

Gang Crime Report 2009 – 2016

Durham, NC



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Prepared for: Durham's Gang Reduction Strategy Steering Committee

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Contents

Key Words	1
Acknowledgements.....	1
Introduction	2
Validated Gang Members	2
UCR Codes.....	2
Gang Motivated Crime or Gang Related Crime?	3
Crimes Involving Validated Gang Members as Victims or Suspects	3
Distribution of Crimes with Validated Gang Member as Victim or Suspect.....	4
Part 1 Violent Crime.....	5
Part 1 Violent Crimes per 1,000 Population in Police/PAC Districts.....	6
Firearm Use in Part 1 Violent Crimes.....	7
Part 1 Property Crime	8
Part 1 Property Crimes per 1,000 Population (Police/PAC Districts).....	10
Weapons Crimes	11
Drug Crimes.....	12
Time of Report– Part 1 Violent Crimes (2009 – 2016).....	13
Part 1 Violent and Property Crimes by Month (2009 – 2016)	13
Summary	14

Key Words

Validated gang member, gang crime, violent crime, property crime, police district, firearms, drug charges, gang motivated, gang related

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Introduction

This report provides information on gang-related crime in Durham, North Carolina for the 8-year period between 2009 and 2016. Raw data for the report was obtained from the Durham Police Department Analytical Services Division and from Annual Reports found on the Durham Police Department website.

Validated Gang Members

Readers of this report are reminded that data in this report reflects the activity of **validated gang members**. The validation process used by the Durham Police Department is consistent with the process recommended by North Carolina Governor’s Crime Commission, where an individual must meet at least two of twelve criteria to qualify. Although the process is precise, there is the possibility that some individuals may be incorrectly identified as a validated gang member, or conversely, incorrectly identified as not being a gang member.

As of April 12, 2017, there were 1,993 validated gang members in the Durham Police Department’s Record Management System. The most common ages of gang members (Durham) at time of validation were 17, 18 and 19. The most common current age of a validated gang member (Durham) is 27. Females comprise 6% (110) and males comprise 94% (1,881) of current gang membership in Durham.

Readers should assume that crime data in this report reflects a **minimum** of crime committed by gang members. Many other victims or suspects are active gang members who have not yet been validated.

UCR Codes

Law enforcement agencies across the country use a standardized method for classifying different types of incidents, known as UCR (Uniform Crime Report). These codes can be further grouped into larger categories, such as “violent”, “property” and “other”. The UCR codes for these categories are as follows:

<u>UCR Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Category</u>
01**	Murder	These are considered Violent crimes
02**	Rape	
03**	Robbery	
04**	Aggravated assault	
05**	Burglary	These are considered Property crimes
06**	Larceny	
07**	Auto theft	
08** - 99**	Other	All other types of incidents, some of which may not involve a crime i.e. “calls for service”

Gang Motivated Crime or Gang Related Crime?

It is important to understand the difference between *motive-based* crimes and *member-based* crimes. For purposes of this report, the following definitions apply.¹

Motive-Based: These are criminal acts that enhance the status or function of the gang. They might include inter-gang violence, gang retaliation, protection of a defined gang area, intimidation, robbery, recruitment or other criminal activity that affect the gang’s reputation or interests.

In classifying the incident as gang motivated, the focus is on the specific situation in which the illegal act occurs, such as a drive-by shooting with a rival gang member as a target. It is very difficult to determine whether crimes such as robbery, prostitution or drug trafficking are gang motivated. Many of these crimes serve only individual member needs and are not related to any gang interest.

Member-Based: These are crimes or delinquent acts where a suspect, offender or victim is a gang member. The crimes or delinquent acts are classified as member-based regardless of gang motivation or circumstances.

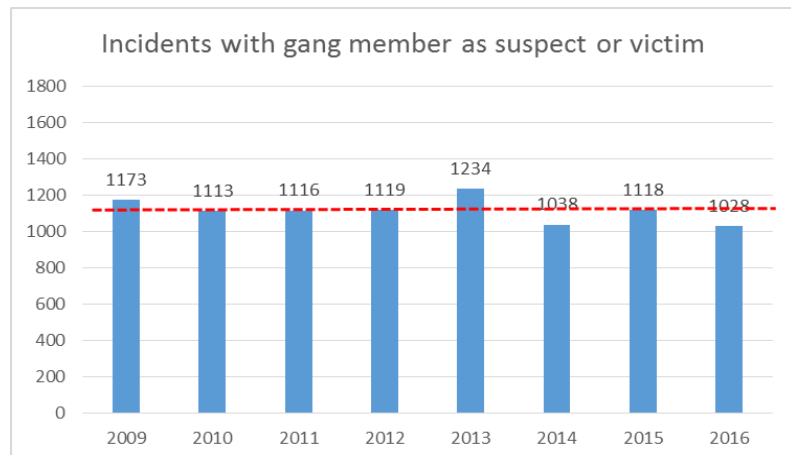
For example, the crime of a gang member who steals from an automobile – even though that theft has nothing to do with his gang membership – would be classified as a member-based gang incident.

Crimes noted in this report are assumed to be “member-based”.

Crimes Involving Validated Gang Members as Victims or Suspects

The number of incidents involving validated gang members as victims or suspects varies from year to year. The average number per year for the years 2009 to 2016 is 1,117.

Year	Number
2009	1,173
2010	1,113
2011	1,116
2012	1,119
2013	1,234
2014	1,038
2015	1,118
2016	1,028



¹ The basic terminology for these definitions is from Kane, C. M., [Prosecutor: Technical Assistance Manual](#), Draft, National Youth Gang Suppression and Intervention Program, School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago, January, 1992.

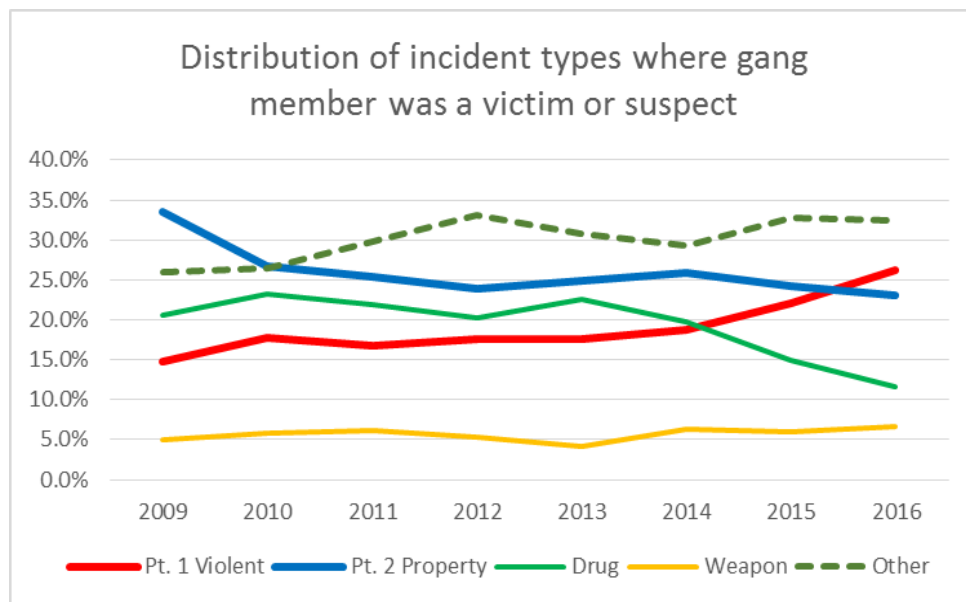
The number of incidents in 2016 reflects an 8% decrease from 2015 and a 16% decrease from the number of incidents in 2013. The number of incidents in 2016 (1,028) is also significantly below the 8-year average of 1,117.

Distribution of Crimes with Validated Gang Member as Victim or Suspect

The table below shows a distribution of crimes where a validated gang member was a victim or suspect. Data indicates that less than half of the crimes committed by this cohort were Part 1 Violent or Part 1 Property crimes.

It should be noted that drug crimes and weapons crimes are usually “officer driven” and can vary over time depending on the current focus of law enforcement.

	All Crimes with Gang Member as Victim or Suspect	Part 1 Violent Gx=V/S*	Part 1 Property Gx=V/S	Drug Crimes Gx=V/S	Weapon Crimes Gx=V/S	Other Crimes Gx=V/S
2009	1,173	174 (14.8%)	394 (33.6%)	242 (20.6%)	58 (4.9%)	305 (26.0%)
2010	1,113	198 (17.8%)	297 (26.7%)	259 (23.3%)	65 (5.8%)	294 (26.4%)
2011	1,116	187 (16.8%)	284 (25.4%)	245 (22.0%)	68 (6.1%)	332 (29.7%)
2012	1,119	198 (17.5%)	267 (23.9%)	226 (20.2%)	59 (5.3%)	371 (33.2%)
2013	1,234	216 (17.5%)	308 (25.0%)	279 (22.6%)	52 (4.2%)	379 (30.7%)
2014	1,038	195 (18.8%)	269 (25.9%)	205 (19.7%)	65 (6.3%)	304 (29.3%)
2015	1,118	246 (22.0%)	271 (24.2%)	167 (14.9%)	67 (6.0%)	367 (32.8%)
2016	1,028	270 (26.3%)	237 (23.1%)	119 (11.6%)	68 (6.6%)	334 (32.5%)
* Gx=V/S indicates “Validated Gang Member as a Victim or Suspect”						



Part 1 Violent Crime

Part 1 Violent Crimes are murder, robbery, aggravated assault and rape. The table below shows the total number of these crimes and the total where validated gang members are victims or suspects.

Murder and aggravated assault are the Part 1 Violent Crimes that have the highest percentage of validated gang members identified as victims or suspects. *(Please see the footnote below for cautions against using homicide data to evaluate gang activity)*. The percentage of all Violent Crime (2009 – 2016) where a validated gang member was either a suspect or a victim is **12.0%**.

Murder²				Robbery			
	All ³	Gx = V/S*	% V/S		All	Gx = V/S	% V/S
2009	21	3	14.3%	2009	716	81	11.3%
2010	23	6	26.1%	2010	877	78	8.9%
2011	26	9	34.6%	2011	701	59	8.4%
2012	21	6	28.6%	2012	622	70	11.3%
2013	30	11	37.7%	2013	607	90	14.8%
2014	22	13	59.1%	2014	657	59	9.0%
2015	37	12	32.4%	2015	736	80	10.9%
2016	43	33	76.7%	2016	862	97	11.3%
		Average	38.6%			Average	10.7%

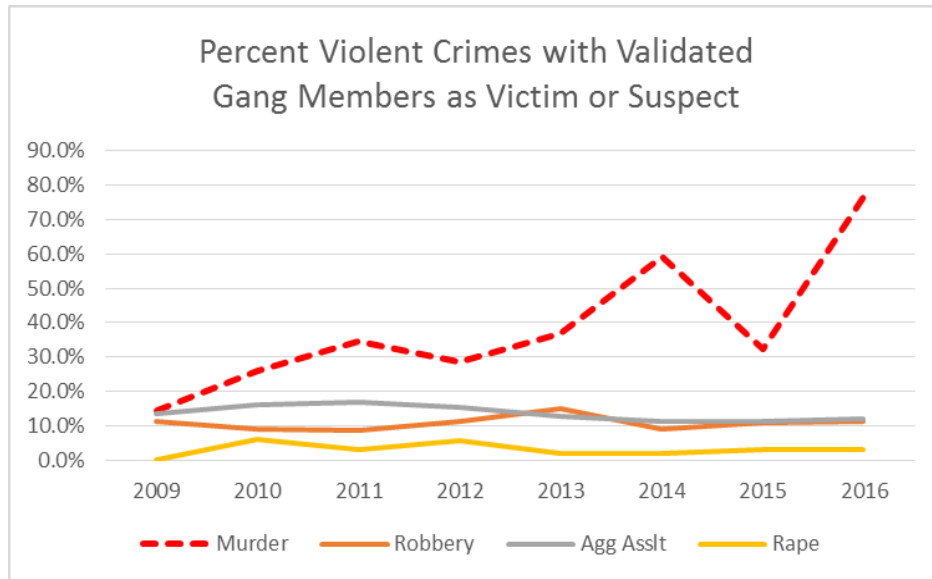
*Gx=V/S indicates "Validated Gang Member as a Victim or Suspect"

Agg. Assault				Rape			
	All	Gx = V/S	% V/S		All	Gx = V/S	% V/S
2009	656	89	13.6%	2009	67	0	0.0%
2010	693	110	15.9%	2010	67	4	6.0%
2011	696	117	16.8%	2011	66	2	3.0%
2012	755	116	15.4%	2012	73	4	5.5%
2013	886	113	12.8%	2013	102	2	2.0%
2014	1,090	121	11.1%	2014	101	2	2.0%
2015	1,336	151	11.3%	2015	101	3	3.0%
2016	1,247	149	11.9%	2016	106	3	2.8%
		Average	13.6%			Average	3.0%

² The use of homicide data for evaluating gang problems is problematic. Jurisdictions such as Durham have relatively few homicides and there are statistically too few in any year to reliably establish trends. The crime of aggravated assault is a more robust measure for evaluating rises or falls in violent crime or gang crime – primarily because there are more of these offenses.

³ The totals in the "All" columns were taken from DPD Annual Reports

The chart below illustrates the percentage of violent crimes from 2009 to 2016, where a validated gang member was listed as either a victim or a suspect. Murders are represented by the dashed red line, and again it is important to remember that there are statistically too few murders to use this crime as a reliable indicator of gang crime. Even with that cautionary reminder, it cannot be ignored that in some years a significant number of homicides involve gang members as either a suspect or a victim (or both).



Part 1 Violent Crimes per 1,000 Population in Police/PAC Districts

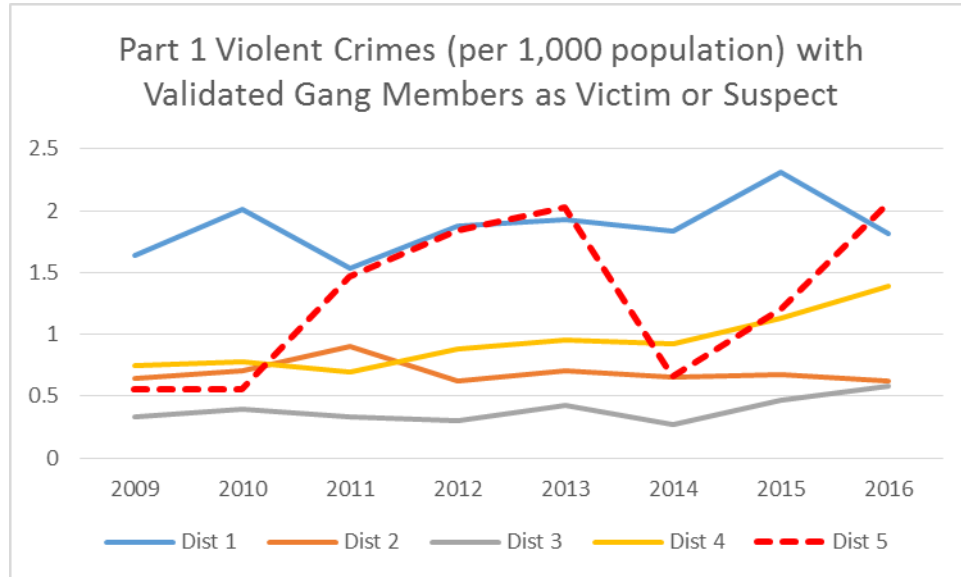
This section examines Part 1 Violent Crime with a validated gang member as victim or suspect in the various police districts/PACS. The districts vary in size and population, so crime is examined by comparing the number per 1,000 population⁴.

District 5 (downtown) data should be viewed with caution, as it is a hub for employment, entertainment and transit with fewer residents; it is significantly different than the other four districts. Because of its size, a small number of incidents may greatly influence the rate per 1,000 residents.

	Per 1000 in 2009	Per 1000 in 2010	Per 1000 in 2011	Per 1000 in 2012	Per 1000 in 2013	Per 1000 in 2014	Per 1000 in 2015	Per 1000 in 2016	8-year average
District 1	1.64	2.01	1.53	1.88	1.93	1.84	2.31	1.81	1.87
District 2	0.64	0.70	0.90	0.62	0.70	0.65	0.67	0.62	0.69
District 3	0.33	0.39	0.33	0.30	0.43	0.27	0.47	0.58	0.39
District 4	0.75	0.78	0.69	0.88	0.95	0.92	1.13	1.39	0.94
District 5*	0.55	0.55	1.47	1.84	2.03	0.66	1.21	2.07	1.30

⁴ Population in districts changed over the study period. Calculations for each year are based on the best available population estimate for that year, as provided by the Durham City/County Planning Department. Latest data for population and housing units is current as of March 31, 2017.

The chart below illustrates Part 1 Violent Crime rates (validated gang member as victim or suspect) in the various police districts/PACS over a 9-year period. District 5 (dotted red line) should be viewed with the caution noted above. District 4 has shown a distinct increase since 2011, while District 2 has shown a drop-off for the same period.



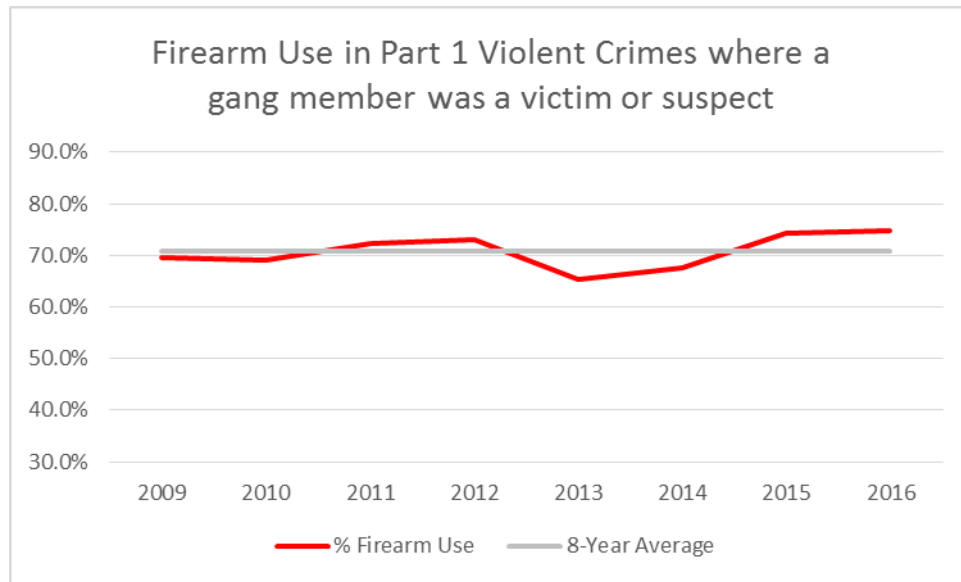
Firearm Use in Part 1 Violent Crimes

Firearms are used in approximately 70% of Part 1 Violent Crimes where a validated gang member is listed as the victim or suspect. "Firearm used" does not imply that the weapon was fired.

	All Part 1 Violent Crimes with Gang Member as Victim or Suspect	Number of These Crimes Where a Firearm was Used	Number of These Crimes Where a Firearm was Not Used	% of Part 1 Violent Crimes (Gx=V/S) Where a Firearm was Used
2009	174	121	53	69.5%
2010	198	137	61	69.2%
2011	187	135	52	72.2%
2012	196	143	53	73.0%
2013	216	141	75	65.3%
2014	195	132	63	67.7%
2015	246	183	63	74.4%
2016	270	202	68	74.8 %

* Gx=V/S indicates "Validated Gang Member as a Victim or Suspect"

The chart below illustrates the percentage of times a firearm was used in a Part 1 Violent Crime, where a validated gang member was identified as either the victim or suspect. For the past two calendar years (2015 and 2016) the percentage has been slightly above the 8-year average of 71%.



Part 1 Property Crime

Part 1 Property Crimes are auto theft, burglary and larceny. The table below shows the total number of these crimes and the total where validated gang members are victims or suspects.

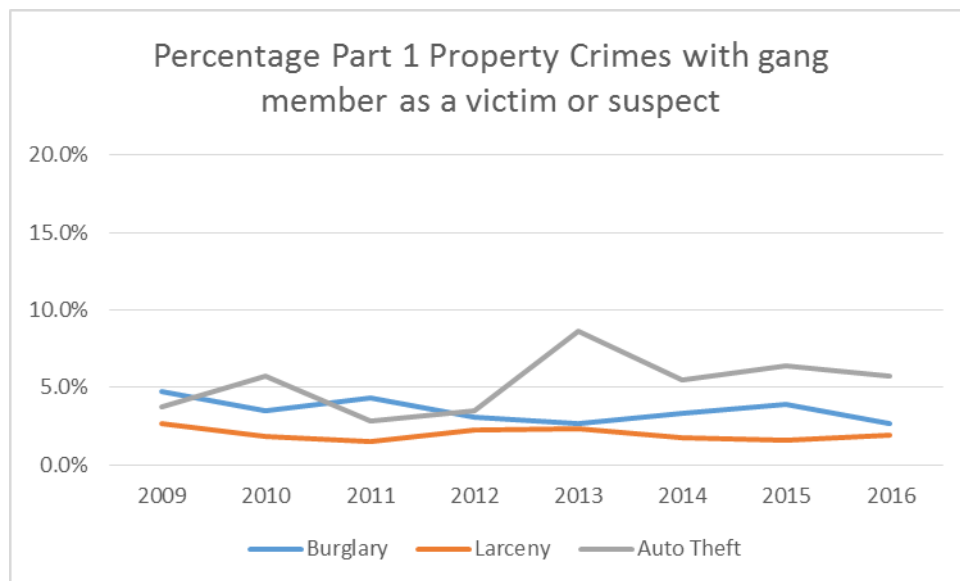
The involvement of validated gang members in Part 1 Property Crime is somewhat minimal, ranging from 2% in larceny crimes to 5% in auto theft crimes.

Auto Theft	All	Gx = V/S	% V/S
2009	743	28	3.8%
2010	719	41	5.7%
2011	607	17	2.8%
2012	691	24	3.5%
2013	716	62	8.7%
2014	565	31	5.5%
2015	592	38	6.4%
2016	685	39	5.7%
		Average	5.3%

Burglary				Larceny			
	All	Gx = V/S*	% V/S		All	Gx = V/S	% V/S
2009	3655	173	4.7%	2009	7313	193	2.6%
2010	3687	129	3.5%	2010	7046	127	1.8%
2011	3881	168	4.3%	2011	6775	99	1.5%
2012	3298	102	3.1%	2012	6305	141	2.2%
2013	3373	90	2.7%	2013	6818	156	2.3%
2014	3657	120	3.3%	2014	6851	120	1.8%
2015	3187	124	3.9%	2015	6815	109	1.6%
2016	2576	69	2.7%	2016	6758	129	1.9%
		Average	3.5%			Average	2.0%

*Gx=V/S indicates "Validated Gang Member as a Victim or Suspect"

The tables above and the chart below provide details on the percentage of Part 1 Property Crimes where a validated gang member was either a victim or a suspect. There were 87,313 Part 1 Property Crimes reported between 2009 and 2016. Of these, 2,329, or 2.7%, listed a validated gang member as a victim or suspect.



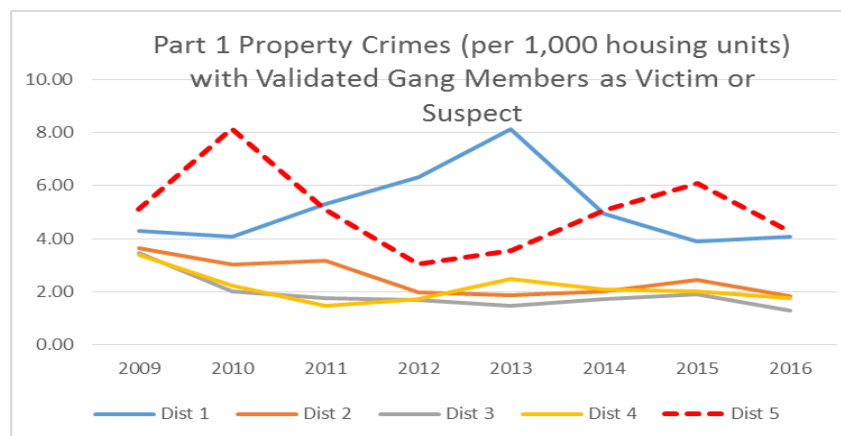
Part 1 Property Crimes per 1,000 Population (Police/PAC Districts)

This section examines Part 1 Property Crime with a validated gang member as victim or suspect in the various police districts/PACS. The districts vary in size and population, so property crime is best examined by comparing the number per 100 housing units,⁵ which should give a more accurate reflection of property crimes that occur within the district.

District 5 (downtown) data should be viewed with caution, as it is a hub for employment, entertainment and transit with fewer residents; it is significantly different than the other four districts.

	Per 1000 in 2009	Per 1000 in 2010	Per 1000 in 2011	Per 1000 in 2012	Per 1000 in 2013	Per 1000 in 2014	Per 1000 in 2015	Per 1000 in 2016
District 1	4.3	4.1	5.3	6.3	8.1	5.0	3.9	4.1
District 2	3.6	3.0	3.1	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.5	1.8
District 3	3.5	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.9	1.3
District 4	3.4	2.2	1.5	1.7	2.5	2.1	2.0	1.8
District 5	5.1	8.2	5.1	3.1	3.6	5.1	6.1	4.3

The chart below illustrates Part 1 Property Crime rates (validated gang member as victim or suspect) in the various police districts/PACS over a 9-year period. District 5 (dotted red line) should be viewed with the caution noted above. Districts 2, 3 and 4 have shown a distinct decrease since 2009. District 1 peaked in 2013, but has since been on a downward trend. District 5 data should be viewed with caution for reasons noted above.



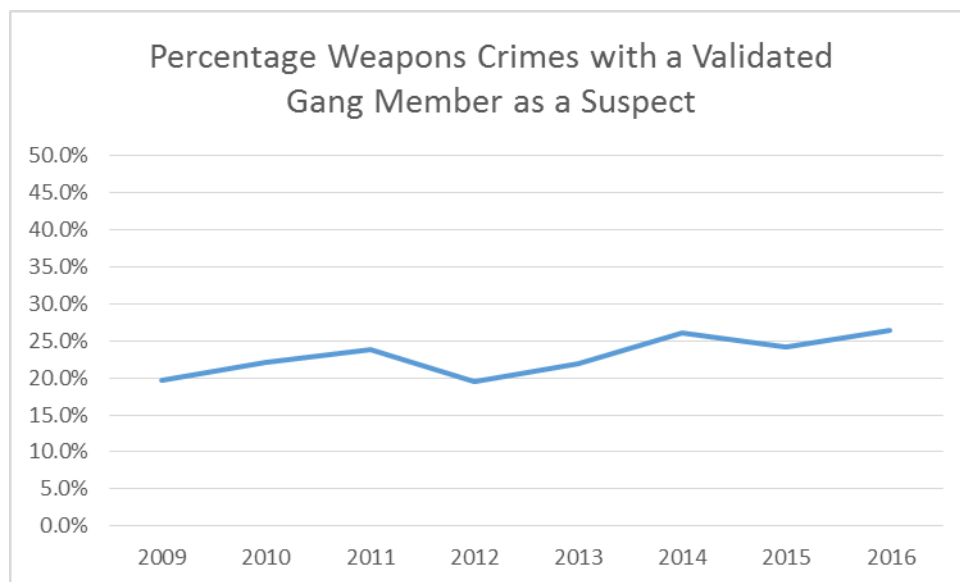
⁵ The most recent housing data (number of housing units per district) was provided by the Durham City/County Planning Department on April 25, 2017. This data is rapidly changing, for example, over 900 units were added in District 5 since 2013.

Weapons Crimes

Weapons crimes include violations for possessing or concealing a weapon. Weapon crime arrests are typically “officer driven”, and thus may vary from year to year depending on the current focus of law enforcement. On average for the 7-year period, approximately one-fifth of weapons crimes have validated gang members as suspects.

Weapons Crimes	All	Gang Member Suspect	% Gang Member Suspect
2009	295	58	19.7%
2010	295	65	22.0%
2011	285	68	23.0%
2012	303	59	19.5%
2013	237	52	21.9%
2014	249	65	26.1%
2015	278	67	24.1%
2016	257	68	26.5%
		Average	23.0%

The table above and the chart below illustrate that weapons crimes with gang members as suspects vary from year to year, but appear to be trending slightly upward in the study period.

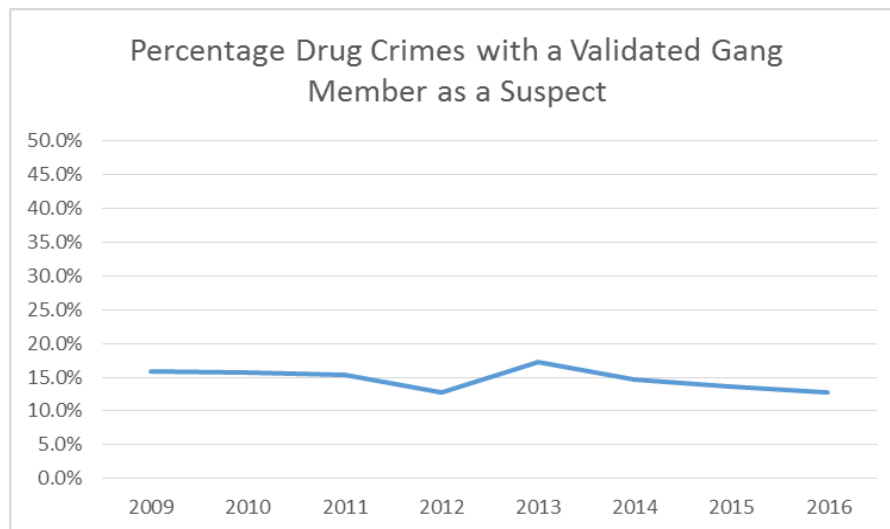


Drug Crimes

Drug crimes include violations for possessing, selling or manufacturing drugs/narcotics. Drug crime arrests are typically “officer driven”, and thus may vary from year to year depending on the current focus of law enforcement. On average for the 7-year period, approximately 15% of drug crimes have validated gang members as suspects.

Drug Crimes	All	Gang Member Suspect	% Gang Member Suspect
2009	1,528	242	15.8%
2010	1,645	259	15.7%
2011	1,602	245	15.3%
2012	1,783	226	12.7%
2013	1,624	279	17.2%
2014	1,403	205	14.6%
2015	1,223	167	13.7%
2016	934	119	12.7%
		Average	14.7%

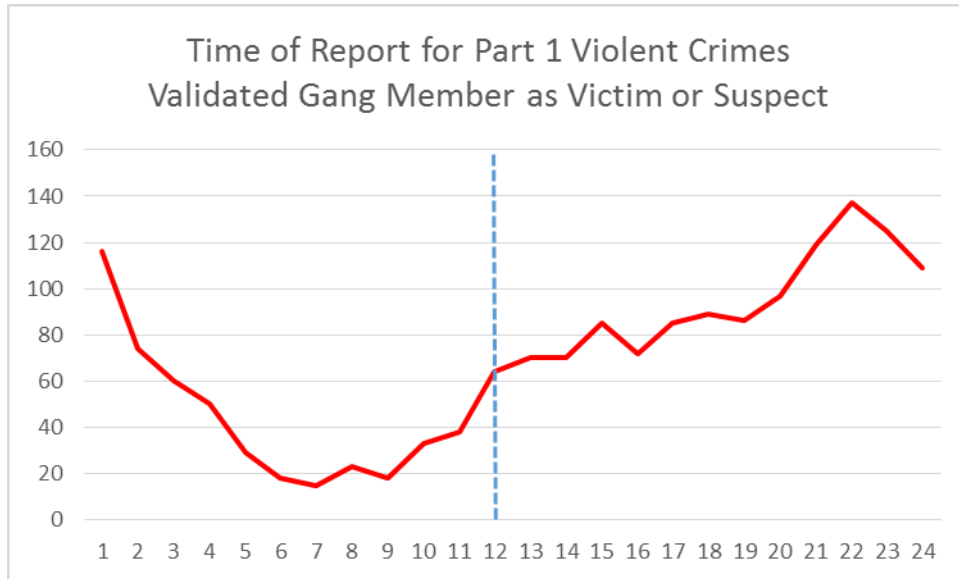
The table above and the chart below illustrate that drug crimes with gang members as suspects vary from year to year, but appear to be trending downward in the study period. Of interest is the drop in overall drug crimes in the past year compared to previous years.⁶



⁶ Speculation only, but this may be related to the new stop and search procedures implemented in late 2015

Time of Report– Part 1 Violent Crimes (2009 – 2016)

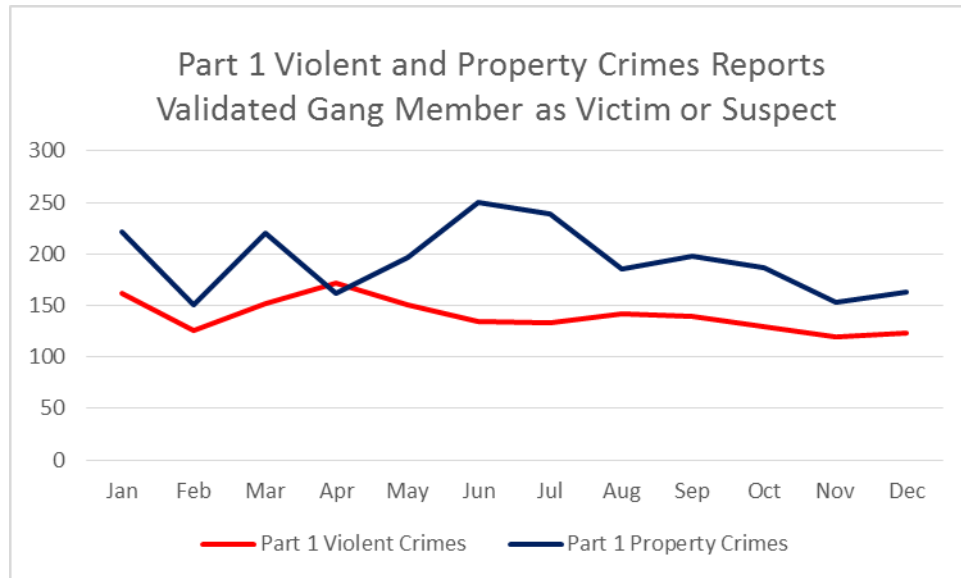
The chart below illustrates the time of day the Part 1 Violent Crimes (with a validated gang member as victim or suspect) are reported. These crimes (n. =1,682) peak at around 10 p.m. The fewest of these crimes are reported between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. There is little value in plotting the report time for property crimes as these crimes are often discovered hours after the crime has been committed, for example, when a victim returns home from work.



Part 1 Violent and Property Crimes by Month (2009 – 2016)

	Violent	Property			Violent	Property
Jan	162	222		Jul	133	239
Feb	126	151		Aug	142	185
Mar	152	220		Sep	139	198
Apr	172	162		Oct	129	187
May	150	197		Nov	119	153
June	135	250		Dec	123	163

Based on the table above and chart shown below, it appears that Violent Part 1 Crimes tend to peak in April. Part 1 Property Crimes have a small spike in March and a more pronounced spike in mid-summer (June and July). Numbers shown are only incidents where a validated gang member was listed as either the victim or the suspect.



Summary

Accurate and reliable data on gang crime is not prevalent and is rarely collected consistently between jurisdictions. The data supplied in this report represents the best efforts to consolidate and analyze gang crime data collected by the Durham Police Department.

It is important to make the distinction between *gang-related* crime (all crime committed by individuals who are believed to be gang members) and the more restrictive definition of *gang-motivated* crime (crimes that are believed to have been committed as part of the gang function or for the benefit of the gang). Many crimes committed by gang members are not related to gang activity.

Validated gang members are listed as victims or suspects in 12% of part 1 Violent Crimes. This is contrary to the popular belief that gang members and gang activity drive most violent crime in Durham.

The finding that firearms are used in 70% of violent crimes involving gang members is significant. Identification and prosecution of violent gang members who use firearms should be a high priority.

Validated gang members are involved in 5% of Part 1 Property Crimes. There is substantial variance in the amount of these crimes across the five Police Districts (PACS). Districts 1 and 5 consistently have the highest rates, although District 5 should not be used for comparison due to reasons cited in that section.

There is a common perception that gangs are heavily involved in drug trafficking and distribution, however, data indicate that validated gang members are suspects in only 15% of drug crimes in Durham.