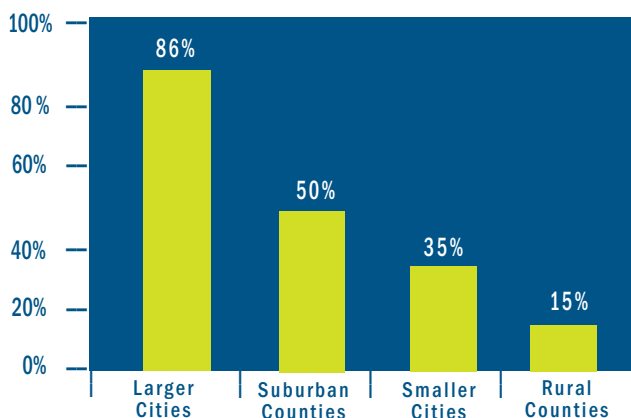




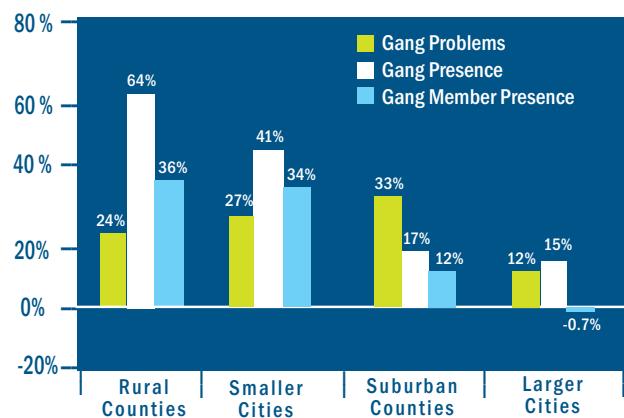
Youth Gang Problems Increase, Fastest Growth in Suburbs

According to the U.S. Department of Justice’s 2007 National Youth Gang Survey (NYGS),¹ youth gang problems are on the rise after steadily waning during the mid 1990s to early 2000s. Among jurisdictions surveyed,² more than one-third experienced gang problems in 2007 – the highest estimate since 2000. Large cities experienced the highest level of gang problems (86%) in 2007, followed by suburban counties (50%), smaller cities (35%), and rural counties (15%). Suburban counties had the largest increase in gang problems (33%) between 2002 and 2007, compared to 27% in smaller cities, 24% in rural counties, and 12% in larger cities. While gang problems remain primarily located in larger cities and suburban counties, the increase in gang problems and presence in rural counties and smaller cities is of special concern. Rural counties experienced the greatest growth in gang presence (64%) and gang member presence (36%) during this time.

Percentage of Jurisdictions Reporting Youth Gang Problems, 2007



Percentage Change in Gang Problems & Presence, by Jurisdiction, 2002-2007



Source: Egley, A. and O’Donnell C. E. (2009). *Highlights of the 2007 National Youth Gang Survey*. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Retrieved June 23, 2009, from <http://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/documents/2007-survey-highlights.pdf>.

Notes:

¹ Annual survey of law enforcement agencies.

² Four types of jurisdictions were surveyed: rural counties, smaller cities, suburban counties, and larger cities.

Prepared by the Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at TASC. CHJ works to build, enhance, and sustain strong and vibrant communities by promoting policies and practices that stop the cycle of drugs and crime. We conduct research and evaluations, and offer policy analysis, trainings, and technical assistance in the fields of health and justice. For more information, visit us online at www.centerforhealthandjustice.org.

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