



## **Fairbanks Gang Assessment**

Prepared for the  
Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice  
Fairbanks Gang Reduction and Intervention Network

by

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## Fairbanks Gang Assessment

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## Section I

### Fairbanks Gang Assessment: Executive Summary

The Fairbanks Gang Reduction and Intervention Network was initiated by the Juvenile Probation office with the Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice in Fairbanks. The members of this interdisciplinary network include managers from the Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice, AHFC Public Housing, Alaska State Troopers, Boys & Girls Club of Fairbanks, City of Fairbanks Mayor's Office, Department of Corrections – Adult Probation & Parole, Department of Labor, Division of Behavioral Health, Eielson Air Force Base, Fairbanks District Attorney's Office, Fairbanks Native Association, Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor's Office, Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, Fairbanks Police Department, Ft. Wainwright Directorate of Emergency Services, Lily of the Valley Church of God in Christ, NAACP – Fairbanks Chapter, Office of Children's Services, Ringstad Park Weed & Seed, and Tanana Chiefs Conference. Researchers at the University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center partnered with the Fairbanks Gang Reduction and Intervention Network to perform a thorough assessment of the gang problem in Fairbanks. This assessment followed the protocol outlined by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)'s Comprehensive Gang Model. More specifically, the assessment includes a review of community demographic data, law enforcement data, student and school data, and community perceptions data. Key results from each data source are summarized below. We hope that these assessment results will facilitate the implementation of data-driven and empirically-supported plans for community mobilization, opportunities provision, social interventions, suppression, and organizational change and development.

#### A. Community Demographic Data

The Fairbanks North Star Borough is a predominantly Caucasian community of nearly 100,000 residents – 77% of residents are Caucasian or White. Not surprisingly, there is a higher percentage of Alaska Natives and American Indians in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (7%) than in the United States (1%). About one third of the residents (31%) are under 20 years of age, with 15% being under 10 years of age.

Median and average household incomes are higher in the Fairbanks North Star Borough than they are in the United States, but lower than they are in Alaska. The median household income in the Fairbanks North Star Borough is \$67,665, and the average household income is \$79,569. Poverty rates are generally lower in the Fairbanks North Star Borough than they are in both Alaska and the United States. The exception is that poverty rates for female-headed families tend to be higher in the Fairbanks North Star Borough than they are in Alaska (but they are still lower than they are in the United States). Unemployment is slightly higher in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (8%) than in the United States (6%) but is slightly lower than in Alaska (9%). The primary industry is educational, health, and social services, followed by retail trade.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough has a higher rate of education amongst its residents than Alaska or the United States. Overall, 93% of Fairbanks North Star Borough residents over 25 years of age have obtained a high school diploma or equivalent certificate (versus 91% of

Alaska residents and 85% of United States residents). Similarly, a higher percentage of residents in the Fairbanks North Star Borough obtained some college education (66%) than in Alaska (62%) or the United States (55%).

The Fairbanks North Star Borough population is relatively stable, with 74% of residents (aged one year old or older) living in the same house as they did one year earlier. The remainder had moved from another house within the Fairbanks North Star Borough (14%), from another Borough within the State of Alaska (3%), from another state (8%), or from another country (1%). Most Fairbanks North Star Borough residents (95%) are native to the United States. Almost half (46%) of non-natives are naturalized citizens and most (72%) entered the United States prior to 2000. Among residents five years old or older, 90% spoke English only. Of those who did not speak English only, 27% reported speaking English less than 'very well.' The most common foreign languages included Spanish, other Indo-European languages, and Asian/Pacific Islander languages.

## **B. Law Enforcement Data**

Law enforcement data were collected from gang-related incidents of murder and attempted murder, assault, robbery, sexual assault, misconduct involving weapons, and misconduct involving controlled substances reported to one of nine different law enforcement agencies in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (the Fairbanks International Airport Fire and Police Department, the Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement, the Alaska Bureau of Investigation, the Alaska State Troopers, Eielson Security Forces, the Fairbanks Police Department, the Ft. Wainwright Army Garrison Police Department, the North Pole Police Department, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks Police Department). Overall, we collected 154 reports that contained information on 219 suspects and 120 victims.

It is important to emphasize that the law enforcement data provide information on known gang members that were contacted by law enforcement. These data therefore exclude unknown gang members and gang members who avoided contact with law enforcement. Gang membership is not always documented in law enforcement reports (and this was particularly true prior to 2008). The true number of gang-involved crimes is likely to be underestimated. Nonetheless, law enforcement data provide an important description of gang-involved crime.

Of the 219 suspects within these 154 reports, 200 (93%) were known gang members (some may be duplicated) and 14 (7%) were not gang members (but committed a crime with a known gang member). Most gang members (96%) were male, and 4% were female. Over half of the gang members were African American or Black (56%), and 20% were Caucasian or White, 8% were Alaska Native or American Indian, 5% were Hispanic or Latino, and 1% were Asian. Overall, 1% of gang members were 10 to 14 years old, 30% were 15 to 17 years old, 45% were 18 to 21 years old, 9% were 22 to 24 years old, and 15% were 24 years old or older. An important finding is that only 31% of active members were under the age of 18 – indicating that most active gang members would not be referred to the Division of Juvenile Justice.

Law enforcement data show that there are at least 12 active gangs in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. The most common gangs in the law enforcement data included Crips (with 58% of law enforcement contacts), Bloods (with 21% of law enforcement contacts), and Gangster Disciples (with 15% of law enforcement contacts). Together, these three gangs accounted for 94% of law enforcement contacts with gang members. Information about gang set was not

always available, but the most common set for Crips was Southside / 20 blocc / Insane Gangsta Crips. Over half of the gang members contacted by law enforcement from Crips and Gangster Disciples were African American or Black (for Bloods, 34% were African-American or Black). Most gang members contacted by law enforcement were 15 to 21 years of age – 91% of Bloods, 69% of Crips, and 87% of Gangster Disciples contacted by law enforcement were 15 to 21 years of age. Over half of Bloods and Crips contacted by law enforcement were 18 years of age or older, but over half of Gangster Disciples contacted by law enforcement were under the age of 18.

The percentage of crime reported to law enforcement in the Fairbanks North Star Borough that was attributable to gangs varied from a low of 4.3% in 2007 to a high of 7.2% in 2008. In 2008, 40% of weapons offenses, 5% of murders and attempted murders, 10% of drug offenses, 5% of robberies, 5% of sexual assaults, and 4% of assaults were attributable to gangs. From 2007 to 2008, the total number of incidents reported to law enforcement increased by 26%. At the same time, the number of gang-related incidents increased by 113%. Increases in gang-related incidents were particularly visible in murders and attempted murders, assaults, drug offenses, and weapons offenses. Gang-related crimes in the first half of 2009 were 23% lower than they were in the first half of 2008. Gang-related crimes were more common from February to August (than from September to January), were more common on Fridays and Saturdays, and were more common from 9pm to 3am.

Of the 120 victims, 59% were male and 41% were female. Seven (6%) of the victims were police officers. Thirty two percent were known gang members (and 42% of the known gang members were Bloods). Most victims (67%) knew the suspect, but 33% did not. Over half (56%) of the victims were Caucasian or White, 23% were African American or Black, and 11% were Alaska Native or American Indian. Half of the victims (48%) were between 15 to 21 years of age (71% were 18 years of age or older, and 37% were over the age of 24).

### **C. Student and School Data**

In 2009-10, 64% of the students within the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District were White, 10% were Alaska Native, 8% were multi-ethnic, 7% were Hispanic, 6% were Black, 3% were Asian, 1% were Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 1% were American Indian. Since 2004, the percentage of students who are Hispanic increased by 72% while the percentage of students who are Alaska Native or American Indian decreased by 30% and the percentage of students who are Black decreased by 19%. For this gang assessment, we focused on eight schools – Effie Kokrine Charter School, Hutchison High School, Lathrop High School, Monroe Catholic School, Ryan Middle School, Randy Smith Middle School, Star of the North Secondary School (North Pole campus and Career Education Center), and West Valley High School. For public schools, the average attendance rate (in 2008-09) was 89.1%, the average transiency rate was 20.3%, the average graduation rate was 69.2%, and the average drop-out rate was 4.4%. There was a total of 491 suspensions and 23 expulsions in public schools – and most suspensions and expulsions were due to aggressive behavior, disrespectful behavior, school disruption, and substance-related offenses.

A total of 147 staff responded to a survey about their perceptions of gangs (no staff surveys were conducted at Monroe Catholic School). Overall, 67% of school staff who responded to the survey did not believe that gangs were a problem in their school, while 33%

believed that gangs were a problem. The 147 school staff reported witnessing a total of 97 gang incidents on school grounds (42% of incidents were observed by staff at Lathrop High School, 23% at West Valley High School, 20% at Ryan Middle School, and 13% at Randy Smith Middle School). The most common type of gang incident observed by school staff were graffiti (30%), intimidation (27%), fights with rival gangs (19%), and recruiting (16%). Fewer staff observed gang members selling drugs (5%) or gang members fighting with members of their own gang (4%), and none observed drive-by shootings.

A total of 419 students responded to the survey. Slightly over half (55%) were female, while 45% were male. Almost half (46%) of the students were 12, 13, or 14 years old. The majority (90%) were less than 18 years of age. Twenty percent of the students were in seventh grade, 18% were in eighth, 19% were in ninth, 13% were in tenth, 16% were in eleventh, and 14% were in twelfth. Over half (67%) were White or Caucasian, 9% were Alaska Native or American Indian, 4% were Black or African American, 3% were Hispanic or Latino, 2% were Asian, and 2% were Native Hawaiian, Samoan, or Pacific Islander. Nearly 90% reported living with their mother and 75% reported living with their father (47% reported having a brother in their household and 44% reported having a sister). Over half (57%) of students reported having at least one younger sibling and 62% reported having at least one older sibling (including step-siblings).

Students generally had positive feelings about their schools. Over 90% of students believed that what they were learning in school would be at least fairly important later in life (only 1% believed that it would not be important at all). Over half (57%) of students indicated that they often or almost always enjoyed being in school and 11% indicated that they never hated being in school. The majority of students (81%) indicated that they often or almost always tried to do their best work in school.

Students also generally had positive feelings about their neighborhoods – 62% of students believed that crime and drug selling were definitely not problems in their neighborhoods, 66% believed that fights were definitely not a problem, 74% believed that there was definitely no problem with empty or abandoned buildings, and 80% believed that there was definitely no problem with graffiti. Over half (54%) of the students felt safe in their neighborhood. Only 6% would definitely like to get out of their neighborhood. Students were aware of youth activities available in their community – 91% were aware of sports teams, 76% knew about activities provided by the Boys & Girls Clubs, 50% knew about activities offered by other service clubs, 61% knew about scouting in their community, and 47% knew about activities with 4-H clubs.

Most students (84% or more) indicated that their parents would feel it was either very wrong or wrong for them to steal, draw graffiti, or pick fights. Fewer than 2% of students indicated that their parents would not think it was wrong at all to do so.

When students were asked about the behaviors of their four best friends over the past year, 11% reported having at least one that carried a weapon, 11% reported at least one selling illegal drugs, 8% reported at least one stealing or trying to steal a car or motorcycle, 13% reported at least one getting arrested, 10% reported at least one dropping out of school, and 9% reported at least one being a member of a gang. Ninety percent of students reported having none of their four best friend in a gang, 4% reported having one, 1% reported having two, 1% reported having three, and 2% reported having all four. When students were asked about their own behaviors over the past year, 8% reported being suspended from school at least once, 7% reported carrying a handgun at least once, 4% reported selling drugs at least once, 3% reported stealing or trying to steal a car or motorcycle at least once, 3% reported getting arrested at least

once, 11% reported attacking someone with the idea of seriously hurting them at least once, 8% reported being drunk or high at school at least once, and 1% reported taking a handgun to school at least once. These results may not be representative of all students within the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, but they contextualize the following gang perceptions.

Over half of the students (54%) did not know if gangs were in their school, 27% indicated that gangs were not in their school, and 19% indicated that gangs were in their school. Twenty six percent of students believed that some of the students at their school were gang members, and 7% believed that gang members that were not students had been at their school. Ten percent of students reported that gang members had sold drugs at their school in the past six months, 7% reported that gang members had brought guns to their school in the past six months, and 13% reported that gang members had been involved in fights, attacks, or violence at their school in the past six months. Among students who believed that gangs were present at school, 20% reported that gang helped out in the community, 59% reported that gangs got in fights with other gangs, 74% reported that gangs provided protection for each other, 65% reported that gangs stole things, 41% reported that gangs robbed other people, 27% reported that gangs stole cars, 57% reported that gangs sold marijuana, 55% reported that gangs sold other illegal drugs, and 64% reported that gangs damaged or destroyed property.

Five percent of surveyed students indicated that they had belonged to a gang and 2% indicated that they were currently in a gang. The remaining statistics in this section only apply to students who had been or were currently in a gang. Over half of them (62%) indicated that their gang had a name. Gang size varied from less than five members to over 30 – 39% of gang members were in a gang with fewer than six members and 39% were in a gang with 30 or more members. Over half of the gang members (64%) indicated that there were no boys in their gang and over half (58%) indicated that there were no girls. Three of the gang members identified themselves as having a central position within their gang. Of the students who indicated that they had been or were currently a gang member, 24% indicated that people could join their gang before age 13, 44% indicated that their gang had initiation rites, 53% indicated that their gang had established leaders, 47% indicated that their gang had regular meetings, 41% indicated that their gang had specific rules or codes, 41% indicated that gang members had specific roles, 18% indicated that there were roles for each age group, 53% indicated that their gang had symbols or colors, and 29% indicated that there were specific roles for girls within their gang (even if they were not members). When asked why they originally joined a gang, 44% originally joined for fun, 29% for protection, 33% because a friend was in the gang, 22% because a brother or sister was in the gang, 22% to get respect, 28% for money, and 33% to fit in better (these response options were not mutually exclusive and gang members could select more than one). None of the gang members indicated that they initially joined because they were forced to. Finally, gang members were asked about their gang's activities – 41% reported helping out in the community, 41% reported getting in fights with other gangs, 71% reported providing protection for each other, 41% reported stealing things, 35% reported robbing other people, 25% reported stealing cars, 41% reported selling marijuana, 24% reported selling other illegal drugs, and 47% reported damaging or destroying property.

Gang members were significantly more likely than non-gang members to carry a handgun, to sell illegal drugs, to steal a car or motorcycle, to get arrested, to attack someone to hurt them, to be drunk or high at school, and to take a handgun to school. Many of the differences between gang members and non-gang members were large. Compared to non-gang members, gang members were nine times more likely to carry a handgun, 22 times more likely to

sell illegal drugs, 18 times more likely to steal a car or motorcycle, 11 times more likely to get arrested, nine times more likely to attack someone to hurt them, nine times more likely to be drunk or high at school, and 44 times more likely to take a handgun to school. In addition, the best friends of gang members were significantly more likely than the best friends of non-gang members to be suspended from school, to carry a handgun, to sell illegal drugs, to steal a car or motorcycle, to get arrested, to drop out of school, and to also be a gang member.

#### **D. Community Perceptions Data**

Community perceptions data were gathered from community residents, gang members, and staff members from youth-serving and law enforcement agencies.

A total of 103 residents of the Fairbanks North Star Borough were surveyed to assess community perceptions of gangs. More than half of the respondents (63%) were male while 37% were female. The majority of respondents (78%) were White or Caucasian, 9% were American Indian or Alaska Native, 3% were Black or African American, 2% were Native Hawaiian, Samoan, or Pacific Islander, and 9% were of another racial or ethnic group. Over half (55%) were married, 22% were divorced, 13% were single and never married, 6% were widowed, and 4% were separated. Almost all (97%) had a high school diploma, GED, or college degree.

When asked about community safety, 72% of respondents indicated feeling less safe now than they did two years ago (and 28% indicated feeling more safe now than two years ago). Their top community concerns included drug dealing, burglary or robbery, gang activity, unemployment, and domestic violence. More specifically, 37% of residents identified gang activity as one of their top three community concerns. Seventy six percent of respondents said that gangs were in their community, while 24% said that gangs were not. Few respondents (4%) believed that their children were at-risk of joining a gang (but it is possible that few had children at home). Very few residents (3%) believed that gang activity had decreased in the past year. Over half (53%) believed that gang activity had increased, while 43% believed that gang activity had remained about the same.

Residents who believed that gangs were a problem in their community were asked to identify the top three problems presented by gangs, the top three reasons for gang activities, and the top three solutions to gang activities. When asked to identify the top three problems presented by gangs, 70% of respondents identified an increase in drug crimes, 54% identified an increase in violent crime, 54% identified an increase in weapon crimes, 38% identified an increase in fear, 29% identified an increase in public nuisances, 25% identified an increase in school disruption, 13% identified an increase in fighting, and 10% identified an increase in family disruption. When residents who believed that gangs were a problem in their community were asked to identify the top three reasons for gang activity, over half (61%) identified gang members moving from other areas one of the top three reasons for gang activity. Additional reasons included having family or friends in gangs, poverty, seeking love or a sense of belonging, needing protection, family problems, a lack of activities for youth, boredom, and school problems. Residents were then asked to identify the three most promising strategies to address gang activity. Of the residents who believed that gangs presented a problem, 69% indicated that mentoring was one of the three most promising strategies to address local gang

problems. Additional strategies identified as promising included job provision and job training, programs and recreational activities for youth, and additional police protection.

Residents generally felt that a variety of organizations were responsible for deal with gangs and gang activity. Families were identified as being the most responsible for dealing with gangs and gang activity. Other important organizations included police, the criminal justice system, schools, the Division of Juvenile Justice, and community residents. Most respondents (78%) identified either families or police as the most important, and 6% identified community residents as the most important. Over half (52%) of surveyed residents indicated that they would be willing to help deal with gangs and gang activity. Over half of those willing to help (56%) would be willing to mentor a youth, 41% would be willing to teach skills (auto mechanics, crafts, music, computer skills, electronics, etc.), 30% would be willing to assist with neighborhood outreach, 30% would be willing to form sports leagues and teams, 24% would be willing to become a youth group leader, and 22% would be willing to tutor.

In addition to surveys of community residents, community perceptions data were also gathered from 20 known gang members. Most of these gang members were institutionalized or incarcerated at the time of the interview. All were male; 40% were White or Caucasian; 15% were Alaska Native or American Indian; 15% were Black or African American; 10% were Native Hawaiian, Samoan, or Pacific Islander; and 20% were of another race (or multi-racial). Nineteen of the 20 gang members (95%) spoke English at home (one spoke Spanish). All were single (never married) and seven (40%) had children. The average age for the gang members that were interviewed was 19. The youngest gang member interviewed was 12 years old and the oldest was 38 years old. Sixty percent of interviewed gang members were juveniles (under the age of 18) and 40% were adults. Most (75%) of the gang members were not employed, 5% were employed part-time, and 20% were employed full-time. Adult gang members were less likely to be unemployed than juvenile gang members (63% versus 83%). Conversely, adult gang members were more likely to be employed full-time than juvenile gang members (38% versus 8%).

Fifty percent of the gang members indicated that they were not in school (40% of them had completed the twelfth grade) – one was in seventh grade, three were in ninth, two were in tenth, two were in eleventh, and two were in twelfth. Not surprisingly, adult gang members were less likely to be in school than juvenile gang members (only one adult gang member was in school, in 11<sup>th</sup> grade). Three (25%) of juvenile gang members were not in school. Among adult gang members who were not currently attending school, 43% had not completed the twelfth grade. Among juvenile gang members who were not currently attending school, none (0%) had completed the twelfth grade. Overall, 37% of the gang members indicated having mostly D's or F's in school, and 74% indicated having mostly C's, D's, or F's. Gang members generally had neutral to positive perceptions about school. All 20 of the gang members indicated that they were suspended from school at some point. Over half (70%) of the gang members reported being suspended from school because of fighting and almost half (40%) reported being suspended from school because of drug use or possession. Over half (65%) of the gang members reported that they were expelled from school at some point. The most common reason for expulsions was fighting (reported by 62% of expelled gang members).

The most common gang activities reported on school grounds included selling drugs, fights between gangs, gang intimidation, and gang recruiting. Of the 13 to 14 gang members who had been on school grounds in the past year, 33% reported observing gang members selling drugs on school grounds at least 11 times, 43% reported observing fights between different

gangs on school grounds at least 11 times, 46% reported observing gang intimidation on school grounds at least 11 times, and 43% reported observing gang recruitment on school grounds at least 11 times. The most common gang activities reported in the community included selling drugs, fights between gangs, gang intimidation, and gang recruiting – 71% of gang members reported observing other gang members selling drugs in their communities at least 11 times in the past year, 65% reported observing fights between different gangs in their communities at least 11 times in the past year, 69% reported observing gang intimidation in their communities at least 11 times in the past year, and 53% reported observing gang recruitment in their communities at least 11 times in the past year. Thirty percent of gang members indicated that they were afraid to walk alone in their community. Juvenile gang members were more likely to be afraid to walk alone in their community than adult gang members (33.3% versus 25.0%). In every case, this was because of gang activity. Eleven crime problems were considered to be a serious or very serious problem in the community by 50% or more of gang members. Crime problems rated as serious or very serious by half or more of the gang members included burglary, car theft, robbery, gang confrontations, drug dealing, alcohol use, drive-by shootings, gun possession, firearms use, firearms dealing, and assault / battery.

Overall, 85% of gang members believed that gangs were a problem in their community. Among the top three reasons selected by gang members who believed that gangs were a problem in their community, the most common reasons included gang members moving into the community from other places (71%) and power (59%). All but one (95%) of the gang members identified having friends in gangs and 13 (70%) identified having family members in gangs. Over a third (35%) of gang members believed that additional opportunities for youth would be a solution to gang problems in their community, 30% believed that incarceration or legal sanctions for gang members would help, 24% believed that education about gangs would help, and 12% believed that separating gang members from their gang would help. Adult gang members were more likely than juvenile gang members to indicate that additional opportunities for youth, education about gangs, and separating gang members from their gang would be a solution to gang problems. Conversely, juvenile gang members were more likely than adult gang members to indicate that incarceration or legal sanctions would be a solution to gang problems.

Half (50%) of the gang members reported seeing 31 or more adults getting drunk in the past year, 40% reported seeing 31 or more adults using drugs in the past year, and 30% reported seeing 31 or more adults getting into trouble in the past year. Juvenile gang members were more likely than adult gang members to report seeing 31 or more adults using drugs, getting in trouble, and getting drunk in the past year. Over half (58%) of juvenile gang members reported seeing 31 or more adults using drugs and getting drunk in the past year and almost half (42%) reported seeing 31 or more adults getting in trouble in the past year. Over half of the gang members thought it would be very easy for them to get a handgun and over half thought it would be very easy to get drugs like cocaine, LSD, amphetamines, or crack. All juvenile gang members (100%) believed it would be somewhat easy or very easy to get a handgun (versus 83% of adult gang members).

Most (80%) were active gang members at the time of the interview and 90% had been active gang members in the past six months. Fifty percent indicated that they were regular members and were involved in the gang's activities most of the time and 25% indicated that they were core members and were with their gang all the time. Seventy five percent of the gang members first joined a gang before being 14 years of age. The most important reasons for joining a gang were to get respect and because a friend was in the gang. Over half of the gang

members agreed that gang membership made them feel important, provided a good deal of support and loyalty, made them feel respected, made them feel useful, and made them feel like they belonged somewhere.

Gang members reported a variety of criminal behaviors over the past year. Over half of the gang members reported writing graffiti (58%); destroying property worth less than \$300 (53%); stealing a bicycle or bike parts (63%); stealing a motor vehicle (53%); fencing or selling stolen goods (58%); shoplifting (63%); entering a house, store, or building to commit a theft (63%); threatening to attack a person without using a weapon (74%); threatening to attack a person using a weapon (56%); and beating up or battering someone without using a weapon in the past year (79%). Eighty-five percent of the gang members indicated that they had used or tried drugs in the past year and 47% of them used drugs on 26 or more days per month. Juvenile gang members were more likely than adult gang members to report using drugs in the past year (92% versus 75%). Juvenile gang members were less likely than adult gang members to report using drugs one to five days per month in the past year (18% versus 50%). Conversely, juvenile gang members were more likely than adult gang members to report using drugs 26 or more days per month in the past year (55% versus 33%). Sixty eight percent of gang members reported selling drugs in the past year and 85% of them reported that the money was used for personal use. Juvenile gang members were more likely than adult gang members to report selling drugs in the past year (83% versus 43%). Ninety percent of the gang members (all but two) reported using alcohol in the past year (most reported drinking beer and hard liquor). Juvenile gang members were as likely to report using alcohol in the past year (92%) than adult gang members (88%).

Ninety percent of the gang members reported that they were arrested or contacted by police in the past year (92% of juvenile gang members and 88% of adult gang members). Juvenile gang members were more likely than adult gang members to have a higher number of police contacts in the past year – 55% of juvenile gang members were contacted or arrested five or more times in the past year (versus 14% of adult gang members). Conversely, adult gang members were more likely than juvenile gang members to be contacted or arrested once or twice in the past year (71% versus 18%). Over half (53%) of the gang members reported that they were treated fairly by the police most of the time and 18% reported that they were treated fairly by the police some of the time. Perceptions between juvenile and adult gang members were equally favorable.

Over three quarters of the gang members (78%) did not think that they would ever leave their gang. Only four gang members (22%) thought that they would leave their gang at some point. Adult gang members were slightly more likely to believe that they would leave their gang at some point (88%) than juvenile gang members (70%). Half or more of the gang members indicated that they would be likely to leave their gang if they got married (70%), became a parent (79%), assumed family responsibilities (67%), obtained a job (50%), got into a school or educational program (50%), or became involved in recreation or sports (58%). Overall, juvenile gang members were less likely than adult gang members to identify reasons that would make it likely for them to leave their gang. Most importantly, juvenile gang members were much less likely than adult gang members to indicate that they would be likely to leave their gang if they got married (50% versus 100%), if they obtained a job (33% versus 75%), if they got into a school or educational program (33% versus 75%), or became involved in recreation or sports (33% versus 85%).

Finally, community perceptions data were also gathered from youth-serving and law enforcement agency staff members. The majority (95%) believed that gang activity was present in their community. Only one agency staff member believed that gang activity had decreased, 25% believed that gang activity had stayed about the same, and 74% believed that gang activity had increased. Over half of the respondents identified increases in drug (61%), violent (57%), and weapon (56%) crimes among the top three gang problems in their community. Slightly less than half (41%) identified increased fear for safety as one of the top three gang problems in the community. Over half of the respondents identified gangs moving from other areas and having family and friends in gangs among the top three reasons for gang activity. Other common reasons selected among the top three included to feel love and a sense of belonging (selected by 37% of respondents), power (33%), lack of activities (29%), family problems (26%), boredom (24%), and poverty (20%).

## Section II

### Fairbanks Gang Assessment: Community Demographic Data

The Fairbanks North Star Borough encompasses almost 7,500 square miles in interior Alaska. Originally inhabited by Koyukon Athabascans, the Fairbanks North Star Borough now includes almost 100,000 people living in 11 communities – College, Eielson Air Force Base, Ester, Fairbanks, Fox, Harding Lake, Moose Creek, North Pole, Pleasant Valley, Salcha, and Two Rivers (Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs). Following the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comprehensive Gang Model, we begin this report by providing a quick demographic overview of the Fairbanks North Star Borough to provide a context for the overall assessment. Table 1 provides general demographic data on gender, race, and age for the Fairbanks North Star Borough, Alaska, and the United States in 2008. In addition, it provides data on household income and the percentage of single-parent households.

**Table 1. Descriptive Data for Fairbanks North Star Borough, 2008**

	Fairbanks North Star Borough	Alaska	U.S.
<b>Total population</b>	96,920	681,235	301,237,703
<b>Gender</b>			
% Male	53.0 %	52.1 %	49.3 %
% Female	47.0	47.9	50.7
<b>Race</b>			
% African American/black	3.7 %	3.3 %	12.3 %
% Hispanic/Latino	4.4	5.8	15.1
% Caucasian/white	77.2	68.6	74.3
% Asian	2.7	4.5	4.4
% Alaska Native/Native American	7.3	13.4	0.8
% Other	9.1	10.2	8.2
<b>Age</b>			
% under 10 years	15.2 %	14.5 %	13.5 %
% 10–14 years	7.9	7.2	6.8
% 15–19 years	7.9	8.2	7.2
% 20–24 years	10.2	8.1	6.9
% 25–34 years	16.9	14.0	13.3
% 35–64 years	36.3	41.1	39.7
% Over 64 years	5.6	6.9	12.6
<b>Household income</b>			
Median household income	\$67,665	\$77,020	\$52,175
Average household income	\$79,569	\$91,641	\$71,128
<b>% single-parent households</b>	15.1 %	17.1 %	17.1 %

*Source of data:* U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey;  
Alaska Department of Health & Social Services, Office of Children's Services,  
Allegations Substantiated in Calendar Year 2009

The Fairbanks North Star Borough is a predominantly Caucasian community of nearly 100,000 residents – 77% of residents are Caucasian or White. Not surprisingly, there is a higher percentage of Alaska Natives and American Indians in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (7%)

than in the United States (1%). About one third of the residents (31%) are under 20 years of age, with 15% being under 10 years of age. Median and average household incomes are higher in the Fairbanks North Star Borough than they are in the United States (but lower than they are in Alaska). The median household in the Fairbanks North Star Borough is \$67,665. This indicates that half of the annual household incomes are less than \$67,665 and half are greater than \$67,665. The median household income in the Fairbanks North Star Borough is 30% higher than in the United States, but is 12% lower than in Alaska. The average household income in the Fairbanks North Star Borough is 12% higher than in the United States, but is 13% lower than in Alaska. In addition, the percentage of single-parent households is slightly lower in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (15%) than in Alaska (17%) or the United States (17%).

Data maintained by the Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs show that the primary industry in the Fairbanks North Star Borough is educational, health, and social services – with 24% of those employed working in these services. The second most common industry (with 13% of the labor force) is retail trade. Other important sectors include public administration; arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services; transportation, warehousing, and utilities; and construction. Over one third of the employment in the Fairbanks North Star Borough is with city, borough, state, and federal government agencies (including the military; Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs). The primary public employers include the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District and the University of Alaska Fairbanks (Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs).

**Table 2. Percentage of Families in Poverty**

	Fairbanks North Star Borough	Alaska	U.S.
Families below poverty	5.3 %	6.7 %	9.6 %
With related children under 18 years	8.4	10.5	14.9
With related children under 5 years	9.1	13.7	16.1
Female-headed families	9.9 %	11.1 %	12.5 %
Female-headed families below poverty	25.2 %	21.8 %	28.2 %
With related children under 18 years	29.6	26.5	36.5
With related children under 5 years	33.0	37.2	44.9

**Source of data:** U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey; Alaska Department of Health & Social Services

Despite having a lower median and average household income than Alaska, the Fairbanks North Star Borough tends to show lower poverty rates (than both Alaska and the United States). The data in Table 2 show the percentage of families (and female-headed families) living below the poverty line. The percentage of families living below the poverty line in the Fairbanks North Star Borough is less than it is in Alaska or the United States – and this is true for both families with related children under 18 years of age and families with related children under five years of age. The percentage of female-headed families is slightly lower in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (10%) than it is in Alaska (11%) or the United States (13%; as was the percentage of single-parent household, see Table 1). However, the percentage of female-headed households living below the poverty line was slightly higher in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (25%) than in Alaska (22%; but was slightly lower than in the United States [28%]). Similarly, the percentage of female-headed households with related children under 18 years of age living below

the poverty line was slightly higher in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (30%) than in Alaska (27%; but again was slightly lower than in the United States [37%]).

**Table 3. Employment Status**

	Fairbanks North Star Borough	Alaska	U.S.
Population 16 years and older	73,188	250,352	236,078,754
Population in labor force	53,768	168,266	153,989,802
Percent unemployed	7.8 %	8.7 %	6.4 %

*Source of data:* U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey;  
Alaska Department of Health & Social Services

Unemployment rates for the Fairbanks North Star Borough, for Alaska, and for the United States are shown in Table 3. The percentage of the population (16 years and older) that is unemployed is slightly higher in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (8%) than in United States (6%), but is slightly lower than in Alaska (7%). Overall, median and average household incomes are higher in the Fairbanks North Star Borough than they are in the United States, but lower than they are in Alaska. Poverty rates are generally lower in the Fairbanks North Star Borough than they are in both Alaska and the United States. The exception is that poverty rates for female-headed families tend to be higher in the Fairbanks North Star Borough than they are in Alaska (but they are still lower than they are in the United States). Finally, unemployment is slightly higher in the Fairbanks North Star Borough than in the United States but is slightly lower than in Alaska.

**Table 4. Educational Attainment**

	Fairbanks North Star Borough	Alaska	U.S.
<b>Population 25 years and older</b>	<b>56,997</b>	<b>422,721</b>	<b>197,794,576</b>
<b>Educational attainment (percentages)</b>			
Less than 9th grade	2.2 %	3.6 %	6.4 %
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	4.6	5.8	9.1
High school graduate (or equivalent)	27.7	28.5	29.6
Some college, no degree	30.8	27.5	20.1
Associate degree	9.3	8.1	7.4
Bachelor's degree	14.6	16.8	17.3
Graduate or professional degree	10.8	9.7	10.1

*Source of data:* U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey; Alaska  
Department of Health & Social Services

The Fairbanks North Star Borough has a higher rate of education amongst its residents than Alaska or the United States. Overall, 93% of Fairbanks North Star Borough residents over 25 years of age have obtained a high school diploma or equivalent certificate (versus 91% of Alaska residents and 85% of United States residents, see Table 4). Similarly, a higher percentage of residents obtained some college education in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (66%) than in Alaska (62%) or the United States (55%).

According to Census data, over 95% of Fairbanks North Star Borough residents are native to the United States. The most common ancestries include German, Irish, and English. Of

the 5% of foreign-born residents, nearly 46% are naturalized citizens (Table 5). Of the residents born outside the United States, 72% entered the United States prior to 2000.

**Table 5. Citizenship and Mobility**

	Fairbanks North Star Borough	Alaska	U.S.
<b>Native</b>	<b>90,029</b>	<b>634,765</b>	<b>263,558,111</b>
<b>Foreign-born</b>	<b>4,614</b>	<b>46,470</b>	<b>37,679,592</b>
Naturalized citizen	2,115	23,104	16,028,758
Not a citizen	2,499	23,366	21,650,834

*Source of data:* U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey; Alaska Department of Health & Social Services

Additional data from the 2006-2008 American Community Survey (U.S. Census Bureau) show that 74% of residents (aged one year old or older) lived in the same house as they did one year earlier. The remainder had moved from another house within the Fairbanks North Star Borough (14%), from another Borough within the State of Alaska (3%), from another state (8%), or from another country (1%).

The American Community Survey also includes information on the languages spoken at home, for residents who are five years old or older – and 90% in the Fairbanks North Star Borough spoke English only. Common foreign languages included Spanish, other Indo-European languages, and Asian/Pacific Islander languages. Of those who did not speak English only, 27% reported speaking English less than ‘very well.’

These community demographic data are important to contextualize the following assessment. In addition, they may be helpful to develop appropriate reduction and intervention strategies. For example, it may be important to understand how the higher proportion of female-headed households living below the poverty line impacts reduction and intervention strategies. The higher proportion of Alaska Native residents also has important implications for the development of culturally-appropriate and culturally-relevant reduction and intervention strategies. In the following sections, we examine the local gang problem from four different perspectives – law enforcement, schools (including students), community residents (including gang members), and service providers. One could argue that each perspective is somewhat biased. When these perspectives are combined, they paint a more accurate (or unbiased) picture of the local gang problem in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. In addition, they provide a more nuanced understanding of how gang reduction and intervention is best achieved through collaborative efforts that emphasize community mobilization, opportunities provision, social interventions, suppression, and organizational change and development.

## Section III

### Fairbanks Gang Assessment: Law Enforcement Data

Law enforcement data were collected by Shea Daniels from known gang incidents reported to the Fairbanks International Airport Fire and Police Department (1/1/07 to 6/30/09), the Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement (1/1/08 to 6/30/09), the Alaska Bureau of Investigation (11/15/07 to 6/30/09), the Alaska State Troopers (11/15/07 to 6/30/09), Eielson Security Forces (1/1/07 to 6/30/09), the Fairbanks Police Department (1/1/07 to 6/30/09), the Ft. Wainwright Army Garrison Police Department (1/1/07 to 6/30/09), the North Pole Police Department (1/1/07 to 6/30/09), and the University of Alaska Fairbanks Police Department (1/1/07 to 6/30/09). Incidents were limited to assaults (in the first to fourth degree), misconduct involving a controlled substance (in the first to sixth degree), misconduct involving weapons (in the first to fifth degree), murder and attempted murder (in the first or second degree), robbery (in the first or second degree), and sexual assault (in the first to fourth degree). Law enforcement reports were skimmed to identify if the reported incidents were gang related. Gang incidents were defined using a member-based definition. A member-based incident includes all incidents reported to law enforcement that involve one or more gang members (regardless of the motive for the incident). As explained in the OJJDP guide to assessing the gang problem in local communities, “these data are useful to determine the size and threat level of the local gang problem, to identify target populations (by demographic patterns) for intervention and prevention services, and to focus on suppression activities” (OJJDP, 2009:39). It is important to emphasize that the law enforcement data provide information on known gang members that were contacted by law enforcement. These data therefore exclude unknown gang members and gang members who avoided contact with law enforcement. Gang membership is not always documented in law enforcement reports (and this was particularly true prior to 2008). The true number of gang-involved crimes is likely to be underestimated. Nonetheless, these data provide useful information to contextualize the gang problem, as observed from law enforcement agencies (the student and school data in the next section will provide another viewpoint). All data sources have their limitations, but together they can better inform policy and practice to address the gang problem.

#### A. Gang-Related Suspects

We found a total of 154 law enforcement reports that included gang incidents. From these 154 reports, we collected information on a total of 219 suspects. Gang affiliation was unknown for five (2%) of the suspects. Out of the remaining 214 suspects, 200 (93%) were known gang members and 14 (7%) were not (but committed an offense with a known gang member). Known gang members may be duplicated in these data (i.e., gang members may be included more than once if they committed multiple offenses).

Of the 200 known gang members, most (96%) were male (only 4% were female). Information on race and ethnicity was available from 198 of the known gang members. These data are shown in Table 6. Over half (56%) of the known gang members were African American

or Black. The next most common racial / ethnic group was Caucasian / White, with 20% of known gang members identifying themselves as Caucasian or White. Eight percent of known gang members identified themselves as Alaska Native or American Indian, 5% identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino, and 1% identified themselves as Asian.

**Table 6. Race / Ethnicity of Known Gang Members**

*Column percentages*

<b>Race / Ethnicity</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
African American / Black	111	56.1 %
Hispanic / Latino	9	4.5
Caucasian / White	40	20.2
Asian	2	1.0
Alaska Native / American Indian	15	7.6
Other	21	10.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>198</b>	

**Source of data:** Police Incident Report Data

The age of known gang members is shown in Table 7 (age information was available for 192 gang members). Most gang members (75%) were 15 to 21 years old. Few (only two, or 1%) were less than 15 years of age but 24% were 22 years old or older. An important finding is that only 31% of gang members were under the age of 18 – indicating that most gang members would not be referred to the Division of Juvenile Justice. Overall, 1% of active gang members were 10 to 14 years old, 30% were 15 to 17 years old, 45% were 18 to 21 years old, 9% were 22 to 24 years old, and 15% were 24 years old or older.

**Table 7. Age of Known Gang Members**

*Column percentages*

<b>Age</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Less than 10 years	0	0.0 %
10 to 14 years	2	1.0
15 to 17 years	57	29.7
18 to 21 years	87	45.3
22 to 24 years	17	8.9
Over 24 years	29	15.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>192</b>	

**Source of data:** Police Incident Report Data

**Table 8. Gang Affiliation**

*Column percentages*

<b>Gang</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Bloods	42	21.2 %
Crips	114	57.6
Gangster Disciples	30	15.2
Fairbanks Freaks	9	4.5
MS-13: Mara Salvatrucha	2	1.0
Red 13	1	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>198</b>	

**Source of data:** Police Incident Report Data

Data on gang affiliation were available for 198 of the 200 known gang members. These data are shown in Table 8. The most common gangs in the law enforcement data were Crips (with 58% of law enforcement contacts), followed by Bloods (with 21% of law enforcement contacts) and Gangster Disciples (with 15% of law enforcement contacts). Together, these three gangs accounted for 94% of law enforcement contacts. Information about gang set was not always available. Of the 42 Bloods contacted by law enforcement, most (98%) were of an unknown set (only one was known to belong to Gangsta Killa Bloods). Information about gang set was more readily available for Crips. These data (shown in Table 9) reveal that gang set was known for 63 (55%) of the 114 Crips. The most common set was Southside / 20 bloc / IGC (Insane Gangsta Crips). Overall, law enforcement data show that there are at least 12 active gangs in the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

**Table 9. Gang Affiliation for Crips**

*Column percentages*

Crips	N	% of total	% of known
Hoover Crips	2	1.8	3.2
Heni Ink Crips	4	3.5	6.3
Klip 9 Crip	1	0.9	1.6
Rollin 60s Crip	8	7.0	12.7
Southside / 20 bloc / IGC	48	42.1	76.2
Other / unknown	51	44.7	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>		

**Source of data:** Police Incident Report Data

The following table examines gang affiliation and race / ethnicity for Bloods, Crips, Gangster Disciples, Fairbanks Freaks, MS-13, and Red 13. Among Bloods contacted by law enforcement, 17% were Hispanic or Latino, 17% were Caucasian or White, 34% were African American or Black, and 32% were of another race or ethnicity. Among Crips contacted by law enforcement, 17% were Caucasian or White, 66% were African American or Black, 10% were Alaska Native or American Indian, and 7% were of another race or ethnicity. Among Gangster Disciples contacted by law enforcement, 23% were Caucasian or White, 57% were African American or Black, 13% were Alaska Native or American Indian, and 7% were of another race or ethnicity.

**Table 10. Race / Ethnicity by Gang Affiliation**

*Row percentages*

Gang	Hispanic		White		Black		Native		Other		Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Bloods	7	17 %	7	17 %	14	34 %	0	0 %	13	32 %	<b>41</b>
Crips	0	0	18	16	77	68	10	9	8	7	<b>113</b>
Gangster Disciples	0	0	7	23	17	57	4	13	2	7	<b>30</b>
Fairbanks Freaks	0	0	7	78	1	11	1	11	0	0	<b>9</b>
MS-13: Mara Salvatrucha	2	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Red 13	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>

**Source of data:** Police Incident Report Data

Overall, the most common race / ethnicity for gang members contacted by law enforcement was African American or Black. This was true for all gangs except Bloods (where approximately an equal number were of another race or ethnicity) and Fairbanks Freaks (78%

were Caucasian or White). No African American or Black gang member came into contact with law enforcement from MS-13, or Red 13 (but there were only three members from these gangs in the police incident report data).

Table 11 provides information on gang affiliation and age. The majority of gang members contacted by law enforcement were 15 to 21 years of age. More specifically, 91% of Bloods contacted by law enforcement were 15 to 21 years of age (37% were 15 to 17 and 54% were 18 to 21). Among Crips contacted by law enforcement, 69% were 15 to 21 years of age (21% were 15 to 17 and 48% were 18 to 21). Among Gangster Disciples contacted by law enforcement, 87% were 15 to 21 years of age (57% were 15 to 17 and 30% were 18 to 21). Gangster Disciples contacted by law enforcement were notably younger than members of other gangs. Over half (57%) of Gangster Disciples contacted by law enforcement were under the age of 18. The only other gang with most members contacted by law enforcement under the age of 18 was Red 13 (but only one member was contacted by law enforcement). For all other gangs, the most common member contacted by law enforcement was 18 years of age or older.

**Table 11. Age by Gang Affiliation**

*Row percentages*

Gang	10 to 14		15 to 17		18 to 21		22 to 24		Over 24		Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Bloods	0	0 %	15	37 %	22	54 %	1	2 %	3	7 %	41
Crips	1	1	23	21	51	48	8	7	24	22	107
Gangster Disciples	0	0	17	57	9	30	3	10	1	3	30
Fairbanks Freaks	0	0	2	22	4	44	3	33	0	0	9
MS-13: Mara Salvatrucha	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	100	0	0	2
Red 13	1	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

*Source of data: Police Incident Report Data*

## B. Gang-Related Crime

As stated previously, data were collected from reports of assaults (in the first to fourth degree), misconduct involving a controlled substance (in the first to sixth degree), misconduct involving weapons (in the first to fifth degree), murder and attempted murder (in the first or second degree), robbery (in the first or second degree), and sexual assault (in the first to fourth degree). In Table 12, we show the total number of offenses reported to law enforcement and the number of offenses that were gang-related in 2007, 2008, and the first half of 2009.

The percentage of crime reported to law enforcement that was attributable to gangs varied from a low of 4.3% in 2007 to a high of 7.2% in 2008. In the first half of 2009, 5.1% of crime reported to law enforcement was attributable to gangs (again, these crime data only include assault (1-4), misconduct involving a controlled substance (1-6), misconduct involving weapons (1-5), murder and attempted murder (1-2), robbery (1-2), and sexual assault (1-4)).

In 2008, when the highest proportion of crime was attributable to gangs, 40% of weapons offenses were attributable to gangs, 5% of murders and attempted murders were attributable to gangs, 10% of drug offenses were attributable to gangs, 5% of robberies were attributable to gangs, 5% of sexual assaults were attributable to gangs, and 4% of assaults were attributable to gangs. No murders or attempted murders were known to be gang-related in 2007 or the first half of 2009. The percentage of robberies known to be gang-related was substantially higher in 2007

(16%) and in the first half of 2009 (13%) than in 2008 (5%). Conversely, the percentage of weapons offenses known to be gang-related was substantially lower in 2007 (22%) and in the first half of 2009 (23%) than in 2008 (39%).

**Table 12. Analysis of Crime Data**

*Column percentages*

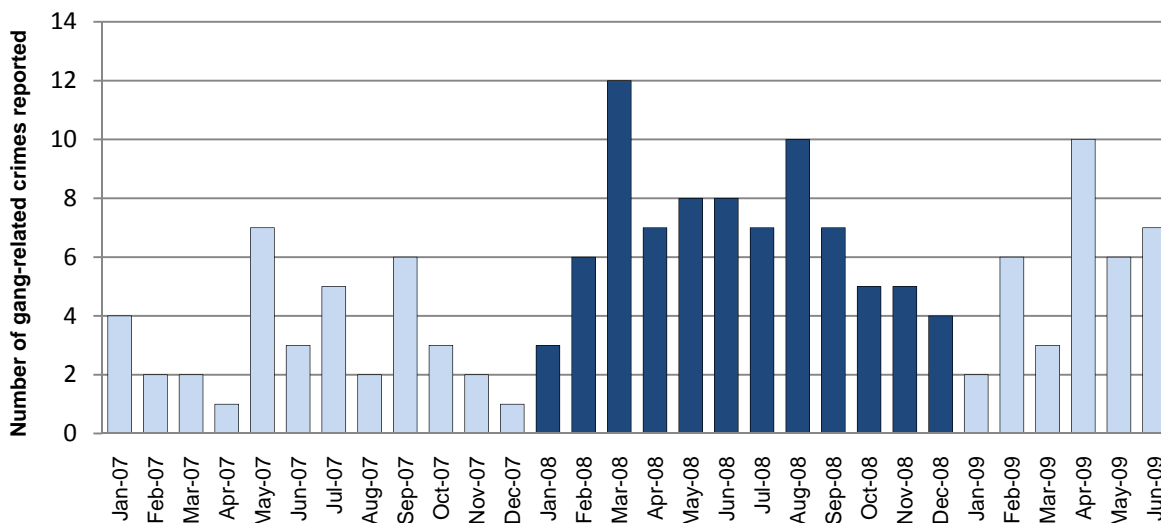
Crime category	2007			2008			2009*		
	All	Gang-related		All	Gang-related		All	Gang-related	
		N	%		N	%		N	%
Murder / attempted murder	8	0	0.0 %	20	5	25.0 %	3	0	0.0 %
Assault	1,124	22	2.0	1,276	56	4.4	637	21	3.3
Sexual assault	90	5	5.6	183	9	4.9	79	1	1.3
Robbery	86	14	16.3	59	3	5.1	31	4	12.9
Drug offenses	287	18	6.3	464	47	10.1	239	17	7.1
Weapons offenses	51	11	21.6	74	29	39.2	44	10	22.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,646</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>2,076</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>1,033</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>5.1</b>

\* 2009 data only include data from January 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009.

**Source of data:** Police Incident Report Data

From 2007 to 2008, the total number of incidents reported to law enforcement grew from 1,646 to 2,076 (a 26% increase). At the same time, the number of gang-related incidents more than doubled, from 70 to 149 (a 113% increase). Increases in gang-related incidents were particularly visible in murders and attempted murders, assaults, drug offenses, and weapons offenses (on the other hand, robberies visibly declined). From 2007 to 2008, the number of gang-related murders and attempted murders increased from zero to five, the number of gang-related assaults increased by 155%, the number of gang-related sexual assaults increased by 80%, the number of gang-related robberies decreased by 79%, the number of gang-related drug offenses increased by 161%, and the number of gang-related weapons offenses increased by 164%.

**Figure 1. Number of Gang-Related Crimes: 2007-2009**



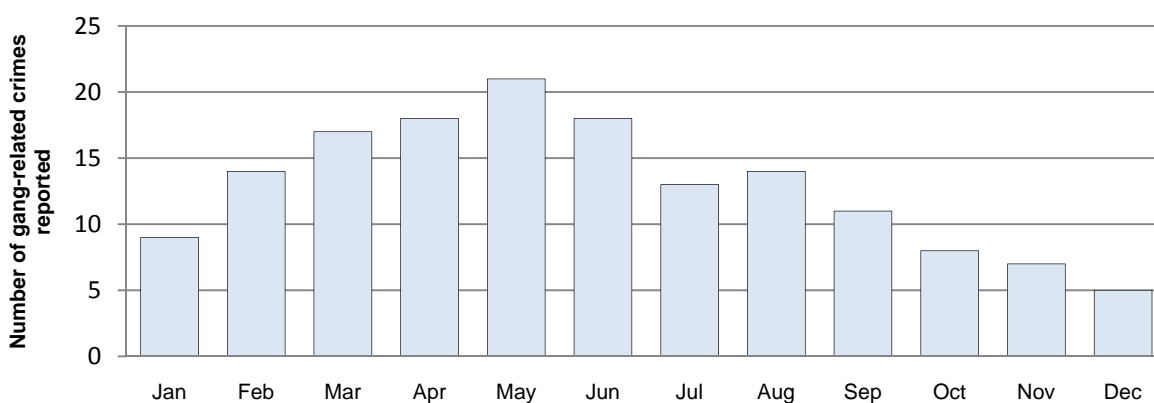
**Source of data:** Police Incident Report Data

Figure 1 shows the number of gang-related crimes by month, from January 2007 to June 2009. As shown in Table 12, the number of gang-related crimes was higher in 2008 than in 2007. The number of gang-related crimes during the first six months of 2009 remains higher than the number during the first six months of 2007. However, the number of gang-related crimes (from January to June) was 23% lower in 2009 than in 2008.

The number of gang-related crime by month is shown in Figure 2. The average number of gang-related crime per month was 13 ( $s = 5$ ). The number of gang-related crime exceeded the average of 13 from February to August.

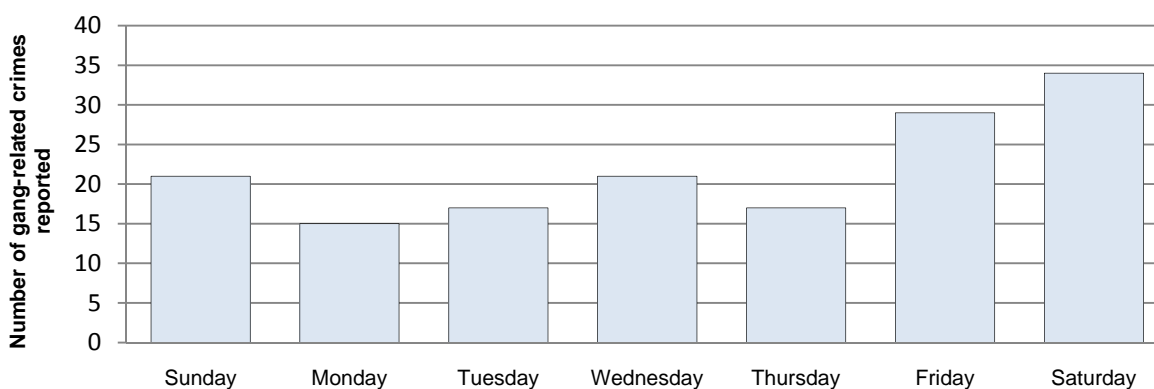
The number of gang-related crime by day of the week is shown in Figure 3. The average number of gang-related crime per weekday was 22 ( $s = 7$ ). The number of gang-related crime exceeded the average of 22 on Friday and Saturday.

**Figure 2. Number of Gang-Related Crimes by Month**



*Source of data: Police Incident Report Data*

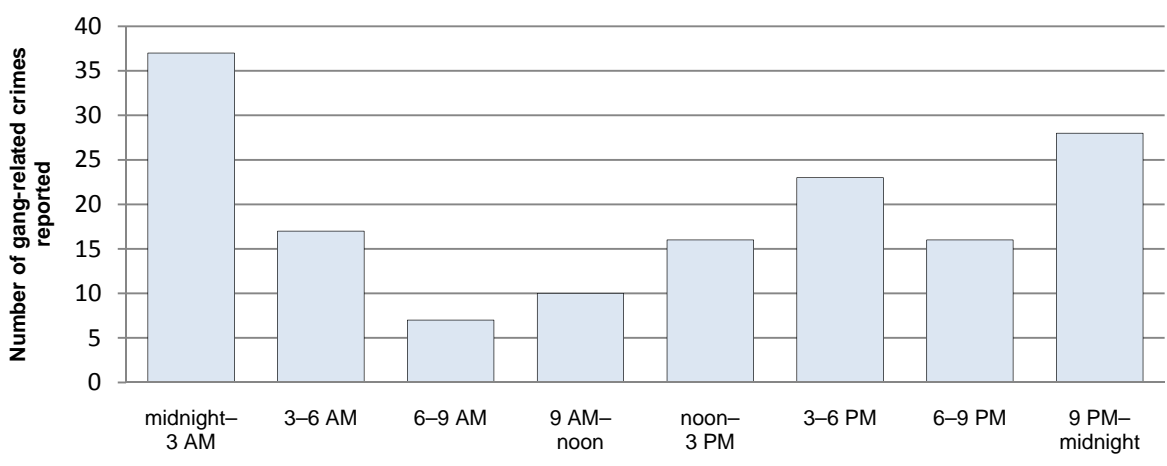
**Figure 3. Number of Gang-Related Crimes by Day**



*Source of data: Police Incident Report Data*

Figure 4 shows the time of day when gang-related crimes are occurring. It is clear that gang-related crimes are most commonly occurring between 9pm and 3am. More specifically, almost half (42%) of all gang-related crimes occurs between 9pm and 3am, with 18% occurring from 9pm to midnight and 24% happening between midnight and 3am.

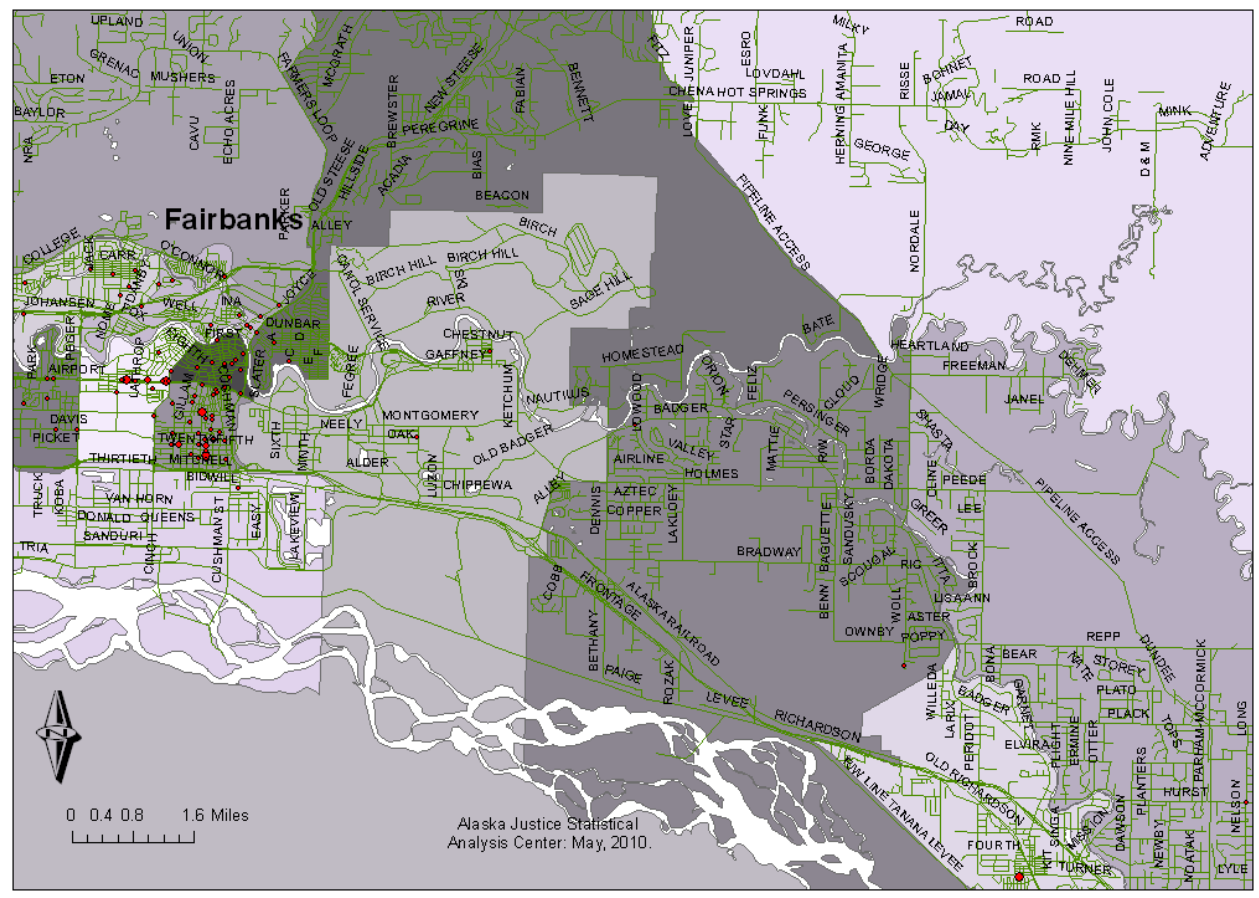
Figure 4. Number of Gang-Related Crimes by Time of Day



Source of data: Police Incident Report Data

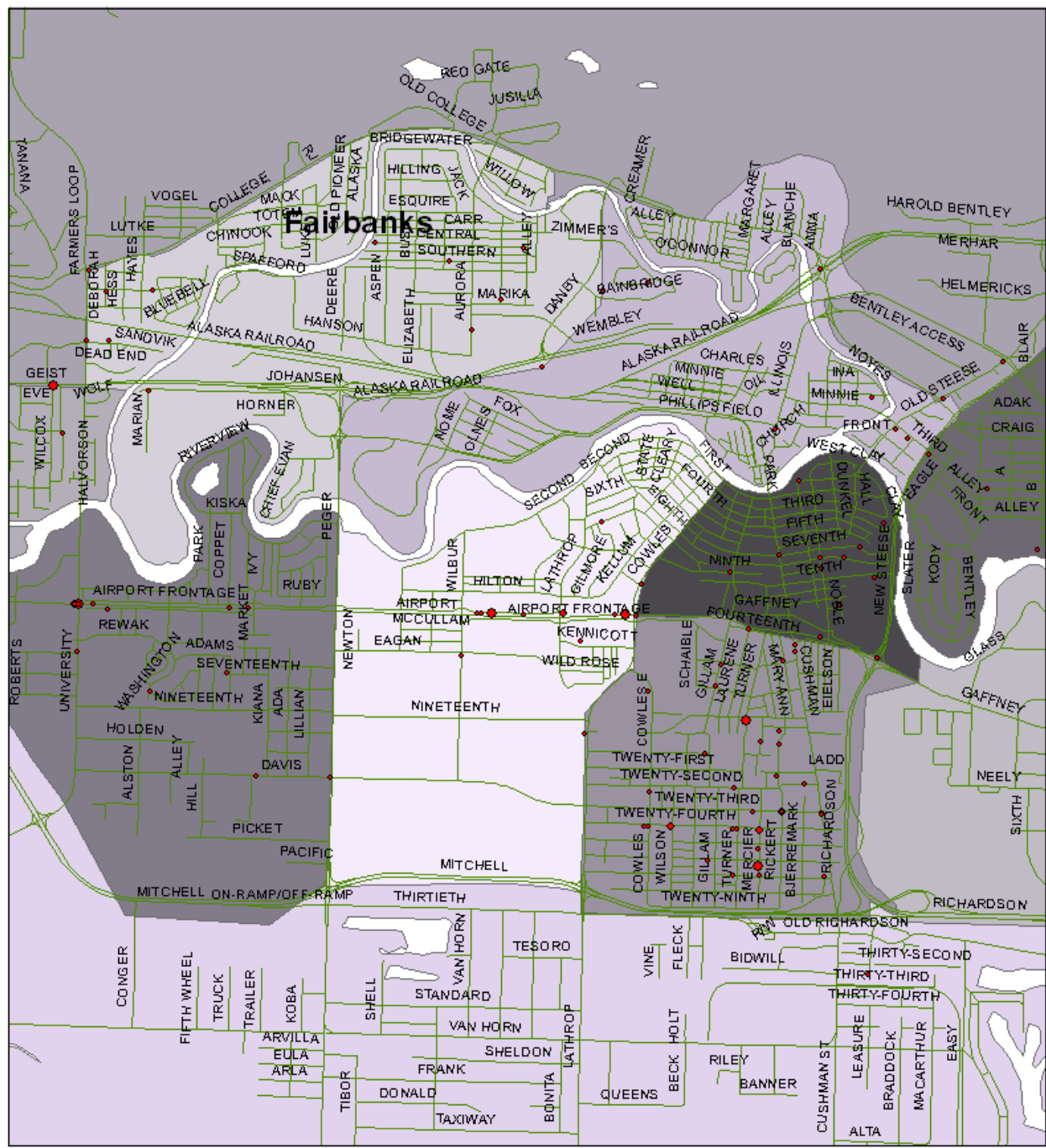
Finally, the following Figures show the approximate location of gang-related crimes within the Fairbanks North Star Borough and within the city of Fairbanks. These data may be useful in determining the best location for gang prevention and intervention efforts. The size of the dot indicates the frequency of gang-related crimes at each location.

Figure 5. Location of Gang-Related Crimes in Fairbanks North Star Borough



Source of data: Police Incident Report Data

Figure 6. Location of Gang-Related Crimes in Fairbanks



0 0.15 0.3 0.6 Miles  
|-----|-----|-----|

Alaska Justice Statistical  
Analysis Center: May, 2010.



Source of data: Police Incident Report Data



### C. Victims of Gang-Related Crimes

We also used the police incident report data to provide limited information on victims of gang-related crimes. From the 154 reports, we collected information on a total of 120 victims (victim information was not always available; e.g., in cases of drug or weapons offenses). Slightly more than half of the victims (59%) were male and 41% were female. Seven (6%) of the victims were police officers. Of the 120 victims, 38 (32%) were known gang members – and 42% of the known gang members were Bloods. Most victims (67%) knew the suspect (e.g., as a friend, acquaintance, or family member), but 33% did not know the suspect (i.e., the suspect was a stranger). The race and ethnicity of victims is shown in Table 13. Slightly over half of the victims were Caucasian or White (56%). The next most common victims were African American or Black (23%) and Alaska Native or American Indian (11%).

**Table 13. Race / Ethnicity of Victims**

*Column percentages*

<b>Race / Ethnicity</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
African American / Black	27	23.1 %
Hispanic / Latino	5	4.3
Caucasian / White	65	55.6
Asian	2	1.7
Alaska Native / American Indian	13	11.1
Other	5	4.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>	

*Source of data: Police Incident Report Data*

Age of the victim is shown in Table 14. Similar to suspects, half of the victims (48%) were between 15 to 21 years of age. However, 37% of victims were over the age of 24 (while only 15% of suspects were). Overall, 71% of victims were 18 years of age or older (and 69% of suspects were 18 years of age or older).

**Table 14. Age of Victims**

*Column percentages*

<b>Age</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Less than 10 years	2	1.7 %
10 to 14 years	7	5.9
15 to 17 years	25	21.2
18 to 21 years	32	27.1
22 to 24 years	8	6.8
Over 24 years	44	37.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	

*Source of data: Police Incident Report Data*

## Section IV

### Fairbanks Gang Assessment: Student and School Data

Student and school data include data on (1) student characteristics, (2) disciplinary incidents, (3) school staff perceptions, and (4) student perceptions. Together, these four data sources provide important information about gang activity, as seen from students and school staff. Data on student characteristics and disciplinary incidents were obtained from the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District (FNSBSD). Student and staff perceptions were gathered from surveys conducted at Effie Kokrine Charter School, Hutchison High School, Lathrop High School, Monroe Catholic School, Randy Smith Middle School, Ryan Middle School, Star of the North Charter School, and West Valley High School. Results are summarized below in four sections. Additional methodological details are available in Section VII.

#### A. Student Characteristics

Student demographic characteristics for the entire Fairbanks North Star Borough School District are shown in Table 15. In the most recent school year (2009-10), 64% of students were White, 10% were Alaska Native, 8% were multi-ethnic, 7% were Hispanic, 6% were Black, 3% were Asian, 1% were Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 1% were American Indian. Since 2004, there has been a dramatic increase in the percentage of students who are Hispanic. More precisely, the percentage of students who are Hispanic increased by 72% (from 4.3% to 7.4%). Conversely, the percentage of students who are Alaska Native or American Indian declined by 30% (from 14.6% to 10.3%) and the percentage of students who are Black declined by 19% (from 7.9% to 6.4%).

**Table 15. Race and Ethnicity of Students**

Student Race / Ethnicity	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10
White	69.9 %	69.2 %	68.8 %	65.8 %	64.8 %	64.3 %
Black	7.9	7.9	7.3	6.5	6.5	6.4
Hispanic	4.3	4.4	4.5	5.4	6.9	7.4
Asian	3.3	3.7	3.7 <sup>1</sup>	2.7	2.6	2.6
American Indian	1.8	1.9	–	0.2	0.6	0.6
Alaska Native	12.8	12.9	13.3 <sup>2</sup>	11.4	10.3	9.7
Multi-ethnic	–	–	2.3	7.3	7.5	8.2
Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	–	–	–	0.7	0.8	0.9

<sup>1</sup> Includes Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

<sup>2</sup> Includes American Indian

– Not reported

**Source of data:** Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Additional data for individual charter and private schools are included in Table 16 (Effie Kokrine Charter School and Star of the North Charter School). Additional data for middle schools (Randy Smith Middle School and Ryan Middle School) are included in Table 17.

Finally, data for Hutchinson High School, Lathrop High School, and West Valley High School are included in Table 18.

**Table 16. Race and Ethnicity in Charter and Private Schools**

	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10
<b>Effie Kokrine Charter School</b>						
White		9.1 %	2.1 %	6.5 %	8.2 %	9.0 %
Black		2.4	3.2	1.3	1.5	3.2
Hispanic		0.0	2.1	1.9	3.0	1.9
Asian	No data	0.0	0.0 <sup>1</sup>	0.0	0.7	0.0
American Indian		1.8	–	0.0	0.7	0.6
Alaska Native		86.7	89.5 <sup>2</sup>	79.9	69.4	72.4
Multi-ethnic		–	3.2	10.4	16.4	12.2
Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander		–	–	0.0	0.0	0.6
<b>Star of the North Charter School</b>						
White	73.2 %	71.9 %	74.5 %	67.5 %	62.1 %	66.0 %
Black	5.7	5.4	4.2	4.5	5.6	4.5
Hispanic	1.3	2.2	1.0	3.5	6.1	6.5
Asian	2.5	1.1	1.6 <sup>1</sup>	2.0	2.0	1.0
American Indian	1.9	4.3	–	0.5	2.0	1.5
Alaska Native	15.3	15.1	16.7 <sup>2</sup>	15.5	16.2	13.5
Multi-ethnic	–	–	2.1	6.5	6.1	7.0
Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	–	–	–	0.0	0.0	0.0

1 Includes Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

2 Includes American Indian

– Not reported

**Source of data:** Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

**Table 17. Race and Ethnicity in Middle Schools**

	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10
<b>Randy Smith Middle School</b>						
White	73.1 %	71.5 %	69.9 %	70.8 %	67.2 %	66.6 %
Black	5.0	5.8	4.8	3.5	3.0	0.9
Hispanic	3.5	3.9	2.5	5.0	6.8	6.6
Asian	4.1	5.8	6.3 <sup>1</sup>	4.2	4.1	3.3
American Indian	2.6	1.9	–	0.0	0.3	0.0
Alaska Native	11.7	11.1	14.6 <sup>2</sup>	12.1	12.7	11.0
Multi-ethnic	–	–	1.8	4.2	6.0	11.6
Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	–	–	–	0.2	0.0	0.0
<b>Ryan Middle School</b>						
White	59.4 %	65.6 %	59.8 %	54.0 %	52.2 %	58.5 %
Black	10.8	10.1	10.1	10.1	9.1	6.9
Hispanic	3.5	2.9	3.7	5.4	8.5	8.2
Asian	3.9	4.6	4.8 <sup>1</sup>	3.4	4.1	4.0
American Indian	1.3	1.7	–	1.3	1.6	0.8
Alaska Native	21.0	10.1	20.7 <sup>2</sup>	15.8	16.2	12.5
Multi-ethnic	–	–	0.8	9.6	7.4	8.0
Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	–	–	–	0.5	0.8	1.1

1 Includes Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

2 Includes American Indian

– Not reported

**Source of data:** Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

**Table 18. Race and Ethnicity in High Schools**

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
<b>Hutchison High School</b>						
White	70.1 %	68.9 %	68.0 %	73.5 %	74.1 %	73.5 %
Black	6.8	5.9	6.5	4.0	3.5	3.9
Hispanic	4.6	5.9	7.1	6.3	6.8	7.5
Asian	2.5	2.5	2.0 <sup>1</sup>	0.9	1.4	0.8
American Indian	2.1	0.9	–	0.0	0.0	0.3
Alaska Native	13.9	15.8	14.3 <sup>2</sup>	11.2	9.3	9.4
Multi-ethnic	–	–	2.0	4.0	4.9	4.7
Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	–	–	–	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Lathrop High School</b>						
White	65.2 %	64.4 %	63.9 %	57.4 %	58.5 %	55.3 %
Black	9.8	11.1	10.1	10.0	10.8	10.9
Hispanic	4.4	4.7	5.0	7.7	8.6	10.1
Asian	4.8	5.3	5.2 <sup>1</sup>	4.8	4.0	4.2
American Indian	2.0	2.3	–	0.1	0.6	1.4
Alaska Native	13.8	12.2	13.4 <sup>2</sup>	12.8	8.6	8.4
Multi-ethnic	–	–	2.3	6.3	7.5	7.7
Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	–	–	–	1.0	1.4	2.1
<b>West Valley High School</b>						
White	76.0 %	77.8 %	75.8 %	71.4 %	72.8 %	69.3 %
Black	3.8	3.5	4.2	5.0	3.6	3.9
Hispanic	3.1	3.2	3.8	4.5	4.2	4.4
Asian	3.3	3.2	3.7 <sup>1</sup>	4.0	3.4	4.0
American Indian	1.1	1.1	–	0.4	0.6	0.6
Alaska Native	12.7	11.2	11.4 <sup>2</sup>	8.4	9.4	10.7
Multi-ethnic	–	–	1.2	5.4	5.3	6.8
Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	–	–	–	0.9	0.6	0.4

<sup>1</sup> Includes Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

<sup>2</sup> Includes American Indian

– Not reported

*Source of data: Fairbanks North Star Borough School District*

Attendance and transiency rates for the 2008-09 school year are shown in Table 19. The average attendance rate for these seven schools was 89.1% (slightly lower than the school district average), while the average transiency rate was 20.3%.

**Table 19. Attendance and Transiency Rates: 2008-09**

School	Attendance rate	Transiency rate
Effie Kokrine Charter School	87.2 %	41.0 %
Hutchison High School	91.8	11.0
Lathrop High School	78.0	10.0
Ryan Middle School	92.0	19.0
Randy Smith Middle School	91.8	13.0
Star of the North Secondary School	91.7	34.0
West Valley High School	91.4	14.0
<b>Average</b>	<b>89.1</b>	<b>20.3</b>
<b>Entire school district</b>	<b>92.5</b>	

*Source of data: Fairbanks North Star Borough School District*

Ryan Middle School had the highest attendance rate (92%) and Lathrop High School had the lowest (87%). Transiency rates were highest at Effie Kokrine Charter School (41%) and lowest at Lathrop High School (10%).

The average graduation rate for the Fairbanks North Star School district is 70%. In our sample of high schools and charter schools, the average graduation rate was 69%. It varied from a low of 41% at Effie Kokrine Charter School to a high of 88% at West Valley High School. The average drop-out rate was 4.4%, varying from a low of 1% at Randy Smith Middle School to a high of 11% at the Star of the North Secondary School.

**Table 20. Graduation and Dropout Rates: 2008-09**

School	Graduation rate	Drop-out rate
Effie Kokrine Charter School	41.0 %	8.0 %
Hutchison High School	85.0	2.0
Lathrop High School	78.0	5.0
Ryan Middle School	*	2.0
Randy Smith Middle School	*	1.0
Star of the North Secondary School	54.0	11.0
West Valley High School	88.0	2.0
<b>Average</b>	<b>69.2</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<b>Entire school district</b>	<b>70.0</b>	

*Source of data: Fairbanks North Star Borough School District*

## B. Disciplinary Incidents

Out-of-school suspensions from 2004-05 to 2008-09 are shown in Table 21. Data show that out-of-school suspensions were highest in the 2004-2005 school year – with 15% of seventh and eighth grade students and 12% of ninth to twelfth grade students receiving out-of-school suspensions. In the most recent school year (2008-09), suspensions had declined slightly – with 10% of seventh and eighth grade students and 11% of ninth to twelfth grade students receiving out-of-school suspensions.

**Table 21. Out-of-School Suspensions**

Student group	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
7th-8th grade	345	14.7 %	264	11.8 %	246	11.6 %	200	10.0 %	211	10.3 %
9th-12th grade	544	11.7	466	10.2	447	9.7	387	9.2	439	10.6
<b>Entire school district</b>	<b>1,074</b>	<b>7.3 %</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>6.0 %</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>6.1 %</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>4.7 %</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>5.8 %</b>

**Note:** Percentages shown in this table represent the number of students who received an out-of-school suspension as a percent of the total district enrollment for that grade range.

*Source of data: Fairbanks North Star Borough School District*

Reasons for out-of-school suspensions are shown in Table 22. Aggressive behavior, disrespectful behavior, school disruption, and substance-related offenses were the most common reasons for out-of-school suspensions. Aggressive behavior includes assault, fighting, bullying, harassment, physical aggression, and threats. Disrespectful behavior includes insubordination,

flagrant disrespect, and disobedience. School disruption includes disorderly conduct, cheating, unethical behavior, disruptive conduct, rule breaking, misuse of computer or hacking, and pulling fire alarms inappropriately. Substance-related offenses include drug and alcohol violations. Together, these behaviors accounted for 77% to 89% of out-of-school suspensions.

**Table 22. Reasons for Out-of-School Suspensions**

*Column percentages*

Reason for suspension	2004-05 (N=1,074)	2005-06 (N=871)	2006-07 (N=881)	2007-08 (N=663)	2008-09 (N=836)
Aggressive behavior	28.8 %	30.5 %	24.0 %	27.0 %	31.0 %
Disrespectful behavior	24.8	18.6	27.0	27.0	24.0
School disruption	18.5	17.0	16.0	11.0	11.0
Substance-related offenses	17.3	13.2	10.0	12.0	12.0
Dangerous action (incl. arson)	0.5	1.2	--	--	3.0
Profanity	0.1	1.7	--	--	5.0
Truancy	2.2	1.3	2.0	3.0	1.0
Weapon (possession or use)	1.9	1.9	3.0	3.0	3.0
Theft / damage of property	3.5	3.6	3.0	3.0	6.0
Other	2.5	11.0	--	14.0	5.0

**Source of data:** Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Reasons for out-of-school suspensions and expulsions for the schools where students were surveyed are included in Table 23. Overall, there were 491 out-of-school suspensions and 23 expulsions. Again, the most common reasons were aggressive behavior, disrespectful behavior, school disruption, and substance-related offenses.

**Table 23. Reasons for Suspensions and Expulsions at Surveyed Schools**

*Column percentages*

Reason	Suspensions (N=491)		Expulsions (N=23)	
	N	Percent	N	Percent
Aggressive behavior	130	30.5 %	10	31.0 %
Disrespectful behavior	134	18.6	1	24.0
School disruption	46	17.0	5	11.0
Substance-related offenses	85	13.2	2	12.0
Dangerous action (incl. arson)	2	1.2	1	3.0
Profanity	27	1.7	0	5.0
Truancy	12	1.3	0	1.0
Weapon (possession or use)	11	1.9	3	3.0
Theft / damage of property	13	3.6	0	6.0
Other	31	11.0	1	5.0

**Source of data:** Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

## C. School Staff Perceptions

School staff at Effie Kokrine Charter School, Hutchison High School, Lathrop High School, Randy Smith Middle School, Ryan Middle School, Star of the North Charter School, and West Valley High School was asked to complete an online survey regarding their perceptions of the local gang problem. A total of 147 school staff responded to this online survey – over half (60%) were teachers, 27% were support staff, 7% were counselors, 3% were administrators, and

3% were responsible for school safety. All schools were well represented, with the exception of Effie Kokrine Charter School and Star of the North Secondary School. Although this is not a representative sample of all school staff within the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, the following data do provide an important viewpoint on the local gang problem.

**Table 24. School Staff Position by School**

*Row percentages*

School	Administrator		Counselor		School safety		Support staff		Teacher		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	Col. %
Effie Kokrine Charter	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	1	25.0 %	3	75.0 %	4	2.7 %
Hutchison High	1	4.5	3	13.6	0	0.0	5	22.7	13	59.1	22	15.0
Lathrop High	2	5.1	1	2.6	1	2.6	8	20.5	27	69.2	39	26.5
Randy Smith Middle	0	0.0	2	10.5	0	0.0	6	31.6	11	57.9	19	12.9
Ryan Middle	1	3.7	2	7.4	0	0.0	10	37.0	14	51.9	27	18.4
Star of the North Secondary	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	33.3	2	66.7	3	2.0
West Valley High	1	3.0	2	6.1	3	9.1	9	27.3	18	54.5	33	22.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3.4 %</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6.8 %</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2.7 %</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>27.2 %</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>59.9 %</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>

*Source of data: GRAIN School Staff Perceptions Survey (2010)*

School staff members were asked if they believed that gangs were a problem in their school. Overall, 67% of school staff who responded to the survey did not believe that gangs were a problem in their school, while 33% believed that gangs were a problem. Staff was most likely to perceive a gang problem at Lathrop High School, West Valley High School, Star of the North Secondary School, and Ryan Middle School. In all of these schools, at least 25% of staff believed that gangs were a problem (and at Lathrop High School, over half (62%) believed that gangs were a problem). These are important data that should guide the Fairbanks Gang Reduction and Intervention Network to target their services.

**Table 25. Perceptions of Gang Problem by School Staff**

*Row percentages*

School	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Effie Kokrine Charter School	4	100.0 %	0	0.0 %	4
Hutchison High School	23	100.0	0	0.0	23
Lathrop High School	15	38.5	24	61.5	39
Randy Smith Middle School	16	88.9	2	11.1	18
Ryan Middle School	19	73.1	7	26.9	26
Star of the North Secondary School	2	66.7	1	33.3	3
West Valley High School	20	58.8	14	41.2	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>67.3 %</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>32.7 %</b>	<b>147</b>

*Source of data: GRAIN School Staff Perceptions Survey (2010)*

The 147 school staff reported observing a total of 97 gang incidents on school grounds (42% of incidents were observed by staff at Lathrop High School, 23% at West Valley High School, 20% at Ryan Middle School, and 13% at Randy Smith Middle School). The most common type of gang incident observed by school staff were graffiti (30%), intimidation (27%), fights with rival gangs (19%), and recruiting (16%). Fewer staff observed gang members selling

drugs (5%) or gang members fighting with members of their own gang (4%), and none observed drive-by shootings.

**Table 26. Gang Incidents on School Grounds by School**

*Row percentages*

School	Selling Drugs		Fights with Rival Gang		Fights Within Gang		Drive-by Shooting	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Effie Kokrine Charter School	0	-- %	0	-- %	0	-- %	0	-- %
Hutchison High School	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Lathrop High School	3	7.3	9	22.0	3	7.3	0	0.0
Randy Smith Middle School	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Ryan Middle School	1	5.3	3	15.8	1	5.3	0	0.0
Star of the North Secondary School	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--
West Valley High School	1	4.5	6	27.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5.2 %</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18.6 %</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4.1 %</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>

School	Intimidation		Recruiting		Graffiti		Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Effie Kokrine Charter School	0	-- %	0	-- %	0	-- %	<b>0</b>
Hutchison High School	1	50.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	<b>2</b>
Lathrop High School	12	29.3	6	14.6	8	19.5	<b>41</b>
Randy Smith Middle School	3	23.1	4	30.8	6	46.2	<b>13</b>
Ryan Middle School	5	26.3	4	21.1	5	26.3	<b>19</b>
Star of the North Secondary School	0	--	0	--	0	--	<b>0</b>
West Valley High School	5	22.7	1	4.5	9	40.9	<b>22</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26.8 %</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15.5 %</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>29.9 %</b>	<b>97</b>

*Source of data: GRAIN School Staff Perceptions Survey (2010)*

## D. Student Perceptions

Students at Effie Kokrine Charter School, Hutchison High School, Lathrop High School, Monroe Catholic School, Randy Smith Middle School, Ryan Middle School, Star of the North Charter School, and West Valley High School were asked to complete a survey regarding their perceptions of gangs. A total of 419 students participated in this survey. Slightly over half (55%) of students were female, while 45% were male.

**Table 27. Student Age**

*Column percentages*

Age	N	%
12 years	31	7.4 %
13 years	81	19.4
14 years	80	19.2
15 years	63	15.1
16 years	56	13.4
17 years	63	15.1
18 years	41	9.8
19 years	2	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>417</b>	

*Source of data: GRAIN Student Survey (2010)*

Students who participated in the school survey ranged in age from 12 to 19 years old. Almost half (46%) of the students were 12, 13, or 14 years old. The majority of students (90%) were less than 18 years of age. Student grade level is shown in the following table – 20% of students were in seventh grade, 18% were in eighth grade, 19% were in ninth grade, 13% were in tenth grade, 16% were in eleventh grade, and 14% were in twelfth grade. Over half (62%) of students were in ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade.

**Table 28. Student Grade**

*Column percentages*

<b>Grade</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
7th	85	20.4 %
8th	75	18.0
9th	80	19.2
10th	55	13.2
11th	65	15.6
12th	57	13.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>417</b>	

*Source of data: GRAIN Student Survey (2010)*

One quarter (26%) of the surveys were completed at Monroe Catholic School. Other schools with a large number of surveys included West Valley High School (20%), Lathrop High School (17%), Randy Smith Middle School (16%), Ryan Middle School (12%), and Hutchison High School (7%). Few students responded to the survey at Effie Kokrine Charter School (1%) or Star of the North Secondary School (2%).

**Table 29. Student School of Attendance**

*Column percentages*

<b>School</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Effie Kokrine Charter School	2	0.5 %
Hutchison High School	30	7.2
Lathrop High School	70	16.7
Monroe Catholic School	108	25.8
Randy Smith Middle School	67	16.0
Ryan Middle School	51	12.2
Star of the North Secondary School	9	2.1
West Valley High School	82	19.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>419</b>	

*Source of data: GRAIN Student Survey (2010)*

The majority of students responding to the survey were White or Caucasian. Of the 417 students who provided data on race and ethnicity, 67% were White or Caucasian, 9% were Alaska Native or American Indian, 4% were Black or African American, 3% were Hispanic or Latino, 2% were Asian, and 2% were Native Hawaiian, Samoan, or Pacific Islander. The remainder (14%) described themselves as ‘other,’ or multi-ethnic.

**Table 30. Student Race/Ethnicity***Column percentages*

<b>Race / Ethnicity</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Alaska Native or American Indian	37	8.9 %
Asian	9	2.2
Black or African American	15	3.6
Native Hawaiian, Samoan, or Other Pacific Islander	7	1.7
White or Caucasian	279	66.9
Spanish/Hispanic/Latino	12	2.9
Other (includes multi-ethnic)	58	13.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>417</b>	

*Source of data: GRAIN Student Survey (2010)*

Students were asked to report who lived with them in their household (categories were not mutually exclusive). Nearly 90% of students reported living with their mother, 75% reported living with their father, 47% reported living with a brother, and 44% reported living with a sister. Eleven percent of students reported living with a stepfather. Fewer students indicated living with a stepmother (6%), stepbrother or stepsister (4% and 5% respectively), a foster mother or foster father (1% and 2% respectively), a grandmother or grandfather (7% and 6% respectively), an aunt or uncle (2% for both), or other adults (5%).

**Table 31. Persons in Student's Household**

N=419

<b>Person</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Mother	372	88.8 %	Other children	10	2.4 %
Father	312	74.5	Foster mother	6	1.4
Brother(s)	198	47.3	Foster father	7	1.7
Sister(s)	186	44.4	Grandmother	29	6.9
Stepmother	26	6.2	Grandfather	23	5.5
Stepfather	44	10.5	Aunt	8	1.9
Stepbrother(s)	15	3.6	Uncle	10	2.4
Stepsister(s)	21	5.0	Other adults	20	4.8

Percentages add to more than 100% because of multiple answers.

*Source of data: GRAIN Student Survey (2010)*

Overall, 57% of students reported having at least one younger sibling (including stepsiblings) and 62% of students reported having at least one older sibling (including stepsiblings). Most students (86%) reported having two or fewer younger siblings and most (83%) reported having two or fewer older siblings.

**Table 32. Frequency of Siblings**

*Column percentages*

Number of Siblings	Younger Siblings		Older Siblings	
	N	%	N	%
0	179	42.7 %	158	37.7 %
1	119	28.4	132	31.5
2	63	15.0	59	14.1
3	25	6.0	34	8.1
4	16	3.8	15	3.6
5	9	2.1	5	1.2
6	2	0.5	4	1.0
7	2	0.5	5	1.2
8	1	0.2	1	0.2
9	0	0.0	0	0.0
10 or more	2	0.5	1	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>418</b>		<b>414</b>	

**Source of data:** GRAIN Student Survey (2010)

The next three tables provide information about students' perceptions of school. Students were asked the extent to which the things that they were learning in school would be important to them later in life. Most students believed that what they were learning would be important for them in later life – only 1% believed that what they were learning in school would not be important at all. Over 90% of students thought that what they are learning in school would be fairly, quite, or very important later in life – with 21% believing it would be fairly important, 37% believing it would be quite important, and 35% believing it would be very important.

**Table 33. Importance of Education to Later Life**

*Column percentages*

Importance	N	%
Very important	145	34.6 %
Quite important	155	37.0
Fairly important	87	20.8
Slightly important	27	6.4
Not at all important	5	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>419</b>	

**Source of data:** GRAIN Student Survey (2010)

Students were asked to think back over the last year in school and share how often they enjoyed being in school. Over half (57%) of students indicated that they often or almost always enjoyed being in school. Twelve percent of students said that they seldom or never enjoyed being in school – with only 2% indicating that they never enjoyed being in school.

Students were also asked to think back over the last year in school and share how often they hated being in school. Eleven percent of students indicated that they never hated being in school, but 17% indicated that they often or almost always hated being in school.

**Table 34. Perceptions of School over the Past Year**

*Column percentages*

<b>Enjoyed / Hated</b>	<b>Enjoyed School</b>		<b>Hated School</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Never	10	2.4 %	44	10.5 %
Seldom	38	9.1	153	36.6
Sometimes	130	31.1	150	35.9
Often	154	36.8	55	13.2
Almost always	86	20.6	15	3.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>418</b>		<b>417</b>	

*Source of data: GRAIN Student Survey (2010)*

In the following table, we examine how often (over the past year in school) students tried to do their best work. The majority of students (81%) indicated that they often or almost always tried to do their best work in school. Few students (7%) indicated that they never or seldom tried to do their best work in school.

**Table 35. Tried to do Best Work in School**

*Column percentages*

<b>Tried</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Never	10	2.4 %
Seldom	18	4.3
Sometimes	53	12.7
Often	126	30.3
Almost always	209	50.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>416</b>	

*Source of data: GRAIN Student Survey (2010)*

Six questions were used to measure the students' perceptions of their neighborhood. More specifically, students were asked whether their neighborhood had problems with crime and/or drug selling, whether fights were a problem, whether there were a lot of empty or abandoned buildings, whether there was a lot of graffiti, whether they felt safe in their neighborhood, and whether they would like to get out of their neighborhood. Generally speaking, students did not feel that there were significant problems in their neighborhood, students generally felt safe in their neighborhood, and generally did not want to get out of their neighborhood. More specifically, 62% of students believed that crime and drug selling were definitely not problems in their neighborhoods, 66% believed that fights were definitely not a problem, 74% believed that there was definitely no problem with empty or abandoned buildings, and 80% believed that there was definitely no problem with graffiti. Over half of students (54%) definitely felt safe in their neighborhood and only 6% would definitely like to get out of their neighborhood.

**Table 36. Neighborhood Conditions**

*Row percentages*

Condition	Definitely not true		Mostly not true		Mostly true		Definitely true		Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Crime or drug selling	250	62.3 %	110	27.4 %	28	7.0 %	13	3.2 %	<b>401</b>
Fights	264	66.3	94	23.6	29	7.3	11	2.8	<b>398</b>
Empty of abandoned buildings	296	73.6	73	18.2	27	6.7	6	1.5	<b>402</b>
Graffiti	318	80.1	52	13.1	22	5.5	5	1.3	<b>397</b>
Feel safe in neighborhood	32	8.0	33	8.2	119	29.6	218	54.2	<b>402</b>
Would like to get out	251	62.6	87	21.7	38	9.5	25	6.2	<b>401</b>

*Source of data: GRAIN Student Survey (2010)*

**Table 37. Youth Activities in the Community**

*Row percentages*

Activity	No		Yes		N
	N	%	N	%	
Sports teams	39	9.3 %	380	90.7 %	<b>419</b>
Boys & Girls Clubs	99	23.8	317	76.2	<b>416</b>
Service clubs	209	50.2	207	49.8	<b>416</b>
Scouting	164	39.4	252	60.6	<b>416</b>
4-H clubs	219	52.6	197	47.4	<b>416</b>

*Source of data: GRAIN Student Survey (2010)*

Students were asked to identify activities that were available to youth in their community, and over half of students identified at least one activity. Over 90% of students were aware of sports team activities in the community, 76% knew about activities provided by the Boys & Girls Clubs, 50% knew about activities offered by other service clubs, 61% knew about scouting within their community, and 47% knew about activities with 4-H clubs.

Students were also asked to identify how their parents would feel if they engaged in negative behaviors – stealing anything worth more than five dollars, drawing graffiti, and picking fights with others. Results are shown in the following table. Most students (84% or more) indicated that their parents would feel it was either very wrong or wrong. Fewer than 2% of students indicated that their parents would not think it was wrong at all to steal, draw graffiti, or pick fights.

**Table 38. Perceived Parental Approval of Criminal Behavior**

*Row percentages*

Behavior	Very wrong		wrong		A little wrong		Not wrong at all		Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Stealing	311	74.9 %	74	17.8 %	25	6.0 %	5	1.2 %	<b>415</b>
Drawing graffiti	328	79.0	58	14.0	23	5.5	6	1.4	<b>415</b>
Picking fights	215	51.9	132	31.9	59	14.3	8	1.9	<b>414</b>

*Source of data: GRAIN Student Survey (2010)*

The student survey also asked seven questions about the four best friends of each respondent. More specifically, each student was asked to indicate how many of their four best friends had engaged in seven different behaviors over the past year. The seven behaviors were

getting suspended from school, carrying a handgun, selling illegal drugs, stealing or trying to steal a car or motorcycle, getting arrested, dropping out of school, and being a member of a gang. Results are shown in the following table.

**Table 39. Behaviors of Four Best Friends in Last Year**

*Row percentages*

Behaviors	Number of best friends (out of four)										Avg. #	Total
	Zero		One		Two		Three		Four			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Suspended from school	305	73.1 %	60	14.4 %	31	7.4 %	7	1.7 %	14	3.4 %	0.5	417
Carrying a handgun	369	88.9	23	5.5	10	2.4	6	1.4	7	1.7	0.2	415
Selling illegal drugs	367	88.9	16	3.9	10	2.4	8	1.9	12	2.9	0.3	413
Stealing car/motorcycle	382	92.0	17	4.1	12	2.9	3	0.7	1	0.2	0.1	415
Getting arrested	361	86.8	30	7.2	6	1.4	10	2.4	9	2.2	0.3	416
Dropping out of school	373	89.9	28	6.7	8	1.9	3	0.7	3	0.7	0.2	415
Being a member of a gang	378	90.9	18	4.3	5	1.2	5	1.2	10	2.4	0.2	416

*Source of data: GRAIN Student Survey (2010)*

On average, students had less than one best friend that was suspended from school, who carried a handgun, who sold illegal drugs, who stole (or tried to steal) a car or motorcycle, who was arrested, who dropped out of school, or who was a member of a gang. Approximately 90% of students reported having zero best friends who had engaged in these behaviors, except for being suspended from school. Over one quarter (27%) of students reported at least one best friend suspended from school (14% reported one, 7% reported two, 2% reported three, and 3% reported all four being suspended from school). Additional results showed that 11% of students reported at least one best friend carrying a weapon, 11% reported at least one best friend selling illegal drugs, 8% reported at least one best friend stealing or trying to steal a car or motorcycle, 13% reported at least one best friend getting arrested, 10% reported at least one best friend dropping out of school, and 9% reported at least one best friend being a member of a gang.

Students were also asked about their own behaviors. More specifically, students were asked how many times in the past year they had been suspended from school, had carried a handgun, had sold illegal drugs, had stolen or tried to steal a car or motorcycle, had gotten arrested, had attacked someone with the idea of seriously hurting them, had been drunk or high at school, and had taken a handgun at school. Results are shown in the following table.

**Table 40. Student Behaviors over the Past Year**

*Row percentages*

Behaviors	Number of times in past year										Total
	Never		1 or 2		3 to 9		10 to 29		30 +		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Suspended from school	383	91.6 %	28	6.7 %	5	1.2 %	1	0.2 %	1	0.2 %	418
Carrying a handgun	386	92.8	9	2.2	9	2.2	8	1.9	4	1.0	416
Selling illegal drugs	401	96.4	3	0.7	9	2.2	1	0.2	2	0.5	416
Stealing car/motorcycle	403	96.6	11	2.6	2	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.2	417
Getting arrested	406	97.4	8	1.9	2	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.2	417
Attacking someone to hurt	371	89.2	32	7.7	6	1.4	3	0.7	4	1.0	416
Being drunk/high at school	384	92.3	17	4.1	8	1.9	4	1.0	3	0.7	416
Taking handgun to school	412	98.8	4	1.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2	417

*Source of data: GRAIN Student Survey (2010)*

Most students (generally 90% or more) reported never being suspended from school, carrying a handgun, selling illegal drugs, stealing or trying to steal a car or motorcycle, getting arrested, attacking someone to seriously hurt them, being drunk or high at school, and carrying a handgun at school. Nonetheless, 8% of students reported being suspended from school at least once, 7% reported carrying a handgun at least once, 4% reported selling drugs at least once, 3% reported stealing or trying to steal a car or motorcycle at least once, 3% reported getting arrested at least once, 11% reported attacking someone with the idea of seriously hurting them at least once, 8% reported being drunk or high at school at least once, and 1% reported taking a handgun to school at least once. Few students (less than 5%) reported these behaviors more than twice in the past year.

Students were also asked how often they had done what felt good to them no matter what, how often they had done something dangerous because someone had dared them to do it, and how often they had done crazy things even if they were a little dangerous. Students were least likely to report doing something dangerous because someone had dared them to (47% reported doing something dangerous because someone had dared them to). By comparison, 64% reported doing what felt good to them no matter what and 66% reported doing crazy things even if they were a little dangerous. However, 50% of students did not report doing what felt good to them no matter what within the past year, 78% did not report doing something dangerous because of a dare within the past year, and 57% did not report doing crazy things even if they were a little dangerous within the past year. The most common behavior (most likely to occur two to three times a month or more) was doing what feels good no matter what –27% of students reported doing so at least two to three times a month.

**Table 41. Risk-taking Behavior of Students**

Behaviors	Row percentages												Total
	Never		Done it, but not in the past year		Less than once a month		About once a month		2 to 3 times a month		Once a week or more		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Done what felt good no matter what	146	36.2 %	54	13.4 %	49	12.2 %	45	11.2 %	46	11.4 %	63	15.6 %	<b>403</b>
Done something dangerous because of a dare	218	53.0	102	24.8	46	11.2	21	5.1	16	3.9	8	1.9	<b>411</b>
Done crazy things even if a little dangerous	140	34.1	94	22.9	71	17.3	43	10.5	36	8.8	27	6.6	<b>411</b>

*Source of data:* GRAIN Student Survey (2010)

In the next three tables, we examine student perceptions of gangs and gang members at their schools. First, students were asked if gangs existed in their schools. Over half (54%) of students did not know if gangs were in their school. Over one quarter (27%) of students said that there were no gangs in their school. Nineteen percent of students said that there were gangs in their school.

**Table 42. Gangs and Gang Members in School***Column percentages*

In school?	Gang Members in School					
	Gangs in School		Students		Non-Students	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
No	112	26.8 %	73	17.6 %	165	39.6 %
Yes	80	19.1	106	25.5	27	6.5
Don't know	226	54.1	236	56.9	225	54.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>418</b>		<b>415</b>		<b>417</b>	

*Source of data: GRAIN Student Survey (2010)*

Students were also asked if any of the students at their school were gang members. Again, over half (57%) of students did not know if there were gang members within their school. Over a quarter (26%) of students said that there were gang members within their school and 18% said that there were no gang members within their school. Finally, we asked students whether non-student gang members had been at their school (i.e., gang members that weren't students). Over half (54%) of students did not know if non-student gang members had been at their school, 40% of students indicated that non-student gang members had not been at their school, and 7% indicated that non-student gang members had been at their school. Overall, 19% of students believed that gangs were present in their schools, 26% believed that some of the students at their school were gang members, and 7% believed that non-student gang members had been at their school.

Students were asked if they had witnessed gang activity in their school in the past six months. Gang activity included gang members selling drugs, gang members bringing guns to school, and gang members getting involved in fights, attacks, or violence at school. Over half (60%) of students did not know if gang members were selling drugs at school, 54% did not know if gang members were bringing guns to school, and 49% did not know if gang members were getting involved in fights, attacks, or violence at school. Thirty to 40% of students reported these gang activities were not happening at their school. On the other hand, 10% of students reported that gang members had sold drugs at their school in the past six months, 7% reported that gang members had brought guns to their school in the past six months, and 13% reported that gang members had been involved in fights, attacks, or violence at their school in the past six months.

**Table 43. Gang Activity at School***Row percentages*

Activity	Don't Know		No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Selling drugs at school	248	59.8 %	126	30.4 %	41	9.9 %	<b>415</b>
Bringing guns to school	225	54.0	165	39.6	27	6.5	<b>417</b>
Fights, attacks, violence	205	49.3	159	38.2	52	12.5	<b>416</b>

*Source of data: GRAIN Student Survey (2010)*

If students believed that gangs or gang members were present at their school, they were then asked to identify the activities that gangs around their school engaged in. More specifically, they were asked if gangs around their school helped out in the community, got in fights with each other, provided protection for each other, stole things, robbed people, stole cars, sold

marijuana, sold other illegal drugs, and damaged or destroyed property. Results are shown in the following table (again, only for students who believed that gangs were present at their school).

**Table 44. Gang Activities Around School\***

*Row percentages*

Activity	No		Yes		N
	N	%	N	%	
Help out in the community	106	79.7 %	27	20.3 %	133
Get in fights with other gangs	55	40.7	80	59.3	135
Provide protection for each other	34	26.0	97	74.0	131
Steal things	47	34.6	89	65.4	136
Rob other people	79	59.4	54	40.6	133
Steal cars	94	72.9	35	27.1	129
Sell marijuana	56	42.7	75	57.3	131
Sell other illegal drugs	60	45.5	72	54.5	132
Damage or destroy property	47	35.6	85	64.4	132

\* Only answered by students who believed that gangs were present at school.

**Source of data:** *GRAIN Student Survey (2010)*

Among students who believed that gangs were present at school, most reported a variety of different activities. More specifically, 20% reported that gangs helped out in the community, 59% reported that gangs got in fights with other gangs, 74% reported that gangs provided protection for each other, 65% reported that gangs stole things, 41% reported that gangs robbed other people, 27% reported that gangs stole cars, 57% reported that gangs sold marijuana, 55% reported that gangs sold other illegal drugs, and 64% reported that gangs damaged or destroyed property. Among the third of students who reported some gang activity around school, most of them reported a variety of different gang activities.

Finally, students were asked a series of questions about their own experiences with gangs. First, they were asked whether they had ever belonged to a gang and whether they were currently in a gang. Five percent of surveyed students indicated that they had belonged to a gang and 2% indicated that they were currently in a gang.

**Table 45. Gang Membership**

*Column percentages*

	Ever in a gang?		Now in a gang?	
	N	%	N	%
No	393	94.9 %	403	97.8 %
Yes	21	5.1	9	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>414</b>		<b>412</b>	

**Source of data:** *GRAIN Student Survey (2010)*

If students had ever belonged to a gang, they were asked if their gang had a name. Thirteen of the 21 students who had been in a gang (62%) indicated that their gang had a name. Gang size varied from less than 5 members (for 39% of gang members) to 30 or more members (for another 39% of gang members). Overall, 78% of gang members were in gangs that were either very small (fewer than five members) or very large (30 or more members).

If students indicated that they were in a gang, they were then asked follow-up questions on their gang's make-up, rules, codes, and activities. Only students who reported being in a gang

answered these questions. Their answers are provided in the following five tables. Each student who reported being in a gang was asked to provide information on the number of boys and the number of girls in their gang – 64% of gang members indicated having no boys in their gangs, and 58% reported having no girls.

**Table 46. Gender of Other Members in Student's Gang**

*Column percentages*

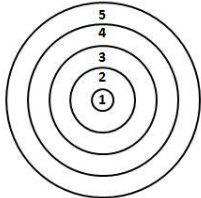
Number	Boys		Girls	
	N	%	N	%
None	16	64.0 %	15	57.7 %
1 to 5	0	0.0	5	19.2
6 to 10	0	0.0	1	3.8
11 to 20	1	4.0	0	0.0
21 to 30	3	12.0	2	7.7
30+	5	20.0	3	11.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>		<b>26</b>	

*Source of data: GRAIN Student Survey (2010)*

Students who were gang members were asked to identify their place in the gang hierarchy, from a central position (1) to a peripheral position (5). Only 14 students responded to this question, and three (21%) indicated being in the central position. Gang members were also asked whether people could join their gang before age 13, whether their gang had initiation rites, whether their gang had an established leader, whether their gang had regular meetings, whether their gang had specific rules or codes, whether gang members had specific roles, whether there were specific roles for each age group, whether the gang had symbols or colors, and whether there were specific roles for girls.

**Table 47. Gang Hierarchy**

*Column percentages*



Position	N	%
Central (1)	3	21.4 %
(2)	4	28.6
(3)	2	14.3
(4)	2	14.3
Peripheral (5)	3	21.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	

*Source of data: GRAIN Student Survey (2010)*

Of the students who responded to questions about their gangs, 24% indicated that people could join their gang before age 13, 44% indicated that their gang had initiation rites, 53% indicated that their gang had established leaders, 47% indicated that their gang had regular meetings, 41% indicated that their gang had specific rules or codes, 41% indicated that gang members had specific roles, 18% indicated that there were roles for each age group, 53% indicated that their gang had symbols or colors, and 29% indicated that there were specific roles for girls within their gang.

**Table 48. Gang Descriptors***Row percentages*

Descriptor	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
You can join before age 13	13	76.5 %	4	23.5 %	17
There are initiation rites	9	56.3	7	43.8	16
The gang has established leaders	8	47.1	9	52.9	17
The gang has regular meetings	9	52.9	8	47.1	17
The gang has specific rules or codes	10	58.8	7	41.2	17
Gang members have specific roles	10	58.8	7	41.2	17
There are roles for each age group	14	82.4	3	17.6	17
The gang has symbols or colors	8	47.1	9	52.9	17
There are specific roles for girls	12	70.6	5	29.4	17

*Source of data: GRAIN Student Survey (2010)*

Students who were gang members (or had been in the past) were also asked to identify why they joined a gang. More specifically, students were asked to indicate if they had joined a gang for fun, for protection, because a friend was in the gang, because a brother or sister was in the gang, because she or he was forced to join, to get respect, for money, or to fit in better (options were not mutually exclusive; students could select more than one). Results showed that 44% of gang members had initially joined a gang for fun, 39% for protection, 33% because a friend was in the gang, 22% because a brother or sister was in a gang, 22% to get respect, 28% for money, and 33% to fit in better. None of the gang members had initially joined because they were forced to.

**Table 49. Reasons for Joining a Gang***Row percentages*

Reason	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
For fun	10	55.6 %	8	44.4 %	18
For protection	11	61.1	7	38.9	18
A friend was in the gang	12	66.7	6	33.3	18
A brother or sister was in the gang	14	77.8	4	22.2	18
I was forced to join	18	100.0	0	0.0	18
To get respect	14	77.8	4	22.2	18
For money	13	72.2	5	27.8	18
To fit in better	12	66.7	6	33.3	18

*Source of data: GRAIN Student Survey (2010)*

The following table examines the activities of the students' gangs (for those students who reported being in a gang) – 41% of gang members reported helping out in the community, 41% reported getting in fights with other gangs, 71% reported providing protection for each other, 41% reported stealing things, 35% reported robbing other people, 25% reported stealing cars, 41% reported selling marijuana, 24% reported selling other illegal drugs, and 47% reported damaging or destroying property.

**Table 50. Students' Gang Activities**

*Row percentages*

Activity	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Help out in the community	10	58.8 %	7	41.2 %	17
Get in fights with other gangs	10	58.8	7	41.2	17
Provide protection for each other	5	29.4	12	70.6	17
Steal things	10	58.8	7	41.2	17
Rob other people	11	64.7	6	35.3	17
Steal cars	12	75.0	4	25.0	16
Sell marijuana	10	58.8	7	41.2	17
Sell other illegal drugs	13	76.5	4	23.5	17
Damage or destroy property	9	52.9	8	47.1	17

**Source of data:** GRAIN Student Survey (2010)

In the last portion of this section on student perceptions, we compare the answers provided by students who identified themselves as belonging to a gang to the answers provided by students who identified themselves as not belonging to a gang. The first table compares the behaviors of the four best friends of gang members to the behaviors of the four best friends of non-gang members over the past year. More specifically, we examine if any of the four best friends of gang members and non-gang members were ever suspended from school, ever carried a handgun, ever sold illegal drugs, ever stole a car or motorcycle, ever got arrested, ever dropped out of school, or were ever a member of gang during the past year.

**Table 51. Best Friends' Behaviors by Respondent Gang Membership**

*Percent of respondents with at least one of four best friends engaged in behavior within past year*

Friends' Behaviors	Respondent in Gang		Is Difference Significant?
	No	Yes	
Suspended from school	25.5 %	66.7 %	Yes
Carrying a handgun	10.3	44.4	Yes
Selling illegal drugs	10.1	50.0	Yes
Stealing car/motorcycle	6.8	55.6	Yes
Getting arrested	11.8	55.6	Yes
Dropping out of school	9.5	33.3	Yes
Being a member of a gang	7.3	77.8	Yes

**Source of data:** GRAIN Student Survey (2010)

Results clearly show that gang members were significantly more likely to report at least one of their four best friends having engaged in these behaviors in the past year – 67% of gang members reported having at least one of their four best friends being suspended from school in the past year (versus 26% of non-gang members), 44% of gang members reported having at least one of their four best friends carrying a handgun in the past year (versus 10% of non-gang members), 50% of gang members reported having at least one of their four best friends selling illegal drugs in the past year (versus 10% of non-gang members), 56% of gang members reported having at least one of their four best friends stealing a car or motorcycle in the past year (versus 7% of non-gang members), 56% of gang members reported having at least one of their four best friends getting arrested in the past year (versus 12% of non-gang members), 33% of gang members reported having at least one of their four best friends dropping out of school in the past

year (versus 10% of non-gang members), and (not surprisingly) 78% of gang members reported having at least one of their four best friends being a member of a gang in the past year (versus 7% of non-gang members). Overall, the best friends of gang members were significantly more likely than the best friends of non-gang members to be suspended from school, to carry a handgun, to sell illegal drugs, to steal a car or motorcycle, to get arrested, to drop out of school, and to also be a gang member.

**Table 52. Respondent Behaviors by Gang Membership**

*Percent of respondents engaged in behavior within past year*

Own Behaviors	Respondent in Gang		Is Difference Significant?
	No	Yes	
Suspended from school	8.0 %	22.2 %	No
Carrying a handgun	6.3	55.6	Yes
Selling illegal drugs	2.5	55.6	Yes
Stealing car/motorcycle	2.5	44.4	Yes
Getting arrested	2.0	22.2	Yes
Attacking someone to hurt	9.0	77.8	Yes
Being drunk/high at school	6.3	55.6	Yes
Taking handgun to school	0.5	22.2	Yes

*Source of data: GRAIN Student Survey (2010)*

We also examined the extent to which the own behaviors of respondents over the past year varied by gang membership. These results are displayed in the following table. Results clearly show that gang members were significantly more involved in negative behaviors over the past year than non-gang members. Although 22% of gang members reported being suspended from school in the past year (versus 8% of non-gang members), this difference was not statistically significant (i.e., it may have just occurred by chance in this sample of respondents). All other differences were statistically significant. Over the past year, gang members were significantly more likely than non-gang members to carry a handgun (56% versus 6%), to sell illegal drugs (56% versus 3%), to steal a car or motorcycle (44% versus 3%), to get arrested (22% versus 2%), to attack someone to hurt them (78% versus 9%), to be drunk or high at school (56% versus 6%), and to take a handgun to school (22% versus 1%). Many of these differences were large. Compared to non-gang members, gang members were nine times more likely to carry a handgun, 22 times more likely to sell illegal drugs, 18 times more likely to steal a car or motorcycle, 11 times more likely to get arrested, nine times more likely to attack someone to hurt them, nine times more likely to be drunk or high at school, and 44 times more likely to take a handgun to school.

## Section V

### Fairbanks Gang Assessment: Community Perceptions Data

Community perceptions data include perceptions from community residents, gang members, and agency staff members. We first describe the perceptions of community residents.

#### A. Community Resident Perceptions

Mail and electronic surveys were sent to 500 residents in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. The response rate was somewhat low, with 103 residents (21%) returning a survey. Despite this low response rate (and the unknown extent to which the results are representative of the larger population in the Fairbanks North Star Borough), these survey responses offer another important viewpoint on the gang problem in Fairbanks. More than half (63%) of survey respondents (community residents) were male, while 37% were female. The majority of respondents (78%) were White or Caucasian, 9% were American Indian or Alaska Native, 3% were Black or African American, 2% were Native Hawaiian, Samoan, or Pacific Islander, and 9% were of another racial or ethnic group.

**Table 53. Race / Ethnicity of Community Residents**

*Column Percentages*

<b>Race / Ethnicity</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Alaska Native or American Indian	9	8.8 %
Black or African American	3	2.9
Native Hawaiian, Samoan, or Other Pacific Islander	2	2.0
White or Caucasian	79	77.5
Other	9	8.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	

*Source of data: GRAIN Community Resident Survey (2010)*

Of the residents who responded to the survey, 55% were married, 22% were divorced, 13% were single and never married, 6% were widowed, and 4% were separated.

**Table 54. Marital Status of Community Residents**

*Column percentages*

<b>Marital status</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Single, never married	13	12.6 %
Married	57	55.3
Separated	4	3.9
Divorced	23	22.3
Widowed	6	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	

*Source of data: GRAIN Community Resident Survey (2010)*

Almost all (97%) of respondents had a high school diploma, GED, or college degree (only 3% did not have a high school diploma or GED). Eighty percent of respondents had attended college, and over half (51%) had received a degree (associate, 2-year, bachelor, or graduate).

**Table 55. Educational Level of Community Residents**

*Column percentages*

<b>Educational level</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Less than a high school diploma	3	2.9 %
High school diploma or GED	17	16.7
Some college, no degree	30	29.4
Associate or other 2-year degree	11	10.8
Bachelor's degree	24	23.5
Graduate degree	17	16.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	

**Source of data:** GRAIN Community Resident Survey (2010)

Residents were asked about community safety and gangs. First, they were asked to describe whether they felt safer in their community now than they did two years ago. Seventy-two percent of residents said that they did not feel safer in their community now than they did two years ago. Twenty-eight percent of residents said that they felt safer in their community now than they did two years ago.

**Table 56. Perceptions of Community Safety**

*Column percentages*

<b>Perceptions</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Feel safer now than two years ago	26	28.3 %
Feel less safe now than two years ago	66	71.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	

**Source of data:** GRAIN Community Resident Survey (2010)

**Table 57. Top Three Community Concerns**

*Row percentages*

<b>Concern</b>	<b>No</b>		<b>Yes</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	
Drug dealing	50	51.5 %	47	48.5 %	<b>97</b>
Burglary or Robbery	53	54.6	44	45.4	<b>97</b>
Gang Activity	61	62.9	36	37.1	<b>97</b>
Unemployment	61	62.9	36	37.1	<b>97</b>
Domestic violence	69	71.1	28	28.9	<b>97</b>
Unkempt property	79	81.4	18	18.6	<b>97</b>
Low police activity	81	83.5	16	16.5	<b>97</b>
Vandalism	84	86.6	13	13.4	<b>97</b>
Insufficient street lighting	86	88.7	11	11.3	<b>97</b>
Loud music	89	91.8	8	8.2	<b>97</b>
Homicide	93	95.9	4	4.1	<b>97</b>
Truancy	95	97.9	2	2.1	<b>97</b>
Graffiti	95	97.9	2	2.1	<b>97</b>

**Source of data:** GRAIN Community Resident Survey (2010)

Respondents were asked to indicate the three top community concerns they had. Results are shown in the previous table. The two most common community concerns were drug dealing (reported by 49% of residents) and burglary or robbery (reported by 45% of residents). Other important concerns (among the top three) included gang activity (reported by 37% of residents), unemployment (37%), domestic violence (29%), unkempt property (19%), low police activity (17%), vandalism (13%), insufficient street lighting (11%), and loud music (8%). Thirty seven percent of community residents identified gang activity as one of the top three concerns in their community. Less commonly reported community concerns included homicide (reported by 4% of respondents), truancy (reported by 2%) and graffiti (also reported by 2%).

Community residents were asked if there were gangs in their community. Seventy-six percent of residents said that gangs were in their community and 24% said that gangs were not in their community.

**Table 58. Gangs in the Community**

*Column percentages*

<b>Gangs</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
No	24	24.2 %
Yes	75	75.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	

**Source of data:** GRAIN Community Resident Survey (2010)

Despite most residents indicating that gangs were in their community, few believed that their children were at risk of joining a gang (it is likely that some did not have children at home). Only four percent of community residents believed that their children would be at risk of joining a gang. Ninety-six percent of residents did not believe that their children were at risk of joining a gang.

**Table 59. Risk of Children Joining Gang**

*Column percentages*

<b>Risk</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
No	92	95.8 %
Yes	4	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	

**Source of data:** GRAIN Community Resident Survey (2010)

**Table 60. Gang Activity in the Last Year**

*Column percentages*

<b>Gang activity</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Increased	48	53.3 %
Decreased	3	3.3
Remained about the same	39	43.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	

**Source of data:** GRAIN Community Resident Survey (2010)

Very few residents (3%) believed that gang activity had decreased in the past year. Over half (53%) believed that gang activity had increased, while 43% believed that gang activity had remained about the same.

Community residents were asked to identify the top three problems, if any, that gangs presented in their community. Twenty respondents (20%) indicated that gangs were not a problem in their community. The remainder (80%) identified a variety of problems – 70% identified an increase in drug crimes as one of the top three problems, 54% identified an increase in violent crime, 54% identified an increase in weapon crimes, 38% identified an increase in fear, 29% identified an increase in public nuisances, 25% identified an increase in school disruption, 13% identified an increase in fighting, and 10% identified an increase in family disruption. Respondents were only allowed to select the top three problems that gangs presented in their community.

**Table 61. Top Three Problems Presented By Gangs\***

*Row percentages*

Problems	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Increase in drug crimes	24	30.4 %	55	69.6 %	<b>79</b>
Increase in violent crime	36	45.6	43	54.4	<b>79</b>
Increase in weapon crimes	36	45.6	43	54.4	<b>79</b>
Increased fear for safety	49	62.0	30	38.0	<b>79</b>
Public nuisance	56	70.9	23	29.1	<b>79</b>
School disruption	59	74.7	20	25.3	<b>79</b>
Fighting	69	87.3	10	12.7	<b>79</b>
Family disruption	71	89.9	8	10.1	<b>79</b>

\* Only answered by residents who believed gangs presented a problem.

**Source of data:** GRAIN Community Resident Survey (2010)

**Table 62. Top Three Reasons for Gang Activity\***

*Row percentages*

Reason	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Gang members move from other areas	32	39.0 %	50	61.0 %	<b>82</b>
Family/friends in gang	53	64.6	29	35.4	<b>82</b>
Poverty	56	68.3	26	31.7	<b>82</b>
Love/sense of belonging	59	72.0	23	28.0	<b>82</b>
Protection	60	73.2	22	26.8	<b>82</b>
Family problems	63	76.8	19	23.2	<b>82</b>
Lack of activities	64	78.0	18	22.0	<b>82</b>
Boredom	64	78.0	18	22.0	<b>82</b>
School problems	67	81.7	15	18.3	<b>82</b>
Power	78	95.1	4	4.9	<b>82</b>
Police labeling	81	98.8	1	1.2	<b>82</b>

\* Only answered by residents who believed gangs presented a problem.

**Source of data:** GRAIN Community Resident Survey (2010)

Community residents were also asked to identify the top three reasons, if any, that they believed gang activity existed in their community. Community residents who believed that gangs were a problem in their community identified a variety of reasons for the gang problem. Over half of the respondents (61%) identified gang members moving from other areas as one of the top three reasons for gang activity. Other common options selected as one of the top three reasons for gang activity included having family or friends in gangs (35%), poverty (32%), seeking love and a sense of belonging (28%), needing protection (27%), family problems (23%), a lack of activities for youth (22%), boredom (22%), and school problems (18%). Few respondents believed that power or police labeling were among the top three reasons for gang activity.

Community perceptions for prevention and intervention are shown in the following table. Community residents were asked to select the three most promising strategies to address local gang problems. Of the residents who believed that gangs presented a problem, 69% indicated that mentoring was one of the top three most promising strategies to address local gang problems. Other common strategies identified as being among the top three included job provision and job training (selected by 63% of respondents), programs and recreational activities for youth (55%), and additional police protection (49%). Fewer respondents (25%) selected tutoring as one of the top three ways to address gang activity.

**Table 63. Strategies to Address Gang Activity \***

*Row percentages*

Strategies	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Mentoring	23	30.7 %	52	69.3 %	75
Job provision and job training	28	37.3	47	62.7	75
Programs and recreation	34	45.3	41	54.7	75
More police protection	38	50.7	37	49.3	75
Tutoring	56	74.7	19	25.3	75

\* Only answered by residents who believed gangs presented a problem.

**Source of data:** GRAIN Community Resident Survey (2010)

In addition to asking residents what they felt were the best strategies to address gang activity, we also asked residents to identify organizations that were responsible for dealing with gangs and gang activity. Respondents were provided with a list of twelve different organizations (shown in the following table). Overall, respondents believed that multiple organizations were responsible for dealing with gangs and gang activity. Over three quarters of the respondents believed that each organization was at least partially responsible. Respondents were also asked to rank order each organization, from least responsible to most responsible (the lower the average ranking, the more responsible the organization). Families were identified as being the most responsible for dealing with gangs and gang activity. Other important organizations included police, followed by the criminal justice system, schools, the Division of Juvenile Justice, and community residents. Organizations identified as being less important included the Office of Children's Services, neighborhood associations, churches, service providers, treatment providers, and the housing authority. It is clear that community residents understood the multifaceted problem of gangs and the necessity for interdisciplinary approaches. Most importantly, community residents clearly saw the need for families, police agencies, the criminal

justice system, the Division of Juvenile Justice, and community residents to work together to deal with gangs and gang activity.

**Table 64. Responsibility of Organizations**

Row percentages

Organization	Not responsible		Responsible		Total	Average ranking
	N	%	N	%		
Police	11	10.7 %	92	89.3 %	103	3.0
Church	22	21.4	81	78.6	103	6.0
Criminal justice system	14	13.6	89	86.4	103	4.1
Family	14	13.6	89	86.4	103	2.5
Service Providers	23	22.3	80	77.7	103	6.0
Neighborhood associations	22	21.4	81	78.6	103	5.7
Schools	20	19.4	83	80.6	103	4.5
Housing authority	24	23.3	79	76.7	103	7.3
Division of Juvenile Justice	19	18.4	84	81.6	103	4.7
Treatment providers	21	20.4	82	79.6	103	6.2
Community residents	22	21.4	81	78.6	103	4.8
Office of Children's Services	25	24.3	78	75.7	103	5.5

*Note:* Average rankings calculated from respondents who believed organization was responsible (low rankings indicate more responsibility).

**Source of data:** *GRAIN Community Resident Survey (2010)*

In the following table, we identify which organization respondents identified as the single most important to deal with gangs and gang activity. Most respondents (78%) identified either families or police as the most important, and 6% identified community residents as the most important.

**Table 65. Organization Most Responsible for Dealing with Gangs**

Column percentages

Organization	N	%
Police	34	33.0 %
Church	0	0.0
Criminal justice system	10	9.7
Family	46	44.7
Service Providers	1	1.0
Neighborhood associations	0	0.0
Schools	1	1.0
Housing authority	0	0.0
Division of Juvenile Justice	1	1.0
Treatment providers	1	1.0
Community residents	6	5.8
Office of Children's Services	1	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	

**Source of data:** *GRAIN Community Resident Survey (2010)*

Finally, we asked community residents if they would be willing to help deal with gangs and gang activity. Over half of surveyed residents (52%) indicated that they would be willing to help. Their answers are shown in the following table. Over half of those willing to help (56%) would be willing to mentor a youth, 41% would be willing to teach skills (auto mechanics, crafts, music, computer skills, electronics, etc.), 30% would be willing to assist with neighborhood

outreach, 30% would be willing to form sports leagues and teams, 24% would be willing to become a youth group leader, and 22% would be willing to tutor. Clearly, community residents were ready to offer a variety of services to help reduce gang activity in their community.

**Table 66. Helping to Reduce Gang Activity\***

*Row percentages*

Strategies	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Tutoring	42	77.8 %	12	22.2 %	54
Mentoring	24	44.4	30	55.6	54
Teaching skills	32	59.3	22	40.7	54
Assisting with neighborhood outreach	38	70.4	16	29.6	54
Becoming a youth group leader	41	75.9	13	24.1	54
Forming sports leagues / teams	38	70.4	16	29.6	54

\* Only answered by residents who were willing to help

**Source of data:** GRAIN Community Resident Survey (2010)

It is important to note that mentoring was identified as the most important strategy to address gang activity and that over half of those willing to help would be willing to mentor a youth. Research has persistently shown the benefits of mentoring at-risk youth. This is an important finding for the Fairbanks Gang Reduction and Intervention Network, as it seeks to broaden its social interventions. Job provision and job training was also identified as a promising strategy to address gang activity – and 41% of those willing to help would be willing to teach skills (auto mechanics, crafts, music, computer skills, electronics, etc.).

## B. Gang Member Perceptions

Community perceptions on the local gang problem were also gathered from known gang members. Interviews were conducted by Juvenile Probation Officer Shea Daniels with 20 individuals who had identified themselves as being involved with a gang. Most of these gang members were institutionalized or incarcerated at the time of the interview. All were aware that the interviewer was a Juvenile Probation Officer. Of the 20 gang members that were interviewed, all were male.

All the gang members provided information about their race – 40% were White or Caucasian; 15% were Alaska Native or American Indian; 15% were Black or African American; 10% were Native Hawaiian, Samoan, or Pacific Islander; and 20% were of another race (or multi-racial). Nineteen of the 20 gang members (95%) spoke English at home (one spoke Spanish). All were single (never married) and seven (40%) had children.

The average age for the gang members that were interviewed was 18.8 ( $s = 5.5$ ). The youngest gang member interviewed was 12 years old and the oldest was 38 years old. Sixty percent of interviewed gang members were juveniles (under the age of 18) and 40% were adults. More detailed results show that two gang members (10%) were less than 15 years of age, one (5%) was 15 years old, one (5%) was 16 years old, eight (40%) were 17 years old, two (10%) were 18 years old, one (5%) was 19 years old, two (10%) were 20 years old, and three (15%) were over the age of 20.

**Table 67. Race of Gang Members***Column Percentages*

Race	N	%
Alaska Native or American Indian	3	15.0 %
Black or African American	3	15.0
Native Hawaiian, Samoan, or Other Pacific Islander	2	10.0
White or Caucasian	8	40.0
Other	4	20.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	

*Source of data: GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)***Table 68. Age of Gang Members***Column Percentages*

Age	N	%	Cum. %
Less than 15	2	10.0 %	10.0 %
15	1	5.0	15.0
16	1	5.0	20.0
17	8	40.0	60.0
18	2	10.0	70.0
19	1	5.0	75.0
20	2	10.0	85.0
Over 20	3	15.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>		

*Source of data: GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)*

Gang members were asked to describe their educational and occupational situation. Results are shown in the following tables. Most (75%) of the gang members were not employed, 5% were employed part-time, and 20% were employed full-time. Among juvenile gang members, 83% were not employed, 8% were employed part-time, and 8% were employed full-time. Among adult gang members, 63% were not employed and 38% were employed full-time. Adult gang members were less likely to be unemployed than juvenile gang members (63% versus 83%). Conversely, adult gang members were more likely to be employed full-time than juvenile gang members (38% versus 8%).

**Table 69. Employment Status of Gang Members***Column percentages*

Employment status	Juvenile		Adult		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Not employed	10	83.3 %	5	62.5 %	15	75.0 %
Employed part-time	1	8.3	0	0.0	1	5.0
Employed full-time	1	8.3	3	37.5	4	20.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>8</b>		<b>20</b>	

*Source of data: GRAIN Gang Interviews (2010)*

When asked about whether they were currently in school, 50% of the gang members indicated that they were not in school. One gang member was in seventh grade, three were in ninth, two were in tenth, two were in eleventh, and two were in twelfth. Not surprisingly, adult

gang members were less likely to be in school than juvenile gang members (only one was in school, in 11<sup>th</sup> grade). Three (25%) of juvenile gang members were not in school.

**Table 70. Current School Status of Gang Members**

*Column percentages*

School Status	Juvenile		Adult		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Not in school	3	25.0 %	7	87.5 %	10	50.0 %
7th grade	1	8.3	0	0.0	1	5.0
8th grade	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
9th grade	3	25.0	0	0.0	3	15.0
10th grade	2	16.7	0	0.0	2	10.0
11th grade	1	8.3	1	12.5	2	10.0
12th grade	2	16.7	0	0.0	2	10.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>8</b>		<b>20</b>	

*Source of data* : GRAIN Gang Interviews (2010)

Of the 10 gang members who were not currently attending school, 40% had completed the twelfth grade, 20% had completed eleventh grade, 10% had completed the tenth grade, 20% had completed the ninth grade, and 10% had completed the seventh grade. Among gang members who were not currently attending school, adult members were more likely to have completed the twelfth grade (57%) than juvenile members (0%). Among adult gang members who were not currently attending school, 43% had not completed the twelfth grade. Among juvenile gang members who were not currently attending school, none (0%) had completed the twelfth grade.

**Table 71. Highest Grade Completed for Gang Members not in School\***

*Column percentages*

Highest grade completed	Juvenile		Adult		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
7th grade	1	33.3 %	0	0.0 %	1	10.0 %
8th grade	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
9th grade	0	0.0	2	28.6	2	20.0
10th grade	1	33.3	0	0.0	1	10.0
11th grade	1	33.3	1	14.3	2	20.0
12th grade	0	0.0	4	57.1	4	40.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>7</b>		<b>10</b>	

\* Only answered by gang members not in school

*Source of data* : GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)

Finally, we asked the gang members to describe their average grades in school. Few (one, or 5%) indicated having mostly A's, 21% indicated having mostly B's, 37% indicated having mostly C's, 21% indicated having mostly D's, and 16% indicated having mostly F's. Overall, 37% indicated having mostly D's or F's, and 74% indicated having mostly C's, D's, or F's.

**Table 72. Average Grades for Gang Members**

*Column percentages*

Average grades	N	%
Mostly A's	1	5.3 %
Mostly B's	4	21.1
Mostly C's	7	36.8
Mostly D's	4	21.1
Mostly F's	3	15.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	

**Source of data:** GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)

Gang members were asked to describe their experiences in school. More specifically, gang members were asked whether there was a teacher or staff member they could talk to if they had a problem, whether they often felt that no one at school cared about them, whether they often felt lonely even though there were lots of students around, whether they felt that they were part of their school, whether they often felt that teachers respected them, whether they often felt put down by other students, and whether most of their teachers really listened to what they had to say. Results are shown in the following table.

**Table 73. School Perceptions among Gang Members**

*Row percentages*

Perceptions about school	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither disagree nor agree	Agree	Strongly agree
There is a teacher or staff member I can talk to	– %	29.4 %	29.4 %	35.3 %	5.9 %
I often feel that no one at school cares about me	17.6	58.8	11.8	11.8	–
Even though there are lots of students around, I often feel lonely	41.2	35.3	5.9	17.6	–
I do not feel that I am part of this school	41.2	29.4	11.8	17.6	–
I often feel like my teachers respect me	–	23.5	29.4	41.2	5.9
In school, I often feel put down by other students	29.4	41.2	17.6	11.8	–
Most of my teachers really listen to what I have to say	–	11.8	29.4	52.9	5.9

**Source of data:** GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)

Gang members generally had neutral to positive perceptions about school. Less than half (30%) disagreed that there was a teacher or staff member they could talk to when they had a problem. Few gang members (12%) agreed that they felt no one at school cared about them and few (18%) agreed that they often felt lonely at school even though there were lots of students around. Few (18%) agreed that they did not feel that they were part of their school. Almost half (47%) agreed or strongly agreed that they often felt respected by teachers. Few (12%) agreed that they often felt put down by other students. Finally, over half (59%) agreed or strongly agreed that most of their teachers really listened to what they had to say.

Among the 20 gang members surveyed, seven (35%) reported having dropped out of school at some point. Six of the seven gang members who had dropped out of school at some point provided reasons for doing so. Half stated that they just stopped going to school, one had no transportation to keep going to school, one disliked school, and one dropped out because of his or her friends.

**Table 74. Reasons for Dropping out of School\***

*Column percentages*

Reason	N	%
Just stopped going	3	50.0 %
No transportation	1	16.7
Disliked school	1	16.7
Friends	1	16.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	

\* Only answered by gang members who dropped out of school

**Source of data:** GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)

All 20 of the gang members indicated that they were suspended from school at some point. Reasons for being suspended are shown in the following table. Over half (70%) of the gang members reported being suspended from school because of fighting and almost half (40%) reported being suspended from school because of drug use or possession. Fewer gang members (5% to 20%) reported being suspended from school because of smoking, carrying a weapon, affiliating with a gang, selling drugs, insubordination, or another reason.

**Table 75. Reasons for Being Suspended from School**

*Row percentages*

Reason	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Fighting	6	30.0 %	14	70.0 %	<b>20</b>
Possession or use of drugs	12	60.0	8	40.0	<b>20</b>
Smoking	18	90.0	2	10.0	<b>20</b>
Carrying a weapon	18	90.0	2	10.0	<b>20</b>
Affiliating with a gang	17	85.0	3	15.0	<b>20</b>
Selling drugs	19	95.0	1	5.0	<b>20</b>
Insubordination	16	80.0	4	20.0	<b>20</b>
Other	16	80.0	4	20.0	<b>20</b>

**Source of data:** GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)

**Table 76. Reasons for Being Expelled from School\***

*Row percentages*

Reason	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Fighting or assault	5	38.5 %	8	61.5 %	<b>13</b>
Carrying a weapon	11	84.6	2	15.4	<b>13</b>
Other	9	69.2	4	30.8	<b>13</b>

\* Only answered by gang members who were expelled from school

**Source of data:** GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)

Over half (65%) of the gang members reported that they were expelled from school at some point. The most common reason for expulsions was fighting (reported by 62% of expelled gang members). Fifteen percent had been expelled for carrying a weapon to school. Almost a third of the gang members (31%) were expelled for another reason (or they could not remember why they had been expelled).

Gang members were also asked to report gang activity that they had witnessed on school grounds in the past year. These questions were answered by 13 to 15 gang members, and their answers are shown in the following table. Gang members were asked to report how often in the past year they had observed gang members selling drugs on school grounds, fights between members of different gangs on school grounds, fights between members of their own gang on school grounds, a drive-by shooting on school grounds, gang intimidation on school grounds, and gang recruitment on school grounds.

**Table 77. Gang Activities on School Grounds in the Past Year**

Activity	Row percentages										Total
	Zero		1-3 times		4-10 times		11-26 times		26+ times		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Selling drugs	4	26.7 %	4	26.7 %	2	13.3 %	1	6.7 %	4	26.7 %	15
Fights between gangs	3	21.4	3	21.4	2	14.3	3	21.4	3	21.4	14
Fights with own gang	10	71.4	3	21.4	0	0.0	1	7.1	0	0.0	14
Drive-by shooting	14	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	14
Gang intimidation	2	15.4	3	23.1	2	15.4	4	30.8	2	15.4	13
Gang recruiting	3	21.4	3	21.4	2	14.3	4	28.6	2	14.3	14

**Source of data:** GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)

The most common gang activities reported on school grounds included selling drugs, fights between gangs, gang intimidation, and gang recruiting. Of the 13 to 14 gang members who had been on school grounds in the past year, 33% reported observing gang members selling drugs on school grounds at least 11 times, 43% reported observing fights between different gangs on school grounds at least 11 times, 46% reported observing gang intimidation on school grounds at least 11 times, and 43% reported observing gang recruitment on school grounds at least 11 times. None of the gang members reported observing a drive-by shooting on school grounds within the past year and few (21%) reported observing any fights with members of their own gang.

Gang members were also asked whether there were areas of their community that they were afraid to walk alone in, and whether this fear was due to gang-related activities. Thirty percent of gang members indicated that they were afraid to walk alone in their community. Juvenile gang members were more likely to be afraid to walk alone in their community than adult gang members (33.3% versus 25.0%). In every case, gang members were afraid to walk alone in their community because of gang activity.

**Table 78. Fear in Community**

Fear in community	Juvenile (N = 12)	Adult (N = 8)	Total (N = 20)
% afraid to walk alone	33.3 %	25.0 %	30.0 %
% afraid because of gang activity	33.3	25.0	30.0

**Source of data:** GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)

In addition to asking whether gang members had observed gang activity on school grounds in the past year, we also asked gang members if they had observed the same gang activities within their communities in the past year. Results are shown in the following table. Once again, the most common gang activities included selling drugs, fights between gangs, gang intimidation, and gang recruiting – 71% of the gang members reported observing other gang

members selling drugs in their communities at least 11 times in the past year, 65% reported observing fights between different gangs in their communities at least 11 times in the past year, 69% reported observing gang intimidation in their communities at least 11 times in the past year, and 53% reported observing gang recruitment in their communities at least 11 times in the past year. Fewer gang members (28%) reported observing fights with their own gangs at least 11 times in the past year and 33% reported observing none in the past year. Half of the gang members reported that they had not observed a drive-by shooting in their community in the past year, but 22% reported observing one to three in the past year, and 28% reported observing four to 10 in the past year.

**Table 79. Gang Activities in the Community in the Past Year**

*Row percentages*

Activity	Zero		1-3 times		4-10 times		11-26 times		26+ times		Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Selling drugs	3	17.6 %	1	5.9 %	1	5.9 %	3	17.6 %	9	52.9 %	17
Fights between gangs	1	5.0	1	5.0	5	25.0	2	10.0	11	55.0	20
Fights with own gang	6	33.3	5	27.8	2	11.1	1	5.6	4	22.2	18
Drive-by shooting	9	50.0	4	22.2	5	27.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	18
Gang intimidation	2	10.5	3	15.8	1	5.3	4	21.1	9	47.4	19
Gang recruiting	4	21.1	2	10.5	3	15.8	4	21.1	6	31.6	19

*Source of data* : GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)

We also asked gang members to rate the seriousness of 17 different crime problems in their community. Results are shown in the following table.

**Table 80. Crime Problems in Community**

*Row percentages*

Type of crime	Not a problem		A small problem		A moderate problem		A serious problem		A very serious problem		Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Vandalism/graffiti	4	20.0 %	4	20.0 %	7	35.0 %	3	15.0 %	2	10.0 %	20
Burglary	2	10.0	3	15.0	3	15.0	8	40.0	4	20.0	20
Car theft	3	15.0	4	20.0	2	10.0	6	30.0	5	25.0	20
Robbery	1	5.3	4	21.1	2	10.5	7	36.8	5	26.3	19
Threats/intimidation	0	0.0	6	31.6	4	21.1	2	10.5	7	36.8	19
Gang confrontations	0	0.0	1	5.3	4	21.1	6	31.6	8	42.1	19
Drug dealing	0	0.0	4	21.1	5	26.3	2	10.5	8	42.1	19
Alcohol use	1	5.0	2	10.0	5	25.0	4	20.0	8	40.0	20
Drive-by shooting	3	15.8	3	15.8	2	10.5	5	26.3	6	31.6	19
Possession of knife	2	10.5	4	21.1	5	26.3	5	26.3	3	15.8	19
Possession of gun	0	0.0	2	10.5	3	15.8	9	47.4	5	26.3	19
Firearms use	0	0.0	5	25.0	5	25.0	5	25.0	5	25.0	20
Firearms dealing	0	0.0	2	11.1	6	33.3	6	33.3	4	22.2	18
Arson	6	31.6	6	31.6	1	5.3	5	26.3	1	5.3	19
Assault/battery	0	0.0	3	15.0	5	25.0	5	25.0	7	35.0	20
Homicide/murder	7	38.9	5	27.8	4	22.2	2	11.1	0	0.0	18
School disruption	2	10.0	5	25.0	6	30.0	3	15.0	4	20.0	20

*Source of data* : GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)

Eleven crime problems were considered to be a serious or very serious problem in the community by 50% or more of gang members. Crime problems rated as serious or very serious by half or more of the gang members included burglary, car theft, robbery, gang confrontations, drug dealing, alcohol use, drive-by shootings, gun possession, firearms use, firearms dealing, and assault / battery. Gang confrontations and gun possession were rated as the most serious problems, with 74% of gang members indicating that these were serious or very serious problems. Arson and homicide / murder were the only crime problems that were rated as being not a problem or only a small problem by over half of gang members – 63% of gang members believed that arson was either not a problem or only a small problem and 67% believed that homicide and murder were either not problems or only small problems in their communities.

**Table 81. Gangs are a Problem in the Community**

*Column percentages*

<b>Problem</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
No	3	15.0 %
Yes	17	85.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	

*Source of data: GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)*

Overall, as shown in the previous table, 85% of gang members believed that gangs were a problem in their community. The 17 gang members who believed that gangs were a problem in their community were also asked to identify the top three causes for gang problems. Potential reasons included poverty, school problems, labeling by police, gang members moving from other places, boredom, family problems, power, protection, lack of activities, prejudice, having family or friends in gangs, and to feel loved or a sense of belonging. Results are shown below. These results indicate how many gang members selected each reason as one of the top three.

**Table 82. Top Three Causes for Gang Problems in the Community\***

*Row percentages*

<b>Reason</b>	<b>No</b>		<b>Yes</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	
Poverty	13	76.5 %	4	23.5 %	<b>17</b>
School problems	17	100.0	0	0.0	<b>17</b>
Police labeling	15	88.2	2	11.8	<b>17</b>
Gang members moving from other places	5	29.4	12	70.6	<b>17</b>
Boredom	13	76.5	4	23.5	<b>17</b>
Family problems	12	70.6	5	29.4	<b>17</b>
Power	7	41.2	10	58.8	<b>17</b>
Protection	14	82.4	3	17.6	<b>17</b>
Lack of activities	13	76.5	4	23.5	<b>17</b>
Prejudice	17	100.0	0	0.0	<b>17</b>
Family / friends in gangs	12	70.6	5	29.4	<b>17</b>
To feel loved / sense of belonging	17	100.0	0	0.0	<b>17</b>

\* Only answered by gang members who believed gangs were a problem in the community

*Source of data: GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)*

Among the top three reasons selected by gang members who believed that gangs were a problem in their community, the most common reasons included gang members moving into the community from other places (71%) and power (59%). Twelve of the seventeen gang members identified other gang members moving into the community from other places as one of the top

three reasons for gang problems in their communities, and 10 of the seventeen selected power. Other common reasons selected as one of the top three included having family problems (29%), having family or friends in gangs (29%), poverty (24%), boredom (24%), and a lack of activities (24%). These results may have important implications for gang prevention and intervention. Having difficulties in school, prejudice, and needing to feel loved or a sense of belonging were not identified among the top three reasons for having gang problems in the community.

All but one (95%) of the gang members identified having friends in gangs and 13 (70%) identified having family members in gangs (results not shown). Twelve (60%) agreed that they had an adult in their neighborhood that they could talk to (result not shown).

**Table 83. Solutions to Gang Problems in the Community\***

Percent of gang members who identified:	Juvenile (N = 11)	Adult (N = 6)	Total (N = 17)
Creating more opportunities for youth	27.3 %	50.0 %	35.3 %
Incarceration or legal sanctions for gang members	45.5	0.0	29.4
Education about gangs	18.2	33.3	23.5
Separating gang members from their gang	9.1	16.7	11.8

\* Only answered by gang members who believed gangs were a problem in the community

Source of data: GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)

Gang members were also asked to identify what should be done to address the gang problem in their community. Results from this open-ended question are shown in the previous table. Over a third (35%) of gang members believed that additional opportunities for youth would be a solution to gang problems in their community, 30% believed that incarceration or legal sanctions for gang members would help, 24% believed that education about gangs would help, and 12% believed that separating gang members from their gang would help. Only one respondent believed that nothing could be done about gang problems in the community (result not shown). Adult gang members were more likely than juvenile gang members to indicate that additional opportunities for youth, education about gangs, and separating gang members from their gang would be a solution to gang problems. Conversely, juvenile gang members were more likely than adult gang members to indicate that incarceration or legal sanctions would be a solution to gang problems.

**Table 84. Number of Adults with Negative Behaviors in the Past Year**

Behaviors	Row percentages								Total
	None		1 to 10		11 to 30		31 or more		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Used drugs	1	5.0 %	6	30.0 %	5	25.0 %	8	40.0 %	20
Sold drugs	3	15.0	10	50.0	6	30.0	1	5.0	20
Got in trouble	1	5.0	8	40.0	5	25.0	6	30.0	20
Got drunk	0	0.0	5	25.0	5	25.0	10	50.0	20

Source of data: GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)

Gang members were asked to report how many adults they knew personally who in the past year used marijuana, crack, cocaine, or other drugs; sold or dealt drugs; did other things that could get them into trouble with police such as stealing, selling stolen goods, mugging or assaulting others; and got drunk. Results are shown in the previous table. Half (50%) of the gang members reported seeing 31 or more adults getting drunk in the past year, 40% reported seeing 31 or more

adults using drugs in the past year, and 30% reported seeing 31 or more adults getting into trouble in the past year. Only 5% of the gang members reported seeing 31 or more adults selling drugs in the past year and 15% reported seeing no adults selling drugs in the past year. Seeing adults selling drugs was less common than seeing adults using drugs, getting in trouble, or getting drunk. All gang members reported seeing at least one adult using drugs, selling drugs, getting in trouble, or getting drunk (result not shown).

Results by age of the gang member (juvenile versus adult) are shown in the following table. More specifically, the table shows the percentage of juvenile and adult gang members who reported how many adults they knew personally who in the past year used marijuana, crack, cocaine, or other drugs; sold or dealt drugs; did other things that could get them into trouble with police such as stealing, selling stolen goods, mugging or assaulting others; and got drunk. Juvenile gang members were more likely than adult gang members to report seeing 31 or more adults using drugs, getting in trouble, and getting drunk in the past year. Over half (58%) of juvenile gang members reported seeing 31 or more adults using drugs and getting drunk in the past year and almost half (42%) reported seeing 31 or more adults getting in trouble in the past year.

**Table 85. Number of Adults in Past Year by Age of Gang Member**

Number of adults who:	None		1 to 10		11 to 30		31 or more	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Used drugs	8.3 %	0.0 %	25.0 %	37.5 %	8.3 %	50.0 %	58.3 %	12.5 %
Sold drugs	16.7	12.5	50.0	50.0	33.3	25.0	0.0	12.5
Got in trouble	8.3	0.0	25.0	62.5	25.0	25.0	41.7	12.5
Got drunk	0.0	0.0	25.0	25.0	16.7	37.5	58.3	37.5

*Source of data: GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)*

Over half of the gang members thought it would be very easy for them to get a handgun and over half thought it would be very easy to get drugs like cocaine, LSD, amphetamines, or crack. Gang members thought it would be easier to get a handgun than it would be to get drugs – 21% thought it would be either somewhat hard or very hard to get drugs (while only 5% thought it would be either somewhat hard or very hard to get a handgun).

**Table 86. Access to Handguns and Drugs**

*Row percentages*

Access to:	Very hard		Somewhat hard		Somewhat easy		Very easy		Do not know		Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Handgun	0	0.0 %	1	5.3 %	6	31.6 %	11	57.9 %	1	5.3 %	19
Drugs	1	5.3	3	15.8	3	15.8	10	52.6	2	10.5	19

*Source of data: GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)*

The following table examines differences in access to handguns and drugs by the age of the gang member (juvenile versus adult). None of the juvenile gang members believed it would be very hard or somewhat hard to get a handgun – 42% believed it would be somewhat easy and 58% believed it would be very easy. Among adult gang members, 17% believed it would be somewhat easy to get a handgun and 67% believed it would be very easy. Overall, 100% of the juvenile gang members believed it would be somewhat easy or very easy to get a handgun

(versus 83% of adult gang members). Fewer differences were uncovered for access to drugs. Among juvenile gang members, 75% believed it would be somewhat easy or very easy to access drugs. Among adult gang members, 80% believed it would be somewhat easy or very easy to access drugs.

**Table 87. Access to Handguns and Drugs by Age of Gang Member\***

Access to:	Very hard		Somewhat hard		Somewhat easy		Very easy	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Handgun	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	16.7 %	41.7 %	16.7 %	58.3 %	66.7 %
Drugs	8.3	0.0	16.7	20.0	16.7	20.0	58.3	60.0

\* Excludes "Do not know" answer

Source of data: GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)

We now begin to discuss the gang involvement of the 20 gang members who were surveyed. Most (80%) were active gang members at the time of the interview and 90% had been active gang members in the past six months.

**Table 88. Gang Status of Gang Members**

Row percentages

Gang status	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Current member	4	20.0 %	16	80.0 %	20
member in last 6 months	2	10.0	18	90.0	20

Source of data: GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)

**Table 89. Membership Rank of Gang Members**

Column percentages

Rank in gang	N	%
Leader	1	5.0 %
Core member/influenetial (with gang all the time)	5	25.0
Regular member (involved most of the time)	10	50.0
Peripheral member (minimally hangs out)	2	10.0
Wannabe	0	0.0
Veteran/heavy/old gangster/senior gang member	2	10.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	

Source of data: GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)

Gang members were asked to describe their membership in their gang, in terms of their rank. Fifty percent indicated that they were regular members and were involved in the gang's activities most of the time and 25% indicated that they were core members and were with their gang all the time. Fewer gang members indicated having a leadership role, being a peripheral member (who minimally hangs out with the gang), or having a veteran status.

Seventy five percent of the gang members first joined a gang before being 14 years of age. More specifically, 15% first joined a gang when they were 10 years old or younger, 15% first joined a gang when they were 11 years old, 10% first joined a gang when they were 12 years old, and 35% first joined a gang when they were 13 years old. An additional 15% first joined a

gang when they were 15 years old and 10% first joined a gang when they were 16 years old or older.

**Table 90. Age when Joining Gangs**

*Column percentages*

<b>Age</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>cum. %</b>
10 years old or younger	3	15.0 %	15.0 %
11 years old	3	15.0	30.0
12 years old	2	10.0	40.0
13 years old	7	35.0	75.0
14 years old	0	0.0	75.0
15 years old	3	15.0	90.0
16 years old or older	2	10.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>		

*Source of data* : GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)

Gang members were asked to report why they had joined or associated with a gang. Response options were categorized as ‘not important,’ ‘important,’ or ‘very important.’ A reason was categorized as ‘very important’ when a gang member identified the reason as one of the three most important. Results are shown in the table below.

**Table 91. Reasons for Joining Gangs**

*Row percentages*

<b>Reason for joining gang</b>	<b>Not important</b>		<b>Important</b>		<b>Very important</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	
For fun	8	44.4 %	6	33.3 %	4	22.2 %	<b>18</b>
For protection	8	44.4	4	22.2	6	33.3	<b>18</b>
A friend was in the gang	1	5.6	5	27.8	12	66.7	<b>18</b>
A brother or sister was in the gang	11	61.1	3	16.7	4	22.2	<b>18</b>
I was forced to join	16	88.9	2	11.1	0	0.0	<b>18</b>
To get respect	4	22.2	4	22.2	10	55.6	<b>18</b>
For money	4	22.2	7	38.9	7	38.9	<b>18</b>
To fit in better	9	50.0	5	27.8	4	22.2	<b>18</b>

*Source of data* : GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)

The most important reasons were to get respect and because a friend was in the gang. Over half of the gang members identified having a friend in a gang and wanting to get respect as very important reasons for joining a gang. Only one gang member did not identify ‘having a friend in a gang’ as a very important reason for joining gangs. Other important reasons, reported by a third or more of the gang members included money and protection. Most gang members (89%) did not believe that were forced to join a gang (only two felt it was an important reason and none felt that it was a very important reason).

Gang members were also asked to report the benefits of being in a gang. Their responses are shown in the following table. Over half of the gang members agreed that gang membership made them feel important, provided a good deal of support and loyalty, made them feel respected, made them feel useful, and made them feel like they belonged somewhere. Over half of the gang members also agreed that they enjoyed being in a gang, that their gang was like family to them, and that being in a gang was a good way to make money.

**Table 92. Benefits of Gang Membership**

*Row percentages*

Benefits	Disagree		Neither		Agree		Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
It makes me feel important	5	25.0 %	2	10.0 %	13	65.0 %	20
It provides a good deal of support and loyalty	2	10.0	4	20.0	14	70.0	20
It makes me feel respected	2	10.0	6	30.0	12	60.0	20
I makes me feel like I am useful	5	25.0	4	20.0	11	55.0	20
It makes me feel like I really belong	2	10.0	6	30.0	12	60.0	20
I enjoy being a member of my gang	4	20.0	4	20.0	12	60.0	20
My gang is like a family to me	3	15.0	2	10.0	15	75.0	20
It is a good way to make money	5	25.0	3	15.0	12	60.0	20

*Source of data* : GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)

**Table 93. Behaviors of Gang Members in the Past Year**

*Row percentages*

Behavior	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Written graffiti on school property, neighborhood stores, etc?	8	42.1 %	11	57.9 %	19
Thrown rocks or bottles at persons, vehicles, or property?	12	63.2	7	36.8	19
Destroyed property worth less than \$300?	9	47.4	10	52.6	19
Destroyed property worth \$300 or more?	10	52.6	9	47.4	19
Set fire to building or property?	15	78.9	4	21.1	19
Stolen bicycle or bike parts?	7	36.8	12	63.2	19
Stolen a motor vehicle?	9	47.4	10	52.6	19
Stolen parts or property from a vehicle?	10	52.6	9	47.4	19
Fenced or sold stolen goods (other than weapons)?	8	42.1	11	57.9	19
Shoplifted?	7	36.8	12	63.2	19
Entered a house, store, or building to commit a theft?	7	36.8	12	63.2	19
Broken into a house, store, or building to commit a theft?	11	57.9	8	42.1	19
Fenced or sold weapons or firearms?	11	57.9	8	42.1	19
Threatened to attack a person without using a weapon?	5	26.3	14	73.7	19
Threatened to attack a person using a weapon?	8	44.4	10	55.6	18
Robbed someone by force or threat without using a weapon?	13	72.2	5	27.8	18
Robbed someone by force or threat using a weapon?	15	78.9	4	21.1	19
Beaten up or battered someone without a dangerous weapon?	4	21.1	15	78.9	19
Beaten up or battered someone using a dangerous weapon?	13	68.4	6	31.6	19
Forced someone to have sex with you (rape)?	18	94.7	1	5.3	19
Participated in a drive-by shooting?	17	89.5	2	10.5	19
Participated in a homicide?	18	100.0	0	0.0	18

*Source of data* : GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)

The previous table shows the extent to which gang members were involved in crime over the past year. Gang members reported a variety of criminal behaviors over the past year. Over half of the gang members reported writing graffiti (58%); destroying property worth less than \$300 (53%); stealing a bicycle or bike parts (63%); stealing a motor vehicle (53%); fencing or selling stolen goods (58%); shoplifting (63%); entering a house, store, or building to commit a theft (63%); threatening to attack a person without using a weapon (74%); threatening to attack a person using a weapon (56%); and beating up or battering someone without using a weapon in the past year (79%). The most common criminal acts over the past year were beating up or battering someone without using a weapon in the past year and threatening to attack a person without using a weapon. A third to half of the gang members also reported throwing rocks or bottles at persons, vehicles, or property (37%); destroying property worth more than \$300 (47%); stealing parts or property from a vehicle (47%); breaking into a house, store, or building to

commit a theft (42%); fencing or selling weapons or firearms (42%); and beating up or battering someone using a dangerous weapon in the past year (32%). Few gang members reported forcing someone to have sex with them in the past year (5%) and none reported participating in a homicide in the past year.

**Table 94. Past Year Drug Use by Gang Members**

*Column percentages*

<b>Drug use</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
No	3	15.0 %
Yes	17	85.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	

*Source of data: GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)*

**Table 95. Number of Drug Use Days per Month\***

*Column percentages*

<b>Days per month</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
1 to 5 days	5	29.4 %
6 to 10 days	2	11.8
11 to 15 days	2	11.8
16 to 20 days	0	0.0
21 to 25 days	0	0.0
26 days or more	8	47.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	

\* Only answered by gang members who used or tried drugs in the past year

*Source of data: GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)*

Eighty-five percent of the gang members indicated that they had used or tried drugs in the past year. Of the 85% of the gang members who had used or tried drugs in the past year (N = 17), 29% used drugs one to five days per month, 12% used drugs six to 10 days per month, 12% used drugs 11 to 15 days per month, and 47% used drugs on 26 or more days per month.

These results are disaggregated by the age of the gang members in the following two tables. The first one examines past year drug use by juvenile and adult gang members. The second examines the number of drug use days per month for juvenile and adult gang members. Juvenile gang members were more likely than adult gang members to report using drugs in the past year (92% versus 75%).

**Table 96. Past Year Drug Use by Age of Gang Members**

*Column percentages*

<b>Drug use</b>	<b>Juvenile</b>		<b>Adult</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
No	1	8.3 %	2	25.0 %
Yes	11	91.7	6	75.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>8</b>	

*Source of data: GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)*

**Table 97. Number of Drug Use Days per Month by Age of Gang Members\***

*Column percentages*

Days per month	Juvenile		Adult	
	N	%	N	%
1 to 5 days	2	18.2 %	3	50.0 %
6 to 10 days	1	9.1	1	16.7
11 to 15 days	2	18.2	0	0.0
16 to 20 days	0	0.0	0	0.0
21 to 25 days	0	0.0	0	0.0
26 days or more	6	54.5	2	33.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>6</b>	

\* Only answered by gang members who used or tried drugs in the past year

**Source of data:** GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)

Juvenile gang members were less likely than adult gang members to report using drugs one to five days per month in the past year (18% versus 50%). Conversely, juvenile gang members were more likely than adult gang members to report using drugs 26 or more days per month in the past year (55% versus 33%).

**Table 98. Past Year Drug Sales by Gang Members**

*Column Percentages*

Sold drugs	Juvenile		Adult		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
No	2	16.7 %	4	57.1 %	6	31.6 %
Yes	10	83.3	3	42.9	13	68.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>7</b>		<b>19</b>	

**Source of data:** GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)

Sixty eight percent of gang members reported selling drugs in the past year (results shown in previous table). Juvenile gang members were more likely than adult gang members to report selling drugs in the past year – 83% of juvenile gang members and 43% of adult gang members reported selling drugs in the past year. Of the 68% of the gang members who had sold drugs in the past year (N = 13), 15% indicated that the money was used to benefit the gang and 85% reported that the money was used for personal use.

**Table 99. Use of Drug Money\***

*Column percentages*

Use	N	%
Used to benefit the gang	2	15.4 %
Personal use	11	84.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	

\* Only answered by gang members who sold drugs in the past year

**Source of data:** GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)

Ninety percent of the gang members (all but two) reported using alcohol in the past year. Juvenile gang members were as likely to report using alcohol in the past year (92%) than adult gang members (88%).

**Table 100. Past Year Alcohol Use by Gang Members**

*Column percentages*

Alcohol use	Juvenile		Adult		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
No	1	8.3 %	1	12.5 %	2	10.0 %
Yes	11	91.7	7	87.5	18	90.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>8</b>		<b>20</b>	

*Source of data: GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)*

Of the 90% of the gang members who reported using alcohol in the past year, few (17%) reported drinking wine but 83% reported drinking beer and 83% reported drinking hard liquor. Of the 88% of the adult gang members who reported using alcohol in the past year, only one reported drinking wine and all (100%) reported drinking beer and hard liquor. Of the 92% of the juvenile gang members who reported using alcohol in the past year, 18% reported drinking wine, 73% reported drinking beer, and 73% reported drinking hard liquor.

**Table 101. Type of Alcohol Use\***

*Row percentages*

Type of alcohol	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Wine	15	83.3 %	3	16.7 %	<b>18</b>
Beer	3	16.7	15	83.3	<b>18</b>
Hard liquor	3	16.7	15	83.3	<b>18</b>

\* Only answered by gang members who used alcohol in the past year

*Source of data: GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)*

**Table 102. Type of Alcohol Use by Age of Gang Member\***

*Row percentages*

Type of alcohol	Juvenile					Adult				
	No		Yes		Total	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%		N	%	N	%	
Wine	9	81.8 %	2	18.2 %	<b>11</b>	6	85.7 %	1	14.3 %	<b>7</b>
Beer	3	27.3	8	72.7	<b>11</b>	0	0.0	7	100.0	<b>7</b>
Hard liquor	3	27.3	8	72.7	<b>11</b>	0	0.0	7	100.0	<b>7</b>

\* Only answered by gang members who used alcohol in the past year

*Source of data: GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)*

Ninety percent of the gang members reported that they were arrested or contacted by police in the past year (92% of juvenile gang members and 88% of adult gang members). Of the 90% of the gang members who were arrested or contacted by police in the past year, 39% were contacted or arrested once or twice, 22% were contacted or arrested three of four times, and 39% were contacted or arrested five or more times. Juvenile gang members were more likely than adult gang members to have a higher number of police contacts in the past year – 55% of

juvenile gang members were contacted or arrested five or more times in the past year (versus 14% of adult gang members). Conversely, adult gang members were more likely than juvenile gang members to be contacted or arrested once or twice in the past year (71% versus 18%).

**Table 103. Past Year Arrests or Police Contacts**

*Column percentages*

Contacts / Arrests	Juvenile		Adult		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
No	1	8.3 %	1	12.5 %	2	10.0 %
Yes	11	91.7	7	87.5	18	90.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>8</b>		<b>20</b>	

*Source of data: GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)*

**Table 104. Frequency of Police Contacts in the Past Year\***

*Column percentages*

Number of contacts	Juvenile		Adult		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
One or two	2	18.2 %	5	71.4 %	7	38.9 %
Three or four	3	27.3	1	14.3	4	22.2
Five or more	6	54.5	1	14.3	7	38.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>7</b>		<b>18</b>	

\* Only answered by gang members who had police contacts in the past year

*Source of data: GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)*

Gang members who were arrested or contacted by police in the past year were also asked to describe their encounter. Over half (53%) reported that they were treated fairly by the police most of the time and 18% reported that they were treated fairly by the police some of the time. Perceptions between juvenile and adult gang members were equally favorable. Six percent reported that they were not treated fairly by the police some of the time and 24% reported that they were not treated fairly by the police most of the time. Perceptions were slightly more unfavorable among juvenile gang members than adult gang members.

**Table 105. Perceptions of Treatment by Police\***

*Column percentages*

Perceptions	Juvenile		Adult		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Treated fairly by the police MOST of the time	6	54.5 %	3	50.0 %	9	52.9 %
Treated fairly by the police SOME of the time	2	18.2	1	16.7	3	17.6
NOT treated fairly by the police SOME of the time	0	0.0	1	16.7	1	5.9
NOT treated fairly by the police MOST of the time	3	27.3	1	16.7	4	23.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>6</b>		<b>17</b>	

\* Only answered by gang members who had police contacts in the past year

*Source of data: GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)*

Over three quarters of the gang members (78%) did not think that they would ever leave their gang. Only four gang members (22%) thought that they would leave their gang at some

point. Adult gang members were slightly more likely to believe that they would leave their gang at some point (88%) than juvenile gang members (70%).

**Table 106. Gang Members Leaving Gangs**

*Column percentages*

Ever leave gang?	Juvenile		Adult		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
No	3	30.0 %	1	12.5 %	4	22.2 %
Yes	7	70.0	7	87.5	14	77.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>8</b>		<b>18</b>	

*Source of data: GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)*

All gang members were asked to identify any reasons that would make it likely for them to leave their gang. Their responses are shown in the following table. Half or more of the gang members indicated that they would be likely to leave their gang if they got married (70%), became a parent (79%), assumed family responsibilities (67%), obtained a job (50%), got into a school or educational program (50%), or became involved in recreation or sports (58%). Other important reasons for leaving gangs included advice or pressure from family members and relatives (for 45% of gang members); advice or pressure from someone else (35%); moving out of the neighborhood (32%); because of a steady girlfriend, boyfriend, or spouse (45%); and going to jail or prison (30%).

**Table 107. Reasons for Leaving Gangs**

*Row percentages*

Reasons for leaving the gang	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Advice/pressure from a family member/relative	11	55.0 %	9	45.0 %	<b>20</b>
Advice/pressure from someone else	13	65.0	7	35.0	<b>20</b>
Move out of neighborhood	13	68.4	6	31.6	<b>19</b>
Because of a steady girlfriend/boyfriend/spouse	11	55.0	9	45.0	<b>20</b>
Get married	6	30.0	14	70.0	<b>20</b>
Become a parent	4	21.1	15	78.9	<b>19</b>
Family responsibilities	6	33.3	12	66.7	<b>18</b>
Obtain a job	10	50.0	10	50.0	<b>20</b>
Get into school/education program	10	50.0	10	50.0	<b>20</b>
Recreation/sports program	8	42.1	11	57.9	<b>19</b>
Go to jail/prison	14	70.0	6	30.0	<b>20</b>

*Source of data: GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)*

Reasons for leaving gangs were also disaggregated between juvenile and adult gang members. Results are shown in the following table. Overall, juvenile gang members were less likely than adult gang members to identify reasons that would make it likely for them to leave their gang. Most importantly, juvenile gang members were much less likely than adult gang members to indicate that they would be likely to leave their gang if they got married (50% versus 100%), if they obtained a job (33% versus 75%), if they got into a school or educational program (33% versus 75%), or became involved in recreation or sports (33% versus 85%). For juvenile gang members, the most important reason that would make them likely to leave their gang was

becoming a parent (75%). For adult gang members, the most important reason that would make them likely to leave their gang was getting married (100%).

**Table 108. Reasons for Leaving Gangs by Age of Gang Member**

<b>Reasons for leaving the gang</b>	<b>% of juvenile gang members</b>	<b>% of adult gang members</b>
Advice/pressure from a family member/relative	41.7 %	50.0 %
Advice/pressure from someone else	25.0	50.0
Move out of neighborhood	27.3	37.5
Because of a steady girlfriend/boyfriend/spouse	33.3	62.5
Get married	50.0	100.0
Become a parent	75.0	85.7
Family responsibilities	54.5	85.7
Obtain a job	33.3	75.0
Get into school/education program	33.3	75.0
Recreation/sports program	41.7	85.7
Go to jail/prison	25.0	37.5

*Source of data: GRAIN Gang Member Interviews (2010)*

### C. Agency Staff Member Perceptions

In addition to surveying community residents and gang members, youth-serving and law enforcement agency staff members were also surveyed to examine their perceptions of gangs in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. The majority (95%) believed that gang activity was present in their community.

**Table 109. Gangs in Community**

*Column percentages*

<b>Gangs</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
No	12	4.9 %
Yes	234	95.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>	

*Source of data: GRAIN Youth-Serving & Law Enforcement Agency Survey (2010)*

**Table 110. Level of Gang Activity in Community**

*Column percentages*

<b>Level</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Decreased	1	0.4 %
Stayed about the same	60	25.4
Increased	175	74.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>236</b>	

*Source of data: GRAIN Youth-Serving & Law Enforcement Agency Survey (2010)*

When asked about changes in the level of gang activity, only one agency staff member believed that gang activity had decreased, 25% believed that gang activity had stayed about the same, and 74% believed that gang activity had increased.

Youth-serving and law enforcement agency staff members were asked to identify the top three problems caused by gangs in the community. Over half of the respondents identified increases in drug (61%), violent (57%), and weapon (56%) crimes among the top three gang problems in their community. Slightly less than half (41%) identified increased fear for safety as one of the top three gang problems in the community. Problems that were less frequently identified as one of the top three included fighting (identified by 30% of agency staff members), school disruption (29%), public nuisance (22%), and family disruption (15%). Seventy five percent of agency staff identified increases in drug, violence, and weapon crimes as one or more of the top three problems caused by gangs in the community (result not shown).

**Table 111. Top Three Gang Problems in Community**

*Row percentages*

Problems	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Increase in drug crimes	97	39.0 %	152	61.0 %	<b>249</b>
increase in violent crimes	107	43.0	142	57.0	<b>249</b>
Increase in weapon crimes	110	44.2	139	55.8	<b>249</b>
Increased fear for safety	147	59.0	102	41.0	<b>249</b>
Fighting	175	70.3	74	29.7	<b>249</b>
School disruption	177	71.1	72	28.9	<b>249</b>
Public nuisance	194	77.9	55	22.1	<b>249</b>
Family disruption	212	85.1	37	14.9	<b>249</b>

**Source of data:** GRAIN Youth-Serving & Law Enforcement Agency Survey (2010)

**Table 112. Top Three Reasons for Gang Activity**

*Row percentages*

Reasons	No		Yes		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Gangs from other areas	108	43.4 %	141	56.6 %	<b>249</b>
Family/friends in gang	116	46.6	133	53.4	<b>249</b>
To feel love/sense of belonging	158	63.5	91	36.5	<b>249</b>
Power	167	67.1	82	32.9	<b>249</b>
Lack of activities	178	71.5	71	28.5	<b>249</b>
Family problems	185	74.3	64	25.7	<b>249</b>
Boredom	189	75.9	60	24.1	<b>249</b>
Poverty	200	80.3	49	19.7	<b>249</b>
Protection	230	92.4	19	7.6	<b>249</b>
School problems	237	95.2	12	4.8	<b>249</b>
Police labeling	243	97.6	6	2.4	<b>249</b>

**Source of data:** GRAIN Youth-Serving & Law Enforcement Agency Survey (2010)

Finally, youth-serving and law enforcement agency staff members were also asked to identify the top three reasons for gang activity in their community. Over half of the respondents identified gangs moving from other areas and having family and friends in gangs among the top three reasons for gang activity. Other common reasons selected among the top three included to feel love and a sense of belonging (selected by 37% of respondents), power (33%), lack of activities (29%), family problems (26%), boredom (24%), and poverty (20%). Less common reasons selected among the top three included protection (selected by 8% of respondents), school problems (5%), and labeling by police (2%).

## Section VI

### Fairbanks Gang Assessment: Community Resources Data

The purpose of this section is to outline the steps that have been taken in Fairbanks to address gang problems. This section also outlines some of the programs and services that are available to gang-involved youth and at-risk youth in the Fairbanks community.

Prior to 2007, the main programs that were in place in the Fairbanks community for addressing local gang issues were smaller-scale efforts. Educational presentations were provided by law enforcement and school personnel to community members about gang culture, local gangs, and indicators of gang affiliations. In addition to educational presentations, there was a coordinated effort to target a specific gang that was operating locally at that time (Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice, 2007). In their efforts, parents, law enforcement, and school personnel succeeded at identifying gang members, educating parents about positive alternatives to gang involvement, and preventing (or intervening with) gang involvement. These efforts ultimately assisted 10 out of 13 targeted youth in discontinuing their involvement with gangs (Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice, 2007).

Historically, the Fairbanks community has lacked a community-wide method for responding to gang activity. The Fairbanks community also lacked protocols for identifying gang members and classifying gang-related crimes. In addition, there was no organized method of collecting data regarding gang issues (Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice, 2009). There is also no formal process or assessment for screening individuals for gang involvement when they enter a detention unit or correctional center; although recording of such information may be done in the notes taken by the admitting officer (S.H. Daniels, personal communication, April 2, 2010). There was a need for a comprehensive plan to address gang-related issues based on a community assessment that could document the scale of the local gang problem (Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice, 2007).

In 2007, an award from the Gang Prevention Coordination Assistance Grant allowed the Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice to hire a staff to specifically focus on coordinating gang prevention efforts in the Fairbanks community. The first accomplishment of the coordination efforts was the formation of the Fairbanks Multi-Agency Gang Task Force (MAG-Force). The main focus of the MAG-Force is targeted enforcement efforts in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice, 2009). The MAG-Force is comprised of 16 member organizations from local and military law enforcement agencies; juvenile, adult, and federal probation; and the District Attorney's office (Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice, 2009; Daniels, Malloy, and Dompeling, 2010). Members of the MAG-Force are able to coordinate their efforts through a Letter of Agreement that provides guidelines for dealing with gangs, gang members, and gang intelligence (Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice, 2009). The responsibilities of this group include coordinating between law enforcement and community offender supervision agencies. The responsibilities also include developing a comprehensive method that outlines the responsibilities of individuals and organizations for addressing local gang issues (Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice, 2009).

The second accomplishment of the coordination efforts was the formation of the Fairbanks Community Gang Task Force (FCGTF; Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice, 2009).

The main priorities of the task force are intervention and prevention activities (Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice, 2009). This allows the community to address gang activity from a best practice approach using prevention, intervention and targeted enforcement strategies. The community task force is comprised of 25 groups, including community members, law enforcement personnel, military staff, and staff from the Division of Juvenile Justice in Fairbanks (Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice, 2009). While this task force initially presented with enthusiasm and a desire to address the gang problem in the Fairbanks community, the group was quickly aware that it needed direction. Ultimately this lack of direction demonstrated the need to complete a comprehensive gang assessment (Daniels and Dompeling, 2010).

In addition to having the Community Gang Task Force and the MAG-Force, the Fairbanks community had a Gang Prevention Coordinator who was employed by the Division of Juvenile Justice and supported by the 2007 Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coordination and Assistance Grant. The Gang Prevention Coordinator provided administrative support for the task forces, including evaluation. The Coordinator also worked with other community organizations and members to improve education and knowledge about gangs (Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice, 2009). The grant funding for this position has ended. The Division of Juvenile still intends to spearhead the gang reduction efforts in the Fairbanks community and will continue to seek funding for the position to further those efforts.

More recent steps taken by the community for gang prevention include a community education campaign, engagement of local schools in the gang prevention effort, formation of the Gang Reduction and Intervention Network (GRAIN) and the development of the Gang Prevention Program and referral process. The community education campaign consists of seven different curriculum or presentations (Gangs 101, Street Smarts, Gang Resistance Education and Training [G.R.E.A.T.], school safety issues, and MySpace and online recruitment tools of gangs; Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice, 2009). These presentations are provided to youth-serving organizations (schools/educators, churches, mental health, and substance abuse services; Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice, 2007), parents, adoption and tribal workers, and personnel in law enforcement and the District Attorney's Office (Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice, 2009). To date, more than 50 community education presentations have been completed (S.H. Daniels, personal communication, April 2, 2010). The Street Smarts and G.R.E.A.T. curriculum are best practice prevention programs provided to youth.

That Gang Reduction and Intervention Network (GRAIN) and Gang Prevention Program were both initiated by the Juvenile Probation Office in Fairbanks (Daniels, Malloy, and Dompeling, 2010). GRAIN was developed to provide direction and oversight to the community gang assessment. The 20 members of GRAIN are managers from Ft. Wainwright, Eielson Air Force Base, Fairbanks Police, Alaska State Troopers, Fairbanks city and borough Mayor's offices, Adult and Juvenile Probation, Department of Labor, Division of Behavioral Health, Lilly of the Valley Church of God and Christ, NAACP Fairbanks Chapter, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, Boys and Girls Club of Fairbanks, Fairbanks Native Association, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks District Attorney's Office, Office of Children's Services, Ringstad Park Weed and Seed, and the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District (Daniels, Malloy and Dompeling, 2010). The Gang Prevention Program was developed as an intervention strategy to work with youth that identified themselves as gang members and were voluntarily attempting to end their gang involvement. Appropriate assistance was provided to those youth based on risk and strength-based assessments (S.H. Daniels, personal communication, April 2, 2010). While the program was originally designed to utilize the Gang Prevention Coordinator to work with the

youth, lessons learned throughout the process and training received on intervention strategies have lead to the realization that a team based intervention approach will be more successful (Daniels and Dompeling, May 2010).

In addition to the efforts of the Gang Reduction and Intervention Network, the Gang Prevention Program, Coordinator position, the Fairbanks Community Gang Task Force and MAG-Force, there are a number of social service and justice organizations offering programs and services to at-risk youth in the Fairbanks community. A partial inventory is provided in the following table (some agencies also provide services to adults, and the list is not complete). Although there are general services available, gang involved individuals are a unique population. Without specific training for agency staff on how best to engage and motivate the gang involved individuals, they will not fully utilize available resources (Daniels and Dompeling, May 2010). The Fairbanks Community Gang Task Force should utilize this assessment in developing prevention and intervention activities and services for gang involved individuals in the Fairbanks community.

This assessment report provides information and a foundation for the Gang Reduction and Intervention Network to develop a three to five year plan to effectively address Fairbanks' gang issue. GRAIN has secured technical assistance from the National Gang Center, which will be provided at the end of July 2010 to develop this plan. The plan should incorporate prevention, intervention, and targeted enforcement strategies. The GRAIN Steering Committee is expecting that a need for sub-committees in these three key areas will be identified during the technical assistance. It is anticipated that members for these sub-committees will be comprised of Fairbanks Community Gang Task Force representatives. Further, technical assistance from the National Crime Prevention Council was also received through a community partner, Ringstad Park Weed & Seed, which will be provided at the end of August 2010 to the identified sub-committees (Daniels and Dompeling, May 2010).

**Table 113. Inventory of Programs Serving At-Risk Youth in Fairbanks**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Program description</b>
Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Services (ASACS) Fort Wainwright, AK	Program for military dependents provides prevention services, assessments and treatment, free of charge.
Alaska Crossings Wrangell, AK	Offers youth an experiential education opportunity that includes hands-on projects. They also offer a month-long summer expedition.
Al-Anon/Al-Anon Family Groups Fairbanks, AK	Provides support for teens that have family members that are alcoholics. Web address: <a href="http://www.al-anon-ak.org">www.al-anon-ak.org</a>
Alaska Job Corps Anchorage, AK	Provides disadvantaged, low-income youth ages 16 to 24 with a residential education and vocational training program to help the achieve independence and obtain quality long-term employment or to further their education. Web address: <a href="http://www.alaska.jobcorps.gov">www.alaska.jobcorps.gov</a>
Alaska Military Youth Academy Fairbanks, AK Web address: <a href="http://www.akmya.org">www.akmya.org</a>	Offers the ChalleNGe program for Alaskan youth ages 16 to 19- a residential school that is based on the traditional military training model for 22 weeks, followed by a 12 month post-residential program. Youth in the program learn life coping and job skills, academic excellence, responsible citizenship, leadership and followership, health and hygiene, physical fitness, service to community, and work toward completing a high school diploma or GED.
Boys and Girls Home of Alaska Fairbanks, AK	A residential and psychiatric treatment center with 120 beds that allows youth ages 5 to 18 that are in need of secure and non-secure treatment to be placed locally. Web address: <a href="http://www.boysandgirlshome.com">www.boysandgirlshome.com</a>
Careline Crisis Intervention Fairbanks, AK	Program for crisis intervention, suicide prevention, and referral and support.
CyberLynx Fairbanks, AK	A statewide K-12 correspondence program for Alaskan youth who are home schooled.
Fairbanks North Star Borough School District Fairbanks, AK	There are 12 secondary schools in this district.
Fairbanks Community Behavioral Health Center Fairbanks, AK	Provides psychiatric services for children. Web address: <a href="http://www.fcbhc.org">http://www.fcbhc.org</a>
Fairbanks Job Center Fairbanks, AK	Offers Alaska Career Ready, which is a program that assists students in evaluating their work readiness, college and occupational training, and helps to improve basic skills that are valued by employers and educators. The center helps to measure qualifications and job skills.
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital Behavioral Health Fairbanks, AK	Provides in-patient treatment for patients with mental illness. Web address: <a href="http://www.bannerhealth.com/Locations/Alaska/Fairbanks+memorial+hospital/H">www.bannerhealth.com/Locations/Alaska/Fairbanks+memorial+hospital/H</a>
Fairbanks Native Association Fairbanks, AK	Provides programs that preserve the unique lifestyle and culture of its members, and improve the quality life in the community. Web address: <a href="http://www.fairbanksnative.org">http://www.fairbanksnative.org</a>
Fairbanks Native Association – New Life Fairbanks, AK	An 11 bed residential treatment program for youth with co-existing disorders and substance abuse issues. Web address: <a href="http://www.fairbanksnative.org">www.fairbanksnative.org</a>
Fairbanks Native Association/Tanana Chiefs Conference- Graf Rheeneerhanjii Healing Place (Graf) Fairbanks, AK	A 12 bed residential treatment and rehabilitation program for youth with co-existing disorders and substance abuse issues. Web address: <a href="http://www.fairbanksnative.org">www.fairbanksnative.org</a>

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**Table 113 continued. Inventory of Programs Serving At-Risk Youth in Fairbanks**

Program	Program description
Fairbanks North Star Borough School District – Districtwide PASS Program Fairbanks, AK	Positive Alternatives to School Suspension program - coordinates with the juvenile justice system, social service organizations, and community treatment providers to provide this voluntary program for middle and high school students who are suspended or expelled from school. Web address: <a href="http://www.northstar.k12.ak.us">http://www.northstar.k12.ak.us</a>
Fairbanks North Star Borough School District – Homeless Education Program Fairbanks, AK	Identifies homeless youth, informs them of their educational rights, and enrolls them in school and other services to help them succeed academically. Web address: <a href="http://www.northstar.k12.ak.us">www.northstar.k12.ak.us</a>
Fairbanks North Star Borough School District Options/Teen Parenting Program Fairbanks, AK	A school-based program that provides pregnant and parenting students with on-site childcare and transportation to and from school. Along with educational services, the program provides classes about pregnancy preparation, child development, life skills, and parenting. Web address: <a href="http://www.northstar.k12.ak.us">www.northstar.k12.ak.us</a>
Fairbanks Psychiatric and Neurological Clinic Fairbanks, AK	This clinic specializes in providing medical care for psychiatric and neurological disorders in children. Web address: <a href="http://www.brainclinic.com">www.brainclinic.com</a>
Family Centered Services of Alaska Fairbanks, AK	Provides to children and youth such as individual and group counseling, comprehensive mental health, therapeutic foster care, therapeutic family homes, day treatment, and a residential diagnosis treatment center. Youth Education Support Services (YESS) is also offered through Family Centered Service of Alaska. This is an education-focused program for youth that have significant emotional disturbances and that are in middle and high school. The program offers a modified school curriculum to meet student needs. Other services include the summer skills program, job readiness training and education enrichment programs. Web address: <a href="http://www.familycenteredservices.com">www.familycenteredservices.com</a>
Hope Counseling Center Fairbanks, AK	Provides spiritual and mental health services to the community. Web address: <a href="http://www.hopcounselingcenter.org">www.hopcounselingcenter.org</a>
LEAP Alternatives to Violence Programs Fairbanks, AK	provides a program about alternatives to violence for adolescents. Web address: <a href="http://www.leapalternativestoviolence.com">www.leapalternativestoviolence.com</a>
North Star Youth Court Fairbanks, AK	Youth court and mediation programs that use a peer-based approach to respond to youth crimes, and ensure access to services for youth offender, their victims, and families. Youth offenders are provided with case management that helps to develop competency skills, and victim restoration. Web address: <a href="http://www.mosquitonet.com/~nsyc/index_files/yc.htm">http://www.mosquitonet.com/~nsyc/index_files/yc.htm</a>
Planned Parenthood of Alaska Fairbanks, AK	Offers services such as birth control, STD checks, reproductive health, annual exams, and abortions. Web address: <a href="http://www.ppak.org">www.ppak.org</a>
Presbyterian Hospitality House Fairbanks, AK	A community-based residential treatment program for youth that includes a shelter for runaway and homeless youth, and an independent living program for young men. Among the services provided are case management, individual, group and family therapy, education, transportation, life skills training, and positive youth development. Web address: <a href="http://www.phhalaska.org">www.phhalaska.org</a>
Resource Center for Parents and Children, Stevie's Place-Children Advocacy Center Fairbanks, AK	Provides forensic interviews, medical exams, and support and information in cases of possible child sexual abuse. Also provides child-focused services for children ages 0 to 18. Web address: <a href="http://www.rcpcfairbanks.org/stevie.html">www.rcpcfairbanks.org/stevie.html</a>

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**Table 113 continued. Inventory of Programs Serving At-Risk Youth in Fairbanks**

Program	Program description
Right to Life, Interior Alaska Fairbanks, AK	Provides free assistance in making healthy choices from fertilization to natural death. Web address: <a href="http://www.righttolifeinterior.com">www.righttolifeinterior.com</a>
State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Juvenile justice- Fairbanks Youth Facility/Juvenile Probation Fairbanks, AK	Houses youth that are in short-term detention and long-term treatment. These programs promote youth accountability, victim and community restoration and safety, and crime prevention for offenders and their families. Web address: <a href="http://www.health.hss.state.ak.us/djj">www.health.hss.state.ak.us/djj</a>
State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Fairbanks Regional Public Health Center Fairbanks, AK	Provides family planning services, a childbirth class for young parents, a prenatal breast feeding class, and free sexually transmitted disease and HIV testing. Web address: <a href="http://www.hss.state.sk.us/dph">www.hss.state.sk.us/dph</a>
Summer Youth Employment Program, Workforce Investment Act- State of Alaska Fairbanks - Copper River Region, AK	Places disadvantaged and low income youth ages 14 to 24 in summer employment. The program teaches youth job search skills and workplace behavior, and prepares youth for future employment and education. Web address: <a href="http://labor.alaska.gov/recovery/youth.html">http://labor.alaska.gov/recovery/youth.html</a>
Youth Employment Services – State of Alaska Fairbanks, AK	Employment services for youth in the state of Alaska

**Source of information:** *Alaska Military Youth Academy*

## Section VII

### Fairbanks Gang Assessment: Methods

The primary goal of the Fairbanks Gang Assessment was to determine the level of gang activity in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. The Fairbanks Gang Reduction and Intervention Network (GRAIN) contracted with the University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center to complete this assessment. This assessment was based upon the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Comprehensive Gang Model to assess community gang problems. All data were collected using either original or modified versions of the surveys, interviews, and other instruments for data collection that were included in the OJJDP model.

The Fairbanks Gang Assessment consists of a community resident survey, student survey, school staff survey, youth serving and law enforcement agencies survey, and gang member interviews. The assessment was approved by the University of Alaska Anchorage Institutional Review Board and participation by all individuals was voluntary. Active informed consent forms were used for all surveys and interviews that were part of the assessment.

#### A. Community Resident Survey

Community resident data were collected through a self-administered mail survey that used the original survey instrument from the OJJDP model. A copy of the community resident survey can be found in Appendix A. Community residents were selected through a random sample of 500 addresses. The random sample included persons living in Fairbanks, North Pole, Ft. Wainwright, and Eielson Air Force Base. Participation in the survey was voluntary and confidential. Data collection occurred from February 5, 2010, to March 28, 2010.

The randomly selected community residents received a pre-notification postcard, the survey, and a reminder postcard. The pre-notification postcards were mailed on February 5, 2010. The questionnaires were mailed on February 8, 2010, and included an introduction to the survey, the survey instrument, and a self-addressed, postage paid, return envelope. Participants were removed from the mailing list when their completed surveys were received. The reminder postcard was mailed on March 19, 2010, to individuals who remained on the mailing list. The postcards reminded community residents to complete and mail the paper survey. It also provided them with a link to an online version of the survey. Incentives to participate were offered to respondents at each stage of the mailing in the form of a prize drawing for several prizes including round-trip airfare between Fairbanks and Anchorage. Residents were encouraged to respond to the survey in order to be entered into the drawing.

The final sample consisted of 103 residents who completed and returned the questionnaire within the specified data collection period. The final response rate for the survey was 21%. Although there is no predetermined rule for an adequate response rate, survey researchers generally agree that the bottom threshold is 50%. A response rate of 75% is considered good, and a 90% response rate is excellent (but very difficult and expensive to achieve). As the response rate for the present survey is low, the findings presented cannot be

generalized to the Fairbanks North Star Borough, and may not be comparable to national studies. Further caution should be used when considering the utility of this survey as a baseline for future research in the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

## **B. Student Survey**

The student survey consisted of a group-administered survey to an original sample of all students in grades 7 to 12 at each of the schools in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District approved the application to conduct this survey on February 19, 2010. Eight schools participated in this survey – Effie Kokrine Charter School, Hutchison High School, Lathrop High School, Monroe Catholic School, Ryan Middle School, Randy Smith Middle School, Star of the North Secondary School (North Pole campus and Career Education Center), and West Valley High School. From these schools, a final sample of 419 students completed a survey.

The student survey instrument used in this study was a modified version of the student survey in the OJJDP model. Prior to administering the survey, parental consent forms were distributed to students between February 19 and 24, 2010. Parental consent forms were returned to the schools by March 5, 2010. Parents were provided the opportunity to view the survey (and parental consent and student assent forms) online in order to be fully informed on the survey. Surveys were administered during the normal school day by staff from the Division of Juvenile Justice in Fairbanks between March 23 and 30, 2010. While students were offered incentives to return completed parental consent forms, participation was restricted to students that returned parental consent forms and who additionally signed the student assent form at the time of the survey. In order to protect student confidentiality, completed surveys and consent and assent forms were sealed in separate envelopes upon their collection.

## **C. School Staff Survey**

The Fairbanks Gang Reduction and Intervention Network (GRAIN) conducted an online survey of school staff. Staff members from the targeted schools were asked to complete an online survey via survey monkey. All staff members at the targeted schools were invited to voluntarily participate. A total of 147 school staff responded to this online survey.

## **D. Youth-Serving and Law Enforcement Agency Survey**

Youth-serving and law enforcement agencies in the Fairbanks North Star Borough were identified by the Fairbanks Gang Reduction and Intervention Network (GRAIN). An individual point-of-contact was identified for each agency. Each individual point-of-contact was sent an email invitation to participate in an online survey about gangs and gang activity. Individuals were also asked to recruit other participants by forwarding the invitation to other staff in their agency. A total of 249 youth-serving and law enforcement agency staff members were surveyed.

## **E. Gang Member Interviews**

Gang members were selected because they had identified themselves as gang members to law enforcement or another public servant. A list of self-identified gang members was provided to Juvenile Probation Officer Shea Daniels. Ms. Daniels followed up with individuals, securing their consent to perform an interview regarding gangs and gang activity. Ms. Daniels conducted all 20 interviews, identifying herself as a member of the criminal justice system. In some cases, Ms. Daniels knew the interviewees through prior contacts in her position as a Juvenile Probation Officer.

## References

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**Appendix A**  
**Community Resident Survey**

## Gang Reduction and Intervention Network (GRAIN) Community Resident Survey

The purpose of this study is to collect information from people who live in Fairbanks about how residents view gang activity and how they think gangs affect the community. Your input will help inform the Fairbanks Gang Reduction and Intervention Network (GRAIN) about what gang issues they should focus on, and how they and the Fairbanks community can work together to solve them.

You have been randomly selected to participate in this study because you live in Fairbanks. The survey should take about 10-15 minutes to complete. Your involvement is totally voluntary. You are under no obligation to participate in this research. Nothing will happen if you choose not to answer a question or decide not to participate. There are no risks or benefits. However, you can help us very much by taking a few minutes to share your experiences and opinions about gang activity in Fairbanks.

All information you provide on this questionnaire will be treated as confidential. This means that no one will ever try to link you to your answers. When the survey data are made public, no names or addresses will be connected to your answers, and handwritten answers will not be included in the public data. Surveys will be analyzed by the Justice Center at the University of Alaska Anchorage and destroyed at the end of the study.

Returning your completed survey grants consent for the information you provide to be used for this study (and will also enter your name in the drawing for two airline tickets between Fairbanks and Anchorage). If you have any questions about your rights as a research subject, please contact Robert White, Interim Vice Provost for Research & Graduate Studies, UAA, (907) 786-1196, anrgw1@uaa.alaska.edu. If you have questions or comments about the survey, please contact Kristy Parker in the UAA Justice Center at (907)786-4885 or via e-mail to arklp1@uaa.alaska.edu.

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1. Are you:     Female     Male

2. What race or ethnicity do you consider yourself to be?  
 Alaska Native or American Indian  
 Asian  
 Black or African American  
 Native Hawaiian, Samoan, or Other Pacific Islander  
 White or Caucasian  
 Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is your current marital status?  
 Single, Never Married  
 Married  
 Separated  
 Divorced  
 Widowed

4. What is the intersection (cross streets) nearest your place of residence? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you feel safer in your community than you did two years ago?     No     Yes  
Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Please pick the top three concerns that you have about your community, if any:  
 Unemployment                       Graffiti  
 Homicide                                 Truancy  
 Gang Activity                             Vandalism  
 Loud music                                 Domestic violence  
 Unkempt property                       Insufficient street lighting  
 Drug dealing                              Low police activity  
 Burglary or robbery  
 Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you think there are gangs in your community?  
 No     Yes

8. Do you think your child(ren) is in a gang or at risk of being in a gang?     No     Yes

9. In the past year, has gang activity in your community:  
 Increased  
 Decreased  
 Remained about the same

10. Please pick the top three problems, if any, that gangs present in the community:  
 Gangs are not a problem here     Fighting  
 Increase in violent crime         School disruption  
 Increase in drug crimes          Public nuisance  
 Increase in weapon crimes       Family disruption  
 Increased fear for safety  
 Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

11. Please pick the top three reasons you believe gang activity exists in your community:  
 Gangs are not a problem here     Boredom  
 School problems                       Poverty  
 Lack of activities                       Power  
 Family/friends in gangs             Protection  
 Police labeling                          Family problems  
 Gang members move from other areas  
 To feel love/sense of belonging  
 Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

12. Please pick the top three things you believe should be done about gangs and gang activity in your community:  
 Gangs are not a problem here     Programs/recreation  
 More police protection             Mentoring  
 Job provision and job training     Tutoring  
 Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Gang Reduction and Intervention Network (GRAIN) Community Resident Survey

13. Please rank the following organizations from most responsible (1) for dealing with gangs and gang activity to least responsible (12) for dealing with gangs and gang activity:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Police
- \_\_\_\_\_ Church
- \_\_\_\_\_ Court/criminal justice system
- \_\_\_\_\_ Family
- \_\_\_\_\_ Service Providers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Neighborhood association
- \_\_\_\_\_ School
- \_\_\_\_\_ Housing authority
- \_\_\_\_\_ Office of juvenile affairs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Treatment providers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Community residents
- \_\_\_\_\_ Office of Children's Services

14. How has your community responded to gang activity?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

15. How satisfied are you with the current response to gang activity? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

16. What are you willing to do, if anything, to help deal with gangs and gang activity in your community? Please check all that apply:

- Nothing
- Tutor
- Mentor
- Teach skills (auto mechanics, crafts, music, computer skills, electronics, etc.)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Neighborhood outreach
- Become a youth group leader
- Form sports leagues/teams

17. What is the highest level of schooling you have completed?

- Less than a High School Diploma
- High School Diploma or GED
- Some College, No Degree
- Associates or Other 2-year Degree
- Bachelor's Degree
- Graduate Degree

**Thank you for your participation. Your opinions and comments are appreciated.**

**If you would like to leave any additional comments for us, please use the remaining blank space on this sheet, or attach another sheet of paper.**



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**Appendix B**  
**Student Survey**

## GRAIN Student Survey

**Thank you** for agreeing to participate in this survey. The survey asks your opinion about a number of things in your life, including your friends, your family, your neighborhood, your community, and your activities. The survey also asks about gangs and whether you are in a gang. Your answers to these questions will be **CONFIDENTIAL** and you will remain **ANONYMOUS**. This means your answers will stay secret. Your name will never be asked. Please **DO NOT** write your name on this survey.

This survey is **completely voluntary**. This means that you can skip any question that you don't want to answer. You can also stop taking the survey at any time. You will never be punished for choosing not to participate.

Other students have said that this survey is very interesting and they enjoy filling it out. We hope you will also. Be sure to read the instructions below before you begin to answer.

- 1 This is not a test, so there are no right or wrong answers.
- 2 Answer by marking in the answer space and use the closest answer to the truth. If you are not sure what a question means, leave it blank. If the question does not apply to you, skip it and move on to the next question.
- 3 Please follow these instructions carefully. It is best to use a pencil. Make heavy marks inside the circles. Erase cleanly any answers you wish to change. Make no other marking or comments on the answer pages.

1. How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What grade are you in? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Are you:             Female     Male
4. What school do you attend? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What race or ethnicity do you consider yourself to be?
 

<input type="radio"/> Alaska Native or American Indian	<input type="radio"/> Native Hawaiian, Samoan, or Other Pacific Islander
<input type="radio"/> Asian	<input type="radio"/> White or Caucasian
<input type="radio"/> Black or African American	<input type="radio"/> Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
<input type="radio"/> Other (specify): _____	
6. Think of where you live most of the time. Which of the following people live there with you? (Choose all that apply.)
 

<input type="radio"/> Mother	<input type="radio"/> Father	<input type="radio"/> Brother(s)
<input type="radio"/> Stepmother	<input type="radio"/> Stepfather	<input type="radio"/> Stepbrother(s)
<input type="radio"/> Foster mother	<input type="radio"/> Foster father	<input type="radio"/> Sister(s)
<input type="radio"/> Grandmother	<input type="radio"/> Grandfather	<input type="radio"/> Stepsister(s)
<input type="radio"/> Aunt	<input type="radio"/> Uncle	<input type="radio"/> Other children
<input type="radio"/> Other adults		
7. How many brothers and sisters, including stepbrothers and stepsisters, do you have who are older than you? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How many brothers or sisters, including stepbrothers and stepsisters, do you have who are younger than you? \_\_\_\_\_



## GRAIN Student Survey

- |   | No                    | Yes                   | Don't know            |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 14. Are there any gangs at your school?   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 15. Do any students at your high school belong to a gang?   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 16. What about gangs that don't have members attending your school... have any of those gangs come around your school in the past six months? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 17. Have gangs been involved in the sale of drugs at your school in the past six months?  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 18. Have any gang members brought guns to your school in the past six months?   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 19. Have gangs been involved in fights, attacks, or violence at your school in the past six months?   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

If you answered YES to any of the previous six questions, please answer question #20.

If you did NOT answer YES to any of the previous six questions, please skip to question #21.

20. Do the gangs around your school do the following things?

- |                                   | No                    | Yes                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Help out in the community         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Get in fights with other gangs    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Provide protection for each other | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Steal things                      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Rob other people                  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Steal cars                        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Sell marijuana                    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Sell other illegal drugs          | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Damage or destroy property        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

The following questions ask about the neighborhood and community where you live.

21. How much do each of the following statements describe your neighborhood?

- |   | Definitely not true   | Mostly not true       | Mostly true           | Definitely true       |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Crime and/or drug selling               | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Fights                                  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Lots of empty or abandoned buildings    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Lots of graffiti                        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I feel safe in my neighborhood          | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I'd like to get out of my neighborhood. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

22. Which of the following activities for people your age are available in your community?

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Sports teams       | <input type="radio"/> Scouting  |
| <input type="radio"/> Boys & Girls Clubs | <input type="radio"/> 4-H Clubs |
| <input type="radio"/> Service Clubs      |                                 |

### Your Family

23. How wrong do you think your parents would feel it would be for you to:

- |  | Very wrong            | Wrong                 | A little wrong        | Not wrong at all      |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Steal anything worth more than \$5?  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Draw graffiti, or write things or draw pictures on buildings or other property (without the owner's permission)? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Pick a fight with someone?   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

## GRAIN Student Survey

The last questions on the survey ask about your experiences with gangs.

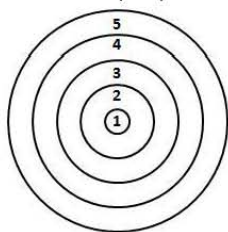
- |   | No                                     | Yes                             |                                  |                                   |                                   |                              |
|---|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 21. Have you ever belonged to a gang?                               | <input type="radio"/>                  | <input type="radio"/>           |                                  |                                   |                                   |                              |
| 22. If you have ever belonged to a gang, did that gang have a name? | <input type="radio"/>                  | <input type="radio"/>           |                                  |                                   |                                   |                              |
| 23. Are you a gang member now?                                      | <input type="radio"/>                  | <input type="radio"/>           |                                  |                                   |                                   |                              |
| 24. How many members are there in your gang?                        | Not in a gang<br><input type="radio"/> | 1 to 5<br><input type="radio"/> | 6 to 10<br><input type="radio"/> | 11 to 20<br><input type="radio"/> | 21 to 30<br><input type="radio"/> | 30+<br><input type="radio"/> |

If you do NOT belong to a gang, please STOP here.

If you belong to a gang, please CONTINUE the survey. Thank you.

- |   |                                   |                                 |                                  |                                   |                                   |                              |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 25. How many boys belong to your gang?  | No boys<br><input type="radio"/>  | 1 to 5<br><input type="radio"/> | 6 to 10<br><input type="radio"/> | 11 to 20<br><input type="radio"/> | 21 to 30<br><input type="radio"/> | 30+<br><input type="radio"/> |
| 26. How many girls belong to your gang? | No girls<br><input type="radio"/> | 1 to 5<br><input type="radio"/> | 6 to 10<br><input type="radio"/> | 11 to 20<br><input type="radio"/> | 21 to 30<br><input type="radio"/> | 30+<br><input type="radio"/> |

27. Suppose the circle below represents your gang. How far from the center of the gang are you? (Circle the number that best describes your place in the gang.)



29. Why did you join the gang? (Mark all that apply.)

- For fun
- For protection
- A friend was in the gang
- A brother or sister was in the gang
- I was forced to join
- To get respect
- For money
- To fit in better
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

28. Do the following describe your gang?

- |                                       | No                    | Yes                   |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| You can join before age 13.           | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| There are initiation rites.           | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The gang has established leaders.     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The gang has regular meetings.        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The gang has specific rules or codes. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Gang members have specific roles.     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| There are roles for each age group.   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The gang has symbols or colors.       | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| There are specific roles for girls.   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

30. Does your gang do the following things?

- |                                   | No                    | Yes                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Help out in the community         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Get in fights with other gangs    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Provide protection for each other | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Steal things                      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Rob other people                  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Steal cars                        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Sell marijuana                    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Sell other illegal drugs          | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Damage or destroy property        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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## **Appendix C**

### **Youth-Serving and Law Enforcement Agency Survey**

The purpose of this study is to collect information from people who live and work in Fairbanks about how youth-serving agencies view gang activity and how they think gangs affect the community. Your input will help inform the Fairbanks Gang Reduction and Intervention Network (GRAIN) about what gang issues they should focus on, and how they and the Fairbanks community can work together to solve them.

You have been selected to participate in this study because you are an agency that provides services to youth and young adults in Fairbanks. The survey should take about 10-15 minutes to complete. Your involvement is totally voluntary. You are under no obligation to participate in this research. Nothing will happen if you choose not to answer a question or decide not to participate. There are no risks or benefits. However, you can help us very much by taking a few minutes to share your experiences and opinions about gang activity in Fairbanks.

All information you provide on this questionnaire will be treated as confidential. This means that no one will ever try to link you to your answers. When the survey data are made public, no names or addresses will be connected to your answers. Data will be analyzed by the Justice Center at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Submitting your completed survey grants consent for the information you provide to be used for this study. If you have any questions about your rights as a research subject, please contact Robert White, Interim Vice Provost for Research & Graduate Studies, UAA, (907) 786-1196, anrgw1@uaa.alaska.edu. If you have questions or comments about the survey, please contact Khristy Parker in the UAA Justice Center at (907)786-4885 or via e-mail to anklp1@uaa.alaska.edu.

1. Do you think there are gangs in your community?  No  Yes
  
2. Please pick the top three problems, if any, that gangs present in your community:
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Gangs are not a problem here <input type="checkbox"/> Increase in violent crime <input type="checkbox"/> Increase in drug crimes <input type="checkbox"/> Increase in weapon crimes <input type="checkbox"/> Increased fear for safety <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Fighting <input type="checkbox"/> School disruption <input type="checkbox"/> Public nuisance <input type="checkbox"/> Family disruption
--	---
  
3. Do you believe that gang activity is increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same level among the youth that you serve?
  - Increasing
  - Decreasing
  - Staying about the same

Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Please pick the top three you believe gang activity exists in your community:
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Gangs are not a problem here <input type="checkbox"/> School problems <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of activities <input type="checkbox"/> Family/friends in gangs <input type="checkbox"/> Police labeling <input type="checkbox"/> Gang members move from other areas <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> To feel love/sense of belonging <input type="checkbox"/> Boredom <input type="checkbox"/> Poverty <input type="checkbox"/> Power <input type="checkbox"/> Protection <input type="checkbox"/> Family problems
--	---

5. What things should be done about gang activity in your community?

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

6. Have you or your agency received any training on gangs or gang indicators in the past 2 years?  No  Yes
7. Would you be interested in receiving a training regarding gangs and gang indicators?  No  Yes
8. What agency do you work for? (Optional)  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Appendix D**  
**Gang Member Interview Form**

## **Exhibit 7.5**

### **Gang Member Interview Form**

#### **SAMPLE** **Introduction to Gang Member Interview**

To be read by interviewer:

I would like to ask you some questions that will help us learn ore about gangs in (*your community*). We are interested in learning something about your life and experiences, as well as your involvement in a gang.

One section of the interview asks about criminal activity. Give us only the information that we ask for. Do not give us any additional information, including names or dates, connected to any crimes.

The information you provide will be kept strictly confidential. That is, it will not be shared with anyone. The answers you give us will be added to the information we receive from others we are interviewing and then analyzed together.

You may refuse to answer any question in this interview, and you may end your participation in the interview at any time.

We are asking your permission (and that of your parent or guardian, if you are under the legal age of adult) to conduct this interview. Again, this information will be kept strictly private and confidential.

Are you willing to proceed?

## Exhibit 7.5 (continued)

# Gang Member Interview

## Demographics

1. What is your date of birth? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Are you:
  - Female
  - Male \_\_\_\_\_
3. What race/ethnicity do you consider yourself to be? (choose one best answer)
  - White/Caucasian
  - Black/African American
  - Asian
  - Hispanic/Latino
  - Native American/American Indian
  - Other (Please Specify) \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the language you use most often at home? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the intersection (which streets cross) nearest your place of residence? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What is your current marital status?
  - Never married
  - Married
  - Divorced
  - Widowed
  - Separated
  - Do not know
7. Do you have any children?
  - No
  - Yes, If yes, how many? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Has any family member ever been in a gang?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Do not know
  - No response

If yes, specify number of family members and relationship \_\_\_\_\_
9. Are you currently employed?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Do not know
  - No response

If yes, do you have a full-time job? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, do you have a part-time job? \_\_\_\_\_

What type of work do you do? \_\_\_\_\_

## School

10. Are you currently in school?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Do not know
  - No response
11. If you are currently in school, what grade are you in? \_\_\_\_\_
12. If you are not in school, what is the highest grade you have completed?
  - Grade \_\_\_\_\_
  - Do not know
  - No response
13. Generally, what are/were your grades like?
  - Mostly As
  - Mostly Bs
  - Mostly Cs
  - Mostly Ds
  - Mostly Fs
14. For your current/most recent school, how much do you agree/disagree with the following statements?
 

Use a 5-point scale: 1) Strongly disagree  
2) Disagree  
3) Neither disagree nor agree  
4) Agree  
5) Strongly agree

\_\_\_\_\_ If I have/had a problem, there is/was a teacher or staff member I could talk to.

\_\_\_\_\_ I often feel/felt that no one at school cares/cared about me.

\_\_\_\_\_ Even though there are lots of students around, I often feel/felt lonely.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not/did not feel that I am/was part of this school.

\_\_\_\_\_ I often feel/felt like my teachers respect/respected me.

\_\_\_\_\_ In school, I often feel/felt put down by other students.

\_\_\_\_\_ Most of my teachers really listen/listened to what I have/had to say.

\_\_\_\_\_ Most of my teachers are/were fair in supervising me if I step/stepped out of line.
15. Have you ever dropped out of school?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Do not know
  - No response

If yes, what were the most recent reasons for dropping out? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Exhibit 7.5 (continued)**

16. Have you ever been suspended from school?

- Yes                       No  
 Do not know             No response

If yes, what were the most recent reasons for suspension?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

17. Have you ever been expelled from school?

- Yes                       No  
 Do not know             No response

If yes, what were the most recent reasons for expulsion?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

18. In the past year, how often have you witnessed any of the following gang activities at your school or on school grounds?

- Use a 7-point scale: 1) Never/no times  
 2) 1 to 3 times  
 3) 4 to 10 times  
 4) 11 to 26 times  
 5) More than 26 times  
 6) Do not know  
 7) No response

- \_\_\_\_\_ Gang members selling drugs  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Fights between members of different gangs  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Fights between members of your own gang  
 \_\_\_\_\_ A drive-by shooting  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Gang intimidation  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Gang recruiting  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Not in school

**Community**

19. Are there areas right now in your community where you are afraid to walk alone?

- Yes                       No  
 Do not know             No response

If yes, is it because of gang-related concerns?

- Yes                       No  
 Do not know             No response

Please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

20. In the last year, how often have you witnessed any of the following gang activities in your community?

- Use a 7-point scale: 1) Never/no times  
 2) 1 to 3 times  
 3) 4 to 10 times  
 4) 11 to 26 times  
 5) More than 26 times  
 6) Do not know  
 7) No response

- \_\_\_\_\_ Gang members selling drugs  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Fights between members of different gangs  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Fights between members of your own gang  
 \_\_\_\_\_ A drive-by shooting  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Gang intimidation  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Gang recruiting

21. In the last year, for each crime, please rate how serious a crime problem you think this is in your community?

- Use a 7-point scale: 1) No problem  
 2) A small problem  
 3) A moderate problem  
 4) A serious problem  
 5) A very serious problem  
 6) Do not know  
 7) No response

- \_\_\_\_\_ Vandalism/graffiti  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Burglary  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Car theft  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Robbery  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Threats/intimidation  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Gang to gang confrontations  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Drug dealing  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Alcohol use  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Drive-by shooting  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Possession of knife  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Possession of gun  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Firearms use  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Firearms dealing  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Arson  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Assault/battery  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Homicide/murder  
 \_\_\_\_\_ School disruption  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

**Exhibit 7.5 (continued)**

22. Do you think there is a gang problem in your community?

- Yes       No  
 Do not know       No response

If so, what do you think are the top three causes of the gang problem in your community?

- Poverty  
 School problems  
 Police labeling  
 Gang members move to community from other places  
 Boredom  
 Family problems  
 Power  
 Lack of activities  
 Prejudice  
 Family/friends in gangs  
 To feel loved/sense of belonging  
 Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

23. What do you think should be done about the gang problem in your community?

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

24. About how many adults have you known personally who in the past year have:

- Used marijuana, crack, cocaine, or other drugs?  
 Sold or dealt drugs?  
 Done other things that could get them into trouble with police such as stealing, selling stolen goods, mugging, or assaulting others?  
 Gotten drunk?

25. Are any of your friends gang members?

- Yes       No  
 Do not know       No response

26. If you wanted to get a handgun, how easy would it be for you to get one?

- Very hard       Somewhat hard  
 Somewhat easy       Very easy  
 Do not know       No response

27. If you wanted to get drugs like cocaine, LSD, amphetamines, crack, etc., how easy would it be for you to get some?

- Very hard       Somewhat hard  
 Somewhat easy       Very easy  
 Do not know       No response

28. Are there adults in your neighborhood you can talk to about something important?

- Yes       No  
 Do not know       No response

**Gang-Related Activities**

29. Are you currently a gang member?

- Yes       No  
 Do not know       No response

30. In the last 6 months, have you been an active gang member?

- Yes       No  
 Do not know       No response

31. What is your most recent position or rank in the gang?


- Leader  
 Core member/influential (with gang all of the time)  
 Regular member (involved most of the time)  
 Peripheral member (minimally hangs out)  
 Wannabe  
 Veteran/heavy/old gangster/senior gang member  
 Do not know  
 No response

32. Why did you join or associate with a gang? Please rank your answers from 1 – most important to 9 – least important.

- \_\_\_\_ For fun  
 \_\_\_\_ For protection  
 \_\_\_\_ A friend was in the gang  
 \_\_\_\_ A brother or sister was in the gang  
 \_\_\_\_ I was forced to join  
 \_\_\_\_ To get respect  
 \_\_\_\_ For money  
 \_\_\_\_ To fit in better  
 \_\_\_\_ Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

33. How old were you when you first belonged to a gang?

About \_\_\_\_\_ years old.

*Continue to the next page* 

**Exhibit 7.5 (continued)****34. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

- Use a 7-point scale:
- 1) **Strongly disagree**
  - 2) **Disagree**
  - 3) **Neither disagree nor agree**
  - 4) **Agree**
  - 5) **Strongly agree**
  - 6) **Do not know**
  - 7) **No response**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Being in my gang makes me feel important.
- \_\_\_\_\_ My gang members provide a good deal of support and loyalty for one another.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Being a member of a gang makes me feel respected.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Being a member of a gang makes me feel like I am a useful person to have around.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Being a member of a gang makes me feel like I really belong somewhere.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I enjoy being a member of my gang.
- \_\_\_\_\_ My gang is like a family to me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Being in a gang is a good way to make money.

**The next few questions ask about your activities involving crime, drugs, and alcohol.****35. In the past year, have you:**

Written gang graffiti on school property, neighborhood houses, stores, etc.?

- Yes  No  
 Do not know  No response

Thrown rocks or bottles at persons, vehicles, or property?

- Yes  No  
 Do not know  No response

Destroyed property worth less than \$300?

- Yes  No  
 Do not know  No response

Destroyed property worth \$300 or more?

- Yes  No  
 Do not know  No response

Set fire to building or property?

- Yes  No  
 Do not know  No response

Stolen bicycle or bike parts?

- Yes  No  
 Do not know  No response

Stolen a motor vehicle?

- Yes  No  
 Do not know  No response

Stolen parts or property from a vehicle (hubcaps, stereo, cell phone, etc.)?

- Yes  No  
 Do not know  No response

Fenced or sold stolen goods (other than weapons)?

- Yes  No  
 Do not know  No response

Shoplified?

- Yes  No  
 Do not know  No response

Entered a house, store, or building to commit a theft?

- Yes  No  
 Do not know  No response

Broken into a house, store, or building to commit a theft?

- Yes  No  
 Do not know  No response

Fenced or sold weapons or firearms?

- Yes  No  
 Do not know  No response

Threatened to attack a person without using a gun, knife, or other dangerous weapon?

- Yes  No  
 Do not know  No response

Threatened to attack a person using a gun, knife, or other dangerous weapon?

- Yes  No  
 Do not know  No response

Robbed someone by force or by threat of force without using a weapon?


- Yes  No  
 Do not know  No response

Robbed someone by force or by threat of force using a weapon?

- Yes  No  
 Do not know  No response

Beaten up or battered someone without using a dangerous weapon?

- Yes  No  
 Do not know  No response

*Continue to the next page* 

**Exhibit 7.5 (continued)**

Beaten up or battered someone using a dangerous weapon?

- Yes                       No  
 Do not know           No response

Forced someone to have sex with you (rape)?

- Yes                       No  
 Do not know           No response

Participated in a drive-by shooting?

- Yes                       No  
 Do not know           No response

Participated in a homicide?

- Yes                       No  
 Do not know           No response

Participated in other crimes (specify \_\_\_\_\_).

**36. In the past year, have you used or tried any drugs?**

- Yes                       No  
 Do not know           No response

If yes, about how many days per month do you use any drugs?

\_\_\_ Days    \_\_\_ Do not know    \_\_\_ No response

**37. In the past year, have you sold any drugs?**

- Yes                       No  
 Do not know           No response

If yes, did the money go to:

- Benefit the gang       Personal use  
 Do not know           No response

**38. In the past year, have you used any kind of alcohol?**

- Yes                       No  
 Do not know           No response

If yes, have you drunk:

- Wine  
 Beer  
 Hard liquor

**39. In the past year, have you had any arrests or police contacts? This may include being stopped, searched, questioned, or being brought to the police station at any time.**

- Yes                       No  
 Do not know           No response

If yes, how many times? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please describe the incident(s).

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**40. For the incident(s) described above, please indicate if you were:**

- Treated fairly by the police MOST of the time.  
 Treated fairly by the police SOME of the time.  
 NOT treated fairly by the police SOME of the time.  
 NOT treated fairly by the police MOST of the time.  
 Do not know  
 No response

**41. Do you think you will ever leave the gang?**

- Yes                       No  
 Do not know           No response

**42. If you would leave the gang, which of the following are reasons likely to get you out of a gang? Identify all that would apply.**

Advice/pressure from a family member/relative

- Yes                       No  
 Do not know           No response

Advice/pressure from someone else (specify who \_\_\_\_\_)

- Yes                       No  
 Do not know           No response

Move out of neighborhood

- Yes                       No  
 Do not know           No response

Because of a steady girlfriend/boyfriend/spouse


- Yes                       No  
 Do not know           No response

Get married

- Yes                       No  
 Do not know           No response

Become a parent

- Yes                       No  
 Do not know           No response

*Continue to the next page* 

**Exhibit 7.5 (continued)**

Family responsibilities (specify what \_\_\_\_\_)

- Yes             No  
 Do not know     No response

Obtain a job

- Yes             No  
 Do not know     No response

Get into school/education program

- Yes             No  
 Do not know     No response

Recreation/sports program

- Yes             No  
 Do not know     No response

Go to jail/prison

- Yes             No  
 Do not know     No response

Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**End of Survey**