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arizona arrestee reporting information network

Maricopa County Attorney's Office Report on

the scope and nature of the gang problem among the arrestee population

ASU Center for Violence Prevention
and Community Safety

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Arizona Arrestee Reporting Information Network

2012

**Maricopa County Attorney's Office Report:
Understanding the Scope and Nature of the
Gang Problem in Maricopa County, Arizona**

By

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AARIN Program Overview

The Arizona Arrestee Reporting Information Network (AARIN) is a monitoring system that provides on-going descriptive information about drug use, crime, victimization, and other characteristics of interest among individuals arrested in Maricopa County, Arizona. Funded by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors beginning in 2007, AARIN is modeled after the former National Institute of Justice (NIJ) national-level Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring Program (ADAM). In three facilities throughout the county, professionally trained interviewers conduct voluntary and confidential interviews with recently booked adult arrestees and juvenile detainees. Questions focus on a range of topics including education, employment and other demographics, patterns of drug use (lifetime and recent), substance abuse and dependence risk, criminal activity, gang affiliation, victimization, mental health, interactions with police, public health concerns, incarceration and probation, citizenship, and treatment experiences. Each interviewee also provides a urine specimen that is tested for the presence of alcohol and/or drugs. Arrestees who have been in custody longer than 48 hours are ineligible for participation in AARIN, due to the 72-hour time limitation for valid testing of urine specimen.

The instruments used and the reporting mechanism underwent a substantial revision in 2011. While maintaining all of the data elements from the previous core set of questions, the baseline interview expanded by more than 60%. Additionally, with the change in the core questionnaire, the project shifted its reporting strategy to focus reports to each of six key Maricopa County criminal justice agencies: Maricopa County Manager's Office, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, Maricopa County Attorney's Office, the Office of the Public Defender, Adult Probation Department, and the Juvenile Probation Department.

Overall, AARIN serves as a near-real time information source on the extent and nature of drug abuse and related activity in Maricopa County, AZ. This information helps to inform policy and practice among police, courts and correctional agencies to increase public safety and address the needs of individuals who find themselves in the criminal justice system.

For information using the most recent set of data, please see the following reports:

- **Maricopa County Manager's Office** – Report detailing substance abuse and public health concerns among the Maricopa County arrestee population.
- **Maricopa County Sheriff's Office** – Reports broad characteristics of the entire AARIN sample and a detailed comparison of arrestees' perception of police in general, and use of force by and against police, by arresting agency.
- **Maricopa County Attorney's Office** – Detailed report covering street gangs using key core questionnaire elements and a comprehensive interpretation of the Gang Addendum.
- **Office of the Public Defender** – Report comparing arrestees who are at-risk for a mental health problem, substance abuse/dependence problem, a co-occurring disorder (both substance abuse/dependence and mental health), or not at risk.

- **Adult Probation Department** – Comprehensive summary of the core questionnaire comparing Maricopa County probationers to probationers from elsewhere and those arrestees who have not served probation.
- **Juvenile Probation Department** - Comprehensive summary of the core juvenile questionnaire comparing Maricopa County juvenile probationers to those who have served probation elsewhere and those detainees who have not served probation.

For other reports and more information about the project, visit the AARIN page of the Center for Violence Prevention & Community Safety's website: <http://cvpcs.asu.edu/> .

Methodology: Sampling and Data Collection

In order to ensure representative results for the entire population of arrestees in Maricopa County, the AARIN project employs a systematic sampling protocol that includes the collection of data with target quotas each day. Data are collected during three cycles each calendar year – with interviews conducted during a continuous two-week period at the Central Intake of Maricopa County's Fourth Avenue Jail each collection cycle. Dispersing data collection cycles across three different four-month blocks helps control for possible seasonal variations in crime and arrest patterns, and conducting collections covering all seven days of the week account for possible differences between weekdays and weekends, or other day-to-day variations. The periodic data collection cycles combined with the sampling protocols ensures a representative sample of all Maricopa County arrestees. The same procedures employed by AARIN were tested under ADAM (Maricopa County was one of the sites used in the evaluation) comparing the selected sample to comprehensive jail census data to assess the representativeness of the sample to the population on key characteristics. The National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago was the national data manager for ADAM at the time and concluded that the periodic data collection cycles, sampling protocols and daily quotas would result in a scientifically representative sample of study participants that could be generalized to the whole of arrestees for the particular jurisdiction (i.e. Maricopa County arrestees).

Daily collection quotas call for 23 males and 7 females to be interviewed, including the completion of the core instrument, any and all addenda, and to provide a urine specimen. Potential participants are selected using a standardized procedure (described below) to ensure both a sufficiently randomized and representative sample of arrestees. Some of the potential participants are either unavailable or otherwise ineligible for participation. Most commonly this applies to those arrestees who have already been released from custody or transferred to another facility, but also includes those whose behavior constitutes a safety risk to the jail and/or interview staff. Upon initial contact, arrestees are read an informed consent script (see inset), to which they voluntarily either decline or agree to participate; typically more than 90% agree to participate.

Consent Script:

Hello, my name is ___. I am working on a research project run by Arizona State University. The purpose of the project is to understand issues and problems confronted by people and to help give advice on how to provide services to individuals who have been arrested. I would like to ask you a series of questions that will take 15-45 minutes to answer. There are no foreseeable risks for participating in this research, and there are no benefits to you individually. Jail personnel will not have access to the information that you provide us. The information you provide is confidential and anonymous, and it will not help or hurt your case. If, for any

reason, you become distressed or anxious during the interview, you can request to speak with the facility's medical personnel or psychological counselors.

I will not write down your name or any other identifying information the questionnaire. You can refuse to answer any question, and you may stop the interview at any time for any reason. At the end of the interview I will ask you to provide a urine sample. If you listen to my questions, I will give you a candy bar. Do you have any questions?

During the data collection period, interviews are conducted during an eight-hour period each day, with arrestees who are randomly selected based on their booking time that yields a stratified random sample. Consistent with the ADAM sampling strategy, a *stock* (i.e., arrested and booked during non-data collection hours) and *flow* (i.e., during data collection hours) process is employed to ensure a representative sample of arrestees across any given 24-hour period. The stock sample is selected by starting with a list of all bookings processed from the 16-hours that range from when collection ended the previous day through the start-time of the current collection day. Eligible bookings are counted and divided by ten, which gives the selection interval. A random start-point is selected, and each *n*th (e.g. the value equal to the selection interval) arrestee is selected as a potential participant. A "nearest-neighbor" procedure is used to replace members of the stock list that are either found to be ineligible or unavailable, or whom decline to participate, until the daily quota of 10 completed and provided interviews is met. The flow sample is more straight-forward. Potential participants are randomly selected as they are booked into the facility as needed. A minimum of 13 completed and provided interviews are expected to meet daily quota.

Survey Instrument

The core AARIN survey instrument is modeled after the ADAM and Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) instruments, and was developed with input from Maricopa County officials. Starting with the third collection cycle of 2011, AARIN began using a new core instrument. The new instrument included the same elements of the previous version, but expanded by more than 60% following extensive input from Maricopa County officials representing six key agencies related to the criminal justice system and the arrestee population – the County Manager's Office, Sheriff's Office, County Attorney, Public Defender, Adult Probation, and Juvenile Probation.

The instrument is broken down into a variety of sections that include: demographics and background information (sex, race/ethnicity, age, citizenship, educational level, methods of income), current and past drug use (ever, past 12 months, 30 days and three days), drug dependency and treatment, medical marijuana and marijuana acquisition, criminal history (ever, past 12 months), gang involvement, firearms possession, victimization (past 12 months, 30 days), police interactions, mental health issues (ever and past 12 months), correctional health services and public health concerns, and incarceration and probation history (ever and past 12 months). Additionally, the AARIN platform includes addenda instruments to the core set of questions. Addenda are used to collect more detailed information regarding a particular topic and/or population. Recently, both a police contact and gang addenda were used, collecting information from arrestees about police in general, use of force by and against the police (Police Contact Addendum), reasons and methods for joining and leaving a gang, gang organizational structure and criminal activities, and the respondents' perceptions of cohesion and connectedness to their gang (Gang Addendum).

Urinalysis Testing

Once an interview is completed, the arrestee then submits a urine sample. The urine specimens are tested for alcohol and four illicit drugs: cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, and opiates. The testing is done using the enzyme-multiplied immunoassay technique (EMIT), which has shown a high degree of accuracy with very few false-positive results (Reardon, 1993). As a reliability check, all specimens that test positive with the EMIT methods are then tested again using Gas Chromatography with Mass Spectrum Detection (GC/MS). The EMIT technique with GC/MS confirmation procedures are well-established and offer highly reliable results for the illicit drugs under study here – cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, and opiates – for up to 72 hours after use. Unfortunately, these procedures offer high reliability results for alcohol for only 12-24 hours after use. The adoption of more sensitive alcohol screening procedures was cost-prohibitive, however.

Maricopa County Attorney's Office Report

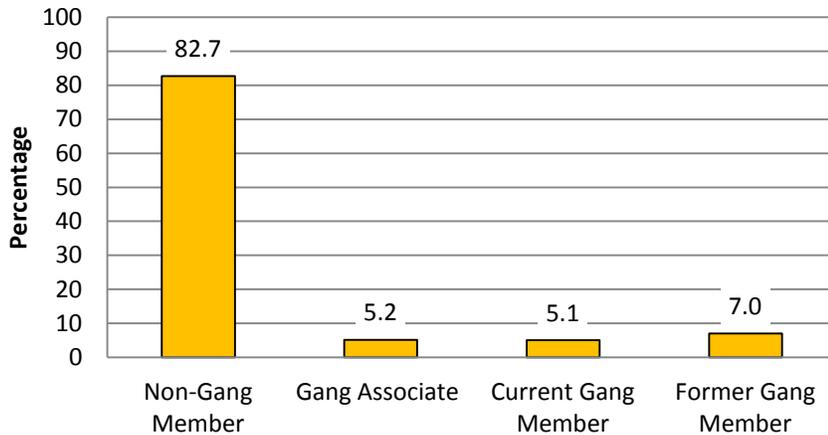
Over the past several years, Arizona policymakers have debated a number of gang-related policies. These discussions have ranged from arguments over the wisdom of granting authority to local and state law enforcement agencies to collect, maintain, and disseminate gang related intelligence to enacting legislation on sentencing enhancements for gang related offenses. The belief that gang members are responsible for a disproportionate amount of crime and violence in the state is at the root of many of these policy discussions. Unfortunately, there is little available information about gangs, gang members, and gang crime in Maricopa County in general and even less information about adult gangs, gang members, and gang crime in Maricopa County.

The purpose of this report is to use data from a sample of recently booked arrestees in Maricopa County to examine the scope and nature of Maricopa County's gang problem. In particular, this report supplements data presented in the bi-annual report on gangs conducted by the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, which relies on official police data and their occasional white paper on gangs that relies on self-report data from school youth. We organized our analyses around six research questions: (1) what proportion of adult arrestees are involved in a gang, and what are the socio-demographic differences between those who are associated with a gang and those who are not; (2) what are the rituals associated with gang joining; (3) how do gang and non-gang arrestees differ in their experiences with crime, drug use and victimization; (4) what is the organizational structure and composition of gangs; (5) how do members socially identify with their gang; and (6) how and why do members leave their gang?

What proportion of adult arrestees are involved in a gang, and what are the socio-demographic differences between those who are associated with a gang and those who are not?

Analysis of the data obtained from a sample of recently booked adult arrestees in Maricopa County, Arizona indicated that about 10 percent of adult arrestees were currently associated with a gang. Specifically, as presented in Exhibit 1, 5.2 percent were gang associates, 5.1 percent were current gang members, and 7 percent were former members of a gang. About 83 percent of arrestees reported that they had never been associated with a gang. The distribution of arrestees by gang status is presented in Exhibit 1.

Exhibit 1. Gang membership among the AARIN sample (N=1,269)



Research Definition of Gang Member

In the current study, gang membership was measured by asking the participants whether they were currently a member of a gang. If the participant responded “no” to this question, they were then asked whether they were a former gang member or friend of a gang member. Participants who reported that at least half of their friends were current gang members were included in the analysis as a gang associate.

Exhibit 2 provides descriptive characteristics for the sample and compares them by gang status. Males accounted for 73.1 percent of non-gang members, 83.1 percent of gang associates, 87.3 percent of current gang members, and 93.1 percent of former gang members. On average, non-gang members were significantly older (32.9 years old), followed by former gang members (31.36 years old) and gang associates (26.34 years old). Current gang members were significantly younger, averaging 26.17 years old.

There were significant differences in ethnic composition between groups. About 40.5 percent of non-gang members were Caucasian, 13.7 percent were African American, 29.5 percent were Hispanic, and 16.4 percent reported being from an “other” ethnic background. The majority of

gang associates reported being Hispanic (35.4 percent), 21.5 percent reported being African American, 13.8 percent were Caucasian, and 29.2 were from an “other” ethnic background. Current gang members were largely Hispanic (52.4 percent), 11.1 percent were African American, and 6.3 percent were Caucasian. Close to a third (30.2 percent) of current gang members indicated being from an “other” ethnic group. Similar to gang associates and current gang members, former gang members were most likely to be Hispanic (44.8 percent). About 20.7 percent were African American, 16.1 percent were Caucasian, and 18.4 percent were from an “other” ethnic background.

The analysis indicated significant differences in educational status across groups, with gang members being significantly less likely to have graduated high school. For example, while about 55 percent of current gang members reported not graduating high school (or receiving their GED) 43 to 44 percent of gang associates and former gang members reported not graduating, and only about 30 percent of non-gang members reported not graduating high school.

Exhibit 2: Demographic characteristics by gang status (N=1,269)

	Non-Gang Member		Associate		Current		Former	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Gender*								
Male	73.1	750	83.1	54	87.3	55	93.1	81
Female	26.9	276	16.9	11	12.7	8	6.9	6
Race/Ethnicity*								
Caucasian	40.5	415	13.8	9	6.3	4	16.1	14
African American	13.7	140	21.5	14	11.1	7	20.7	18
Hispanic	29.5	302	35.4	23	52.4	33	44.8	39
Other	16.4	168	29.2	19	30.2	19	18.4	16
Legal Status								
U.S. Citizen	89.6	913	98.5	64	96.8	61	95.3	82
Illegal Immigrant	7.7	78	1.5	1	3.2	2	4.7	4
Legal Immigrant	2.7	28	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
Education*								
Less than High School	29.6	301	43.1	28	54.8	34	44.0	37
HS Graduate or GED	34.6	352	29.2	19	29.0	18	35.7	30
Some College	35.9	365	27.7	18	16.1	10	20.2	17
Source of Income (Past 30 Days)*								
Working Full Time	34.3	338	19.7	12	23.7	14	35.7	30
Working Part Time	17.1	168	13.1	8	15.3	9	15.5	13
Other Legal Sources	30.0	295	27.9	17	22.0	13	29.8	25
Illegal Sources	8.5	84	32.8	20	30.5	18	16.7	14
No Income	10.1	99	6.6	4	8.5	5	2.4	2
Age*								
	Mean = 32.90		Mean = 26.34		Mean = 26.17		Mean = 31.36	

* p<.05

Analysis of the data also indicated gang status was significantly related to source of income. Former gang members were significantly more likely to report working full-time in the past 30 days (35.7 percent), followed by non-gang members (34.3 percent), current gang members (23.7 percent), and gang associates (19.7 percent). Thirty percent of non-gang members reported that they obtained income from other legal sources in the past 30 days, compared to

27.9 percent of gang associates, 22 percent of current gang members, and 29.8 percent of former gang members. Those associated with a gang were significantly more likely to self-report receiving illegal income in the past 30 days compared to non-gang members. Specifically, 32.8 percent of gang associates, 30.5 percent of current gang members, and 16.7 of former gang members reported income from an illegal source in the past 30 days, compared to 8.5 percent of non-gang members. Last, 10.1 percent of non-gang members, 6.6 percent of gang associates, 8.5 percent of current gang members, and 2.4 percent of former gang members reported no income in the past 30 days.

Our analysis showed that few gang members reported being an illegal immigrant. While 7.7 percent of non gang members reported being an illegal immigrant, only 3.2 percent of current gang members reported being an illegal immigrant.

Study Methodology

The present study used data collected as part of the Arizona Arrestee Reporting Information Network (AARIN). Maricopa County established AARIN in January 2007 to monitor drug use trends, treatment needs, and at-risk behavior among recently booked arrestees in Maricopa County, Arizona. For six weeks per year, trained local staff conducted voluntary and anonymous interviews with adults and juveniles who had been arrested within the past 48 hours.

The primary instrument generated self-report data on a variety of socio-demographic and behavior variable. At the beginning of the survey, arrestees reported age, ethnicity, and educational background, and the interviewer recorded gender, which was obtained from official booking data. Arrestees then answered a series of questions about their drug use history, treatment needs, mental health history, criminal history, prior experiences with victimization, and immigration status. At the end of the interview, charge data were collected from official processing records, and each arrestee was asked to provide a urine sample to be analyzed for four different drugs and alcohol.

Analysis for this report relied on our adult sample. The interviews were conducted in 2011 and 2012. Researchers originally contacted 1,808 adult arrestees; about 90 percent agreed to be interviewed. Of those interviewed, 93.4 percent agreed to provide a urine sample. For more information about the AARIN program or prior peer reviewed research on gang, gang crime and the response to gangs in the Phoenix metropolitan area see: Decker et al., 2008; Katz et al. 1997; 2000; 2003; 2005; 2011a, 2011b; 2011c; Katz and Schneblv. 2011; Katz and Webb. 2006; Webb et al.. 2006; Rodriguez et al.. 2005.

What are the rituals associated with gang joining?

Respondents also were asked to report the way in which they joined their gang. The rituals are listed in Exhibit 3. Gang status was not significantly related to the way in which the respondent joined the gang. About two-thirds of gang members reported that they were jumped or beaten in to their gangs. About 13 to 14 percent of gang members reported that they got into a fight or shot someone to join their gang and another 7 to 9 percent committed a crime to join their gang. About 22 to 31 percent of gang members reported that they were born into the gang or had to do nothing to join the gang. Very few gang members reported that they killed someone or were sexed in.

Exhibit 3: Rituals associated with gang joining by gang status (N=215)

	Current		Former	
	%	N	%	N
What did you do to join the gang?				
Jumped in or beaten up	60.3	35	65.8	52
Fight or shoot someone	13.8	8	12.7	10
Kill someone	1.7	1	1.3	1
Commit a crime	8.6	5	7.6	6
Get sexed in	0.0	0	1.3	1
Born into it	19.0	11	13.9	11
Nothing	12.1	7	8.9	7
Other	6.9	4	6.3	5

* p<.05

How do gang and non-gang arrestees differ in their experiences with crime, drug use, and victimization?

Exhibit 4 provides information on the self-reported criminal involvement of arrestees in the past 12 months by gang status. Although there were no significant differences in involvement in identity theft by gang status, the analysis revealed significant differences in violent offenses, property offenses, firearm offenses, drug use, and drug sales across groups. Current gang members were significantly more likely to self-report committing a violent offense in the past 12 months (63.5 percent), followed by gang associates (52.3 percent), former gang members (48.3 percent), and non-gang members (28.6 percent).

With respect to involvement in property crime, 46.2 percent of gang associates reported committing a property offense in the past 12 months, followed by 38.1 percent of current gang members, 28.7 percent of former gang members and 21.5 percent of non-gang members.

Exhibit 4: Prevalence of self-reported criminality in the past 12 months by gang status (N=1,269)

	Non-Gang Member		Associate		Current		Former	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Any Violent Offense*	28.6	293	52.3	34	63.5	40	48.3	42
Any Property Offense*	21.5	221	46.2	30	38.1	24	28.7	25
Any Drug Use*	64.7	664	84.6	55	88.9	56	79.3	69
Drug Sales*	10.7	110	18.5	12	34.9	22	25.3	22
Any Firearm Offense*	5.4	55	12.3	8	38.1	24	9.2	8
Identity Theft	1.9	19	6.2	4	4.8	3	1.1	1

* p<.05

Self-reported drug use was most prevalent among current gang members (88.9 percent). Gang associates were almost as likely as current gang members to use any drug, with 84.6 percent of them reporting any drug use in the past 12 months. About 79 percent of former gang members and 64.7 percent of non-gang members reported any drug use in the past 12 months.

Similar to self-reported drug use, drug sales were also most prevalent among current gang members, with 34.9 percent reporting to have sold drugs in the past 12 months. About a quarter (25.3 percent) of former gang members, 18.5 percent of gang associates, and 10.7 percent of non-gang members also reported engaging in drug sales in the past 12 months. Current gang members were the most likely to engage in firearm offenses, with 38.1 percent reporting engaging in a firearm offense in the past 12 months. About 12.3 percent of gang associates, 9.2 percent of former gang members, and 5.4 percent of non-gang members said they committed a firearm offense.

Current gang members, former gang members, and gang associates also were asked questions about illegal activity with the gang. As presented in Exhibit 5, the results of the analysis indicated that gang status was not significantly related to any of the 11 different types of crime committed by the respondents' gangs. About three-quarters of gang members reported that their gang engaged in graffiti, stealing, robbery, assault, intimidation and threats, drug use, and drug selling; and generally more than half of respondents indicated that their gang engaged in drive-by shootings, murder, and gun sales.

Exhibit 5. Types of crime committed by the gang by gang status (N=215)

	Associate		Current		Former	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
Do members of the gang ever:						
Draw graffiti	75.4	43	70.7	41	81.5	66
Steal	85.5	47	78.6	44	78.2	61
Intimidate or threaten people	85.2	46	76.8	43	81.0	64
Rob	72.7	40	80.4	45	72.2	57
Jump or attack people	71.9	41	71.4	40	80.0	64
Do drive-by shootings	45.1	23	46.4	26	61.8	47
Kill people	47.5	19	56.9	29	66.7	50
Use any drug	96.6	57	89.8	53	94.0	78
Sell any drug	83.9	47	78.6	44	81.2	65
Sell drugs to drug dealers	76.9	40	63.6	35	61.5	48
Sell guns	63.8	30	60.0	33	54.5	42

* p<.05

Exhibit 6 presents our findings related to differences in drug use by gang status. We found that gang status was significantly related to marijuana, powder cocaine, and crack cocaine use. Current gang members (74.6 percent) and gang associates (73.8 percent) were more likely than former gang members (63.2 percent) and non-gang members (51.2 percent) to self-report using marijuana in the past 12 months. Similar patterns were observed when examining past 3 day use and the results of urinalysis.

Exhibit 6. Self-report drug use by gang status (N=1,269)

	Non-Gang Member		Associate		Current		Former	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Marijuana								
Past 12 Months *	51.2	525	73.8	48	74.6	47	63.2	55
Past 3 Days *	28.9	297	46.2	30	54.0	34	43.7	38
Urinalysis *	31.9	326	50.0	32	59.7	37	43.7	38
Powder Cocaine								
Past 12 Months *	10.7	110	16.9	11	27.0	17	23.0	20
Past 3 Days *	2.7	28	6.2	4	7.9	5	6.9	6
Urinalysis *	8.9	91	10.9	7	21.0	13	11.5	10
Crack Cocaine								
Past 12 Months *	7.1	73	4.6	3	4.8	3	17.2	15
Past 3 Days	2.9	30	1.5	1	1.6	1	5.7	5
Heroin								
Past 12 Months	11.0	113	10.8	7	11.1	7	8.0	7
Past 3 Days	6.6	68	3.1	2	4.8	3	2.3	2
Urinalysis	12.1	124	6.2	4	9.7	6	4.6	4
Methamphetamine								
Past 12 Months	29.2	300	32.3	21	39.7	25	34.5	30
Past 3 Days	17.4	179	20.0	13	25.4	16	24.1	21
Urinalysis	30.9	315	25.0	16	38.7	24	41.4	36

* p<.05

Powder cocaine use also was prevalent and significantly related to gang status. Current gang members were the most likely to self-report using powder cocaine in the past 12 months, followed by former gang members (23 percent), gang associates (16.9 percent), and non-gang members (10.7 percent). Once again similar patterns were observed when examining past 3 day use and the results of the analysis.

The results of our analysis suggested different patterns of cocaine use compared to those of marijuana and powder cocaine. Here, former gang members were most likely to report crack use (17.2 percent) in the past 12 months, followed by non-gang members (7.1 percent). Gang associates and current gang members were the least likely to report crack cocaine use in the

past 12 months (4.8 percent and 4.6 percent, respectively). A similar pattern was observed when examining past 3 day crack cocaine use.

While heroin and methamphetamine use was prevalent among participants, their use was not significantly differentiated by gang status.

Exhibit 7 presents our results with respect to the relationship between victimization and gang status. Overall, non-gang members were less likely to be the victim of a crime when compared to those who were associated with a gang.

Exhibit 7: Self-reported victimization by gang status - Past 12 months (N=1,269)

	Non-Gang Member		Associate		Current		Former	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Threatened with a Gun*	13.7	141	36.9	24	34.9	22	27.6	24
Shot or Shot At*	5.9	61	29.2	19	41.3	26	13.8	12
Threatened with a Weapon (Not a Gun)*	15.0	154	35.4	23	31.7	20	24.1	21
Injured with a Weapon (Not a Gun)*	6.9	71	9.2	6	22.2	14	16.1	14
Assaulted with no Weapon*	20.2	207	40.0	26	34.9	22	28.7	25
No. of Times Victimized	Mean		Mean		Mean		Mean	
Threatened with a Gun	2.19		2.38		3.09		2.21	
Shot or Shot At	1.85		2.37		2.92		2.91	
Threatened with a Weapon (Not a Gun)	6.23		7.39		3.50		5.81	
Injured with a Weapon (Not a Gun)	3.18		6.00		1.64		2.35	
Assaulted with no Weapon	4.29		5.50		7.55		3.40	

* p<.05

For example, gang associates were more likely to have been threatened with a gun (36.9 percent) in the past 12 months, compared to current gang members (34.9 percent), former gang members (27.6 percent), and non-gang members (13.7 percent). Related, current gang members were more likely to self-report being shot or shot at in the past year (41.3 percent), followed by gang associates (29.2 percent), former gang members (13.8 percent), and non-gang members (5.9 percent). When asked whether they had been threatened with a weapon (not a gun), 35.4 percent of gang associates reported being victimized. About 31.7 percent of current gang members, 24.1 percent of former gang members, and 15 percent of non-gang members also experienced having been threatened with a weapon (not a gun) in the past 12 months.

Current gang members were significantly more likely to have been injured with a weapon (22.2 percent), compared to gang associates (9.2 percent), former gang members (16.1 percent), and non-gang members (6.9 percent). Gang associates were significantly more likely to experience an assault without a weapon (40.0 percent), compared to current gang members (34.9 percent), former gang members (28.7 percent), and non-gang members (20.2 percent).

On average, participants reported being threatened with a gun, shot or shot at, or injured with a weapon (not a gun) anywhere between one and six times in the past 12 months. Overall, respondents were more likely to say they had been threatened with a weapon (not a gun) or assaulted with no weapon, which occurred on average somewhere between three and eight times in the past 12 months.

What is the organizational structure and composition of gangs?

Current gang members, former gang members, and gang associates were asked questions about the organization of their gang. The responses provided by the participants are listed in Exhibit 8. Our analysis indicated that gang status was not significantly associated to the organization of the gang. The general pattern of the results suggest that the vast majority of gangs in Maricopa County claim territory, are characterized by special colors, symbols, signs or clothing, make money from drug and gun sales, and members have certain responsibilities within the gang. Many of the gang members interviewed also reported that their gang had a leader, held regular meetings, and members gave money to the gang. Most of the gang members interviewed reported that members were not required to follow rules.

Exhibit 8: Gang organization by gang status (N=215)

	Associate		Current		Former	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
The gang has a territory	84.2	48	88.5	54	89.0	73
The gang has a leader	69.4	34	56.7	34	64.6	53
The gang holds regular meetings	46.8	22	53.3	32	58.8	47
There are rules members have to follow	9.3	5	16.9	10	24.4	20
The gang has special colors, symbols, signs, or clothing	91.1	51	86.9	53	88.0	73
Members give money to the gang	60.9	28	68.3	41	51.2	42
The gang makes money from drug sales	87.8	43	74.6	44	77.5	62
The gang makes money from gun sales	67.4	29	60.3	35	59.2	45
Do members have responsibilities with the gang	72.1	31	72.7	40	55.8	43

* p<.05

Furthermore, the respondents offered information regarding the characteristics and composition of the respondents' gangs. These characteristics are presented in Exhibit 9. With one exception, gang status was not significantly related to the characteristics of the respondents' gang. More than 90 percent of respondents reported that their gang had existed for more than 3 years. More than a third of respondents indicated that there are sub-groups or cliques that comprise their gang. On average the youngest member of the respondent's gang was 12 to 14 years old (depending on the respondent's gang status) and the oldest member 42 to 50 years old (depending on the respondent's gang status). Over 80 percent of the members of the respondent's gang were males, who were predominantly Hispanic (between 48 and 54 percent, depending on gang status) or African American (between 15 and 32 percent, depending on gang status). Respondents reported that about 7 to 13 percent of the members of their gang were White, about 4 to over 13 percent were Native Americans, and approximately 1 to 9 percent were from an "other" ethnic background.

Exhibit 9. Characteristics and composition of the gang by gang status (N=215)

	Associate %	Current %	Former %
How long has the gang been together?			
6 months to 1 year	0.0	1.7	2.5
1 to 3 years	1.8	0.0	6.3
More than 3 years	98.2	98.3	91.1
Is there a clique within the gang?	34.6	42.4	39.8
Mean age of youngest member	14.09	13.42	12.08
Mean age of oldest member*	46.97	50.25	42.70
Gender composition of gang			
Males	83.0	83.5	82.8
Females	17.0	16.5	17.4
Ethnic composition of gang:			
White	13.08	7.22	10.09
African American	15.24	22.51	31.89
Hispanic	51.22	48.06	53.36
Native American	13.01	13.35	3.85
Other	7.45	8.86	0.81

* p<.05

How do members socially identify with their gang?

Current and former gang members were provided with a series of statements that described their perceptions of their gang. Exhibit 10 provides a list of these statements and the percentage of respondents who agreed with each statement.

A little over half of current gang members (55 percent) said their gang had little to do with the way they felt about themselves, compared to 75 percent of former gang members. Differently, when participants were asked if they felt the gang was an important reflection of whom they are, current gang members were more likely to agree with this statement (39.3 percent) than former gang members (25 percent). Over 42 percent of current gang members and close to 18 percent of former gang members said belonging to a gang was an important part of their life. Current gang members and former gang members had similar responses (71.7 and 72.6, respectively) when asked if the gang has almost nothing to do with what kind of person they are. About 34.4 percent of current gang members and 15.5 percent of former gang members said the gang was a big part of their lives. Almost 64 percent of former gang members and 39.3 percent of current gang members said a member of a gang would leave the gang if something better came along. Eighty percent of current gang members and 83.3 percent of former gang members said there is no future in belonging to a gang.

More than 70 percent of the current and former gang members agreed that members of their gang were cooperative with each other, could depend on each other, and stand up for each other. About 26 percent of the current and former gang members said that the gang makes them feel important and about one-third said that the gang makes them feel useful, gives them a sense of belonging, and is really enjoyable. About 68 percent of former gang members and about 72 percent of current gang members expect to remain in the gang for years; and 54.1 percent of current gang members and 45.8% of former gang members reported that being in a gang is a good way to make money.

Exhibit 10: Social identification with the gang (N=151)

	Current		Former	
	%	N	%	N
My gang has very little to do with how I feel about myself.*	55.0	33	75.0	63
My gang is an important reflection of who I am.*	39.3	24	25.0	21
Belonging to my gang is an important part of me.*	42.6	26	17.9	15
My gang has almost nothing to do with what kind of person I am.*	71.7	43	72.6	61
My gang is a big part of my life.*	34.4	21	15.5	13
The members of my gang are cooperative with each other.	73.3	44	71.0	59
The members of my gang know they can depend on each other.	80.0	48	73.8	62
The members of my gang stand up for each other.	91.9	56	94.1	79
Being in a gang makes me feel important.	26.3	16	26.2	22
Gang members provide a good deal of support for one another.	64.0	39	63.1	53
Being a member of a gang makes me feel like I am a useful person to have around.	32.8	20	35.4	29
Being a member of a gang makes me feel like I really belong somewhere.	32.8	20	38.5	32
Being a member of a gang is really enjoyable.	37.7	23	29.2	24
Being in a gang is a good way to make money.	54.1	33	45.8	38
A gang member expects to remain in the gang for many years.	72.1	44	67.8	57
A gang member would leave the gang if something better came along.*	39.3	24	63.9	53
There is no future to belonging in a gang.*	80.0	48	83.3	70

* p<.05

How and why do members leave their gang?

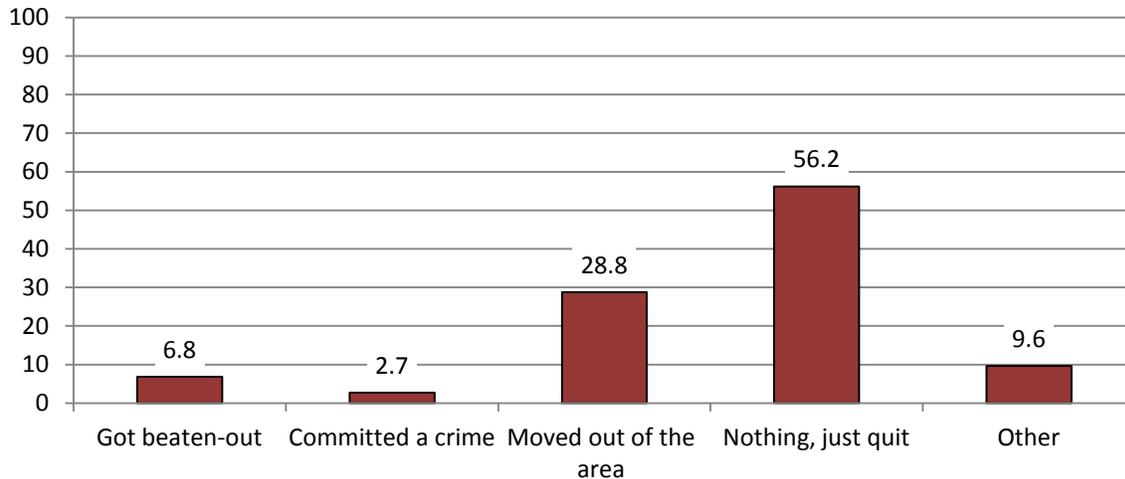
Last, former gang members were asked about their experiences when exiting their gang. The responses given by former gang members are presented in Exhibit11 and Exhibit12.

When we asked former gang members the reasons for which they stopped being a member of a gang, the most common response was because they started a family (32.9 percent). Former gang members were as likely to report leaving the gang due to other personal reasons or simply because they became tired of being in a gang (30.1 percent). About 12.3 percent said that they left the gang to avoid violence, and last, former gang members were as likely to leave the gang due to getting a job, or because they went to jail or prison (5.5 percent).



The majority of gang members said they did not have to do anything to leave the gang (56.2 percent). About 28.8 percent said they moved out of the area in order to leave the gang. Almost seven percent said that they were beaten-out of the gang, and 2.7 percent said they had to commit a crime in order to leave the gang. Last, 9.6 percent said they had to do something else in order to stop being a member of a gang.

Exhibit 12: How former gang members quit the gang (N=76)



Summary and Implications

The purpose of this report was to advance our understanding of the scope and nature of the adult gang problem in Maricopa County, Arizona. This report focused on six research questions: (1) what proportion of adult arrestees are involved in a gang, and what are the socio-demographic difference between those who are associated with a gang and those who are not; (2) what are the rituals associated with gang joining; (3) how do gang and non-gang arrestees differ in their experiences with crime, drug use and victimization; (4) what is the organizational structure and composition of gangs; (5) how do members socially identify with their gang; and (6) how and why do members leave their gang? We examined these questions using data from the Arizona Arrestee Reporting Information Network (AARIN). The self-report and urinalysis data were collected from recently booked adult arrestees from Maricopa County, Arizona.

The findings showed that about 17 percent of recently booked adult arrestees were or had been associated with a gang. Specifically, 5.1 percent of arrestees self-reported current gang membership, 5.2 percent reported gang association, and 7 percent reported former gang membership. More than 87 percent of current gang members were male, about 93 percent were non-white, and more than half of all current gang members had not graduated high school. The typical current gang member was younger than those who were not associated with a gang. Very few self-reported gang members were illegal immigrants (less than 4

percent), but many current gang members (30.5 percent) reported that their primary source of income was from illegal sources.

Most self-reported gang members engaged in a ritual upon joining their gang, such as being jumped in, fighting (or shooting) someone, or committing a crime. About a third of gang members reported that they did not have to do anything to join their gang or reported that they were born into their gang. Very few individuals reported that they were required to kill someone or be sexed into the gang.

Current gang members were significantly more likely to be involved in crime, drug use, and victimization than non-gang members. For instance, in the past 12 months current gang members were 1.4 times more likely to use drugs, 1.8 times more likely to engage in a property offense, 2.2 times more likely to engage in a violent offense, 3.2 times more likely to engage in drug sales, and 7 times more likely to engage in a firearm offense than non-gang members. Urinalyses confirmed that gang members were more involved in drug use than non-gang members. Approximately 60 percent of current gang members tested positive for marijuana use compared to 31.9 percent of non-gang members. Similarly, 21 percent of current gang members tested positive for cocaine use compared to 8.9 percent of non-gang members.

Similar to the offending patterns described above, gang members were significantly more likely to be the victims of violent crime. For example, in the past 12 months current gang members were seven times more likely to be shot (41.3 percent versus 5.9 percent), 3.2 times more likely to have been injured with a weapon (not a gun) (22.2 percent versus 6.9 percent) and 1.7 times more likely to have been assaulted with no weapon (34.9 percent versus 20.2 percent) compared to non-gang members.

Almost all of the current gang members reported that their gang has existed for more than three years. While most gang members reported that their gang did not have formal rules that members had to follow, gangs exhibited a substantial amount of organizational structure. Many reported their gang claimed territory, had a leader, and that their gang made money from drug and gun sales. Similarly, current gang members identified closely with their gang. Most reported that they could depend on fellow gang members for support and that they intended to remain in their gang for years. Interestingly, however, many current gang members did not believe that their gang membership was a reflection of themselves, and stated that their gang has almost nothing to do with what kind of person they are. Most gang members also stated that their membership was not a big part of their life, did not make them feel important, and did not necessarily make them feel like they belonged somewhere.

Among former members, most reported leaving their gang because they started a family, got tired of the gang, or left the gang to avoid violence. More than 80 percent reported that they

did not have to do anything to leave the gang; rather they simply quit or moved out of the neighborhood. Former gang members were as likely to leave the gang due to acquiring a job or because they went to jail or prison.

The findings presented in this report offer an overall description of an arrestee gang member in Maricopa County, Arizona. Future research within the criminal justice system, however, should examine the gang member subpopulation to a further extent. By collecting official data, as well as self-report data on gang members and related crime, policy-makers will have more information to make data-driven decisions regarding gangs, gang members, and gang crime.

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About the Center for Violence Prevention & Community Safety

Arizona State University, in order to deepen its commitment to the communities of Arizona and to society as a whole, has set a new standard for research universities, as modeled by the New American University. Accordingly, ASU is measured not by whom we exclude, but by whom we include.

The University is pursuing research that considers the public good and is assuming a greater responsibility to our communities for economic, social, and cultural vitality. Social embeddedness – university-wide, interactive, and mutually-supportive partnerships with Arizona communities – is at the core of our development as a New American University.

Toward the goal of social embeddedness, in response to the growing need of our communities to improve the public's safety and well-being, in July 2005 ASU established the Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety. The Center's mission is to generate, share, and apply quality research and knowledge to create "best practice" standards.

Specifically, the Center evaluates policies and programs; analyzes and evaluates patterns and causes of violence; develops strategies and programs; develops a clearinghouse of research reports and "best practice" models; educates, trains, and provides technical assistance; and facilitates the development and construction of databases.

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