURN THE FORM BY MAIL OR FAX.

2. How many youth *gangs* (as defined in the survey instructions) were active in your jurisdiction during **1997**?

Number of active youth gangs: _____ **Do not know:** _____

3. What was the total number of active youth **gang members** in your jurisdiction during **1997**?

Number of active youth gang members: _____ **Do not know:** _____

Questions 4–6 ask about the sale and distribution of drugs in your jurisdiction. For the purpose of this survey, “street sales” refers to the sale of drugs in small quantities that have already been prepared for consumption. Drug “distribution” refers to the purchase or transfer of large quantities of drugs which are divided into small quantities to be sold on the street.

4. In your jurisdiction in **1997**, what percent of the **street sales** of each of the following drugs were made by youth gang members?

Powder Cocaine: _____% **Do not know** _____

Crack Cocaine: _____% **Do not know** _____

Marijuana: _____% **Do not know** _____

Heroin: _____% **Do not know** _____

Methamphetamine: _____% **Do not know** _____

Other: _____% **Do not know** _____

Other: _____% **Do not know** _____

5. What percent of youth gangs in your jurisdiction are involved in the **street sales** of drugs for the purpose of generating profits for the gang?

____% **Do not know:** ____

6. What percent of youth gangs in your jurisdiction are involved in the **distribution** of drugs for the purpose of generating profits for the gang?

____% **Do not know:** ____

In question 7, you are asked to comment on “migration” by youth gang members. “Migration” includes temporary visits for social or criminal purposes as well as longer stays, including permanent moves for any reason. By definition, gang migrants have already joined gangs in their former jurisdiction prior to their arrival in a new jurisdiction.

7a. What proportion of the gang members in your jurisdiction are estimated to be migrants?

____% **Do not know:** ____

7b. Which one of the following reasons explains **most** of the migration you have had into your jurisdiction? (*Check only one of the following.*)

- Social (e.g., move with families, to find legitimate job opportunities, to join relatives, or to join friends)**
- To establish drug market opportunities**
- To participate in other illegal ventures**
- To avoid law enforcement crackdowns**
- To get away from the gang life**
- Other reasons (Please identify)** _____

Questions 8–10 ask about crimes committed by youth gang members. For the purpose 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.

8. Which of these gang crime definitions does your agency most frequently use?

- Member-Based**
- Motive-Based**
- Other (Please define):** _____

9. How many **member-based** homicides involving youth gang members do you estimate occurred in your jurisdiction in **1997**?

Number of member-based homicides: _____ **Do not know:** _____

10. Out of the number of member-based homicides you indicated in **Question 9**, how many motive-based homicides involving youth gang members do you estimate occurred in your jurisdiction in **1997**?

Number of motive-based homicides: _____ **Do not know:** _____

11. Please estimate the degree to which youth gang members engaged in the following offenses in your jurisdiction in **1997**. (*Please circle your response.*)

Offense	Degree			
Aggravated Assault	High	Medium	Low	Not involved
Robbery	High	Medium	Low	Not involved
Burglary	High	Medium	Low	Not involved
Motor Vehicle Theft	High	Medium	Low	Not involved
Larceny/Theft	High	Medium	Low	Not involved

12. Does your agency have the following? (Check all that apply)

- Youth/Street Gang Unit or officer(s)**
- Gang Prevention Unit or officer(s)**
- One unit that combines both of the above types**
- None**
- Do not know**

13. In your opinion, are your youth gang problems:

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

14. Which of the following best describes how your answers to this survey were derived?

- Official records** (i.e., automated databases, crime/arrest reports)
- Estimates** (i.e., past experience, personal knowledge)
- Both**