

South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs



PROGRESS REPORT
December 2010 - June 2011

PURPOSE

- ∞ Challenges
- ∞ Findings
- ∞ Activities
- ∞ Projects
- ∞ Future work plans

CHALLENGES

- ✎ Six major gangs
- ✎ 150 active gang members
- ✎ 750 associate gang members
- ✎ 8% of local 7th, 9th, and 11th graders self-identify as gang members
- ✎ 46% of males and 12% of females at local continuation high schools self-identify as gang affiliated

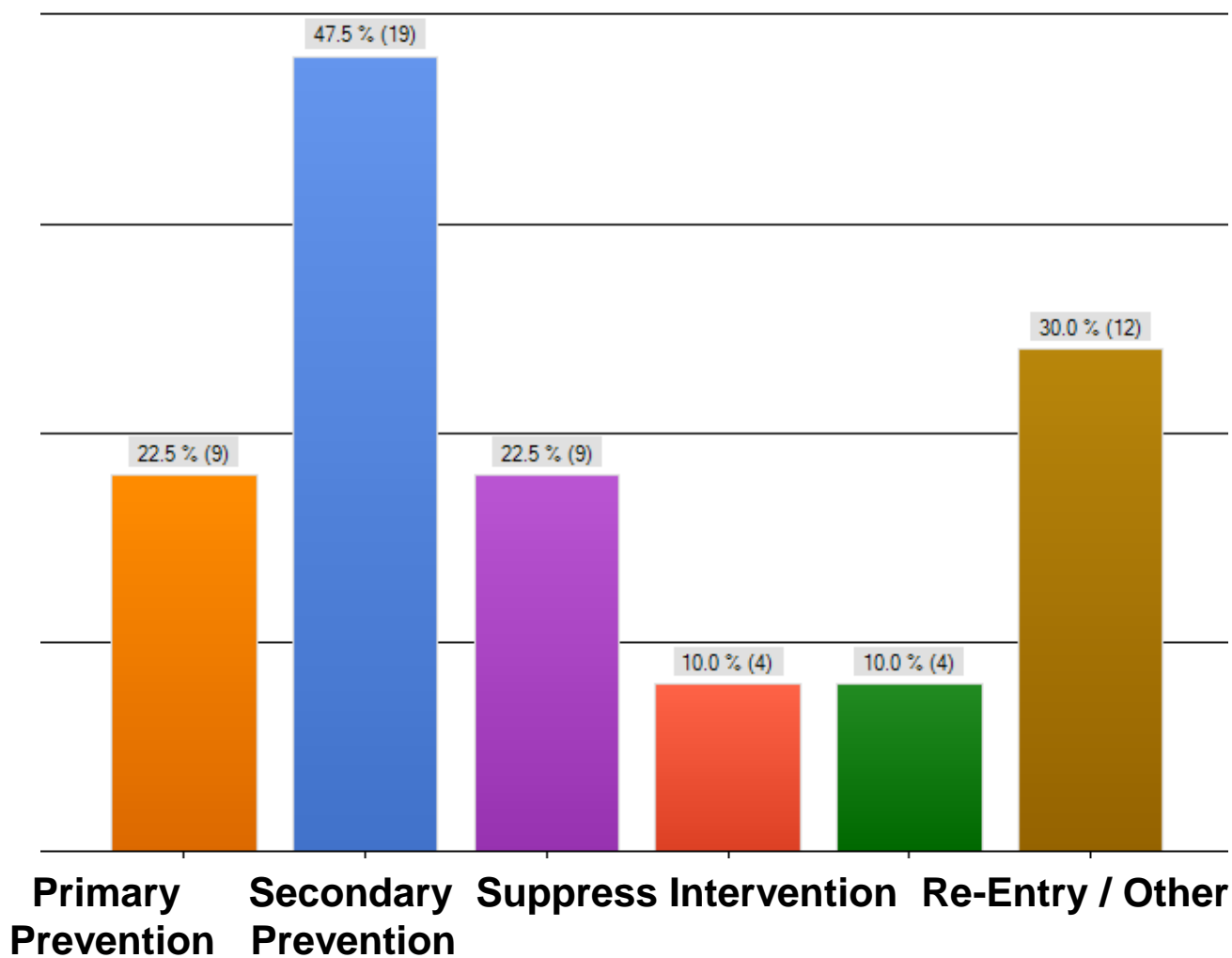
THE CHALLENGE

∞ To reduce the number of gangs and gang members requires a long-term commitment to support effective gang prevention, intervention, suppression, and re-entry initiatives. Our continuous challenge is to evaluate, validate and improve the effectiveness of these initiatives.

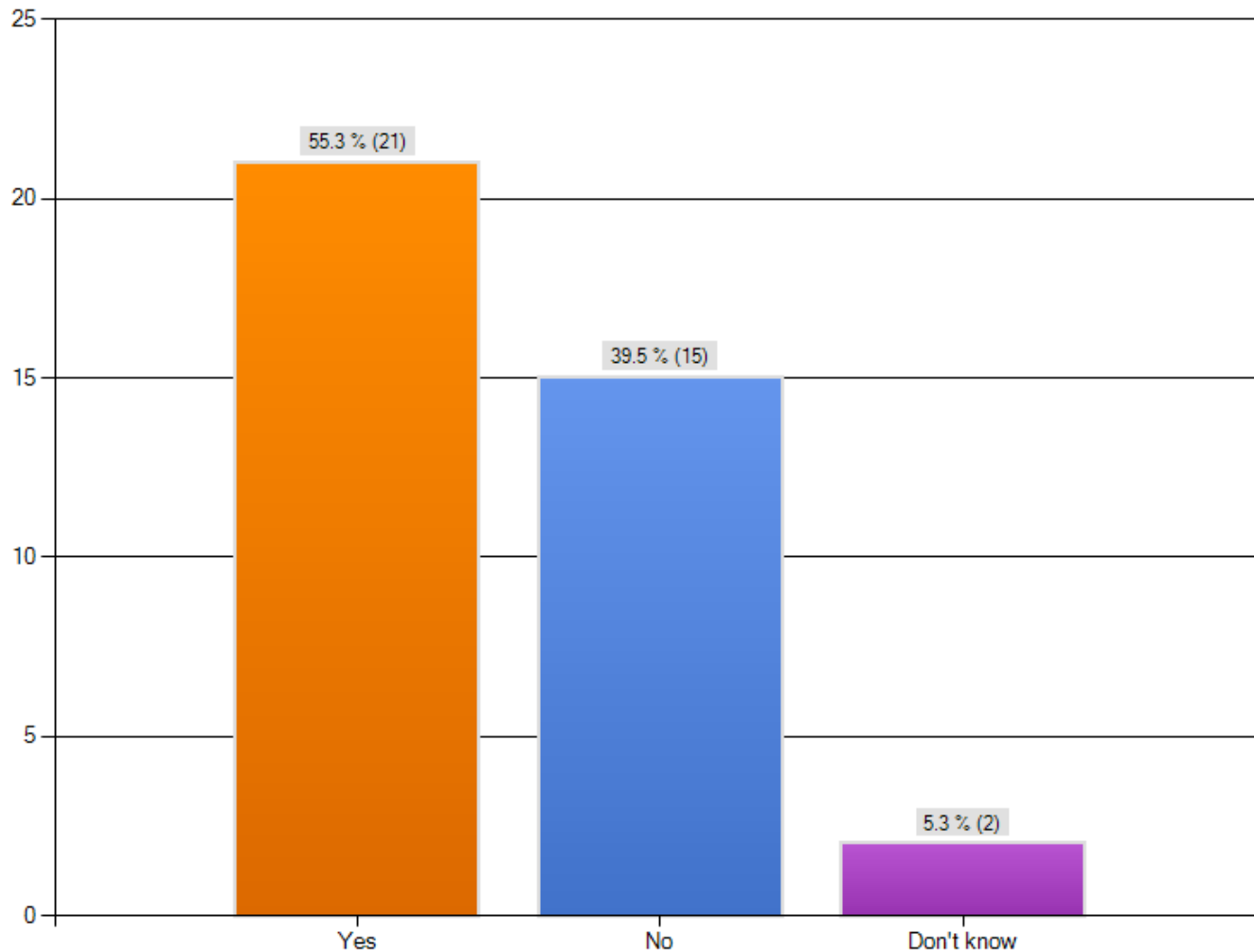
FINDINGS

- ☞ Survey on Gang Programs sent to 100 local leaders
- ☞ Identified 50+ promising & exemplary programs
- ☞ Highest response for Secondary Gang Prevention
- ☞ Lowest response for Gang Intervention & Re-Entry
- ☞ Approximately 40% are not evidence-based
- ☞ Most (53%) do not use client specific assessment

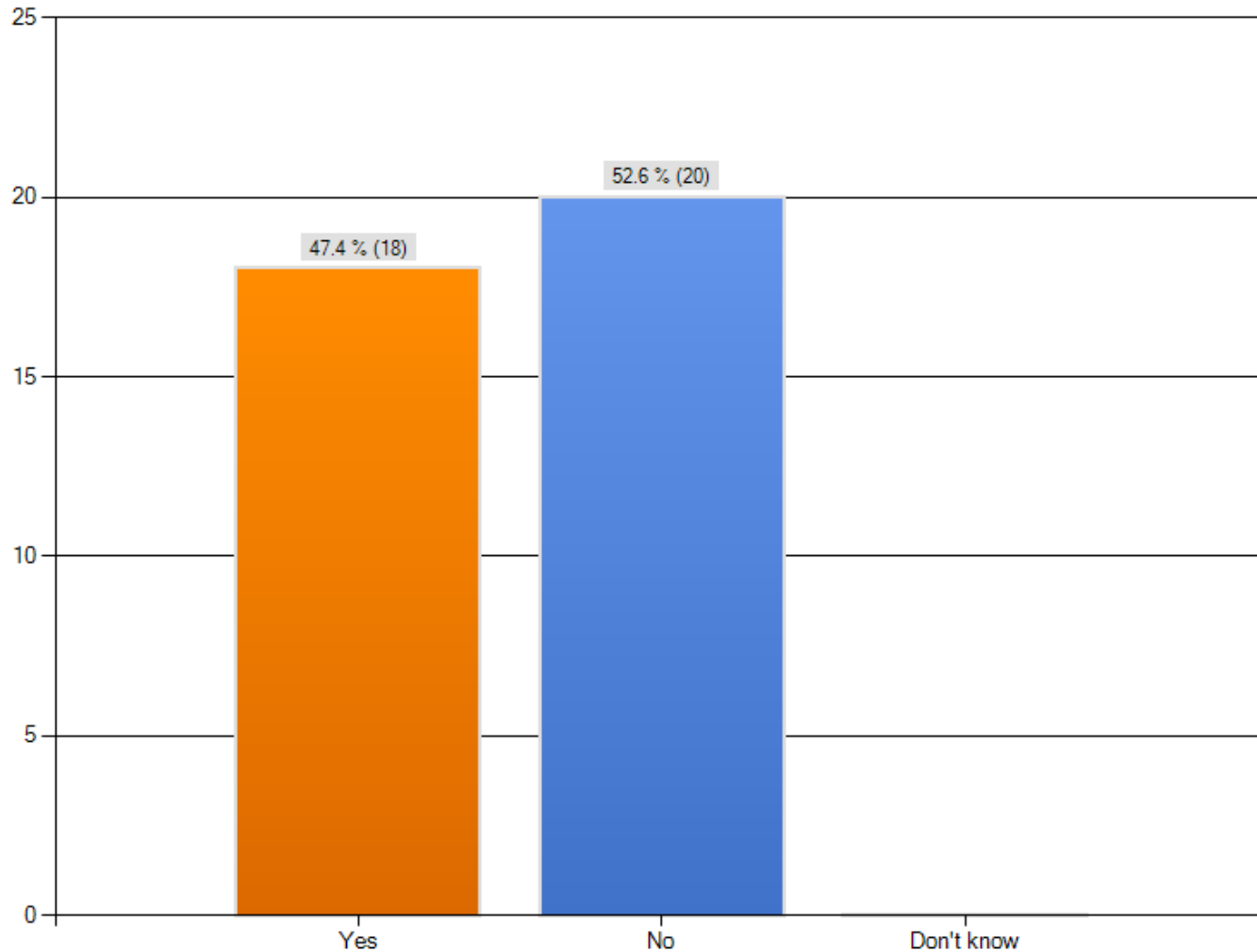
Preliminary Results – Program Type



Preliminary Results — Evidence Based Program?



Preliminary Results — Client Specific Assessments?



USE OF SURVEY FINDINGS

- ☞ Update Resource Guide on Gang Programs
- ☞ Develop training initiative to foster inter-agency collaboration
- ☞ Strengthen program evaluation
- ☞ Maximize coordination of services
- ☞ Build on existing strengths and reorganize the effective delivery of services per city

ACTIVITIES

Identified Lessons Learned from Cal GRIP I

- Multi-agency team work assisted selected gang youth to improve their academic work, complete their school credits, and reduce recidivism (+)
- Better coordination of case management services (-)
- Parent education (-)
- Formative evaluations (-)
- Gap in gang prevention for Elementary Schools (-)

FINDINGS

- ☞ Helped local Safe Schools and Healthy Students Initiative to integrate gang prevention as part of its goals
- ☞ Initiative is sponsored by the Carpinteria USD
- ☞ K-12 grade continuum of best practices through activities, services and programs
- ☞ Addresses safe school environment & violence prevention, alcohol, tobacco, & drug prevention by providing student behavioral, social and emotional support
- ☞ Multi-agency collaborative of schools, community, law enforcement, probation, & mental health

ACTIVITIES

- ☞ Symposium on Street Gangs and School Safety
 - 100+ participants representing local school/community/police safety teams
 - Helped Update School Safety Plans
 - Helped Infuse Gang Prevention into Safety Plans
 - Edited video to be aired on local TV channels

ACTIVITIES

∞ Parent education workshops

- El Puente Parent Meetings (20+ participants)
- Parent Night at Carpinteria HS (300 participant)

∞ Student leadership presentations

- SB Teen Coalition (50+ participants)
- Los Prietos Boys Camp (40+ participants)
- SBCYF's Youth Summit (60+ participants)

BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION

- ∞ Community-wide Risk Assessment
- ∞ Client assessment instrument
- ∞ Evidence based treatments
- ∞ Training
- ∞ Comprehensive School Safety Plans
- ∞ GRIP, DARE & GREAT
- ∞ Gang Control Strategies Website

How To Get Out of A Gang

- ✎ Gap in service delivery
- ✎ Questionnaire
- ✎ Multi-agency professionals
- ✎ Campers at Los Prietos Youth Camp
- ✎ White Paper and Protocol for Service Providers

FUTURE WORK PLANS

- ∞ Secure continuous funding for Task Force's gang control Initiatives
- ∞ Design a formative evaluation system that can be used to strengthen the effectiveness of local gang prevention, intervention, suppression, and re-entry programs

FUTURE WORK PLANS

- ☞ Update Provider Inventory
- ☞ Conduct site visits
- ☞ Identify service gaps
- ☞ Offer Collaboration Training for providers
- ☞ Implement Student Leadership Academies
- ☞ Work with SB Campaign for Youth and Families

FUTURE WORK PLANS

- ✎ Assist in Cal GRIP II re-focus process
- ✎ Develop a Gang-Specific Client Assessment Instrument that can be used to help gang involved youth to achieve success out of gangs
- ✎ Develop a Public relations campaign on gang prevention and education
- ✎ Update the Task Force's website on gangs
- ✎ Create a TV series on Families Against Gangs

NORMS OF COLLABORATION

- ∞ No finger-pointing or blaming
- ∞ Everyone is part of the problem & solution
- ∞ There's enough work for everyone
- ∞ Power will be shared

We Pledge

To be kind to each other and to the children,
youth and families we serve

To keep the needs, problems, interests and
aspirations of children, youth, and their families
at the center of our work

CONTACT INFORMATION

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