Spokane County
Comprehensive Gang Assessment
2009 - 2010

A Collaboration Between
The Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council (GSSAC) and
The Spokane County Sheriff’s Office (SCSO)
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I. SPOKANE COUNTY GANG ASSESSMENT – PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

* Special Note: The success of this project was a result of the exemplary collaboration between the Spokane County Sheriff’s Grants and Contracts Office and the Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council.
Spokane Violent Crime Gang Enforcement Team
Board of Directors

SPD Lieutenant

SCSO/SVPD Sergeant
SPD Sergeant

Suppression Group:
SCSO, DOC, BP
(3 Officers)

Intelligence Group:
SPD
(2 Officers, 1 Clerk)

Investigations Group:
SCSO, SPD, WSP, ATF, FBI
(7 Detectives)

FBI Supervisor
II. Introduction

The Spokane County Comprehensive Gang Assessment (Assessment) is the first comprehensive attempt to address and acknowledge the gang problem in Spokane County, Washington. This Assessment is the result of a careful examination of gang activities in the City of Spokane, smaller incorporated towns and cities within the County (Airway Heights, Cheney, Deer Park, Fairfield, Latah, Liberty Lake, Medical Lake, Millwood, Rockford, Spangle, Spokane Valley and Waverly), and unincorporated rural areas of Spokane County. Many agencies and organizations collaborated to produce this Assessment, including law enforcement agencies, prevention organizations, education agencies, and intervention agencies. Each collaborative partner provided information from its specialized field about its interactions with gang members, gang activities and behaviors, and demographic information about the gangs in Spokane County. The information shared can potentially help reduce gang-related crimes, educate the public about the magnitude of Spokane’s gang problem, and provide assistance to those at risk for becoming a gang member or those seeking to leave the gang lifestyle. The Assessment was conducted as a component of two Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grants awarded to the Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council (GSSAC), and the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office (SCSO), as passed through by the Washington State Department of Commerce.

This Assessment highlights the current gang problem in Spokane County, including demographic and historical information relevant to the problem. It also includes information on how gang activity and membership is tracked or measured, as well as demonstrates the need for expanded and more thorough measurement techniques to accurately monitor gang membership and activity. We also provide information as to what programs are in place in the community to prevent youth from becoming gang members, to help former gang members leave the lifestyle, and to reduce recidivism by helping offenders who have served their sentences turn over a new leaf. Evidence presented in this Assessment clearly emphasizes the need for programs to help gang-affected members of our Spokane Community, especially youth. With recent budget cuts, prevention, intervention, and suppression efforts are being trimmed in Spokane County at precisely the time when the need for such programs is increasing rapidly. The Assessment also advocates for continued collaboration among law enforcement agencies, community organizations, schools, youth, families, and local/state/federal agencies. The main goal of the collaborative efforts should be to reduce the factors leading to gang membership and criminal activities, while reinforcing protective factors that help individuals, especially youth, resist the lure of the gang lifestyle.

The Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council utilized the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Comprehensive Gang Model as the basis for our efforts for this grant-funded program. The result of a 1987 project to reduce and prevent youth gang violence, the OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model employs five strategies: Community Mobilization, Opportunities Provision, Social Intervention, Suppression, and Organizational Change and Development. In fulfillment of this grant’s goals, the Community Mobilization and Social Intervention strategies were used (with the Spokane Violent Crime Gang Enforcement Team responsible for the
Suppression strategy). As part of the program, GSSAC developed a Gang-Awareness Presentation to educate and mobilize citizens and organizations in Spokane County to action in order to address the gang problem. GSSAC’S Gang Prevention Community Organizer provided this presentation throughout the region for youth, parents, community members and organizations, business and educational professionals, and law enforcement to engage them in the prevention effort. The Social Intervention strategy utilized links to non-profit agencies, law enforcement agencies, faith-based groups, and prevention coalitions in presentations to socially and economically disadvantaged youth and parents in disproportionately affected areas for gang membership in our community.

The Spokane County Sheriff’s Office continued its successful law enforcement multijurisdictional program and implemented a best practices prevention and intervention program operating throughout all communities within Spokane County and its cities and towns utilizing the Spokane Violent Crime Gang Enforcement Team (SVCGET) and Spokane County Sheriff’s Office (SCSO) School Resource Deputies (SRDs) in collaboration with private and public entities as set forth below and described in detail in this assessment. The following goals set forth by the SCSO for the grant-funded program were accomplished with outcomes as noted:

- Increased targeted law enforcement gang suppression programs utilizing the SVCGET as well as patrol officers and deputies in coordination with the Department of Corrections (DOC). In addition to its daily ongoing operations the SVCGET conducted specific periodic anti-gang patrols with DOC; conducted arrest warrant operations; conducted active gang spots patrols; attended monthly gang task force meetings with other law enforcement and regional professionals involved in gang suppression; and collected, analyzed and reported data in regard to these activities.

- Increased effective coordination among existing gang prevention and intervention services. The SVCGET, GSSAC and NorthEast Washington Educational Service District 101 (NEWESD 101) continued collaboration on prevention activities with NEWESD 101 Task Force meetings as well as presentations to the public. The task force members worked together to identify gang activity and violence as well as community resources and gaps in service throughout Spokane County. Training for regional law enforcement via workshops and conferences, task force meetings, roll call training, and presentations was accomplished. The SVCGET, GSSAC and the SCSO SRDs provided work programs both at assigned schools districts and throughout the community related to prevention and intervention, as appropriate. SVCGET, GSSAC, NEWESD 101 and the SCSO SRDs collaborated in providing increased services where gaps exist for prevention and intervention, using available resources.

- Reduced risk factors leading to gang activity and gang-related crime at schools. The details in regard to these risk factors are set forth in Appendix C, which is the presentation prepared by GSSAC. The SVCGET, GSSAC, NEWESD 101, SCSO SRDs and school districts throughout Spokane County collaborated to provide appropriate
training and presentations for students, parents, staff, administration and the community related to preventing gang activity and intervening where appropriate, including referring at-risk youth and families to services. Four SRDs assigned to school districts in the unincorporated areas of Spokane County were largely responsible for performance of the work programs related to this goal. Included were the following school districts: Mead School District with two SRDs, Deer Park School District with one SRD, and Freeman and Liberty School Districts with one shared SRD. In addition, SRDs assigned to the Central Valley, East Valley and West Valley School Districts provided work programs.

III. Demographic Profile of Spokane County

Spokane County is located on the most eastern edge of Washington State bordering Idaho and spans 1,763.64 square miles. It is approximately 90 miles south of the Canadian border. Spokane County is included as part of Washington State’s High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) through which the Interstate 90 corridor runs. Between 1990 and 2000, the racial demographics in small towns within Spokane County increased by 40%, while the general population increased by 10% in the same period (US Census). The County’s ethnic distribution includes 0.2% Pacific Islander, 1.5% Native American, 1.7% Black/African American, 2.1% Asian, 3.4% Hispanic, and 2.6% reporting 2 or more races.

With a population of 468,684 the County has both an urban and rural culture. The City of Spokane is the most urban center with a population of 196,624. A quarter of the County’s population is under the age of 18 which translates into more young people between the ages of ten and 25 years of age, the base years for gang participation. More than half of the population is between the ages of 25 and 55.

Spokane County’s median household income is $48,000. In 2008, 13.9% of the individuals residing in the County were below the poverty level, and the County’s poverty rate has historically been higher than the State rate, with a poverty rate of 18% higher than Washington State’s rate in 2007. The June 2010 unemployment rates for Spokane were 8.9%, compared to 8.7% for the State. The families that reside in the 99207 zip code within the County are the poorest in Washington State.

Statistics from Project Safe Neighborhood show that federal gang prosecutions are up 36% for Eastern Washington, the second highest in 12 years. Despite the fact that Eastern Washington has only 25% of the population of Western Washington, it has more prosecutions.

Spokane County gang activity most effectively occurs at public events such as concerts, holiday activities and parades, as well as other gatherings and social events throughout the community. The communities within Spokane County have numerous events that take place throughout the year, including Spokane Lilac Parade, Hoopfest, 4th of July Neighbor Days, the Spokane Interstate Fair, various car and motorcycle shows, and concerts. Maintaining safety at these events has become more challenging due to increasing gang activity and presence in Spokane County. As an example, during Spokane’s 2010 Hoopfest (the world’s largest three-on-three
basketball tournament), there was a highly publicized gang-related shooting which resulted an innocent bystander being injured and numerous arrests.

While gang activity was once primarily concentrated within the City of Spokane, recent reports by law enforcement indicate that gang activity occurs county-wide and in areas that are more rural. Factors contributing to increased rural activity include ability to operate more covertly thus avoiding detection by law enforcement, drug availability and lack of knowledge by youth that are less aware of risk factors and gang tactics. In addition, the increased use of technology by gang members and other youth allows for constant communication and exposure to the gang culture.

Geographical barriers, as well as economic and political differences, isolate Eastern Washington from the State’s urban areas of Seattle and Olympia. As a result, the area’s needs frequently differ from those in more urban population centers. Spokane County has experienced many related problems to gang activity including economic deprivation, substance abuse, increased crime and other social stressors.

IV. History of Gangs in Spokane County, Washington

Criminal street gangs began to emerge in the City of Spokane and Spokane County in the early 1980s. Crack cocaine served as the initial catalyst for the migration from several key gang-infested areas. Crack cocaine appeared primarily in impoverished inner-city neighborhoods in New York, Los Angeles, and Miami in late 1984 and 1985. This drug provided a means for gang members to invest and profit from the drug trade with a significant return. Gang members traveled in communities untouched by the scourge of gang violence and large scale drug markets.

In the mid-1980s Spokane County law enforcement officers began to recognize the influx of gang members from southern California, particularly the area of Los Angeles. Many of the arriving gang members in the late 1980s were from the Palmer Block Crips, and the Rollin’ 60’s Neighborhood Crips. In 1993 and 1994, the Insane Crips and the Rollin’ 20’s Crips arrived; this coincided with California’s 3-Strikes Law. In 1996, the Eight Trey Gangster Crips arrived and were heavily involved in the drug trade. Although other drugs were exchanged, the predominant drug they brought with them was crack cocaine. Other gangs followed, and the quantity and diversity of controlled substances increased.

The influence of these early gangs served to polarize many youth in the community who had no previous gang involvement. These youth began forming gangs of their own, tutored by the migrating gang members in the drug trade and in the gang lifestyle. These initial gangs of local origin, the 4th Street Crips, Dogpound Crips, and Deuce Avenue Crips, began to confront one another and engage in violent acts centered on drug territory and gang representation. These acts of violence caused the formation of other local gangs for protective reasons.

Other gangs and gang members from California, Seattle, Chicago, Nevada, Texas, and Arkansas began to move into the surrounding community. Many migrated here through military assignment. Others relocated to escape a violent past or chose to move to Spokane to raise their families in a new environment.
As the gangs of local origin grew and became stronger, many aligned with the larger gangs that had migrated here from other parts of the country. Others began to engage in violent conflict with rival gangs to establish their own level of respect and dominance.

In 2003, several of the local origin gangs began creating subsets or cliques with a different gang name, but falling under the established gangs’ rules and hierarchy. These subsets, or cliques, served as a proving ground for many Spokane youth wanting to become gang members. This practice allowed an established gang the ability to conduct its business in an insulated fashion and to exploit the characteristics of the juvenile justice system, which typically have lower sentencing guidelines than the adult court system.

During this same time period, the gang culture in Spokane began to flourish and gangs started to hybridize, blurring the once easily defined characteristics of criminal gang members.

At this time, Spokane is predominately a Crip gang town with more than 40 Crip sets represented. Of these, nine are of local origin, meaning that they originated in Spokane, assisted by outside influences. Bloods/Pirus are also represented, but on a much smaller scale. There are only three active Blood sets in the Spokane area. The second largest group is the Gangster Disciples, with representation from five different sets. Peoples Nation gangs are poorly represented in the Spokane region, and although they are present, none are currently active. Hispanic gangs are on the rise with more than five different Norteño sets active in the region; this comprises the third largest group. Norteño gang members in this region show a high degree of solidarity, making delineation of the different sets difficult. Sureño sets are also present and increasing in numbers. Currently eight Sureño sets are active in Spokane County.

V. Gang-Related Crime in Spokane County

A primary objective of this Assessment is to provide empirical data that can help answer fundamental questions about the nature and extent of gang crime in the region: what crimes are gang members committing; how has this changed over time, and in what ways; where are the crimes located, and how much of the overall crime problem can be attributed to gangs? Since this is the first comprehensive gang assessment ever completed in Spokane County, it should be considered a starting point. It is a “living document” that will change over time as more empirical data are cultivated and analyzed. This first version is the initial starting point for a document that should be updated annually.

In 2008, the Washington State Legislature passed HB 2712, which was later signed into law by Governor Christine Gregoire. This legislation provided much needed definitions for Washington law enforcement agencies:

“Criminal street gang” is defined as any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having a common name or common identifying sign or symbol, having as one of its primary activities the commission of criminal acts, and whose members or associates individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal street gang activity. This definition does not apply to employees
engaged in concerted activities for their mutual aid and protection, or to the activities of labor and bona fide nonprofit organizations or their members or agents.

"Criminal street gang associate or member" is defined as any person who actively participates in any criminal street gang and who intentionally promotes, furthers, or assists in any criminal act by the criminal street gang.

"Criminal street gang-related offense" means any felony or misdemeanor offense, whether in this state or elsewhere, that is committed for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with any criminal street gang, or is committed with the intent to promote, further, or assist in any criminal conduct by the gang, or is committed for one or more of the following reasons:

(a) To gain admission, prestige, or promotion within the gang;

(b) To increase or maintain the gang’s size, membership, prestige, dominance, or control in any geographical area;

(c) To exact revenge or retribution for the gang or any member of the gang;

(d) To obstruct justice, or intimidate or eliminate any witness against the gang or any member of the gang;

(e) To directly or indirectly cause any benefit, aggrandizement, gain, profit, or other advantage for the gang, its reputation, influence, or membership; or

(f) To provide the gang with any advantage in, or any control or dominance over any criminal market sector, including, but not limited to, manufacturing, delivering, or selling any controlled substance (chapter 69.50 RCW); arson (chapter 9A.48 RCW); trafficking in stolen property (chapter 9A.82 RCW); promoting prostitution (chapter 9A.88 RCW); human trafficking (RCW 9A.40.100); or promoting pornography (chapter 9.68 RCW).

It should be noted, in Spokane County, there is no objective standard by which to measure “gang-related crime.” Every report written by officers in each jurisdiction, as well as Crime Check telephone reports (Spokane’s crime reporting hotline), would have to be read and evaluated by highly trained gang intelligence experts in order to determine exact statistics in regards to this issue. Reasons such as continuing budget reductions and increasing workloads make it extremely difficult to dedicate staff to this task. In addition, there is currently no centralized method in place to track gang-related crime for jurisdictions outside of those areas served by the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office (SCSO) and Spokane Police Department (SPD) in Spokane County.

Gangs are responsible for a significant number of violent crimes. This is a well known part of the gang culture, which puts incredible importance and pressure on respect and the concept of not “backing down.” The presence of gangs on the street remains a serious public safety threat due to the violent nature of crimes they commit. In fact, there are even a significant number of violent crimes that come to the attention of law enforcement through intelligence resources that have never been reported due to several reasons. These include witness intimidation, lack of victim
cooperation, and future plans for retaliation, to name a few. Finally, there are also an unknown number of crimes that do not get reported or come to the attention of law enforcement.

For 2009, statistics about the following crimes were collected by the Spokane Violent Crime Gang Enforcement Team:

1. DEATH HOMICIDE
2. DEATH MANSLAUGHTER
3. DEATH UNKNOWN
4. ASSAULT 1ST
5. KIDNAPPING
6. UNLAWFUL IMPRISONMENT
7. SHOOTING (DRIVE-BY)
8. SHOOTING
9. STABBING
10. ASSAULT 2ND
11. ASSAULT 3RD
12. HOME-INVASION
13. ROBBERY (PERSON)
14. ROBBERY (COMMERCIAL)
15. DRUGS (DELIVERY)
16. DRUGS (MANUFACTURING)
17. DRUGS (SALE)
18. WEAPON (UNLAWFUL POSSESSION)
19. WEAPON POSSESSION
20. INTIMIDATION
21. RIOT

The results are recorded throughout Appendix A.

**Graffiti**

Graffiti is one of the most visible forms of property crime, and Spokane County is currently experiencing an irrefutable increase in the amount of reported graffiti incidents.

Unfortunately for this assessment, prior to 2009 all graffiti incidents were being classified as “Malicious Mischief” rather than “Graffiti Vandalism.” This classification made graffiti virtually impossible to track. In 2009, a new reporting system was implemented which created a property crime categorization exclusively for tracking graffiti.

There were 1,144 confirmed reports of graffiti vandalism within the City of Spokane boundaries in 2009. By comparing the first four months’ graffiti incidents of 2009 to the first four months of 2010, we have observed a definite increase. In 2009, between January and April there were 295 reported graffiti incidents. In the same months of 2010 there were 409 incidents.

Within unincorporated Spokane County, there have been 53 graffiti reports from January 1 to June 1, 2010. The City of Spokane Valley has had 64 graffiti incidents documented.

It is important to mention however, that the numbers being acknowledged in this section are strictly from incidents reported to Crime Check as graffiti. These numbers do not account for graffiti that is not reported to Crime Check.

According to the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office, since 2009, Spokane has maintained an average of approximately seven to ten percent of the total graffiti reports being identified as gang-related.
Spokane’s highest concentrations of gang tags are located in the neighborhoods of West Central, Hillyard, East Central, Northwest, and the Mead area.

Gang Prosecutions in Spokane County

In order to better understand the impact of gang-related offenses in particular, the Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office provided information about the prosecution of felony crime by its Gang Unit. Overall, less than 10% of all adult felony referrals in Spokane County are conducted by the Gang Unit. The percentage increased however, from 5.76% of referrals (220 filed) to over 8.46% (372 filed) from 2002 to 2008, and then fell to 7.28%. Recent budget cuts in 2009 and 2010 have reduced the number of prosecutors available to work the Gang Unit, resulting in about 70 fewer prosecutions by the Gang Unit in 2009 when compared to 2008 (372 to 305, a reduction of nearly 18%).

Due to the nature or degree of the crimes committed (for instance, homicides are usually prosecuted by the Major Crimes Unit due to their familiarity with such cases), as well as a lack of available resources within the Gang Unit, these statistics are somewhat distorted. Cases are frequently referred on to other prosecutorial divisions such as Major Crimes, Special Assault, Drugs, Property, and Domestic Violence Units, when in all actuality the crime may have been directly correlated to gang activity. Additionally, these numbers refer to adult prosecutions only, and not to juveniles. For further information, consult the table in Appendix D.

Juvenile Detention Center Statistics

Another method of understanding the gang problem in relation to Spokane County crime is to examine reports from the correctional facilities and their re-entry programs for offenders. Correctional Officers must collect gang affiliation information so as not to house rival members in the same vicinity. This is done to better protect the inmates from gang violence. The Spokane County Juvenile Detention Center has been collecting demographic data on the youth serving time at its facility since 1990 and has recorded 1,229 self-admitted gang members and/or associates having served time there through May, 2010. According to Juvenile Detention records, 63 self-reported gang members/affiliates served time in 2006, 87 in 2007, and 98 in 2008. Numbers dipped slightly in 2009 to 70 self-reported gang members/affiliates, but preliminary numbers for 2010 (25 from January through April 2010) suggest an increase in the number of self-reported members (approximately 100, if the trend continues for 2010). From 2006 to June of 2010, 7,750 juveniles were booked into the Detention Center. Of those, 334 were self-reported gang members/associates (4.43%). On a recent examination of the Detention Center, ten out of the 35 inmates currently incarcerated, or roughly 29%, claimed affiliation to various different gangs.

Gang Members Incarcerated in Area Correctional Facilities

The majority of offenders housed at the Spokane County Jail or Geiger Corrections Center are being held on charges that have not been adjudicated by the Courts, are serving sentences of one year or less, or have been placed there by their probation officer for failing to comply with their release stipulations. Most of the
problems in these facilities in the past have been between rival Norteño and Sureño gang members and/or associates. Self-professed gang members and/or associates are housed in various housing units in both facilities, based on their classification scores determined by the jail classification unit.

If an offender admits to being a gang member or an associate, that is documented and forwarded with any other gang-related information received from either facility to the Spokane Violent Crime Gang Enforcement Team (SVCGET). Offenders who are under supervision by probation or parole officers can be booked into the correctional facilities if they do not attend classes, programs, or fail to comply with the conditions of their release. At this time, there are no specific gang programs in place at the correctional facilities. Jail staff rely on the information that they receive from arresting officers, corrections deputies, inmate classification units, and the SVCGET to help monitor and keep the facilities safe and secure.

VI. Self-Reported Gang Members in the Schools

Washington State Healthy Youth Survey

The Washington State Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) was a key tool utilized in this assessment to identify trends in self-reported gang membership over time. The information gathered from this survey, however, cannot be used to definitively enumerate the amount of youth admitting membership in Spokane County. This survey measures health risk behaviors that contribute to mortality, morbidity, and social problems among youth in Washington State schools. These behaviors include tobacco, alcohol and other drug use, as well as violence, physical activity, dietary behaviors, and related risk and protective factors. The HYS is administered every two years to students in grades 6, 8, 10 and 12, and participation is voluntary, both on behalf of the individual schools and the students. The most recent year that it was administered was in 2008.

Although the HYS is certainly a valid and reliable survey, for the purposes of this assessment, it could be expanded when it comes to measuring gang membership. Within the HYS, there is only one question that addresses gang membership directly. This question asks, “During the past 12 months, have you been a member of a gang?” According to the results, approximately 8% of both eighth and tenth graders, and 7% of twelfth grade students report being members of a gang in the past year. Those in grade six are not asked this question.

Although those percentages are significant, it is difficult to rely on this single question alone as indicating a completely accurate level of gang participation in Spokane County Schools. There are many reasons why a single question makes it difficult to gather an accurate depiction of the demographics of gang membership among our youth. The foremost problem with this question is that the questionnaire itself is administered only at school. According to the National Center for School Engagement, “when a student decides to join a gang, academics cease to be important... school attendance is the first thing affected by gang membership” (2006). Gang members have a reputation for truancy; it is unlikely that this question reached many of the actual gang members because those individuals may not be in attendance when the HYS is administered or have already dropped out of school entirely.
With the acknowledged weakness of this single question, other aspects of the HYS were examined by the task force assigned to compile this assessment to determine whether there are any other questions that may suggest gang membership indirectly.

There are other questions on the HYS that may imply gang activity through other behaviors that are common among gang members. We examined the HYS data from eighth grade respondents, considered the most reliable available data because it is taken the last year of middle school attendance (a key period during adolescence), and discovered some alarming trends. For example, 12.7% of students in the HYS claimed that it is “not wrong at all” or “a little bit wrong” to attack someone with the idea of seriously hurting them. When asked how likely it was that someone who carried a handgun would be considered as cool, 7.9% reported that there would be a “very good chance” or “pretty good chance” a person would be seen as “cool.” Over 12% of Spokane County eighth graders reported carrying a weapon for “self-protection” or for use in a fight (specifically excluding hunting/outdoor activities), while 5.5% carried a weapon on school grounds. Additionally, 21% of the sampled eighth grade students said they had been in at least two fights in the past year, with 9.6% being in four or more fights.

Another way to examine the gang problem among youth is to collect data on variables that are known to protect them from turning towards gang life, otherwise known as Protective Factors. For instance, we know that having an adult role model in the community, someone a young person can trust and look up to, can help deter them from certain behaviors, gang behavior being one of those. Unfortunately, according to the HYS, over 26% of eighth graders surveyed said that they did not have an adult in the neighborhood and/or community that they could talk to about something important. Thirty-seven percent reported that they did not have anyone in the neighborhood who would be proud of them when they did something well, and 38% said that there wasn’t anyone in the community who encouraged them to do their best.

Parental (or guardian) involvement is another protective factor against delinquency, drug use, and gang membership. Nearly 19% of the eighth graders surveyed reported that they could not ask their parents/guardians for help with a personal problem. Thirty-one percent stated that their parents/guardians did not notice when they were doing a good job or were not proud of their accomplishments. Fifteen percent reported that they would not be caught by their parents/guardians if they skipped school. Thirty-five percent did not believe their parents/guardians would catch them if they drank alcohol, and 14% said that their parents/guardians would not catch them if they were carrying a handgun. These numbers clearly demonstrate the need for more prevention and intervention programs designed to increase protective factors.

Spokane County Juvenile Justice Coordination Survey

As a component of the Governor’s Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (GJJAC) grant, another evaluation tool was utilized that is designed to reach out to local youth and parents and allow them to give their input and opinions about resources they would like to see increased within the community. The Spokane County Juvenile Justice Coordination Survey asks questions relating to Juvenile Detention and gang involvement, along with questions about peer and adult influence and decision making. This survey was administered three times between 2009 and 2010 at different after-
school community events. For this assessment’s purposes, we chose to focus on the following questions: “Have you at any time been involved in the Spokane County Juvenile System?” and “Have you at any time been involved in a gang?”

Two of the three surveys were administered to students, and one was given to the parents/guardians of students. At West Valley High School, in a school district with a fairly high socio-economic base, only two students reported being in a gang and being involved in the Juvenile Court System (out of 75, 2.7%). Parents at Garry Middle School, which draws students from lower socio-economic levels, reported three of their students had been involved with the Juvenile Court System, while two parent surveys reported having a child who had been in a gang (out of 30, 6.7%). Results became dramatically different when students at Contract-Based Education (CBE) in the Spokane Valley (an alternative high school) were surveyed. Alternative high schools are designed to educate youth who are, for a variety of different reasons, in need of a more individualized education experience, less based on seat time and traditional learning, grading periods, and systems. Many of these students may also have other issues interfering with their academic success (e.g., teen pregnancy, homelessness, poverty, and/or substance abuse problems). Among the students at CBE, 58% reported being involved in the Juvenile Court System, and 13% reported being in a gang (out of 79 students surveyed).

VII. Community Scan of the Schools

With 14 school districts located within Spokane County, schools play a pivotal role in reducing the influence and impact of gangs in our community. A strong commitment to collaboration among community organizations, as well as local, state, and federal law enforcement with our schools for prevention of substance abuse, violence, school dropout has provided a solid foundation for this effort. Front line Student Assistance Specialists (SASs) at the middle and high school levels partner closely with School Resource Deputies (SRDs) and School Resource Officers (SROs) to prevent and respond to the evidence of gang presence in schools, on the grounds, and in the neighborhoods. The SRDs and SROs facilitate gang awareness trainings to parents, school staffs, and the community at large on how to recognize gang activity, strategies to prevent gang involvement and ways the citizens of Spokane County can support safe schools.

The prevention of gangs within the educational system in Spokane County is supported through community organizing efforts to help adolescents make positive choices. From after-school programs to youth mentoring to the Washington Drug Free Youth (WDFY) program at 24 middle and high schools in our county, support for schools through community partnerships is at the core of reducing gang influence. Working together, parents, school administrators, teachers, SRDs, SROs, and SASs are proactively supporting youth in positive activities to keep Spokane County schools safe.
Spokane County School Incident Reports

School districts in Washington State are required by law to annually report truancy, weapons incidents, and other disciplinary behaviors to the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). The statistics are available to the public on the OSPI’s School Safety Center website. The most recent statistics, for the 2008-2009 school year, were released in January 2010 and are broken down into three categories: Weapons, Behaviors, and Truancy Reports. Given that the school districts are required to report these figures, they are considered to be both reliable and accurate.

The Washington State Weapons Report tallies the number of firearms, knife, and other weapon incidents that occurred in school districts in Spokane County. It shows that there were 71 reported incidents where students had a knife on campus and 48 incidents defined as “Other.” The report shows that there were no incidents involving firearms in Spokane County Schools in the 2008-2009 school year.

The Behavior Report contains the statistics on behavioral issues with students, including bullying, alcohol, drug, violent offenses, and assaults. Across the school districts in Spokane County, during the ‘08-’09 school year, there were 1,752 students suspended for bullying other students (ten expulsions), three suspended for violent offenses (not including assault, one expulsion), and 820 suspensions for assault (with 17 expulsions). For drug and alcohol related offenses, 417 students in the County were suspended and 31 received expulsion.

The Truancy Report for Spokane County Schools shows that 11,805 students (out of 23,102) had one or more unexcused absence in the ‘08-‘09 school year, 1,922 students had greater than or equal to five unexcused absences in any given month, and 2,820 students had greater than or equal to ten unexcused absences in the school year. These absences led to 1,808 truancy petitions being filed by various school districts within the County.

VIII. Steps Taken to Reduce the Impact of Gangs

Law Enforcement Efforts

In the late 1980s, when Spokane County first started seeing the arrival of Crip gang members from Southern California, there were mixed opinions in regards to their actual or perceived presence and influence. Due to the limited ability of law enforcement at that time to track gangs and their membership, it took several years to be able to empirically examine the issue of gangs in Spokane County. This was also evidenced through increases in gang-related violence which made citizens aware that Spokane County was seeing the realities of gangs close to home.

Until 2006, Spokane’s specialized gang suppression and intelligence efforts were limited to a single Spokane Police Department (SPD) sergeant, SPD officer, Spokane County Sheriff’s Office (SCSO) detective, and SCSO deputy. The first members of the gang unit worked hard to improve gang awareness, not just among law enforcement and the criminal justice system as a whole, but also the community at large.
In early 2006, after a string of violent assaults and shootings, local law enforcement leadership began discussing the need to put more effort towards curbing the increasing violence and drug dealing associated with the gangs in Spokane County. In September 2006, the first co-located multi-agency Gang Enforcement Team was assembled. This team included the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office, Spokane Valley Police Department (SVPD), Spokane Police Department, Washington State Department of Corrections, and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. There were 14 full-time, commissioned personnel assigned to the unit.

In early 2008, the unit was designated as an FBI Safe Streets Violent Crime Gang Unit. The unit name was then changed to the Spokane Violent Crime Gang Enforcement Team (SVCGET). The FBI assists in funding office space, mobile phones, vehicles, fuel, maintenance, overtime, and funds used to pay for operations. Additional members from the Washington State Patrol and Border Patrol were added as full-time members. The FBI and US Marshal Service also provide federal credentials in the form of USC Title 18 and Title 21 commissions, granting Task Force Officers (TFOs) the authority to investigate drug and firearms related crimes on a federal level. Combined with the regular state law enforcement commission, it gives the TFOs even more tools to fight gang crimes.

The mission of the SVCGET is to jointly identify, disrupt, and dismantle existing and emerging violent gang and criminal enterprises operating in Spokane County. The SVCGET will maintain, equip, train, and operate an efficient investigative component capable of immediate response to the most serious criminal acts which impact federal and state jurisdiction, responsibilities and competencies including, but not limited to, murder, armed robberies, weapons violations, kidnapping, RICO statute (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations), drug trafficking violations and human trafficking.

On a daily operational basis, the SVCGET runs three different subunits: Intelligence, Suppression, and Investigations. Members of the Intelligence group use sophisticated techniques to monitor police reports, open sources, and they use various methods to obtain information that will assist in solving gang crime and more importantly, to prevent future crime using an Intelligence Led Policing model. In addition, this group holds weekly information sharing meetings with others working in the criminal justice system. These meetings have been a foundation for creating partnerships and assisting each other with their respective needs. The meetings have been occurring for over 15 years.

The Suppression group includes uniformed officers who work closely with the Department of Corrections’ probation officers and Patrol Divisions of local law enforcement agencies as they respond to gang crime reports. They assist other law enforcement investigators, serve arrest warrants, contact gang members on the street, complete intelligence reports and provide prevention and/or intervention when dealing with juveniles who are starting to exhibit the indicators of possible gang involvement.

The Investigative group includes detectives and special agents who perform follow-up investigations on violent crime, proactive narcotics, and firearms investigations as well as assist on major crimes investigations. All members of the unit are called upon on a daily basis to provide their specialized knowledge in this area to assist in other investigations not just locally, but nationally as well.
Law Enforcement Partnerships

A key component of the success of the SVCGET has been the collaboration between local, state and federal agencies. These include not just the agencies enumerated above, but also key to these partnerships has been the leadership of the United States Attorney’s Office that helped the FBI with the formation of the SVCGET. The use of federal assets to not only investigate but also prosecute criminal gang offenders has become a standard tool used by the SVCGET and has shown substantial success.

One of those successes was Operation Hybris. This investigation involved the prosecution and conviction of all 32 federal defendants for 73 crimes. These crimes included distribution of crack cocaine and ecstasy, conspiracy to distribute, and child prostitution. The child prostitution charge was the result of one defendant exploiting two underage females as prostitutes and advertising them on the internet. Operation Hybris was the largest single-day law enforcement effort in Spokane County history, and resulted in 20 search warrants throughout Eastern Washington, Western Washington, and California.

The SVCGET also maintains partnerships with Spokane Community Oriented Policing Services substations (C.O.P.S.) within the SPD, SCSO and SVPD jurisdictions. The Spokane C.O.P.S. substations and the Sheriff’s Community Oriented Policing Effort (S.C.O.P.E.) stations assist in the documentation of graffiti and forward this information to a centralized office managed by a grant-funded administrator. Any graffiti that might be gang related is then forwarded to the SVCGET Intelligence group for analysis.

Washington State Department of Corrections Community Corrections Division

The Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) Community Corrections Division (CCD) has maintained a dedicated Gang Unit in Spokane since 1998. The DOC Spokane Gang Unit has grown exponentially from a staff of two Community Corrections Officers (CCOs) to the current staffing level of ten officers and a supervisor. The unit is currently responsible for supervising approximately 360 individuals who have been confirmed as being gang members or identified as gang associates and residing here in Spokane County.

The CCOs assigned to this unit routinely work with the dedicated Superior Court Gang Prosecution Team as well as the SVCGET. This coordination of limited resources leads to a better quality of community supervision directed at those individuals deemed most likely to reoffend/recidivate while under the supervision of the DOC in our community. This is largely due to the fact that more intelligence data is shared at weekly Risk Management meetings, where efforts to target violent crime and individuals involved are prioritized. Through these efforts, the DOC Gang Unit has proven itself as an asset to law enforcement in Spokane. The ability to furnish critical and vital information to investigators throughout many of the serious and often violent felony crimes in our community perpetrated by local gang members and/or associates is a valuable benefit. Additionally, over the past ten years, the DOC Gang Unit has played a key role in the discovery and seizure of many illegally possessed firearms, a large quantity of illicit drugs, and thousands of dollars in drug money. Many of these seizures have led to successful state and federal prosecutions.
Spokane gangs appear to be mostly influenced by the gang epidemic in metropolitan Southern California (i.e., Los Angeles). The majority of serious gang-related crime seems to center around individuals who have relocated from the Los Angeles area to our Spokane community and recruit locally to expand their criminal enterprise. This usually involves the sale and trafficking of crack cocaine imported from California. With crack cocaine fetching a premium price in Spokane, as compared to street values in Los Angeles, the simple economics usually ensure that even low-level drug dealers can support themselves comfortably and sometimes even lucratively in our community. Unfortunately, a common byproduct of drug trafficking is serious violent crime to maintain that criminal enterprise. The Spokane community has observed a steady increase of felonious assaults, drive-by shootings, home-invasion robberies, and homicides determined to be directly gang-related in both nature and motivation.

The CCOs assigned to the DOC Gang Unit routinely speak at community public forums on the topics of gang crime and gang prevention. They also actively participate in investigations and special operations at local, state, and federal levels, sharing information with other law enforcement agencies on a daily basis. In addition, the officers collaborate with other criminal justice professionals at gang conferences, forums, and trainings. Intelligence collected by the DOC Gang Unit is essential because the gang subculture presents a variety of hindrances to effectively monitoring this criminal population, including:

- The individuals are often known only by a moniker/street name.
- The fear of gang retaliation, intimidation and/or violence toward potential crime witnesses and victims of crimes.
- The crimes often occur at night, after the normal work day for many criminal justice professionals. DOC officers are busy during the day meeting with offenders, attending hearings, testifying in court, conducting home/field visits, and making efforts to rehabilitate the criminal population.
- The elevated workload of 35-45 high-needs/potentially dangerous offenders assigned to each CCO.

The DOC Spokane Gang Unit officers have worked specific law enforcement operations as well as events held in the community. Events include concerts, Hoopfest, car shows, and other attractions that are known to attract a large population of criminal elements and have a higher probability of the occurrence of new gang crimes and acts of violence. Not often empirically measurable, the presence and visibility of CCOs and law enforcement officers has served as a deterrent to the kinds of criminal behavior often exhibited at these events. The effective monitoring of offenders and the timely discovery and investigation of new serious felony behavior have been paramount to gang suppression efforts. The local law enforcement community understands the importance of the specialized information that CCOs can provide and are committed to continuing to utilize the multijurisdictional approach to focusing on the gang offenders. The overall benefit is a safer community with deterrents to new criminal activity, a sharing of intelligence and information between team members, and optimization of the collective use of all available resources.
The CCOs assigned to the SVCGET display commitment, dedication, and the willingness to do whatever they can to keep the community safe, educate the community about gangs, and work with gang offenders to address their identified risks and needs in an attempt to rehabilitate those offenders and help change their lifestyle.

On the prevention side, the DOC officers conduct a risk and needs assessment that is specific to each offender. Once the needs are identified, the officer develops a specialized supervision plan for the offender that includes specific prohibitions and Affirmative Conduct Requirements, as well as specific intervention strategies to address his or her specific needs. If the offender completes the intervention strategy (e.g., stress/anger management, chemical dependency treatment, various education classes), there should be an increase in the protective factors that insulate against those needs and will reduce the risk of recidivism. For a complete list of programs offered by the Washington State Department of Corrections Community Justice Center Programs, please consult Appendix B.

Educational System Programs to Help Gang-Affected Youth

As part of its goals for the grant-funded program, the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office (SCSO) set forth the objective of continued collaboration on prevention activities with NorthEast Washington Educational Service District 101 (NEWESD 101), including ongoing education and outreach to Central Valley, Deer Park, East Valley, Freeman, Liberty, Mead, and West Valley School Districts; conducting community-based gang prevention presentations; and investigation of any gang-related school incidents. These objectives had been set as part of a grant-funded program awarded to NEWESD 101 with specific duties to be performed by SCSO as a consultant.

The Gang Prevention Coordination Assistance Program (GPCAP) of NEWESD 101 Center for Prevention Programs has been actively serving Spokane County since October 1, 2008. This school-based gang prevention program, funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, will serve Spokane County through September 30, 2010. This program, which partnered with the SCSO School Resource Deputies (SRDs) and the SVCGET provided the following gang prevention services:

- Gang prevention and youth violence prevention educational materials to school districts and community.
- Funds for GPCAP Project Coordinator to regularly attend regional and state level gang prevention meetings, and a violent crime summit, enabling the coordinator to bring back current information and subject knowledge to Spokane County.
- Funds a percentage of the salary of the SCSO’s Project Assistant who contributes to the collection and compilation of data relating to street gang activity in Spokane County and who also assists the SRD Program and the SVCGET in day-to-day operations and special projects.
- Trainings for deputies and SCSO staff, GPCAP Task Force members, school district and NEWESD 101 personnel, parents and community members. Trainings provided from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 include:
1. **Life Skills Training** - Trained 14 school staff and provided curriculum materials to nine Spokane County schools which will be implemented with hundreds of students ranging from elementary school through high school. All nine schools will begin using this curriculum with students in August, 2010. Life Skills Training is a federally recognized, evidence-based program for youth that reduces substance abuse and violence and increases positive decision-making skills. Schools that received the training and will be implementing the program are: Shiloh Hills Elementary, Evergreen Elementary, Meadow Ridge Elementary, West Valley Contract Based Education Center (CBE), Freeman K-12, Liberty K-12, East Valley Elementary, East Valley Middle School and East Valley High School.

2. **National School Resource Officer Training** - Four SRDs

3. **Ritual Crime and the Occult Training** - 18 deputies and other SCSO staff

4. **Northwest Gang Investigator’s Annual Training** - Four deputies and other SCSO staff

In addition, throughout this program the Project Coordinator:

- Organized and facilitated a School Violence/Gang Prevention Task Force for law enforcement, community members and school personnel that met monthly. The Task Force of 60 members discussed local trends and issues and worked in collaboration to coordinate services, and share information and resources. Trainings on the following topics were given during Task Force meetings: Cyber-Bullying and Sex Crimes; Graffiti Identification and Abatement; Restorative Practices in Schools; Youth Gangs in Schools (State training); Understanding the Juvenile Justice System; Introduction to Starfish-Teen Peace Project; National Guard Prevention Programs. The SCSO and GSSAC will take over facilitation of the School Violence/Gang Prevention Task Force and continue its collaborative work in October of 2010.

- Collaborated with the SCSO’s Project Assistant and other staff on youth violence/gang prevention efforts.

- Prepared and distributed an extensive, two-part PowerPoint education tool for SRDs to use in training school staff and community members on gang identification, trends, and the effects of gang involvement on youth. From July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, SRDs educated approximately 400 members of the community, as well as staff from the Mead, Deer Park, and Central Valley School Districts.

- Disseminated 2009-2010 crime information to County school districts with assistance from the SRDs and SCSO staff.

- Conducted research and worked directly with CBE administrators to plan a pilot curriculum project for the 2010-2011 school year entitled, "Peers Making Peace." Its goal is to encourage conflict resolution, leadership and also decrease school violence.

- Collaborated with GSSAC’s Gang Prevention Community Organizer to create an educational video titled “Gang
Prevention, Never Too Late.” This video was designed to educate middle school and high school students about the dangers and risks of gang involvement and youth violence. It highlights a number of serious consequences associated with gang membership, as described by the National Gang Center, and includes interviews with local community members, which illustrate how their own involvement with gangs/violence or their family’s involvement have ended up leading them toward those consequences. Scheduled to be finished in September of 2010, the video will be distributed to 26 middle schools, 19 high schools and 20 alternative schools, as well as all SRDs in Spokane County, and three juvenile detention facilities located around Spokane. Additional copies will also be made and given out during local gang awareness presentations.

Community Gang Education

A key component to gang prevention is education. The Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council (GSSAC) has implemented special programs designed to educate local residents on gang demographics, gang activities and operations, and the scope of the current gang problem in Spokane. The programs were also designed to equip residents with the knowledge of what can be done to prevent gang crime and youth from falling victim to the lure of gangs. GSSAC, along with the help of organizations such as the SCSO, SVCGET, NEWESD 101, and the OSPI School Safety Center, created and implemented a Gang Awareness Presentation. The first few months of this program were spent researching, designing, developing, and revising the presentation, seeking input from experts in the field to ensure accuracy and effectiveness at each step in the process.

GSSAC’s presentation was designed specifically for Spokane County and contains local information about the gangs present in our community and how to address the specific needs of Spokane youth. Over the grant period, at meetings, trainings and formal presentations for a variety of different organizations, including S.C.O.P.E. and Spokane C.O.P.S. stations, coalition forums, community service organizations and neighborhood councils, to name a few, over 2,000 people have received information about gangs in Spokane County. As of June 30, 2010, 756 people were formally educated through this presentation. Community members have and are continuing to be taught not only about the threats that gangs pose, but also about the everyday things they can do to help our youth, regardless of whether they are a parent, relative, neighbor, or simply a concerned community member.

The presentation’s content is customizable to varying audiences’ needs as well as time restrictions. For instance, members of a neighborhood council may require different information emphasized than law enforcement volunteers. Specifically, GSSAC’s presentation educates the public about local gang history, symbols and indicators, behaviors, risk and protective factors, reasons for joining, graffiti, and proactive solutions to addressing the problem. The presentation is included in its entirety in Appendix C.
**IX. Community Resources for Gang Prevention**

Although Spokane offers numerous programs for youth and many programs specifically for youth from under-represented populations or lower socio-economic classes, there are only a few still in existence that are designed to directly address the issues of youth gang involvement in our community. We acknowledge the outstanding achievements and community service of all youth programs, while choosing to highlight these front-line programs for their work specifically with gang-affected youth, written in their own words:

*Project HOPE Spokane:*

Project HOPE Spokane is focused on prevention and intervention initiatives for at-risk and gang-affiliated youth in West Central Spokane. Project HOPE’s experience over the past four years has been that when youth are offered a positive alternative to illegal, damaging, and destructive activities, they make the right choice.

Through "Jobs Not Jails" and Project HOPE’s seasonal Green Collar Job Corps, young people are choosing to participate in job training such as gardening, lawn care, and marketplace development rather than taking part in activities that are damaging to themselves and their community.

Project HOPE’s participants are motivated by the stipend they receive for their hard work and by the opportunity to be involved in something relevant and meaningful to their own neighborhood. Their involvement has shown to provide participants with a sense of belonging and self-worth. It also encourages them to take pride in their neighborhood.

In their brief experience, the interest in this one program alone has gone from six youth to 45. For the summer 2010 program, Project HOPE currently has enough money raised to offer 16 positions to youth ages 11 to 18 who are interested in joining this positive and constructive program.

*Starfish Project*

The Starfish Project is a collaborative effort among the Volunteers of America Crosswalk, The NATIVE Project, and East Central Community Center. The collaborative nature of this project allows participants access to a continuum of care. The goal of the project is to reduce the number of gang-involved youth in Spokane County, one individual at a time. The Starfish Project’s philosophy is based on the poem, *The Starfish Story*, by Loren Eisley. Below is a synopsis of the story:

One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked, “What are you doing?” The youth replied, “Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don’t throw them back, they’ll die.”

“Son,” the man said, “don’t you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can’t make a difference!”
After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said... “I made a difference for that one.”

The NATIVE Project’s focus is on the medical, mental health, and wellness aspect of the project. Participants are able to attend the Community Wellness Program held at Havermale High School. This program offers basketball, leadership skill-building, youth fitness, cultural activities, and nutrition, cooking, and gang prevention classes throughout the school year. In addition, The NATIVE Project offers youth summer programs and camps. Participants are also able to access mental health counseling; chemical dependency treatment, both out-patient and intensive out-patient; and relapse prevention programs designed specifically for teens.

East Central Community Center (ECCC) provides a structured Gang and Youth Violence Prevention Program for teens on Thursday and Friday evenings of every week. Their program brings in various presentations and activities every week for the teenagers to learn from. In addition, ECCC strives to have all of its participants receive a positive experience by allowing them to make new friends in a safe and friendly environment. So far, participants have had lectures presented to them on the topics of: diversity, goal setting, HIV and STDs, teen suicide, prescription drugs, careers, anger management, and teen bullying. They have also been visited by a few individuals who have shared their stories about being involved in gangs, and the set-backs that came with that lifestyle. ECCC’s intent with bringing in these individuals is to stress the importance of thinking about the future and making positive life choices. The youth involved in ECCC’s portion of The Starfish Project also participate in fun excursions and recreational activities such as bowling, go-cocarting, movies, going to Shock football games, skating, and swimming. The Starfish Project at ECCC offers a safe and welcoming place for local youth to go when they have nowhere else to turn.

East Central Community Center also offers The Starfish Camp for youth ages five through 12, every Saturday. The camp’s activities range from arts and crafts, trips to local parks, and gym activities, to “free time” in the game room. This program allows its participants to take part in constructive activities within a structured environment, rather than engaging in potentially harmful activities on the streets of Spokane.

Finally, Volunteers of America (VOA) Crosswalk is focusing on the case management and street outreach aspect of the project. VOA Crosswalk has the unique capability to provide intensive case management for all participants. This service includes on-site chemical dependency assessments, collaboration with Spokane Mental Health and Lutheran Community Services, on-site GED completion programs provided by Spokane Community Colleges, parenting classes, Head Start, and many other referral and advocacy services for all participants. VOA Crosswalk is the only organization in Spokane, outside of the mental health field, that provides street outreach services. Through its outreach team, Youthreach, VOA Crosswalk is able to contact an average of 450 kids each week and provide resources that support their basic needs. This outreach also allows VOA Crosswalk to further develop personal relationships with many of Spokane’s street youth and numerous gang members.
As of June 2010, the Starfish Project has greatly exceeded its goal of 75 participants. Between the three organizations involved, roughly 150 participants have been enrolled.

**After School Programs in Spokane County**

There are many after-school programs available for students that aim to keep youth busy between the hours of 3:00 to 6:00pm throughout the school year. While these programs may not specifically target gang-involved youth, by keeping youth busy in structured activities after school, during peak juvenile crime hours, these programs provide positive alternatives to engaging in delinquent and/or gang-related behavior. After-school programs are offered to students through the 21st Century Community Learning Grant and the Communities in Schools Organization at the following locations through various agencies:

**Centers coordinated by NEWESD 101:**
- Chase Middle School (Spokane School District)
- Glover Middle School (Spokane School District)
- Liberty Junior High School (Liberty School District)
- North Pines Middle School (Central Valley School District)
- East Valley Middle School (East Valley School District)

**Centers coordinated by Campfire:**
- Shaw Middle School (Spokane School District)
- Garry Middle School (Spokane School District)

**Centers coordinated by Spokane School District:**
- North Central High School
- Rogers High School

Centers coordinated by Deer Park School District:
- Deer Park Middle School
- Arcadia Elementary School

Centers coordinated by Cheney School District:
- Sunset Elementary School

Cheney Middle School also has an after-school program coordinated by the Communities in Schools Organization.

**Deficits in Available Programming to Assist Gang-Affected Youth**

It is worth mentioning that there were other programs in the past that were active in Spokane County. These programs, for various reasons are no longer serving the Spokane area youth. Many organizations working in the prevention and intervention fields suffered significant cutbacks due in large part to the economic conditions in both the state and federal economies.

The federal funding for the NEWESD 101 Gang Prevention Program (GPCAP) ends on September 30, 2010. This grant was a two-year, one-time award for establishing gang prevention coordination of services within communities. Although the funding ends, the task force will continue to meet and work on collaborative prevention efforts, with GSSAC and the SCSO serving as the facilitators. The task force will be sustained with the support of grant funds awarded by the Washington State Department of Commerce to the SCSO on behalf of the SVCGET and GSSAC via federal funds passed through from the U.S. Department of Justice for the reduction of criminal and violent gang activities in local communities by law enforcement and prevention entities under award number F10-34021-046.
Although this additional funding will serve to support the continuation of both established law enforcement and prevention work programs in Spokane County, the community still lacks sufficient local resources for services to support youth. In particular, there is a clear deficit in the amount of programs devoted to serving gang-affected youth. Until more resources can be devoted to gang prevention and intervention, the burden of suppressing gang activities and related crime will continue to fall on law enforcement agencies and criminal justice systems.
Special Note:

A special thank you to the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force, whose publication, *Northern Virginia Comprehensive Gang Assessment 2003 – 2008*, served as a key source in providing an excellent framework for the publication of our Gang Assessment.
Appendices
## Appendix A: 2009 Gang Crime Statistics in Spokane County, Collected by SVCGET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>WEEKLY RANGE*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January-09</td>
<td>6% to 30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>February-09</td>
<td>9% to 28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March-09</td>
<td>17% to 35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April-09</td>
<td>12% to 26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>May-09</td>
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<td>17% to 26%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>February-10</td>
<td>6% to 23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AVERAGE</strong></td>
<td><strong>17%</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

* Expressed as the range of percentages of the 21 identified crimes as compared to all crimes in Spokane County.
Appendix A: Continued

GANG ACTIVITY (JANUARY 2009 – MARCH 2010)
VIOLENT GANG INCIDENTS PER MONTH

Appendix A: Continued
Appendix A: Continued

The following statistics relate ONLY to the Spokane Violent Crime Gang Enforcement Team:

**Total Number of Investigations:**
- 2008: 172
- 2009: 239
- 2010 (thru 5/1/10): 66

**Total Number of Drug-related Investigations:**
- 2008: 66
- 2009: 79
- 2010 (thru 5/1/10): 10

**Total Number of Federal Charges:**
- 2008: 42 defendants; 95 charges
- 2009: 8 defendants; 15 charges
- 2010: Data not available

**Total Number of Charges Sent to Spokane County Prosecutor’s Office:**
- 2008: 267
- 2009: 263
- 2010 (thru 5/1/10): 42

**Total Number of Robbery Charges (Including 1st and 2nd Degree Robbery):**
- 2008: 36
- 2009: 13
- 2010 (thru 5/1/10): 1

**Total Number of Aggravated Assault Charges (Including 1st, 2nd, 3rd Degree Assaults, Attempted Murder, and Drive-by Shooting):**
- 2008: 92
- 2009: 59
- 2010 (thru 5/1/10): 5
These statistics represent ONLY what the SVCGET has investigated. Other units within the SPD and SCSO also investigate gang-related cases and are not included above since they are not equipped to track cases the same way. In addition, other agencies within Spokane County (including federal, state and local law enforcement agencies) also investigate gang-related cases. Although most gang-related cases are referred to the specialized Gang Unit within the Spokane County Prosecutor’s Office, they do not have the staff to handle each gang case that is referred for prosecution, so the case is then given to the respective unit that handles that type of crime (e.g. Drug, Property, Major crimes related).
### Appendix B: Washington State Department of Corrections Community Justice Center Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>WHAT DOES IT CHANGE?</th>
<th>YOU KNOW SOMEONE NEEDS IT BECAUSE...</th>
<th>CLASSES OFFERED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stress Anger Management</strong></td>
<td>★ Create an understanding of stress, and anger triggers</td>
<td>★ Poor history of coping skills</td>
<td>★ Monday-Friday 1-3pm (2 wks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>★ Helps adopt tools to channel stress and address anger in healthy, non-violent ways.</td>
<td>★ Self reports difficulty managing stress in past or present</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>★ Uncooperative with supervision</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>★ History of Assaultive/Aggressive Behavior</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>★ Non-compliance with conditions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>★ Family members encouraged to participate.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Job Hunters X</strong></td>
<td>★ Resume Writing</td>
<td>Needs assistance with:</td>
<td>★ Monday-Wednesday 9am-4pm,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>★ Completing Applications</td>
<td>★ overcoming barriers to employment</td>
<td>★ Thursdays one on one appointments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>★ Interviewing Techniques</td>
<td>★ work opportunity tax credits, fidelity bonds, incarceration speech.</td>
<td>★ Fridays one on one appointments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>★ Job Search Strategies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>★ Job Leads and local resources.</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Moral Reaton Therapy</strong></td>
<td>★ Helps correct thinking errors</td>
<td>★ Blames others for their situation</td>
<td>★ Tuesday 5-6:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>★ Take responsibility for actions</td>
<td>★ Does not take responsibility for actions</td>
<td>★ Thursday 2-3:30pm (SOMRT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>★ Set future goals.</td>
<td>★ Hostile towards conventional values</td>
<td>★ Thursdays 3:30-5pm (12 steps. Offender may only complete one step per week)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>★ Limited pro-social supports</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>★ History of continuing criminal lifestyle.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Getting It Right</strong></td>
<td>★ Personal growth</td>
<td></td>
<td>★ Wednesday 9-11am (4-8 wks per module)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>★ Responsible Thinking</td>
<td></td>
<td>★ Five Modules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>★ Managing Life</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>★ Relapse Prevention (e.g. criminal, chemical dependency, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>★ Change Plan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>★ Passport to Action</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partners in Parenting</strong></td>
<td>★ Emphasizes building skills</td>
<td>★ Anyone that has contact with children.</td>
<td>★ Both daytime and evening classes available. Class times vary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>★ Provides support to parents</td>
<td>★ May be better suited for offenders with younger children</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>★ Helps parents understand the needs and abilities of children in different stages of development.</td>
<td>★ Participants do not need to have custody of their children to participate. Family members encouraged to participate.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nurturing Fathers</strong></td>
<td>★ Equips men to become better fathers by understanding themselves, how they were parented and how this affects the type of father they are or will be.</td>
<td>★ Anyone that is a father</td>
<td>★ Tuesdays 5-7pm (13 wks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>★ Does not have to have custody of their children to participate in the class.</td>
<td>★ Closed class after two sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>★ Persons convicted of sex offenses and crimes against children considered on a case by case basis.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROGRAM</td>
<td>WHAT DOES IT CHANGE?</td>
<td>YOU KNOW SOMEONE NEEDS IT BECAUSE...</td>
<td>CLASSES OFFERED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Strengthening Families              | ★ Caregivers and youth age 9-17 yrs old participate together  
★ Caregivers learn about using love and limits, making house rules, encouraging good behavior, protecting against substance abuse, communication with youth, how to help youth with peer pressure.  
★ Youth learn about having goals and dreams, appreciating caregivers, dealing with stress, following rules, handling peer pressure, reaching out to others, handling conflict, communicating with caregivers, and making good friends. | ★ Participants with children ages 9-17  
★ Persons convicted of sex offenses and crimes against children are prohibited from participating.  
★ Family members encouraged to participate | ★ Thursday 5-7:30pm (7 wks)  
★ Closed class after two sessions                                                                 |
| Child Support Orientation           | ★ Explains the importance of paying child support obligations  
★ Enables offenders to get back on track with paying their child support obligation after major changes in circumstances  
★ Enhances communication between the offender and the Division of Child Support | ★ Anyone that has a child support obligation.                                                        | ★ Monday 1-2pm                                                                                     |
| Cooking Class                       | ★ Learn to create great affordable meals in one skillet  
★ Sample the meal  
★ Supplies are provided by the facilitator                                                                                                                                                                              | ★ Anyone living on a limited income  
★ Family members encouraged to participate.                                                                  | ★ Tuesday 12:30 – 1:30pm (5 wks)  
★ Open ended class                                                                                       |
| Relationship Works                  | ★ Develops skill and knowledge to make you better equipped to improve and develop your relationship  
★ Learn about personality types, compatibility, speaker/listening skills, handling anger, conflict resolution, budgets, and managing household tasks | ★ Class designed for couples (married, engaged, dating and trying to figure out if the person you are with is the person you want to form a life long relationship with)  
★ Family members encouraged to participate                                                                  | ★ Monday  5:30 – 8:00 pm (4 wks)  
★ Closed class                                                                                           |
| How Not to Marry a Jerk(-ette)      | ★ Deeper understanding of yourself, the people you date, and the mysterious connections which create the thing we call “love”                                                                                     | ★ Designed for singles  
★ Family members encouraged to participate                                                                     | ★ Closed class                                                                                      
★ Classes coming soon                                                                                   |
Appendix C: GSSAC’S Gang Presentation; Gang Awareness in Spokane County

Gangs in Spokane
What Can YOU Do?

Greater Spokane
Substance Abuse Council’s (GSSAC)
Prevention Center

Our Mission:
To reduce substance abuse and violence in Spokane County

Overview
- History
- What is a Gang
- Culture
- WA vs. Spokane
- Symbols and Indicators
- Risk & Protective Factors
- Reasons for Joining
- Who Joins
- Recruitment
- Behaviors
- Graffiti
- Addressing the Issue

TAKE-AWAYS
1. Raise your awareness level
2. Understand the key role each of us play
3. Get involved
What is a Gang?

1. Group of 3 or more
2. Common sign or symbol
3. Engage in criminal activity

* Criminal street gang* means any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having a common name or common identifying sign or symbol, having as one of its primary activities the commission of criminal acts, and whose members or associates individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal street gang activity. -RCW 9.94A.030

Gang Culture

Primary Motivators ➔ the 3 R’s:

- Respect
- Reputation
- Retaliation

Understanding Gangs

Valdemar’s Axioms

1. Gangs are not part of the Hispanic, Black, Asian, or White Culture
2. All gangs are part of a criminal culture
3. It is the nature of criminals to band together
4. All gangs are formed in defense and later prey on their own kind
5. Gangs multiply by dividing
6. Gangs develop their own “code of conduct”
7. To a gang member, the gang comes before: God, family, marriage, community, friendship, and the law
Why Gangs Form

The breeding ground for all gangs begins with an **excluded group**, who **feel victimized** by poverty, or the establishment, or some other type of injustice, whether real or imagined.

It is fed by an anti-establishment culture of drugs, crime, hate and racial separatism.

- Sgt. Richard Valdemar

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**Gang Activity in Spokane County**

**Over the past 15 years:**
- Estimated 70 recognized gangs
- 900 gang members
- 7000 gang associates

Source: www.spokanepolice.org

---

**WA State vs. Spokane County**

**Healthy Youth Survey:**
Self-Reported Gang Membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Grade 8</th>
<th>Grade 10</th>
<th>Grade 12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Students</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Spokane</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

211,244 students; in all 39 counties; in 247 districts; in 1,097 schools

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**Local Gang Sets**

**Bloods**
- Kane Town Heat
- Elms Street Piru
- Indian Power Organization
- East Side Outlaw Blood Gang 20's
- Native Gangster Blood
- South Side Avenue Piru
- West Side Piru
- Florencia 13
- Mara Salvatrucha 13
- Play Boy Sureños 13
- West Side 18th Street

**Crips**
- "A" Street Crips
- Avalon Gangster Crips
- Blocc Hustla Crips
- Deuce Ave Crips
- East Coast Crips 62 NHC
- Ford Cluster Crips (Spokane Res.)
- Atlantic Drive Compton Crips
- Gangster Crips 83
- Ghost Town Crips
- Insane Gangster Crips
- Long Beach Crips
- Murder 1
- Palm & Oak Gangsters
- Play Bacc Crips
- Play Boy Gangster Crips
- Rollin' 20s Crips NHC
- Rollin' 60's Crips NHC
- West Side Regulatin Crips
- 4th Street Crips

**Sureños**
- Asian Boyz
- Tiny Raskal Gang

**Other**
- East Side Folks
- Almighty Latin King Nation
- Gangster Disciple Nation
- Cash Out Boyz
- Vice Lords

**Nortenos**
- North Side Villains 14
- Red Boyz 14

**Source:** www.spokanepolice.org
Feds: 80 arrested in sweep targeting gang activity
By KREM.com
Posted on November 23, 2009 at 9:49 AM YAKIMA, Wash. (AP) -- Federal prosecutors say more than 80 people have been arrested in a sweep targeting gangs in central Washington. The Yakima Herald-Republic reports 21 were arrested in Yakima, while more than 60 were taken into custody in the Tri-Cities area. Authorities seized drugs, firearms and cash.

Gangs plague small Eastern Washington town of Outlook
OUTLOOK, WA -- Authorities in the small Eastern Washington town of Outlook are facing a new approach to combat gangs. The Yakima Herald-Republic reports that officials estimate one in five residents in the town of 470 belongs to a gang.

Warrant sweep nabs five violent criminals
Jeff Humphrey | KXLY4 Reporter
Posted: 5:56 am PST November 2, 2009 SPOKANE -- It was a busy night for Spokane's Gang Enforcement Team as they swept for violent criminals. Many were arrested at the border and arrested in Soap Lake and Poth.

Cultural Influences:
- Music
- Movies
- Magazines
- Video Games
- Internet
- Multi-Generational Family

Gangs on the Rise

Notice anything strange about this picture?...

Snoop Dogg Rings the NYSE Bell for the 2nd Annual “Mentoring Madness” Event

Celtics’ Paul Pierce was fined $25,000 for throwing up a gang sign (Piru) at a loud spectator in 2008.
Multi-Generational

- Raised w/in the culture- 2nd & 3rd generation
- Siblings, parents, grandparents
- Kids mimicking behaviors
- Becomes the “norm”

Symbols and Indicators

- Hand signs
- Graffiti & artwork
- Symbols & numbers
- Clothing colors
- Clothing styles
- Music

Gang Organization

Review of 30 years of youth substance abuse and delinquency research identified risk & protective factors for adolescent drug abuse and delinquency

Communities That Care Model

Hawkins & Catalano, University of Washington
Risk and Protective Factors:

• Can be influenced by individual, family, school, and environmental change strategies

• Exist in all areas of a child’s life

• Have a cumulative effect

What They Found…

Risk factors identified in 4 domains (areas):

• Community
• School
• Family
• Individual & Peer

Associated health & behavior problems:

• Substance abuse
• Delinquency
• Violence
• Teen pregnancy
• School drop-out

Risk and Protective Factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community risk factors</th>
<th>Adolescent problem behaviors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Availability of Drugs</td>
<td>Substance Abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of Firearms</td>
<td>Delinquency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Laws and Norms Favorable toward Drug Use, Firearms and Crime</td>
<td>Teen Pregnancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media Portrayals of Violence</td>
<td>School Drop-Out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitions and Mobility</td>
<td>Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Neighborhood Attachment and Community Disorganization</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extreme Economic Deprivation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family risk factors</th>
<th>Adolescent problem behaviors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family History of the Problem Behavior</td>
<td>Substance Abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Management Problems</td>
<td>Delinquency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Conflict</td>
<td>Teen Pregnancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favorable Parental Attitudes and Involvement in the Problem Behavior</td>
<td>School Drop-Out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Violence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Academic Failure Beginning in Late Elementary School
Lack of Commitment to School

Early and Persistent Antisocial Behavior
Rebelliousness
Friends who Engage in the Problem Behavior
Gang Involvement
Favorable Attitudes toward the Problem Behavior
Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
Constitutional Factors

The accumulation of risk factors greatly increases the likelihood of gang involvement, just as it does for other problem behaviors (Thornberry et al., 2003)

• No unique risk factors for gang involvement
• Gang-involved youth exhibit more risk factors than non-gang involved youth
Reasons for Joining

“Kids don’t run to gangs. They are running away from something else and find gangs.”
- Father Greg Boyle, noted gang expert

- Structure
- Money
- Activities
- Love
- Protection
- Power
- Companionship

Looking to Fill a Void

- Unmet needs
- Power, money, respect
- Exploring self-identity
- Feel hopeless
- Recognition
- Protection
- Boredom
- Belonging

Offers “success” while facing failure everywhere else

Gang Behaviors

..part of mainstream society

- Social withdrawal
- Increased truancy
- Changes in dress
- Academic decline

“School attendance is the first thing affected by gang membership.”
- National Center for School Engagement
More Behaviors

- Changes in attitude
- Gang-type drawings
- Use of hand signs to communicate
- Behavioral changes
  - Defiance, disrespect, etc
- Unusually secretive

Who Joins?

- Can’t assume stereotypes are true
- “Gang-like” ≠ gang member
- All ethnic groups & income levels are represented
- Found in all parts of the country

Gang Girls

- Approx. 10%
- Involvement increasing
- Typically “sexed” in
- Forced prostitution common
- Often very violent, and do carry weapons

According to Washington State School Safety Center

Possible:
- Clothing
- Friends/Associates
- Drawings
- Language

Strong:
- Writing
- Hand signs/shakes
- Tattoos/burns

Positive:
- Police ID
- Admitted membership

Consider multiple indicators:

When evaluating gang affiliation…
Recruitment

Recruitment is done mostly through friends, acquaintances & siblings. The average age of gang members is 17, but youth as young as 11 are targeted for recruitment. (Youth Gangs and Guns, RCMP Environmental Scan, 2006)

Tactics:
- Peer pressure
- Offer protection
- Threaten safety
- Offer $ for “simple” tasks
- Family members already belong

Continuum of Gang Activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age 8-12</th>
<th>Age 16-21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Watches for/evades police</td>
<td>- Enforcer of gang rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Holds drugs/weapons</td>
<td>- Armed with a weapon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Vandalism</td>
<td>- Violent demeanor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Petty theft</td>
<td>- Heavy drug sales</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age 12-15</th>
<th>Age 21+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Graffiti</td>
<td>- Heavy drug access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Minor violence</td>
<td>- Racketeering prospect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Property crimes</td>
<td>- Intense criminal history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Involved in some drug sales</td>
<td>- Prison connections/in prison</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration, 2008
Approx. 90% of all graffiti
Generally bubbly looking
Appears all over
Non-threatening
Non-violent
Want fame or admiration from peers
“Street Art”
Gang Graffiti

10% of Spokane’s graffiti problem

Is purposely meant to...
- Communicate
- Threaten/Provoke
- Disrespect rivals
- Claim a territory
- Identify/Roll call
- Announce “hits”

Gang Graffiti

Characteristics

- Gang symbols:
  - crowns, stars, pitchforks, birds, swastikas
- “187”
- The color of paint used
- Roman Numerals
- Old English style lettering
- Letter “X”
- Numbers:
  - 5, 6, 13, 14, 18, 21
- Numbers/ names of streets or locations
- Crossing out/ writing over other graffiti
- “187”

Spokane Gang Members Turn to Technology

Gang members here are increasingly using the Internet, cell phones and other technology to intimidate foes, take credit for crimes and recruit new members, police say.

“They used to use graffiti, but now they do it in text messages and on MySpace,” said Spokane County Sheriff’s Sgt. Mike Killenstedt, a member of the Spokane Gang Enforcement Team. “They are like society, and changing with times.”

Frank Harrill, an FBI special agent here, agreed. “We’ve seen threats wrapped up in music. The higher technology is far more detailed and modifiable than spray-painting graffiti,” he said.

In one case, court records say, a Feb. 17 gang-related shooting in north Spokane stemmed from a message posted on the MySpace page of Rashjeil Cage, a self-professed member of the Murder 1 Crips gang who was convicted of riot.

Spokesman Review, April 28, 2008
What To Do About Graffiti

Remember the 4 R’s:
1. Read it
2. Record it
Send photos to: graffiti@spokanesheriff.org
3. Report it
Call Crime Check: 509-456-2233
4. Remove it
- Tagged wall = 10x’s more likely to be tagged than a clean wall
- Patched over wall = 3x’s more likely

Invest in Our Youth

- Communicate
- Listen!
- Share your own wisdom
- Think & talk about the future
- Put a high value on education
- Teach decision-making & life skills to succeed
- Give praise for good decisions/successes

Address the Issue

Keys to Success...
- Be involved in your youth’s activities
- Spend quality time together
- Be a positive role model
- Talk with other parents
- Get to know friends & families
- Set clear expectations- Hold them accountable

Tell your child that:
- You disapprove of gangs
- You don’t want to see them hurt or arrested
- They mean the world to you
- You are there to help and protect them
- Family members don’t keep secrets

Seek the facts
- Kids tell you what you want to hear—DIG DEEPER
**Make a Difference!**

- Join a Neighborhood/Block Watch program
- Volunteer at S.C.O.P.E./C.O.P.S. Shops
- Join GSSAC’s Community Coalition
- Mentor our youth
- Communicate
- Be friendly

**Programs for Youth**

- Afterschool programs
- Boys & Girls Clubs
- YMCA
- Washington Drug Free Youth (WDFY)
- Starfish Project
- Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts
- Community Centers

**Helpful #’s**

- Spokane Violent Crime Gang Enforcement Team: (509) 625-GANG
- Law Enforcement Help Line: (509) 477-5980
- Crime Check: (509) 456-2233
- Washington Information Network: 2-1-1 [www.resourcehouse.com](http://www.resourcehouse.com)
- Contact your school
- School Resource Officers
- School Counselor

**Spread the Word!**

Provide a gang awareness event in your community

Share this information

Utilize your networks to increase awareness of this growing problem
Thank You!

For more information,
Contact: Bailey Roberts
509.922.8383
broberts@gssacpreventioncenter.com

Resources

- City of Spokane Police Department
- Spokane County Sheriff’s Office
  - Spokane Violent Crime Gang Enforcement Team
- Sheriff’s Community Oriented Policing Effort (S.C.O.P.E.)
- Spokane Community Oriented Policing Services (C.O.P.S.)
- Educational Service District #101
  - Center for Prevention Programs

- National Youth Gang Center
- Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention
- Northwest Gang Investigators Association
- Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
  - WA School Safety Center

Websites:
- www.knowgangs.com
- www.ganginfo.org
- www.nwgangs.com
- www.myspace.com
- www.facebook.com

GSSAC’s Prevention Center

Working Together Toward Safe Communities
Free from Substance Abuse
Appendix D: Data from the Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney’s Gang Unit

**SPOKANE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY’S OFFICE**

**ADULT FELONY GANG CASES**

2002 – 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Adult Felony referrals from law enforcement</td>
<td>4,268</td>
<td>4,482</td>
<td>4,736</td>
<td>5,138</td>
<td>4,986</td>
<td>4,962</td>
<td>4,631</td>
<td>4,493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases referred to Gang Unit **</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of all Adult Felony referrals handled within Gang Unit</td>
<td>5.76%</td>
<td>6.54%</td>
<td>7.92%</td>
<td>6.42%</td>
<td>7.60%</td>
<td>8.12%</td>
<td>8.46%</td>
<td>7.28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Felony Filings by Gang Unit</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Felony Guilty Pleas in Gang Unit</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trials Jury/Bench Gang Unit</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Gang Unit is not large enough to handle every gang related case. The following 5 Felony Units may also be responsible for gang-related referrals and filings: Major Crimes, Special Assault, Drugs, Property, and Domestic Violence.**
Appendix E: Map of Neighborhoods in Spokane
Appendix F: Map of Spokane County, Including School Districts