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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions to Be Answered</th>
<th>Information Needed to Answer</th>
<th>Sources of Information</th>
<th>How to Obtain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Do community leaders perceive a gang problem? If so, what is the problem? Are they prepared to respond?</td>
<td>Feedback from community leaders about the gang crime problem</td>
<td>Police chief, sheriff, mayor, county prosecutor, probation, judges, youth agency director, county commissioners, all Steering Committee members, faith-based leaders, other community leaders</td>
<td>Community leader interviews by phone or mail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Do parents perceive their children to be involved in or at risk of involved in gangs? Why? What should be done?</td>
<td>Input from sample group of parents</td>
<td>Parents, parents of gang members</td>
<td>Parent focus groups</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residents’ Concerns</th>
<th>Percent of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gang activity</td>
<td>45.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary and robbery</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug dealing</td>
<td>34.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low police activity</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loud music</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unkempt property</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient street lighting</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandalism</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

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

Source: Tabulation of data collected from interviews with gang members

### Table 4—Reason for Joining a Gang

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

Source: Tabulation of data collected from interviews with gang members (n=101)
### Table 5—Benefits of Gang Membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gang Benefit</th>
<th>% Who Agreed or Strongly Agreed (n)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My gang provides loyalty</td>
<td>72% (72)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I enjoy being a member of my gang</td>
<td>56% (56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My gang is like a family to me</td>
<td>54% (54)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My gang makes me feel respected</td>
<td>51% (51)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My gang makes me feel like I really belong somewhere</td>
<td>38% (38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being in a gang is a good way to make money</td>
<td>38% (38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My gang makes me feel important</td>
<td>29% (29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My gang makes me feel like I have a purpose</td>
<td>24% (24)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
   - Unemployment
   - Homicide
   - Gang Activity
   - Graffiti
   - Truancy
   - Vandalism
   - Increase in violent crime
   - Increase in drug crimes
   - Increase in weapon crimes
   - Public nuisance
   - Family disruption
   - Increased fear for safety
   - 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
    - Other: ________________________________

11. Please pick the top three reasons you believe gang activity exists in your community:
    - 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:
    - 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

7. Community Perceptions Data
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 more 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 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

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__________________________

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:
   ________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________

7. Community Perceptions Data 107
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.
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