

# **Examining the Gang Problem Among Recently Booked Arrestees in Maricopa County**

**Charles M. Katz, Ph.D.**

**Andrew Fox, M.S.**

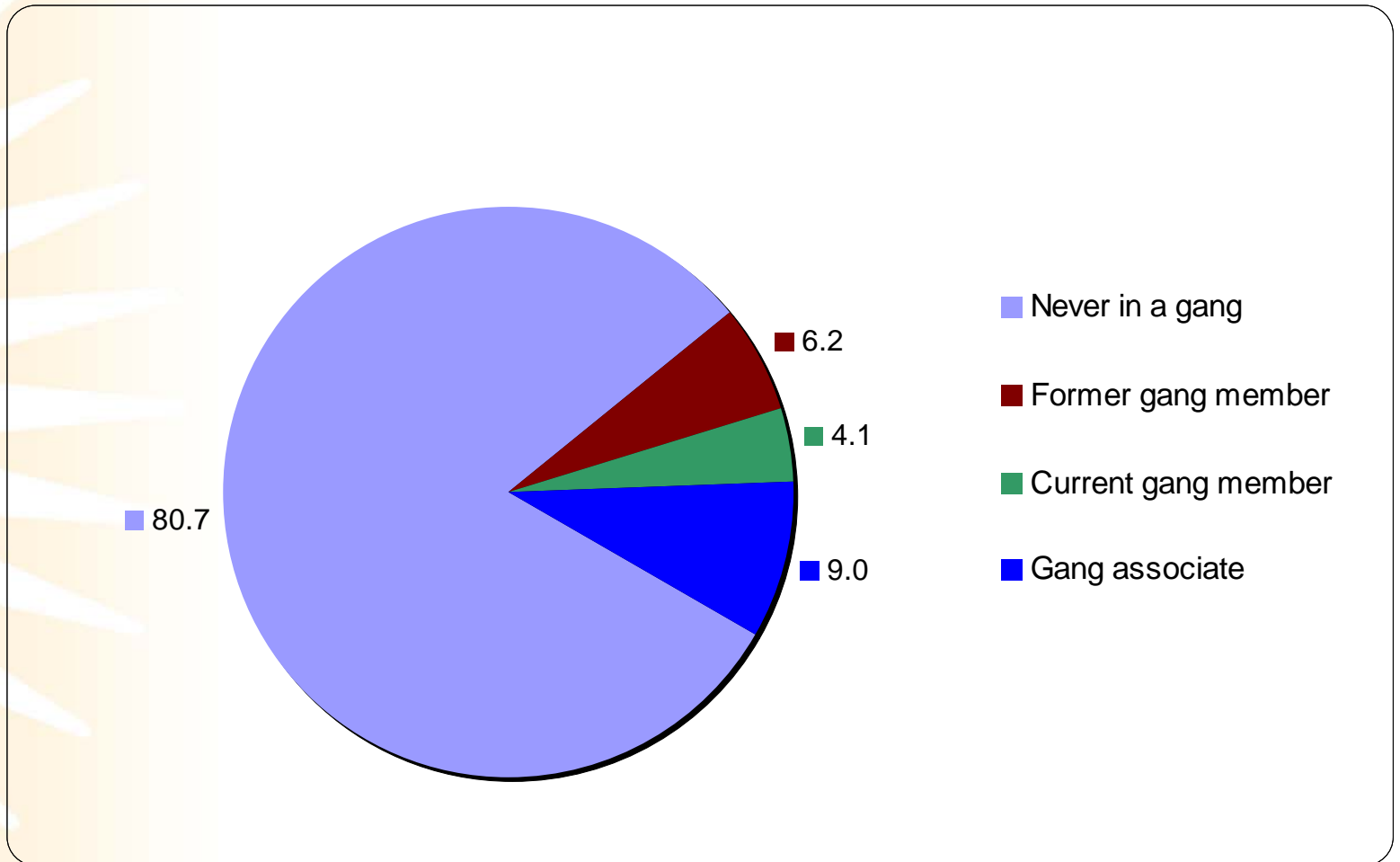
**David Choate, M.A.**



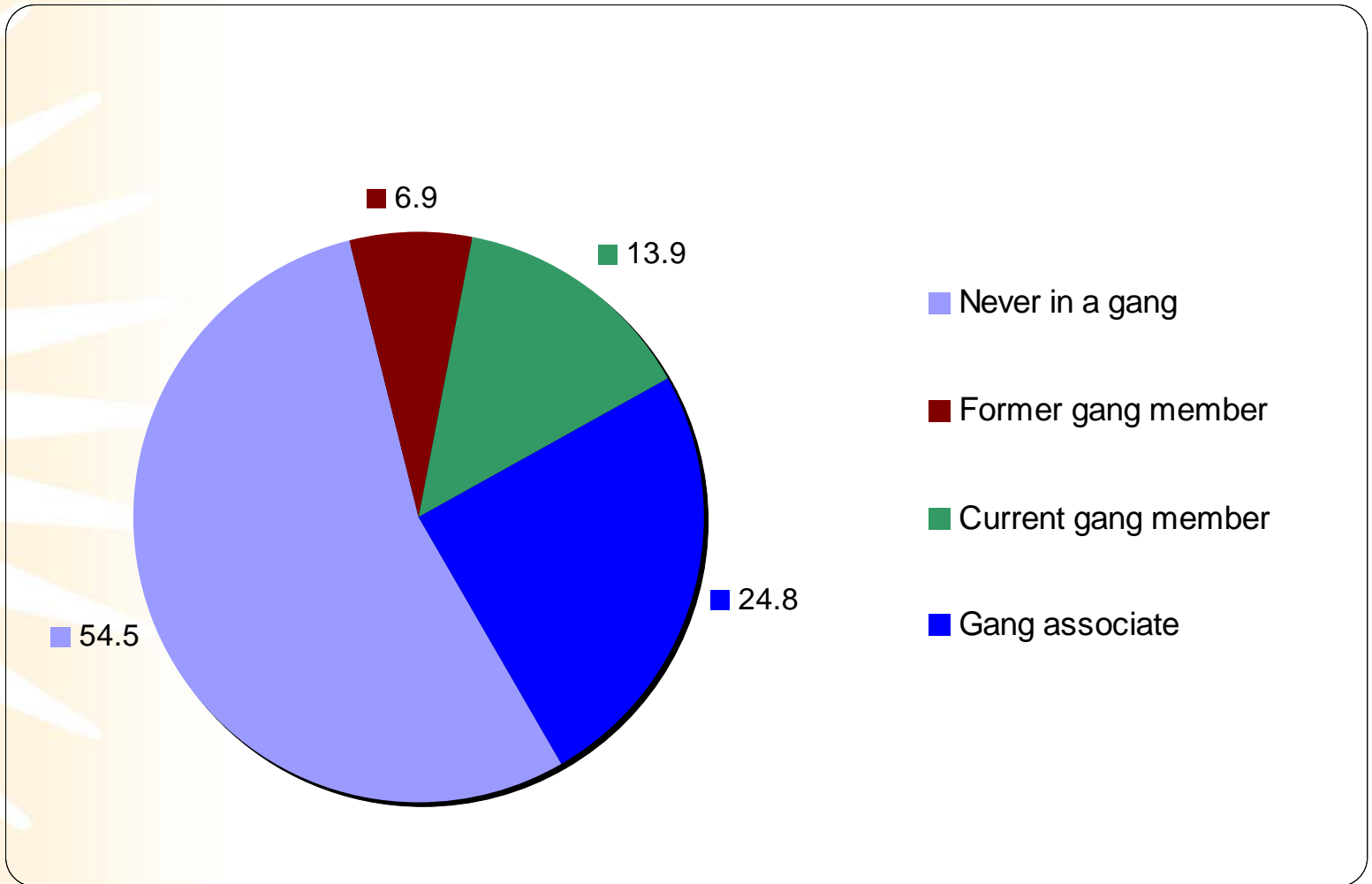
**ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY**

*Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety*

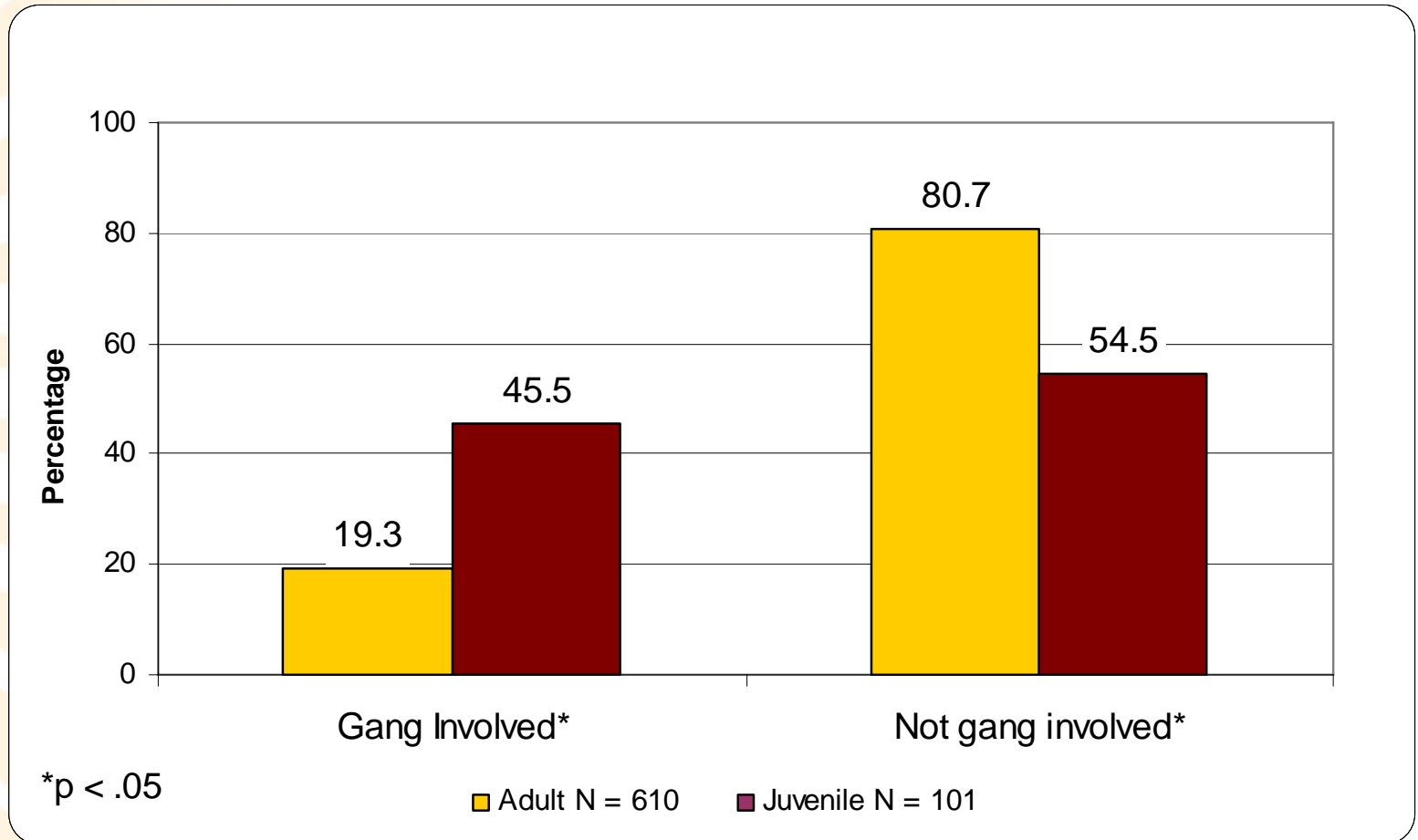
# Most recent gang position, rank, or affiliation among adults (N = 610)



# Most recent gang position, rank, or affiliation among juveniles (N = 101)



# Gang involvement by population



# Gang Member Demographic Characteristics

	Non-Gang		Gang	
	%	N	%	N
<b>Gender</b>				
<b>Male</b>	<b>73.5</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>79.9</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Race/Ethnicity *</b>				
<b>White</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>African American</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>27</b>

\*  $p < .05$

## Gang Member Demographic Characteristics, Cont.

	Non-Gang		Gang	
	%	N	%	N
<b>Education *</b>				
Less than HS	34.0	167	49.2	58
HS Graduate or GED	35.2	173	29.7	35
Post HS Education	30.8	151	21.2	25

\*  $p < .05$

## Gang Member Demographic Characteristics, Cont.

	Non-Gang		Gang	
	%	N	%	N
<b>Income (Past 30 days) *</b>				
Working Full Time	32.7	177	22.2	36
Working Part Time	21.8	118	17.3	28
Other Legal Sources	29.9	162	29.6	48
Illegal Sources	6.3	34	20.4	33
No Income	9.4	51	10.5	17
<b>Age *</b>	Mean = 30.72		Mean = 23.50	

\*  $p < .05$

## Current charge and arrest history

Charge Type	Non-Gang		Gang	
	%	N	%	N
Violent	19.7	107	21.4	34
Drug	23.4	127	15.7	25
Property	20.8	113	21.4	34
Other	36.0	195	41.5	66
No. of Past Year Arrests *	Mean = .504		Mean = .920	

\*  $p < .05$



## Citizenship status by gang involvement

Citizenship Status *	Non-Gang		Gang	
	%	N	%	N
U.S. citizen	84.8	462	95.1	156
Legal Alien	2.9	16	0.6	1
Illegal Alien	12.3	67	4.3	7

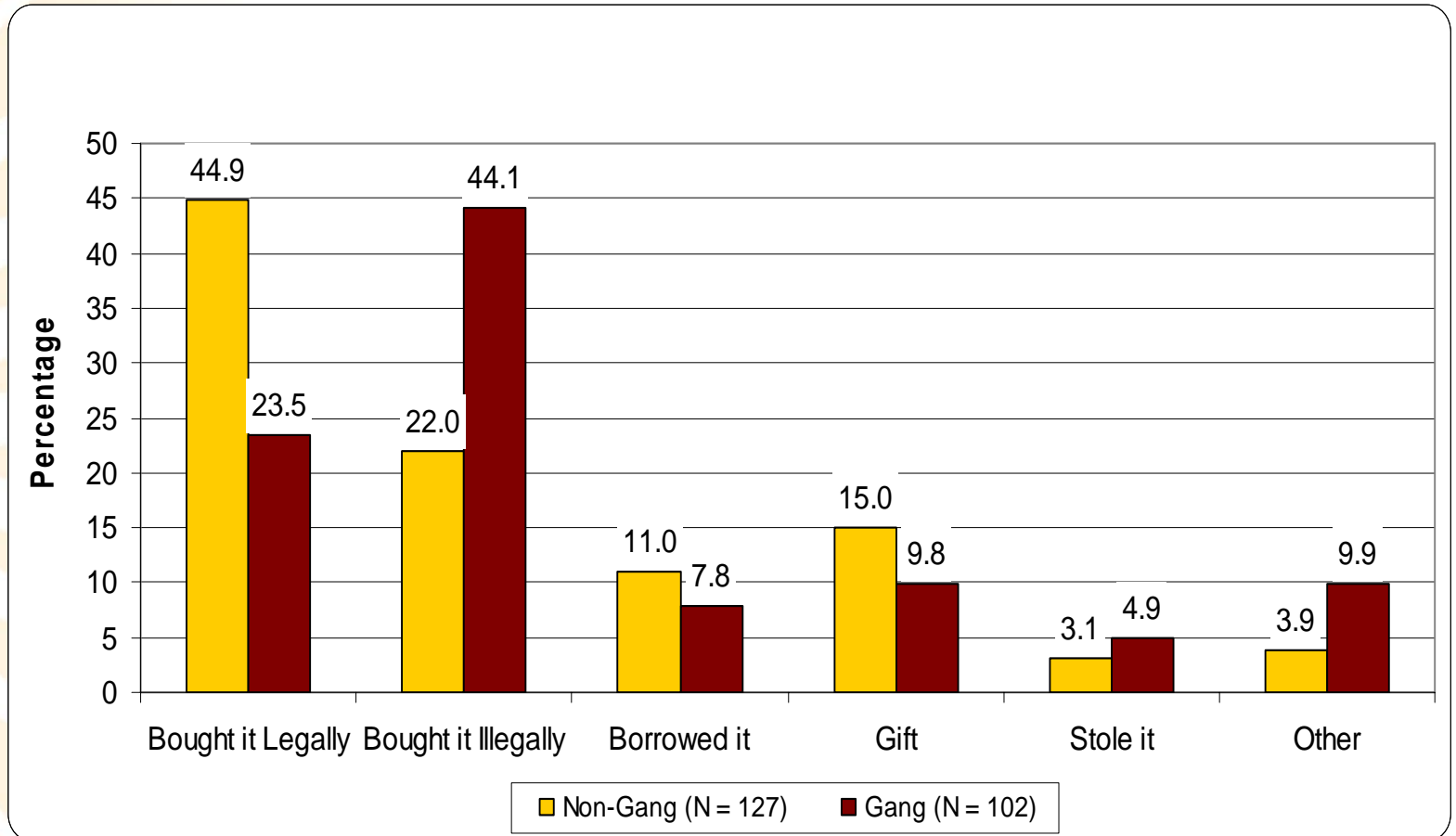
\*  $p < .05$

# Handgun Possession by gang involvement

	Non-Gang		Gang	
	%	N	%	N
Ever possessed a handgun *	23.3	419	62.2	102
Possession in past 12 months *	5.1	28	27.4	45
Possession in past 30 days *	4.0	22	17.1	28

\*  $p < .05$

# How did you get the handgun by gang status



## UA results by gang involvement

	Non-Gang		Gang	
	%	N	%	N
<b>Marijuana</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>55.9</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Methamphetamine</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Cocaine</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Opiates</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>7</b>

## Gang organizational characteristics

	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Territory or turf it claims</b>	<b>81.1</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>Leader</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Regular meetings</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Rules that members have to follow</b>	<b>79.2</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>Punishments if rules are broken</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>Special colors, symbols, signs, or clothing</b>	<b>86.5</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>Members give money</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Gang makes money on drug sales</b>	<b>78.2</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Gang makes money on gun sales</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>69</b>

# Member commitment & dedication to gang

Percent that agree with the following statements:

- 55% (n=22) ■ My gang has very little to do with how I feel about myself
- 51% (n=21) ■ My gang is an important reflection of who I am
- 43% (n=17) ■ Belonging to my gang is an important part of me
- 70% (n=28) ■ My gang has almost nothing to do with what kind of person I am
- 54% (n=22) ■ My gang is a big part of my life
- 83% (n=33) ■ The members of my gang are cooperative with each other

## Member commitment & dedication to gang, Cont.

Percent that agree with the following statements:

- 85% (n=34) ■ The members of my gang know that they can depend on each other
- 95% (n=38) ■ The members of my gang stand up for each other
- 48% (n=19) ■ Being in a gang makes a person feel important
- 80% (n=32) ■ Gang members provide a good deal of support for on another
- 48% (n=19) ■ Being a member of a gang makes a person feel like he is a useful person to have around
- 33% (n=13) ■ Being a member of the gang makes me a person who feels like he really belongs somewhere

## Member commitment & dedication to gang, Cont.

Percent that agree with the following statements:

- 56% (n=22) ■ Being a member of a gang is really enjoyable
- 53% (n=20) ■ Being in a gang is a good way to make money
- 74% (n=29) ■ A gang member expects to remain in the gang for many years
- 43% (n=17) ■ A gang member would leave the gang if something better came along
- 64% (n=25) ■ There is no future belonging to a gang