

Center for the Prevention of School Violence

*Gangs, Kids, Crime and the
Community*



GANGS



Perceptions of Youth Gangs

1. Most street gang members are juveniles.

False - The 2001 National Youth Gang Survey reported that 67% of gang members identified by law enforcement were ages 18 or older.

* National Youth Gang Center, www.iir.com/nygc.



Perceptions of Youth Gangs

2. Most youth gang members are members for 1 year or less.

True - In areas with emerging gang problems, most youth report being in the gang for 1 year or less.

* National Youth Gang Center, www.iir.com/nygc.



Perceptions of Youth Gangs

3. Over one-half million gang members have been identified by police in U.S. cities.

True - NYGC researchers estimate that more than 24,500 gangs with over 772,500 active members were in the U.S. in 2000.

* National Youth Gang Center, www.iir.com/nygc.



Perceptions of Youth Gangs

4. With few exceptions, youth gang problems are an inner-city problem.

False - In the past few decades, there has been a dramatic increase in the growth of gang problems in rural and suburban areas, and small cities.

* National Youth Gang Center, www.iir.com/nygc.



Perceptions of Youth Gangs

5. Once gangs emerge in small towns and rural counties, they usually remain.

False – Smaller cities and suburban and rural counties tend to report variable gang problems.

* National Youth Gang Center, www.iir.com/nygc.



Perceptions of Youth Gangs

6. Gang members migrate to other communities primarily to establish drug markets.

False – The most common reasons for migration are social considerations, such as family relocation, and to be near relatives and friends.

* National Youth Gang Center, www.iir.com/nygc.



Perceptions of Youth Gangs

7. Most youth gangs are highly organized.

False – Most street gangs are only loosely structured, with transient leadership, and membership, easily transcended codes of loyalty, and informal roles for membership.

* National Youth Gang Center, www.iir.com/nygc.



Perceptions of Youth Gangs

8. Most youth gang members say they were forced to join a gang.

False – The two most common reasons youth join gangs are social reasons and protection.

* National Youth Gang Center, www.iir.com/nygc.



Perceptions of Youth Gangs

9. Youth gangs are heavily involved in both selling and operating drug distribution organizations.

False – Most drug distribution systems are managed by adult drug cartels or syndicates, traditional narcotic operatives, and by other adult criminal organizations.

* National Youth Gang Center, www.iir.com/nygc.



Perceptions of Youth Gangs

10. FBI definitions of a gang, gang member, and gang crime have been adopted by police departments nationwide.

False – There is no single, accepted nationwide definition of youth gangs. Definitions are varied within and across geographical areas.

* National Youth Gang Center, www.iir.com/nygc.



Perceptions of Youth Gangs

11. In areas that have first experienced gang problems in recent years, the largest proportions of gang members is white.

True – The newest gang problem areas (emergence within last 10 years) report having a larger proportion of white gang members.

* National Youth Gang Center, www.iir.com/nygc.



Perceptions of Youth Gangs

12. Most gang members say they joined the gang for fun and excitement.

False – The two most common reasons youth join gangs are social reasons and protection.

* National Youth Gang Center, www.iir.com/nygc.



Perceptions of Youth Gangs

13. Most former gang members say they experienced serious physical consequences from their gang when they decided to quit.

False – Former gang members, especially marginal and short-term members, left without complication or any serious consequences.

* National Youth Gang Center, www.iir.com/nygc.



Perceptions of Youth Gangs

14. Educating youth on the consequences of gang involvement is an effective way for law enforcement to combat gang involvement.

True – Early prevention works.

* National Youth Gang Center, www.iir.com/nygc.



THE LAW

NC Street Gang Suppression Act

1. Forfeiture of gain
2. Conduct or participate in gang activity
3. Acquire property through gang activity
4. Solicit or coerce membership
5. Threats to deter withdrawal from gang



THE LAW

6. Threats of punishment or retaliation (withdraw)
7. Enhanced offense for criminal gang activity



“Unofficial” Definition of a Gang

- Leadership
- Organizational structure
- Common name / identifiers
- Engage in criminal behavior



House Bill 274 Gang Definition

...Any ongoing organization, association, or group of 3 or more persons, whether formal or informal that:



House Bill 274 Gang Definition

1. Primary activity is commission of one or more felony offenses or delinquent acts that would be felonies if committed by an adult.



House Bill 274 Gang Definition

2. May have a common name, common identifying symbol and has 3 or more members....who have engaged in criminal street gang activity.



STREET GANG ACTIVITY

...to commit, attempt to commit, or to solicit, coerce, or intimidate another person to commit an act.....and would be chargeable by *indictment* under the following laws of this state:



Pattern of Criminal Street Gang Activity

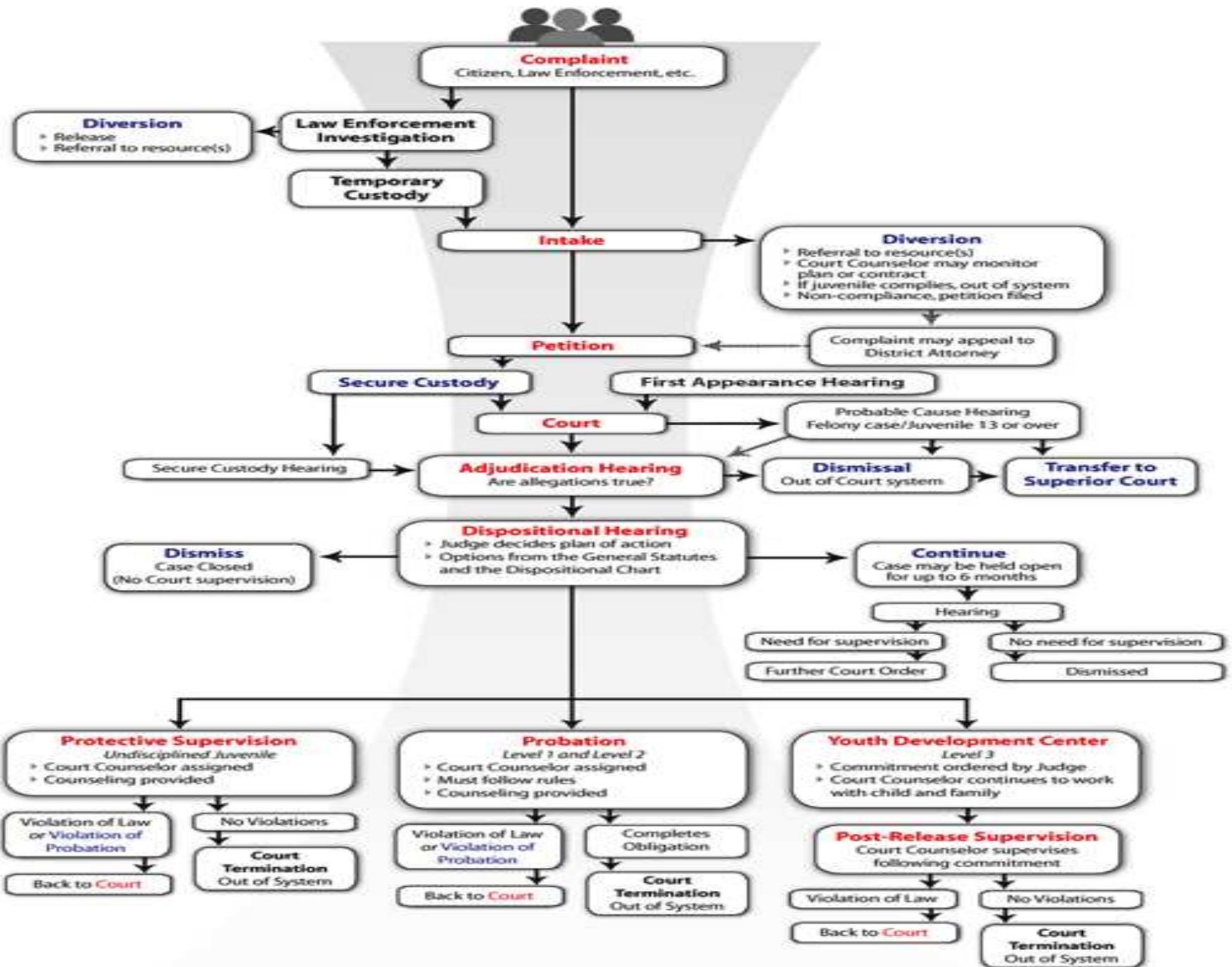
...engaging in and having a *conviction* for, at least two prior incidents of criminal street gang activity....



DJJDP Working Definition

- A. Three or more persons
- B. Distinct Name
- C. Known by identifying sign or symbol
- D. Some degree of organization
- E. Some degree of permanence
- F. Involved in delinquent behavior or commits criminal acts





SB 1358

- 1. The prevalence of school violence and gang activity;**
- 2. The use of Department Juvenile Crime Prevention Council programs for out-of-school suspension alternative learning programs for students who are identified as being associated with gangs;**



SB 1358

- 3. Current programs that are designed to educate school personnel and parents on signs that a student may be involved or associated with a gang;**
- 4. Effective practices for reducing school violence and gang activity that have been successfully implemented in other states;**
and

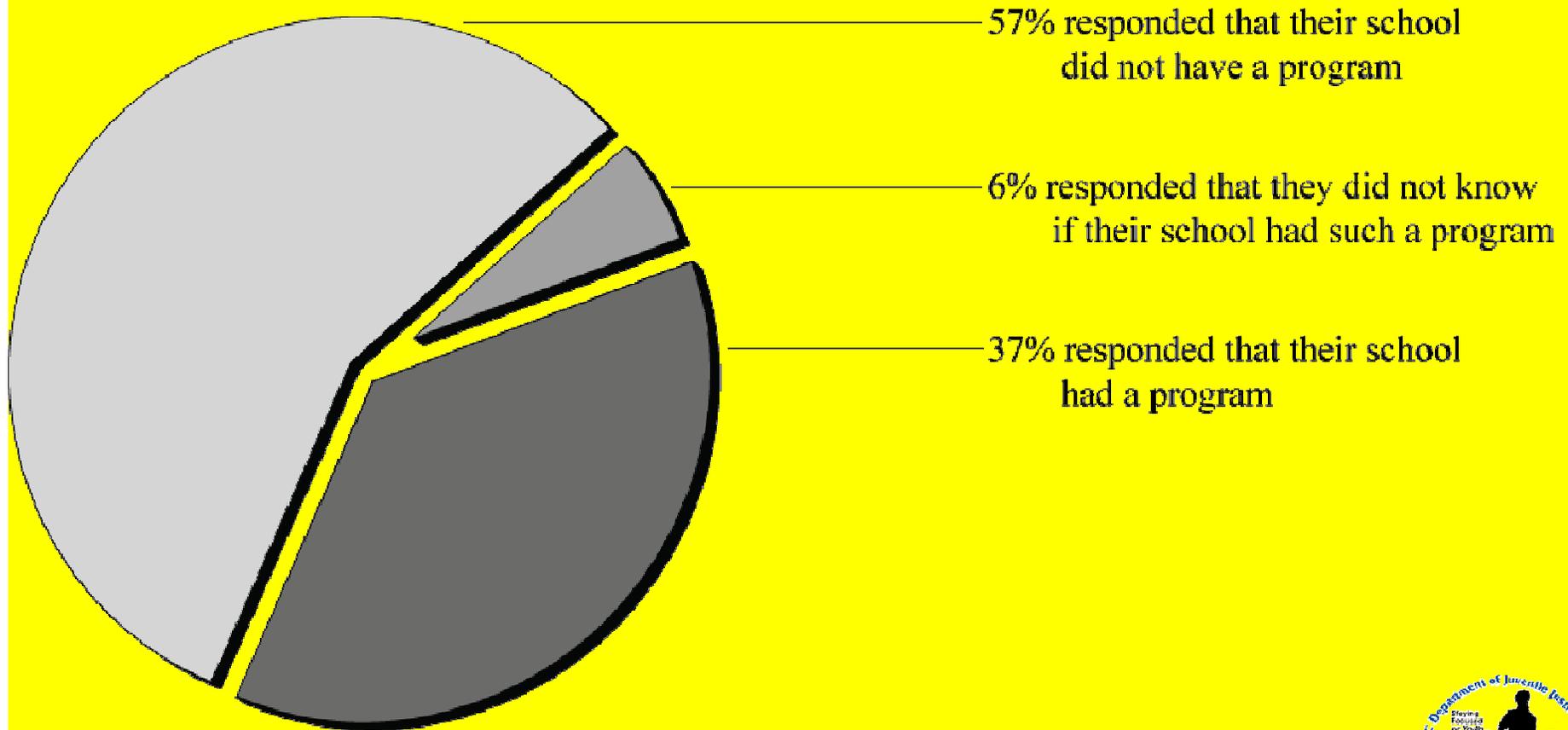


SB 1358

- 5. Any findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, for further implementation and coordination between the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Department of Public Instruction to address issues related to prevention and intervention of youth gang activity.**



Percentage of Schools with Gang Awareness Programs for Parents as Reported by their SRO



N = 100

Survey of 100 SROs conducted through a convenience sample by DJJDP - Center for the Prevention of School Violence

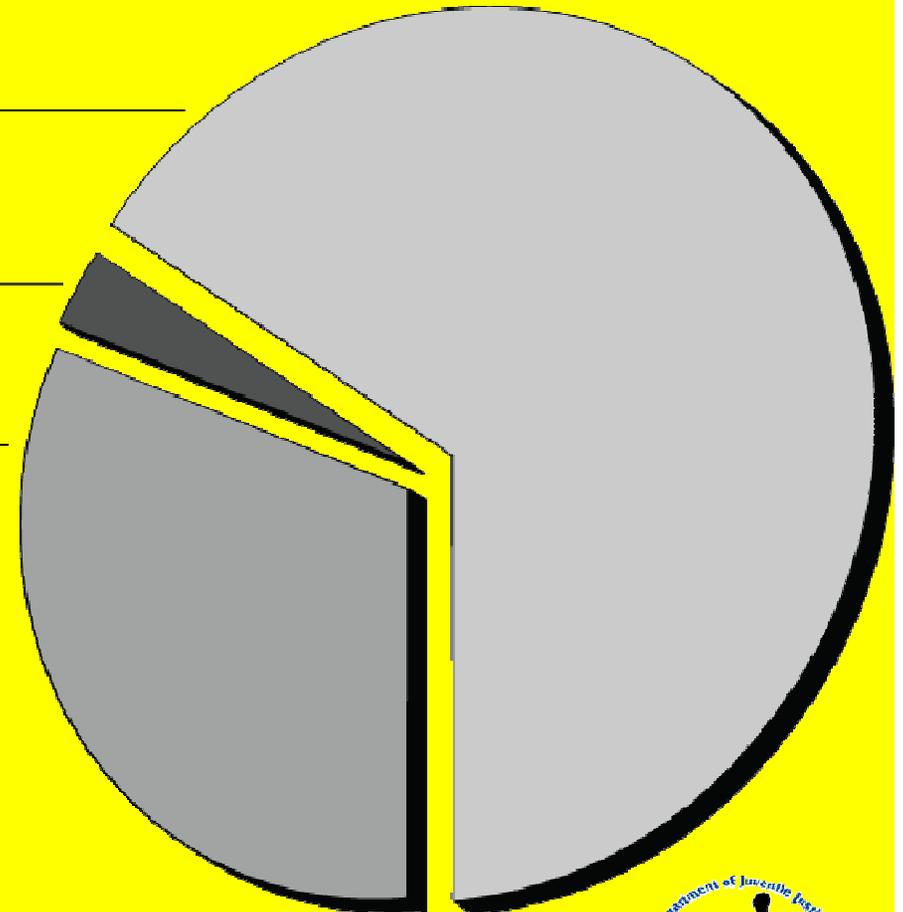


Percentage of Schools with Gang Awareness Programs for School Personnel as Reported by their SRO

65% responded that their school had a program in place

3% responded that they did not know if their school had such a program

32% responded that their school did not have a program in place

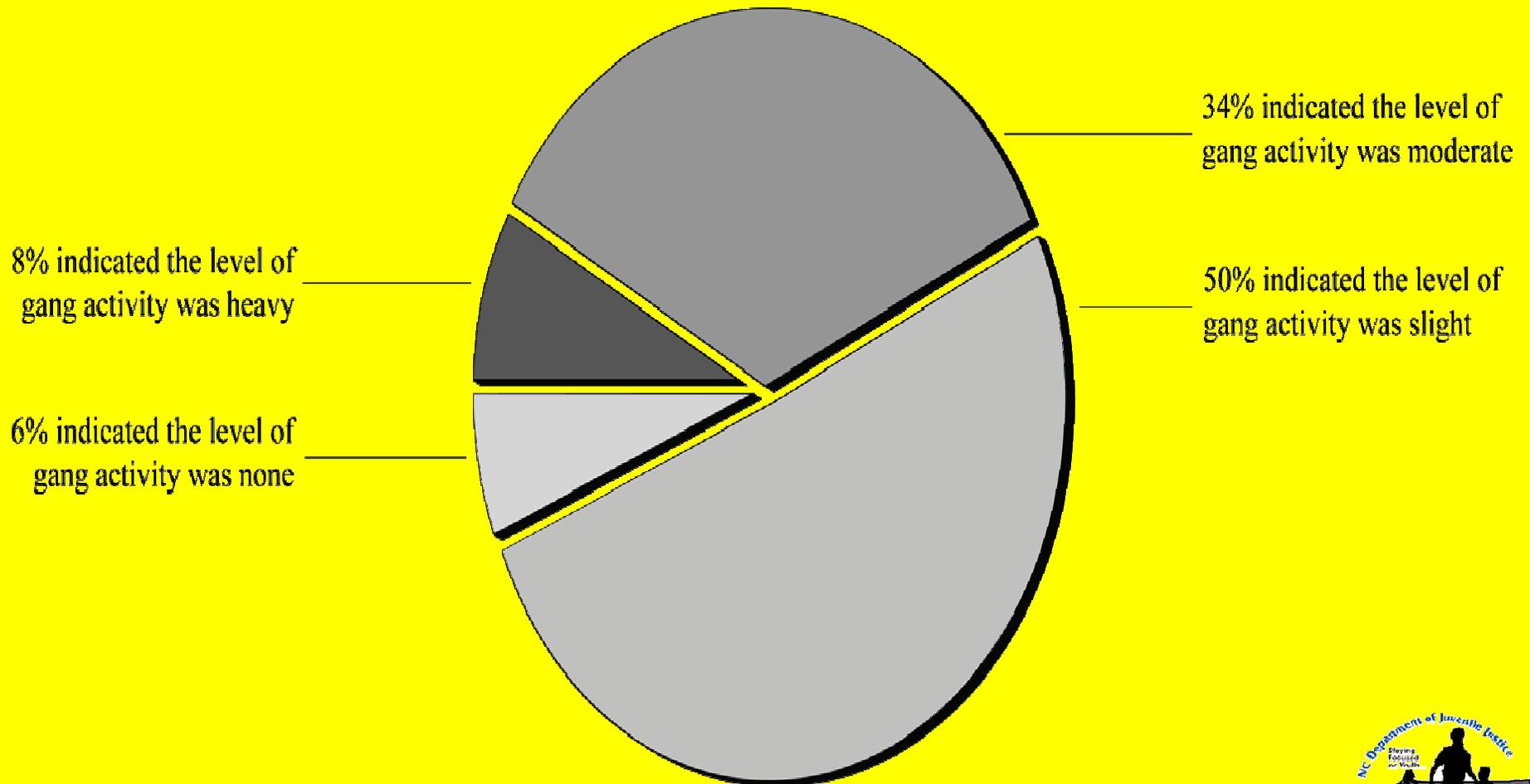


N = 100

Survey of 100 SROs conducted through a convenience sample by DJJDP - Center for the Prevention of School Violence



Level of Gang Activity in Schools as Reported by SDFS Coordinators and ALP Contacts



N = 90

Survey of 90 SDFS Coordinators and ALP Contacts conducted online by DPI



NC SRO Gang Activity in School

How Often	Percent of Respondents
Gang Activity Occurs Daily	19%
At Least Once A Week	13%
At Least Once A Month	8%
On Occasion	41%
Never Happens	19%
Total	100%

Survey of 100 SROs conducted through a convenience sample by
DJJDP – Center



NC SRO CENSUS GANG PRESENCE

Grade Level	Schools Reporting	Gang Presence Reported	Percentage of Schools with Gang Presence
High Schools	369	236	64%
Alternative Schools	76	45	59%
Middle Schools	441	216	49%
Other Schools	120	37	31%
Elementary Schools	1,311	34	2.59%
Total	2,317	568	24%

2008 DJJDP – Center Annual School Resource Officer Census



OUT OF STATE EFFECTIVE VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAMS

PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

1. Evidence of deterrent effect with strong research design.
 2. Sustained effect
 3. Multiple site replication
1. Olweus Bullying Prevention program
 2. Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS)
 3. Incredible Years Series



OUT OF STATE EFFECTIVE GANG PREVENTION PROGRAMS

1. Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT)
2. Little Village
3. Aggression Replacement Training
4. Comprehensive Gang Model
5. Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy
6. Life Skills



SB 1358

1st Finding: There is a presence of crime, violence and gang activity in the schools. Further data collection is necessary.

Recommendation: Add an additional category to existing 17 reportable offenses. Using state statute as guide, develop statewide wording.



SB 1358

2nd Finding: JCPC's are well established planning and funding vehicles. Very few JCPC programs aimed strictly for gang prevention but focus on overall risk factors.

Recommendation: Additional funding through DPI and the JCPCs targeting at risk behaviors and not solely on gang prevention.



SB 1358

3rd Finding: There is a lack of evidence based, sustainable programs in place to educate parents and school personnel about gangs.

Recommendation: Funding should be made available for evidence based programs specifically designed for parents and school personnel about how to identify that a student may be involved with a gang.



SB 1358

4th Finding: There are numerous evidence based school violence prevention programs in other states. Very few evidence based gang prevention programs are operating in NC.

Recommendation: DPI and DJJDP will seek to raise the awareness level of schools and communities of the availability of these programs. Additional financial support should be provided.



Comprehensive Gang Model

- Five Strategies
 - Community mobilization
 - Social intervention
 - Provision of opportunities
 - Suppression
 - Organizational change



