



**GANGBUSTERS: SCHOOLS, GANGS, AND BULLIES –MAKING THE CONNECTION
PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION SUMMIT
SEPTEMBER 2011 CAGI CONFERENCE
11-C37**

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Evaluation Results

SUMMARY

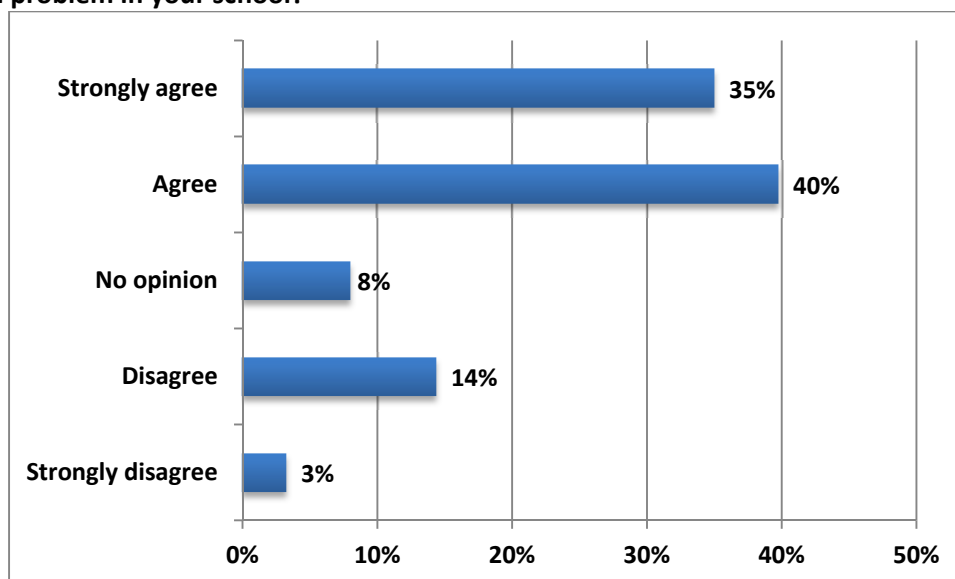
The *Gangbusters: Schools, Gangs and Bullies – Making the Connection* summit was held on September 23, 2011. Several sessions that were part of previous CAGI Prevention/Intervention conferences were offered, including *Gangs: What you need to know*, *Indianapolis Gang Overview and Awareness*, and *Online Social Media: Juveniles and Gangs*. The conference included a presentation specifically aimed at school-related gang issues titled *Fundamentals of dealing with gangs in schools*. *Bullying, hazing and gang behaviors* was another new session offered to attendees. Conference participants represented a range of stakeholders with interest in school-related gang issues, including school administrators, juvenile probation officers, social workers, school police, guidance counselors, and teachers.

Sixty-nine completed conference evaluation forms were provided to the Indiana University Center for Criminal Justice Research (CCJR) for data entry and analysis. The response from conference participants that completed the surveys was overwhelmingly positive. The majority of respondents indicated that gangs are a problem in their schools. Most respondents found the specific sessions useful and informative. The majority of respondents also conveyed that their understanding and awareness of gangs increased as a result of the conference presentations, as did their comfort level with contacting law enforcement regarding gang concerns. In addition, 96 percent of respondents would recommend the program to others. Results and highlights of the analysis are presented in below.

SURVEY RESULTS

Conference participants were asked: *Are gangs a problem in your school?* Three-quarters of the respondents agreed (40 percent) or strongly agreed (35 percent) that gangs present a problem in their school(s) (Figure 1). Seventeen percent disagreed (14 percent) or strongly disagreed (3 percent) that gangs are an issue.

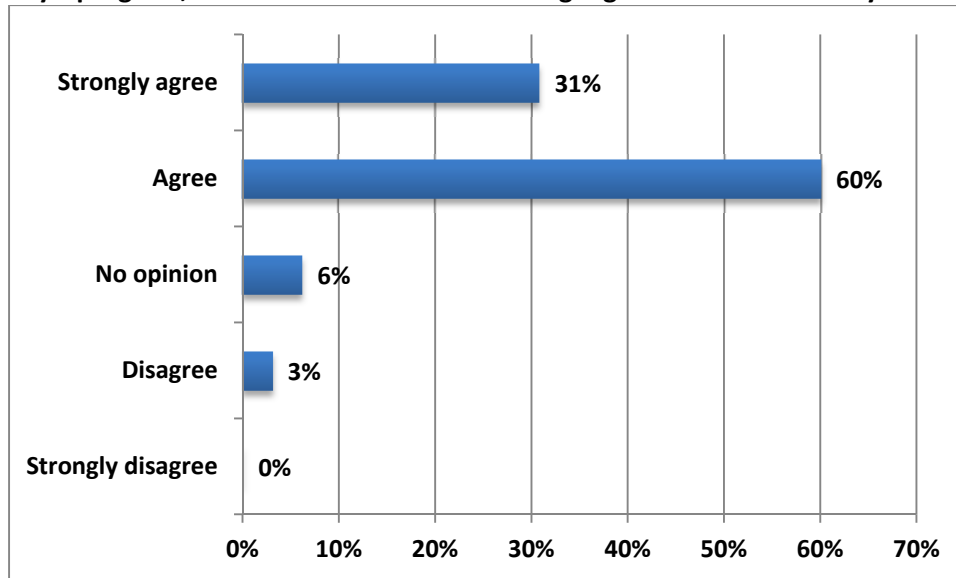
Figure 1: Are gangs a problem in your school?





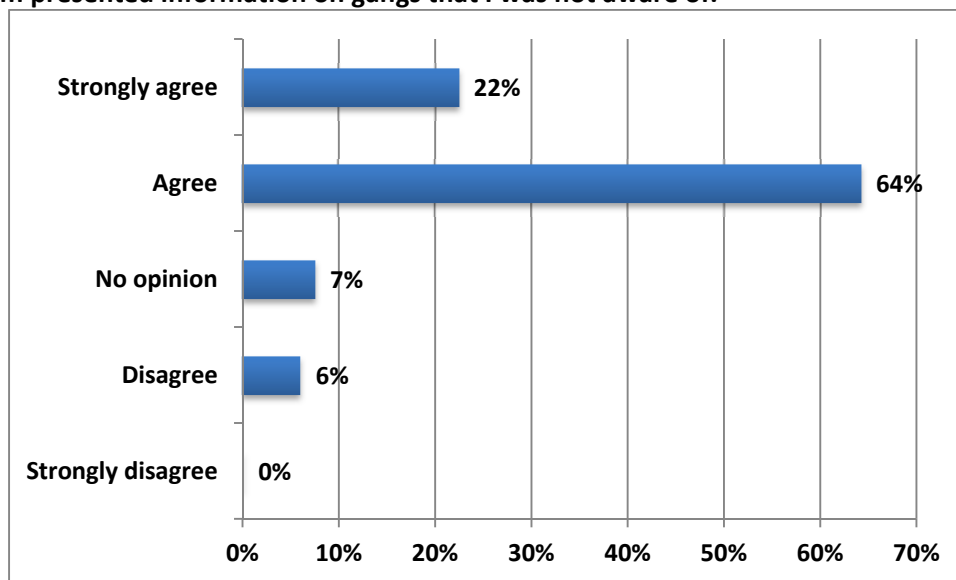
As Figure 2 illustrates, a substantial majority (91 percent) of respondents agreed (60 percent) or strongly agreed (31 percent) that the program helped them *better understand how gangs are a threat to Indianapolis youth*. Only three percent of respondents indicated that the program did not accomplish this. Respondents to evaluation surveys for previous conferences (November 2010 and April 2011 CAGI: A Parent's Call to Action conferences), agreed with this statement at lower rates, 82 and 89 percent, respectively.

Figure 2: Based on today's program, I now understand better how gangs are a threat to the youth of Indianapolis.



Eighty-eight percent of respondents either agreed (64 percent) or strongly agreed (22 percent) that the conference provided new information regarding gangs (Figure 3). Six percent of participants that completed the survey did not find this to be the case. When compared to the previous conferences, overall responses were similar; 82 percent (November 2010) and 81 percent (April 2011) of respondents agreed with the statement.

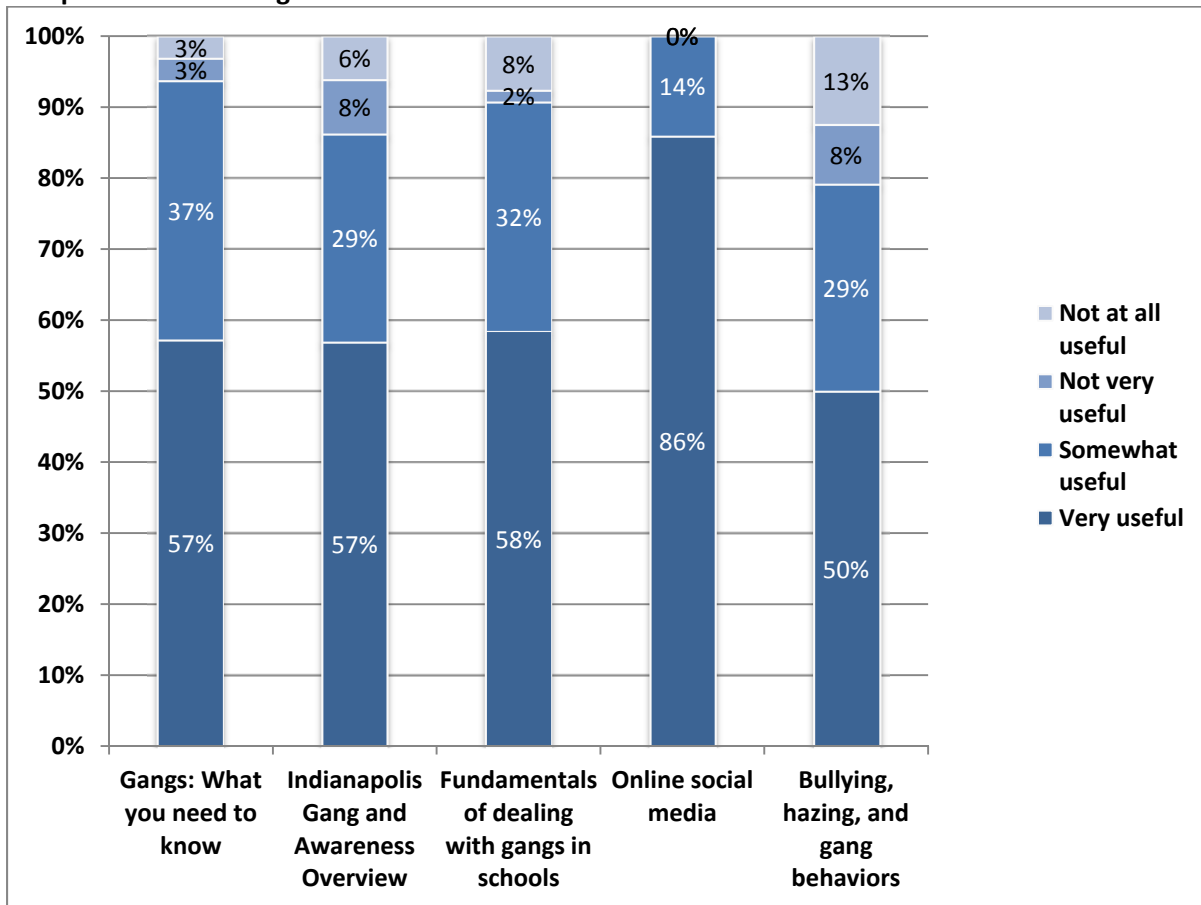
Figure 3: This program presented information on gangs that I was not aware of.





Conference participants also were asked to rate specific conference sessions (Figure 4). The *Gangs: What do you need to know* session was rated highly useful overall, with 94 percent of respondents indicating that it was *very* (57 percent) or *somewhat* (37 percent) useful. Eighty-eight percent reported that the *Indianapolis Gang Overview* session was *very* (57 percent) or *somewhat* (29 percent) useful. All (100 percent) participants that completed the survey found *Online Social Networking* to be *very useful* (86 percent) or *somewhat useful* (14 percent). Respondents also conveyed that two sessions addressing school-related gang issues were useful. *Fundamentals of dealing with gangs in schools* was rated *very useful* by 58 percent and *somewhat useful* by 32 percent of respondents. While most respondents that attended the *Bullying, hazing, and gang behavior* session and completed surveys rated the session positively overall, 13 percent indicated that the session was *not at all useful*.

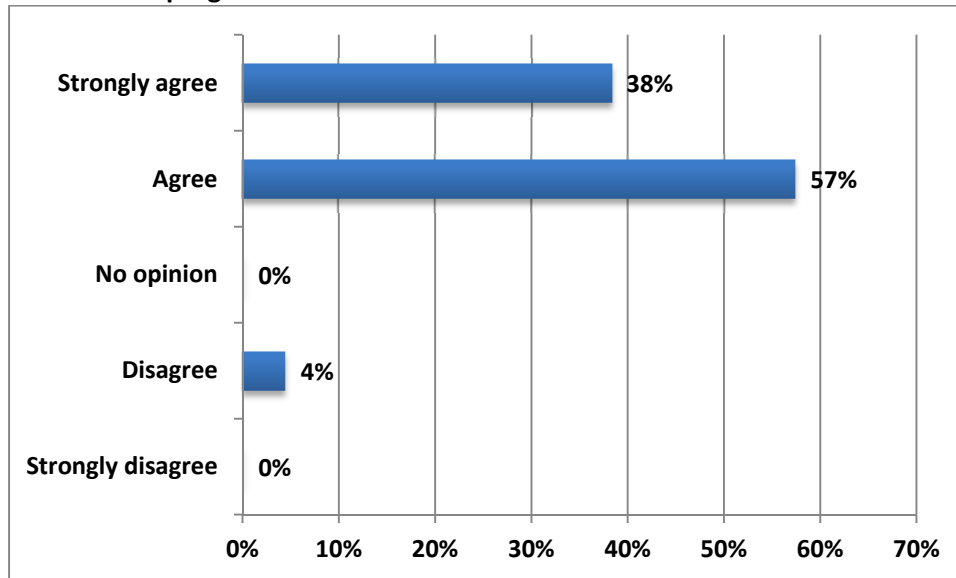
Figure 4: Participant session ratings



As shown in Figure 5, a substantial majority of respondents would recommend the program to others; 38 percent strongly agreed and 57 percent agreed with the statement. Only four percent of respondents disagreed. Results from previous conferences were similar, with 93 percent (November 2010) and 91 percent (April 2011) of respondents indicating that they would recommend the event to others.

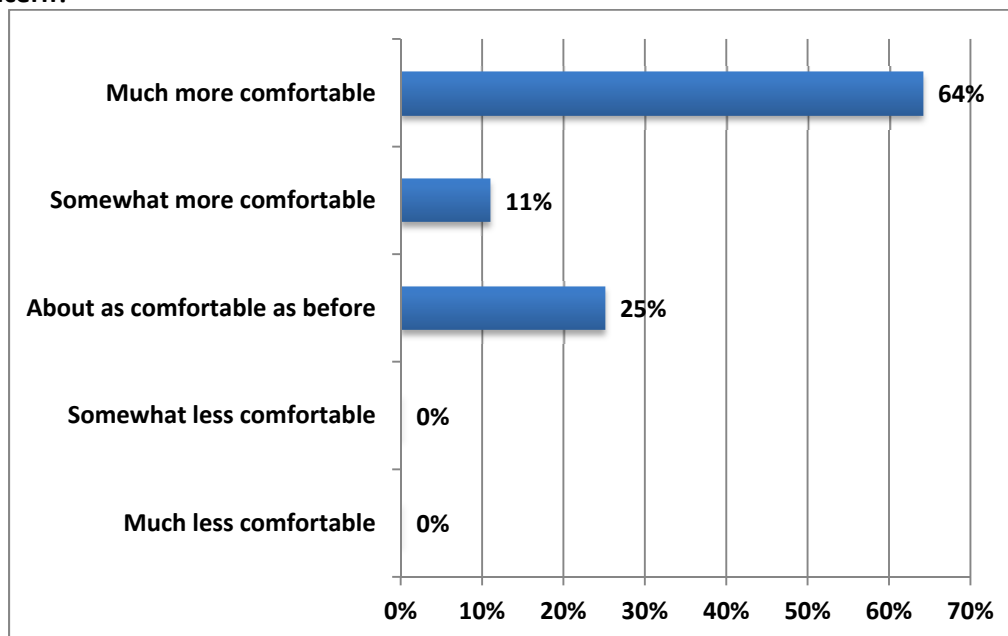


Figure 5: I would recommend this program to others.



Conference participants also were asked to report on whether their comfort level with contacting law enforcement regarding gang concerns had been impacted by the program. As shown in Figure 6, results demonstrate that three-quarters of respondents now would feel *much more comfortable* (64 percent) or *somewhat more comfortable* (11 percent) contacting this resource. None of the respondents reported a decline in comfort with contacting law enforcement regarding a gang-related concern.

Figure 6: As a result of attending the program today, how comfortable would you feel, contacting law enforcement about a gang-related concern?

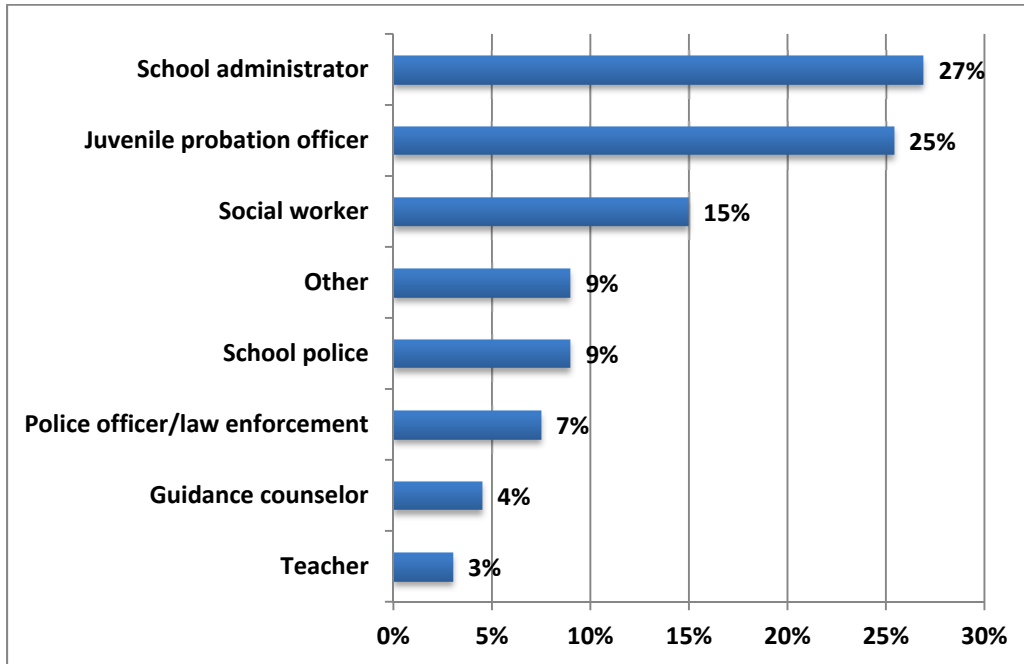


Based on survey results, conference attendees represented a variety of school-affiliated constituencies. Participants were asked to identify a category that most applied to them in the context of attending the conference (Figure 7). Roughly one-quarter of participants that responded to the question identified themselves as school administrators and another one-



quarter as juvenile probation officers. Fifteen percent of respondents indicated they are social workers and nine percent identified as school police.

Figure 7: To help ensure that future programs meet the needs of participants, mark one of the following that MOST applies to you:



When asked *Would you be interested in attending a conference on receiving additional training about gang violence prevention*, 85 percent of respondents indicated they would be interested. Ten percent were uncertain and only four percent would not be interested.

PARTICIPANT COMMENT AND FEEDBACK

Participants were asked for input regarding additional gang-related topics that could be addressed in the future, and their perspectives on specific resources needed to address the issue of gangs in schools. Respondents' comments are highlighted below.

Question: Please list any additional topics, not covered today, that future programs could address.

A large number of participants provided examples for future programs. In particular, respondents expressed a need for or interest in information about legal issues surrounding reporting on and dealing with gang activity, ways to assist student gang members that wish to desist, and additional prevention resources and intervention techniques. Below are some of the suggestions:

- *Cyber bullying cases that have made it to court and outcomes that are setting precedence*
- *Dave Emmert to talk about school cases (legal) and laws*
- *How local departments are working together to solve bullying and gang problems*
- *Ways to get help being safe if someone turns in a gang member*
- *Can I turn in evidence and not have to be a witness in the case?*
- *How to start a prevention program at the elementary level*
- *How to share resources or find out about grant opportunities*
- *Once the school is aware that there is a gang, how do you monitor their activity?*



- *How to expel gang members from school*
- *Presentations by ex-gang members*
- *Resources for students who want to safely get out of gangs*
- *Resources for families of gang members and special training for parents*
- *Specific steps schools can take to prevent gang activity*

Question: Please list specific resources that you believe are needed to address the problem of gangs in the schools?

A number of survey respondents mentioned the need for additional personnel and programmatic resources. Participants also suggested that similar training opportunities for other school personnel would be helpful. Below are some of the suggestions:

- *A gang liaison that kids feel comfortable talking to*
- *Bilingual trainers*
- *Booklet produced on gang activity to be distributed to schools, parents, and community to show what gang activity is and what to look for in students and who to contact.*
- *Computer access to certain sites for all probations officers and school administrators*
- *Do this for administration, secretaries, and custodians*
- *Presentations/early interventions for schools - students/staffs/parents*
- *Life skill courses starting in elementary schools with self-esteem and decision-making*
- *More mentoring programs*
- *More parent awareness and the fact that there are consequences to the actions that their children do and parents who allow these things to happen*
- *More specific details on what to report and who to report it to*
- *More staff, more cameras, texting system for kids to anonymously text in tips*
- *More stories about proven strategies that have been carried out to stop gangs in school*
- *Posters with numbers to call so students can report possible gang related activity*
- *Presentations need to be made to entire staff at schools. Everyone needs to be made aware of what to look for and strategies to prevent the increase in gang activity.*
- *Truancy enforcement for the 16 to 17 year olds who are on the streets or rarely at school*