

2009 Report on the Status of Gangs
18th Annual Gang Report



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Regional Gang Unit History

After a formal Memo of Understanding was executed in 2001, partnering the Reno Police Department, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, the Sparks Police Department, and the Washoe County School District Police Department (WCSD), gang suppression and intelligence gathering took on a regional approach. The Regional Gang Unit (R.G.U.) is comprised of men and women from these agencies who wear the Regional Gang Unit patch on their uniforms with pride. The Regional Gang Unit also has two full-time gang detectives and one full-time graffiti investigator. The unit is supervised by one Lieutenant and two Sergeants. The unit is broken up into two teams that work opposite days off, giving the region seven day per week coverage with one common day when both halves of the unit work and train together.

An additional benefit of having officers in the Regional Gang Unit cross-deputized is the ability for officers to travel throughout the county to gather the best possible intelligence of criminal gang activities wherever they occur.

School safety is a top priority for the Regional Gang Unit. The Regional Gang Unit is able to adjust the number of officers monitoring school gang activity based on the intelligence gathered by the WCSD gang officers. If the WCSD gang officers develop information about possible incidents on school campuses, near schools, or after school, the unit has the ability to mobilize additional gang unit officers to address the problem.

The Graffiti Detectives position was added to the Reno Police Department and assigned to the Regional Unit by the Reno City Council in 2004. At this time, this detective is the only full-time graffiti vandalism investigator in the region. We are currently working with other agencies in the region to assist in the development of their graffiti investigations and intelligence gathering of graffiti vandals.

In 2009, the City of Sparks, Washoe County, Nevada Department of Transportation, and the City of Reno ended our use of the Graffiti Tracker system. Working with the City of Reno's IT department, the group is now utilizing a new program, GET FIT (Graffiti Enforcement Team Fast Issue Tracking), at a substantially less cost with better service. Each agency saved over \$8,000 in the switch.

The Regional Gang Unit continues to develop working relationships with other State and Federal agencies within the region and has provided training in the area of gang crime investigations. Some of these agencies include the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Carson City Sheriff's Office. In the past year, the Regional Gang Unit has also collaborated with the California Department of Justice. This collaboration has resulted in the seizure of over assault rifles and several other weapons possessed illegally by gang members and non-gang members in Washoe County, Carson City, and the State of California.

Another priority of the R.G.U. is to provide gang awareness education to members of our community. Gang awareness education is a method used to decrease the percentage of at-risk youth who join criminal gangs. The training is for parents of at-risk youths, teachers who work with at-risk youths, and at-risk youths themselves. The Regional Gang Unit also provides gang awareness training to area businesses which attract youths. Early intervention is an effective tool in deterring youth from entering the gang life style. The importance of gang awareness education is to provide a foundation of knowledge from which the participants can make decisions affecting their situations.

The Regional Gang Unit also provides law enforcement-focused gang training throughout Washoe County and adjacent counties. Current gang trends and criminal activities are shared during this training. We also provide these agencies with daily gang logs which outline our daily observations and activities. In January of 2009, the RGU formed a monthly Gang Intelligence meeting where officers from various agencies and programs get together to share vital gang related information from the area. These monthly intelligence meetings have proven to be very beneficial for all of the agencies that participate.

Criminal gangs and gang members are always in a state of flux; constantly changing their patterns of criminal behavior. Accordingly, members of the Regional Gang Unit are continually seeking out training and researching the most current gang trends. These trends are most evident in larger communities and take time to develop in the smaller communities. By studying large communities and their gang trends, the Regional Gang Unit endeavors to improve its intelligence gathering abilities and, consequently, crime prevention. This research also gives the Regional Gang Unit the ability to project what the gang culture in the region may look like in three to five years.

Regionally, we are looking more closely at early intervention, prevention, and diversion. We have partnered with such organizations as the Boys and Girls Club, Juvenile Services, and the Children's Cabinet. We have increased the number of juvenile and family referrals to these organizations in order to enhance diversion, prevention, and intervention in the home. Our officers are going into more homes to conduct more parental contacts. They are armed with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) information pamphlets and resource information from our listed partners. We have also placed the OJJDP pamphlet on the City of Reno's web page for easy access, in both English and Spanish. The Regional Gang Unit has also facilitated the development of an anti-violence public service announcement (PSA). We partnered with community leaders, a faith-based group, the Project Coordinator for JDAI (Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative) and local students to complete this project.

Gang Definitions

Definitions

In order to accurately assess gang activity and membership the Regional Gang Unit has adopted the following definitions based on nationally recognized criteria and Nevada Revised Statutes.

Gang Related Activity

“Any delinquent act or public offense punishable as a felony, gross misdemeanor, or misdemeanor, which is committed for the benefit of, at the direction of, in furtherance of, or demonstrates a nexus to any criminal gang. A child commits a delinquent act if he/she commits an act defined as a crime under the laws of the State of Nevada except murder or attempted murder, or violates a county or municipal or any rule or regulation having the force of law.”

Gang

Any combination of persons organized formally or informally that has a common name or symbol, engage in a pattern of delinquent behavior or criminal activity, and associate together on a regular basis, or claim affiliation with a known gang.

Gang Members – Persons who meet any of the following criteria:

- When an individual admits to membership in a gang and there exists reason to believe that this information is accurate.
- When a reliable informant identifies an individual as a criminal gang member. A reliable informant is an individual whose reliability has been previously tested successfully or a private person who is innocent of criminal involvement volunteers this information freely, openly, and does not demonstrate an alternative motive.
- When an informant of previously untested reliability identifies an individual as a criminal gang member and the information he/she provides is corroborated by independent information.
- When an individual has been arrested for an offense which is consistent with criminal gang activity and there is corroborating evidence of ongoing criminal gang-related activity.
- When an individual has a criminal record which tends to establish a pattern of gang activity.
- Information from a jail or prison facility where the subject admits to membership in or association with a gang, and the information have been confirmed.

Gang Associates - Persons who meet any of the following criteria:

- Any person who individually or as part of a collective group has engaged in gang activity but is not a confirmed member of a criminal gang.
- Any person who claims association with gang members or other gang associates.
- When an individual displays commonly recognized indicators of gang membership or association but has not been formally indoctrinated into the gang.

Intelligence Records

The Regional Gang Unit will collect, receive, maintain, file, and, as appropriate, corroborate and disseminate information pertaining to criminal gang activity. Gang intelligence information will be kept separate from other law enforcement records. Gang intelligence information will be collected, retained and distributed only as provided for by the Federal Right to Privacy Act, Nevada Revised Statutes, other applicable laws and statutes and court orders. Gang intelligence information may be disseminated by the Regional Gang Unit to criminal justice agencies. Intelligence information received from another criminal justice agency will not be disseminated without the specific authorization of the agency from whom the information was obtained.

Gang Unit Functions

Over the past few years the Regional Gang Unit has developed and adapted fundamental principles used to manage gangs, gang members, and their associates in the region. These principles are intelligence gathering, suppression, apprehension, prosecution, prevention, and education. As stated, we have continually developed our partnerships with area organizations that specialize in intervention, prevention, and diversion.

Intelligence Gathering

Gang Intelligence is the primary focus of the unit. The ability to identify gang members who are involved in crimes, combined with successful apprehension and prosecution is paramount to controlling gang behavior and deterring criminal activity. Intelligence gathering is also how officers of the unit project possible gang activity and identify at-risk youth for placement into diversion programs.

Intelligence gathering is obtained by conducting plain clothes surveillance and debriefing confidential informants, victims, suspects, and gang members. Juvenile and Adult Parole and Probation, and the Nevada Department of Corrections personnel also provide additional sources of intelligence information. This intelligence may indicate which gang, or gang members, is involved in crimes or who will be involved in crimes, and is used to determine if a gang member or a specific gang needs to be the focus of suppression efforts.

Each Gang Unit Officer is assigned one or more specific gangs and is expected to become an expert on their assigned gangs. The officers are expected to keep current on the criminal activities their gang may be involved in and pass along this information to regional law enforcement agencies. Each officer has the ability to mobilize the unit in order to suppress criminal activity or to prevent acts of violence within the community.

Gang intelligence information obtained is secured and maintained until such time an agency or law enforcement personnel establishes a right and need to know the information. The unit follows strict guidelines when it comes to providing intelligence information about both juvenile and adult gang members and is 28 CFR compliant. In March of 2009, RGU went from a 3 to 5 year purge of intelligence information to comply

with new 28 CFR regulations. This will have an effect on gang statistics in 2009 and following years as gang members will stay in the system longer.

Gang Suppression

The theory behind gang suppression is to overwhelm the aggressive behavior of the targeted gang and/or gang member. The officers alter their tactics and modes to change the environment for gang members and may resort to plainclothes operations; mobile surveillance, video surveillance, stationary surveillance, and strong enforcement to cause gang members resist the temptation to commit crimes or acts of violence without consequences. Along with the utilization of these suppression theories, the Unit works with the District Attorney's Office and the City Attorney's Office to develop viable cases for prosecution. By incarcerating gang members that commit crimes, it impresses upon the gang subculture that the police and the justice system will do their job and the community will not tolerate violent gang behavior.

When the Regional Gang Unit does not prevent violence, or cause violent gang activity to cease, the potential for recurring violence increases thereby placing the community at higher risk. Over the years the Regional Gang Unit has learned that the most critical time after a violent gang-on-gang crime is within 24 to 48 hours. This is when emotions are high and violent retaliation may occur. By suppressing both the victim and offending gangs involved in the incident, the Regional Gang Unit sends a message to all gangs that violent criminal behavior and retaliation will not be tolerated.

Gang Diversion

Some youths like to associate with known gangs because they find the gang life style attractive or they desire a sense of belonging. When members of the Regional Gang Unit come into contact with these types of youth, they do not document them in our intelligence system. In stead, they take some type of alternative action. This action can include a referral to one of the diversion programs, or taking the individual home to make a personal contact with his or her parent(s). During this contact, the parents are given additional information regarding gang membership, gang association and community resources available.

The characteristics of local gang members are changing. Rarely do the officers of the unit come in contact with juveniles who want to just hang around gangs. Most youths will claim some association or membership in the gang. When a juvenile is contacted and is documented as a gang member or an associate of a gang, the unit sends a letter home to inform the parents that their youth was contacted by the Regional Gang Unit and is being considered for entry into our gang intelligence files. Parents are also provided several phone numbers to call if they want more information or assistance with their youth. The unit may also refer youths to the Jan Evans Juvenile Services facility, the Boys and Girls Club, or other community resources. Parents are also advised they have the ability to challenge their juvenile's placement into the gang files. They are afforded an opportunity to meet with the interviewing officer and his or her supervisor. During this meeting it is decided if the juvenile will be placed in our intelligence system or, as an alternative if a

contract can be agreed upon wherein the juvenile agrees to refrain from associating with gangs and to continue their education or some type of gainful employment.

The Regional Gang Unit continues its efforts to divert youths away from gangs and gang membership. In 2009, the Unit continues to develop resources and present them to parents. Members of the Regional Gang Unit hope that with proper education, parents will be empowered to keep their children away from the gang lifestyle.

Gang Investigations

The detectives and officers in the R.G.U. are called upon to assist in any case involving gang members. They are the primary investigators on all cases except for homicides and sexual assaults. The R.G.U. provides services to other law enforcement agencies involved in the partnership. Regional Gang Unit detectives are also instrumental in developing and providing gang training to other agencies and civic groups in the region.

The Regional Gang Unit also assists the District Attorney's Office with witness and victim location for trial, serving subpoenas, transporting victims and witnesses to court, and providing expert testimony in gang-enhancement cases. They prepare gang cases for prosecution and assist both juvenile and adult courts by providing expert testimony during court proceedings on local gangs and gang members.

In 2009, the Regional Gang Unit began preparing case files on the most active, violent gang members to assist in prosecutions. These files are also made available to the appropriate probation departments for use in their data collection for PSI reports.

2009 GANG CRIME STATISTICS/MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

The following is a summary of gang crime and gang membership for the year 2009. Detailed information and supporting graphs about gang crime and membership are included. RGU began tracking gang crime countywide beginning January of 2005, previous numbers were for the City of Reno only.

Felony Gang Crime and Misdemeanor Gang Crime show the following changes from 2008 to 2009:

- Reported Felony Gang Crime in 2008 was 159 total incidents. Reported Felony Gang Crime in 2009 was 184 total incidents.
- Reported Misdemeanor Crime (not including graffiti) in 2008 was 460 incidents. Reported Misdemeanor Crime (not including graffiti) in 2009 was 483 incidents.
- Arrest of gang members in 2008 was 639. Arrest of gang members in 2009 was 706.

Weapons:

- Shots-fired calls were reported as 1827 for the year 2008. Shots-fired calls were reported as 1602 for the year 2009. (This statistic is not only attributed to gang-related events.)
- Gang-related incidents involving guns or dangerous weapons have increased from 2008 to 2009. In 2008 there were 25 incidents, in 2009 there were 30.
- In 2008, RGU seized 2 handguns from gang members. In 2009, the Regional Gang Unit stepped up our focus on getting guns out of gang members' hands and

as a result 26 guns were seized from gang members (this # only represents those seizures made by the Regional Gang Unit).

GANG MEMBERSHIP

Membership Type	Dec 05	Dec 06	Dec 07	Dec 08	Dec 09	Change 08-09
Members	840	750	797	1113	1304	+17.16%
Associates	628	750	907	751	776	+3.33%
Total	1468	1500	1704	1864	2080	+11.59%

Gang Membership shows the following trends:

- Gang membership has increased 11.59% since 2008.
- Membership has increased in most categories:
 - Adult membership increased 14.58 (1324 in 2008 to 1517 in 2009)
 - Juvenile membership increased 4.26 % (540 in 2008 to 563 in 2009)
 - Male membership increased 12.68% (1704 in 2008 to 1920 in 2009)
 - Female membership stayed the same (160 in 2008 to 160 in 2009)
 - White membership increased 1.04% (289 in 2007 to 292 in 2008)
 - Black membership increased 2.33% (43 in 2008 to 44 in 2009)
 - Hispanic membership increased 11.25% (1414 in 2008 to 1573 in 2009)
 - American Indian membership decreased 1.72% (58 in 2008 to 57 in 2009)
 - Asian membership increased 25% (8 in 2008 to 10 in 2009)

NOTE: Increases and decreases in membership alone are not accurate predictors of future gang violence. Increases may be due to increase in police activity, increase and/or better police interviews/identifications, extension of 28 CFR purge regulations, combining of tagger crews into gangs, inception of new gangs, change in legislation, etc. Decreases may also be attributed to increase in gang members not openly claiming association, movement of gang members to outlying areas, lack of contact with police, change in legislation, etc. There is neither one predictor nor one accurate method of predicting future gang violence. Also, it is not the goal of the police to eliminate gangs. Belonging to a gang in and of itself is not a crime and research shows that not all gang members commit crimes.

Demographics of Gangs-2009

- Male members/associates – 92%
- Female members/associates – 8%
- Adult members/associates – 73%
- Juvenile members/associates – 27%
- White members/associates – 16%
- Black members/associates – 2%
- Hispanic members/associates – 76%
- American Indian members/associates 3%
- Asian members/associates - .5%
- Pacific Islander members/associates - 1%

Male Gang Members: Male gang members represent the primary structure of the gang. They provide the leadership and the discipline within the gang.

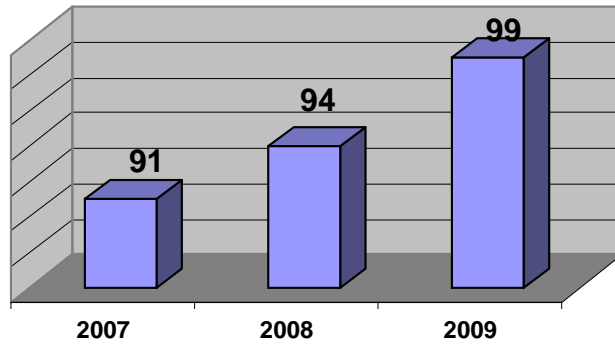
Female Gang Members: Females in a gang usually play a secondary role to their male counterparts. A female will often be a member or be associated with a certain gang based only on the fact that she is dating a male gang member. Recently, females have been taking a more active role in gang activities than in the past.

Synopsis: Overall, male gang members represent 92% of all gang members, while only 8% are female. 73 % of all gang members are adult, whereas 27% are juvenile.

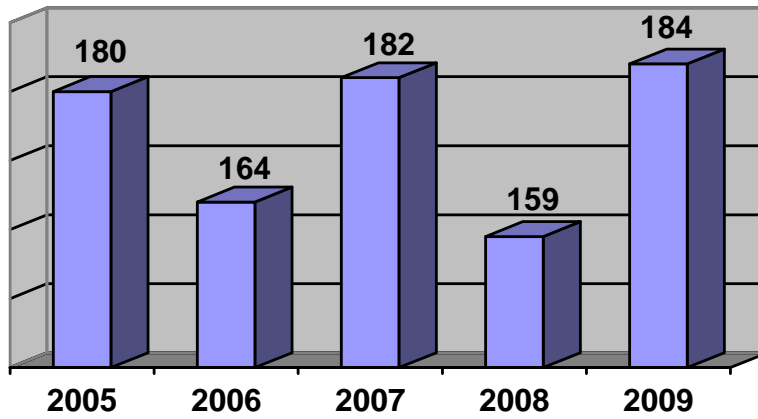
GANG-RELATED FELONY CRIME DURING 2009

In October, 1991, the Reno Police Department developed an automated database to track gang-related incidents. Records of incidents ranging from graffiti to homicides are tracked. Overall, reported gang crime accounts for a small portion of total crime (violent and non-violent). In 2009, 15,253 UCR-classified Part I felony crimes were reported in Washoe County, reflecting a decrease of 14.578% from 2008. Gang-related UCR crime saw a 5% increase. UCR-classified Part I felony crimes include: Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Assault/Battery, Burglary (non-vehicle), Larceny (non-GTA) and Arson. All gang-related felony crime, which includes more crime categories than UCR classified Part I felonies, also saw an increase; 15.72% increase from 2008 to 2009.

UCR Gang Related Crime



All Gang-Related Felony Crime



GANG-RELATED CRIME AND ACTIVITY

FELONY CRIME	2006 Countywide	2007 Countywide	2008 Countywide	2009 Countywide
HOMICIDE	1	0	4	3
ATTEMPTED HOMICIDE	0	1	1	2
SEXUAL ASSAULT	3	3	1	2
FELONY BATTERY	20	26	23	30
ROBBERY	4	14	13	17

ASSAULT with a DEADLY WEAPON	19	17	23	17
BURGLARY	21	22	28	21
NARCOTICS VIOLATIONS	35	36	21	28
CARRYING CONCEALED WEAPON	4	10	2	12
POSSESSION of STOLEN PROPERTY	13	15	15	13
GRAND LARCENY	2	3	20	6
DISCHARGE of a FIREARM	1	3	0	2
OTHER FELONY CRIME	41	32	26	31
TOTAL FELONY CRIME	164	182	159	184
MISDEMEANOR CRIME	2006 Countywide	2007 Countywide	2008 Countywide	2009 Countywide
BATTERY	40	33	30	36
LARCENY/PSP	4	1	17	14
BRANDISHING a FIREARM	1	0	0	0
FIGHT / AFFRAY	14	9	16	17
THREATS	0	6	3	1
GRAFFITI	6796	9966	13045	13228
OTHER MISDEMEANOR CRIME	356	429	364	391
TOTAL MISDEMEANOR CRIME	7237	10444	13505	13687
OTHER GANG ACTIVITY	2006 Countywide	2007 Countywide	2008 Countywide	2009 Countywide
DRIVE-BY SHOOTINGS	4	5	10	2
SHOTS FIRED CALLS	1621	1572	1827	1602
INCIDENTS WITH FIREARMS	21	30	13	17
INCIDENTS WITH OTHER WEAPONS	12	6	3	13
GANG MEMBERS ARRESTED	646	663	639	706

Data represents reported crime. Research shows a high percentage of gang crimes go unreported. In the case of "Shots fired calls", only one call is reported per incident even though several calls are often received.

GANG CRIME TRENDS

Gang vs. Gang

The Regional Gang Unit has investigated numerous cases in which gang members were involved in shootings directly related to local gang rivalries or territorial disputes. These shootings occurred in residential neighborhoods and in parking lots of stores, malls, and night clubs. In one incident, two rival gang members were murdered simply because they were caught crossing out another gang's graffiti. Previously, local gang

members were not involved in such acts of violence in public places; today the mentality of local gang members promotes violence any place, any time, and against anyone. The environment for local gang members has changed. A few years ago the worst incident a local gang member may be involved in was an altercation with a baseball bat or a knife. Today, local gang members have armed themselves with increasingly sophisticated weapons in an effort to surpass other criminal gangs' weaponry. Many of these weapons are obtained by gang members during residential and vehicle burglaries.

In a few cases, the victim was mistaken for a gang member; meaning that gang members are actively hunting for rivals and are looking for someone to victimize. A common phrase that precedes these acts of violence is, "Where you from?" This places many local youth, who are not involved in gangs at-risk of becoming victims of gang related violence, for no other reason than being in the wrong place at the wrong time or wearing the wrong color of clothing.

A recent phenomenon occurring in the region is taggers and party crews aligning themselves with gangs and gang members. We have experienced tag crews imitating gang behavior by committing violent crimes, shootings, beatings, and robberies, in order to promote their crews. This year the Regional Gang Unit has validated several new tag or party crews as criminal gangs. These groups are often referred to as "Tag Bangers".

Non-Traditional Gang Crime

A non-traditional gang crime describes criminal activity that local gang members have not previously participated in. Although many large cities have experienced gang members committing all types of crimes, locally our gang members are just beginning to branch out into other crimes. Residential Burglary and Home Invasions are two of those crimes. Historically, gang members were involved in vehicle burglary and petit larcenies, but are now beginning to see that residences hold more value. They also know that residential burglaries may lead them to weapons, jewelry, cash, and other items of value.

Narcotics Activity

The region, as a whole, has seen an increase in the use of controlled substances and the gang sub-culture is following the same pattern. According to a report from the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services Substance Abuse Prevention Treatment Agency (SAPTA), Nevada's youth 12-17 years of age has the 23rd highest reported use of any illicit drugs (11.27%) of the 50 states. According to this same study, Nevada youth 12 years of age and older have the number one highest ranking use of methamphetamine in the nation.

Gang officers routinely find narcotics and narcotics paraphernalia on gang members, develop information about gang members selling and or using narcotics, and find gang members under the influence of controlled substances. Illegal drugs are becoming dominant in the gang activity of the region as a source of recreation and also as a source of income.

GRAFFITI

There are three types of graffiti which have very different offenders and purposes:

Gang Graffiti:

Gang members commit graffiti primarily to place a claim on a given area “turf”, to issue threats or challenges toward rival gangs or law enforcement, and to promote their gang.

Tagger Graffiti:

Taggers (graffiti vandals) commit graffiti vandalism for their personal fame and that of their tag crew. Their purpose is to gain recognition among those who follow the tagger life style. It is very important for taggers to place their tags in as many places as possible so that it is highly visible. The more difficult to remove, the longer the graffiti will remain, giving the graffiti vandal the desired effect. Most taggers are adult males not affiliated with traditional gangs or gang activities. Groups of taggers, or “crews” as they are called, may be considered gangs by definition. The Regional Gang Unit maintains a database of graffiti vandalism. The unit also maintains intelligence files on graffiti vandals and crews using the same criterion as for gangs and gang membership. Once a graffiti vandal is identified the evidence is copied from this data base and criminal cases are completed for each victim. The cases are then forwarded to the City Attorney’s office or the Washoe County District Attorney for prosecution.

Party Crews:

The third type of graffiti is that placed by “Party Crews”. This style of graffiti is placed in similar fashion as the tagger style. This graffiti promotes the crew. Several Party Crews have morphed into criminal gangs for protection and due to more violent activities associated with their more active members.

City of Reno No-Tolerance Plan:

A community commitment of “no tolerance” for the crime of graffiti vandalism and those responsible for it is a key element of the anti-graffiti vandalism strategic plan that is being utilized to combat the crime of graffiti throughout the community.

The plan, developed by the Reno Police Department and approved by the Reno City Council in October 2005, has four major components: community education and engagement; enforcement and abatement; communications; and networking across boundaries with other entities. Each has numerous sub-activities designed to maximize use of existing resources and engage the community in fighting graffiti vandalism. The goals of the Reno Police Department’s anti-graffiti vandalism strategic plan are to prevent the crime of graffiti vandalism and to aggressively pursue, prosecute offenders and to seek restitution. The City of Reno also provides graffiti removal kits to area residents at no charge when possible.

Graffiti Abatement Unit:

Graffiti incidents have increased throughout Washoe County. Within the City of Reno for the period 2008 to 2009, the Graffiti Abatement Unit has removed over 12,297 graffiti markings. Graffiti removal by the Graffiti Abatement Team usually occurs within 24 to 48 hours of incidents being reported. Washoe County removed a little over 200 graffiti markings per year.

The damage incurred from graffiti vandalism is substantial. In 2009, the City of Reno spent \$323,044.00 in salaries and \$18,918.00 in supplies to abate graffiti on City and private property. In addition to the cost to repair the damage or to remove the graffiti, there is a loss to businesses, intimidation and fear for the citizens living in the area affecting their quality of life, and the general deterioration of the neighborhoods (urban blight). If graffiti is allowed to remain it invites other graffiti vandals to commit these crimes.

The City of Reno abatement unit employs two Maintenance One Workers, one full-time Community Service Officer and a full-time Graffiti Investigator. These personnel are responsible for the abatement of graffiti and the investigation of graffiti vandalism crimes within the City of Reno. Special equipment for the maintenance workers has been purchased out of the restitution fund. We have also purchased surveillance equipment and paid for overtime for case preparation from the restitution fund.

The maintenance one workers have received special training in the operation of a boom truck. This vehicle is not used for the purpose of removing graffiti, but is used in the placement and removal of our graffiti surveillance equipment.

Graffiti vandalism is tracked using a new system that was developed by the graffiti abatement team and the City of Reno. The Graffiti Enforcement Team Fast Issue Tracking (GET FIT) system has been made available to all of our partnering agencies. This system allows the partners to document incidents of graffiti vandalism, collect and store evidence and allows for the quick and easy sharing of intelligence information throughout the region.

The detective works with a Community Service Officer to document and investigate gang and tagger graffiti. They also are involved in the identification of new "taggers" and "tag crews" responsible for thousands of dollars of property damage a year. In 2009, the graffiti investigator was able to clear over 416 graffiti crimes by making an arrest. These arrests include charges of felony, gross misdemeanor and misdemeanor crimes and the issuing of citations. The Community Service officer coordinates the City's graffiti abatement program and aids the detective in case preparation.

The District and City Attorneys have been very aggressive in prosecuting these cases and have obtained a variety of sentences, including a two year prison sentence for on adult graffiti vandal. Others have been sentenced to work crew assignments or shorter jail sentences. Each convicted graffiti vandal is ordered to pay restitution to the City of

Reno and to property owners for the cost of removing their graffiti. Also, parents can be held civilly liable for restitution, up to \$10,000.00 (per NRS 41.470).

Washoe County has one Sheriff's Support Specialist and one Work Crew Supervisor. The Sheriff's Support Specialist documents gang and tagger graffiti within the county. The Work Crew Supervisor takes out inmates and/or persons required to do community service to remove graffiti.

The City of Sparks has a Graffiti Supervisor and one Graffiti Removal personnel, assigned through the Parks and Recreation Department.

Criminal Law updates:

Graffiti vandalism crimes are charged by the value of the damaged caused by the tagger. NRS 206.330 allowed us to aggregate the value of all property damaged or destroyed by a tagger once the total value reaches a felony amount of \$5,000.00.

Another law that has been a useful tool in combating graffiti vandalism is Reno Municipal Code (RMC 8.22.070) -Possession of graffiti material. This law makes it illegal to possess three or more items of graffiti paraphernalia under certain conditions. This law has also been adopted in the Nevada Revised Statutes and other area municipalities.

We continue to monitor legislative bills and local codes to better enhance our ability to prosecute graffiti vandals throughout the region.

MAJOR CASE REVIEW/UPDATE

Obstructing and Resisting / ADW

Occurred: 1-17-2009 Sun Valley

Arrest: Adult arrested after discharge from hospital

Conviction: Plead to CCW 12 months NSP

Details: RGU Officers were in Sun Valley attempting to locate a Suspect wanted for BDW. RGU Officers initiated a traffic stop upon a related vehicle and the driver fled. The driver of the vehicle fled on foot. Officers pursued and the suspect pulled a .38 revolver from his waist band and discharged it into his own left hip area.

PCS Sales Arrest

Occurred: 1-29-2009 Sun Valley

Arrest: Juvenile Arrested

Conviction: Found guilty extended probation

Details: Officers received information that a subject currently on juvenile probation was selling drugs from his home. Probation officers and RGU searched and located evidence of PCS sales. Juvenile was arrested. **This same juvenile was later arrested in October for a gang related triple shooting.**

Arrest Battery with Substantial Bodily Harm

Occurred: 2-28-2009 Sparks

Arrest: 2-28-2009

Conviction: Plead Guilty 12-48 months NSP

Details: RGU Officers located, interviewed and arrested Suspect wanted by WCSO for battery causing substantial bodily harm.

Attempted Homicide

Occurred: 3-19-2009 Sparks

Arrest: 3-19-2009

Conviction: Trial Pending

Details: RGU Officers assisted Sparks Detectives when they contacted a suspect in an attempted homicide that occurred in Sparks. The suspect was taken into custody without incident and transported to Sparks PD for an interview.

BDW Stabbing

Occurred: 3-25-2009 Reno

Arrest: Two Suspects

Conviction: Pending Trial

Details: Four gang members rushed and stabbed the victim 5 or 6 times with a knife and hit the victim with an aluminum baseball bat stemming from argument over money/property owed.

BDW Stabbing

Occurred: 4-4-2009 Reno

Arrest: 4-4-2009

Conviction: Court Pending

Details: Gang member stabbed non-gang member inside a nightclub.

BDW Shooting

Occurred: 4-18-2009 Reno

Arrest: Suspect Identification Pending

Conviction: Suspect Identification Pending

Details: Maintenance man was shot in the foot when he confronted juvenile gang members who tagged the apartment complex that he maintains.

Armed Robbery / Extortion

Occurred: 6-3-2009 Sun Valley

Arrest: 6-3-2009 Armed Robbery, Extortion, PSP

Conviction: Sentencing Pending for Witness Intimidation

Details: Victim confronted at his residence by gang members who stole his property from him at gun point. Victim identified suspects, who were located and arrested by RGU.

BDW Shooting

Occurred: 6-12-2009 Sparks

Arrest: 6-12-2009

Conviction: Plead Guilty to CCW, Probation Revocation Hearing Pending

Details: Three gang members confronted rival gang members in a vehicle at an intersection in Sparks. The vehicle began to leave and one of the three gang members fired at the vehicle. Occupants of the vehicle returned fire striking the shooter in the leg. SPD handled with RGU assistance.

BDW Stabbing

Occurred: 6-13-2009 Reno

Arrest: 6-13-2009

Conviction: Trial Pending

Details: Gang member stabbed a rival gang member in the back during a bar fight and was located by Officers and arrested.

Homicide / Attempted Homicide

Occurred: 7-25-2009 Reno

Arrest: Suspect Fled

Conviction: Suspect Fled

Details: Gang member shot at rival gang member striking him and rival gang members mother. The mother died on scene and the rival gang member survived. It is believed the suspect fled to Mexico.

Juvenile Possession of Stolen Firearm

Occurred: 7-28-2009 Reno

Arrest: 7-28-2009

Conviction: Plead Guilty to Possession of Firearm and given Probation

Details: RGU developed information that a juvenile gang member from the victim side of the previous homicide was armed in preparation for retaliation. RGU located and contacted the subject who was found to be in possession of a loaded stolen handgun.

BDW Stabbing

Occurred: 8-1-2009 Reno

Arrest: Adult gang member

Conviction: 24-96 Months NSP

Details: Gang members confronted rival gang members at an intersection in Reno. Gang member then stabbed one of the rivals twice.

BDW – Triple Shooting

Occurred: 9-27-2009 Reno

Arrest: 10-14-2009 Battery with Substantial, BDW X 2

Conviction: One Juvenile Certified as an Adult Pled Guilty to BDW with a 2-5 year sentence.

Details: Confrontation occurred at an underage party. Outnumbered, the group left and returned with three car loads of family. One of the family members, on juvenile probation, fired a handgun striking three victims.

Attempted Homicide

Occurred: 10-23-2009 Reno

Arrest: 10-24-2009 Att. Homicide / BDW

Conviction: Pending Trial

Details: Juvenile gang member shot a rival gang member multiple times, possibly over drug selling turf.

Discharging Firearm Where Others are Endangered / PSP Firearm

Occurred: 11-27-2009 Reno

Arrest: 11-27-2009 Discharge Firearm, PSP Firearm

Conviction: Plead Guilty and Failed to Appear for Sentencing-Warrant Issued

Details: RGU Officers located, interviewed and arrested the suspect and recovered the handgun at his residence. The handgun was found to have been taken from a gun store burglary months before.

Homicide

Occurred: 12-5-2009 Sparks

Arrest: Juvenile Suspect Allegedly Fled to California -Warrant Issued

Conviction: In custody March 2010.

Details: Juvenile gang member shot rival gang member at a party in Sparks.

ADW (x2), Discharge Firearm from Vehicle (x2), and Discharge in Public (x2)

Occurred: 12-24-2009 Reno

Arrest: 12-25-2009

Conviction: Adult pending ADW plea with probation

Details: Gang member conducted vehicle pursuit of rival gang member and shot at rival at two different locations in Reno with a shotgun, striking the vehicle both times.

PROJECTS, PROGRAMS, AND PARTNERSHIPS

Weed and Seed Program

The Regional Gang Unit administers one federally funded Weed and Seed site. This site is in the South area and is in its fourth year of funding. This area was designated as Weed and Seed site because of its diverse populations and crime problems. The Weeding portion of the program is provided by law enforcement and other City entities focusing on crime and abatement of quality of life issues. The problems are brought to the Weed and Seed Steering Committee where strategies are developed utilizing multiple disciplines. The Seeding element provides family services, youth programs, neighborhood clean ups, property abatement, and other programs designed to raise the quality of the community. Gang suppression action plans are prepared using a community policing format. They involve multiple agencies and resources to remove the criminal element from the Weed and Seed site.

Another program sponsored through the Reno Police Department in conjunction with Weed and Seed is the Adopt-A-School Program. This program places an officer in middle and elementary schools with a large percentage of at-risk students, located within the geographical boundaries of the site. The purpose is not enforcement; the goal is to develop positive relationships with the students, parents and school staff. The officers become resources for the administration and faculty. They are called upon to conduct home visits, read to students, serve lunches, act as mentors for students, or many other positive acts. They also identify potential problems and contact the appropriate agency for resolutions.

State Gang Task Force

The Regional Gang Unit has been a member of the State Gang Task Force for the past six years. The Task Force has been instrumental in developing state-wide initiatives concerning gangs. It drafted several "white papers" that were used to standardize the approach to intervention, prevention and suppression of gangs and gang members throughout the state.

The Regional Gang Unit has continued to provide quarterly trainings utilizing the detectives and officers within the unit. Our personnel explain basic gang indicators and behaviors and what they mean to the parents. In addition, they identify resources available to the parents.

The State of Nevada has provided funding to establish a state gang data repository, called the Nevada Gang Intelligence System. The Regional Gang Unit has been one of the found members. Some Nevada law enforcement agencies are connected to both the State of the California and State of Arizona Gang intelligence systems. Other agencies will be on line in the near future. This allows gang officers to track and monitor gangs within their own state and those that migrate between states and cities. Nevada is in the forefront of a nationwide effort to establish a nationwide gang intelligence system to better track multi-jurisdictional crime problems and trends. This past year (2009) the Nevada Department of Prisons and the Nevada Division of Investigations have become users of the Nevada Gang Intelligence System.

Cal Gang

The Regional Gang Unit is a non voting member of the California Gang Node Advisory Committee. The Cal Gang System is California's gang intelligence data system. This body governs the intelligence system. They discuss a variety of topics relating to gang intelligence management, system management, potential programs, and legal issues. The theory is that many, if not all, of the gang intelligence systems will be connected in the future. The information gathered from these meetings has been used to direct the task force in its development of Nevada's state gang intelligence system governing body, which is developing policy, user agreements and oversight precautions.

Boys and Girls Club

The Regional Gang Unit also works in conjunction with the Boys and Girls Club of the Truckee Meadows. The Boys and Girls Club offers alternatives for youth and families. The Boys and Girls Club was selected as a test site for a nationwide gang alternatives program where they selected at-risk youth and provided them with alternatives to joining gangs.

Jan Evans Juvenile Center

The Regional Gang Unit utilizes the services provided by the Jan Evans Juvenile Center. The Center operates an outreach program designed to divert youth from gang membership. The Regional Gang Unit officers make referrals to the program, and youth are evaluated and services provided as needed. Jan Evans also assists in the removal of graffiti within the area parks utilizing work crew programs.

Washoe County Juvenile Probation

The Regional Gang Unit officers work closely with probation officers to identify probationers who are committing new crimes and are continuing their gang associations in violation of the terms and conditions of their probations as set forth by the courts.

The Children's Cabinet

At-risk juveniles and their families are referred to this organization for services. Some of the services provided through the Children's Cabinet include; family counseling, street outreach, tutoring, community education and life enhancement program for females.

Federal Collaboration

We have federal agents assigned to the Regional Gang Unit. Their mission is to provide logistical support for long-term investigations on gang related criminal activity. The Regional Gang Unit is often called upon to assist federal agencies in both gang-related and non-gang-related cases.

Parental Contact Program

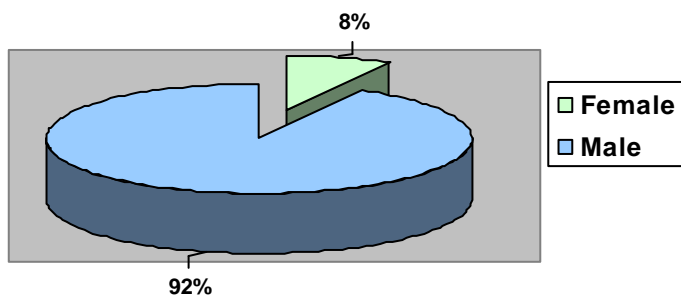
The R.G.U. conducts dozens of parental contacts annually for at-risk youth in the community. The Parental Contact Program includes referrals, education, and job placement in selective situations. The Regional Gang Unit has set as one of its goals, to increase the number of parental contact and referrals. The officers have been provided additional information and training as to the services available. They understand which agencies provide which services and can make specific referrals. This reduces the amount of time needed by each agency to evaluate the family's needs and begin services.

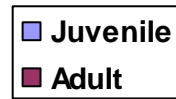
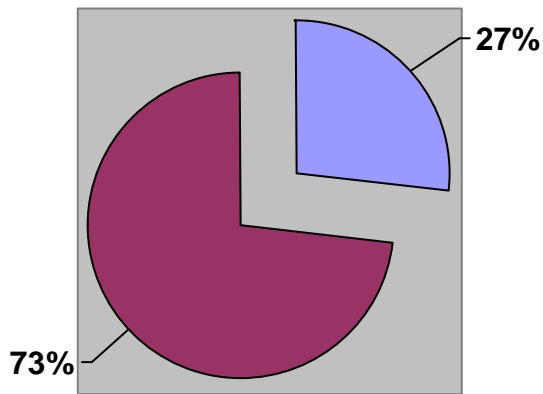
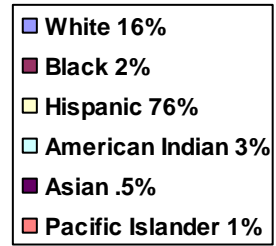
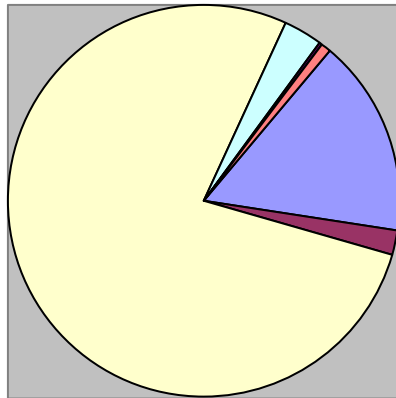
"Brown Bag" Gang Awareness Training

In the summer of 2009, Officers of the Regional Gang Unit began contacting local businesses in the community in order to provide a 15 minute gang overview during lunch hours in order to educate community/business members and parents of gang issues and available resources.

Appendix A

DEMOGRAPHICS OF GANGS - 2009





Appendix B

GANG MEMBERSHIP BY AGE AND GENDER - 2009

