

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT UPDATE JUNE 2018

Prepared for:



Prepared by:



Michelle M. Maike, Director
Megan Osborne, Research Associate
David Scarano, Research Assistant

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Tables	3
List of Figures	3
Acknowledgements	4
I. Introduction	5
II. Community Demographics	8
Summary	12
III. Student and School Characteristics	14
Student Enrollment Demographics	14
Discipline Data	15
Graduation and School Drop Out	16
Summary	18
IV. Washington State Healthy Youth Survey	19
Groups/Gangs in Schools	19
Juvenile Delinquency	24
Group Involved Vs. Non-Group Involved	24
Composite School and Community Risk Factors	25
Summary	26
V. Community Risk and Crime	28
Community Risk Factors: Juvenile Delinquency and Juvenile Crime	28
Community Risk Factors: Violent Crime and Crime Rate	30
Summary	34
VI. Group/Gang-Involved Population	35
South King County Group Audit Summary	35
Criminal Activities, Violence, And Organization	39
Network of Conflict and Alliances	40
Summary	41
VII. Recommendations	42
References	45
Appendices	47
Appendix A: Comprehensive Community Assessment, Seattle WA	47
Appendix B: HYS Trend Data, October 2016	48
Appendix C: Group Audit Maps by City	49
Appendix D: Active Group Names by Location	50
Appendix E: Preliminary Group Audit Network Summary: South King County	51

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Community Demographics 2016	8
Table 2: LINC Region (excluding Seattle) Demographics	10
Table 3: LINC Region (excluding Seattle) Other Demographics and Socioeconomic Factors	11
Table 4: 2016-2017 K-12 Enrollment Demographics for LINC Region Schools	14
Table 5: Gangs Members in School - Past 12 months	24
Table 6: Physical Fight at School- Past 12 months	24
Table 7: Weapon Carrying - Past 30 days	25
Table 8: School Risk - Low Commitment to School	26
Table 9: Community Risk - Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use	26
Table 10: 2007-2016 Weapons Incidents in School Rate per 1,000	28
Table 11: 2006-2015 Total Arrest Rate of Adolescents (Age 10-17) per 1,000	28
Table 12: 2006-2015 Property Crime Arrests (Age 10-17) Rate per 1,000	29
Table 13: 2006-2015 Violent Crime Arrests (Age 10-17) Rate per 1,000	29
Table 14: 2006-2016 Violent Crime Rate per 1000 – City of Auburn	30
Table 15: 2006-2016 Violent Crime per 1000 – City of Burien	30
Table 16: 2006-2016 Violent Crime per 1000 – City of Federal Way	31
Table 17: 2006-2016 Violent Crime per 1000 – City of Kent	31
Table 18: 2006-2016 Violent Crime per 1000 – City of Renton	31
Table 19: 2006-2016 Violent Crime per 1000 – City of SeaTac	32
Table 20: 2006-2016 Violent Crime per 1000 – City of Seattle	32
Table 21: 2006-2016 Violent Crime per 1000 – City of Tukwila	32
Table 22: South King County Group Characteristics	36

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: LINC Participating School District Boundaries	6
Figure 2: Other Demographic & Socioeconomic Factors 2005-2009 vs. 2016	11
Figure 3: Population Measures	12
Figure 4: Suspension/Expulsion Composition Index by School District	15
Figure 5: Trend - On-time Graduation Rate by District 2011-2016	16
Figure 6: Trend – Drop Out Rate by District 2011-2016	17
Figure 7: Gang Presence in Schools by District	20
Figure 8: Gang Membership in Schools by District	20
Figure 9: Physical Fight by District	21
Figure 10: Gun Carrying by District	22
Figure 11: Weapon Carrying at School by District	23
Figure 12: Trend Combined Violent Crime Rate per 1000 – Washington State and LINC Cities	33
Figure 13: Population Measures and Violent Crime Rates per 1000 by LINC City	34
Figure 14: South King County Group Boundaries	38
Figure 15: Level of Violence	39
Figure 16: Level of Organization	40
Figure 17: Gang Response and Involvement Pyramid	43

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- Auburn School District
- Federal Way School District
- Highline School District
- Kent School District
- Renton School District
- Seattle Public Schools
- Tukwila School District

I. INTRODUCTION

For decades, violence and other criminal activity perpetrated by street gangs/groups¹ has negatively impacted communities. Street groups pose a great threat – destabilizing the local economy, perpetuating violence and engaging in criminal activities including assault, robbery, street-level drug trafficking, drive-by shootings, and threats and intimidation (National Gang Intelligence Center, 2015; Rodriquez, 2010). The presence of these groups provides additional challenges to law enforcement agencies. In fact, a recent report, *Reducing Violent Crime in American Cities: An Opportunity to Lead* (Police Foundation, 2017, p. 51) noted that, “Gang members, their affiliates, and youth are increasingly resorting to gun use to conduct business, resolve conflicts, and assert dominance...these smaller gangs and gang affiliates create a unique set of problems for law enforcement.”

To address the issue of increasing youth and young adult group/gang involvement in suburban King County, the Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ) – a non-profit organization based in Seattle, WA – in accordance with the Comprehensive Gang Model (CGM) convened a Steering Committee, LINC (Leadership, Intervention & Change), formerly known as the Suburban King County Coordinating Council on Gangs. The LINC Steering Committee is an unprecedented regional gathering of high level officials and community representatives from across King County. The LINC membership is reflective of policymakers with decision-making authority across a broad spectrum of agencies including law enforcement, prosecution, juvenile probation/parole, juvenile court, education, social services, and local government.

Prior to LINC, there was no multi-jurisdictional initiative in Suburban King County focused on decreasing and preventing gang/group activity and associated violence. This regional approach acknowledges the reality that gang/group activity is highly mobile and encourages robust inter-agency and cross-jurisdictional partnerships. Unlike previous single agency responses to group violence prevention and intervention efforts, this broader regional approach brings together a network of stakeholders across multiple law enforcement agencies, school districts, social service providers and local governments.

The LINC Steering Committee is designed to break down the systemic and procedural barriers that dissuade cross-system collaboration, coordination, and integration. Based on an understanding of the complexities of youth violence and the recognition that no single branch of government, jurisdiction, or agency is equipped to effectively address this issue alone, LINC seeks to promote a comprehensive response in which community organizations, schools, law enforcement, and local government agencies work together to develop policy goals and action strategies that reflect the current landscape of youth violence and utilize the best information, research, and practices available.

Project Background

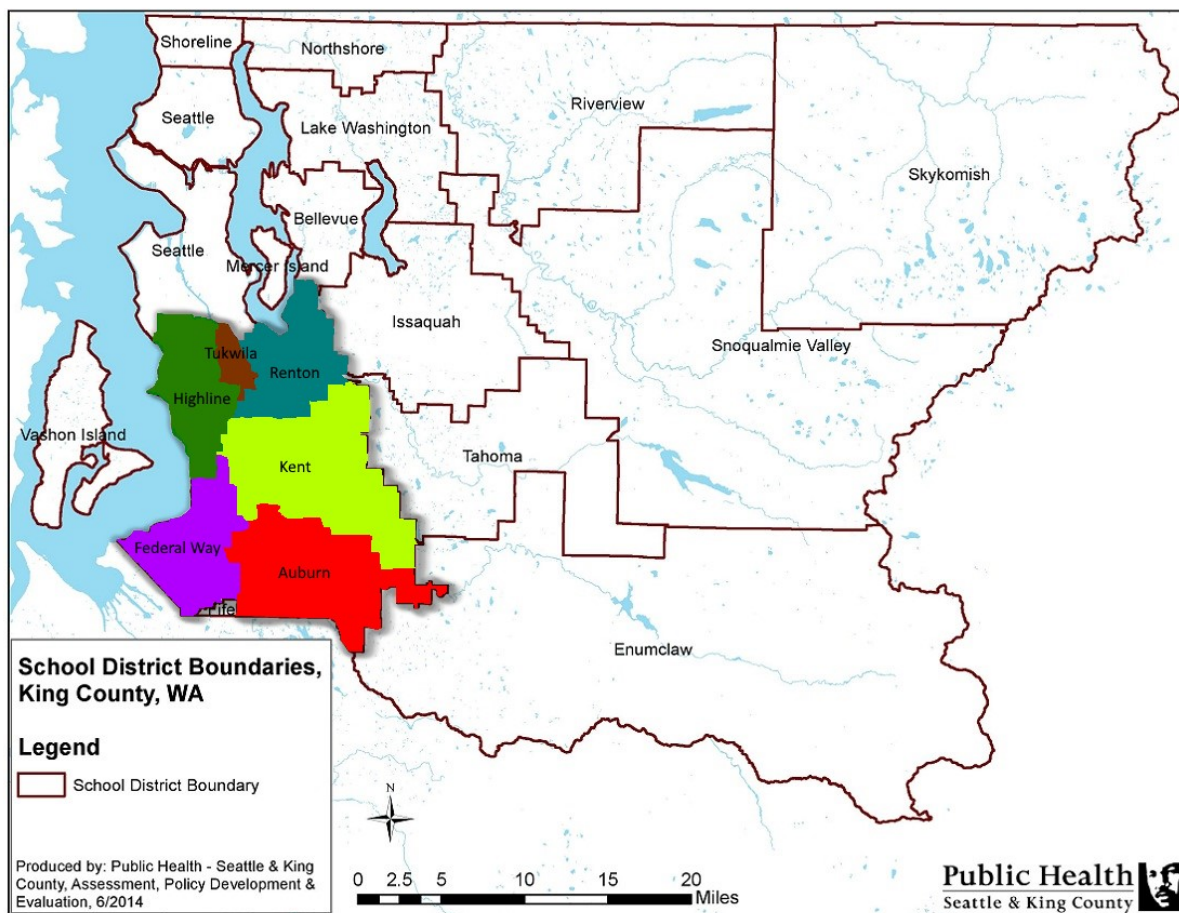
The LINC Steering Committee began its work in the spring of 2011 to address a decade long increase in juvenile gang-related crime and violence within the suburban King County region. Chaired by Justice Bobbe Bridge (ret.), Founding President/CEO of CCYJ, the committee explored the growing, but largely underreported, gang/group violence problem. As part of the rollout of the CGM in these communities, a Community Assessment was conducted in 2013 to better understand the nature and scope of group/gang violence and associated risk and protective factors. In response to assessment findings the LINC committee developed and launched an Implementation Plan in January 2014, which has since guided the committee’s efforts.

¹ Gang and/or group are interchangeable terms.

The first phase of implementation focused on strengthening coordination and collaboration among all involved agencies and created the necessary infrastructure to deliver appropriate services to group-involved youth and impacted families across the LINC region. Building upon activities accomplished and data gathered during the first phase of the implementation plan, LINC was prepared to address identified group problems on an individual, case-specific basis. Thus, in 2015 launched the second phase of implementation, the first of three multidisciplinary intervention teams to deliver coordinated services to youth and families of focus.

The project, as originally envisioned, served a relatively large, historically underserved region of suburban King County, and encompassed a number of communities that had been working toward resolving group-related issues. These included the cities of Auburn, Burien, Federal Way, Kent, Renton, SeaTac and Tukwila. Given the fluid nature of violent activity across King County, the Steering Committee elected to define “community” as the school district, rather than using city or law enforcement boundaries (Figure 1). This approach encourages interagency and cross-jurisdictional partnerships (as multiple cities are typically included within school district boundaries), and reflects the fact that youth tend to associate with peers from schools within their district and may be recruited into gang activity through those networks.

Figure 1: LINC Participating School District Boundaries



The first of three multidisciplinary LINC intervention teams, LINC 1, was established in January 2015 to coordinate service provision to youth within the Highline, Renton and Tukwila School District catchment areas. In 2016, the CCYJ received funding from the City of Seattle, and the City of Kent, and was the recipient of a two-year Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) funded Comprehensive Anti-Gang Strategies and Programs grant. The additional funding was, in large part, for the expansion and replication of the CGM within the City of Seattle including the development of a Seattle-specific assessment and implementation plan. Moreover, funds were used to establish a second LINC team (LINC 2) in October 2016 to provide services to youth within the Auburn, Federal Way and Kent School District catchment areas, with a third team (Seattle LINC) launched in February 2017 focusing services in the south-end neighborhoods of Seattle.

Unlike the original Community Assessment completed in 2014 to inform the implementation of the Comprehensive Gang Model, the purpose of this regional update is to provide a current understanding of the existing factors that may be contributing to and/or influencing group/gang involvement and violent crime. Findings from this report are intended to inform future project planning and to provide information to reassess and realign implementation planning (as needed) including adoption of strategies and practices across a continuum of supports – prevention, intervention, suppression, and re-entry.

The following sections of this document provide an updated snapshot of the communities and youth within the LINC region. The results of the updated assessment are based on a number of data sources including: census data, police expert survey data, official police and juvenile justice data, school data, and youth survey data.

II. COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

This section outlines demographic data from the seven largest cities that comprise the LINC regional service region: Auburn, Burien, Federal Way, Kent, Renton, SeaTac, and Tukwila (a separate assessment for Seattle was conducted in October 2016, see Appendix A) focusing on community-level risk factors for group/gang involvement, and youth violence and delinquency more generally. In addition, similar demographic information is discussed at the LINC regional level as compared to Washington State.

Table 1: Community Demographics 2016

	Washington	Auburn	Burien	Federal Way	Kent	Renton	SeaTac	Tukwila
Population	7,288,000	77,472	50,997	96,757	127,514	100,953	28,873	20,033
Male	49.8%	49.4%	50.3%	49.0%	49.9%	49.5%	52.4%	51.9%
Female	50.2%	50.6%	49.7%	51.0%	50.1%	50.5%	47.6%	48.1%
White	69.7%	60.8%	51.2%	49.1%	47.1%	47.4%	34.0%	33.0%
African American	3.5%	4.3%	6.9%	11.0%	10.3%	10.5%	22.5%	19.9%
American Indian / Alaskan Native	1.2%	1.9%	1.2%	0.8%	0.7%	0.4%	0.9%	0.6%
Asian	7.9%	9.7%	10.3%	13.2%	17.6%	22.1%	15.1%	22.3%
Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	0.6%	1.8%	1.6%	1.9%	2.5%	1.1%	2.9%	2.1%
Two or More Races	4.6%	6.8%	5.1%	6.2%	5.0%	6.2%	6.3%	7.0%
Hispanic / Latino	12.4%	14.5%	23.6%	17.6%	16.6%	12.3%	17.8%	14.2%
Other	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.5%	0.0%
Non-English Speakers	19.3%	26.5%	33.9%	31.3%	39.9%	34.8%	48.1%	50.0%
Foreign Born	13.5%	17.9%	22.9%	23.4%	28.5%	28.2%	37.6%	41.4%
Unemployed	5.4%	4.1%	4.0%	4.1%	4.1%	3.6%	4.3%	-
In Poverty	11.3%	14.5%	17.4%	13.5%	15.2%	11.9%	18.1%	21.5%
Education - High School Diploma	90.6%	87.4%	83.2%	89.4%	85.4%	90.1%	83.4%	80.3%

Source: US Census Quick Facts 2016

Auburn: The City of Auburn is the 15th largest city in Washington State, with a population of approximately 77,000 people according to U.S. Census data (2016). Centrally located between Tacoma and Seattle in south King County, Auburn shares a border with the City of Kent to the north, and the City of Federal Way to the west. As seen in Table 1, gender is similarly represented and most of the residents have at least a high school diploma (87.4%), slightly below the state rate (90.6%). About 4.1 percent of Auburn residents are unemployed, and 14.5 percent of individuals live below the poverty level. While the community is primarily comprised of Caucasians, almost 30 percent of its residents are people of color, nearly 10 percent above the rate in the rest of the state. The percentage of residents who are foreign born is 17.9 percent, above the state rate (13.5%), with over one-quarter of the population non-English speaking (26.5%).

Burien: The City of Burien is a young city, incorporated in 1993, with a population of nearly 51,000 residents according to 2016 U.S. Census data (Table 1). The City is bounded by six miles of shoreline along the Puget Sound to the west, with the city of Sea Tac to the east, White Center to the north and Normandy Park bounding its southern border. Male and female residents are similarly represented, and 83.2 percent of the population has at least a high school education (below the state rate). The percentage of the population that is unemployed (4.0%) in Burien is below the state average (5.4%), however, nearly one-in five (17.4%) residents are living in poverty – above the state norm. Nearly half of the population (49.8%) are people of color, approximately 20 percent above the state average. Among minority groups, Hispanic/Latino comprise 23.6 percent, with 10.3 percent of the population Asian, and 6.9 percent African American. Over one-third of residents (33.9%) are non-English speaking – considerably above the state rate – and nearly one-quarter (22.9%) are foreign born, which is about 10 percent above the state norm (13.5%).

Federal Way: The City of Federal Way has a population of approximately 97,000 (US Census 2016) and is the fifth largest city in King County. Federal Way is located west of I-5, with Des Moines to the north and the Puget Sound and Tacoma to the southwest. Census data (Table 1) indicate that the city is more diverse than the state population as a whole, with over half (50.9%) of the residents people of color, including 17.6 percent Hispanic/Latino, 13.2 percent Asian and 11.0 percent African American. Slightly more residents are female and most of the residents have at least a high school diploma (89.4%). Approximately 4.1 percent of Federal Way residents are unemployed and 13.5 percent of individuals live below the poverty level. Nearly one third of residents (31.3%) are non-English speaking and 23.4 percent are foreign born – both at rates above the state as a whole.

Kent: The City of Kent is the sixth largest city in Washington State, and 3rd largest in King County, with a population of approximately 126,000 people (U.S. Census 2016, Table 1). The city's western border is shared with the cities of Des Moines and SeaTac, with Tukwila and Renton to the north, and Auburn to the south. As indicated in Table 1, gender is similarly represented and many residents have at least a high school diploma (85.4%), although at a rate below the state norm. About 4.1 percent of Kent residents are unemployed, similar to other LINC cities, and 15.2 percent of individuals live below the poverty level. The majority of the community is comprised of people of color, with 53 percent of its residents minorities, nearly 23 percent above the rate in the rest of the state. Asian (17.6%) and Hispanic/Latino (16.6%) residents comprise the largest percentage of minority groups. The proportion of residents who are foreign born is 28.5 percent, double the state rate (13.5%), with nearly 40 percent non-English speaking.

Renton: According to U.S. Census data (2016), the City of Renton has a population of approximately 101,000 and is the 8th largest city in the State of Washington. Centrally located on the west side of King County, directly south of Lake Washington, Renton shares a border with Seattle to the north, the city of Tukwila to the west, and Kent to the south. As with the state, male and female residents are similarly represented and 90.1 percent of the population has at least a high school education. The percentage of the population that is unemployed (3.6%) in Renton is below the state average (5.4%), with over one-in-ten (11.9%) residents living in poverty. Over half of the population (52.6%) are people of color, more than 20 percentage points above the state rate. Among minority groups, Asians comprise 22.1 percent, with 12.3 percent of the population Hispanic/Latino, and 10.5 percent African American. Over one-third of residents (34.8%) are non-English speaking – considerably above the state rate – and 28.2 percent are foreign born, more than twice the state rate (13.5%).

SeaTac: The City of SeaTac is 10 square miles in area and has a population of 28,873 according to U.S. Census data (2016). The city boundaries surround the Seattle–Tacoma International Airport (approximately 3 square miles in area), which is owned and operated by the Port of Seattle. SeaTac is located approximately midway between the cities of Seattle and Tacoma, and includes the communities of Angle Lake, Bow Lake, McMicken Heights and Riverton Heights (established prior to the city's incorporation). The city is a culturally and economically diverse community, with a large majority minority population (66%) – over twice that of the state rate. Among minority groups, 22.5 percent of residents are African American, 17.8 percent are Hispanic/Latino, and 15.1 percent of the population are Asian. Male residents comprise a slight majority of the population (52.4%) and 83.4 percent of residents have at least a high school education (below the state rate of 90.6%). Nearly one-in-five residents (18.5%) live in poverty and 4.3 percent are unemployed. The percentage of residents who are foreign born is 37.6 percent, well above the state rate (13.5%), and nearly half of the population are non-English speaking (48.1%), also well above the state rate (19.3%).

Tukwila: The City of Tukwila has a population of approximately 20,000 people, with a daily influx of more than 100,000 people who come to work and shop in the South Center Mall area. Tukwila is located in the heart of southwest King County, running along I-5 from south Seattle past the I-405 interchange to Kent. Tukwila shares a border with SeaTac to the west and Renton to the east. The city is one of the most ethnically diverse communities within the LINC region, with a majority minority population. In fact, two-thirds (66%) of residents are minorities: Asian (22.3%), African American (19.9%) and Hispanic/Latino (14.2%) residents comprise the largest percentage of minority groups. Tukwila has a slightly higher percentage of male residents (51.9%) and 80.3 percent of the population has at least a high school education (below the state rate and the lowest percentage in the LINC region). Over one-in-five Tukwila residents live in poverty (21.5%) – nearly twice the state rate. Half of the city’s population (50%) are non-English speaking and 41.4 percent are foreign born, considerably above the state rate (19.3% vs.13.5%, respectively).

Within the individual cities of the LINC region, these data show the highest concentration of diversity in the cities of Tukwila and SeaTac. Although these are relatively small jurisdictions, both have majority minority populations, with an estimated two-thirds of residents people of color. For example, in SeaTac, nearly one-in-four residents are African American compared to 3.5 percent of the State as a whole. And, in Tukwila there is a prominent Asian population, with one-in-five residents identifying as such compared to less than 10 percent statewide. Unemployment rates among LINC jurisdictions are similar, however poverty rates are above the state rate and vary from a low of 11.9 percent in Renton to a high of 21.5 percent in Tukwila.

LINC Region Demographics: Following is a review the demographic and economic make up the LINC region (excluding Seattle) as compared to Washington State.

Table 2: LINC Region (excluding Seattle) Demographics

	Washington	LINC AREA
Population	7,288,000	502,599
Male	49.8%	49.8%
Female	50.2%	50.2%
White	69.7%	48.8%
African American	3.5%	10.3%
American Indian / Alaskan Native	1.2%	0.9%
Asian	7.9%	15.7%
Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	0.6%	1.9%
Two or More Races	4.6%	5.9%
Hispanic / Latino	12.4%	16.3%
Other	0.1%	0.2%

Source: US Census Quick Facts 2016

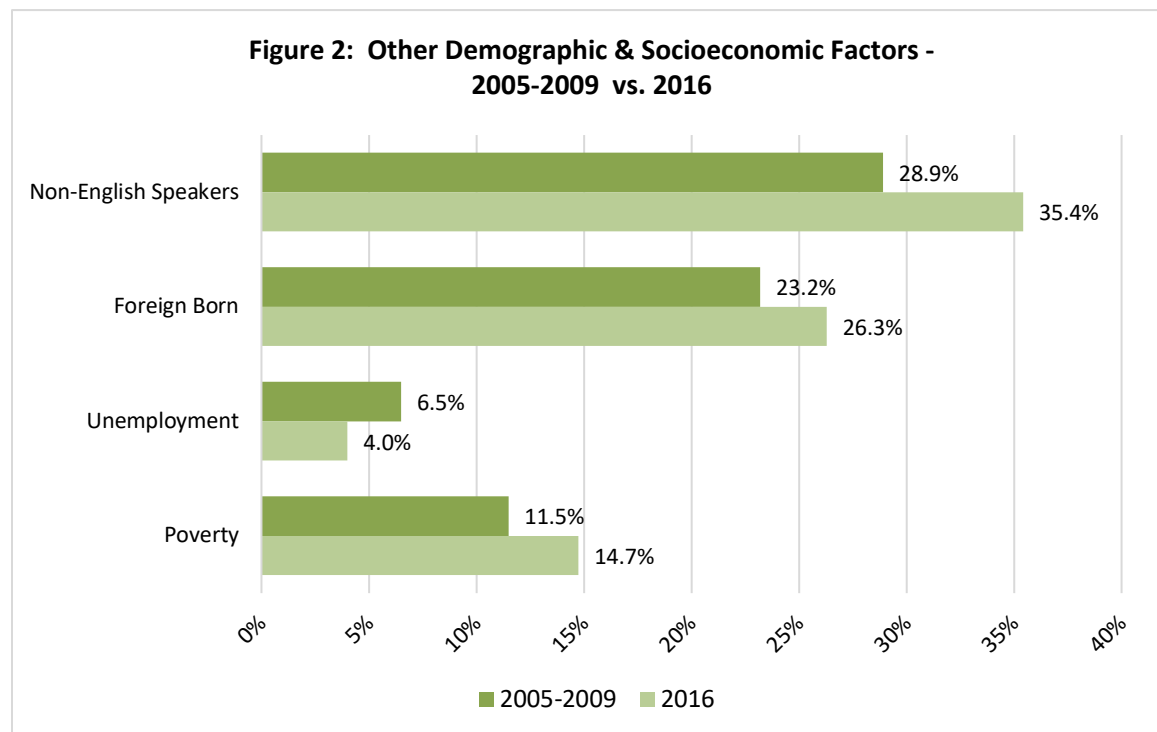
Combined, the LINC area has a population that comprises an estimated 7 percent of those living in the state as whole. Table 2 displays the racial demographics of the LINC area. These data demonstrate that the racial composition of the region is much more diverse than that of the rest of the state, with people of color making up a majority of the population, compared to just under one-third of the population statewide.

Table 3: LINC Region (excluding Seattle) Other Demographics and Socioeconomic Factors

	Washington	LINC AREA
Non-English Speakers	19.3%	35.4%
Foreign Born	13.5%	26.3%
Unemployed	5.4%	4.0%
In Poverty	11.3%	14.7%
Education - High School Diploma	90.6%	86.9%

Source: US Census Quick Facts 2016

Data further indicate (Table 3) a larger proportion of recent immigrants and non-English speaking residents in the LINC region as compared to the state. In fact, nearly one-in-four residents in the LINC region are foreign born and 35 percent are non-English speakers compared to 13.5 percent and 19.3 percent (respectively) statewide, with these ratios increasing over the past decade (Figure 2).



Source: American Community Survey (ACS) 2016

U.S. Census data also show that the unemployment rate among LINC residents is slightly below the state average, however the poverty level is slightly higher (Table 3). This would suggest that while residents in the LINC region may have lower rates of unemployment, access to living wage jobs are likely impacting overall income. In fact, data indicate that the median household income statewide is \$64,129, while income in the LINC region ranged from \$45,923 (Tukwila) to \$64,802 (Renton), averaging \$55,909 across the region (ACS, 2016). Moreover, as demonstrated in Figure 2, a growing number of people are living in poverty as compared to 2005-2009, with a 28 percent rise in the poverty rate in the LINC region over the past decade (14.7%, 2016 vs. 11.5%, 2005-2009).

Figure 3, below, examines the intersection of health, housing and economic opportunity measures across King County (Seattle & King County Public Health, 2016). Data rank census tracts across King County by lowest and highest population measures. These data show that those ranked lowest (red) are considerably more likely to be impacted by a broad range of index measures that research has shown can impact life expectancy. These include health, housing, and economic factors as well as adverse childhood experiences, mental distress, poverty and unemployment. According to these data, residents living within the LINC region experience a disproportionately higher number of these risk factors, thus are adversely affected as compared to residents in King County living in higher ranked census tracts with fewer risk factors.

Figure 3:

POPULATION MEASURES

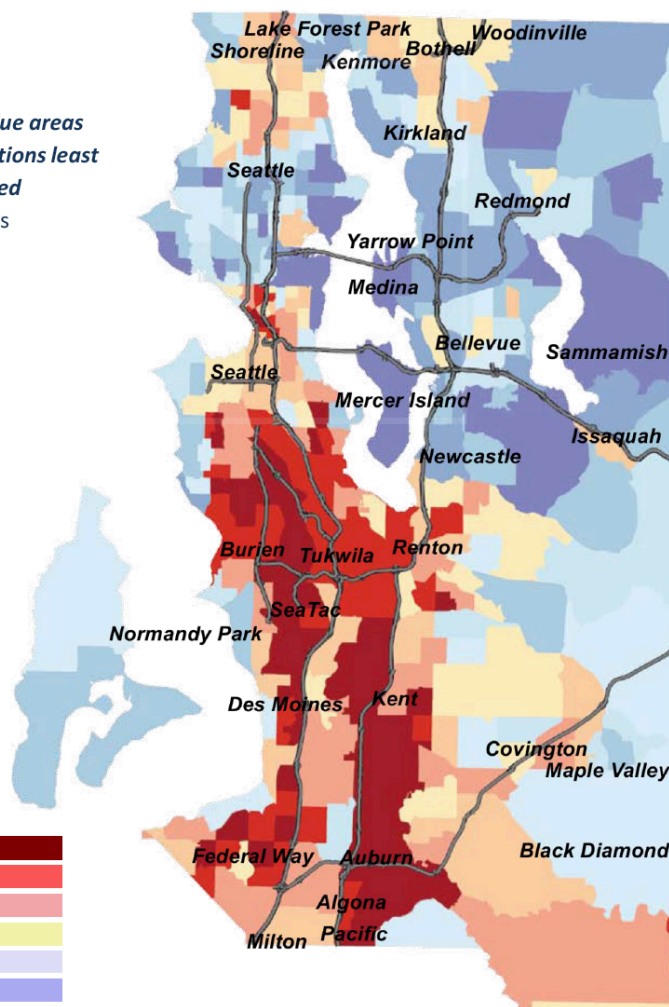
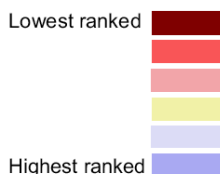
	Dark red areas populations most impacted	Dark blue areas populations least impacted
Life expectancy	74 years	87 years
Health, broadly defined		
Adverse childhood experiences	20%	9%
Frequent mental distress	14%	4%
Smoking	20%	5%
Obesity	33%	14%
Diabetes	13%	5%
Preventable hospitalizations	1.0%	0.4%
Housing		
Poor housing condition	8%	0%
Economic opportunity		
Low-income, below 200% poverty	54%	6%
Unemployment	13%	3%

RANKING

Census Tracts ranked by an index of health, housing and economic opportunity measures.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, BRFSS, CHARS | Produced by: Public Health - Seattle & King County

Freeways



Summary:

The demographic profile of individual LINC communities, and the LINC region as a whole, reveal a number of factors that are conducive to group/gang formation and membership. These factors include rapid change in the population over the 2005-2016 period and relatively high (and increasing) rates of poverty among certain segments of the population as compared to state averages. Research has shown that the underlying socioeconomic conditions of a community/neighborhood perpetuate the levels of violence in that community (Buitrago, K., Rynell, A., and Tuttle, S. 2017; Truman, J. and Morgan, R 2016). These demographic data, as well as the snapshot of socioeconomic factors, provide policymakers and

community leaders with a basic understanding of the LINC communities and the impacts that these factors have on quality of life for residents.

These findings also illustrate that areas of more concentrated deprivation exist within the LINC region as compared to other regions in King County. In fact, communities with high levels of violence are often characterized by higher rates of poverty, inadequate public services, lack of educational opportunities, poorer health outcomes, and income inequality, among other factors. It is important to understand that violence can manifest itself in many ways – through gun violence, domestic violence, child abuse, etc. – thus requires a comprehensive approach to address the interaction of individual, community, and societal level factors that may foster it.

III. STUDENT & SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

As noted, in suburban King County, LINC direct services are delivered within stakeholder communities' respective school districts, serving students and families from the Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, Kent, Renton, and Tukwila school districts (see Figure 1, page 3). This section presents a variety of data on schools and students in the LINC region. These data are useful in the identification of the proportion of youth in the community who may be at high risk for group/gang involvement or face other risk factors. For this section, data were primarily collected from Washington's Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). These data are used to examine the overall student characteristics of LINC districts, and the risk factors that may contribute to delinquency.

Student Enrollment Demographics

During the 2016-2017 school year (Table 4), the LINC region enrolled over 105,000 K-12 youth across the six school districts within the catchment area (OSPI, 2017), nearly 10 percent of the enrollment population statewide. District enrollment ranged from a low of 2,990 students (Tukwila) to a high of 27,841 students (Kent).

Table 4: 2016-2017 K-12 Enrollment Demographics for LINC Region Schools

	Washington State	Auburn School District	Federal Way School District	Highline School District	Kent School District	Renton School District	Tukwila School District
K-12 Enrollment (October 2016)	1,102,282	16,134	23,024	19,730	27,841	15,804	2,990
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Asian	8%	9%	11%	14%	19%	25%	28%
Black/African American	4%	7%	13%	14%	12%	15%	20%
Hispanic/Latino of any race(s)	23%	29%	29%	38%	22%	23%	29%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1%	4%	5%	4%	3%	1%	4%
Two or More Races	8%	10%	12%	6%	10%	8%	7%
White	55%	41%	28%	23%	35%	27%	12%
Male	52%	51%	52%	52%	52%	51%	51%
Female	48%	49%	48%	48%	48%	49%	49%
Non-English Speaking	11%	18%	20%	26%	19%	18%	40%
Free or Reduced-Price Meals	43%	52%	60%	63%	75%	50%	73%
K12 Homelessness	4%	2%	2%	6%	2%	3%	11%
Adjusted 4-Yr Graduation Rate (2016 Cohort)*	79%	78%	80%	75%	81%	75%	75%

Source: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction 2017 *Adjusted cohort = Students are included in the cohort based on when they first entered 9th grade. The cohort is "adjusted" by adding in students that transfer into the school and by subtracting students who transfer out of the school (OSPI).

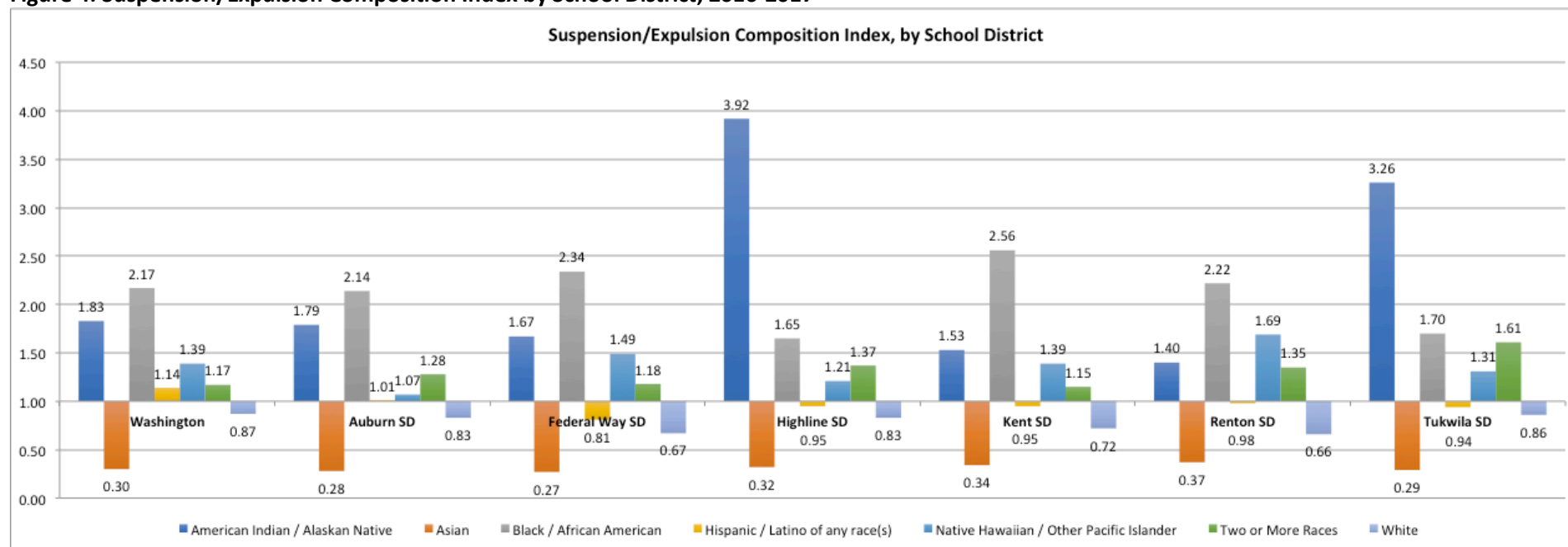
Across the region there is a high rate of diversity, with students of color comprising the majority of the student population across all LINC districts (above the 45% of minority youth reported statewide). In general, Hispanic/Latino youth make up the largest proportion of the minority population. The percentage of students from non-English speaking backgrounds ranged from 18 percent (Auburn) to 40 percent (Tukwila) as compared to 11 percent for the State as a whole.

These data (Table 4) also show high rates of poverty, with 50 percent (Renton) to 73 percent (Tukwila) of LINC region youth eligible for free or reduced meals, well above the state rate of 43 percent. Statewide, about 4 percent of the student population were homeless (2016-2017). Rates of homelessness across LINC districts varied from 2 percent to 11 percent of students experiencing homelessness during the 2016-2017 school year. Graduation rates among LINC students ranged from 75 percent to 81 percent. While Auburn, Federal Way, and Kent graduation rates were similar to the state average, students in the Highline, Renton and Tukwila districts are less likely to graduate on-time as compared to others. In short, LINC school districts experience greater diversity and also higher rates of poverty (free or reduce-priced meals) than Washington State in general, with 2015-16 graduation rates similar to or below the state average.

Discipline Data

Figure 4 shows the composition index for suspension and expulsions by LINC school district. The composition index compares groupings of students and measures whether they are disciplined at a rate proportionate to their representation in the total student population. A composition index score equal to 1 indicates that the percentage of discipline referrals received by a group is proportionate to the number of students in that group. For example, if males make up 55% of the student population and received 55% of the referrals, males would have a composition index score of 1. A score above 1 indicates an *overrepresentation* of discipline referrals, and a score below 1 indicates an *underrepresentation*.

Figure 4: Suspension/Expulsion Composition Index by School District, 2016-2017



Source: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction 2017

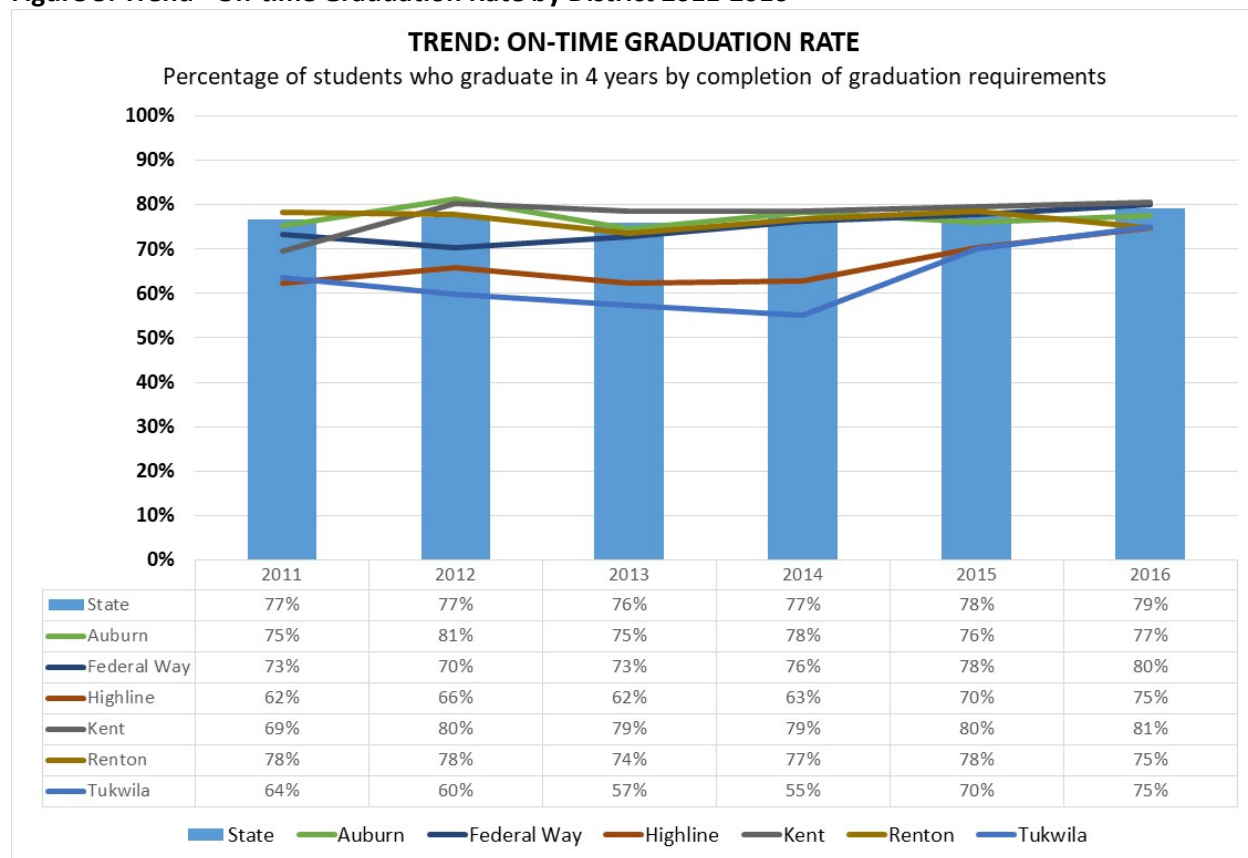
Data in Figure 4 illustrates that American Indian/Alaskan Native, Black/African American, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, and students of two or more races were suspended/expelled at disproportionate rates across all LINC school districts, with this similar to or above disproportionality rates statewide. For example, American Indian/Alaskan Native students received out of school sanctions 3.26 to nearly 4 times their representation in the student population in the Highline and Tukwila School Districts.

According to a growing body of research, use of exclusionary practices (long-term and indefinite) is a high-risk and high-cost strategy to addressing student behavior. In fact, a report by Washington Appleseed and TeamChild, *“Reclaiming Students: The educational & economic costs of exclusionary discipline in Washington State”* (Mosehauer, McGrath, Nist & Pillar 2012) found that exclusionary discipline practices in schools negatively impacted students’ academic success, with students of color and youth in poverty more likely to be disciplined as compared to their white peers. Oftentimes, the resultant impact of such practices is increased school disengagement, dropout, delinquency, and lifelong poverty.

Graduation and School Drop-Out

Figure 5 displays trend data for on-time graduation rates for students within the LINC school districts.

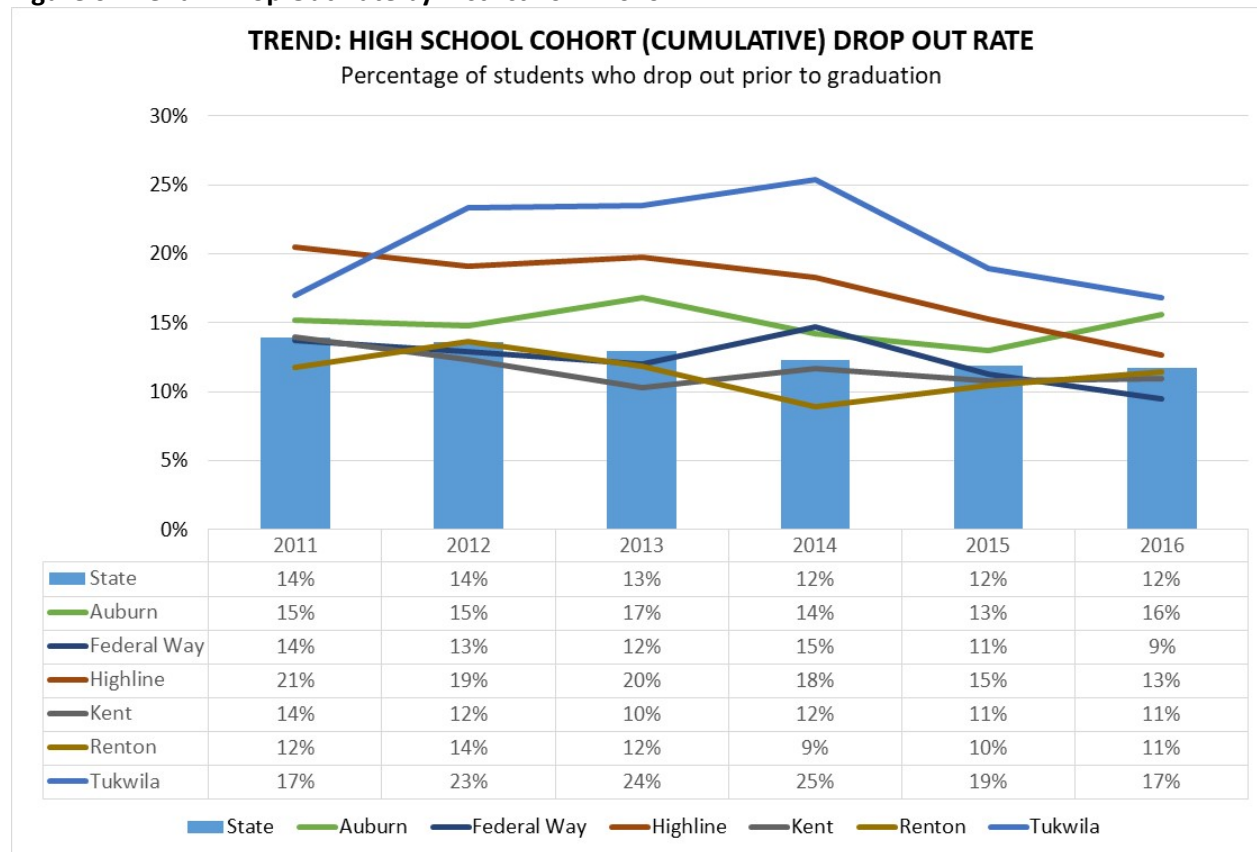
Figure 5: Trend - On-time Graduation Rate by District 2011-2016



Statewide, on-time graduation rates have remained mostly stable across school years, with between 77 and 79 percent of students completing graduation requirements within four years. Data indicate that, in general, during the most recent school year (2015-16) LINC students were similarly likely to graduate on-time; however, rates were somewhat lower for students enrolled in the Highline, Renton, and Tukwila

school districts. These data also show substantial growth in graduation rates among students in the Federal Way, Highline, Kent, and Tukwila school districts since 2011.

Figure 6: Trend – Drop Out Rate by District 2011-2016



Similar to graduation rates, the percentage of enrolled students that drop out of school has remained mostly stable statewide since 2011, with 12 percent of high school students leaving school prior to graduation (Figure 6). Across the LINC districts, data show a steady decline in the dropout rate among Highline students, with an 8-percentage point reduction between 2011 and 2016 (21% vs. 13%, 2016). Dropout rates have also declined since 2011 in the Federal Way and Kent districts, while remaining mostly stable in the Auburn and Renton districts. Rates in Tukwila show an upward trend peaking in 2014, before returning to 2011 rates during the 2016 school year.

Graduating from high school is a critical step towards successful adulthood. Youth who do not complete high school are more likely to have difficulties with employment and earning a satisfactory living as adults, with these deficits contributing to a greater likelihood of other social and personal problems including mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders (Annie E. Casey Foundation 2014; Operation Restart, 2011). In fact, research overwhelmingly supports the importance of education as a key factor in the prevention of delinquency and criminal involvement. Individuals who do not finish high school are more likely to be involved (or re-involved) in crime and are less likely to constructively engage in their communities (Curry & Kim-Gerver, 2016; Burke, 2015; Leone & Weinberg, 2012; Telfair and Shelton, 2012; Coalition for Juvenile Justice, 2001).

Summary

Student data in the LINC region indicate a diverse student population, with Hispanic youth comprising the majority of the minority population. Across LINC districts, youth of color, particularly American Indian, Black/African American, and Native Hawaiian students are disproportionately excluded from school, a practice research has shown negatively affects youth's academic success and increases the likelihood of delinquency. While on-time graduation rates among youth in the Auburn, Federal Way, Kent and SeaTac school districts are similar to the state average, rates are below average in the Highline, Renton, and Tukwila school districts. Dropout rates were the highest in the Tukwila school district but trending downward across the region. Research shows that youth who do not complete high school often face lifelong social and economic challenges. Academically at-risk students are more likely to engage in health-risk behaviors than their classmates with better grades, including substance use, violence-related behaviors, and risky sexual behaviors (United Way Worldwide, 2011).

IV. WASHINGTON STATE HEALTHY YOUTH SURVEY²

Groups/Gangs in Schools

Another important step in understanding the adolescent population in these communities is to examine perception data from the Washington State Healthy Youth Survey (HYS). This survey is jointly sponsored by Washington State's Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the Department of Health, Social and Health Service Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery, and the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board and has been administered to students in grades 6, 8, 10 and 12 every two years since 2002. Survey data are gathered from a simple random selection of public schools throughout Washington State. The HYS includes a number of questions that measure risk and protective factors for gang/group involvement, youth violence, and juvenile delinquency at the community, school, family, and individual/peer levels (Washington State Department of Health, 2016). Two HYS questions significant to this assessment measured whether students reported a gang presence in their schools, as well as whether they (the student) belonged to a gang: "Are there gangs at your school?", and, "During the past 12 months, have you been a member of a gang?"

Research indicates that group/gang joining typically begins between the ages of 13 and 18. However, youth begin "hanging out" with group/gang involved peers at ages 11 or 12; thus, joining is a process that can span from 6 months to 1-2 years (Howell 2013). Findings from a Seattle-based study indicate that 15-year-old youth were at dramatically increased risk of gang-joining – a year when students typically transition into high school (Hill, Lui, Hawkins 2001).

Not surprisingly, there are numerous consequences of gang/group membership. Research findings show that group involved youth engage in higher levels of delinquency than their non-gang involved peers. In fact, group-involved youth are more likely to commit assault, robbery, breaking and entering, and felony theft; engage in alcohol and drug use; and have higher arrest and conviction rates (Hill, Lui, Hawkins 2001). These youth are also more likely to commit violent crimes and property crimes; are more than twice as likely to carry a gun, and three times as likely to sell drugs as compared to non-gang involved youth (Cahill and Hayeslip 2010; Spergel 1995; Thornberry 1998; Bjerragaard and Lizotte 1995). Moreover, group/gang involved youth are considerably more likely to be victims of violence than other individuals (Howell 2013).

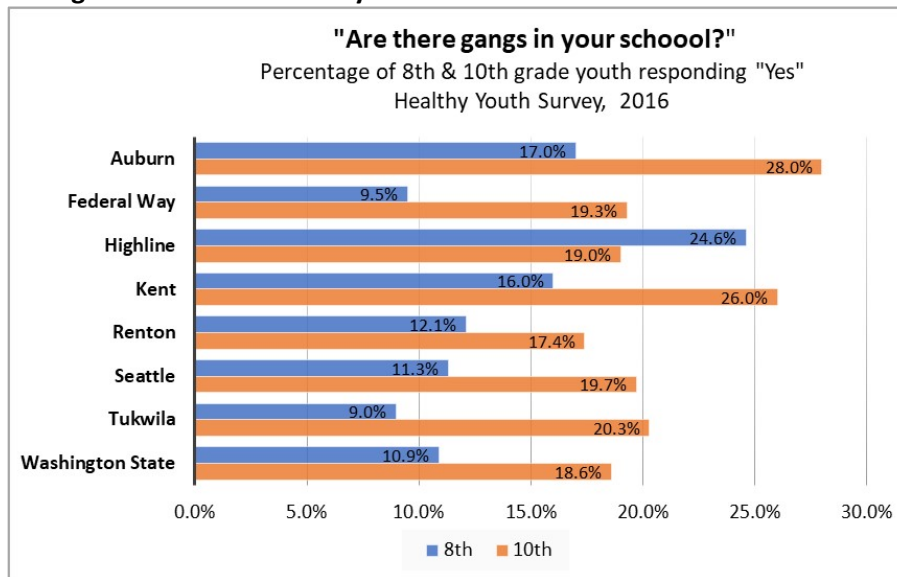
Data used in the current study are from the survey conducted in October 2016. Results focused on responses from 8th and 10th grade students in the LINC school districts and provide comparison data from the Washington State sample. Data were obtained from the respective LINC school districts and the Washington State Department of Health. *Note: Response rates for 10th grade students in the Federal Way and Highline school districts are relatively low (42% and 44%, respectively); thus, should be interpreted with caution.* (See Appendix B for additional HYS trend data).

In response to the question, "Are there gangs at your school?" between 9 percent – 28 percent of 8th and 10th grade youth responded in the affirmative (Figure 7). Across LINC school districts, 10th grade participants consistently responded affirmatively at a rate higher than the state average, with this well above the norm among Auburn and Kent 10th graders. Among 8th grade participants, students in Federal

² Response rates: Auburn – 8th grade 81%, 10th grade 74%; Federal Way – 8th grade 67%, 10th grade 42%; Highline - 8th grade 62%, 10th grade 44%; Kent - 8th grade 83%, 10th grade 66%; Renton - 8th grade 59%, 10th grade 69%; Seattle – 8th grade 83%, 10th grade 71%; Tukwila - 8th grade 72%, 10th grade 63%; LINC districts combined - 8th grade 72%, 10th grade 61%. Use the following guidance when reviewing results: 70% or greater participation—results are probably representative of students in this grade; 40–69% participation—results may be representative of students in this grade; and less than 40% participation— results are likely not representative of students in this grade but do reflect students who completed the survey.

Way and Tukwila schools responded “yes” at rates lower than the statewide average, with rates above the state norm in the remaining schools (Figure 7). In essence, findings indicate that among 8th grade youth in LINC districts, on average, 14 percent believed that gangs were active in their schools. Conversely, an estimated one-in-five (21%) 10th graders perceived this to be true across all LINC districts.

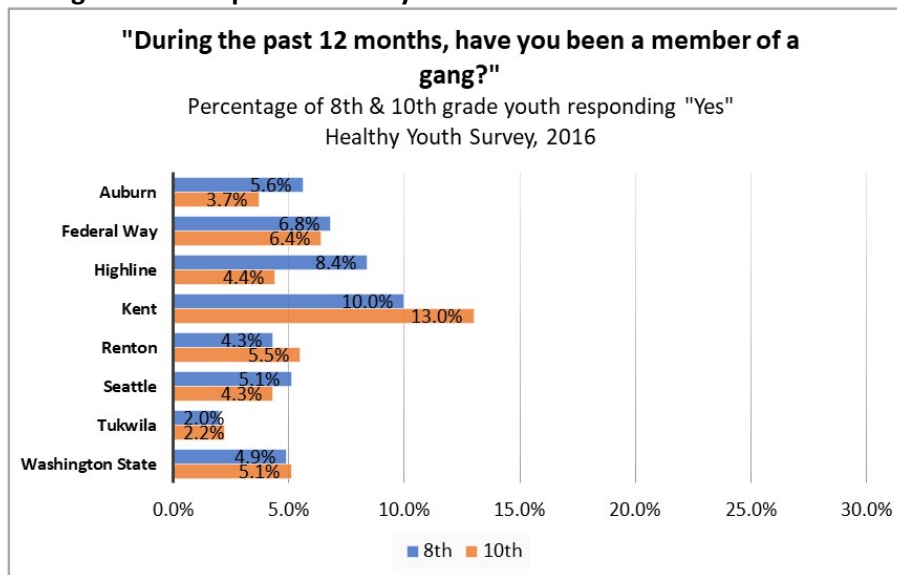
Figure 7: Gang Presence in Schools by District



Note: Response rates for 10th grade students in Federal and Highline are relatively low (42% and 44%, respectively); thus, should be interpreted with caution.

The HYS survey also asked students, “A gang is a group of people with a leader who act together often for violent or illegal activities. During the past 12 months, have you been a member of a gang?” In regard to gang membership, an average of 5 percent of 8th and 10th graders statewide reported being a member of a gang in the past year (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Gang Membership in Schools by District



Note: Response rates for 10th grade students in Federal and Highline are relatively low (42% and 44%, respectively); thus, should be interpreted with caution.

Gang membership in LINC schools varied, with a higher rate of reported gang membership among 8th grade youth in Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, and Kent school districts as compared to the state average. At the 10th grade level, respondents were more likely to report gang involvement in the Federal Way and Kent districts. In fact, 10th graders in Kent were nearly three times as likely to report gang involvement as compared to their peers statewide (13.0% vs. 5.1%, state).

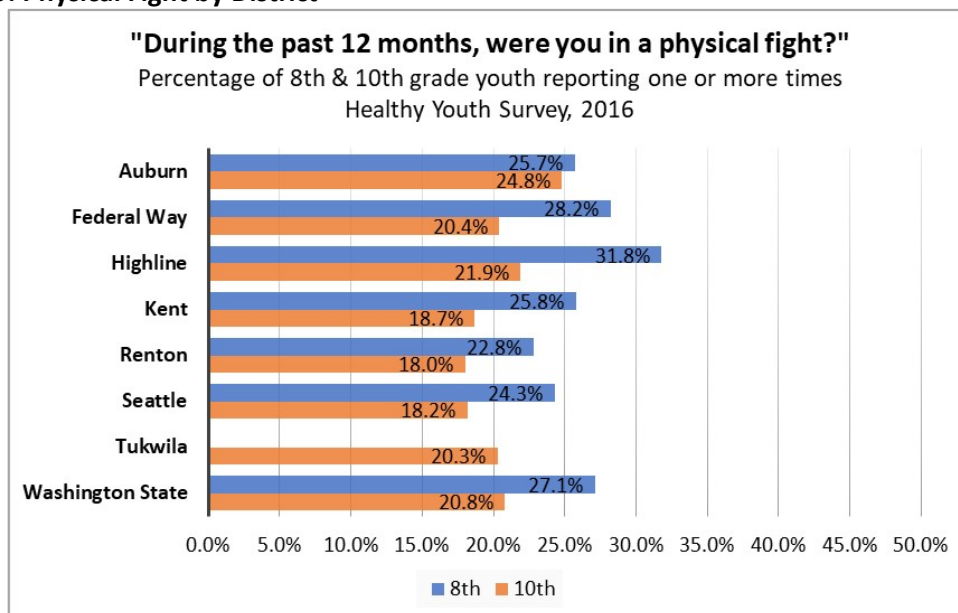
To put these data into context, when extrapolating responses **among 8th grade participants, an estimated 444 youth self-reported gang-involvement** across the LINC region in the past year. Although data are not as robust for 10th grade participants due to a lower response rate (60%), among those who responded **approximately 332 10th grade students self-reported gang involvement** across LINC districts during the past 12 months. This amounts to **nearly 800 students** in grades 8 and 10 self-reporting gang membership at some time during the previous year (2016).

It is important to note that as compared to 2010 HYS results, self-reported gang membership among 8th and 10th grade students declined or remained stable among Auburn, Highline, Renton, and Seattle school district youth. In contrast, the rate of gang involvement increased considerably among both 8th and 10th grade students in the Kent School District. (Note: 2010 data for the Federal Way and Tukwila school districts were not available).

Juvenile Delinquency

The HYS also asked students about their behavior in regard to physical fights over the past 12 months as well as whether they carried guns or weapons at school or in the community in the past 30 days (Figures 9-11).

Figure 9: Physical Fight by District

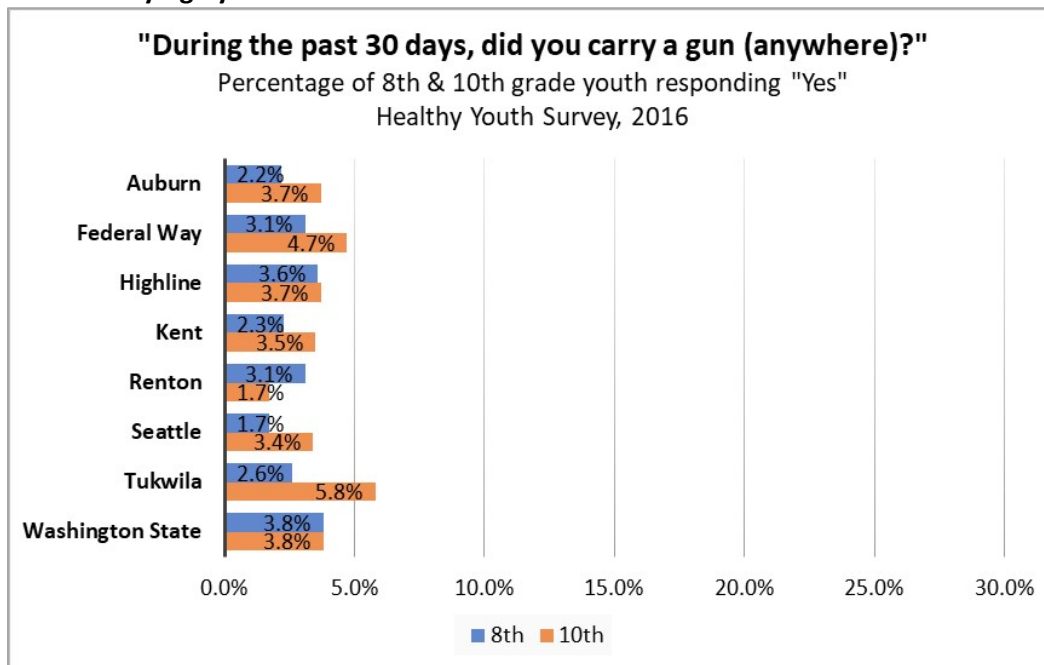


Note: Response rates for 10th grade students in Federal and Highline are relatively low (42% and 44%, respectively); thus, should be interpreted with caution.

For 8th graders in LINC districts, between 22.8 -31.8 percent reported being involved in a physical fight during the past 12 months. Rates of fighting were above the state average for 8th grade youth in the Federal Way and Highline districts. The percentage of students that reported fighting was lower among

10th graders, with rates between 18.0 and 24.8 percent. However, among Auburn and Highline 10th grade youth, rates of fighting exceeded the state average.

Figure 10: Gun Carrying by District

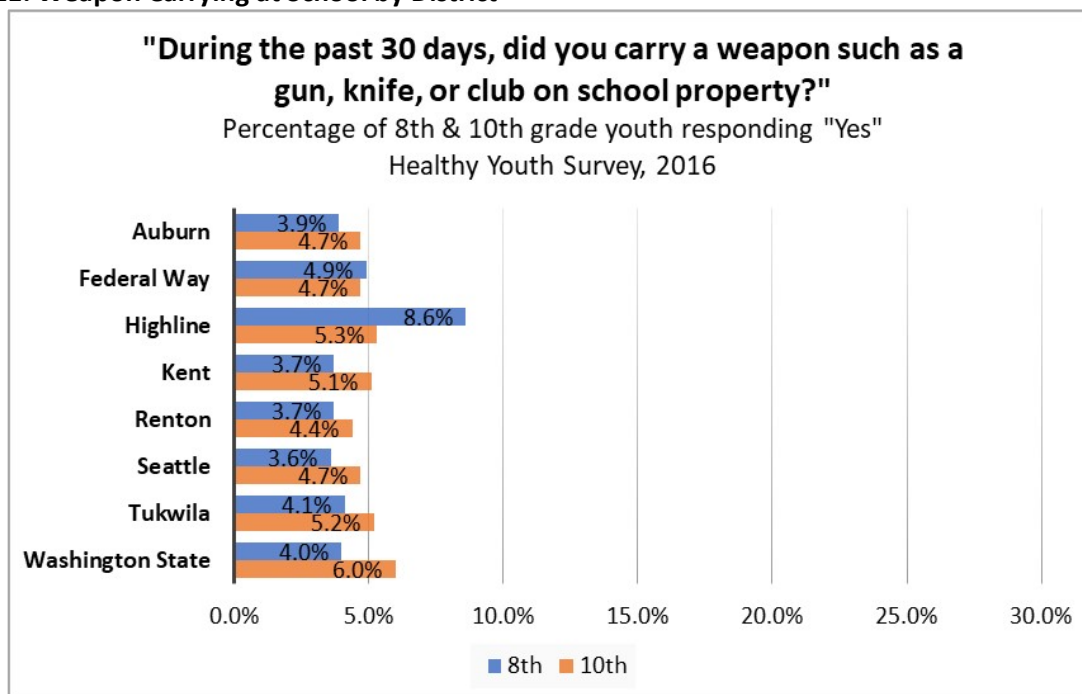


*Note: Response rates for 10th grade students in Federal and Highline are relatively low (42% and 44%, respectively); thus, should be interpreted with caution. *Question explicitly excludes carrying a gun while hunting.*

Across the LINC districts, between 2.2 – 3.6 percent of 8th grade youth reported carrying a gun on at least one occasion in the past 30 days – below the state norm (Figure 10). Rates of gun carrying increased among 10th grade participants with from 3.5 – 5.8 percent reporting having recently carried a gun. Gun carrying rates were above the state average for 10th graders in the Federal Way and Tukwila school districts.

Although few students at both grade levels reported carrying a gun during the past month, when data were extrapolated an estimated **200 8th graders reported gun carrying** at least once during the previous 30-day period across the LINC region. Among high school-aged youth responding, we approximate that **242 10th graders carried a gun** on at least one occasion during the previous month. In total, nearly **450 youth self-reported carrying a gun** for purposes other than hunting in the month prior to survey administration.

Figure 11: Weapon Carrying at School by District



Note: Response rates for 10th grade students in Federal and Highline are relatively low (42% and 44%, respectively); thus, should be interpreted with caution.

Youth were also asked about weapon carrying (e.g. gun, knife or club) on school property over the past 30 days. Figure 9 illustrates that 8th grade youth across districts were similar to or more likely than their peers statewide to carry a weapon at school. In Highline rates among 8th graders were double the state average. In contrast, 10th grade participants across LINC districts were less likely than their peers elsewhere to bring a weapon to school.

Putting these data into context, among participants ***an estimated 361 8th graders and 337 10th grade student self-reported bringing a weapon onto school property*** across the LINC region in the past month. Overall, ***nearly 700 students*** self-reported bringing a weapon of some type, including a gun, to school in the 30 days prior to survey administration in 2016.

Group-Involved vs. Non-Group Involved Youth

These data can also be used to observe differences between gang-involved and not-gang-involved youth. In the following section, we re-examine several of the questions that were previously discussed, detailing the differences observed in youth perception between gang-involved and not-gang-involved youth. (NOTE: Data were not available for all LINC districts; nor for all grade levels).

Table 5: Gang Members in Schools – Past 12 months (Percentage responding “Yes”)

District	Grade	Gang involved	Not Gang involved
Auburn	8	40.0%	15.8%
	10	48.4%	27.4%
Federal Way	8	26.4%	8.1%
	10	38.1%	17.9%
Highline	8	50.0%	22.6%
	10	46.2%	17.5%
Kent	8	34.4%	7.8%
	10	53.7%	13.1%
Renton	8	47.6%	10.6%
	10	52.5%	15.3%
Seattle	8	40.4%	9.7%
	10	48.0%	18.4%

Source: Healthy Youth Survey 2016

When asked about the presence of gangs within their schools, both 8th and 10th grade youth that self-identified as gang-involved were considerably more likely than their peers to report gangs in their school (Table 5).

Table 6: Physical Fight at School - Past 12 months (Percentage responding “Yes”)

District	Grade	Gang involved	Not Gang involved
Auburn	8	56.5%	23.7%
	10	63.6%	17.8%
Federal Way	8	58.3%	25.2%
	10	50.0%	17.8%
Highline	8	71.4%	27.2%
	10	-	-
Kent	8	54.1%	24.1%
	10	55.2%	16.6%
Renton	8	50.0%	20.7%
	10	43.6%	16.4%
Seattle	8	62.0%	24.8%
	10	53.4%	18.8%

Source: Healthy Youth Survey 2016

Asked whether they had been involved in a physical fight during the past 12 months, gang-involved youth were approximately two to four times more likely to respond “yes” across grade levels as compared to not-gang-involved youth (Table 6).

Table 7: Weapon Carrying - Past 30 days (Percentage responding “Yes”)

District	Grade	Gang involved	Not Gang involved
Auburn	8	34.1%	2.2%
	10	37.5%	3.5%
Federal Way	8	30.6%	2.9%
	10	28.6%	3.1%
Highline	8	44.6%	5.4%
	10	-	-
Kent	8	23.0%	2.8%
	10	30.3%	3.5%
Seattle	8	22.6%	2.9%
	10	28.5%	4.8%

Source: Healthy Youth Survey 2016

When students were asked whether they had carried a weapon on school property during the past 30 days, data indicate significant and considerable differences across these two subgroups. In fact, gang-involved 8th graders, on average, were **ten times** more likely to respond “yes” than not-involved youth in LINC school districts. Gang-involved youth in 10th grade were approximately **seven times** more likely to have carried a weapon on school property over the past 30 days (Table 7) as compared to their peers.

Composite School & Community Risk Factors: Group-involved vs. Non-group young people

In an effort to create programs and policies that target the most vulnerable Washington youth, the Healthy Youth Survey (2016) asked several questions to assess students’ risk factors in their school and community. Composite scores for each risk factor scale include a series of statements in which students were asked to agree or disagree. Higher scores indicated that youth were more at risk for problem behaviors, such as alcohol/tobacco/other drug use, academic failure, etc. The research literature is rich with information related to how these risk factors can serve as predictors of student problem behaviors (Hawkins, Catalano, and Miller 1992). Students with multiple risk factors, or few protective factors, are much more likely than their peers to engage in delinquent behaviors including violence, alcohol, tobacco, or other drug use, and are more likely to drop out of school. As noted previously, gang-involved youth are more likely to engage in criminal activities - including gun carrying - and have higher arrest rates.

In the following tables comparisons in risk factors between group-involved and not-group-involved youth were made examining two specific factors for which sufficient data were available for analysis – low commitment to school and laws and norms favorable to drug use. For each domain, *a **higher percentage indicates that **more** students are likely to engage in problem behaviors.***

Research has established that low commitment to school is a predictor of delinquency, teen pregnancy, school dropout, and violence (Hawkins, et al., 1992). Community norms are the attitudes and policies a community holds about drug use and crime. When these norms and community laws are favorable towards substance use or crime, or if they are unclear, youth are at higher risk of engaging in risky behaviors.

Table 8: School Risk - Low Commitment to School

District	Grade	Gang involved	Not Gang involved
Auburn	8	41.7%	35.5%
	10	-	-
Federal Way	8	53.6%	31.2%
	10	53.8%	38.1%
Highline	8	63.6%	38.8%
	10	-	-
Kent	8	56.4%	30.6%
	10	-	-
Renton	8	-	-
	10	56.0%	37.3%
Seattle	8	56.8%	34.3%
	10	62.4%	37.8%

Source: Healthy Youth Survey 2016

Table 9: Community Risk - Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use

District	Grade	Gang involved	Not Gang involved
Auburn	8	45.8%	18.5%
	10	-	-
Federal Way	8	39.3%	25.5%
	10	57.1%	29.5%
Highline	8	48.5%	29.9%
	10	-	-
Kent	8	35.9%	21.1%
	10	-	-
Renton	8	-	-
	10	44.0%	25.3%
Seattle	8	49.2%	21.7%
	10	50.6%	26.4%

Source: Healthy Youth Survey 2016

Not surprisingly, risk factors for both domains were much higher for group-involved youth than youth who were not-involved in gangs. For example, in general, group-involved youth at both the 8th and 10th grade levels were considerably more likely to have higher risk factors associated with low commitment to school than non-involved youth (Table 8). Moreover, group-involved youth were significantly more likely to perceive community laws and norms that are favorable to drug use as compared to non-involved youth (Table 9). These differences were notable across grade levels.

Summary

Overall, HYS data indicate a larger percentage of 10th graders in the LINC districts believe there are gangs in their schools than the state average, with nearly one-in-four perceiving this to be true. Self-reports of gang membership among 8th grade youth was higher than the state average in all LINC districts except for Renton and Tukwila, with the highest rate reported in Kent. Among 10th grade youth statewide, 5 percent of youth self-identified as a gang-member (in 2016), with this percentage higher in both Federal

Way and Kent. In Kent, more than one-in-ten 10th grade youth admitted to being in a gang. An estimated 800 students across the LINC region in grades 8 and 10 self-reported gang membership in the past year. Although gun carrying among 8th and 10th grade respondents is relatively rare, from 2.2. percent to 5.8 percent reported doing so in the past month. This equates to roughly 450 youth (8th and 10th graders) that self-reported carrying a gun for purposes other than hunting during the past month.

Not surprisingly, across all analyzed categories, data showed significant differences in responses between gang-involved youth and youth who were not gang-involved. Specifically, comparison analyses indicated that gang-involved youth were considerably more likely to participate in problematic behaviors than non-gang-involved youth. Gang-involved youth were two to four times more likely to engage in physical fights, and seven-to-ten times more likely to carry a handgun on school property (numbers varied according to grade level, with highest numbers reported at the 8th grade level). Students that admitted group involvement were also less likely to engage in school and were more likely to perceive laws and norms favorable to drug-use as compared to non-group involved youth.

V. COMMUNITY RISK & CRIME

This section of the report examines community-level trends in crime and violence among adolescent youth in the LINC communities as compared to Washington State. Crime statistics focus on youth between the ages of 10 – 17 years of age. The data reported here are from the *Risk and Protection Profile for Substance Abuse Prevention in Washington Communities* (DSHS 2017) for each of the respective LINC communities.

Community Risk Factors: Juvenile Delinquency and Juvenile Crime

The data in Table 10 show the rate per 1,000 students of incidents involving guns and other weapons in schools.

Table 10: 2007-2016 Weapons Incidents in School Rate per 1,000

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
State	3.07	2.92	2.85	2.80	2.66	2.61	2.00	1.89	1.78	1.68
Auburn	3.93	3.94	2.21	3.31	2.11	1.93	2.57	1.92	2.01	0.95
Federal Way	4.79	3.79	2.50	2.85	3.20	2.54	2.29	1.33	1.38	2.00
Highline	6.22	5.83	3.93	5.69	3.56	3.63	3.59	2.44	1.86	2.71
Kent	3.60	3.35	3.46	3.38	2.96	2.61	2.18	2.02	1.66	1.91
Renton	2.95	2.18	4.78	2.46	3.10	3.14	2.87	2.63	2.82	2.44
Seattle	2.00	3.38	3.89	1.98	3.79	3.46	2.63	2.04	2.64	1.89
Tukwila	5.88	7.35	7.80	5.45	3.41	2.02	2.03	1.69	3.27	3.95

Note: The reported incidents involving guns and other weapons at any grade level per 1000 students enrolled (October) all grades.

Since 2007, in Washington State and across all LINC districts, the rate of weapon incidents in schools has declined. This decline is most notable in the Auburn School District, with the rate falling to 0.95 in 2016 from 3.93 in 2007 – a nearly fourfold reduction. In the Federal Way, Highline, and Tukwila school districts, however, these types of incidents increased between 2015 and 2016, albeit rates remain below those reported in 2007.

Table 11: 2006-2015 Total Arrest Rate of Adolescents (Age 10-17) per 1,000³

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
State	48.41	48.97	45.54	41.43	39.37	37.13	26.75	27.67	25.64	23.68
Auburn	58.65	57.67	63.07	41.22	37.35	27.92	23.10	24.32	18.24	15.91
Federal Way	UN	42.40	40.54	39.14	41.04	29.58	21.60	26.53	21.38	20.87
Highline	35.18	36.14	31.77	38.32	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Kent	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	13.54	25.82	20.80
Renton	54.91	54.02	UN	UN	NR	UN	18.37	17.80	21.61	14.46
Seattle	45.67	46.54	20.05	16.11	13.02	10.99	21.56	27.65	25.24	22.07
Tukwila	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	168.40	146.14	203.57	197.93	184.36

Note: The arrests of adolescents (age 10-17) for any crime, per 1,000 adolescents. UN=unavailable; NR = not reported. Due to the changes in data collection and reporting, caution should be used when interpreting trends in arrest rates (see footnote).

³ Washington State has transitioned from Summary UCR to the NIBRS system for reporting. Summary UCR collects eight (8) Part One Crime offenses: criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson. NIBRS collects information on 23 different offenses, including all Part One Crimes plus others, including forcible and non-forcible sex offenses, fraud, kidnapping, and drug violations. Care must be taken when interpreting the yearly trend of "total arrest" rates for an area.

Statewide there has been a significant and steady decline in the arrests of adolescents (age 10-17) since 2006 (Table 11). In fact, the 2015 arrest rate was 24.73 points lower as compared to 2006 at the state level (23.68 vs. 48.41, 2006), representing a 51 percent reduction. Declines in juvenile arrest rates were also demonstrated at the local level (where data were available and reported) across LINC jurisdictions. For example, juvenile arrest rates declined significantly in the City of Auburn with a nearly 43-point drop in 2015 as compared to 2006 (15.91 vs. 58.65, 2006). In Seattle, although arrest rates have declined by nearly half as compared to 2006, the current rate (2015) is well above the low reported in 2011. In the City of Tukwila arrest rates consistently exceeded state averages and outpaced surrounding jurisdictions across reporting years. In large part this is attributed to the large influx of people coming into the city on a daily basis. Nonetheless, it should be noted that adolescent arrest rates declined between 2013 and 2015 – similar to patterns elsewhere.

Table 12: 2006-2015 Property Crime Arrests (Age 10-17) Rate per 1,000

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
State	15.71	16.32	15.41	13.75	12.40	12.27	8.93	8.34	7.77	6.93
Auburn	21.81	18.12	31.11	18.39	16.38	11.85	11.10	10.04	5.82	2.27
Federal Way	UN	19.87	19.17	17.91	22.11	14.70	11.33	13.03	10.10	8.46
Highline	11.35	15.13	11.89	13.66	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Kent	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	4.67	6.59	4.74
Renton	13.35	13.16	UN	UN	NR	UN	10.69	9.15	12.42	7.48
Seattle	21.13	21.64	6.47	4.23	3.93	2.63	5.91	7.36	6.10	5.86
Tukwila	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	122.84	115.07	139.74	118.53	109.02

Note: The arrests of adolescents (age 10-17) for property crimes. Property crimes include all crimes involving burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. UN=unavailable; NR = not reported.

As with overall adolescent arrest rates, data illustrate similar reductions in reported arrests for property crimes at both the state and local levels. Among LINC cities reporting in 2015, data indicate lower rates of arrests of juveniles for property related crimes as compared to 2014 – a trend consistent with statewide rates.

Table 13: 2006-2015 Violent Crime Arrests (Age 10-17) Rate per 1,000

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
State	2.25	2.46	2.25	2.31	2.13	1.80	1.48	1.66	1.59	1.55
Auburn	3.49	2.98	2.01	1.88	1.72	1.71	1.02	0.89	0.99	0.22
Federal Way	UN	2.39	2.55	2.21	2.91	1.75	0.79	2.20	1.80	2.95
Highline	1.84	3.46	2.77	5.97	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Kent	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	1.17	2.33	1.30
Renton	2.81	2.67	UN	UN	NR	UN	0.75	1.76	1.74	0.74
Seattle	4.47	5.57	5.19	5.10	3.20	2.80	4.37	5.30	4.62	4.84
Tukwila	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	3.46	1.73	0.58	2.88	2.85

Note: The arrests of adolescents (age 10-17) for violent crime include all crimes involving criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Simple assault is not defined as a violent crime. UN=unavailable; NR = not reported.

Table 13 shows the rate of juvenile arrests for violent crimes (e.g. criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) at the state and local levels. As with the overall adolescent crime rates, statewide violent crime arrest rates have steadily declined following a peak in 2007. Among LINC cities juvenile violent crime arrest rates have varied. For example, a significant reduction was noted for the

City of Auburn, while these rates increased in the cities of Federal Way and Seattle. For the City of Tukwila, violent crime rates vary widely, but show an overall decline in such arrests.

Community Risk Factors: Violent Crime and Crime Rate⁴

Calculating the crime rate is a way of normalizing between two different units (e.g., cities) and allows for a better understanding of the impact of crime in a given population. In the tables below are the number of (total) reported violent crime events (including homicide, robbery, aggravated assaults, and rape) with the corresponding rate per 1,000 people for the LINC communities and Washington State during the period of January 2012 – December 2016.

Table 14: 2006-2016 Violent Crime Rate per 1000 – City of Auburn

Auburn	2012 Count	2012 Rate	2013 Count	2013 Rate	2014 Count	2014 Rate	2015 Count	2015 Rate	2016 Count	2016 Rate
Homicide	6	0.1	5	0.1	1	0.0	8	0.0	6	0.1
Robbery	110	1.5	110	1.5	105	1.4	92	1.2	98	1.3
Aggravated Assault	109	1.5	145	2.0	157	2.1	188	2.5	179	2.3
Rape	23	0.3	27	0.4	35	0.5	31	0.4	42	0.5
Total Violent Crime	248	3.4	287	4.0	298	4.0	319	4.1	325	4.2

Auburn: In the City of Auburn, the total violent crime rate has increased over the 5-year period from 3.4 to 4.2 violent crimes per 1,000 people, representing a 24 percent growth in reports of crimes within these categories. In large part this increase is attributed to the steady and consistent rise in aggravated assaults – with a 64 percent increase in the number of these events in 2016 as compared to 2012 (325, 2016 vs. 248, 2012). Additionally, there has been a nearly two-fold increase in the number of rapes across the study period (42, 2016 vs. 23, 2012).

Table 15: 2006-2016 Violent Crime per 1000 – City of Burien

Burien	2012 Count	2012 Rate	2013 Count	2013 Rate	2014 Count	2014 Rate	2015 Count	2015 Rate	2016 Count	2016 Rate
Homicide	2	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.1
Robbery	95	2.0	65	1.4	81	1.6	75	1.5	77	1.5
Aggravated Assault	126	2.6	75	1.6	136	2.7	84	1.7	126	2.5
Rape	44	0.9	37	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total Violent Crime	267	5.5	177	3.8	219	4.3	159	3.2	206	4.1

Burien: The City of Burien has experienced a decline in total violent crime since 2012, with 61 fewer events reported in 2016 (206, 2016 vs. 267, 2012) – a 23 percent reduction. The reduction in violent crime is likely a result of fewer reported robberies over the 5-year period. In addition, data indicate a dramatic decline in the number of reported rapes, from 44 in 2012 to no reported incidents between 2014 and 2016.

⁴ Source: Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs - Crime in Washington, 2012-2016.

Note: Crime rates are calculated as (Number of Crimes/Population) X 1,000 = Crime Rate per 1,000

Table 16: 2006-2016 Violent Crime per 1000 – City of Federal Way

Federal Way	2012 Count	2012 Rate	2013 Count	2013 Rate	2014 Count	2014 Rate	2015 Count	2015 Rate	2016 Count	2016 Rate
Homicide	3	0.0	6	0.1	4	0.0	4	0.0	9	0.1
Robbery	107	1.2	108	1.2	135	1.5	152	1.7	193	2.1
Aggravated Assault	152	1.7	134	1.5	148	1.6	178	2.0	205	2.2
Rape	43	0.4	36	0.4	62	0.7	40	0.4	47	0.5
Total Violent Crime	305	3.3	284	3.2	349	3.8	374	4.1	454	4.9

Federal Way: As with the City of Auburn, Federal Way has experienced an increase in the total violent crime rate. Over the 5-year period, the number of these crime types increased by nearly 50 percent, and the violent crime rate rose by 1.6 points (4.9, 2016 vs. 3.3, 2012). Rates have increased across all categories of violent crime. In fact, the number of robberies nearly doubled in 2016 as compared to 2012 (193, 2016 vs. 107, 2012) and aggravated assaults have risen by over one-third (205, 2016 vs. 152, 2012). Moreover, the number of homicides has tripled since 2012, although these events are rare.

Table 17: 2006-2016 Violent Crime per 1000 – City of Kent

Kent	2012 Count	2012 Rate	2013 Count	2013 Rate	2014 Count	2014 Rate	2015 Count	2015 Rate	2016 Count	2016 Rate
Homicide	2	0.0	2	0.0	3	0.0	5	0.0	6	0.0
Robbery	194	1.6	110	1.2	160	1.3	144	1.2	167	1.3
Aggravated Assault	279	2.3	79	0.7	135	1.1	129	1.0	140	1.1
Rape	68	0.6	30	0.3	43	0.4	49	0.4	57	0.5
Total Violent Crime	543	4.5	221	2.2	341	2.8	327	2.6	370	2.9

Kent: The rate of violent crime within the City of Kent was 2.9 in 2016, well below the 2012 rate (4.5) and represents a 1.6-point decline, attributing to an overall number of these crime types down by 32 percent. However, following a significant reduction in reported robberies, aggravated assaults, and rapes between 2012 and 2013, data show a steady increase in crime categories beginning in 2014, including an increase in reported homicides across the 5-year period.

Table 18: 2006-2016 Violent Crime per 1000 – City of Renton

Renton	2012 Count	2012 Rate	2013 Count	2013 Rate	2014 Count	2014 Rate	2015 Count	2015 Rate	2016 Count	2016 Rate
Homicide	2	0.0	3	0.0	4	0.0	4	0.0	3	0.0
Robbery	115	1.3	101	1.1	83	0.9	101	1.0	145	1.4
Aggravated Assault	141	1.4	123	1.3	118	1.2	156	1.6	142	1.4
Rape	28	0.3	26	0.3	23	0.2	37	0.4	33	0.3
Total Violent Crime	286	3.0	253	2.7	228	2.3	298	3.0	323	3.1

Renton: Total violent crime in the City of Renton has increased slightly over the 5-year period, with a 13 percent rise in the number of these event types since 2012 (323, 2016 vs. 286, 2012) (Table 17). This is a result of an increase in reported robberies. Of particular note, however, is the considerable increase in the number of these types of events between 2015 and 2016, following a 3-year decline.

Table 19: 2006-2016 Violent Crime per 1000 – City of SeaTac

SeaTac	2012 Count	2012 Rate	2013 Count	2013 Rate	2014 Count	2014 Rate	2015 Count	2015 Rate	2016 Count	2016 Rate
Homicide	1	0.0	2	0.1	1	0.0	5	0.2	2	0.1
Robbery	69	2.5	66	2.4	87	3.1	63	2.2	69	2.4
Aggravated Assault	55	2.0	68	2.5	61	2.2	78	2.7	60	2.1
Rape	30	1.1	36	1.3	0	0.0	5	0.2	0	0.0
Total Violent Crime	155	5.6	172	6.3	149	5.3	151	5.3	131	4.6

SeaTac: The City of SeaTac also experienced a slight reduction in violent crime, with the total violent crime rate down by 1-point as compared to 2012 (4.6, 2016 vs. 5.6, 2012). This reduction was attributed to declines in both the reported number of robberies and aggravated assaults. In fact, data indicate the number of reported aggravated assaults has declined by 38 percent since 2012 (58, 2016 vs. 93, 2012).

Table 20: 2006-2016 Violent Crime per 1000 – City of Seattle

Seattle	2012 Count	2012 Rate	2013 Count	2013 Rate	2014 Count	2014 Rate	2015 Count	2015 Rate	2016 Count	2016 Rate
Homicide	24	0.0	19	0.0	26	0.0	20	0.0	19	0.0
Robbery	1,433	2.3	1,592	2.5	1,572	2.5	1,516	0.2	1,542	2.2
Aggravated Assault	2,190	3.6	1,983	3.2	2,266	3.5	2,397	3.6	2,466	3.6
Rape	118	0.2	99	0.2	122	0.2	108	2.3	196	0.3
Total Violent Crime	3,765	6.1	3,693	5.9	3,986	6.2	4,041	6.1	4,223	6.1

Seattle: In the City of Seattle, the total violent crime rate has remained mostly steady over the study period. However, there was a notable increase in the reported number of aggravated assaults, up by 13 percent as compared to 2012 (2466 vs. 2190), with a considerable rise in the number of reported rapes as well (196 vs. 118).

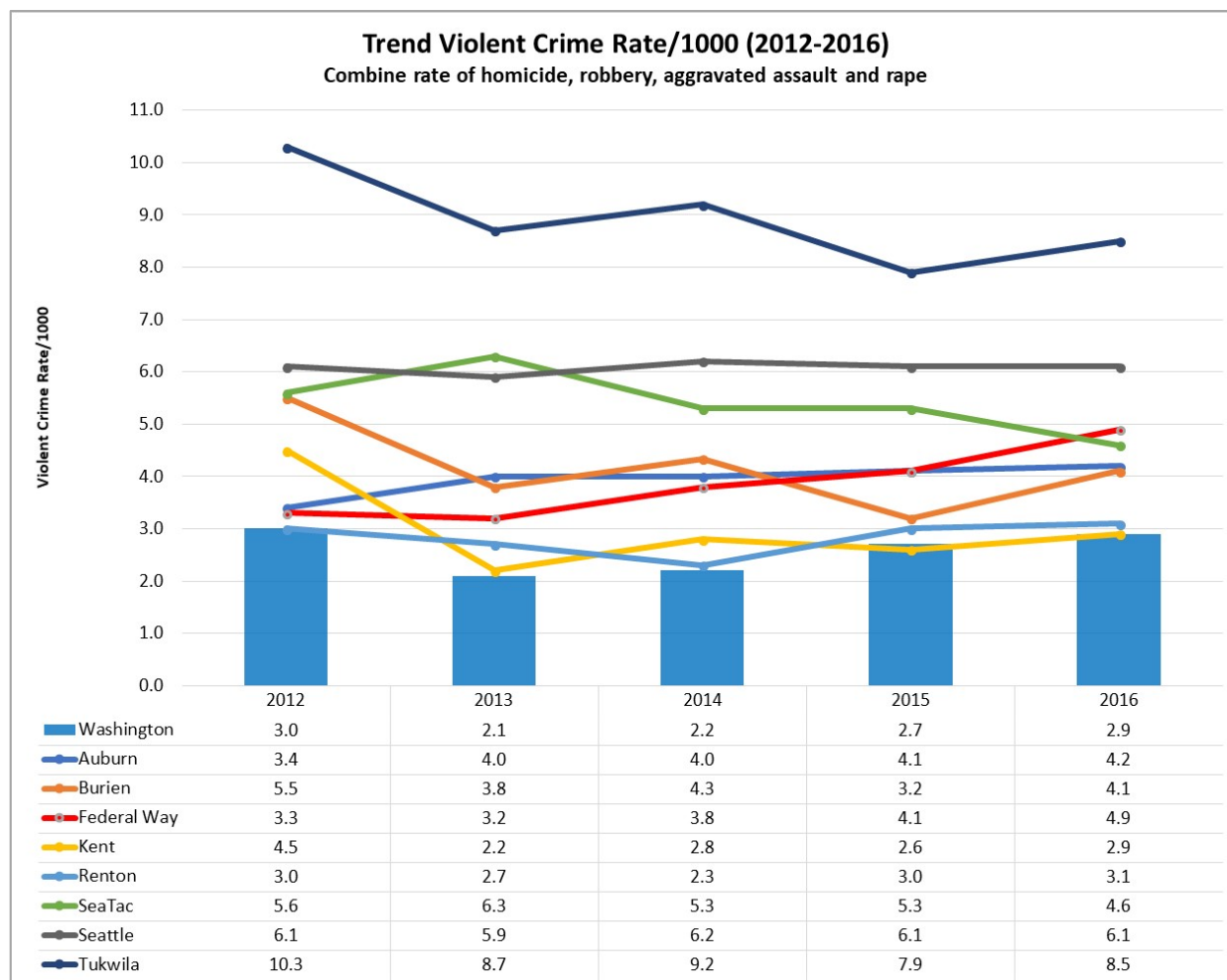
Table 21: 2006-2016 Violent Crime per 1000 – City of Tukwila

Tukwila	2012 Count	2012 Rate	2013 Count	2013 Rate	2014 Count	2014 Rate	2015 Count	2015 Rate	2016 Count	2016 Rate
Homicide	3	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.1	1	0.1	1	0.1
Robbery	101	5.3	86	4.5	80	4.2	62	3.2	83	4.2
Aggravated Assault	93	4.9	52	2.7	85	4.4	70	3.6	58	3.0
Rape	0	0.0	29	1.5	10	0.5	19	1.0	24	1.2
Total Violent Crime	197	10.3	167	8.7	176	9.2	152	7.9	166	8.5

Tukwila: Total violent crime in the City of Tukwila has declined over the study period, with 16 percent fewer crimes reported since 2012 (166, 2016 vs. 197, 2012), and a nearly two-point drop in the total violent crime rate (8.5, 2016 vs. 10.3, 2012). These data show reductions across all crime categories, except rape. The number of reported robbery events have decreased by 18 percent (83, 2016 vs. 101, 2012), while the number of reported aggravated assaults has declined by 60 percent since 2012 (58, 2016 vs. 93, 2012).

The graph below displays the trend in the combined (homicide, robbery, aggravated assault, rape) violent crime rate from 2012 through 2016, comparing Washington State to the seven (7) LINC communities.

Figure 12: Trend Combined Violent Crime Rate per 1000 – Washington State and LINC Cities

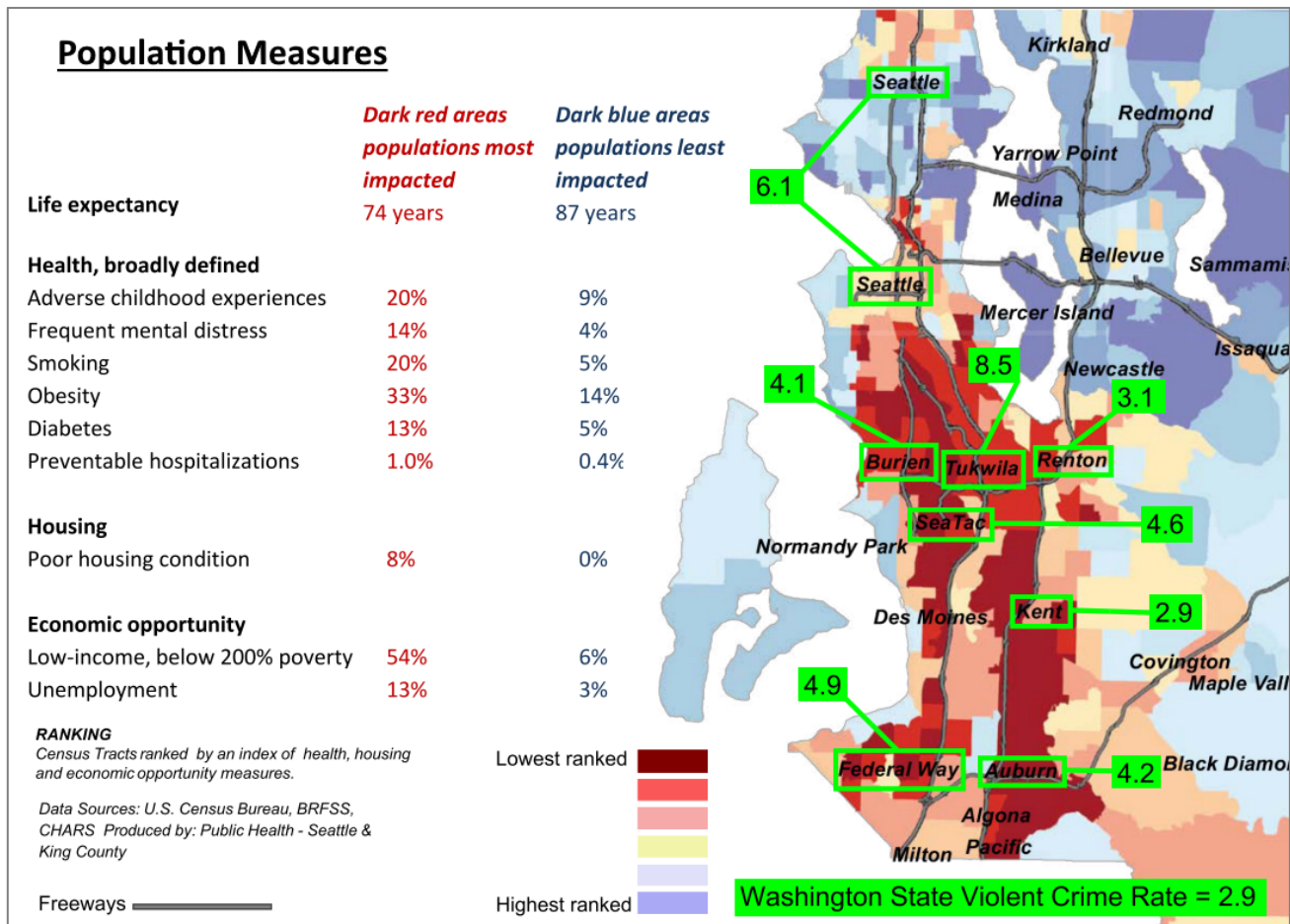


Source: Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs - Crime in Washington, 2012-2016

As shown in Figure 12, the combined violent crime rate in the State of Washington fluctuated over the 5-year period, with the rate declining in 2013, and rising steadily since. Across LINC cities, the total violent crime rate has been consistently at or above the state rate, with rates persistently and significantly elevated for the City of Tukwila. Between 2015 and 2016, data illustrate a rise in violent crime rates in the cities of Burien, Federal Way, Kent and Tukwila. Despite these most recent increases, the violent crime rate decreased or remained flat in nearly all LINC cities, except Auburn, which experienced a 24 percent increase (4.1, 2016 vs. 3.4, 2012) as compared to 2012 rates.

We end this section of the report with a visual representation of the LINC region that underscores how conditions that perpetuate poverty and foster violence often intersect and reinforce each other. Figure 13 overlays the population measure data discussed earlier in the report with rates of violent crime for each of the LINC communities.

Figure 13: Population Measures and Violent Crime Rates per 1000 by LINC City



This graphic presentation visually confirms that in the LINC region high rates of concentrated disadvantage are correlated to higher than average rates of violent crime. Research has found that people living in poverty are more likely than people with higher incomes to become victims of violence. In fact, nationally, individuals with the lowest incomes (e.g. household income less than \$10,000) experience a rate of violent victimization that is over 200 percent higher than those with the highest incomes (e.g., household income of \$75,000 or greater). Moreover, the disparity is even greater for serious violent crime (such as homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) (Truman & Morgan 2016).

Summary

In summary, community risk factors associated with juvenile crime and delinquency demonstrate a reduction in incidents of weapon carrying in LINC school districts, similar to statewide trends. Further, overall adolescent arrest rates (ages 10-17) have declined considerably at the state level since 2012. Declines were also noted among all reporting LINC jurisdictions with the exception of Tukwila. Arrest rates for violent crimes committed by adolescents showed a steady decline statewide, although these rates varied among LINC communities. Examination of overall levels of violent crime in LINC communities between 2012 – 2016 illustrate that rates have been at or considerably above the state rate, with these trending slightly higher in Auburn and Federal Way, while remaining stable in Renton and Seattle. Moreover, findings showed that higher crime areas correlate with regions of the county highly impacted by health and environmental factors.

VI. GROUP/GANG-INVOLVED POPULATION

In the spring of 2017, the Research Partner, Maike & Associates, conducted individual agency group audits with law enforcement personnel from the LINC region which included representatives from the cities of Auburn, Burien, Des Moines, Federal Way, Kent, Renton, SeaTac and Tukwila and the King County Sheriff's Office. Group audits were conducted as part of the implementation of the Comprehensive Gang Model for the LINC project. Participants included crime analysts, school resource officers, patrol officers, gang unit detectives, and officers from special investigations units, special operations units, neighborhood response teams, community police teams, direct enforcement teams, and a graffiti specialist. In total 30 individuals participated in this process.

A group audit is the technique used to collect the best available intelligence information on violent groups, their members, their relationships with one another, and any potential and/or active conflicts. The group audit is a structured, systematic collection of the kind of unfiltered details known most often by front-line officers who interact most closely with groups/group members, rather than relying solely on standard official police data. This process allows law enforcement and researchers to answer the questions uppermost in everyone's minds: which groups are most violent, and how violent are they?

For the purpose of the audit, groups were broadly defined as, "any durable, street-oriented (youth or adult) group whose involvement in illegal activity is part of its group identity" (Weerman et al., 2009). The audit was comprised of three steps. First, participants were asked to name all of the groups known to be operating within their city/jurisdiction. Second, participants were asked to answer a number of questions about each identified group. Questions included demographic makeup, the geographic location of the group (where they typically operate, or are known to be found), the core criminal activities the group engaged in, and the level of organization and violence of the group. The third step was to discuss which groups had conflicts with each other and which seemed to be in an alliance.

The collective information gathered from LINC law enforcement agencies were combined to generate a "big picture" view of the groups operating in South King County (See Figure 14).⁵ A summary of the combined group audit findings follows.⁶

South King County Group Audit Summary⁷

Fifty (50) unduplicated groups were identified as operating in the South County region, with an additional 20 unique groups identified by the Seattle Police Department during a series of two group audits conducted in 2016 (information about Seattle groups are not included in this summary, see Appendix A), with an overall total of 70 unique groups across the LINC region. The geographic locations of the groups can be found in Figure 14 (additional maps are located in Appendix C).

Findings illustrated that these groups/gangs were not equally distributed across the LINC region. There were

⁵ Results from each jurisdiction were validated independently by participating law enforcement officers. Results were then combined for the purpose of this report. Findings were presented to the KCPAO 3Pi intel group on October 3rd, 2017. No changes were identified by officers or analysts participating in that meeting.

⁶ These results reflect the knowledge and intelligence that participants had at the time of the audit. Due to the dynamic nature of the activity of the groups operating in King County, any information or intelligence that has been gained about these groups, or new groups operating in the area since then, are not reflected in this report. The interpretation of these results should be used to inform prevention, intervention, and suppression strategies, and are not exhaustive.

⁷ Format adapted from: Fox, Andrew M., Michelle M. Maike, Megan B. Osborne, Tasha M. Fox. (2016). Comprehensive Community Assessment, Seattle, Washington. Maike & Associates.

7 groups in Auburn, 7 in Burien, 9 in Des Moines, 5 in Federal Way, 18 in Kent, 6 in Renton, 8 in Tukwila, and 14 in the unincorporated areas of King County, and 42 in Seattle.

Group audit participants estimated the number of group members to be between 830 and 2,600 individuals across South King County (excluding Seattle). These groups ranged in size from 2 to 600 individuals. Groups averaged between 19 to 60 members; however, about 62 percent of the groups had fewer than 30 members. The largest group was 74 Hoovers, followed by Down Wit the Crew (Table 20).

Across groups, member ages ranged from 7 to 72 years, with the average age between 15 to 33 years. The race/ethnicity of these groups varied, with 40 percent of groups primarily Hispanic members, and 32 percent primarily Black American members. Other groups were comprised of East African members, individuals from Samoa/Pacific Islands, and Asia/SE Asia, as well as one group with White members and membership in one group primarily Native American. Identified, unduplicated, groups are shown in Table 20, and includes group size, primary race/ethnicity, and levels of violence and organization. (See Appendix D for a full list of groups/gangs by location).

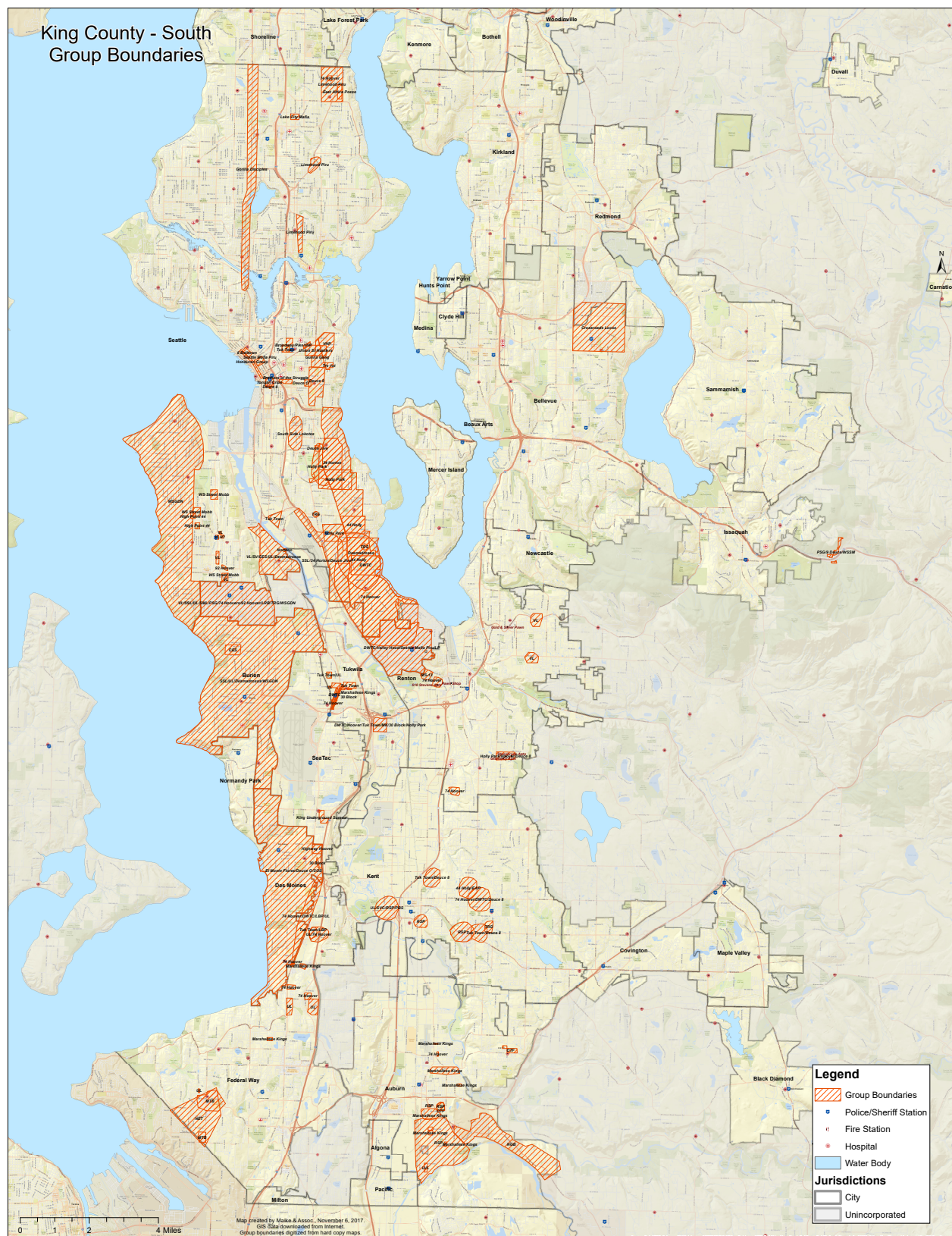
Table 22: South King County Group Characteristics

Group Name	Estimated Size (Range)	Primary Race/Ethnicity	Level of Violence	Level of Organization
30 Block	5-5	Hispanic	Extremely violent	Highly organized
44 Holly	10-50	Black American	Extremely violent	Highly organized
74 Hoovers	5-600	Black American	Extremely violent	Highly organized
9 Deuce Hoover	25-30	Black American.	Extremely violent	Highly organized
Callejones Escondidos	10-15	Hispanic	Extremely violent	Highly organized
Crossroads Locos	unknown	Hispanic	unknown	unknown
Desmadrosos	5-7	Hispanic	Extremely violent	Highly organized
Deuce 8	5-150	Black American	Extremely violent	Highly organized
Deuce Jive	20-25	Black American.	Extremely violent	Highly organized
Deuce O	25-30	Black American.	Extremely violent	Highly organized
Down Wit the Crew	2-250	Black American	Extremely violent	Highly organized
East African Posse	unknown	African	Extremely violent	Not Organized
El Monte Flores	25-30	Hispanic	Extremely violent	Not Organized
Holly Park	3-6	African	Extremely violent	Not very organized
Hoovers (Highway)	5-7	Black American	Extremely violent	Not very organized
Horten Tre 4	20-25	Black American	Extremely violent	Somewhat organized
King Underground Surenos	unknown	Hispanic	unknown	unknown
Little Brown Pride	2-25	Hispanic	Extremely violent	Somewhat organized
Little Ruthless Boyz	25-30	Asian	Extremely violent	Somewhat organized
Little Valley Lokotes	3-10	Hispanic	Extremely violent	Somewhat organized
Low Profile	6-75	Black American	Extremely violent	Somewhat organized
Marshallese Kings	2-40	Pacific Islander	Extremely violent	Somewhat organized
Money Team Boys/Murder Team Bitches	18-20	Black, Mix	Extremely violent	Somewhat organized
Native Gangsters	15-20	Native American	Extremely violent	Somewhat organized
North East Tacoma	15-15	White	Extremely violent	Somewhat organized

Group Name	Estimated Size (Range)	Primary Race/Ethnicity	Level of Violence	Level of Organization
Only the Family	8-10	Black American	Not very violent	Not Organized
Playboy Surenos	2-50	Hispanic	Not very violent	Not Organized
Point Side Gangsters	75-100	Black American	Not very violent	Not Organized
Rancho San Pedros	2-40	Hispanic	Not very violent	Not very organized
Seattle Mafia	25-30	Black American	Not very violent	Not very organized
Sereno Villains	10-15	Hispanic	Not very violent	Not very organized
Surenos Malditas Locas	15-20	Hispanic	Not very violent	Not very organized
Sons of Samoa	25-75	Pacific Islander	Not violent	Highly organized
South Side Locos	75-100	Hispanic	Not violent	Not very organized
South Valley Cliqua	5-45	Hispanic	Somewhat violent	Not Organized
Southside Original Gang	unknown	Hispanic	Somewhat violent	Not Organized
Southside Surenos	5-10	Hispanic	Somewhat violent	Not Organized
Steam-Team	12-12	Pacific Islander	Somewhat violent	Not very organized
Team Greeze	20-20	Hispanic	Somewhat violent	Not very organized
Tiny Rascal Gangsters	75-100	Asian	Somewhat violent	Not very organized
Tuk Town	10-25	Black, Mix	Somewhat violent	Not very organized
Union Street	20-125	Black American	Somewhat violent	Not very organized
United Latinos	25-30	Hispanic	Somewhat violent	Not very organized
United Lokotes	2-50	Hispanic	Somewhat violent	Not very organized
Valley Piru	75-100	Black American	Extremely violent	Somewhat organized
Varrios Locos	30-125	Hispanic	Somewhat violent	Somewhat organized
Westside Gangster Disciple Nation	20-25	Black, Mix	Somewhat violent	Somewhat organized
Westside Mafia	25-30	Pacific Islander	Somewhat violent	Somewhat organized
Westside Street Mobb	25-30	SE Asian	Somewhat violent	Not very organized
Yesler Terrace	unknown	Black American	unknown	unknown

Figure 14 provides the geographic boundaries of identified groups reported to be operating across the LINC region.

Figure 14: South King County Group Boundaries

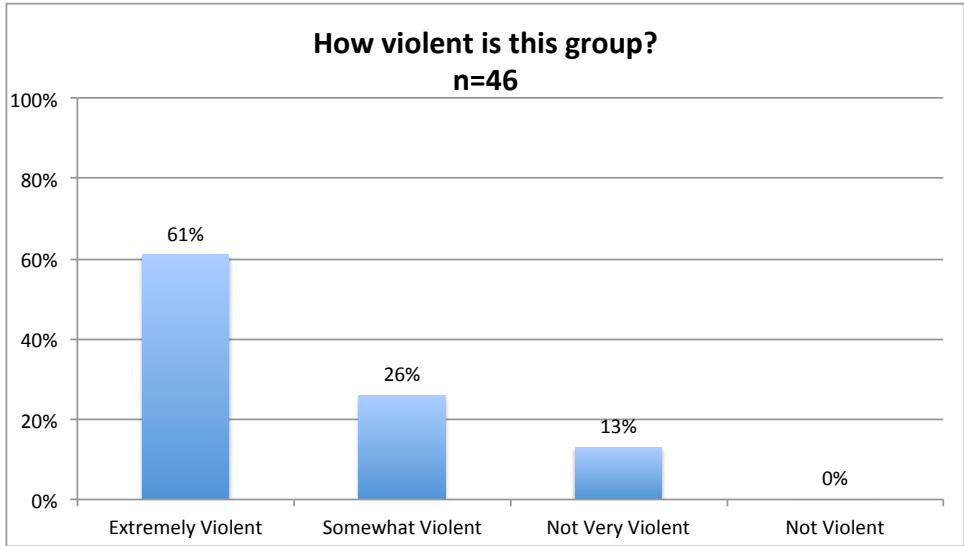


Criminal Activities, Violence, and Organization

Participants were asked to indicate the core criminal activities associated with each identified group. These activities ranged from drug sales and organized retail theft, to car prowls and robbery, prostitution, drive by shootings, gun trafficking, and homicide. Approximately three-quarters (74%) of these groups were explicitly identified as being involved in violent crime (e.g., shootings, armed robberies, other gun-related offenses).

Participants were also asked to indicate the level of violence for each group. The answer options were: extremely violent, somewhat violent, not very violent, and not violent. Figure 15 displays the level of violence among the groups.

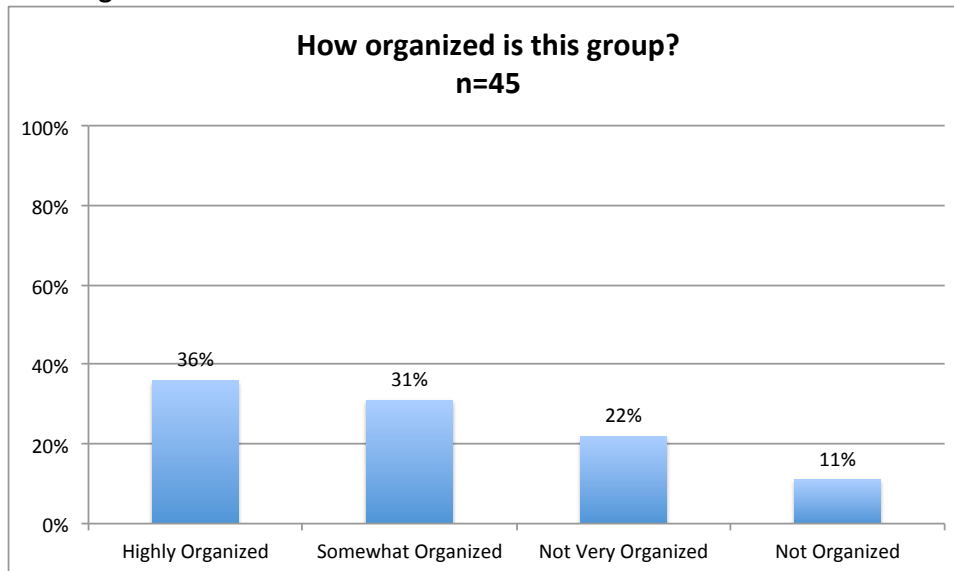
Figure 15: Level of Violence



All groups were identified as expressing some degree of violence with an overwhelming majority (61%) identified as extremely violent and 13 percent as not very violent. Twenty-three (23) groups were identified as extremely violent. These included: 30 Block, 44 Holly, 74 Hoovers, 9 Deuce Hoover, Callejones Escondidos, Desmadrosos, El Monte Little Brown Pride, Little Valley Lokotes, Low Profile Flores, Deuce 8, Deuce Jive, Deuce O, Down Wit the Crew, Hoovers (Highway), Horten Tre 4, Marshallese Kings, Money Team Boys/Murder Team Bitches, Native Gangsters, North East Tacoma, and Valley Piru.

Participants were also asked to indicate the level of organization among the groups, with answer options: Highly organized, somewhat organized, not very organized, and not organized. Figure 15 displays the level of organization among groups.

Figure 16: Level of Organization



Levels of organization varied, with two-thirds (67%) being identified as being at least somewhat organized (36% highly organized), and one in ten (11%) were identified as not organized. Eleven (11) groups were identified as highly organized. These included: 44 Holly, 74 Hoovers, 9 Duece Hoovers, Duece 8, Deuce Jive, Deuce 0, Down With the Crew, 30 Block, Callenjones Escondidos, Desmadrosos, and Sons of Samoa.

Network of Conflicts and Alliances⁸

The next phase of the analysis involved examining the networks of conflicts and alliances between groups. Social network analysis (SNA) allows us to better understand the interconnectedness of these groups. In the following section, we include a brief summary of the findings from the SNA conducted as part of the group audit process (See Appendix E for the full report).

A group's position within a conflict and alliance network will show their embeddedness in the ongoing criminal activity among groups. Network position matters – at the individual level, one's social network predicts their likelihood of victimization (Papachristos, Braga, & Hureau, 2012; Papachristos, Wildeman, & Roberto, 2014). At the group level, not all groups are equal. Some are more central to the conflict and violence than others. Understanding the social structure of these groups is an important step toward effective intervention, allowing criminal justice and social service partners to prioritize enforcement and intervention.

Our findings indicated that 27 of the 50 south county groups identified through this process were connected to each other. Moreover, it is clear that there is frequent interaction between these groups; with two-sub networks connected by just two groups: the Marshallese Kings and 30 Block. Moreover, that five groups, 74 Hoovers, Rancho San Pedros, Little Brown Pride, United Lokotes, and Playboy Surenos, play the most central roles in this network, according to the number of ties they have with the other groups. SNA findings further demonstrated that of the groups identified in South King County, 22 were identified as being involved in a

⁸ The findings of the SNA process are dependent upon the level of information and available intelligence at the time of the group audit process. As a result, these data are influenced by intelligence from law enforcement agencies (LEA) that had a higher level of detailed information about groups operating in the area. These results may not be reflective of all available intelligence in the region and should be further validated across jurisdictions.

conflict or “beef” with another group in the region. And, when examining only the conflict networks, these groups separate into two distinct sub-networks: one sub-network comprised of predominantly Hispanic groups, and the other of predominantly Black/African/African American groups.

Summary:

The group audits conducted with law enforcement partners in the cities of Auburn, Federal Way, Kent, Renton, and Tukwila in spring 2017, helped develop a broader understanding of the groups involved in violence in South King County, and the relationships between those groups. Overall, 50 unique groups were identified as operating in this region (for a total of 70 unduplicated groups including the City of Seattle) and that between these groups, membership ranged from a total of 830 to 2,600 members.

Identified groups commonly engaged in violence as well as a host of other criminal activity as part of their group identity. All of these groups engaged in some degree of violence, with 61% listed as extremely violent; and two-thirds of these groups were rated as at least somewhat organized (67%). Some groups operated in overlapping geographic areas, as shown in Figure 14, and many of these groups were also identified as operating in overlapping social space, which can be observed through the social networks (See Appendix E).

Findings from the network analysis showed that not all groups were equal in their involvement or position in the networks. Of the 50 groups, 27 had ties to other groups (alliance, beef, or volatile). Of those 27 groups, 22 (81%) were involved in a conflict (beef) with at least one other group. Not surprisingly, some groups played a more central role, based on the number of ties they had with other groups in the network, while other groups held unique “bridging positions” playing the role of connectors. Understanding a group’s position and role within the network can help inform effective intervention strategies to disrupt network ties and the associated crime and violence.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based upon the findings of the regional assessment update, we make the following recommendations as a means of strengthening the implementation of the Comprehensive Gang Model in the LINC region.

Recommendation 1: Strengthen Community Mobilization strategies.

In light of current events within the LINC communities, including a rise in violent crime, as well as increased perceptions of groups and group activity among both youth and law enforcement agencies, it is important to strengthen community mobilization efforts. These strategies are one of the most appropriate ways to address the causes of groups, as they work to improve the physical and social organization of the community. Effective mobilization strategies involve local citizens, agencies, groups, and former gang members, and require coordination within and across community agencies, such as schools, churches, criminal justice, and public health agencies. In collaboration with highly impacted communities, identify and implement focused community mobilization approaches that are inclusive of community voice, community-led, and are culturally appropriate.

Recommendation 2: Expand Opportunities Provision strategies.

Expand provision of opportunities to include access to education, training, employment, and social programs that target group-involved youth and young adults. Services should aim to address the primary causes of group membership, such as lack of legitimate opportunities to obtain employment, resources (e.g., housing, basic needs), and the integration into society (for those leaving secure confinement). It is critical to work with stakeholders to identify those most at-risk. Providing opportunities to those who are (or will likely be) involved in group-related crime will ultimately help to reduce levels of violence.

Recommendation 3: Implement school-based prevention strategies.

Findings indicated that a growing number of school-aged youth report gangs in their schools; further that 8th grade youth in the LINC region self-reported gang membership at rates above the state norm. Additionally, school and community risk factors that increase the likelihood of gang/group joining as well as other issues of crime and delinquency are concentrated in LINC school districts. In order to help prevent group involvement, it is recommended that partners discuss possible school-based prevention strategies with a strong focus on children aged 10-12. Suggested evidenced-based prevention programs include the *Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT)* program. This program was developed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in partnership with local law enforcement. The goal of the GREAT program is to teach students about the dangers associated with groups and crime and provide strategies to resist group involvement. Through evaluations the GREAT program has been proven to be effective (see www.great-online.org). For younger-aged school children, schools may consider implementing the *PAX Good Behavior Game (GBG)*. The GBG, is a classroom management approach for children ages 6 to 10 and is designed to improve aggressive and disruptive classroom behavior and prevent later criminality. The program is rated “Effective” by CrimeSolutions (see www.goodbehaviorgame.org).

Recommendation 4: Implement prevention programs focused on youth at-risk of group involvement.

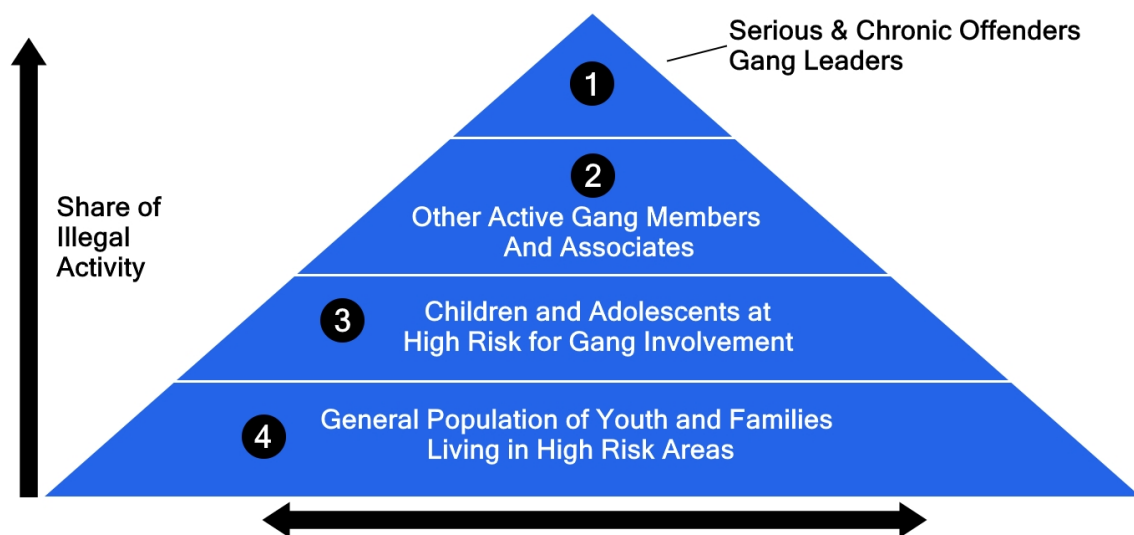
In addition to universal classroom-based prevention efforts addressed above, partners should consider the implementation of prevention and intervention activities focused on those youth most at-risk of group involvement. For example, for middle school and high school-aged youth, partners may consider implementing the *LifeSkills Training Curriculum* (Botvin). LifeSkills has been proven effective at reducing drug and alcohol use as well as reducing levels of verbal and physical aggression and delinquency (see www.lifeskillstraining.com). The curriculum is recognized as a proven program by the US Department of Justice, OJJDP, CrimeSolutions, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, among others. Another

consideration is to partner with Puget Sound Educational Services District's Education Advocate Program. The *Education Advocate* program is an innovative reentry model that is designed to assist at-risk youth in overcoming barriers they may face when returning to school and/or the community from a secure confinement facility. The overarching goal of the program is to reduce the rate of recidivism among transitioning youth offenders and to increase school engagement among at-risk youth through case-management, guidance, life skills coaching, and counseling support (www.k12.wa.us/InstitutionalEd/WashingtonsEducationAdvocate.aspx). Evaluation of this program has shown it to be a promising practice.

Recommendation 5: Appropriately distribute prevention, intervention and suppression resources.

Research has shown that, in general, group involvement is relatively brief (usually less than 2 years). As such, it is important to appropriately target prevention and intervention resources. The following graph depicts the typical distribution of group-involved youth among the overall population of youth and families (Wyrick 2006).

Figure 17: Gang Response and Involvement Pyramid



Source: Wyrick 2006

The distribution of group members can be used to align resources and strategies to prevent and intervene in group-related crime and violence (Wyrick, 2006). For example, the top of the triangle (1) represents serious, chronic, and violent offenders who make up a relatively small proportion of the population, approximately 7 or 8 percent of offenders. However, these offenders are responsible for a disproportionate share of criminal and violence-related activities – 40 or 50 percent of overall crime. As such, Group 1 members are most appropriately addressed through suppression strategies (such as targeted enforcement and prosecution) due to their high level of criminal involvement and the low likelihood of responding to strategies that reduce recidivism and criminal behavior. Suppression strategies tend to be more reactive than proactive and focus on immediate problems and deterrence. Implementation of effective person and/or group-focused enforcement and prosecution strategies will likely yield reduction in crime and violence within communities.

Suppression strategies should also include the collection of group intelligence and sharing of information among criminal justice agencies.

Group 2 is comprised of group-involved youth/young adults and associates and make up a somewhat larger percentage of the population. Much of the illegal activity within communities such as violence, property crimes, weapons violations, and drug offenses, are attributed to this group of youth/young offenders, however they are not in the highest offending category. Group 2 members typically range in age from 12 to 24 years and are candidates for intervention programs, such as the services offered through the MDIT, that offer participants alternatives to the group lifestyle in the form of employment/training opportunities, access to social services, and educational opportunities.

Group 3 is comprised of those youth, typically 7 to 14 years old, who are displaying early signs of delinquency and are at-risk of group involvement but are not yet group-involved. Not all at-risk youth will become group-involved, however - without intervention - these are the youth most likely to engage in delinquent behavior. Group 3 youth should be a top priority for secondary prevention efforts. These youth are in most need of: 1) attractive alternatives that divert time and attention away from delinquency and gang joining; 2) effective support systems to address social, emotional, and behavioral challenges; and 3) accountability systems that include clear behavior expectations, rewards, and consequences.

Finally, Group 4 represents the general population residing in a community in which there are active groups and for whom primary prevention services (or universal programs) are needed. These are services and/or programs that have a broad reach – the entire school, district, community -- and address the specific needs and risk factors of the community. Typically, these would include public awareness and social norms campaigns, school-based life-skills programs, community clean up events and community organizing.

Recommendation 6: Continue to collect and validate group related data.

Moving forward, it is important to continue to collect data on group-related violence in the LINC region. Sharing gang/group intelligence both within and across agencies will enhance the regional network's ability to identify and address the area's group problems. To do this, policies will need to be put in place related to the collection, maintenance, and sharing of group intelligence across agencies. Research tells us that gang/group feuds can continue over time despite membership turnover. For that reason, tracking which groups or gangs are involved in violence will help guide prevention, intervention and suppression efforts.

Beyond law enforcement data, there are other valuable sources of information that can be used to help identify those at risk. Efforts should be made to combine law enforcement and school data to identify the predictors of gang membership and violence. These predictors can be used for early intervention – a key to reducing related crimes. This would need to be an ongoing feedback loop: as data are collected and analyzed, the information can be used to refine the criteria for the intervention and prevention efforts being implemented in the city.

To further expand on the efforts of this report, we recommend attempting a group audit using people in the community; potentially outreach workers who are knowledgeable of the groups and the conflicts between them. A community-based group audit could be compared to the law enforcement group audit to expand upon what is already known and to validate some of the law enforcement data. While law enforcement currently has the most data on this topic, there is much value in merging additional data sources to get a more complete picture of the causal mechanisms related to group related crime across the LINC region.

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APPENDIX A:

Comprehensive Community Assessment: Seattle, WA – October 2016

APPENDIX B:

Healthy Youth Survey Trend Data, 2010-2016

APPENDIX C:

Group Audit Maps by City

APPENDIX D:

Active Group Names by Location

APPENDIX E:

Preliminary Group Audit Network Summary: South King County – October 2017