

## EL SALVADOR GANG EXPERT SURVEY

### PART 1: JURISDICTION FORM

#### Informed Consent Script

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I work for American University in Washington, DC. The purpose of this project, funded by the National Institute of Justice, is to increase understanding of street gangs or cliques in the United States and El Salvador. I am asking you to take part in a research study and am requesting that you complete the following questions so that we can better understand the extent and nature of cliques in these two countries. Answering these questions will take between 45 and 90 minutes.

The person selected to fill out this survey should be very familiar with street gangs or cliques within this jurisdiction. Moreover, the person filling out this survey should have been assigned to this jurisdiction for at least two years. We understand that respondents may not know everything we ask about these groups, but please provide whatever information you have.

There are no foreseeable risks for participating in this research project and there are no direct benefits to you individually. If you choose to participate, the information you provide will be confidential. In other words, nobody other than American University research staff will have access to the information you provide us. You should be aware that the results of this study will be published, but your name will never be used. De-identifiable data will be archived at the National Archive of Criminal Justice for future use by researchers.

Participation in this study is voluntary. You are not required to participate and there is no negative recourse for not participating. You can refuse to answer any question for any reason. You can withdraw at any time without penalty. If you have any questions regarding the research study, please call Edward Maguire at (202) 885---2769 or [maguire@american.edu](mailto:maguire@american.edu). If you have questions about your rights as a research subject, please contact Matt Zembrzuski at (202) 885-3447 or [irb@american.edu](mailto:irb@american.edu).

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So we are clear, when we refer to cliques, we are talking about ANY DURABLE, STREET-ORIENTED GROUP CONSISTING PRIMARILY OF YOUTH OR YOUNG ADULTS, WHOSE INVOLVEMENT IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITY IS PART OF THEIR GROUP IDENTITY. "Durability," in this instance, means several months or more and refers to the group, which continues despite turnover among individual participants. "Youth or young adults" are defined as people who are mostly between the ages of 10 and 30 years old, though some members may fall outside that range. "Illegal activity" generally means delinquent or criminal behavior, not just bothersome activity. "Identity" refers to the group, not individual self-image.

This study will ask you about three types of cliques that may or may not be located within your jurisdiction: local cliques affiliated with MS-13, local cliques affiliated with Barrio-18, and any other cliques, gangs or groups in your community that meet the above definition.

#### Part 1: JURISDICTION FORM

1. What is the name of this law enforcement agency?
2. How many full-time police with arrest powers are assigned to this police agency?

3. Thinking about the work you do in your role as a police officer, which of the following most accurately describes the portion of your work that involves clique- or gang-related issues:
- all of your work
  - more than half of your work
  - about half of your work
  - less than half of your work
  - none of your work
4. Are there any cliques, as defined above, which have been in existence in this jurisdiction for at least three months?
- No – The survey is complete. Thank you for your time.  
 Yes – Please continue with the survey.

*Instructions: Questions 8-15 require you to provide a separate response for MS-13, for Barrio-18, and for other Salvadoran cliques or gangs located within the jurisdiction of this police station or department.*

	<i>MS-13</i>	<i>Barrio-18</i>	<i>Other Salvadoran cliques</i>
5. Please estimate the number of <u>individual cliques</u> that are based within this jurisdiction.	_____	_____	_____
6. How many of the individual cliques that are based within this jurisdiction claim specific turf over which they exert control?	_____	_____	_____
7. Please estimate the total number of clique <u>members</u> that are located within this jurisdiction.	_____	_____	_____
8. Please estimate the percentage of clique members in this jurisdiction that are <u>male</u> .	_____%	_____%	_____%
9. Please estimate the percentage of clique members in this jurisdiction that are <u>female</u> . <i>Please note that the male and female percentages for each column should add to 100%.</i>	_____%	_____%	_____%
10. Please estimate the percentage of clique members in this jurisdiction that are <u>under 18 years of age</u> .	_____%	_____%	_____%
11. Please estimate the percentage of clique members in this jurisdiction that are <u>18-30 years of age</u> .	_____%	_____%	_____%
12. Please estimate the percentage of clique members in this jurisdiction that are <u>over 30 years of age</u> . <i>Please note that the percentages for the three age categories in each column should add to 100%.</i>	_____%	_____%	_____%

13. Are any of the cliques based in this jurisdiction actively involved in \_\_\_\_\_: [select all that apply]
- Political parties
  - Political campaigns
  - Political lobbying
  - Specific political issues
  - Political corruption (paying politicians for protection from prosecution)
  - Political corruption (paying politicians to receive government contracts)
  - Political corruption (paying politicians to receive other favors)
  - Illegally interfering with the electoral process (rigging elections, forcing people to vote, etc...)

14. Over the past 24 months, which of the following patterns did you observe with regard to:
- Violence between cliques in this jurisdiction (major increase, minor increase, no change, minor decrease, major decrease)
  - Violence within cliques in this jurisdiction (major increase, minor increase, no change, minor decrease, major decrease)
15. Over the past 24 months, were there any active conflicts that resulted in violence between any of the cliques in this jurisdiction?
- No, there were no active conflicts that resulted in violence between cliques.
  - Yes, there were active conflicts that resulted in violence between cliques.
16. Over the past 24 months, were there any active truces between any of the cliques in this jurisdiction?
- No, there were no active truces
  - Yes, there was an active truce between two or more cliques
17. If there was an active truce between two or more cliques in this jurisdiction over the past 24 months, which of the following patterns have you observed?
- The truce is weakening
  - The truce is getting stronger
  - The truce is holding steady, not getting weaker or stronger
  - Not applicable
18. Over the past 24 months, which of the following patterns did you observe with regard to crime in this jurisdiction?
- Murders (major increase, minor increase, no change, minor decrease, major decrease)
  - Disappearances (major increase, minor increase, no change, minor decrease, major decrease)
  - Nonfatal shootings/woundings not resulting in death (major increase, minor increase, no change, minor decrease, major decrease)
  - Robberies (major increase, minor increase, no change, minor decrease, major decrease)
  - Extortion of businesses (major increase, minor increase, no change, minor decrease, major decrease)
  - Extortion of individuals (major increase, minor increase, no change, minor decrease, major decrease)
  - Rapes (major increase, minor increase, no change, minor decrease, major decrease)
19. Over the past 24 months, which of the following patterns did you observe with regard to the structure of MS-13 cliques (*clicas*) in this jurisdiction?
- MS-13 cliques began to consolidate (for example, two or more cliques joined together to form a single clique)
  - MS-13 cliques began to split apart (for example, an individual clique split apart to form two or more cliques)
  - There were no changes in the structure of MS-13 cliques
  - Not applicable

20. Over the past 24 months, which of the following patterns did you observe with regard to the structure of Barrio-18 cliques (*canchas*) in this jurisdiction?
- Barrio-18 cliques began to consolidate (for example, two or more cliques joined together to form a single clique)
  - Barrio-18 cliques began to split apart (for example, an individual clique split apart to form two or more cliques)
  - There were no changes in the structure of Barrio-18 cliques
  - Not applicable
21. Over the past 24 months, which of the following patterns did you observe with regard to the size of the cliques in your area (total number of members)?
- MS-13 (increased in size, decreased in size, stayed the same, not applicable)
  - Barrio-18 (increased in size, decreased in size, stayed the same, not applicable)
22. Over the past 24 months, which of the following patterns did you observe with regard to internal cohesion within the cliques in your area? *Note: Internal cohesion refers to the strength or intensity of the relationships between people within a particular clique. Cliques with greater internal cohesion tend to exhibit greater loyalty and commitment among their members or participants.*
- MS-13 (increased cohesion, decreased cohesion, no change, not applicable)
  - Barrio-18 (increased cohesion, decreased cohesion, no change, not applicable)
23. Over the past 24 months, which of the following patterns did you observe with regard to the level of control exerted over members by clique leaders in this jurisdiction?
- MS-13 (increased control, decreased control, no change, not applicable)
  - Barrio-18 (increased control, decreased control, no change, not applicable)
24. Over the past 24 months, which of the following patterns did you observe with regard to the level of control exerted over cliques in this jurisdiction by imprisoned gang leaders?
- MS-13 (increased control, decreased control, no change, not applicable)
  - Barrio-18 (increased control, decreased control, no change, not applicable)

## PART 2: INDIVIDUAL CLIQUE FORM

Name of this law enforcement agency \_\_\_\_\_

*Instructions: Please complete a separate "Individual Clique Form" for each clique that is based in this jurisdiction. For example, if your jurisdiction has two MS-13 cliques, one Barrio-18 clique, and one other Salvadoran clique, you should fill out one Individual Clique Form for each of the four cliques in your jurisdiction.*

1. Does this clique have a name that members or participants use to refer to the group? (Yes/No)
2. If this clique has a name, please list it here. If it does not have a name, please provide a brief description that helps us identify the group. For instance, sometimes cliques are described using the street name of their leader or the neighborhood in which they are located.
3. Please estimate the total number of participants or members in this clique.
4. Does this clique claim turf that its members perceive to be under their control? (Yes/No)  
If yes, does this clique defend its turf against other cliques or gangs? (Yes/No)
5. Was this clique in existence at the time of the truce that occurred in March 2012? (Yes/No)
6. Was this clique a participant in the truce that occurred in March 2012? (Yes/No)  
If yes, is this clique still a participant in the truce? (Yes/No)
7. Is this clique currently involved in any conflict with any other cliques or gangs? (Yes/No)  
If yes, does this conflict involve:  
Violence against members of this clique? (Yes/No)  
Violence by members of this clique? (Yes/No)  
Which cliques or gangs is this clique involved in conflict with?
8. Is this clique currently experiencing any internal conflict that is generating instability within the group? (Yes/No)  
If yes, does this conflict involve:  
Violence against members of this clique? (Yes/No)  
Challenges to the leadership of this clique (Yes/No)
9. To your knowledge, does this clique engage in any of the following criminal activities?  
Murder for hire (Yes/No)  
Murder for other purposes (Yes/No)  
Drug sales, local/domestic (Yes/No)  
Prostitution, local/domestic (Yes/No)  
Drug trafficking (Yes/No)  
Firearms trafficking (Yes/No)  
Sex trafficking (Yes/No)  
Human smuggling (Yes/No)  
Money laundering (Yes/No)  
Kidnaping (Yes/No)  
Extortion of businesses (Yes/No)  
Extortion of individuals (Yes/No)

10. To your knowledge, do members of this clique have any involvement with cliques, gangs, or other criminal enterprises in El Salvador? (Yes/No)

If yes, does this involvement include:

Murder for hire (Yes/No)

Drug trafficking (Yes/No)

Arms trafficking (Yes/No)

Sex trafficking (Yes/No)

Human smuggling (Yes/No)

Money laundering (Yes/No)

Kidnaping (Yes/No)

Extortion of businesses (Yes/No)

Extortion of individuals (Yes/No)

11. To your knowledge, do members of this clique have any involvement with cliques, gangs, or other criminal enterprises in any other countries besides El Salvador? (Yes/No)

If yes, which countries?

If yes, does this involvement include:

Drug trafficking (Yes/No)

Arms trafficking (Yes/No)

Sex trafficking (Yes/No)

Human smuggling (Yes/No)

Money laundering (Yes/No)

Murder for hire (Yes/No)

Kidnaping (Yes/No)

Extortion of businesses (Yes/No)

Extortion of individuals (Yes/No)

If yes to any of the above items, which countries?

12. To your knowledge, have any members of this clique ever travelled to El Salvador? (Yes/No/DK)

13. To your knowledge, have any members of this clique ever lived in El Salvador? (Yes/No/DK)

14. To your knowledge, were any members of this clique born in El Salvador? (Yes/No/DK)

15. To your knowledge, have any members of this clique been deported from the United States? (Yes/No/DK)

16. To your knowledge, is the use of violence by this clique influenced or controlled by people who are currently in prison? (Yes/No/NA)

17. To your knowledge, is the use of extortion by this clique influenced or controlled by people who are currently in prison? (Yes/No/NA)

18. To your knowledge, are the financial decisions of this clique influenced or controlled by people who are currently in prison? (Yes/No/NA)