



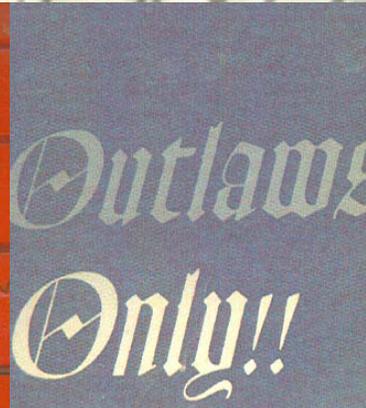
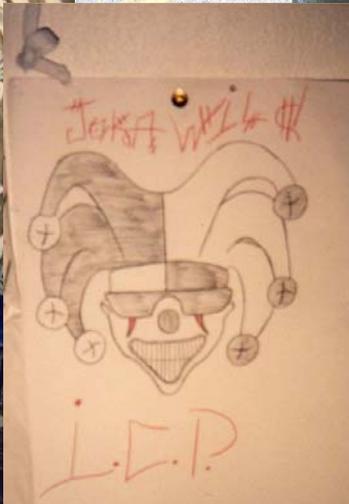
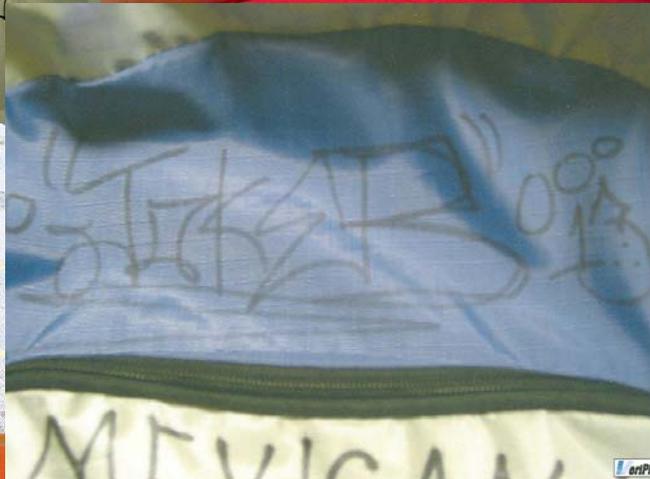
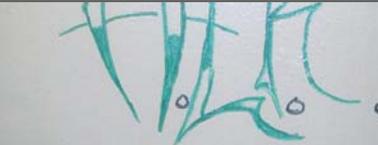
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Warriors



# Northeast Wisconsin Gang Assessment



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# Northeast Wisconsin Gang Assessment

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Northeast Wisconsin Gang Assessment (NWGA) offers a comprehensive look at the gang activity currently affecting the Fox Valley Area, as well as select nearby counties. It also describes the various prevention programs in place within the region, and prospective prevention programs that may be effective. Though this document is not a scientific, statistical reference regarding the gang activity in the region, it offers a unique look and assessment of the known, perceived, and anticipated gang presence by both law enforcement agencies and community-based organizations (school districts and youth clubs).

### **Format**

Over twenty law enforcement agencies and over thirty-five community-based organizations provided information. Seven counties, Brown, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Outagamie, Sheboygan, and Winnebago, were included in the NWGA. The level of detail, and extent of information received, varied by county.

One of three assessment surveys was provided to the various institutions. Law enforcement organizations received a more-detailed, intelligence-based survey, and were asked to complete a gang profile for each gang active in their community. Though over fifty specific gang profiles were received, these profiles do not reflect every gang reported in the area, nor were they completed by every agency. Community organizations and school districts received one of two abbreviated surveys.

### **Summary of Findings**

#### *Law Enforcement Agencies*

All of the law enforcement agencies representing the larger cities in Northeast Wisconsin (Appleton, Green Bay, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Oshkosh, and Sheboygan) reported a significant problem with at least one gang type. Law enforcement agencies representing the smaller cities of Grand Chute, Menasha, and Ripon also reported a significant problem with a least one type of gang. Neenah Police Department reported a moderate problem with three types of gangs. Asian, Hispanic, and street gangs were reported as at least a moderate problem in all of the



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counties, except Calumet. Of the law enforcement agencies surveyed, the majority reported an increase in gang activity over the past five years.

Two state prisons also reported information for the NWGA, the Winnebago Correctional Center and the Oshkosh Correctional Institution. The Winnebago Correctional Center reports a significant problem with Hispanic and street gangs, and a moderate problem with Asian, motorcycle, and miscellaneous gangs. Winnebago Correctional Center reports an increased level of gang activity over the past five years. The Oshkosh Correctional Institution reported a significant problem with street gangs and a moderate problem with Hispanic, motorcycle, and miscellaneous gangs. Oshkosh Correctional Institution reports that gang activity has remained constant over the past five years.

## *Migration Patterns*

The law enforcement agencies surveyed reported both a migration of gangs from larger cities such as Chicago, Milwaukee, and the Twin Cities, and “homegrown” gang members. The specific number of migratory gang members versus homegrown gang members was not available.

## *Community Organizations*

The school districts in Northeast Wisconsin reported a larger problem with gang activity in the community than in the schools. If a school, or school district, reported a significant gang presence, the larger presence in the community was also noted. Nonetheless, many of these schools anticipate an increase in gang-related activity because of the high levels of gang activity in the surrounding communities. Overall, the majority of the school districts reporting gang activity were located in, or around, the larger cities, or cities with a significant gang problem as reported by the associated police departments.

Asian gangs were reported as a significant problem by the Manitowoc School District in Manitowoc County, Appleton Central High School (Appleton School District) in Outagamie County, and the Sheboygan North High School (Sheboygan School District) in Sheboygan County. The Boys and Girls Club of the Fox Valley in



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Outagamie County also indicated Asian gangs as a significant problem in the community. A moderate problem was reported by Ashwaubenon School District, Denmark School District, De Pere School District, and Green Bay Southwest High School (Green Bay School District) in Brown County, Two Rivers in Manitowoc County, Appleton East High School (Appleton School District) in Outagamie County, Sheboygan Alternative and South High School (Sheboygan School District) in Sheboygan County, and Menasha School District and Oshkosh West High School (Oshkosh School District) in Winnebago County.

Hispanic gangs were reported as a significant problem by Green Bay Southwest High School (Green Bay School District) in Brown County, Manitowoc School District in Manitowoc County, Sheboygan School District in Sheboygan County, and Menasha School District in Winnebago County. The Boys and Girls Club of the Fox Valley also indicated Hispanic gangs as a significant problem in the community. Ashwaubenon, Denmark, and De Pere School Districts in Brown County, Appleton East and Appleton Central High School (Appleton School District), and Hortonville in Outagamie County, and Neenah and Omro School Districts in Winnebago County, reported a moderate problem.

Ripon School District in Fond du Lac County and Sheboygan Alternative High School (Sheboygan School District) in Sheboygan County reported only a moderate motorcycle gang problem. The relatively small number of motorcycle gang presence is likely due to the fact that these gang members are usually older and would not be currently enrolled in any of the school districts in Northeast Wisconsin.

Street gangs were reported as a significant problem by Green Bay Southwest High School (Green Bay School District) in Brown County, Ripon School District in Fond du Lac County, Manitowoc School District in Manitowoc County, Sheboygan Alternative High School (Sheboygan School District) in Sheboygan County, and Menasha and Omro School Districts in Winnebago County. Ashwaubenon, Denmark, and De Pere School Districts in Brown County, Fond du Lac School District in Fond du Lac County, Two Rivers School District in Manitowoc County, Appleton East High School, Appleton Central High School (Appleton School District), and Seymour Community School District in Outagamie County, Sheboygan North and South High School (Sheboygan School District) in Sheboygan County, and Neenah School District and Oshkosh West High School (Oshkosh School District) in Winnebago County all reported a moderate street gang problem. The Boys and Girls Club of the Fox Valley also indicated street gangs as a moderate problem in the community.



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Only Green Bay Southwest (Green Bay School District) in Brown County and Sheboygan South High School (Sheboygan School District) in Sheboygan County reported unclassified, or miscellaneous gangs, as a (moderate) problem.

## *Interstate 43 and Highway 41*

Interstate 43 and Highway 41 were reported to run through all counties surveyed in the NWGA, except for Calumet County. These major roadways have been reported by the various law enforcement agencies as being an easy access route to the region from major cities like Chicago and Milwaukee. It is a fast, direct route for transportation of drugs, guns, and other gang members to Northeast Wisconsin.

## *Active Gangs*

Overall, over one hundred different gangs were reported throughout Northeast Wisconsin (refers to only the *known* gangs operating within the area). The counties with the largest number of known gangs were Outagamie, Sheboygan, and Winnebago County. Brown County reported thirty three known gangs, but due to the lack of gang personnel, the actual number is believed to be much larger. The most prevalently reported Asian gangs were the Asian Bloods, Asian Crips, Imperial Gangsters, Sheboygan Boy Gangsters, and the Young N Dangerous. The most prevalently reported Hispanic gangs were the Appleton Town Psychos, Latin Kings and the Sureño gangs (Sureño 13 and the South Side Jokers). The most prevalently reported motorcycle gang was the Outlaws. The most prevalently reported street gangs were the Black Gangster Disciples, Black P Stone Nation, Bloods, Crips, Gangster Disciples (the most prevalently reported gang in Northeast Wisconsin), Juggalos, Simon City Royals, and Vice Lords.

## **Prevention/Intervention**

There are some prevention and intervention programs currently in place in Northeastern Wisconsin, including a Fox Valley Gang Task Force, the CounterAct program, the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) program,



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and the Gang Prevention Through Targeted Outreach (GPTTO) & Gang Intervention Through Targeted Outreach (GITTO) initiatives run by the Boys and Girls Club of the Fox Valley.

Some prevention programs that might be useful include, a regional, or statewide intelligence database, implementation of a program created from the OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model, a program that would allow reformed gang members to remove their gang-related tattoos free of charge (Lose the Tattoos), and a youth gang diversion program similar to that in place in Racine, Wisconsin.

## GANG ACTIVITY AS REPORTED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Over twenty law enforcement agencies were surveyed from Brown, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Outagamie, Sheboygan, and Winnebago counties. Each law enforcement agency was given a detailed, intelligence-based survey which included sections for contact information, gang tracking information, gang activity, and prevention programs. The extent of the information provided, as well as the level of detail, varied by county. For example, Brown County, though believed to be the county with the largest gang problem, was relatively vague in responses and lacked significant detail.

The larger cities of Appleton, Green Bay, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Oshkosh, and Sheboygan all reported significant problems with at least one type of gang. Smaller cities such as Grand Chute, Menasha, and Ripon also reported significant problems. Neenah reported a moderate problem with Asian, Hispanic, and street gangs.

Asian, Hispanic, and street gangs were reported as a significant problem by more police departments than motorcycle or miscellaneous gangs. Motorcycle gangs, however, were reported as at least a moderate problem in the majority of the surveyed agencies.

### **Brown County**

The Green Bay Police Department reported significant problems with Asian, Hispanic, motorcycle, and street gangs. To date, thirty three different known gangs were reported in Brown County, thirty two in Green Bay.



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The Green Bay Police Department reports that these gangs have begun to move into the suburbs and surrounding areas of Green Bay in addition to the city itself. The majority of these gangs do not claim turf or wear the colors associated with their gang. The Green Bay Police Department reports that they do not have an individual dedicated to handling gang activity. The police department previously tracked gangs via GangNet, but lost funding. Now, it uses investigative files to track the activity of known gang members to the best of its ability.

Both violent and non-violent crime is reported to have increased in the community since 2004. At least some percentage of this increase has been attributed to the presence of gangs. Asian, Hispanic, and street gangs in the community are associated with crimes such as assault, criminal damage to property, drug trafficking, shootings, stabbings, and stolen vehicles. Motorcycle gangs have been linked to drug use and drug trafficking, specifically cocaine and marijuana. Gangs involved in drug trafficking were reported to be more highly organized and more likely to be linked to regional and national gangs.

The Green Bay Police Department is aware of approximately 100 to 120 known motorcycle club members and associates in Green Bay. The police department believes that the number of motorcycle gangs has remained the same over the past five years, as some gangs have been closed down, with newly formed clubs replacing old, shutdown, clubs. For example, The American Steel Motorcycle gang was active in early 2000, but was shutdown when the president was arrested for selling cocaine. Currently, the Heathens Motorcycle Club is active in Green Bay, but several presidents have also been arrested for cocaine distribution.

The activity of the Outlaws Motorcycle Club has been minimized by law enforcement in other areas of Northeast Wisconsin, but this club has recently moved, and settled, in Green Bay. Outlaw members from Manitowoc, Wausau, Oshkosh, Appleton, Fond du Lac, and as far away as Florida, travel to Green Bay to participate in parties.

There are also about a dozen other small motorcycle clubs in the Green Bay area, most of who are not involved in a large amount of criminal activity. Green Bay Police Department considers itself tough on motorcycle gang and motorcycle club members, citing them when these members speed or break the law. Some of the motorcycle clubs threaten the local law enforcement with harassment suits and lawsuits.



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The Green Bay Police Department has not identified specific numbers for the Asian, Hispanic, and street gangs operating in the area, but has identified over five hundred known gang members throughout Green Bay. The police department believes that gang activity has increased since 2004, and more gang members are now present.

The Hispanic gangs are comprised of the most members and offer the biggest challenge to law enforcement in Brown County. It is also believed that as much as twenty to twenty-five percent of Hispanic gangs in Green Bay are comprised of illegal immigrants.

Many gang members move away from Chicago and Milwaukee to escape the gang violence, but soon join, or create, gangs in Green Bay. Green Bay Police Department also reports that Interstate 43 and Highway 41 are utilized by gangs in the Fox Valley Area for quick movement throughout the region. Nonetheless, the police department believes that these gangs would have ended up in Green Bay regardless of the presence of these main highways.

Surrounding counties report that Green Bay does in fact have a significant gang problem, and perhaps may not be doing enough to address, or even document, it. Green Bay Police Department indicates that gangs are not taken seriously in Green Bay, and unfortunately, until something dramatic happens, they will not be.

## Calumet County

The Calumet County Sheriff's Office reports a moderate problem with motorcycle gangs operating in Calumet County. Specifically mentioned were the Hell's Lovers and DC Eagles Motorcycle Clubs. Calumet County reports that it does not have an individual dedicated to handling gang activity, but does spend anywhere from five to fifteen percent of its time on gangs and gang-related activity. The department tracks gang activity through surveillance, intelligence, and tips.

Calumet County reports that the gangs usually range from fifteen to twenty members, with fifteen to twenty associates. The amount of gang activity has decreased within the past five years due to the movement of the Outlaw motorcycle gang clubhouse to a different location (possibly Green Bay). At their peak, motorcycle gangs would travel to Forest Junction



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from Chicago and Neenah, and were linked with crimes such as motorcycle theft and drug trafficking. Only property crimes and theft are believed to have increased in the county since 2004, but this increase is not attributed to gang activity.

## Fond du Lac County

The law enforcement agencies in Fond du Lac County report a significant problem with street gangs, and a moderate problem with both Hispanic and motorcycle gangs. To date, ten known gangs are believed to be operating in Fond du Lac County. The Fond du Lac and Ripon Police Departments reported more gang activity and gang-related problems than did the Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Office.

Both the Ripon Police Department and the Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Office reported a person designated to handling gang activity. The Fond du Lac Police Department mentioned that it does not currently have an individual designated to gang activity, but is in the process of obtaining one.

Currently, only the Fond du Lac Police Department is tracking gangs and gang members, and does so through jail booking questions entered into a computer database. To date, the city of Fond du Lac recognizes five known gangs operating in the area. Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Office reports that gangs were tracked extensively in the late nineties, but has not recently, as gang activity has been relatively quiet over the past ten years. None of the departments have an accurate count of gang members or associates in the community, although Ripon reports six gangs active in the area, with ten to twelve members belonging to the Warriors street gang. Both Fond du Lac Police Department and Sheriff's Office report gang activity as remaining fairly stable over the past five years, while the Ripon community has seen somewhat of an increase. Fond du Lac Police Department reports that gangs are moving from Milwaukee and Chicago into the Fond du Lac area, and sees Highway 41 as the main means of transit.

Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Office reports very little criminal activity attributed to gangs, whereas the city of Fond du Lac and Ripon Police Department report gangs associated with crimes such as battery, criminal damage to property, harboring runaways, narcotics trafficking, sexual assaults, stabbings, and theft. As a whole, Fond du Lac does not have a significant gang problem, but areas around the city of Fond du Lac and Ripon may.



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Both Fond du Lac Police Department and Sheriff's Office report that both violent and non-violent crime has remained stable since 2004. Ripon Police Department did not have this information available.

## Manitowoc County

The law enforcement agencies in Manitowoc County reported knowledge of at least nine gangs operating in the area. Manitowoc County Metro Drug Unit reports a significant problem with Asian gangs, and a moderate problem with Hispanic and street gangs. The Metro Drug Unit reports that many Asian gangs, as well as the Gangster Disciples, Simon City Royals, and Texas Syndicate operate in Manitowoc County and are involved with drug trafficking. However, this unit tracks only the gangs operating in the area that are involved in drug trafficking (sale of cocaine, MDMA, marijuana, prescription pills) and other gangs not involved in drug trafficking may also be present.

The Metro Drug Unit reports that Hispanic gangs are coming in from southern United States and Mexico. Asian gangs are also very mobile, moving in and out of the state. Black, White, and mixed gangs have no real changes or new migration patterns.

The number of violent crimes in Manitowoc County has remained constant since 2004, but crimes involving drugs have increased, with a small percentage (about 10%) attributed to gangs. Manitowoc County Metro Drug Unit reports that Interstate-43 plays a large role in the accessibility of cocaine markets in Manitowoc County for gang members traveling from Milwaukee and Chicago.

Manitowoc Police Department also has a Gang Unit consisting of twelve officers, supervisors, or detectives who designate about five percent of their time to handling gang activity. The Manitowoc Police Department recently switched to the ACISS database system and currently tracks gangs and gang members through this program.

Manitowoc Police Department reports a moderate problem with Asian and Hispanic gangs. The gangs operating in the Manitowoc area include Gangster Disciples, Menyub Lib Connection, Sheboygan Boy Gangsters, Simon City Royals, Texas Syndicate, and Young N Dangerous. These gangs have been associated with assault and drug trafficking. Gangs



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and gang activity has increased over the past five years. This is believed to be due to the influx of Hispanic individuals who have brought the Sureño gangs to the area.

The largest problem Manitowoc is currently facing, however, involves the Asian gang population. Recently, Manitowoc has seen confrontations arise between the Sheboygan Boy Gangsters versus the Menyub Lib Connection and Young N Dangerous. Local Asian girls who usually spent their time with Young N Dangerous and Menyub Lib Connection are beginning to associate with the Sheboygan Boy Gangsters, causing a rift between these gangs.

## Outagamie County

The Police Organizations in Outagamie County report a significant problem with regards to Asian, Hispanic, and street gangs. Appleton and Grand Chute Police Department also report a moderate problem with motorcycle gangs. The law enforcement agencies operating in Outagamie County report over forty-three known gangs present in the area.

The Appleton Police Department, Grand Chute Police Department, and Outagamie County Sheriff's Office report having an individual designated for gang activity. The Outagamie County Sheriff's Office reports that there are three or four correctional officers and one patrol officer assigned to this task. These officers spend anywhere from ten to twenty-five percent of their time on gangs and gang-related issues. Appleton Police Department has a Community Resource Unit, with four officers and one lieutenant, who share responsibility for suppressing gang activity with the police school liaison officers. Grand Chute Police Department has a detective who spends approximately ten percent of his time dedicated to gangs.

All three law enforcement agencies surveyed for the NWGA stated that they track gangs and gang members. The Outagamie County Sheriff's Office tracks only those individuals incarcerated at the Outagamie County Jail through the Jail Management System (JMS). Gang membership is a question during the booking and classification process. Correctional and patrol offices also report any gang-related information to the gang officers. Additionally, on patrol tours and security inspections, the gang officers attempt to monitor the graffiti in the day and cell areas of each block. Appleton and Grand Chute Police Department tracks gangs through internal gang intelligence files. Furthermore, Outagamie County, Appleton, and Grand Chute are all involved in the Fox Valley Gang Task Force.



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The number of gang members operating in Outagamie County is unknown at this time. Grand Chute Police Department believes the average number of gang members per gang could be anywhere from four to twenty with two to ten associates. Outagamie County Jail currently has twenty confirmed gang members incarcerated, the largest represented gang being the Gangster Disciples with nine confirmed members. Outagamie County Jail also has over one hundred and fifty suspected gang members that have not yet been positively confirmed.

Outagamie County Sheriff's Office reports that the number of violent crimes has remained steady since 2004. Non-violent crime, specifically property crimes and theft, has increased since 2004, but the Sheriff's Office is unsure if gangs can be correlated with this increase. Outagamie County has linked gangs with various criminal activities, including assault, battery, criminal destruction to property, disorderly conduct, domestic battery, drug trafficking, graffiti, operating while under the influence, probation violations, prostitution, sexual assault, theft, and weapons violations. The Sheriff's Office sees poor economic conditions and a lack of understanding by school districts, law enforcement, parents, and the community as having a significant influence on the level of criminal activity conducted by gangs. The Sheriff's Office also believes that the lack of collaboration between these agencies, and the downplay by the community of the increasingly violent teen culture in Northeast Wisconsin, negatively impact the area.

Appleton Police Department reports that visible gangs and gang activity has decreased throughout the Appleton area over the past five years, however the severity of the activity has increased. Appleton attributes the decrease to aggressive enforcement and prosecution. It is believed that gang participation has become more "underground," and as such, falls under the radar until it becomes more severe and violent. The police department attributes gangs in Northeast Wisconsin to crimes such as assault, burglary, criminal damage to property, drug trafficking, robbery, and sexual assault. The Appleton Police Department reports that both violent and non-violent crimes has increased in the community since 2004, and attributes about ten percent of this increase to gangs and gang-related activity.

Appleton Police Department reports that employment and other economic opportunities have attracted a number of subjects from less affluent, or less safe, areas. Additionally, the police department believes that the benefits afforded Wisconsin residents, in particular education, welfare, healthcare, and housing, create a draw for individuals who may not receive the same benefits elsewhere. Appleton Police Department reports gang members coming into the area from Chicago, Milwaukee, Racine, and the Twin Cities. Gangs are also believed to migrate from other areas in Northeast



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Wisconsin, particularly Manitowoc and Sheboygan. However, most of the gang members are believed to be home grown, often second-generation immigrants, with long-term local ancestry.

Grand Chute Police Department reports that Asian and Hispanic gang activity has increased over the past five years, believed to be due to the large influx of immigrants to the area. Street gang activity has decreased over the past five years. The majority of the rise in Hispanic gang activity is attributed to an influx of Sureño gang members to the area. Many of the gang members are believed to have come from southern California and the Guanajuato area in Mexico. Furthermore, Milwaukee and Chicago gangs periodically send gang members to the Northeast Wisconsin to sell drugs.

Grand Chute Police Department reports that gangs control most of the drug trafficking in the area, as well as commit property crime such as auto theft, and violent crimes such as drive-by shootings. Gangs have also been associated with crimes such as assault, drug trafficking, homicide, petty theft, prostitution, robbery, vandalism, and vehicle theft. Violent crime is believed to have increased in the Grand Chute area since 2004, and at least fifteen percent of that increase is attributed to gangs and gang activity. Non-violent crime has also increased, twenty-five percent of the increase in auto theft, and a fifty percent of the increase in vandalism being linked to gangs and gang activity. Furthermore, Grand Chute Police Department reports that as much as eighty percent of gang activity and crime may be linked to illegal immigration.

The contacted police institutions in Outagamie County indicate that both Interstate-43 and Highway 41 act as a pipeline, allowing easier access to Northeast Wisconsin. Grand Chute Police Department reports that Highway 41 is used by Milwaukee and Chicago gangs as a route to Outagamie County, and surrounding areas.

## **Oneida Tribal Nation**

The Oneida Tribal Nation is located in both Brown and Outagamie County. The Oneida Police Department reports moderate problems with Asian, Hispanic, and street gangs. The Latin Kings, Sovereign Nation Warriors, and Gangster Disciples are active in the area.



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The Oneida Police Department reports that it does not currently have an individual dedicated to handling gangs and gang-related activity, nor does it have a means to track the gangs. It does, however, believe that gangs and gang activity has increased over the past five years, witnessed by the increase in graffiti and gang-attire clad juveniles. Juveniles are often seen wearing blue long-sleeve t-shirts or yellow and black clothing. The Oneida Police Department believes that many gang members are migrating from Green Bay, Milwaukee, and other tribal nations in Wisconsin.

The Oneida Nation has also seen a substantial increase in neighborhood disturbances, including armed robbery, assault, burglary, drug trafficking, gang violence, graffiti, and theft. There have been numerous break-ins of recreational centers, gas stations, enrollment offices, taverns, and homes. Gang members have also threatened subjects over the phone, over MySpace, and with weapons. Most of the suspected gang members are unconfirmed, but are believed to be involved in the majority of the crime taking place. Recently, a gang-related stabbing occurred at the local high school resulting from an argument between rival gang members.

## Sheboygan County

Fifty gangs were reported throughout Sheboygan County. Sheboygan Police Department reports a significant problem with Asian, Hispanic, and street gangs and a moderate problem with miscellaneous, or unclassified, gangs. The Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit is designated to handling gang activity, and sixty percent of the officers' time is dedicated to gang and gang-related activities. Sheboygan Police Department provided a list of the forty-five gangs, and associated cliques, operating in Sheboygan. The Sheboygan Police Department tracks various gangs and gang members through field interviews, custodial interviews, MySpace.com, and AsianTown.net. They do not have a completed list of all gang members operating in the Sheboygan area, but believes there may be anywhere from three to ninety gang members per gang, and three to twenty five associates per gang.

The Sheboygan Police Department has linked gangs to various crimes, including assault, attempted homicide, battery, burglary, criminal destruction to property, disorderly conduct, drug trafficking, reckless endangerment, robbery, theft, and weapon offenses. Gangs and gang activity are believed to have increased in Sheboygan over the past five years. Sheboygan Police Department attributes this increase to "big city" drug dealers and gang members looking for a safer place to live and conduct business, low income housing, and lack of punishment regarding gang crimes (no gang



# Northeast Wisconsin Gang Assessment

enhancement statutes). Both violent and non-violent crime has increased in Sheboygan since 2004. The Sheboygan Police Department does attribute gangs to some part of the increase, but does not have adequate statistical information at this time.

The Sheboygan Police Department has observed an increasing number of “big city” gang members moving to Sheboygan to “get away” from the gang problems in cities such as Milwaukee, Chicago, Atlanta, and Los Angeles. However, these individuals continue with criminal and gang-related activity once in Sheboygan, often starting up new gangs and/or recruiting new members. Sheboygan has also seen an influx of illegal immigrants involved with gangs and gang related activity. Recently, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested twelve gang-involved illegal immigrants operating in Sheboygan as a part of Operation Community Shield<sup>1</sup>.

The Sheboygan Police Department reports that Interstate 43 and Highway 41 allow easy access for criminal activity from Chicago and Milwaukee. For example, Menace of Destruction (Asian) gang members store guns in Sheboygan and take Interstate-43 from Chicago, or Milwaukee, to Sheboygan in order to obtain them. Also, Sheboygan has seen an increase of “weekend drug dealers” coming up from Chicago and Milwaukee, via Interstate 43, because they feel it is safer, and offers a greater opportunity to make money, than in the larger cities.

## Winnebago County

The law enforcement agencies in Winnebago County reported a significant problem with Asian, Hispanic, motorcycle, and street gangs. There was also a moderate problem reported in some areas with miscellaneous gangs such as the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacist groups. Over fifty-six gangs were reported in Winnebago County by the various law enforcement and community organizations.

Oshkosh, Neenah, and Menasha Police Department, as well as the Winnebago County Sheriff’s Office, all have a person designated to gang activity. Neenah Police Department does not spend a significant amount of time dedicated to gang activity, reporting only about one percent. Menasha Police Department’s assigned individual spends about five percent of

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). *Operation Community Shield. ICE Surge 2008*. ONLINE. 2008. Available: [http://www.ice.gov/doclib/pi/investigations/comshield/operation\\_surge\\_map.pdf](http://www.ice.gov/doclib/pi/investigations/comshield/operation_surge_map.pdf) [10 Oct. 2008].



# Northeast Wisconsin Gang Assessment

his or her time on gang activity. Oshkosh Police Department has two patrol officers and one patrol sergeant, who spend about ten percent of their time dedicated to gangs and gang activity (more if an incident arises). Winnebago County Sheriff does not have a specific percentage of time that is dedicated to gangs and gang-related activity.

Neenah Police Department does not currently track gangs or gang members in the Neenah area. Menasha Police Department tracks gangs internally through an intelligence file system. Oshkosh Police Department tracks gangs through regular incident reporting and creation of intelligence documents, cross-referenced with Oshkosh Police Department and other agency complaint numbers. Winnebago County Sheriff's Office tracks gangs using Offendertrak, but only those individuals incarcerated in the jail. All four of these police institutions participate in monthly Fox Valley Gang Task Force Meetings.

Overall, Winnebago County has seen an increase in gangs and gang activity over the past five years. Menasha Police Department reported a reduction in Asian gang activity, but a large increase in Hispanic gang activity. Menasha Police Department reports that the Hispanic population in Menasha has grown exponentially over the past five years, and as a result juvenile gang activity is increasing among the first generation immigrant groups. The Hmong/Asian population has remained about the same, many now third generation or later, and assimilation and education have reduced the gang activity in that group.

The Menasha Police Department has associated gangs with crimes such as battery, burglary, drug trafficking, graffiti, robbery, shootings, thefts, and vandalism. Menasha reports that drug activity in Northeast Wisconsin, specifically cocaine, has greatly increased along with the increase in gang activity. Robberies and burglaries have increased as well, and Menasha believes they may be related to individuals looking for drug money. The Menasha Police Department also reports a significant amount of property damage caused by the tagging of local gangs. Menasha Police Department does report that five local gang members (some leaders) were arrested and convicted for various crimes last summer.

Menasha Police Department does not have accurate statistical data to determine whether violent crime has increased in the community since 2004. However, the format of service calls have changed (an increased number of two-officer responses), believed to be linked with an increase in violent behavior. There was also a reported homicide this year, believed to be drug related. Menasha attributes much of the increase in violence to local gang activity, reporting that the



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violence among juveniles has greatly increased (an estimated twenty percent in the last few years). Non-violent criminal activity, particularly drug trafficking, has also increased (an estimated thirty percent of those individuals dealing drugs have gang affiliations). Menasha Police Department also believes that a large amount of Hispanic gang activity is linked to illegal immigration, with most of the Hispanic population in Menasha not of legal citizenship. Menasha reports that the number of Hispanic gangs, and gang members, has skyrocketed in the community, and may be associated with an increase in sexual assaults and traffic (OWI) violations.

Menasha Police Department reports that most of the local gang members tend to stay in Northeast Wisconsin, but gang members from Milwaukee, Chicago, and Minneapolis often travel to Menasha and the surrounding cities. Menasha Police Department adds that many family members of inmates at the Oshkosh Correctional Institution move up to the area and can create problems. Menasha Police Department has seen a number of multi-family dwellings spring up in the area, which may also attribute to the increase in criminal activity.

Oshkosh Police Department also reports an increase in gangs and gang activity in the past five years. There has been an increase in drug related complaints with gang affiliations and an increase in people with possible gang associations moving to, or through, the area. Oshkosh Police Department has linked gangs to crimes such as battery, criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct, drug trafficking, graffiti, intimidation/threats, and theft. Oshkosh Police Department reports that violent crimes, particularly robberies, homicides, and aggravated assaults, have increased in Oshkosh since 2004. An estimated ten to fifteen percent has been attributed to gangs and gang-related activity. Oshkosh Police Department reports a very low percentage of gang activity linked to illegal immigration, but has found a connection with recent crimes. The Oshkosh Police Department reports that many gang members have moved to the area from Milwaukee, Chicago, and the Twin Cities. There may also be ties to Hispanic gang members, and migrant workers, in Texas, as well as Asian gang members with ties to gangs in California.

Neenah Police Department reports an increase in gangs, and gang activity, in the past five years. This may be due to an increase in the demand for drugs and increased drug trafficking. Neenah Police Department has associated gangs with crimes such as burglaries, drug trafficking, and vehicle theft. The police department does not have accurate statistical information regarding the levels of violent and non-violent criminal activities in Neenah.



# Northeast Wisconsin Gang Assessment

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office tracks gang involvement within the Winnebago County Jail, and has identified over one hundred and sixty known gang members, the largest being the Gangster Disciples with forty-two members. Winnebago County Sheriff's Office reports an increase in gangs and gang activity over the past five years, attributing this increase to a growing population and movement of gang members to Northeast Wisconsin from larger cities. Gangs have been associated with various crimes in the jail, including battery, drug trafficking, and theft. Also reported, was an increase in violent crime, at least some of which is attributed to gangs. Winnebago County Sheriff's Office reports that most of the gangs in the area have gang members from Milwaukee or Chicago. In the bigger cities, these gang members are small players without much influence, but move up north and start their own chapters, taking on more of a leadership role.

All of the police institutions in Winnebago County report that Highway 41 is a major source of drug trafficking in Northeast Wisconsin. It provides a fast, direct route from the inner cities to various regions in the state. Many drug dealers in the community are originally from Chicago and Milwaukee, and have gang affiliations in those respective cities.

## *Correctional Institutions*

### Oshkosh Correctional Institution

The Oshkosh Correctional Institution tracks gangs, and gang members, through the use of a computer database. The institution reports that there is not a single individual dedicated to handling gang activity, but every staff member spends about fifteen percent of his or her time on this subject. The Oshkosh Correctional Institution reports that it currently has 414 incarcerated gang members. Gang activity has remained constant, attributed to the effectiveness of the correctional staff in recognizing gang-related contraband. If an inmate is found to possess contraband, he is issued a conduct report and receives some type of disciplinary action.

The Oshkosh Correctional Institution reports a significant problem with Hispanic and street gangs and a moderate problem with miscellaneous gangs. Various gangs are incarcerated at the Oshkosh Correctional Institution, including the Aryan Brotherhood, Aryan Circle, Black, Bloods, Brothers of the Struggle, Crips, Gangster Disciples, Hell's Angels, Ku Klux Klan, Latin Kings, Nortenos, Outlaws, Simon City Royals, Spanish Cobras,



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Sureños, and a variety of Asian gangs. The institution reports that more and more Sureños have been coming through the institution in recent years.

The Oshkosh Correctional Institution reports that the gangs incarcerated within the facility are responsible for introducing contraband, such as tobacco, marijuana, cocaine, prescription medication, and pornography, into the institution. These gangs are also involved with drug trafficking and assaults. The correctional institution has seen an increase in fights since 2004, fifty percent which may be attributed to gangs.

## Winnebago Correctional Center

Winnebago Correctional Center reports a significant problem with Hispanic and street gangs, and moderate problems with Asian, motorcycle, and miscellaneous gangs. Members of the Asian Crips, Black Gangster Disciples, Black P Stones, Brothers of the Struggle, Four Corner Hustlers, Gangster Disciples, Imperial Gangsters, Insane Vice Lords, La Familia, Maniac Latin Disciples, Simon City Royals, Spanish Cobras, and the Vice Lords are all reported within the prison.

The Winnebago Correctional Center has someone designated to handling gang activity, but this individual spends a minimal amount of time on this task. The correctional center tracks gangs through a traveling file system and in-house posting. Approximately twenty to twenty-five percent of the inmates have been documented a member of a gang, or disruptive group. The level of gang members and gang activity has increased significantly at the Winnebago Correctional Center. This increase has been attributed to population overcrowding and a fundamental shift in the manner in which inmates are classified.

Winnebago Correctional Center reports that within the institution, there seems to be a very minimal link between gangs and criminal activity. The majority of the crimes are believed to be done on an individual basis. The institution does report that violent behavior by the inmates has increased since 2006, but does not attribute this increase to gangs.



# Northeast Wisconsin Gang Assessment

## GANG ACTIVITY AS REPORTED BY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Information from forty-one school districts was collected. Larger school districts with multiple high schools (Green Bay, Appleton, and Sheboygan) were asked to complete the assessment separately for each high school. If a school, or school district, reported a significant gang presence, it was noted that the influence was more rampant in the community than in the school. Nonetheless, many of these schools anticipate an increase in gang activity and gang influence based on the levels of gang activity in the surrounding communities. Overall, the majority of the school districts reporting gang activity were located in, or around, the larger cities (or cities where law enforcement reported a significant problem with gangs).

### **Brown County<sup>2</sup>**

Of the four high schools within the Green Bay School District, Southwest High School was the only to provide information for the NWGA. Southwest High School reports a significant problem with Hispanic and street gangs, and moderate problems with Asian and miscellaneous, or unclassified, gangs. Specific gangs mentioned were the Bloods, Crips, and Gangster Disciples. These gangs are associated with crimes such as battery, drug trafficking, and strong arm robbery. Southwest High School reports that the amount of gang activity in the school is minimal, but there is a significant problem in the community. There are also some gang-related problems from children moving to Green Bay from Milwaukee or Chicago, and bringing gang activities with them.

Southwest High School reports having a School Resource Officer, but no specific school staff member designated to handling gangs and gang activity in the Green Bay school district. There are no prevention or interventions programs currently in place at Southwest High School. School staff members, however, are periodically trained in gang sign and other gang information.

The Denmark School District reports a moderate problem with Asian, Hispanic, Street, and Miscellaneous gangs. Specific gangs mentioned were the Latin Kings and Gangster Disciples. These gangs have been associated with battery, burglary, criminal damage to property, drug trafficking, and tagging. School staff members report that the gangs create anger within

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<sup>2</sup> School Districts not represented in Brown County include: Green Bay East High School, Green Bay Preble High School, Green Bay West High School, Pulaski Community School District, West De Pere School District, and Wrightstown Community School District.



# Northeast Wisconsin Gang Assessment

the school and often have a vigilante mentality. The high school has an individual designated to handling gang activity, but very little time has been dedicated to gang, or gang-related, problems. The staff has not been trained on gang signs and other gang-related information in the recent years.

The Howard-Suamico School District reports very little, to no gang activity within the community, but does report that gang activity is very prevalent in the nearby Green Bay School District. The school resource officer is designated to handling gang activity, and currently spends about one percent of her time dedicated to gangs. Current gang activity is reported as relatively low. On occasion, students with gang ties may transfer in, or small groups of gang “wannabes” may form, but these individuals are usually kept under control.

The Howard-Suamico School reports many prevention/intervention programs in place, including Puppeteers, Kids on Kids, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Mentoring, and the D.A.R.E. and G.R.E.A.T. programs. School administrators also attend the state Association of Wisconsin School Administrators (AWSA) conferences where there are presentations on gang signs and other related information. This information is then relayed to the staff on an as needed basis.

Ashwaubenon High School reports a moderate problem with Asian, Hispanic, and street gangs. Both an associate principal and school police liaison officer are designated to handling gang activity, and spend about five percent of their time dedicated to handling gang issues. Current gang activity is minimal in the school, consisting mostly of graffiti and vandalism. Throughout the community, gangs are associated with criminal damage to property, drug trafficking, intimidation, and theft. Ashwaubenon reports that “wannabe” Gangster Disciples are present within the school district.

Ashwaubenon has grade school level, anti-gang education, currently in place. School staff members also periodically participate in gang/drug/violence recognition programs associated with staff development.

De Pere School District reports a moderate problem with Asian, Hispanic, and street gangs. Specific gangs mentioned were the Latin Kings and the Gangster Disciples. The gangs have been associated with disorderly conduct, drug trafficking, theft, and vandalism. However, despite the impact of gangs in the community, the impact on the school itself is rather small.



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De Pere School District has a police school liaison officer who dedicates about five percent of his time to handling gang activity within the school. There are currently no prevention or intervention programs in place within the school, but school staff members are occasionally provided with informational sessions on gang signs and other gang related information.

## Calumet County<sup>3</sup>

All of the school districts contacted in Calumet County report no gang, or gang-related, activity. “Wanna-be” behavior, however, was reported in some of the schools. Chilton High School reported school policy regarding gang attire, paraphernalia, and markings. The school district also has some programming available through AODA funding and joint efforts with local police. Hilbert High School reports that the police school liaison officer speaks to classes at various grade levels. Those school districts that reported training for staff members stated it was on a sporadic basis, and indicated that more up-to-date and organized training would be beneficial.

## Fond du Lac County<sup>4</sup>

Ripon Area School District reported a significant problem with street gangs and a moderate problem with motorcycle gangs. Specifically mentioned were the Masters, Outlaws, Sundowners, Warriors, and Zodiacs. The gangs in the Ripon area are associated with crimes such as battery, criminal damage to property, drug trafficking, harboring runaways, and theft. Despite the problems with gangs, Ripon Area School District reports that there are no prevention programs currently in place. Neighborhood Watch groups have been started in the Ripon area, at the request of the community, to deal with the increasing gang activity.

Fond du Lac school district reported a moderate problem with street gangs. The other school districts contacted, Campbellsport, North Fond du Lac, Oakfield, and Rosendale-Brandon School District, reported little, or no, problems with gang, or gang-related, activity. None of these districts reported specific anti-gang programs, although North Fond du

<sup>3</sup> New Holstein School District not represented.

<sup>4</sup> Waupun School District not represented



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Lac reports school counselors meeting with the freshman classes, and Rosendale-Brandon reports school staff promoting self-esteem and bully prevention. Oakfield School district also reports a school resource officer designated to gangs on an “as-needed” basis. The Oakfield School District reports that gangs have been associated with vandalism in the community, but reports no gang activity within the school.

## Manitowoc County

The Manitowoc School District reports a significant problem with Asian, Hispanic, and street gangs. The gangs are associated with crimes such as breaking and entering, criminal destruction to property, drug trafficking, harassment, and fighting. The Manitowoc School District has both prevention program and staff member training currently in place. Manitowoc School District reports that gangs are a small problem in the high school, and a more significant problem in the Manitowoc community.

The Two Rivers School District reports a moderate problem with Asian and street gangs. These gangs have been linked to criminal activities such as battery, breaking and entering, drug trafficking, and theft. The high school assistant principal is designated to handling gang activity, but dedicates less than one percent of his time to gangs. The Two River School District reports that the gangs in the area make people feel as though they cannot enjoy public spaces. The gang problem in the school has quiet over the past few years, but gang involvement is anticipated to increase. Two Rivers School District reports that it is a community with dwindling resources, high unemployment, and other social issues which may be associated with the increase in gang involvement.

The other school districts surveyed in Manitowoc County, Kiel Area, Mishicot, Reedsville, and Valders Area School District, report no influence by gangs or gang-related activities. Reedsville School District reports that the community has seen some influence from the surrounding cities, but the school population has been influenced. The principal of Reedsville High School reports attending yearly seminars on gang identification. Valders Area School District reports a slight influence by gangs with respect to drug trafficking. Kiel Area School District reports vehicle break-ins from gangs in other counties and cities, but no gang activity from gangs within the Kiel Area School District.



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## Outagamie County

Appleton Central High School reports a significant problem with Asian gangs, and moderate problems with Hispanic and street gangs. The high school reports that very little gang-related incidents occur on school grounds, and that staff is not presently being trained in gang signs and other gang-related information.

Appleton East High School reports a moderate problem with Asian, Hispanic, and street gangs. Gangs are associated with graffiti, intimidation, and physical fights in the school. The impact on the school is reported to be minimal among the general student population, with gang-related fights springing up from time to time.

Appleton East High School reports having no specific prevention programs, but the police liaison officers will work with “high-risk” students. The officers attempt to counsel the youth on the negative aspects of gang life and contact the parents. School staff members at Appleton East High School have also been trained on general gang information and instructed to report anything they feel could be gang related to the police liaison officers.

Appleton North High School reports that gang-related issues are present, though minimally. Most of the gang-related activity occurs outside of the school, but occasionally students will show colors or flash gang signs North High School reports that there are gang members at the high school, but most of their criminal activity happens outside the school.

Appleton West High School reports a moderate problem with Asian gangs. The staff at Appleton West receives training on gang signs and other gang-related information from the Appleton Police Department every two to three years.

Hortonville Area School District reports a moderate problem with Hispanic gangs (rumored to have connections with gangs in Appleton), and students exhibiting “wanna-be” behavior. Gangs have been linked to a small amount of graffiti and vandalism within the school. When a student is rumored to be in a gang, the liaison officer speaks with him or her to determine whether the rumor had some truth to it. The Appleton Police Department or Outagamie County Sheriff is also contacted regarding the rumor. Hortonville reports that as part of the dress code, bandanas and other head gear are not permitted. School staff members are not officially trained on gang signs and gang-related information, though many have



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taken it upon themselves to learn about gangs. Middle schools in the Hortonville School District are put through the G.R.E.A.T. program.

Seymour Community School District reports a moderate problem with street gangs. The police school liaison officer is designated to handling gang activity, and dedicates a small percentage of time (2%) to gangs. Seymour Community School District reports that the Gangster Disciples and Latin Kings are believed to be operating in the area, but have little within the schools. Seymour community reports both middle school prevention programs and staff member training.

The other school districts contacted in Outagamie County, Freedom Area, Kaukauna, Kimberly, Little Chute Area, and Shiocton School District, reported no problem with gangs. The majority of these schools did report having a police liaison officer in the school, though very little, if any, of his or her time is spent handling gang, or gang-related, problems. Little Chute Area and Kaukauna School Districts report some gang-related graffiti. Kaukauna believes the graffiti, as well as various thefts that could be gang related, but linked to gangs from the Green Bay and Appleton areas. Shiocton and Kaukauna middle schools have the G.R.E.A.T. program in place. Shiocton also has CounterAct. Little Chute schools do not have formal intervention/prevention programs, but the liaison officer does present to various classes on gangs.

The Boys & Girls Club of the Fox Valley reports a significant problem with both Asian and Hispanic gangs, and a moderate problem with street gangs. Specific gangs mentioned include the Appleton Town Psychos, Asian Bloods, Asian Crips, Bloods, Gangster Disciples, Imperial Gangsters, Latin Kings, and Ms-13. These gangs have been associated with various crimes in the community such as assault, drug trafficking, theft, vandalism, and weapons violations. The gangs have also been associated with AODA violations, fighting, intimidation, and member recruitment within the school districts. The Boys & Girls Club of the Fox Valley has a gang prevention and intervention program whose director spends all of his time dedicated to gangs and gang-related activity.

## Sheboygan County<sup>5</sup>

Sheboygan North High School in the Sheboygan Area School District reported a significant problem with Asian and Hispanic gangs, and a moderate problem with street gangs. North High School has a staff member designated to handling

<sup>5</sup> Cedar Grove – Belgium Area and Plymouth School District not represented.



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gang activity and one-quarter of his time is dedicated to gang issues. Though gang activity is very prominent in the community, gangs have been limited to drug trafficking, territorial violence, and theft within the school. There are proactive, student-led prevention groups in place at North, and school staff members are trained on gang signs and other gang-related information.

Sheboygan South High School in the Sheboygan Area School District reports a significant problem with Hispanic gangs and a moderate problem with Asian and street gangs. Specific gangs mentioned include the Gangster Disciples, Latin Kings, Mexican Posse, and Sureño 13. A few individuals new to the community from Chicago, Milwaukee, and the Twin Cities are also affiliated with gangs from those areas. Sheboygan South High School reports that though gang activity is very prominent in the community, gangs have been limited to drug trafficking, fights/intimidation, and recruitment within the school. The incidents of fighting and intimidation are believed to be linked to attempts to establish territory.

Sheboygan South High School has both a school security officer (SSO) and a school resource officer (SRO) designated to handling gang activity. These individuals average about three-quarters of their time on gang-related issues. Gang colors and meeting places within the school are not allowed, but South High School does not have any specific prevention or intervention program in place. School staff members are trained on gang signs and gang-information, but not to a large extent.

Sheboygan Alternative Programs also in the Sheboygan Area School District reported a significant problem with Hispanic and street gangs, and a moderate problem with both Asian and motorcycle gangs. Specific gangs mentioned include the 13's, Gangster Disciples, and Latin Kings. Again, though gang activity is very prominent in the community, Gangs have been limited to criminal activities such as assaults, drug sales, fear/intimidation, territorial violence, and theft in the schools. No formal curriculum is in place regarding gang prevention and intervention, but school resource officers and school safety officers are present in all secondary school buildings. Schools staff members are also trained on gang signs and gang-related information.

The other school districts contacted in Sheboygan County, Elkhart Lake - Glenbeulah, Howards Grove, Kohler, Oostburg, Random Lake, and Sheboygan Falls School District, report little gang activity. All of these schools, except Howards Grove, have a staff member designated to handling gang-related activity, but individuals spend at most ten percent of their time on gangs. Sheboygan Falls School District reports that due to its close proximity with Sheboygan, there are small



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groups of “wanna-be” gang members present in the school. These individuals engage in graffiti, petty theft, underage drinking/drugs, and vandalism.

Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah reports a few students with gang affiliations, but nothing of immediate concern. The few students who are involved with gangs in the Elkhart Lake – Glenbeulah School District, are from Plymouth or Sheboygan, and tend to commit crimes in those communities. Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah School District reports that it is naïve to think that gangs will not infiltrate the community as they have in the surrounding communities. However, for the time being, students who display gang signs, or make comments, appear to gang “wanna-bes” rather than gang members.

Oostburg School District does not report a formal prevention or intervention program, but provides guidance and counseling on an individual level. Staff members in the school district are occasionally trained in gang signs and other gang information. Sheboygan Falls School District also does not have a formal prevention or invention program, but strictly enforces its dress codes. The administrative staff, guidance staff, and police liaisons have been trained on gang signs and other gang-related information. Kohler School District reports charter education programs in place, but that staff members are not trained on gang signs or other gang-related information. Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah School District reported an information approach at the middle school level, and a police liaison officer available at the high school level. Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah also reported sending staff to a “gang awareness” workshop put on by Sheboygan South High School.

## Winnebago County<sup>6</sup>

Oshkosh North High School in the Oshkosh Area School District reports that gang-related behavior began to decline for a number of years, but has increased in the last few years. Most gang-related incidents are off campus, though some threats and gang colors are occurring in school. For the most part, however, gang members tend to “hide” their affiliation during the school day. Oshkosh North does not report any formal gang prevention or intervention programs, but does offer over forty after-school programs and programs through the Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh. North High school reports that it does not officially train school staff members, but most of the gang-related incidents are handled by the assistant principals and liaison officer, who have received training.

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<sup>6</sup> Oshkosh East High School not represented



# Northeast Wisconsin Gang Assessment

Oshkosh West High School in the Oshkosh Area School District reports a moderate problem with Asian and street gangs. Specific gangs mentioned included the Crips, Gangster Disciples, and Juggalos. These gangs have been linked to various crimes in the school, including drug use, fighting, harassment, tagging, underage smoking, and vandalism. The administrative staff, in conjunction with the police liaison officer, handles incidents involving gang activity on an “as needed” basis. Oshkosh West does not report a formal gang prevention or intervention curriculum, but does rely heavily on school to parent, as well as police to parent, communication. The school staff members have not been trained on gang signs and other gang-related information in several years. Oshkosh West High School reports that the impact of gang activity within the school has been fairly minor, though there are some disruptive groups being addressed.

The Neenah School District reports a small to moderate problem with both Hispanic and street gangs. Specific gangs mentioned were the Gangster Disciples, Southside Jokers, and Vice Lords. Other local gangs were reported as present, but were not named. The gangs have been linked to crimes within the school, including drug crimes, property damage, and theft. Neenah has a police school liaison officer (PSLO) designated to handling gang activity, and who spends a couple hours a week identifying potential gang members. The PSLO also attends monthly Fox Valley Gang Task Force meetings. Neenah Middle Schools are put through the G.R.E.A.T. program, and a student assistance program is available in the high school. Neenah School District reports that gangs have become so distracting that the School Board was forced to create new policies to deal with it. As a result, the consequences of gang involvement can lead to expulsion of the student, depending on the extent of the violation. Staff members in the Neenah School District are trained in gang signs and other gang-related information at in-service.

The Omro School District reports a significant problem with street gangs and a moderate problem with Hispanic gangs. One gang mentioned, the Omro Gang (OG), is specific to the Omro area. This gang has been associated with drug trafficking and theft within the schools. Omro does not have an individual designated to handling gang activity, nor does it provide prevention or intervention programs. School staff members are trained biennially on gang signs and other gang-related information.

Menasha School District reports significant problems with both Hispanic and street gangs, and a moderate problem with Asian gangs. All the administrators, along with the police school liaison officer, are designated to handling gang activity. These individuals spend about five percent of their time dedicated to gangs. Menasha School District reports that the Asian Crip Killers, Bloods, Gangster Disciples, Latin Kings, MS-13, Sureños, and Vice Lords operate within the



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community and have been associated with drug trafficking, battery and graffiti. Menasha School District reports that though some fights occur, gang activity is relatively minor with the school. Most of the activity is reported to take place in the Menasha Community. Staff members are trained on gang signs and other gang-related information.

The other school district contacted, Winneconne Community School District, reported no gang activity. Winneconne Community School District does not have an individual designated to handling gang activity. General counseling curriculum, as well as G.R.E.A.T., is offered in the schools. Staff members were given some information regarding gangs at the annual in-service. Winneconne Community notes that gang activity may soon occur and plans on continuing the various prevention programs.

## GANGS ACTIVE IN NORTHEAST WISCONSIN

Over one hundred gangs were reported to be operating in Northeast Wisconsin. Asian, Hispanic and street gangs were reported as a significant problem by more police departments than motorcycle, or miscellaneous gangs. However, motorcycle gangs were reported as being at least a moderate problem in the majority of the surveyed agencies.

Asian gangs were reported the most active in the cities of Appleton, Green Bay, Grand Chute, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan (though specific information from Green Bay was not available). There are also a large number of reported Asian gang members incarcerated at both the Winnebago and Outagamie county jails. Manitowoc, Menasha, and Oshkosh report a moderate problem with Asian gangs. Winnebago Correctional Center also reported a moderate problem with Asian gangs.

Hispanic gangs were reported most active in the cities of Green Bay, Grand Chute, Menasha, and Sheboygan. Both the Oshkosh Correctional Institution and the Winnebago Correctional Center reported a significant problem with incarcerated Hispanic gangs. Appleton, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Neenah, and Oshkosh report a moderate problem with Hispanic gangs. Outagamie and Winnebago county jails also reported a moderate number of incarcerated Hispanic gang members.

Motorcycle gangs were reported most active in Green Bay, as well as large number of motorcycle gang members incarcerated in the Winnebago County Jail. Appleton, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Grand Chute, Neenah, Oshkosh, and Ripon



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all report a moderate problem with Motorcycle gangs. Winnebago Correctional Center also reported a moderate problem with motorcycle gangs.

Street gangs were reported most active in the cities of Appleton, Fond du Lac, Green Bay, Ripon, and Sheboygan. There are also large numbers of incarcerated street gang members in the Oshkosh Correctional Institution, the Outagamie County Jail, the Winnebago Correctional Center, and the Winnebago County Jail. Grand Chute, Manitowoc, Menasha, Neenah, and Oshkosh all report a moderate problem with street gangs.

Unclassified, or miscellaneous gangs, were reported as a moderate problem in Green Bay, Oshkosh, and Sheboygan, as well as the Oshkosh and Winnebago Correctional Institutions.

## Asian Gangs

There are twenty-eight known Asian gangs believed to be operating within Northeast Wisconsin. The gangs reported most prevalently were the Asian Bloods, Asian Crips, Asian Crip Killers, Imperial Gangsters, Oriental Ruthless Boys, and the Sheboygan Boy Gangsters. Overall, the Asian Gangs in the Northeast Wisconsin are widespread, structured, and increasing criminal activity. The most significant problems with Asian gangs were reported in Appleton, Green Bay, Grand Chute, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan as well as by Outagamie and Winnebago County jails. Manitowoc School District, Sheboygan North High School, and the Boys and Girls Club of the Fox Valley in Outagamie County also reported Asian gangs as a significant problem. Various school districts throughout the Fox Valley report a moderate Asian gang problem. Asian gangs are considered extremely secretive and mobile, often located throughout the state. Because of their mobility and secrecy, it is often difficult to determine the number of members and associates in each gang. Furthermore, though these gangs may be associated with certain colors, they rarely openly represent them.

### *Asian Bloods*

The Asian Bloods are a nationwide Asian Gang, reported in Appleton, Manitowoc, Oshkosh, and Sheboygan, and believed to be operating throughout Northeast Wisconsin. In Sheboygan, they are considered an unstructured



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gang with decreasing levels of criminal activity. Manitowoc County Metro Drug Unit on the other hand considers them to be structured, with gang laws retrieved at search warrants, and increasing in criminal activity. The Asian Bloods often frequent the local bowling alleys and small taverns in the Manitowoc area. Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit recognizes at least nine members and three associates in Sheboygan County, ranging from age seventeen to nineteen, and the Metro Drug Unit believes there may be more than thirty Asian Blood gang members in Manitowoc County. The Asian Bloods have been linked to such crimes as criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct, drug trafficking (cocaine and ecstasy) and theft of firearms. They are often seen wearing red colors. They have three associated cliques, 920 Bloods, Blood Brothers, and Menyub Lib Connection (reported by the Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit).

## 920 Bloods

The 920 Bloods are a local sect of the Asian Bloods gang, and are believed to be operating in Appleton and Sheboygan.

## Asian Crip Killers (ACK)

The Asian Crip Killers (ACK) are an Asian Bloods gang believed to have increasing levels of criminal activity in Northeast Wisconsin and have been reported in Appleton, Grand Chute, Menasha, Little Chute, Oshkosh, and Two Rivers. They are considered a structured gang, and have been linked to various crimes, including battery, criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct, disorderly conduct with a weapon, drug trafficking, endangering safety with a dangerous weapon, harboring a felon, harassment/threats, operating a motor vehicle without owner's consent, possession of THC & drug paraphernalia, resisting/obstructing, substantial battery with a firearm, and theft. Appleton Police Department believes that there are at least fourteen ACK members located in the Appleton area.

Gang members must be "beat or sexed in," and are not necessarily all Asian. Winnebago County Sheriff's Office has identified seven members incarcerated in the jail, and believes the leader is from Minnesota. They range in age from twelve to twenty-eight and can be identified by various symbols, including:



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“Lee,” “Lucky,” “B,” and a cross with “Hmong.” They are often seen wearing the color red, and their hats/clothing to the left.

## Blood Brothers

The Blood Brothers are a regional Asian Bloods gang, reported in Green Bay and Sheboygan, and believed to have increasing levels of criminal activity in Northeast Wisconsin. They are considered an unstructured gang, and Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit recognizes at least eleven members and six associates, ranging in age from seventeen to twenty. Information obtained from old GangNet files indicates that as many as sixteen members were active in Green Bay in 2003. They have been linked to crimes such as criminal destruction to property, disorderly conduct, manufacture of marijuana, obstruction, trespassing, underage drinking, and vehicle theft. They have also been linked to crimes involving ecstasy and methamphetamine. They are often seen wearing red colors, sometimes green, and South Pole logos. They can be identified by five stars and/or a five-pointed star.

## Fox City Bloods

The Fox City Bloods are an Asian Bloods gang reported in Appleton, Grand Chute, and Oshkosh.

## Menyuab Lib Connection (MLC)

Menyuab Lib Connection (MLC) is a local Asian Bloods gang reported in Appleton, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan. Manitowoc Police Department (MPD) considers this gang to be unstructured, and associated with decreasing levels of criminal activity. MPD recognizes fifteen gang members and forty-six associates of the MLC around the south side of Manitowoc. Gang members range in age from fifteen to twenty-nine, and are associated with assault and drug trafficking. This gang has been known to swarm in on their victim with baseball bats and golf clubs. MLC is associated with red and black, or red and white colors, and believed to associate closely the Young N Dangerous Asian gang.



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## *Asian Cobras*

The Asian Cobras are a nationwide Asian gang reported to be operating in Sheboygan by the Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit.

## *Asian Crips (Asian Criminals, AC)*

The Asian Crips are a nationwide (Hmong) gang, reported in Appleton, Grand Chute, Green Bay, Oshkosh, and Sheboygan, and believed to be operating throughout Northeast Wisconsin. They are associated with increasing levels of criminal activity in this area. They are considered a structured gang with seized literature found detailing the structure. Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit recognizes at least eighteen members and five associates, ranging in age from fourteen to twenty-six. Information obtained from old GangNet files indicates that as many as thirty-two Asian Crip gang members were operating in Green Bay around 2003. They have been linked to crimes such as attempted homicide, battery, criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct, drug dealing, harassment/threats, obstruction, possession of methamphetamine, possession of a short-barreled rifle, and firearm theft.

They recruit members through their family members, friends, associates, incidents, and word of mouth. They are often seen wearing blue and black colors and are associated with “BK” (Blood Killers) and “103”. Sheboygan Police Department reports that there are various cliques operating in Sheboygan, including Laos Crazy Gangsters, Laos Crips, and Oriental True Crips.

## Asian Royal Crips

The Asian Royal Crips are a Crips gang reported by Oshkosh Probation and Parole and believed to be operating in Oshkosh.



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## Asian Ruthless Crips

The Asian Ruthless Crips are a Crips gang reported by Oshkosh Probation and Parole and believed to be operating in Oshkosh.

## Brotherhood Crips

The Brotherhood Crips are an Asian Crip gang reported in the areas of Appleton, Grand Chute, and Green Bay, as well as Madison and Milwaukee. Appleton believes there may be as many as twenty-three members located in Appleton and twelve out of Green Bay. Appleton has also identified at least four leaders of the Brotherhood Crips, referred to as Original Gangsters (OG). The OGs, located in both Appleton and Green Bay, are in charge of running the “little guys,” or regular members, of the gang.

## Crazy Crip Boys

The Crazy Crip Boys are an Asian Crips gang reported by Oshkosh Probation and Parole believed to be operating in Oshkosh.

## Laos Crazy Gangsters

The Laos Crazy Gangsters are a nationwide Asian Crips gang reported in Sheboygan by the Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit.

## Laos Crips

The Laos Crips are a nationwide Asian Crips gang reported in Sheboygan by the Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit.



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## Oriental True Crips

The Laos Crips are a nationwide Asian Crips gang reported in Sheboygan by the Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit.

## *Asian Empirez*

The Asian Empirez is an Asian gang reported by Oshkosh Probation and Parole and believed to be operating in Oshkosh.

## *Asian King Posse*

The Asian King Posse is an Asian gang reported by Oshkosh Probation and Parole and believed to be operating in Oshkosh.

## *Asian Neutral Boys (ANB)*

The Asian Neutral Boys are a regional Asian gang, reported in the city of Sheboygan and Green Bay, and believed to have increasing levels of criminal activity. They are considered a structured gang (one leader, one shot-caller, seniors and juniors in hierarchy). Sheboygan Police Department recognizes at least fourteen members and four associates, ranging in age from sixteen to twenty-one. They have been linked to crimes such as dealing of heroin and methamphetamine, disorderly conduct, and weapons possession. They are often seen in black and yellow colors and are associated with “213” and “ANB.” The Asian Neutral Boys align themselves with the Nortenos out of Milwaukee, and also have ties in Wausau, Twin Cities, and California.

## *Crazy Hmong Boys*

The Crazy Hmong Boys are an Asian gang reported in Appleton, Grand Chute, Oshkosh, and Sheboygan. There is also one member of the Crazy Hmong Boys incarcerated in the Outagamie County Jail.



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## *Hmong Nation Society (HNS)*

The Hmong Nation Society is a nationwide Asian gang, reported in the city of Appleton and Sheboygan, and believed to have increasing levels of criminal activity. They are considered a structured gang with a known hierarchy. Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit recognizes at least forty-one members and two associates, ranging in age from sixteen to thirty. They have been linked to crimes such as arson, battery, drug trafficking, possession of firearms, possession of methamphetamine, and vehicle theft. They are often seen wearing red colors, sometimes blue, and can be identified by “475” (stands for “HNS”).

## *Imperial Gangsters (Almighty Imperial Gangsters, IG)*

The Imperial Gangsters are a nationwide Asian gang (aligned with the Folk Nation), reported throughout Northeast Wisconsin, and believed to have decreasing levels of criminal activity. They are considered an unstructured gang. Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit recognizes at least four members and one associate, and Appleton Police Department has recognized at least eleven members (two of which are leaders). Outagamie County Jail has one known and four suspected Imperial Gangsters currently incarcerated. Information obtained from old GangNet files indicates that eleven members were believed to be operating in Green Bay around 2003. They have been associated with crimes such as attempted homicide, battery, drug trafficking, petty theft, robbery, and vehicle theft. They are often seen wearing green colors (sometimes pink and black), and are associated with the Pink Panther figure, round edge crown with a cross, or a round edge crown. There are believed to have ties to the Imperial Gangsters in Milwaukee.

## *Laotian Posse*

The Laotian Posse is an Asian gang reported by Oshkosh Probation and Parole and believed to be operating in Oshkosh.



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## *Menace of Destruction (Men of Destruction, Masters of Destruction, MOD)*

Menace of Destruction (MOD) is a nationwide Asian (usually Hmong) gang, with members located in Grand Chute, Oshkosh, and Sheboygan, as well as incarcerated in the Sheboygan County Jail. MOD is believed to have increasing levels of criminal activity. Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit considers them to be a structured gang, consisting of at least ten members and five associates, ranging from seventeen to thirty-five. There is also one suspected Menace of Destruction gang member incarcerated in the Outagamie County Jail. They have been linked to crimes such as attempted homicide, disorderly conduct, obstruction, possession of a short-barreled shotgun, reckless endangerment, and firearm theft. They have also been linked to crimes involving THC and ecstasy. They are associated with red (considered the primary color for the Wisconsin MOD), white, black, blue, “301” “Menace.” MOD members are usually “beat in,” but may “blessed in” if he/she has the proper connections. This is a very violent and highly secretive gang who may have members migrating to Northeast Wisconsin from the Twin Cities (considered the headquarters of the MOD). Unusual for most gangs, MOD will allow some gang members to be “walked out,” or allowed to leave the gang without repercussions.

## *Orange Boy Kilt*

The Orange Boy Kilt is a regional Asian gang reported by Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit, and believed to be operating in Sheboygan.

## *Oriental Ruthless Boys (ORB)*

The Oriental Ruthless Boys are a nationwide Asian (Hmong) gang, reported throughout the region, and believed to have decreasing levels of criminal activity in Northeast Wisconsin. Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit considers an unstructured gang, with at least seven members and one associate, ranging in age from eighteen to twenty-four. Information obtained from old GangNet files indicates that as many as twenty-two Oriental Ruthless Boys were reported in Green Bay around 2003. The ORB has been linked to crimes such as attempted homicide, battery, drug dealing, petty theft, robbery, and vehicle theft. This gang is often seen in black and white colors, and can be identified by the number “023.”



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## *Sheboygan Boy Gangsters (Sheboygan Boyz, Sheboygan Boys Gang, SBG)*

The Sheboygan Boy Gangsters (SBG) are a local Asian (Hmong) Gang, reported throughout the region, and associated with increasing levels of criminal activity in Northeast Wisconsin. Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit considers them an unstructured gang, with at least ninety-eight members and twenty associates, ranging from age sixteen to forty-two. This gang has been linked to crimes such as arson, attempted homicide, disorderly conduct, operating a vehicle without the owner's consent, possession and dealing of methamphetamines, possession of firearms, possession of THC, reckless endangerment, and underage drinking. They can be identified by the number "589" (stands for "SBG").

## *Tiny Man Crew (Too Man Chinks, True Mafia Crips, TMC)*

The Tiny Man Crew is an Asian gang reported in Green Bay, Menasha, and Oshkosh. This gang may be affiliated with gang members in MS-13

## *Young N Dangerous (Y&D, YND, AYD)*

The Young N Dangerous is a regional Asian Gang operating throughout Northeastern Wisconsin and associated with increasing levels of criminal activity. They are considered a structured gang (gang laws have been retrieved at search warrant by the Manitowoc County Metro Drug Unit) and believed to have over thirty members and associates in Manitowoc County alone. They are believed to frequent the local bowling alleys and small taverns in Manitowoc. The Young N Dangerous can range in age from ten to the late twenties. They have been linked to crimes such as attempted homicide, battery, drug trafficking (cocaine and ecstasy), petty theft, and vehicle theft. They are associated with the colors yellow and black, as well as the letters "YND." Often, the gang will use MySpace or Asiantown.net to post information to other gang members. Young N Dangerous is believed to associate closely with the Menyub Lib Connection (MLC).



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## Hispanic/Latino Gangs

Thirty-two Hispanic gangs were reported by the various law enforcement and community organizations in Northeast Wisconsin, the most prevalently reported being the Appleton Town Psychos, Latin Kings, Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), South Side Jokers, and the Sureños. The majority of the Hispanic gangs in this area are considered increasing in criminal activity, though organization tends to vary. Hispanic gangs a significant problem in Green Bay, Grand Chute, Menasha, and Sheboygan, but have been reported as at least a moderate problem in the majority of the Northeast Wisconsin. Hispanic gangs were also reported as a significant problem by Manitowoc and Sheboygan School Districts, Green Bay Southwest High School, and the Boys & Girls Club of the Fox Valley in Outagamie County. Grand Chute Police Department reports that the Hispanic gangs are known to use intimidation as a tool to keep members of their community from cooperating with police. In fact, most of the victims of Hispanic gangs are other members of the Hispanic community.

### *2-6 Gang*

The 2-6 Gang is a regional Hispanic gang reported by Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit and believed to be operating in Sheboygan.

### *Brown Town*

Brown Town is a local Hispanic gang reported by Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit and believed to be operating in Sheboygan.

### *Insane Vice Lords*

The Insane Vice Lords are a Hispanic gang with members reported in Green Bay, as well as incarcerated in the Winnebago Correctional Center.



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## *La Nuestra Familia*

La Nuestra Familia is a nationwide Hispanic prison gang reported by the Winnebago Correctional Center. They are affiliated with the Norteños

## *La Raza*

La Raza is a nationwide Hispanic gang reported by the Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit, and believed to be operating in Sheboygan. La Raza is believed to be associated with cocaine trafficking.

## *Latin Kings (LK, Almighty Latin King Nation, ALKN)*

The Latin Kings are a nationwide Hispanic gang (associated with People Nation), with members reported throughout Northeast Wisconsin, as well as incarcerated in the Oshkosh Correctional Institution, Outagamie County Jail, and Winnebago County Jail. They are believed to have increasing level of criminal activity in this area. The Latin Kings are considered a structured gang, with bylaws and a constitution. Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit recognizes at least ninety-four members and twenty-four associates, ranging in age from fourteen to forty-three. Information obtained from old GangNet files indicates that as many as one hundred and fifty seven members were active throughout Green Bay, Kenosha, and Sheboygan around 2003. They have been linked to crimes such as arson, attempted homicide, criminal damage to property, drug trafficking, disorderly conduct, substantial battery, and underage drinking.

The Latin Kings recruit members through school, the Internet, friends, family members, and associates. They are often seen wearing black and gold colors, sometimes red. They can be identified by the five-pointed crown, “ALKN,” the five-pointed star, as well as hats and clothing worn to the left. Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit has identified several cliques, including locally based South 10th Street Latin Kings, Latin Pachuchos, Shorties, Boulevard Kings (linked to crimes involving THC and cocaine), Braveheart Kings (linked to



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crimes involving THC), Almighty Latin Kings, and Goon Squad (Hispanic). The Sheboygan Police Department has also identified the nationwide Latin Queens gang in the City of Sheboygan.

## South 10<sup>th</sup> Street Gang (South 10<sup>th</sup> Street Gang)

The 10<sup>th</sup> Street gang is a local Latin Kings gang, reported to operate on the 1100 block of South 10<sup>th</sup> Street in Sheboygan. They are associated with decreasing levels of criminal activity. The 10<sup>th</sup> Street Gang is considered unstructured, and Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit recognizes four members and three associates. They have been linked to such crimes as criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct, and firearm theft. They are often seen wearing red, black, and gold colors and can be identified by a five-pointed crown and/or a five-pointed star.

## Boulevard Kings

The Boulevard Kings are a local Latin Kings gang reported by the Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit and believed to be operating in Sheboygan. The Boulevard Kings are believed to be associated with drug trafficking crimes involving THC and cocaine.

## Braveheart Kings

The Braveheart Kings are a local Latin Kings gang reported by the Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit and believed to be operating in Sheboygan. The Braveheart Kings are believed to be associated with drug trafficking of THC.

## Goon Squad (Hispanic)

The Goon Squad is a local Latin Kings gang reported by the Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit and believed to be operating in Sheboygan.



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## Latin Pachuchos

The Latin Pachuchos are a local Latin Kings gang reported by the Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit and believed to be operating in Sheboygan.

## Latin Queens

The Latin Queens are a nationwide female version of the Latin Kings. They have been reported by the Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit and are believed to be operating in Sheboygan.

## Shorties

Shorties are a local Latin Kings gang reported by the Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit and believed to be operating in Sheboygan.

## *Latin Souls*

The Latin Souls are a regional Hispanic gang reported by the Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit and believed to be operating in Sheboygan.

## *Latin Thug(s)*

The Latin Thugs are a local Hispanic gang, reported in Sheboygan, and believed to be operating throughout Northeast Wisconsin. They are associated with decreasing levels of criminal activity in the area, and are considered an unstructured gang. The Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit has recognized at least four members and four associates, ranging from age seventeen to twenty-five. They have been linked to such crimes as battery to a child, carrying a concealed weapon, criminal damage to property, and possession of



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marijuana. They have been seen wearing black, gold, and white colors and are associated with a five-point crown. They are affiliated with the Mexican Posse (MP-13), and are allied with most of the area gangs, except the Crips.

## *Maniac Latin Disciples*

The Maniac Latin Disciples are a Hispanic gang with members reported in Green Bay, as well as incarcerated at the Oshkosh Correctional Institution and Winnebago Correctional Center.

## *Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13)*

The Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) is a very violent, nationwide Hispanic gang reported in Appleton, Green Bay, Menasha, and Neenah. They also have members incarcerated at the Outagamie County Jail. They are believed to be associated with the Tiny Man Crew Asian gang.

## *Mexican Mafia (MM, La Eme)*

The Mexican Mafia is a nationwide Hispanic gang primarily located within the prison system. They are reported to have an unknown number of members in Appleton and two members incarcerated in the Outagamie County Jail. The Mexican Mafia is associated with the Sureños gangs, who are considered the “foot soldiers” for the Mexican Mafia. The Mexican Mafia often refers to itself as “La Eme” (Spanish for ‘M’) and is associated with the number “13”.

## *Mexican Posse (MP-13)*

Mexican Posse is a nationwide Hispanic gang, reported in Appleton and Sheboygan, and believed to have increasing levels of criminal activity in Northeast Wisconsin. They are considered a structured gang. Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit has identified at least thirty-three members and ten associates, ranging in



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age from thirteen to twenty. They have been linked such crimes as battery, carrying a concealed weapon, criminal damage to property, and disorderly conduct. They have also been linked to crimes involving cocaine. They have been seen wearing black, white, blue, and gray colors, and are associated with the number “13.” Some of the gang members are now claiming alliance to Sureño 13. MP-13 is a known rival of the Latin Kings.

## *Norteños*

The Norteños are a Hispanic (Mexican) gang with members reported in Green Bay as well as incarcerated in the Winnebago County Jail and the Oshkosh Correctional Institution. The Norteños are aligned with the La Nuestra Familia prison gang, and rival the Sureños. They are associated with a padora hat with daggers and a five-sided star of the North. Information from old GangNet files indicates that six members of the Norteno 14 gang were believed to be operating in Green Bay in 2003.

## *Sureños*

The Sureños street gangs are considered the foot soldiers of the Mexican Mafia. Members of different Sureño sects are present throughout Northeast Wisconsin, as well as incarcerated in the Oshkosh Correctional Institution.

### Appleton Town Psychos (A-Town Psychos, ATP)

The Appleton Town Psychos (ATP) is a local Sureño street gang formed within Winnebago County. The gang is associated with increasing levels of criminal activity and has been reported throughout Northeast Wisconsin, as well as Madison. ATP is considered a structured gang, evidenced by their self-proclamation and gang-related tattoos. ATP has been linked to such crimes as battery, bodily harm to a child, contribution to the delinquency of a child, criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct, homicide, possession of THC & drug paraphernalia, and reckless injury.



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Winnebago County Jail has twenty-seven members currently incarcerated, ranging in age from seventeen to twenty-nine. They can be identified by various symbols, including: cross, eagle, joker, Virgin Mary, clown, “Psycho,” 5 dots, 2 tears drops, and/or a spider web. This gang is closely associated with the South Side Jokers (SSJ), but exactly how they are connected is unclear. Winnebago County reports that the Appleton Town Psychos were formerly known as the South Side Jokers. Grand Chute Police Department, on the other hand, reports that the South Side Jokers were actually formed from younger members of the Appleton Town Psychos (after ATP leaders were arrested).

## Brown Pride Locos (BPL, BPL 13)

The Brown Pride Locos are a Sureño Gang, reported in Grand Chute, Green Bay, and Menasha, and believed to have increasing levels of criminal activity. They are known to frequent the Fox River Mall, Funset Boulevard Restaurant and Entertainment Center, and the local parks. They are considered an unstructured gang, with leadership determined by the amount of time spent in the gang. Currently, this gang lacks leadership because the leaders are incarcerated. They range in age from twelve to twenty-five, and recruit members through family ties and mutual friends. Information obtained from old GangNet files indicates that as many as twenty-nine gang members were reported in Green Bay in 2003. They are linked to crimes such as armed robbery, battery, drug dealing, robbery, petty theft, and vehicle theft.

## South Side Jokers (SSJ)

The South Side Jokers (SSJ) are a Sureño street gang believed to have increasing levels of criminal activity in Outagamie County, and have been reported throughout Northeast Wisconsin, as well as Milwaukee. They are considered a structured gang. Two individuals have identified themselves and admitted to being leaders. Former members of the gang state that every member has a specific job and title within the gang (Soldier, Enforcer, Tagger, etc). SSJ has been linked to crimes such as battery, contribution to the delinquency of a child, criminal damage to property, intentional bodily harm to a child, manufacturing of THC, operating a vehicle without the owner’s consent, possession with intent to deliver THC, prostitution, and solicitation of a child for gang activity. Grand Chute Police Department believes there may be as many as thirty members, and twenty associates, operating in the Grand Chute area.



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Menasha Police Department reports that at one time they were believed to have had at least seventy-five members, but now have dwindled to around twenty, ranging from age ten to twenty-five. Winnebago County had identified three incarcerated gang members.

The South Side Jokers started as a small group of males looking for protection from a rival gang in Appleton. Currently, the gang is believed to be rebuilding due to the conviction of several key players. This gang uses intimidation and threats to coerce juveniles to join and then commit property crimes to benefit the gang. Several juveniles have been reportedly “beaten in” against their will. They can be identified by various symbols, including: 3 dots, the number “13”, clowns, jokers, and/or a cross. They are often seen in blue bandanas, as well as wearing belts and hats to the right. Winnebago County has identified three members, and believes previous members have now formed the Appleton Town Psychos. Grand Chute Police Department, on the other hand, reports that the Southside Jokers were in fact created from the Appleton Town Psychos and will continue to separate from ATP once new leadership is established. The South Side Jokers are believed to have aligned themselves with the Gangster Disciples from Menasha and connections in Milwaukee. They may also be linked to Sureño 13.

## South Side Locos

The South Side Locos are a Sureño gang reported in Grand Chute and Menasha. They are considered an unstructured gang believed to be associated with decreasing levels of criminal activity.

## Sureño(s) 13

Sureño 13 is a nationwide Hispanic street gang, reported throughout Northeast Wisconsin, as well as in Peoria, IL and Arizona, and believed to have increasing levels of criminal activity in Northeast Wisconsin. They are considered a structured gang. Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit recognizes at least nineteen members and twenty-two associates, ranging in age from fifteen to forty-four. Winnebago County has identified five members currently incarcerated. They have been linked to crimes such as disorderly conduct, enticement of a child, resisting/obstructing, possession of drug paraphernalia,



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sexual assault, theft, and underage drinking. They are often seen wearing blue and/or black colors. They can be identified by various symbols, including: cross, “RF,” tear drop, grim reaper, “krazie,” spider web, aztec, “low rider,” 3 dots, and/or “Sureño.” Sheboygan Police Department reports that the Sureño 38’s and the Sureño 13’s are two separate Sureño gangs operating in the region.

## Sureño(s) 38

Sureño 38 is a nationwide Hispanic street gang, reported in the City of Sheboygan, and associated with increasing level of criminal activity in Northeast Wisconsin. They are considered a structured gang. They are considered a structured gang. Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit recognizes nine members and ten associates, ranging in age from thirteen to twenty-seven. They recruit gang members through the schools, the Internet, friends, family members, and associates. They are often seen wearing “Los Angeles” or “South Side” jerseys, have tattoos on the back of the neck with street names on it, and shaved heads. Sheboygan Police Department reports that the Sureño 38’s and the Sureño 13’s are two separate Sureño gangs operating in Northeast Wisconsin. It is believed that the leader of Sureño 38 lives in California and has done business over the phone with gang members in Northeast Wisconsin.

## Sureño(s) 96

Sureño 96 is a Sureño\_street gang, reported by Sheboygan South High School and believed to be operating in Sheboygan.

## Twisted Locos

The Twisted Locos are a Sureño Gang, reported in Outagamie County, and believed to have increasing levels of criminal activity. They are known to frequent the Fox River Mall, Funset Boulevard Restaurant and Entertainment Center, and the local parks. They are considered an unstructured gang, with leadership determined by the amount of time spent in the gang. Currently, this gang lacks leadership because the leaders are incarcerated. They range in age from twelve to twenty-five, and recruit members through



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family ties and mutual friends. They are linked to crimes such as battery, drug dealing, robbery, petty theft, and vehicle theft.

## *Spanish Cobras*

The Spanish Cobras are a nationwide Hispanic Gang with members reported in Sheboygan as well as incarcerated in the Oshkosh Correctional Institution.

## *Texas Syndicate (TS)*

Texas Syndicate is a Hispanic Gang, reported by Manitowoc County Metro Drug Unit, and believed to have decreasing levels of criminal activity. They are considered a structured gang, and have been linked to crimes such as battery and drug trafficking (cocaine). They can be identified by the letters “TS.”

## *Tres Puntos (3 P's)*

Tres Puntos is a local Hispanic Gang, reported in the City of Sheboygan and based out of Watertown. They are considered an unstructured gang, with decreasing levels of criminal activity. Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit recognizes at least four members and four associates. They have been linked to crimes such as battery, criminal damage to property, drive-by shootings, and gang rape. They are often seen wearing red, white, and brown colors. They can be identified by “3P,” which stands for “Tres Puntos” and/or three points on a three-point crown.

## **Motorcycle Gangs**

A total of eleven known motorcycle gangs were reported throughout Northeast Wisconsin, with the Outlaws mentioned most prevalently. The organizational structure and criminal activity of these gangs vary from gang to gang. They are a



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significant problem in the Green Bay area as well as in the Winnebago County Jail. Appleton, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Grand Chute, Neenah, Oshkosh, and Ripon also report a moderate problem with Motorcycle gangs. Ripon School District and Sheboygan Alternative High School reported a moderate problem with motorcycle gangs. The motorcycle gang problem used to be more considerable in Oshkosh and Calumet counties, but major gang clubhouses have been removed, causing the gangs to relocate to the Green Bay area.

## *Black Pistons (Independent Riders of America)*

The Black Pistons are a motorcycle gang reported by Grand Chute and Green Bay. This gang is considered unstructured and associated with decreasing levels of criminal activity. They are associated with a crossed piston, “IROA,” and wear white and black colors. They are believed to be an off-shoot of the Outlaws Motorcycle Club. Information obtained from old GangNet files reports that at least twelve Black Pistons were operating in Green Bay in 2005.

## *DC Eagles*

The DC Eagles are a motorcycle gang with members reported in Appleton, Calumet and Grand Chute, as well as four members incarcerated in the Winnebago County Jail.

## *Heathens*

The Heathens are a nationwide motorcycle gang with members reported in Green Bay, as well as incarcerated in the Winnebago County Jail.

## *Hell's Angels*

The Hell's Angels are a nationwide motorcycle gang with incarcerated members in the Winnebago County Jail and Oshkosh Correctional Institution.



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## *Hell's Lovers*

Hell's Lovers are a motorcycle gang, concentrated in Calumet County, Forest Junction, Grand Chute, and Neenah. They are considered a structured gang (military style organization) and associated with decreasing levels of criminal activity. Calumet County recognizes approximately ten to fifteen members, and ten to fifteen associates, ranging in age from twenty-five to fifty. They have been linked to crimes involving cocaine trafficking and motorcycle theft. They often wear Hell's Lovers jackets, patches, and rocker panels.

## *Magnetos*

The Magnetos are a nationwide motorcycle gang reported in Appleton and Grand Chute.

## *Masters*

The Masters are a nationwide motorcycle gang reported by the Ripon Police Department, and believed to be present in Ripon.

## *Outlaws Motorcycle Club*

The Outlaws are a nationwide motorcycle gang, with members reported throughout Northeast Wisconsin, as well as incarcerated in the Oshkosh Correctional Institution. This gang is associated with increasing levels of criminal activity in Green Bay. They are considered an unstructured gang by the Green Bay Police Department, consisting of between twenty and thirty members, with over fifty associates, ranging in age from twenty-four to seventy. They have been associated with drug trafficking (cocaine and marijuana) Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit has recognized at least fifteen members in the Sheboygan area. They can be identified by the skull and pistons, Outlaws one-percenter tattoo, "AOA" as well as "Outlaws Green Bay," "Outlaws Wisconsin," or "Outlaws Sheboygan" in old English. The Outlaw Clubhouse in Sheboygan has been recently razed, and now the Outlaws are believed to visit the Sheboygan area only about once a year. The new Outlaw clubhouse is located in



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Green Bay and shared with the Pistons Motorcycle Club. The Outlaws have been active in Green Bay for approximately two and a half years. Information obtained from old GangNet files reports that fifteen Outlaws were believed to be active in Green Bay in 2004. They usually wear their club colors only in the clubhouse. The Outlaws are believed to be linked with the Black Pistons, Pistons and Zodiac Motorcycle Club.

## *Pistons Motorcycle Club*

The Pistons are a subgroup of the Outlaws Motorcycle Club who currently have a clubhouse on the north side of Green Bay, but operate throughout Northeast Wisconsin. They are considered an unstructured gang. The Pistons have a president who owns the business where the clubhouse is located, but the rest of the gang is not believed to be highly organized. Green Bay recognizes approximately ten to twenty members, with over fifty associates, ranging in age from twenty-four to seventy. They have been linked to crimes such as drug use and drug distribution (cocaine and marijuana). The Pistons and Outlaws work closely together and share the same clubhouse in Green Bay. Some members go back and forth between the clubs. The Pistons have been in the Green Bay area for approximately two and a half years. The Pistons are very proud of their colors, and where them out in the community.

## *Sundowners*

The Sundowners are a motorcycle gang believed to be operating in Green Bay, Oshkosh, and Ripon.

## *Zodiacs*

The Zodiacs are a motorcycle gang, with reported members in the Grand Chute, Oshkosh, and Ripon areas, as well as twelve members incarcerated in the Winnebago County Jail. The Zodiacs are believed to have increasing levels of criminal activity in the Oshkosh area. They are considered a structured gang, and have been linked to crimes such as battery, burglary, criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct, drug dealing, criminal trespass to a dwelling, false imprisonment, felony possession of a firearm, harassment/threats, intentional pointing of a



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firearm, intimidation of a victim, possession of cocaine, possession with intent to deliver, reckless endangerment, substantial battery, and theft.

The Zodiacs claim they are not a gang, but have a clubhouse located in Oshkosh where numerous individuals have been arrested for battery. They are often seen wearing a leather vest with top and bottom rockers. They have numerous related tattoos, graffiti, literature, hats, bandanas, belts, clothing, and motorcycle decals. They can be identified by various symbols, including: the Zodiac sign, Harley Davidson, “LLS,” spider web, 3 dots, eagle, and/or skull and daggers. The Zodiacs are believed to be associated with the Outlaws motorcycle gang.

## Street Gangs

Twenty known street gangs were reported throughout Northeast Wisconsin, the Black Gangster Disciples, Black P Stone Nation, Bloods, Crips, Gangster Disciples, Simon City Royals, and the Vice Lords being most prevalently reported. The majority of the street gangs in the area are structured and increasing criminal activity. These gangs pose a significant problem throughout Northeast Wisconsin. All but one of the NWGA counties reported street gangs as at least a moderate problem within their community. At least eleven school districts reported street gangs as being a moderate to significant problem. Street gangs mentioned here can include black, white, and hybrid gangs.

### *21<sup>st</sup> Street Boys*

The 21<sup>st</sup> Street Boys are a street gang with one known member incarcerated in the Winnebago Correctional Center.

### *Black Gangster Disciples (BGD)*

The Black Gangster Disciples are a street gang with members reported in Brown County, as well as incarcerated at the Oshkosh Correctional Institution, Outagamie County Jail (at least two), Winnebago Correctional Center, and Winnebago County Jail (at least five).



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## *Black P-Stone Nation (P-Stone Nation)*

Black P-Stone Nation is a nationwide, street gang, reported throughout Northeast Wisconsin, as well Dane and Dodge County. One member is also incarcerated in the Winnebago Correctional Center. They are considered an unstructured gang associated with increasing levels of criminal activity. They have been linked to crimes such as battery, criminal destruction to property, disorderly conduct, false imprisonment, operating a motor vehicle without the owner's consent, possession with intent to deliver, reckless endangerment of safety, and resisting/obstructing. Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit recognizes are at least five active members (age thirteen to twenty-two) and Winnebago County has identified four members currently incarcerated, (age twenty-seven to thirty-nine).

This is a national, multi-racial gang believed to have almost twenty five million members nationwide. They have been reported allies with "People," "Bloods," "Nortenos," "Vice Lords," and rivals with the "Crips," "Ku Klux Klan," and the "Gangster Disciples." They are often seen wearing black and red colors. They can be identified by various symbols, including: crescent moon, five pointed star, pyramid with twenty-one blocks, pitchforks pointing down, "CSA" (Cold Soldier Army), "All is One," "Stones Run it," "Blood," "Spilla," "My Word," "My Way," "EJJJ," and/or "Nefatari."

## *Bloods*

The Bloods are a nationwide street gang, reported throughout Northeast Wisconsin, and associated with increasing levels of criminal activity. Oshkosh Correctional Institution reports that Blood gang members are currently incarcerated in its facility. They are considered a structured gang (Oshkosh Police Department has literature dealing with structure), ranging in age from twelve to mid-twenties. They have been associated with crimes such as battery, criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct, drug dealing, and harassment/threats. They recruit members through family members, friends, associates, incidents, and word of mouth. They are often seen wearing the color red, and hats/clothing to the left. They are associated with numerous symbols including a star, top hat, pyramid, the Playboy bunny, cane, half moon, and upside-down pitchfork. Information obtained from old GangNet files indicates that the Outlaw Bloods (OLB) a clique of as many as twenty-three members were believed to be operating in Green Bay around 2003.



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## *Brothers of the Struggle*

Brothers of the Struggle are a street gang with reported members incarcerated in both the Oshkosh Correctional Institution and Winnebago Correctional Center (2 members). They are currently considered an unstructured gang with decreasing levels of criminal activity.

## *C14 Street*

C14 Street is a street gang reported in Appleton.

## *Crips (Black Crips)*

The Crips are a nationwide street gang, with members reported throughout Northeast Wisconsin, as well as incarcerated in the Oshkosh Correctional Institution, Outagamie County Jail (at least two members), and the Winnebago County Jail (at least seven members). They have been associated with increasing levels of criminal activity. They are considered a structured gang, with a constitution. Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit recognizes at least ten members and three associates. They have been linked to such crimes as battery, disorderly conduct, drug trafficking, possession of firearms, and reckless endangerment. They are often seen wearing blue and black colors, and can be identified by a six-point star and/or pitchforks.

## Mafia 5-1 Crips

The Mafia 5-1 Crips is a Crips street gang reported in Oshkosh and believed to be associated with increasing levels of criminal activity. There are believed to be at least fifteen members in the Oshkosh area, and the gang continues to recruit members. The leader is believed to be Hispanic, but the gang will also recruit white males. This is a very new and aggressive street gang in Northeast Wisconsin.



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## *Four Corner Hustlers (4 Corner Hustlers)*

The Four Corner Hustlers are a street gang with members reported in Brown County and Oshkosh, as well as incarcerated in the Winnebago County Jail (at least two members) and the Winnebago Correctional Center (one member). They are currently believed to be an unstructured gang with decreasing levels of criminal activity. The Four Corner Hustlers are associated with the People Nation, the five-pointed star, a crow, Playboy bunny, cane & top hat, and red colors. Information obtained from old GangNet files indicate that as many as twenty-four members were believed to be operating in Green Bay around 2003.

## *Gangster Disciples (GD)*

The Gangster Disciples are a nationwide street gang, reported throughout Northeast Wisconsin, and believed to have increasing levels of criminal activity in this area. This is the most heavily reported gang operating in the region, with all but Calumet County reporting the gang's presence. They are reported by numerous school districts, as well as in the Oneida tribal Nation. There are also members incarcerated at the Oshkosh Correctional Institution, Outagamie County Jail (at least eight members), Winnebago Correctional Center (fifteen members), and Winnebago County Jail (over forty members currently incarcerated). They are considered a structured gang (law enforcement has a copy of the gang laws). The Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit recognizes at least fifty-seven members and fourteen associates, ranging from age twelve to twenty-four. Fond du Lac Police Department reports that this gang can have as many as one hundred members, plus an unknown number of associates, ranging from age twelve to forty. Information obtained from old GangNet files indicates that as many as three hundred Gangster Disciples were believed to be operating in Green Bay in 2005. They have been linked to crimes such as battery, criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct, drug trafficking (cocaine, THC, ecstasy), harassment/threats, possession of firearms, robbery, and theft.

The Gangster Disciples recruit members through friends, associates, incidents, and word of mouth, and may also be recruited by other Gangster Disciples in Milwaukee and Chicago. The new members have to be "beat in," "sexed in," or commit a violent act in order to gain acceptance into the gang. They are often seen in blue and black clothing, sometimes red. They can be identified by a six-pointed star, crown, pitch forks, "GD," "6," "74,"



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“360,” “720” a heart with wings, and “FOLK.” Sheboygan Police Department reports intelligence that over five chapters/cliques are active in Sheboygan.

## 2-1 Gangster Disciples

The 2-1 Gangster Disciples are a street gang with members reported in Fond du Lac, as well as incarcerated in the Outagamie County Jail (one member) and the Winnebago Correctional Center (one member).

## Goon Squad (Black)

The Goon Squad is a local Gangster Disciples street gang reported by Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit and believed to be operating in Sheboygan. This gang is associated with cocaine, ecstasy, and THC trafficking.

## *Ghost Gangster Disciples*

The Ghost Gangster Disciples are a street gang with one member currently incarcerated in the Winnebago County Jail.

## *Juggalos (Big Money Hustlas)*

The Juggalos are a nationwide white gang, reported throughout the Northeast Wisconsin, and associated with increasing levels of criminal activity. In Sheboygan, they are considered a structured gang (with a member handbook describing ranks and duties), consisting of at least eight members and six associates, ages ranging from fourteen to twenty-one. They have been linked to crimes such as graffiti, possession of narcotics, and theft. They are often seen wearing red, black, and white colors. They also paint their faces with black and white face paint, resembling a clown. This group follows the music and “teachings” of the Insane Clown Posse, and have been



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equated with the “dead heads” of the Grateful Dead. They can be identified by Hatchet Man (cartoon character running with a hatchet) and/or “BMH\$” for Big Money Hustlas Sheboygan. They also make the letters “WC” with their hands, which stands for wicked clowns. Sheboygan Police Department reports that Juggalo members from Chicago recruited members in Sheboygan and established the Big Money Hustlas there.

## *Omro Gang*

Omro gang is a street gang reported by the Omro School District in Winnebago County, and believed to be operating in and around the city of Omro. They have been linked to drug trafficking crimes.

## *Peckerwoods*

The Peckerwoods are a nationwide street gang reported in Green Bay and Sheboygan.

## *Sin City Royals (Simon City Royals)*

The Sin City Royals are a regional street gang, with members reported throughout Northeast Wisconsin, as well as incarcerated in the Oshkosh Correctional Institution, Winnebago Correctional Center, and Winnebago County Jail. They are considered a structured gang (gang laws have been recovered by Manitowoc County Metro Drug Unit at search warrants), associated with decreasing levels of criminal activity in the area. Winnebago County Jail has identified fifteen incarcerated members, ranging in age from ten to thirty-one. The Sin City Royals often frequent the local parks in downtown Manitowoc. They have been linked to crimes such as assault, battery, disorderly conduct, drug trafficking (marijuana), thefts, and vandalism. They are often seen wearing the color blue, and claim to be the “white version” of the Gangster Disciples.

## *Sovereign Nation Warrior (SNW, S&W)s*

The Sovereign Nation Warriors are a tribal gang reported by the Oneida Police Department and believed to be operating within the Oneida Tribal Nation.



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## *Vice Lords*

The Vice Lords are a nationwide street gang, with members reported throughout Northeast Wisconsin, as well as incarcerated in the Oshkosh Correctional Institution, Outagamie County Jail, Winnebago Correctional Center (five members), and Winnebago County Jail. They are considered a structured gang, associated with increasing levels of criminal activity, and have been linked to crimes such as aggravated battery, battery, disorderly conduct, false imprisonment, manufacture/delivery of cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia, maintaining a dwelling for the sale of cocaine, resisting/obstructing, sexual assault with a weapon, and theft. Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit recognizes at least three members, and Winnebago County Jail has identified seven members, ranging from age twenty-one to fifty. They can be identified by various symbols, including: “7-22-04 4 life,” grim reaper, pot leaf, “\$,” 5 point star, top hat, pyramid, “V lord,” “PAC,” the Playboy bunny, cane, pitchfork, and star.

## *Warriors*

The Warriors are a local youth street gang, operating in the cities of Ripon and Fond du Lac, and associated with increasing levels of criminal activity. They are believed to be a structured gang. Ripon Police Department recognizes at least ten members, ranging in age from twelve to nineteen. They have been linked to crimes such as battery, criminal damage to property, drug sales, sexual assault, and theft. New members are recruited through the schools and can be male or female. They are initiated by committing a crime in the presence of another gang member, and being burned without crying out loud. Their graffiti can be identified by a “W” or “WARRIORS” in red paint.

## **Miscellaneous Gangs/Unclassified Gangs**

### *Albanian 96 Mafia*

Albanian 96 Mafia is a nationwide gang, reported in the city of Sheboygan, with decreasing levels of criminal activity. There is very little information about this gang in the Northeast Wisconsin, but they have been described



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as unstructured. A complainant at a disturbance indicated that a group of individuals involved in the incident were associated with the Albanian 96 Mafia. Officers with the Sheboygan Police Department also viewed a MySpace account depicting gang members posing with firearms, but no further intelligence was obtained.

## *Immortal Lost Souls (ILS)*

The Immortal Lost Souls are a Satanist group with reported members incarcerated in the Outagamie and Winnebago (one member) County Jail. They are reported to have created a book on how to trump authority and manipulate others.

## *Unity Gang*

The Unit Gang is a local gang reported by the Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit and believed to be operating in Sheboygan.

## *White Supremacists (Aryan Brotherhood, Aryan Circle, Aryan Nation, Ku Klux Klan, Skinheads)*

Various White Supremacist groups were reported throughout Northeast Wisconsin. The Aryan Brotherhood has members reported in Green Bay, as well as incarcerated in the Oshkosh Correctional Institution and the Winnebago County Jail. The Aryan Circle has members incarcerated in the Oshkosh Correctional Facility. Aryan Nation has members reported in Brown County, Fond du Lac County, Oshkosh, and incarcerated in the Outagamie County Jail. Ku Klux Klan was reported in Brown County and incarcerated in the Winnebago County Jail (one member). The Skin Heads were reported in Brown County and Oshkosh.

## *Other Gangs Mentioned*

The 920s are a gang reported in Menasha. The Eastside Gangsters and Bad City Outlaws were gangs reported in Oshkosh. Breed 4 and Criminal Minded People (Criminal Minded Posse) have members reported in Winnebago



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County Jail. Clinton City gang is a local gang reported by the Sheboygan Police Department Street Crimes Unit and believed to be operating in Sheboygan. MED4 has members incarcerated in the Outagamie County Jail.

## PREVENTION/INTERVENTION PROGRAMS CURRENTLY IN PLACE

There were several prevention and intervention program reported by the agencies in Northeast Wisconsin. Noted here are the CounterAct and Drug Awareness Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) programs, the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) program, Gang Prevention/Intervention through Targeted Outreach Program (GPTTO & GITTO), and the Fox Valley Gang Task Force. Smaller programs were mentioned by some agencies, but were not included, because the specific curricula and effectiveness were not available for this report.

### **CounterAct<sup>7</sup>**

CounterAct is a six-session curriculum designed to involve police officers, school, and families in preventing children from using alcohol and other drugs and teaching them to avoid using violence as a means of solving problems. CounterAct is an interactive, skill-based program where students learn specific skills that they can apply in real-life situations.

CounterAct may be a useful program to implement, along with the G.R.E.A.T. program, to prevent youth from joining gangs or exhibiting gang-related behavior. However, CounterAct is not directly involved with gang prevention or intervention, and more programs are needed.

### **D.A.R.E. (Drug Awareness Resistance Education)<sup>8</sup>**

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) is a police officer-led series of classroom lessons taught from kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. It is a collaborative program in which local law enforcement and local schools join together to educate students about the personal and social consequences of substance abuse and violence.

<sup>7</sup> Hazeldon. *CounterAct: Schools, Families, and Police working together*. Retrieved from [http://www.hazelden.org/HAZ\\_MEDIA/scopeseq\\_counteract.pdf](http://www.hazelden.org/HAZ_MEDIA/scopeseq_counteract.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> D.A.R.E. *The Official D.A.R.E. Website*. Retrieved September 2, 2008, from <http://www.dare.com/home/default.asp>



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Though the D.A.R.E. program has undergone revisions in curricula, there are mixed opinions about its effectiveness. Furthermore, its use as gang prevention or intervention method has not been studied, and therefore D.A.R.E., as with CounterAct, cannot be expected to reach gang-related, or at risk, youth.

## **G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education & Training)<sup>9</sup>**

Many of the school districts surveyed for the NWGA, reported the use of the G.R.E.A.T. program in the Middle Schools.

Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) is a gang prevention program that is presented to classrooms of middle school students. Unlike other prevention programs, the G.R.E.A.T. program is not directed at active gang members or “at-risk,” youth. The objectives of the G.R.E.A.T. program are to reduce delinquent behavior and involvement in gangs, teach the consequences of gang involvement, and help develop positive relations with law enforcement. G.R.E.A.T. consists of a nine-hour program taught within the schools by uniformed law enforcement officers. The students are taught to set positive goals, resist negative pressures, resolve conflicts, and understand how gangs impact the quality of their lives.

Studies on the effectiveness of the G.R.E.A.T. program concluded that G.R.E.A.T. has achieved modest positive results. Results indicate that G.R.E.A.T. was able to successfully change several risk factors (peer group associations and attitudes about gangs, law enforcement, and risk-seeking behaviors) associated with delinquency and gang membership. This resulted from a focus on encouragement of pro-social activities that led youth away from involvement with delinquent peers and toward involvement with peers who exhibit more socially acceptable behavior.

The study determined two of three program objectives were met: more favorable attitudes from students toward the police and greater awareness of the consequences of gang involvement (as indicated by more negative attitudes towards gangs). The third objective, reducing gang membership and delinquent behavior, was not met. However, when viewing the results of the program in the context of a risk-focused delinquency prevention approach, future negative behaviors may become more preventable. This program can help to identify risk factors for crime and violence, and prevention strategies can be developed to focus on these common risk factors.

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<sup>9</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.. *Evaluating G.R.E.A.T.: A School-Based Gang Prevention Program*. June, 2004.



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Furthermore, parent and educators reported a positive attitude toward the G.R.E.A.T. program. Most parents believed that uniformed officers should be placed in the school and make good instructors. Most educators believed the curriculum was age-appropriate and helped to address problems faced by the middle school students. Officers administering the G.R.E.A.T. curriculum expressed overwhelming support for the program, stating that it improved relationships within the school and community.

The conclusion of the study was that although G.R.E.A.T. offered benefits by discovering certain risk factors and establishing relationships with law enforcement, the nine-hour program alone will not keep children out of gangs or reduce delinquent behavior. It would therefore be in the best interest of the community to not only continue, or establish, the G.R.E.A.T. program in the schools, but also to establish other prevention programs that would better reduce the involvement in gangs and delinquent behavior.

## **Gang Prevention and Gang Intervention Through Targeted Outreach Program<sup>10</sup>**

Gang Prevention Through Targeted Outreach (GPTTO), designed to help youth stay out of the gang lifestyle, and Gang Intervention Through Targeted Outreach (GITTO), designed to help troubled youth leave the gang lifestyle, are two initiatives designed by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA). GPTTO and GITTO are comprised of four components:

- Community mobilization of resources.
- Recruitment, usually fifty youth at risk of gang involvement (GPTTO) or thirty-five youth already involved in gangs (GITTO), through outreach and referrals.
- Programming & mainstreaming of youth into the BGCA to help promote positive development with interest-based programs aimed at their specific needs.

<sup>10</sup> Arbreton, A.J. & McClanahan W.S.. *Targeted Outreach: Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Approach to Gang Prevention and Intervention* Retrieved September 2, 2008, from [http://www.ppv.org/ppv/publications/assets/148\\_publication.pdf](http://www.ppv.org/ppv/publications/assets/148_publication.pdf)



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- Providing individualized case management across four areas (law enforcement/juvenile justice, school, family, and Club) on target youth to help decrease gang-related behaviors and contact with the juvenile justice system, and increase the likelihood they will attend school and show improved academic success.

Implementation strategies, as well as participating organizations, differ for the GPTTO and GITTO. Nonetheless, BGCA staff members are dedicated to recruiting hard-to-reach youth, especially those not involved in after-school activities and who would not join the Club without some encouragement. GPTTO recruits youth into the local BGCA to participate in all aspects of programming. GITTO recruits youth to participate in a project that is staffed by BGCA, but is run separately (either after typical Club hours or on a more one-on-one, case management basis) from daily Club activities.

There are many similarities among the Clubs and implementation of GPTTO and GITTO. However, each Club focuses its program on the gang problem, resources, and infrastructure of the specific community (what population to serve, the community agencies with which to collaborate, and the programming to be offered.).

An evaluation of the of the program's effectiveness determined that both GPTTO and GITTO reached youth (particularly older and higher-risk youth who rarely participate in youth organizations) who may not have made it to the Club by themselves. It also found that the programs kept youth engaged for at least twelve months, and with high attendance rates. The target youth also reported a perceived sense of belonging from the Club.

More frequent GPTTO attendance was associated with positive outcomes, such as less likelihood to wear gang colors, less contact with the juvenile justice system, fewer delinquent behaviors, improved school performance, and more positive social relationships. More frequent GITTO attendance was associated with a disengagement from gang-associated behaviors and peers, less contact with the juvenile justice system, and more positive school engagement.

Overall, findings determined that the accomplishments of GITTO and GPTTO were particularly impressive. This, combined with the fact that the costs of implementing GPTTO and GITTO are relatively low, shows support for the implementation of these initiatives.



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In Northeastern Wisconsin, the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley reported the use of the GITTO and GPTTO. The director of the program has a forty-two member caseload of youth who have been referred by the Appleton Area School District as being gang involved, or at a high risk of becoming gang involved. The program is designed to meet with the youth at least three times per week and provide them with positive activities and the support they need to be successful. The Boys and Girls Club of the Fox Valley works with several community partners to provide support to the target youth, including the Appleton Area School District, College Readiness 21 Program, local social workers, and the local police department. The Boys and Girls Club of the Fox Valley believes it has implemented a strong gang prevention and intervention program, and needs only sufficient funding to continue growing the successful program.

## **Fox Valley Gang Task Force**

The Fox Valley Gang Task Force includes members of law enforcement, probation and parole, corrections, and community counselors. The task force currently has over fifty members meeting once a month to share gang information. The meetings allow the discussion of active gangs, and recent developments, throughout Northeast Wisconsin. Many times information on specific gangs and gang members will be disseminated. Special meetings can also be scheduled in the event a problem arises. The task force itself is an extremely important aspect of gang prevention and intervention. However, the Fox Valley Gang Task Force has not yet created a central intelligence sharing database, nor has it consolidated or combined each department's respective information, which could be extremely useful to the gang initiative. Also, involvement by law enforcement agencies in Brown and Sheboygan County might also increase the effectiveness of the task force.

## **IDEAS FOR PREVENTION/INTERVENTION**

Many prevention and intervention programs were suggested by the participating agencies. Most important to all agencies was the implementation of a database that stretched at least as wide as Northeastern Wisconsin, if not the entire state. The effectiveness of intelligence-sharing is believed to increase significantly if all agencies report into the same database, using the same criteria. The Wisconsin Intelligence Network provide by the Division of Criminal Investigation is an excellent resource to be tapped into.



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Another prevention/intervention program can be derived from the OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model, which offers a system that incorporates various organizations, including police, school districts, religious, community members, and community organizations, to address and suppress the gang activity in a given area.

Other programs, such as Lose the Tattoos and the Gang/Crime Diversion Task Force offer examples on how to specifically address gang-involved, or high risk, youth.

## Regional/Statewide Database

All of the law enforcement agencies surveyed in the NWGA reported a need for a regional or statewide database to share information on gangs. The database should include detailed information such as related telephone numbers, addresses, vehicles, associates, aliases, tattoos, and any other useful information. The database should have the ability to incorporate various types of media (images, audio, and video), and transfer information from any pre-existing database to the statewide database easily. Every agency should follow the same criteria to identify the members entered into the database, and the database should be accessible by officers on patrol. Cooperation with corrections, especially probation and parole, is also extremely important.

The Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) offers a intelligence database maintained by the Wisconsin Statewide Information Center (WSIC). This database is referred to as Wisconsin Intelligence Network, or WIN. WIN facilitates the sharing of intelligence among law enforcement agencies throughout the state. It provides a secure, web-based (accessed through Wilenet.org) searchable database of significant criminal intelligence information. WIN is available to all law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin at no cost. It is 28 CFR part 23 compliant, and information can be forwarded to MOCIC for regional and national criminal intelligence sharing.

The DCI has already begun the initiative to incorporate all interested law enforcement agencies within Northeast Wisconsin, and the state, into WIN. A separate gang module is being created which will help facilitate the process of entering gang intelligence. The information in the case management system used by DCI and other law enforcement agencies, ACISS, will have import functionality into WIN to allow for completeness.



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## OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model<sup>11</sup>

According to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), an ideal Comprehensive Community-Wide Gang Program Model should undertake several action steps. First, the community must recognize the presence of a gang problem and organize effectively to combat this problem. Goals and objectives must be developed that incorporate both short-term suppression and outreach services for targeted youth, and long-term services, such as remedial education, training, and job placement. The community must also systematically articulate and implement rationale for these services in order to demonstrate why the programming is relevant.

Development of a variety of specific education, training, and employment programs targeting gang-involved youth is important. In order to help facilitate this model, the OJJDP breaks it down into five strategies, community mobilization, opportunities provision, social intervention, suppression, and organizational change and development.

### *Community Mobilization*

The community must also be able to coordinate and mobilize in order to provide the most promising way to deal with the gang problem. To help facilitate community mobilization, a steering committee should be created and used to initiate the project by involving representatives of key organizations and the community. Ideally, this group oversees an assessment of the local gang problem and, using data obtained through the assessment, develops strategies to combat it.

The OJJDP has found that the effectiveness of the steering committee is crucial to the success of the community implementing the comprehensive approach. The committee should include well-respected leaders who have a reputation for problem-solving and objectivity. At minimum, the committee should include representation from each of the following groups:

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<sup>11</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.. *Best Practices to Address Community Gang Problems*.



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- Law Enforcement
- Corrections
- Probation & Parole (both juvenile and adult)
- Schools
- Social Services Agencies
- Local Units of Government
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Religious Institutions
- Employment Programs
- Community Residents

The steering committee must guide the project by responding to barriers of implementation, developing sound policy, lending support where appropriate, and taking general ownership of the community-wide response. The steering committee must also create and maintain interagency and community relationships that facilitate program development. Steering committees have been found most effective when implementing a formal structure, such as the adoption of bylaws describing how the committee should function. Furthermore, execution of memorandums of understanding (MOUs) among key agencies helps to commit these agencies to the program.

A lead agency, or agencies, should be chosen to provide a secure location to house client intake information, consent forms, and intervention plans, track the activities of the partnering agencies, coordinate the activities and meetings of the intervention team and steering committee, provide an administrative framework for hiring staff (if necessary), and administer funds and grant contracts as directed by the steering committee. The lead agency should assist in the implementation of the program, but should not take control of it.



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A gang coordinator, or program director, may also be selected. This individual should act as an intermediary between agencies, resolving difference of opinions during meetings, and effectively address potentially inflammatory and emotional topics. The program director should understand the risk factors leading to gang involvement, local gang activities and gang research, community dynamics and history, and prevention/intervention/suppression strategies, as well as possess the ability to supervise, engage, and motivate staff from a variety of agencies and racial/cultural/economic backgrounds.

## *Opportunities Provision*

The development of a variety of specific education training, and employment programs, targeting gang-involved youth must be implemented. Staff members must be aware that youth gang intervention and control efforts require a thorough understanding of the complexity of gang activity in the context of local community life. Staff training should include prevention, intervention, and suppression in gang problem localities.

To properly carry out this task, OJJDP recommends that an assessment of the gang problem be conducted. This assessment will help determine the types and levels of gang activity, gang crime patterns, community perceptions, and service gaps. The assessment can also assist steering committees in identifying target populations to be served, understanding why those populations merited attention, and making the best use of available resources.

The OJJDP recommends that the assessment investigate the underlying demographic factors that affect local gang problems, measure the extent of gang activity in schools, include qualitative educational factors affecting local youth, survey residents and youth about perceptions of gangs, and inventory community resources to address gangs. The assessment should determine the types of gang-related crime, the patterns of change in gang incident rates, the locations of gang crime, the increases/decreases in numbers of gangs and gang members, the level of citizen concern about gang activity, gang-related activity in school, and the changes in community demographics.

## *Social Intervention*

Third, social intervention can help facilitate change. Social intervention works by involving youth-serving agencies, schools, grassroots groups, faith-based organizations, police, and other juvenile/criminal justice



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organizations in “reaching-out” to gang-involved youth, and their families, linking them with the conventional world. Social intervention is directed individual youth rather than to the gang as a unit. These youth (and their families) are provided with a variety of services that help them adopt pro-social values and to access services that will meet their social, educational, and vocational needs. Mental health services should be a critical service available to these youth.

Street outreach activities should ensure safety while linking youth to educational preparation, prevocational or vocational training, job development, job referral, parent training, mentoring, family counseling, drug treatment, tattoo removal, and other services in appropriate ways. Outreach activities such as recreation and the arts can be used as a means to establish interpersonal relationships, develop trust, and provide access to opportunities and other essential resources. In-school and after-school prevention and education programs, such as G.R.E.A.T., should also be offered within the target areas.

## *Suppression*

Youth that have been identified as gang-involved must be held accountable for their criminal acts, and must also be provided an opportunity to change or control their behavior. Suppression of this behavior can be achieved through formal and informal control procedures, including close supervision and monitoring by agencies of the juvenile/criminal justice system and also by community-based agencies, schools, and grassroots groups.

## *Organizational Change and Development*

Research and evaluation must be conducted to determine what is most effective for the specific area, and funding priorities must be determined based on available research, theory, and experience. As a general rule, community mobilization strategies and programs should be accorded the highest funding priority.

The organization of the program itself may need to evolve in order to implement the policy and procedures that result in the most effective use of available and potential resources, within and across agencies, to better address



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the gang problem. Each program, agency, or community representative on the steering committee ensures that its internal units are cooperating with and supporting the work of the program.

A case management system, and associated data system, should be established so that contacts and services by all members of the intervention team can be monitored for purposes of effective targeting, tracking youth entry into and exit from the program, and measuring outcomes at individual and program levels.

The OJJDP offers five steps to properly implementing the five aforementioned strategies: 1) the community and its leaders must acknowledge the youth gang problem, 2) an assessment of the nature and scope of the youth gang problem, leading to the identification of a target community, or communities, and population(s), 3) through a steering committee, the community and its leaders set goals and objectives to address the identified problem(s), 4) the steering committee makes available relevant programs, strategies, services, tactics, and procedures consistent with the Model's five core strategies, and 5) the steering committee evaluates the effectiveness of the response to the gang problem, reassesses the problem, and modifies approaches, as needed.

One implementation of the Comprehensive Gang Model, the Gang Reduction Program (GRP), sees gangs as the result of system failures and community dysfunction. In addition to reducing gang violence, the goal of the GRP is to determine the necessary practices to create a community environment that helps reduce youth gang crime and violence in targeted neighborhoods. In order to achieve the goals, the GRP has communities take an integrated approach when targeting gangs. These approaches include:

- Primary prevention, which targets the entire population in high-crime and high-risk communities. The key component is a One-Stop Resource Center that makes services accessible and visible to members of the community. Services include prenatal and infant care, after-school activities, truancy and dropout prevention, and job programs.
- Secondary Prevention, which identifies young children (ages 7 – 14) at high risk and, drawing on the resources of schools, community-based organizations, and faith-based groups, intervenes with appropriate services before early problem behaviors turn into serious delinquency and gang involvement.



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- Intervention, which targets active gang members and associates, and involves aggressive outreach and recruitment activities. Support services for gang-involved youth, and their families, help youth make positive choices.
- Suppression, which focuses on identifying the most dangerous and influential gang members and removing them from the community.
- Reentry, which targets serious offenders who are returning to the community after confinement and provides appropriate services and monitoring. Of particular interest, are displaced gang members who may cause conflict by attempting to reassert their former gang roles.

The program attempts to identify needs at the individual, family, and community levels, and address those needs in a coordinated and comprehensive response. It also requires that an inventory of human and financial resources in the community be conducted.

The GRP attempts to apply the best research-based programs across appropriate age ranges, risk categories, and agency boundaries, and encourages coordination and integration in two directions: vertically (local, State, and Federal agencies) and horizontally (across communities and program types).

The Gang Reduction Program (GRP) was implemented in four locations across the country. Of particular interest, is the program conducted in Milwaukee. In 2004, the Milwaukee Gang Reduction Program was launched in the economically-depressed neighborhoods of Metcalfe Park, Midtown, and Amani. The project incorporated many prevention activities, such as financial and vocational training, truancy intervention, parent support, tattoo removal, access to health care (including mental health services), and an afterschool career development program. The GRP in Milwaukee incorporated a targeted suppression team, a multidisciplinary intervention team, and a one stop community resource center.

The suppression team was charge with prosecuting the gang leaders, those individuals who are considered habitually violent people. Agencies involved included the City Attorney's Office, U.S. Attorney's Office, District Attorney's Office, Milwaukee Police Department Gang Unit, Juvenile Parole Officer, Sheriff's Department GRIP Unit, Adult



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Probation/Parole Officer, Anti-Gang Unit Squads, Nuisance/Graffiti Squads, District Police Officers, and HIDTA. The suppression activities were coordinated and tracked through a community prosecutor with the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office and the Milwaukee Police Department officers assigned to the project.

The multidisciplinary team focused on intervention and attempted to help gang re-enter the community, connecting them with pro-social, positive influences. The intervention team included a team coordinator, case manager, street outreach worker, juvenile parole officer, job coach, adult probation/parole officer, school liaison officer, juvenile probation officer, district police officer, and child welfare worker. The intervention and re-entry activities were centered on a multidisciplinary team approach to case management for gang members. Street outreach was provided to recruit and support youth assigned to the team.

Finally, the one stop community resource center was focused on primary and secondary prevention, targeting at-risk youth and families. The resource center provided prenatal & infancy support, vocational training, truancy & dropout prevention, youth employment, job readiness training, mentoring & tutoring, life skills training, healthcare access, community engagement, and after-school & school-based programs. The GRP also incorporated memorandums of understanding between agencies, a common database, and regular meetings to maintain focus.

The GRP in Milwaukee can be used as a guideline for implementation within Northeast Wisconsin. Suppression, intervention, and prevention programs can be created and tailored to best fit the specific needs of the region. The NWGA provides key areas that could be targeted for implementation of OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model.

## **Lose the Tattoos - Tattoo Removal<sup>12</sup>**

Lose the Tattoos is a non profit 501 (c) 3 foundation which raises funds to provide free tattoo removal services to "at-risk" youth in exchange for community sources. The foundation works in conjunction with the Boys and Girls Club in Milwaukee, and offers a community-based program that removes unwanted negative, gang-related tattoos in exchange for

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<sup>12</sup> Lose the Tattoos. Retrieved, October 1, 2008, from: [Http://www.losethetattoos.org](http://www.losethetattoos.org)



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twenty to forty hours of community service. The program is restricted to individuals eighteen and under, but discount treatments for older clients may be provided.

The individual wishing to have the tattoo removed must demonstrate his or her desire to be removed from the gang culture. The foundation is based in Milwaukee, but will accept applicants from all over the state, including Northeast Wisconsin. The tattoo removal process is safe, effective, and results in no scarring. Usually treatments are done four or five times a year.

The interested individual can access [www.losethetattoos.org](http://www.losethetattoos.org) and fill out a pledge form, or contact someone directly at Lose the Tattoos, or the Boys and Girls Club of Milwaukee. A counselor will then contact this juvenile and determine how dedicated the child is to changing. If accepted into the program, the tattoos are removed, free of charge, in exchange for community service. The removal of the gang-related tattoos may help to avoid judgment and gang association, in the attempt to start a new, gang-free life.

## **Example of Prevention: Gang/Crime Diversion Task Force in Racine, WI<sup>13</sup>**

The Gang/Crime Diversion Task Force (G/CDTF) is a federal grant funded program offered by SAFE Haven of Racine, Inc in cooperation with the Racine Police Department Community Oriented Policing. The twelve-week program is free of charge, and offers a candid approach to the harsh realities of involvement in street gangs and crime. SAFE Haven's involvement with G/CDTF brings a client-centered perspective and a philosophy of self-determination. The program talks, and listens, to youth at their level, showing them alternatives and helping them set and achieve their goals. Youth between the ages of eight and seventeen are eligible for the G/CDTF program. The G/CDTF encourages youth to: 1) Take charge of their lives, 2) Be responsible for their actions, 3) Make intelligent decisions, 4) Focus on skills and abilities, 5) Find friends who are positive influences, 6) Learn where and how to get help in the community, 7) Understand their rights and responsibilities, 8) Learn problem solving methods, and 9) Plan for the future. Many of the youth enrolled in the program are court-appointed, but volunteer enrollment is encouraged as well.

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<sup>13</sup> Safe Haven of Racine, Inc. *Gang/Crime Diversion Task Force (G/CDTF)*. Retrieved, October 1, 2008 from: <http://www.safehavenofracine.org/GangCrime.htm>



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Though the G/CDTF program services only those youth in the Racine area, it can be used as a guideline for similar implementation in Northeast Wisconsin. Furthermore, the G/CDTF offers speakers who travel statewide, providing community education, upon request.



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