

# OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model

## Community Gang Assessment

Data Type	Questions to be Answered	Information Needed to Answer	Sources of Information	How to Obtain
General Descriptive Data – Multiyear	How is the community described?	Age, race, gender, mobility, income, and education levels for the most current year	Census	Hard copy or electronic search
	Has the population of the community changed?	Age, race, mobility, income, and education levels as percent of the total population over the last 10-15 years (compare community and city)	Census	Hard copy or electronic search
	Have service needs of population changed?	Unemployment, public assistance, teen parent rates, demand for drug/alcohol services over the last 10-15 years	Various state or local agencies	Phone contact with various organizations or reports
Gang Crime Data	What gangs are active? How many members in each gang? What is their age, race, gender?	Name of gang, number of members, age, race, gender makeup of each gang	Law enforcement records/intelligence files	Retrieve from existing hard copy or automated data, or established system to collect
	What crimes are gangs/gang members committing? How has this changed over time?	Offenses and arrest data – gang vs. non-gang broken out by crime		
	Where are gang crimes being committed? How has this changed over time?	Locations of gang crime activity by gang		
	When are gang crimes being committed?	Month, time(s) of day and day(s) of week gang offenses are being committed		
	Who is committing gang crimes?	Age, race, gender		
	Who are the victims of gang crime?	Age, race, gender of victim, status (innocent bystander, rival gang members, same gang members)		
Gang involved youth	Who is involved in gangs?	Profile information – age, gender, race, school status, job status, family life	Gang member survey	Interviews with gang youth
	What crimes are gang youth committing?	Involvement in criminal activities		
	Why did the youth join a gang? Why would they leave?	Reasons for joining, potential reasons for leaving		
	What do gang youth say causes the gang problem?	Causes of the gang problem		

Student and School-Level data	What are the overall characteristics of each school?	Attendance trends, disciplinary students, free/reduced lunch rates, race/gender make-up	School or district records, and reports to state department of education	Retrieve from existing hard copy or automated data, or establish a system to collect information
	What delinquent behaviors are students involved in?	Data on expulsion/suspensions by category and type, school disciplinary records, police reports, data from student survey	School records, staff, administrators, school resource officers, juvenile court statistics	Retrieve from existing hard copy or automated data, school resource officer, school district police department records, student survey
	What are the characteristics of students involved in gangs?	Perceptions of school staff, student self reports	Staff in targeted schools, student survey	Focus groups, personal interviews with staff, student survey
	What issues seem to be contributing to student gang involvement or risk for gang involvement?	Perceptions of school staff, administrators, and school resource officers	Staff in targeted schools	Focus groups or personal interviews with staff members
	What risk and protective factors are impacting local youth?	Information on school, family, community, and individual risk and protective factors	Youth in local school	Student survey
	What are in-school youth's perceptions about gangs?	Perceptions about gang activity	Youth in local school	Student survey
Community Perceptions of Gang Crime	Do community leaders perceive a gang problem? If so, what is that problem? Are they prepared to respond?	Feedback from community leaders about the gang problem	Police chief, sheriff, mayor, school principal, county prosecutor, probation, chief judge, youth agency director, county board members, all Steering Committee members, other community leaders	Community leader interviews
	Do parents perceive their children to be involved in or at risk of involvement in gangs?	Input from sample of parents	Parents, parents of gang members	Parent focus groups
	How do community residents perceive the gang problem? Are community residents satisfied with the current response to gangs? Are residents willing to get involved?	Input from community residents	Community residents	Community resident survey
	What law enforcement strategies are in place to prevent, intervene, and suppress gang activity?	Program and strategy profiles, focus (prevention, intervention, suppression),resources, collaborative efforts	Law enforcement agency, probation, corrections, and prosecution personnel	Key informant interviews
	Do courts, detention centers, and corrections departments conduct risk assessments that include membership?	Program profiles, resources, policy and procedures	Court, detention center, corrections personnel	Key informant interviews
	How has the community historically responded to gang activity?	Previous studies and reports	Law enforcement, university, and task force reports	Review of reports