

June 2010

**An assessment conducted
in the North Minneapolis
neighborhoods of
Folwell, Hawthorne,
Jordan, and McKinley**



Youth Gang Crime and Prevention Services

Prepared by:
Jared A. Erdmann

Gang Prevention Coordination Staff:
David Carson
Jan Fondell
Coral Garner

Lead Agency:
**Minneapolis Department of
Health & Family Support**

The YWCA of Minneapolis worked with 28 Minneapolis youth at Matthews Park during the summer of 2007 to create a social action project focused on improving their community. Youth created murals, now on display at the Midtown YWCA, that gave voice to the ideas they wished to share. The mural above depicts community at the intersection of love and peace and represents their dreams for the city of Minneapolis.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
INTRODUCTION	8
SELECTION OF THE ASSESSMENT AREA	9
DEFINITION OF “GANG” AND TEN-POINT CRITERIA	10
MINNEAPOLIS ASSESSMENT AREA NEIGHBORHOODS: FOLWELL, HAWTHORNE, JORDAN AND MCKINLEY	12
POPULATION, DEMOGRAPHICS & SHIFTS	13
<i>Folwell Neighborhood</i>	16
<i>Hawthorne Neighborhood</i>	16
<i>Jordan Neighborhood</i>	17
<i>McKinley Neighborhood</i>	18
HOUSING & FORECLOSURES	19
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY	20
FIREARM-RELATED ASSAULT INJURIES	21
YOUTH & GANG VIOLENCE PREVENTION COORDINATION IN MINNEAPOLIS	22
CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS	22
YOUTH COORDINATING BOARD	23
MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	23
MINNEAPOLIS PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD	25
MINNEAPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT	25
HENNEPIN COUNTY	26
COMMUNITY-BASED AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS	27
BUSINESS, HEALTHCARE AND PHILANTHROPY	27
COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS OF THE GANG PROBLEM.....	29
INTERVIEWS WITH YOUTH-SERVING PROVIDERS AND PROFESSIONALS	29
<i>Who is committing gang crime?</i>	30
<i>Individual Level</i>	31
<i>Family Level</i>	32
<i>Community Level</i>	33
<i>Institutional Level</i>	35
FOCUS GROUPS WITH YOUNG MEN WHO LIVE ON THE NORTH SIDE	39
<i>Individual Level</i>	41
<i>Family Level</i>	43
<i>Community Level</i>	45
<i>Institutional Level</i>	45
FOCUS GROUPS WITH PARENTS ON THE NORTH SIDE	48
<i>Who is committing gang crime?</i>	48
<i>Individual Level</i>	49
<i>Family Level</i>	49
<i>Community Level</i>	51
<i>Institutional Level</i>	52
MINNEAPOLIS GANG CRIME DATA.....	55
WHAT GANGS ARE ACTIVE IN NORTH MINNEAPOLIS?	55
WHAT CRIMES ARE GANG MEMBERS COMMITTING?	57
WHERE ARE VIOLENT CRIMES BEING COMMITTED?	61
WHERE ARE GANG CRIMES BEING COMMITTED AND WHO IS COMMITTING THEM?	66
WHO ARE THE VICTIMS OF GANG CRIMES?	74

<i>Victims of Gang Members</i>	74
<i>Gang-Member Victims</i>	77
ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT	80
STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF THE GANG PROBLEM AT SCHOOL	80
ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE.....	82
HOMELESS AND HIGHLY MOBILE (HHM)	83
KEY FINDINGS	85
AREAS MOST AFFECTED BY GANGS IN MINNEAPOLIS.....	85
COMMUNITY FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE GANG PROBLEM.....	85
GANGS IN MINNEAPOLIS & THE ASSESSMENT AREA	86
GANG CRIME.....	87
PERCEPTIONS OF THE GANG PROBLEM	88
GANG PREVENTION SERVICES AND COORDINATION.....	89
GANG DATA COLLECTION AND MAINTENANCE	90
APPENDIX A: COMMUNITY RESOURCE INVENTORY	92
APPENDIX B: GANGS IN AND AROUND NORTH MINNEAPOLIS	122
APPENDIX C: RESEARCH TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS	127
APPENDIX D: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH MINNEAPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT	133
APPENDIX E: MINNEAPOLIS JUVENILES ON PROBATION	135

An assessment conducted in the North Minneapolis neighborhoods of Folwell, Hawthorne, Jordan, and McKinley



Youth Gang Crime and Prevention Services

THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

A focus on four neighborhoods

Four neighborhoods were selected for a comprehensive assessment of the gang problem due to their disproportionately high rates of youth and young adult homicides. In 2008, one-third of all Minneapolis homicides occurred within the Folwell, Hawthorne, Jordan and McKinley neighborhoods. The neighborhoods have a diverse population which, according to the 2000 census, was 47 percent black or African-American, 27 percent white, 16 percent Asian, 4 percent Hispanic, 2 percent American Indian and 8 percent of other races. The assessment was a key component of the Minneapolis Gang Prevention and Intervention Coordination Initiative, a project funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile

Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Minneapolis was one of 12 recipients of this competitive grant award in late 2008.

The assessment included reviews of available data, interviews with representatives of youth-serving community organizations located in the assessment area, and focus groups with young men and parents who live there. The young men were recruited through informal community leaders and community-based youth programs. Most were African-American, and their exposure to gangs ranged from gang-entrenched to gang-affiliated to unaffiliated, but nonetheless exposed to gangs through family or friends or in the community. The parents, most of whom were African-

American, were recruited through community-based organizations and covered a similar spectrum of exposure to gangs.

The findings of the assessment are anticipated to build upon current levels of awareness among residents, community-based organizations, and government agencies about the issues surrounding gangs and the gang problem. They can be used in developing intentional strategies to counter the negative effects of gangs and to work with families and youth of varying levels of exposure to gangs. They can also be used to guide fundraising and investment strategies in gang prevention and positive youth development resources.

FINDINGS

Social and economic factors directly and indirectly contribute to the gang problem

Demographic shifts over the last 30 years rapidly transformed the assessment area. When protective factors (such as employment, social services and youth programs) do not keep pace with the extent of demographic transition such as what the assessment area neighborhoods experienced, a community can experience instability. This instability can directly or indirectly contribute to a gang problem. Hawthorne neighborhood provides an example of the extent of demographic transition that occurred in the assessment neighborhoods. The white population dropped from 85 percent of the population

in 1980 to 19 percent in 2000. During that same time period, the black population increased from 5 percent to 50 percent, and the Asian population grew from less than 1 percent to 17 percent. The proportion of children and adolescents – of both very young and school age – also increased dramatically.

Poverty and unemployment are prevalent in these neighborhoods.

The assessment area includes four of the five neighborhoods in Minneapolis with the greatest percentage of families with incomes below the poverty level.

Unemployment in this area is well above the unemployment rate for the city overall. In addition, the recent housing crisis has left many homes in these neighborhoods empty and in foreclosure.

Homelessness and high mobility among students have an adverse impact on young residents. Schools with the highest numbers of homeless and highly mobile students are located in some of the most gang-affected areas of the city. Academic performance was lowest in schools located within or near the assessment area.

The YWCA of Minneapolis worked with 28 Minneapolis youth at Matthews Park during the summer of 2007 to create a social action project focused on improving their community. Youth created murals, now on display at the Midtown YWCA, that gave voice to the ideas they wished to share. The mural above depicts community at the intersection of love and peace and represents their dreams for the city of Minneapolis.

Characteristics of gangs in the city have changed

Of the gangs, cliques or sets that have a high degree of contact with law enforcement, half are highly structured, generational organizations that have been in Minneapolis for quite some time, and are likely to remain. One common characteristic of these gangs, with a few exceptions, is their ability to recruit members across all racial and ethnic backgrounds.

The other half of gangs, sets or cliques are less organized, relatively recent developments or arrivals. How long they will remain or how well established they will become is unknown. These more recent gangs, cliques or sets appear to recruit membership within a single racial or ethnic category, such as African-American, Hmong, American Indian or Somali. Younger affiliates tend to transfer loyalty from one gang, clique or set to another and could belong to several over time. In the past, loyalty to one gang was more common.

WHAT GIVES ME RESPECT?



Gang involvement or affiliation among young people has perceived benefits and risks

A desire for protection, a sense of belonging, and being born into a gang were consistently identified as reasons for gang affiliation and involvement by the neighborhood service providers who were interviewed and the young men and parents in focus groups. Young men identified other attractions to gang life: gaining respect, money, power and popularity. All assessment participants recognized that the perceived benefits of gang life were countered by the constant threat of injury, death or incarceration.

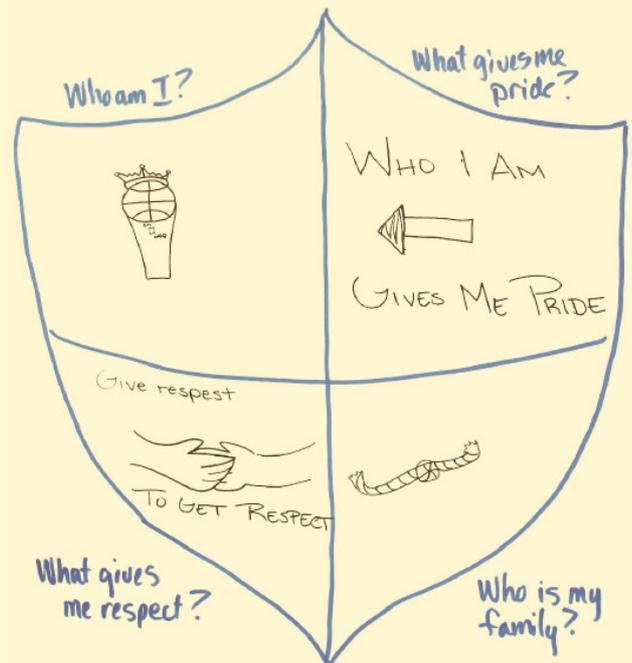
Gang involvement or affiliation can start at young ages

Ages of affiliation and involvement ranged from birth to 40 years. When children are not born into the gang lifestyle but get involved later, boys tend to get involved between fourth and seventh grades, and girls tend to get involved in eighth and ninth grades. Parents expressed concerns that older gang members are targeting children and girls to carry out gang-related activity because of a perceived lower risk of detection and less serious consequences if caught.

For males, the real "hard hitters" were perceived to be 17 and older. An analysis of firearm-related injuries for the 55411 and 55412 zip codes (that overlap with the assessment area) revealed that firearm-related injuries begin to occur in the 10- to 14-year-old age group, increase among 15- to 17-year-olds, and increase further among 18- to 24-year-olds.

MY SHIELD EXERCISE

As an introduction to the focus groups with the young men, the facilitator used an adaptation of an icebreaker called "My Shield." The young men were given a large drawing of a shield divided into four quadrants. Each quadrant had a heading in the form of a question. The questions were: who am I? what makes me proud? what gives me respect? and who is my family? The young men were allowed to draw or write their responses to the four questions on the shield and then presented their shields to the entire group. This exercise was very important for learning about where youth were coming from and for building trust.





Gang affiliation among girls and young women

Girls and young women who affiliate with gangs are often believed to do so primarily through their boyfriends, but violence among girl groups is believed to have escalated. The perception voiced by community members is that gang affiliation and violence are increasing among girls. However, police department data does not corroborate a high number of girl gang members. It may be that police officers are not noting gang-related circumstances in contacts with girls as readily as they do with boys, partly because women and girls historically have not been targets of law enforcement for gang activity.

The victims of gang members' crimes are a diverse group

Whereas gang membership is primarily composed of men (98 percent, according to Minneapolis Police Department arrest data), victims of gang members' crimes are split almost evenly between males and females and were racially diverse. Among victims of gang members' crimes in 2009 in Minneapolis, 55 percent were black, 22 percent white, 5 percent American Indian, 4 percent Hispanic and 14 percent of other races or unknown. Most victims were adults: 82 percent were over 18. This translates into pervasive fear among adults of the young people in their neighborhoods. Among gang members' crimes that involved victims, more than half were violent crimes. Nearly a quarter involved domestic assaults, including child abuse.

Gang members' crimes include a wide variety of offenses

To more deeply explore the question of the types of crimes being committed by gang members as well as individual characteristics, an analysis was conducted of arrests involving individuals who were known by Minneapolis Police Department to be gang members or affiliates. The data included all arrests of known gang members or affiliates in 2009, regardless of whether the offense was gang-related. Among gang members and affiliates arrested in 2009 in Minneapolis, 83 percent were black, 6 percent American Indian, 3 percent white, 3 percent Asian and 5 percent other or unknown. The majority (63 percent) of arrests consisted of: narcotics (16 percent), arrests of individuals with warrants (12 percent), loitering (10 percent), trespassing (5 percent), curfew (4 percent), disorderly conduct (4 percent), carrying a weapon without a permit (3 percent), recovered stolen vehicle (3 percent), assaults with a weapon (3 percent), and fleeing on foot (3 percent).

Arrest data alone does not accurately describe the extent of the gang problem among crimes that involve a high proportion of unnamed or unknown suspects and that, consequently, might not culminate in arrest. Estimates of the proportion of robberies and non-domestic, aggravated assaults that were likely to have been committed by gang members or affiliates were calculated. Estimates showed that in 2009 up to half (52 percent) of robberies and one-third (34 percent) of non-domestic, aggravated assaults may have been committed by gang members or affiliates.

Residents describe how gangs have affected their communities

In the assessment process, parents and young men in the focus groups described the target neighborhoods as being characterized by a normalization of violence.

Community members identified factors that contributed to or resulted from the gang problem.

- Families that are known to be involved with gangs not being able to access services, programs, and jobs in the community
- Elders and adults being afraid to communicate and interact with young people in the community
- A lack of a sense of community, where people do not know their neighbors and do not feel that they and their children can be outside without being harassed by someone
- A perceived need to get out or move out of the community in order to be safe or to have fun
- A need to improve the physical environment of the neighborhoods by removing garbage and litter, dealing with vacant and dilapidated buildings, and increasing the visibility of art
- Cyber-banging, cyber-bullying, set tripping online and sexting on the phone exacerbate the problem and raise security concerns for service providers, parents and youth





It is critical to expand, coordinate and sustain services geared toward positive youth development

Several collaborative efforts to curb violence on the North Side have been successful at convening community residents and decision makers around the issues of youth and gang violence, including the Blueprint for Action on Youth Violence Executive Committee, the Youth Violence Prevention Taskforce of the Minneapolis Public Schools, collaboration among religious leaders, Hawthorne Huddle, and the Peace Foundation. These efforts have resulted in increased attention on curbing gang violence and positive youth development. However, a perception persists that existing efforts lack unity and collaboration, particularly related to coordination and provision of services.

In particular, a lack of focus on long-term sustainability of positive youth development efforts in the assessment area results in a lack of uniform, positive, community-level messages to counter the pressures to join gangs. Programs become short-lived, and relationships between agencies, organizations, youth service providers, parents and youth are not sustained.

Community residents and service providers acknowledge the essential role of government but are generally dissatisfied with government agencies' response to the needs of youth and families in the community. Most emphasize that how government gets involved in the community is more important. They point to the need to improve relationships between police and the local community related to responsiveness and community policing, to increase the role of government in the service of gang-entrenched youth and families, and to counter-balance the politics of youth and gang violence prevention with increased action and investment at the community level.

After-school programs, youth development and family services programs exist and are available to residents of the assessment area neighborhoods. Specific gaps in gang prevention that emerged from the assessment include: structured programs for youth that prepare them to deal with pressure to join gangs, culturally appropriate



WHAT GIVES ME PRIDE?

Being Able to Provide For my Family
No Felony Diploma

programs at all levels of prevention, and trusted adults interacting and mentoring youth in the community.

Services are especially needed for youth and families who are already involved with gangs or exhibiting risk factors. These include: employment opportunities for ex-offenders at the point of re-entry; support services in schools before and during administrative transfers; expanded approaches to involving community residents in prevention of and response to violent incidents; local support and resources for minor parents, especially those struggling with addiction; and partnerships with local colleges and universities in youth and gang violence prevention and intervention efforts and initiatives.

WHO IS MY FAMILY?

My Family Are Many People birth family & Foster parent who has giving me The knoweledge and some what support to bring me where I am today



This document was prepared by the City of Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support under grant award 2008-JV-FX-0110 Minneapolis Gang Prevention and Intervention Coordination Initiative from the US Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. For more information contact MDHFS 612-673-2301 health.familysupport@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

- English:** Attention. If you want help translating this information, call 311.
- Spanish:** Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame al (612) 673-2700.
- Somali:** Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac (612) 673-3500.
- Hmong:** Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab dawb txhais cov xov no, hu (612) 673-2800.
- TTY:** Call (612) 673-2157.



Introduction

In winter 2008, the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support (MDHFS) was awarded grant 2008-JV-FX-0110 from the US Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to implement the Comprehensive Gang Model: ***Minneapolis Gang Prevention and Intervention Coordination Initiative***.

Minneapolis was one of twelve recipients on a national level to be awarded this competitive grant. Successful implementation of the Comprehensive Gang Model involves a comprehensive assessment of the gang problem in a community. This report consolidates findings of an assessment of the gang problem in a sub-region of North Minneapolis that includes the Folwell, Hawthorne, Jordan and McKinley neighborhoods. Beyond demographic and socio-economic indicators (described later in this report), the assessment area was selected as an initial focus for this project because it has experienced the most homicides of any area in the city.

This assessment is intended to be comprehensive in the sense that it collects data across various sectors (e.g. community organizations, employers, healthcare, law enforcement, philanthropy and schools) and at various levels (e.g. youth, parents and youth-serving providers) within the assessment area neighborhoods. Although MDHFS has taken a comprehensive approach to the assessment, it is not exhaustive. For example, the majority of individuals who participated in the service provider interviews and youth and parent focus groups to describe community perceptions about the gang problem were African American. African Americans are the predominant cultural group and are disproportionately impacted by gangs in the assessment area neighborhoods. Gangs also impact other cultural communities such as White, Hmong, Hispanic/Latino, and Eastern European and East African; however, MDHFS did not focus assessment activities on these groups.

Assessment of the gang problem in the assessment area neighborhoods involved multiple assessment activities. These activities included:

- Obtaining and analyzing available data to determine demographic trends, the types of gang activity, levels of gang activity and patterns of gang activity in the target area;
- Conducting over twenty key informant interviews with youth-serving providers and professionals, three focus groups with youth of varying risk levels and three parent forums;
- Assessing specific gaps in services and programs intended to prevent youth from gang involvement;
- Attending community meetings relevant to the gang problem; and
- To the extent possible, drawing comparisons between data elements about the assessment area neighborhoods, Minneapolis overall and other Minneapolis sub-regions.

Findings of the assessment are summarized in this report along with the research tools and instruments (See Appendix C.). The assessment will be used to develop an implementation plan for the duration of the grant period and beyond.

Selection of the Assessment Area

The assessment area neighborhoods include the Folwell, Hawthorne, Jordan, and McKinley neighborhoods of North Minneapolis, all of which overlap with the City's Empowerment Zones and the zones of prominent gangs in the state. In addition to demographic and socio-economic factors (outlined later in this report), the assessment area was selected because it has experienced the most youth and young adult homicides of any area in the city. In 2008 one third of all Minneapolis homicides occurred within the assessment area neighborhoods. During that same year, forty-four percent of all Minneapolis homicide victims were under age 24. The chart below tracks homicides involving individuals under age 24 citywide over the last five years.



Other data has helped in identifying the assessment area as well. According to the Survey of the Health of All the Population and the Environment (SHAPE) conducted in 2006, 32 percent of Minneapolis residents agree that "gangs are a serious issue in their neighborhood." This survey found community residents' perceptions of the gang problem in Minneapolis to vary greatly by geographic area and race/ethnicity. The proportions of individuals that agreed or strongly agreed that "gangs are a serious problem in their neighborhood," broken down by Minneapolis planning community were: 63 percent in Camden, Near North, the area that overlaps with the assessment area neighborhoods; 48 percent in Central, Phillips and Powderhorn; 23 percent in Longfellow, University; and 11 percent in Calhoun-Isles, Nokomis. Among respondents of different races and ethnicities citywide, the proportions that agreed gangs were a problem were: 35 percent Black/African American; 24 percent Asian/Pacific Islander; 11 percent White; and 40 percent Hispanic/Latino.

Definition of “Gang” and Ten-point Criteria

Although no universally accepted definition of “gangs” exists,¹ various characteristics and behaviors are often associated with “street-gang” or “youth-gang” members. Minnesota’s former Metro Gang Strike Force, established originally as the Minnesota Gang Strike Force under Minnesota Statute 299A.641, identified an individual as a “confirmed gang member” if they met three of the following ten criteria:

Ten-Point Criteria

- The person ADMITS to be a gang member,
- The person is OBSERVED to associate with known gang members,
- The person has GANG TATTOOS to show allegiance,
- The person WEARS GANG SYMBOLS or COLORS associated with the gang,
- The person is PHOTOGRAPHED with other known gang members or showing signs of gang involvement,
- The person is recorded and written on gang DOCUMENTS and graffiti,
- The person is IDENTIFIED by a reliable source as a gang member (Teacher, social worker, police, etc.)
- The person is ARRESTED with other gang members,
- The person CORRESPONDS with gang members by telephone, e-mail, mail, etc.
- The person WRITES gang symbols and other gang affiliation on notebooks, school work, etc.

Minnesota Statute 609.229 which outlines enhanced penalties if an individual commits a crime for the benefit of a criminal gang, provides a legal definition of a “criminal gang.” A criminal gang as defined by this statute is a group, affiliation, or association of three or more people who have a common name or identifying sign or symbol, who are individually or collectively engaged in an ongoing pattern of criminal activity and have as one of their primary activities one of the crimes (described in section 609.11, subdivision 9) for which there is a presumptive prison sentence. If a group meets this definition, it will be documented as a criminal gang and entered into the State’s GangNet Database. Gang databases in Minnesota have been evaluated by the University of Saint Thomas School of Law, Community Justice Project and the findings and recommendations were released in a report entitled, *Evaluation of Gang Databases in Minnesota & Recommendations for Change*.

The Minneapolis Police Department tracks gang-related incidents using its Computer-Aided Police Reporting System (CAPRS). Officers can enter an incident as gang-related or individuals as suspected gang members into their police reports. An automatic query is run each day that identifies these cases and sends a list by email to key individuals in the Intelligence Sharing & Analysis Center (ISAC), Criminal Investigations Division, Juvenile Unit, Metro Gang Strike Force, Patrol Precincts, Narcotics Unit, and Violence Offender Task Force. Additionally, an automatic query runs each day that compares the State’s GangNet database with the Police Department CAPRS. An automatic email

¹ **Lack of consensus on the definition**

Klein, M. (1997). *The American street gang*. New York: Oxford University Press.

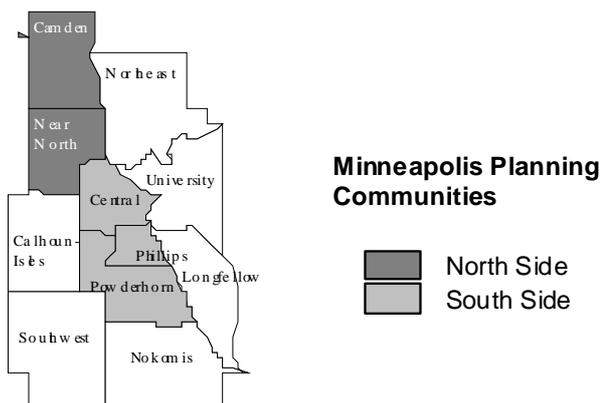
identifying contacted individuals is sent to these units. Each day the ISAC unit sends out intelligence department-wide on ongoing gang activity, trends, wanted members, and emerging issues. The department also holds weekly intelligence meetings at which officers and investigators share information about current criminal activity. Although “gang” activity is not always reported as such, officers often know what clusters of criminal activity are gang-related.

The state statutes do not make distinctions between other commonly used phrases such as “youth gangs,” “street gangs” and “adult gangs.” For purposes of this project, MDHFS has used “gang” to refer to groups, affiliations or associations as defined in Minnesota Statute 609.229 with the understanding that gangs can involve both youth and adults. Other words such as “hybrids,” “cliques” and “sets” are used to distinguish these organizations from more established and formalized gang structures.

Minneapolis Assessment Area Neighborhoods: Folwell, Hawthorne, Jordan and McKinley

North Minneapolis is comprised of the Near North, Northeast and Camden Planning Communities. The assessment area for this project is a sub-region that overlaps with the Near North and Camden planning communities and includes four Minneapolis neighborhoods: Folwell, Hawthorne, Jordan and McKinley. The following sections provide an overview of the Near North and Camden communities as well as the specific demographic changes and trends within the four target neighborhoods involved in the assessment.

The Near North and Camden communities are racially-diverse, with a disproportionately low-income population, and beset by some of the greatest health disparities in Minnesota. In this report, these communities are referred to as the “North Side,” and Central, Phillips and Powderhorn are collectively referred to as the “South Side.” Home to 168,927 residents based on the 2000 Census, these areas are youthful, vibrant and growing. The population of these communities grew 9.4% since 1990, a growth rate that was 2.5 times that of the City as a whole.

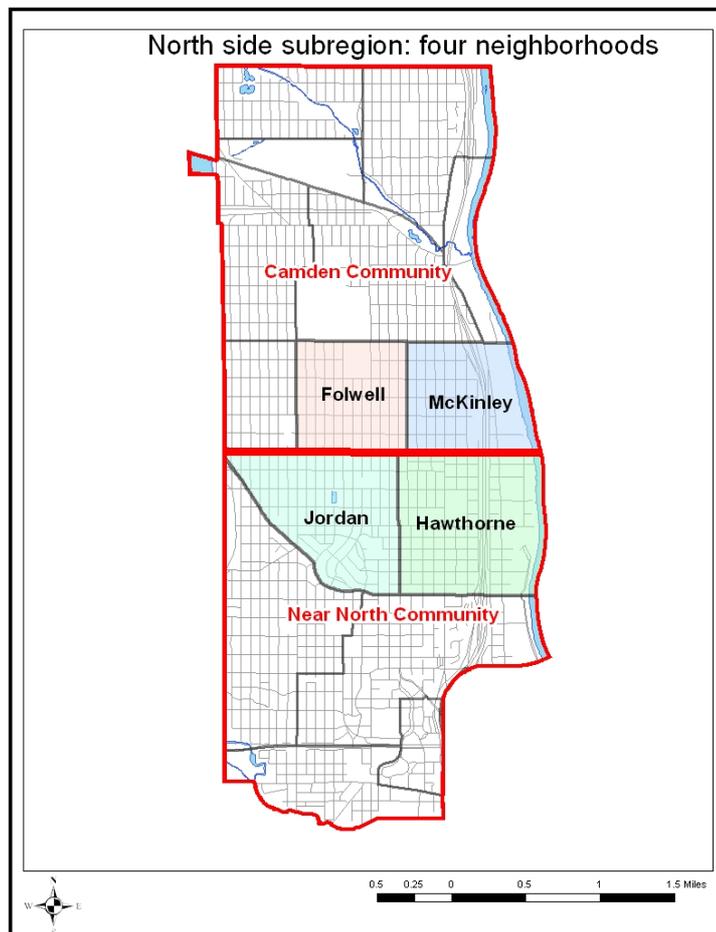


Race	North Side		South Side	
	#	%	#	%
African American alone	28,348	42.9	23,901	23.4
American Indian alone	1,124	1.7	4,476	4.4
Asian/PI alone	9,713	14.4	5,181	5.1
White alone	23,226	34.3	51,695	51.1
Other race	1,638	2.4	9,639	9.5
Two or more races	3,625	5.4	6,361	6.3
Latino	3,042	4.5	16,935	16.7

The North Side has one of the highest concentrations of poverty in the City. The proportions of residents living with household incomes below 200 percent of poverty are 39 percent in Camden, 44 percent in Powderhorn, 45 percent in Central, 59 percent in Near North, and 66 percent in Phillips.

Population, Demographics & Shifts

The assessment area consists of four Minneapolis neighborhoods that lie within the Near North and Camden planning communities. The four neighborhoods (shown in the map below) are: Folwell, Hawthorne, Jordan and McKinley. They are bounded by West Broadway to the South, Dowling Avenue to the North, the Mississippi River to the East and Penn Avenue to the West. Based on the 2000 Census, the total population of this sub-region is 25, 471 with 45 percent under age 24, compared to 26 percent for Minneapolis overall.



The following tables summarize demographic and socio-economic indicators of the four neighborhoods in comparison to the city overall.

North Side Sub-Region: Four Neighborhoods

Population Indicators: 2000 Census	Folwell	Hawthorne	Jordan	McKinley	Sub-Region Total	%
Total Population	6331	6333	9149	3658	25471	100%
Gender						
Male	2997	3055	4368	1832	12252	48%
Female	3334	3278	4781	1826	13219	52%
Race/Ethnicity						
White	2428	1271	2152	1111	6962	27%
Black or African American	2519	3217	4526	1598	11860	47%
American Indian	112	148	167	104	531	2%
Asian, Pacific Islander	777	1069	1584	581	4011	16%
Hispanic or Latino	224	339	386	126	1075	4%
Other	495	628	720	264	2107	8%
Population under age 24						
<5	604	730	1006	328	2668	10%
5-9	699	866	1290	483	3338	13%
10-14	728	857	1170	446	3201	13%
15-19	562	658	867	323	2410	9%
20-24	411	503	656	228	1798	7%

North Side Sub-region Compared to Minneapolis Overall

Demographic Indicators: 2000 Census	Minneapolis	% Total	North Side Sub-region	% Total
Total Population	382,618	100%	25471	100%
Gender				
Male	192,232	50%	12252	48%
Female	190,386	50%	13219	52%
Race/Ethnicity				
White	260,089	68%	6962	27%
Black or African American	78,291	20%	11860	47%
American Indian	12,683	3%	531	2%
Asian, Pacific Islander	27,550	7%	4011	16%
Hispanic or Latino	29,175	8%	1075	4%
Other	22,089	6%	2107	8%
Population under age 24				
<5	25,187	7%	2668	10%
5-9	23,960	6%	3338	13%
10-14	22,291	6%	3201	13%
15-19	26,866	7%	2410	9%
20-24	40,953	11%	1798	7%

The four target neighborhoods are among the top five neighborhoods in Minneapolis with the greatest percentage of families with incomes below poverty and who have children under 18. These data are based off of the 2000 Census. The unemployment in the North Side sub-region is well above the unemployment rate for the City overall.

Socio-Economic Indicators: 2000 Census	Minneapolis	Folwell	Hawthorne	Jordan	McKinley
Median Household Income	\$37,974	\$36,162	\$21,865	\$31,318	\$37,097
% of People Below Poverty	17%	16%	41%	29%	21%
% of Families Below Poverty w/ Children under 18	19%	19%	42%	30%	30%
Unemployment Rate	4%	11%	19.9%	14.8%	12%

Each of the assessment area neighborhoods has experienced changing demographics to varying degrees. The following sections describe the shifting demographic trends of each assessment area neighborhood.

Folwell Neighborhood

Folwell neighborhood is located in northwestern Minneapolis, extending north to south from Dowling Avenue North to Lowry Avenue North, and east to west, from Dupont Avenue North to Penn Avenue North. The neighborhood is anchored by Folwell Park. The park and neighborhood were named for Dr. William W. Folwell, first president of the University of Minnesota. Folwell neighborhood was built at the beginning of the 20th century with mainly single-family housing for families of moderate income.

Folwell grew faster than the City between 1980 and 2000. In 2000 the neighborhood had more than 6,300 residents, almost 28 percent more than it did in 1980. Most of the new growth was from 1990 to 2000, when Folwell gained more than 1,200 residents. Since 1980, the Folwell population has become younger. Children and adolescents, both very young and those of school-age, increased dramatically. Adults, except those in the 18- to 24-year-old age group, increased by almost 700 people from 1980 to 2000. The senior population, which has become smaller in just about every part of the city, declined in Folwell by 54 percent.

Population growth and ethnic diversification were both seen in Folwell. The black population expanded at a remarkable pace, from 2 percent of the total population in 1980 to 39 percent in 2000, outnumbering the white population. The white population, which was the overwhelming majority in 1980 (94 percent), was reduced to 37 percent of the total in 2000. Asians and Hispanics also grew in numbers.

The percentage of Folwell residents living in poverty grew from 1979 to 1999. The fastest growth took place between 1989 and 1999, a time when the percentage of people living in poverty citywide declined. While 6 percent of people in Folwell lived in poverty in 1979, 16 percent did 20 years later. The difference between city and neighborhood, which was 8 percent in 1979, narrowed in 1999 with Folwell at 16 percent – just 1 percent below the citywide percentage. For people 65 years old and older living in poverty, the neighborhood moved in the same direction as the city. Folwell's percentage declined from 10 percent in 1980 to 7 percent in 2000, remaining below the citywide percentage.

Hawthorne Neighborhood

Hawthorne is located in north Minneapolis in the city's Near North community. The neighborhood is bounded by the Mississippi River on the east and Emerson Avenue on the west; Broadway Avenue is the southern extent and Lowry Avenue is the neighborhood's northern boundary. Hawthorne is mostly a residential neighborhood with single-family houses.

Between 1980 and 2000, Hawthorne's population declined by less than a percent, while Minneapolis' increased by 3.1 percent.

Hawthorne's population was younger in 2000 than in 1980. Children and adolescents increased by almost 30 percent, and the school-age population in particular (5 to 17

years old) grew by 93 percent. In 2000, Hawthorne saw nearly 3 percent fewer adults and 60 percent fewer senior residents than in 1980. As a result, the total population decreased slightly.

The neighborhood ethnic makeup changed significantly between 1980 and 2000. All ethnic groups except whites and American Indians increased in number. The white population dropped from 85 percent of the population in 1980 to 19 percent in 2000. During that same time period, the black population increased from 5 percent to 50 percent, and the Asian population grew from less than 1 percent to 17 percent.

The percentage of people in poverty was substantially higher in Hawthorne than in Minneapolis between 1980 and 2000. The neighborhood was 7 percent higher in 1980; this figure continued to rise, and in 2000 the percentage of people below the poverty level was about 24 percent more in Hawthorne than throughout Minneapolis. Hawthorne's percentage of people 65 years and older in poverty was higher than Minneapolis' in 1980, but in 2000 the neighborhood level decreased to the city level. The change is due in large part to the neighborhood's shrinking senior population.

Jordan Neighborhood

Jordan, in Minneapolis' northwest, is bound on the north by Lowry Avenue North, on the east by Emerson Avenue North, on the south and west by West Broadway Avenue. It gets its name from a neighborhood junior high school, which was built in 1922 and named after Minneapolis Public Schools Superintendent Emeritus Charles Morison Jordan. Jordan is mainly a residential neighborhood.

Between 1980 and 2000, Jordan's population grew by more than 16 percent. From 1990 to 2000 Jordan's population climbed 18 percent, while Minneapolis saw only 4 percent growth.

Jordan's population got a lot younger from 1980 to 2000. The numbers of children and adolescents grew by more than 80 percent, while the adult population increased by around 3 percent. The largest growth involved the school-bound population, those aged 5 to 17. As with many other neighborhoods in the city, Jordan lost a lot of senior residents during this time period. But in spite of a nearly 59 percent contraction of the elderly population, the neighborhood as a whole grew fast.

Jordan's ethnic makeup has undergone drastic changes since 1980, with the population becoming more diverse. Both the white and American Indian populations decreased, while the black population dramatically increased. In 1980, the black population was 379 people. In 2000, it had increased nearly 12 times to 4,617. The white population in 2000 was 1,964, which is less than a third of the 1980 population of 6,912.

Since 1989, Jordan has had a substantially higher percentage of people living in poverty than Minneapolis. The situation was different in 1979, when the neighborhood had 12 percent of its population living under the poverty level, compared to Minneapolis' 14 percent. By 1999, Jordan's percentage jumped to 29 percent, while Minneapolis' percentage increased to 17 percent. The percentage of people 65 years of age and over living below the poverty level in Jordan was slightly higher in 1999 than in 1979, and

peaked in 1989. In Minneapolis the poverty rate for the elderly has decreased from 13 percent in 1979 to 11 percent in 1989 and 1999.

McKinley Neighborhood

McKinley neighborhood on Minneapolis' north side is bound on the north by Dowling Avenue North, on the south by Lowry Avenue North, on the west by Dupont Avenue North and on the east by the Mississippi River. The neighborhood and its elementary school are named for William McKinley, the 25th president of the United States. In 1996, with approval of the City Council, McKinley neighborhood annexed the North River Industrial Area. This area is located along the river and extends to Interstate 94. Many of the homes are two-story, single-family homes with wood frames; bungalows and some small stucco Tudors. Most of the houses were built between 1910 and 1930.

Between 1980 and 2000, McKinley's population increased at a higher rate than the City of Minneapolis' population did. In 2000, the neighborhood's population was 11.3 percent higher than it was in 1980, while the city's population only increased by 3.1 percent.

Population growth brought more children and adolescents to McKinley; the population aged 5 to 17 almost doubled between 1980 and 2000. On the other hand, the population of adults was 2 percent lower in 2000 than in 1980, and senior residents decreased in number by 50 percent.

The ethnic makeup of the population had some significant changes between 1980 and 2000. The neighborhood's white population was 93 percent of the neighborhood's total population in 1980 but fell to 29 percent in 2000. At the same time, black residents, who were only 3 percent of the population in 1980, increased to 43 percent in 2000. Asians increased from 0.4 percent to 16 percent.

In 1979, the percentage of people living below the poverty level was 2 percent lower in the neighborhood than citywide. However, in 1989 the neighborhood proportion increased and surpassed the city's proportion. In 1999, the proportion declined in the city while increasing in the neighborhood.

With 7 percent living in poverty in McKinley compared to 11 percent in Minneapolis, the neighborhood's senior residents were better off than Minneapolis seniors in 1999. The proportion of the population 65 and older living in poverty in the neighborhood increased between 1979 and 1999 but was still much lower than the city percentage.

Housing & Foreclosures

The make-up of households in terms of the proportion of female, single parent households with children under age 18 is similar between the assessment area neighborhoods and Minneapolis overall. Households in the assessment area neighborhoods are notably different from Minneapolis households in terms of the proportion of households in the target neighborhoods with individuals under age 18.

Other Indicators: 2000 Census	Minneapolis	Folwell	Hawthorne	Jordan	McKinley
% Single Parent Households w/ Children under 18, Female	20%	18%	27%	25%	19%
% Households with Individuals Under 18	25%	46%	53%	57%	50%

While Minneapolis crime indicators are falling citywide an important consideration that should not be ignored is the impact of foreclosures on the assessment area neighborhoods. All assessment area neighborhoods have been severely and disproportionately affected by the recent housing crisis. Other neighborhoods that have been disproportionately affected are Webber-Camden and Willard-Hay.

Neighborhood/Community	2007	2008	2009
Camden Industrial	1	0	0
Cleveland	80	61	43
Folwell	185	179	120
Lind-Bohanon	97	107	77
McKinley	111	106	68
Shingle Creek	58	63	44
Victory	68	55	45
Webber-Camden	136	128	77
Camden Community Total	736	699	474
Harrison	29	32	30
Hawthorne	175	126	68
Jordan	265	233	188
Near-North	93	95	63
Sumner-Glenwood	3	7	8
Willard-Hay	259	208	114
Near North Community Total	824	701	471
Minneapolis Total	2,895	3,077	2,233

Minneapolis has eleven planning communities. Over half of the City's foreclosures in 2007 and nearly half (42 percent, 45 percent respectively) in 2008 and 2009 occurred in neighborhoods in the Camden and Near North planning communities. Other planning communities with relatively high numbers of foreclosures were Northeast and Powderhorn.

Juvenile Delinquency

The assessment area for this project is a sub-region that includes four Minneapolis neighborhoods; however, law enforcement data is not commonly queried by neighborhood, rather by precinct. Minneapolis is divided into five precincts. Given that the four assessment area neighborhoods overlap most with the Fourth Precinct, the following tables summarize the last three years of juvenile crime data available using the Fourth Precinct as a proxy.

CODEFOR 2009 Fourth Precinct Juvenile Crime, Arrest Statistics

Juveniles Arrested	2007	2008	2009	1yr % Chg	2yr % Chg
Homicide	2	4	0	-100.00%	-100.00%
Rape	10	4	3	-25.00%	-70.00%
Robbery	49	31	32	+3.23%	-34.69%
Aggravated Assault	53	30	38	+26.67%	-28.30%
Burglary	48	44	47	+6.82%	-2.08%
Larceny	49	25	59	+136.00%	+20.41%
Auto Theft	31	35	21	-40.00%	-32.26%
Arson	1	3	1	-66.67%	+0.00%
Total Violent Crime Arrests	114	69	73	+5.80%	-35.96%
Total Part I Arrests	243	176	201	+14.20%	-17.28%
Total Part II Arrests	1655	1431	1193	-16.63%	-27.92%
Total UCR Arrests	1898	1607	1394	-13.25%	-26.55%
Total All Arrests (UCR & Non-UCR)	2597	2284	1991	-12.83%	-23.33%
Created by: MPD/SICM/CAU					

CODEFOR 2009 Citywide Juvenile Crime, Arrest Statistics

Juveniles Arrested	2007	2008	2009	1yr % Chg	2yr % Chg
Homicide	2	7	1	-85.71%	-50.00%
Rape	16	11	3	-72.73%	-81.25%
Robbery	135	94	92	-2.13%	-31.85%
Aggravated Assault	104	70	80	+14.29%	-23.08%
Burglary	89	88	78	-11.36%	-12.36%
Larceny	291	230	324	+40.87%	+11.34%
Auto Theft	79	66	40	-39.39%	-49.37%
Arson	2	5	1	-80.00%	-50.00%
Total Violent Crime Arrests	257	182	176	-3.30%	-31.52%
Total Part I Arrests	718	571	619	+8.41%	-13.79%
Total Part II Arrests	5665	4585	4301	-6.19%	-24.08%
Total UCR Arrests	6383	5156	4920	-4.58%	-22.92%
Total All Arrests (UCR & Non-UCR)	8276	6743	6384	-5.32%	-22.86%
Created by: MPD/SICM/CAU					

The Fourth Precinct accounted for all rape arrests involving juveniles, 60.3% of juvenile burglary arrests, 52.5% of juvenile auto theft arrests, just under half (47.5%) of juvenile aggravated assault arrests, and 34.8% of juvenile robbery arrests in Minneapolis in 2009.

Firearm-Related Assault Injuries

In addition to juvenile crime data, the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support monitors firearm-related assault injuries provided by the Minnesota Hospital Association. These data are compiled by Minneapolis zip code. The zip code that overlaps with the four target neighborhoods is 55411. Other zip codes included in the charts below are those zip codes with the highest numbers of firearm related injuries involving individuals twenty-four years and under. In 2007 and 2008, the most recent data available, the zip code that corresponds with the assessment area neighborhoods, 55411, has had levels of firearm-related assault injuries well above any other zip code in Minneapolis.

2001-2008 Firearm-related Assault Injuries: Under 18 years old

Year	Minneapolis Zip Code					
	55411*	55407*	55404*	55412*	55406*	55418*
2001	7	4	0	0	0	0
2002	4	3	0	0	0	0
2003	11	6	0	0	0	0
2004	14	7	0	0	0	0
2005	25	7	0	0	0	0
2006	11	5	0	0	0	0
2007	15	7	0	0	0	0
2008	11	3	0	0	0	0

Source: Minnesota Hospital Association

* 55411: Hawthorne, Jordan, Willard Hay, Near North Neighborhoods; 55407: Bancroft, Bryant, Central, Corcoran, Northrop, Regina, Standish Neighborhoods; 55404: Phillips, Whittier, Ventura Village Neighborhoods; 55412: McKinley, Folwell, Cleveland, Victory, Webber-Camden Neighborhoods; 55406: Cooper, Hiawatha, Howe, Longfellow, Seward Neighborhoods; 55418: Audobon Park, Columbia Park, Holland, Marshall Terrace, Waite Park Neighborhoods

2001-2008 Firearm-related Assault Injuries: 18-24 years old

Year	Minneapolis Zip Code					
	55411*	55404*	55407*	55412*	55406*	55418*
2001	16	2	4	8	1	2
2002	21	1	6	11	4	2
2003	19	9	10	9	3	2
2004	27	5	10	15	3	2
2005	33	14	13	6	2	5
2006	48	9	9	15	2	8
2007	17	4	10	13	5	2
2008	27	13	12	10	7	7

Source: Minnesota Hospital Association

* 55411: Hawthorne, Jordan, Willard Hay, Near North Neighborhoods; 55407: Bancroft, Bryant, Central, Corcoran, Northrop, Regina, Standish Neighborhoods; 55404: Phillips, Whittier, Ventura Village Neighborhoods; 55412: McKinley, Folwell, Cleveland, Victory, Webber-Camden Neighborhoods; 55406: Cooper, Hiawatha, Howe, Longfellow, Seward Neighborhoods; 55418: Audobon Park, Columbia Park, Holland, Marshall Terrace, Waite Park Neighborhoods

Youth & Gang Violence Prevention Coordination in Minneapolis

Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support (MDHFS) is connected to youth violence prevention efforts citywide to varying levels and degrees. The work of the Gang Prevention Coordination grant falls under a broad, multi-sector, multidisciplinary, citywide approach to youth violence prevention, namely, the *Blue Print for Action to Prevent Youth Violence (Blueprint)*. Various collaborative efforts exist in Minneapolis to address youth violence prevention. Many of these efforts help the City to fulfill a specific goal and recommendation in the *Blueprint*. The Gang Prevention Coordination grant is an example of one of these collaborative efforts. The following sections describe key partners involved with gang prevention coordination in Minneapolis, programmatic elements of gang prevention coordination, and how gang prevention coordination fits into the *Blueprint for Action to Prevent Youth Violence*.

City of Minneapolis

In January 2007, Mayor R.T. Rybak and the City Council created the Youth Violence Prevention (YVP) Steering Committee comprised of more than thirty community leaders and public safety experts to create and oversee the implementation of a multi-faceted, multi-sector, multi-year *Blueprint for Action to Prevent Youth Violence (Blueprint)*. The *Blueprint* is a “common vision that seeks to bring together disparate efforts and better coordinate fragmented systems that are leaving too many youth falling through the cracks—youth who need help.” It approaches prevention and reduction of youth violence through a public health lens addressing the individual, social and environmental influences in the lives of young people.

The YVP Steering Committee recognizes that youth violence is a public health epidemic that requires a multi-faceted response in order to achieve four goals:

- Connect every youth with a trusted adult,
- Intervene at the first sign that youth are at-risk for violence,
- Restore youth who have gone down the wrong path, and
- Unlearn the culture of violence in our community.

The *Blueprint* outlines thirty-four recommendations divided among the four goals outlined above. Many of the recommendations require active involvement and coordination of multiple levels of government, health care providers, community, faith, business and neighborhood partners.

The Gang Prevention Coordination Grant, led by MDHFS is one of multiple efforts in Minneapolis to achieving the *Blueprint's* third goal: restore youth who have gone down the wrong path. Under this goal are nine recommendations (A through I) and the Gang Prevention Coordination Grant helps Minneapolis to fulfill Recommendation A by “strengthening cross-jurisdictional mechanisms so that different parts of the juvenile justice system (probation, police, corrections, health care providers, schools, and community-based organizations) can better coordinate services and support systems for young offenders.”

Given the existence of the YVP Steering Committee, MDHFS did not form a separate Steering Committee specifically for implementation of the Gang Prevention Coordination grant; rather staff tapped into, when appropriate, the YVP Steering Committee, the

Public Health Advisory Committee and ad hoc groups of community residents. A Gang Prevention Coordination Workgroup comprised of one Director, the Gang Prevention Coordinator, a Community Initiatives staff person, and an Epidemiologist was formed to guide and implement assessment and implementation activities. The Workgroup meets regularly to implement, monitor progress for and discuss next steps on this grant.

Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support plays an important role in youth violence prevention efforts in Minneapolis. It convenes the Youth Violence Prevention Executive Committee, compiles and monitors key progress measures related to youth violence prevention, implements the Gang Prevention Coordination grant, releases small grants to community organizations to provide outreach and services for families and children, and builds partnerships in seeking grant opportunities to build upon existing efforts. Furthermore, since 2008, MDHFS has coordinated activities of the Juvenile Supervision Center (JSC). The JSC is a Joint Powers partnership consisting of the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minneapolis Public Schools and a private, non-profit agency called the Link. MDHFS contracts with the Link to provide staffing and services within the JSC. The Link provides safe supervision and community resource connections to youth who are picked up by MPD officers, Park officers and Metro Transit officers for low-level violations that do not meet booking criteria for the Juvenile Detention Center. It is the only facility of its kind in Minnesota, designed to help deter youth before they turn to more serious, violent crime.

Youth Coordinating Board

The Youth Coordinating Board (YCB) was founded in 1985 by the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, the Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board, the Hennepin County Public Library and the Minneapolis Public Schools. For 25 years, YCB has encouraged the healthy development of Minneapolis youth through collaborative action and policy coordination. The 10-member YCB board collaborates with elected officials to develop policies that serve Minneapolis' young people. It partners with the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, the Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board, the Hennepin County Public Library and the Minneapolis Public Schools. YCB provides activities, resources and support and promotes a variety of initiatives and programs for young people. Parents and teens can find resources and activities for pre-k, school-aged and teenaged children on their website. Finally, through policy work and partnerships, YCB helps ensure that Minneapolis youth: enter kindergarten ready to learn; have access to enriching activities outside of school; succeed in school; and are prepared for the opportunities and challenges of adolescence and adulthood. The YCB does not provide direct services to youth. Instead, it helps connect young people with existing programs and services offered in the community.

Minneapolis Public Schools

The Minneapolis Public School's (MPS) Youth Violence Prevention Task Force which is a multi-disciplinary, multi-department work group of district and community partners meets to discuss the continuum of services available for prevention, early intervention and re-entry supports for youth impacted by or at-risk of violence in the community. Topics include parent and staff education on gang awareness (with a focus on culturally specific outreach), partnering with community agencies which provide direct service for gang involved youth, universal social skills training, focus supports for youth at risk of

joining or who are being recruited to join, monthly “hot spots” discussion of community sites (including parks, schools, neighborhoods) to better coordinate response efforts and safety planning.

The MPS Youth Violence Prevention Task Force continues to meet with both internal and external partners to discuss shared concerns, opportunities for partnership and ways to continue to have a citywide, consistent and culturally responsive message to youth and families about prevention and the impact of youth violence in the community. Members include MPS representatives from a wide-range of departments and disciplines including Alternative Schools, Community Ed, Safety & Security, Safe & Drug-free Schools, Associate Superintendents and principals. Partners include Minneapolis Park representatives, Hennepin County Library staff, Hennepin County Juvenile Probation, Youth Coordinating Board, Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support, and Minneapolis Police Department.

MPS Student Support Services/Safe & Drug-free Schools provides parent outreach/trainings in partnership with the MPS Community Education Department and the Family Engagement/CPEO (Connecting Parents to Educational Opportunities) department. Topics available include “Walking the Talk” (a session about setting family rules about non-use), Parent Updates on Adolescent Substance Use Prevention, Bullying & Cyber-bullying, Gang Awareness, and Adolescent Technology Use: Social networking, cell phones and beyond. MPS Student Support Services/Safe & Drug-free Schools also partners with local media and several community-based cable providers to produce and air PSA’s aimed at parents/guardians/grandparents. Content is available in English, Spanish, Somali and Hmong and will focus on using teachable moments to talk with youth about violence prevention, impact of gangs and warning signs of possible gang involvement.

SPEAK UP Minneapolis is a tip-line that was launched in September 2009. Following a press conference posters, wallet cards and stickers were distributed to all MPS high school and middle school students and those at targeted K-8 sites. Press coverage included local newspaper, radio and TV interviews. Billboard, bus shelter ads and radio/TV PSA's are pending. Materials were also distributed to parks, libraries and various youth serving agencies across the city. Shortly after the launch the first tip was received and arrived via the text option, the first time this has been used nationally.

Finally, the North Side Initiative is a multi-year reform effort designed to raise student achievement and ensure an equitable education for all children. In March 2007, district leaders provided options to the school board to revitalize Minneapolis Public Schools beginning with the North Side schools. On April 12, 2007, the Minneapolis Board of Education took the first step to implement the North Side Initiative by closing schools and consolidating resources to strengthen academic programs. Work began in the spring of 2007, and implementation began in fall. North Side Initiative Schools include: **K-5**—Bethune, Jenny Lind, Loring; **K-8**—Cityview, Lucy Laney, Nellie Stone Johnson; Olson Middle School; Patrick Henry High School. Specialty and magnet schools included are: Hmong Academy, Elizabeth Hall Magnet School, and North High School.

Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board

Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB) provides places and recreational opportunities for all people to gather, celebrate, contemplate, and engage in activities that promote health, well-being, community and the environment. One way the MPRB fulfills its mission to deliver recreation opportunities to all Minneapolis residents is through programming offered at its 49 recreation centers. Programs and activities are available for youth and adults of all ages and all cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Activities are offered based on the interests, needs and input of the community and vary by location. The following are selected MPRB activities directly related to gang prevention coordination.

The MPRB has managed the Youthline Outreach Mentorship Program since 1991. The program engages youth in recreational and leadership activities and connects them with positive adult role models. Youthline has expanded from 11 full-time Youth Program Specialists at 11 Minneapolis Parks in 1991, to 18 full-time Youth Program Specialist who outreach to youth in schools, parks and libraries and provide youth development activities within 17 Community Service Areas in Minneapolis.

In 2009, MPRB was awarded funds by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to launch the Intensive Gang Prevention Youth Mentoring Project to reduce the number of youth involved in youth violence and gang activity. As part of this project, MPRB provides intensive mentoring and support to 45 at-risk youth, recruits and trains 30 community-based mentors, and offers structured opportunities for youth to develop healthy relationships, learn new skills, and strengthen community connections. The target population is at-risk youth aged 11-15 (age at the time of recruitment), particularly African American youth. The Intensive Gang Prevention Youth Mentoring Project is designed to: provide an opportunity for at-risk youth to develop long-term relationships with a positive adult role model that supports their growth and development; strengthen the community connections of youth; reduce youth participation in risk behaviors; and help youth develop and pursue personal, educational, and professional goals.

In the summer of 2009, MPRB was funded by MDHFS to launch a street-based outreach effort called Streetreach. The goal of the Youthline StreetReach Project is to develop rapport with disconnected and disengaged youth, connect them with resources, and engage them in activities that promote healthy youth development.

Minneapolis Police Department

When the Metro Gang Strike Force ceased operations in May 2009, the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) created a new unit called the Gang Enforcement team which is dedicated to preventing and reducing gang violence. The team is lead by a lieutenant who has been with MPD for more than 20 years and who was involved in gang and narcotics investigations primarily from 1993 to 2000. Other members of the team offer a wide range of experience with investigations, federal cases, and narcotics. All members of the team are Minneapolis police officers and their efforts are focused on crimes occurring in the City. The team assists officers in the field who request backup when dealing with possible gang activity. In close collaboration with departments of probation and corrections, the unit identifies gang members, debriefs suspects and attempts to

determine a suspect's potential gang affiliation. The unit also gathers intelligence on gang members with the goal of preventing retaliation.

MPD provides school resource officers (SROs) to serve 39,479 students and 6,700 staff in approximately 91 (mainstream school sites) and 20 contract and special sites. Decriminalizing school behavior is one of the key goals of the SRO initiative and allows the MPD and its partners to change the course of a student's life. Working closely with school personnel in determining the proper course of action for delinquency is established and maintained through close partnership with school administrators and helps to provide a safe school environment.

The Juvenile Criminal Apprehension Team (JCAT) is headed by one MPD sergeant and gathers support from a coalition of other law enforcement agencies including: the MPD, Minneapolis Park Police, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office and Probation, and US Marshals. JCAT pursues juveniles who have warrants bringing them back in the system for accountability. This initiative has helped to bring consequence and accountability into the lives of adjudicated juveniles in the City of Minneapolis and plays a key role in the prevention of juvenile crime.

MDHFS' partnership with the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) represents a significant step forward for the City in the area of gang prevention. Through this partnership MDHFS and MPD builds upon the City's capacity to fill a much needed gap for coordination of prevention, intervention, and suppression services intended for youth at-risk of gang violence and activity. (See Appendix D for MDHFS' Memorandum of Understanding with MPD.)

Hennepin County

The Annie E. Casey Foundation, which works to produce better lives for disadvantaged children, created the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) in 1992. The purpose of JDAI is to explore ways that are more effective and efficient than secure detention to ensure that children charged with low-level offenses (such as shoplifting, truancy, violating curfew and graffiti), who do not pose a significant risk to public safety, show up in court and do not commit new crimes before their cases are heard.

The objectives of JDAI are to:

- Eliminate inappropriate or unnecessary use of secure detention.
- Reduce racial disparity in detention and in the corrections system.
- Minimize failures by juveniles to appear in court and the incidence of delinquent behavior.
- Redirect public finances to responsible alternative strategies.
- Improve conditions in secure detention facilities.

Hennepin County is relatively new to JDAI. It convenes the JDAI Executive Steering Committee which is a collaborative group of state, county, city, school, police and community representatives, and initially co-chaired by a Juvenile Court Judge and a former Hennepin County Assistant County Administrator of Criminal Justice.

The report *2008 Profile of Juveniles on Supervision* provides data on the demographic characteristics of juveniles under supervision on December 31, 2008 in Hennepin

County which includes Minneapolis. Supervision includes a wide range of services such as traditional probation, restitution and the gun program. MDHFS' assessment did not extend into the area of sentencing and supervision. As a result, the *2008 Profile of Juveniles on Supervision* is helpful for getting a sense of overrepresentation, sentencing and other disparities that young people in the juvenile justice system in Minneapolis may be experiencing. (See Appendix E for a Minneapolis-specific map of juveniles on probation.)

Community-based Agencies and Programs

A key component to the assessment activities involved conducting an inventory of community-based, youth serving agencies and programs. The agencies and programs included in the inventory cover a wide range of services and activities for youth; however, this list is not exhaustive. (See Appendix A: Community Resource Inventory.) Important to note is that youth-serving agencies and programs tend to approach serving youth objectively by focusing their programs and services on positive youth development. They do not specifically promote their programs as "gang prevention" programs, nor do these programs exclusively target gang-involved youth. Most programs work with youth from various risk levels for gang involvement, youth violence and/or juvenile delinquency.

Business, Healthcare and Philanthropy

Youth Employment

STEP-UP is a City of Minneapolis program that provides a pathway to education and career success by offering quality employment experiences to Minneapolis youth, ages 14-21. STEP-UP works with employers to provide jobs in industry sectors from finance and law to healthcare and education. Some of the largest employers in the summer of 2009 were: Minneapolis Public Schools, University of Minnesota, City of Minneapolis, U.S. Bank, Best Buy and Children's Hospitals & Clinics.

Minneapolis Employment and Training Program (METP) and the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support (MDHFS) have developed an employment and training program with gang-involved youth/young adults called North4 Employment. The goal of the project is to increase the number of youth in gainful employment, thereby reducing the number of youth involved in gangs and gang activity. This project will begin June 1, 2010 and will serve 45 participants who reside in the assessment area neighborhoods. It was developed in response to the repeated request for increased employment opportunities for difficult-to-employ youth and young adults in the assessment area neighborhoods. In addition to providing income, this employment opportunity allows young people to build relationships with positive peers and adults and to begin disengaging with gang members and gang activity.

Healthcare

The Minneapolis Youth Violence Intervention Program (MY-VIP) went into effect in January 2010. It is available to young people ages 8 to 24 who are treated for violence-related injuries (gunshot wounds, stab wounds, beatings) at either of Minneapolis' two trauma hospitals, Hennepin County Medical Center or North Memorial Medical Center. When a juvenile victim of violence arrives, a hospital social worker or clinical psychologist is notified. Once the patient is stabilized, a mental health professional meets with the youth and/or parents and performs a detailed psychosocial assessment

and explores issues related to safety concerns, retaliation risk, family support, peer group support, school/truancy, life skills (anger management/conflict resolution), mental health, chemical dependency, legal concerns and employment. Based upon this evaluation, the mental health professional makes appropriate referrals to community-based agencies that provide services to traumatized and/or troubled youth. To date, nearly 40 agencies in the metro area have agreed to offer their services in partnership with the MY-VIP program including the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board, MADDADS, Youth Link, Urban Youth Conservation, Holding Forth the Word of Life Church, and Salaam Project.

Business Sponsors and Philanthropy

The Minneapolis Foundation has been a key philanthropic partner in the City's response to youth violence and implementation of the *Blueprint*. The Minneapolis Foundation has co-chaired the City's Youth Violence Prevention Executive Committee and has provided grants to organizations that are actively involved with intervention strategies focused on preventing youth violence in the community. Designed to build on existing programs that need financial support, these grants were the first of several initiatives to be taken to stem youth violence in Minneapolis.

Several years ago, residents of the Hawthorne neighborhood in North Minneapolis were distraught by increased crime, drugs and gang activity. These negative elements were taking their toll on the fabric of the community, and making it a tougher place to live and raise a family. With a common vision of safe streets, healthy children and community vitality, a small group of neighborhood residents and community officials have come together with representatives from the General Mills Foundation to form what is known as the Hawthorne Huddle. The Hawthorne Huddle employs a process of civic partnership and has had success in community change. This forum has provided a forum for neighbors, as well as representatives from business and government, to share their concerns and work toward a healthier community.

Other business sponsors that have been instrumental in supporting youth violence prevention efforts in North Minneapolis include Cub Foods and McDonalds.

Community Perceptions of the Gang Problem

Assessment of community perceptions about the gang problem involved talking with parents and young people who resided in the assessment area neighborhoods and individuals who work with young people in these neighborhoods. MDHFS conducted 20 key informant interviews with youth-serving providers and professionals, three focus groups with youth at varying risk levels for gang involvement, and three focus groups with parents some of whom were also gang-involved. The following sections summarize what was shared with MDHFS staff during the assessment interviews and focus groups.

Interviews with youth-serving providers and professionals

Twenty-nine (29) service providers representing government, not-for-profit agencies, law enforcement, community residents, churches and schools participated in 20 key informant interviews and expressed their viewpoints on the gang problem in North Minneapolis. The way they define the gang problem on the North Side informs the development of approaches to addressing the problem. Various interviewees emphasized that an unnecessarily narrow understanding of the problem perpetuates a limited perspective toward the solutions. School staff that was interviewed caution against a common misperception that the gang problem is just a school problem. To the contrary, the gang problem is not only a school problem but a problem that affects the whole community. Defining the problem at multiple levels, namely, the individual, family, community, and institutional levels is imperative.

Whereas previously gangs that operated in the assessment area neighborhoods were perceived to be more organized, a common observation across interviews was that gangs in this area are much different than what they used to be. Given that many of the OG's (original gangsters) of the recent past have been locked up, gangs—also referred to as “cliques,” “sets,” “hybrids,” and “splinter groups”—are currently less organized with less established leadership, are smaller and are perceived as more unpredictable and more violent. Two service providers' perspectives summarize a common community perception:

Today, these are not gangs—there are no leaders in these gangs. They have learned over time that the leaders of gangs get killed or locked-up ... The violence is a free for all, random, in fact... Today, the gangs are cliques. Cliques are different from gangs and are composed of kids from different “sets.”—Youth worker

The leadership used to be very different. With the older gangs they [gang members] were held accountable for their actions because the gangs were from LA or Chicago. Nowadays the “big homie” is a 16-18 year-old. Back then, there was an order to it and an older person to tell them what to do.—Youth worker

Some cliques and sets are still associated with larger, more established gangs and some are not. The criminal levels of fighting and violence are what cause “cliques” and “sets” to be recognized as gangs. “Now there is no street law that governs,” observed an interviewee about today's gang problem. “Beat downs” occur because the gang members are younger, not as organized or predictable, and are more likely to commit crimes to “get a name for themselves.” “Kids are just claiming they are gang-bangers

and are being destructive, not constructive as gangs can be,” states a prominent leader in the community.

Interviewees identified problems that are related to the gang problem, that exacerbated the gang problem and that contributed to North Side youth becoming involved in gangs in the first place. The following sections break down service providers’ perceptions of the gang problem on the North Side by perceptions of who is committing gang crime and the impact of gangs and gang violence at the individual, family, community and institutional levels.

Who is committing gang crime?

“Gang-involvement” in this report encompasses gang association, affiliation and membership. Of course, perceptions of involvement can differ depending on the perspective (e.g. a teacher, a police officer, a probation officer, a youth worker, a peer, a parent) and level of familiarity with gangs. The main concern from a service provider’s as well as a victim’s perspective is the violent and criminal behavior or as one service provider describes “the objective behavior of the youth.” Not always clear is identifying where youth fall on the spectrum of gang involvement, how it changes over time, and how much of a role gang involvement has played in the violent and/or criminal behavior.

Nonetheless, young people of various races and ethnicities are “clickin’-up” in North Minneapolis, as well as in other parts of the city. The ages at which boys and girls are siding with the gangs were perceived to be different. Generally boys were perceived to get involved earlier (e.g. 5th to 7th grade) than the girls (e.g. 8th to 9th grade). At least for boys, the real “hard hitters” were perceived among many service providers interviewed to be 17 and older—basically at ages that they can drive.

Although gang involvement was perceived to be more prevalent among boys, the problem appears to be rapidly escalating among the girls and is a cause for urgency.

[...] there is a serious increase among girls. Years ago the girls got involved for sex, holdin’ drugs, and companionship and now the girls are taking a much more active role. For boys it is what it always is.

The Junior High School gang problem for the girls is terrible, and we can’t wait anymore to intervene because they are already tainted.

The girls are getting worse than the men, and it is usually about hearsay.

The girls sometimes are trying to make a name for themselves more than the guys.

I know girls that are involved and they will tell you [that they are involved]. They tell you it’s because they don’t want to ‘cross sets.’

Other underlying reasons (described later in the report) for gang involvement were not considerably different between the boys and the girls, other than the perception that many girls get involved through the affiliation of their boyfriends.

The distinction between whether a youth is gang-affiliated or gang-involved was perceived as important to the extent that it helped to understand a youth's behavior and incidents of violent behavior. Multiple service providers perceived that youth who are on the fringes, i.e. whose gang does not perceive him/her as a "member" in spite of his/her desire to be a member, can sometimes be the most violent.

The ones that are affiliated want to be part [of the gang] but don't think they are in. They are some of the worst ones because they have to gain their reputation and do "the work" to get in.

The kids that want to be affiliated are not in a gang but "roll out" like they are in one.

The youth who are on the fringes are the ones who "are trying to make a name for themselves" and need to "put their work in."

Individual Level

At an individual level, gangs promote protection and provide youth a form of extended family. Youth on the North Side, from the perspectives of people who work with them most closely, experience a lot of pressure to join gangs. At some point, the youth need to align themselves with one side or another for fear of their personal safety. "Everybody has to be plugged with somebody. You can't be neutral," says a service provider. Although the sense of protection is very real for youth, the gangs benefit from that fear and perpetuate "a myth that you need to be gang-affiliated to survive."

In the absence of strong ties to a family, gangs fulfill a need for youth to be accepted and to be a part of something—part of a family, whatever form it happens to take. Whereas the financial gain of selling drugs at school or in the community can draw youth into gangs, alcohol and drug use exacerbate the gang problem. Poverty and living conditions of youth oblige them to contribute financially to the family and material needs, and gangs provide an avenue for youth to fulfill that role. Gangs are an accessible source of cash. A chemical treatment provider states, "When people cannot take care of themselves, they find a way [to do it]," Youth are "giving in to circumstances that their environment dictates," says a youth worker.

Youth are lured into gang activity at a young age before they understand the ramifications of decisions they make to benefit a gang.

Gangs have led to a cultural branding of black men [...] the cultural look has been framed as saggin' and has been normalized through mass media. It is hard for a youth to separate himself from that brand and many youth do not have the skills to deal with the pressure.—Youth program director

On one hand, the lack of a positive, adult male role model or figure to inculcate skills in young boys to deal with negative social pressures was perceived as a major contributor to the gang problem. Some youth have a male role model or figure, but that figure is not active in their lives. "Gangs are not just about extended family; it's beyond that. Gangs become a space and time for expression about masculinity," states a youth worker. Sporting the gang colors becomes a rite of passage along with becoming a father.

The youth are searching for a manhood identity. Many do it by planting their seed and becoming a father too early. Others seek to have control over women that can lead to domestic violence later on. Gangs also lead them to sexual experimentation with the parties that turn out to be just an orgy. They end up not supporting their families or education. Not too long ago it was: "What's your name? Who's your people? Where are you going to college?" We don't have that anymore.—Youth program developer

On the other hand, girls often enter into gangs through affiliation of their boyfriends and to gain a sense of belonging.

What happens with girls is that they associate with the gangs for self-esteem purposes. When they are associated with a gang, they are more likely to be violent, be abused, be truant, but also for the girls, they are more inclined to be in negative sexual relationships with men—which leads to pregnancy. The gangs are not so bad for them at first; they give the girls a sense of belonging—that they "got their back." But then eventually it leads to negative things.—Youth educator and program director

Boredom and not doing well in school or in sports also contributes to the gang problem. The gang lifestyle engages youth and provides those who are not successful in other areas a desired status among their peers. At the same time, school staff observes that some kids have struck an unlikely balance, "They do school really well and they do gang street life really well."

Family Level

Family can be part of the gang problem, a victim of the problem, part of the solution to the problem or entirely absent from the life of the youth. Beyond the lack of positive, male role models, the general lack of family structure leads to family being part of the gang problem. From the service providers' perspectives lack of family structure results when: "babies are having babies;" fathers are absent; there is a lack of leadership on the home front; children from the same mother are fathered by men in different sets or cliques creating internal familial conflict; one father with too many "baby mamas," parents are afraid of their own kids; and families are "unchurched and unmosqued." Lack of parental guidance and lack of adult supervision are closely related to the lack of family structure as well. A probation officer observes, "The youth come from poor families where they don't get the clothes, the food, or the attention. They get them from the gang."

Another way family can be part of the problem is when parents remain unaware of gangs and signs that children might be getting involved in them. Parents may be in denial of a child's gang involvement and thus unwilling to address the problem. In this scenario, more often than not, the friends, family or extended family become victims of the problem.

Gang members may also be the only "family" a youth has ever known. A youth advocate describes how the sense of family varies between gangs from different racial and cultural backgrounds:

There is a different amount of respect for the families within the Latino and Asian groups. Cultural and ancestral background is very strong there and more intentional among the Asian and Latino gangs. The driving component of the African American gang is that the gang is the conduit to feed the older-boy gangs for drugs. The African American gangs are like a fad, whereas it is a way of life for the Latino and Asian [gangs].—Youth Service Provider

The sense of family brings cohesion to gangs whose members are not otherwise related. Gang membership of a family member or someone close to the family was perceived to be common among gang-involved youth. A resident of the North Side shared a story of a young boy from her church who ended up getting involved in a gang presumably because the uncle—who was gang-involved—was the only adult in his life who listened and spent time with him. The youth's parents are sometimes gang-involved; however, service providers did not feel this was the case for a majority of gang-involved youth on the North Side. What was important from service providers' perspectives was acknowledging that a different approach may need to be explored when working with gang-involved parents.

The lack of family and the lack of a place to call "home" take various forms for gang-involved youth on the North Side. It can mean moving from house to house, from relative to relative, to have a place to crash. It can mean being placed in foster home after foster home. "Home" might never have been a safe or comfortable place for the youth. The parents might not be alive, are locked-up or have abandoned them. Regardless, the lack of a family or a place to call home leads youth to prematurely taking on what typically would be grown-up responsibilities.

Community Level

"The perception about the North Side is that all the gang activity is here," observes an employee of a youth employment program. Service providers made various references to the high intensity of gang activity on the North Side compared to other areas of Minneapolis and the metropolitan area. The relatively smaller geography of the North Side of Minneapolis compared to the South Side of Minneapolis may affect the perception of intensity of gang activity explains a youth worker.

It's more intense over North because it's a smaller environment; over South is bigger. North is too small. They have to travel to gang-bang on the South Side—even on the East Side of Saint Paul. I don't think the hybrids or sets are more dangerous; they are misled. They want to "work" really bad. They're not fighting for turf anymore.—Youth worker

Nonetheless, service providers described a community-wide "normalization of violence" on the North Side and as a youth program director has observed, "Kids kill in this neighborhood and get away with it." A community resident said he periodically sees groups of 40-50 kids parading loudly down the street in the middle of the night, cars driving way too fast down neighborhood streets, and kids being victims of the violence and wreckless behavior. "If this happened anywhere else, there would be outrage. In North Minneapolis, there is virtually no reaction," a community resident said. "People

are complacent with the violence and turning away from what is going on,” observes another interviewee. And the violence is not hard to see, nor is the impact contained.

It is different here compared to the South Side. There are more splinter groups here. On the South Side you have the Crips on the one side and the Bloods on the other. [On the North Side] they are more out there with [gang activity]. The drug dealing is in your face.—Youth worker

The interesting thing about Minneapolis in general is that the “North” plays on the “South” and the “South” plays on the “North.” North Broadway and 55 are the walls. Bryn Mar doesn’t consider itself on the North Side and Harrison people don’t go on the other side of 55. The boundaries are invisible but they are very real boundaries. There are areas of containment but the impact is much broader.—North Side resident

Community-wide understood “zones,” the fighting, the violence levels, and the impact of violence across cultural and geographic communities are what get these groups recognized as gangs.

Cliques and sets have delineated their own boundaries in the community that are hard for service providers to keep a handle on. Specifically, the numbers of the street signs delineate areas where kids will and will not go.

I mainly spend time on the North Side of Minneapolis. Here it is all about the “higher end” and the “lower end.” “I don’t go to the lows,” kids will say. [...] They separate themselves.—Youth worker

The kids come across from [an organization down the street] and they are callin’ out these numbers which must be one of their blocks. They got at it and the girls just wouldn’t stop. —Youth worker

In North Minneapolis some gangs are block by block and some are traditional. There are pockets of areas where they think they are in control.—North Side resident.

The result is more division among North Side residents, and “the community shuns the youth rather than helps them.”

Youth service providers made comparisons between gangs that are predominantly comprised of specific racial and ethnic groups in the community.

The Latino and Asian gangs are much more organized than the African American [gangs]. They are much more strategic. The Asians want to blend in. The African American gangs have an interest in making you aware of who they are and that’s why they end up in prison. [On the one hand,] the MS 13’s Latino gang that is coming out of Chicago is growing in the Midwest and is connected to North Minneapolis. They aren’t playin’. The African American gangs, on the other hand, are not even committed. It takes a lot to wrestle the Latinos and Asians out of the gang.—Youth Service Provider

At [a school on the South Side] where you are dealing with the Latino gangs, the Latina girls are all up into it because of "love." Well, their boyfriends are in gangs. The girls won't say that they are in a gang, but they ARE in it. Now at [a school on the North Side] is where it is about someone having your back, making it and surviving. —Youth Service Provider

Besides gang-related homicides, the list of negative impacts of gangs on the community was long. Gangs "demoralize and devalue the community." They result in "people feeling unsafe" with "adults acting like they are afraid of the youth" and the youth "can't even get outside to ride a bike." A North Side resident gives an example:

There are virtually no block clubs. One guy [...] set up a block club but not many people participated. Generally by setting up and hosting for a block club people think that they are setting themselves up for someone to "case" their house.—Community resident

Gang violence causes residents to want to move out of the community, and a supporting social network does not exist either due to "people being too transitory or not being able to move out." A school director describes the life paths he has seen among young people who live on the North Side:

I have seen three situations. You either go down the path to be a professional, the path of the wheel chair or you die. When you go to war, they take the time to deprogram you, when you are on the streets, they don't do that. You have to get [these youth] to understand there is a better life out there. You don't know anything other than the few blocks around you, until you see more.—School director

Institutional Level

The gang problem at an institutional level is exacerbated by gaps in community-wide messages and policies, youth programs, and infrastructure intended for positive youth development. As was mentioned earlier in this report, many of the gang-involved youth are responding to conditions that surround them. They feel a great deal of pressure to align themselves with one set or another, the gangs provide them social support and material things that they do not get at home, and the community is afraid of its own youth. What about the systems and policy environment contributes to youth being drawn into the gang lifestyle?

When a community lacks fundamental support systems for its residents, it can appear, as one youth program director, observes that, "the system is designed to force you[th] into doing something wrong and then catchin' [them] at it." A director of a youth employment program summed up most youth service providers' sentiments about their satisfaction with the agencies' current response to the gang problem: "I am never satisfied when there is always room for improvement." The individuals that work closely with youth on the North Side possess deep knowledge and history about the deficiencies in response on the part of governmental and non-governmental institutions intended to foster positive youth development. Four problematic areas were identified.

First, notwithstanding current collaborative efforts (e.g. the Blueprint for Action on Youth Violence Executive Committee, Youth Violence Prevention Taskforce of the Minneapolis Public Schools, collaboration among religious leaders, Hawthorne Huddle, and the Peace Foundation) on the North Side, a sense of a lack of unity and collaboration among organizations persists. Various issues are related to this problem including: start-up organizations' dependency on fiscal agents; politics and personalities getting in the way of partnerships; inability to collaborate to fill gaps and weaknesses in services due to organizations claiming that they do "everything" rather than "respecting the specialization of other agencies"; agencies not prepared or willing to work with high-risk or gang-involved youth; agencies that have not kept up with the times and "don't get it"; and finally agencies that are caught-up in "following the money" and "a bureaucratic numbers game" and that are "disconnected" to the local community.

A few interviewees were particularly wary of community leaders and politicians dropping in on the community to be in the "limelight." They made explicit and implicit distinctions between "formal" community leaders and the "informal" community leaders that have "street credibility." Informal leaders, explains a North Side resident, might not be well known by the "programs" but they know how to reach the kids. When too much focus is on formal community and institutional leaders and too little positive change occurs at the community level, people in the community perceive organizations and programs as "disconnected" from the needs of the youth and unresponsive to local community in general. Various interviewees emphasized the importance of ensuring representation of the community at the decision-making table. Striking a balance between formal and informal leadership representation seems to be the challenge due to perceptions of who is aligning with whom and for what reasons.

Second, although many service providers were dissatisfied with government agencies' response to the needs of youth and families in the community, the majority emphasized that **how** government gets involved in the community is more important. Multiple examples of how government involvement in the community has been essential, yet problematic, were identified.

Police involvement around the issue of gangs has focused on suppression of gang activity, or otherwise stated as "shutting down the gangs." Collaboration between the police department and the local community was perceived as insufficient or entirely lacking and profiling kids that look like "gang-bangers" was a concern. At the same time, examples of positive police interaction were also shared such as: the police athletic league where the coach was a police officer; police officers taking time to "stop by" or to check-in at local programs and interact with the youth; and a gun buy-back program that involved police officers out of uniform. Suppression was viewed as essential but insufficient.

From the perspectives of people who work most closely with the youth, government invests a great deal on the North Side but not in the right places. It needs to play a greater role in assuring high-risk youth and their families have what they need—before they get involved with police.

Law enforcement can't do it by itself but could do it if there was more collaboration with the community. Police can only do something after the fact. When something goes wrong, they are the first ones we call. But they need more cooperation.—Youth program director

Government can play an important role in assuring the availability of programs (such as, youth employment opportunities, afterschool programs, childcare, organized sports and physical activity programs, winter park activities, housing, alcohol and drug abuse programs, education and skill-building programs for incarcerated parents, and tattoo removal programs) targeted to high risk youth, parents who are minors and their families. “How often do you see kids walking down the street in uniform anymore? If we can pay overtime for police, we can pay for sports uniforms,” explains an employee of a youth employment program. Given the lack of resources at the family and community levels, such programs struggle to survive or are not available in the private sector without some level of government intervention.

A few youth workers cautioned against integration of youth, who are known to be gang-involved, with other youth in programs and activities. They gave examples of previously successful youth groups that broke up due to conflicts and divisions caused by gang-involved youth; “no trespassing lists” that identify youth who have exhausted privileges of accessing their programs due to bad behavior; and having to spend money on hiring an on-site security officer (described as “a guy with a gun”) that otherwise could be spent on youth programming.

Less-mentioned, problematic areas related to government were associations on the part of youth between social workers and out-of-home placement/foster care, government expectations that community-based organizations will take their high-risk youth referrals without providing funding; and the parks being “where all of our cliques are” and the locus of most violent activity. In addition, one interviewee stressed the need to reform the child support system and its “bias against young fathers.” The current system was perceived as more concerned about collecting child support than acknowledging and encouraging father involvement as a form of child support.

Third, the lack of a focus on long-term sustainability of youth violence prevention efforts translates into: a lack of a community vision and a uniform message to counter the pressure to join gangs; “period-based programming;” and “inconsistent” relationships between youth service providers and youth. From the perspective of a youth educator and program director, “When talking about youth violence prevention, the youth do not hear “prevention;” they hear ‘violence’ and ‘gangs.’” Many youth service providers emphasized that community-wide messages to prevent youth violence are not framed using the words “violence” or “gangs” at all; they do, however, combat the negative messages that youth are getting in the media; they are consistent and uniform for issues such as gang signs and symbols, clothing and hand signs; and they are enforced uniformly across prominent institutions and community-based organizations serving youth. The following are examples given of effective messaging at various levels:

My niece was getting into fights at school and her grades started to go down. I pulled her aside to have a talk, and I explained to her that her actions were not just harmful to her and others but that what she was doing was disrespectful to the whole family. It was disrespectful to the family name. Since then we have not had a problem.

[My pastor] is effective at speaking with the kids because it is not about them being a bad person but about them making good choices. He tells them, “You can try to get into it [the gang], but you are already accounted for!”

With parents, one of the things I talk about off the bat is learning how to be nose-y, having boundaries and talking to their children about their future at a young age.

The program is not designed specifically for preventing youth violence. Although we know they are involved, we are focused on getting them back on the track to graduation.

We don't look at [our program] specifically as gang prevention but poverty prevention. We look at the youth as producers, not consumers. By getting people employed, by addressing the whole individual.

Negative labeling keeps school staff and youth workers from focusing on the “objective behavior of the youth.” From the perspective of someone who employs youth, “If you can't tell me what family this youth is part of, you have no business telling me the kid is in a gang.” Leveling the playing field to balance positive messages alongside the negative messages is imperative.

Lack of sustainability is fundamentally related to an overall lack of youth programs (especially, programs geared toward high-risk, gang-involved youth) and lack of sustainable resources. Funding agencies are perceived as offering funding “silos” and “buckets,” and grant money is available, typically, when the problem surges to a crisis. Rather than sustaining the funding during the low violence times, it “gets moved into other priority areas.” Moreover, the relatively larger population of youth on the North Side compared to the South Side has not translated into greater investment into organizations intended to work with youth on the North Side. The North Side of Minneapolis has relatively fewer organizations serving youth than the South Side of Minneapolis.

At the direct-service level, lack of sustainability has a negative impact as well. It translates into youth workers that are “not committed,” “not concerned about outcomes for the youth,” and “not making efforts to keep long-term, on-going relationships with them.” “The youth need to know that you will be consistent and see your time commitment,” explains a youth worker.

Fourth, internet and cell phone policies are inconsistent across governmental and community-based organizations. The main concerns were related to “cyber-bangin’,” “cyber-bullying,” “set trippin’,” and “sexin’ on the phone.” A youth worker summarized many other service providers’ concern by saying, “The kids are unaware of how much they are putting their lives out there online for all the world to see, including online predators.” Examples were given of how internet use and cell phones make curbing the gang problem much more difficult.

I can only speak about the Black community, about the MySpace, because everybody knows everybody now. You've got kids wanting to see other people get hurt. It's a game. When someone gets hurt, someone gets on the phone, and within minutes you see the cars show up. There is more havoc now with the cliques... They are not thinking about the consequences.—School staff

The firewalls that are supposed to keep kids off of the social networking sites at the schools, parks and community-based programs do not work because the kids find

proxies to go around them. “Once we identify the proxy, we send it to the ISP to block it,” said the director of a youth employment program; however, the maintenance is time-consuming. “The best filtering in the world is supervision.” For schools it is not quite that simple, according to staff:

The biggest difference [in monitoring activity] is the difference between the classroom setting and the non-classroom setting. Teachers and staff get proximity to the youth in the classroom and can monitor youth activity better. The kids are savvy, however, at using social networking tools such as the internet and cell phones.—School staff

One service provider said she links herself up with her kids on MySpace so she can “check-up on the girls.” Recently, much discussion has occurred around incidents of violence around the public libraries and the libraries allowing youth to access the social networking sites there. It is not clear, how this will unfold; however, opinions are polarized on the issue.

The youth-serving providers that participated in the assessment interviews strongly recommended that MDHFS engage youth in the assessment process. The following section is a summary of focus groups that were held with young men who reside on the North Side of Minneapolis about their experiences with gangs and gang violence.

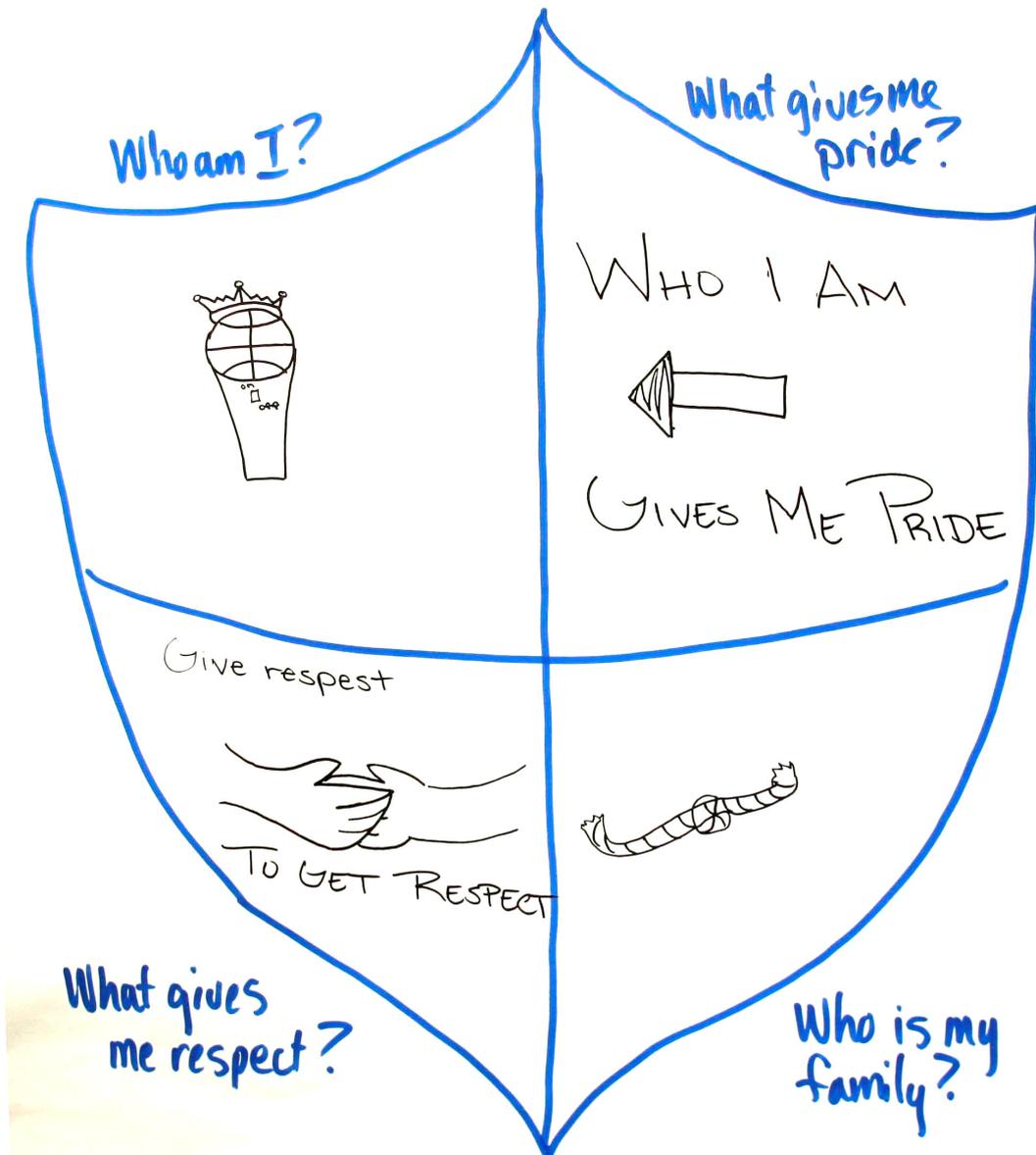
Focus groups with young men who live on the North Side

Three focus groups were conducted with boys and young men at various levels of exposure to, affiliation with and involvement in gangs. Participants were recruited through adults in the community that worked closely with them and their families. A total of 18 boys and young men participated, a majority of whom were African American.

As an introduction to the focus groups with the young men, the facilitator used an adaptation of a commonly-used icebreaker called “My Shield.” The young men were given a large drawing of a shield divided into four quadrants. Each quadrant had a heading in the form of a question. The questions were: who am I; what makes me proud; what gives me respect; and who is my family. The young men were allowed to draw or write their responses to the four questions on the shield, in the respective quadrant and then presented their shields to the entire group. This exercise was very important for learning about where youth were coming from and to build trust. One young man’s shield is provided as an example on the following page and other My Shield images are included throughout this section.

During the focus groups, the young men identified factors at the individual, family, community and institutional levels that either drew them to the gang lifestyle or that exacerbated the gang problem. Although positive aspects of the gang lifestyle were mentioned, the underlying aspects that draw youth into the gang lifestyle appear to boil down to one or a combination of five things: “boredom,” “no money,” “no family,” “being born into it” and not having opportunities to be exposed to other things.

My Shield-Exercise

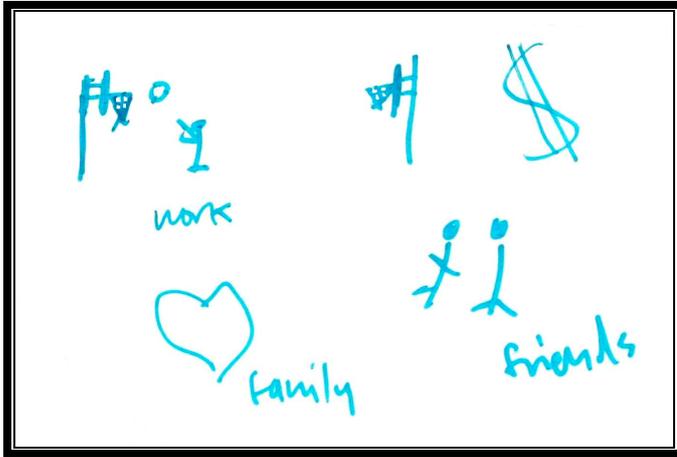


Individual Level

At the individual level, the young men in all three focus groups identified respect, money, power, and popularity as the things that draw them or their peers to the gang lifestyle. All four are interrelated; however, the young men explained what each signifies. Respect was earned “by respecting others” and was recognized (much like a rite of passage) by the privilege to wear the gang “colors.” Money was related to “hustling to make money quickly,” and access to the “lifestyle,” “parties,” “nice cars,” and “women.” Power was related to guns, having “no fear,” being able to “control their zone” and “being able to rule.” Popularity meant that gang-involved youth earned a “reputation,” friends, girls, and were accepted. Mixed with violent threats and violent behavior, the respect, money, power and popularity instilled fear in others. One youth observed and others agreed that the popularity, respect and power meant that some gang-involved youth could get away with things at school that other kids could not because the teachers did not want to or could not deal with them.

Joining a gang for “protection,” “security” and “safety” was mentioned as a positive aspect of the gang lifestyle in two of the three focus groups. “Protection” and other positive aspects of the gang lifestyle were completely overshadowed, however, by a constant threat of injury, death or incarceration. Other negatives of the gang lifestyle identified by the young men were: “peer pressure;” “doing things because you want to make an impression;” “having a false sense of security;” drugs, alcohol and smoking; sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV; physical, sexual and emotional abuse; pain, killing and violence; “being labeled,” and dropping out of school.

What gives me respect?



Being A MAN owning up to
my responsibilities ; being A father
to my daughter ; if I do something
own up to the consequence ; NEVER
SNITCH. . .



Family Level

According to the young men who participated in the focus groups, gangs provide a sense of family, belonging and connection that otherwise is lacking or absent in their own or their peers' lives. The young men described that a "street family" in some cases has no connection with Mom and Dad. In other cases, either they or their peers have been "born into the gang lifestyle," that close relatives are also in the gang and that the gang is "the only thing they'd ever known." Which scenario is more common among gang-involved youth on the North Side was not clear from the focus groups. Some youth felt that "to be born into a gang" is common and other youth felt that most parents would not willingly raise their child in a gang. For those who did not think being born into a gang was common, deciding to be a gang member was a choice.

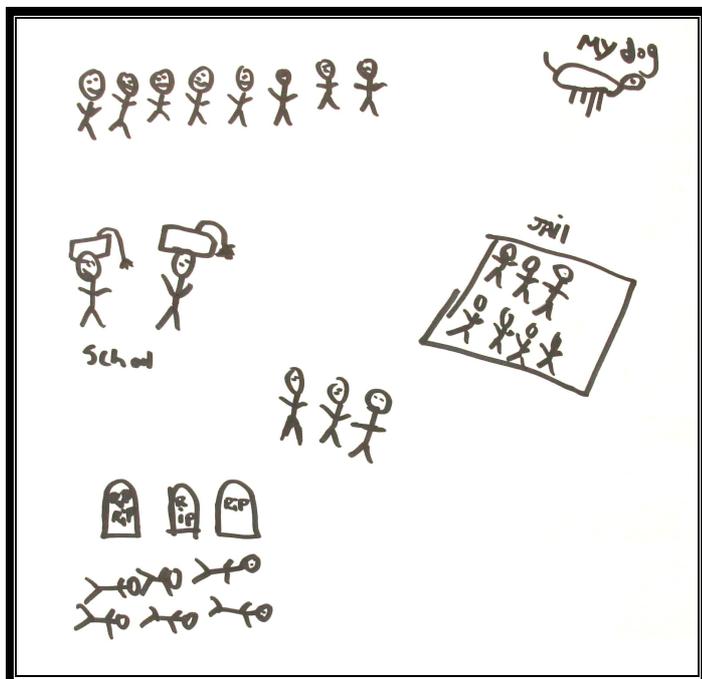
All of the young men in the focus groups either knew someone in their immediate or extended family that had been injured, had died, or had been incarcerated due to events precipitating from gang involvement. "Death," "getting shot," "taking a loss," "loss of loved ones," and "people in jail" were common themes at this level. The young men shared personal experiences related to the loss of fathers, brothers, uncles, cousins and other male figures due to gang violence and incarceration across all groups.

In contrast to the interviews with service providers, the young men did not discuss becoming a parent at a young age as a negative aspect or problem. Some were fathers and saw themselves as providers for their families and providers for their parents. The issue of "too many baby mamas" was brought up in one focus group; however, as was highlighted in the previous section, the discussions of sex as a positive aspect of the gang lifestyle focused on gangs as a means of getting sex and women. The negative focused on STDs and problems associated with "not getting any," such as, getting teased for being a virgin.

Who is my family?

Respectful, honest, and hard working citizens in and out of the community that taught me everything that I know, and helped me get to where I am today!

My Family Are Many People birth family & Foster parent who has giving me The knoweledce and some what support to bring me where I am today



Community Level

When asked what they would change about their neighborhood, too much boredom was mentioned by the young men in all three groups. Too many young people on the street corners and without positive activities to be involved in were directly related to the boredom.

Themes that were mentioned in at least two of the three focus groups were: getting rid of the garbage and litter; and a lack of a sense of community where the neighborhood “is not just a place where you live” but a place where neighbors know their neighbors and where “elders are talking to the young people.” Stopping drugs and alcohol was mentioned various times in the two focus groups that included youth who were not as involved in gangs, but negative aspects of drugs and alcohol were not mentioned in the focus group comprised just of gang members. Similarly, stopping the shootings and violence in the neighborhood was mentioned in the same two focus groups of youth who were less involved in gangs.

Other notable, but less common, themes included: fewer foreclosures; the lack of a mall (the closest mall being Brookdale); and getting rid of “unbanks” that charge a person to cash a check.

Institutional Level

The lack of youth programs and organized sports in the local community was an observation that crossed all three focus groups. Availability of youth programs and organized sports addresses the boredom the young men either experience or remembered experiencing growing up in their community. Due to how recruitment occurred, the young men who participated in the focus groups were engaged to some extent with a youth program and/or were connected to an informal, adult leader in the local community. When asked to whom they would turn if they had a problem, many of the youth mentioned the leaders of their respective youth programs. Nonetheless, they mentioned observing too many young people in their neighborhood without positive alternatives and that gangs and the gang lifestyle were an exciting and easily accessible alternative to the boredom. The young men said that accountability and how a program was perceived were important to them. As one youth summarized what others like him felt, “the youth programs need to be **programs**, not just show-and-tell.” Specifically, the young men mentioned the need for more programs to work with young teenagers and more opportunities for teenage moms to go to school. Examples of sports and other positive youth activities they had either enjoyed or thought needed to be provided more were: basketball, pool, open teen nights, poetry cafés, music, dance rooms, and skating.

Although the need for youth employment opportunities was mentioned in all focus groups, the focus group with the strongest opinions about these opportunities was the group that included all gang-involved youth. The young men felt that the opportunities that were currently available did not meet their needs for various reasons. The opportunities often were not available to them when they needed them most, such as when they got out of detention or were on probation. Most employment opportunities were outside of their local community and difficult to get to. They did not like being required to show up day-after-day without being able to miss some days. They also did

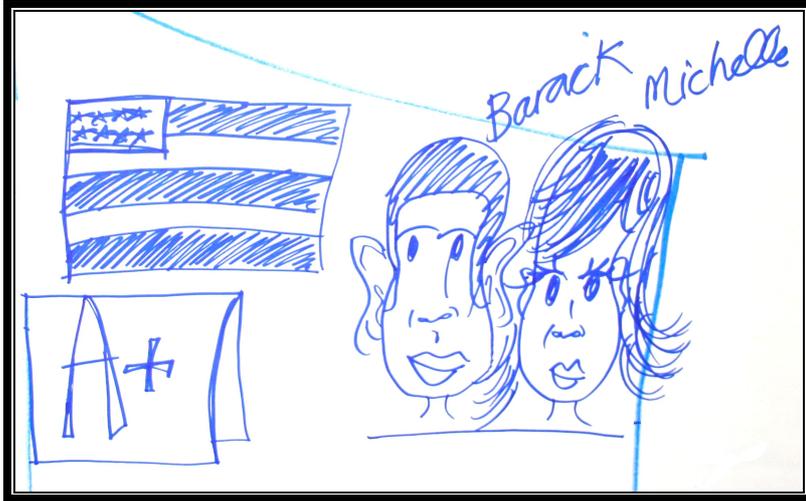
not like having to wait two weeks or more in order to get paid. Instead they felt that opportunities should be provided where youth could show up to work when they needed to and be paid the same day. The young men in this focus group in particular had observed that the only business that seemed open to hiring youth was a fast food franchise in the area. Otherwise the young men in this focus group had observed that businesses along Broadway typically do not hire young people. Broadway has a relatively larger concentration of businesses in the neighborhood that could employ youth. Employment opportunities in which the young men mentioned having participated were: a program to remove garbage and trash; landscaping; after-school youth programs; computer labs at the parks; youth organizing; amusement parks and sales. When the young men were asked where they saw themselves in five years, a majority of them across all focus groups mentioned the desire to own their own businesses.

When asked what role school played in achieving their personal goals, graduation from high school was clearly important to many of the young men in all three of the focus groups. This was evident from their aspirations to either graduate from high school or to attend a college or university. Interestingly, the young men in the focus group with all gang-involved youth had already graduated from high school. Two of them cited the support of their youth program leader as the main reason they had pushed themselves to graduate. A small number of youth named a teacher or pastor when asked about someone who had given them the most helpful advice in their lives.

Young men in two of the three focus groups expressed disenchantment with the public schools. One focus group participant observed and others agreed that the teachers needed to have “a better sense of where their students were coming from” in order to work with them more effectively. The community needs a “more respectable school system” explained another participant in another group who felt that too many teachers in the system were “just teaching for the money.”

As was addressed earlier, one of the most common negative aspects of the gang lifestyle according to the young men that participated in the focus groups was encounters with the police and being incarcerated. Young men in all focus groups felt the relationship between law enforcement and the people in their community needed to change in large part through the elimination of police harassment and labeling and profiling of youth. Examples of harassment, labeling and profiling by the police were shared in all focus groups by gang-involved youth and youth who were not directly involved with gangs. Young men in one of the focus groups mentioned that the police should make an effort to get to know and interact with young people in the local community beyond just responding to criminal activity.

What gives me pride?



Completion of high school
Fair Honest
Role model for friend + younger cousins
Not getting in trouble
leading a basketball team
Perseverance

Being Able to Provide
For my Family
No Felony
Diploma

Focus groups with parents on the North Side

Three focus groups were conducted with parents who had various levels of exposure to, affiliation with and involvement in gangs. Participants were recruited through community-based organizations located in the assessment area neighborhoods. A total of twenty-five parents participated. Nineteen were African American and six were of other races/ethnicities including White, Native American, or Hispanic/Latino.

Parents identified factors at the individual, family, community and institutional levels that either drew them or their children to the gang lifestyle or that exacerbated the gang problem. From the parents' perspectives the aspects that draw people into the gang lifestyle appeared to boil down to one or a combination of five things: the environment in which one is raised; attraction to "the life" (i.e. the gang lifestyle); absent positive, male role models, seeking a sense of belonging and "being born into it." The following sections break down parents' perceptions of the gang problem on the North Side by their perceptions of who is committing gang crime and the impact of gangs and gang violence at the individual, family, community and institutional levels.

Who is committing gang crime?

Parents' perceptions of when children were affiliating or getting involved with gangs were all across the map; however, parents in all groups felt that by ages ten and eleven (i.e. 4th and 5th grades) victimization, affiliation and/or involvement could be well-underway. Various parents said something to the effect of "kids go with what they see," and provided examples of how children will act out and imitate older men and siblings by acting out or throwing up gang signs. One parent gave an example of a fellow Alcoholics Anonymous member who beat up his child because the child had beaten up a 4 year-old for wearing the wrong color clothing.

Parents in two of the three focus groups did not think pinpointing an age of gang affiliation or involvement was possible due to some children being "born into it." One parent explained that expecting parents who were gang-involved would tell her, "Don't buy my baby no red or no blue [depending on the gang affiliation of the parent]," and that the expecting parents would have the child's clothes made with gang symbols. Overall, parents' perceptions of the ages of gang affiliation and involvement ranged from birth to age forty.

Although gang involvement was perceived to be more prevalent among boys and young men, parents in all focus groups gave examples of why gang affiliation and involvement of children and young women was of particular concern. Parents emphasized that children and girls were less likely to face serious consequences for gang-related behavior and thus were targets for recruitment. "The younger they are, the less likely they are to get in trouble," explained one parent. A mother had observed that "older men [in the gang] keep themselves separated and order the younger soldiers to carry out the hits." Parents in two of the three focus groups gave examples of high levels of violence among girls such as: observing a gang initiation of girls that involved beating each other with bats; girls breaking through a window in a neighbor's house screaming, "We'll get you later;" and girls being more "ruthless" than young men and "getting away with it more."

Parents had also observed a notable difference between the gangs with which they were most accustomed and the gangs of today.

I believe [gangs] are a problem. One of the problems is there is not structure. Now, there is no structure or order taking. They took all the heads of the organizations out and the body fell. The youth are not looking for any guidance.

I have seen kids five or six years-old throwing up signs because of what they have seen. In Chicago, you have to know the rules and you are either in or you are out. Right now there is a bunch of cliques. My little cousin is hangin' out with [one of the cliques].

Multiple parents described having lived in other cities and their experiences with gangs in those cities compared to their experiences after moving to Minneapolis. The gangs of today were perceived to have less structure; nonetheless as one parent cautioned, "Don't think you can't get **got** up here [in Minneapolis]."

Individual Level

Similar to themes from the service provider interviews and focus groups with young men, a major attraction for young people to gangs was an attraction to "the life." The gang lifestyle fulfilled desires for respect, money, power, and a sense of belonging. All four are interrelated; however, the parents explained from their perspectives what each signified. Respect was related to being part of a structure that otherwise may have been absent in the young people's lives, answering to a "clear hierarchy," and having access to role models and father figures. Money was broader than just currency but included access to cars, gold, and being able to provide for one's material needs/desires and family. It was also related to the belief that the "[gang] life would get them out of where they are." Power was related to: a desire for young people "to be somebody that they are not;" instilling fear in others; strength; women and prestige. The sense of belonging was the most-mentioned theme among the things that parents perceived to draw young people to gangs. This theme is addressed in the next section that addresses the family level.

Joining a gang for "protection," "security" and "safety" was also mentioned as a positive aspect of the gang lifestyle in all three focus groups. "Protection" and other positive aspects of the gang lifestyle were again completely overshadowed by constant threats of injury, death or incarceration. Other negatives of the gang lifestyle identified by the parents were: constant fear; negative influences such as violence, drugs and bad role models; gang members having limited life choices due to their involvement; and "being on your own." Gang membership was perceived to limit the life choices of young people by: not being able to dissociate from the gang when one wanted; not being able to wear clothing of certain colors;" and not being able "to do anything you want to." Being on one's own meant various things such as: having limited access to "meaningful relationships;" having no safe space; lacking love; not having protection in one's own home while away from other gang members; and "finding themselves on their own when they are incarcerated."

Family Level

Gangs can provide a sense of belonging that otherwise may be lacking in young people's lives, but from the perspectives of many of the parents in the focus groups, gangs could be but were not necessarily a replacement for family. Gangs were

perceived to enable young people to be “part of something greater than themselves;” they give young people a sense of identity, “I am this.” Nonetheless, gangs can be a “family,” a place of “acceptance,” and a place for “unity.” Some young people choose the gang over the family as one gang-involved, parent explained:

*I came from a good family; I am the black sheep of my family. The way I turned out was not from my family but it was the things I was exposed to in the environment. My Dad used to take me to see the juvenile court to see what happened to bad boys. I did not turn away; I became bad.
—parent*

In another gang-involved, parent’s situation, family members were a part of the problem and not the solution.

I am originally from [Indiana] and grew up there. My uncles and cousins used to belong to a “group.” It was older guys teaching younger guys bad things. I learned how to mistreat women, disrespect my parents, hang out and use drugs. I moved here at eleven and realized they were steering me down the wrong path. I was in a gang up here in North Minneapolis.—parent

Parents in the focus groups were clearly not immune from gang involvement and affiliation.

I have a thirteen year-old boy and I’m afraid that he will follow in my footsteps. I see the things I did in the past and how they affect him. This is a helluva topic because it looks at the core of who I am and the choices I have made. —parent

A parent described how his own gang affiliation helped to keep his mother and sister safe. Another parent’s involvement with a gang enabled him to support his son by selling drugs. Still another described how the influence of a parent’s past sometimes ran too deep saying, “My eight year-old was surprised when the five-year old of one of my partners, called me by my [gang] nickname.”

Some parents shared strategies for avoiding gangs. One parent had made a message very clear to his children. “I told my sons I would be the biggest gang, they ever saw, if they got involved [in a gang],” he exclaimed. A woman’s husband told their daughter that if she got “jumped-in” to a gang, he would “jump” her out. Another parent took a different approach saying, “I don’t see ‘em. I’m not lookin’ for ‘em. I don’t see gangs and I don’t let my son run the streets.” These parents in one way or another clearly drew the lines between gangs and their families. Nonetheless, a lack of stability at home was a common theme at the family level that parents felt contributed to the gang problem. “Lots of kids grew up while their parents were cracked-out,” one parent observed. Other examples of instability at home that exacerbated gang problem included: “no dads” or incarcerated dads; “lots of men modeling the wrong things;” “parents not knowing how to be parents because they have never been parented themselves;” and “kids wanting to raise the parents—not the other way around.”

Parents, particularly from two of the three focus groups, either knew someone in their immediate or extended family that had been injured, had died, or had been incarcerated due to events precipitating from gang involvement. What parents shared about how gangs have affected their families communicated a high level of fear and concern for

them, their children and extended family members. Near the top of the list of concerns was how to deal with the associated anger. “You don’t see your kids for five to seven years and now you see your kids and they are grown and angry!” describes a father. Besides the anger, death, murder, fear, losing a home, losing sons, losing fathers and brothers, rage, trauma, killing, and jail were words that described parents’ experiences with gangs.

Community Level

Gangs and gang violence in the surrounding community had a profound affect on parents’, children’s and family members’ exposure and propensities to become involved with gangs. Gang violence intensifies some parent’s efforts to avoid gangs and subsequent violence. In communities like North Minneapolis people of different cultures and backgrounds have daily contact with one another but do not always see eye-to-eye. Gangs can become a defense mechanism that exacerbates racial and ethnic tensions in the community. At the same time, explains one parent, “Sometimes it is not about black and white; it’s about who is **in** or **out** of gangs.”

Parents shared examples of how gangs affected them and their families at the community level. Gangs and gang violence, in its own way, dictate where parents decide to live and raise their children safely. “When the wars are going on, kids can’t leave the home,” observed a parent. Gangs limit the extent to which children can leave the home, play outside, and participate in activities that other young people who live in safer environments can engage in.

[Gangs are] a problem because they represent the neighborhood or block and, people don’t even know [it]. My favorite color was blue and every time I would wear it, I would get jumped. It made me mad and I wanted to join up with people to get them back.—parent

You seem to be safer going where you don’t live than where you do live...[For example,] we couldn’t get a ball game started because a [gang] would show up and the gangsters would have a beef. —parent

My little girl loves to ride her bike. Initially I would not let her learn how to ride the bike because I did not want to have to tell her that she couldn’t ride her bike in the neighborhood. The doctor also tells me I should walk but I don’t because I don’t feel safe in the neighborhood. —parent

Gangs take away “the opportunity for kids to be kids,” as another parent stated. In describing how gangs affect how adults interact with the young people in their community, one parent summed up a common perspective across all focus groups, “Lots of parents and elders are afraid of these kids.”

The image of “home” was inextricably tied to lasting images of gang violence imprinted on the minds and memories of residents of these neighborhoods.

My friend’s house got shot up. He’s selling the house and movin’ out. —parent

I worry that my nephew will get killed. I don't wear blue on my block. There was a boy got shot two weeks ago for wearing blue shoes on 26th Avenue. [Another time] there was a boy running across the yards shooting in the air. It took the police two hours to show up.—parent

Powerful images impact the community—seeing a body lay there. That would not happen [in the suburbs]. --parent

Young boys roll in from other cities and they look for someone to rent to them. Someone does, and then the place gets taken over. Two young girls were living in a house and it got taken over... The kids who are shooting are missing stability. Some of them are homeless. There are more homeless teens than homeless anybody.--parent

Another theme that was addressed in service provider interviews and focus groups with the young men was the overall lack of a sense of community. Parents articulated what a safer and improved community would look like. It would be a place where: neighbors know neighbors; people know “who belongs to who;” struggling families have the supports that they need in the community where they live; young people and adults interact and communicate with each other; parents do not have to be afraid for their children; and children and adults can be outdoors without being approached or harassed by gang-bangers during the day and at night.

Parents echoed other themes at the community level that were mentioned in the service provider interviews and youth focus groups such as: getting rid of garbage and litter in the neighborhood; fixing up dilapidated buildings and houses, increasing visibility of art in the community; more lighting in the streets and other physical or aesthetic improvements to the neighborhood.

Institutional Level

Gangs and gang violence can put institutions and organizations on the defensive. Businesses, community centers, parks, libraries and churches that typically would be open to the public can become more protective of their services and patrons. “Lots of churches and community centers don’t want gang members in their spaces,” observed a parent. At the same time, other parents acknowledged efforts that community-based organizations have made to curb violence in their communities, but felt more needed to be done over a longer period of time. “Policy needs to go beyond an election cycle. Things can’t just happen for a year or two—they need to be sustained,” a parent pointed out.

With regard to youth programs diverging themes emerged. Whereas some parents called for more programs to serve youth and their families, one parent provided another perspective, “It is about youth development, not about youth programs.” Furthermore, ensuring a safe, neutral space for youth and community programs necessitates the staff to keep it neutral.

One of the businesses that affect North Side residents most is the justice system. “The penal system is BIG business,” stated a parent. In expressing dissatisfaction with the current response to gangs and gang violence a parent explained:

The system is upside down. If we invested in prevention, we would not see kids go the wrong way and get locked-up. We pay more to lock them up and then return them to the community with no support. More of us in the community need to understand what our voices can do to change policy.—parent

At the institutional level the lack of economic opportunity and jobs was a key theme, especially for young men and fathers re-entering the community after having been incarcerated. As was learned in the focus groups with young men gang-involved youth can be entrepreneurial, and parents voiced that the youth have transferable skills, but few opportunities to use them. Areas of focus for social and economic policy change included: exploring ways for felons to more easily obtain employment; job creation; poverty elimination; affordable, supportive housing for women and children; advocacy for the rights of fathers upon re-entry; and increasing accessibility to and affordability of recreational opportunities.

Parents advocated for a different approach to policing that involves a greater presence of the police at parks and schools, members of the community having a greater role in policing and patrolling the neighborhood, and increased responsiveness on the part of the police.

There is a big gap between the community and the police. The community needs to police its own community. We don't trust the police. We don't trust guys that live in [the suburbs] to police our community. —parent

Police don't come and people feel they have no control. They fear in their own home. You try to be a responsible citizen and call the police and they don't show up.--parent

Schools can be a place, among many places, where young people are exposed to gangs and gang violence. However, schools also have to respond to issues and problems that stem from elsewhere in the community or home. Administrative transfers can result when students for one reason or another cannot remain in a school and must move to another. Due to the cost of transferring students outside of the Minneapolis Public Schools district, most administrative transfers occur within the district. When problems cannot be resolved within the district or the student has burned too many bridges with too many schools, parents may have to make more extreme decisions to remove their children from the district for the sake of their safety and education.

My daughter started at [X] school and transferred to [Y]. [X] couldn't handle it because she was getting hit. Nobody could help us. We wanted her to stay in the community but she couldn't. Our family had a legacy at [X] and she could not stay there. She ended up going to a school forty-five minutes away...our other daughter was advised by a psychologist to leave the community.—parent

The above situation underscores how schools can play an important role in supporting youth around the time that administrative transfers are necessary with students. Other ways that schools can help include: ensuring that students have transferable skills to obtain jobs; offering “open gym” after school to keep kids off the streets; and advocating for alcohol to be less accessible around schools.

Other priorities that parents identified for their neighborhoods included: more opportunities for adults to interact with each other around issues like gangs, parenting, and anger management; youth programs and resources for youth; resources and programs for parents, especially parents coping with addiction; mentor programs; courses offered through churches on “peaceful negotiation strategies,” community-wide promoting positive messages to youth and positive happenings in the community; and mental health services.

Minneapolis Gang Crime Data

What gangs are active in North Minneapolis?

MDHFS staff has met formally and informally with community residents and agency representatives who are invested in reducing the gang problem in Minneapolis. In addition, MDHFS staff has attended on-going meetings in the assessment area neighborhoods (and beyond) to stay connected to community-level concerns throughout the course of this Gang Prevention Coordination grant. Over the course of the grant, MDHFS staff has documented information about known gangs, cliques and sets and has attempted to get a sense of whether they are operating in the assessment area neighborhoods, estimated numbers of members as well as demographic composition. Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) also records gang names and gang members with whom MPD has had contact. MPD provided data over a 24-month period of the names of gangs and their members with whom they have had contact. The following table combines information gathered at the community level about gang names, whether the gangs were operating on the North Side and perceptions about their membership and composition, community estimates of how many members were in each gang, and estimates of the numbers of members documented by MPD.

MDHFS has included metro-wide gang names in this list; however, the list is not exhaustive and should be interpreted with caution. MDHFS chose to exclude the names of certain gangs provided by MPD either because the numbers of members was equal to 1 or 0 or because some level of debate exists that the organization is a “gang.” For example, the “Street Soldiers” and the “Midnight Riders” have been referred to as gangs; however, these groups are commonly known to be groups of bikers and, according to some, might not be defined as a “gang.” For a more complete list of all gangs in the state of Minnesota, please refer to the Metro Gang Strike Force: 2008 Annual Report. For a more complete (not exhaustive) list of the gangs which are believed to operate in the assessment area neighborhoods, see Appendix B.

The table below is a summary of fifteen gangs, cliques or sets who had a high degree of contact with law enforcement in 2009 and have higher levels of estimated membership (>50 members). Nearly half of the gangs, cliques or sets that continue to have a high degree of contact with law enforcement are generational, have been in Minneapolis for quite some time, and are likely to remain. With the possible exception of the *Sureños* and *Vatos Locos*, one common characteristic of the generational gangs appears to be their ability to recruit members across all racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Notably, however, the other half of gangs, cliques or sets having a high degree of contact with law enforcement are relatively recent developments or arrivals and how long they will remain or how well-established they will become is not clear. These more recent gangs, cliques or sets appear to recruit membership within one racial or ethnic category, e.g. African American, Hmong, Native American or Somali. Younger members may tend to transfer loyalty from one gang, clique or set to another and could belong to several over time. In the past, loyalty to one gang was much more prevalent.

Gangs, sets and cliques with most contact with Minneapolis Police Department.

Organization Name	Approx. Age Range of Members	Gender & Race
Black P Stones	10 & up Generational	Members are African American males.
Bloods	10 & up Generational	Members are African American males, although some sets have recruited female members as well as members from other races and ethnic backgrounds, e.g. White, Latino, Asian, Somali, & Native American.
Bogus Boys	16 & up	Bogus Members are African American males.
Crips	10 & up Generational	Members are African American males, although some sets have recruited female members as well as members from other races and ethnic backgrounds, e.g. White, Latino, Asian, Somali, & Native American.
Family Mob	16 & up	Family Mob Members are African American males.
Gangster Disciples	10 & up Generational	Majority of members are African American males & females and GD's have recruited members from other races and ethnic backgrounds, e.g. White, Latino, Asian, Somali, & Native American.
Native Mob	10 & up	Native Mob Members are Native American males & females, although some have recruited Hispanic females members but males have to have native bloodline.
One Nine's (19) Dipset or 19 Block Dipset	15 to 24	19 & Dipset Members are African American males
Purple Brothers	16 & up	Hmong Asian Males
Somali Hot Boyz	15 to 24	Members are Somali males.
Stick Up Boys	15 & up	SUB Members are African American males.
Sureños	10 & up Generational	Members are Hispanic males, although some sets have recruited female members as well as members from other races and ethnic backgrounds.
Taliban	14 & up	Taliban Members are African American males.
Vatos Locos	10 & up Generational	Members of VL are Hispanic males, although some sets have recruited female members as well as members from other races and ethnic backgrounds
Vice Lords	10 & up Generational	Majority of members are African American males, although some sets have recruited female members as well as members from other races and ethnic backgrounds, e.g. White, Latino, Asian, Somali, & Native American.

What crimes are gang members committing?

Actual gang-related crime is very difficult to measure for various reasons. Paramount among these reasons is the disincentive for offenders to disclose that a crime or offense was gang-related due to the threat of “enhancements” on sentencing. Officers on the scene of an incident might not know initially that an incident was gang-related.

Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) uses multiple strategies for monitoring gang activity and crime. MPD tracks the incidents or crimes that have been committed by verified gang members and associates. It has mechanisms for officers to report that a crime is gang-related in incident reports. It also relies on intelligence officers, crime analysts, and a cross-precinct reporting process to share crime and gang activity information.

The data provided in this report reflects a dataset of incidents or crimes that have been committed in 2009 by verified gang members and associates. These incidents are determined through comparative database query of verified gang members and associates against suspects, arrests, witnesses, victims and others connected with incidents in the Minneapolis Police Department report management system (CAPRS). The query matches exact name fields; as a result, any margin of error within the total individual gang-member associated incidents, results from name misspellings, unspecific use of hyphens, and the use of incomparable suffixes.

Although MPD has mechanisms for officers to report gang circumstances of an incident, the prevailing perception appears to be that officers rarely report this information on the incident reports. MPD has nine indicators where an incident could be flagged as gang-related in incident reports. The nine indicators and where they are located on the incident report include:

# / Indicator	Location on Incident Report
4 Gangland (Org crime)	Aggravated Assault Circumstances
5 Juvenile Gang	Aggravated Assault Circumstances
13 Suspected Gang Member	Appearance
4 Gangland (Org crime)	Homicide Circumstances
5 Juvenile Gang	Homicide Circumstances
Gang	Crime Elements
Graffiti-Gang	Crime Elements
Juvenile Gang	Criminal Activity
Other Gang	Criminal Activity

An on-going and systematic audit of incident reports does not appear to have ever been conducted to determine how much information pertinent to gang circumstances is actually being reported on the incident reports. Underutilization of these reporting mechanisms by police officers results in gang-related crimes being underreported in Minneapolis—by over ninety percent according to one estimate. In an email to MDHFS staff, an MPD Sergeant describes an example of how underreporting and poor data maintenance makes interpreting gang data challenging.

What is most descriptive of our attempts at measuring gang associated crime is the homicide rate. The official 2009 homicide book does not indicate gang circumstances in any of the 20 homicides, though six incidents have identified

gang members involved and four out of 11 arrests for homicide involve people with a gang affiliation in [the Suspect Tracking System]. –MPD Sergeant

A primary reason for underutilization and underreporting appears to be lack of system-wide training on the identification of gang-related incidents and training relevant to using the data tracking mechanisms. Other reasons may include: officers' not understanding the purpose or importance of reporting gang-related crime, officers' individual beliefs about gang crime and gang members, the complexity of making the determination, lack of time and resources for collecting, and maintaining and analyzing data at this level, just to name a few.

Despite the challenges and limitations of the gang data, MPD pulled queries to measure the proportion of crimes that have been committed by gang members within selected crime categories. See the table on the next page.

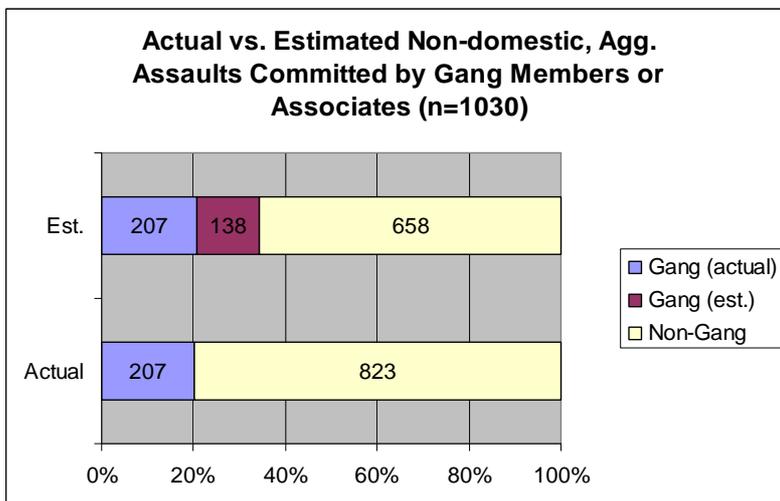
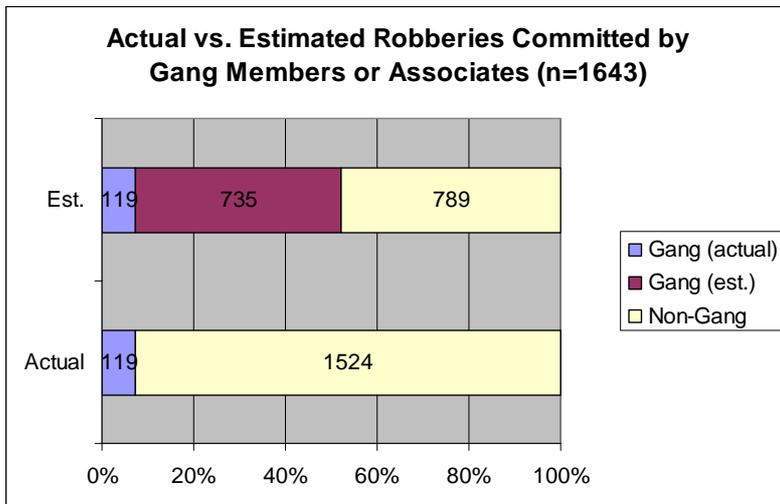


MINNEAPOLIS POLICE • CRIME ANALYSIS UNIT
STRATEGIC INFORMATION & CRIME MANAGEMENT DIVISION

2009 Gang Associated Crime in Minneapolis							
OFFENSES	2009 Gang Associated Incidents	Total Minneapolis Crimes	% of Gang-Associated Crimes	Uniform Crime Report	Gang Members Arrested	Total Minneapolis Arrests	% of Arrests
HOMICIDE	6	20	30.00%	20	4	11	36.36%
RAPE	14	426	3.29%	429	5	57	8.77%
ASLT1	13	33	39.39%	NA	6	26	23.08%
ASLT2	175	696	25.14%	NA	80	297	26.94%
ASLT3	10	199	5.03%	NA	3	93	3.23%
ASLT4	9	102	8.82%	NA	9	106	8.49%
Domestic Agg ASLT	74	823	8.99%	NA	10	NA	NA
TOTAL AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	281	1853	15.16%	2176	108	815	13.25%
ASLT6	89	2358	3.77%	NA	30	807	3.72%
Assault of Mounted Patrol	0	25	0.00%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Misdemeanor Domestic Assault	169	2822	5.99%	NA	56	1293	4.33%
ROBBIZ	10	167	5.99%	NA	4	39	10.26%
ROBPER	73	737	9.91%	NA	30	143	20.98%
ROBAG	36	739	4.87%	NA	53	243	21.81%
TOTAL ROBBERY	119	1643	7.24%	1707	87	425	20.47%
BURGLARY	111	4887	2.27%	4764	51	338	15.09%
WEAPONS	75	421	17.81%	NA	98	421	23.28%

Gang associated crimes in 2009 is determined through comparative database query of verified individuals with a gang association against suspects, arrests, witnesses, victims and others connected with incidents in the Minneapolis Police Department report management system (CAPRS). The query matches exact name fields and any margin of error within the 5,055 individual gang associated incidents results from name misspellings, insensitive use of hyphens and incomparable suffixes used.

Factoring in additional information provided by MPD, MDHFS staff was able to estimate how much crime can reasonably be attributed to gang-members within two of the crime categories, namely, robberies and non-domestic, aggravated assaults. Both of these crime categories have a relatively large proportion of unnamed suspects—86% of robbery incidents and 40% of non-domestic, aggravated assaults. By determining the proportion of incidents involving “named suspects” that were committed by gang members, MDHFS was able to infer how many incidents involving “unnamed suspects” were also committed by gang-members. The charts below paint possibly a more accurate picture of the number of incidents in these categories that can be attributed to gang members.



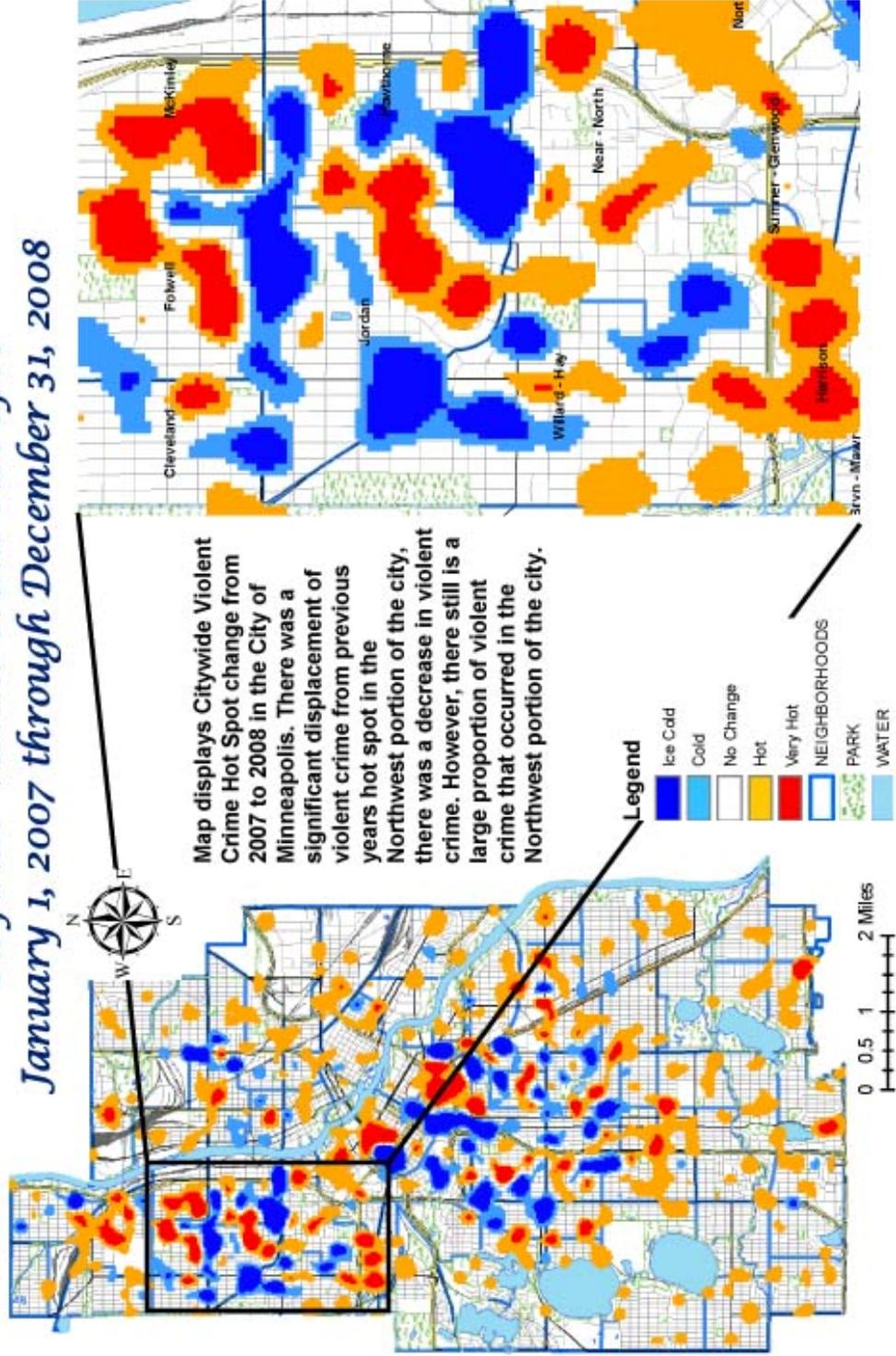
MDHFS analyzed a dataset that included arrests involving gang members or associates in 2009 to more deeply explore the question of the types of crimes being committed by gang members. Two-thirds of offenses (63%) committed by gang member arrestees were comprised of: narcotics (16%), arrests of individuals with warrants (12%), loitering (10%), trespassing (5%), curfew (4%), disorderly conduct (4%), carrying a weapon

without permit (3%), recovered stolen vehicle (3%), assaults with a weapon (3%), and fleeing on foot (3%).

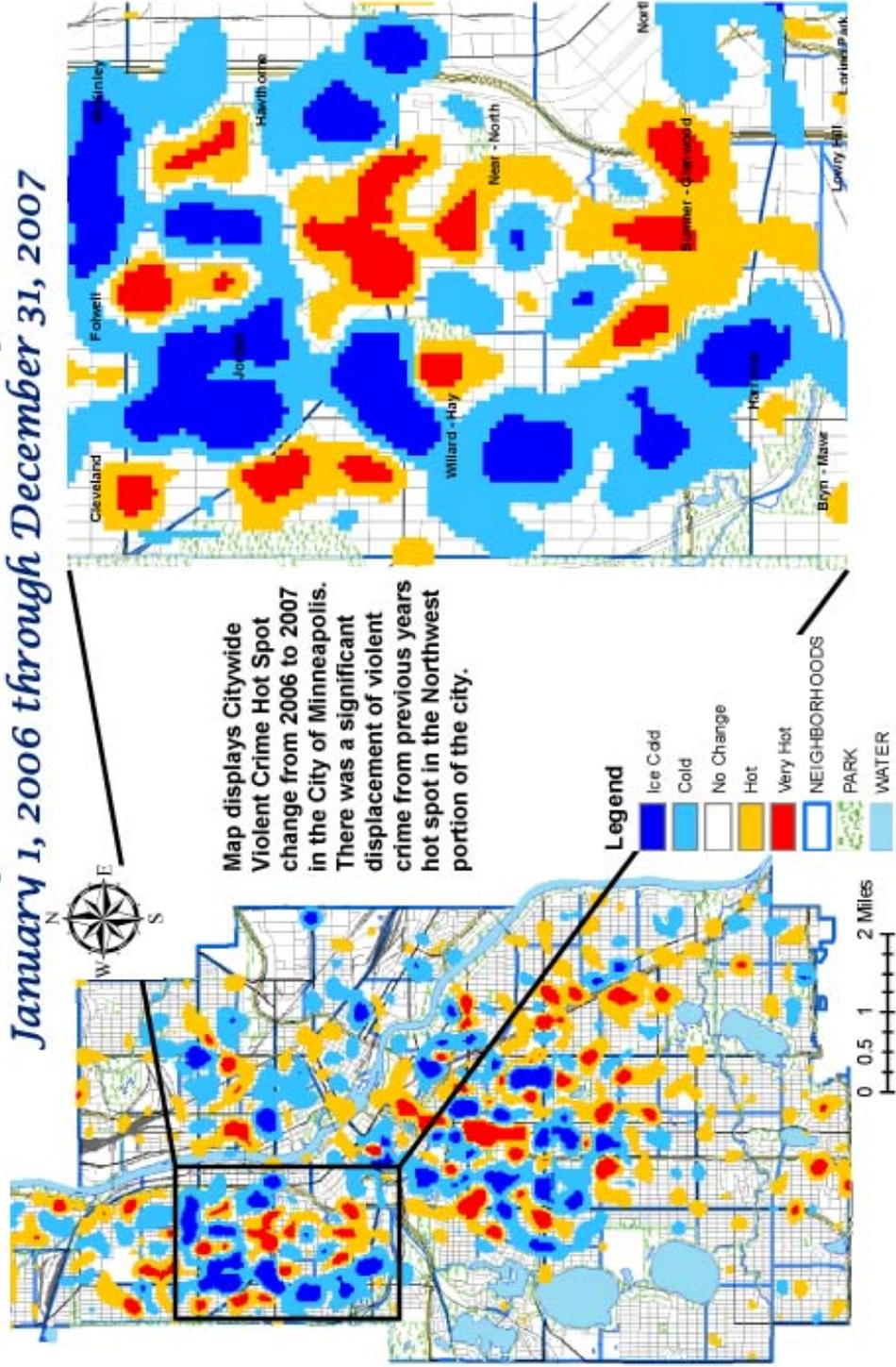
Where are violent crimes being committed?

The following violent crime, density maps are not specific to gang-related crime. They map out violent crime incidents over a three-year period and illustrate how violent crime has been displaced over recent years. See Violent Crime Maps 2006-2008 starting on the next page.

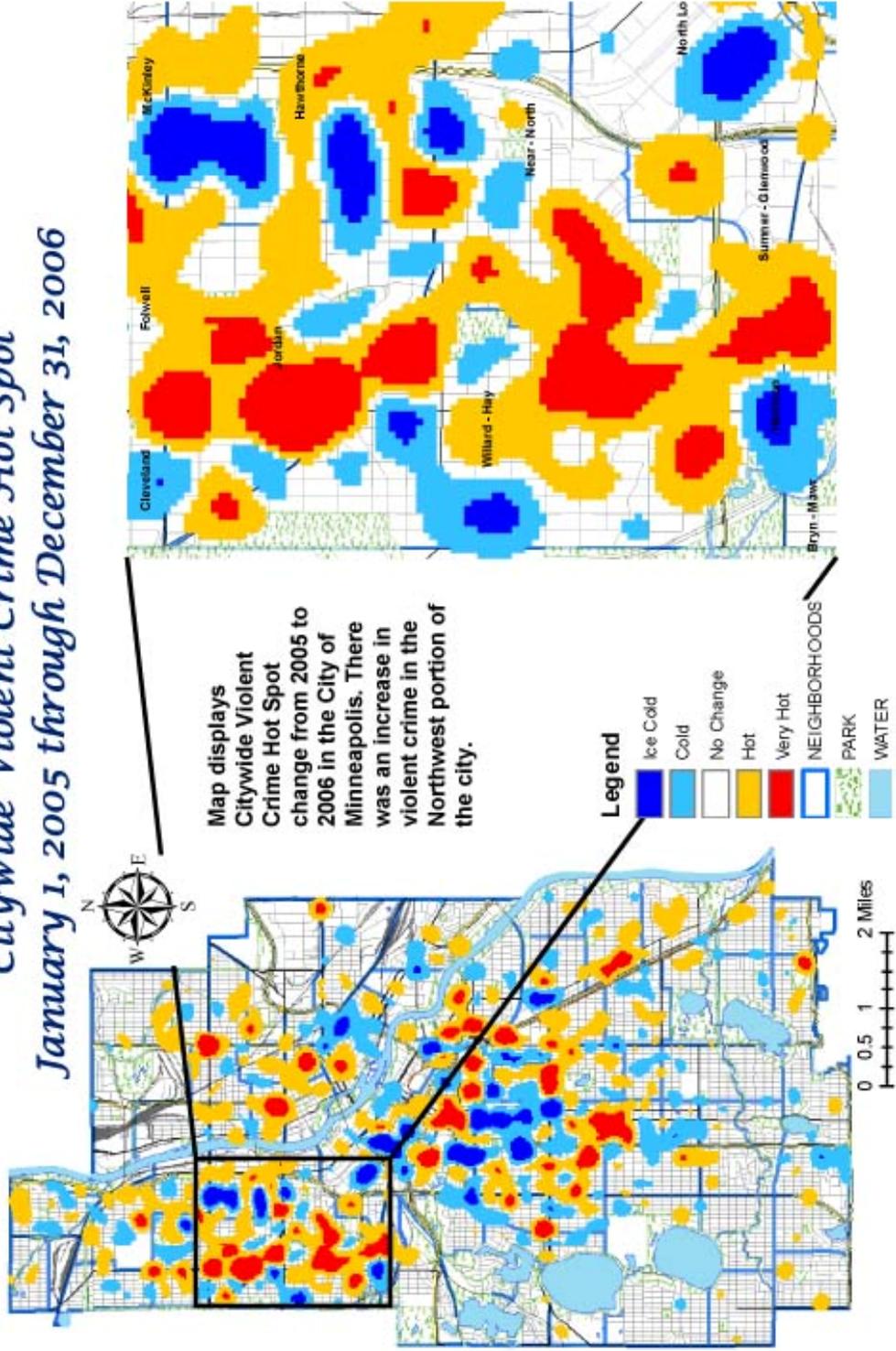
*Citywide Violent Crime Hot Spot
 January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008*



*Citywide Violent Crime Hot Spot
 January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2007*



*Citywide Violent Crime Hot Spot
 January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2006*

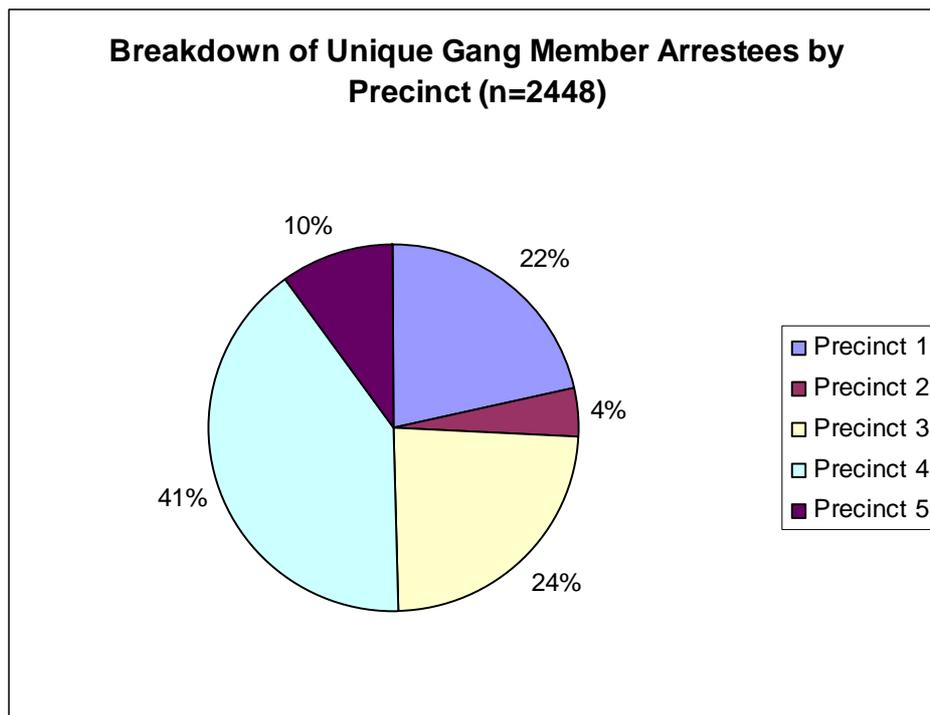


(Intentionally left blank)

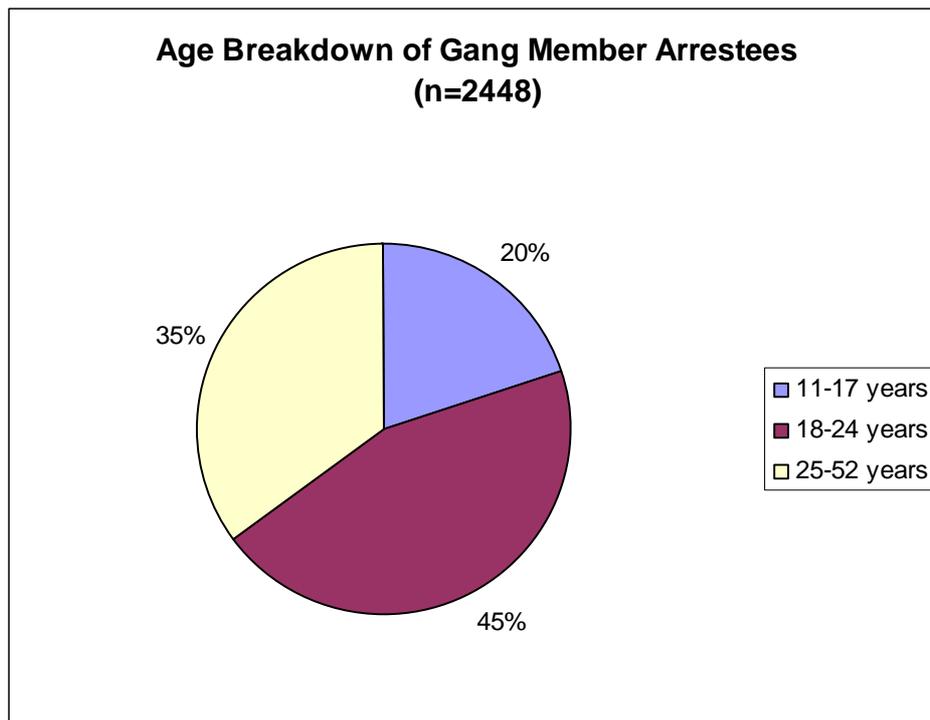
Where are gang crimes being committed and who is committing them?

Each of the gang organizations, sets and cliques in Minneapolis has its own origin, zone and track-record of criminal activity. Documenting the origin, zone and criminal history of all gang organizations operating in the City could become a futile effort given how frequently they can emerge and disappear and in some cases never reappear. For example, one group that refers to itself as the “Freakies” was not included on the list of Minneapolis gangs for a number of reasons. The Freakies are not well-established, do not appear to have a great deal of contact with law enforcement, are small in numbers and are believed to be comprised of a loose network of school-age youth. However, some gangs such as the Rolling 30’s Bloods and Family Mob have been operating for decades, are well-established and are likely remain in Minneapolis.

Analysis of 2009 gang-member arrestee data from MPD provides a broad look into the geographic breakdown of offenses committed by gang members. Forty-one percent of gang member arrests in 2009 occurred in Precinct 4, the area that includes the assessment area neighborhoods.



The gang-member arrestee data also provides a look at demographic characteristics of these individuals. Ninety-eight percent of gang-member arrestees were male. The majority of Minneapolis gang-member arrestees did not fall within the age groups to be targeted for this grant (13-17 years). The majority fell between 18 and 24 years (45%) followed by 25-52 years (35%). One-out-of-five gang-member arrestees were under age 18.

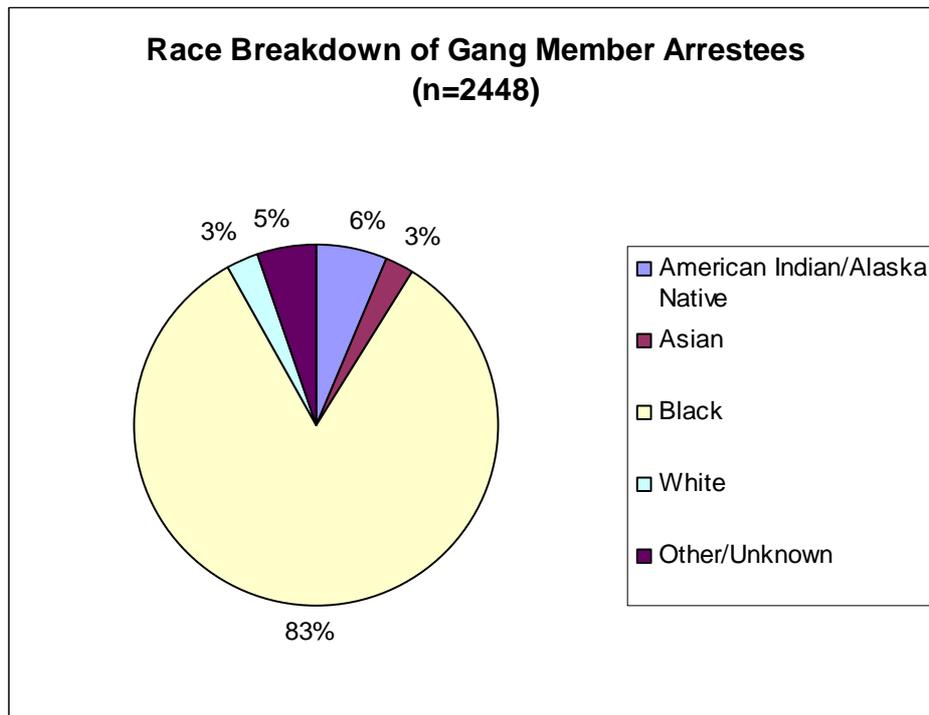


The majority of gang-member arrestees in the 25 to 52 year age group were between 25 and 40 years; nonetheless, the fact that such a large proportion of gang-member arrestees are older than 25 years is an unexpected finding. Important to note is that this dataset was pulled through a comparative database query of “verified gang members and associates against suspects, arrests, witnesses, victims and others connected with incidents in the Minneapolis Police Department report management system (CAPRS).” Poor and inconsistent gang-member determinations combined with infrequent review and updates to gang-member determinations in a gang-member and associate database could lead to Minneapolis’ gang members appearing older than what one would have expected. If individuals who were once “verified gang members” chose to leave the gang lifestyle, were still having contact with law enforcement but were never allowed to “graduate” into a non-gang member status, older “gang members” would remain in the data.

MPD incident reports contain various distinct sections where officers can indicate appearance, race, ethnicity, culture and language variables. “Gang name” is another variable which MPD tracks separately from the incident reports and which can provide some inference into the cultural background of gang members, especially when the gang name is put into context of community members’ experiences with the gang and their knowledge about its composition. In order to effectively determine how much variables

other than race are being used, MPD or MDHFS would have to conduct manual audits of the incident reports. That said, what appears to be most consistently used by officers to describe persons involved in an incident is the “race” variable which includes the following generic categories: American Indian, Asian, Black, White and Other.

Eighty-three percent of gang-member arrestees were Black, which presumably includes African Americans, East African immigrants and anyone else whose appearance is “black.” How Hispanics/Latinos, for example, would be categorized is not clear, making disaggregation of Hispanic/Latino data difficult.



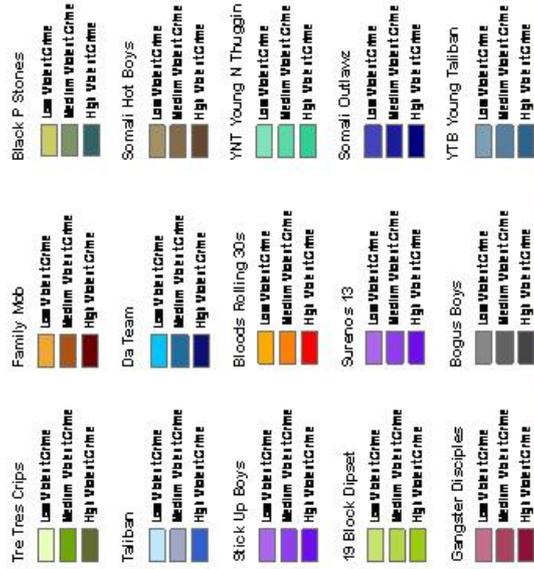
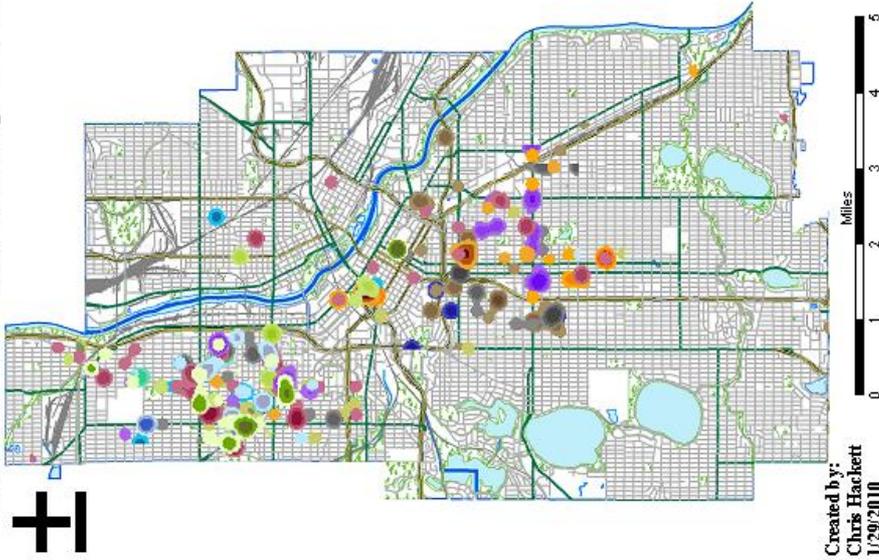
In addition to providing MDHFS the gang-member arrestee database, MPD selected fifteen gangs that were known to operate in or around North Minneapolis and that were known to have had contact with law enforcement. MPD created density maps of the 2009 violent crime activity of these gangs in the City. Included in the maps are the gang names to which offenders belonged. Also, included is a count of members and associates of each gang who were involved in 2009 violent crime incidents. See maps on the next page.

(Intentionally left blank)



Minneapolis Police Department - Crime Analysis Unit

Violent Crime Density involving Gang Members or Associates 2009

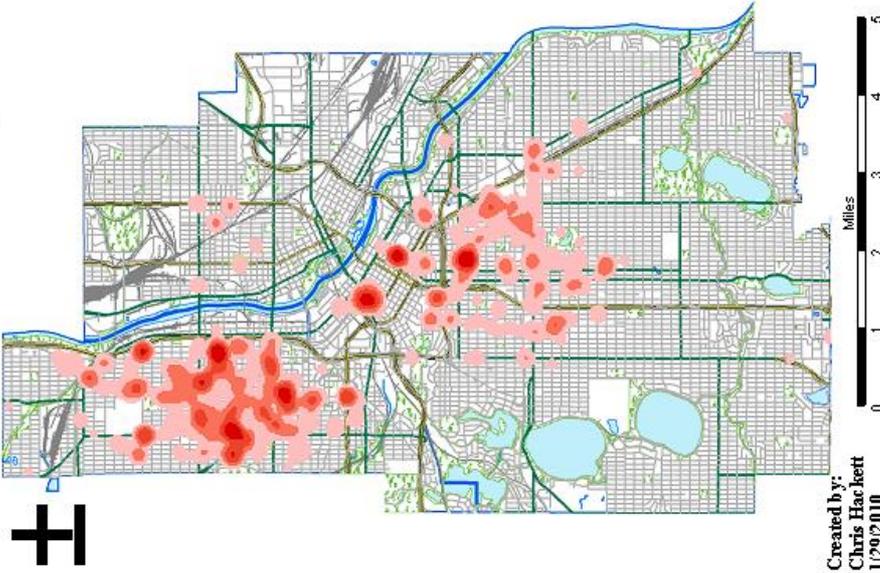


Gang	Total Incidents	Members	Associates	Secondary
CRIPS TRE TRES	81	247	60	12
TALIBAN	72	191	32	3
STICK UP BOYS	63	165	37	0
19 BLOCK DIP SET	62	233	59	10
GANGSTER DISCIPLES	60	789	469	73
FAMILY MOB	60	376	155	12
DA TEAM	59	87	11	4
BLOODS ROLLIN G 30S	54	381	103	4
SURENOS 13	47	721	397	46
BOGUS BOYS	48	361	128	34
BLACK P STONES	38	333	189	20
SOMALI HOT BOYS	37	175	79	2
YNT / YOUNG N THUGGIN	37	66	30	1
SOMALI OUTLAWZ	33	192	73	16
YTB / YOUNG TALIBAN	32	22	8	0

Created by:
Chris Hackert
1/29/2010

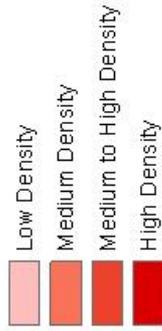
Minneapolis Police Department - Crime Analysis Unit

Violent Crime Density involving Gang Members or Associates 2009



Violent Crime includes Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assaults, Domestic Aggravated Assaults, and Weapons Charges.

Violent Crime Incidents 2009



Gang	Total Incidents	Names	Members	Associates	Secondary
CRIPS / TRE TREES	81	247	60	9	12
TALUBAN	72	191	32	3	0
STICK UP BOYS	63	165	37	0	0
19 BLOCK / DIP SET	62	233	59	10	5
GANGSTER DISCIPLES	60	789	459	73	23
FAMILY MOB	60	376	155	12	4
D.A. TEAM	59	87	11	4	0
BLOODS ROLLING 30S	54	381	103	4	4
SURENOS 13	47	721	397	46	2
BOGUS BOYS	43	361	126	34	11
BLACK P. STONES	38	333	189	20	27
SOMALI HOT BOYS	37	175	79	2	3
YNT / YOUNG 'N THUGGIN	37	66	30	1	2
SOMALI OUTLAWZ	33	192	73	15	0
YTB / YOUNG TALUBAN	32	22	8	0	0

Created by:
Chris Hackett
1/29/2010

MPD provided brief historical backgrounds on selected, violent and active gangs in Minneapolis. Some of these gangs have ties to gangs in other US cities such as the Black P Stones; others like the Rolling 30's Bloods and Family Mob are Minneapolis-based. MDHFS staff made minor additions and edits to these background summaries. The background summaries provided are not exhaustive and interpretation of these histories should be approached with caution. Information included in the summaries is not intended to be conclusive and may be speculative in nature. The following are the historical background summaries of selected gangs, most of which operate in the assessment area neighborhoods.

19 BLOCK DIPSET

The 19 Block Dip Set originated in 2003 and was first documented in 2004. They are said to have had and may continue to have ties to the Vice Lords. They copied the name from a violent gang in Rochester, NY called the Dip Sets. They were all friends from playing basketball at North High School in North Minneapolis. They primarily hang out in the Willard Hay neighborhood, 1900 Block of Newton, and North Commons Park.

YNT/ YOUNG N THUGGIN

YNT was believed to have started in 2007 and was documented as a gang about eight months after the Taliban. They have consistently aligned with the Taliban. They also hang out in the area of 20th – Lowry Ave N on Lyndale – Bryant Ave N in North Minneapolis. The leaders of these two gangs are long-time friends from school and the neighborhood.

STICK UP BOYS

The Stick Up Boys and Scarface are intertwined. They are both derivatives of the 19 Block Dip Sets. They were first documented in 2007 as a result of a shooting. They are primarily in the North Commons area and along Plymouth Ave N in North Minneapolis. They have recently become more active and violent.

TALIBAN

The Taliban started at Henry High School in 2005 and were documented as a gang in 2007. They were originally aligned with the 19 Block Dip Set against the Tre Tre Crips. Allegedly the gang began to feud with the 19 Block Dip Set over a female and this sparked a long and violent feud between them. They primarily hang out in the area of 20th – Lowry Ave N on Lyndale – Bryant Ave N in North Minneapolis.

YTB / YOUNG TALIBAN

The Young Taliban consists of younger members of the Taliban Gang. They started in 2008 and appear to answer to the Taliban gang. They primarily hang out in the area of 20th – Lowry Ave N on Lyndale – Bryant Ave N and at the Hennepin County Library at 1315 Lowry Ave N in Minneapolis.

TRE TRE CRIPS

The Tre Tre Crips started in 2003 and were documented in 2005. They are one of the largest, active, documented gangs in North Minneapolis today. They are also claiming allegiance to the Shotgun Crips and are one of the few hybrid gangs that continue to keep ties to the older members of the original gang. They primarily hang out in the McKinley/Folwell neighborhoods of North Minneapolis, especially in the area of 33 Ave N and Bryant Ave N.

DA TEAM

It is unknown when Da Team was started but they were documented in 2007. The suspected leaders of this gang were blood-related cousins of the leaders of the YNT. The suspected leader of Da Team was involved in several high-profile incidents and is currently in custody. They were aligned with YNT and were rivals of the Tre Tre Crips. They split from the YNT in 2008-2009 over a car accident. There were several jail letters that suggested they were aligned with the Tre Tre Crips and SUB. However, in late 2009 Da Team and YNT re-aligned themselves possibly due to the leader being in custody. Due to recent arrests and graffiti it is believed that they are together again.

BLACK P STONES

The Black P. Stone Nation (BPSN) rides under the "five pointed" star. They identify themselves as "Brothers" or "People". The Black P Stones have been documented in Minneapolis since the late 1980's, and many of the original members had strong ties to gang members in Chicago. Black P Stone members have been involved in narcotics and weapons offenses. In recent years the P Stones have failed to recruit younger members, and their influence has waned.

ROLLING 30'S BLOODS

The Rolling 30's Bloods gang was formed in Minneapolis around the mid 1980's. It operates within a neighborhood of south Minneapolis encompassing those blocks that are numbered in the 30's, and the gang's territory is bordered at the northern edge by Lake Street; at the southern edge by approximately 42nd Street; at the western edge by approximately Nicollet Avenue; and at the eastern edge by approximately Bloomington or Elliot avenues. The neighborhood is primarily residential with some small commercial developments. They have been involved in many violent encounters with both Family Mob and the Bogus Boys gangs. The Rolling 30s Bloods gang is involved with the sale of street narcotics.

BOGUS BOYS

The Bogus Boys are a Minneapolis-based gang but have influences in Chicago. The gang has a history of violent encounters with the Rolling 30's Bloods and the Family Mob. The membership is said to come from other gangs, in particular the Gangster Disciples. The gang is involved with the sale of street narcotics.

FAMILY MOB

The Family Mob was formed in Minneapolis in the early 1990's. The membership was high at one time, but since their Federal Trial in 1997 the Family Mob gang has separated and has fewer members at this time. Most members that have been active have been associating with the 20z Gang. The Family Mob gang is still involved in the sale of street narcotics.

SOMALI HOT BOYZ / SOMALI OUTLAWZ

The Somali Hot Boys (SHB) was first documented in Minneapolis in 2004. Information from informants indicated that this gang primarily robbed Somali *khat* dealers in Minneapolis. They originally claimed territory in the Cedar/Riverside area of Minneapolis.

Since 2004, the SHB have split into many factions. The most active faction is the Somali Outlawz (SOL). The SOL was first documented in 2006. The original members were

Washburn High School students. Today, the SOL has “fanned” out into south Minneapolis and the suburbs, leaving the Cedar/Riverside area for rival Somali gangs. The SOL hang-out at Karmel Square (29th St and Pillsbury Av) and the Somali Mall at 24th St and Elliot Av in Minneapolis. Members of the SOL have been implicated in the burglary of a gun store that occurred in 2009. Since the burglary, five members have been arrested in possession of stolen handguns taken during the burglary.

Who are the victims of gang crimes?

MPD also provided datasets related to the victims of gang crime in Minneapolis. One database provided all incidents involving gang members (any role). “Victim” was included among the various roles of gang members in this dataset, which in turn allowed MDHFS to determine . In addition to the role of the gang member, the dataset provided a unique identifier for each gang member, basic demographic information, as well as the date, location and type of incident. MDHFS was not able to determine whether the gang member had been victimized by another gang member. In other words, we were able to determine that the gang member was a victim in the incident, the type of incident in which he/she was involved, but could not determine anything about the perpetrator.

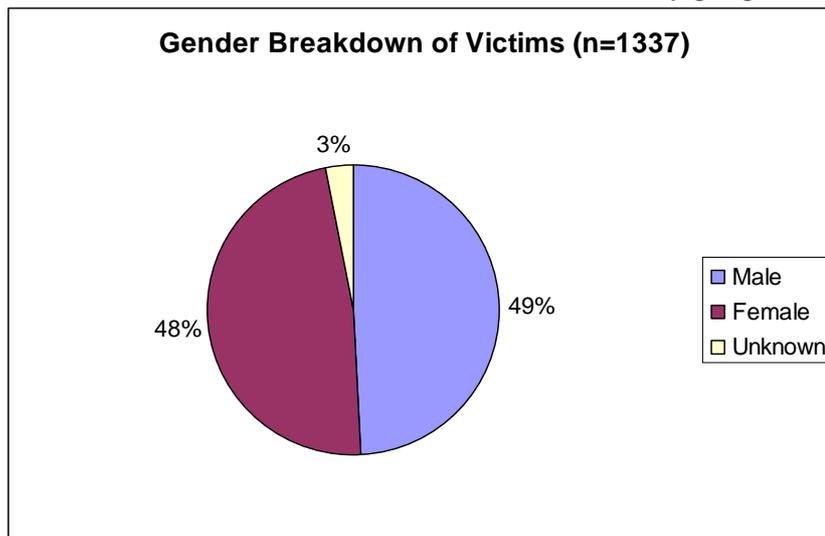
Another dataset included the incidents involving the victims of gang members with demographic information about the gang members and their victims. The unique identifier in this dataset pertained to the gang member, not the victim. We knew in this case that the perpetrators were gang members but were not able to determine who, among the victims, was also a gang member.

The goal of analyzing victim data was to answer two guiding questions:

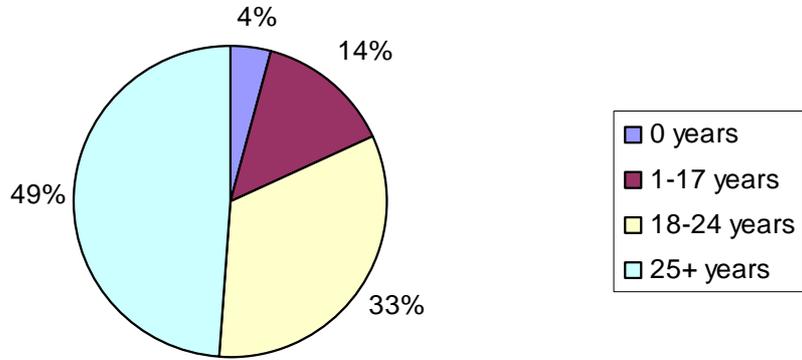
1. Who are the victims of gang crimes (age, race, and gender)?
2. How many gang members were also victims in 2009? What were their characteristics?

Victims of Gang Members

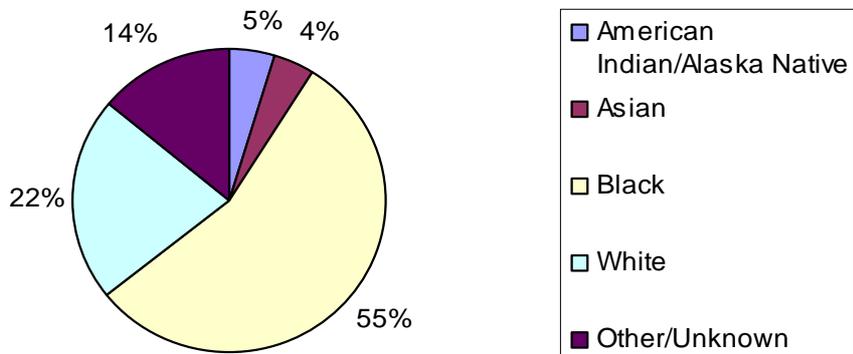
This section describes victims of crimes committed by gang members.

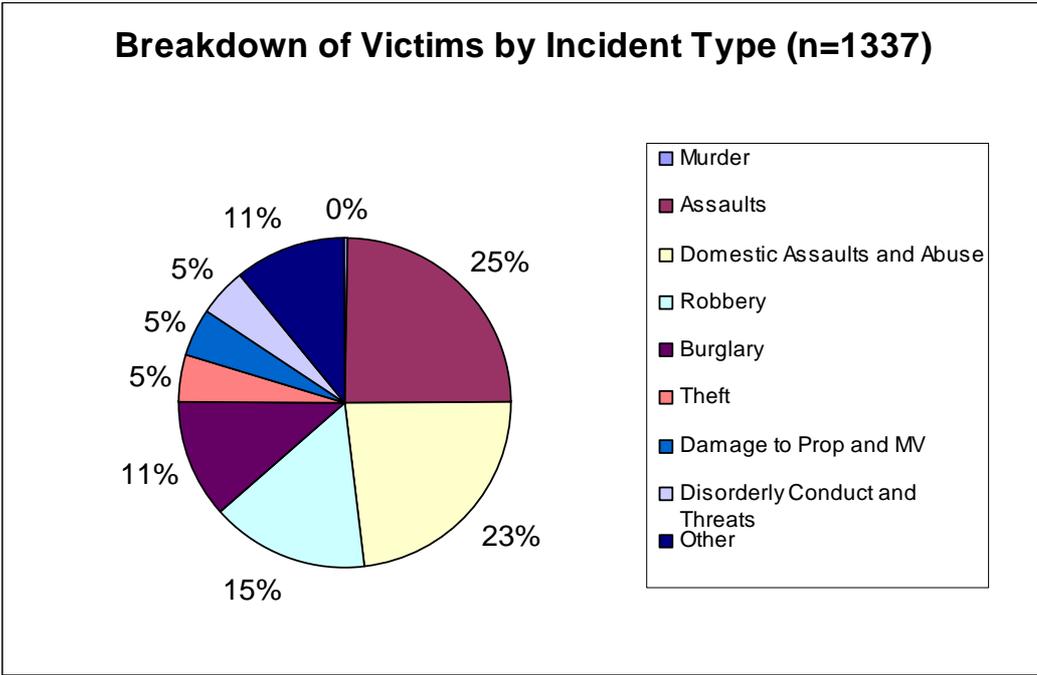


Age Breakdown of Victims (n=1337)



Race Breakdown of Victims (n=1337)

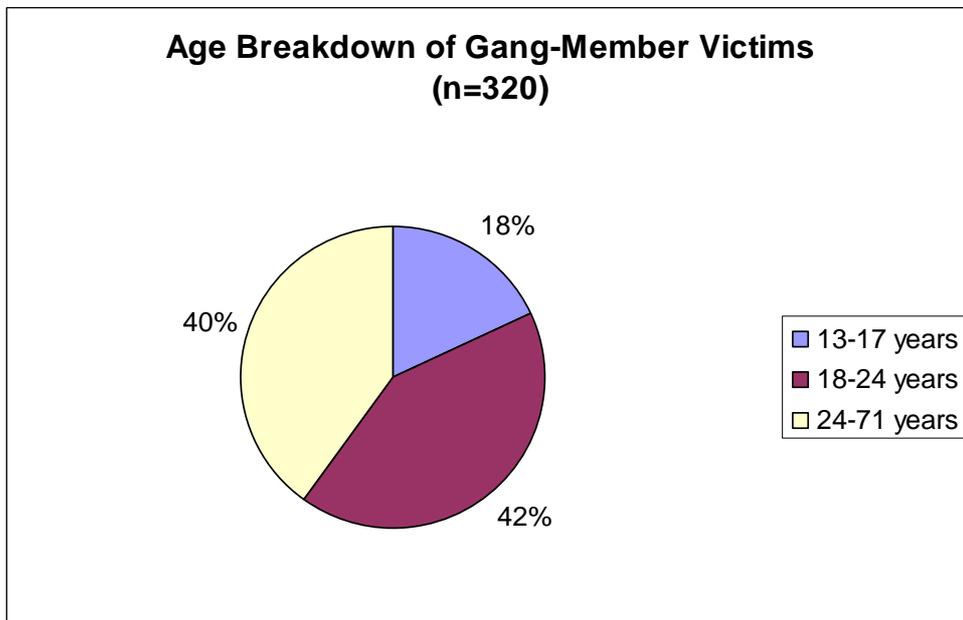
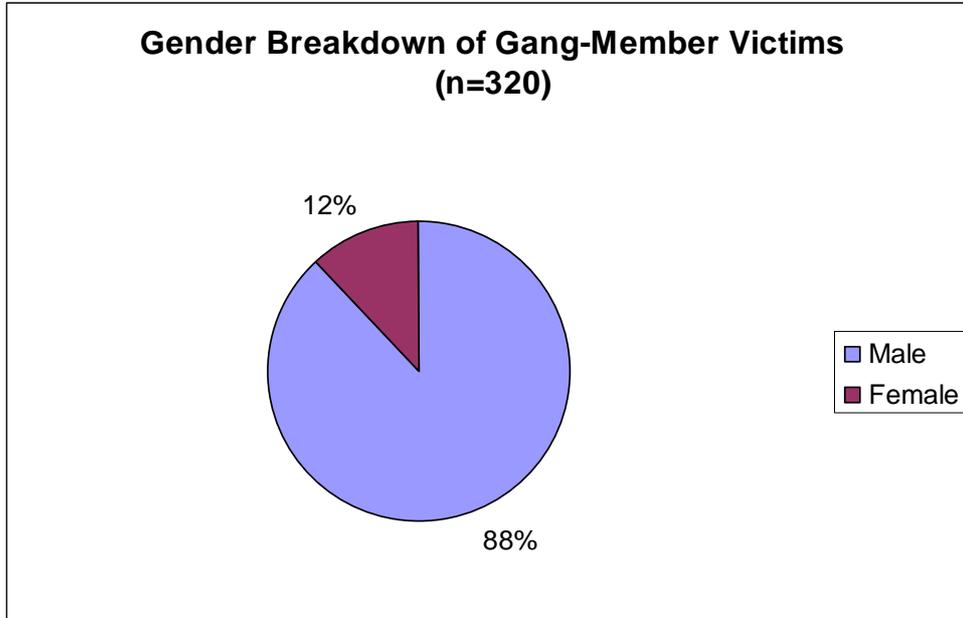




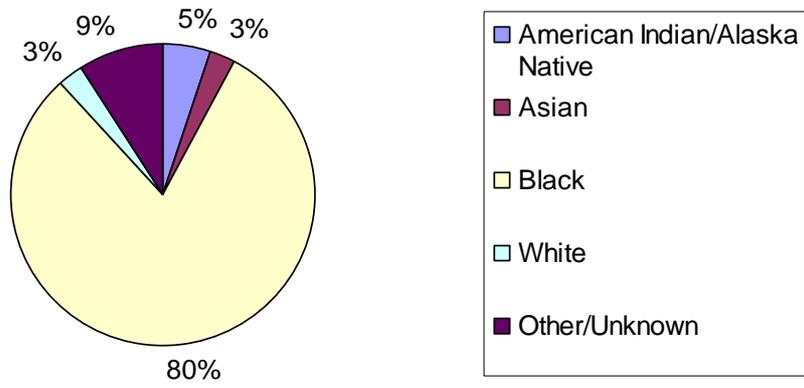
Some key points can be pulled from analyses of these data. First, whereas gang membership is primarily comprised of men (98 percent), their victims are more or less equally men and women. Second, during interviews, focus groups and parent forums youth and community residents on the North Side commonly described a situation where adults were afraid of the youth in their neighborhoods. Eighty-two percent of the victims of gang members were over 18. Third, whereas over eighty-percent of gang member arrestees were Black, victimization extends more broadly into other races. What is particularly concerning is the 14 percent of "Other," a race category about which MDHFS can infer very little in terms of culture, language and composition. Fourth, and finally, over half of victimization by gang members is due to violent crimes. Nearly a quarter involves domestic assaults, including child abuse.

Gang-Member Victims

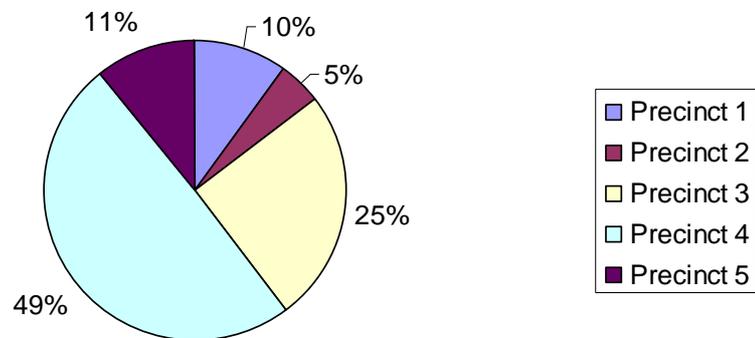
This section includes data describing gang members who were victims themselves in 2009.

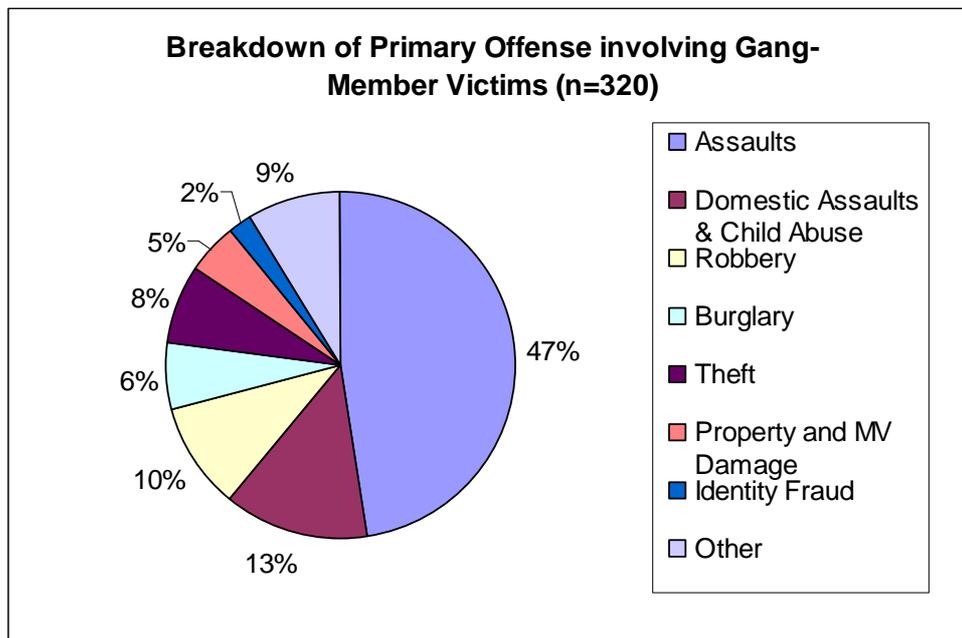


**Race Breakdown of Gang-Member Victims
(n=320)**



**Breakdown of Gang-Member Victims by
Precinct (n=320)**





Key observations from these data include the following. First, women represented two percent of gang-member arrestees. However, women who were known gang members represented twelve percent of all incidents in which gang members had been victims. Secondly, violent crimes account for the majority of the incidents in which gang members were victimized. Assaults account for nearly half of these incidents. Thirdly, the age breakdown of gang-member victims is similar to the age breakdown of gang member arrestees overall, which seems to imply that all age groups are equally susceptible to victimization.

Academic Performance and the School Environment

Factors related to academic performance and the school environment could be contributing to, descriptive of or indicative of problems associated with gangs and gang violence. In particular data about student perceptions of gang activity and drug use at school at the state, district and school-level are included in this section. School-level data focuses on those schools that are part of Minneapolis Public Schools' North Side Initiative as they are in or near the assessment area neighborhoods. North Side Initiative Schools include: **K-5**—Bethune, Jenny Lind, Loring; **K-8**—Cityview, Lucy Laney, Nellie Stone Johnson; Olson Middle School; Patrick Henry High School. Specialty and magnet schools included are: Hmong Academy, Elizabeth Hall Magnet School, and North High School.

In Minneapolis Public Schools, over 70 percent of students are children of color, up from about 40 percent in 1990. According to the *2009 AYP Graduation Rates by Subgroups Summary*, graduation rates for minority youth in Minneapolis are much lower than those for white youth. The graduation rate for the 2007/2008 school year was 83 percent for Asian students, 67 percent for African American students, 59 percent for Hispanic/Latino students, 57 percent for Native American students compared to 93 percent for white students. Edison (located in northeast Minneapolis) and North High Schools had the lowest graduation rates, 63 percent and 81 percent respectively.

Student Perceptions of the Gang Problem at School

The Minnesota Student Survey has one question that specifically asks students about gang problems at their school. The survey is conducted every three years. The last survey was conducted in 2007. The following tables illustrate relevant results of the survey statewide compared to Minneapolis Public Schools. Only grade 6 and grade 9 data were included due to concerns over the reliability of grade 12 data at the Minneapolis level.

A wide disparity exists between perceptions of gang problems in the schools between Minneapolis Public School students and statewide. The proportion of students who perceive that gangs are a problem in Minneapolis Public Schools is double the same proportion at the state level. For instance, thirty-five percent of male sixth graders in Minneapolis reported illegal gang activity to be a problem in their schools, compared to eighteen percent statewide. Perceptions are similar between male students and female students, with slightly more 9th graders agreeing there is a problem compared to 6th graders.

Student Perceptions: Illegal gang activity is a problem at this school.

State Level: Minnesota*				
	6th Grade		9th Grade	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Strongly Agree	7%	6%	7%	4%
Agree	11%	10%	15%	12%
Disagree	28%	31%	43%	51%
Strongly Disagree	54%	54%	35%	33%

City Level: Minneapolis*				
	6th Grade		9th Grade	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Strongly Agree	15%	14%	16%	12%
Agree	20%	21%	31%	25%
Disagree	30%	30%	40%	51%
Strongly Disagree	34%	35%	13%	12%

*Source: Minnesota Student Survey, Minneapolis Tables, 2007

Less of a disparity exists between the proportion of students at the state and city levels who perceive student use of alcohol and drugs to be a problem. Although less of a disparity exists between geographic regions, the proportions of students who perceive alcohol and drugs to be a problem indicate that alcohol and drugs are a problem statewide, whereas gangs clearly have a disproportionate affect on 6th and 9th grade students' perceptions in Minneapolis. The proportion of students reporting that drugs and alcohol are a problem in their school increases substantially between 6th and 9th grades statewide and at the city level and is similar between genders.

Student Perceptions: Student use of drugs or alcohol is a problem at this school.

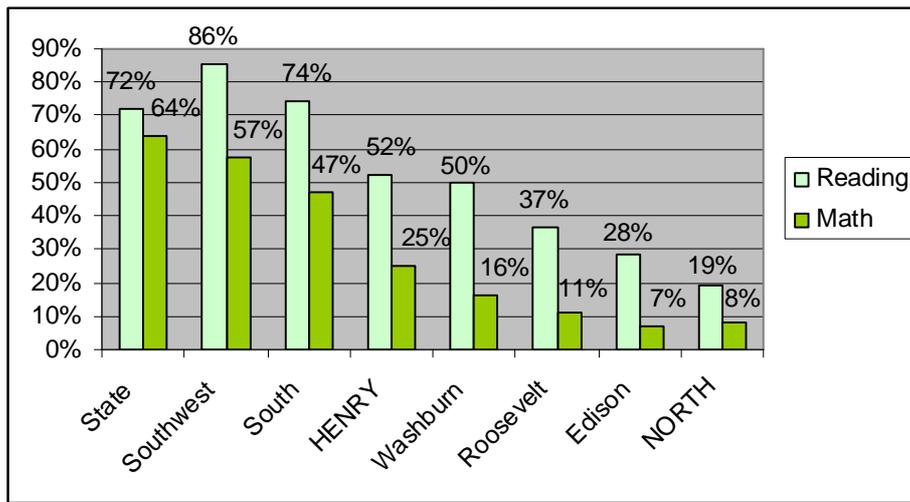
State Level: Minnesota*				
	6th Grade		9th Grade	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Strongly Agree	8%	6%	18%	19%
Agree	11%	10%	38%	41%
Disagree	26%	29%	33%	32%
Strongly Disagree	56%	55%	11%	7%

City Level: Minneapolis*				
	6th Grade		9th Grade	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Strongly Agree	10%	11%	18%	12%
Agree	13%	13%	36%	32%
Disagree	25%	27%	32%	45%
Strongly Disagree	53%	49%	14%	10%

Academic Performance

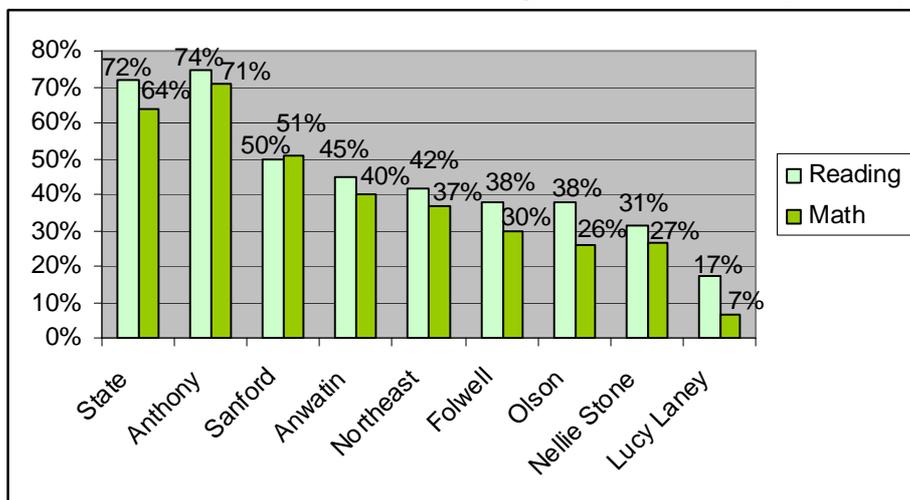
The charts below illustrate academic performance measures across selected Minneapolis Public Schools. Schools located in or that tend to enroll students who reside in the assessment area neighborhoods include: Patrick Henry and North High Schools, Olson, Nellie-Stone Johnson and Lucy Laney K-8 schools. Edison is also believed to enroll students from the North Side assessment area neighborhoods, but is not part of the Minneapolis Public Schools, North Side Initiative.

2008-09 MCA-II High School Reading and Math Scores (All Tested Grades)¹



¹ Source: Minnesota Department of Education, School Report Cards

2008-09 MCA-II Middle School¹ Reading and Math Scores (Grade 8)²



¹ Chart also includes scores of Olson, Nellie Stone, and Lucy Laney which are K-8 community schools located in the Camden and Near North planning communities.

² Source: Minnesota Department of Education, School Report Cards

Homeless and Highly Mobile (HMM)

Minneapolis Public Schools staff identify children and youth who are homeless and highly mobile in Minneapolis following the McKinney Vento Education legislation. The following district-wide and school-specific data was collected from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

During July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009:

- 5,547 children and youth were identified as homeless and highly mobile in Minneapolis. This is an increase of 89 students from the previous year.
- 72.1 percent were African American; 7.1percent Native American; 7.1percent White; 5.9 percent Hispanic American; and 5.2 percent Asian American.
- 79 percent of the children and youth were identified staying at shelters; 19 percent were identified as homeless in other temporary locations.

Grade levels of students identified in Minneapolis as homeless and highly mobile:

Grade level	# / percent
Preschool (0-4 years)	1,671 (29.6%)
Kindergarten	360 (6.5%)
Grades 1-5 students	1,497 (26.9%)
Grades 6-8 students	789 (14.0%)
Grades 9-12 students	1286 (22.2%)
18-21 years	42 (0.7%)

In addition, 6.8 percent of the homeless and highly mobile Minneapolis Public School students were English Language Learners (ELL) compared to a 20.8 percent district average. Twenty-eight of these same students had an existing IEP for Special Education services compared to a nineteen percent district average.

The following tables show each type of school and the five highest schools in terms of their numbers of homeless and highly mobile students during the 2008/09. Schools that are among North Side Initiative Schools are indicated in grey.

K-5 Sites

School Name	2008/09 # / (%)
Bethune	92 (18%)
Hall	72 (15%)
Lyndale	66 (13%)
Longfellow	48 (13%)
Pratt	45 (19%)

The 2008/09 levels of homeless and highly mobile students in K-5 sites are higher when compared with 2006/07 levels.

K-8 Sites

School Name	2008/09 # / (%)
Anderson Complex	158 (12%)
Lucy Craft Laney	146 (18%)
Nellie Stone Johnson	146 (17%)
Sullivan	142 (18%)
Sheridan	104 (13%)

The 2008/09 levels of homeless and highly mobile students in K-8 sites are higher and in some cases double when compared with 2006/07 levels. Anderson Complex is located in the Phillips Community of Minneapolis, another area known to be highly affected by gangs and gang activity in Minneapolis.

Middle Schools

School Name	2008/09 # / (%)
Anwatin	54 (9%)
Northeast	47 (7%)
Sanford	38 (8%)
Folwell	26 (12%)
SPAN Middle	21 (19%)

The 2008/09 levels of homeless and highly mobile students in middle school sites, with the exceptions of Folwell and SPAN middle, are higher when compared with 2006/07 levels. Note that no schools in the North Side Initiative are categorized as strictly middle schools. Olson Middle school is included a K-8 school in the above data.

High Schools

School Name	2008/09 # / (%)
Edison	156 (13%)
Broadway	120 (31%)
Henry	111 (8%)
Stadium View	91 (16%)
Washburn	85 (8%)

The 2008/09 levels of homeless and highly mobile students in high school sites, with the exceptions of Broadway and Stadium View, are higher and in the case of Henry double when compared with 2006/07 levels.

Key Findings

This assessment has taken a comprehensive approach to understanding the gang problem in four neighborhoods of North Minneapolis. Although the assessment is not exhaustive, the data and information collected point to key findings that underlie, exacerbate, and contribute to the gang problem in the assessment area neighborhoods. The first group of findings addresses the geographic areas most affected by the gangs followed by community-level factors that are contributing to and exacerbating the gang problem. The third group describes gangs in Minneapolis and the assessment area neighborhoods as well as various facets of the gang problem including ages of involvement and individual-level motivating factors for joining or affiliating. Then gang crime is described followed by overall perceptions of the gang problem in Minneapolis and the assessment area neighborhoods. The sixth group addresses specific gaps in gang prevention services that have been identified through this assessment. Finally, recommendations for data quality improvement are provided.

Areas Most Affected by Gangs in Minneapolis

Gang prevention intervention areas: Although the assessment neighborhoods for this grant were Folwell, Hawthorne, Jordan and McKinley, data from the assessment points to concerns in other parts of the City. Regarding North Minneapolis, abutting neighborhoods to the assessment area neighborhoods, namely, Near North, Willard-Hay and Webber-Camden are of particular concern. The Phillips community in South Minneapolis and the adjacent neighborhoods (e.g. Central, Lyndale, Whittier, and Powderhorn) should also be considered for further gang intervention efforts. Pockets of violent gang activity exist in other areas of the City, but the greatest concentrations of gang-related, violent crime are in the areas listed above.

Displacement of violent crime: Analysis of foreclosure data and violent crime maps provides evidence that foreclosures could be a factor that has led violent crime, including crimes committed by gang members, to spread into previously less violent areas both in and around Minneapolis. Although violent crime continues to be concentrated in specific areas of North and South Minneapolis, the violent crime maps clearly illustrate violent crime clusters becoming more numerous over larger geographic areas, in spite of declining crime overall. Data that provides evidence of how much crime has spread into first and second-ring suburbs was not collected; however, community perceptions data points to growing concern over criminal activity that appears to have accompanied the influx of low-income, former Minneapolis residents who have sought more affordable housing in the first and second-ring suburbs.

Community Factors that Contribute to the Gang Problem

Demographic shifts over the last thirty years have rapidly transformed the assessment area neighborhoods: The assessment area neighborhoods have all undergone dramatic demographic changes over the last thirty years. Such demographic shifts include: population growth rates that greatly exceed growth rates of the city overall (with exception to Hawthorne); loss of a large portion of the White and senior populations; double-digit increases in the Black and Asian populations; and dramatic increases in young people ages five to seventeen. The proportion of households with individuals under age eighteen for each assessment area neighborhood is double or

nearly double the same proportion citywide. In addition, the recent housing crisis has left many homes in these neighborhoods empty and in foreclosure pushing people to find more affordable housing in other areas.

Poverty and unemployment: The proportions of residents living with household incomes below 200 percent of poverty in Minneapolis planning communities are: 39 percent in Camden, 44 percent in Powderhorn, 45 percent in Central, 59 percent in Near North, and 66 percent in Phillips. The assessment area neighborhoods are among the top five neighborhoods in Minneapolis with the greatest percentage of families with incomes below poverty and who have children under 18. These data are based off of the 2000 Census. Unemployment in the North Side sub-region is well above the unemployment rate for the City overall.

Homelessness and high mobility: In Minneapolis during the 2008/09 school year, 5,547 students were identified as homeless and highly mobile in Minneapolis. This is an increase of 89 students from the previous year. The racial and ethnic breakdown of the students was comprised of: 72.1 percent were African American; 7.1 percent Native American; 7.1 percent White; 5.9 percent Hispanic American; and 5.2 percent Asian American. Schools with the highest numbers of homeless and highly mobile students corresponded generally with areas most impacted by prominent gangs in the city. Academic performance indicators were lowest in schools located within or near the assessment area neighborhoods as well.

Gangs in Minneapolis & the Assessment Area

Gangs, sets or cliques with highest degree of contact with law enforcement:

Nearly half of the gangs, cliques or sets that continue to have a high degree of contact with law enforcement in Minneapolis are generational, have been in Minneapolis for quite some time, and are likely to remain. With the possible exception of the *Sureños* and *Vatos Locos*, one common characteristic of these gangs appears to be their ability to recruit members across all racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Notably, however, the other half of gangs, cliques or sets having a high degree of contact with law enforcement are relatively recent developments or arrivals and how long they will remain or how well-established they will become is not clear. These more recent gangs, cliques or sets appear to recruit membership within one racial or ethnic category, e.g. African American, Hmong, Native American or Somali. Younger affiliates may tend to transfer loyalty from one gang, clique or set to another and could belong to several over time. In the past loyalty to one gang was more common among the traditional gangs.

Specifically those gangs with a lot of contact with law enforcement and who operate in the assessment area neighborhoods include: Black P Stones; Bloods; Tre Tre Crips; DA' Team; Stick Up Boys (SUB); Young N Thuggin' (YNT); Taliban and Young Taliban Boys (YTB); 19 Block Dipset; and Bogus Boys. See Appendix B for a more complete list of gang organizations that operate in North Minneapolis and other areas of the City.

Underlying reasons for gang involvement and affiliation: "Protection," "a sense of belonging," and "being born into it" are reasons for gang affiliation and involvement that emerged across most interviews with service providers and all focus groups with young

men and parents. Girls are often believed to affiliate and get involved in gangs through their boyfriends. However, this stereotype appears to be increasingly challenged as violence levels of girl-groups escalate.

Focus groups with parents and young men exposed most clearly other attractions to gang life. Attractions to “the life” from the perspectives of the young men included gaining respect, money, power, and popularity. All attractions to the gang life that parents and young men offered were juxtaposed by a constant threat of injury, death or incarceration.

Gang affiliation and involvement: Ages of affiliation and involvement ranged from birth to age forty, acknowledging that children can be born into the gang lifestyle. When children are not born into the gang lifestyle, the ages at which boys and girls side with the gangs are perceived to be different, with boys getting involved earlier (4th to 7th grades) than the girls (8th and 9th grades). Parents, in particular, have concerns over children and girls being targets for gang recruitment at earlier ages due to a belief that children and girls can carry out gang-related activity, be detected less frequently and receive lighter consequences.

For boys, the real “hard hitters” were perceived to be 17 and older—basically at ages that they can drive. An analysis of inpatient and outpatient firearm-related injuries for the 55411 and 55412 zip codes that overlap with the North Side sub-region corroborates that firearm-related injuries begin to occur in the 10 to 14 year-old age group. They increase among 15 to 17 year-olds and of all the age groups of young people, firearm-related injuries are highest among 18 to 24 year-olds.

A community perception that gang membership and affiliation among girls is increasing and violence perpetrated by girls is escalating has been mentioned during interviews and focus groups over the course of this assessment. Data from the police department does not corroborate a high number of girl gang members. The reasons for such a disparity between police department data and community perceptions could be due to many factors. Factors could include but are not limited to the following. Police are having contact with girls but gang circumstances are not being recorded during incidents involving girls and, due to how our data was queried, these incidents would not have appeared in our datasets. Also, a prevailing stereotype exists that girls are only involved in gangs through their boyfriends. When girl fights occur they are often perceived to be about boyfriends. This predominant perception could deter more girls from being identified as actual gang members or affiliates. Finally, women and girls are not traditional targets of law enforcement for gang activity.

Gang Crime

Crimes committed by gang members: Two-thirds of offenses (63%) committed by gang member arrestees were comprised of: narcotics (16%), arrests of individuals with warrants (12%), loitering (10%), trespassing (5%), curfew (4%), disorderly conduct (4%), carrying a weapon without permit (3%), recovered stolen vehicle (3%), assaults with a weapon (3%), and fleeing on foot (3%).

Victims of gang crime: Key points can be pulled from analyses of data related to gang crime victims. First, whereas gang membership is primarily comprised of men (98

percent, according to Minneapolis Police Department data), their victims are more or less equally men and women. Second, service provider interviews and youth and parent focus groups described a situation where adults are afraid of the young people in their neighborhoods. Upon analysis of victim data, eighty-two percent of the victims of gang members were over 18. Third, whereas over eighty-percent of gang member arrestees were Black, victimization extends more broadly into other races. What is particularly concerning is the fourteen percent of "Other," a race category about which MDHFS can infer very little in terms of culture, language and composition. Fourth, and finally, over half of victimization by gang members is due to violent crimes. Nearly a quarter involves domestic assaults, including child abuse.

Perceptions of the Gang Problem

Community perceptions of the gang problem: The Survey of the Health of All the Population and the Environment (SHAPE) conducted in 2006 found community residents' perceptions of the gang problem in Minneapolis to vary greatly by geographic area and race/ethnicity with the highest proportions of residents agreeing that there is a gang problem in Camden, Near North, the region that includes the assessment area neighborhoods.

MDHFS met with community residents and service providers in these neighborhoods. In the interviews and focus groups they made numerous references to the high intensity of gang activity on the North Side compared to other areas of Minneapolis. The assessment area neighborhoods were described as being characterized by a community-wide "normalization of violence." The community-wide understood "zones," fighting, high violence levels, and violence across cultural and geographic communities are what get groups of young people recognized as gangs.

Besides gang-related homicides and violence, the list of negative effects of gangs on the community was long. The themes that were most common across interviews and focus groups were: lack of positive activities for young people; struggling families not having the supports that they need located in the community; elders and adults being afraid to communicate and interact with young people in the community; a lack of a sense of community where people do not know their neighbors and do not feel that they and their children can be outside without being harassed by someone; a perceived need to "get out" or "move out" of the community in order to be safe or to have fun; and a need to improve the physical environment of the neighborhoods by removing garbage, litter, increasing the visibility of art and dealing with vacant, dilapidated buildings and housing.

Students' perceptions of the gang problem: A wide disparity exists between perceptions of gang problems in the schools between Minneapolis Public School students and students statewide. The proportion of students who perceive that gangs are a problem in Minneapolis Public Schools is nearly double the same proportion at the state level. For instance, thirty-five percent of male sixth graders in Minneapolis perceived illegal gang activity to be a problem in their schools, compared to eighteen percent statewide. Gangs appear to have a disproportionate affect on Minneapolis students. Perceptions are similar between male students and female students at both state and city levels, with slightly more 9th graders agreeing there is a problem compared to 6th graders.

An appropriate point of comparison to understand the extent of the gang problem is student perceptions about the problem of drugs and alcohol in their schools. In Minneapolis, the extent to which students perceive drugs and alcohol to be a problem in schools is similar to the extent to which students perceive gangs to be a problem. This is not the case statewide, where alcohol and drugs is perceived to be a much greater problem than gangs.

Gang Prevention Services and Coordination

The process of compiling the community resource inventory, attending community meetings and conducting interviews with youth service providers revealed strengths in the coordination of gang and youth violence prevention services. Some well-known collaborative efforts (e.g. the Blueprint for Action on Youth Violence Executive Committee, Youth Violence Prevention Taskforce of the Minneapolis Public Schools, collaboration among religious leaders, Hawthorne Huddle, and the Peace Foundation) to curb violence on the North Side have been successful at convening community residents and decision makers around the issues of youth and gang violence. However, a perception of a lack of unity and collaboration among organizations persists, particularly around coordination and provisioning of services. The following are opportunities for improving coordination of gang prevention services.

First, although community residents and service providers are dissatisfied with government agencies' response to the needs of youth and families in the community, the majority emphasize that **how** government gets involved in the community is more important. Examples of how government involvement in the community has been essential in response to gangs, yet needs improvement include: improving relationships between police and the local community related to responsiveness and community-policing; increasing the role of government in the service of gang-entrenched youth and families; and counter-balancing the politics of youth and gang violence prevention with increased action and investment at the community level.

Secondly, afterschool programs, youth development and family services programs exist and are available to residents from the assessment area neighborhoods. (See Appendix A: Community Resource Inventory in the full report.) Specific gaps in gang prevention that emerged from the assessment include: structured, intentional programming for youth of younger ages that arms them to deal with pressures to join gangs; culturally-appropriate programming at all levels of prevention; and trusted adults interacting and mentoring youth in the community.

Specific gaps at the level of intervention when youth and families are already involved with gangs and exhibiting risk factors include: employment opportunities for ex-offenders at the point of re-entry; support services in schools before and during administrative transfers of students; expanded approaches to involving community residents in prevention of and response to violent incidents; local support and resources for minor parents, especially those struggling with addiction; and partnerships with local colleges and universities in youth and gang violence prevention and intervention efforts and initiatives.

Third and finally, the lack of a focus on long-term sustainability of youth violence prevention efforts has translated into lack of uniform, positive, community-level

messages to counter the pressure to join gangs. It has also translated into “period-based programming,” and “inconsistent” relationships between agencies, organizations, youth service providers, parents and youth. Internet and cell phone policies are also inconsistent across governmental and community-based organizations. The main concerns online are related to “cyber-bangin’,” “cyber-bullying,” “set trippin’,” and “sexin’ on the phone.”

Gang Data Collection and Maintenance

Collecting and compiling high quality, gang crime data is difficult but not impossible. This assessment has shown how using estimates of gang-related crime can provide a more accurate picture of the extent of gang crime. Exploring the use of periodic audits of incident reports to determine the extent to which officers are actually reporting gang circumstances and cultural characteristics in the incident reports would provide appropriate directions for quality improvement of the data. Involvement of investigators in updating incident data *ex post facto* with gang circumstances that might not have been known at the scene of an incident could also be explored.

Caution should be taken in interpreting analyses of data that cross-reference gang member databases. The accuracy with which officers are identifying gang members and how often “gang member” determinations in these databases are reviewed and updated is not clear and needs to be more transparent. Training related to protocols for recording gang circumstances and cultural characteristics in incidents reports and protocols for maintaining and updating gang member and affiliate determinations for gang member databases could be very helpful.

(Intentionally left blank.)

Appendix A: Community Resource Inventory

The following table is first sorted by “level” of intervention and then by “resource type and name.” This facilitates the identification of gaps in services within specific categories.

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
ALC: Broadway	Education	Broadway Alternative School	Minneapolis	55411	Intervention	Broadway High School is an alternative learning environment for pregnant and parenting teens. It is part of the Minneapolis public School District.
ALC: City Inc. North	Education	The City, Inc.	Minneapolis	55411	Intervention	The City School is an alternative senior high school with two campuses in North and South Minneapolis. Our program provides at-risk, inner city youth with a viable alternative to the traditional school system.
ALC: Dynamics of Change	Education	Minneapolis Public Schools	Minneapolis	55411	Intervention	
ALC: Harrison Education Center	Education	Minneapolis Public Schools	Minneapolis	55405	Intervention	Harrison Education Center is a high school alternative Federal Setting IV self-contained program created to serve students with severe emotional and behavioral needs between the ages of 14 -18 years. Harrison provides students with a comprehensive educational and behavioral program designed to improve their academic skills and support appropriate school behaviors.

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
ALC: Menlo Park Academy	Education	East Side Neighborhood Services	Minneapolis	55413	Intervention	Menlo Park offers the full range of subjects required for graduation but with a focus on high-interest, real life learning. Classes are designed to meet the needs of a varied spectrum of learners. Course offerings reach from basic skills to college prep. Class size varies from 8 to 20 students. Students are able to make up credits through independent study projects, and out of school employment. Credit-earning internships are available through East Side Neighborhood Services programs to connect students to the community and the world of careers. Programs include daycare, schoolage after school programs, adult day care for senior citizens, an employment center, and thrift store. The school's work with Achieve! Minneapolis helps keep students focused on the goal of learning after high school. Staff provides assistance to seniors and their families as they go through the steps for moving on to college or technical programs: applications, financial aid resources, college visits, and career guidance.
ALC: Minneapolis Success Academy	Education	Hennepin County and Minneapolis Public Schools	Minneapolis	55408	Intervention	We are a program developed through a collaboration of Hennepin County and Minneapolis Public Schools to serve students that 1) have county involvement and 2) are experiencing significant difficulties in school, the community and/or at home.

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
ALC: PYC Arts & Technology High School	Education	Plymouth Christian Youth Center	Minneapolis	55411	Intervention	The PCYC Alternative School offers a basic, state-mandated curriculum, working toward the achievement of a high school diploma through small learning communities in cultural arts, service learning and technology.
Employment: HIRED Training and Tech Skills Building	Nonprofit	HIRED	Minneapolis	55411	Intervention	Receives referrals of Minneapolis youth who are not in school and are on Extended Juvenile Jurisdiction (EJJ) to help them find employment and identify job skills. HIRED's Extended Juvenile Jurisdiction (EJJ) program is operated in partnership with Hennepin County. Enrollment is by referral from a correctional or probation officer, and is limited to youth in Hennepin County. EJJ works to empower youth offenders to change their behavior by completing their secondary education and identifying useful skills on which to base a search for employment. The program's three full-time counselors work intensively with approximately 120 youth enrolled in the program at any given time. Program support begins while participants are still incarcerated and continues into participant's probation period.
Employment: Northside Jobs Connection	Nonprofit	EMERGE	Minneapolis	55411	Intervention	Northside Jobs Connection provides employment services to job seeker's ages 16 and up who have multiple barriers to employment, such as gang involvement, limited work histories, and criminal histories.

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
Family Services: Humble Beginnings	Nonprofit	Humble Beginnings	Brooklyn Center	55429	Intervention	<p>Independent Life Skills - an effective, strategic program utilizing 5 foundational building blocks necessary for independent skills. This is a 6 week fun, exciting, and effective workshop.</p> <p>Family Reunification - providing services for our clients returning home and into the community. Our services include family mediation, family strength building, family activities and resources. Community Transition - services for incarcerated juveniles that are transitioning back into the community. We provide tailored strategic services based on individual needs. Principles For Effective Living - This unique program is designed to teach highly effective principles that are necessary to obtain individual success. Our curriculum was developed to teach a simple but effective interpretation of cause & effect, choices & consequences. Reset Your Mindset Training - a 7 year participatory training program, designed to start with our clients when they enter the 6th grade, until they graduate from High School. Truancy - individual services for students who are considered truant. We have developed effective training workshops as well as various resources for students and their families</p>

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
Family Services: Phyllis Wheatley Community Center	Nonprofit	Phyllis Wheatley Community Center	Minneapolis	55411	Intervention	Family Services programs provide community based counseling to and advocacy services for predominately African-American men, women, and children. The service provides counseling to and advocacy for: a) domestic violence survivors; b) men and women who have battered families dealing with domestic violence; c) children who need help dealing with the effects of domestic violence. Group programs include: Anger Management classes Effective Parenting classes Women's Domestic Violence classes
Family Services: Rebuilding Appropriate Parenting (RAP)	Nonprofit	Reuben Lindh Family Services	Minneapolis	55411	Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-home case management services including family assessments and relapse prevention plans • Parenting education, classes, and support groups • Parent and child activities • Family Night events celebrating cultural diversity • Community resource support • Multicultural Therapeutic Preschool program • Unified Therapy services including occupational, speech/language, physical, and music therapies • Family Therapy & Counseling services including individual, couple, family, and play therapies
Family Services: Steep (Steps toward Enjoyable & Effective Parenting)	Nonprofit	Plymouth Christian Youth Center	Minneapolis	55411	Intervention	Working with first-time teen moms using an Attachment model to guide and support them as they develop healthy relationships with their infants and toddlers.

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
Family Services: Youth Intervention Program	Nonprofit	The City, Inc.	Minneapolis	55411	Intervention	The Youth Intervention and Youth Skills programs helps youth who are experiencing personal, familial, legal, and/or substance abuse problems. The programs provide advocacy, education, counseling and referrals. The programs work to empower youth to identify and address the underlying issues that stand in the way of their personal and academic success.
Health Risk Behaviors: Turning Point	Nonprofit	Turning Point	Minneapolis	55411	Intervention	Men's primary chemical dependency treatment Halfway housing Family focus Outpatient treatment Outreach services

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
Health Risk Behaviors: MN Teen Challenge	Nonprofit	MN Teen Challenge	Minneapolis	55404	Intervention	<p>Level One (10 weeks) - Recovery. Residents begin their program with courses designed to provide them with basic information regarding chemical addiction and recovery. They attend classes that promote life recovery in the areas of: chemical dependency, anger management, personal relationships, family dynamics, depression, self-acceptance, and maintaining a chemical-free lifestyle. Level Two (16 weeks) - Renewal. Residents work on their specific personal and family issues, behavior modification and identification of the issues that led to their addiction. The focus of Level 2 is to build a solid foundation in the renewal of their minds and bodies. Level Three (12 weeks) - Restoration and Healing. Residents learn how to deal with the pain and emotional anguish associated with their current and past issues. They attend group process classes designed to assist in the healing of damaged emotions as they confront the issues that have left them emotionally scarred. Some of the topics covered include: low self-esteem, depression, anger, forgiveness and perfectionism. Level Four (12 weeks) - Re-entry. Residents focus on transitioning back into their local community. They receive classroom instruction in three critical areas: relationship issues, employment skills and financial management. Residents focus on transitioning to their next living arrangement (i.e.: moving back home, going to college etc.). MnTC staff in conjunction with the teen's parents/guardian will help them develop an after care plan.</p>

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
Health Risk Behaviors: Oasis Kidsplace	Nonprofit	Oasis of Love Inc.	Minneapolis	55411	Intervention	Provides support, advocacy, short term counseling, home based follow up and referral for children who have witnessed family violence. OK conducts age specific support group (2 yrs.old - 18 yrs.old on Tuesdays from 6:30 - 9 p.m. for 9 weeks.)
Health Risk Behaviors: OOPS and ENABL Programs	Nonprofit	Minneapolis Urban League	Minneapolis	55411	Intervention	The ENABL program reached thousands of individuals/families through youth activities, newsletters, flyers and outreach cards Tobacco Cessation Classes helped educate youth who had received smoking citations from the court about the dangers of smoking
Housing: Lindquist Apartments	Local Government	The Link (Lindquist)	Minneapolis	55411	Intervention	Lindquist provides permanent, sober, supportive housing for youth and young adults. Residents receive intensive case management and assessments to assist them with setting and reaching their goals. Independent Living Skills instruction helps support residents in obtaining and strengthening the tools necessary to live independently, such as cooking and money management. Health Realization enables residents to create and define their own goals and direct their own Individual Support Plan.

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
Housing: Strengthening Our New Generation	Nonprofit	Reuben Lindh Family Services	Minneapolis	55411	Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •In-home case management •Parenting education and support •Parent and child healthcare services •Developmental screenings •Counseling and crisis intervention •Chemical dependency aftercare services •Housing assistance •Family Night events celebrating cultural diversity •Community resource support •Multicultural Therapeutic Preschool program •Unified Therapy services including occupational, speech/language, physical, and music therapies •Family Therapy & Counseling services including individual, couple, family, and play therapies
Life Skills: Juvenile Supervision Center	Local Government	The Link (JSC)	Minneapolis	55415	Intervention	The Juvenile Supervision Center provides safe supervision, intervention services, and community resource connections to youth picked up for truancy, curfew or low level offenses that do not meet the admission criteria for the Juvenile Detention Center in Hennepin County.
Life Skills: Men of M.A.R.C.H. (Men Are Responsible to Cultivate Hope)	Nonprofit		Minneapolis	55411	Intervention	Offering youth/gang intervention and male support services for young men 18 or older.

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
Life-Skills: Osiris	Nonprofit	Osiris Organization	Eden Prairie	55346	Intervention	Weekly meetings with adult role models for life-skills counseling Computer training Employment opportunities After-school enrichment Monthly recreational activities Long-term support
Transition: Right Turn Initiative	Local Government	African American Men Project	Minneapolis	55411	Intervention	Right Turn serves as an entry point for young men using partnerships to provide legal, health, job training, education and housing support, along with support and guidance from the community.
Transition: Stadium View	Education	Stadium View School at the Juvenile Detention Center	Minneapolis	55487	Intervention	The Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation partners with the Minneapolis Public Schools to provide residents at the Juvenile Detention Center the opportunity to earn high school credits that are transferable to their home school. Residents 18-years-old and younger who have not graduated from high school or have not earned a GED are enrolled in Stadium View School. In 2008, 1,114 students from 70 different schools attended classes. The curriculum includes a transition program to connect youths and their families with social service agencies in the community.
Youth Development: Juvenile Advocacy Program	Nonprofit	Minneapolis Urban League	Minneapolis	55411	Intervention	Works with African American and disadvantaged youth 10-17 years of age who are high risk, first time and repeat adjudicated offenders, or serious truants from school.

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
Afterschool Program: Alternatives	Nonprofit	Alternatives	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	Homework tutoring provided everyday by volunteers. Youth must complete homework before engaging in any other activities at Alternatives. Volunteers are from Macalester & Normandale Colleges.
Afterschool Program: Asian Youth Program (AYP)	Nonprofit	YWCA of Minneapolis	Minneapolis	55403	Prevention	An afterschool tutoring program that positions Asian college students as tutors to Asian elementary youth. The tutors not only help students w/direct academic support, they are also able to relate to their lifestyles & help serve as role models. In addition to the tutoring element, field trips are help to encourage group cohesion & provide safe, fun recreation.
Afterschool Program: Berean Missionary Baptist Church	Nonprofit	Berean Missionary Baptist Church	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	After School Program: We offer mentoring and tutoring during after school hours. In addition, we offer USDA approved nutritious meals daily with: breakfast, lunch and snack.

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
Afterschool Program: Church of St. Phillip	Nonprofit	Church of St. Phillip	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	<p>Held during the school year, the Kids Club is an after-school program that provides learning opportunities in a safe haven, a snack, and dinner for approximately 50 children (ages 4-12). The children and trained teen volunteers from Patchwork Quilt's Teen Group gather from mid-afternoon through early evening three days each week. The program boasts at least one adult or teen volunteer for every three participating children. At least 70% of participants stay with the program for at least a year. Every night of programming kids are fed an after school snack and dinner. Academics are emphasized and each child receives homework help. Our new computer lab is a favorite along with playing educational games with volunteers, staff or their peers, cooking and clean-up, arts and crafts, and outside activities such as kickball, basketball or double-dutch. The eagerness of these children as they come in each afternoon is amazing considering the many challenges they face. Some are homeless; others who have homes have no running water. Gunshots and drug dealers abound in their neighborhood and many of our kids witness and/or are the victims themselves of physical, verbal or substance abuse.</p>

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
Afterschool Program: HAMAA	Nonprofit	HAMAA: Hmong American Mutual Assistance Assoc.	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	An after school program that works to improve Hmong children's academic performance and to reduce the truancy rate among Hmong youth in Minneapolis, representing the younger children (ages 5-10 years), and offering after-school tutoring, educational and recreational activities, indoor and outdoor games, arts and music and community activities. Program Elements: • Outreach and Enrollment in School • Parent Clearinghouse for School Activities • Academic Enhancement of English and Math Skills • Hmong Language and Cultural Programs • Hmong Arts, Crafts and Dance • Sports, Educational Field Trips and Camping Activities • Earning by Learning" Reading Program Programs: Butterfly Dance Center HAMAA Hmong Nature Conservancy Activity (HNCA)

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
Afterschool Program: Hmong Youth Pride (HYP)	Nonprofit	HAP: Hmong American Partnership	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	<p>HAP operates the HYP program with the cooperation of elementary and middle schools in the Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota area. Students spend four hours per week in the program. One hour: Youth case workers and volunteer mentors work with the student on practice tests, explaining concepts, and addressing the language barrier. One hour: One-to-one homework assistance. Two hours: Lessons on Hmong history, culture, and customs that promote life skills development. Volunteers play a crucial role in daily contact with the students. Volunteer Mentors, as we call them, work with the kids after school, helping them with their homework, preparing them for standardized test taking and teaching them about Hmong culture. Of course, there is always time to play a game of basketball and show off your hook shot, or teach a favorite magic trick. Special Activities: Students and parents are invited to five "Family Fun Nights" throughout the year, where parents and children eat and play games. Parents appreciate the time for the connections they make to other parents and the open forum, where they are able to ask questions and give suggestions. Every month HYP students go on a fieldtrip. The trips include visits to the Science Museum of Minnesota, movies, roller-skating and an annual camping trip.</p>

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
Afterschool Program: Homework Hub (North Regional Library)	Local Government	Hennepin County Libraries	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	Trained tutors will help with research, writing papers, and working on computers to help you make the grade! Play games such as chess and Scrabble. At some locations, create your own computer games and compete in gaming competitions.
Afterschool Program: Homework Hub (Sumner Library)	Local Government	Hennepin County Libraries	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	Trained tutors will help with research, writing papers, and working on computers to help you make the grade! Play games such as chess and Scrabble. At some locations, create your own computer games and compete in gaming competitions.
Afterschool Program: Kids Ending Relationship Violence (KERV)	Nonprofit	Oasis of Love, Inc.	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	School staff and/or parents are encouraged to make recommendations for student leaders. K.E.R.V school focus groups meet with OASIS staff for one class period (up to 62 minutes), one day each week, for six (6) weeks. Guest speakers present special topics and awards. Student leaders invest their time, creative ideas, and a desire to help make their schools, families, and communities safe. ALL curriculum, materials, and supplies are provided by K.E.R.V ZONE. Focus group activities have resulted in violence prevention strategies that involve the entire school.

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
Afterschool Program: Oak Park Center	Nonprofit	Pillsbury United Communities	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	Youth in grades K-5 can take advantage of our computer lab, tutoring, homework help, arts and crafts, fine arts instruction and field trips. Youth also participate in Kids College literacy program, which focuses on coaching youth in specific reading skills and instilling a true love of reading. This program is unique because it centers on both reading fluency and comprehension. Each youth reads one-on-one with a tutor at least once a week. Youth are periodically assessed and rewarded for their progress.

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
Afterschool Program: Peem Tsheej (Struggle for Success)	Nonprofit	Hmong American Partnership (HAP)	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	<p>Peem Tsheej offers a number of Hmong culture classes. As youth learn more about Hmong culture, a stronger bond of understanding is formed between them and their parents.</p> <p>Hmong Language Class: Once a week students meet to improve their Hmong language skills. Not only does the class help students speak Hmong better, but it builds their attachment to Hmong culture and gives them the advanced language skills to speak to parents and elders in their community. Traditional Hmong Dance: Dancing is an important part of Hmong culture. Students, who learn traditional dancing, feel more connected and understand Hmong culture on another level. It is hoped that those who learn will be able to pass the skill on, thus reviving the practice. Dance performances are held throughout the year for various special events within the community. Weekly Peer Group Meetings: Youth caseworkers meet with youth who are re-entering the community after a correctional placement. Together they work through their experiences with negative behaviors. Meetings are occasionally lead by guest speakers with expertise in cultural issues, a profession of interest to participants, or inspirational speaking. Youth are encouraged to participate in all of HAP's cultural and recreational programming. This participation helps youth increase understanding of their culture and build their own self-esteem. Participating in culture activities has proven to be crucial in the process of reconnecting to family and community.</p>

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
Afterschool Program: Plymouth Christian Youth Center	Nonprofit	Plymouth Christian Youth Center	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	Providing academic, social and recreational learning experiences for approximately 200 neighborhood children grades K-6 year-round in non-school hours.
Afterschool Program: Police Athletic League	Local Government	Minneapolis PAL: Police Athletic League	Minneapolis	55412	Prevention	Sports, field trips, camps, and educational programming
Afterschool Program: SEACC Academic Support	Nonprofit	Southeast Asian Community Council, Inc.	Minneapolis	55412	Prevention	We provide academic assistance to youths in grades K-12. It is structured so that youth acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to succeed in school and in society. Academic Support is located within several North Minneapolis Public Schools. This program provides academic assistance in Math, Reading, Writing, and Computer Competency.
Afterschool Program: The City, Inc.	Nonprofit	The City, Inc.	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	The After School and Summer Enrichment program provides cultural, recreational and educational activities to inner-city children and youth. The program offers an alternative to children and youth who might otherwise be left in unsupervised situations.
Afterschool Program: Urban Learning Center	Local Government	Hospitality House Youth Directions	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	ULC is an After School Learning Site for the Mpls School District. Our 12 computers are busy with young learners using software programs to increase their skills in reading, math, and keyboarding. On select school release days 8am - 5PM we offer learning activities & fieldtrips. Breakfast & lunch is provided.
Arts & Dance: African Drum & Dance & Choir	Nonprofit	Hospitality House Youth Directions	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	Choir consists of about 25 kids who exercise their love and talent for singing while working together as a team. Kids learn to play African drums while deepening their understanding of another culture.

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
Arts & Dance: Hollywood Studio of Dance	Nonprofit	Hollywood Studio of Dance	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	Variety of classes offered Ages 3 - Adult Affordable tuition rates Family Discounts available Limited Scholarships available Professional Dance instructors
Arts & Dance: Juxtaposition Arts	Nonprofit	Juxtaposition Arts	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	Juxtaposition Arts is a non-profit youth focused visual arts organization engaging audiences through its community collaborations, studio arts workshops, public mural programs and special festivals and art exhibitions.
Arts & Dance: Studio Club	Nonprofit	Kwanzaa Community Church, PCUSA	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	A sound studio where young people could create music and CD's around their life experiences. Nia Imani leaders negotiated that the young people would give the community some of their creative gifts in a positive message which must be developed in dialogues with the Kwanzaa community and professional leaders. The young people agreed and worked with the church leaders to develop topics for their creative efforts such as domestic abuse, teen pregnancy, responsible sexuality, violence, date rape, etc.
Athletics: Baseball	Nonprofit	Hospitality Houseu Youth Directions	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	Last summer, the 2008 Hospitality House (13 & under) baseball team competed in the Minneapolis Park Board and "True Sports" leagues. With a record of 17-5, the team showed incredible effort, perseverance, and improvement throughout the season. The team finished the season by winning the True Sports championship.

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
Athletics: Basketball Leagues/Kings of the Court	Nonprofit	Hospitality House Youth Directions	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	Five basketball teams keep our gym busy as 8-15 year olds practice and compete in In-House, Mpls Park Board League, and Kings of the Court Traveling teams.
Athletics: Midnight Basketball	Nonprofit	Hospitality House Youth Directions	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	It is the signature outreach program of Hospitality House Youth Directions and aimed at 16-22 year old men.
Athletics: Striders Track Club	Nonprofit	Hospitality House Youth Directions	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	Team participants are ages 6-18.
Athletics: Tolzmann's Twin Cities Boxing	Nonprofit	Tolzmann's Twin Cities Boxing	Minneapolis	55412	Prevention	As an intervention/prevention program for youth which uses the sport of amateur and professional boxing as an alternative to anti-social behavior and in combating youth crime, TC Boxing welcomes all ages (minimum age 12), gender, and boxing experience (including amateurs and professionals) into our program.
Daycare: Agape I	Nonprofit	OASIS of Love, Inc.	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	AGAPE 24 HOUR CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER: Agape Child Development Center is a non-profit child care program that is meeting the high demands of a non-standard hour care center. Both sites have been in operation since 1997 and are the first of its kind in the state of Minnesota. Agape I serves pre-kindergarten through school age (4-12 years old) and the capacity is 89 children. Agape II services infants through younger preschool age (6 weeks 3 years old) and the capacity is 100 children. Agape's focus is to build a bridge between the community and the childcare industry by constructing solid programs which address the developmental needs of children in their formative years. Agape serves as a preparatory

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
						system to enable all children to meet the challenges they will face with confidence and ability.
Employment: Cookie Cart	Nonprofit	Cookie Cart	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	Trains and supports North Minneapolis youth ages 14-19 in their first paid job experience.
Employment: Humble Beginnings	Nonprofit	Humble Beginnings	Brooklyn Center	55429	Prevention	Humble Beginnings has developed an employment training program designed to teach effective skills from the 1st step of job searching, interviewing, proper attire, employee/employer relationship, time management and self discipline.
Employment: Pride in the City	Nonprofit	The City, Inc.	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	Pride in the City (PIC) helps prepare youth for a successful transition into the work force. PIC combines education, vocational training, hands-on experience and individual guidance in order to provide youth with a positive and encouraging work experience that will become a springboard for successful, future employment.
Employment: StreetWerks	Local Government	Emerge and City of Minneapolis	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	Streetwerks, a social enterprise of Emerge Ventures: creates community beautification, transitional employment and personal empowerment opportunities for North Minneapolis 14-21 year-old at-risk youth
Employment: Youth Career Exploration & Employment	Nonprofit	Minneapolis Urban League	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	Youth receive a work readiness employment plan and are then placed in unsubsidized employment. In addition, the MUL has secured a contract with the City of Minneapolis to provide additional employment and training services to older youth age 17-21

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
Family Services: Early Risers	Nonprofit	Pillsbury United Communities	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	A Targeted Early Intervention Program sponsored by Hennepin County for first and second grade children. The program is located in four different public schools. Early Risers Advocates provide advocacy for the families that participate in the program, after-school social skills and reading enhancement groups for the children, and extra support in the classroom. •Native American therapeutic childcare program•School-aged after school and summer program•Native American cultural education and activities•Ojibwa language immersion program•In-home family support services•Parenting education and support•Family Night events celebrating cultural diversity•Community resource support•Unified Therapy services including occupational, speech/language, physical, and music therapies•Family Therapy & Counseling services including individual, couple, family, and play therapies
Family Services: Four Directions Family Center	Nonprofit	Reuben Lindh Family Services	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	Split-Week, Full Day, Early Head Start, BOOST, Early Reading First, Project Secure, High Five
Family Services: Fraser Early Childhood Family Development Center	Federal Government	Parents in Community Action, Inc.	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	Meets Saturday from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon at Harvest Prep. School in Minneapolis.
Family Services: Paul H. Ratliff, Sr. Jr. M.A.R.C.H. Program	Nonprofit	Men of M.A.R.C.H. (Men Are Responsible to Cultivate Hope)	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
Mentoring: Alternatives	Nonprofit	Alternatives	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	Alternatives has developed active relationships with several agencies who provide volunteers to serve as mentors to Alternatives youth. Currently, these agencies are Hennepin County Juvenile Probation and Normandale Community College. Screened mentors will meet with their mentees to encourage them in their schoolwork and to foster an interest in college. Mentors occasionally attend group field trips (planned and sponsored by Alternatives) with their mentees.
Mentoring: Big Brothers Big Sisters	Nonprofit	Big Brothers Big Sisters	St. Paul	55114	Prevention	One-on-one mentoring program for children ages 7-13, including Hennepin County. Community-based & school-based mentoring.
Mentoring: From Boys to Men	Nonprofit	Uhuru Solutions	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	Through a structured & informal program, Uhuru has a unique and safe environment where boys between the ages of 12 to 18 can regularly interact with committed, conscientious adult men. With the understanding that inside each boy is a Man of Honor, Uhuru helps boys to discover their own individual strengths, talents and gifts.
Mentoring: Humble Beginnings	Nonprofit	Humble Beginnings	Brooklyn Center	55429	Prevention	We have developed an effective mentoring service program. Our mentors are trained, passionate, committed and highly effective in providing excellent service
Mentoring: One Family One Community Inc.	Nonprofit	One Family One Community Inc.	St. Paul	55117	Prevention	Provide gang intervention services, including mentoring at-risk youth - those in gangs and at risk for gang involvement. Also, some emergency relief for homeless youth.

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
Mentoring: Phyllis Wheatley Community Center	Nonprofit	Phyllis Wheatley Community Center	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	School Success Program: The School Success Program is a joint effort with Bethune Community School and Phyllis Wheatley Community Center. The program features adult mentors for children, goal setting for school success, fun incentives and referrals for families needing assistance.
Summer Program: Freedom School	Nonprofit	Kwanzaa Community Church, PCUSA	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	The curriculum focuses on culturally relevant reading, critical thinking, active listening, conflict resolution, cooperative problem-solving, the performing arts, decision-making, community service and social action. Students engage in fun, cooperative activities including reading to each other, role-playing, and games that promote analytical thinking. African American culture and heritage are emphasized through books, music, dance, arts, and leadership activities. Program staff acquaint parents with the curriculum and daily schedule at registration and ask them to commit to attending weekly parent workshops and meeting one-on-one as needed with the teachers about their children's progress.
Summer Program: K.E.R.V. Zone	Nonprofit	Oasis of Love Inc.	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	Youth from pre-K to high school participate in one of three summer sessions with permission from parents or guardians. OASIS staff and volunteers lead K.E.R.V. TEAMS in daily activities from 9 AM to 1 PM. PEACE, SAFETY, AND RESPECT concepts are taught through the arts, reading, games, and crafts.

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
Summer Program: Oak Park Center	Nonprofit	Pillsbury United Communities	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	Youth entering grades 1-8 can participate in hands-on academic activities, camping, fine arts activities, and lots of exercise! Our summer program runs from 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. every weekday for more than 8 weeks. We provide breakfast, lunch and a nutritious snack every day.
Summer Program: Plymouth Christian Youth Center	Nonprofit	Plymouth Christian Youth Center	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	Providing academic, social and recreational learning experiences for approximately 200 neighborhood children grades K-6 year-round in non-school hours.
Summer Program: Teen Teamworks	Local Government	Minneapolis Park & Recreation	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	Teen Teamworks is a summer employment and educational program for youth ages 14-18. Through Teen Teamworks, youth receive supervised on-the-job training performing basic grounds maintenance in MPRB parks (removing trash, raking sand lots, pulling weeds, spreading wood chips, edging paths and other routine or special maintenance tasks). Youth receive a bi-weekly paycheck. Certified teachers teach weekly educational and life skill sessions. Teen Teamwork participants are eligible to retake the Minnesota Basic Skills Test and may earn one high school elective credit for successfully completing the program. Recreational opportunities are offered on bi-weekly basis.
Summer Program: The City, Inc.	Nonprofit	The City, Inc.	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	The After School and Summer Enrichment program provides cultural, recreational and educational activities to inner-city children and youth. The program offers an alternative to children and youth who might otherwise be left in unsupervised situations.

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
Youth Development: Asian Life Lessons	Nonprofit	YWCA of Minneapolis	Minneapolis	55403	Prevention	Works in Minneapolis public schools with middle school Asian boys and girls. ALL THAT groups provide constructive interactive activities in a safe and fun environment. These hands-on activities are implemented to help the participants develop skills needed to deal with everyday issues and build positive relationship between the counselor and the participant. The success of the program comes not only from the participants' involvement, but also from excellent ongoing communication and support between counselors, families and school staff.
Youth Development: Center for Hmong Adolescent Development	Nonprofit	HAMAA: Hmong American Mutual Assistance Assoc.	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	This is a program for Teens (ages 11-21 years) which works to reduce the truancy and delinquency rate among Hmong youth in Minneapolis while improving employability and career development skills, increasing awareness of societal rules and values, providing diversions from delinquency, crime and "youth gang" activity through various developmental activities while increasing knowledge of Western culture and laws and the shared concepts derived from Hmong traditional law, within a safe resource and study center provided with tutoring and skills building opportunities, after school employment, sports, arts and music. Program Elements: Outreach and Enrollment in School; Parent Clearinghouse for School Activities; Academic Enhancement of English and Math Skills; Hmong Language and Cultural Programs; Hmong Arts, Crafts, Dance and Band; Sports, Educational Field Trips and Camping Activities; Computer Classes for Technological Competency; Employment and

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
						Career Planning Skills; Year-Round School-Career Employment Training Program; Western Law and Hmong Cultural Traditions; Gang and Violence awareness seminars; Drug, Alcohol and Addictive Substances Awareness; Parenting for Teens; HAMAA YEP Programs (TeenWorks Center, HAMAA Youth Council, Dragon Scouts Activity)
Youth Development: Girls in Action	Nonprofit	Girls in Action/J. Cameron & Associates	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	Weekly project extends throughout the academic year & integrated into the regular school day. Covers 4 core curriculum components: personal power, leadership, service-learning & career coaching.
Youth Development: Jerry Gamble Boys and Girls Club	Nonprofit	Boys and Girls Clubs	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	Boys & Girls Clubs of America has a lineup of tested and proven nationally recognized programs that address today's most pressing youth issues, teaching young people the skills they need to succeed in life.
Youth Development: Project Potential	Nonprofit	The Link	Minneapolis	55405	Prevention	Project Potential offers intensive one-on-one case management and group support to youth ages 10 through 17 that are at high risk of delinquency and school drop out. In addition, Project Potential provides educational advocacy (tutoring), Health Realization training (support groups) and role modeling (mentoring). We assist youth in improving school attendance and behavior by showing them their own potential and assets, advocating on their behalf, supporting their families and strengthening community connections through group activities. Project Potential reduces criminal

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
Youth Development: Urban Learning Center	Nonprofit	Hospitality House Youth Directions, Inc.	Minneapolis	55411	Prevention	<p>activity among low-level juvenile offenders, and increases school attendance for chronically truant students.</p> <p>The ULC program is targeted for students from low-income families who have scored 40 percent or lower on standardized tests. In 2006-2007, 323 students between grades 1 and 8 were enrolled in this program. Of these, 85 percent were eligible for free and reduced lunches. The positive impact of the ULC program has been well documented in partnership with teachers from participating Minneapolis Public Schools. During the 2006-2007 year, 90 percent of our students raised their reading ability by 35 percent. In addition, there has been a decline of 20 percent in school suspension rates for students in our program. This decline has also been noted by both teachers and parents.</p>

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
Youth Development: Youth Leadership Development	Nonprofit	SEACC: Southeast Asian Community Council	Minneapolis	55412	Prevention	<p>Activities that the youth group are involved in consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Weekly Meetings * Camping Trips * Field Trips * Fundraising Activities * Guest Speakers * Family Effectiveness Training * Community Volunteering * And More... <p>The youth group has been planning and looking forward to future events such as leadership trainings, college visits, and meeting important local authority figures. The leadership program allows youth to develop a stronger sense of community awareness, confidence, responsibility, and importance through a way that is healthy for themselves and their families.</p>
Community Patrol: HAMAA	Nonprofit	HAMAA: Hmong American Mutual Assistance Assoc.	Minneapolis	55411	Suppression	<p>Formerly the Refugees in Community Action Program, the MCP is a security, crime prevention and “youth gang” deterrent force formed from within the Hmong Community to serve the needs of Hmong families as a first step in combating trouble while providing safety watch and outreach for the health of Hmong seniors. Program Elements: Neighborhood Crime Watch; Youth Safety Patrol ;Hmong Community Seniors at Home ; and Community Involvement</p>

Resource Type and Name	Sector	Program or Agency	City	Zip Code	Level	Description
Community Patrol: MAD DADS	Nonprofit	Urban Ventures (MAD DADS)	Minneapolis	55408	Suppression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruit, Engage and Activate adults in local communities. - Serve as parental role models to children, adolescents and young adults. - Guide, instruct and influence children, adolescents and young adults in a way that ensures the healthy development of each child's emotional, spiritual and physical well-being. - To combat social disorder, while restoring and stabilizing the family environment for children, adolescents and young adults, neighborhoods, communities and cities, with the task of addressing the issues of drugs, gangs and violence.

Appendix B: Gangs in and around North Minneapolis

Organization Name	Zone on North Side?	Estimated Members (Community)	Estimated Members (MPD)	Approx. Age Range of Members	Gender & Race
Asian Bloods	X	60	6	10 & Up	Hmong Asian Males
Asian Boys		60	1	14 & up	Hmong Asian Males
Black Disciples BD's	X	225	17	10 & up Generational	BD Members are African American males.
Black P Stones	X	225	78	10 & up Generational	Members are African American males.
Bloods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rolling 30's • Piru • Treetop • True Little • Hilltop • True Lover Boys 	X	140	139	10 & up Generational	Members are African American males, although some sets have recruited female members as well as members from other races and ethnic backgrounds, , e.g. white, Latino, Asian, Somali, & Native American.
Bogus Boys	X	40	142	16 & up	Bogus Members are African American males.
Crips <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rollin 60's • Shotgun • Pay Bacc • Raymond • Nutty Blocc • Tre Tre • Mt. Airy Boys (1173) 	X	435	235	10 & up Generational	Members are African American males, although some sets have recruited female members as well as members from other races and ethnic backgrounds, e.g. white, Latino, Asian, Somali, & Native American.
DA' Team	X	25	18	10 & up	Members are African American males.
Emerson Murder Boys- EMB	X	20	49	16 & up	EMB Members are African American males.
Family Mob		20	113	16 & up	Family Mob Members are African American males.

Four (4) Block (24 th & Lyndale)	X	25	N/A	16 & up	4 Block Members are African American males.
Four-corner Hustlers	X	40	2	10 & up Generational	4CH Members are African American males.
Gangster Disciples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26th Avenue GD's • Insane • Maniac Latin Disciples 	X	2500	273	10 & up Generational	Majority of members are African American males & females and GD's have recruited members from other races and ethnic backgrounds, e.g. white, Latino, Asian, Somali, & Native American.
Latin King & Queen Nation aka The Lion Tribe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darkside • 28th and Blaisdell • Westside • 357 Black Lion Tribe • Almighty Blaisdell Tribe 	X	120	29	10 & up Generational	Majority of members are Hispanic males & females, although some LK's have recruited members from other races and ethnic backgrounds, e.g. white & Native American.
Madhibaan with Attitude		20	6	15 to 24	Members are Somali males.
Mara Salvatrucha – MS13		20	1	10 & up Generational	Majority of the MS Members are Salvadorian males, although some sets have recruited females & members as well as members from other races and ethnic backgrounds.
Mickey Cobra's	X	30	33	10 & up Generational	MC Members are African American males.
MOD- (Men of Destruction)		75	27	10 & up Generational	Hmong Asian Males
Murder Squad or Murda Squad	X	40	37	15 to 24	Murder Squad Members are African American males.

Native Mob		500	54	10 & UP	Native Mob Members are Native American males & females, although some have recruited Hispanic females members but males have to have native bloodline.
One Nine's (19) Dipset or 19 Block Dipset	X	80	85	15 to 24	19 & Dipset Members are African American males
Oriental Ruthless Boys		30	1	14 & up	Hmong Asian Males
Oroville Mono Boys		100	39	10 & up Generational	Hmong Asian Males
Purple Brothers	X	75	59	16 & up	Hmong Asian Males
Rough Tough Somalis – RTS		20	42	15 to 24	Members are Somali males.
Scarface	X	70	5	15 & up	Scarface Members are African American males.
Somali Hot Boyz		20	66	15 to 24	Members are Somali males.
Somali Mafia		20	2	15 to 24	Somali Mafia Members are Somali males.
Stick Up Boys - SUB	X	15	96	15 & up	SUB Members are African American males.
Sureños South Side Parqueros aka SSP or South Side Powderhorn Los Tiny Crooks aka LTC Los Crooks Sureños aka LCS La Raza 13 aka LR 13 Compton Varrío 155 aka	X	200	248	10 & up Generational	Members are Hispanic males, although some sets have recruited Native American female members as well as members from other races and ethnic backgrounds.

<p>CVS155 Compton Varrio Termites aka CVT South Side Raza 13 aka SSR or SSR 13 Locos 13 aka LS 13 We So Krazy 13 aka WSK 13 Brown Side Trece aka BST Monte Vista 13 aka MVS</p>					
Taliban	X	65	56	14 & up	Taliban Members are African American males.
Tens (10s)		30	16	14 & up	10 Members are African American males.
Tiny Man Crew	X	40	1	10 & up	Hmong Asian Males
Tiny Rascal Gangsters		30	2	10 & up	Hmong Asian Males
Vatos Locos (VL3)	X	40	74	10 & up Generational	Members of VL are Hispanic males, although some sets have recruited female members as well as members from other races and ethnic backgrounds
Vice Lords <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservative • Unknown • Mafia Insane • Traveler • Undertaker • Queens Block 	X	1200	185	10 & up Generational	Majority of members are African American males, although some sets have recruited female members as well as members from other races and ethnic backgrounds, e.g. white, Latino, Asian, Somali, & Native American.
White Tigers	X	30	7	16 & up	Hmong Asian Males
Young & Thuggin' (Y&T's)	X	60	11	10 & up	Y & T Members are African American males.

Appendix C: Research Tools and Instruments

Gang Prevention: Youth Service Providers Discussion Guide

The City of Minneapolis received a 2-year grant through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to improve the coordination of services intended for youth involved-in or at-risk of being involved in gangs. This visit is part of an initial assessment of the types of coordination that are currently occurring to address this problem as well as opportunities for further coordination. As part of this assessment, staff from the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support, namely Jared Erdmann and I, will be talking with youth-serving agencies and organizations in the following four North Minneapolis neighborhoods: Folwell, Hawthorne, Jordan and McKinley.

We hope to learn more about the impact of youth gangs and the impact of these gangs on the youth you serve. In particular, we hope to get your ideas about how the City of Minneapolis, entities within the Juvenile Justice System, community members and community-based organizations can better coordinate efforts to immunize youth from the negative impacts of gangs.

We anticipate that this conversation will last no longer than one hour. During the conversation, Jared will be taking notes. Your responses to these questions will be summarized along with the responses of others who have been interviewed so your name or the name of your organization is not identified with what you have said. In addition, a summary report could be shared with stakeholders in the broader community (e.g. members of the Youth Violence Executive Committee, interested community residents, or the funding agency, OJJDP).

Thank you for taking time to meet with us today. Do you have any questions or comments before we begin?

Introductory Questions

1. What are the key problems associated with youth gang activity in your neighborhood or among the youth you serve?

2. Among the youth you serve, how many do you estimate are involved in gangs?

Probe: Besides gang affiliation what other risk factors do you see demonstrated in the youth?

3. Is the youth gang activity you have observed similar to or different from youth gang activity in other parts of Minneapolis? **Probe:** If different, what is unique about gang activity in your neighborhood?

4. At what ages are you seeing alleged gang involvement or affiliation? **Probe:** Are you seeing it among boys and girls?

5. To what extent does your program address youth violence prevention or, specifically, youth gang prevention?

Coordination and Collaboration

6. What does success mean with regard to effective coordination of services for gang-involved youth and youth at-risk of becoming involved in gangs?

7. What types of information, messages or training have you used to effectively address the issue of gangs **with youth?...with parents?...with staff?**

8. Have you or your program coordinated efforts with other individuals or programs to effectively meet the needs of youth involved in gangs? **Probe:** If yes, with whom and in what ways?

Recommendations and Closing

9. Are you satisfied with the current response to gangs by law enforcement, social service agencies and community members in general? **Probe:** Why or why not?

10. In your opinion, what should be done to reduce youth gang activity?

11. Do you have any additional comments about what could be done to reduce youth gang activity?

Thank you again for your time

Gang Prevention: Youth Discussion Guide

The City of Minneapolis received a 2-year grant through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to improve the coordination of services intended for youth involved-in or at-risk of being involved in gangs. This visit is part of a project to understand how gangs affect youth who live on the North Side and how the City can support programs or services that help these youth to be successful.

As part of this project, staff from the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support, namely Jared Erdmann and I, will ask you some questions to guide today's discussion. During the discussion, Jared will take notes. We anticipate that this discussion will last no longer than two hours.

What you say will be summarized along with what others say, so your name will not be connected to what you have said. A summary report will be shared with the public (e.g. members of the Youth Violence Executive Committee, interested community residents, or the funding agency, OJJDP).

There are risks to participating in this discussion. We will ask you to tell us about your experiences in a group and if at any time you are uncomfortable during the discussion you may leave. If you decide to leave, it will not affect your relationship with Jared or me or with the City of Minneapolis.

What questions or comments do you have before we begin?

Questions for Youth

Introductory Questions

1. **Shield Exercise:** Who am I? What makes me proud? What gives me respect? Who is my family?

Gangs and Gang Involvement

2. **Post-It Exercise:** Thinking about someone you know who has been or is involved in a gang, **what do they like** about the gang lifestyle? **What don't they like** about the gang lifestyle?
3. Have you or people you know used social networking sites like MySpace or Facebook? (Y/N) What are your thoughts about these sites? (Optional: If you needed to get a message out to your peeps, what is the best or fastest way to do it?)
4. Thinking about what someone (for example, your parents, friends, PO's, police) has said to you or someone you know, what words have been most harmful? **Probe:** How do you or they typically deal with it?
5. Thinking about advice you have been given or that you have given to someone else, what words have been most helpful?
6. Thinking about people you know who have left or tried to leave the gang life, what reasons have they given for leaving?

The Future

7. What are some of your personal goals? **Probe:** How does school play a role in achieving your goals?
8. What types of work or employment are meaningful to you?
9. Where do you see yourselves in five years? Ten years?

Resources and Recommendations

10. If you were having a problem, can you name a person, place or program that you can go or turn to?
11. If you could change three things about your neighborhood what would that look like?

Gang Prevention: Parent Discussion Guide

The City of Minneapolis received a 2-year grant through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to improve the coordination of services intended for youth involved-in or at-risk of being involved in gangs. This visit is part of a project to understand how gangs affect youth who live on the North Side and how the City can support programs or services that help these youth to be successful.

As part of this project, staff from the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support, namely Jan Fondell and I, will ask you some questions to guide today's discussion. During the discussion, Jan will take notes. We anticipate that this discussion will last no longer than two hours.

What you say will be summarized along with what others say, so your name will not be connected to what you have said. A summary report will be shared with the public (e.g. members of the Youth Violence Executive Committee, interested community residents, or the funding agency, OJJDP).

There are risks to participating in this discussion. We will ask you to tell us about your experiences in a group and if at any time you are uncomfortable during the discussion you may leave. If you decide to leave, it will not affect your relationship with Jan or me or with the City of Minneapolis.

What questions or comments do you have before we begin?

Parent Question Guide

Introductory Questions

1. Do you believe gangs are a problem in your neighborhood? (Y/N/DK/No Response)

Probe: What are the key problems associated with youth gang activity in your neighborhood?

2. At what ages are you seeing alleged gang involvement or affiliation? **Probe:** Are you seeing it among boys and girls?

3. **Post-It Exercise:** Thinking about young people you know who have been or are involved in a gang, **what do they like** about the gang lifestyle? **What don't they like** about the gang lifestyle?

4. How has gang activity or gang violence in your neighborhood impacted you and your family? **Probe:** Mentally/Physically?

Core Questions

5. Are you satisfied with the current response to gangs by law enforcement, policy makers, social service agencies, churches, health organizations and community members in general? **Probe:** Why or why not?

6. In your opinion, what should be done to reduce youth gang activity and violence? **Probe:** What kinds of strategies could be used to reach out to youth who are involved and youth at-risk of becoming involved in gangs? What does success look like?

7. In reference to the previous question, *who is responsible* for taking action in the reduction of the gang problem?

8. What is the role of parents in preventing young people from becoming involved in gangs and gang violence? **Probe:** What types of information, resources or training do parents need to effectively address the issue of gangs and gang violence? Would a community forum be helpful?

9. Have you and your child(ren) talked about gangs? **Probe** What kinds of information or concerns have they shared with you? What types of information or advice, have you given your children? Was talking about it helpful and were they receptive?

Closing Questions

10. Have you sought help for your child/ren or someone you know because of their involvement in gangs? **Probe:** If yes, for what and from whom or from what organization?

11. If you could change three things about your neighborhood *that would help young people to stay out of gangs* what would that look like?

12. Do you have any additional comments about what could be done to reduce youth gang activity?

Appendix D: Memorandum of Understanding with Minneapolis Police Department



May 26, 2009

Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Police Department

Timothy J. Dolan
Chief of Police

350 South 5th Street – Room 130
Minneapolis MN 55415-1389

Office 612 673-2853
TTY 612 673-2157

To: Ms. Gretchen Musicant
Commissioner of Health
250 South 4th Street, Room 510
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1384

From: Mr. Timothy Dolan
Chief of Police
350 South 5th Street, Room 130
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1389

Dear Commissioner Musicant:

The Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) recognizes that reducing youth violence requires a combination of prevention, intervention and suppression efforts. Like lung cancer, youth violence can be reduced or decelerated with early intervention. Whereas MPD's capacity to suppress crime among youth and young adults is strong, MPD recognizes that viewing youth violence through a public health lens can balance suppression efforts with more upstream prevention and early intervention efforts. MPD's partnership with the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support (MDHFS) intends to build the City of Minneapolis' capacity in youth violence prevention.

MPD has partnered and will continue to partner with MDHFS in implementing recommendations outlined in the *Blue Print for Action: Preventing Youth Violence in Minneapolis*. In particular, MPD anticipates partnering with MDHFS on a two-year gang prevention coordination grant from the Office Justice Program's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Furthermore, MPD and MDHFS will continue to pursue additional resources to build Minneapolis' capacity in the area of youth violence prevention.

As a part of our commitment to youth violence prevention, MPD will:

1. Share crime data with the MDHFS Epidemiologist on a semi-annual (i.e. January and June) basis such as: a) Adult and Juvenile Arrest Reports; b) Adult and Juvenile Homicides; c) Incidents Involving Juveniles and Firearms (Any Role); and d) Neighborhood-level Juvenile/Gang Crime data. The data can include intelligence data providing past and/or current "gang" activity, as defined by MPD, and as *permitted under applicable federal and state law*, including but not limited to the Criminal History Record Information Act, 18 Pa. C.S.A. 6301-6365, and *Criminal Intelligence Systems Operating Policies, 28 CFR Ch. 1, Part 23*. Such data shall be released in a manner deemed appropriate and/or relevant by the MPD. Likewise MDHFS will share relevant assessment and surveillance data with MPD.



www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us
Affirmative Action Employer

2. Work with MDHFS to develop recommendations for improving data collection on gang-related incidents. As part of this process, MPD will assess what gang-related data points are currently available and able to be reported regularly. Currently, incident reports include a box for police officers to flag an incident as gang-related. However, whether or not an incident is gang-related is based on the subjective judgment of each officer. More detailed information about how the determination was made is often not reported or available.
3. Work with MDHFS to utilize juvenile crime and gang-related data to guide youth and young adult crime prevention, intervention and suppression efforts. The MDHFS Epidemiologist may participate, as deemed appropriate by MPD, in weekly Codefor meetings that utilize monthly (or more frequent) crime data to guide MPD's deployment of officers to crime "hot spots" and to guide MDHFS' prevention and outreach efforts. As gang-related crime data improvements are made, MPD will integrate juvenile crime and gang-related data into the Codefor meeting structure and presentations. Examples of how data could be used may include but are not limited to sharing density maps of gang-related crime in Codefor meetings and focusing one Codefor meeting per quarter on juvenile crime and/or gang-related incidents.
4. Encourage collaboration with other Law Enforcement Agencies in sharing of gang "data" as appropriate.
5. Communicate on an on-going basis with the MDHFS Gang Prevention Coordinator to discuss evolving trends in gang activity and community perceptions of gang activity.
6. Develop in collaboration with MDHFS an updated presentation on gang crime and gang identities that can be shared among project partners, with community groups and with school officials.
7. Appoint the Juvenile Division's Commander, as my representative, to attend the Youth Violence Executive Committee on a regular basis.
8. Provide a consistent representative to attend internal Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support Intervention Team Meetings.

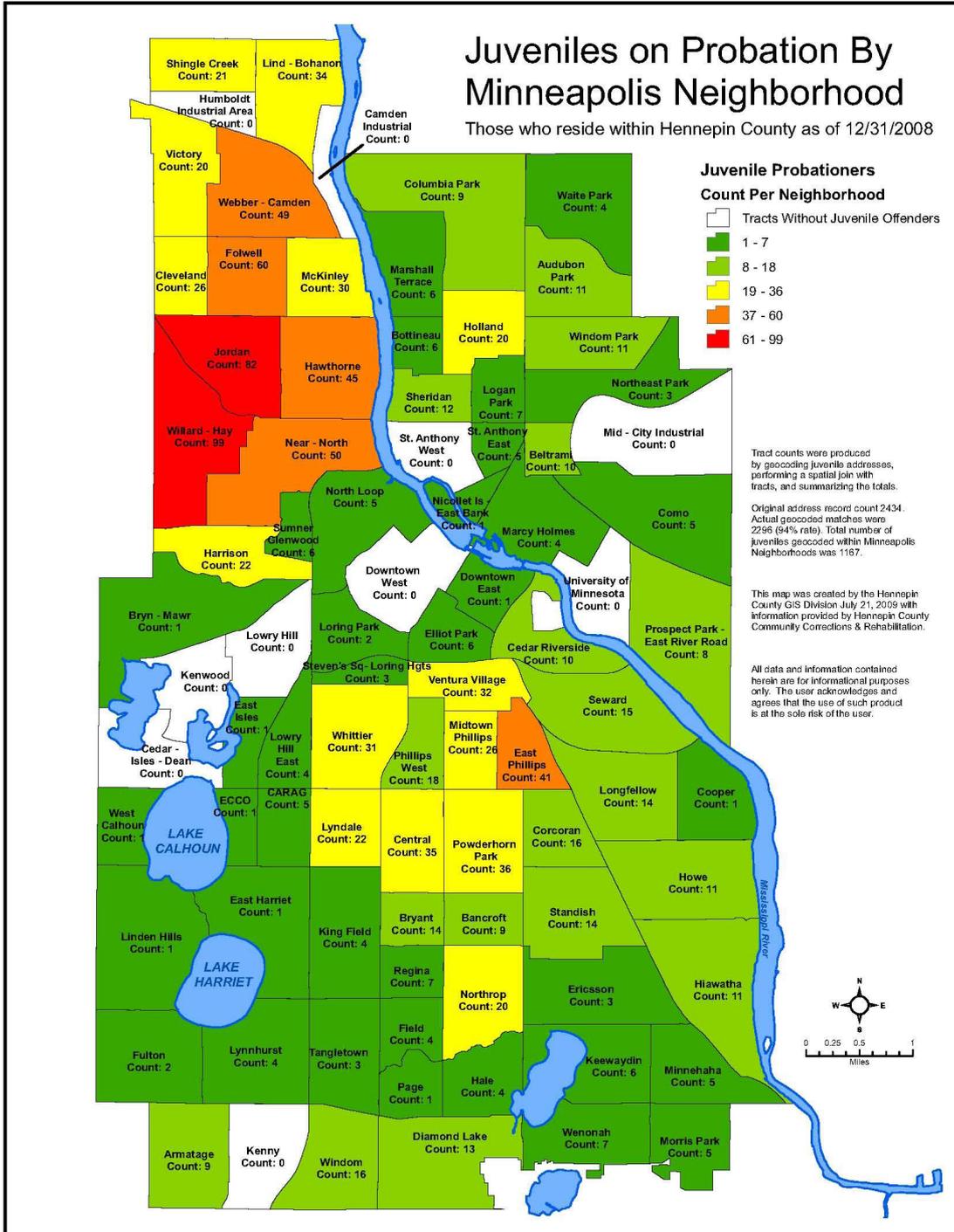
One of MPD's goals is to collaborate with other community-based organizations in implementing Youth Citizens Academies. MPD currently collaborates with community-based organizations to implement Adult Citizens Academies.

Sincerely,



Timothy Dolan
Chief of Police

Appendix E: Minneapolis Juveniles on Probation





This document was prepared by the City of Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support under grant award 2008-JV-FX-0110 Minneapolis Gang Prevention and Intervention Coordination Initiative from the US Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. For more information contact MDHFS 612-673-2301 health.familysupport@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

- English:** Attention. If you want help translating this information, call 311.
- Spanish:** Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame al (612) 673-2700.
- Somali:** Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac (612) 673-3500.
- Hmong:** Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab dawb txhais cov xov no, hu (612) 673-2800.
- TTY:** Call (612) 673-2157.