

2022

24-0213 - ~2022 TAG Center Lubbock Briefing



Book

BRIEFING BOOK

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE



The State of Texas has nine Texas Anti-Gang (TAG) Centers: North Texas – Irving, East Texas – Tyler, Rio Grande Valley – McAllen, West Texas – El Paso, Houston, San Antonio, Waco, Laredo and Lubbock.

The TAG program is funded by grants from the Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) of the Texas Governor’s Office to support targeted, regional approaches to combating gang violence by closely coordinating the prevention, intervention, and suppression activities of state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies and prosecutors.

The Lubbock TAG Center was established in 2018, with participating agencies moving into our current location. Lubbock is strategically located as a metropolitan area connecting the West Texas Permian Basin, Eastern New Mexico, and the Pan Handle area (Amarillo) and is known as the “Hub City”.

Lubbock is the midway point between Interstate 20 and Interstate 40, which are both main east/west thoroughfares that facilitate drug trafficking. The Lubbock TAG services Lubbock County and 14 rural counties covering 13,737 square miles with a total population of 696,200. Lubbock is the largest of the 15 counties (Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, Kent, Lamb, Lynn, Motley, Terry and Yoakum) with an estimated population of 314,451. Lubbock’s airport, interstate rail, and highway infrastructure make it a convenient location to access both east and west coast locales and is a natural hub of transportation and trade, which makes it a key operational stronghold for criminal organizations when it comes to the distribution of drugs and contraband, as well as human trafficking.

Mission

To identify, target, investigate, suppress, and prosecute violent criminal gangs in the Lubbock/South Plains region through collaborative efforts by federal, state and local agencies.

TAG Core Values

Co-location – Bringing federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies together in a single, dedicated facility to share intelligence and conduct joint investigations to effectively prosecute, disrupt and dismantle violent criminal gangs.

Collaboration – The gathering of law enforcement officers with unique jurisdictions, knowledge, skills, and abilities to address violent criminal gangs that impact the Lubbock/South Plains region.

Intelligence Sharing – Exchanging information, data, and knowledge among TAG member agencies to strengthen our collective effort in reducing violent criminal activity.

Joint Investigations – Working through a collaborative effort to obtain the best evidence to prosecute violent gang members and their leaders.

Lubbock Texas Anti-Gang Center

Constituent Agencies:



Lubbock County Sheriff's Office

- Narcotics Unit
- Street Crimes Unit
- Gang Intelligence Unit
- SWAT/Warrants Unit
- K9 Unit

Drug Enforcement Administration

- HIDTA

Department of Homeland Security

- Regional Intelligence

Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

Texas Department of Public Safety

- Criminal Investigations Division
- Intelligence and Counterterrorism Division

Lubbock Police Department

- Narcotics Unit
- SWAT

Lubbock County District Attorney's Office

- TAG-assigned Assistant District Attorney

United States Attorney's Office (Northern District of Texas)

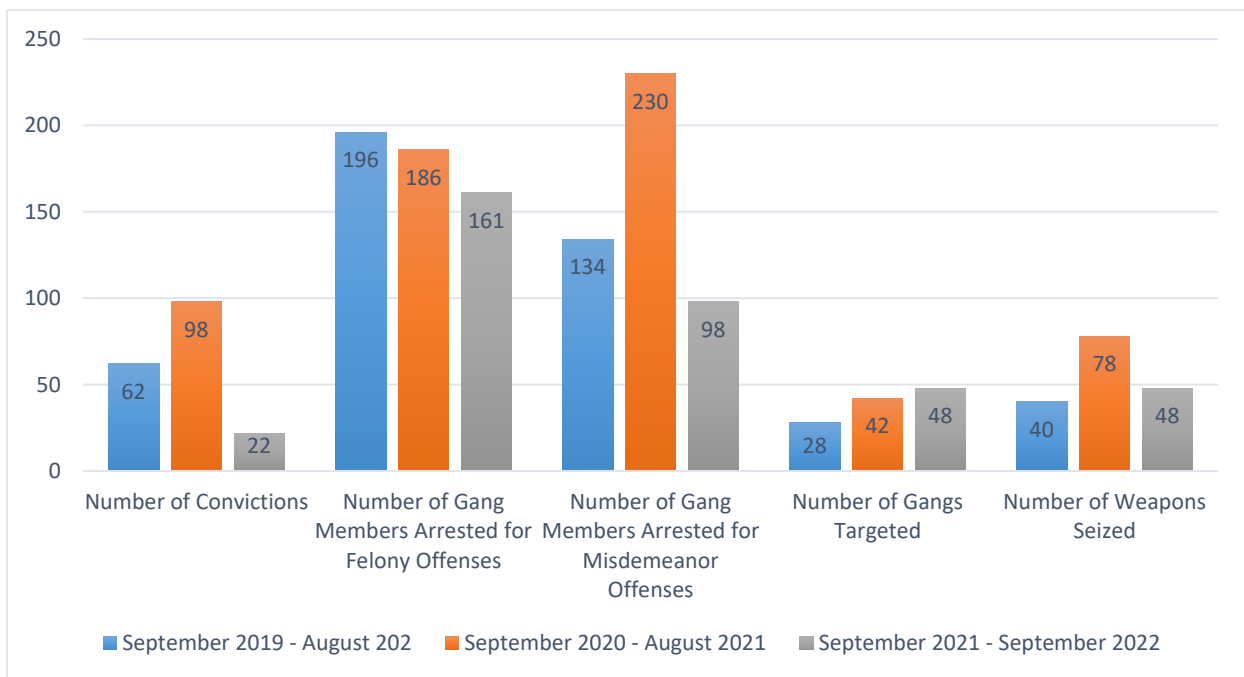
Lubbock Texas Anti-Gang Center Statistical Reporting Output Measures

Office of the Governor requires a progress report for the grant on a quarterly basis. Statistics are provided to the Lubbock TAG monthly from the participating agencies on the following defined-output measures:

- Number of gang members arrested for felony offenses
- Number of gang members arrested for misdemeanor offenses
- Number of convictions
- Number of weapons seized by officers supporting the TAG initiative
- Number of gangs targeted
- Number of participating agencies

	September 2019 – August 2020	September 2020 – August 2021	September 2021 – September 2022
Number of Convictions	62	98	22
Number of Gang Members Arrested for Felony Offenses	196	186	161
Number of Gang Members Arrested for Misdemeanor Offenses	134	230	98
Number of Gangs Targeted	28	42	48
Number of Weapons Seized	40	78	48

Lubbock Texas Anti-Gang Center Statistical Reporting Output Measures (continued)



TXGANG – Lubbock Texas Statistical Reporting

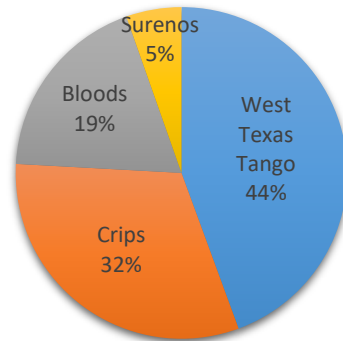
The Texas Department of Public Safety's TXGANG system is a database of persons associated with street gangs as reported by criminal justice agencies within Texas.

The Lubbock County area has 1,667 persons associated with 86 street gangs as of October 2022 registered in the TXGANG database.

Lubbock and the surrounding region has become a primary center for gangs engaged in violent criminal activities. The Lubbock TAG has implemented numerous strategies to combat the violence stemming from known gangs. The Lubbock TAG created a team of investigators from numerous partner agencies that respond to all gang-related aggravated assaults, drive-by shootings, gang or drug-related robberies, and murders. This effort directly generated a decrease in homicides in the Lubbock region from 2020 to 2021.

Supporting Data: There has been a significant rise in the number of documented gang members within Lubbock County. The 2022 numbers reflect there are approximately 1,667 documented gang members from 86 different gangs. In 2020, the Lubbock TAG conducted 220 intelligence-led suppression operations targeting known gang areas and wanted gang members. In addition to traditional gang investigations of known gangs such as West Texas Tangos, Crips, Bloods, and other street gangs, the Lubbock TAG has also identified numerous Mexican cartels operating in the Lubbock region. These cartels include Sinaloa, Gulf Cartel, La Linea, Beltran-Leyva, and Cartel Jalisco Nueva Generacion. The presence of these gangs and cartels, in addition to the extreme rise of juveniles engaging in violent crime, have been the primary focus of the Lubbock TAG. Juveniles in the Lubbock region have formed numerous "hybrid" street gangs. These gangs are loosely affiliated, but engage in extremely reckless violence. The Lubbock TAG has conducted over 100 investigations directly related to hybrid gangs involved in violent crimes including drive by shootings, home invasion robberies, and murders.

Largest Gangs in Lubbock County



■ West Texas Tango ■ Crips ■ Bloods ■ Surenos