



Reports of gangs in Antiguan schools

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Background 1.

- Increasing reports of violence in Antigua, including school violence
- Violence associated with gangs
- Request by Govt. Antigua for OAS assistance







Background 2.

Antigua:

- Main island of twin island state of Antigua/ Barbuda
- Area 281 km² (108 sq. miles)
- Population about 70,000, half in capital St. Johns
- Economy based on off-shore banking & tourism
- Relatively highly developed, per capita GDP US\$9,961





Aims

- To determine the scope of gang involvement in schools in Antigua
- To determine the level of violence and related issues among school children



Method

- Student workshop convened in St. Johns
- 15-item questionnaire given to all students for self-completion





Results 1.

Missing Data

- 284 questionnaires completed: 2 spoilt
- Several questionnaires omitted at least 1 question
- Overall 5% data missing
- All data analyzed and reported based on completed questionnaires





Results 2.

Schools represented (n=25)

<u>School type</u>	<u>No. of respondents</u>	<u>% of sample</u>
Primary	122	42
Secondary	69	25
Jr. Secondary	63	23



Results 3.

Question	Response %*		Missing %
	Yes	No	
Have friends who dropped out of school	43	56	1
Belong to a group (not a gang)	47	45	7
Have taken a sharp instrument to school	10	90	1
Taken a gun to school	2	97	2
Had something valuable stolen at school	40	58	2
Been hurt at school	21	77	3





Results 4.

Question	Response %*			Missing %
	Yes	No	Maybe	
Have a gun at home	10	85	4	1
Other students take weapons to school	50	35	9	6
You would be comfortable to contact the police	57	34	6	3
There are gangs at your school	17	73	3	6
There are gangs in your neighborhood	39	49	5	8





Results 4.

Question	Response %*			Missing %
	Yes	No	Maybe	
Have a gun at home	10	85	4	1
Other students take weapons to school	50	35	9	6
You would be comfortable to contact the police	57	34	6	3
There are gangs at your school	17	73	3	6
There are gangs in your neighborhood	39	49	5	8





Results 5.

Sharp instrument/ weapons	No. of children reporting these taken to school (%)
Knives/ razors/ blades	70 (27)
Scissors	55 (21)
Pieces of wood or sticks	14 (5)
Ice picks/ compasses/ screwdrivers	18 (7)
Cutlasses	4 (2)
Pieces of iron	1 (0.4)
Pepper spray	2 (0.7)
Guns	2 (0.7)



Results 6.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Gangs at school %	17	73	3
No. of gangs	1-8 (mode=2)	0	
Gangs by school type %*			
Primary	10		
Secondary	38		
Jr. Secondary	15		

* Chi square $p < 0.001$



Results 7.

Name of gang	Children reporting this name (%)
Bloods	27 (10)
Crips	22 (8)
SSS	3 (1)
MPF	3 (1)
\$7	2 (0.7)
SMG	2 (0.7)
16 th Street	2 (0.7)
UCD	2 (0.7)
Lady Mafia	2 (0.7)
Hot Girls Squad	1 (0.4)

Name of gang	Children reporting this name ¹ (%)
HGS	1 (0.4)
WSK	1 (0.4)
YM	1 (0.4)
Rivals	1 (0.4)
Sylum	1 (0.4)
Puez	1 (0.4)
Purple Haze	1 (0.4)
Stay Fly	1 (0.4)
Duce	1 (0.4)
Pink Diamond	1 (0.4)





Results 8.

Relation between gangs in schools and in neighborhoods

Gangs at school	Gangs in the neighborhood	
	Yes	No
Yes	32 (13%)	11 (5%)
No	72 (30%)	123 (52%)

Chi-square $p < 0.001$

Missing data and 'don't know' responses excluded





Results 9.

At school:		Gangs at school		Gangs/n'hood	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
Has carried a sharp object	Yes	11 (5%)**	8 (4%)	15 (7%)**	3 (1%)
Others carry weapons	Yes	35 (16%)**	93 (42%)	63 (29%)*	58 (27%)
Had valuables stolen	Yes	20 (9%)	71 (32%)	38 (18%)	49 (23%)
Been hurt by others	Yes	8 (4%)	41 (19%)	22 (10%)	24 (11%)

Missing data and 'don't know' responses excluded

** Chi-square $p < 0.001$

* Chi-square $p < 0.01$





Discussion

- First survey of school gangs & violence in Antigua
- Validity of data uncertain:
 - Sample selection not random
 - About 5% missing data
- School gangs and violence related to neighborhood gangs



Recommendations

Plan of action to reduce violence and gangs in schools:

- Systematic information gathering and analysis
- Range of interventions to be piloted and monitored
- Training of teachers and peer counsellors







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