

**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

**HENDERSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MEETING DATE:** April 4, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Henderson County Gang Assessment Presentation

**PRESENTER:** Mary Murray

**ATTACHMENTS:** Yes  
1. Assessment

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

Mary Murray, Chairman of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, will present the recently completed Henderson County Gang Assessment to the Board, pursuant to the state requirements of the gang assessment grant.

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

No specific Board action is requested. This item is for informational purposes only.

**Suggested Motion:**

*No motion suggested.*

School of Government  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

# Henderson County Gang Assessment

January 31, 2011

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## Preliminary Findings

- Of the students who participated in the student survey, 12% indicated that they have ever been in a gang. Of those, only half said they were currently in a gang.
- The number of disciplinary incidents in Henderson County Schools has declined steadily since at least the 2002-03 school year. Possession of controlled substances account for roughly 62% of disciplinary incidents.
- Having best friends who are in gangs, personally, knowing adults to commit crimes, and committing acts of physical violence are significant risk factors for gang involvement
- Getting positive feedback in school and at home are the two strongest protective factors indicated in the student survey.
- The fact that local law enforcement agencies do not flag crimes as gang related or not makes drawing additional conclusions difficult.
- Community leaders, parents, community residents, and youth service agencies all agree that gang violence is both present and a problem in Henderson County.
- Gang prevention, suppression, and intervention is led by the Henderson County Sherriff Department's Gang Unit, directed by Sergeant Hill.
- There are currently no service agencies in Henderson County directly providing services to gang members. Many agencies do offer services that gang members take advantage of, however most agencies do not screen applicants for gang involvement through risk assessments.

## Background

Over the past few years, the U.S. Department of Justice (hereafter: DOJ) has provided grant funding to states to fund assessments of gang presence and activity. The structure and methodology of the assessments is outlined in a guide provided by the DOJ. In North Carolina, the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (hereafter: DJJDP) was responsible for the grant applications. Many counties applied individually or in groups for funding to administer these assessments. Henderson County was one of the applicants awarded funding.

In late September of 2009, the Criminal Justice Delinquency Prevention Council in Hendersonville, North Carolina and the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (hereafter: SOG) began discussions on conducting the assessment for Henderson County.

According to the assessment guide, three parties may be involved in the assessment:

- **Steering Committee**, responsible for overall administration of the assessment
- **Assessment Work Group**, responsible for research, analysis, and report writing
- **Research Partner**, an optional external party contracted to assist the Assessment Work Group with research, analysis, and/or report writing

The SOG team filled the role of Research Partner. Its members included:

- Maureen Berner, PhD, Principal Investigator
- Paul Caldwell, Project Manager
- Erika Walker, Research Assistant

The assessment covers the following areas:

- Community Demographic Data
- Law Enforcement Data
- Student and School Data
- Community Perceptions Data
- Community Resource Data

## Methodology

Work commenced in early November. The SOG team was responsible for gathering the Community Demographic and Student and School data while the Assessment Work Group was responsible for gathering the Law Enforcement Data. The SOG was also responsible for all analysis and report writing. All research questions were provided by the DOJ in the gang assessment guide. The guide also provided suggestions on data gathering methods and sources of information. The SOG team followed the guide as close as was practical. Departures from the guide are listed at the end of this section. The research questions associated with each Community section can be found in **Appendix D**.

The gang assessment's primary goal is to help each community "determine the level and extent of gang activity in your county...along with who (demographically is involved in this problem...". Sections on Law Enforcement Data, Student and School Data, and Community Perception Data are focused on gathering that information. Since local law enforcement agencies do not flag crimes as gang-related or not, the community surveys included in Chapter 7 become more important. They cannot replace the loss of quantitative law enforcement data, but they are more capable of providing insight into the presence of gangs across the entire community than the student survey alone can.

## Data Gathering Tools

Most of the Community Demographic data was gathered from the U.S. Census Bureau's website<sup>1</sup>. Some additional information was gathered through meetings and phone calls with local service providers.

The Student and School data was gathered through a student survey, staff survey, and from system administration.

All Law Enforcement data was gathered by local law enforcement agencies operating in Henderson County. Data on crimes committed by juveniles assessed by DJJDP staff as having an association with a gang around the time of the crime was analyzed by the SOG team. All other information came directly from law enforcement officials without any analysis by the SOG team. More information is available in the **Findings** section below.

Interviews are the research tool suggested by the guide for gathering the perceptions of school staff. Due to the great cost in time and money that method would have required, the SOG team instead opted to convert the interview form into an online survey and email it to all middle and high school staff.

## Community Demographic Data

The Community Demographic Data section included three research questions:

1. What are the community's characteristics?
2. Has the population of the community changed?
3. Have the community's service needs changed?

U.S. census data was used to answer the first two questions. We attempted to answer the third through meetings and phone calls with local service providers.

## U.S Census Data

According to U.S. census data, the population of Henderson County grew by approx. 10,000 between 2000 and 2008. There was relatively no change in breakdown of residents by gender or age group during that time. The only change worth noting in the racial breakdown was a 3% decrease in the percentage of the population who self-identified as Caucasian / White and a corresponding 3% increase in the percentage of the population who self-identified as Hispanic / Latino.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.census.gov/>

The unemployment rate increased from 2.6% to 3.2%. The percentage of families below the poverty line increased as well from 6.8% to 9.3%. The percentage of female households increased even more, from 38.1% to 48.8%. However, the median household income increased by approx. \$8,000. This may be an indication of a growing wealth/income gap.

Regarding education, the percentage of the population age 25 or older who were high school graduates increased from 83.2% to 87.1%. In addition, the percentage of the population over 25 who reported having started but not completed high school dropped from 10.3% to 7.2%, as did the percentage of the population over 25 who reported never having entered high school (6.5% to 5.7%).

A recreation of the Data Collection Sheet contained within the guide can be found in **Appendix A**.

## Changes in Service Needs

After holding an initial focus group in Henderson County in late January, we identified key service areas in the community about which we wanted to get more detail. These areas included child welfare, substance abuse services, employment services, Latino community needs, domestic violence services, public assistance, and teen pregnancy services. Contacts given for teen pregnancy and domestic violence could not be reached. Some information on public assistance can be found on the website for the UNC Jordon Institute for Families. The information below has been gathered from six phone interviews and follow-up conversations over email.

### Child Welfare

Information on child welfare has been gathered from a contact at the Henderson County Department of Social Services and data from the UNC-Chapel Hill Jordon Institute for Families. Trends over the past ten years suggest that incidences of child abuse and neglect have increased slightly. This increase has been attributed to the rise in drug use, especially methamphetamines, domestic violence, and the strained mental health system.

The availability of methamphetamines has grown in western North Carolina over the past decade. Use of these drugs has meant more occurrence of child abuse and neglect and less reunification after children have been removed from the home. Parents addicted to methamphetamines have a more difficult time recovering and often disappear leaving the child in the custody of the state.

The struggling mental health system has had an impact on child abuse and neglect as well. Services are not stable enough to meet the community's need for more therapeutic foster care and residential care.



### Substance Abuse

Information on youth substance abuse has been gathered from the school nurse supervisor. Her observations include a shift in the types of drugs used. In the past, drug use centered mostly on marijuana and cocaine. Over the past decade, there has been a shift to harder drugs, such as methamphetamines, and prescription drugs.

Because of this shift to harder substances, there has been a greater need for intervention and treatment among the youth population. There is also a demand for longer rehabilitation programs as the length of present programs is inadequate in treating this level of addiction.

### Employment Services

Information on employment services in Henderson County has been gathered from the Labor Market Information Division of the North Carolina Employment Security Commission. The number of individuals receiving employment services in Henderson County has remained steady over the past ten years. There has been a rise, however, in the average number of individuals receiving unemployment insurance checks each month. This average reached 2,194 individuals per month last year, its highest point in nine years. The average in 2002 was 1,029 individuals per month.

### Latino Community Needs

Information on the needs of the Latino community in Henderson County has been gathered from contacts at the Latino Advocacy Commission and the Blue Ridge Early College. Because of the language barrier and issues surrounding documentation, Henderson County has seen a greater demand for services to the Latino community across the board. Some of the service areas in high demand are:

- mental health services, especially substance abuse services
- education services, including ESL and GED classes, higher education, and career counseling

The total number of people served by Latino Advocacy Commission initiatives has more than tripled in Henderson County over the past five years alone.

## Law Enforcement Data

The Law Enforcement Data section included four research questions:

1. What gangs are active? How many members are in each gang? What are their ages, races, and genders?
2. What crimes are gangs/gang members committing? How has this changed over time?

3. Where/when are gang crimes being committed?
4. Who is committing gang crimes? Who are the victims of gang crimes?

Unfortunately, the law enforcement agencies operating in Henderson County do not flag crimes as gang- or not-gang related. As such, the data needed to answer most of the research questions was not available.

## Gang Membership

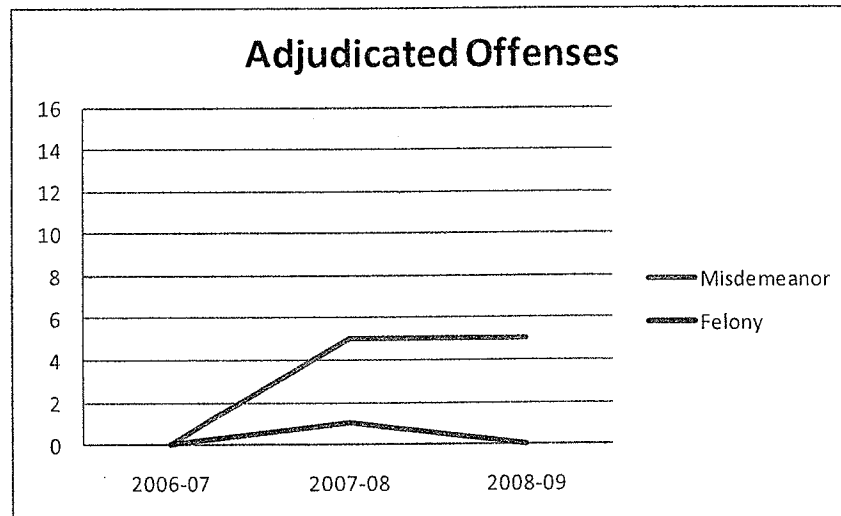
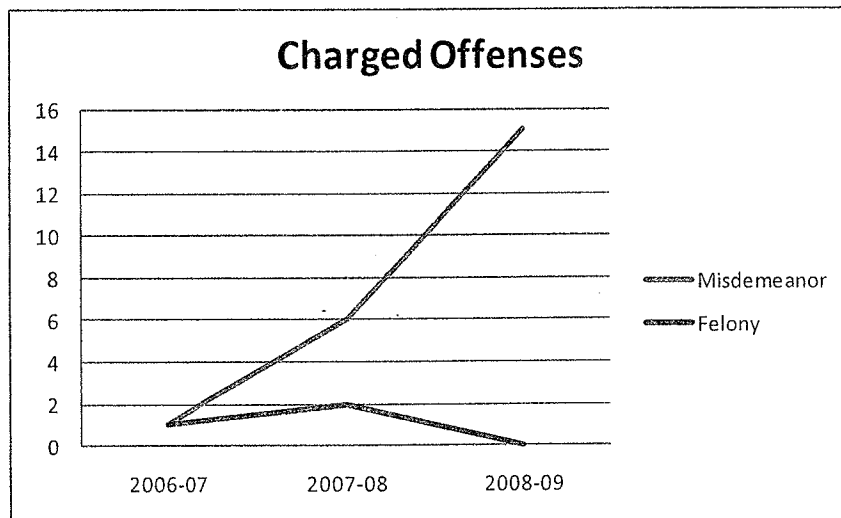
Information regarding the number of active gangs or their members is not routinely gathered by the law enforcement agencies operating in Henderson County. Thus it is not possible to answer the first research question with a great degree of confidence. That being said, the Henderson County Sheriff's Office has provided the following information. This information comes directly from the Sheriff's Office and was not vetted by the SOG team.

- "SLCC31" / "Sugarloaf Clicka" is a local hybrid gang predominately having members of Hispanic background and has had youth age members active within East H.H.S. / N.H.H.S., Apple Valley M.S. and Flat Rock M.S. The range of activity is from Henderson to Buncombe Counties.
  - Membership range is approximately 75-85 with the age range being 13-28
- "PAYASO'S /"Clowns" or "CLS" Also considered a hybrid gang consisting of primarily Hispanic members. This group has both youth and adult members and are active at East H.H.S. and Flat Rock M.S.
  - Membership is 45-55 and is comparable to SLC31 who are rivals.
  - The age range is also 13-30 years of age.
- "LATIN KINGS" - LK / Nationally recognized gang and both adults and youth have been active within N.H.H.S., Balfour Alternative school and Flat Rock M.S. Numbers have been increasing within the last six months and are also active in Buncombe County.
- "EAST SIDE BLOODS"- contacts and Intel revealed active youth at Hendersonville High School and Balfour Alternative School and adults actually recruiting direct relatives.
  - Membership is approximately 10-12 within the youth age groups described above but has a larger base within Buncombe County.
- "SUR13" / Surenos, SurTrece – Trend appears to be that juveniles have older relatives within family core that either recruit or exhibit impressionable behavior to at risk youth. It has been determined through investigations that most at risk youth are being recruited by relatives within the family corp. and in both Henderson/Buncombe.
  - Membership numbers are approx. 35-45 are include several clicks but are considered "surenos".

Additional information provided by the Henderson County Sheriff's Office can be found in Appendix B.

## Crimes Committed by Gang Members

When a juvenile (16 or younger) is charged with a crime, DJJDP conducts a risk assessment of the accused to determine if they were a gang member or associate within 6 months prior to or after the crime they were accused of. Thus, it is possible to examine the crimes that people 16 or younger and *believed* to be affiliated with a gang at the time of the crime were charged with. This information should not be considered as gang crime data (because gang crime can be committed by people older than 16), nor should it be considered exhaustive, since data is only available from July 2006 through June 2009. With those limitations in mind, this is the information made available by the DJJDP.



### Summary

The vast majority of charged and adjudicated offenses were misdemeanors. Adjudicated means the charges were brought to trial (as opposed to being dropped, dismissed, etc.). Misdemeanors are the lesser of the two kinds of offenses (felonies being the worse of the two).

Of the 22 **misdemeanors** charged, 10 were adjudicated.

- 5 charges were for simple affray (two or more persons fighting in public causing a disturbance)
  - 1 was adjudicated, 4 were not
- 4 charges were for resisting an officer
  - 2 were adjudicated, 2 were not
- 2 charges were for injury to real property (land, buildings, etc.)
  - Both were adjudicated
- 2 charges were for simple assault (assault without intent to injure)
  - Both were adjudicated
- 1 charge was for assault with a deadly weapon
  - Not adjudicated
- 1 charge was for assault of a government official/employee
  - Not adjudicated
- 1 charge was for communicating threats
  - Not adjudicated
- 1 charge was for misdemeanor larceny (theft of property worth less than \$1,000)
  - Adjudicated
- 1 charge was for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle
  - Adjudicated
- 1 charge was for operating a moped on the highway
  - Not adjudicated
- 1 charge was for lacking an operator's license (driving without a license)
  - Adjudicated
- 1 charge was for 2<sup>nd</sup> degree trespassing
  - Not adjudicated
- 1 charge was for "making any rude or riotous noise...disorderly conduct in or near any public building"
  - Not adjudicated

Of the 3 **felonies** charged, 1 was adjudicated.

- 1 charge was for discharging a weapon on occupied property
  - Not adjudicated
- 1 charge was for felony larceny (theft of property worth more than \$1,000)
  - Adjudicated

- 1 charge was for felony conversion (using someone else's property without permanently depriving them of the use of it. For example, leaching someone else's wireless internet service)
  - Not adjudicated

## Time and Location of Gang Crimes

This information is not available.

## Perpetrators and Victims of Gang Crimes

This information is not available.

## Student and School Data

The Student and School Data section included five research questions:

1. What are the overall characteristics of each school?
2. What delinquent behaviors are students involved in?
3. What are the characteristics of students involved in gangs?
4. What issues seem to be contributing to student gang involvement or risk for gang involvement?
5. What risk and protective factors are affecting local youth? What are in-school youths' perceptions about gangs?

## School Characteristics

Demographic characteristics for each school can be found in **Appendix C**.

## Delinquent Behaviors

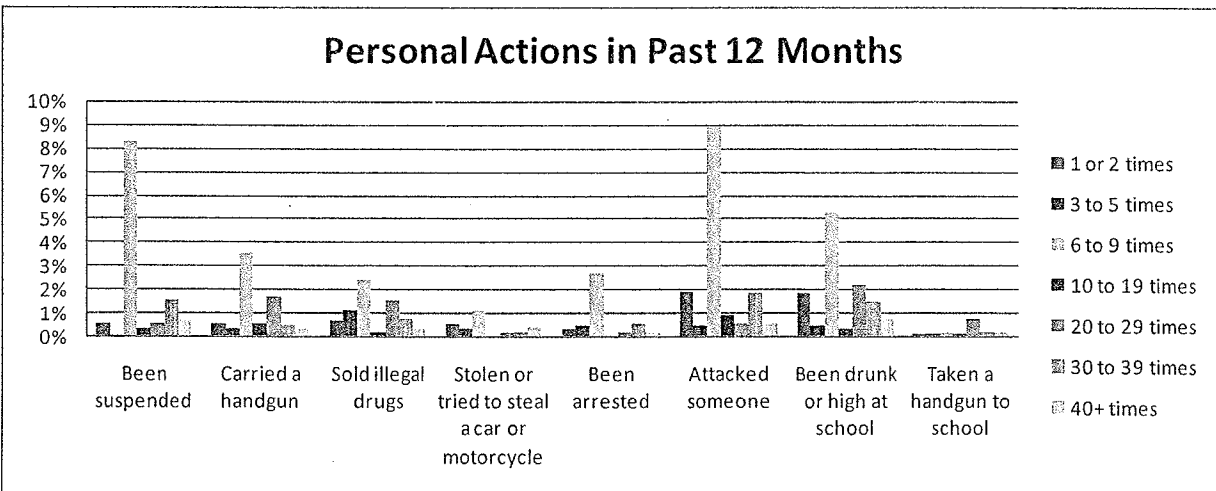
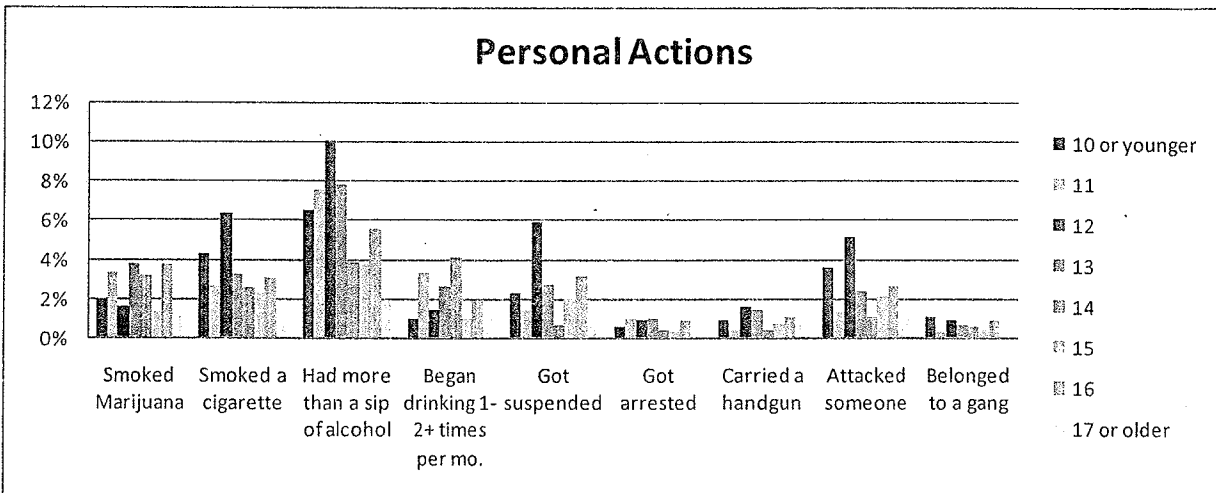
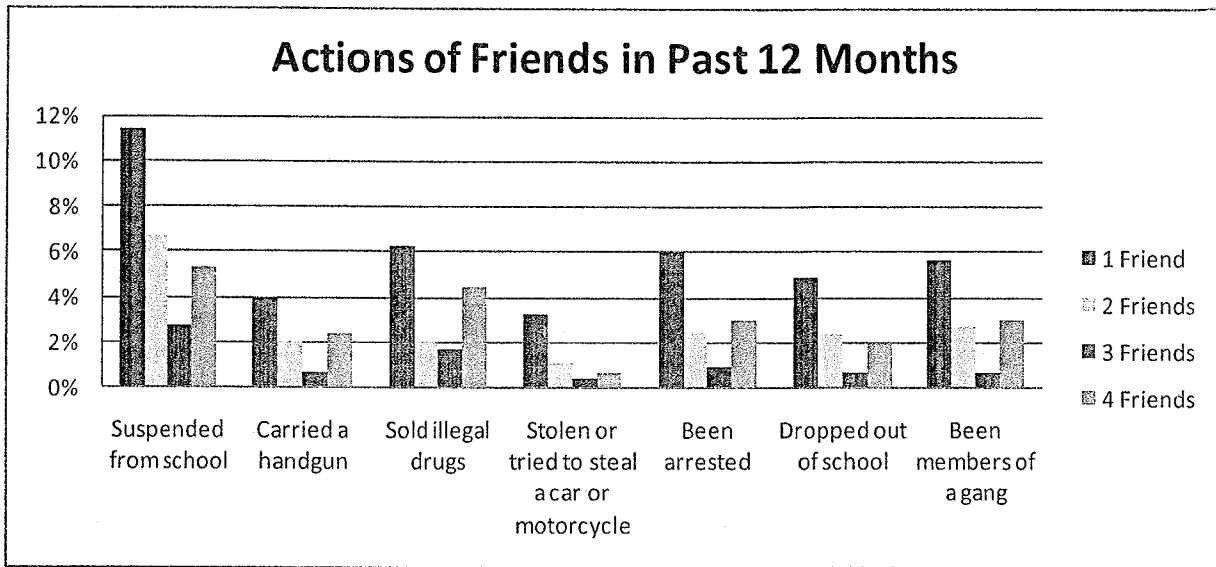
### *Summary – From School Records*

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
<b>Disciplinary Incident List (All Schools Combined)</b>							
<i>Possession of a weapon (PW)</i>	15	9	3	6	3	5	5
<i>Possession of controlled substance in violation of law (PS)</i>	49	29	45	23	43	47	17
<i>Possession of alcoholic beverage (PA)</i>	11	6	8	17	17	4	11
<i>Assault on school personnel (AP)</i>	3	2	0	0	0	1	0
<i>Assault resulting in serious bodily injury (AR)</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
<i>Sexual assault (SA)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Assault involving the use of a weapon (AW)</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Sexual offense (SO)</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Possession of a firearm or powerful explosive (PF)</i>	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Robbery without a dangerous weapon (RO)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Robbery with a dangerous weapon (RW)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Taking indecent liberties with a minor (IM)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Rape (R)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Homicide (D)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Kidnapping (K)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Bomb threat (BT)</i>	2	6	4	1	1	0	0
<i>Burning of a school building (BS)</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
<i>Total</i>	82	54	60	47	66	57	33

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
<b>Disciplinary action taken (All Schools Combined)</b>							
<i>Suspension (Short-Term)</i>	N/A	N/A	370	372	395	630	695
<i>Suspension (Long-Term)</i>	N/A	N/A	3	2	3	11	8
<i>Expulsion</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Total</i>	0	0	373	374	398	641	703

- Possession of controlled substances (not medication a student *should* be in possession of) and alcohol on school grounds are the two most often committed reportable offenses.
- 80% of reportable offenses occur in high schools.
- Short-term suspensions are clearly the most often used form of disciplinary action and its use has been increasing at a significant rate, especially given the relatively constant number of students.
- No expulsions have occurred between the 2002-03 and 2008-09 school year.

*Summary – From Student Survey*



## Characteristics of Students Involved in Gangs

608 students responded to the question "Have you ever belonged to a gang?", and of those, 71 (12%) said they had. 546 students responded to the follow-up question "Are you a gang member now?", and of those, 39 (7%) said they were.

The following charts display background characteristics of students who said they have **ever** belonged to a gang to those who said they had **never** belonged to a gang.

Percent of School Population Reporting Gang Involvement			
	Gang-Involved	Nongang-Involved	Total
<b>Age (Q1)</b>			
10	100% 2	0% 0	100% 2
11	4% 2	96% 51	100% 53
12	11% 10	89% 85	100% 95
13	8% 6	92% 65	100% 71
14	12% 8	88% 59	100% 67
15	7% 6	93% 84	100% 90
16	21% 21	79% 80	100% 101
17	14% 12	86% 73	100% 85
18	8% 3	92% 36	100% 39
19+	20% 1	80% 4	100% 5
All	12% 71	88% 537	100% 608
<b>Grade (Q2)</b>			
6th	8% 11	92% 121	100% 132
7th	12% 9	88% 68	100% 77
8th	6% 4	94% 58	100% 62
9th	12% 12	88% 89	100% 101
10th	18% 15	82% 67	100% 82
11th	16% 15	84% 79	100% 94
12th	8% 5	92% 54	100% 59
All	12% 71	88% 536	100% 607
<b>Gender (Q3)</b>			
Female	14% 47	86% 289	100% 336
Male	9% 24	91% 243	100% 267
All	12% 71	88% 532	100% 603



Percent of School Population Reporting Gang Involvement			
	Gang-Involved	Nongang-Involved	Total
<b>Race/Nationality (Q4+5)</b>			
White, not of Hispanic Origin	10% 43	90% 397	100% 440
Black or African-American	15% 4	85% 23	100% 27
American Indian or Alaska Native	13% 1	88% 7	100% 8
Spanish/Hispanic/Latino	16% 15	84% 77	100% 92
<i>Mexican, Mexican-American, Chicano</i>	20% 12	80% 48	100% 60
<i>Other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino</i>	14% 3	86% 19	100% 22
<i>Puerto Rican</i>		100% 3	100% 3
<i>Cuban</i>		100% 4	100% 4
<i>Other</i>		100% 3	100% 3
Asian of Pacific Islander	100% 5	0% 0	100% 5
<i>Chinese</i>	100% 1		100% 1
<i>Korean</i>	100% 1		100% 1
<i>Guamanian or Chamorro</i>	100% 1		100% 1
<i>Vietnamese</i>	100% 1		100% 1
<i>Other Asian</i>	100% 1		100% 1
Other	100% 3	0% 0	100% 3
All	12% 71	88% 504	100% 575
<b>Language Spoken at Home (Q9)</b>			
English	11% 56	89% 472	100% 528
Spanish	19% 11	81% 46	100% 57
Other	12% 2	88% 15	100% 17
All	11% 69	89% 533	100% 602

## Issues that May Contribute to Gang Involvement

The DOJ guide recommends the use of question 5 on the staff survey to answer this question. 128 school staff members responded to that question. The question was "What issues do you think contribute to gang activity?" and the response was open ended. The SOG team has attempted to classify those responses into commonly recurring groups.

## Risk- and Protective-Factors

Based on a gap analysis of the student surveys, the factors with the greatest divergence in responses between students who have ever vs. never been in a gang are:

- Friends in gangs
  - 92% of students who have never been in a gang said that none of their friends had either. Only 30% of students who have been in a gang said the same.
- Adults committing illegal acts

- 76% of students who have never been in a gang said that none of the adults they knew personally had ever done things that could get them in trouble with the police like stealing, selling stolen goods, mugging, assaulting others, etc. Only 32% of students who have been in a gang said the same.
- Individual acts of violence
  - 83% of students who have never been in a gang said they have never attacked someone with the idea of seriously hurting them while only 43% of students who have been in a gang said the same.

In short, exposure to poor role models (peers or adults) and anti-social behaviors have a strong correlation with gang involvement.

The vast majority of questions in the survey that look at risk- and protective-factors are associated with risk-factors. In addition, the gaps between responses of students who have ever vs. never been in a gang to protective-factor questions were generally smaller than the gaps associated with risk-factor questions. The largest gap in a protective-factor question was 20% and the average gap was 11%. The largest gap in a risk-factor question was 62% and the average gap was 23%. That being said, the two protective-factors that had the biggest gaps were associated with positive reinforcement at home (20%) and at school (19%).

## Student Perceptions of Gangs

The student survey includes three questions that ask each student if they have any knowledge of gangs operating at their school. These questions act as a gatekeeper to follow-up questions that only need to be answered by students who do know of gang activity at their school. The three gatekeeper questions are:

- 68) Are there any gangs at your school?
- 69) Do any of the students at your school belong to a gang?
- 70) What about gangs that don't have members attending your school...have any of those gangs come around your school in the past six months?

Students who responded in the affirmative to any of those three questions are then asked the following questions.

71) How often have gangs been involved in fights, attacks, or violence at your school in the past six months?

Never	47%
Once or twice a month	11%
Once or twice a week	3%
Almost every day	2%
Don't know	36%

72) Have gangs been involved in the sale of drugs at your school in the past six months?

No	28%
Yes	23%
Don't know	49%

73) Have any gang members brought guns to your school in the past six months?

No	38%
Yes	6%
Don't know	56%

Do the gangs around your school do the following things?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
74) Help out in the community	16%	84%
75) Get in fights with other gangs	55%	45%
76) Provide protection for each other	61%	39%
77) Steal things	59%	41%
78) Rob other people	50%	50%
79) Steal cards	34%	66%
80) Sell marijuana	56%	44%
81) Sell other illegal drugs	54%	46%
82) Damage or destroy property	58%	42%

## Community Perceptions Data

The Community Perception Data section included eight separate research questions:

1. Do community leaders perceive a gang problem? If so, what is the problem? Are they prepared to respond?
2. Do parents perceive their children to be involved in or at risk of being involved in gangs? Why? What should be done?
3. How do community residents perceive the gang problem? What do community residents believe should be done?
4. How do you workers and youth-serving agencies perceive the problem? What issues are contributing to the area's gang problems? What solutions might be available?
5. Who is involved in gangs?
6. What crimes are gang youth committing?

7. Why did youth join a gang? Why would they leave?
8. What factors are contributing to the gang problem?

In order to answer the first 4 questions in this chapter, a survey was designed that consolidated each of the separate response-group surveys included in the DoJ guide. This consolidation was done to reduce the chance for discrepancies in responses and to avoid the need to survey the same people more than once. The School of Government created the online survey and built a webpage that hosted the link to it. The link to the survey and website were provided to the Assessment Work Group in Henderson County. The AWG was responsible for distributing the link to local groups so that they could participate in the survey. The last four questions involved interviewing gang members in Henderson County. Unfortunately, these data were not available.

## Community Perceptions

Most individuals, whether they identified as community leaders, parents, residents, or members of a youth service agency, indicated that gang activity is a problem in Henderson County.

Although all had similar ideas on why gang violence had grown in the county, there were differences between some groups on what that increased activity looked like and what might reduce future gang activity. Community leaders were much less likely to identify increased drug crimes in area as a problem associated with gangs, while youth service agencies identified property crimes as much less of a problem than residents, leaders, and parents. Community leaders saw increasing job training and access as more of a solution to reducing gang activity than other groups. Parents were less likely to identify increasing the police presence in the community as a solution than other groups.

### Community Leaders

Of the eighteen community leaders interviewed, a majority (72%) of them believes that Henderson County has gang activity; of those who perceive gang activity in the county, three quarters (77%) indicated that it is a problem for the county (77%). They identified major gang activity in Henderson County primarily as an increase in vandalism and graffiti, an increase in drug crimes, and overall increased fear of safety by residents.

On an individual level, community leaders indicated that they were willing to become mentors (50% of the ten individuals responding), youth group leaders (50% of individuals responding), participate in neighborhood outreach (40% of individuals), or assist the community in other ways (60% of respondents).

### Parents

Of the thirty three parents interviewed, none indicated that their children were in a gang. Only one parent was worried that their child was at risk of becoming involved in a gang. To reduce gang activity in Henderson County, parents indicated that they would like to see more of a police presence in the community (77% of respondents listed this as one of their top three choices), new laws or ordinances (54% of parents interviewed), and more parental involvement (46% of respondents).

### Community Residents

Of the 128 community residents interviewed, a majority (68%) of them believe that Henderson County has gang activity; of those who perceive gang activity in the county, 80% also indicated that it is a problem for the county. They identified major gang activity in Henderson County primarily as an increase in vandalism and graffiti, an increase in drug crimes, as well as an increase in both property and violent crimes.

To reduce gang activity in Henderson County, community residents indicated that they would like to see more of a police presence in the community (65% of respondents listed this as one of their top three choices), more parental involvement (56% of respondents), as well as new laws or ordinances (46% of residents interviewed).

### Youth Serving Agencies

Of the 20 youth serving agencies interviewed, a majority (85%) of them believe that Henderson County has gang activity; of those who perceive gang activity in the county, a majority (65%) also indicated that it is a problem for the county. They identified major gang activity in Henderson County primarily as an increase in vandalism and graffiti as well as drug crimes.

Youth serving agencies indicated that gang members relocating from other communities was the most likely source of gang activity in Henderson county (65% identified this as one of the top three causes). Individuals looking for a place to belong (47% of agencies), as well as general poverty and the influence of family members and friends in gangs (both 41%) may also be factors turning youth towards gang activity.

To reduce gang activity in Henderson County, youth serving agencies indicated that they would like to see more mentoring (64% of agencies listed this as one of three possible solutions), an increased police presence in the community (55% of respondents) as well as more parental involvement (55% of respondents).

## Perceptions on Gang Violence and Involvement from Gang Members

The information needed to answer these four research questions required individual interviews with individuals identified as gang members. These interviews were not conducted.

Who is involved in gangs?

Data not available

What crimes are gang youth committing?

Data not available

Why did youth join a gang? Why would they leave?

Data not available

What factors are contributing to the gang problem?

Data not available

## Community Resources Data

The Community Resources Data section included four research questions:

- 1) How has the community historically responded to gang activity?
- 2) What services are being provided (or could be provided) to gang members?
- 3) What law enforcement strategies are in place to prevent, intervene, and suppress gang activity?
- 4) Do courts, detention centers, and correction departments conduct risk assessments that include gang membership?

Responses from law enforcement officials were used to answer questions one, three, and four. The answer to the second question was drawn primarily from an inventory of local agencies that provides youth services.

## Community's Historical Response to Gang Activity

Interviews with law enforcement officials indicate that many community members do not see gang related activity in their community as an issue. The media does not cover gang-related incidents because the public is not interested in hearing about it in their community. On a grassroots level, churches are aware of gang activity in the community and are holding meetings to discuss concerns in the community. According to District Attorney Jeff Hunt there is a gang presence in Henderson County. It first emerged in the mid-2000s and peaked between 2005 and 2007.

The Hendersonville Police Department provides Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) to 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the county.

## Services Being Provided to Gang Members

None of the agencies contacted in Henderson County are directly providing services to gang members. There are a wide variety of services available in the community that may be indirectly providing services for gang members, including private organizations, community organizations, governmental agencies, and the legal system.

### Law Enforcement/Legal System Sources

The Henderson County Sheriff's Department Gang Unit offers gang tattoo removal services and rehabilitation for gang members that removed environmental triggers. The Henderson County and Transylvania Sheriff's Departments sponsor a summer camp for children in the community. They make community contacts throughout the year with children who were enrolled to ensure that they are not getting involved in gangs.

### Service Agencies

Across Henderson County, service agencies provide a wide variety of needed social services. This include after school programs, GED tutoring, assistance with free/reduced price lunch, parenting classes, and English as a Second language classes. While some programs may ask enrolled individuals if they are involved in gang activity, most do not. Most programs also do not provide formal needs assessments for their clients. A full list of the sixteen service agencies who responded to the community survey, as well as the services they provide, can be found in **Appendix D**.

### Government Agencies

The Henderson County Department of Public Health provides primary health care for uninsured pregnant women and children aged 0 to 21. They also offer confidential mental health and family planning services. The Henderson County Department of Social Services provides child protection services through social workers.

### Needed future services

The Henderson County Sheriff's Department indicated the need for more services for gang members of all ages, not just youth. District Attorney Jeff Hunt spotlighted the need for services for individuals 18 to 22 to assist them in getting out of gangs. By identifying children at risk for gang activity in schools, they can be directed to appropriate services before they join a gang, and not just after.

Henderson County does not offer adequate mental health services. Transportation services are limited in Henderson County, making it difficult for youth to get to job placements and individuals to get to needed social services.

## Law Enforcement Strategies in place to prevent, intervene, and suppress gang activity

### Prevention Strategies

The Henderson County Sheriff's Department, led by Sergeant Doug Hill of their county Gang Unit, directs the limited gang prevention activity in the county. He presents seminars on gang intervention to school officials, probation officers, and detention center staff. Sergeant Hill envisions a school board policy that has zero tolerance for gang activity, including no gang gear or drawings.

### Intervention Strategies

Sergeant Hill also directs limited intervention activity. School Resource officers alert Henderson's Gang Unit of middle and high school students who they believe may be involved in gang activity; Sergeant Hill then visits their home to alert their parents or discuss with the students how they got involved and if they need any assistance getting out. Staff at the detention center alerts the Sheriff's Department of any suspected gang members inside the center. Sergeant Hill will then visit them and let them know they are being observed.

The Hendersonville Police Department does not currently report crimes or graffiti as "gang-related." The Fletcher Police Department has not reported any gang-related activity outside of occasional graffiti tagging.

### Suppression Strategies

The Sheriff's Gang Unit does not have an existing gang suppression plan. The Sheriff's Department ensures a significant police presence at large county events and has increased patrols in areas with known gang activity. Sergeant Hill is also educating business owners on gang signs to look for and how to report occurrences.



## Risk Assessments Conducted by the Legal System

### Detention Center

At the detention center, all individuals over 16 suspected of being in a gang are interviewed and questioned by Sergeant Hill. This identification is usually done through gang-affiliated tattoos or clothing, as most individuals who identify as a member of a gang at the detention center are looking for assistance in leaving. The results of the interview, as well as photographs of the individuals are uploaded into a database to assist narcotics, weapon smuggling, and gang divisions of law enforcement.

### District Attorney and Juvenile Justice System

The district attorney does not have policies relating to gang activity and does not regularly do risk assessments of individuals facing charges. However, all cases that reach the Juvenile Justice system receive a risk assessment. This is done in the youth's house and includes questions on their involvement with gangs, their surroundings, and their friends. The risk assessment requires an individual to report being in a gang to receive referrals for services.

## Appendix A

General Descriptive Data		
Category	Year	
	2000	2008
Total Population	89,173	100,364
% Males	48.4%	48.3%
% Females	51.6%	51.7%
% African American/black	3.1%	3.4%
% Hispanic/Latino <sup>2</sup>	5.5%	8.3%
% Caucasian/white	92.5%	89.1%
% Asian	0.6%	0.9%
% Native American/Indian	0.3%	0.3%
% Other	2.5%	5.5%
% Under 10 Years	11.4%	11.6%
% 10-14 Years	6.0%	6.1%
% 15-19 Years	5.3%	5.5%
% 20-24 Years	4.5%	5.3%
% 25-34 Years	12.0%	11.4%
% 35-64 Years	39.2%	38.4%
% Over 64	21.6%	21.7%
Median Household Income	\$38,109	\$46,322
Average (Mean) Household Income	N/A	\$60,561
Poverty Threshold (family of 4)	N/A	N/A
% Families Below Poverty	6.8%	9.3%
% Female Households Below Poverty (with related children under 18 years)	38.1%	48.8%
% Unemployment	2.6%	3.2%
% High School Graduates (25 years or older)	83.2%	87.1%
% Single-Parent Households	N/A	7.7% <sup>3</sup>
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	N/A	0
High School Drop-Out Rate	10.3%	7.2%
Child Abuse and Neglect Confirmed Reports	N/A	N/A
Number of Persons on Food Stamps	N/A	N/A

<sup>2</sup> Please note that Hispanic/Latino is not currently considered a race by the census. This is why the total add up to more than 100%.

<sup>3</sup> 1.9% Single-Male + 5.8% Single-Female

## Appendix B

### Henderson County Public Schools

Within the past twelve months, juvenile related gang incidents occurring within our community have increased. This activity was traced back to students that have been recruited by active members both within the schools and non-students.

These types of incidents included gang fights both on and off campuses, graffiti, and intimidation tactics of other juveniles not within a gang. In one incident, two gang involved students from separate schools took cell phone pictures of themselves sitting on top of a marked police unit while they exhibited gang signs.

The Gang Unit Investigator attempts to maintain a working relationship with the school administrators in an attempt to provide intervention with at risk students. The practice has been to conduct a home visit to make contact with the parents and provide information on gang awareness for intervention which was done on the aforementioned incident. This has been done on several occasions by coordinating with the School Resource Officers who have had gang awareness training.

On 12 April 2010, I identified a new hybrid group known as "HB" ("Hendo Boys") which originated within Hendersonville area schools and formed in June 2009. This group consisted of primarily of white male youth and had increased to approx. 13-15 members. During the recent exposure of this group, a 14 year old juvenile revealed to me that he was being recruited as was told to observe a planned fight to see if he "really wanted to join". This is typical of the transformation into a youth gang and showed the beginning stages of membership and ease of starting a youth street gang.

Henderson County Public Schools system has in place a Gang Policy within their code of conduct manual which specifies three levels of discipline for such incidents. During my investigations, it has been encountered that some of these students involved in gang related incidents are encountering consistency under the code of conduct mentioned. It is my hope that the schools system will support a zero tolerance policy which is vital in suppressing gang activity. Identifying gang activity such as wearing gang clothing, cuts in the eyebrows, drawings and other activity should continue to be addressed.

This Gang Investigator supports the practice of having the S.R.O.'s at the Middle grade levels obtain Gang Resistance and Education Training to be able to provide this intervention within our schools.

There is a cycle of gang involvement which has commonly been encountered through multiple investigations and reveals that juveniles are becoming exposed to gang recruitment at the ages of 12-14 years of age. These juveniles (males and females) are required as members to be involved in physical altercations to prove themselves to other members and to perform graffiti tagging.

These altercations have been encountered both inside and outside our schools and at public locations which included intimidation of non gang members.

I have encountered too many juveniles that later have evolved into adult offenders. These kids had been known to me as impressionable youth and are now validated gang members with tattoos. I continue to conduct counseling to young adults in avoiding the "gang life".

The following approximation of percentages was calculated from first hand investigations conducted. These percentages are provided as gauges of the types of encounters done within the past 12 months show a trend.

The calculations were obtained from the examples of sources and an established criterion was followed.

- 1) Identification of gang involved individuals contacted thru custodial interviews. (Detention Facility).
- 2) Individuals contacted during field stops/ I.E...Traffic stops, calls for service by patrol officers.
- 3) Direct Investigations and follow up's of cases by Gang Investigator.
- 4) Disciplinary actions and S.R.O. contacts within our Public School System which includes school staff members.
- 5) Juvenile Intake Office and local H.C. court officials during adjudication procedures.
- 6) Intel from area Law Enforcement agencies.

The following approximation of percentages was calculated from first hand investigations conducted. These percentages are provided as gauges of the types of encounters done within the past 12 months show a trend.

Investigations revealed approximately 80% of gang involved individuals are of Hispanic descent, primarily male.

Of these investigations, 70% were under the age of eighteen and 30% were adults or eighteen or older. This percentage does include some individuals that were still within the school system but are considered of adult age.

Intervention or counseling sessions completed indicated 60% were considered juveniles and 40% were of adult age during the interviews or de-briefs. There is no correct indicator at this time to show success rate of the counseling or intervention practices we have done at this time.

In closing, I continue to actively conduct intervention counseling to both Parents and youth gang members. I have also conducted multiple classes on the subject of gang awareness to both the Criminal Justice and Public School System and will continue to do so.

## Appendix C

The following information was provided by Henderson County Schools.

School Demographic Report							
Apple Valley Middle School (School Code 301)							
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Male	417	391	394	413	447	428	441
Female	340	380	384	383	369	387	387
Hispanic	18.10%	12.71%	13.75%	14.82%	15.99%	17.95%	18.45%
Black	2.25%	2.33%	1.80%	2.14%	2.21%	2.32%	3.16%
White	77.25%	81.32%	79.69%	77.39%	75.40%	71.55%	71.48%
Other	2.40%	3.64%	4.76%	5.65%	6.40%	8.18%	6.91%
6th grade	264	259	265	272	266	252	309
7th grade	241	269	248	275	277	277	256
8th grade	252	243	265	249	273	286	263
Total population (Average Daily Membership - ADM) 2	757	771	778	796	816	815	828
North Carolina ABC Performance Composite	85.2%	87.7%	89.8%	79.9%	81.6%	75.1%	84.7%
Economically disadvantaged	49.66%	54.47%	60.03%	63.32%	49.69%	50.06%	52.43%
Limited English proficiency	7.00%	7.00%	6.00%	6.00%	8.60%	11.50%	13.00%
Special education			12.72%	13.32%	11.89%	10.67%	13.29%
Gifted and talented			7.20%	7.54%	6.25%	5.40%	4.95%

School Demographic Report							
East Henderson High School							
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Male	497	498	539	564	537	527	500
Female	509	488	532	515	522	499	487
Hispanic	8.35%	10.26%	10.36%	10.10%	12.42%	12.17%	12.46%
Black	2.49%	3.15%	2.52%	2.32%	2.56%	1.95%	2.03%
White	87.66%	85.47%	85.71%	85.54%	83.13%	82.77%	81.05%
Other	1.50%	1.12%	1.41%	2.04%	1.89%	3.11%	4.46%
9th grade	325	304	316	310	296	280	291
10th grade	247	271	283	289	271	256	246
11th grade	212	217	255	245	265	248	224
12th grade	222	194	217	235	227	242	226
Total population (Average Daily Membership - ADM) 2	1006	986	1071	1079	1059	1026	987
North Carolina ABC Performance Composite	78.8%	83.0%	84.6%	76.4%	71.6%	70.3%	70.7%
SAT Score	1045	1026	1047	1541	1534	1579	1524
Economically disadvantaged	24.75%	29.78%	34.64%	34.48%	26.35%	28.53%	31.91%
Limited English proficiency	5.00%	6.00%	8.00%	6.00%	6.90%	6.00%	6.00%
Special education			12.98%	13.53%	11.80%	13.55%	13.27%
Gifted and talented			5.88%	7.23%	7.08%	8.58%	7.29%

School Demographic Report							
Flat Rock Middle School							
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Male	444	442	414	374	387	403	417
Female	401	378	374	361	381	381	386
Hispanic	12.31%	13.17%	15.23%	15.24%	14.38%	16.62%	17.79%
Black	1.78%	1.22%	1.27%	2.31%	1.96%	2.30%	2.01%
White	83.65%	82.44%	80.46%	79.18%	79.61%	76.47%	75.44%
Other	2.26%	3.17%	3.04%	3.27%	4.05%	4.61%	4.76%
6th grade	294	249	247	251	261	254	274
7th grade	296	286	261	240	268	275	257
8th grade	255	285	280	244	239	256	272
Total population (Average Daily Membership - ADM) 2	845	820	788	735	768	785	803
North Carolina ABC Performance Composite	88.9%	90.1%	91.5%	86.0%	84.0%	76.4%	85.6%
Economically disadvantaged	43.31%	41.59%	48.60%	54.01%	45.88%	48.98%	51.88%
Limited English proficiency	9.00%	8.00%	8.00%	7.00%	10.00%	11.50%	12.00%
Special education			13.20%	12.93%	12.89%	12.99%	11.71%
Gifted and talented			7.11%	7.48%	6.25%	5.61%	6.23%

School Demographic Report							
Hendersonville High School							
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Male	301	326	363	374	368	361	346
Female	299	298	307	323	333	327	329
Hispanic	4.67%	5.77%	7.16%	8.61%	10.66%	12.21%	11.76%
Black	15.00%	12.02%	11.19%	11.91%	11.96%	11.77%	13.10%
White	76.63%	77.88%	76.72%	75.61%	74.35%	71.95%	70.39%
Other	3.70%	4.33%	4.93%	3.87%	3.03%	4.07%	4.75%
9th grade	152	203	193	215	171	199	183
10th grade	170	139	203	177	194	154	185
11th grade	126	165	120	183	164	182	136
12th grade	152	117	154	122	172	153	171
Total population (Average Daily Membership - ADM) 2	600	624	670	697	701	688	675
North Carolina ABC Performance Composite	84.0%	85.4%	88.0%	83.9%	80.5%	83.5%	86.6%
SAT Score	1070	1097	1052	1569	1630	1596	1585
Economically disadvantaged	27.00%	27.08%	29.55%	34.15%	27.09%	31.25%	30.65%
Limited English proficiency	4.00%	5.00%	6.00%	4.00%	4.10%	8.00%	8.00%
Special education			9.25%	9.61%	9.70%	9.01%	8.30%
Gifted and talented			6.87%	12.91%	10.98%	9.30%	9.48%

School Demographic Report							
Hendersonville Middle School							
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Male	254	250	259	258	269	264	237
Female	214	214	221	217	228	255	246
Hispanic	7.05%	8.41%	9.17%	9.05%	11.02%	12.38%	13.49%
Black	16.03%	20.04%	19.38%	17.47%	14.69%	12.96%	8.92%
White	74.09%	68.32%	66.67%	68.63%	67.96%	67.12%	69.71%
Other	2.83%	3.23%	4.78%	4.85%	6.33%	7.54%	7.88%
6th grade	159	144	155	160	166	181	157
7th grade	153	168	155	163	161	169	165
8th grade	156	152	170	152	170	169	161
Total population (Average Daily Membership - ADM) 2	468	464	480	475	497	519	483
North Carolina ABC Performance Composite	89.3%	88.8%	88.9%	82.8%	87.8%	77.3%	87.5%
Economically disadvantaged	40.81%	45.91%	49.79%	51.58%	45.31%	42.55%	42.95%
Limited English proficiency	6.00%	7.00%	7.00%	5.00%	6.20%	5.00%	4.00%
Special education			17.50%	15.37%	12.07%	12.72%	14.08%
Gifted and talented			0.42%	7.58%	9.66%	10.40%	11.39%

School Demographic Report							
North Henderson High School							
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Male	456	472	492	519	472	488	511
Female	435	454	435	436	446	466	484
Hispanic	12.12%	11.68%	11.43%	13.82%	14.85%	13.49%	15.21%
Black	2.36%	2.59%	2.48%	1.78%	2.42%	2.63%	2.84%
White	83.60%	83.46%	83.39%	81.78%	79.21%	78.82%	76.77%
Other	1.92%	2.27%	2.70%	2.62%	3.52%	5.06%	5.18%
9th grade	307	288	275	274	267	314	342
10th grade	211	252	254	239	242	234	245
11th grade	210	180	227	226	205	222	210
12th grade	163	206	171	216	204	184	198
Total population (Average Daily Membership - ADM) 2	891	926	927	955	918	954	995
North Carolina ABC Performance Composite	76.9%	83.8%	81.7%	77.9%	73.7%	75.4%	78.9%
SAT Score	1014	1041	1044	1442	1518	1484	1469
Economically disadvantaged	36.48%	37.19%	41.53%	43.25%	32.89%	34.46%	38.74%
Limited English proficiency	6.00%	6.00%	6.00%	4.00%	5.90%	5.00%	7.00%
Special education			12.08%	10.89%	9.69%	10.90%	10.65%
Gifted and talented			7.01%	7.85%	8.82%	8.28%	8.74%



School Demographic Report							
Rugby Middle School							
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Male	420	436	399	394	414	401	434
Female	379	400	391	403	395	391	420
Hispanic	3.38%	5.36%	4.81%	5.52%	5.69%	5.55%	5.49%
Black	2.63%	2.26%	2.15%	1.00%	2.23%	1.26%	1.75%
White	91.10%	83.39%	90.25%	90.46%	88.37%	88.78%	87.15%
Other	2.89%	8.99%	2.79%	3.02%	3.71%	4.41%	5.61%
6th grade	236	264	276	244	286	270	282
7th grade	296	269	259	284	244	275	289
8th grade	267	303	255	269	279	247	283
Total population (Average Daily Membership - ADM) 2	799	836	790	797	809	792	854
North Carolina ABC Performance Composite	94.5%	93.1%	93.9%	85.5%	89.6%	83.2%	89.8%
Economically disadvantaged	16.27%	25.74%	30.76%	30.74%	27.72%	23.58%	29.79%
Limited English proficiency	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	2.00%	3.60%	1.00%	4.00%
Special education			11.90%	9.91%	11.37%	11.62%	12.65%
Gifted and talented			10.13%	11.79%	13.35%	12.75%	11.94%

School Demographic Report							
West Henderson High School							
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Male	534	527	559	552	554	566	537
Female	481	502	493	514	527	520	526
Hispanic	2.36%	3.30%	3.80%	3.75%	4.75%	4.99%	6.15%
Black	2.86%	3.01%	2.85%	2.72%	2.29%	1.85%	2.08%
White	92.70%	91.16%	90.78%	90.34%	88.94%	89.75%	88.84%
Other	2.08%	2.53%	2.57%	3.19%	4.02%	3.41%	2.93%
9th grade	297	284	327	281	291	308	284
10th grade	257	268	273	294	268	273	291
11th grade	273	236	244	262	280	251	255
12th grade	188	241	208	229	242	254	233
Total population (Average Daily Membership - ADM) 2	1015	1029	1052	1066	1081	1086	1063
North Carolina ABC Performance Composite	85.0%	89.6%	89.6%	81.4%	79.8%	80.3%	81.7%
SAT Score	1055	1067	1101	1571	1538	1550	1585
Economically disadvantaged	17.43%	21.19%	21.58%	23.45%	16.45%	13.57%	19.11%
Limited English proficiency	2.00%	2.00%	3.00%	2.00%	1.70%	2.00%	2.00%
Special education			9.51%	9.76%	10.55%	11.14%	11.48%
Gifted and talented			9.41%	9.66%	9.25%	10.68%	11.10%

School Demographic Report							
Balfour Education Center							
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Male	38	54	26	68	79	64	75
Female	20	17	9	54	54	59	59
Hispanic	8.62%	12.68%	22.86%	11.48%	12.03%	13.82%	15.00%
Black	24.14%	22.54%	11.43%	13.11%	9.77%	5.69%	10.83%
White	58.00%	56.34%	62.86%	67.21%	73.68%	73.98%	73.33%
Other	9.24%	8.44%	2.85%	8.20%	4.52%	6.51%	0.84%
6th / 9th	1/22	0/28	1/16	0/39	0/31	1/31	1/34
7th / 10th	4/6	8/9	2/10	8/27	6/33	4/25	5/38
8th / 11th	12/7	15/8	3/3	12/27	12/31	4/34	6/28
N/A / 12th	6	3	0	9	19	19	15
Total population (Average Daily Membership - ADM) 2	58	71	35	122	133	123	134
North Carolina ABC Performance Composite	63.9%	69.4%	52.8%	31.2%	33.6%	36.6%	31.8%
Economically disadvantaged	67.24%	53.52%	80.00%	86.89%	58.06%	64.65%	70.83%
Limited English proficiency	7.00%	8.00%	15.00%	4.00%	9.80%	8.00%	6.00%
Special education			28.57%	13.93%	15.79%	17.89%	14.18%
Gifted and talented			0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

## Appendix D

A complete list of the sixteen service agencies whose services may assist gang members in Henderson County. Eleven additional service agencies were contacted but did not provide a list of services.

### *Balfour Education Center- Youth Recovery*

The Balfour Education Center- Youth Recovery provides assistance to re-enroll students aged 16 to 21 in high school.

### *Big Brothers Big Sisters of Western North Carolina*

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Western North Carolina provides mentors for elementary and middle school students from single parent households.

### *Blue Ridge Community College*

The Blue Ridge Community College provides GED tutoring for students who dropped out of school as well as English as a Second Language Classes to non-native English speakers of all ages.

### *Blue Ridge Community Health Services*

Blue Ridge Community Health Services provides health care to those who need it in Henderson County, focusing on those under/uninsured.

### *Boys and Girls Club of Henderson County*

The Boys and Girls Club of Henderson County provides reading assistance, computer help, physical fitness activities, arts programs to children across Henderson County. They provide transportation from many schools to their site and also offer leadership development classes and programs addressing drug and alcohol abuse.

### *Child Abuse Prevention Services, Inc.*

Child Abuse Prevention Services, Inc. provides crises counseling and intervention services to abused children as well as child abuse prevention classes to students from kindergarten to grade four.

### *Children and Family Resource Center- Adolescent Parenting Program*

The Children and Family Resource Center offers parenting classes, referrals for food and health assistance, and child care to teenage mothers in an attempt to prevent them from having a second teenage pregnancy. This program is not currently full and while they do conduct a needs assessment for their program, it does not include gang membership.

### *Danielle Boone Council Boy Scouts of America*

The Boy Scouts offer scouting programs for boys up to age 18, as well as leadership and career service clubs for both boys and girls up to age 20. They do not address gang related activity, but provide avenues for outdoor adventure and community service.

### *Dispute Settlement Center of Henderson County*

The Dispute Settlement Center of Henderson County provides mediation and dispute settlement courses for children and families in Henderson County, as well as skill building courses for children in the juvenile justice system. The Dispute Settlement Center does ask enrolled students if they are active in a gang.

### *First Baptist Church of Hendersonville*

First Baptist Church offers free after school programs for middle and high school students in Henderson County.

### *The Healing Place*

The Healing Place offers counseling, court assistance, and case coordination to victims of physical or sexual abuse.

*HELP Program (Homeless Education Link Project through Henderson County Public Schools)*

The HELP Program pays for tutoring and provides school supplies and toiletries to homeless children and youth. They also qualify children for free and reduced price lunches.

*Latino Advocacy Coalition for Henderson County (El Centro)*

El Centro (Latino Advocacy Coalition for Henderson County) provides adult education, citizenship classes and ESL tutoring for Hispanic individuals in the county.

*Pisgah Job Corps Center*

The Pisgah Job Corps Center provides GED tutoring and job skills to interested individuals of any age.

*Pisgah Legal Services*

Pisgah Legal Services provides legal assistance to individuals with low-incomes.

*YMCA*

The YMCA provides Christian-centered afterschool programs and summer camps for children in the county.

