



Arizona Criminal
Justice Commission

The background of the cover is a composite image of an Arizona cityscape and mountains. The top half shows a mountain range under a clear sky. The middle section shows a dense urban skyline with various skyscrapers. The bottom section shows a residential area with houses and palm trees. The image is overlaid with a large, stylized diamond shape that is filled with a gradient of blue and white, creating a modern, geometric design.

2018 Annual Report

Arizona Gang Threat Assessment

Our mission is to continuously address, improve, sustain and enhance public safety in the State of Arizona through the coordination, cohesiveness, and effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System.

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Executive Director

SHAYLA FORDYCE, M.S.
Statistical Analysis Center
Research Analyst II

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2018, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission's (ACJC) Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) surveyed Arizona law enforcement agencies regarding their perceptions and experiences with gangs, gang members, and gang activity. Respondents were asked to report on gang activity in their respective jurisdictions for the timeframe of May 1, 2017 – May 31, 2018. This survey is modeled after the *National Gang Threat Assessment* and the *National Youth Gang Survey*, and was designed to gather information on gangs, gang members, gang activity, and law enforcement strategies for responding to gangs, in order to better understand the threat that gangs pose to Arizona's communities and public safety. As such, this report provides statewide results from the *2018 Arizona Gang Threat Assessment* and compares it to similar data collected from 2008 to 2015. Key findings from this report are described below:

- ◆ The reported gang involvement in the sales of methamphetamine and heroin/opioids has risen considerably since 2015 (29.2 percent and 52.0 percent, respectively).
- ◆ More than 55 percent of agencies reported the use of social media by gangs to recruit new members with Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and YouTube being reported as the most frequently used (79.2 percent, 50.0 percent, 47.9 percent, and 33.3 percent, respectively).
- ◆ Gang activity was reported in 54 of the 81 (66.7 percent) jurisdictions that responded to the survey in 2018.
- ◆ Hybrid gangs (non-traditional gangs with multiple affiliations) remain an area of concern for law enforcement as nearly 50 percent of agencies reported the presence of hybrid gangs in their respective jurisdictions.
- ◆ While some agencies experienced slight increases in gang activity over the past 6 months, 12 months, and 5 years (22.6 percent, 28.3 percent, and 26.4 percent, respectively), the majority of agencies reported no change in gang activity during any of the three time periods.
- ◆ Agencies most frequently reported high levels of gang involvement in drug crimes, aggravated assault, and weapons possession/firearms use.
- ◆ Drug-related factors were the most commonly reported cause of gang violence.
- ◆ Targeted patrols, multi-agency gang task forces, and having a dedicated gang/unit officer were cited as the most frequently used suppression strategies and all were generally reported to be effective methods for reducing the gang problem.
- ◆ Survey response rates increased 39.6 percent from the 2015 survey.

INTRODUCTION

In 2018, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission's (ACJC) Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) surveyed Arizona law enforcement agencies regarding their perceptions and experiences with gangs, gang members, and gang activity in their respective jurisdictions. This report examines and summarizes the results of that survey. In order to maintain compliance with Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) §41-2416, the ACJC is required to conduct an annual survey that measures the prevalence of gang activity in Arizona when monies are specifically appropriated for that purpose. No funds were specifically appropriated for this assessment; however, effectively addressing gangs and gang activity remains a significant priority to Arizona's law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice system. Therefore, the ACJC continues to collect, analyze, and share information on gangs and gang activity across the state using alternative resources.

RESEARCH METHODS

Since 1990, the ACJC has administered a gang survey to law enforcement agencies in Arizona. The *Arizona Gang Survey* was replaced with the *Arizona Gang Threat Assessment* in 2007, in response to feedback from the Arizona law enforcement community requesting a more in-depth analysis of current threats posed by gangs.¹ The *Arizona Gang Threat Assessment* is modeled after the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) *National Gang Threat Assessment* and the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) *National Youth Gang Survey*. The *National Gang Threat Assessment* is a collaborative project facilitated by the National Alliance of Gang Investigators Associations, which includes partnerships with the FBI, the National Drug Intelligence Center, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearm and Explosives. The *National Youth Gang Survey* is administered by the National Gang Center on the topics of gang prevention, juvenile justice, and violence prevention and victimization.

The *Arizona Gang Threat Assessment* survey has not been administered since 2015 due to resource limitations and the need for additional time to revise the survey instrument. The revisions to the 2018 survey instrument reflect updated research practices and recommendations from the ACJC's law enforcement partners. The survey was designed to

¹ ARS §13-105(8) and ARS §13-105(9) establish a criteria for objectively identifying criminal street gangs and gang members: (8) "Criminal street gang" means an ongoing formal or informal association of persons in which members or associates individually or collectively engage in the commission, attempted commission, facilitation or solicitation of any felony act and that has at least one individual who is a criminal street gang member. (9) "Criminal street gang member" means an individual to whom at least two of the following seven criteria that indicate criminal street gang membership apply: a) self-proclamation, b) witness testimony or official statement, c) written or electronic correspondence, d) paraphernalia or photographs, e) tattoos, f) clothing or colors, g) any other indicia of street gang membership.

gather information on gangs, gang members, gang activity, and response strategies to better understand the threat that gangs pose to Arizona’s communities and public safety.

The ACJC collaborated with academic researchers specializing in gangs to develop a strategy to elicit more responses to better represent the attitudes, perspectives, and opinions of a wider group of law enforcement agencies. In order to ensure a broad response from law enforcement agencies across the state, ACJC worked to increase the participation of surveyed agencies. Specifically, the length of the survey may have discouraged agencies from responding during previous survey administrations. To address this, the 2018 survey was administered in two parts. In the first part of the survey, recipients were asked:

Are there any active gangs or gang members in your jurisdiction?

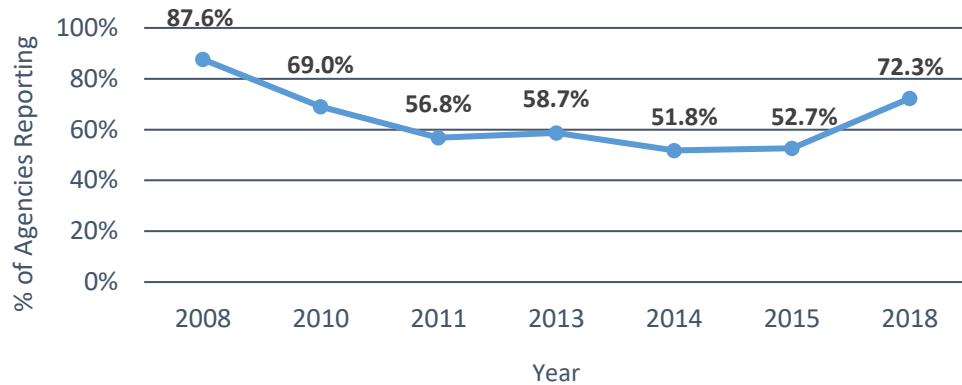
If respondents answered “yes,” they were asked to identify *how many* gangs were in their jurisdiction and the corresponding *names* of those gangs. Agencies that reported gang activity in their respective jurisdiction were sent the second part of the survey and asked to report on gang activity in their jurisdictions from May 1, 2017 – May 31, 2018.² Analysis for all subsequent sections report information only from agencies reporting the presence of gang activity during this specified time period.

Results from the 2018 survey suggest the two part survey strategy was successful. Of the 112 surveys distributed, 81 law enforcement agencies (72.3 percent) responded. This represents a 39.6 percent increase in the response rate from 2015; in fact, participation in the 2018 *Arizona Gang Threat Assessment* was the highest it has been since 2008 (see Figure 1).³ The increased participation rate is important, because it allows for a more comprehensive and diverse examination of the gang activity in Arizona.

² Information labeled as “2018” in tables and figures refers to data reported through May 31, 2018.

³ 2010 data was previously included in the 2010 report as 2009 data.

Figure 1: Arizona Gang Threat Assessment Response Rate, 2008 – 2018



GANGS IN ARIZONA

Total Gang Membership

Of the 81 law enforcement agencies that responded to the survey, 54 (66.7 percent) reported active gangs or gang members between May 1, 2017 and May 31, 2018. The number of law enforcement agencies reporting active gang members and gang activity in their jurisdictions has declined since 2013. Table 1 illustrates the differences in reported gang activity by year. The number of reported active gangs and gang members varied considerably across jurisdictions, ranging from one gang to hundreds of gangs with several thousand gang members. It is important to keep in mind that the transient nature of gangs and their extensive network structures make it difficult to quantify the exact number of gangs and gang members in a jurisdiction.

Table 1: Agencies Reporting Active Gangs/Gang Members, 2008 – 2018

Year	# of Agencies Reporting Gang Activity	% of Agencies Reporting Gang Activity
2008	69	69.7%
2010	59	75.6%
2011	46	73.0%
2013	50	78.1%
2014	44	77.2%
2015	41	69.5%
2018	54	66.7%

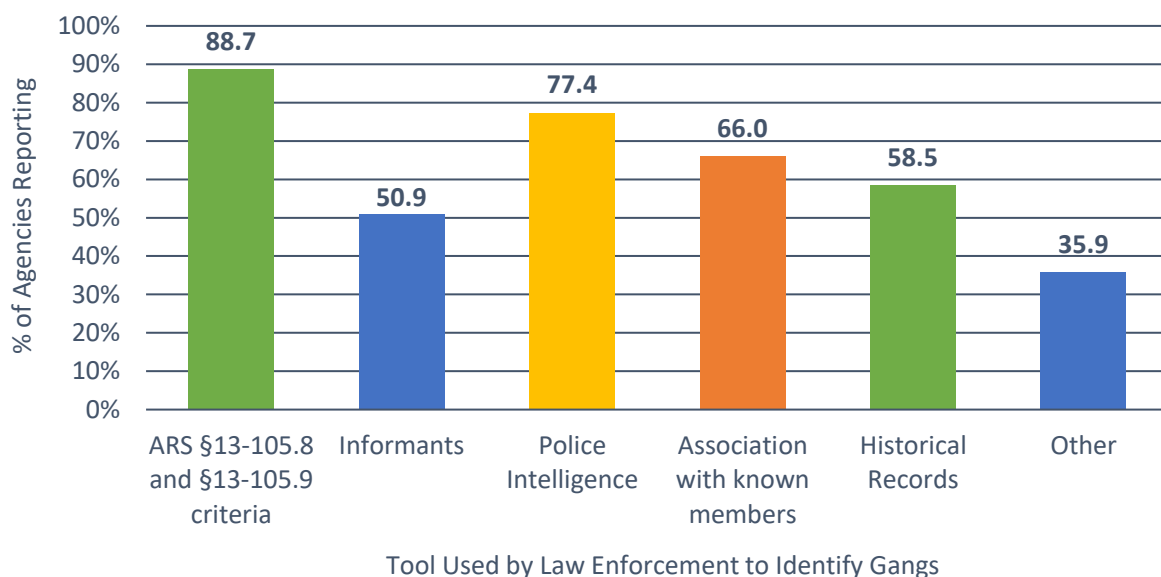
Respondents were asked to name the most active gangs in their jurisdictions. The most frequently reported gangs were (in order):

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1) Bloods (all sets) | 6) Peckerwoods |
| 2) Crips (all sets) | 7) Warrior Society |
| 3) Mexican Mafia | 8) Dine Pride |
| 4) Aryan Brotherhood | 9) Juggalos |
| 5) Hells Angels | 10) West Side |

Identifying Gangs and Gang Members

While some individuals can be identified using statute and jurisdiction-specific classifications, the way in which “gang” and “gang member” are defined may vary between jurisdictions. The most frequently reported tool used to identify gangs and gang members was the criteria outlined by ARS §13-105.8 and §13-105.9 (88.7 percent; see Footnote 1), followed by police intelligence and association with known members (77.4 percent and 66.0 percent, respectively; see Figure 2). These findings are consistent with previous iterations of this survey. Agencies also indicated that other tools such as prison/jail intelligence, social media, and assistance from the Arizona Department of Public Safety’s Gang & Immigration Intelligence Team (GIITEM) were useful approaches in detecting gangs and gang members.

Figure 2: Tools Used to Identify Gangs and Gang Members, 2018



Note: The categories are not mutually exclusive; therefore, the percentages will not sum to 100%.

To further explore the importance of various defining characteristics of gangs, respondents were asked to rank a list of attributes from least to most important (see Table 2). Co-offending, on average, was considered the most important definitional characteristic used by law enforcement agencies, followed by displaying gang symbols, and having a name. Having a leader and claiming turf are considered the least important definitional characteristics reported by law enforcement. One agency stated that they, “find it is more about the criminal activity (making money) than the traditional turf wars or rivalries.”

Table 2: Definitional Characteristics of a Gang, 2018

Definitional Characteristic	% of Agencies Reporting as the <i>Most Important Factor</i>
Commits crime together	44.7%
Displays gang symbols (e.g., colors, tattoos)	23.4%
Has a name	19.2%
Claims turf or territory	10.4%
Has a leader/leaders	4.6%
Hangs out together	0.0%

Note: Percentage is out of agencies who ranked the factor. Not every agency ranked each factor. Therefore, percentages will not sum to 100%.

Composition of Arizona Gangs

A majority of agencies reported that the most typical age of gang members in their jurisdictions was between 15 and 25 years (56.6 percent of agencies), followed by 26 – 35 years of age (32.1 percent of agencies), and 36+ years of age (3.8 percent of agencies). Law enforcement also reported the presence of hybrid gangs in their jurisdictions. Specifically, nearly 50 percent of agencies reported the presence of hybrid gangs. The definition of a hybrid gang varies across jurisdictions, but hybrid gangs defy traditional typologies by being more diverse in their attributes and behaviors, particularly with respect to age and racial composition (Starbuck, Howell, & Lindquist, 2001). One jurisdiction reported that their gangs:

“...no longer adhere to racial or geographic boundaries. They have left traditional areas to branch out for ‘business,’ and some who used to be enemies now work together. Some gangs, namely hybrids, have become multi-racial, whereas before they were not.”

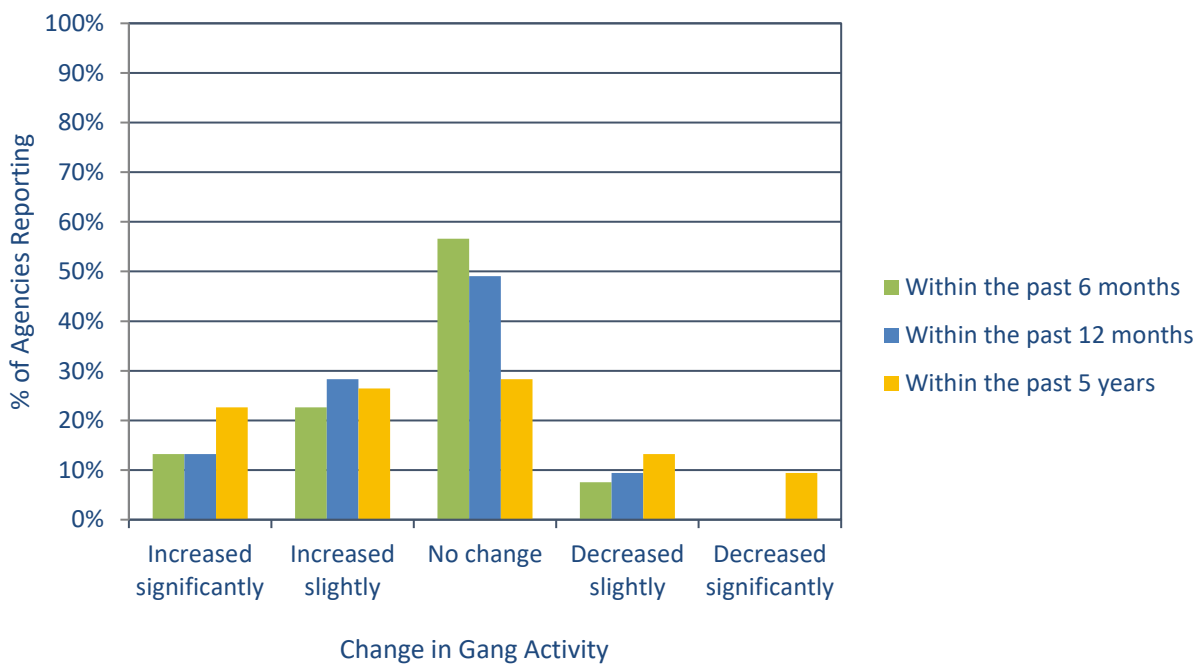
In summary, the number of law enforcement agencies reporting active gang members and gang activity in their jurisdictions has declined since 2013. Arizona’s law enforcement agencies most frequently report using ARS §13-105.8 and §13-105.9 to identify gangs and gang members within their communities. Claiming turf was reported by law enforcement agencies as one of the least influential characteristics when identifying a gang; this finding is consistent with the reported presence of hybrid gangs. Hybrid gangs remain an area of concern for law enforcement as they continue to eliminate the traditional roles and structures of street gangs and members by recruiting younger members, mixing racial and geographic boundaries, and affiliating with drug cartels.

GANG ACTIVITY AND CRIMINAL INVOLVEMENT

Level of Gang Activity over Time

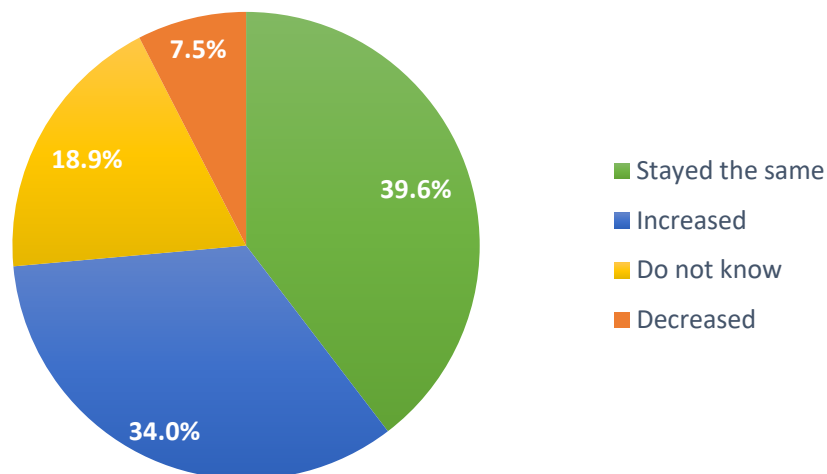
Agencies were asked a series of questions measuring changes in gang activity over time. Specifically, respondents were asked to report the change in gang activity over three different time periods (6 months, 12 months, and 5 years). The results are presented in Figure 3. Most agencies reported no change in gang activity across all time periods, although nearly 30 percent of agencies reported a slight increase in gang activity within the last 6 months.

Figure 3: Reported Change in Gang Activity over Three Time Periods, 2018



Respondents were also asked about changes in the number of active gang members within the 12 months prior to May 31, 2018. Most agencies (39.6 percent) reported that the number of active gang members in their respective jurisdictions has stayed the same within the last 12 months, although 34 percent reported an increase (see Figure 4).

Figure 4: Reported Change in Number of Active Gang Members Over the Past 12 Months, 2018



When asked whether gangs in their jurisdiction were broadening their scope of activities, 20.8 percent of respondents said yes, 43.4 percent of respondents said no, and 35.9 percent of respondents were unsure (see Table 3). The percentage of jurisdictions reporting that gangs were expanding the scope of their activities has decreased by nearly 44 percentage points since 2008.

Table 3: Jurisdictions Reporting Gangs Expanding their Scope of Activities, 2008 – 2018

	2008	2010	2011	2013	2014	2015	2018
Yes	64.5%	50.0%	48.8%	52.0%	34.1%	33.3%	20.8%
No	29.0%	46.4%	51.2%	42.0%	41.5%	39.4%	43.4%
Unsure/Do not know	6.5%	3.6%	–	–	24.4%	27.3%	35.8%

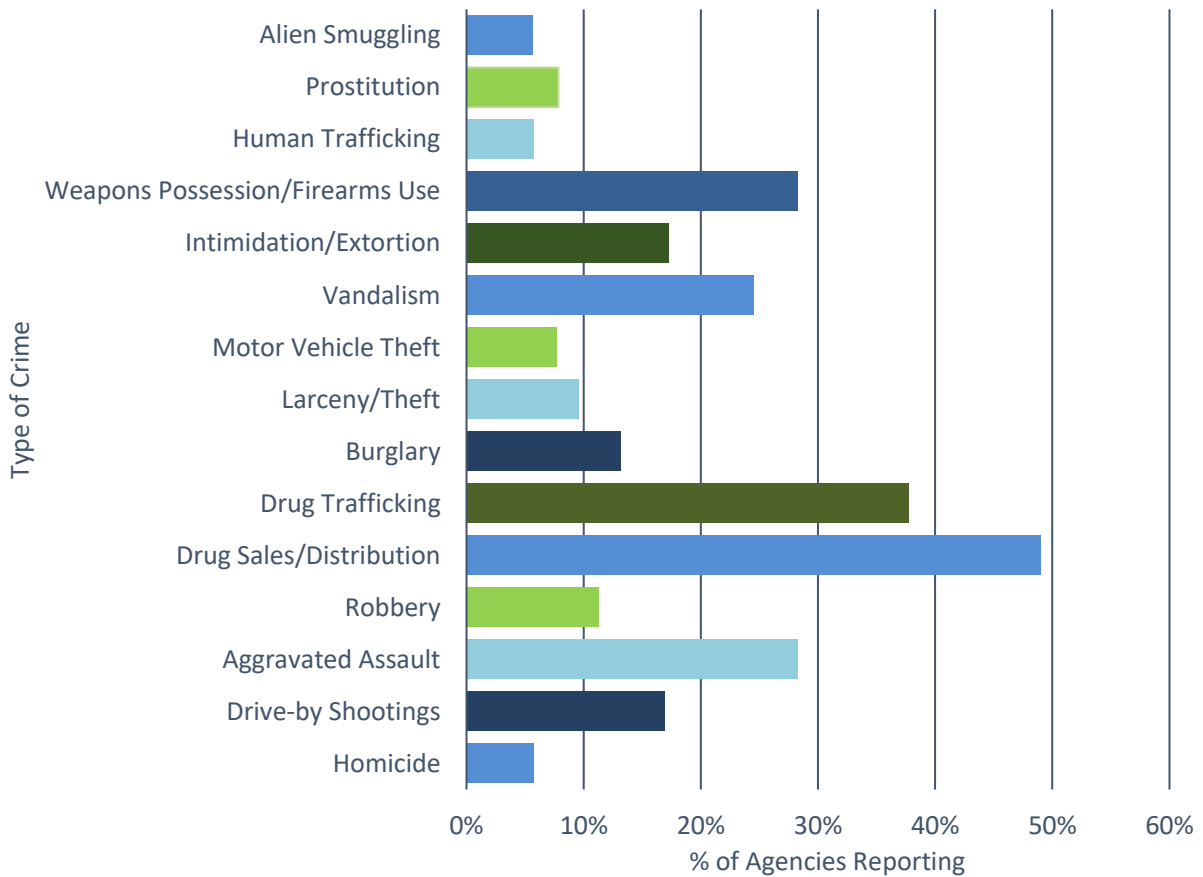
Agencies that reported an expansion in the scope of gang activities were also asked about the reason(s) for expansion. Agencies most often cited the drug trade, human trafficking, and alien

smuggling as the primary reasons for gang activity expansion. For example, one jurisdiction reported that, “Some street gangs ally themselves with cartels...street gangs have learned to put aside traditional differences and work together, which is far more productive for them.”

Gang Involvement in Crime and Drugs

Although a majority of respondents (39.6 percent) reported that levels of gang activity have remained constant within the last 12 months, gangs still play a role in criminal activity throughout Arizona’s communities. Specifically, respondents were asked to rate the level of gang involvement in several types of crime. Figure 5 reports the percent of agencies that indicated a high level of involvement in each type of crime. Agencies most frequently reported high level of gang involvement in drug crimes, including drug sales/distribution and drug trafficking, followed by aggravated assault and weapons possession/firearms use. See Appendix A for full ratings (high, moderate, low, and none) across all categories and crime types.

Figure 5: Reported Street Gang Involvement in Criminal Activity – “High” Involvement, 2018



Note: The categories are not mutually exclusive; therefore, the percentages will not sum to 100%.

Respondents were also asked about levels of street gang involvement in the sales of different types of drugs (see Table 4). The highest levels of street gang involvement were reported for methamphetamine, marijuana, and heroin/opioid sales, respectively. Reported street gang involvement in methamphetamine and heroin/opioid sales in Arizona have risen considerably since 2015. Specifically, reported gang involvement in methamphetamine sales has increased every year since 2008 (except for 2011), with an almost 30 percent increase between 2015 and 2018. Similarly, reported gang involvement in the sale of heroin/opioids has increased more than 50 percent over the same time period. Although marijuana was reported by respondents in this survey as one of the top three drugs with high levels of gang involvement, reported levels of gang involvement in marijuana sales have decreased by 9 percent since 2015. See Appendix B for full ratings (high, moderate, low, and none) across all categories and drug types.

Table 4: Reported Street Gang Involvement in the Sale of Drugs, 2018

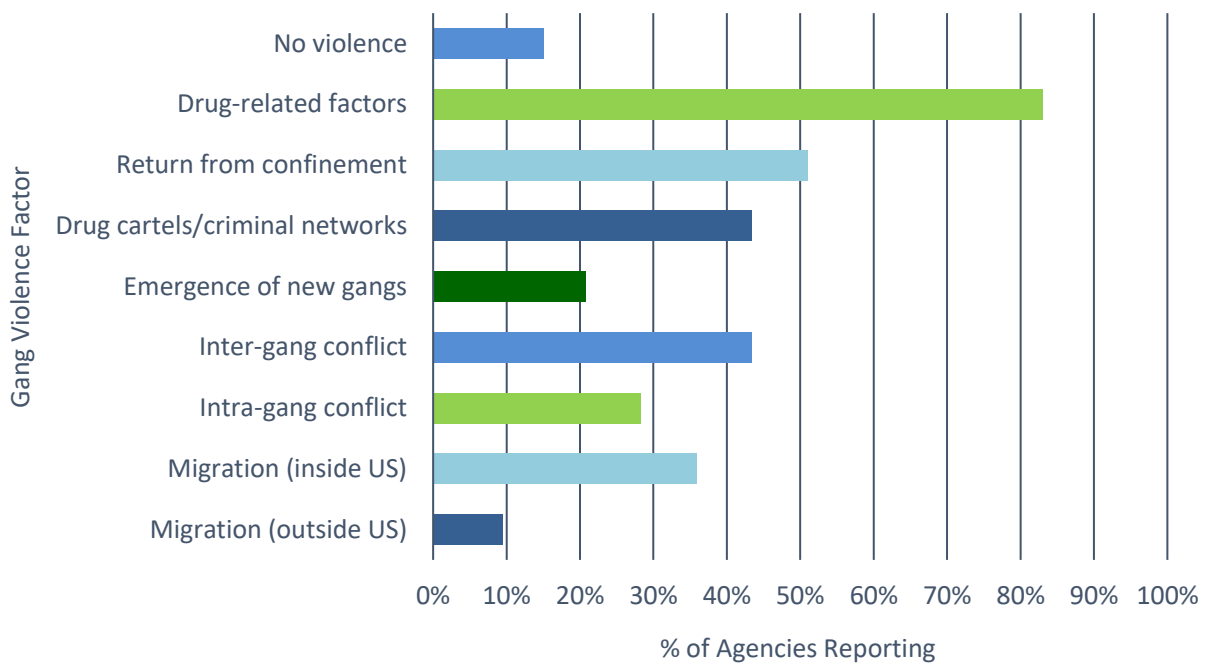
	High	Moderate	Low	None	Unsure/ Do not know
Powdered cocaine	8.2%	10.2%	44.9%	12.2%	24.5%
Crack cocaine	4.1%	6.1%	42.8%	28.6%	18.4%
Heroin/Opioids	41.5%	28.3%	11.3%	5.7%	13.2%
Methamphetamine	50.9%	26.4%	5.7%	5.7%	11.3%
Marijuana	45.3%	34.0%	9.4%	1.9%	9.4%
Ecstasy (MDMA)	2.0%	9.8%	49.0%	17.7%	21.5%
Pharmaceuticals (Non-Opioid)	15.7%	13.7%	37.3%	7.8%	25.5%
Synthetics (e.g., Spice)	0.0%	10.0%	50.0%	8.0%	32.0%

Gang Involvement in Violence

Although “low” or “moderate” levels of street gang involvement were typically reported for violent crimes (with the exception of aggravated assault and robbery), this does not necessarily indicate that gangs and gang members are not violent. To better understand the relationship between gang members and violence, respondents were asked to identify the factors that

influence gang violence in their jurisdictions. Results indicated that drug-related factors are the most commonly reported cause of gang violence, followed by return from confinement, drug cartels/other larger criminal networks, and inter-gang conflict (see Figure 6). Respondents did not consider gang member migration from outside the United States to be a major influence. When asked to elaborate on other possible factors influencing gang violence, respondents cited prostitution and the use of violence as a means to gain status and/or establish credibility.

Figure 6: Reported Factors Influencing Gang Violence, 2018



Note: The categories are not mutually exclusive; therefore, the percentages will not sum to 100%.

In summary, of the agencies that responded to the survey, most of Arizona’s law enforcement agencies reported no changes in the level of gang activity or the number of active gang members in the last 12 months. Agencies most frequently reported high levels of gang involvement in drug crimes, aggravated assault, and weapons possession/firearms use. The highest levels of street gang involvement were reported in methamphetamine, marijuana, and heroin/opioid sales, respectively. Additionally, the reported gang involvement in sales of methamphetamine and heroin/opioids in Arizona has risen considerably since 2015. Although law enforcement did not report high levels of gang involvement in violent crimes (with the exception of aggravated assault), drug-related factors were the most commonly reported cause of gang violence.

GANG MIGRATION AND RECRUITMENT

Gang Migration

Respondents were asked a series of questions about gang migration in their jurisdictions to better understand the migration trends as well as the reasons for gang migration into Arizona. The National Gang Center (n.d.) defines gang member migration as, “the movement of actively involved gang [members] from other U.S. jurisdictions to the respondents’ jurisdictions.” Over 48 percent of respondents indicated that they have witnessed gang migration in their respective jurisdictions within the last 12 months. This number has decreased slightly from the 2015 report, in which 51.5 percent of respondents reported migration in their jurisdictions.

When asked to rank factors that may influence gang migration, 67.5 percent of agencies thought that drug market opportunities was the *most* influential factor, while 57.5 percent of agencies thought that educational opportunities was the *least* influential (see Table 5). Narrative responses indicated that gang members also migrate from other Arizona cities and the Midwestern United States. Finally, although prison gangs are not within the scope of the current project, multiple jurisdictions reported issues with continual migration into, and out of, Arizona prisons.

Table 5: Reported Factors Influencing Gang Member Migration, 2018

Gang Migration Factors	% of Agencies Reporting as the <i>Most Influential</i>	% of Agencies Reporting as the <i>Least Influential</i>
Drug market opportunities	67.5%	2.5%
Other illegal ventures	7.5%	0.0%
Avoid LE crackdowns/injunctions	4.9%	4.9%
Get away from gang life	0.0%	15.4%
Member recruitment	5.6%	11.1%
Move with family	7.3%	2.4%
Employment	2.6%	2.7%
Educational opportunities	2.5%	57.5%

Note: Percentages will not sum to 100% due to missing data.

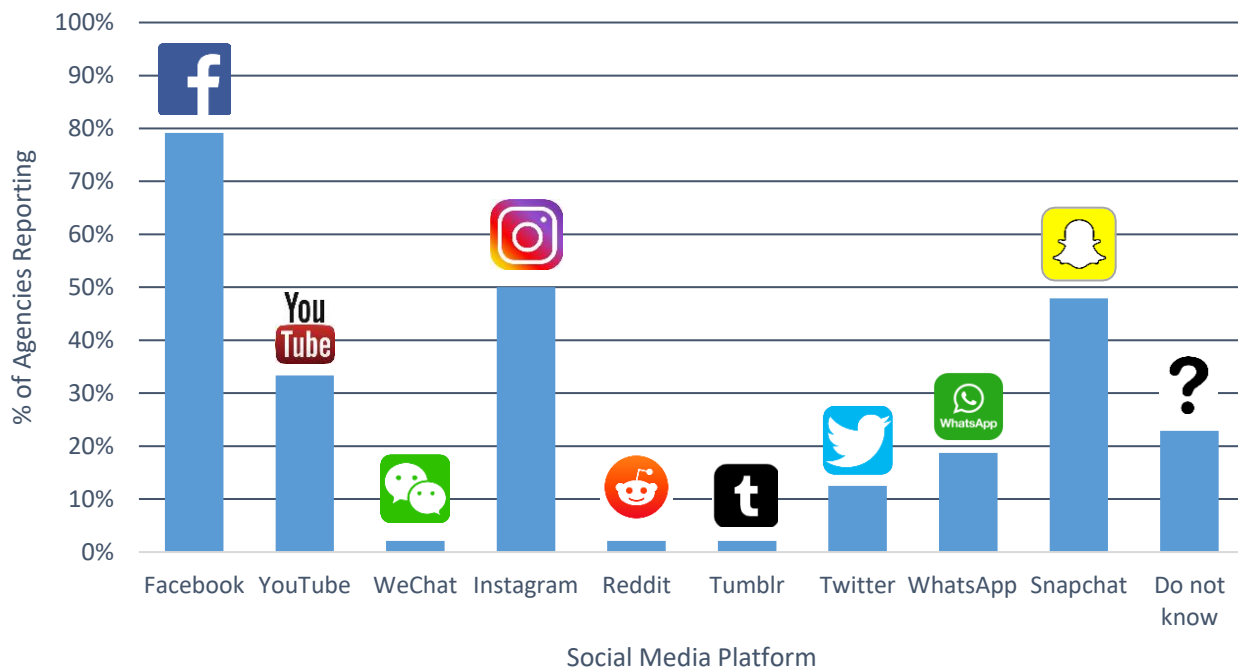
Social Media as a Recruitment Strategy

Consistent with national trends (National Gang Report, 2015), law enforcement agencies reported that Arizona gang members are being recruited through social media platforms.

More than 55 percent of Arizona’s law enforcement agencies reported use of social media by gangs to recruit new members. The social media platforms most frequently reported to be used by Arizona’s street gangs were Facebook (79.2 percent), Instagram (50.0 percent), Snapchat (47.9 percent), and YouTube (33.3 percent) (see Figure 7).

Arizona may be seeing an increase in social media and technology use because social media sites may provide gangs with a platform for recruitment, targeting rivals, and evading law enforcement. The anonymity of these sites allows gangs and gang members to communicate with a decreased risk of detection or apprehension.

Figure 7: Reported Social Media Platforms Used by Street Gangs, 2018



In summary, almost half of respondents reported gang migration in their respective jurisdictions within the last 12 months and 67.5 percent thought that increased drug market opportunities was the most influential factor. Additionally, Arizona’s jurisdictions reported the use of social media as a recruitment strategy with Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and YouTube being the most frequently reported social media platforms used by Arizona’s street gangs.

LAW ENFORCEMENT INTERVENTIONS

Law Enforcement Gang Suppression Strategies

Respondents were provided with a list of suppression/intervention strategies for addressing gangs, and asked to select those used by their agency. Targeted patrols was the most common strategy selected by agencies (60.4 percent), followed by participation in a multi-agency gang task force (52.0 percent), and having a dedicated gang unit/officer (45.1 percent; see Table 6). Targeted firearms interventions and other civil gang ordinances were among the least commonly reported strategies (8.2 percent and 2.0 percent, respectively), while no agencies reported using gang call-ins or civil gang injunctions in their jurisdiction.

Table 6: Reported Intervention and Suppression Strategies, 2018

<i>Law Enforcement Strategies to Reduce Gang Problem</i>				
	Currently being used or has been used in the past 12 months		If "Yes," has it reduced gang problems in your jurisdiction?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Civil gang injunction	0.0%	100.0%	N/A	N/A
Other civil gang ordinance(s)	2.0%	98.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Curfew ordinance	34.7%	65.3%	16.7%	83.3%
Targeted firearms intervention	8.2%	91.8%	37.5%	62.5%
Gang call-ins	0.0%	100.0%	N/A	N/A
Targeted patrols	60.4%	39.6%	89.7%	10.3%
Dedicated gang unit/officer	45.1%	54.9%	64.0%	36.0%
Coordinated probation searches	32.6%	67.4%	57.9%	42.1%
Participation in a multiagency gang task force	52.0%	48.0%	75.9%	24.1%

<i>Collaborative Strategies to Reduce Gang Problem</i>				
	Currently being used in jurisdiction		If "Yes," has it reduced gang problems in your jurisdiction?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Participation in a multi-agency re-entry initiative	7.8%	92.2%	33.3%	66.7%
Participation in a multi-agency community-based, anti-gang strategy	17.7%	82.3%	44.4%	55.6%

The most frequently used suppression strategies (targeted patrols, multi-agency gang task force, and dedicated gang unit/officer) were generally reported to be effective methods for addressing the gang problem. Specifically, nearly 90 percent of the law enforcement agencies who reported using targeted patrols said these patrols subsequently reduced the gang problem in their jurisdiction. Similarly, most agencies who reported participating in a multi-agency gang task force and having a dedicated gang unit/officer reported a reduction in their gang problem as well (75.9 percent and 64.0 percent, respectively).

Finally, only 17.7 percent of responding agencies report participating in a “multi-agency, community-based, anti-gang strategy,” with 40 percent reporting that it reduced their gang problem. According to Decker (2013), police should consider collaborating with other organizations (e.g., schools, public health agencies, youth service agencies) to focus on gang-prevention efforts. Specifically, he notes that, “...such partnerships can increase police legitimacy and credibility, particularly, in at-risk communities and among at-risk youth” (Decker, 2013: 57). Although the use of collaborative strategies were not frequently reported, these initiatives, along with other evidence-based practices, may be effective strategies that more jurisdictions should consider implementing.

Information Sharing Among Law Enforcement Agencies

Given the presence of hybrid gangs, variation in gang-related activities, and the focus on information-gathering, it is essential that Arizona law enforcement agencies have access to current, statewide gang data (Decker, 2013). To understand the mechanisms used to share inter-departmental intelligence, respondents were asked to select the information sharing practices used by their agency. More than 65 percent indicated that they utilized GangNet (67.9 percent), followed by email lists (66.0 percent), inter-agency memos (62.3 percent), and bulletins (60.4 percent; see Table 7). Newsletters and gang databases/directories were less frequently used (35.9 percent and 28.3 percent, respectively).

Table 7: Reported Use of Information Sharing Tools, 2018

Information Sharing Tool	% of Agencies Using Information Sharing Tool
GangNet	67.9%
Email list	66.0%
Inter-agency memos	62.3%
Bulletins	60.4%
Gang Meetings	47.2%
Fusion Center	35.9%
Newsletters	28.3%
Other Gang Databases	18.9%

Note: The categories are not mutually exclusive; therefore, the percentages will not sum to 100%.

Due to the fluid nature of gangs, the ability to access and disseminate accurate intelligence in a timely manner is critical to the success of law enforcement efforts. While many respondents reported that GangNet is comprehensive, easy to access, and contains important historical and known associate information, others reported that it is underutilized, results in delays, and often has duplicate and/or inaccurate information. Additionally, respondents were asked about methods that could increase and strengthen information sharing between gang units. Common responses included more frequent meetings with an intense focus on intelligence, additional training with conferences across the state (including funding for such opportunities), and more collaboration between agencies.

In summary, agencies using targeted patrols, multi-agency gang task forces, and a dedicated gang unit/officer, generally reported these to be effective methods for addressing the gang problem. More than 65 percent of agencies reported using GangNet and email lists as an information sharing tool. Although many agencies note the benefits of using GangNet, others reported that it often has inaccurate information and is not always the most efficient method for gathering information.

CONCLUSION AND LIMITATIONS

This report examines and summarizes the results of the *2018 Arizona Gang Threat Assessment*, administered by the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission's (ACJC) Statistical Analysis Center (SAC). The *Arizona Gang Threat Assessment* analyzes information regarding law enforcement agencies' perceptions and experiences with gangs, gang members, and gang activity in their jurisdictions. Overall, the ACJC found that the percent of law enforcement agencies reporting any active gang members and gang activity in their jurisdictions has declined since 2013. However, hybrid gangs and gang involvement in drug-related criminal activity remain an area of concern for law enforcement.

Additionally, Arizona's jurisdictions reported the use of social media as a recruitment strategy; Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and YouTube were the most frequently reported social media platforms used by Arizona's street gangs. Law enforcement reported that their most frequently used suppression strategies (targeted patrols, multi-agency gang task forces, and a dedicated gang unit/officer) are generally effective methods for addressing the gang problem.

While responses to the survey were informative and insightful, it is crucial to continue drawing on the vast experience of Arizona's law enforcement agencies, including those who did not respond to this survey. Additionally, it is important to acknowledge that findings from this survey reflect individual perceptions of gangs and gang activity; therefore, the findings of this assessment may differ from actual rates of gang activity and violence. Future assessments

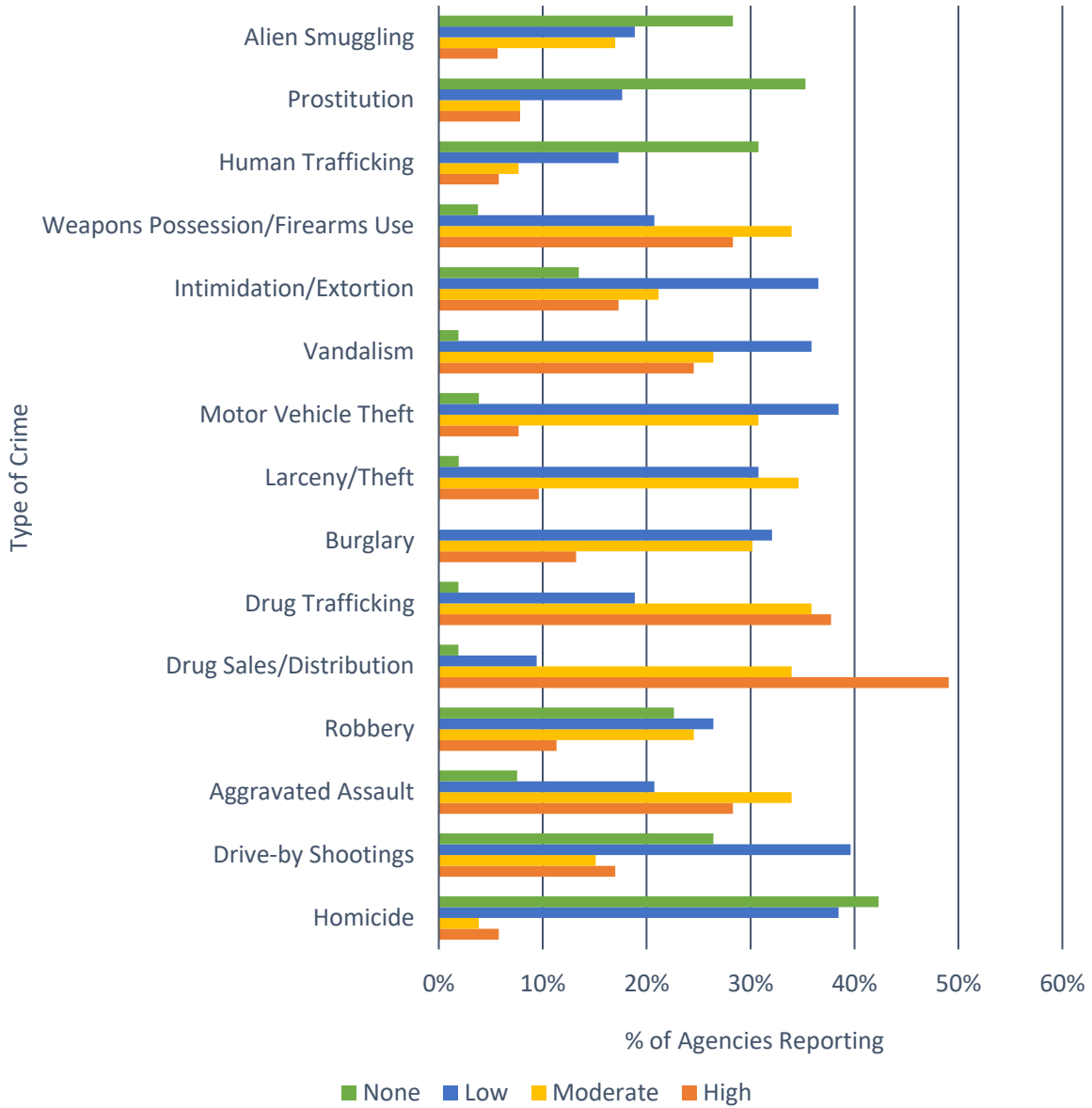
should consider ways to collaborate with different agencies (e.g., public health agencies, schools) in order to share information and data. This would allow the use of multiple sources of information, in turn, improving the nature of the assessment and accurately portraying the magnitude of the gang problem. In order to present the most accurate representation of gang activity in Arizona, the ACJC will continue to collaborate with local experts in the field and in academia to ensure the survey instrument and methodology are consistent with current and emerging gang-related trends. This publication is a useful resource for law enforcement working to reduce the gang problem in Arizona.

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APPENDIX A

Reported Street Gang Involvement in Criminal Activity, 2018



APPENDIX B

Agencies Reporting Street Gang Involvement in the Sale of Drugs, 2008 – 2018

		High	Moderate	Low	None	Unsure/ Do not know
Powdered cocaine	2008	5.9%	19.1%	36.8%	14.7%	23.5%
	2010	6.9%	13.8%	43.1%	20.7%	15.5%
	2011	2.3%	22.7%	40.9%	6.8%	27.3%
	2013	4.2%	20.8%	41.7%	8.3%	25.0%
	2014	7.7%	10.3%	30.8%	28.2%	23.1%
	2015	-	15.6%	46.9%	21.9%	15.6%
	2018	8.2%	10.2%	44.9%	12.2%	24.5%
Percent Change⁴ (2008-2018)		39.0%	-46.6%	22.0%	-17.0%	4.3%
Crack cocaine	2008	13.2%	11.8%	25.0%	23.5%	26.5%
	2010	10.3%	12.1%	29.3%	32.8%	15.5%
	2011	11.1%	15.6%	33.3%	13.3%	26.7%
	2013	2.1%	12.5%	35.4%	20.8%	29.2%
	2014	5.1%	12.8%	30.8%	33.3%	17.0%
	2015	9.1%	6.1%	36.4%	30.3%	18.2%
	2018	4.1%	6.1%	42.9%	28.6%	18.4%
Percent Change (2008-2018)		-68.9%	-48.3%	71.6%	21.7%	-30.6%
Heroin/Opioids	2008	5.8%	15.9%	39.1%	11.6%	27.5%
	2010	10.3%	29.3%	24.1%	19.0%	17.2%
	2011	20.0%	17.8%	28.9%	11.1%	22.2%
	2013	8.2%	38.8%	28.6%	4.1%	20.4%
	2014	28.2%	23.1%	28.2%	7.7%	12.8%
	2015	27.3%	39.4%	18.2%	6.1%	9.1%
	2018	41.5%	28.3%	11.3%	5.7%	13.2%
Percent Change (2008-2018)		615.5%	78.0%	-71.1%	-50.9%	-52.0%
Methamphetamine	2008	23.5%	35.3%	17.6%	5.9%	17.6%
	2010	31.6%	36.8%	14.0%	8.8%	8.8%
	2011	26.7%	31.1%	22.2%	6.7%	13.3%
	2013	34.7%	28.6%	16.3%	4.1%	16.3%
	2014	37.5%	30.0%	17.5%	7.5%	7.5%
	2015	39.4%	45.5%	3.0%	3.0%	9.1%
	2018	50.9%	26.4%	5.7%	5.7%	11.3%
Percent Change (2008-2018)		116.6%	-25.2%	-67.6%	-3.4%	-35.8%

⁴ Percent change is used to study a trend over time (Bachman & Paternoster, 2009). The following formula is used to calculate the percent change: % Change = $\frac{\text{Finish value} - \text{Start value}}{\text{Start Value}} \times 100$

Agencies Reporting Street Gang Involvement in the Sale of Drugs, 2008 – 2018

		High	Moderate	Low	None	Unsure/ Do not know
Marijuana	200	41.2%	26.5%	13.2%	4.4%	14.7%
	2010	44.8%	29.3%	15.5%	3.4%	6.9%
	2011	45.5%	27.3%	13.6%	2.3%	11.4%
	2013	38.8%	32.7%	14.3%	2.0%	12.2%
	2014	50.0%	27.5%	5.0%	10.0%	7.5%
	2015	50.0%	34.4%	3.1%	-	12.5%
	2018	45.3%	34.0%	9.4%	1.9%	9.4%
Percent Change (2008-2018)		10.0%	28.3%	-28.8%	-56.8%	-36.1%
Ecstasy (MDMA)	2008	1.4%	13.0%	20.3%	24.6%	40.6%
	2010	-	17.2%	27.6%	29.3%	25.9%
	2011	4.5%	6.8%	43.2%	15.9%	29.5%
	2013	2.1%	14.6%	37.5%	10.4%	35.4%
	2014	5.1%	2.6%	41.0%	17.9%	33.3%
	2015	-	12.5%	40.6%	18.8%	28.1%
	2018	2.0%	9.8%	49.0%	17.7%	21.6%
Percent Change (2008-2018)		42.9%	-24.6%	141.4%	-28.0%	-46.8%
Pharmaceuticals (Non-Opioid)	2008	6.0%	13.4%	19.4%	22.4%	38.8%
	2010	6.9%	24.1%	32.8%	10.3%	25.9%
	2011	8.9%	24.4%	35.6%	11.1%	20.0%
	2013	14.9%	21.3%	29.8%	6.4%	27.7%
	2014	20.5%	17.9%	28.2%	12.8%	20.5%
	2015	12.5%	37.5%	25.0%	9.4%	15.6%
	2018	15.7%	13.7%	37.3%	7.8%	25.5%
Percent Change (2008-2018)		161.7%	2.2%	92.3%	-65.2%	-34.3%
Synthetics (e.g., Spice)	2008	-	-	-	-	-
	2010	-	-	-	-	-
	2011	-	-	-	-	-
	2013	-	-	-	-	-
	2014	5.1%	12.8%	35.9%	10.3%	35.9%
	2015	-	18.8%	25.0%	28.1%	28.1%
	2018	0.0%	10.0%	50.0%	8.0%	32.0%
Percent Change (2014-2018)		-100.0%	-21.9%	39.3%	-22.3%	-10.9%