

Gangs and Crime
in South Carolina:
How Much, How Bad?

Prepared by:

South Carolina Department of Public Safety

Office of Justice Programs

Statistical Analysis Center

Editor: Rob McManus

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

MEASURING GANG ACTIVITY	3
GANG RELATED CRIME	9
Trends & Circumstances.....	10
Victim Characteristics.....	34
Offender Characteristics	52
GANG RELATED MURDER.....	67
Trends & Circumstances.....	68
Victim Characteristics.....	80
Offender Characteristics	94
GANGS IN PRISON	107
GANGS IN COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS....	123
SUMMARY	139
SOURCES.....	145

INTRODUCTION

Gangs and Crime in South Carolina: How Much, How Bad? is designed to provide information about criminal activity attributed to gangs, victims of gang activity, gang offenders, and to provide estimates of gang membership in South Carolina's prison population and among offenders under supervision in the community. The purpose of the report is to provide reliable and objective information regarding a serious societal problem about which little information is readily available. Hopefully it will serve to better inform policy makers and citizens about the nature and extent of this serious problem.

Data concerning gang crime for this report were provided by the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) and the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (SCDPPPS). Copies of this report or information regarding this publication can be obtained by writing or sending electronic mail requests to the following:

**South Carolina Department of Public Safety
Office of Justice Programs
Statistical Analysis Center
PO Box 1993
Blythewood, South Carolina 29016
robertmcmanus@scdps.net**

This report can also be accessed at the South Carolina Department of Public Safety's website for the Office of Justice Programs at:

<http://www.scdps.org/ojp/statistics.asp>

Measuring Gang Activity

This report utilizes three sources of information concerning gang activity. The first source is the South Carolina Incident Based Reporting System (SCIBRS) which provides information concerning reported crimes. The second source is information from inmate records at SCDC. The third source is information from offender records from SCDPPPS. Each of these data sources is different in terms of the data collected and the perspective each data source provides regarding the nature and extent of criminal gang activity in the state.

SCIBRS data starts with the statewide uniform incident report. The statewide uniform incident report is filled out whenever a criminal event is reported to law enforcement. The responding officer fills out the incident report which contains detailed information about the incident, the victim and the offender as well as any associated arrests. This information is then entered into SCIBRS, which is maintained by SLED. Analysis of SCIBRS data will often vary from published crime rates and counts for a variety of reasons. Chief among them is that SCIBRS data allows for the flexibility to use whatever unit of count (victim, offense, offender, arrestee, etc.) is most appropriate. Also, SCIBRS does not restrict analysis to use of the most serious offense, as is often the case with reported crime rates. SCIBRS data from 1998 through 2007 provides the primary source of crime data for this report.

Although the question as to what constitutes a gang is the subject of intense debate, for the purpose of crime reporting, SCIBRS has an objective definition of gangs.

SCIBRS defines a gang as an ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons who have common interests and activities characterized by involvement in a pattern of criminal or delinquent conduct (an organized group that commits crimes on a regular basis). For this report, gang related offenses were identified by the use of a special circumstances code or a type criminal activity code designating the offense as gang related.

To understand crime data it is important to understand what a particular count is based upon. This report uses counts based on the number of incidents, offenses, victims and offenders. Understanding the unit of count can be further complicated when there are multiple instances of a factor of interest within a unit of count. As an example, SCIBRS collects information concerning up to three weapon types per offense. However, not all offenses involve weapons while some offenses involve more than one type of weapon. Consequently, the number of weapons might be more, less or equal to the number of incidents, depending on the circumstances. Because such situations can result in results that are counter-intuitive, every effort will be made to put findings in the proper context throughout the report.

SCDC collects and records data concerning gang membership among its inmates and has well defined policies and procedures. Trained staff, the Security Threat Group (STG), identifies gang members during the intake (admissions) process. The identification process includes an examination for tattoos, a review of

inmate possessions for evidence of gang affiliation, inmate interviews and self-reports, observed use of gang hand signs, possession of symbols and logos, as well as information received from other sources.

SCDPPPS collects data concerning gang membership among the offenders under its supervision. Probation and Parole Agents, responsible for supervising offenders in the community, identify gang members and enter that information into the offender information system. That designation and the associated data then becomes part of the offender record.

Calculating rates:

The method of calculating rates is illustrated by the following equation:

$$\text{Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of Victims, Offenses or Offenders}}{\text{Population or Sub-population}} \times 10,000$$

All rates in this report are expressed as the rate per 10,000 unit of population.

Population estimates used to calculate offense, victimization and offender rates for the total population and sub-populations of interest were provided by the Office of Research and Statistics (ORS) at the South Carolina Budget and Control Board.

Data limitations/caveats:

As noted earlier, some information is reported by looking at multiple fields within a record. As examples, SCIBRS records information concerning up to five offenses per victim, ten victim to offender relationships per victim and up to three weapon types per incident. These and similar situations, in combination with missing data, often result in totals that seemingly “don’t add up.” Footnotes are used as a means of providing as detailed explanations of such circumstances as possible.

Comparisons across time, demographic groups or geographic regions can best be made using rates (per 10,000 in this report) and that procedure is used in this report. However, when the actual number of occurrences is so small that a small change in the number of occurrences results in a large rate change, the comparison of rates can be misleading. Such situations are noted throughout the report.

Population estimates were not always available in such a manner as to make calculation of rates for each subgroup of interest practical. In the case of race, victimization and offender rate race comparisons were made on the basis of White and Non-White (Asian, Black and Native American). This was due to the non-availability of those population subgroup estimates over the time period of interest. Similarly, reliable population estimates for ethnicity (Hispanic, Non-Hispanic) were available from 2004 forward. Consequently, rate calculations and comparisons relating to ethnicity were limited to that time frame.

Time periods for the data presented are noted throughout the report. Sometimes the data were presented on a fiscal year basis. All references to fiscal years refer to the state fiscal year which begins on July 1 and ends on June 30 of the following year. Fiscal years are identified by the year in which the fiscal year ended, for example the fiscal year that began on July 1, 1999 is referred to as fiscal year 2000. Fiscal years are abbreviated by using FY followed by the last two digits of the year in which the fiscal year ended.

Age data were sometimes entered into SCIBRS as a range. Age range data were included, whenever possible. For example, an age range recorded as 10 to 14 would be included in the 10 to 16 age category, but would be excluded when it crossed age categories of interest, for example, an age category of 10 to 11. Seemingly incongruous age ranges; e.g., 10 to 25, were treated as missing data. Age ranges were not used in calculating mean average ages.

Finally, there are occasions when the percentages listed in tables do not add up to 100%. This is due to the rounding procedures used and is not indicative of any errors in calculation. These situations are noted in the footnotes following data tables throughout the report.

Gang Related Crime

The following section uses SCIBRS as the source of information to examine gang related crime in South Carolina, focusing primarily on violent crime. For the purpose of this report, the following offenses were defined as violent: murder, negligent homicide, rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object, forcible fondling, kidnapping, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault and intimidation. Rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object and forcible fondling were grouped together as sexual violence.

SCIBRS has been in operation since 1991, SLED having served as the pilot site for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's implementation of the National Incident Based Reporting System that year. SCIBRS data from 1998 through 2007 were used as the primary basis for analysis. In order to identify the victims and offenders involved in gang offenses, victim and offender files were linked to incident files identified as being gang related. Depending upon the question at hand, the most meaningful measure of gang activity was employed. It is important to note that such decisions are inherently subjective, and that employing different methods can yield varying results.

The gang incident rate was 2.96 in 2007. The incident rate increased each year from 1999 forward.

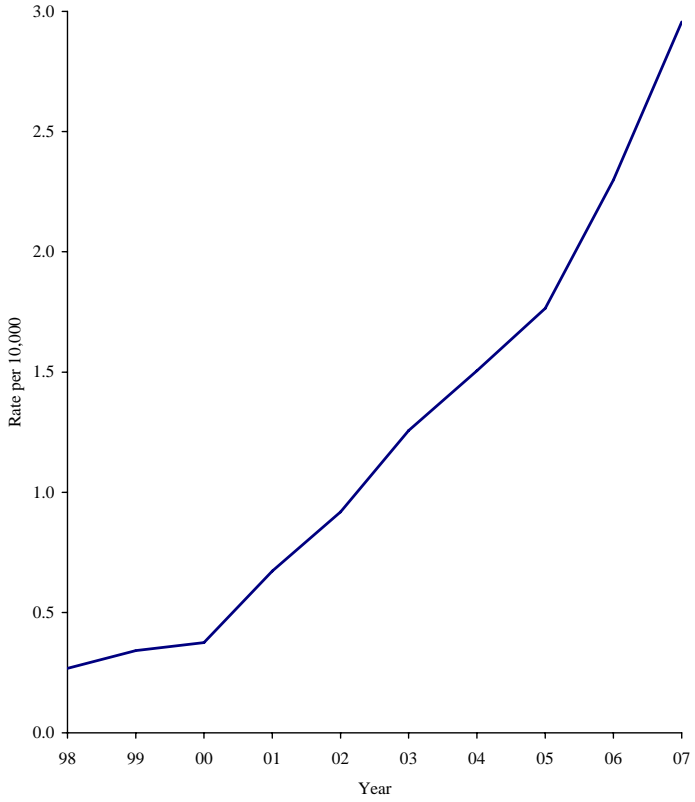
GANG RELATED CRIMINAL INCIDENTS

Year	Number	Rate	Rate Change
1998	105	0.27	
1999	136	0.34	+27.7%
2000	151	0.38	+9.7%
2001	273	0.67	+79.1%
2002	377	0.92	+36.6%
2003	521	1.26	+36.9%
2004	632	1.51	+19.8%
2005	752	1.77	+17.4%
2006	994	2.30	+30.2%
2007	1,304	2.96	+28.6%

Notes: Unit of count – incidents. Incidents can encompass more than one victim, offense or offender.

Sources: SCIBRS data, SLED; population estimates, ORS.

Gang Incidents



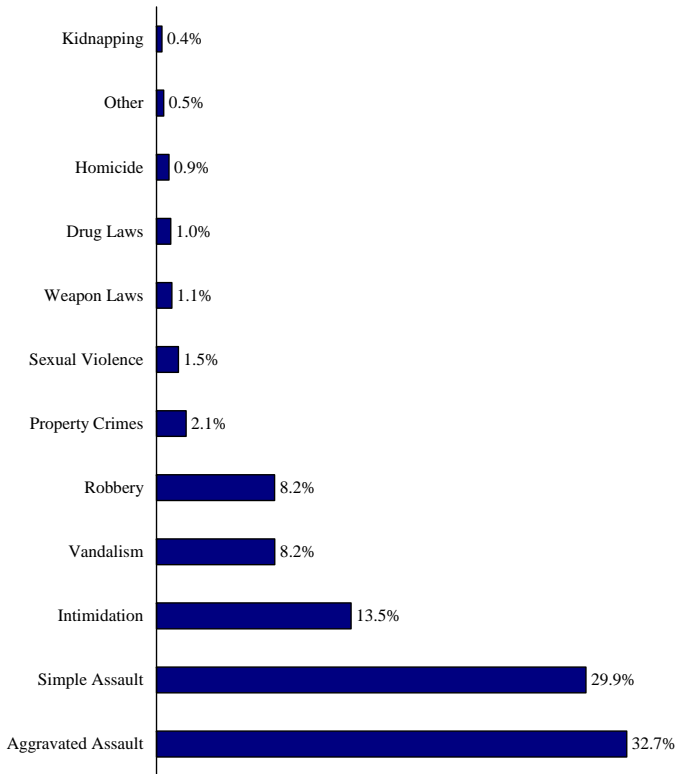
Aggravated assaults were the most frequently reported offense among gang incidents.

**GANG INCIDENTS
BY MOST SERIOUS OFFENSE
1998 - 2007**

Offense	Number	Percent
Aggravated Assault	1,715	32.7%
Burglary	49	0.9%
Drug Laws	52	1.0%
Intimidation	710	13.5%
Kidnapping	20	0.4%
Larceny	49	0.9%
Motor Vehicle Theft	10	0.2%
Murder	48	0.9%
Negligent Homicide	1	<0.1%
Other	26	0.5%
Robbery	431	8.2%
Sexual Violence	80	1.5%
Simple Assault	1,566	29.9%
Vandalism	432	8.2%
Weapons Laws	56	1.1%
Total	5,245	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count – incidents. Incidents can encompass more than one victim, offense or offender. The percent column does not total 100 due to rounding.
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Gang Incidents by Most Serious Offense 1998 - 2007



Assaults, both aggravated and simple, accounted for 73.1% of gang related violence from 1998 through 2007. There were 49 gang related homicides reported during the same time period.

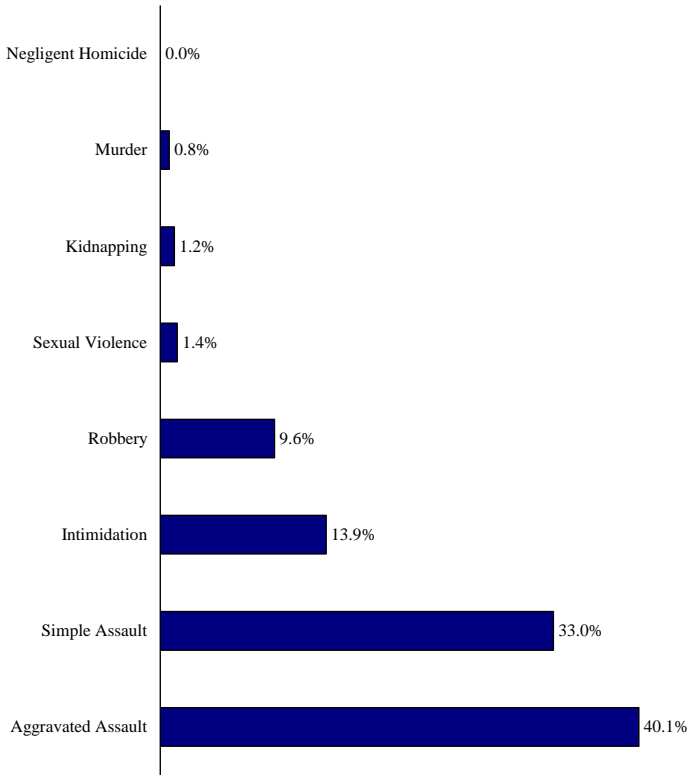
**GANG VIOLENCE BY OFFENSE
1998 - 2007**

Offense	Number	Percent
Aggravated Assault	2,561	40.1%
Intimidation	888	13.9%
Kidnapping	75	1.2%
Murder	48	0.8%
Negligent Homicide	1	<0.1%
Robbery	612	9.6%
Sexual Violence	91	1.4%
Simple Assault	2,104	33.0%
Total	6,380	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count – victims. The 6,380 offenses listed above represent the gang related violent offenses committed against 6,321 victims.

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Gang Violence by Offense 1998 - 2007



The highest annual gang violence victimization rate was 3.04 in 2007. The gang violence rate increased 919.9% from 1998 to 2007.

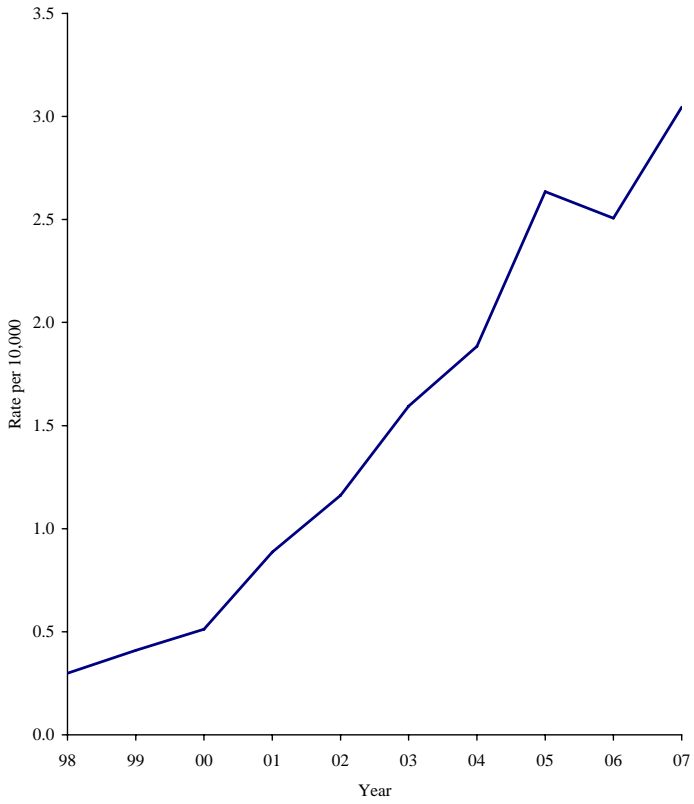
GANG VIOLENCE VICTIMS

Year	Number	Rate	Rate Change
1998	117	0.30	
1999	163	0.41	+37.4%
2000	206	0.51	+24.8%
2001	360	0.89	+73.1%
2002	477	1.16	+31.0%
2003	661	1.59	+37.2%
2004	791	1.88	+18.2%
2005	1,121	2.63	+39.8%
2006	1,083	2.51	-4.9%
2007	1,342	3.04	+21.5%

Note: Unit of count – victims.

Sources: SCIBRS, SLED; population estimates, ORS.

Gang Violence Victimization



From 1998 to 2007, 0.49% of violent crime was gang related. The percent of gang related violent crime increased from 0.09% in 1998 to 0.99% in 2007.

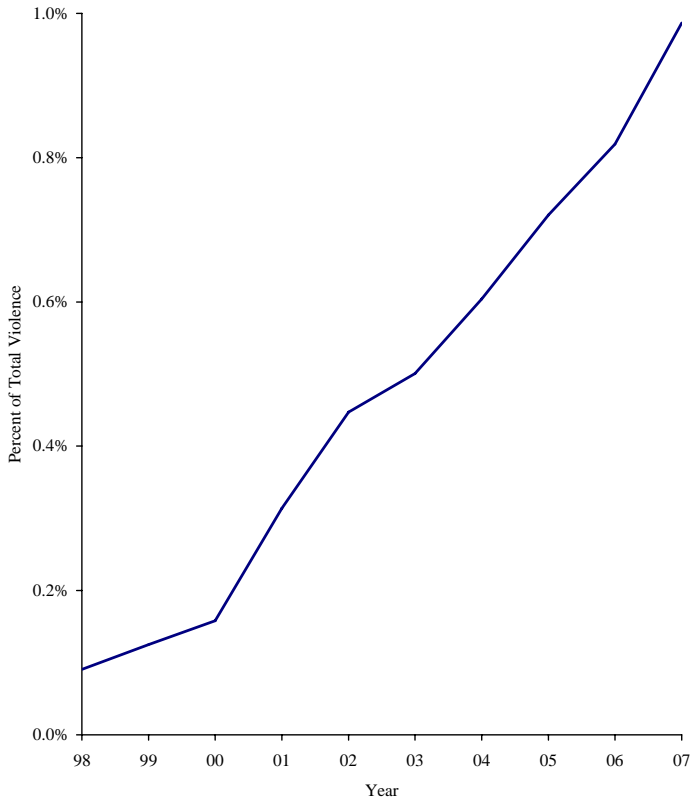
**GANG VIOLENCE
AS PART OF TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME**

Year	Number	Rate	Percent of Violence
1998	117	0.30	0.09%
1999	163	0.41	0.13%
2000	206	0.51	0.16%
2001	360	0.89	0.31%
2002	477	1.16	0.45%
2003	661	1.59	0.50%
2004	791	1.88	0.60%
2005	1,121	2.63	0.72%
2006	1,083	2.51	0.82%
2007	1,342	3.04	0.99%

Notes: Unit of count – victims. Percent of violence refers to the percent that gang related violent crime represents of all violent crime.

Sources: SCIBRS data, SLED; population estimates, ORS.

Gang Violence as Part of Total Violence



More gang violence was reported in October than any other month. The least amount of gang violence was reported in February.

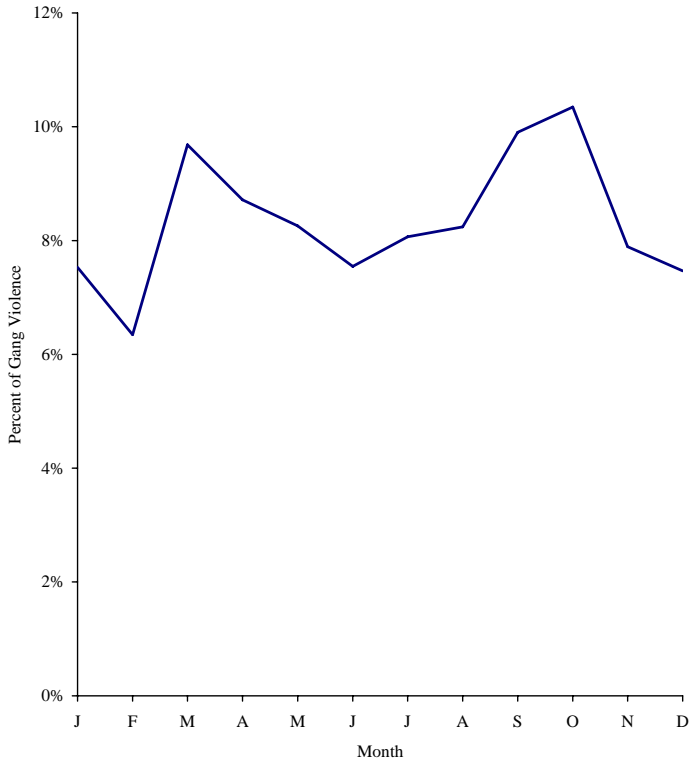
**GANG VIOLENCE BY MONTH
1998 - 2007**

Month	Number	Percent
January	476	7.5%
February	401	6.3%
March	612	9.7%
April	551	8.7%
May	522	8.3%
June	477	7.5%
July	510	8.1%
August	521	8.2%
September	626	9.9%
October	654	10.3%
November	499	7.9%
December	472	7.5%
Total	6,321	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count – victims. The percent column does not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Gang Violence by Month 1998 - 2007



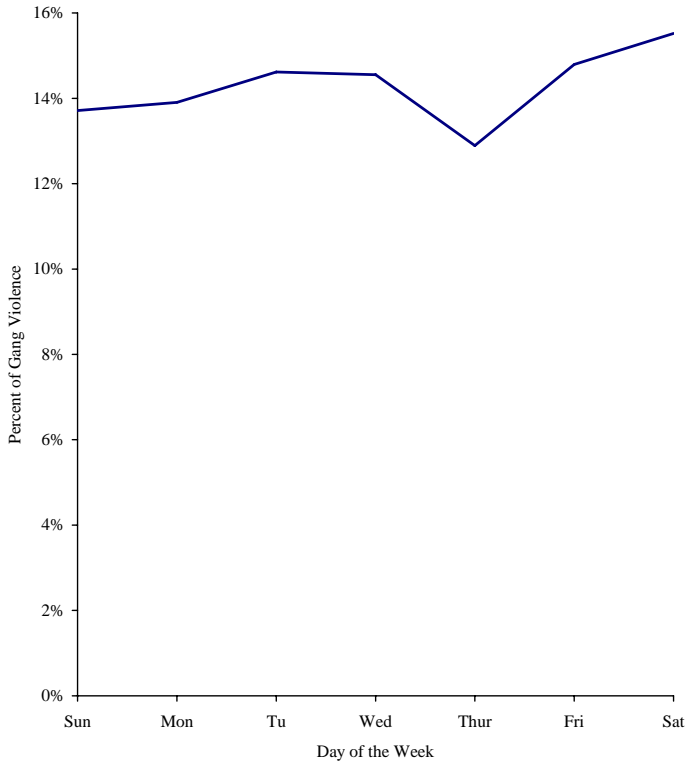
More gang violence was reported on Saturday than any other day of the week. The least amount of gang violence was reported on Thursday.

**GANG VIOLENCE BY DAY OF THE WEEK
1998 - 2007**

Day of the Week	Number	Percent
Sunday	867	13.7%
Monday	879	13.9%
Tuesday	924	14.6%
Wednesday	920	14.6%
Thursday	815	12.9%
Friday	935	14.8%
Saturday	981	15.5%
Total	6,321	100.0%

Note: Unit of count – victims.
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Gang Violence by Day of the Week 1998 - 2007



Gang violence was reported most often between 8PM and 9PM.

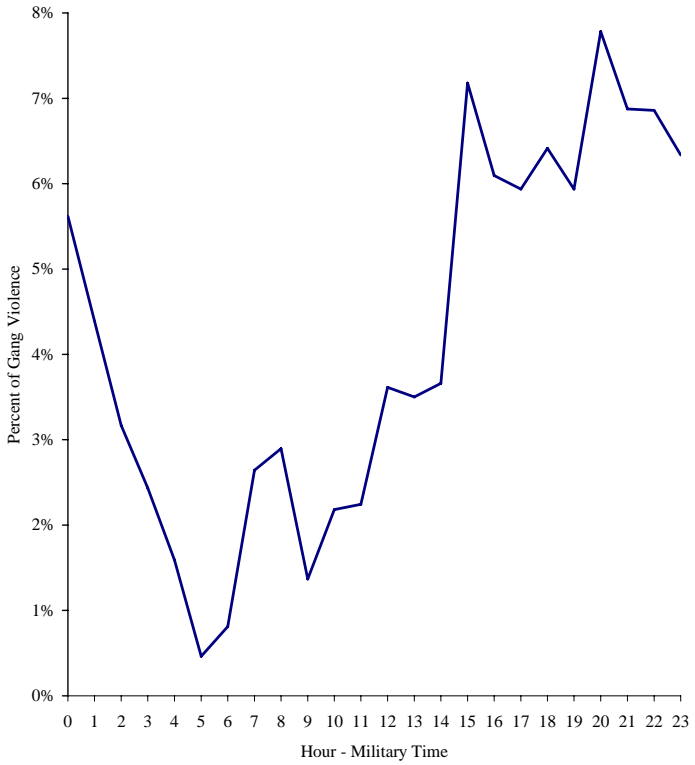
**GANG VIOLENCE BY TIME OF DAY
1998 - 2007**

Time of Day	Number	Percent
Midnight	353	5.6%
1AM	276	4.4%
2AM	199	3.2%
3AM	153	2.4%
4AM	100	1.6%
5AM	29	0.5%
6AM	51	0.8%
7AM	166	2.6%
8AM	182	2.9%
9AM	86	1.4%
10AM	137	2.2%
11AM	141	2.2%
Noon	227	3.6%
1PM	220	3.5%
2PM	230	3.7%
3PM	451	7.2%
4PM	383	6.1%
5PM	373	5.9%
6PM	403	6.4%
7PM	373	5.9%
8PM	489	7.8%
9PM	432	6.9%
10PM	431	6.9%
11PM	398	6.3%
Total	6,283	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count – victims. Time represents the reported time of victimization by hour alone; e.g., 7AM represents all victimizations that occurred from 7:00 AM through 7:59 AM. A total of 38 cases were missing time of day data.

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Gang Violence by Time of Day 1998 - 2007



Gang violence increased after 3PM and continued at approximately the same level until after midnight.

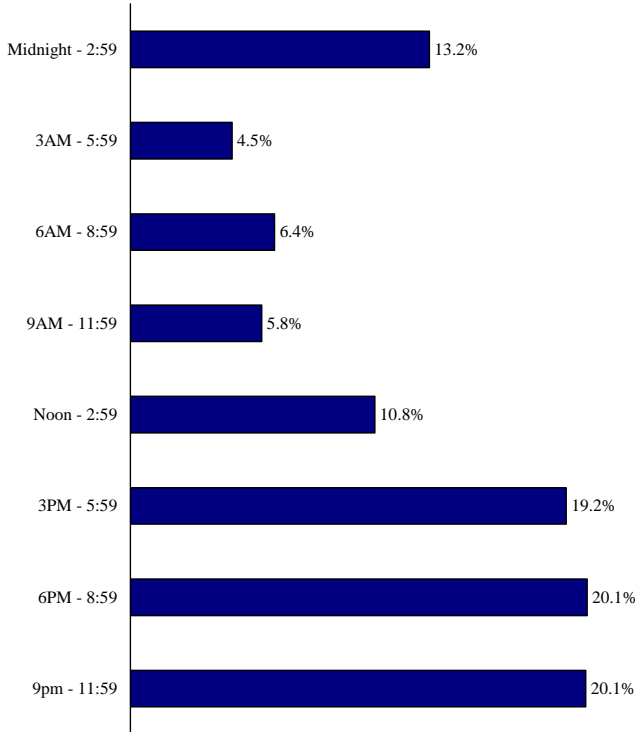
**GANG VIOLENCE BY TIME OF DAY
THREE HOUR INTERVALS
1998 - 2007**

Time of Day	Number	Percent
Midnight - 2:59	828	13.2%
3AM - 5:59	282	4.5%
6AM - 8:59	399	6.4%
9AM - 11:59	364	5.8%
Noon - 2:59	677	10.8%
3PM - 5:59	1,207	19.2%
6PM - 8:59	1,265	20.1%
9PM - 11:59	1,261	20.1%
Total	6,283	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count – victims. Time represents the reported time of victimization by hour alone; e.g., 7AM represents all victimizations that occurred from 7:00 AM through 7:59 AM. A total of 38 cases did not have time of day data. The percent column does not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Gang Violence by Time of Day Three Hour Intervals 1998 - 2007



Richland County reported the most victims of gang violence among the counties in 2007.

**GANG VIOLENCE BY COUNTY
2007**

County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate
Abbeville	4	1.6	Greenwood	5	0.7
Aiken	23	1.5	Hampton	7	3.3
Allendale	2	1.9	Horry	33	1.3
Anderson	61	3.4	Jasper	4	1.8
Bamberg	5	3.2	Kershaw	8	1.4
Barnwell	17	7.4	Lancaster	34	4.6
Beaufort	34	2.3	Laurens	46	6.6
Berkeley	38	2.3	Lee	6	3.0
Calhoun	2	1.4	Lexington	48	2.0
Charleston	90	2.6	McCormick	1	1.0
Cherokee	8	1.5	Marion	32	9.4
Chester	62	19.0	Marlboro	42	14.5
Chesterfield	18	4.2	Newberry	3	0.8
Clarendon	13	4.0	Oconee	1	0.1
Colleton	98	25.2	Orangeburg	23	2.5
Darlington	107	16.0	Pickens	5	0.4
Dillon	25	8.2	Richland	129	3.6
Dorchester	33	2.7	Saluda	9	4.8
Edgefield	5	2.0	Spartanburg	31	1.1
Fairfield	19	8.2	Sumter	4	0.4
Florence	113	8.6	Union	0	0.0
Georgetown	17	2.8	Williamsburg	3	0.8
Greenville	44	1.0	York	30	1.4

Note: Unit of count – victims.

Sources: SCIBRS, SLED; population estimates, ORS.

Colleton County reported the highest gang violence victimization rate among the counties in 2007.

**GANG VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION RATES
THE TEN HIGHEST COUNTIES
2007**

County	Number	Rate
Colleton	98	25.2
Chester	62	19.0
Darlington	107	16.0
Marlboro	42	14.5
Marion	32	9.4
Florence	113	8.6
Fairfield	19	8.2
Dillon	25	8.2
Barnwell	17	7.4
Laurens	46	6.6

Note: Unit of count – victims.

Sources: SCIBRS, SLED; population estimates, ORS.

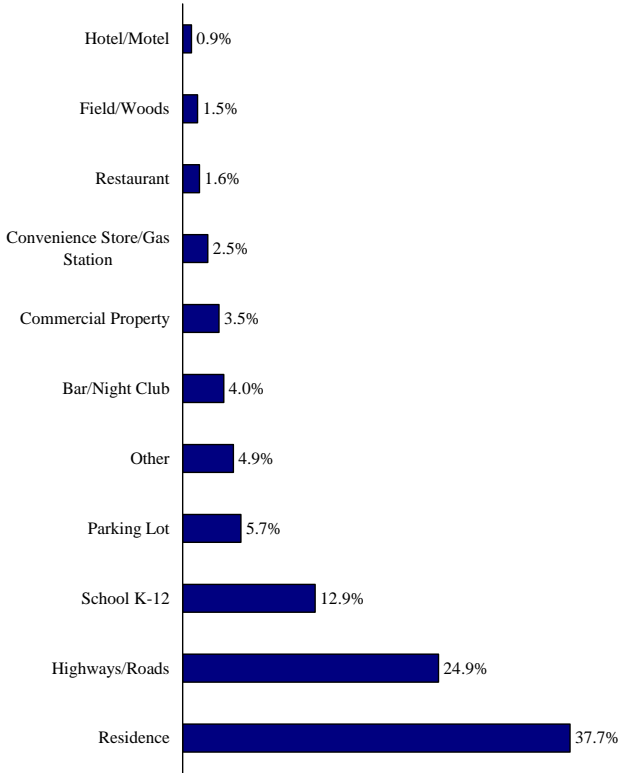
Gang violence was reported most frequently at private residences followed by highways, roads and streets.

**GANG VIOLENCE BY LOCATION
1998 - 2007**

Location	Number	Percent
Bar/Night Club	253	4.0%
Commercial Property	223	3.5%
Convenience Store/ Gas Station	155	2.5%
Field/Woods	92	1.5%
Highways/Roads/Streets	1,573	24.9%
Hotel/Motel	54	0.9%
Other	312	4.9%
Parking Lot	358	5.7%
Residence	2,382	37.7%
Restaurant	104	1.6%
School K-12	815	12.9%
Total	6,321	100.0%

Note: Unit of count – victims.
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Gang Violence by Location 1998 - 2007



Hands, feet and fists accounted for 60.1% of weapons reported in gang violence. Firearms accounted for 23.2% of weapon involvement.

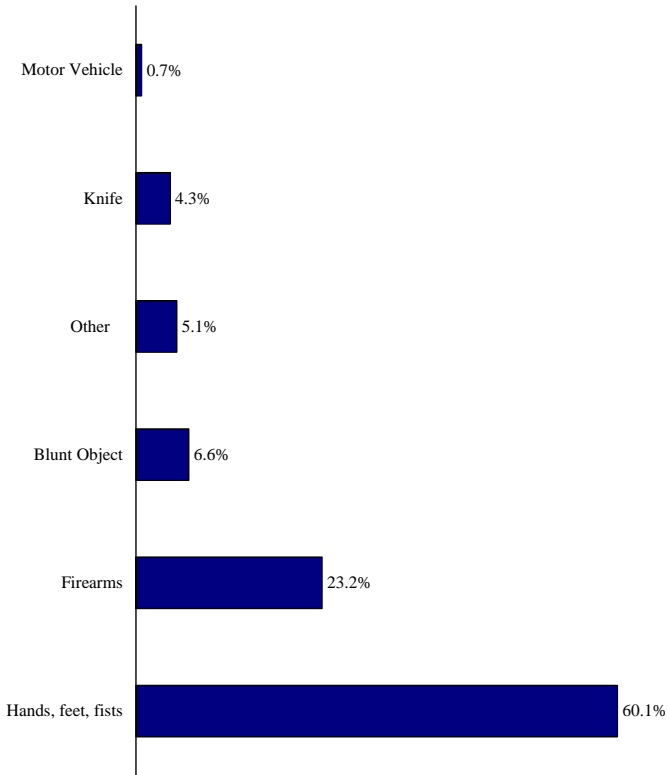
**WEAPON INVOLVEMENT IN GANG VIOLENCE
1998 - 2007**

Weapon	Number	Percent
Blunt Object	254	6.6%
Firearms	896	23.2%
Handgun	631	16.4%
Other Firearm	27	0.7%
Rifle	24	0.6%
Shotgun	53	1.4%
Unknown Firearm	161	4.2%
Hands, feet, fists	2,320	60.1%
Knife	165	4.3%
Motor Vehicle	27	0.7%
Other	197	5.1%
Total	3,859	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count – incidents. SCIBRS allows for up to three weapon types to be recorded per incident. Incidents for which a weapon was not recorded or for which the weapon was unknown were not included. Handguns, other firearms, rifles, shotguns and unknown firearms are subcategories of the comprehensive firearms category; consequently the total of the percent column exceeds 100.

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Weapon Involvement in Gang Violence 1998 - 2007



The mean average age for gang violence victims was 23.6 years. The highest gang related violent victimization rate was reported among 11 to 16 year olds, followed by 17 to 21 year olds.

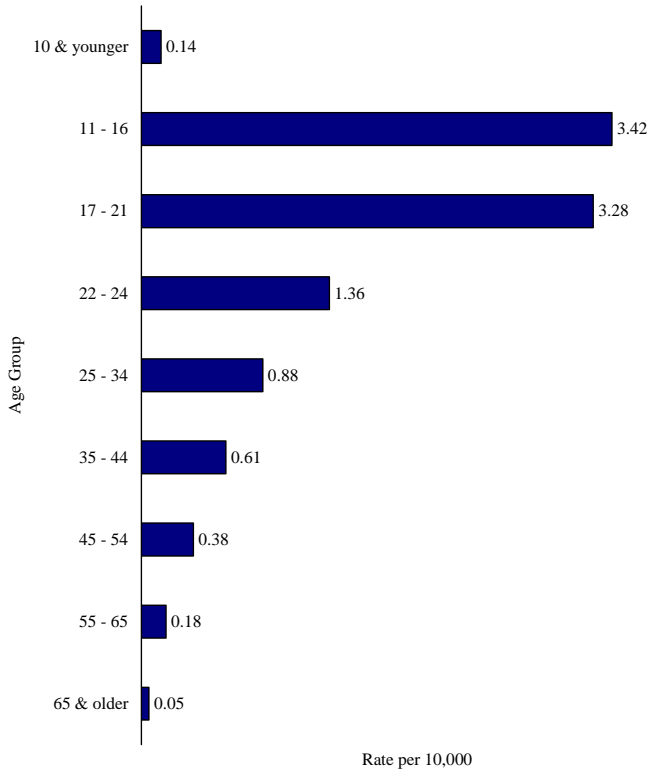
**GANG VIOLENCE VICTIMS BY AGE
1998 - 2007**

Age Group	Number	Percent	Rate
10 & younger	149	2.4%	0.15
11 - 16	1,998	32.5%	3.42
17 - 21	1,618	26.3%	3.28
22 - 24	407	6.6%	1.36
25 - 34	860	14.0%	0.88
35 - 44	627	10.2%	0.61
45 - 54	334	5.4%	0.38
55 - 65	115	1.9%	0.18
65 & older	45	0.7%	0.05
Total	6,150	100.0%	1.53

Notes: Unit of count – victims. A total of 171 victims were missing age data or had age entered as a range that did not allow inclusion. The total rate is based on all gang violence victims.

Sources: SCIBRS, SLED; population estimates, ORS.

Gang Violence Victims by Age 1998 - 2007



Among victims of gang violence younger than 25 years of age, the highest gang related violent victimization rate was reported among 15 to 16 year olds.

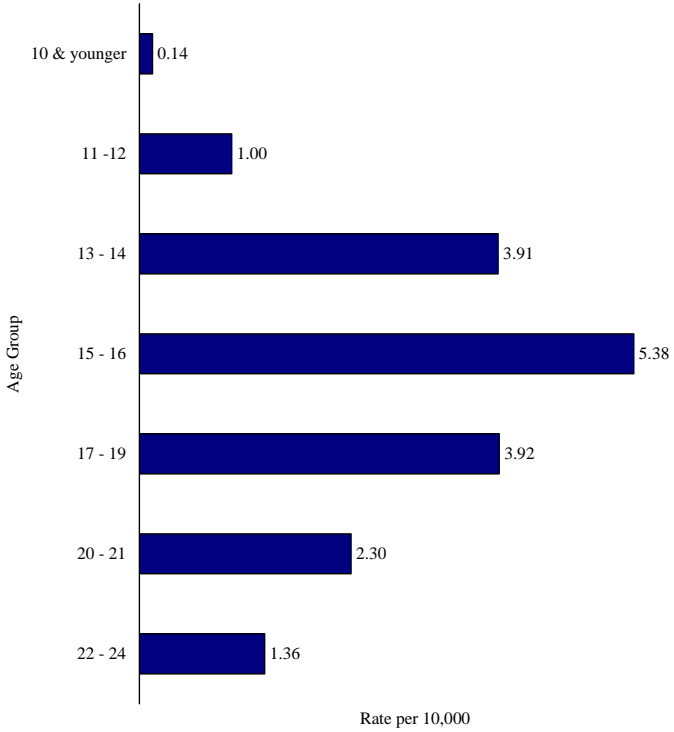
**JUVENILE AND YOUNG ADULT VICTIMS OF
GANG VIOLENCE BY AGE
1998 - 2007**

Age Group	Number	Percent	Rate
10 & younger	149	2.4%	0.15
11 - 12	194	3.2%	1.00
13 - 14	754	12.3%	3.91
15 - 16	1,039	16.9%	5.38
17 - 19	1,160	18.9%	3.92
20 - 21	455	7.4%	2.30
22 - 24	407	6.6%	1.36
Total	4,155	67.6%	1.75

Notes: Unit of count – victims. A total of 14 juvenile and young adult victims had age entered as a range that did not allow inclusion in this table. The total rate is based on all juvenile and young adult victims. Percent represents the percent each age category comprises of all gang violence victims with usable age data. The percent column does not total 67.6% due to rounding.

Sources: SCIBRS, SLED; population estimates, ORS.

Juvenile and Young Adult Victims of Gang Violence by Age 1998 - 2007



The gang related violence victimization rate from 1998 through 2007 among males was 2.2 compared to 0.9 for females.

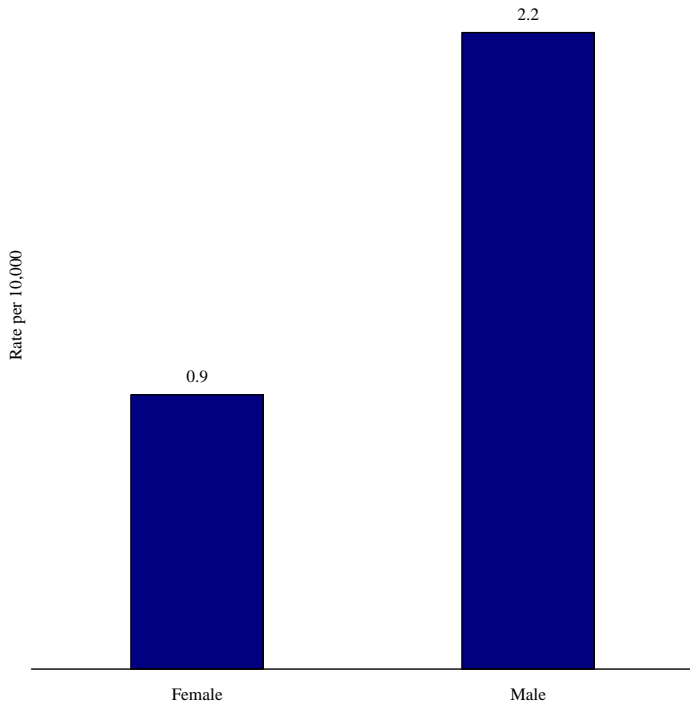
**GANG VIOLENCE VICTIMS BY SEX
1998 - 2007**

Sex	Number	Percent	Rate
Female	1,937	30.8%	0.9
Male	4,351	69.2%	2.2
Total	6,288	100.0%	1.5

Notes: Unit of count – victims. Sex was unknown for 33 victims. The total rate is based on all gang violence victims.

Sources: SCIBRS, SLED; population estimates, ORS.

Gang Violence Victims by Sex 1998 - 2007



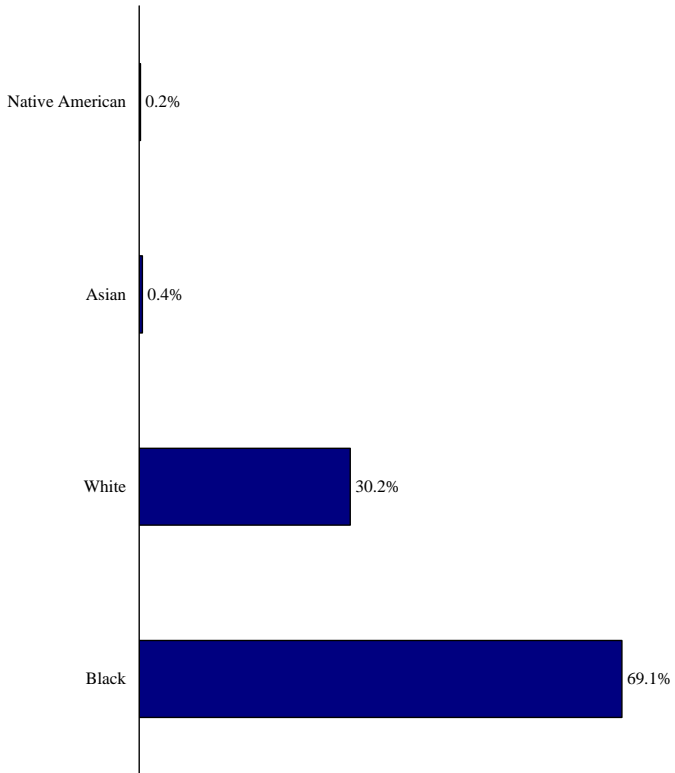
Victims of gang related violence were most often Black.

**GANG VIOLENCE VICTIMS BY RACE
1998 - 2007**

Race	Number	Percent
Asian	28	0.4%
Black	4,335	69.1%
Native American	11	0.2%
White	1,895	30.2%
Total	6,269	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count – victims. Race was unknown for 52 victims. The percent column does not total 100 due to rounding.
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Gang Violence Victims by Race 1998 - 2007



The gang related violent victimization rate among Non-Whites was 3.3, compared to 0.7 for Whites.

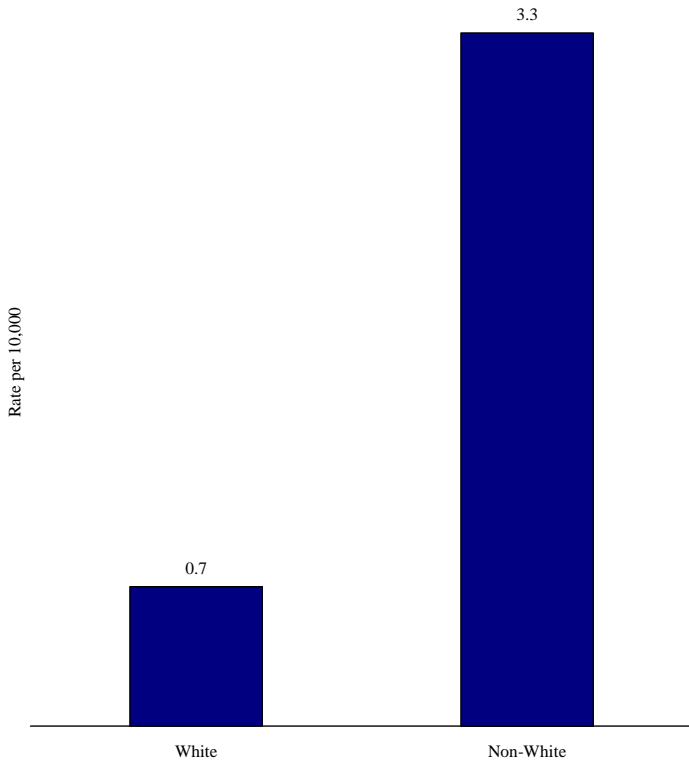
**GANG VIOLENCE VICTIMS
BY RACIAL GROUP
1998 - 2007**

Racial Group	Number	Percent	Rate
Non-White	4,374	69.8%	3.3
White	1,895	30.2%	0.7
Total	6,269	100.0%	1.5

Notes: Unit of count – victims. The Non-White racial group consists of Asian, Black and Native American. Race was unknown for 52 victims. The total rate is based on all gang violence victims.

Sources: SCIBRS, SLED; population estimates, ORS.

Gang Violence Victims by Racial Group 1998 - 2007



The gang related violent victimization rate among Non-Hispanics was 2.5 compared to 2.4 for Hispanics.

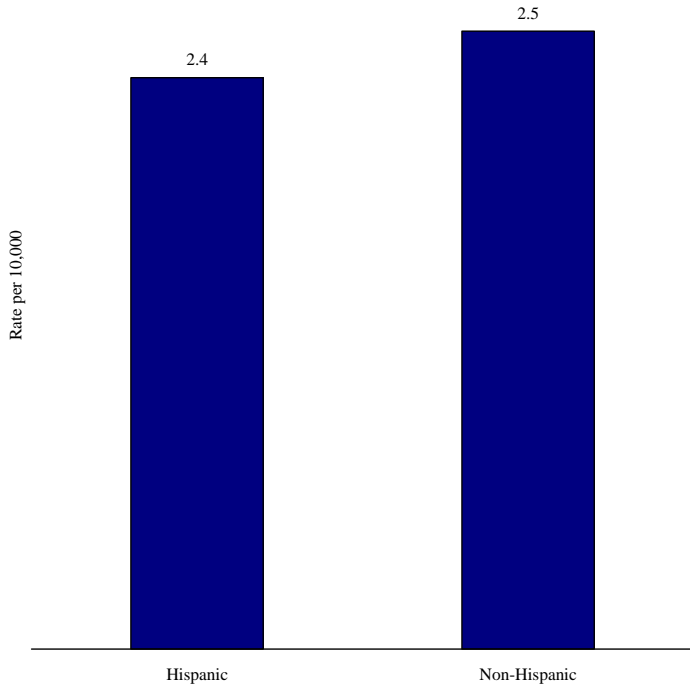
**GANG VIOLENCE VICTIMS BY ETHNICITY
2004 - 2007**

Ethnicity	Number	Percent	Rate
Hispanic	139	3.3%	2.4
Non-Hispanic	4,136	96.7%	2.5
Total	4,275	100.0%	2.5

Notes: Unit of count – victims. SCIBRS measures ethnicity separately from race. The 2004 to 2007 time period was used for this table because reliable population estimates for ethnicity were available. There were 62 victims for whom ethnicity was missing or unknown. The total rate is based on all gang violence victims from 2004 through 2007.

Sources: SCIBRS, SLED; population estimates, ORS.

Gang Violence Victims by Ethnicity 1998 - 2007



Among victims of gang related violence, 69.6% were known to, but not related or romantically involved with, the offender. Strangers accounted for 24.8% of gang violence.

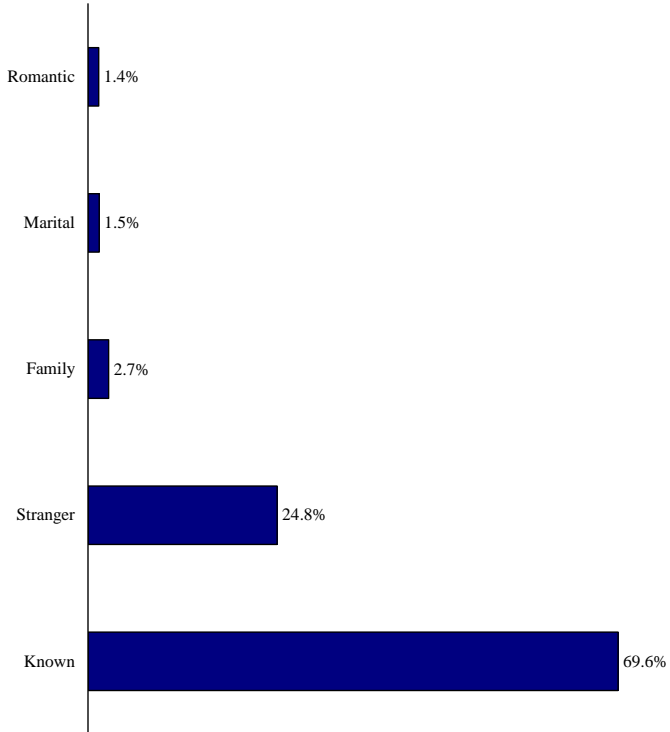
**GANG VIOLENCE VICTIMS
BY VICTIM TO OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP
1998 - 2007**

Victim was:	Number	Percent
Family	348	2.7%
Known	8,895	69.6%
Marital	189	1.5%
Romantic	182	1.4%
Stranger	3,174	24.8%
Total	12,788	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count victims. SCIBRS records up to ten victim to offender relationships per victim. Situations in which more than one victim and/or more than one offender are involved results in a multiplicative effect for the victim to offender relationships. Unknown victim to offender relationships were excluded.

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Gang Violence Victim to Offender Relationships 1998 - 2007



The most often reported victim to offender relationship when the victim knew but was not related or romantically linked to the offender, was that of an acquaintance.

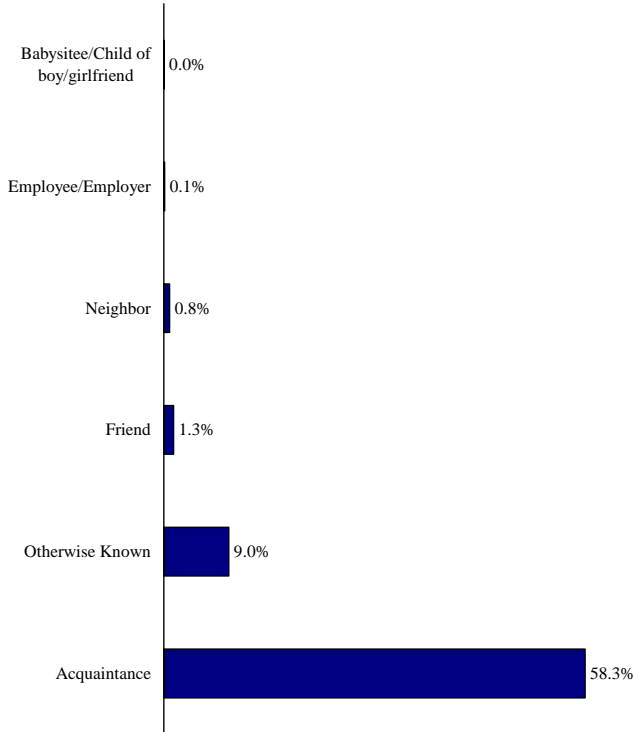
**GANG VIOLENCE VICTIMS
BY VICTIM TO OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP
VICTIM WAS KNOWN
1998 - 2007**

Victim was:	Number	Percent
Acquaintance	7,457	58.3%
Babysittee/ Child of boy or girlfriend	5	<0.1%
Employee/Employer	11	0.1%
Friend	171	1.3%
Neighbor	102	0.8%
Otherwise Known	1,149	9.0%
Total	8,895	69.6%

Notes: Unit of count victims. SCIBRS records up to ten victim to offender relationships per victim. Situations in which more than one victim and/or more than one offender are involved results in a multiplicative effect for the victim to offender relationships. Unknown victim to offender relationships were excluded. The category babysittee refers to a victim who was being cared for. The percent column represents the percent that each victim/offender relationship comprises of all gang violence victim/offender relationships. The percent column does not total 69.6 due to rounding.

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Gang Violence Victim Was Known 1998 - 2007



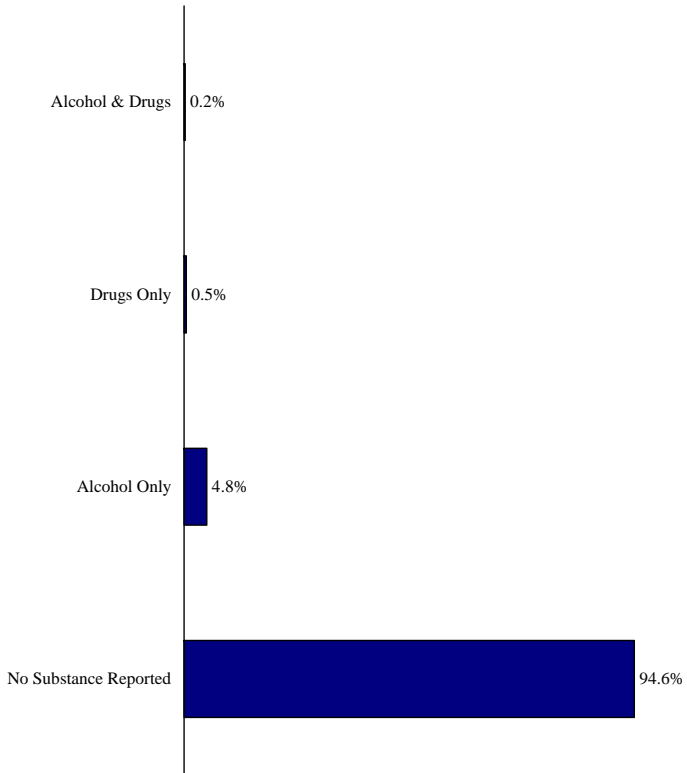
Substance use by the victim was reported in 5.5% of gang related incidents.

**VICTIM SUBSTANCE USE IN GANG CRIMES
1998 - 2007**

Substance	Number	Percent
Alcohol Only	251	4.8%
Alcohol & Drugs	11	0.2%
Drugs Only	25	0.5%
No Substance Reported	4,958	94.6%
Total	5,245	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count – incidents. This indicates the number of incidents in which substance use by a victim was reported, not the number of victims using a substance. The percent column does not add up to 100 due to rounding.
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Victim Substance Use in Gang Incidents 1998 - 2007



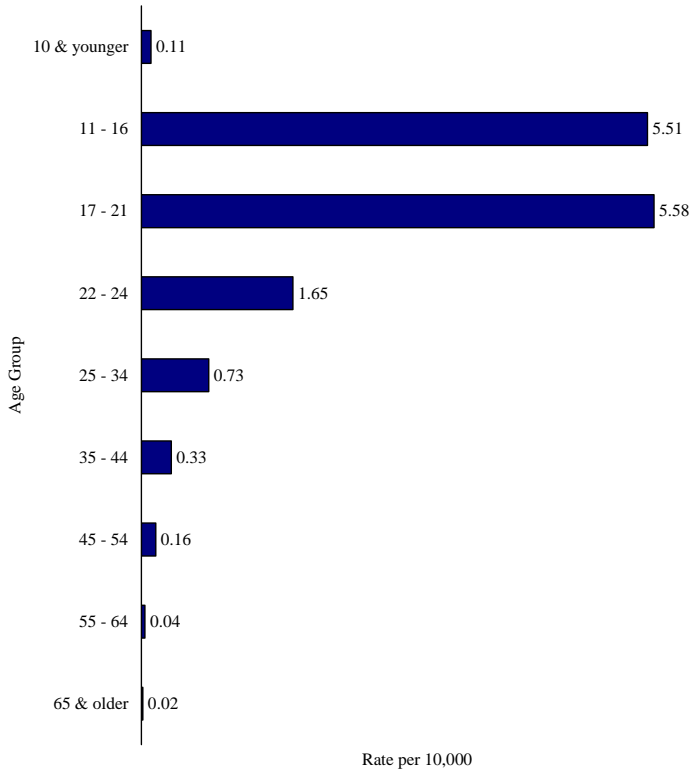
The mean average age for violent gang offenders was 19.5 years. The highest gang related violence offender rate was reported among 17 to 21 year olds, followed by 11 to 16 year olds.

**VIOLENT GANG OFFENDERS BY AGE
1998 - 2007**

Age Group	Number	Percent	Rate
10 & younger	107	1.4%	0.11
11 - 16	3,222	41.3%	5.51
17 - 21	2,754	35.3%	5.58
22 - 24	492	6.3%	1.65
25 - 34	714	9.2%	0.73
35 - 44	334	4.3%	0.33
45 - 54	138	1.8%	0.16
55 - 64	26	0.3%	0.04
65 & older	14	0.2%	0.02
Total	7,801	100.0%	2.43

Notes: Unit of count – offenders. A total of 2,264 offenders were missing age data or had age entered as a range that did not allow inclusion. The percent column does not total 100 due to rounding. The total rate is based on all gang violence offenders. Sources: SCIBRS, SLED; population estimates, ORS.

Violent Gang Offenders by Age 1998 - 2007



Among violent gang offenders younger than 25, the highest offender rate was reported among 15 to 16 year olds, followed by 17 to 19 year olds.

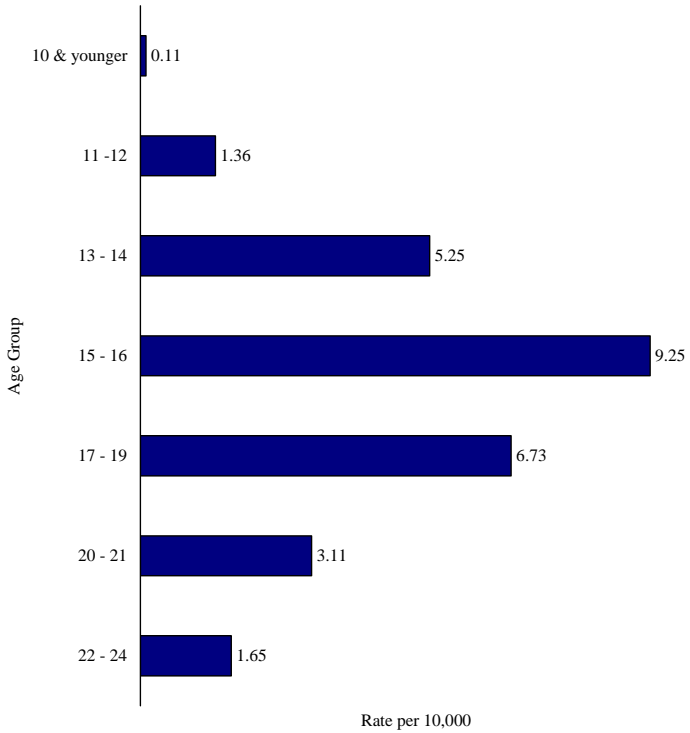
**JUVENILE AND YOUNG ADULT
VIOLENT GANG OFFENDERS BY AGE
1998 - 2007**

Age Group	Number	Percent	Rate
10 & younger	107	1.4%	0.11
11 - 12	263	3.4%	1.36
13 - 14	1,013	13.0%	5.25
15 - 16	1,785	22.9%	9.25
17 - 19	1,992	25.5%	6.73
20 - 21	613	7.9%	3.11
22 - 24	492	6.3%	1.65
Total	6,265	80.3%	2.75

Notes: Unit of count – offenders. Total rate represents the gang offender rate for all gang offenders younger than 25. A total of 310 juveniles and young adults had age ranges entered that did not allow inclusion in the above table, as a result the total of the percent column does not equal the sum of the percents for juvenile and young adults in the previous table. Percent represents the percent each age category comprises of all gang violence offenders with usable age data. The percent column does not total 80.3 due to rounding.

Sources: SCIBRS, SLED; population estimates, ORS.

Juvenile and Young Adult Violent Gang Offenders by Age 1998 - 2007



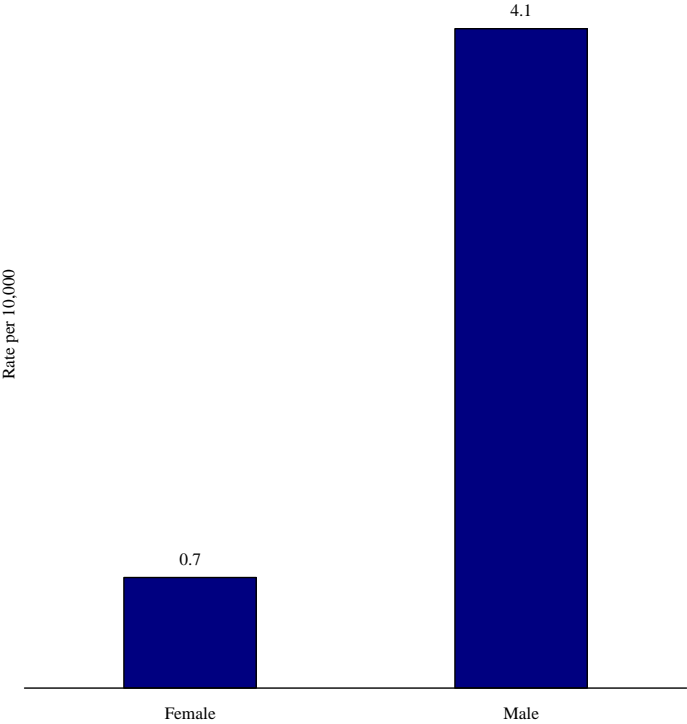
The violent gang offender rate for males was 4.1 per compared to 0.7 for females.

**VIOLENT GANG OFFENDERS BY SEX
1998 - 2007**

Sex	Number	Percent	Rate
Female	1,456	15.1%	0.7
Male	8,205	84.9%	4.1
Total	9,661	100.0%	2.4

Notes: Unit of count – offenders. There were 404 offenders for whom sex was missing or unknown. The total rate is based on all gang violence offenders.
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Violent Gang Offenders by Sex 1998 - 2007



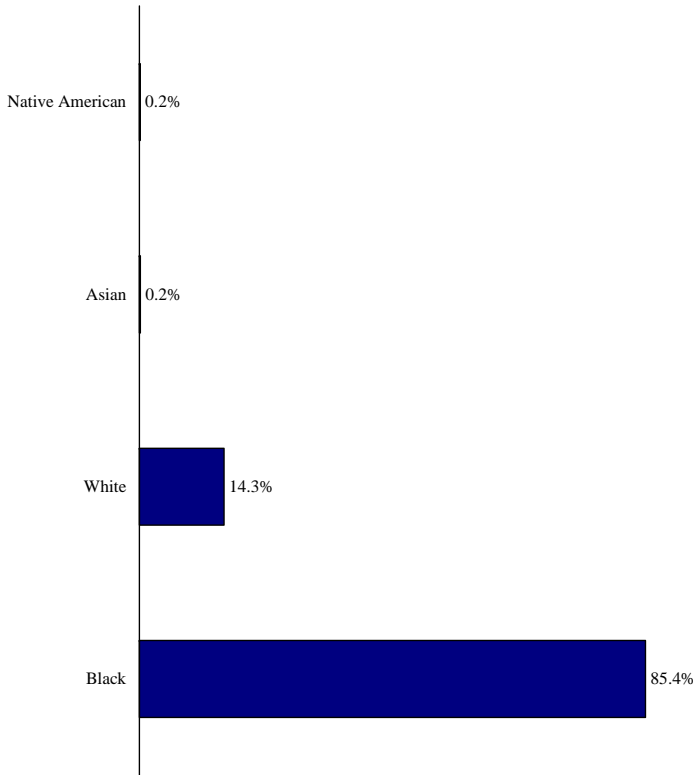
Violent gang offenders were most often reported to be Black.

**VIOLENT GANG OFFENDERS BY RACE
1998 - 2007**

Race	Number	Percent
Asian	19	0.2%
Black	8,188	85.4%
Native American	15	0.2%
White	1,371	14.3%
Total	9,593	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count – offenders. There were 472 offenders for whom race was missing or unknown. The percent column does not total 100 due to rounding.
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Violent Gang Offenders by Race 1998 - 2007



The violent gang offender rate for Non-Whites was 6.3, the violent gang offender rate for Whites was 0.5.

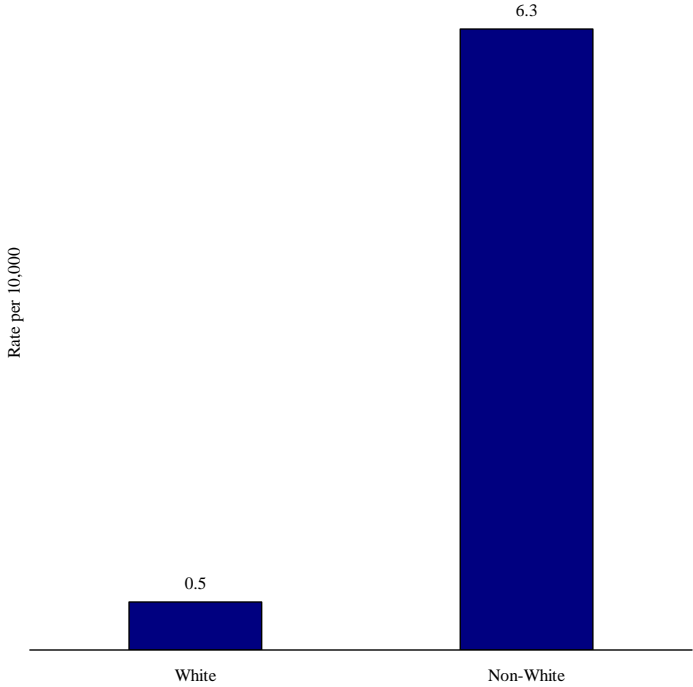
**VIOLENT GANG OFFENDERS
BY RACIAL GROUP
1998 – 2007**

Racial Group	Number	Percent	Rate
Non-White	8,222	85.7%	6.3
White	1,371	14.3%	0.5
Total	9,593	100.0%	2.4

Notes: Unit of count – victims. The Non-White racial group consists of Asian, Black and Native American. There were 472 offenders for whom race was missing or unknown. The total rate is based on all gang violence offenders.

Sources: SCIBRS, SLED; population estimates, ORS.

Violent Gang Offenders by Racial Group 1998 - 2007



The violent gang offender rate among Non-Hispanics was 3.6 per compared to 2.1 for Hispanics.

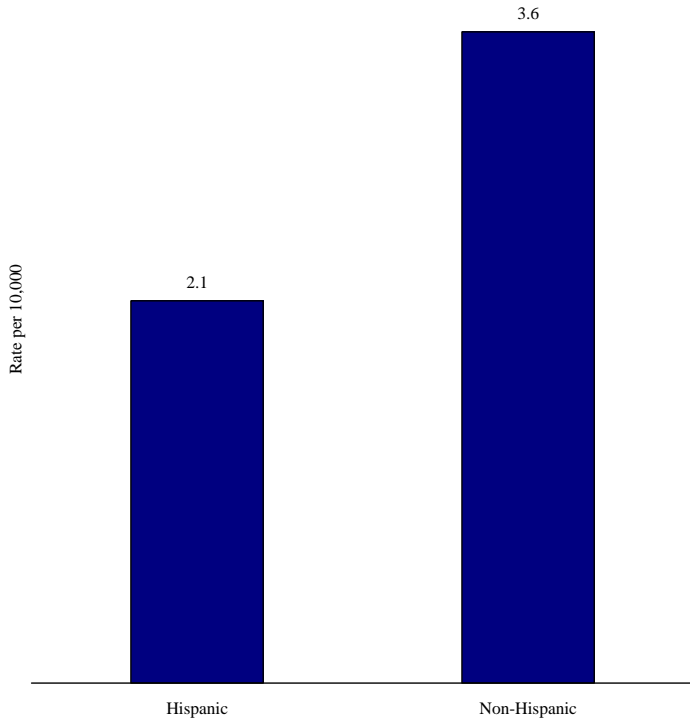
**VIOLENT GANG OFFENDERS BY ETHNICITY
2004 - 2007**

Ethnicity	Number	Percent	Rate
Hispanic	124	2.0%	2.1
Non-Hispanic	5,935	98.0%	3.6
Total	6,059	100.0%	3.8

Notes: Unit of count – victims. SCIBRS measures ethnicity separate from race. The 2004 to 2007 time period was used for this table because reliable population estimates for ethnicity were available. There were 555 offenders for whom ethnicity was missing or unknown. The total offender rate was calculated using all offenders from 2004 through 2007.

Sources: SCIBRS, SLED; population estimates, ORS.

Violent Gang Offenders by Ethnicity 2004 - 2007



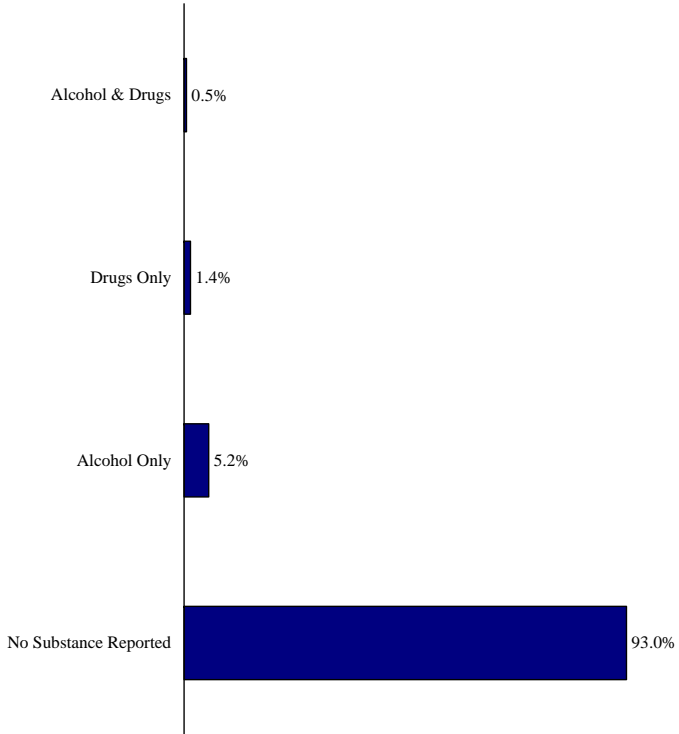
Substance use by the offender was reported in 7.1% of gang incidents.

**OFFENDER SUBSTANCE USE IN GANG
RELATED INCIDENTS
1998 - 2007**

Substance	Number	Percent
Alcohol Only	271	5.2%
Alcohol & Drugs	27	0.5%
Drugs Only	71	1.4%
No Substance Reported	4,876	93.0%
Total	5,245	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count – incidents. This indicates the number of incidents in which substance use by an offender was reported, not the number of offenders using a substance. The percent column does not total 100 due to rounding.
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Offender Substance Use in Gang Incidents 1998 - 2007



Gang Related Murders

The following section examines gang related murders from 1998 through 2007. SCIBRS is used as the source of information concerning gang related murders. Similar to the approach used in looking at gang related crime, indicators of gang involvement were used to identify gang related incidents and link them to victim and offender records.

Some differences regarding the nature and subsequent presentation of data from the section concerning gang related crime should be noted. From 1998 through 2007, a total of 48 gang related murder victims and 159 gang related murder offenders were reported in SCIBRS. Because of these relatively small numbers, victimization and offender rates were not calculated. Not only would the resulting rates be very small, but small changes in the actual number of gang related murders would result in such large changes in the rates as to render them meaningless and possibly misleading. Instead, the actual numbers and percentages were provided in order to provide the most meaningful measures of information available under these circumstances.

Gang related murders have increased from none reported in 1998 to 21 in 2007. The percent of murders that were gang related increased from 0.0% in 1998 to 5.92% in 2007.

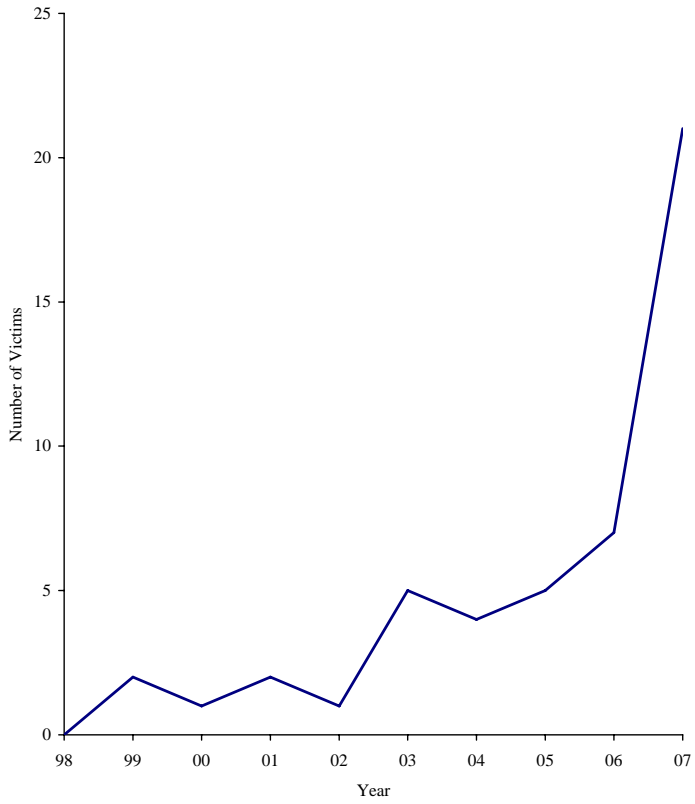
GANG MURDERS

Year	Number	Percent of Total
1998	0	0.00%
1999	2	0.70%
2000	1	0.34%
2001	2	0.63%
2002	1	0.33%
2003	5	1.66%
2004	4	1.37%
2005	5	1.59%
2006	7	1.93%
2007	21	5.92%

Notes: Unit of count – victims. Percent of total represents the percentage that gang murders represented of the total murders for that year.

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Gang Murders



More gang related murders were reported in August than any other month.

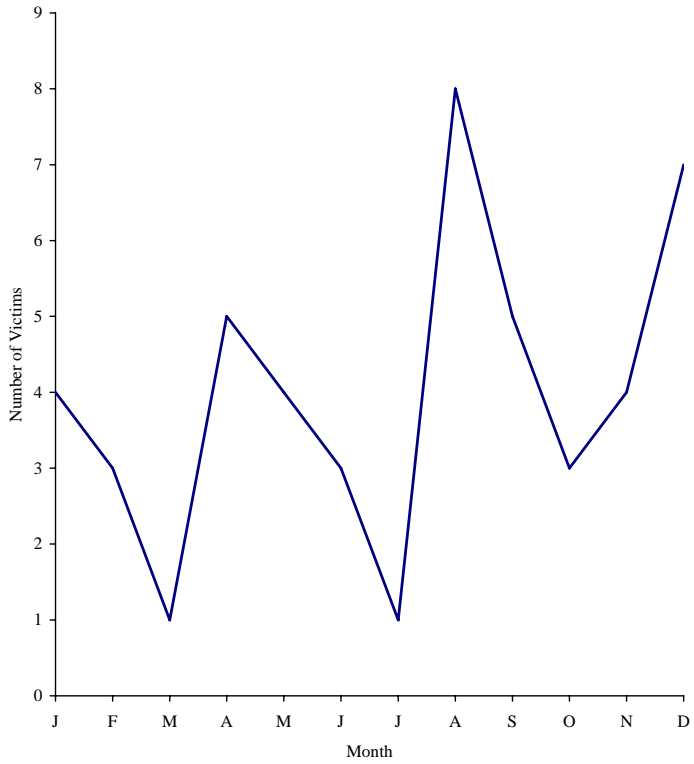
**GANG MURDERS BY MONTH
1998 - 2007**

Month	Number	Percent
January	4	8.3%
February	3	6.3%
March	1	2.1%
April	5	10.4%
May	4	8.3%
June	3	6.3%
July	1	2.1%
August	8	16.7%
September	5	10.4%
October	3	6.3%
November	4	8.3%
December	7	14.6%
Total	48	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count – victims. The percent column does not total 100 due to rounding.

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Gang Murders by Month 1998 - 2007



More gang related murders were reported on Sunday than any other day of the week.

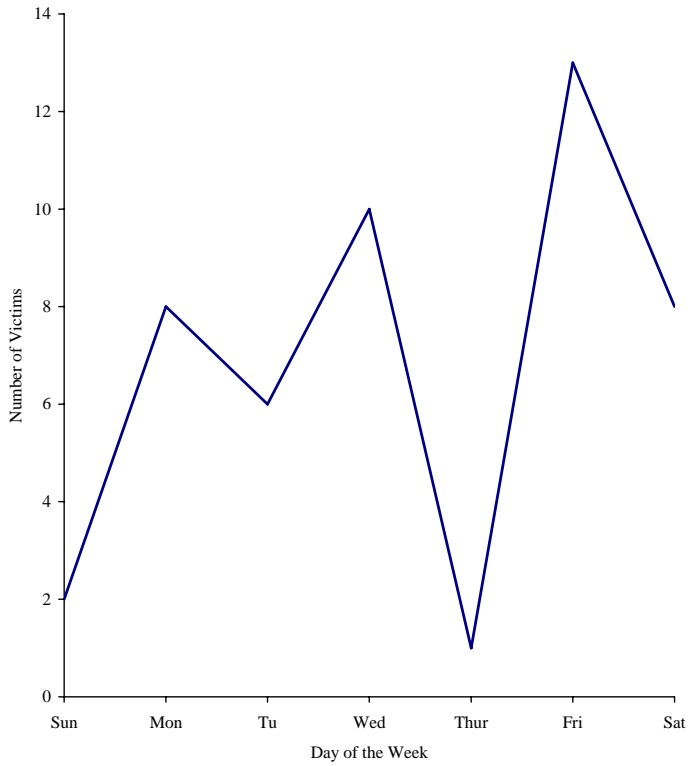
**GANG MURDERS BY DAY OF THE WEEK
1998 - 2007**

Day of the Week	Number	Percent
Sunday	13	27.1%
Monday	8	16.7%
Tuesday	8	16.7%
Wednesday	2	4.2%
Thursday	1	2.1%
Friday	6	12.5%
Saturday	10	20.8%
Total	48	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count – victims. The percent column does not total 100 due to rounding.

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Gang Murders by Day of the Week 1998 - 2007



Gang murders were reported most often between midnight and 1AM.

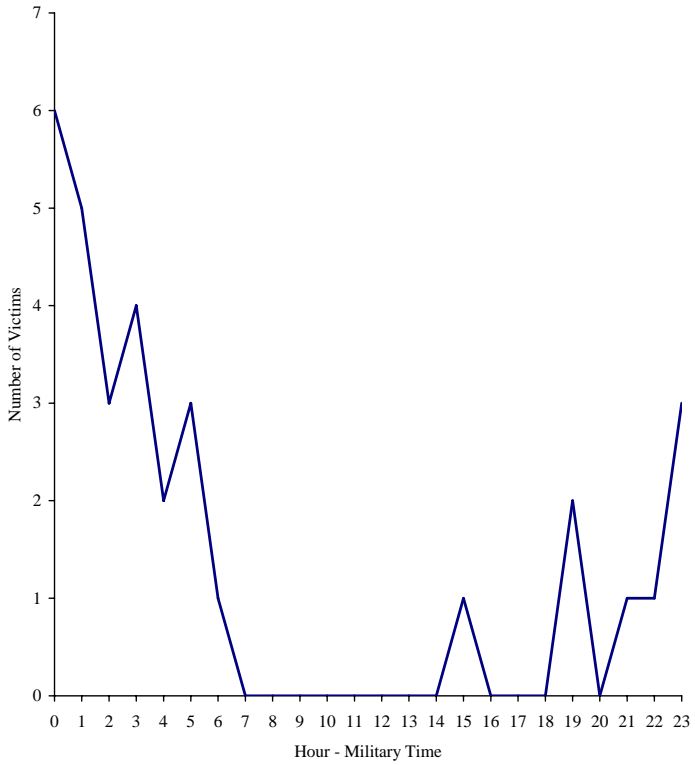
**GANG MURDERS BY TIME OF DAY
1998 - 2007**

Time of Day	Number	Percent
Midnight	6	12.8%
1AM	5	10.6%
2AM	3	6.4%
3AM	4	8.5%
4AM	2	4.3%
5AM	3	6.4%
6AM	1	2.1%
7AM	0	0.0%
8AM	0	0.0%
9AM	1	2.1%
10AM	0	0.0%
11AM	0	0.0%
Noon	0	0.0%
1PM	2	4.3%
2PM	0	0.0%
3PM	1	2.1%
4PM	1	2.1%
5PM	3	6.4%
6PM	2	4.3%
7PM	1	2.1%
8PM	3	6.4%
9PM	3	6.4%
10PM	2	4.3%
11PM	4	8.5%
Total	47	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count – victims. Time represents the reported time of murder by hour alone; e.g., 7AM represents all murders that occurred from 7:00 AM through 7:59 AM. One case was missing time of day data. The percent column does not total to 100 due to rounding.

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Gang Murders by Time of Day 1998 - 2007



Gang murders were reported most frequently at private residences, followed by highways, roads and streets.

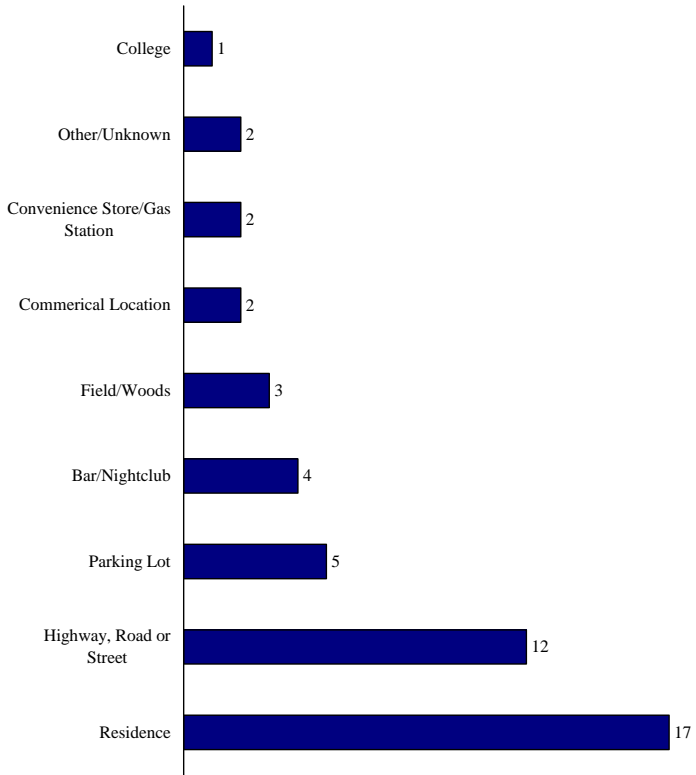
**GANG MURDERS BY LOCATION
1998 - 2007**

Location	Number	Percent
Bar or Nightclub	4	8.3%
College	1	2.1%
Commercial Location	2	4.2%
Convenience Store/ Gas Station	2	4.2%
Field/Woods	3	6.3%
Highway, Road or Street	12	25.0%
Other or Unknown	2	4.2%
Parking Lot	5	10.4%
Residence	17	35.4%
Total	48	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count – victims. The percent column does not total 100 due to rounding.

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Gang Murders by Location 1998 - 2007



Firearms accounted for 94% of the weapons reported in gang murders. Handguns were involved in 60% of gang murders.

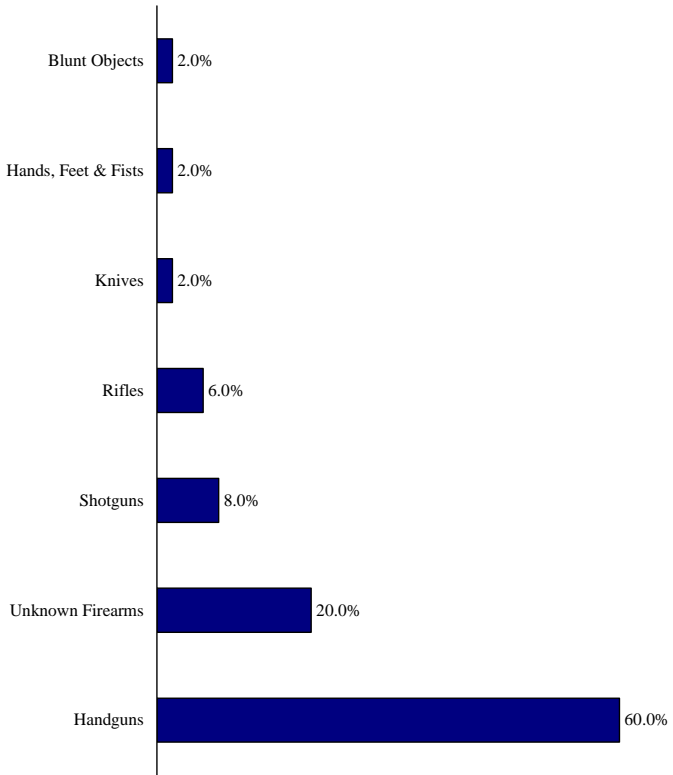
**WEAPON USE IN GANG MURDERS
1998 - 2007**

Weapon	Number	Percent
Blunt Object	1	2.0%
Firearms	47	94.0%
Handguns	30	60.0%
Rifles	3	6.0%
Shotguns	4	8.0%
Unknown Firearms	10	20.0%
Hands, feet, fists	1	2.0%
Knives	1	2.0%
Total	50	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count – victims. SCIBRS allows up to three weapon types to be recorded. Reports of unknown weapons were not included. Handguns, rifles, shotguns and unknown firearms are subcategories of the comprehensive firearms category; consequently the total of the percent column exceeds 100.

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Weapon Use in Gang Murders 1998 - 2007



The mean average age for gang murder victims was 24.5 years. Young adults from 17 to 25 years old accounted for 53.2% of gang murder victims.

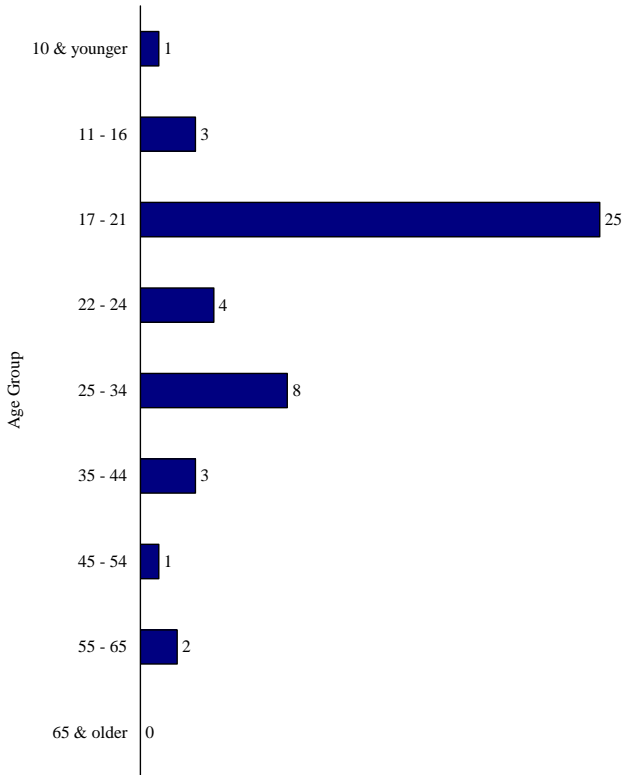
**GANG MURDER VICTIMS BY AGE
1998 - 2007**

Age Group	Number	Percent
10 & younger	1	2.1%
11 - 16	3	6.4%
17 - 21	25	53.2%
22 - 24	4	8.5%
25 - 34	8	17.0%
35 - 44	3	6.4%
45 - 54	1	2.1%
55 - 65	2	4.3%
65 & older	0	0.0%
Total	47	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count – victims. One victim’s age was entered as a range that did not allow inclusion.

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Gang Murder Victims by Age 1998 - 2007



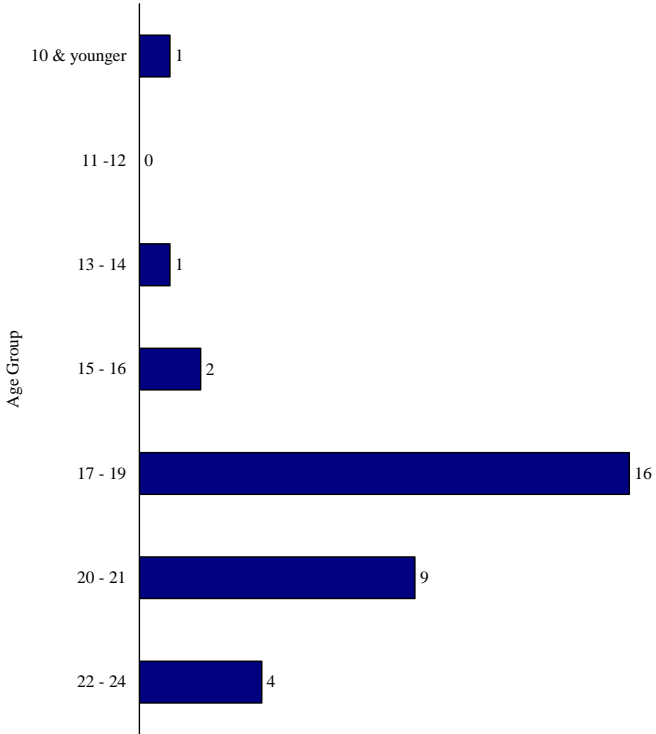
Juveniles and young adults accounted for 68.8% of gang related murder victims. Young adults from 17 to 19 accounted for 33.3% of the gang murder victims.

**JUVENILE AND YOUNG ADULT VICTIMS
OF GANG MURDER BY AGE
1998 - 2007**

Age Group	Number	Percent
10 & younger	1	2.1%
11 - 12	0	0.0%
13 - 14	1	2.1%
15 - 16	2	4.2%
17 - 19	16	33.3%
20 - 21	9	18.8%
22 - 24	4	8.3%
Total	33	68.8%

Notes: Unit of count – victims. Percent represents the percent each age category comprises of all gang murder victims with usable age data. One victim’s age was entered as a range that did not allow inclusion.
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Juvenile and Young Adult Victims of Gang Murder by Age 1998 - 2007



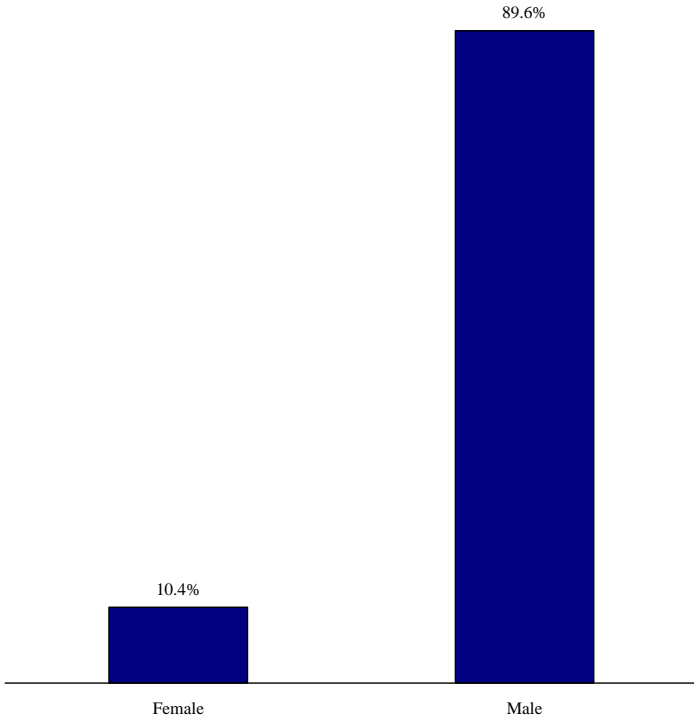
Males accounted for 89.6% of gang murder victims, females made up 10.4% of gang murder victims.

**GANG MURDER VICTIMS BY SEX
1998 - 2007**

Sex	Number	Percent
Female	5	10.4%
Male	43	89.6%
Total	48	100.0%

Note: Unit of count – victims.
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Gang Murder Victims by Sex 1998 - 2007



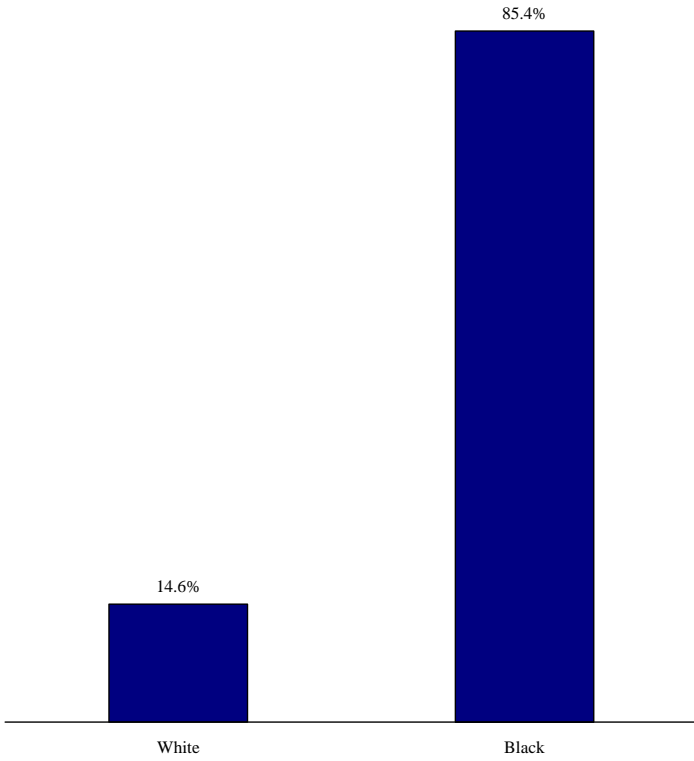
Of the total gang murder victims from 1998 through 2007, 85.4% were Black and 14.6% were White.

**GANG MURDER VICTIMS BY RACE
1998 - 2007**

Race	Number	Percent
Asian	0	0.0%
Black	41	85.4%
Native American	0	0.0%
White	7	14.6%
Total	48	100.0%

Note: Unit of count – victims.
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Gang Murder Victims by Race 1998 - 2007



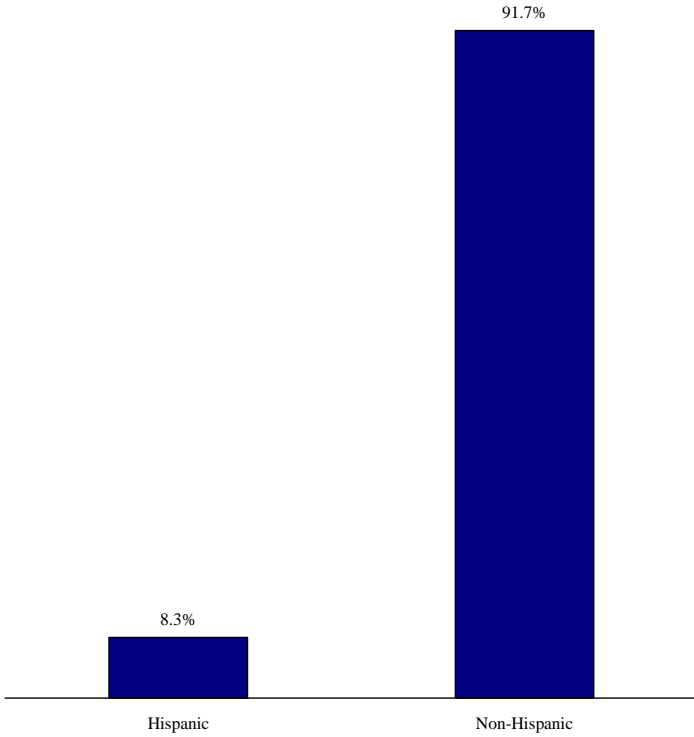
Non-Hispanics accounted for 91.7% of gang murder victims, 8.3% of the gang murder victims were Hispanic.

**GANG MURDER VICTIMS BY ETHNICITY
1998 - 2007**

Ethnicity	Number	Percent
Hispanic	4	8.3%
Non-Hispanic	44	91.7%
Total	48	100.0%

Note: Unit of count – victims.
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Gang Murder Victims by Ethnicity 1998 -2007



Acquaintances made up 47.8% of the victim to offender relationships in gang murders.

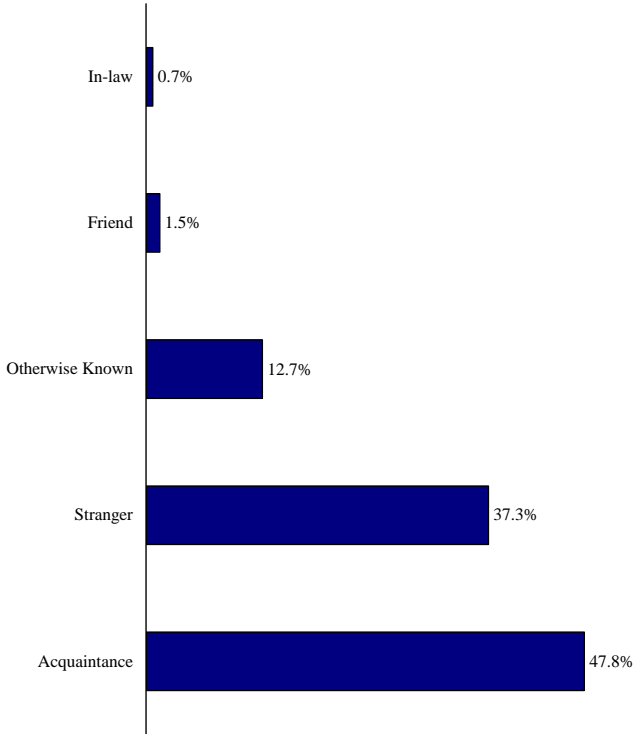
**GANG MURDER VICTIMS
BY VICTIM TO OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP
1998 - 2007**

Victim was:	Number	Percent
Acquaintance	64	47.8%
Friend	2	1.5%
In-law	1	0.7%
Otherwise Known	17	12.7%
Stranger	50	37.3%
Total	134	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count victims. SCIBRS records up to ten victim to offender relationships per victim. Situations in which more than one victim and/or more than one offender are involved results in a multiplicative effect for the victim to offender relationships. Unknown victim to offender relationships were excluded.

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Gang Murder Victim to Offender Relationships 1998 - 2007



Alcohol use by the victim was reported in 6.3% of gang murders. No other substance use among victims was reported.

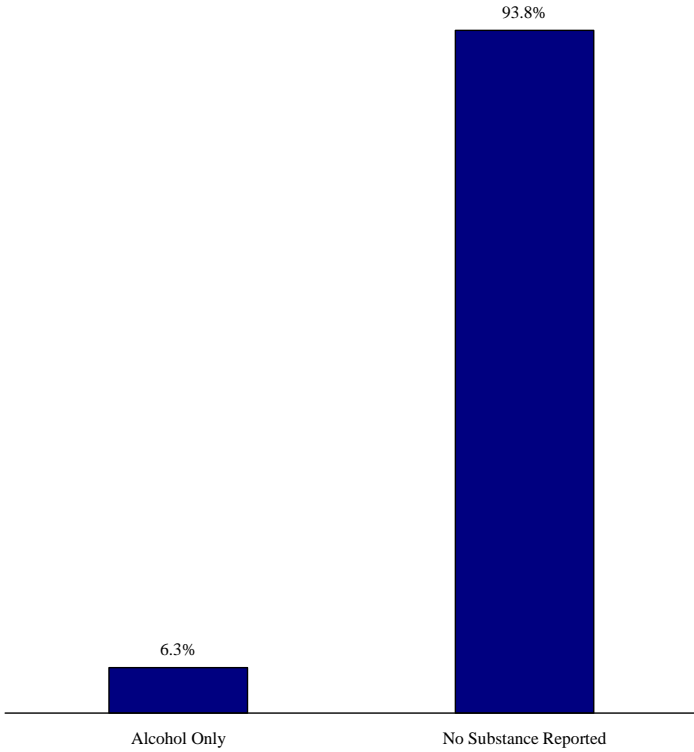
**VICTIM SUBSTANCE USE IN GANG MURDERS
1998 - 2007**

Substance	Number	Percent
Alcohol Only	3	6.3%
Alcohol & Drugs	0	0.0%
Drugs Only	0	0.0%
No Substance Reported	45	93.8%
Total	48	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count – victims. The percent column does not total 100 due to rounding.

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Victim Substance Use in Gang Murders 1998 - 2007



The mean average age for gang murder offenders was 20.6 years. Young adults from 17 to 21 years old accounted for 60.7% of gang murder offenders.

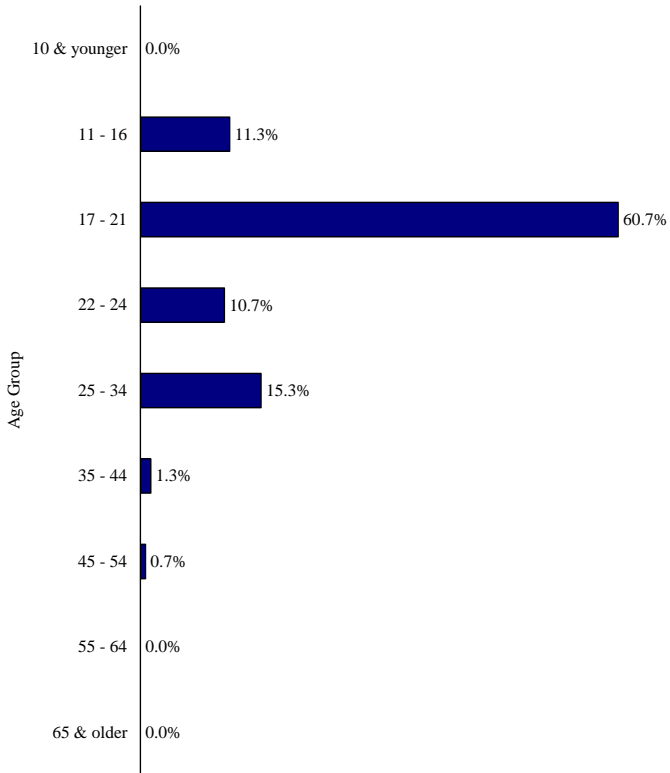
**GANG MURDER OFFENDERS BY AGE
1998 - 2007**

Age Group	Number	Percent
10 & younger	0	0.0%
11 - 16	17	11.3%
17 - 21	91	60.7%
22 - 24	16	10.7%
25 - 34	23	15.3%
35 - 44	2	1.3%
45 - 54	1	0.7%
55 - 64	0	0.0%
65 & older	0	0.0%
Total	150	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count – offenders. A total of 9 offenders were missing age data or the age was entered as a range that did not allow inclusion.

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Gang Murder Offenders by Age 1998 - 2007



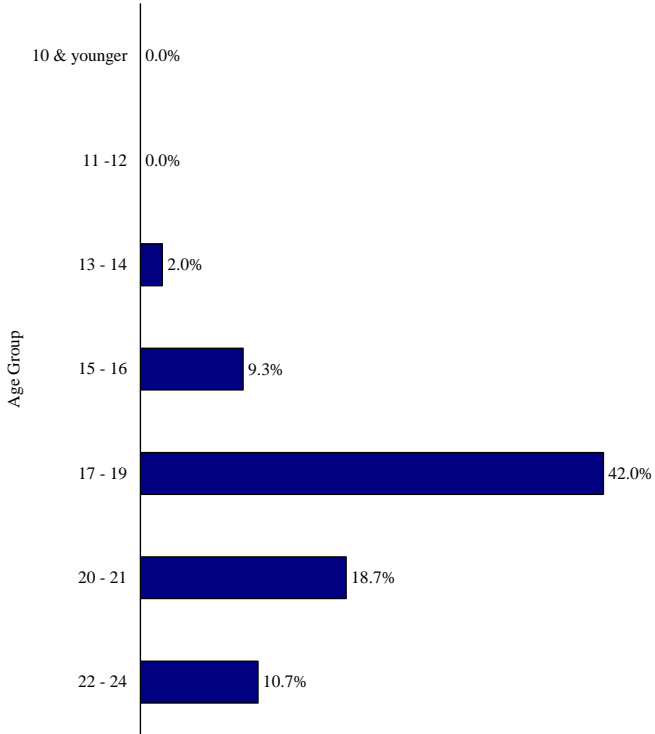
Juveniles and young adults accounted for 82.7% of gang murder offenders. Young adults from 17 to 19 years old accounted for 50.8% of gang murder offenders.

**JUVENILE AND YOUNG ADULT
GANG MURDER OFFENDERS BY AGE
1998 - 2007**

Age Group	Number	Percent
10 & younger	0	0.0%
11 - 12	0	0.0%
13 - 14	3	2.0%
15 - 16	14	9.3%
17 - 19	63	42.0%
20 - 21	28	18.7%
22 - 24	16	10.7%
Total	124	82.7%

Notes: Unit of count – offenders. Percent represents the percent each age category comprises of all gang murder offenders with usable age data. A total of 9 offenders were missing age data or the age was entered as a range.
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Juvenile and Young Adult Gang Murder Offenders by Age 1998 - 2007



Males comprised 94.2% the offenders in gang murders, 5.8% of the offenders were female.

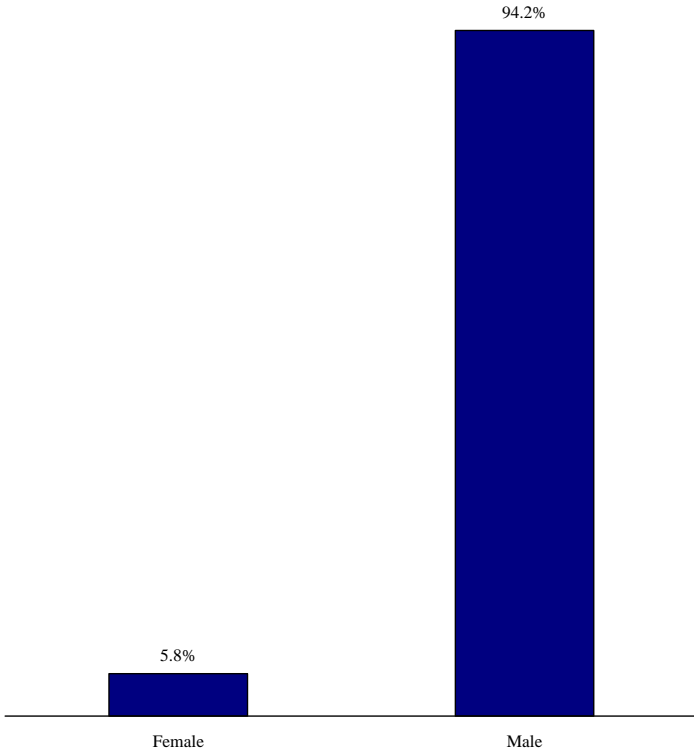
**GANG MURDER OFFENDERS BY SEX
1998 - 2007**

Sex	Number	Percent
Female	9	5.8%
Male	145	94.2%
Total	154	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count – offenders. A total of 5 offenders were of unknown sex or missing sex data.

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Gang Murder Offenders by Sex 1998 - 2007



Blacks made up 89.6% of gang murder offenders, 10.4% were White.

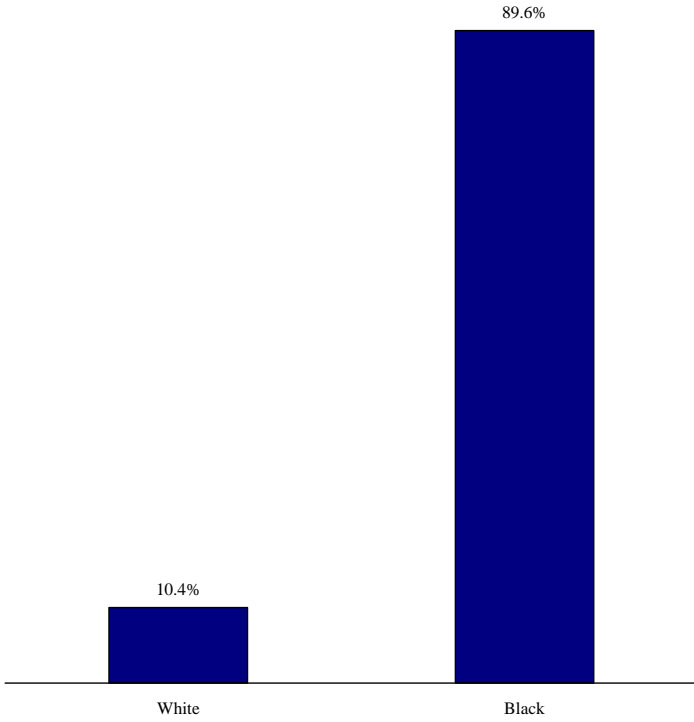
**GANG MURDER OFFENDERS BY RACE
1998 - 2007**

Race	Number	Percent
Asian	0	0.0%
Black	138	89.6%
Native American	0	0.0%
White	16	10.4%
Total	154	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count – offenders. A total of 5 offenders were of unknown race or missing race data.

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Gang Murder Offenders by Race 1998 - 2007



Non-Hispanics accounted for 93.9% of offenders in gang murders, 6.1% of gang offenders in gang murders were Hispanic.

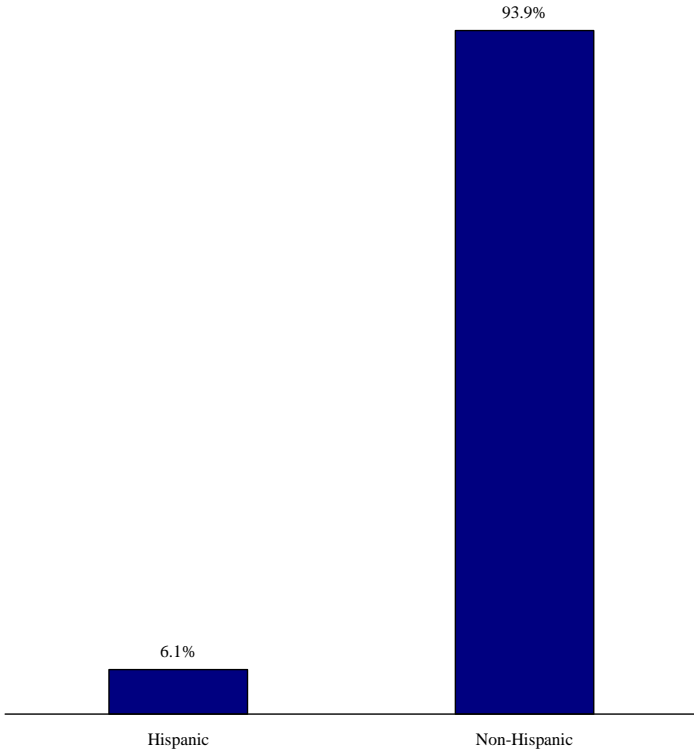
**GANG MURDER OFFENDERS BY ETHNICITY
1998 - 2007**

Ethnicity	Number	Percent
Hispanic	9	6.1%
Non-Hispanic	138	93.9%
Total	147	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count – offenders. A total of 12 offenders were of unknown ethnicity or missing ethnicity data.

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

Gang Murder Offenders by Ethnicity 1998 - 2007



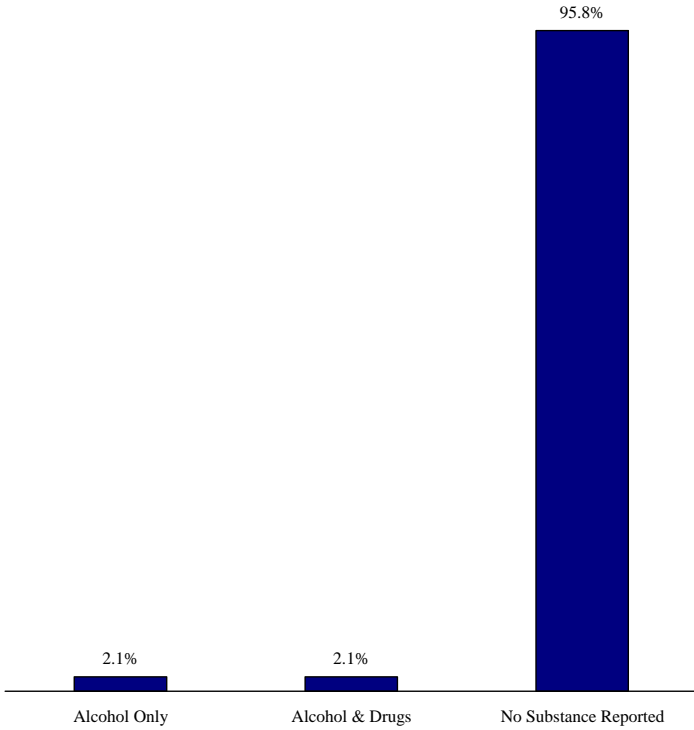
Substance use by an offender was reported in 4.2% of gang murders.

**OFFENDER SUBSTANCE USE
IN GANG MURDERS
1998 - 2007**

Substance	Number	Percent
Alcohol Only	1	2.1%
Alcohol & Drugs	1	2.1%
Drugs Only	0	0.0%
No Substance Reported	46	95.8%
Total	48	100.0%

Note: Unit of count – victims.
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

**Offender Substance Use
in Gang Murders
1998 - 2007**



Gangs in Prison

SCDC has been collecting information about inmate gang membership since 1995 and has well defined procedures tied to agency policies for identifying gang members. STG Unit officers are trained to identify and deal with gang members. The identification process starts during the admission process and includes examination for tattoos, as well as a review of personal belongings including photographs, documents and clothing. New inmates are questioned about gang affiliation and searches are conducted for previous law enforcement documentation of gang membership. Throughout the period of incarceration, correspondence and phone calls are screened and any evidence of gang membership or association with known gang members is recorded.

To be validated as a gang member, SCDC policy requires that at least two of the following criteria be met: self admission of membership, a gang tattoo, staff reports indicating gang membership, confidential informant information indicating membership, inmate correspondence identifying their affiliation, the presence of gang group photos, possession of gang publications/documents, use of symbols, logs, hand signs, etc., or involvement in gang activities.

A total of 1,137 inmates were identified as gang members at the end of FY 08. This represents a 4.6% of the jurisdictional population in FY 08.

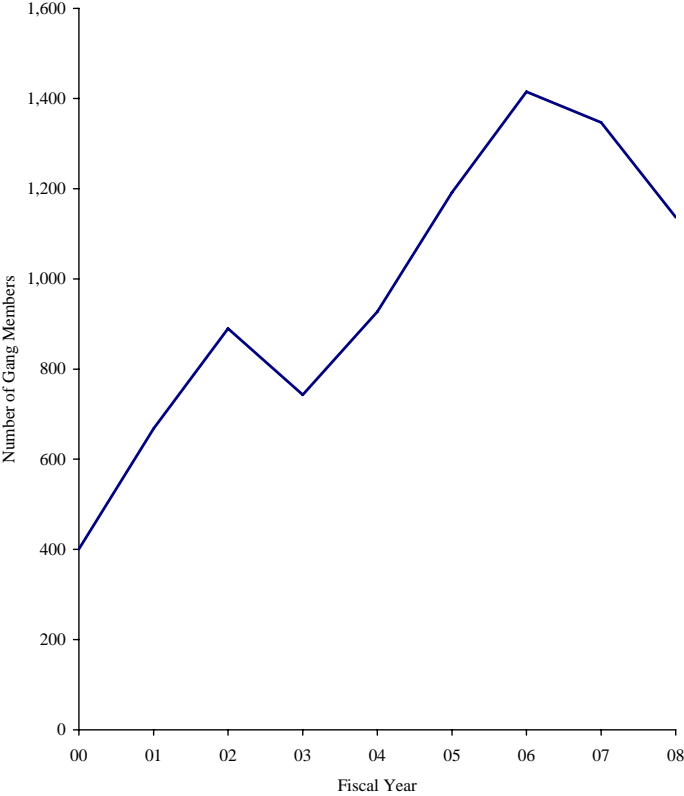
**INMATE GANG MEMBERS
END OF FISCAL YEAR COUNT**

Fiscal Year	Number	Percent of Inmates
2000	401	1.8%
2001	668	3.0%
2002	890	3.9%
2003	743	3.1%
2004	927	3.9%
2005	1,192	5.0%
2006	1,415	6.0%
2007	1,347	5.6%
2008	1,137	4.6%

Notes: Gang members include inmates who are suspected or validated as being gang members. End of year counts for FY 06 and FY 07 represent counts at the end of May for each of those years. The percent of inmates column represents the percent that inmate gang members represented of the jurisdictional population at the end of that fiscal year.

Sources: Unpublished report, SCDC; Statistical Reports, SCDC.

Inmate Gang Members



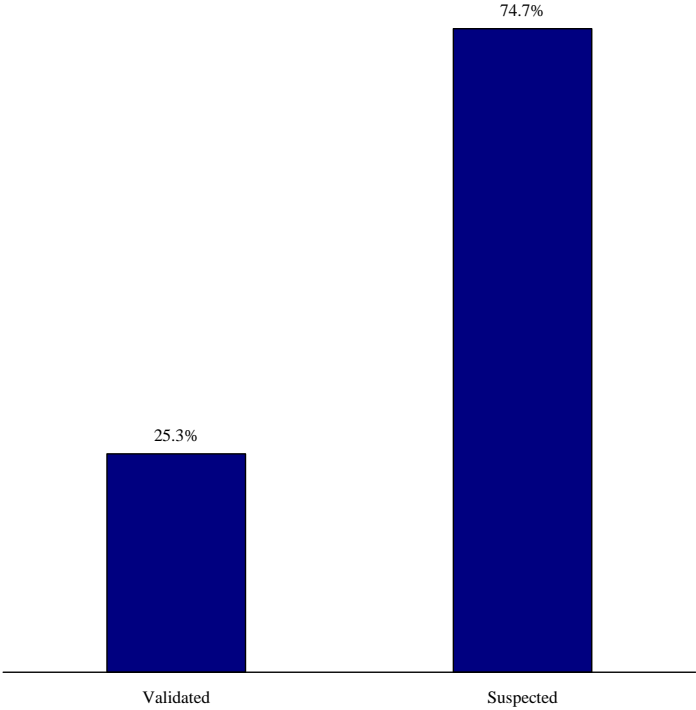
Of the 1,137 inmates identified as gang members at the end of FY 08, 74.7% were suspected of being gang members, 25.3% were validated as being gang members.

**INMATE GANG MEMBERS
BY LEVEL OF VERIFICATION
JUNE 30, 2008**

Level of Verification	Number	Percent
Suspected	849	74.7%
Validated	288	25.3%
Total	1,137	100.0%

Source: Unpublished report, SCDC.

**Inmate Gang Members
by Verification Level
June 30, 2008**



A total of 34 gang affiliations among gang inmate members were identified.

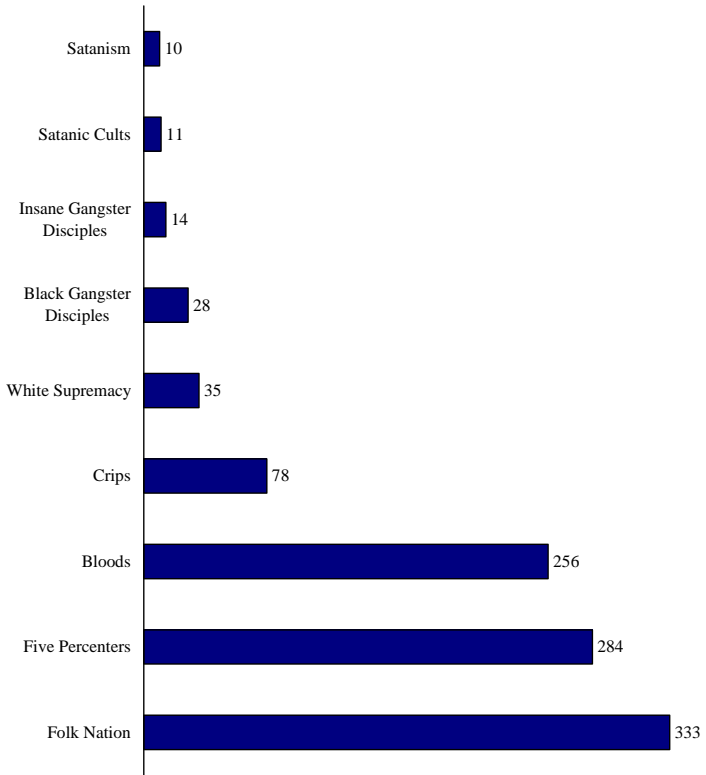
**INMATE GANG MEMBERS BY AFFILIATION
JUNE 30, 2008**

Gang Affiliation	Number	Percent
Aryan Brotherhood	9	0.8%
Black Gangster Disciples	28	2.5%
Black Liberation Army	9	0.8%
Bloods	256	22.5%
Crips	78	6.9%
Five Percenters	284	25.0%
Folk Nation	333	29.3%
Gangster Disciples	8	0.7%
Insane Gangster Disciples	14	1.2%
Other	44	3.9%
People Nation	9	0.8%
Satanic Cults	11	1.0%
Satanism	10	0.9%
Supreme White Power	9	0.8%
White Supremacy	35	3.1%
Total	1,137	100.0%

Notes: Other consists of 20 gangs with 5 or fewer identified members. The percent column does not total 100 due to rounding.

Source: Unpublished report, SCDC.

Inmate Gang Members by Affiliation June 30, 2008



Richland County committed the largest number of identified inmate gang members.

**INMATE GANG MEMBERS BY COUNTY
JUNE 30, 2008**

County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate
Abbeville	6	2.4	Greenwood	19	2.8
Aiken	45	3.0	Hampton	7	3.3
Allendale	2	1.9	Horry	76	3.0
Anderson	40	2.2	Jasper	8	3.7
Bamberg	13	8.4	Kershaw	14	2.4
Barnwell	9	3.9	Lancaster	21	2.9
Beaufort	27	1.8	Laurens	19	2.7
Berkeley	43	2.6	Lee	15	7.5
Calhoun	3	2.0	Lexington	74	3.0
Charleston	119	3.5	McCormick	3	3.0
Cherokee	19	3.5	Marion	22	6.5
Chester	4	1.2	Marlboro	18	6.2
Chesterfield	17	4.0	Newberry	11	2.9
Clarendon	23	7.0	Oconee	11	1.6
Colleton	13	3.3	Orangeburg	49	5.4
Darlington	35	5.2	Pickens	17	1.5
Dillon	13	4.2	Richland	246	6.9
Dorchester	28	2.3	Saluda	5	2.7
Edgefield	5	2.0	Spartanburg	78	2.8
Fairfield	3	1.3	Sumter	46	4.4
Florence	93	7.1	Union	11	4.0
Georgetown	24	4.0	Williamsburg	24	6.8
Greenville	110	2.6	York	71	3.4

Sources: Unpublished report, SCDC; population estimates, ORS.

Bamberg County had the highest rate of identified inmate gang member admissions.

**INMATE GANG MEMBERS BY COUNTY
COUNTIES WITH THE TEN HIGHEST RATES
JUNE 30, 2008**

County	Number	Rate
Bamberg	13	8.4
Lee	15	7.5
Florence	93	7.1
Clarendon	23	7.0
Richland	246	6.9
Williamsburg	24	6.8
Marion	22	6.5
Marlboro	18	6.2
Orangeburg	49	5.4
Darlington	35	5.2

Sources: Unpublished report, SCDC; population estimates, ORS.

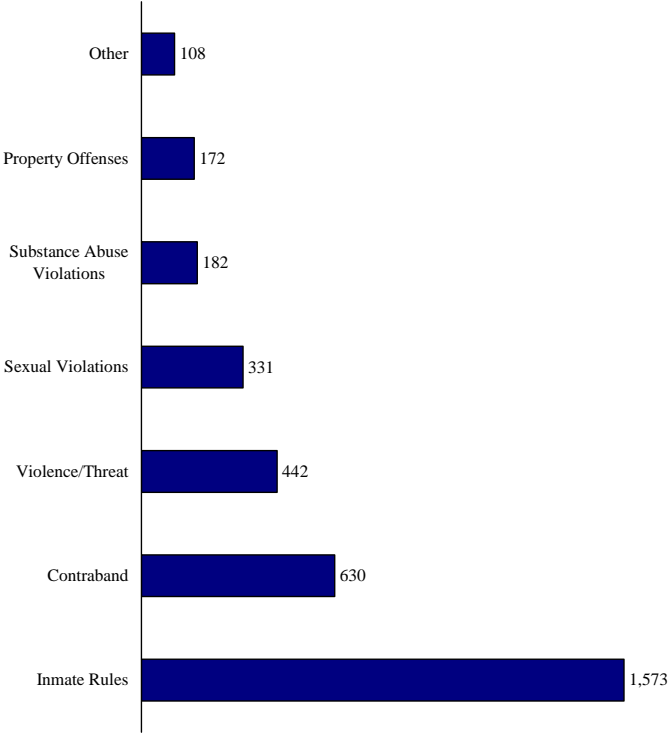
Gang member inmates accounted for a total of 3,438 violations during FY 08.

**VIOLATIONS INVOLVING
INMATE GANG MEMBERS
FY 08**

Type of Violation	Number	Percent
Contraband	630	18.3%
Inmate Rules	1,573	45.8%
Other	108	3.1%
Property Offenses	172	5.0%
Sexual Violations	331	9.6%
Substance Abuse	182	5.3%
Violence/Threat	442	12.9%
Total	3,438	100.0%

Source: Unpublished report, SCDC.

**Violations Involving
Inmate Gang Members
FY 08**



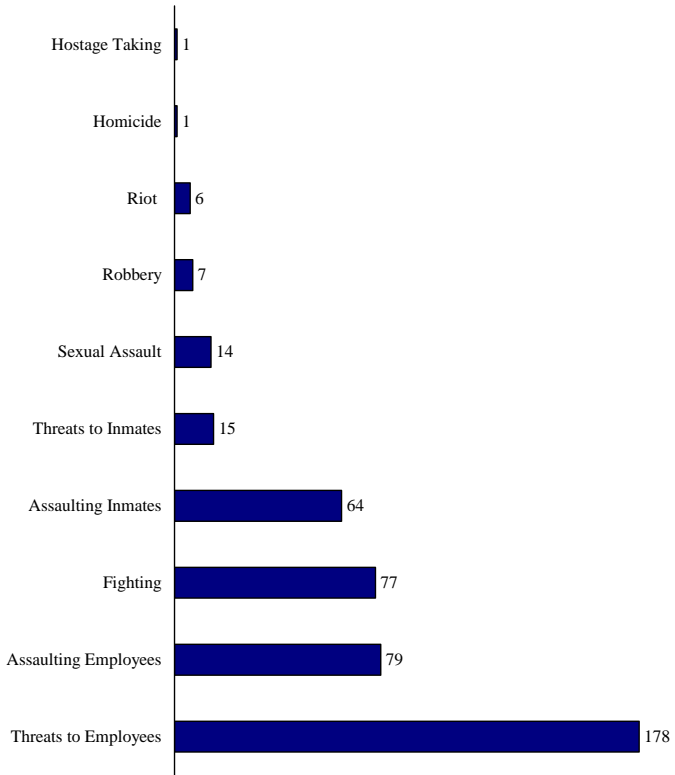
Of the violations involving violence or the threat of violence by inmate gang members, the most common violation was threatening an employee.

**VIOLENT VIOLATIONS INVOLVING
INMATE GANG MEMBERS
FY 08**

Violation	Number	Percent
Assaulting Employees	79	17.9%
Assaulting Inmates	64	14.5%
Fighting	77	17.4%
Homicide	1	0.2%
Hostage Taking	1	0.2%
Riot	6	1.4%
Robbery	7	1.6%
Sexual Assault	14	3.2%
Threats to Employees	178	40.3%
Threats to Inmates	15	3.4%
Total	442	100.0%

Note: The percent column does not total 100 due to rounding.
Source: Unpublished report, SCDC.

Inmate Gang Member Violence FY 08



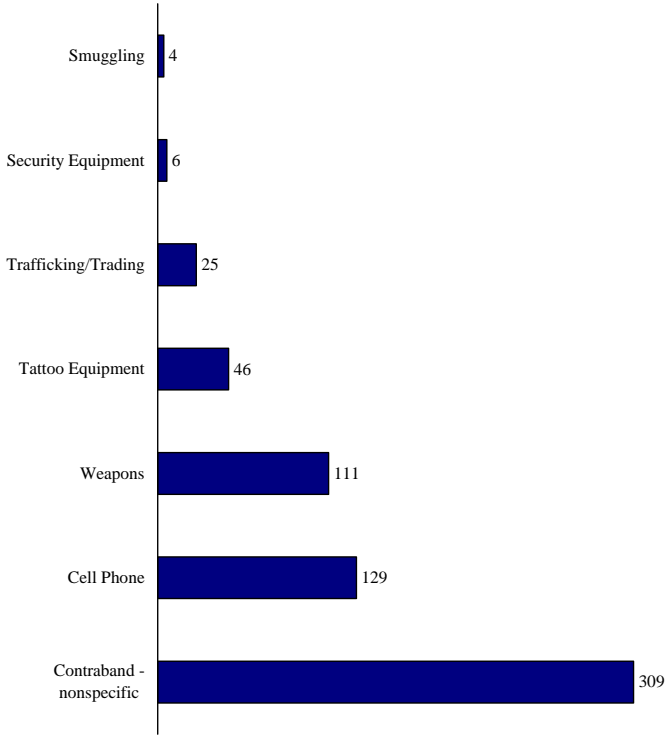
Of the gang related violations involving contraband, cell phones were the most often reported specific item.

**CONTRABAND VIOLATIONS
INVOLVING INMATE GANG MEMBERS
FY 08**

Type of Contraband	Number	Percent
Cell Phone	129	20.5%
Contraband (unspecified)	309	49.0%
Security Equipment	6	1.0%
Smuggling	4	0.6%
Tattoo Equipment	46	7.3%
Trafficking/Trading	25	4.0%
Weapons	111	17.6%
Total	630	100.0%

Source: Unpublished report, SCDC.

**Contraband Violations
by Inmate Gang Members
FY 08**



Gangs in Community Corrections

SCDPPPS has been collecting information concerning gang membership at offender admission since July 2000. Historically the utility of this information beyond the case level was limited, as much of the specific information relating to gang membership was entered as narrative text, a format not conducive to statistical analysis. However in 2007, SCDPPPS implemented several changes that allow gang related data elements to be coded and automated. The resulting data source is much more amenable to analysis.

This report focuses primarily on gang members under community correctional supervision on September 18, 2008. Identification of gang members usually occurs during the admission process, although an offender may be identified as a gang member at any time during his period of supervision. Data which mark an offender as a gang member, identify a specific gang affiliation, determine the level of membership and provide descriptors of physical features such as tattoos and photographs are recorded and stored. Additionally, information such as demographic factors, commitment offenses, levels of supervision and any other data collected for all community corrections offenders are also available for identified gang members.

There were 886 identified gang members under community correctional supervision representing 2.9% of the offender population. Drug offenses were the most common offense reported among gang members under community correctional supervision.

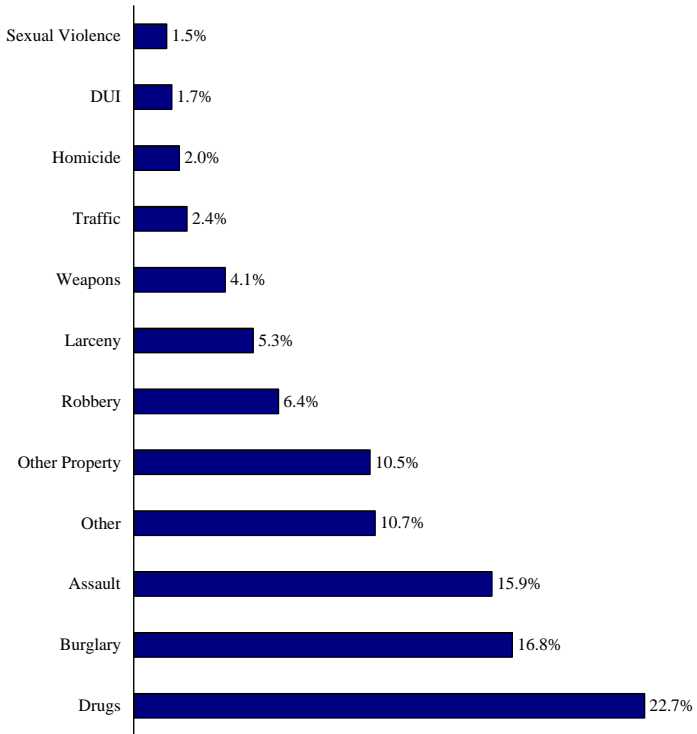
**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS
GANG MEMBERS BY OFFENSE
SEPTEMBER 18, 2008**

Offense	Number	Percent
Assault	141	15.9%
Burglary	149	16.8%
DUI	15	1.7%
Drugs	201	22.7%
Larceny	47	5.3%
Homicide	18	2.0%
Other	95	10.7%
Other Property	93	10.5%
Robbery	57	6.4%
Sexual Violence	13	1.5%
Traffic	21	2.4%
Weapons	36	4.1%
Total	886	100.0%

Notes: Offense is based on the most serious conviction offense. Homicide includes murder, manslaughter and accessory to homicide. Percent of gang members is based on SCDPPPS total population on September 31, 2008.

Source: Unpublished data files, SCDPPPS.

Community Corrections Gang Members by Offense September 18, 2008



There were 886 active offenders identified as gang members under community correctional supervision. A total of 24 gangs were identified.

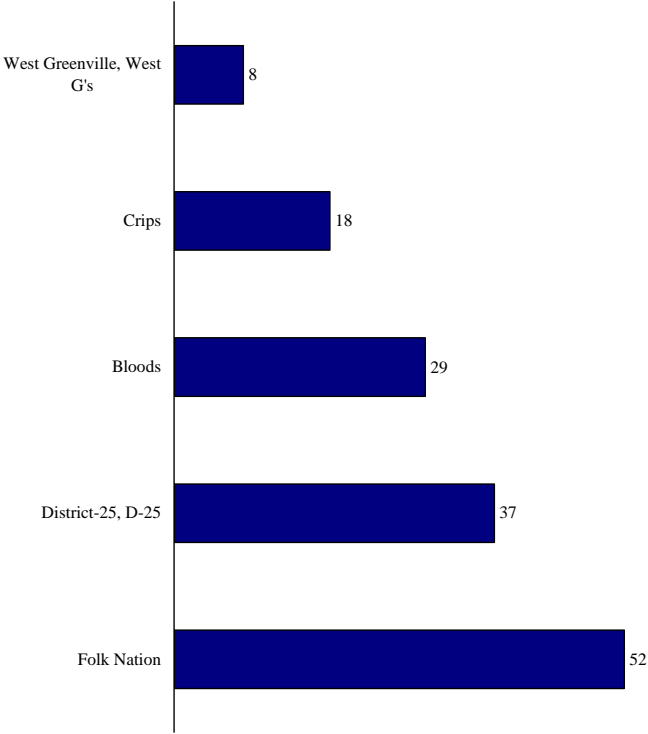
**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS
GANG MEMBERS BY AFFILIATION
SEPTEMBER 18, 2008**

Gang Affiliation	Number	Percent
Bloods	29	17.1%
Crips	18	10.6%
District-25, D-25	37	21.8%
Folk Nation	52	30.6%
Other	26	15.3%
West Greenville, West G's	8	4.7%
Total	170	100.0%

Notes: Other includes 19 gangs with 5 or fewer identified members under community correctional supervision. A total of 715 identified gang members did not have specific gang affiliations reported. The percent column does not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Unpublished data files, SCDPPPS.

**Community Corrections
Gang Members by Affiliation
September 18, 2008**



Greenville County had the largest number of identified gang members under community correctional supervision.

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS
GANG MEMBERS BY SUPERVISING COUNTY
SEPTEMBER 18, 2008**

County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate
Abbeville	4	1.6	Greenwood	3	0.4
Aiken	24	1.6	Hampton	8	3.8
Allendale	7	6.7	Horry	27	1.1
Anderson	38	2.1	Jasper	8	3.7
Bamberg	5	3.2	Kershaw	8	1.4
Barnwell	6	2.6	Lancaster	18	2.4
Beaufort	25	1.7	Laurens	15	2.2
Berkeley	17	1.0	Lee	5	2.5
Calhoun	3	2.0	Lexington	24	1.0
Charleston	45	1.3	McCormick	0	0.0
Cherokee	7	1.3	Marion	12	3.5
Chester	6	1.8	Marlboro	7	2.4
Chesterfield	9	2.1	Newberry	3	0.8
Clarendon	11	3.4	Oconee	6	0.8
Colleton	11	2.8	Orangeburg	15	1.7
Darlington	19	2.8	Pickens	10	0.9
Dillon	3	1.0	Richland	115	3.2
Dorchester	25	2.0	Saluda	3	1.6
Edgefield	4	1.6	Spartanburg	44	1.6
Fairfield	8	3.4	Sumter	29	2.8
Florence	41	3.1	Union	1	0.4
Georgetown	13	2.2	Williamsburg	11	3.1
Greenville	139	3.3	York	19	0.9

Note: A total of 25 offenders supervised in the central office or a restitution center were excluded from this table.

Sources: Unpublished data files, SCDPPPS; population estimates, ORS.

Allendale County had the highest rate of identified gang members under community correctional supervision.

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS
GANG MEMBERS BY SUPERVISING COUNTY
COUNTIES WITH THE TEN HIGHEST RATES
SEPTEMBER 18, 2008**

County	Number	Rate
Allendale	7	6.7
Hampton	8	3.8
Jasper	8	3.7
Marion	12	3.5
Fairfield	8	3.4
Clarendon	11	3.4
Greenville	139	3.3
Bamberg	5	3.2
Richland	115	3.2
Florence	41	3.1
Williamsburg	11	3.1

Note: Florence and Williamsburg counties tied for the tenth rank.
Source: Unpublished data files, SCDPPPS; population estimates, ORS.

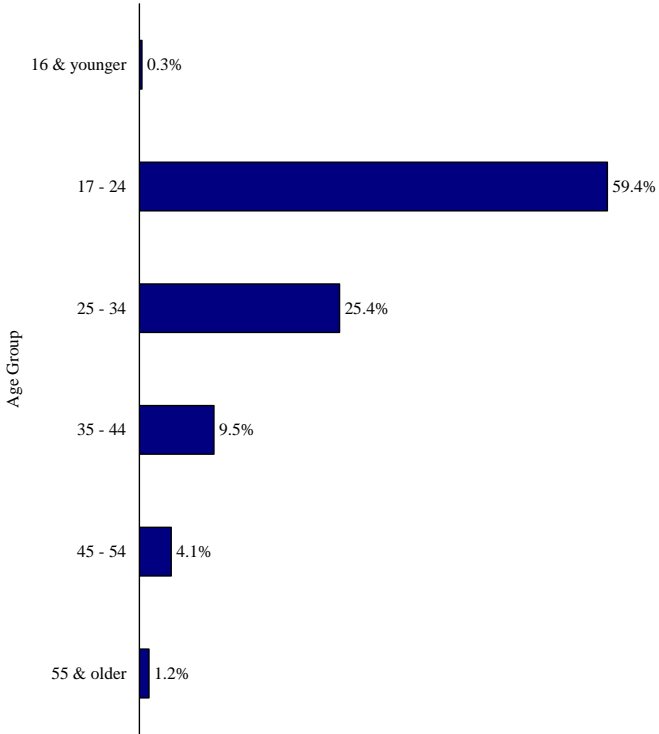
The mean average age among community corrections gang members was 26.3 years. The 17 to 24 age group comprised 59.4% of the identified gang members under community corrections supervision.

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS
GANG MEMBERS BY AGE
SEPTEMBER 18, 2008**

Age Group	Number	Percent
16 & younger	3	0.3%
17 - 24	526	59.4%
25 - 34	225	25.4%
35 - 44	84	9.5%
45 - 54	36	4.1%
55 & older	11	1.2%
Total	885	100.0%

Note: One offender was missing age data.
Source: Unpublished data files, SCDPPPS.

Community Corrections Gang Members by Age September 18, 2008



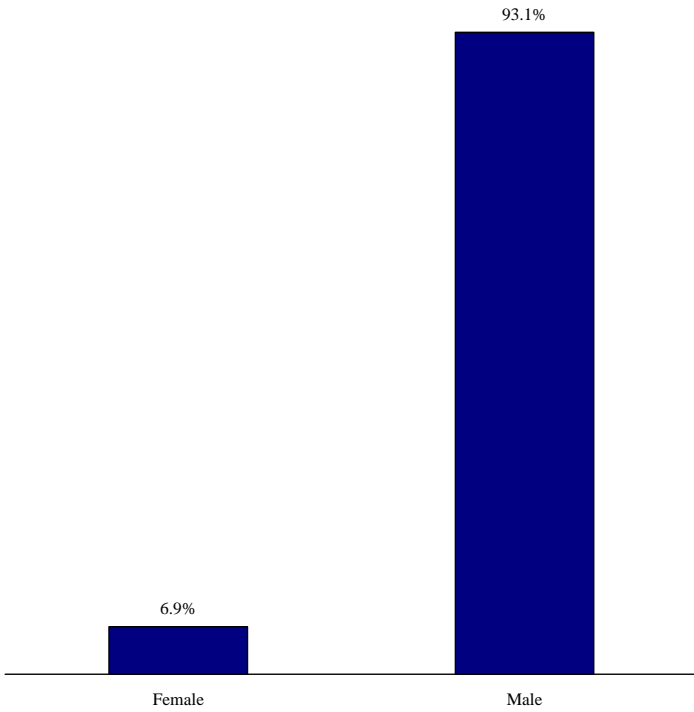
Of the identified gang members under community correctional supervision, 93.1% were male, 6.9% were female.

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS
GANG MEMBERS BY SEX
SEPTEMBER 18, 2008**

Sex	Number	Percent
Female	61	6.9%
Male	825	93.1%
Total	886	100.0%

Source: Unpublished data files, SCDPPPS.

**Community Corrections
Gang Members by Sex
September 18, 2008**



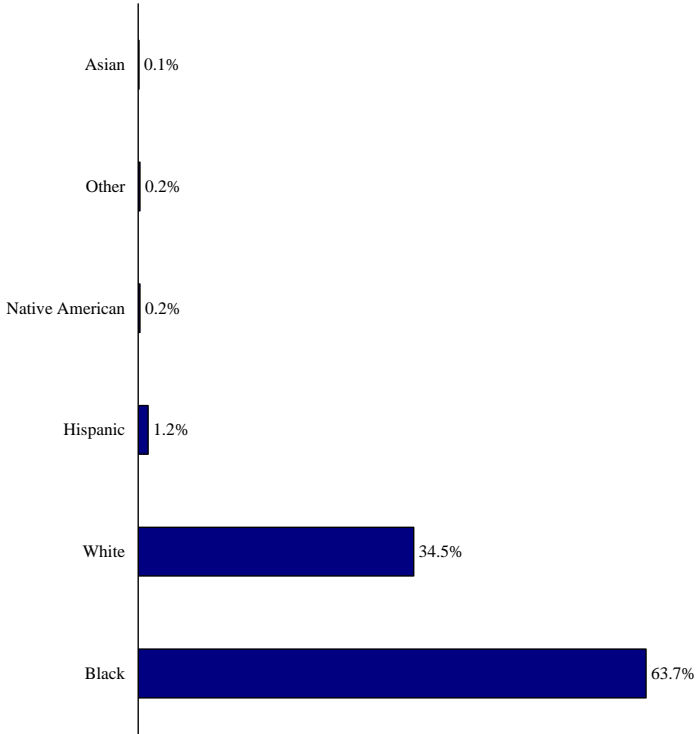
Of the identified gang members under community correctional supervision, 63.7% were Black, 34.5% were White.

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS
GANG MEMBERS BY RACE
SEPTEMBER 18, 2008**

Race	Number	Percent
Asian	1	0.1%
Black	564	63.7%
Hispanic	11	1.2%
Native American	2	0.2%
Other	2	0.2%
White	306	34.5%
Total	886	100.0%

Notes: SCDPPPS data defines Hispanic as a racial category, rather than as a separate ethnicity variable. The percent column does not total 100 due to rounding.
Source: Unpublished data files, SCDPPPS.

Community Corrections Gang Members by Race September 18, 2008



A total of 1,257 offenders identified as gang members have been closed out of community correctional supervision. Of that total, 44.1% were revoked for criminal or technical violations.

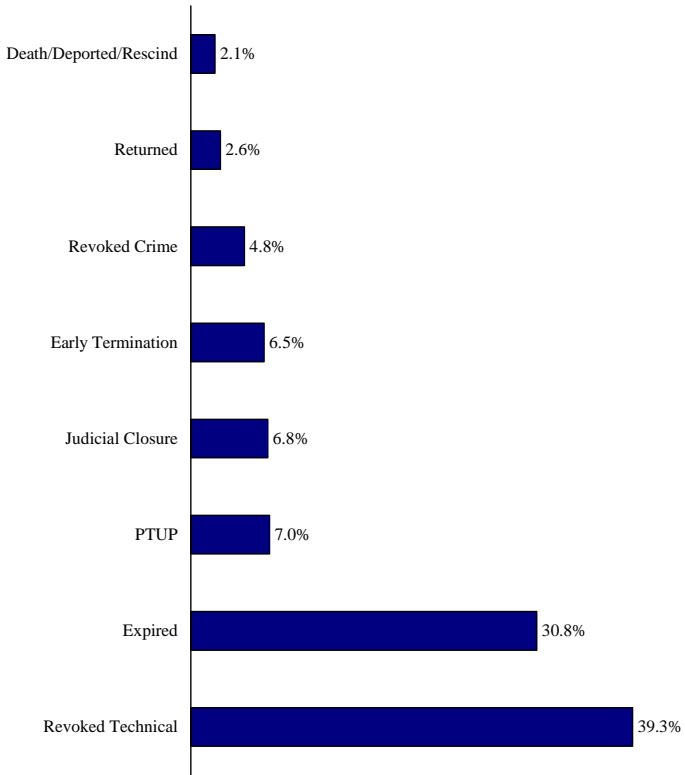
**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS
GANG MEMBERS BY REASON CASE CLOSED**

Reason Case Closed	Number	Percent
Deceased	17	1.4%
Deported	3	0.2%
Early Termination	82	6.5%
Expired	387	30.8%
Judicial Closure	86	6.8%
PTUP	88	7.0%
Rescinded	7	0.6%
Returned	33	2.6%
Revoked Criminal	60	4.8%
Revoked Technical	494	39.3%
Total	1,257	100.0%

Notes: This includes all offenders identified as gang members closed out from community corrections supervision on or prior to September 18, 2008. The acronym PTUP stands for probation terminated upon payment (of fines and fees). Revoked technical includes offenders revoked for technical offenses and offenders revoked with technical offense charges pending.

Source: Unpublished data files, SCDPPPS.

Community Corrections Gang Members by Reason Case Closed



Summary

Among the findings in this report, two are particularly noteworthy: first, the rapid growth rate of gang crime and, second, the extent to which gang crime is a factor in the state's overall crime profile. By several measures, gang related crime has been increasing dramatically in recent years. The rate of gang related incidents increased 996% from 1998 to 2007, the rate of gang violence increased 920% over the same time period, and gang related murders increased from none reported in 1998 to a total of 21 in 2007. These indications of growth in gang activity were also supported by the 184% increase reported in inmate gang members from FY 00 to FY 08.

While awareness of these increases in indicators of gang crime is important, it is equally important to understand them in the overall context of crime and violence. The degree to which gang crime contributes to the statewide volume of crime and violence is also important and within this context, the findings reveal a somewhat different story. Although gang violence increased markedly, that increase represented a change from 0.09% in 1998 to 0.99% in 2007, or more simply put, gang violence's share in overall violence rose from approximately 1 in 1,000 violent crimes in 1998 to almost 1 in 100 by 2007. Although this increase is large and real, it also defines gang violence as a minor contributor to the state's overall violent crime picture. This is also true for gang related murders, although it is important to note that by 2007, gang related murders accounted for 5.9% of the murders committed that year.

The serious nature of violence posed by gang activity was also demonstrated by the behavior of gang members in corrections and community corrections. Although identified gang members represented a small portion of these populations, 4.6% and 2.9% respectively in 2008, they constitute a problematic population. Inmate gang members committed 3,438 violations in FY 08 of which 442 were violent. Gang members in community corrections were revoked at a rate of 44.1%.

Gang related crime is disproportionately the province of juveniles and young adults, males and minorities. The rate of gang related violence among 15 and 16 year olds was not only the highest reported among any age group, it was 37% higher than the rate for 17 to 19 year olds, the next highest age group. Males made up 69.2% of gang violence victims with a victimization rate 144% higher than the victimization rate for females. The gang violence victimization rate among Non-Whites was 371% higher than the victimization rate for Whites.

This pattern of disproportionate representation was also found among gang offenders. The rate of violent gang offenders was highest among the 15 and 16 year old age group, with a rate that was also 37% higher than the next highest age group, 17 to 19 year olds. The gang violence offender rate for males was 486% higher than the rate for females. The gang violence offender rate was 11.6 times higher among Non-Whites than among Whites. This pattern of disproportionate representation by sex and race was also found among offenders under community correctional supervisions. Among community corrections offenders, 93.1% of identified gang members were male and 65.5% were Non-White.

Ethnicity was the one demographic factor for which disproportionate representation was not found regarding gang violence victimization. The gang violence victimization rate of 2.4 for Hispanics was slightly lower than the victimization rate of 2.5 for Non-Hispanics. By contrast, the violent gang offender rate for Non-Hispanics was 71.4% higher than the violent gang offender rate for Hispanics.

Alcohol or illicit drug involvement was reported infrequently. Among incidents of gang violence, 4.8% were reported to have involved alcohol use by the victim, 0.2% reported drug use by the victim and 0.2% reported alcohol and drug use by the victim. Slightly more substance use was reported among offenders in violent gang incidents. Offender use of alcohol only was reported in 5.2% of violent gang incidents, drug use only by an offender was reported in 1.4% of violent drug incidents and alcohol and drug use by an offender was reported in 0.5% of violent drug incidents.

The weapon type most frequently reported in gang violence was personal weapons (58.5%) such as hands, feet and fists. Firearm involvement was reported in 23.2% of gang violence, with handguns accounting for 70.4% of the firearms. The degree of firearm involvement increased with the level of violence. Among gang related murders, firearms accounted for 94% of weapon involvement, with handguns making up 63.9% of the firearms reported.

Victims of gang violence usually knew, but did not have family, romantic or marital ties to the offender. Acquaintances accounted for 58.3% of all gang violence

victims. Strangers accounted for 24.8% of the victim/offender relationships in gang violence. Family, romantic or marital relationships in gang violence were uncommon, accounting for 5.6%.

Gang violence was most often reported in private residences such as homes, apartments or condominiums (37.7%) followed by highways, roads or streets (24.9%). Schools (kindergarten through 12th grade) ranked third among gang violence locations, however, schools accounted for only 12.9% of gang violence overall.

The geographic distribution of gang violence was not as heavily weighted towards the more populous, urban counties, as one might expect. Although Richland County reported more gang violence than any other county in 2007, it was followed by Florence and Darlington counties, two mid-sized counties. Colleton, a small, suburban/rural county had the highest gang violence rate among the counties, followed by Chester and Darlington counties. Different patterns were found looking at inmates and gang members under community correctional supervision. Among inmates, Richland, Charleston, Greenville and Spartanburg ranked one through four in terms of the number of gang members respectively; similarly among community correctional offenders Greenville, Richland, Charleston and Spartanburg counties ranked one through four. Those findings are reasonably in line with populations. However, the highest gang inmate rates were reported by Bamberg, Lee and Florence counties, while Allendale, Hampton and Jasper counties, had the highest rates for community corrections offenders. These findings are consistent with the results of a 2005 survey

of South Carolina law enforcement agencies which found law enforcement agencies perceiving an emergence of gang presence and activity in rural and suburban communities (Rojek J., et. al., 2005). It is also important to note that some of the numbers of incidents and identified gang members are small and that relatively small changes could result in large increases or decreases.

So to answer the question (How Much, How Bad?) posed in the title: not very much but what we've got is pretty bad. The volume of gang crime is relatively small; however given the violent nature of gang crime, and being particularly mindful of the increase in gang related murders, it must be viewed as a very serious matter. The rate of increase in gang crime is not particularly alarming when viewed within the statewide context of the volume of violent crime, but continuation of the current rate of increase would be very alarming indeed and would have serious public safety consequences. Understanding the problem of gang crime in South Carolina will require not only additional street level research and documentation concerning the nature of gang practices and activities in South Carolina, but ongoing secondary data analysis of the nature and extent of gang violence.

Sources

Published Sources:

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