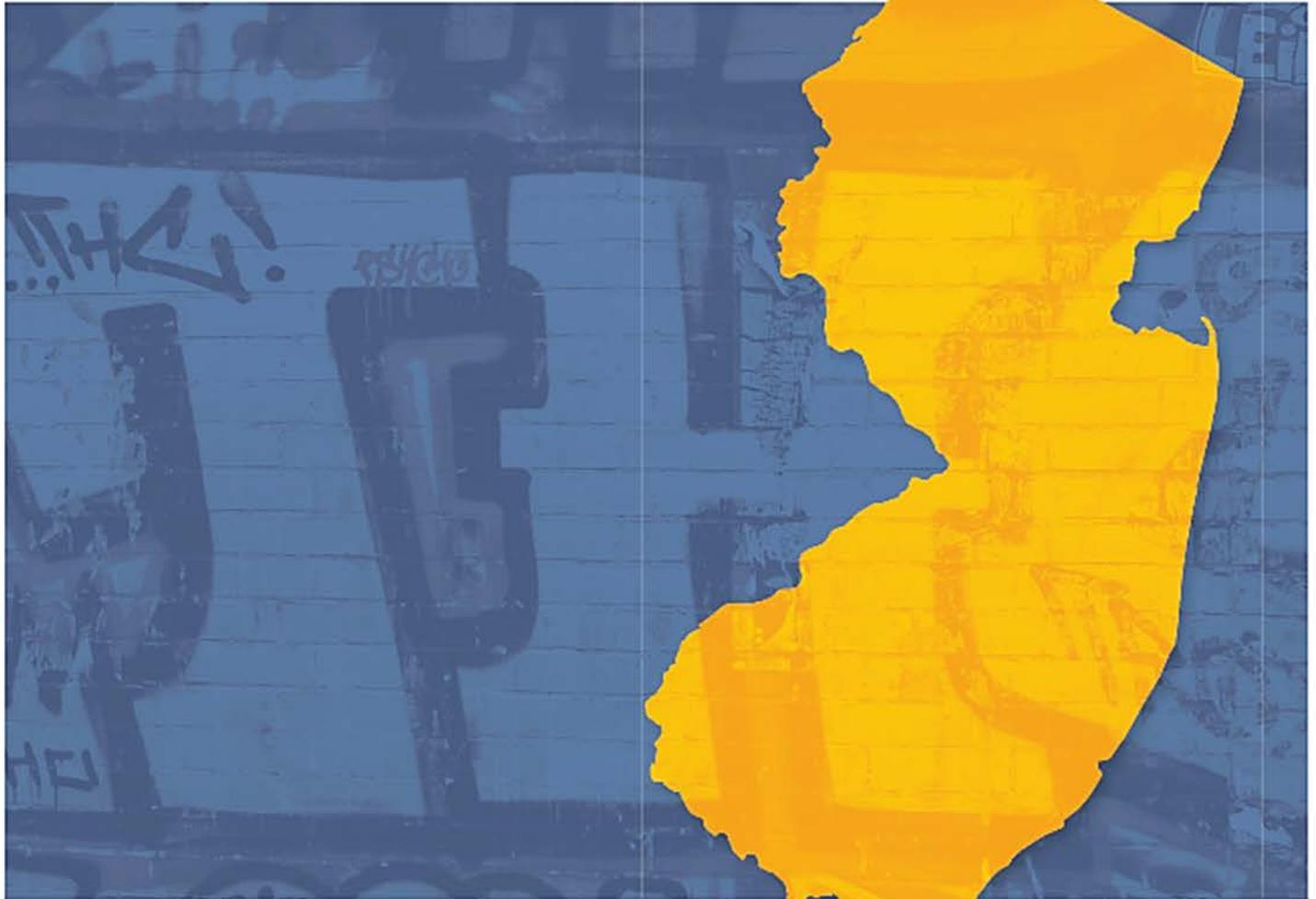




Rowan   
University



**NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE**  
Statewide Gang Assessment  
2017



## (U) Executive Summary

(U) Upon analysis of 180 statewide gang questionnaires and interview transcripts with 34 experienced law enforcement personnel, the following analytic judgements regarding criminal street gangs within the State of New Jersey can be made:

- (U) Gangs remain a public safety threat in the State of New Jersey given their heavy presence and continued involvement in drug, property and violent crime. There is an estimated 12,500 gang members in the state and another 3,500 gang members supervised by the Department of Corrections.
- (U) In Northern New Jersey, seven Tier 1 gangs were identified, and they were reported in nine counties. Tier 1 threats in North New Jersey include the Bloods, Crips, So Icey Boys, Brick Squad, Trinitarios, 230 Boys, and the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club.
- (U) In Central New Jersey, seven Tier 1 gangs were identified, and they were reported in six counties. Tier 1 threats in Central New Jersey include the Bloods, Hells Angels Motorcycle Club, Pagan's Motorcycle Club, Rollin 60s Crips, 18<sup>th</sup> Street, and several unaffiliated neighborhood gangs.
- (U) In Southern New Jersey, four Tier 1 gangs were identified, and they were reported in two counties. Tier 1 threats in Southern New Jersey include the Latin Kings, Sex Money Murder Bloods, Only the Family, and Only the South.
- (U) Hybrid gangs continue to form. Allegiance to a single gang should no longer be assumed. The razing of public housing communities may play a role in the hybrid gang movement, as members of rival gangs have been relocated in close proximity to one another.
- (U) At times, hybrid and neighborhood gangs serve as a first step into gang life. Established national gangs have been known to recruit from these neighborhood and hybrid gangs.
- (U) Although traditional gang rivalries do exist, this does not prevent members from crossing gang lines to conduct business, such as obtaining drugs.
- (U) Tattooing gang symbols and displaying gang colors continues to decline and is becoming much less prevalent.
- (U) Gang members maintain a heavy social media presence. Members typically maintain their own social media pages and identify as gang members, display gang signs, and network with fellow members.



- (U) Gang life serves as a means of self-promotion for amateur or aspiring rappers. Members are known to upload rap videos to YouTube and other social media sites. These individuals make money by selling music, tickets to performances, clothing and other merchandise.
- (U) Many gang members have money laundering capabilities, and they do so through seemingly legitimate storefronts such as barber shops, used car dealerships, and casinos.
- (U) Female gang members and female gang associates should not be overlooked, as they historically and continue to be involved in gang-related activities such as bookkeeping, facilitating lodging, and renting vehicles.
- (U) Heroin sales continue to be a growing gang activity. According to the 2018 NY/NJ HIDTA Threat Assessment, New Jersey maintains the distinction of having one of the cheapest and purest street-level heroin markets in the country.<sup>1</sup> In and around the City of Paterson, a “brick” of heroin packaged as 50 wax folds sells for as cheap as \$85.

**Figure A7. 2017 NDTs Respondents Reporting Greatest Drug Threat, by Drug, by DEA Field Division Area of Responsibility (Percentage).**

Field Division	Heroin	Methamphetamine	CPDs	Fentanyl	Marijuana	Cocaine	NPS
New Jersey	84.2%	0.0%	3.2%	2.7%	8.6%	0.5%	0.0%

U.S DOJ, DEA, 2017 National Drug Threat Assessment<sup>2</sup>

**(U) Figure 1: 2017 NATIONAL DRUG THREAT ASSESSMENT**

<sup>1</sup> 2018 New York/New Jersey HIDTA Threat Assessment, Office of National Drug Control Policy

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.dea.gov/docs/DIR-040-17\\_2017-NDTA.pdf](https://www.dea.gov/docs/DIR-040-17_2017-NDTA.pdf) 2017 National Drug Threat Assessment



## (U) Acknowledgements

(U) Unlike previous years, the New Jersey State Police Investigations Branch and members of its Intelligence & Criminal Enterprise Section endeavored to develop an assessment that went beyond simply surveying the municipal law enforcement agencies across the state in order to develop more in-depth knowledge about the gang activity taking place within New Jersey. Developing this information required many hours of interviews with experienced gang detectives across the state and the subsequent synthesizing of that information to ultimately produce this detailed assessment and report.

(U) The New Jersey State Police and Rowan University would like to acknowledge and thank the many agencies and their representatives for their support and contributions to the 2017 Statewide Gang Assessment. Contributing agencies are listed in Appendix 1. The contributions of the law enforcement officers who took the time to fill out the survey and then participate in follow-up interviews were invaluable in compiling this assessment, and we are grateful for their insights. Their individual names have been deliberately withheld for good measure, despite their very worthy acknowledgement here. Dr. Evan Sorg of Rowan University was instrumental in completing this assessment; he interviewed all participants, analyzed the data collected from the participants, and authored the detailed summaries gleaned from those interviews. The New Jersey State Police is grateful for the time Dr. Sorg put into completing this assessment. Criminal Intelligence Analyst Philip Geppi and Detective Sergeant First Class Brad Gilbert managed the many logistics of this project on behalf of the New Jersey State Police and authored sections of this assessment based on Dr. Sorg's findings. The leadership of the New Jersey State Police, including Lieutenant Colonel Raymond Guidetti, Deputy Superintendent of Investigations, and Major Ronald Hampton, Commanding Officer of the Intelligence & Criminal Enterprise Section, deserves acknowledgement for their unwavering support for this undertaking as well as the thoughtful input and considerations pertaining to several aspects of the final product. The success of this assessment is a result of the sum total of the tedious work by all who participated.



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## (U) Foreword

(U) The New Jersey State Police has maintained a steadfast commitment to eradicating criminal gangs who prey on our communities, victimize our youth and steal the innocence of so many caught in their crossfire. As the Commanding Officer of the New Jersey State Police – Intelligence & Criminal Enterprise Section, and a former gang investigator, I have witnessed firsthand how gangs have destroyed neighborhoods and the lives of so many who have been impacted by the poor choices these gang members so often make.

(U) While the 2017 Statewide Gang Assessment is not the first the New Jersey State Police has conducted, this edition adopted a new approach designed to measure the threats posed by particular gangs and provide collective insight into the present gang landscape. This assessment is both a strategic resource for law enforcement professionals as well as an informative public document for the citizenry that we proudly serve. Dr. Evan Sorg of Rowan University, with assistance from Detective Sergeant First Class Brad Gilbert and Investigator Philip Geppi of the New Jersey State Police, worked diligently to explore the facts, stories and interviews of the many law enforcement experts who contributed to the assessment to ensure we could provide an accurate and comprehensive evaluation of the State's gang activity. Their combined efforts have produced a high-quality, detailed and transparent picture of New Jersey's gang landscape that leaves few questions unanswered. I thank our law enforcement partners for their valuable contributions to this project.

(U) Gangs are here to stay. They may wear colors, identify themselves by a unique moniker or call Main Street in Anywhere, New Jersey their turf. No matter how they promote themselves, the New Jersey State Police and the entire law enforcement community will continue to combat the plague these gangs and their members cast over the communities they have intruded.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R Hampton".

Major Ronald Hampton  
Commanding Officer  
Intelligence & Criminal Enterprise Section



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## (U) Preface

(U) This assessment was compiled by Dr. Evan Sorg, Rowan University, in conjunction with the New Jersey State Police Investigations Branch. Data included to reach conclusions contained in this assessment was collected from law enforcement professionals from across the State of New Jersey and do not reflect the official position of Rowan University or necessarily the New Jersey State Police.



## (U) Introduction

(U) The New Jersey State Police was awarded a federal anti-gang initiative grant from the Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services in 2015. As part of the award, the New Jersey State Police set out to complete a statewide assessment of gang activity. Unlike previous years, the Investigations Branch envisioned the gang assessment as being an in-depth intelligence product that gleaned real-time intelligence from the perspective of law enforcement professionals dealing directly with gang-related issues within the state. Therefore, money was budgeted to partner with an academic institution to assist in developing the product, conducting interviews, analyzing the data obtained, and writing the final report. Given his expertise, the New Jersey State Police partnered with Dr. Evan Sorg of Rowan University on this aspect of the grant award. In conjunction with the New Jersey State Police, Dr. Sorg developed the following research methodology to complete this assessment.

## (U) Methodology

(U) This assessment involved a two-stage process involving both a quantitative and qualitative research design. In stage one, a survey was administered to law enforcement officers with an expertise in gangs throughout New Jersey. Their responses were used to develop a three-tier ranking system for gangs based on the threats posed. In stage two, these law enforcement officers were contacted for a follow-up interview and asked questions related to each of the gang’s structure, membership, activities, and perceived threat. After the interviews were conducted a qualitative analysis was completed to identify the themes that emerged during these interviews. The full results are presented in the pages that follow.

## (U) The Survey Component and Prioritization Criteria

(U) The survey that was administered was largely developed by Criminal Intelligence Analyst Philip Geppi in conjunction with Detective Sergeant First Class Brad Gilbert of the New Jersey State Police Intelligence & Criminal Enterprise Section. The survey asked respondents to answer 15 questions related to the overall gang presence and threat characterization. Each question required respondents to select a response along a Likert-type classification ranging from 1 (low) to 10 (high). Survey questions and ranking classification appear in (U) Table 1.

(U) Table 1: Survey Question and Ranking Classification

Question	Ranking classification
1. How would you describe the presence of the identified gangs?	<p><b>1:</b> <i>low presence</i></p> <p><b>5:</b> <i>medium presence</i></p> <p><b>10:</b> <i>heavy presence</i></p>



Question	Ranking classification
2. Is the identified gang expanding in size?	<p><b>1:</b> <i>not expanding</i></p> <p><b>5:</b> <i>medium growth</i></p> <p><b>10:</b> <i>exponential growth</i></p>
3. Does the identified gang collaborate with other gangs?	<p><b>1:</b> <i>no collaborations</i></p> <p><b>5:</b> <i>collaborates with multiple gangs</i></p> <p><b>10:</b> <i>maximum collaboration</i></p>
4. What is the gang presence in the correctional system?	<p><b>1:</b> <i>little to none</i></p> <p><b>5:</b> <i>medium presence</i></p> <p><b>10:</b> <i>large presence</i></p>
5. Does a relationship exist between the identified gang and organized crime groups?	<p><b>1:</b> <i>no affiliations</i></p> <p><b>5:</b> <i>actively engaged</i></p> <p><b>10:</b> <i>largely affiliated</i></p>
6. Does a relationship exist between the identified gang and drug cartels?	<p><b>1:</b> <i>no cartel nexus</i></p> <p><b>5:</b> <i>ambitions to collaborate</i></p> <p><b>10:</b> <i>heavily engaged/affiliated</i></p>
7. Does the identified gang participate in transnational criminal activity?	<p><b>1:</b> <i>no overseas activity</i></p> <p><b>5:</b> <i>moderate overseas activity</i></p> <p><b>10:</b> <i>actively engaged overseas</i></p>
8. Is the identified gang conducting recruitment operations in the jurisdiction?	<p><b>1:</b> <i>no recruiting</i></p> <p><b>5:</b> <i>normal recruiting</i></p> <p><b>10:</b> <i>aggressively recruiting</i></p>
9. What is the total strength in numbers of the identified gang?	<p><b>1:</b> <i>0-5</i></p> <p><b>5:</b> <i>21-25</i></p> <p><b>10:</b> <i>50+</i></p>
10. What is the level of sophistication of the identified gang?	<p><b>1:</b> <i>no structure</i></p> <p><b>5:</b> <i>loosely structured</i></p> <p><b>10:</b> <i>extremely organized/structured</i></p>
11. Throughout the county, describe the footprint the identified gang has established?	<p><b>1:</b> <i>1 or more neighborhoods</i></p> <p><b>5:</b> <i>multiple towns</i></p> <p><b>10:</b> <i>countywide</i></p>
12. What level of criminal activity is the identified gang involved in?	<p><b>1:</b> <i>no criminal activity</i></p> <p><b>5:</b> <i>sporadic criminal activity</i></p> <p><b>10:</b> <i>frequent criminal activity</i></p>
13. Has the identified gang demonstrated a capability or willingness to infiltrate law enforcement?	<p><b>1:</b> <i>no infiltration</i></p> <p><b>5:</b> <i>attempts/minimal successes</i></p> <p><b>10:</b> <i>actively attempting/capability</i></p>



Question	Ranking classification
14. Is there a terrorism nexus?	<p><b>1:</b> <i>no nexus</i></p> <p><b>5:</b> <i>ambitions to collaborate</i></p> <p><b>10:</b> <i>heavily influenced/engaged</i></p>
15. What level of violent crime is the identified gang involved in?	<p><b>1:</b> <i>no involvement</i></p> <p><b>5:</b> <i>sporadic involvement</i></p> <p><b>10:</b> <i>frequently engaged</i></p>

(U) After respondents completed the survey, their responses to individual questions were combined, weighted, and summed, which resulted in the gang’s overall threat score. Question 1 was given a weight of 1, and Question 15 was given a weight of 15. These scores were then used to classify the gangs as either a high, mid, or low tier threat. This classification system was carried individually for the Northern, Central, and Southern regions of New Jersey.

### (U) The Interview Component

(U) After the gangs were placed in their respective tier class, interviews were scheduled with the respondents who completed the survey for Tier 1 gangs. Time and resource constraints precluded the possibility of surveying all who responded to the survey. Surveys were open-ended yet followed a structured interview guide. The interviews lasted approximately 40 minutes to one hour per gang. Interview data was captured via contemporaneous note taking during the interviews. In total, 34 law enforcement officers with gang expertise were contacted and interviewed. Their years of service involving gang work ranged from five years to over 20. They represented local, county, and state law enforcement agencies. In some instances, respondents answered questions for a specific jurisdiction within a county. At other times, respondents answered questions that covered the county more broadly. Accordingly, the discussion that followed presented a picture for a specific county generally, and in some instances for individual jurisdictions. This was a function of who responded to the survey, and which jurisdictions their knowledge of gangs stemmed from.

(U) In total, 14 law enforcement officers with gang expertise completed a survey for Northern New Jersey. They completed surveys for 19 individual gangs that are known to be present in the Northern region of the state. Nine follow-up interviews were conducted to discuss Tier 1 gangs. In total, 12 law enforcement officers with gang expertise completed a survey for Central New Jersey. They completed surveys for 19 individual gangs that are known to be present in the Central region of the state. Nine follow-up interviews were conducted to discuss Tier 1 gangs. In total, 16 experienced gang detectives completed a survey for Southern New Jersey. They completed surveys for 12 individual gangs that are known to be present in the Southern region of the state. Seven follow-up interviews were conducted that discussed Tier 1 gangs.



## **(U) Research Subjectivity**

(U) Interview research is inherently subjective. As members of the law enforcement community, experience, training, personal biases and a plethora of other factors influence how one interprets information and situations. In past iterations of statewide gang assessments conducted by the New Jersey State Police, a survey design was the predominant methodology, and though subjective as well, surveys force respondents to pick from a list of predetermined responses. Open-ended qualitative research, however, probes the respondents' knowledge and experience, and asks them to recall specific information that individuals may interpret differently. Furthermore, given the desire to glean information that was more nuanced than what was provided in previous gang assessments, the sample of interviewees is smaller, as collecting, analyzing and reporting the information that follows was a great deal more time consuming. A smaller sample size means that fewer perspectives are included in this assessment; although the identified respondents make up a pool of some of the most knowledgeable about gangs within the New Jersey law enforcement community, a small sample size means information may be missing or skewed given research subjectivity. What one expert may consider important could be interpreted as less relevant to another. Therefore, as readers browse the information that follows, they should keep in mind that the information presented below are the perspectives and opinions of law enforcement officers with gang expertise that were provided to the author at the time of interview, and not the author's own interpretation.

(U) It should also be noted that the gang rankings were based solely on the responses that were provided. Not all law enforcement agencies responded, and so not all jurisdictions in the State of New Jersey are included in this assessment. Further, given that only survey respondents who reported on Tier 1 gangs were contacted for follow-up interviews, some jurisdictions that one might expect to read about in this assessment may not be included.

## **(U) Intelligence Fluidity**

(U) Intelligence information is also fluid. Some respondents described how divergent gang trends had arose recently, how certain gangs and certain members became more or less violent in the time between completing the survey and when their interview was conducted, or how an arrest had changed gang dynamics, for example. Specific intelligence information detailed in the report may therefore be out of date. Although a limitation of a product of this type, it is not often that, as a state, we pull together all that is known about gang dynamics and get that information down on paper. It is hoped that this criminal intelligence product serves as a resource for identifying the most harmful gangs in the state, understanding how they operate, and what can be done to combat them.

(U) It may also be the case that individuals not involved in the production of this intelligence product have new, more detailed information about the gangs that are chronicled in the pages that follow. For example, several respondents reported that their allied law enforcement agency partners shared (or did not share) information with them, or that a particular agency had a good handle on gang activity. So while a product such as this may have some benefits and



limitations, it does not replace the value that interagency intelligence sharing presents. An important take away from this assessment is that local, county and state law enforcement partnerships have immense importance in understanding gang activity and how to tackle the associated problems. As the following information highlights, gangs have local dynamics that are unique to individual jurisdictions and that oftentimes diverge from state or even nationwide gang trends or practices.

## **(U) New Jersey Anti-Gang Initiatives**

(U) In 2015, the National Gang Intelligence Center (NGIC) published the National Gang Report and indicated that gangs continue to grow and expand their criminal activity as their dedication to generating revenue remains a top priority.<sup>3</sup> Today, gang activity in New Jersey continues down this path of growth and expansion as gang priorities remain unchanged. Violent crime represents one of the state's most significant concerns. Criminal street gangs are responsible for a large part of this violent crime. Much of this violent crime conducted by street gangs occurs across multi-jurisdictional areas, which requires the law enforcement community to band together to attack this problem-set head on. This past year, the state of New Jersey has been witness to many anti-gang initiative successes. The success of any anti-gang initiative is usually measured by the ability to satisfy three objectives: gang enforcement, gang prevention, and gang intervention. Combining the capabilities and resources of local, state, and federal law enforcement has resulted in several effective strategies that satisfy these goals.

(U) Listed below are several examples of successful anti-gang initiatives and operations conducted by local, county, state, and federal authorities that have had recent impact in New Jersey.

### **(U) COPS Anti-Gang Initiative (CAGI), U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)**

(U) The FY 2015 COPS Anti-Gang Initiative (CAGI<sup>4</sup>) is designed to advance public safety by providing funds to address gang activity. CAGI provides funds directly to law enforcement agencies with a multijurisdictional partnership composed of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to address gang activity. For FY 2015, the COPS Office awarded nearly \$6 million in CAGI grant funds to nine lead law enforcement agencies on multijurisdictional task forces. Three of the nine awards went to agencies located in New Jersey. In addition to the New Jersey State Police, who used this grant to fund the research required to complete this statewide assessment of gang activity, the Essex County Prosecutor's Office and Jersey City Police Department also received the grant. Below is a summary from Essex County Prosecutor's Office and Jersey City Police Department outlining how the grant has benefited both their agency and the community to date.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.hsdl.org/?view&did=792574> National Gang Report 2015

<sup>4</sup> <https://cops.usdoj.gov/Default.asp?Item=2775> Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. DOJ



### **Essex County Prosecutor's Office**

*The awarding of CAGI grant funds has enabled this agency to dedicate additional investigative staffing to its Narcotics and Gang Task Force (ECNTF). The ECNTF investigates narcotics and gang activity in all twenty-two municipalities in Essex County. As stated in the program narrative submitted in support of the county's grant application, there is a significant gang program within this county. There are more than 160 gang sets operating in Essex County. The core cities of Newark, East Orange, Irvington and Orange are where most of the gang activity occurs. The ECNTF generally focuses its efforts in the areas of these cities that are experiencing spikes of violence and other gang-related criminal activity. In the first six months of this year, ECNTF detectives have seized more than 5,000 grams of heroin, over 2,000 grams of cocaine and more than 4,000 grams of marijuana. Task force detectives have also seized 19 firearms and more than \$75,000 in U.S. currency. During this period, the ECNTF has been supplemented by investigative personnel from the Newark Police Department. The addition of personnel from our largest law enforcement partner has enabled the ECNTF to increase the scope of our narcotics operations within the county. The awarding of CAGI grant fund is instrumental in the success of the task force by enabling the county to add additional resources to the task force.*

*In addition to the investigative staffing, the awarding of CAGI grant funds has enabled the ECNTF to employ a crime data analyst to allow more data-driven efforts in the selection of targets and the deployment of investigative resources. The addition of this analyst will allow the ECNTF to recognize evolving trends and identify "hot spots" of violent criminal activity. In the past six months, the analyst has also been working with an assistant prosecutor in the county's Special Prosecutions Unit to develop an automated program to assist with the identification and evaluation of gang offenders.*

(U) Figure 2: ESSEX COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE SUMMARY OF CAGI GRANT



### ***Jersey City Police Department***

***Goals of the CAGI grant were two-fold: fund overtime operations in identified hotspots targeting Jersey City's most violent offenders and employ a crime analyst to provide intelligence, identify trends, and attempt to predict violent crimes. Since employing this strategy, the analyst has worked closely with sworn personnel, ensuring the sharing of intelligence. The department has collaborated with law enforcement partners in the form of a multi-agency CAGI Task Force dedicated to anti-gang activities, essentially doubling the department's plainclothes operations. The CAGI grant provided an extra 152 tours of coverage.***

***The additional manpower has allowed the department to extend patrols far into non-traditional hours, providing nearly round-the-clock coverage. The results were immediate after implementation in early 2017; shooting hits were eliminated for nearly a three-week period. Despite the occasional uptick, the combination of increased manpower and shared information has allowed for periods of time without incident, with flare ups tending to be outside of identified hotspots. In addition, these efforts have allowed officers to target high-value, repeat offenders to help quell future violence.***

**(U) Figure 3: JERSEY CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT SUMMARY OF CAGI GRANT**

### **(U) Gang Resistance Education And Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program**

(U) The Gang Resistance Education And Training (G.R.E.A.T.<sup>5</sup>) Program is an evidence-based, national and international gang and violence prevention program that has been building trust between law enforcement and communities for almost 30 years.

(U) G.R.E.A.T. is intended as an immunization against delinquency, youth violence, and gang membership. It is designed for children in the years immediately before the prime ages for introduction into gangs and delinquent behavior.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.great-online.org/Home/GREAT-Home> Gang Resistance Education And Training



(U) The G.R.E.A.T. Program is built around school-based, law enforcement officer-instructed classroom curricula. It provides a continuum of components for children and their families. These components include a 13-lesson middle school curriculum, a 6-lesson elementary school curriculum, a summer component, and a families component. In the past year, 27 agencies throughout the state of New Jersey participated in the event.

***G.R.E.A.T. Participants***

*Asbury Park Police Department*

*Atlantic City Police Department*

*Belleville Police Department*

*Burlington Police Department*

*Camden County Police Department*

*Deptford Township Police Department*

*Florham Park Police Department*

*Franklin Township Police Department*

*Garwood Police Department*

*Hudson County Prosecutor's Office*

*Lakewood Police Department*

*New Jersey Division of Parole*

*New Jersey State Parole Board Newark*

*New Jersey State Parole Board Trenton*

*Newark Police Department*

*North Plainfield Police Department*

*Ocean County Prosecutor's Office*

*Ocean County Sheriff's Department*

*Passaic Police Department*

*Perth Amboy Police Department*

*Red Bank Police Department*

*South Toms River Police Department*

*Stanhope Police Department*

*Toms River Township Police Department*

*Vineland Police Department*

*West New York Police Department*

*Willingboro Township Police Department*

(U) Figure 4: G.R.E.A.T. PARTICIPANTS IN NEW JERSEY



### (U) Violent Crime Initiative, New Jersey Office of the Attorney General and New Jersey State Police

(U) On November 1, 2016, Attorney General Christopher S. Porrino and New Jersey State Police Superintendent Colonel Rick Fuentes announced a statewide violent offender fugitive sweep that resulted in the arrest of more than 150 offenders. The operation targeted violent fugitives, many of whom are criminal gang members, having outstanding arrest warrants for crimes including murder, aggravated assault, kidnapping, and drug trafficking. During the sweep, authorities seized 11 firearms, including two assault rifles, 631 decks of heroin, and 60 vials of crack cocaine.<sup>6</sup>



(U) Figure 5: AG/NJSP VIOLENT CRIME INITIATIVE MUGSHOTS

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.nj.gov/oag/newsreleases17/pr20170125c.html>



### (U) Operation Lights Out, Monmouth County Prosecutor’s Office

(U) In late 2016, a series of shootings in Asbury Park, Neptune Township, and Long Branch prompted the gang unit at the Monmouth County Prosecutor’s Office to open an investigation.<sup>7</sup> The investigation resulted in the arrest of several Bloods street gang members from the G-Shine set and associates. In total, 29 people were arrested on charges including Racketeering, Distribution of Narcotics, Conspiracy to Distribute and/or Possess Narcotics, Unlawful Possession of Handguns, Unlawful Transfer or Sale of Firearms, Certain Persons Not to Possess Weapons and Hindering Apprehension. The investigation revealed the criminal organization distributed approximately 150-200 grams of crack and powder cocaine per week with an estimated street value of \$225,000, and approximately 250 packets of heroin per week with an estimated street value of \$22,500. Operation Lights Out also resulted in the seizure of two semi-automatic handguns, more than 200 grams of cocaine, 1750 packets of heroin, approximately \$14,000 in currency, and three vehicles.



(U) Figure 6: OPERATION LIGHTS OUT

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[http://www.nj.com/monmouth/index.ssf/2017/09/29\\_arrested\\_3\\_wanted\\_in\\_monmouth\\_county\\_bloods\\_gan.html](http://www.nj.com/monmouth/index.ssf/2017/09/29_arrested_3_wanted_in_monmouth_county_bloods_gan.html)



### (U) Operation T.I.D.E Essex County Prosecutor's Office

(U) In late 2015, 48 people were arrested following a five-month investigation into gang-related drug distribution and violence by the Essex County Prosecutor's Office.<sup>8</sup> The charges included murder and conspiracy to commit murder. Operation T.I.D.E., which is an abbreviation for Targeted Integrated Deployment Enforcement, focused on illicit drug distribution by members of the 793 set of the Bloods operating in Essex County. Those arrested included drug purchasers from Monmouth and Morris counties. The operation resulted in the seizure of \$31,064 in currency in addition to quantities of heroin, cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, promethazine syrup, and OxyContin with an estimated street value of \$10,000.



(U) Figure 7: OPERATION T.I.D.E.

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.nj.com/essex/index.ssf/2015/07/48\\_charged\\_in\\_massive\\_essex\\_county\\_drug\\_bust.html](http://www.nj.com/essex/index.ssf/2015/07/48_charged_in_massive_essex_county_drug_bust.html)



### (U) Operation Peddling Misery New Jersey State Police and Division of Criminal Justice

(U) In 2017, 19 alleged drug distributors and their criminal associates, including four current or former leaders of the Latin Kings street gang in Newark, were indicted by a state grand jury on charges including first-degree racketeering and promoting organized street crime and second-degree conspiracy to distribute narcotics.<sup>9</sup> Operation Peddling Misery was an investigation lead by the New Jersey State Police and prosecuted by the Division of Criminal Justice that targeted a violent narcotics distribution enterprise that was distributing large quantities of heroin and crack cocaine within the City of Newark.



(U) Figure 8: OPERATION PEDDLING MISERY

<sup>9</sup> <http://nj.gov/oag/newsreleases17/pr20170801b.html>



### (U) Operation Snow Bank New Jersey State Police and U.S. Homeland Security Investigations

(U) In 2017, 36 people including five alleged members of the MS-13 gang were arrested following an interstate investigation dubbed Operation Snow Bank.<sup>10</sup> The eight-month cooperative investigation by local, state, and federal agencies targeted three rival drug trafficking organizations, operating in Union County and beyond. Police seized approximately 1.5 kilograms of cocaine, more than two ounces of heroin, marijuana and more than \$35,000 in currency.



(U) Figure 9: OPERATION SNOW BANK

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.nj.com/union/index.ssf/2017/08/36\\_arrested\\_in\\_dismantling\\_of\\_rival\\_drug\\_rings\\_pol.html](http://www.nj.com/union/index.ssf/2017/08/36_arrested_in_dismantling_of_rival_drug_rings_pol.html)



## (U) Gang Organization, Structure, and Characteristics

### (U) Structure

(U) Gangs in New Jersey vary in their degree of organization and structure. Although it has not completely disappeared, it appears to be increasingly less common for gangs to be highly-structured criminal groups. Rather, loose affiliations dominate, and gang members are often involved in their own criminal activity as opposed to engaging in criminal activity in the name of the gang. There is a recent movement toward gang hybridization, and neighborhood-based gangs continue to become more common.

- **(U) Criminal Street Gang:** In New Jersey, a criminal street gang is defined as three or more persons associated in fact. Individuals are associated in fact if: (1) two of the following seven criteria that indicate criminal street gang membership apply: (a) self-proclamation; (b) witness testimony or official statement; (c) written or electronic correspondence; (d) paraphernalia or photographs; (e) tattoos; (f) clothing or colors; (g) any other indicia of street gang activity; and (2) individually or in combination with other members of a criminal street gang, while engaging in gang related activity, have committed or conspired or attempted to commit, within the preceding five years from the date of the present offense, excluding any period of imprisonment, one or more offenses on separate occasions of robbery, carjacking, aggravated assault, assault, aggravated sexual assault, sexual assault, arson, burglary, kidnapping, extortion, tampering with witnesses and informants or a violation of chapter 11, section 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7 of chapter 35 or chapter 39 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes.
- **(U) Neighborhood-based Gang:** Criminal street gangs confined to specific neighborhoods and jurisdictions, often imitating larger, more powerful national gangs. Neighborhood-based gangs continue to pose a threat in jurisdictions statewide.
- **(U) Hybrid Gang:** Criminal street gang having a loose or no organizational structure, often in a state of flux with members having multiple gang allegiances, including traditional rival gangs, and not uncommon change their affiliations from one gang to another. An existing hybrid gang may change their name or suddenly merge with other gangs to form a new gang. Many jurisdictions reported the recent shift to gang hybridization. The presence of hybrid gangs was specifically discussed in Cumberland, Essex, Hudson, Mercer, and Monmouth counties, and it is suspected that this trend is widespread throughout the state. Hybridization was most often reported for Bloods and Crips. Members were reported to move from set to set, and this movement was most often based on local friendships and who their neighborhood acquaintances were associating with. For example, in Essex County it was reported that Grape Street Crips and 793 Bloods had tied flags and reestablished themselves as a set called 79-G.
- **(U) Gang Set:** Distinctive group of gang members operating under the banner of a larger identified criminal street gang, such as the Bloods and Crips, usually having their



own separate leadership, identifiers, rules, or other distinctions. In an effort to provide an accurate understanding of the current gang environment, the 2017 Statewide Gang Assessment treated gang sets as distinct groups when asking respondents to identify active gangs within their jurisdiction.

### **(U) Age**

(U) Gang members are overwhelmingly young men, most often ranging from 13-25 years old. Older members, some into their 40s, do still affiliate with certain gangs, yet this is increasingly less common. This may be due to the lack of structure and leadership that many gangs now reportedly exhibit. A younger membership was reportedly correlated to higher levels of violence and recklessness. For example, the 230 Boys in Passaic County, Bloods in Essex County, and Crips in Hudson County, were all described as being young and reckless. In some instances, it was reported that older gang members even viewed the new, younger generation as being too quick to resort to violence.

### **(U) Females and Gangs**

(U) Although the overwhelming majority of gang members are young men, female gang members are not uncommon. Females were reported to play important roles in carrying out gang business in certain instances. Further, female associates who are not necessarily gang members have been known to carry out activities in furtherance of the gang. For example in Middlesex County, female associates reportedly carried out activities such as renting cars and hotel rooms, transporting drugs, and visiting gang members in jail for the purpose of passing information from within these facilities to the outside and vice versa.

### **(U) Recruitment and Gang Identification**

(U) Recruitment was reportedly carried out through schools, local neighborhood affiliation, and jails and prisons. Social media was also considered an indirect recruiting tool. Although formal recruitment efforts were reported throughout the state to varying degrees, recruitment appears to be becoming much less formal. For example, in Middlesex County, it was reported that recruitment is very informal and mostly involves having familial ties to the gang. In Camden County, recruitment was reported to be informally occurring through friendships developed in school and on the street. Tattoos depicting gang symbols, displaying or wearing gang colors, and flashing gang signs on the street are falling out of favor for many gang members, especially younger members. This has not disappeared, however. Many members recognized that identifying with gangs in these ways makes them a target of police attention. Further, in some counties, you cannot work a prison job if you are a confirmed gang member, and inmates know that things like displaying hand signs, colors, or having gang related tattoos can lead to being confirmed.



## **(U) Social Media**

Gang members are present on various forms of social media including Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and YouTube. Social media is most often used to brag about ones status and glorify the gang lifestyle. This is less common among outlaw motorcycle clubs and more common among Bloods, Crips, and other gangs present in New Jersey. Members appear more likely to flash gang signs and identify with specific gangs on social media as opposed to on the street. This is seen as a means by which members can promote the gang lifestyle and something that contributes to making formal recruitment unnecessary. In most cases, little evidence exists that gangs were organizing, planning, or conducting gang business on social media sites.

## **(U) Gang Relationships and Rivalries**

(U) Given the recent hybrid gang movement, relationships across gangs were reported statewide. Gangs are willing to collaborate and leave rivalries aside in the furtherance of gang activity. This was most commonly reported for drug acquisition. Members will purchase drugs from rival gang members if product becomes available. Although this is increasingly common, rivalries do exist and have the likelihood of generating significant amounts of violence. Retaliatory violence is common place. These rivalries are most often the result of petty disputes involving things such as perceived disrespect or female relationships. Inter-gang violence was also reported to erupt over territorial disputes, most often relating to areas used to distribute drugs. No evidence of direct relationships with drug cartels or to international terrorism was reported.

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## Northern New Jersey



## (U) Geographic Scope

(U) For the purpose of this assessment, Northern New Jersey is comprised of the following counties:

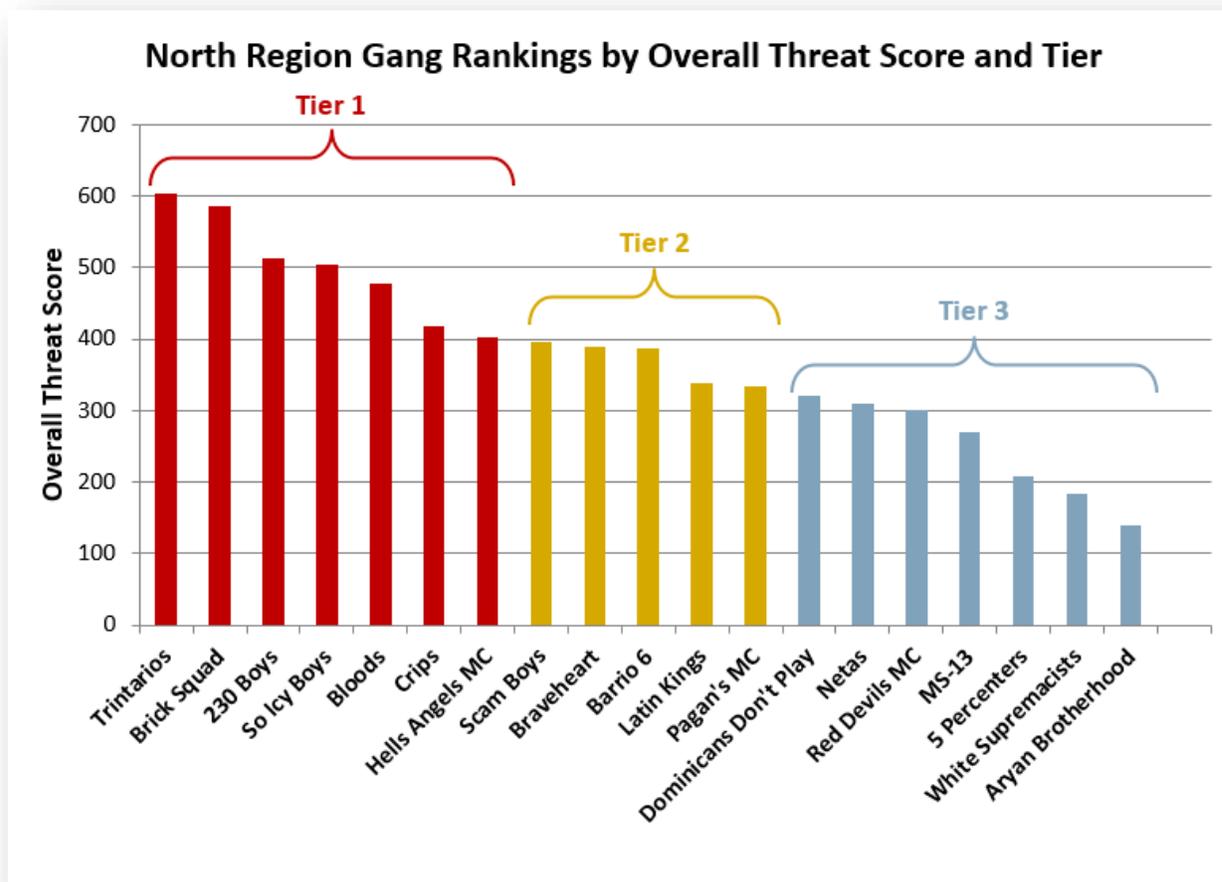
- ▶ Bergen
- ▶ Morris
- ▶ Union
- ▶ Somerset
- ▶ Essex
- ▶ Hudson
- ▶ Passaic
- ▶ Warren
- ▶ Sussex

(U) As shown in (U) Figure 10 below, seven separate gangs were identified as Tier 1 threats, five were identified as Tier 2 threats, and seven were identified as Tier 3 sets. The purpose of this assessment is to provide in-depth intelligence on the threats posed by the most harmful gangs in New Jersey, and so the focus of this assessment will be on the Tier 1 threats that have been identified. The following gangs were identified as Tier 1 threats, and the subsequent interviews were conducted with experienced gang detectives who completed a survey for these gangs:

- ▶ Trintarios
- ▶ Brick Squad
- ▶ 230 Boys
- ▶ So Icey Boys
- ▶ Bloods
- ▶ Crips
- ▶ Hells Angels Motorcycle Club



(U) Northern New Jersey Gang Threat Classification



(U) Figure 10: Northern New Jersey Gang Threat Classification

(U) Trinitarios

(U) Trinitarios is a street gang that was established in the New York City correctional system in 1989 as a way of protecting themselves from other Latino gangs. Initially a prison-based gang, Trinitarios membership integrated themselves into the New York street gang environment upon release from prison and eventually established a presence throughout Northern Jersey during the late 1990's. Trinitarios still maintain a presence within the state, albeit small in numbers based on this assessment. Trinitarios has been linked to criminal investigations involving drug distribution, assault, weapons, and robbery. Although believed to be infrequent, Trinitarios have demonstrated their willingness attack rivals including the Dominicans Don't Play street gang.



### **(U) Brick Squad**

(U) Brick Squad is a neighborhood-based gang in the First Ward of Paterson, New Jersey who are also known by the names “Glock Boys” and “Down the Hill Gang.” Brick Squad is believed to have formed as early as the 1960’s as a result of a long-standing feud between local gang members of the first and fourth wards of Paterson. A territorial feud continues today as Brick Squad has a long-standing rivalry with 230 Boys, also known as “Up the Hill Gang,” who operate within the city’s Fourth Ward. Brick Squad is not known to be affiliated with larger gangs such as the Bloods or Crips despite this emerging trend amongst neighborhood-based gangs. Over the years, this gang has been linked to criminal investigations involving drug distribution, weapons, burglary, assault, and murder.

### **(U) 230 Boys**

(U) 230 Boys is a neighborhood-based gang that originated in the Fourth Ward of Paterson, New Jersey around 2013. 230 Boys, also known as “Up the Hill Gang,” emerged in Passaic County as a result of the dismantling of other larger criminal street gangs by members of law enforcement. 230 Boys have a small documented presence estimated to be less than 30 members and have been linked to criminal investigations involving drug distribution, weapons, assault, and robbery. 230 boys are part of a decades old feud, dating back to the 1960’s, between former gang members of the first and fourth wards of Paterson. Brick Squad and So Icey Boys remain the primary rivals of the 230 Boys, both based in Paterson’s First Ward or “Down the Hill.”

### **(U) So Icey Boys**

(U) So Icey Boys is a neighborhood-based gang that originated in Paterson, New Jersey around 2012 as a result of the dismantling of other larger criminal street gangs by members of law enforcement. So Icey Boys are known to frequent the First Ward of Paterson, known as “Down the Hill,” and has a presence estimated to be less than 25 members. So Icey Boys are part of a decades-old feud, dating back to the 1960’s, between former gang members of the first and fourth wards of Paterson. Consequently, So Icey Boys have had a long-standing rivalry with 230 Boys gang based in Paterson’s Fourth Ward as well as at least one other neighborhood-based gang. In addition to acts of violence against rival gangs, So Icey Boys have been known to participate in the illicit distribution of drugs within Passaic County.

### **(U) Bloods**

(U) Bloods is a street gang that originated in Los Angeles, California in the 1970’s. The Bloods evolved into smaller, distinctive gang sets operating not only on the West Coast, but nationwide. An East Coast presence, including New Jersey, is largely believed to have occurred around 1993 when several prisoners at Rikers Island Correctional Facility in New York formed the United Blood Nation. Bloods gang members are believed to have the largest presence among criminal street gangs operating in New Jersey, numbering in the thousands, as was also



documented in the last statewide gang survey conducted by the New Jersey State Police in 2010. Bloods sets that have been identified as criminally significant throughout the state include Fruit Town Brims, G-Shine, and Sex Money Murder. Bloods members most often affiliate themselves with a particular set, but in recent years many have retained a loose affiliation to the Bloods in favor of more frequent affiliation to a neighborhood-based gang. While rivalries with gangs such as the Crips do still exist in some locations within the state, our current assessment has found Bloods members conspiring with historical rivals in furtherance of criminal activity, as seen with the emergence of hybrid gangs.

### **(U) Crips**

(U) Crips is a street gang that originated in Los Angeles, California by the late 1960's. The Crips evolved into smaller, distinctive gang sets operating not only on the West Coast, but nationwide. Crips gang members have has a significant presence among criminal street gangs operating in New Jersey, numbering in the thousands, as was documented in the last statewide gang survey conducted by the New Jersey State Police in 2010. Crips sets that have been identified as criminally significant throughout the state include Grape Street, Hoover Deuce, and Rollin 60s. Crips members most often affiliate themselves with a particular set, but in recent years many have retained a loose affiliation to the Crips in favor of more frequent affiliation to a neighborhood-based gang or hybrid gang. While rivalries with gangs such as the Bloods do still exist in some locations within the state, our current assessment has found Crips members conspiring with historical rivals in furtherance of criminal activity, as seen with the emergence of hybrid gangs.

### **(U) Hells Angels Motorcycle Club**

(U) Hells Angels Motorcycle Club (HAMC) is a self-identified outlaw, "one percenter" motorcycle club that has history of criminal activity dating back to the 1940's. An international organization with charters on six continents, HAMC established its first charter in New Jersey in 2006. HAMC's historical rival has been the Pagan's Motorcycle Club, who also have a presence in New Jersey that has led to periodic incidents of violence between the two clubs over perceived territorial claim. HAMC has been linked to criminal investigations involving drugs, weapons, theft, assault, and organized crime. HAMC charters are highly selective in membership, often recruiting from mutual friends and family members after years of an established relationship. Like other outlaw motorcycle gangs nationally, HAMC has a reputation of intimidation and threats of violence.

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## Central New Jersey



## (U) Geographic Scope

(U) For the purpose of this assessment, Central New Jersey is comprised of the following counties:

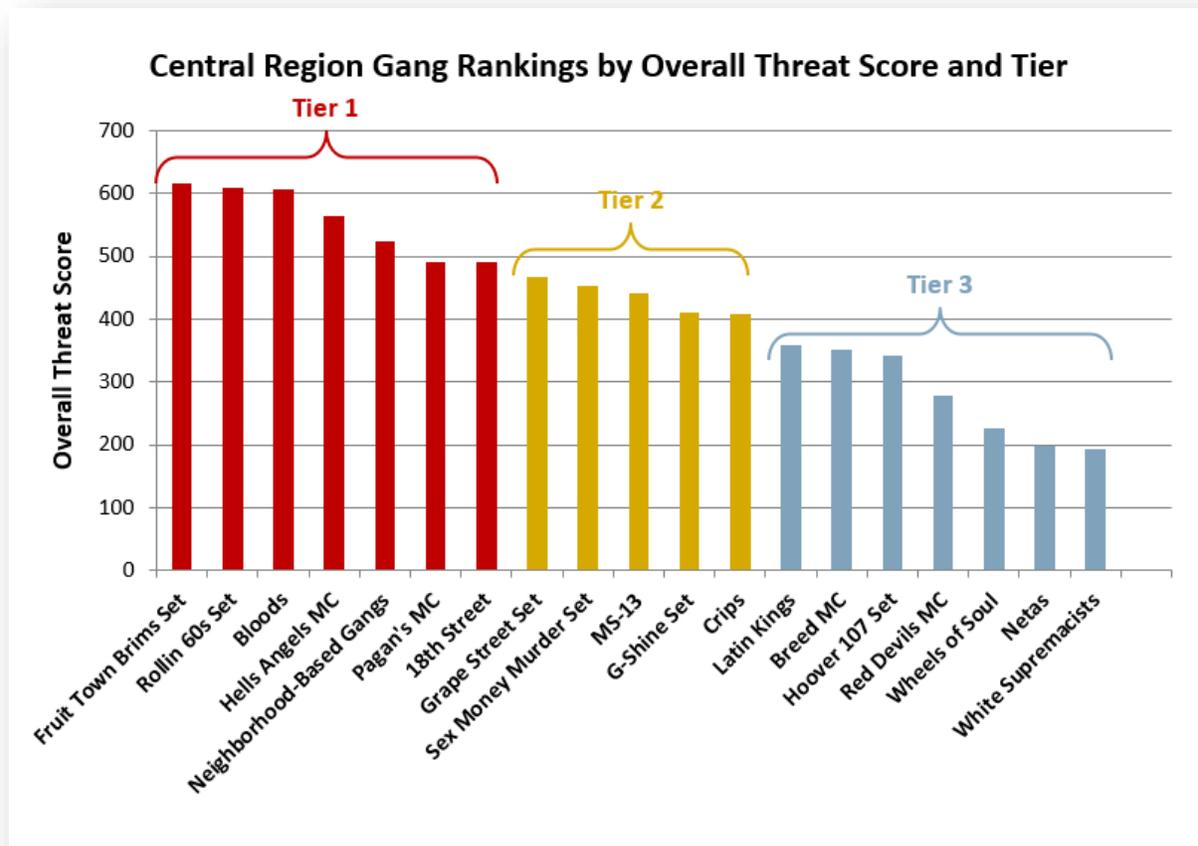
- ▶ Ocean
- ▶ Mercer
- ▶ Monmouth
- ▶ Hunterdon
- ▶ Burlington
- ▶ Middlesex

(U) As shown in (U) Figure 11, seven separate gangs were identified as Tier 1 threats, five were identified as Tier 2 threats, and seven were identified as Tier 3 sets. The purpose of this assessment is to provide in-depth intelligence on the threats posed by the most harmful gangs in New Jersey, and so the focus of this assessment will be on the Tier 1 threats that have been identified. The following gangs were identified as Tier 1 threats, and the subsequent interviews were conducted with experienced gang detectives who completed a survey for these gangs:

- ▶ Bloods, Fruit Town Brims Set
- ▶ Crips, Rollin 60's Set
- ▶ Bloods, Various Sets
- ▶ Hells Angels Motorcycle Club
- ▶ Neighborhood-based Gangs
- ▶ Pagan's Motorcycle Club
- ▶ 18<sup>th</sup> Street



**(U) Central New Jersey Gang Threat Classification**



**(U) Figure 11: Central New Jersey Gang Threat Classification**

**(U) Bloods, Fruit Town Brims Set**

(U) FTB is a distinctive set of the Bloods street gang that originated in the area of Compton, California. FTB evolved from the larger Bloods set of the Los Angeles based Brims in the mid 1970s and has established a presence throughout the nation, including New Jersey. This assessment has identified FTB to be a loosely organized and somewhat cohesive group with a moderate presence in Ocean County. Historical rivalries with gangs within the county, including the Grape Street Crips, Piru Bloods, and G-Shine Bloods, have resulted in violence. However, violence between the rival gangs has been reported to be based on personal conflict rather than conflict over business. FTB has been linked to criminal investigations primarily involving drug distribution but is known to be involved in various forms of criminal activity. FTB presence within Ocean County has been localized and we assess that their ability to expand is limited in the area.



### **(U) Crips, Rollin 60's Set**

(U) Rollin 60's is a distinctive set of the Crips street gang established in Los Angeles, California at a time during the early 1970's when Crips members began identifying themselves by geographically-specific neighborhoods. The Rollin 60's have since grown to be a nationwide Crips set. The Rollin 60's set has a small presence among criminal street gangs operating in New Jersey, numbering in the hundreds, as was documented in the last statewide gang survey conducted by the New Jersey State Police in 2010. The Rollin 60's has been linked to criminal investigations involving drug distribution, weapons, theft, assault, and murder. While rivalries with gangs such as the Bloods do still exist in some locations within the state, our current assessment has found members of Rollin 60's conspiring with historical rivals in furtherance of criminal activity, consistent with the emerging trend of hybrid gangs.

### **(U) Bloods, Various Sets**

(U) Bloods is a street gang that originated in Los Angeles, California in the 1970's. The Bloods evolved into smaller, distinctive gang sets operating not only on the West Coast, but nationwide. An East Coast presence, including New Jersey, is largely believed to have occurred around 1993 when several prisoners at Rikers Island Correctional Facility in New York formed the United Blood Nation. Bloods gang members are believed to have the largest presence among criminal street gangs operating in New Jersey, numbering in the thousands, as was also documented in the last statewide gang survey conducted by the New Jersey State Police in 2010. Bloods sets that have been identified as criminally significant throughout the state include Fruit Town Brims, G-Shine, and Sex Money Murder. Bloods members most often affiliate themselves with a particular set, but in recent years many have retained a loose affiliation to the Bloods in favor of more frequent affiliation to a neighborhood-based gang. While rivalries with gangs such as the Crips do still exist in some locations within the state, our current assessment has found Bloods members conspiring with historical rivals in furtherance of criminal activity, as seen with the emergence of hybrid gangs.

### **(U) Hells Angels Motorcycle Club**

(U) Hells Angels Motorcycle Club (HAMC) is a self-identified outlaw, "one percenter" motorcycle club that has history of criminal activity dating back to the 1940's. An international organization with charters on six continents, HAMC established its first charter in New Jersey in 2006. HAMC's historical rival has been the Pagan's Motorcycle Club, who also have a presence in New Jersey that has led to periodic incidents of violence between the two clubs over perceived territorial claim. HAMC has been linked to criminal investigations involving drugs, weapons, theft, assault, and organized crime. HAMC charters are highly selective in membership, often recruiting from mutual friends and family members after years of an established relationship. Like other outlaw motorcycle gangs nationally, HAMC has a reputation of intimidation and threats of violence.



## **(U) Neighborhood-based Gangs**

(U) Over the past seven years, there has been a significant trend toward the formation of neighborhood-based gangs that do not necessarily affiliate with nationally-known street gangs or organized gang sets established throughout multiple venues in New Jersey. Although this type of localized gang activity is not a new phenomenon, the existence of such gangs has become more prevalent in recent years according to law enforcement officials statewide. The extent of structure, leadership, and cohesion within neighborhood-based gangs vary. Some of these unaffiliated gangs have recognized leaders, whereas others are more loosely organized. Members tend to have grown up with one another, went to school together, or share personal relationships that allow for a level of cohesion. However, the lack of structure or more formal relationships amongst members often result in neighborhood-based gangs that are ever-changing and difficult for law enforcement to assess with accuracy. This presents a challenge for police and public safety officials with the identification and tracking of these gangs and their membership. The level of violence associated with particular neighborhood-based gangs vary too, however, many of these gangs have shown a propensity for violence no different than that of more established, affiliated street gangs. Neighborhood-based gangs are regularly associated with criminal investigations involving drug distribution, weapons, assault, robbery, theft, and other opportunistic crimes.

## **(U) Pagan's Motorcycle Club**

(U) Pagan's Motorcycle Club (PMC) is a self-identified outlaw, "one-percenter" motorcycle club that has history of criminal activity dating back to the 1960's. Active primarily along the East Coast, PMC has a long established presence in New Jersey, with active chapters throughout the state. PMC's historical rival has been the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club, whose also have a presence in New Jersey that has led to periodic incidents of violence between the two clubs over perceived territorial claim. PMC has been linked to criminal investigations involving drugs, weapons, theft, assault, murder, and organized crime. PMC chapters are selective in membership, often recruiting from smaller motorcycle clubs that generally wear three-piece patches on their vests and identify with the outlaw motorcyclist image. Like other outlaw motorcycle gangs nationally, PMC has a reputation of intimidation and threats of violence.

## **(U) 18<sup>th</sup> Street**

(U) 18th Street is a gang that was established in Los Angeles, California in the 1960's and has since evolved into a transnational criminal organization with a nationwide presence and gang membership estimated in the tens of thousands. It is assessed that the 18th Street has a small presence amongst criminal street gangs operating in New Jersey. However, a growing trend of not tattooing themselves to avoid identification has made it difficult to assess the actual presence of 18th Street within the state. This gang has been linked to criminal investigations involving extortion, prostitution, human trafficking, weapons, burglary, assault, and murder. 18th Street is known to have a bitter rivalry with MS-13, another transnational criminal

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organization and street gang with a presence in New Jersey; however, this assessment has not revealed significant violence occurring in recent years between these two gangs.

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## Southern New Jersey



## (U) Geographic Scope

(U) For the purpose of this assessment, Southern New Jersey is comprised of the following counties:

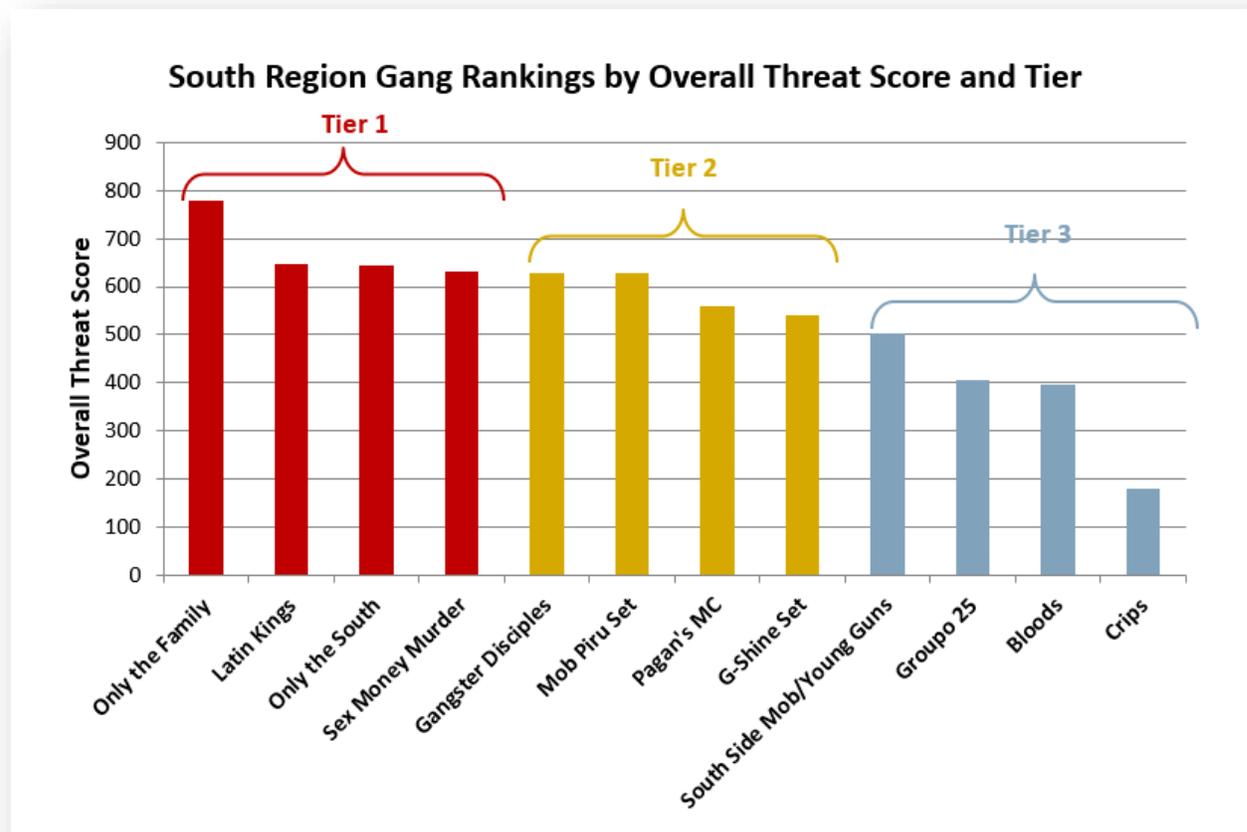
- ▶ Salem County
- ▶ Cape May County
- ▶ Cumberland County
- ▶ Atlantic County
- ▶ Gloucester County
- ▶ Camden County

(U) As shown in Figure 12, four separate gangs were identified as Tier 1 threats, four were identified as Tier 2 threats, and four were identified as Tier 3 sets. The purpose of this assessment is to provide in-depth intelligence on the threats posed by the most harmful gangs in New Jersey, and so the focus of this assessment will be on the Tier 1 threats that have been identified. The following gangs were identified as Tier 1 threats, and the subsequent interviews were conducted with experienced gang detectives who completed a survey for these gangs:

- ▶ Only the Family
- ▶ Latin Kings
- ▶ Only the South
- ▶ Bloods, Sex Money Murder Set



**(U) Southern New Jersey Gang Threat Classification**



**(U) Figure 12: Southern New Jersey Gang Threat Classification**

**(U) Only the South (OTS)**

(U) OTS is a neighborhood-based gang that is believed to have originated in Cumberland County within the last couple years. Local gang rivalry in the county dates back to the early 2000's, a factor that may have helped establish OTS years later. It is believed that the gang's footprint is relatively small and has not expanded beyond Cumberland County, New Jersey OTS has been linked to several criminal investigations involving drug distribution. OTS is known to be violent, suspected of retaliatory attacks against rival street gangs, particularly the North Side Gang who also occupy territory in Cumberland County.

**(U) Latin Kings**

(U) Latin Kings is a street gang that originated during the 1950's in Chicago, Illinois and identify as the Almighty Latin King Nation. A faction was later founded in 1986 within the New York corrections system identifying themselves more specifically as the Almighty Latin King and



Queen Nation. Latin Kings in New Jersey have been known to identify with both historical lines of the gang. Latin Kings, commonly regarded as one of the more organized criminal street gangs, evolved into a nationwide criminal organization and is believed to have established a presence in New Jersey during the late 1980's. Unlike most other criminal street gangs, Latin Kings have been viewed by some citizenry as service oriented and community activists as opposed to members of a criminal enterprise. Latin Kings has been linked to criminal investigations involving drug distribution, weapons, assault, and murder. This assessment has identified criminal collaboration between Latin Kings and the Bloods street gang, particularly in the area of drug trafficking, supporting a statewide trend of separate street gangs conspiring in the interest of mutual financial gain.

### **(U) Only the Family (OTF)**

(U) OTF is a neighborhood-based gang that originated in Camden, New Jersey around 2012. Created as a means of separating themselves from traditional street gangs, OTF has evolved into an extremely violent criminal street gang. Not known to be highly organized, OTF is composed mainly of male and female juveniles who have developed personal relationships since at least 2012. Only the Family has a small presence in Camden County, estimated to be less than 30 members. Older members of OTF have been known to affiliate with established Bloods street gang sets, including G-Shine and Sex Money Murder sets, possibly as a transition in their gang membership. It is believed that this affiliation with Bloods sets has developed into a rivalry between OTF and Crips street gang members. A violent rivalry also exists with another neighborhood-based gang known as FTF who established themselves solely to oppose OTF. OTF has been linked to several criminal investigations involving drug distribution, weapons, assault, and murder.

### **(U) Bloods, Sex Money Murder Set**

(U) SMM is a distinctive set of the Bloods street gang established in Bronx, New York in 1993. As one of the original sets when the United Blood Nation was formed in the 1990's, SMM has developed a significant presence amongst criminal street gangs operating in New Jersey as was documented in the last statewide gang survey conducted by the New Jersey State Police in 2010. Today, the gang remains one of the most prevalent Bloods sets in New Jersey and has been linked to criminal investigations involving drug distribution, assault, weapons, and murder. While rivalries with gangs such as Crips do still exist in some locations within the state, our current assessment has found SMM members conspiring with historical rivals in furtherance of criminal activity, as seen with the emergence of hybrid gangs.



## (U) Outlook

- (U) The evolution of gangs from organized criminal enterprises to loosely organized groups is readily apparent. However, this lack of organizational structure is expected to have little impact on gang membership and criminal activity. As gangs continue to demonstrate an ability to generate revenue through street-level drug sales and other illicit activity, recruitment efforts will remain both effective and expansive.
- (U) A 2016 Pew Research Center study on social media usage states that 69% of Americans use at least one social media site. This emergence of social media usage, which includes the use of cell phone messaging applications, amplifies the importance of understanding how these platforms are utilized by gang members and how law enforcement can effectively employ similar technology in its day-to-day operations. Social media sites have proven to be invaluable for gang recruitment efforts and the propagation of gang propaganda. The emergence of encrypted communications utilized by gang members has adversely impacted law enforcement's investigative ability to intercept criminal communications. However, gang-related investigations continue to be benefitted from exploitation of social media. Law enforcement's presence on the Internet demonstrates its technological capabilities and willingness to investigate criminal gangs wherever they exist.
- (U) As neighborhood-based gangs as well as hybrid gangs continue to develop, an increased emphasis must be placed on identifying and mitigating these smaller, local criminal groups. The impact of neighborhood-based gangs and hybrid gangs on the local community increases if law enforcement and prosecutorial focus remains on larger, more organized gangs. The lack of strategies to combat neighborhood-based gangs and hybrid gangs puts an agency at risk of not attacking the full scope and underlying causation for jurisdictions experiencing elevated levels of crime.
- (U) A significant issue identified throughout New Jersey is the underreporting of gang member identification and gang-related crimes. In order to deter gang activity, it becomes important to document who is suspected to be affiliated with a criminal street gang and identify where gang activity exists. Collaborative efforts between law enforcement and the community cannot be overstated. Accurate gang reporting and timely intelligence sharing has been recognized across the state as crime-fighting priorities. Intelligence collection is the cornerstone of effective reporting and can result in actionable data used to combat gangs.



## Appendix 1: Contributing Agencies

The New Jersey State Police recognizes the following agencies for their support and contribution to the 2017 Statewide Gang Assessment:

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Rowan University  | Somerset County Prosecutor’s Office   |
| New Jersey Office of the Attorney General               | Sussex County Prosecutor’s Office     |
| New Jersey Department of Corrections                    | Union County Prosecutor’s Office      |
| New Jersey State Parole                                 | Warren County Prosecutor’s Office     |
| New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness | Salem County Correctional Facility    |
| Atlantic County Prosecutor’s Office                     | Pleasantville Police Department       |
| Bergen County Prosecutor’s Office                       | Gloucester Township Police Department |
| Burlington County Prosecutor’s Office                   | Burlington City Police Department     |
| Camden County Prosecutor’s Office                       | Toms River Police Department          |
| Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office                     | Brick Township Police Department      |
| Cumberland County Prosecutor’s Office                   | Florence Township Police Department   |
| Essex County Prosecutor’s Office                        | Mount Laurel Police Department        |
| Gloucester County Prosecutor’s Office                   | Palmyra Police Department             |
| Hudson County Prosecutor’s Office                       | Edgewater Park Police Department      |
| Hunterdon County Prosecutor’s Office                    | Cinnaminson Police Department         |
| Mercer County Prosecutor’s Office                       | Burlington Township Police Department |
| Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office                    | Bordentown Police Department          |
| Monmouth County Prosecutor’s Office                     | Evesham Township Police Department    |
| Morris County Prosecutor’s Office                       | Willingboro Police Department         |
| Ocean County Prosecutor’s Office                        | Medford Township Police Department    |
| Passaic County Prosecutor’s Office                      | Mount Holly Police Department         |
| Salem County Prosecutor’s Office                        | North Hanover Police Department       |
|   | Sussex County Sheriff’s Office        |