

7. Community Perceptions Data

No picture of a community’s gang crime problem would be complete without the views of *community leaders, community residents, parents, and gang-involved youth*. This information can be collected using surveys, personal interviews, and/or focus groups. The extent of this data collection should be determined by the time and funds available. It also is useful to conduct focus groups with social service workers, detention center staff, and other professionals who spend significant amounts of time with gang-involved youths.

At a minimum, information from the following groups should be collected:

- Community leaders, both formal and informal
- Community residents
- Parents (including parents of gang members, if possible)
- Agency staff members (social services, detention centers, probation, community-based agencies)
- Gang members

The primary reason for gathering this type of information is to determine how community members view gang activity and how they think gangs affect the community. Some of the questions developed for this type of information gathering are open-ended, and interviewers should encourage respondents to freely elaborate. These questions give respondents an opportunity to relate their own experience or beliefs about gangs and gang activity in their community. Care should be taken to ensure that respondents represent the community being assessed in terms of demographics.

Table 1 identifies the questions to be answered about the community’s perceptions of gang crime, the information needed to answer the questions, and the sources of that information.

Table 1—Community Perceptions of Gangs			
Questions to Be Answered	Information Needed to Answer	Sources of Information	How to Obtain
1. Do community leaders perceive a gang problem? If so, what is the problem? Are they prepared to respond?	Feedback from community leaders about the gang crime problem	Police chief, sheriff, mayor, county prosecutor, probation, judges, youth agency director, county commissioners, all Steering Committee members, faith-based leaders, other community leaders	Community leader interviews by phone or mail
2. Do parents perceive their children to be involved in or at risk of involved in gangs? Why? What should be done?	Input from sample group of parents	Parents, parents of gang members	Parent focus groups

3. How do community residents perceive the gang problem? What do community residents believe should be done?	Input from community residents	Community residents	Community resident survey
4. How do youth workers and youth-serving agencies perceive the problem? What issues are contributing to the area's gang problems? What solutions might be available?	Input from youth-serving agencies	Youth-serving agencies	Agency survey
5. Who is involved in gangs?	Demographic information	Gang members	Gang member interviews
6. What crimes are gang youth committing?	Involvement in criminal activity		
7. Why did youth join a gang? Why would they leave?	Reasons for joining a gang, potential reasons for leaving		
8. What factors are contributing to the gang problem?	Causes of gang problem		

Information from the interviews, surveys, and focus groups should be compared across the different groups, when possible. Use appropriate charts, tables, and other graphics to display the data can be helpful, such as the chart in **Table 2**. Answers to the following questions should be addressed:

1. Do community leaders, parents, and community residents believe a gang problem exists in the community? If so, what is that problem?
2. Are there significant differences across the groups? What are those differences?
3. Do parents believe their children to be involved in gangs or at risk for gang involvement?
4. What do the respondent groups think should be done about the gang problem?
5. In what ways are the respondent groups willing to respond to the gang problem?

Table 2—Sample Community Perceptions Data	
Residents' Concerns	
Concern	Percent of Respondents
Gang activity	45.1%
Burglary and robbery	40.8%
Drug dealing	34.1%
Low police activity	32.9%
Unemployment	27.5%
Loud music	25.5%
Unkempt property	24.7%
Insufficient street lighting	20.4%
Vandalism	13.3%

Graffiti	12.2%
Homicide	10.2%
Domestic violence	9.8%
Truancy	3.1%

Source: South Park Community Resident Survey, 2008

Gang-Involved Youth

Gang members face problems beyond those posed by the gang itself. Most lack job skills, and many cannot read and write very well. Few have the self-control needed to hold down a steady job, even if they qualify for one.

As part of the assessment process, an effort should be made to interview at least 25 to 50 gang members—more, if possible—to determine their demographic profiles, criminal involvement, and history with gangs. Interviews with gang members can provide a variety of information, including:

- When local youth joined gangs, on average
- What crimes gang youth are committing
- Youths’ perceptions of the gang problem
- Involvement in high-risk behaviors
- Their views on why youth join gangs
- Their relationships with parents, peers, teachers, police, and other community members
- What can be done to prevent or reduce gang problems in their community

Gang members are often involved with the justice system and can usually be identified through that system. However, gang-involved youth may be difficult to locate: they may be out of school; they may work; they may be homeless or unemployed. Although some gang youth under age 16 will still be attending mainstream schools, others can be found in alternative schools, GED programs, job-training programs, or community-based programs. Some can be located in juvenile detention centers and residential treatment centers, while others can be located through juvenile and adult probation. It may be possible to locate gang members through a “snowball” sampling technique; that is, each gang member interviewed is asked to suggest a gang friend or member of his/her gang to be interviewed. Outreach agencies may also be able to play a role in facilitating these interviews. The gang members interviewed should reflect the racial/gender/age mix of gangs in the community. It may help to provide a small incentive, such as a \$10 or \$20 gift certificate to a local store or restaurant, to interest gang members in participating in the interview.

When planning the interview process, make sure that personal interviews with gang members are conducted by a neutral party and in a neutral setting, and that all information obtained is kept completely confidential. **Under no circumstances should a gang member be interviewed by law enforcement or others associated with the justice system.** Gang-member interviews should be held in a private location.

The gang member interview form (**EXHIBIT 7.5**) is designed to be conducted in a personal, face-to-face format. Sample consent forms for the respondent and for parents/guardians of gang members who are minors are included in **EXHIBIT 7.6**.

Table 1 on page 95 identifies the questions to be answered about gang-involved youth in the community, the information that will be needed to answer those questions, and the sources of that information. The data collected from these interviews should be analyzed in aggregate form before being reported to the Steering Committee. No identifying personal details should be included. Report the data using the following variables where appropriate:

Gender: Male/Female

Race: Use categories as defined on page 37.

Age: Use categories as defined on page 37.

Use appropriate graphs, charts, and tables to present the information in a user-friendly format, such as those shown in **Tables 3 and 4**.

Table 3—Percentage of Gang Members Reporting Criminal Activity in the Last Year

Crime	% of Males (n)	% of Females (n)	% of Total (n)
Beat up or battered someone without using a dangerous weapon	76.8% (73)	75.0% (6)	76.7% (79)
Threatened to attack a person without using a gun, knife, or other dangerous weapon	69.5% (66)	75.0% (6)	69.9% (72)
Wrote gang graffiti on schools, houses, stores, etc.	55.2% (53)	50.0% (4)	54.8% (57)
Stole a car, truck, or motorcycle	42.1% (40)	50.0% (4)	42.7% (44)
Robbed someone by force or by threat of force using a weapon	29.5% (28)	37.5% (3)	35.9% (37)
Beat up or battered someone using a dangerous weapon	36.8% (35)	25.0% (2)	35.9% (37)
Participated in a drive-by shooting	28.4% (27)	50.0% (4)	30.1% (31)
Participated in a murder	6.3% (6)	12.5% (1)	6.8% (7)
Sold drugs	49.5% (47)	25.0% (2)	47.6% (49)

Source: Tabulation of data collected from interviews with gang members

Table 4—Reason for Joining a Gang

Reason for Joining a Gang (gang member identified reason as important or very important)	% of Male Respondents (n)	% of Female Respondents (n)	% of Total
Protection	41.9% (39)	50% (4)	42.5%
Respect	29.3% (27)	50% (4)	30.6%
Money	31.2% (29)	37.5% (3)	31.7%
Friends in the gang	29% (27)	37.5% (3)	29.7%
To fit in	23.9% (22)	37.5% (3)	25.0%
Fun	23.9% (22)	25.0% (2)	23.7%
Brother/sister in the gang	15.1% (14)	25.0% (2)	15.8%
Forced to	2.2% (2)	12.5% (1)	3.0%

Source: Tabulation of data collected from interviews with gang members (n=101)

Table 5—Benefits of Gang Membership	
Gang Benefit	% Who Agreed or Strongly Agreed (n)
My gang provides loyalty	72% (72)
I enjoy being a member of my gang	56% (56)
My gang is like a family to me	54% (54)
My gang makes me feel respected	51% (51)
My gang makes me feel like I really belong somewhere	38% (38)
Being in a gang is a good way to make money	38% (38)
My gang makes me feel important	29% (29)
My gang makes me feel like I have a purpose	24% (24)

Source: Tabulation of data collected from interviews with gang members (n=100)

Answers to the following questions should be considered:

1. Who is involved in gangs (age, gender, race)?
2. Why and when (age) did they join a gang?
3. What is their school/education status?
4. What is their family status?
5. What is their employment status?
6. What crimes do gang youth report committing?
7. What are gang youths' perceptions about the gang problem?
8. Why would youth leave a gang?

When these data are presented, include any additional information from the gang member interviews that may shed light on the nature of gang activity in the community.

Data collection instruments provided in this chapter include:

- Exhibit 7.1** Interview form for community leaders (page 100)
- Exhibit 7.2** Survey form for community residents (pages 101)
- Exhibit 7.3** Focus group questions for parents and parents of gang members (page 103)
- Exhibit 7.4** Survey for youth-serving agencies (page 104)
- Exhibit 7.5** Interview form for gang members (page 105)
- Exhibit 7.6** Sample consent forms for gang-member interviews (page 112)

Exhibit 7.1

Community Leader Interview Form

1. Do you believe gangs are a problem in your community?

- Yes No
 Do not know

If so, what kinds of problems do gangs present in your community? Please choose your top three problems.

- ___ Increase in property crimes
- ___ Increase in vandalism/graffiti
- ___ Increased fear in community
- ___ School disruption
- ___ Increase in drug crimes
- ___ Public nuisance
- ___ Family disruption
- ___ Increase in violent crime against persons
- ___ Increase in weapon crimes
- ___ Increased fear for safety
- ___ Other, please specify _____

2. Why do you believe there is gang activity in your community? Please choose your top three reasons.

- ___ Poverty
- ___ School problems
- ___ Police labeling
- ___ Gang members move to community from other places
- ___ Boredom
- ___ Family problems
- ___ Power
- ___ Protection
- ___ Lack of activities
- ___ Prejudice
- ___ Family/friends in gangs
- ___ To feel loved/sense of belonging
- ___ Other, please specify _____

3. What is the general community response to gangs by (law enforcement, parents, educators, other community leaders, etc.)?

4. What should be done to reduce the gang problem in the community? Please check your top three choices.

- ___ Jobs and job training
- ___ Tutoring
- ___ Mentoring
- ___ Recreation programs
- ___ School programs
- ___ More police presence
- ___ More parental involvement
- ___ New laws/ordinances
- ___ Other, please specify _____

5. Are you satisfied with the current response to gangs by law enforcement, social service agencies, schools, etc.?

6. Have you had any personal experiences with a gang member? Please specify.

7. How can you help to improve the community's response to gangs?

Exhibit 7.2 Community Resident Survey

1. **Are you:**
 Female Male

2. **What race/ethnicity do you consider yourself to be?**
 White/Caucasian
 Black/African American
 American Indian
 Hispanic/Spanish
 Asian
 Native American/American Indian
 Other: _____

3. **What is your current marital status?**
 Never married
 Married
 Widowed
 Separated
 Divorced

4. **What is the intersection (cross streets) nearest your place of residence?**

5. **Do you feel safer in your community than you did two years ago?**
 No Yes
 Please Explain: _____

6. **Please pick the top three concerns that you have about your community, if any.**

<input type="radio"/> Unemployment	<input type="radio"/> Graffiti
<input type="radio"/> Homicide	<input type="radio"/> Truancy
<input type="radio"/> Gang Activity	<input type="radio"/> Vandalism
<input type="radio"/> Loud music	<input type="radio"/> Domestic violence
<input type="radio"/> Unkempt property	<input type="radio"/> Insufficient street lighting
<input type="radio"/> Drug dealing	<input type="radio"/> Low police activity
<input type="radio"/> Burglary or robbery	
<input type="radio"/> Other: _____	

7. **Do you think there are gangs in your community?**
 No Yes

8. **Do you think your child(ren) is in a gang or at risk of being in a gang?**
 No Yes

9. **In the past year, has gang activity in your community:**
 Increased
 Decreased
 Remained about the same

10. **Please pick the top three problems, if any, that gangs present in the community:**
 Gangs are not a problem here Fighting
 Increase in violent crime School disruption
 Increase in drug crimes Public nuisance
 Increase in weapon crimes Family disruption
 Increased fear for safety
 Other: _____

11. **Please pick the top three reasons you believe gang activity exists in your community:**
 Gangs are not a problem here Boredom
 School problems Poverty
 Lack of activities Power
 Family/friends in gangs Protection
 Police labeling Family problems
 Gang members move from other areas
 To feel love/sense of belonging
 Other: _____

12. **Please pick the top three things you believe should be done about gangs and gang activity in your community:**
 Gangs are not a problem here Programs/recreation
 More police protection Mentoring
 Jobs provision and job training Tutoring
 Other: _____

13. **Please rank the following organizations from most responsible (1) for dealing with gangs and gang activity to least responsible (12) for dealing with gangs and gang activity:**

_____	Police
_____	Church
_____	Court/criminal justice system
_____	Family
_____	Service providers
_____	Neighborhood association
_____	School
_____	Housing authority
_____	Office of juvenile affairs
_____	Treatment providers
_____	Community residents
_____	Office of Youth & Family Services

Continue to the next page

Exhibit 7.2 (continued)

14. How has your community responded to gang activity?

15. How satisfied are you with the current response to gang activity?

16. What are you willing to do, if anything, to help deal with gangs and gang activity in your community? Please check all that apply:

- Nothing
- Neighborhood outreach
- Become a youth group leader
- Tutor
- Form sports leagues/teams
- Mentor
- Teach skills (auto mechanics, crafts, music, computer skills, electronics, etc.)
- Other: _____

17. What is the highest level of schooling you have completed?

- Completed grade school or less
- Some high school
- Completed high school
- Some college
- Completed college
- Graduate or professional school after college
- Vocational or technical training

**Thank you for your participation.
Your opinions and comments are appreciated.**

If you would like to leave any additional comments for us, please use this area or attach another sheet of paper.

Exhibit 7.3 Parent Focus Group Questions

1. Do you believe gangs are a problem in your community?

- Yes No
 Do not know

If so, what kinds of problems do gangs present in your community? (Use list below as prompts if necessary.)

- ___ Increase in property crimes
- ___ Increase in vandalism/graffiti
- ___ Increased fear in community
- ___ School disruption
- ___ Increase in drug crimes
- ___ Public nuisance
- ___ Family disruption
- ___ Increase in violent crime against persons
- ___ Increase in weapon crimes
- ___ Increased fear for safety
- ___ Other, please specify _____

2. Why do you believe there is gang activity in your community? (Use list below as prompts if necessary.)

- ___ Poverty
- ___ School problems
- ___ Police labeling
- ___ Gang members move to community from other places
- ___ Boredom
- ___ Family problems
- ___ Power
- ___ Protection
- ___ Lack of activities
- ___ Prejudice
- ___ Family/friends in gangs
- ___ To feel loved/sense of belonging
- ___ Other, please specify _____

3. What should be done to reduce the gang problem in the community? (Use list below as prompts if necessary.)

- ___ Jobs and job training
- ___ Tutoring
- ___ Mentoring
- ___ Recreation programs
- ___ School programs
- ___ More police presence
- ___ More parental involvement
- ___ Other, please specify _____

4. In reference to question 3, who is responsible for taking action in the reduction of the gang problem?

5. Do you think that your child(ren) are at risk of gang membership?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

If yes, please explain _____

Include the following questions for parents of gang members:

6. Why do you think your child joined a gang?

7. What concerns or problems has your child faced since joining a gang?

8. What effect has your child's gang membership had on your family?

Exhibit 7.4
Youth-Serving Agency Survey

1. Do you believe that gang activity is increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same level among the youth that you serve?

- Increasing
- Decreasing
- Staying the same

Why? _____

2. What issues do you think contribute to gang activity on the part of youth served by your project?

3. Do you believe gang activity exists in your community? If so, why?

4. What things should be done about gang activity in your community?

Exhibit 7.5

Gang Member Interview Form

SAMPLE

Introduction to Gang Member Interview

To be read by interviewer:

I would like to ask you some questions that will help us learn ore about gangs in (*your community*). We are interested in learning something about your life and experiences, as well as your involvement in a gang.

One section of the interview asks about criminal activity. Give us only the information that we ask for. Do not give us any additional information, including names or dates, connected to any crimes.

The information you provide will be kept strictly confidential. That is, it will not be shared with anyone. The answers you give us will be added to the information we receive from others we are interviewing and then analyzed together.

You may refuse to answer any question in this interview, and you may end your participation in the interview at any time.

We are asking your permission (and that of your parent or guardian, if you are under the legal age of adult) to conduct this interview. Again, this information will be kept strictly private and confidential.

Are you willing to proceed?

Exhibit 7.5 (continued)

Gang Member Interview

Demographics

1. What is your date of birth? _____
2. Are you:
 Female Male _____
3. What race/ethnicity do you consider yourself to be? (choose one best answer)
 White/Caucasian
 Black/African American
 Asian
 Hispanic/Latino
 Native American/American Indian
 Other (Please Specify) _____
4. What is the language you use most often at home?

5. What is the intersection (which streets cross) nearest your place of residence?

6. What is your current marital status?
 Never married
 Married
 Divorced
 Widowed
 Separated
 Do not know
7. Do you have any children?
 No Yes, If yes, how many? _____
8. Has any family member ever been in a gang?
 Yes No
 Do not know No response

If yes, specify number of family members and relationship

9. Are you currently employed?
 Yes No
 Do not know No response

If yes, do you have a full-time job? _____
If yes, do you have a part-time job? _____
What type of work do you do? _____

School

10. Are you currently in school?
 Yes No
 Do not know No response
11. If you are currently in school, what grade are you in?

12. If you are not in school, what is the highest grade you have completed?
 Grade _____ Do not know
 No response
13. Generally, what are/were your grades like?
 Mostly As Mostly Bs
 Mostly Cs Mostly Ds
 Mostly Fs
14. For your current/most recent school, how much do you agree/disagree with the following statements?

- Use a 5-point scale: 1) Strongly disagree
 2) Disagree
 3) Neither disagree nor agree
 4) Agree
 5) Strongly agree

- _____ If I have/had a problem, there is/was a teacher or staff member I could talk to.
_____ I often feel/felt that no one at school cares/cared about me.
_____ Even though there are lots of students around, I often feel/felt lonely.
_____ I do not/did not feel that I am/was part of this school.
_____ I often feel/felt like my teachers respect/respected me.
_____ In school, I often feel/felt put down by other students.
_____ Most of my teachers really listen/listened to what I have/had to say.
_____ Most of my teachers are/were fair in supervising me if I step/stepped out of line.

15. Have you ever dropped out of school?
 Yes No
 Do not know No response

If yes, what were the most recent reasons for dropping out?

Exhibit 7.5 (continued)

16. Have you ever been suspended from school?

- Yes No
- Do not know No response

If yes, what were the most recent reasons for suspension?

17. Have you ever been expelled from school?

- Yes No
- Do not know No response

If yes, what were the most recent reasons for expulsion?

18. In the past year, how often have you witnessed any of the following gang activities at your school or on school grounds?

- Use a 7-point scale:
- 1) Never/no times
 - 2) 1 to 3 times
 - 3) 4 to 10 times
 - 4) 11 to 26 times
 - 5) More than 26 times
 - 6) Do not know
 - 7) No response

- ___ Gang members selling drugs
- ___ Fights between members of different gangs
- ___ Fights between members of your own gang
- ___ A drive-by shooting
- ___ Gang intimidation
- ___ Gang recruiting
- ___ Not in school

Community

19. Are there areas right now in your community where you are afraid to walk alone?

- Yes No
- Do not know No response

If yes, is it because of gang-related concerns?

- Yes No
- Do not know No response

Please explain:

20. In the last year, how often have you witnessed any of the following gang activities in your community?

- Use a 7-point scale:
- 1) Never/no times
 - 2) 1 to 3 times
 - 3) 4 to 10 times
 - 4) 11 to 26 times
 - 5) More than 26 times
 - 6) Do not know
 - 7) No response

- ___ Gang members selling drugs
- ___ Fights between members of different gangs
- ___ Fights between members of your own gang
- ___ A drive-by shooting
- ___ Gang intimidation
- ___ Gang recruiting

21. In the last year, for each crime, please rate how serious a crime problem you think this is in your community?

- Use a 7-point scale:
- 1) No problem
 - 2) A small problem
 - 3) A moderate problem
 - 4) A serious problem
 - 5) A very serious problem
 - 6) Do not know
 - 7) No response

- ___ Vandalism/graffiti
- ___ Burglary
- ___ Car theft
- ___ Robbery
- ___ Threats/intimidation
- ___ Gang to gang confrontations
- ___ Drug dealing
- ___ Alcohol use
- ___ Drive-by shooting
- ___ Possession of knife
- ___ Possession of gun
- ___ Firearms use
- ___ Firearms dealing
- ___ Arson
- ___ Assault/battery
- ___ Homicide/murder
- ___ School disruption
- ___ Other, please specify _____

Exhibit 7.5 (continued)

22. Do you think there is a gang problem in your community?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

If so, what do you think are the top three causes of the gang problem in your community?

- ____ Poverty
____ School problems
____ Police labeling
____ Gang members move to community from other places
____ Boredom
____ Family problems
____ Power
____ Lack of activities
____ Prejudice
____ Family/friends in gangs
____ To feel loved/sense of belonging
____ Other, please specify: _____

23. What do you think should be done about the gang problem in your community?

24. About how many adults have you known personally who in the past year have:

- ____ Used marijuana, crack, cocaine, or other drugs?
____ Sold or dealt drugs?
____ Done other things that could get them into trouble with police such as stealing, selling stolen goods, mugging, or assaulting others?
____ Gotten drunk?

25. Are any of your friends gang members?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

26. If you wanted to get a handgun, how easy would it be for you to get one?

- Very hard Somewhat hard
 Somewhat easy Very easy
 Do not know No response

27. If you wanted to get drugs like cocaine, LSD, amphetamines, crack, etc., how easy would it be for you to get some?

- Very hard Somewhat hard
 Somewhat easy Very easy
 Do not know No response

28. Are there adults in your neighborhood you can talk to about something important?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Gang-Related Activities

29. Are you currently a gang member?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

30. In the last 6 months, have you been an active gang member?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

31. What is your most recent position or rank in the gang?

- Leader
 Core member/influential (with gang all of the time)
 Regular member (involved most of the time)
 Peripheral member (minimally hangs out)
 Wannabe
 Veteran/heavy/old gangster/senior gang member
 Do not know
 No response

32. Why did you join or associate with a gang? Please rank your answers from 1 – most important to 9 – least important.

- ____ For fun
____ For protection
____ A friend was in the gang
____ A brother or sister was in the gang
____ I was forced to join
____ To get respect
____ For money
____ To fit in better
____ Other, please specify _____

33. How old were you when you first belonged to a gang?

About _____ years old.

Continue to the next page

Exhibit 7.5 (continued)

34. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

- Use a 7-point scale:
- 1) Strongly disagree
 - 2) Disagree
 - 3) Neither disagree nor agree
 - 4) Agree
 - 5) Strongly agree
 - 6) Do not know
 - 7) No response

- _____ Being in my gang makes me feel important.
_____ My gang members provide a good deal of support and loyalty for one another.
_____ Being a member of a gang makes me feel respected.
_____ Being a member of a gang makes me feel like I am a useful person to have around.
_____ Being a member of a gang makes me feel like I really belong somewhere.
_____ I enjoy being a member of my gang.
_____ My gang is like a family to me.
_____ Being in a gang is a good way to make money.

The next few questions ask about your activities involving crime, drugs, and alcohol.

35. In the past year, have you:

Written gang graffiti on school property, neighborhood houses, stores, etc.?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Thrown rocks or bottles at persons, vehicles, or property?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Destroyed property worth less than \$300?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Destroyed property worth \$300 or more?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Set fire to building or property?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Stolen bicycle or bike parts?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Stolen a motor vehicle?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Stolen parts or property from a vehicle (hubcaps, stereo, cell phone, etc.)?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Fenced or sold stolen goods (other than weapons)?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Shoplifted?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Entered a house, store, or building to commit a theft?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Broken into a house, store, or building to commit a theft?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Fenced or sold weapons or firearms?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Threatened to attack a person without using a gun, knife, or other dangerous weapon?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Threatened to attack a person using a gun, knife, or other dangerous weapon?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Robbed someone by force or by threat of force without using a weapon?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Robbed someone by force or by threat of force using a weapon?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Beaten up or battered someone without using a dangerous weapon?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Continue to the next page

Exhibit 7.5 (continued)

Beaten up or battered someone using a dangerous weapon?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Forced someone to have sex with you (rape)?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Participated in a drive-by shooting?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Participated in a homicide?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Participated in other crimes (specify _____).

36. In the past year, have you used or tried any drugs?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

If yes, about how many days per month do you use any drugs?
___ Days ___ Do not know ___ No response

37. In the past year, have you sold any drugs?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

If yes, did the money go to:

- Benefit the gang Personal use
 Do not know No response

38. In the past year, have you used any kind of alcohol?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

If yes, have you drunk:

- Wine
 Beer
 Hard liquor

39. In the past year, have you had any arrests or police contacts? This may include being stopped, searched, questioned, or being brought to the police station at any time.

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

If yes, how many times? _____

If yes, please describe the incident(s).

40. For the incident(s) described above, please indicate if you were:

- Treated fairly by the police MOST of the time.
 Treated fairly by the police SOME of the time.
 NOT treated fairly by the police SOME of the time.
 NOT treated fairly by the police MOST of the time.
 Do not know
 No response

41. Do you think you will ever leave the gang?

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

42. If you would leave the gang, which of the following are reasons likely to get you out of a gang? Identify all that would apply.

Advice/pressure from a family member/relative

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Advice/pressure from someone else (specify who _____)

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Move out of neighborhood

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Because of a steady girlfriend/boyfriend/spouse

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Get married

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Become a parent

- Yes No
 Do not know No response

Continue to the next page

Exhibit 7.5 (continued)

Family responsibilities (specify what _____)

- Yes
- No
- Do not know
- No response

Obtain a job

- Yes
- No
- Do not know
- No response

Get into school/education program

- Yes
- No
- Do not know
- No response

Recreation/sports program

- Yes
- No
- Do not know
- No response

Go to jail/prison

- Yes
- No
- Do not know
- No response

Other, please specify: _____

End of Survey

Exhibit 7.6

SAMPLE

Consent Form and Receipt for Gang Member Interview

Respondent's Copy

I am participating in a community assessment to learn more about gang problems in (*name of community*). My participation in this interview will provide information for this assessment and is part of a communitywide data-collection effort.

I understand that the purpose of this interview is to provide information about gang activities in my community, including my life and experiences, and my involvement in a gang.

I understand that providing this information is voluntary and that I may withdraw at any time or refuse to answer any question.

I will not discuss any of the following activities as part of this interview because I understand that the interviewer will be required by law to disclose such information. (*Note: The Research Partner should research which activities fall under this state requirement—each state may be different. Each activity must be listed on this consent form.*)

This form acknowledges that I have been informed about the purpose of this interview and agree to participate. I have received a copy of this consent form.

Respondent Signature

Date

Interviewer Signature

Date

Exhibit 7.6 (continued)

SAMPLE

Consent Form and Receipt for Gang Member Interview

Parent/Guardian Copy

My son or daughter is being interviewed as part of an assessment to learn more about gang problems in *(name of community)*.

I understand that interviewing my son/daughter will provide information that will assist this assessment and is part of a communitywide data-collection effort.

I understand that participation in this interview is voluntary and that my son/daughter may withdraw at any time or refuse to answer any question.

I also understand that he/she will not discuss any of the following activities as part of this interview because I understand that the interviewer will be required by law to disclose such information. *(Note: The Research Partner should research which activities fall under this state requirement—each state may be different. Each activity must be listed on this consent form.)*

This form acknowledges that I have been informed about the purpose of this interview and agree to let my son/daughter participate.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Interviewer Signature

Date