

# FLORIDA GANG REDUCTION STRATEGY 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

*Building a Strategy to Reduce  
Gangs in Florida*



**Office of the Attorney General**

**FLORIDA GANG REDUCTION STRATEGY**

**2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

**FLORIDA OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

*Special thanks to the Department of Corrections, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Florida Sheriffs, the Florida Police Chiefs, and the Executive Leadership of the Regional Gang Reduction Task Forces for providing the information and support necessary for the completion of this report.*

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## FACT SHEET

**Reporting Period** June 2009 – July 2010

**Data Sources:**

- The Office of the Attorney General distributed and collected surveys from 67 Sheriff's Offices and 3 Police Departments which provided compiled data from 256 local law enforcement agencies. Information from these surveys represents all 67 counties (100%), and approximately 71% of local law enforcement agencies in Florida.
- Documentation provided by the Department of Juvenile Justice, Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS)
- Documentation provided by the Department of Corrections, Bureau of Classification, Security Threat Intelligence Unit

**Gangs**

**1,403** Number of gangs documented by local law enforcement. This is a 27.5% increase from the 1,100 gangs reported in 2009. Increases were documented across all regions of the state.

**Gang Members, Associates, Other Suspects**

- 30,796** Number of gang members and associates documented by local law enforcement agencies [s. 874.03,(3)(a-k), F.S.]. This is a 1.7% decrease from the previous year 2009.
- 14,526** Number of other suspects documented by local law enforcement agencies. This is almost double the number reported in the previous year.
- 9,254** Number of confirmed and suspected Security Threat Group individuals who are either incarcerated in state prison or released under state supervision. This is a 6% increase from last year's reported STG figure of 8,737. Those incarcerated (7,520) make up 7.4% of the total state prison population.
- 1,624** Number of juveniles under active supervision who are recognized as gang members, associates, or suspected as gang-affiliated. This is a drop from last year, due to improved reporting procedures implemented by the Dept. of Juvenile Justice.
- 56,200** Total number of documented gang members, associates, and other suspects. This is a 15.1% increase from the 48,812 persons reported in 2009. (This number represents three-tenths of a percent (0.3%) of the 18.5 million Floridians in the state.)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Introduction

The purpose of this report is to establish trend data in order to measure the long term success of the Florida Gang Reduction Strategy. This report is not intended as a law enforcement threat assessment. However, it is an assessment that provides demographic information about the gangs in our state.

Gangs are not static entities, making it difficult to track them with absolute certainty. Florida's state and local law enforcement agencies continue making strides to verify and catalog the criminal gangs in our state. Not only does this require a commitment of resources within individual agencies, it also requires innovative initiatives across jurisdictions and traditionally practiced silos. Findings in this report should be viewed within the broader context of the aggressive gang control strategies in force around the state. For example, more gang trainings are being offered to law enforcement and criminal justice professionals. There is increasing evidence of more coordination of resources at the local, state, and federal levels to establish multi-agency task forces for responding to criminal gang activities. There are also continuing improvements in mechanisms to document and rapidly exchange gang intelligence information across law enforcement jurisdictions. Law enforcement is working smarter, faster, and with more uniformity across the state.

### Methodology

Aggregate information on the number of gangs, gang-involved persons, and certain demographics documented by law enforcement in Florida has been compiled and reported through the Office of the Attorney General. For the reporting year July 2009 through June 2010, information was collected from the Department of Corrections, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and local law enforcement agencies throughout the 67 counties of Florida. In an effort to reach all local law enforcement agencies, a short survey was developed by the Office of the Attorney General and distributed to all 67 Sheriffs' Offices. To avoid duplication of counts, Sheriffs' Offices were requested to coordinate compilation of information for all local law enforcement jurisdictions and county correctional departments in their respective counties. One hundred percent (100%) of the 67 Florida counties are represented in this year's report. Of the approximately 360 Police Departments and Sheriffs' Offices in the state, 256 agencies (71%) participated in this survey effort. Specific criminal gang information is excluded from this report so as not to compromise any on-going criminal investigations.

### Results and Implications

As with any hot topic, increased awareness and focus on a problem can initially increase documentation of the problem. The findings in this report may demonstrate this effect. State numbers are presented in Tables 1 and 6. Overall, 1,403 gangs were identified by local law enforcement. Documentation of gang-involved persons are categorized into three groups, those who meet the statutory criteria as gang members and as gang associates [s. 874.03(3)(a-k), F.S.], and those who are documented as other or pending suspects. Fifty-one percent (51%) of the 56,200 persons identified are verified gang members. Twenty-two percent (22%) are verified as gang associates, and 27% are documented as other suspects.

As has been the trend for some time now, gangs are concentrated in central and south Florida which are the more urban regions of the state. Increases in gangs and gang persons were documented in all regions of the state.

Although these raw numbers mark an increase from the previous year's reporting, closer examination demonstrate some very important subtleties. First, it must be pointed out that all 67 counties of Florida are represented in this year's survey as opposed to 59 counties in 2009. Secondly, as presented in Figure 5, there is only a 2.3% increase in the number of documented gang members and associates from 2009 to 2010 reporting years. However, the number of other suspects pending verification has increased by 74%. This seems to indicate that local law enforcement across the state is paying closer attention to the gang problems in their jurisdictions.

Data provided by the Department of Corrections indicates an increase in the number of verified and suspected gang members both currently incarcerated and released on state supervised probation. This reflects both the increased number of gang members being incarcerated, and the continued vigilance by Corrections officials in tracking gangs and verifying gang membership within the state prison system.

In May 2010, the Department of Juvenile Justice enhanced their gang alert data collection process to coincide with Chapter 874 of the Florida Statutes. As a result, the agency is able to provide a much more accurate count of juveniles in their system that are documented as gang members, associates, or suspected of a gang-affiliation. Data provided in 2010 indicates that the agency has identified 1,624 active juveniles (*youth currently open in the Juvenile Justice Information System to intake, supervision, day treatment, conditional release or residential placement status*) who are considered to be gang-affiliated.

From a simple year to year comparison, it would seem that criminal gang activity is on the rise. This very well may be the case. The findings of this report may also be indicative of improving documentation and reporting around the state. As regular assessments continue, trend patterns will emerge. Regardless, it is imperative that gang control efforts continue to focus on breaking the cycle of criminal gang recruitment and gang-related crime.

Reducing the harmful and costly impact of criminal gang behavior within the state of Florida remains the ultimate goal of the Florida Gang Reduction Strategy. Building upon the three pillars of the Strategy, prevention/intervention, criminal justice, and rehabilitation/reentry, gang control initiatives are gaining momentum around the state. Short and long term success rests upon the progress made in coordinating multiple approaches, implementing best practices, providing training and regular community awareness, and constantly improving the collection and dissemination of gang intelligence information.

## STATE RESULTS

### GANGS

**Table 1: Number of Documented Gangs in Florida**

Number of Counties Represented	# of Gangs (s. 874.03 F.S.)
67	<b>1,403</b>

Source: 2010 OAG Gang Survey; Reporting period June 2009-July 2010

**Table 2: Percent Change 2009-2010 in the Number of Gangs Documented by Local Law Enforcement Agencies**

Indicator	2009	2010	Percent Change
Number of Counties Represented	59	67	13.6% ▲
Number of Gangs (s. 874.03, F.S.)	1,100	1,403	27.5% ▲

Source: 2009 & 2010 OAG Gang Surveys

**Table 3: Level of Gang Presence Reported by Local Law Enforcement Survey Respondents**

Reported Level of Gang Presence in a County	Number of Counties
0 Gangs	19
1-10 Gangs	14
11-20 Gangs	11
21-30 Gangs	10
31-50 Gangs	7
51-90 Gangs	2
91 and up	4

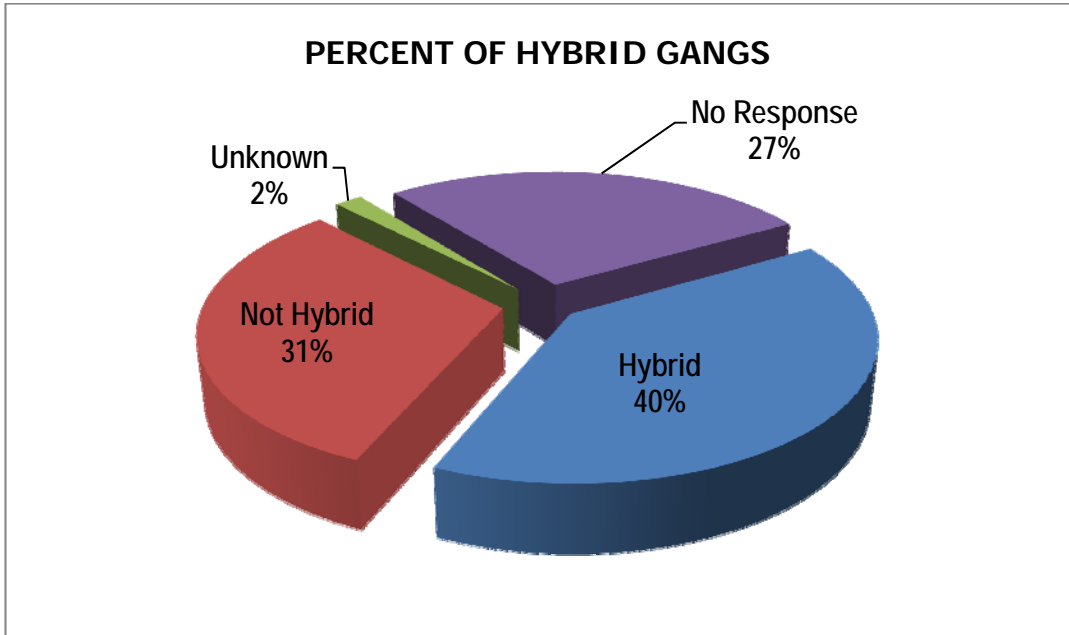
Source: 2010 OAG Gang Survey

**Table 4: Top 20 Criminal Gang Names Most Frequently Listed by Local Law Enforcement Survey Respondents**

Gang Name/Sets	Number of Times Listed
Crips (all names which include 'Crip' or 'Crips')	99
Bloods (all names which include 'Bloods')	78
Aryan Brotherhood, Aryan Nation, Crazy White Boys, Hammerskins, White Supremacist, White Pride, Peckerwoods, Supreme White Power	63
Latin King	40
Sureños, Sur 13, Sur XIII	39
Gangster Disciples	33
Folk Nation	30
Zoe Pound, Zoe Mafia, Zoe Boys	20
Ñeta	17
Outlaws	16
Black Gangster (Gangsta) Disciples	15
Insane Gangster Disciples	11
Norteños, Norte 14	11
Latin Disciples, Maniac Latin Disciples	9
Black Pistons	9
Vato Locos	9
Imperial Gangsters, Imperial Gangster Disciples	8
Vice Lords	8
MS-13	5
18th Street	5

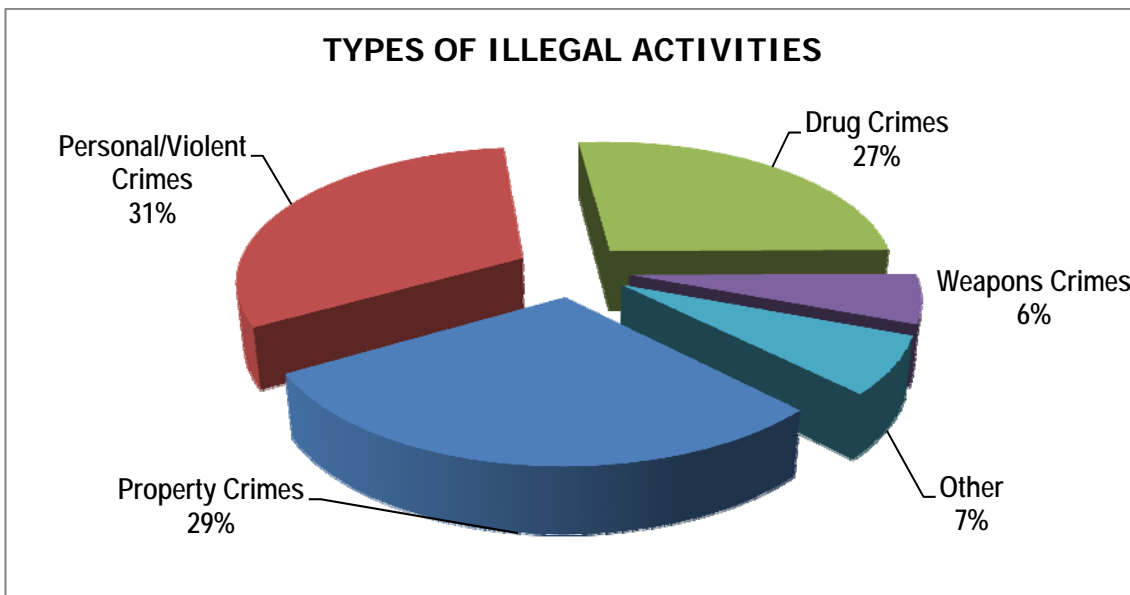
*Note: The list of gang names in Table 5 is not a ranking of gangs. It is beyond the scope and purpose of this annual reporting to determine any assessment of threat by various gangs in Florida. Furthermore, this listing does not capture those local street gangs with idiosyncratic names who are also considered as subsets of nationally recognized gangs.*

**Figure 1: Percent of Gangs Reported To Be Hybrid by Law Enforcement Survey Respondents**



*Note: Figure 1 should be interpreted with caution. The term “hybrid gang” has evolved to represent multiple meanings. This term was not pre-defined in the survey instrument; and therefore, may not represent consistency in the answers provided.*

**Figure 2: Illegal Activities By Gangs Reported By Law Enforcement Survey Respondents**



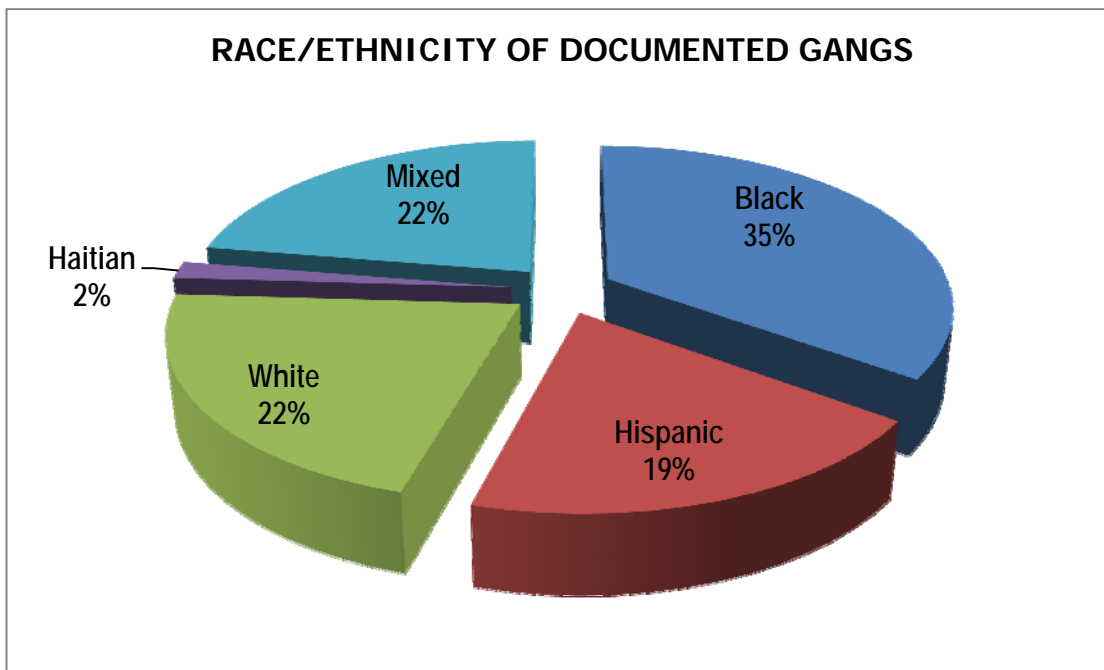
*Note: Information was collected in an open-ended survey question. Responses were categorized by FBI crime classifications.*

**Table 5: Identified Race/Ethnicity of Documented Gangs**

Race/Ethnicity By Which Gangs Were Identified	Frequency of Response
Asian	5
Black	439
Haitian	21
Hispanic	243
Mixed - Black/White	162
Mixed - Black/Hispanic	23
Mixed - Hispanic/White	28
Mixed - Black/Hispanic/White	51
Mixed/Other (non-specified)	17
White	272
No Response	23

Source: 2010 OAG Gang Survey

**Figure 3: Race/Ethnicity of Documented Gangs**



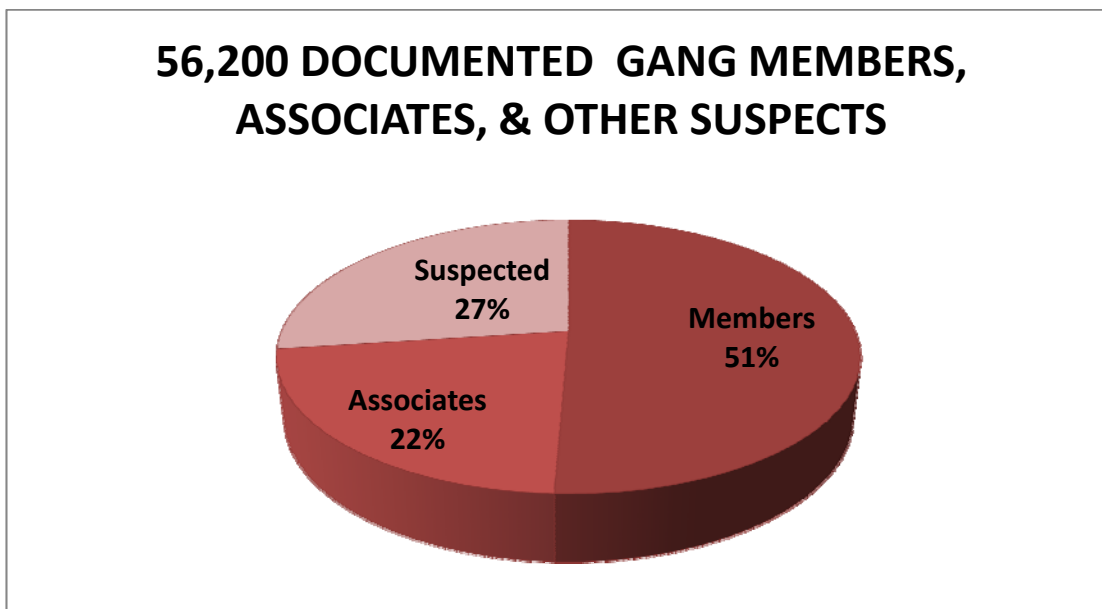
## GANG MEMBERS, ASSOCIATES, AND OTHER SUSPECTED GANG-INVOLVED PERSONS

**Table 6: Number of Documented Gang-Involved Persons in Florida**

Reporting Agency	Members (s. 874.03, F.S.)	Associates (s. 874.03 F.S.)	Members + Associates	Other Suspects	Total Gang Persons
Local Law Enforcement	21,898	8,898	30,796	14,526	45,322
State Corrections (Incarcerated)	3,547	3,574	7,121	399	7,520
State Corrections (Supervised Probation)	1,734	-	1,734	-	1,734
Juvenile Justice (Youth On Active Supervision)	1,282	46	1,328	296	1,624
<b>State Total</b>	<b>28,461</b>	<b>12,518</b>	<b>40,979</b>	<b>15,221</b>	<b>56,200</b>

Source: 2010 OAG Gang Survey; Departments of Corrections and Juvenile Justice

**Figure 4: Documented Gang-Involved Persons in Florida, 2010**

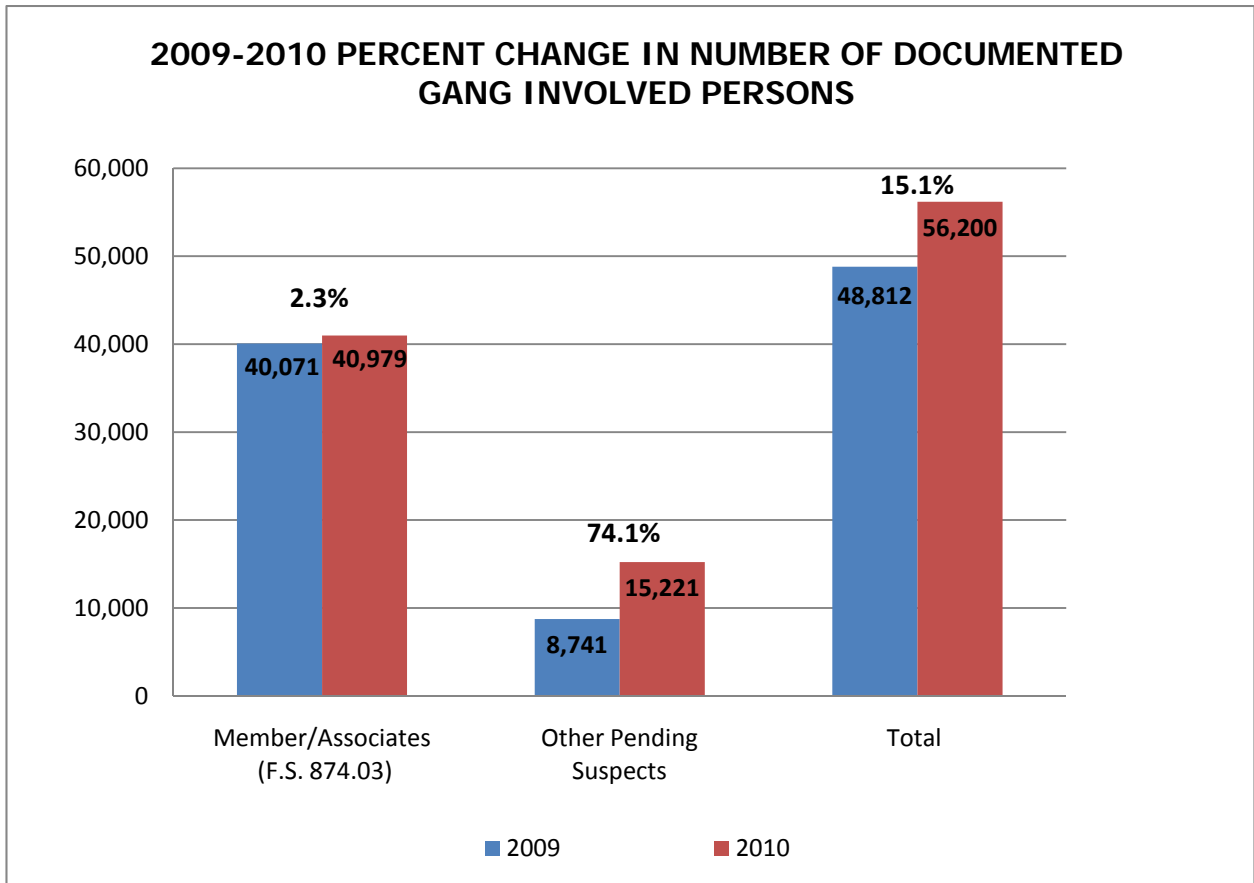


**Table 7: Percent Change 2009-2010 in Number of Documented Gang-Involved Persons Statewide**

Indicator	2009	2010	Percent Change
Member/Associates (s. 874.03, F.S.)	40,071	40,979	2.3% ▲
Other Pending Suspects	8,741	15,221	74.1% ▲
<b>Total (Members/Associates/ Others)</b>	<b>48,812</b>	<b>56,200</b>	<b>15.1% ▲</b>

Source: 2010 OAG Gang Survey; Departments of Corrections and Juvenile Justice

**Figure 5: Percent Change 2009-2010 in Number of Documented Gang Members, Associates, and Other Suspects Statewide**



*Note: Interpret percent change as an increase or decrease in the documentation and reporting of gang intelligence by law enforcement. It is not necessarily a direct change in the number of gangs and/or gang-involved persons from year to year.*

**Table 8: Percent Change 2009-2010 in Gang Numbers Documented by Local Law Enforcement Agencies**

Indicator	2009	2010	Percent Change
Number of Counties Represented	59	67	13.6% ▲
Number of Gangs (s. 874.03, F.S.)	1,100	1,403	27.5% ▲
Number of Member/Associates (s. 874.03, F.S.)	<b>31,334</b>	<b>30,796</b>	<b>1.7%</b> ▼
Number of Other Pending Suspects	6,913	14,526	110.1% ▲
Total (Members/Associates/Suspects)	38,247	45,322	18.5% ▲

Source: 2010 OAG Gang Survey

**Table 9: Percent Change 2009-2010 in Number of Documented Confirmed and Suspected Gang Members Reported by DOC and DJJ**

State Agency	2009	2010	Percent Change
State Corrections (Incarcerated)	7,133	7,520	5.4% ▲
State Corrections (Supervised Probation)	1,604	1,734	8.1% ▲
Juvenile Justice (Youth On Active Supervision)	1,828	1,624	N/A
Total	<b>10,565</b>	<b>10,878</b>	<b>3.1%</b> ▲

Source: Departments of Corrections and Juvenile Justice; DJJ changed their gang documentation procedure significantly in 2010. Therefore, a year to year comparison is not applicable.

## REGIONAL BREAKOUTS

**Table 10: Number of Documented Gangs and Gang-Involved Persons Listed by Gang Reduction Task Force Regions**

GRTF Region	Gangs (s. 874.03, F.S.)	Members (s. 874.03)	Associates (s. 874.03)	Members+ Associates	Other Suspects	Total Gang Persons
<b>1</b>	161	424	140	564	451	1,015
<b>2</b>	56	747	124	871	583	1,454
<b>3</b>	127	1,224	513	1,737	264	2,001
<b>4</b>	202	5,167	3,476	8,643	2,338	10,981
<b>5</b>	319	3,065	1,494	4,559	2,042	6,601
<b>6</b>	134	2,963	1,124	4,087	1,829	5,916
<b>7</b>	404	8,308	2,027	10,335	7,019	17,354
<b>All Regions</b>	1,403	21,898	8,898	30,796	14,526	45,322
<b>State</b>	<b>1,403</b>	<b>28,461</b>	<b>12,518</b>	<b>40,979</b>	<b>15,221</b>	<b>56,200</b>

Source: 2010 OAG Gang Survey; Departments of Corrections and Juvenile Justice

**Table 11: Number of Documented Gangs and Gang-Involved Persons by North, Central, and South Florida**

Region	Gangs (s. 874.03, F.S.)	Members (s. 874.03)	Associates (s. 874.03)	Members+ Associates	Other Suspects	Total Gang Persons
North (R1,R2,R3)	344	2395	777	3,172	1,298	4,470
Central (R4, R5)	521	8,232	4,970	13,202	4,380	17,582
South (R6, R7)	538	11,271	3,151	14,422	8,848	23,270
All Regions	1,403	21,898	8,898	30,796	14,526	45,322
State	<b>1,403</b>	<b>28,461</b>	<b>12,518</b>	<b>40,979</b>	<b>15,221</b>	<b>56,200</b>

Source: 2010 OAG Gang Survey; Departments of Corrections and Juvenile Justice

Figure 6: Number of Documented Gangs By Region of Florida

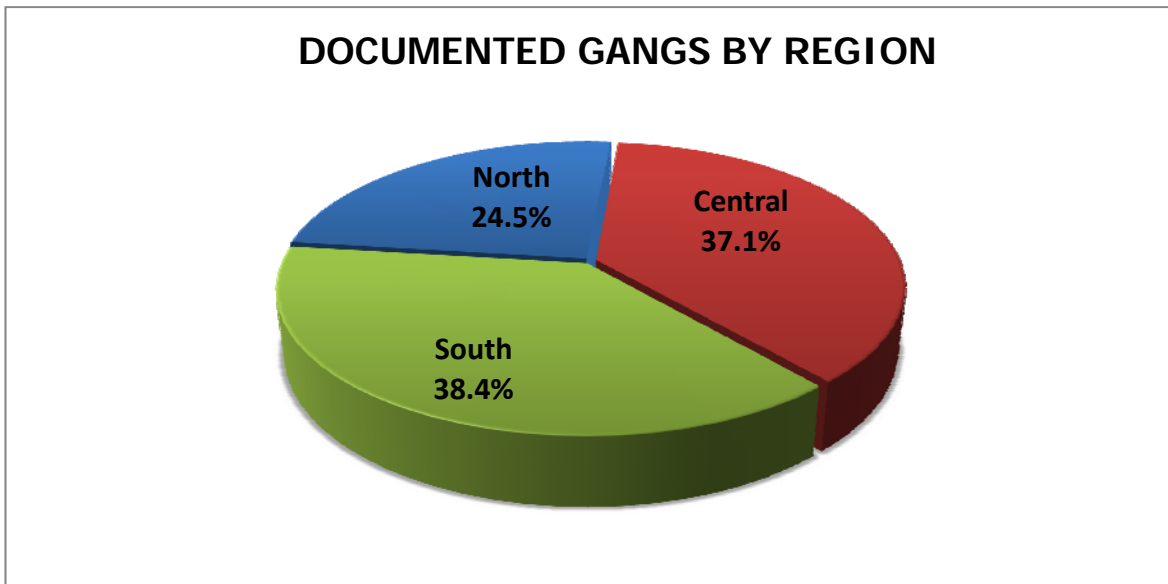
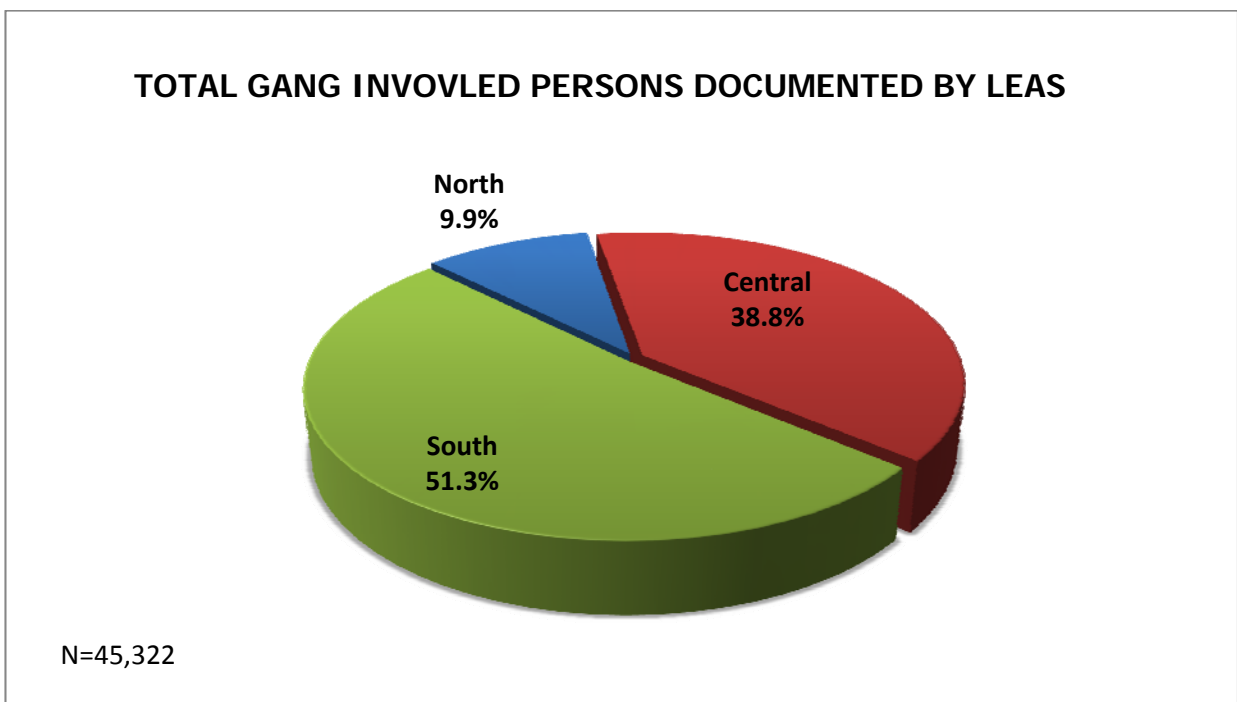


Figure 7: Number of Documented Gang-Involved Persons By Region of Florida



**Table 12: Percent Change 2009-2010 in Number of Documented Gangs by Region of Florida**

Region	2009	2010	Percent Change
North (R1,R2,R3)	221	344	55.7% ▲
Central (R4, R5)	422	521	23.5% ▲
South (R6, R7)	457	538	17.7% ▲
<b>State</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1,403</b>	<b>27.5% ▲</b>

Source: 2010 OAG Gang Survey

**Table 13: Percent Change in Number of Documented Gangs Listed by Gang Reduction Task Force Region, 2009-2010**

GRTF Region	2009	2010	Percent Change
Region 1	63	161	155.6% ▲
Region 2	35	56	60.0% ▲
Region 3	123	127	3.3% ▲
Region 4	159	202	27.0% ▲
Region 5	263	319	21.3% ▲
Region 6	86	134	55.8% ▲
Region 7	371	404	8.9% ▲
<b>State</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1,403</b>	<b>27.5% ▲</b>

Source: 2010 OAG Gang Survey

*Note: Interpret percent change as an increase or decrease in the documentation and reporting of gang intelligence by law enforcement. It is not necessarily a direct change in the number of gangs and/or gang-involved persons from year to year.*

**Table 14: Percent Change 2009-2010 in Number of Documented Gang Members and Associates by Gang Reduction Task Force**

GRTF Region	2009	2010	Percent Change
Region 1	562	564	0.36% ▲
Region 2	460	871	89.3% ▲
Region 3	1,110	1,737	56.5% ▲
Region 4	8,779	8,643	1.5% ▼
Region 5	3,884	4,559	17.4% ▲
Region 6	3,073	4,087	33.1% ▲
Region 7	13,466	10,335	23.3% ▼
<b>All Regions</b>	<b>31,334</b>	<b>30,796</b>	<b>1.7% ▼</b>

Source: 2010 OAG Gang Survey

**Table 15: Percent Change 2009-2010 in Number of Other Suspected Gang-Involved Persons by Gang Reduction Task Force Region**

GRTF Region	2009	2010	Percent Change
Region 1	315	451	43.2% ▲
Region 2	51	583	1043.1% ▲
Region 3	333	264	20.7% ▼
Region 4	816	2,338	186.5% ▲
Region 5	2,252	2,042	9.3% ▼
Region 6	1216	1,829	50.4% ▲
Region 7	1,930	7,019	263.7% ▲
<b>All Regions</b>	<b>6,913</b>	<b>14,526</b>	<b>110.1% ▲</b>

Source: 2010 OAG Gang Survey

**Table 16: Percent Change 2009-2010 in Total Number of Documented Gang-Involved Persons (Members, Associates, and Other Suspects) by Gang Reduction Task Force**

GRTF Region	2009	2010	Percent Change
Region 1	877	1,015	15.7% ▲
Region 2	511	1,454	184.5% ▲
Region 3	1,443	2,001	38.7% ▲
Region 4	9,595	10,981	14.4% ▲
Region 5	6,136	6,601	7.6% ▲
Region 6	4,289	5,916	37.9% ▲
Region 7	15,396	17,354	12.7% ▲
All Regions	38,247	45,322	18.5% ▲
State Total	<b>48,812</b>	<b>56,200</b>	<b>15.1% ▲</b>

Source: 2010 OAG Gang Survey, Departments of Corrections and Juvenile Justice

## REGIONAL BREAKOUT – NORTH

**Table 17: Number of Documented Gangs and Gang-Involved Persons in North Florida**

GRTF Region	Counties	Gangs (s. 874.03)	Members (s. 874.03)	Assoc. (s. 874.03)	Members + Associates	Other Suspects	Total Gang Persons
<b>1</b>	Panhandle - 10 Counties	161	424	140	564	451	1,015
<b>2</b>	Big Bend - 13 Counties	56	747	124	871	583	1,454
<b>3</b>	North East - 13 Counties	127	1,224	513	1,737	264	2,001
<b>North Region</b>	<b>36 Counties</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>2,395</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>3,172</b>	<b>1,298</b>	<b>4,470</b>
<b>All Regions</b>	67 Counties	1,403	21,898	8,898	30,796	14,526	45,322
<b>State Total</b>	State	1,403	28,461	12,518	40,979	15,221	56,200

Source: 2010 OAG Gang Survey; State totals include documentation from the Departments of Corrections and Juvenile Justice.

**REGIONAL BREAKOUT – CENTRAL****Table 18: Number of Documented Gangs and Gang-Involved Persons in Central Florida**

GRTF Region	Counties	Gangs (s. 874.03)	Members (s. 874.03)	Assoc. (s.874.03)	Members+ Associates	Other Suspects	Total Gang Persons
4	Central West - 8 Counties	202	5,167	3,476	8,643	2,338	10,981
5	West Central - 9 Counties	319	3,065	1,494	4,559	2,042	6,601
<b>Central Region</b>	<b>17 Counties</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>8,232</b>	<b>4,970</b>	<b>13,202</b>	<b>4,380</b>	<b>17,582</b>
All Regions	67 Counties	1,403	21,898	8,898	30,796	14,526	45,322
State Total	State	1,403	28,461	12,518	40,979	15,221	56,200

Source: 2010 OAG Gang Survey; State row includes documentation from the Departments of Corrections and Juvenile Justice

## REGIONAL BREAKOUT – SOUTH

**Table 19: Number of Documented Gangs and Gang-Involved Persons in South Florida**

GRTF Region	County	Gangs (s. 874.03)	Members (s. 874.03)	Assoc. (s. 874.03)	Members + Associates	Other Suspects	Total Gang Persons
6	South West - 10 Counties	134	2,963	1,124	4,087	1,829	5,916
7	South East - 4 Counties	404	8,308	2,027	10,335	7,019	17,354
<b>South Florida</b>	<b>14 Counties</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>11,271</b>	<b>3,151</b>	<b>14,422</b>	<b>8,848</b>	<b>23,270</b>
All Regions	67 Counties	1,403	21,898	8,898	30,796	14,526	45,322
State Total	State	1,403	28,461	12,518	40,979	15,221	56,200

Source: 2010 OAG Gang Survey; State row includes documentation from the Departments of Corrections and Juvenile Justice