

# *Texas Gang Threat Assessment*

# 2012



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# **Texas Gang Threat Assessment 2012**

A State Intelligence Estimate

Produced by the Texas Fusion Center  
Intelligence & Counterterrorism Division  
Texas Department of Public Safety

In collaboration with other law enforcement and criminal justice agencies

March 2013

## **Executive Summary**

The key analytic judgments of this assessment are:

- Gangs continue to represent a significant public safety threat to the State of Texas, and are responsible for a disproportionate amount of crime in our communities. Of incarcerated members of Tier 1 and Tier 2 gangs, more than half are serving a sentence for a violent crime, including robbery (25 percent), homicide (14 percent), and assault/terroristic threat (12 percent).
- The Tier 1 gangs in Texas are Tango Blast (estimated at 10,000 members), Texas Syndicate (4,500 members), Barrio Azteca (3,500 members), and Texas Mexican Mafia (6,000 members). These organizations pose the greatest gang threat to Texas due to their relationships with Mexican cartels, large membership numbers, high levels of transnational criminal activity, and organizational effectiveness.
- Mexican cartels continue to use gangs in Texas as they smuggle drugs, people, weapons, and cash across the border. Members of Tier 1 gangs have been recruited by the cartels to carry out acts of violence in both Texas and Mexico. The relationships between gangs and cartels have evolved over the past year, due in part to volatility and changes in cartel structures and relationships in Mexico.
- Gang activity in Texas is growing, with the current number of gang members likely exceeding 100,000. More than 2,500 gangs have been identified throughout the state, ranging from small gangs with few members and limited geographic reach to large gangs composed of thousands of members operating in all regions of Texas.

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## **Acknowledgments**

The Texas Fusion Center collaborated with law enforcement and criminal justice agencies across Texas and the United States in the production of this State Intelligence Estimate. Their contributions were invaluable to developing a comprehensive assessment of the threat posed by gangs in Texas, and they underscore the commitment among law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in Texas to share information and intelligence in order to effectively combat crime and improve public safety. The Texas Fusion Center thanks these agencies and centers for contributing to the production of this assessment.

It is also important to acknowledge the essential contributions of the many law enforcement agencies throughout Texas that routinely report gang and border-related incidents, which also contributed to this report. This includes Operation Border Star participants and agencies that contribute information to the TxGang database. Contributing agencies are listed in Appendix 2.

## **State Intelligence Estimates**

To enhance the state's ability to detect, assess and prioritize threats to the safety and security of its citizens, the Texas Department of Public Safety implemented a State Intelligence Estimate process after consultation with the National Intelligence Council, based in part on the model of the National Intelligence Estimate.

State Intelligence Estimates are multi-agency assessments on issues relating to homeland security and public safety in Texas. They serve as the most authoritative and comprehensive analysis of these issues, and they are designed to provide law enforcement and government officials with the most accurate evaluation of current information on a given topic. State Intelligence Estimates are intended to provide an assessment on the current status of an issue, but they may also include estimative conclusions that make forecasts about future developments and identify the implications for Texas.

Unlike reports and assessments produced by an individual agency or center, State Intelligence Estimates draw on the information and expertise of multiple law enforcement and homeland security agencies across Texas. Such an approach is essential to developing a comprehensive assessment of issues that affect the state as a whole. By incorporating the perspectives and information from multiple agencies, the Texas Department of Public Safety is better able to produce assessments that support the development of proactive strategies and policies to address current and evolving threats to the state.

Texas benefits from a cooperative law enforcement and homeland security community and a statewide intelligence and information sharing framework that leverages a network of fusion centers located in key areas throughout the state. The 82<sup>nd</sup> Texas State Legislature established the Texas Fusion Center Policy Council, which provides state-level coordination and policy guidance to fusion centers in Texas to ensure their effectiveness and strict adherence to laws and regulations regarding privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties.

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### Preface

This threat assessment is submitted to the Governor and Legislature of Texas in response to the requirements of Texas Government Code 421.082 (e) regarding the Texas Fusion Center, which states:

The gang section of the center shall annually submit to the governor and legislature a report assessing the threat posed statewide by criminal street gangs. The report must include identification of:

- (1) law enforcement strategies that have been proven effective in deterring gang-related crime; and
- (2) gang involvement in trafficking of persons.

In addition to meeting these requirements, this threat assessment provides a broad overview of gang activity in Texas.

This assessment was produced by the Texas Fusion Center in the form of a State Intelligence Estimate. It includes the contributions of a wide range of law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in the state.

The statements, conclusions, and assessments included in this report were reached based on a review and analysis of information from a variety of sources.

# Introduction

This assessment updates the Texas Gang Threat Assessment 2011, and serves as the annual evaluation of the gang threat in Texas. While many of the underlying trends and characteristics of gang activity have not changed substantially since last year, this report includes relevant updates and more detailed information on several key aspects of gang activity.

Quantitative information regarding gangs and gang activity is somewhat limited, and the available data is not necessarily comprehensive. For example, the number of gang members is dynamic, with gangs regularly seeking new recruits and existing members traveling or moving. Some law enforcement agencies may vary in their reporting and awareness of gangs and indicators of gang activity. In addition, not all gang members are known to law enforcement, making the available information on identified gangs and gang members representative of only a portion of all gang activity.

Finally, some law enforcement and criminal justice agencies currently maintain gang intelligence information in separate databases, several of which are not interoperable, creating impediments to the sharing of gang-related criminal intelligence information. Based on the requirements of Chapter 61 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, the Texas Department of Public Safety was directed to create the TxGang database to store multi-agency information on gangs, and it is working with its law enforcement partners to increase the level of participation.

Despite these limitations, the available quantitative information, combined with intelligence information derived from investigations and multiple sources, provides a reliable overview of gang activity in Texas.

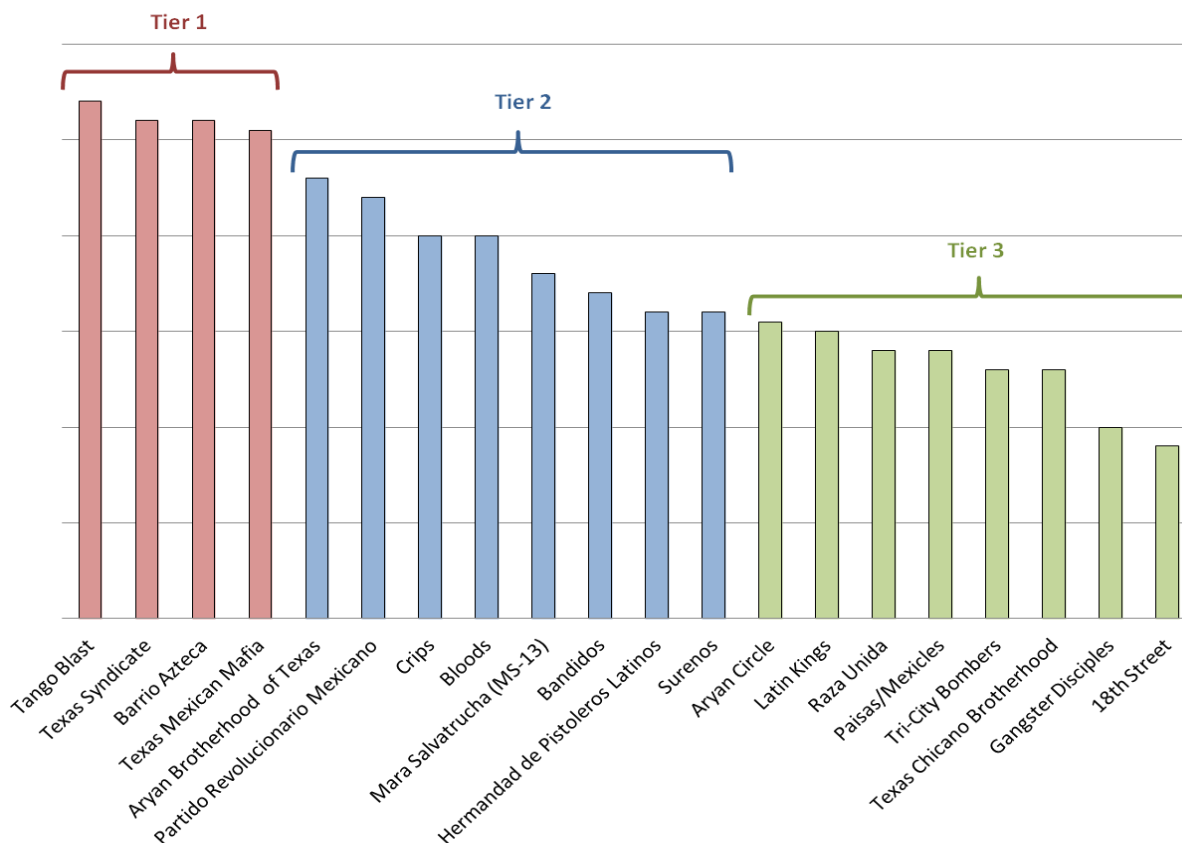
The purpose of this assessment is to identify and evaluate the threat posed by gangs and gang-related crime in Texas by examining several key aspects of gang activity. The first section offers an explanation of the criteria and factors that the Texas Fusion Center uses to assess the threat posed by an individual gang. The following sections examine law enforcement strategies, gang activity in various regions of the state, gang organizational issues, gang relationships, and an analysis of gang involvement in criminal activity. Finally, we present an outlook of gang activity in Texas.



## Prioritization and Criteria

The Texas Fusion Center uses a threat assessment matrix to evaluate the threat posed by individual gangs on a statewide level. This matrix includes ten factors that are important in determining the threat posed by each gang. Each factor is rated using a weighted, point-based system in order to achieve a composite score. This score provides a measurement of the overall threat level of each gang. The most significant gangs are classified as Tier 1, with other significant gangs classified as Tier 2 and Tier 3. Considering that thousands of gangs have been identified in Texas, this threat assessment matrix is an essential tool in prioritizing the gangs that pose the greatest threat on a statewide scale.

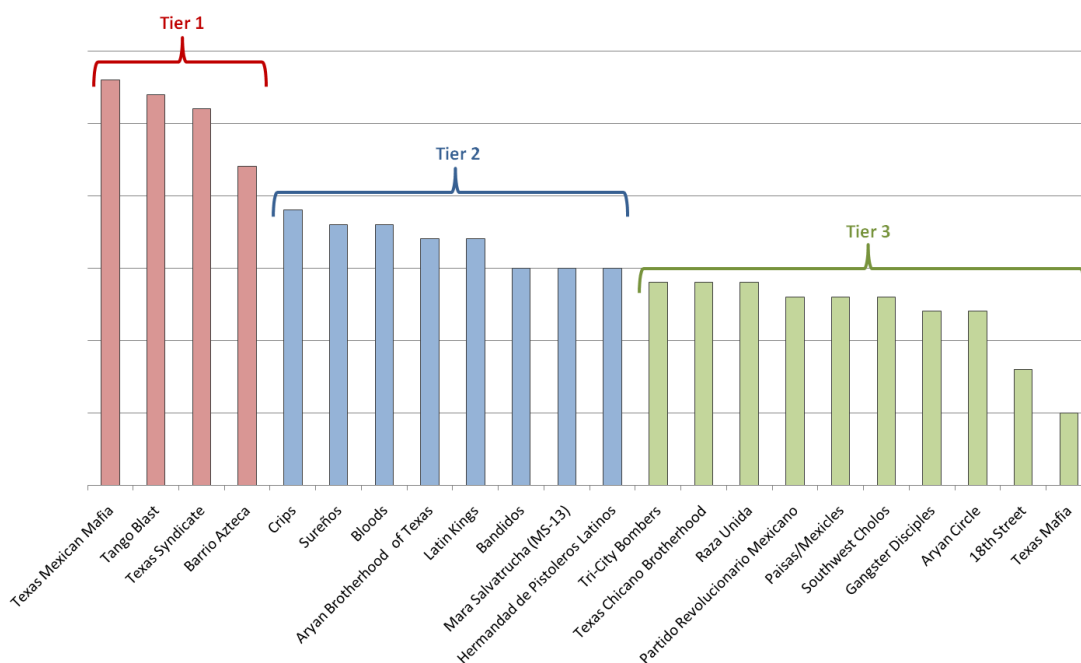
Figure 1: Texas Fusion Center 2012 Gang Rankings



The rankings in Figure 1 show the threat posed by these gangs to the state as a whole. The gangs that constitute the greatest threat at a statewide level do not necessarily pose the greatest threat in every community. Similarly, the gangs that pose the greatest threat in one particular community may be local and not represent a threat elsewhere. Some of the gangs listed in Figure 1 are composed of multiple cliques that adhere to a common culture and identity, though the individual cliques may operate somewhat autonomously. In addition, the threat posed by any particular gang is often dynamic, and a threat assessment tool such as this is designed to be fluid.

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Figure 2: Texas Fusion Center 2011 Gang Rankings



In order to provide the most accurate assessment of the threat posed by gangs in the state, the Texas Fusion Center monitors gang-related information and updates the rankings on at least an annual basis. In addition, the criteria used to reach the 2012 rankings reflected in Figure 1 have been revised since 2011 and include one new factor: the gang's threat to law enforcement. Adding this factor and updating information regarding gang activity have resulted in changes from the 2011 gang rankings, which are shown in Figure 2.

While some gangs have continued to occupy similar rankings over the past year, the evaluation of these gangs is ongoing and will evolve over time as law enforcement works to reduce their effectiveness. The most noteworthy highlights regarding gang rankings from the past year include:

- Tango Blast, Texas Syndicate, Barrio Azteca, and Texas Mexican Mafia remain the Tier 1 gangs in Texas. These four Tier 1 gangs continue to constitute the greatest gang threats to Texas, due to their relationships with Mexican cartels, transnational activity, thousands of members, high levels of criminal activity, and other factors.
- Although Texas Mexican Mafia is still a Tier 1 threat, this is the first year in which it is not the highest-ranked gang in the state. Some aspects of the gang remain unchanged, but extensive law enforcement investigations and prosecutions of Texas Mexican Mafia leaders, members, and associates have had a substantial impact on the gang.

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### *Law Enforcement Impact on Texas Mexican Mafia*

Over the last year, local, state, and federal law enforcement cooperation was essential in the successful disruption and dismantlement of Texas Mexican Mafia (TMM) operations and networks across the state. As a result, senior gang leaders controlling major areas of Texas were arrested and charged for offenses such as organized crime, extortion, and the gang's notorious distribution of black tar heroin. Also arrested were dozens of members and associates who carried out orders and acted as drug, money, and information coordinators for the gang. Multi-agency collaboration and coordination were essential to ensuring these successful achievements.

Multi-regional investigations into the gang expanded in 2009 after the arrests of 13 senior leaders in the San Antonio area. Intelligence stemming from the new investigations quickly showed that high-ranking members were communicating with each other across the state. Capitalizing on the benefits of sharing information derived from separate investigations, investigators and analysts from multiple agencies held statewide meetings, debriefing each other on their investigative findings and helping to fill intelligence gaps that had developed in their cases. As a result, the shared information ultimately led to a greater number of arrests with stronger charges than what would have been achieved if each agency had worked its own cases exclusively.

Since 2009, DPS and partner agencies have worked together on more than 12 investigations targeting TMM and arrested more than 160 TMM members and associates throughout the state. Investigations included areas of Austin, Houston, Laredo, Lubbock, San Antonio, the southwest Texas region and the Rio Grande Valley. These arrests have had a substantial impact on the gang's leadership, as those arrested included at least five generals, 12 captains, 26 lieutenants, 14 sergeants, and 69 soldiers.

Investigating the criminal activities of TMM from a statewide perspective has proven to be successful in severely disrupting the gang. Intelligence sharing among agencies in different regions across Texas not only helped answer intelligence gaps but allowed investigative coordination regarding drug trafficking activities conducted by gang members. This approach also permits law enforcement personnel to identify patterns, trends, and methods employed by the gang as a whole, allowing the opportunity to evaluate the gang's operations to determine their overall threat level to the state. The result of the success from this approach is reflected in TMM's no longer representing the greatest gang threat to the state, and some veteran gang investigators state that they have never before witnessed such disruption within this gang.

- Partido Revolucionario Mexicano has risen from Tier 3 to Tier 2, based in part on the level of threat that it poses to law enforcement. Partido Revolucionario Mexicano also has strong relationships with Mexican cartels, engages in transnational criminal activity, and is active in several regions of the state.
- Aryan Brotherhood of Texas's ranking within Tier 2 has increased. This change is due to several factors, including the gang's large membership numbers and consistent level of violence and other criminal activity. Some information regarding the gang's relationship with cartels continues to be reported.

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- Crips, Bloods, Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), Bandidos, Hermandad de Pistoleros Latinos and Sureños remain the other Tier 2 gangs in the state. Although these gangs vary in size and structure, they are responsible for a significant portion of gang activity across multiple regions, and they represent significant threats to Texas.

The factors included in the Texas Fusion Center's threat assessment matrix include:

- **Relationship with Cartels:** This factor examines the extent to which a gang is connected to Mexico-based drug cartels. A gang may be assessed as having no relationship, a temporary or short-term association, or a long-term business venture or exclusive relationship.
- **Transnational Criminal Activity:** This factor considers whether a gang has transnational criminal connections, as well as whether the gang's criminal activity has spread into the transnational realm.
- **Level of Criminal Activity:** This factor rates the type and frequency of crimes perpetrated by the gang. Crimes are rated on a scale covering a range of offenses, from misdemeanors to felonies.
- **Level of Violence:** This factor assesses the overall level of violence perpetrated by the gang in its criminal activity. It ranges from generally non-violent offenses, such as money laundering, to crimes involving extreme violence, such as torture and murder.
- **Prevalence Throughout Texas:** This factor determines the extent to which a gang is active throughout the state. The geographic reach of some gangs is limited to specific cities or regions of Texas, while others are widespread across the state.
- **Relationship with Other Gangs:** This factor examines the nature of a gang's alliances and influence with other gangs. This may include limited and temporary contact or formal alliances, whereas some gangs exercise direct oversight over other gangs.
- **Total Strength:** This factor assesses the known size of the gang, measured by the number of individuals confirmed by law enforcement and criminal justice agencies to be members of the gang. This number is almost always an underrepresentation of the true size of the gang, as many members are unknown to law enforcement.
- **Statewide Organizational Effectiveness:** This factor examines the gang's effectiveness in organizing members under its leadership across the state.
- **Juvenile Membership:** This factor considers the extent to which the gang recruits juveniles and is active in schools, as gang recruitment of juveniles is a unique threat.
- **Threat to Law Enforcement:** This factor considers the extent to which the gang represents a threat to law enforcement. Some gang members may only use violence to resist arrest or to flee from law enforcement, while others may actively target officers.

### Law Enforcement Strategies

The multi-jurisdictional and ever-evolving threat posed by transnational organized crime requires a fully integrated approach to impact the most problematic gangs in Texas. It is essential to understand that transnational organized crime operates under no one specific structure; these organizations can vary from highly structured hierarchies, to family networks or clans, or loosely affiliated cells.

To effectively reduce this threat requires the employment of a variety of initiatives that harness the various capabilities of local, state and federal law enforcement, as well as both state and federal prosecutors. Combining intelligence, patrol, investigative and prosecution resources is essential for any strategy to be effective. In order to disrupt the gangs that have a more mercurial, cell-like structure, it is necessary to deploy a more fluid, proactive law enforcement initiative that targets the variety of criminal activities being committed. In order to combat the more traditional hierarchical organized crime groups, it is necessary to conduct long-term, in-depth criminal enterprise investigations that target mid-level and senior gang leadership and their operational networks. This strategy includes the use of financial accountants to identify the financial structure of these transnational criminal organizations in order for law enforcement to more effectively seize their assets, sever their access to the financial system, and expose their criminal activities operating behind legitimate businesses.

Working together from the onset of these investigations, investigators and prosecutors must continue to successfully exploit all available state and federal statutes that can aid in the successful prosecution of senior and mid-level leadership. For example, use of Conspiracy (Texas Penal Code, Section 15.02) applies aggregate amounts of evidence against all participants, which can be used to prosecute upper-level participants who have kept themselves at arm's length from criminal acts they have ordered. In addition, Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity (Texas Penal Code, Section 71.02) provides prosecutors a tool to enhance penalties for members of a criminal combination or criminal street gang.

Multi-agency partnerships among law enforcement and prosecutors at the local, state and federal level are essential to fully disrupt and render ineffective the gangs that constitute the greatest threat to Texas. Using this approach, law enforcement agencies in Texas have successfully collaborated during the past year in multiple investigations designed to disrupt and deter gang-related criminal activity.

Below are several examples of recent successful gang operations and investigations that involved the Texas Department of Public Safety and other agencies.

**February 2012:** As a result of a multi-agency investigation targeting Tango Blast gang members in the McKinney, Texas, area, 16 suspects, two of whom were suspected Tango Blast gang members, were indicted in the Dallas Federal District Court for distribution of heroin. All suspects were arrested.

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**April 2012:** State, federal and local law enforcement agencies from the Rio Grande Valley and San Antonio areas identified up to 12 members and associates of the Texas Mexican Mafia (TMM) to have been involved in an aggravated assault incident on South Padre Island beach. State arrest warrants for 12 of the TMM members and associates, including hierarchy members, were issued for aggravated assault and engaging in organized crime, and 10 federal search warrants were obtained for locations in San Antonio and Pleasanton. Nine of the wanted suspects were arrested, and firearms, ammunition, body armor, currency, drugs, and electronic devices were seized from the residences.

**July 2012:** State, federal and local law enforcement agencies from El Paso identified several El Paso Chapter Bandido Outlaw Motorcycle Gang (BOMG) members and their support group to have been involved in an assault and robbery at two El Paso bars. State arrest warrants were issued for assault, robbery, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and engaging in organized crime, and six of the suspects were arrested. Agents also developed information that resulted in the search of three residences and one vehicle, which resulted in the seizure of firearms, an illegal knife, drugs, electronic devices and gang paraphernalia.

**July 2012:** As a result of a multi-agency investigation targeting the Texas Syndicate in and around the Austin area, 15 suspects were indicted in Federal District Court for drug violations, and three were indicted in State District Court. Eighteen of the suspects were arrested. Agents also searched nine locations, which resulted in the seizure of firearms, vehicles, drugs, currency and real estate property.

**August 2012:** As a result of a multi-agency investigation of the West Texas Tango Blast, four suspects were indicted in Federal District Court for drug and weapon violations. Two of the suspects were arrested in Lubbock, another was arrested and served while incarcerated in Travis County, and the final suspect was arrested two days later.

**August 2012:** As a result of a year-long, multi-agency investigation of a drug trafficking organization operated by members of Barrio Azteca in the Wichita Falls area, 30 suspects were indicted for drug conspiracy and firearms violations. All of the suspects were arrested. The investigation resulted in the seizure of drugs, firearms, and gang paraphernalia items.

**October 2012:** As a result of a long-term, multi-agency investigation of the Texas Mexican Mafia (TMM) in Houston, San Antonio, and Corpus Christi, agents arrested 22 members and associates, including hierarchy members, for federal violations related to violent crimes. The arrest of a former high-ranking member occurred while he entered the United States from Mexico. Ten of the gang members and associates were already in custody at various detention facilities.

**November 2012:** As a result of a multi-agency investigation of the Aryan Brotherhood of Texas (ABT) in the Dallas and Houston areas, 34 ABT members were indicted in federal courts for racketeering violations and arrested. Thirteen of the suspects were already in custody at prison facilities. During the arrests, agents seized vehicles, firearms, and

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currency. One of the arrests included the ABT Major for the Dallas area who was linked to murder, kidnapping, arson, gambling, and drug distribution.

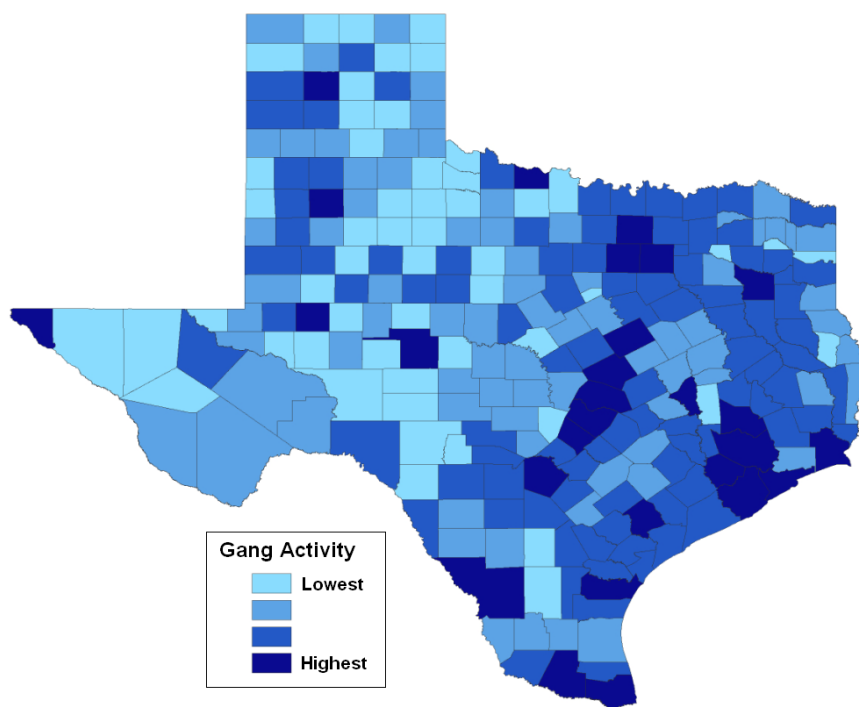
**November 2012:** As a result of a multi-agency investigation of Barrio Azteca in the El Paso area, agents executed a state search warrant of a residence in El Paso suspected to be used by Barrio Azteca members and associates to distribute drugs. The search resulted in the seizure of drugs and currency, the identification of additional suspects, and one arrest of a Barrio Azteca associate.

## Regional Assessments

Although there are challenges associated with quantitatively measuring all gang activity, we continue to assess that the number of gang members in Texas currently may exceed 100,000. This estimate is consistent with available information on gang membership nationally and within Texas. The National Gang Intelligence Center, for example, estimated in 2011 that there are 1.4 million gang members nationwide – a 40 percent increase from 2009.

More than 2,500 gangs have been identified in Texas. These range from small gangs composed of few members with limited geographic reach to large gangs with thousands of members active throughout Texas and elsewhere.

Figure 3: Concentration of Gang Activity in Texas<sup>1</sup>



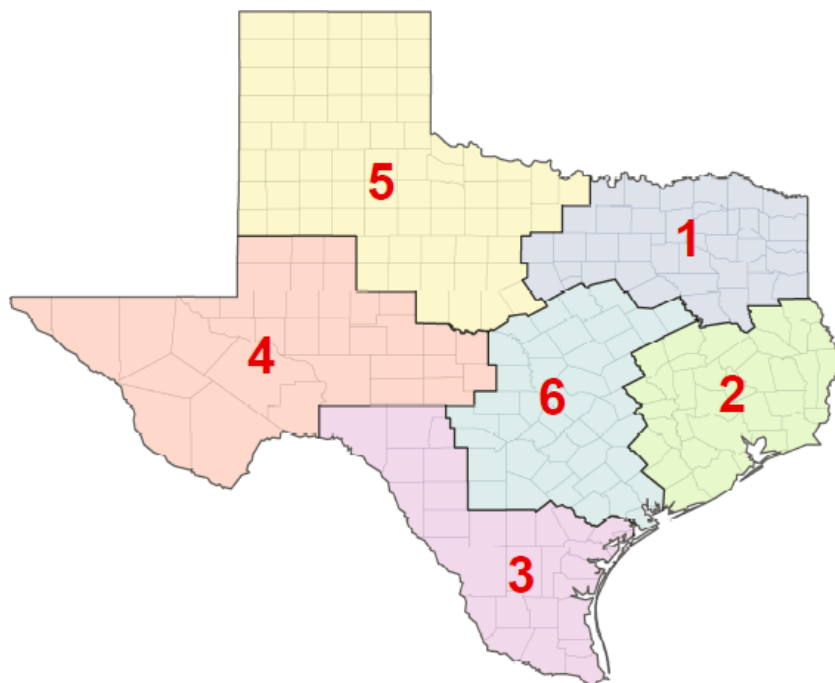
Gang activity remains widespread throughout all regions of Texas. While the greatest concentrations of gang activity tend to be in larger metropolitan areas, gang members are also present in suburban areas, smaller cities, and rural areas. Gang activity is also prevalent in the Texas counties adjacent to Mexico and along the key smuggling corridors, since Texas-based gangs are used for cross-border smuggling and trafficking in the state. Many transnational gangs operating in Texas – such as Texas Mexican Mafia, Barrio Azteca, MS-13, and others – engage in criminal activity in Mexico as well as in Texas and elsewhere. Figure 3 provides an overview of where gang activity is concentrated in Texas.



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In addition to being widespread, gang activity also varies between regions. Many smaller gangs operate in limited areas of the state. For example, the gangs that are most active in the Texas Panhandle may not be the most significant gangs operating along the Rio Grande Valley. On the other hand, several of the largest and most significant gangs are present across multiple regions.

**Figure 4: Texas DPS Regions**



The following summaries provide an assessment of the most significant gangs operating in various regions of Texas. Some of the most significant gangs at a regional level are not necessarily the most significant at a statewide level. In addition, a gang's prevalence throughout Texas is only one of the factors used to assess its overall threat. Moreover, law enforcement continues to investigate significant gangs, completing several operations successful in the arrest and prosecution of high-level gang leaders and members. These efforts may result in some changes to the most significant gangs by region during the next assessment period.

**Region 1 Most Significant Gangs:** Tango Blast (D-Town, Foritos), Aryan Brotherhood of Texas, Bandidos Outlaw Motorcycle Gang

Region 1 includes the counties in northeastern Texas, with Dallas-Fort Worth representing the most densely populated area. Tango Blast maintains a heavy presence in Dallas-Fort Worth and is largely concentrated in the central and western counties in the region. The Aryan Brotherhood of Texas is active in and around the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Law enforcement agencies around the region have reported the presence of other gangs such as the Texas Syndicate, Texas Mexican Mafia, Crips (various cliques), Bloods (various cliques), Sureños, Aryan Circle, Latin Kings, and Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13).

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**Region 2 Most Significant Gangs:** Tango Blast (Houston), Texas Mexican Mafia, Aryan Brotherhood of Texas

Region 2 is composed of counties in the eastern and southeastern portion of Texas, including the metropolitan areas of Houston, Beaumont, and Bryan-College Station. The Houston area Tango Blast clique, the Houston, is the largest gang in Houston and the surrounding areas, followed by the Texas Mexican Mafia. The Aryan Brotherhood of Texas is significant due to its strong presence throughout the entire region. Other gangs reported by law enforcement in Region 2 are the Texas Syndicate, Crips (various cliques), Bloods (various cliques), Bandidos, Sureños, Aryan Circle, Latin Kings, the Gangster Disciples, and Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13).

**Region 3 Most Significant Gangs:** Tango Blast (Corpitos, Vallucos), Texas Syndicate, Texas Mexican Mafia

The southern counties of Texas make up Region 3, including a large stretch of the Mexican border. Tango Blast cliques in Corpus Christi (Corpitos) and the Rio Grande Valley (Vallucos), the Texas Syndicate, and the Texas Mexican Mafia are the large and well-established gangs in the region. The Hermandad de Pistoleros Latinos, Partido Revolucionario Mexicano, and the Paisas/Mexicles are also very prominent gangs active in the region. The Tri-City Bombers and Texas Chicano Brotherhood are emerging with increased significance in the Rio Grande Valley area. Other gangs represented in the region are the Bandidos, Sureños, and Latin Kings.

**Region 4 Most Significant Gangs:** Barrio Azteca, Sureños, Tango Blast (WTX)

Region 4 encompasses west Texas and shares a significant portion of the U.S. border with Mexico. The most significant gang in the region is Barrio Azteca, which arose in the El Paso area and has spread to other regions of the state. Other significant gangs active throughout the region are the Sureños and Tango Blast clique known as WTX (West Texas). The Aryan Brotherhood of Texas and Aryan Circle are also active in the Midland-Odessa and San Angelo areas. Other noteworthy gangs are the Texas Syndicate, Texas Mexican Mafia, Crips (various cliques), Bloods (various cliques), Bandidos, and Latin Kings.

**Region 5 Most Significant Gangs:** Tango Blast (WTX), Texas Syndicate, Aryan Brotherhood of Texas

Region 5 includes the counties in the north and panhandle of Texas. The most significant gangs are the Tango Blast WTX, Texas Syndicate, and the Aryan Brotherhood of Texas, as they have a large presence throughout the region. Other gangs reported by law enforcement are Barrio Azteca, Texas Mexican Mafia, Partido Revolucionario Mexicano, Crips (various cliques), Bloods (various cliques), Bandidos, Sureños, and Aryan Circle.

**Region 6 Most Significant Gangs:** Texas Mexican Mafia, Texas Syndicate, Tango Blast (Orejones and ATX)

Region 6 is made up of central Texas and several counties to the southeast, which are home to a few of the state's most established gangs. The most significant gangs are Texas Mexican Mafia, Texas Syndicate, and Tango Blast cliques in Austin (ATX) and San Antonio (Orejones). Other

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significant gangs found in this region include the Aryan Brotherhood of Texas, Crips (various cliques), Bloods (various cliques), Bandidos, Hermandad de Pistoleros Latinos, Sureños, Aryan Circle, Latin Kings, and Gangster Disciples.

## Gang Organization

Gangs in Texas continue to employ a variety of organizational and leadership models. These models vary in the extent to which the organization is centrally or hierarchically organized. Although the various models are unique, one is not necessarily more effective than another. Several of the Tier 1 gangs, for example, use different organizational models. These models are:

**Paramilitary** models include a hierarchical structure with clear distinction between ranks, which often include military titles such as general, captain, lieutenant, sergeant and soldier. Senior leaders are able to issue orders to subordinates that are generally carried out as instructed. Gangs using this model include Texas Mexican Mafia and Barrio Azteca.

**Regional Cell** models are composed of several cells that are part of the same organization, but that act generally independent of one another at an operational level. Each cell may have a strict internal hierarchy similar to a paramilitary model, though between cells there is little coordinated command and control. Texas Syndicate is an example of a Texas gang with a regional cell model.

**Cliques** of gangs tend to adopt a common culture and identity, but have few tangible connections to each other. Each clique may have a senior member that acts as a leader, and larger cliques may have a more structured hierarchy. In some cases, cliques of the same gang may work in opposition to each other. Examples of clique-based gangs are Bloods, Crips, and Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13).

**Loose Affiliation** gangs have relaxed membership requirements and little to no detectable leadership hierarchy. This model tends to be the most dynamic, allowing for rapid growth while simultaneously limiting the extent to which groups of members can be effectively managed. Tango Blast is an example of a Texas gang with a loose affiliation model.

In addition to organizational and leadership models, other factors play an important role in how gangs operate and organize.

### *Race and Gangs*

Many large gangs have membership based along racial lines. Examples of predominantly white gangs include Aryan Brotherhood of Texas and Aryan Circle; predominantly Hispanic gangs include Texas Mexican Mafia and Texas Syndicate; and predominantly African-American gangs include Gangster Disciples, Bloods, and Crips. This aspect of gang organization is often described as a product of prison, where inmates may identify with others of their own race. Many of these gangs officially cite race as a reason for having organized, and some profess racial superiority over others. While individual members of these gangs may hold racial bias or prejudice, the gangs themselves often engage in business arrangements with gangs of another race when it is mutually convenient and profitable. Ultimately, gangs work with any group that will help further their criminal objectives.

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### *Females and Gangs*

The majority of gang members in Texas are males. Females are estimated to account for between 10 and 20 percent of gang membership. Most females with gang affiliation serve in support roles, not as members: there are few gangs that allow females to serve as associates. The Latin Kings, for example, allows its females to serve as Latin Queens, who are considered part of the gang but do not have the same rights as the male members. However, females are continually moving from their support roles to more operational roles in gangs' criminal activities.

### *Gang Recruitment and Identification*

Gangs continue to recruit members in prisons, in schools, on the Internet, from smaller gangs, and from within their own families. The prison system and county jails continue to offer recruitment opportunities of inmates who may join prison gangs for protection while serving time behind bars. Several prison gangs recruit for the sole purpose of having a majority population in order to defend against other gangs. Once recruited, most gangs require their members to serve the gang for life, though other gangs allow members to leave after being released from prison. Some members of prison gangs have encouraged their children not to follow their footsteps and to instead join gangs with looser affiliation rules, such as Tango Blast.

Some gangs in Texas are recruiting juveniles in neighborhoods and schools, often making promises of money, fame, and influence, while promising them that they will receive a minimal sentence if they are arrested and charged with an offense. Juvenile gang activity appears to occur disproportionately along the Texas–Mexico border. For example, the 14 Texas counties adjacent to Mexico represent approximately 9.7 percent of the Texas population, yet since 2008, these counties have accounted for 21.8 percent of felony referrals of juveniles with confirmed gang affiliation and 14.3 percent of other referrals of juveniles with confirmed gang affiliation.<sup>2</sup>

Large gangs in Texas are also increasingly recruiting smaller gangs to commit crimes on the large gangs' behalf. Smaller gangs, for example, may be recruited to steal vehicles that the large gang will use for its own purpose or send to Mexico where they will be used by Mexican cartels.

Gangs use several ways to identify themselves as gang members, including tattoos, hand signals, colors and graffiti. Most gangs tend to use one or several standard symbols that can be incorporated into tattoos, patches or graffiti to identify members and turf. These symbols are often associated with the gangs' heritage or hometown, and may include an image or a combination of numbers and letters. For example, Aryan Brotherhood of Texas uses the numbers "12" to represent the first and second letter of the alphabet, "AB." Other gangs use the telephone area code of their hometown. While some gangs continue to display tattoos and insignia that conspicuously show affiliation with the gang, others conceal the symbols within other tattoos.

Hand signals and the wearing of similar colors also serve as ways for gang members to identify each other. Some of these signals and colors are similar across gangs, while others are unique. Graffiti is another common way for gangs to identify themselves and the territory that they claim. Messages that are etched or spray-painted on buildings or street signs may serve as a message from one gang to another regarding the boundaries of its turf.

### *Hybrid Gangs in Texas*

Over the past few years, Texas law enforcement has seen the formation of hybrid gangs as an emerging trend across the state. Hybrid gangs are composed of members and associates of separate gangs who work together and form another gang for business purposes. Members of hybrids often share common associations from schools, social circles, or neighborhoods. There are two identified types of hybrid gangs: prison gang hybrids and street gang hybrids.

Prison hybrid gangs form based on an inmate's need for protection. Some incarcerated gang members join a different gang while in prison, though these inmates may return to their original gang and resume their former membership once they are released. For example, Tango Blast cliques in prison may be composed of Tango Blast members and also members of other gangs that join Tango Blast after incarceration for protection purposes.

The second type of hybrid gang is the street gang hybrid, which is motivated by opportunity and making money. These hybrids may be localized to juveniles and young adults who are looking to replicate traditional gangs and represent their territory. Members develop friends from various social groups across neighborhoods, possibly due to school affiliations, which build larger working networks – the more affiliations an individual has, the more money they can make..

Gangs in Texas will likely continue to evolve based on the needs of their members and their surroundings. Texas prison and criminal street gangs have both demonstrated their adaptation to hybrid gangs based on survival and profit motivation. The development of hybrid gangs illustrates that gangs are adaptable.

## Gang Relationships

Relationships between gangs are unavoidable, given the areas in which gangs operate, their large membership numbers, and the nature of the criminal activity in which they are involved. These relationships range from alliances between gangs for mutual protection and profit to bitter rivalries between gangs that result in inter-gang violence.

One of the most serious issues facing law enforcement and public safety officials is the fact that many gangs have developed relationships with Mexican cartels. Gangs working with the Mexican cartels are involved in a level of crime that affects the entire state. Their criminal activity is not just a problem for a specific city or region. All Tier 1 gangs and most Tier 2 gangs are connected to the cartels. In certain instances, these gangs are contracted to commit assassinations, kidnapping, and assaults in Texas and Mexico on behalf of the cartels.

Some gangs work with multiple cartels. The Hermandad de Pistoleros Latinos (HPL), for example, has been reported to be connected to the Gulf Cartel, Los Zetas, the Sinaloa Cartel, and the Juarez Cartel. At this time, it is unclear whether these connections will be sustained as long term alliances between the gang and the cartels or if the relationships with some of the cartels will become stronger than with others.

From the perspective of the gangs and cartels, the benefits of these relationships are fairly obvious. From a public safety perspective, the danger of these relationships is equally obvious. The gangs increase their resources and profitability with access to wholesale quantities of drugs, while the cartels expand their distribution networks and access to criminal labor.

There is some variation in the nature of the gangs' relationship with Mexican cartels. On one end of the spectrum, a gang serves as a U.S.-based extension of the cartel. In this way, the U.S. gang members regularly take orders from cartel leadership; facilitate the movement of people and drugs into the United States; procure weapons, vehicles and other material for the cartel; and carry out acts of violence and other criminal activity on the cartel's behalf. This type of relationship represents the most significant threat, as it involves an ongoing exportation of Mexican cartel influence into the state. Of the significant gangs examined in this assessment, Barrio Azteca has the strongest and historically most entrenched relationship with a Mexican cartel.

On the other end of the spectrum are gangs that interact only sporadically with Mexican cartels. In these cases, the gangs have no allegiance to any particular cartel, and may work with a variety of Mexican organizations. These tend to be smaller gangs that do not need a regular supply of large quantities of drugs. Despite the irregular contact, each interaction has the potential to strengthen the connection between the cartel and the gang, increasing the likelihood that the relationship will increase.

Between these two extremes are several large Texas-based gangs that have long-standing working relationships with Mexican cartels. In most cases, these relationships strengthen when the interests of the two organizations coincide; when they do not, there is no guarantee that the gang will comply with a request from the cartel.

### *Gang Alliances and Conflict, From Prisons to the Streets*

The various prison and street gangs in Texas have a sometimes convoluted and combustible relationship with one another. Because of this volatility, active awareness of any changes in gang alliances and rivalries is essential to a proactive law enforcement approach to countering gang threats, both in the prison system and on the streets.

The various origins and past histories of gangs in Texas, both in prison and on the street, can provide a window into the range of crimes that gangs commit, and the extent to which they are in conflict or alliance with other gangs. The last two decades have experienced multiple declared and undeclared alliances and conflicts. For example, although initially arch rivals, Texas Syndicate and Texas Mexican Mafia have had an institutional non-aggression truce and have not attempted to interdict or defeat each other on a large scale. These agreements are usually initiated from within the prison system moving outward, as the incarcerated branches of the various prison gangs tend to have more influential members of the gang behind bars rather than in the free world.

One of the gangs to have emerged most recently as a considerable threat is Tango Blast, whose Orejones branch has often been in conflict with the Texas Mexican Mafia in San Antonio, while many other areas seem to interact and even cooperate with each other for mutual gain. Both the Vallucos and Houstone cliques of Tango Blast continue to have their own relationships with various Mexican cartels as well as with various other street and prison gangs.

These alliances pose several dangers, such as the potential to increase the gangs' power and reach as they work together. However, from a law enforcement perspective, one of the most significant dangers is that these alliances are fragile. An alliance may last for several years, or it could dissolve more quickly, resulting in violent between gangs, both in prison and on the street.

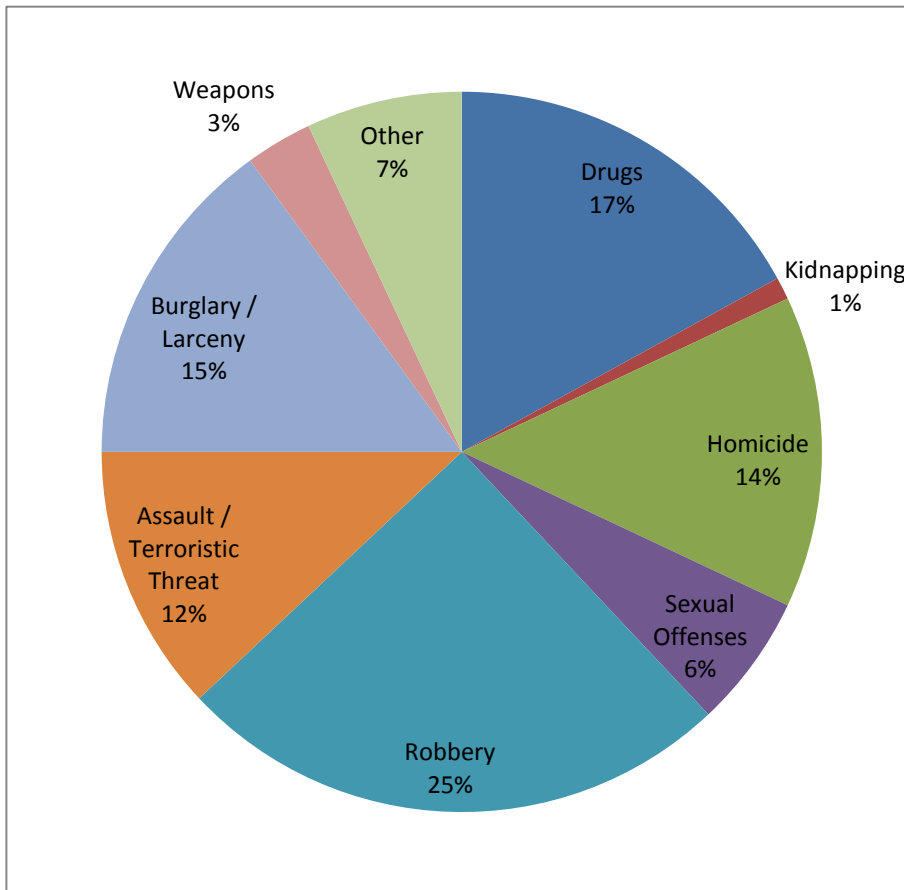


## Gang Involvement in Criminal Activity

Gangs in Texas continue to engage in a wide variety of criminal activity. This activity ranges from non-violent property crimes, such as vandalism, to brutal violent crimes, such as murder and kidnapping. The overall extent of this activity is difficult to measure with great accuracy, though gangs are responsible for a disproportionate amount of crime in Texas. The 2009 National Gang Threat Assessment, for example, reported that gangs may be responsible for as much as 60 percent of all criminal activity in some communities,<sup>3</sup> while the 2011 National Gang Threat Assessment stated that some jurisdictions in Texas and other states reported that gangs are responsible for more than 90 percent of crime.<sup>4</sup>

A good indication of the level of violence associated with gang activity is shown in Figure 5, which represents the offense of record for Tier 1 and Tier 2 prison gang members incarcerated in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. The offense of record is the offense that incarcerates the offender for the longest period of time. It shows that more than half of prison gang members associated with Tier 1 and Tier 2 gangs are serving a sentence for a violent crime, including robbery (25 percent), homicide (14 percent), and assault/terroristic threat (12 percent). Other significant categories include drug-related offenses (17 percent), burglary/larceny (15 percent), sexual offenses (6 percent), and weapon-related offenses (3 percent).

Figure 5: Offense of Record for Incarcerated Tier 1 and Tier 2 Gang Members in Texas Prisons<sup>5</sup>



### ***Gang Involvement in Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling***

Gangs in Texas continue to engage in human trafficking, exploiting victims in situations of forced labor and the sex trade. The Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force 2012 Report to the Texas Legislature describes some of the current challenges associated with measuring the true scale of this crime in Texas.

Despite the lack of comprehensive data regarding this crime, the available information leaves no doubt that gangs are committing human trafficking-related offenses in Texas. The gang members who have been convicted of human trafficking-related offenses are affiliated with gangs such as Tango Blast, Mexican Mafia, Bloods and Crips.

Other gangs that have been reportedly involved in human trafficking include MS-13, and some Texas-based gangs have also been reported to extort money from other criminals engaged in human trafficking. Several gangs have been reported to be involved in sex trafficking and running prostitution rings, and in some cases there are indications that these activities are connected to Mexican cartels. Unlike crimes such as robbery or burglary in which a gang member faces a higher risk of being arrested, compelling prostitution and human trafficking are perceived by some gang members as lower-risk crimes in which they can use the same victims repeatedly to turn profits over an extended period of time.

Some gangs in Texas regularly support cartel human smuggling operations, facilitating the transport of groups of illegal aliens across the Texas-Mexico border and to destinations in the state and elsewhere. Most Tier 1 and Tier 2 gangs are involved in human smuggling in Texas, by transporting or holding illegal aliens in stash houses.

In September 2012, a law enforcement officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle near Hebbronville. The male driver, who was identified as a Tango Blast member, was transporting four illegal aliens to San Antonio.

In June 2012, officers apprehended five illegal aliens, including a MS-13 member who was identified as the principal alien smuggler, at a motel in Del Rio.

In April 2012, law enforcement officers performing a vehicle stop on US-83 and FM-133 apprehended a Mexican Mafia member who was transporting multiple illegal aliens, some of whom were found to have extensive criminal histories.

In March 2012, agencies assisting federal authorities reported the apprehension of over 200 illegal aliens that had been held at residences used as human smuggling stash houses in Alton, Brownsville, Edinburg, Mission and San Juan. Officers also made several arrests of individuals used to guard the illegal aliens in the homes, including one confirmed Texas Syndicate member.

Gang members and others involved in human smuggling use violence, extortion, and unlawful restraint against their victims. While being held in stash houses, victims may be forced to perform labor, and females – including minors – have been sexually assaulted.

## Texas Gang Threat Assessment 2012

The fact that many prison gang members have committed multiple offenses may account for the relatively low numbers of other crimes in Figure 4. For example, a gang member who had committed both a kidnapping and a murder, and received a longer sentence for the murder, would not register in the kidnapping category. In addition, the data does not show whether the offender committed the offense as a gang member or became a gang member after becoming incarcerated. Furthermore, these offenses are not always an accurate representation of the crime that was actually committed; they may reflect a lesser charge resulting from a plea bargain. Regardless, this information underscores a simple reality: gang members in Texas are dangerous criminals responsible for violent and heinous crimes.

Another indication of the range of criminal activity that gangs commit comes from the TxGang database, which shows that of all gang-related arrests during the past decade, approximately 15 percent were related to violent crimes, including assault, homicide, kidnapping, and robbery, while approximately 25 percent were for property crimes, and 24 percent for drug-related offenses.

### Outlook

Based on a review of current intelligence and knowledge of gang activity, we make the following assessments:

- We expect that the overall gang threat in Texas will remain high during the coming year, given previous estimated increases in overall gang membership in Texas and elsewhere in the United States. The gangs working directly with the Mexican cartels will continue to represent a particular threat to the state.
- The threat posed by individual gangs will change over time. Although changes in gang leadership and the impact of law enforcement action will have an effect on a gang's ability to operate effectively, many of the Tier 1 and Tier 2 gangs will continue to constitute significant threats to Texas due to their large membership numbers, relationships with cartels, high levels of transnational criminal activity, and other factors.
- Mexican drug cartels will fight to maintain or increase their share of the lucrative drug and human smuggling markets, Texas-based gangs will continue to play an essential role in supporting cartel operations on both sides of the border, and the cartels will likely seek to expand their existing networks in Texas by leveraging the gangs. We expect the relationships between individual gangs and cartels to remain fluid, and possibly adapt and evolve in response to changes in the cartel landscape in Mexico.

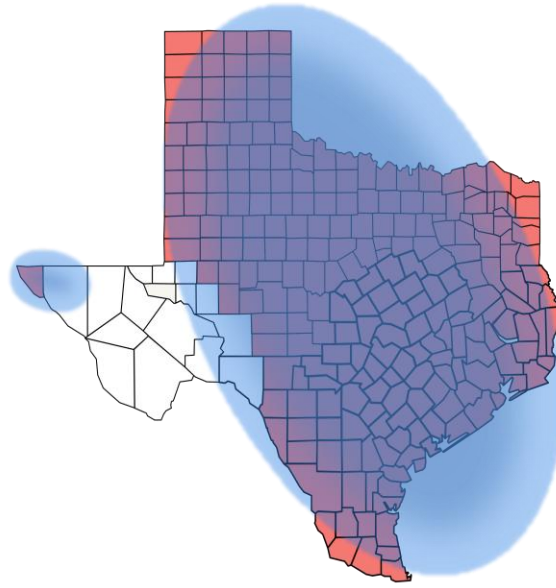
## **Appendix 1: Tier 1 and Tier 2 Gangs**

The following pages provide some brief information regarding the most significant gangs in Texas. Also included are maps showing the areas of the state where each gang's presence and activities are assessed to be most concentrated, based on information provided from multiple sources. The absence of shading on a particular part of the map does not necessarily indicate that the gang does not have a presence there, and the concentration of the gang's activity varies within the shaded area.

## Texas Gang Threat Assessment 2012

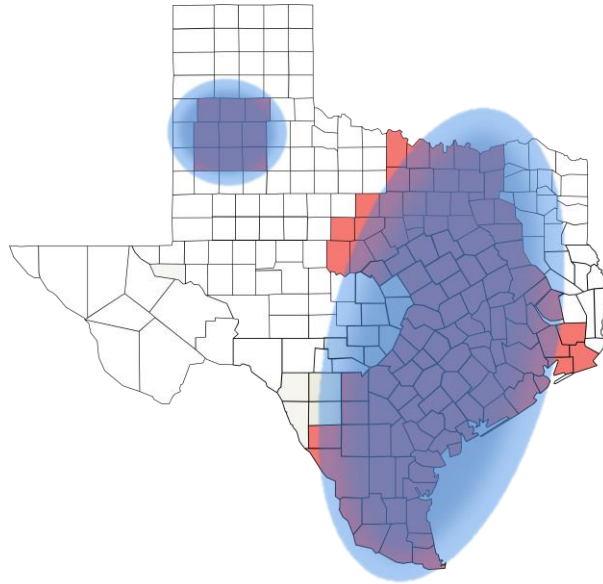
### Tier 1: Tango Blast

Tango Blast is assessed as a Tier 1 gang threat in Texas. This determination is based on the rapid growth of Tango Blast cliques, their high level of criminal activity, their propensity for violence, and their relationships with Mexican cartels.



## Tier 1: Texas Syndicate

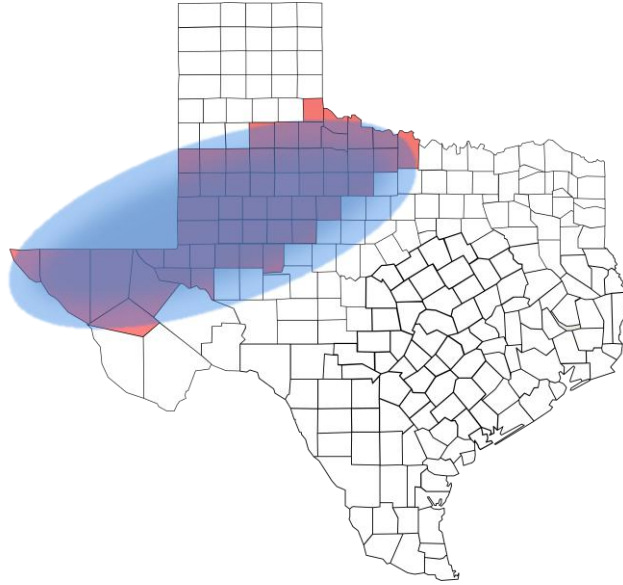
The Texas Syndicate (TS) is presently ranked as a Tier 1 public safety threat in Texas. The Texas Syndicate is a hyper-violent prison gang that has its origins in the California penal system over 40 years ago. Soon after it began, the TS moved into the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and onto the streets, using violence to protect its involvement in human and drug trafficking, often working with Mexican cartels such as Los Zetas.



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### Tier 1: Barrio Azteca

Barrio Azteca (BA) remains a Tier 1 criminal organization mostly due to its continued levels of criminal activity, association to Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs), and ability to effectively operate on both sides of the Texas–Mexico border. Although predominantly located in El Paso and Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, recent arrests of BA members in the Wichita Falls area attest to the group’s ability to expand its influence into other areas of Texas.

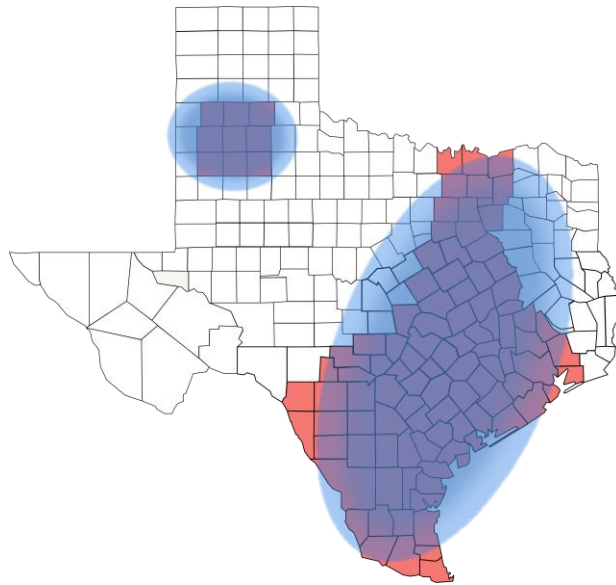




## Texas Gang Threat Assessment 2012

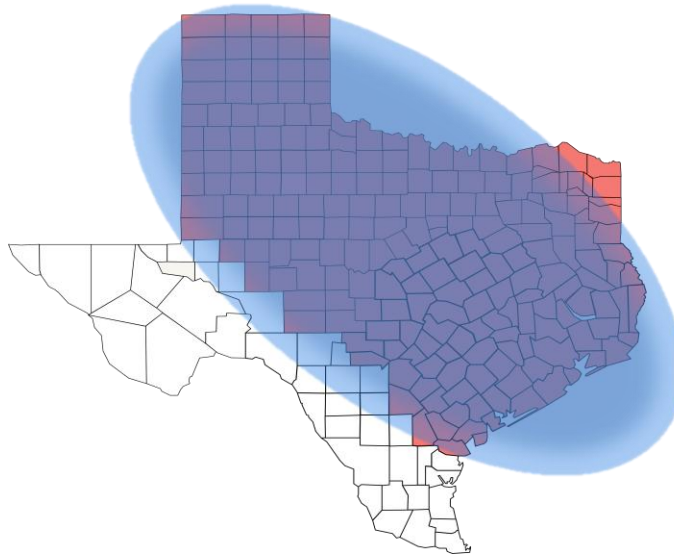
### Tier 1: Texas Mexican Mafia

The arrests of key Texas Mexican Mafia (TMM) members in 2012 have decreased the gang's statewide threat level, though they are still assessed to be a Tier 1 threat to Texas due to their history and size. The effectiveness of law enforcement actions, along with increased tensions with other gangs, has weakened the gang's overall effectiveness.



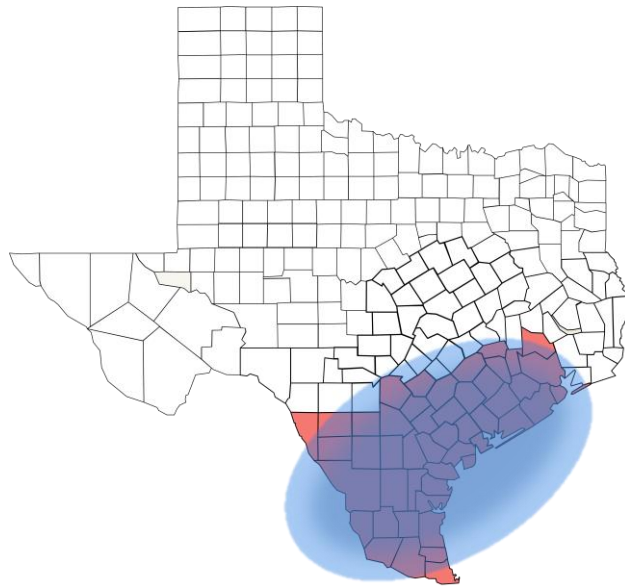
## Tier 2: Aryan Brotherhood of Texas

The Aryan Brotherhood of Texas (ABT) was formed as a prison gang and places its racist ideology secondary to its everyday criminal activities. ABT is not considered a significant threat to the border areas of Texas but is considered a prevailing gang that threatens Texas internally because of its involvement in violent crimes, the methamphetamine business, and frequent property crimes.



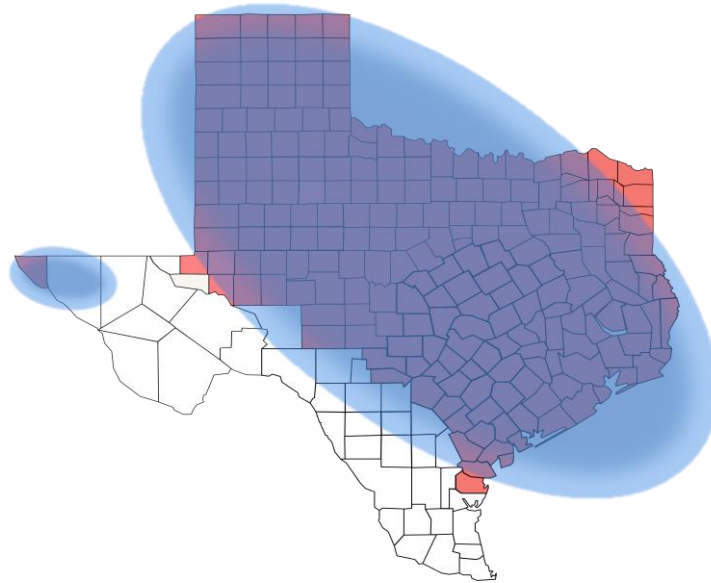
## Tier 2: Partido Revolucionario Mexicano

The PRM (Partido Revolucionario Mexicano) is an organized and secretive prison and street gang that operates both in Mexico and Texas. PRM is composed mainly of Mexican nationals, many of whom are illegal aliens who are subsequently deported once they are released from prison. This allows the PRM to establish cells on both sides of the border. PRM members who are deported often re-enter the United States and establish themselves as members in Texas. PRM has begun to allow U.S. citizens to become members of the gang in order to maintain their presence in Texas and eliminate the possibility of deportation.



## Tier 2: Crips

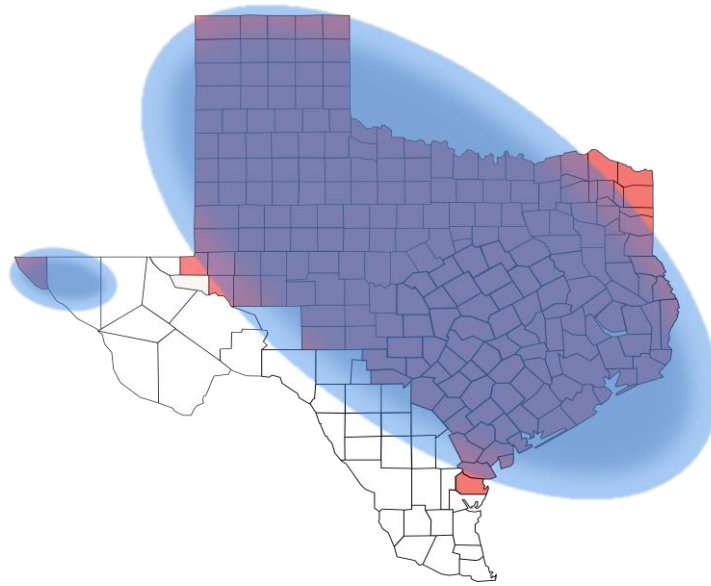
The Crips is a criminal street gang founded in Los Angeles, California, in the late 1960s. The name “Crips” does not define a single gang, but rather it is an identity with which many gang sets associate themselves. Crips gangs have maintained a documented presence in Texas since the mid-1980s.



## Texas Gang Threat Assessment 2012

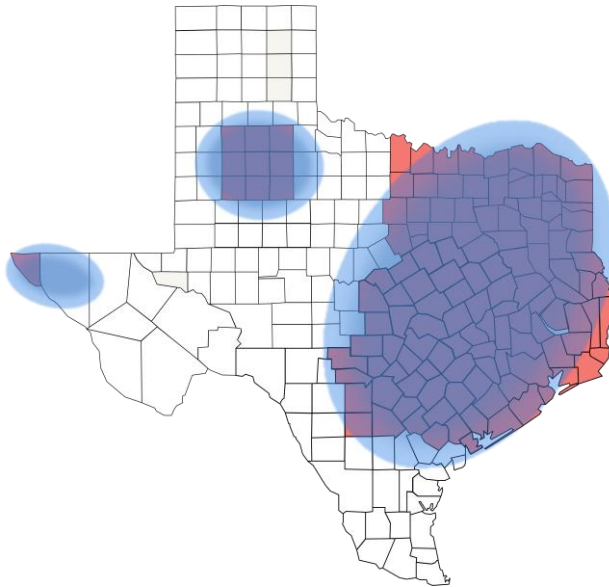
### Tier 2: Bloods

The Bloods is a violent street gang that originated in Los Angeles, California, in the early 1970s. It developed as an offshoot clique of the Crips gang and then split from that organization. The Bloods' presence in Texas has been documented since the 1980s, and has posed a threat both in prison facilities and the free world. Its overall presence and the level of criminal activity and violence perpetrated by its members qualify them as a serious threat in Texas.



## Tier 2: Bandidos Outlaw Motorcycle Gang

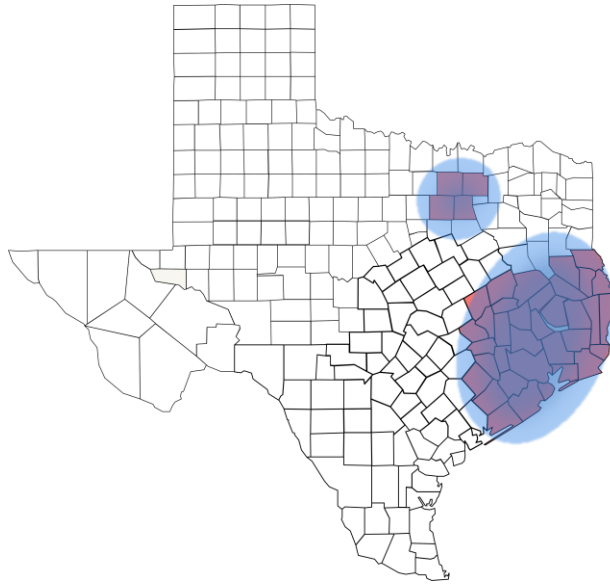
The Bandidos OMG conducts its illegal activities as covertly as possible and avoids high-profile activities, such as drive-by shootings, that many street gangs tend to commit. Members are not covert, however, about making their presence known by wearing their colors and insignia, and riding in large groups.



## Texas Gang Threat Assessment 2012

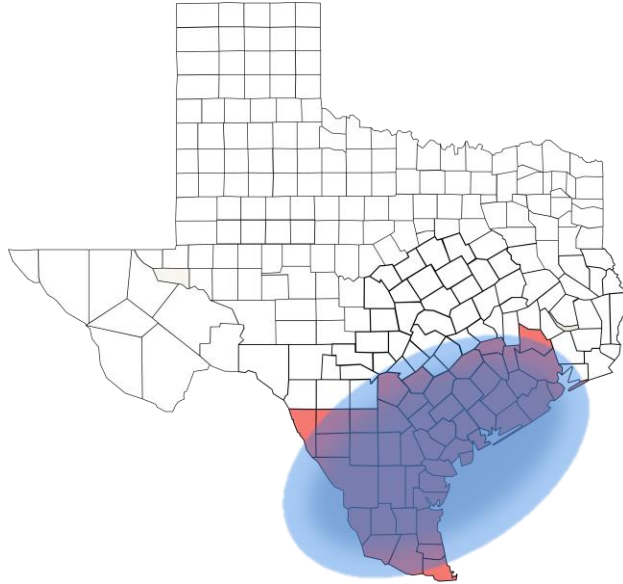
### Tier 2: Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13)

Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) is perhaps the best known transnational street gang in the world, enjoying ongoing command, control, and coordination between gang leaders and cliques in disparate countries. MS-13 remains a constant threat to the state of Texas through its use of violence and complete disregard of the law.



## Tier 2: Hermandad de Pistoleros Latinos

The HPL remains a significant threat due to its involvement in organized crime in Texas. The HPL is expected to continue criminal operations at current levels with their main hub remaining in the Laredo/Webb County area. An effort to expand HPL operations in San Antonio is possible due to a rivalry with Texas Mexican Mafia (TMM) and TMM's weakened state as a result of law enforcement disruptions.

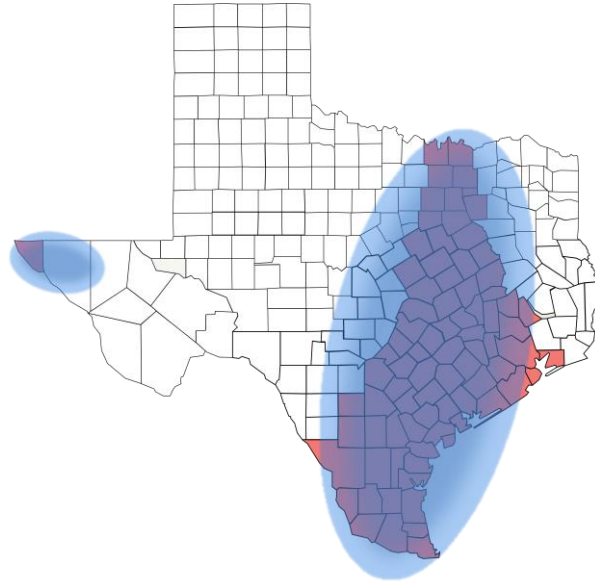




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### Tier 2: Sureños

The Sureños originated as a gang confederation closely aligned under the umbrella of the California Mexican Mafia. As such, they often utilize the number 13 as a sign of respect to the California Mexican Mafia (the letter M being the 13th letter in the alphabet). Although many gangs in Texas may use the Sureños name, not all of them are affiliated with the California-based confederation.



## Appendix 2: Contributing Agencies

The following agencies contributed to the production of this assessment.

Office of the Attorney General, State of Texas  
Texas Department of Criminal Justice  
Texas Department of Public Safety,  
    Border Security Operations Center  
Texas Department of Public Safety,  
    Criminal Investigations Division  
Texas Juvenile Justice Department  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Federal Bureau of Prisons  
National Gang Intelligence Center  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration  
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement,  
    Homeland Security Investigations  
U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  
El Paso Intelligence Center  
Houston HIDTA  
West Texas HIDTA  
South Texas HIDTA  
North Texas HIDTA  
Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition  
Arlington Police Department  
Austin Police Department  
Carrollton Police Department  
Corpus Christi Police Department  
Dallas Police Department  
Houston Police Department  
Laredo Police Department  
Plano Police Department  
San Antonio Police Department  
San Antonio Regional Intelligence Center  
Cameron County Sheriff's Office  
El Paso County Sheriff's Office  
Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office  
Webb County Sheriff's Office  
Nacogdoches County Sheriff's Office  
Nueces County Sheriff's Office  
Maverick County Sheriff's Office  
Maverick County Juvenile Probation Office  
Harris County Juvenile Probation Department

## Texas Gang Threat Assessment 2012

**Agencies participating in Operation Border Star are listed below.**

| <b>Sheriff's Offices</b>           |                 |                |                 |                  |                              |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>COASTAL BEND</b>                | <b>RGV</b>      | <b>LAREDO</b>  | <b>DEL RIO</b>  | <b>MARFA</b>     | <b>EL PASO</b>               |
| Aransas Co SO                      | Cameron Co SO   | Duval Co SO    | Dimmit Co SO    | Brewster Co SO   | El Paso Co SO                |
| Bee Co SO                          | Hidalgo Co SO   | Frio Co SO     | Kinney Co SO    | Culberson Co SO  | Hudspeth Co SO               |
| Brooks Co SO                       | Kenedy Co SO    | Jim Hogg Co SO | Maverick Co SO  | Hudspeth Co SO   | Dona Ana Co SO (NM)          |
| Calhoun Co SO                      | Willacy Co SO   | La Salle Co SO | Real Co SO      | Jeff Davis Co SO | Grant Co SO (NM)             |
| Dewitt Co SO                       | Starr Co SO     | Webb Co SO     | Val Verde Co SO | Pecos Co SO      | Hidalgo Co SO (NM)           |
| Goliad Co SO                       |                 | Zapata Co SO   | Uvalde Co SO    | Presidio Co SO   | Luna Co SO (NM)              |
| Gonzales Co SO                     |                 |                | Zavala Co SO    | Reeves Co SO     | Otero Co SO (NM)             |
| Jackson Co SO                      |                 |                |                 | Terrell Co SO    |                              |
| Jim Wells Co SO                    |                 |                |                 |                  |                              |
| Kleberg Co SO                      |                 |                |                 |                  |                              |
| Lavaca Co SO                       |                 |                |                 |                  |                              |
| Live Oak Co SO                     |                 |                |                 |                  |                              |
| McMullen Co SO                     |                 |                |                 |                  |                              |
| Nueces Co SO                       |                 |                |                 |                  |                              |
| Refugio Co SO                      |                 |                |                 |                  |                              |
| San Patricio Co SO                 |                 |                |                 |                  |                              |
| Victoria Co SO                     |                 |                |                 |                  |                              |
| <b>Volunteer Sheriff's Offices</b> |                 |                |                 |                  |                              |
| <b>COASTAL BEND</b>                | <b>RGV</b>      | <b>LAREDO</b>  | <b>DEL RIO</b>  | <b>MARFA</b>     | <b>EL PASO</b>               |
| Matagorda Co SO                    |                 |                | Edwards Co SO   | Midland Co SO    |                              |
| Wharton Co SO                      |                 |                |                 | Ward Co SO       |                              |
| Guadalupe Co SO                    |                 |                |                 | Eddy Co SO (NM)  |                              |
| <b>Police Departments</b>          |                 |                |                 |                  |                              |
| <b>COASTAL BEND</b>                | <b>RGV</b>      | <b>LAREDO</b>  | <b>DEL RIO</b>  | <b>MARFA</b>     | <b>EL PASO</b>               |
| Corpus Christi PD                  | Alamo PD        | Laredo PD      | Del Rio PD      | Alpine PD        | EL Paso PD                   |
| Kingsville PD                      | Brownsville PD  | Dilley PD      |                 | Fort Stockton PD | El Paso ISD PD               |
| Victoria PD                        | Donna PD        | Pearsall PD    |                 | Odessa PD        | Anthony PD                   |
|                                    | Edcouch PD      |                |                 | Pecos PD         | Horizon PD                   |
|                                    | Edinburg PD     |                |                 | Presidio PD      | Socorro PD                   |
|                                    | Elsa PD         |                |                 |                  | Ysleta Del Sur PD            |
|                                    | Harlingen PD    |                |                 |                  | El Paso Community College PD |
|                                    | Hidalgo PD      |                |                 |                  | UT – El Paso PD              |
|                                    | La Ferir PD     |                |                 |                  | Texas Tech University PD     |
|                                    | La Grulla PD    |                |                 |                  |                              |
|                                    | La Joya PD      |                |                 |                  |                              |
|                                    | Los Fresnos PD  |                |                 |                  |                              |
|                                    | McAllen PD      |                |                 |                  |                              |
|                                    | Mercedes PD     |                |                 |                  |                              |
|                                    | Mission PD      |                |                 |                  |                              |
|                                    | Palmview PD     |                |                 |                  |                              |
|                                    | Penitas PD      |                |                 |                  |                              |
|                                    | Pharr PD        |                |                 |                  |                              |
|                                    | Raymondville PD |                |                 |                  |                              |

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|                                     |                                 |               |                        |               |  |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|--|
|                                     | Roma PD                         |               |                        |               |  |
|                                     | Rio Grande City PD              |               |                        |               |  |
|                                     | San Benito PD                   |               |                        |               |  |
|                                     | Weslaco PD                      |               |                        |               |  |
| <b>Volunteer Police Departments</b> |                                 |               |                        |               |  |
| <b>COASTAL BEND</b>                 | <b>RGV</b>                      | <b>LAREDO</b> | <b>DEL RIO</b>         | <b>MARFA</b>  | <b>EL PASO</b>                                   |
| Alice PD                            | Alamo PD                        |               | Uvalde PD              | Odessa PD     |  |
| Bay City PD                         | Donna PD                        |               |                        |               |  |
| Corpus Christi Port Authority PD    | Falfurrias PD                   |               |                        |               |  |
| Driscoll PD                         | Palmhurst PD                    |               |                        |               |  |
| El Campo PD                         | Port Isabel PD                  |               |                        |               |  |
| George West PD                      | UT-Pan American                 |               |                        |               |  |
| Hallettsville PD                    | UT-Brownsville                  |               |                        |               |  |
| Orange Grove PD                     |                                 |               |                        |               |  |
| Port Lavaca PD                      |                                 |               |                        |               |  |
| Robstown PD                         |                                 |               |                        |               |  |
| Rockport PD                         |                                 |               |                        |               |  |
| Seguin PD                           |                                 |               |                        |               |  |
| Sinton PD                           |                                 |               |                        |               |  |
| Three Rivers PD                     |                                 |               |                        |               |  |
|                                     |                                 |               |                        |               |  |
| <b>Volunteer Other Locals</b>       |                                 |               |                        |               |  |
| <b>COASTAL BEND</b>                 | <b>RGV</b>                      | <b>LAREDO</b> | <b>DEL RIO</b>         | <b>MARFA</b>  | <b>EL PASO</b>                                   |
| Nueces Co Precinct 3 Constable      | Hidalgo Co Precinct 3 Constable |               | 38th Judicial District |               | El Paso Constables                               |
|                                     | Hidalgo Co Precinct 4 Constable |               | Dimmit Co Constable    |               |  |
|                                     |                                 |               | Dimmit Co Constable 2  |               |  |
|                                     |                                 |               | Zavala Co Constable    |               |  |
| <b>State</b>                        |                                 |               |                        |               |  |
| <b>COASTAL BEND</b>                 | <b>RGV</b>                      | <b>LAREDO</b> | <b>DEL RIO</b>         | <b>MARFA</b>  | <b>EL PASO</b>                                   |
| DPS                                 | DPS                             | DPS           | DPS                    | DPS           | DPS  |
| TMF                                 | TMF                             | TMF           | TMF                    | TMF           | TABC   |
| TxDOT                               |                                 |               |                        |               | Texas AG Ofc – El Paso                           |
| TPWD                                | TPWD                            | TPWD          | TPWD                   | TPWD          | Texas Comptroller’s Ofc                          |
|                                     |                                 |               |                        |               | TMF  |
|                                     |                                 |               |                        |               | TPWD   |
| <b>Federal</b>                      |                                 |               |                        |               |  |
| <b>COASTAL BEND</b>                 | <b>RGV</b>                      | <b>LAREDO</b> | <b>DEL RIO</b>         | <b>MARFA</b>  | <b>EL PASO</b>                                   |
| ATF                                 | CBP-OFO                         | ATF           | CBO-OFO                | CBO-OFO       | CBP-OFO  |
| CBO-OFO                             | ICE                             | CBO-OFO       | DEA                    | ICE           | DEA  |
| DEA                                 | Starr Co HIDTA                  | DEA           | ICE                    | NPS           | ICE  |
| FBI                                 | USBP                            | FBI           | NPS                    | West TX HIDTA | US State Dept (US Diplomatic Protection Service) |

## Texas Gang Threat Assessment 2012

|                      |                       |               |                |              |                     |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Houston HIDTA        | USCG                  | ICE           | South TX HIDTA | USBP         | US Marshals Service |
| South TX HIDTA       | US Fish & Wildlife    | USBP          | USBP           |              | West TX HIDTA       |
| ICE                  | Texas Military Forces | US Marshals   | US Marshals    |              |                     |
| PINS-US Park Service |                       |               |                |              |                     |
| USBP                 |                       |               |                |              |                     |
| USPS                 |                       |               |                |              |                     |
| USCG                 |                       |               |                |              |                     |
|                      |                       |               |                |              |                     |
|                      |                       |               |                |              |                     |
| <b>Private</b>       |                       |               |                |              |                     |
| <b>COASTAL BEND</b>  | <b>RGV</b>            | <b>LAREDO</b> | <b>DEL RIO</b> | <b>MARFA</b> | <b>EL PASO</b>      |
| Union Pacific RR PD  |                       |               |                |              | Union Pacific RR PD |

**Agencies that have contributed to the TxGang database are listed below:**

Addison Police Department  
 Alice Police Department  
 Amarillo Police Department  
 Beeville Police Department  
 Bell County Juvenile Probation Services  
 Bexar County Sheriff's Office, San Antonio  
 Brownsville Police Department  
 Bryan Police Department  
 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives – Beaumont  
 Carrollton Police Department  
 Clute Police Department  
 College Station Police Department  
 Comal County Sheriff's Department – New Braunfels  
 Community Supervision & Corrections Department  
 Conroe Police Department  
 Constable's Office PCT 1 – Richmond  
 Converse Police Department  
 Corpus Christi Police Department  
 District Attorney's Office – Fort Worth  
 Donna ISD Police Department  
 DPS Bureau of Information Analysis  
 DPS Communications – Amarillo  
 DPS Communications – San Antonio  
 DPS Criminal Investigations Division – Region VI  
 DPS Criminal Law Enforcement – Region III, Corpus Christi  
 DPS Criminal Law Enforcement – Region II, Houston  
 DPS Criminal Law Enforcement – Region V, Lubbock  
 DPS Criminal Intelligence Service  
 DPS Criminal Law Enforcement – Region 1, Garland  
 DPS Criminal Law Enforcement Headquarters

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Dumas Police Department  
Edinburg Police Department  
Ellis County Sheriff's Office – Waxahachie  
Erath County Sheriff's Office – Stephenville  
Everman Police Department  
Farmers Branch Police Department – Dallas  
Forney Police Department  
Fort Bend County Sheriff's Department  
Gainesville Police Department  
Galveston County Sheriff's Office – Galveston  
Garland Police Department  
Georgetown Police Department  
Haltom City Police Department  
Harris County Sheriff's Office – Houston  
Hays County Gang Task Force  
Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office – Edinburg  
Hill County Sheriff's Office – Hillsboro  
Houston Police Department  
Humble ISD Police Department  
Hunt County Sheriff's Office – Greenville  
Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Detention and Removal  
ICE, Office of Intelligence (OI), Resident Agent in Charge – Austin  
ICE OI, Detention and Removal Operations (DRO) – Harlingen  
ICE San Antonio DRO Field Office  
Irving Police Department  
Jersey Village Police Department – Houston  
Jim Wells County Sheriff's Office  
Juvenile Probation Office – Waco  
Kenedy Police Department  
Kerr County Sheriff's Office – Kerrville  
Kilgore Police Department  
Killeen Police Department  
La Marque Police Department  
Lancaster Police Department  
Lewisville Police Department  
Longview Police Department  
Lubbock County Sheriff's Office – Lubbock  
Lubbock Police Department  
Mansfield Police Department  
McAllen Police Department  
McLennan County Sheriff's Office – Waco  
Mesquite Police Department  
Metropolitan Transit Authority Police Department – Houston  
Midland Police Department  
Missouri City Police Department  
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office – Conroe  
Nacogdoches County Sheriff's Office – Nacogdoches

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New Braunfels Police Department  
Nueces County Sheriff's Office – Corpus Christi  
Onalaska Police Department  
Parker County Sheriff's Office – Weatherford  
Pharr Police Department  
Plano Police Department  
Robstown Police Department  
Rockport Police Department  
Rosenberg Police Department  
San Angelo Police Department  
Sante Fe Police Department  
Seguin Police Department  
Sherman Police Department  
Spring Branch ISD Police Department  
Sugar Land Police Department  
Temple Police Department  
Texas City Police Department  
Texas DPS DNA Crime Laboratory – Houston  
Texas State Operations Center – Austin  
The Colony Police Department - The Colony  
Tiki Island Police Department  
Tom Green County Sheriff's Office – San Angelo  
Travis County Sheriff's Office – Austin  
Tyler Police Department  
Weatherford Police Department  
Wharton Police Department  
Wichita Falls Police Department  
Williamson County Sheriff's Office – Georgetown

## References

This assessment was produced based on intelligence information of a sensitive nature, which is not referenced specifically. Information from other sources is referenced below.

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<sup>1</sup> Map based on information compiled from multiple sources, showing the concentration of gang activity across Texas. The absence of shading in a county does not necessarily indicate the absence of gang activity.

<sup>2</sup> Statistics based on available data from the Texas Juvenile Justice Department since 2008.

<sup>3</sup> U. S. Department of Justice, National Gang Intelligence Center; *National Gang Threat Assessment 2009*.

<sup>4</sup> U. S. Department of Justice, National Gang Intelligence Center; *National Gang Threat Assessment 2011*.

<sup>5</sup> Information provided by Texas Department of Criminal Justice regarding the offense of record for members of Security Threat Groups that fall into the Tier 1 and Tier 2 categories.