



Responding to Gangs: A Collaborative Approach

Update to the BOS Public Safety Committee

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In mid-2000s, gang prevention efforts in Fairfax greatly expanded.

Gang
Prevention
Summit,
February 2006



- Police Department Gang Unit established: 1997
- Regional Task Force (suppression, intervention, prevention) established: 2003
- Gang Prevention Coordinator hired: 2006
- Coordinating Council for Gang Prevention and Cross-System Leadership Team established: 2006
- Middle School After-School Program expanded to 5 days a week at all schools: 2006-07
- NVFS IPE Program established: 2008



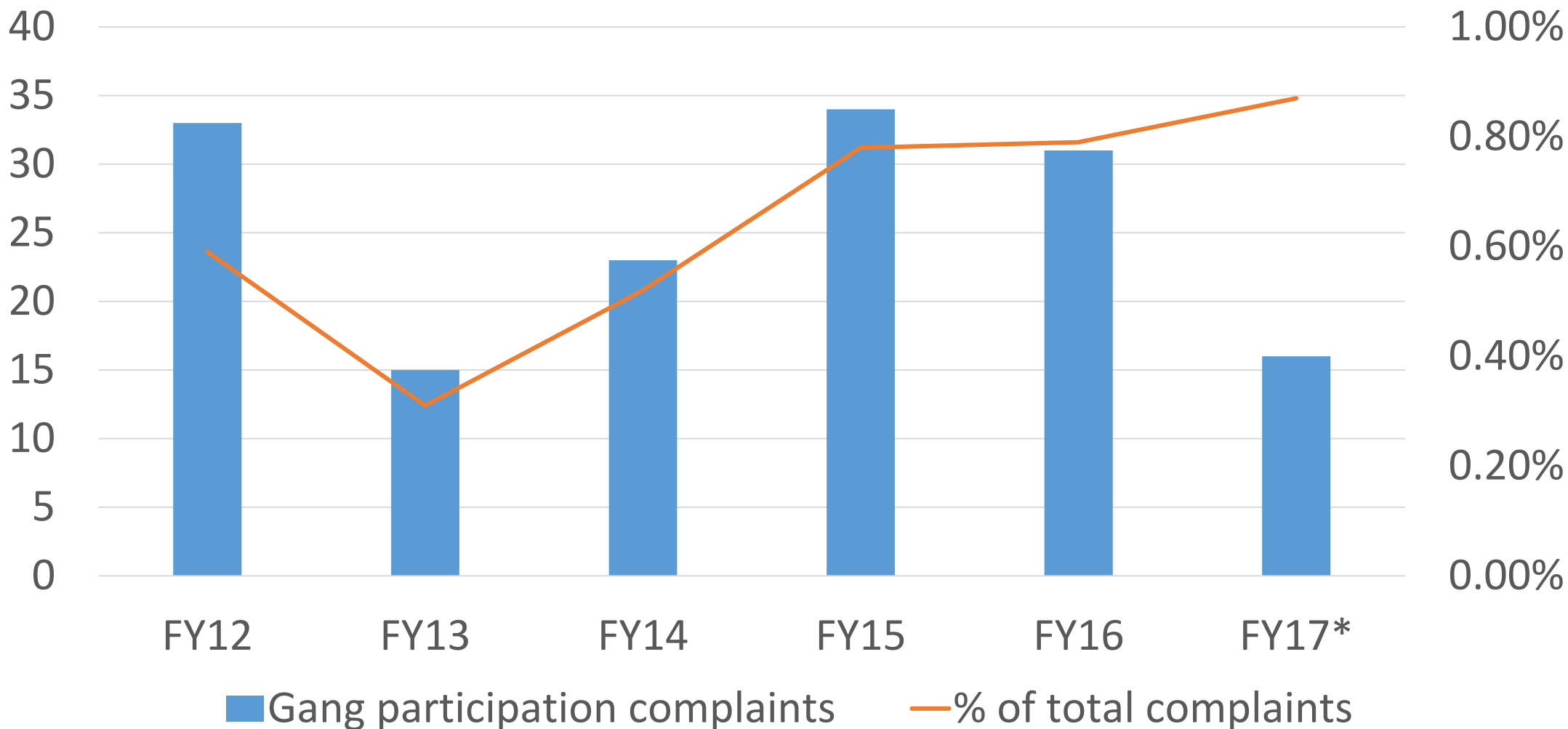
Regional data shows a recent increase, but gang activity is hard to quantify.

- **Gang-related** incidents are those in which someone involved is known to be a gang member. This data is especially useful for intelligence purposes.
- **Gang-motivated** crime is that which is carried out due to organized gang direction.

Police Department intelligence indicates there are at least 2,000 gang members and associates, involved with over 80 gangs, in Fairfax County.

See <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/citizen-awareness/gangs-faq.htm> for more information.

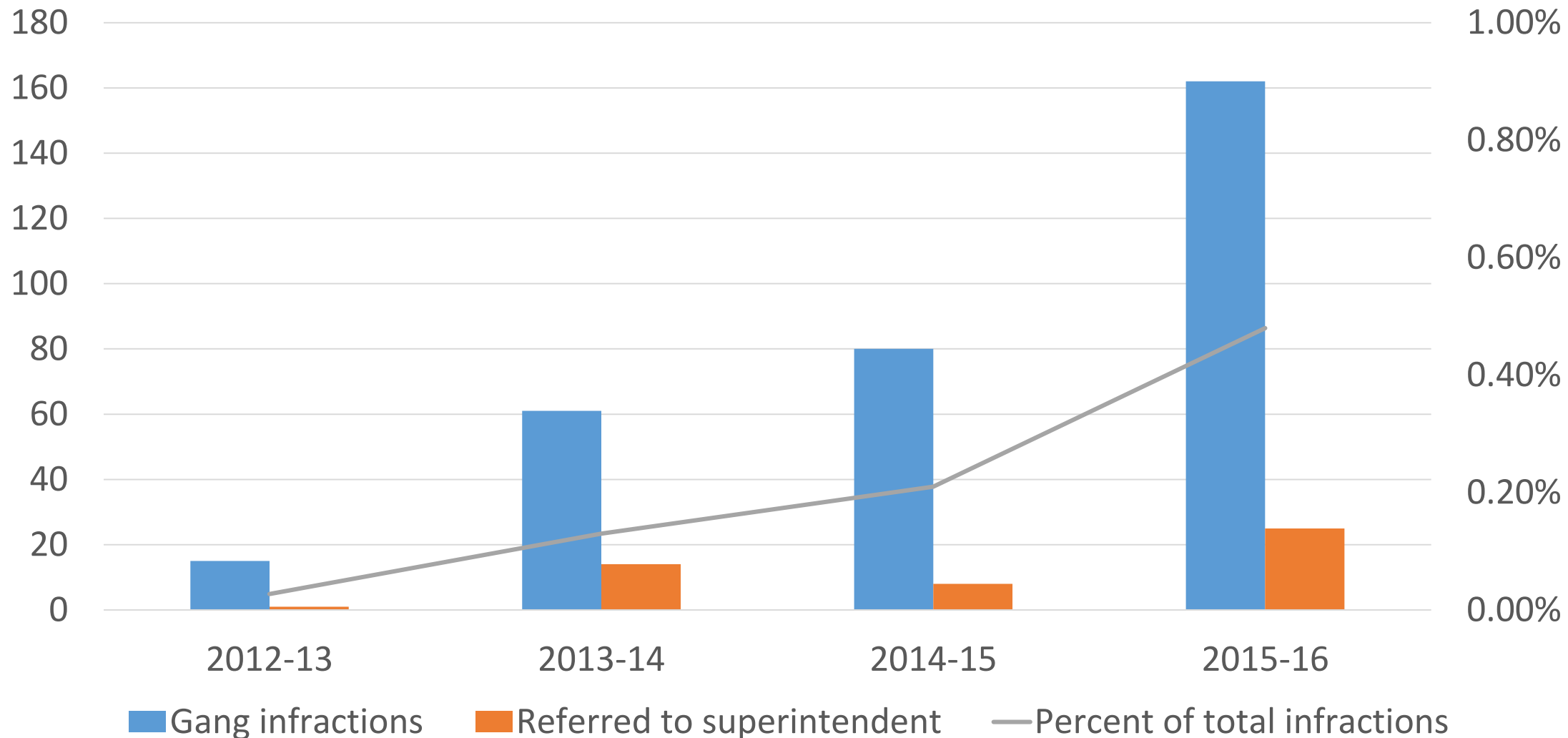
JDRDC Gang Participation Complaints



*First 2 quarters of FY17

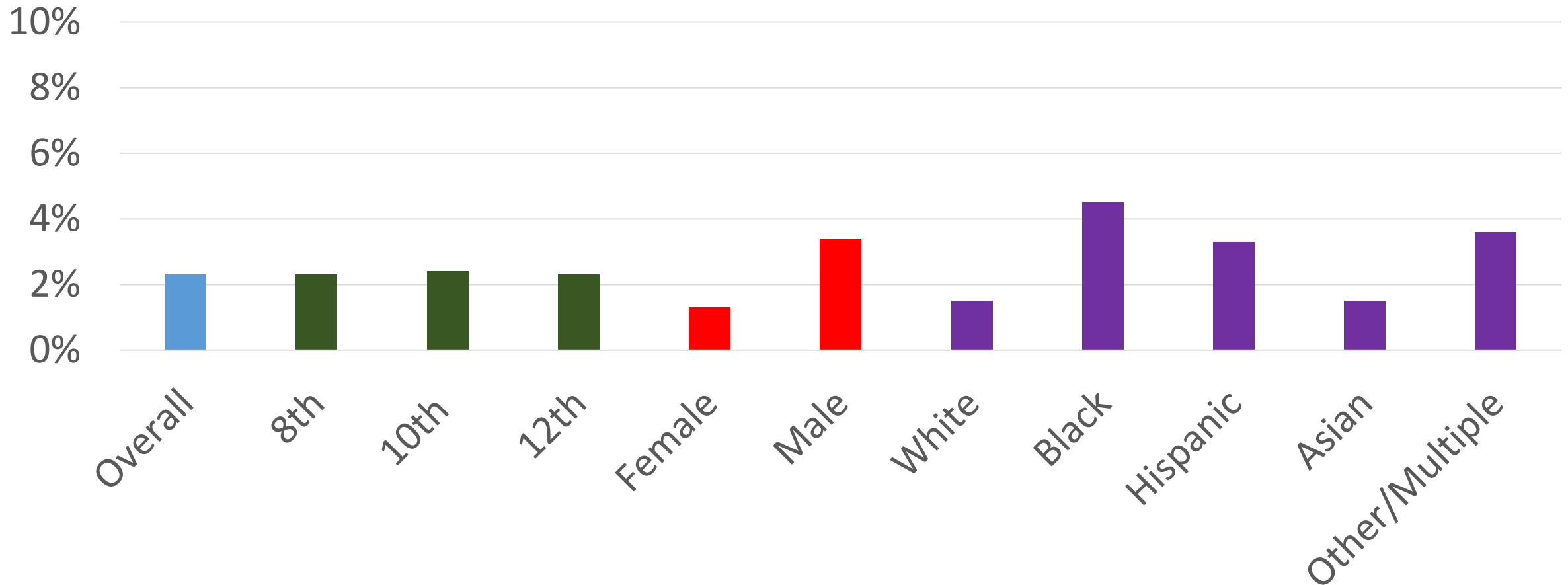
Source: JDRDC

FCPS Disciplinary Infractions

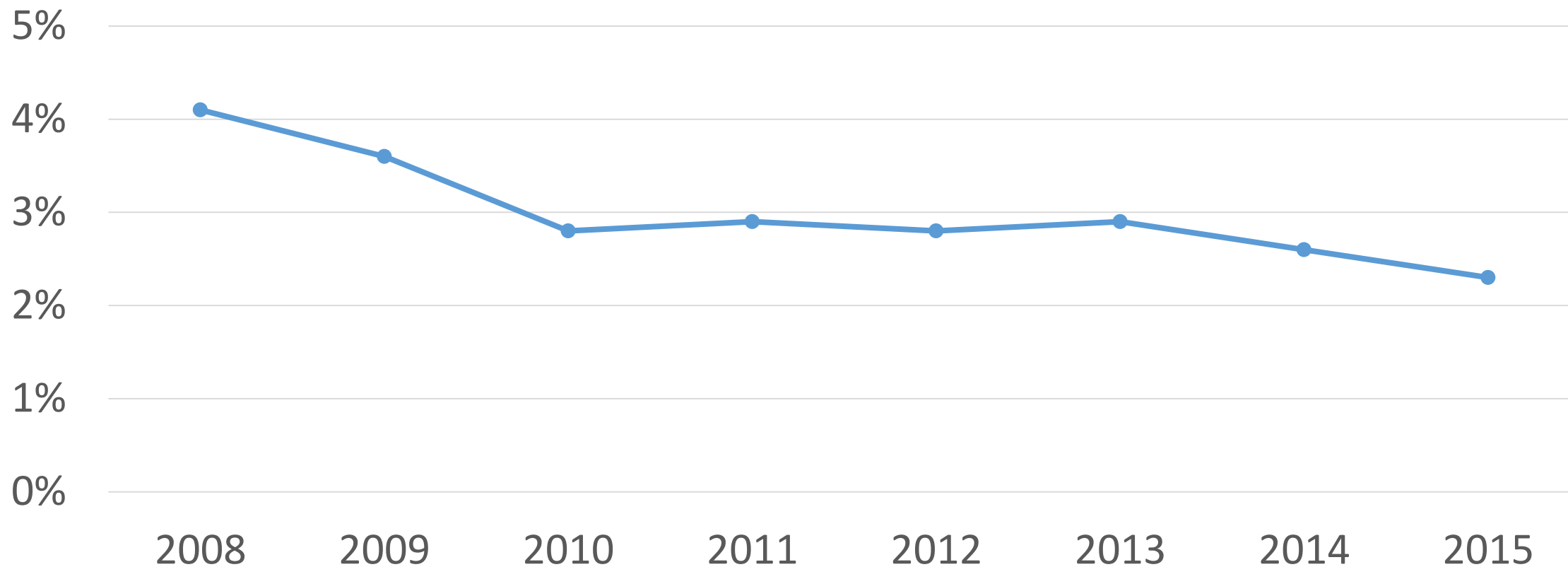


Source: FCPS

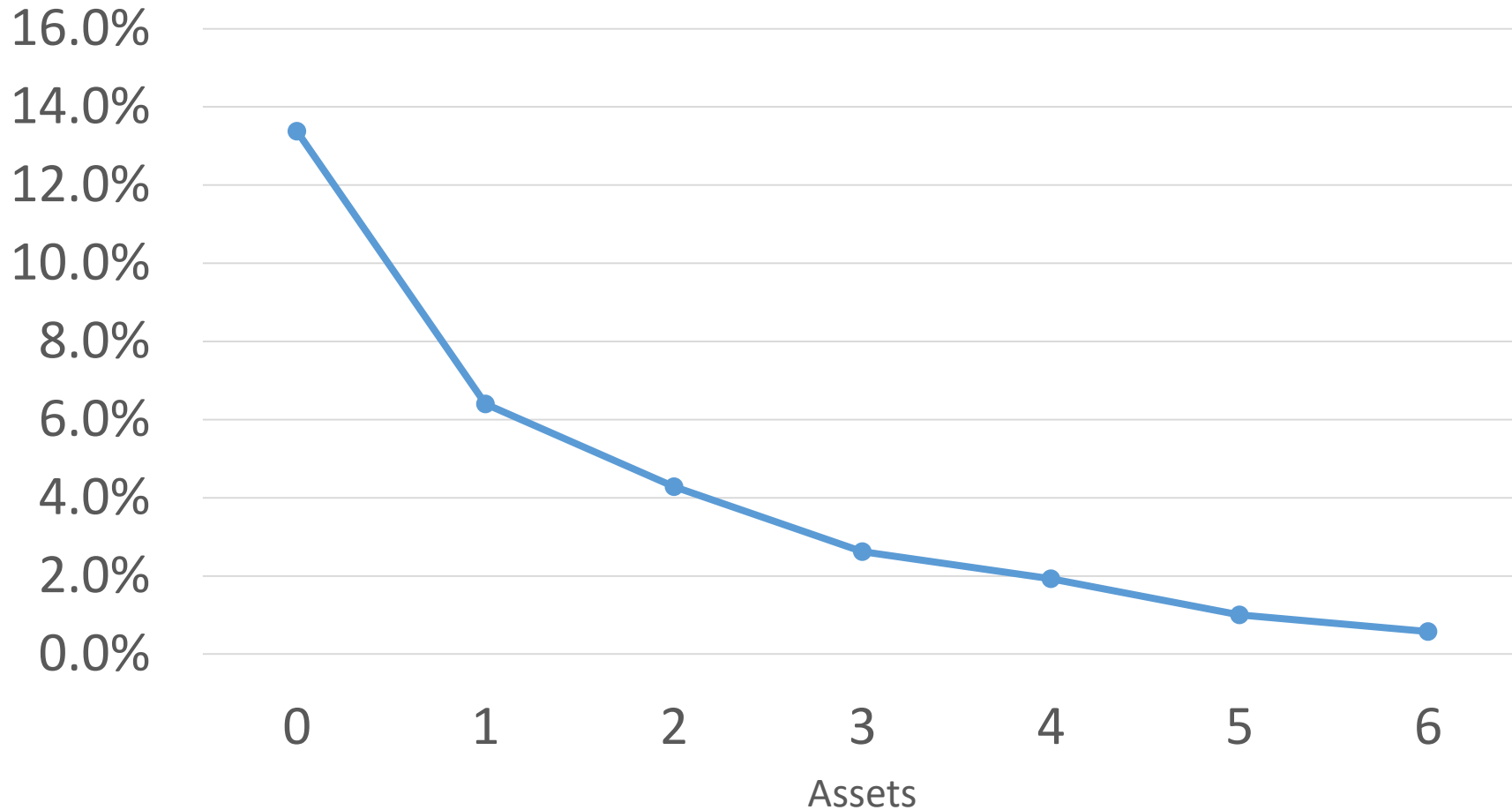
Lifetime Prevalence of Gang Membership, 8th, 10th, 12th Graders



Lifetime Prevalence of Gang Membership, 8th, 10th, 12th Graders



Three to Succeed: Gang Member, 8th, 10th, 12th Graders



Assets

- High personal integrity
- Performing community service
- Having teachers recognize good work
- Having community adults to talk to
- Participating in extracurricular activities
- Having parents available for help

Data limitations need to be acknowledged and addressed.

- Collection and categorization of incidents/data
- Data sharing across agencies and systems
- Youth Survey limitations
 - Language
 - In-school
 - Self-report
- Consistent presentation of data to the public

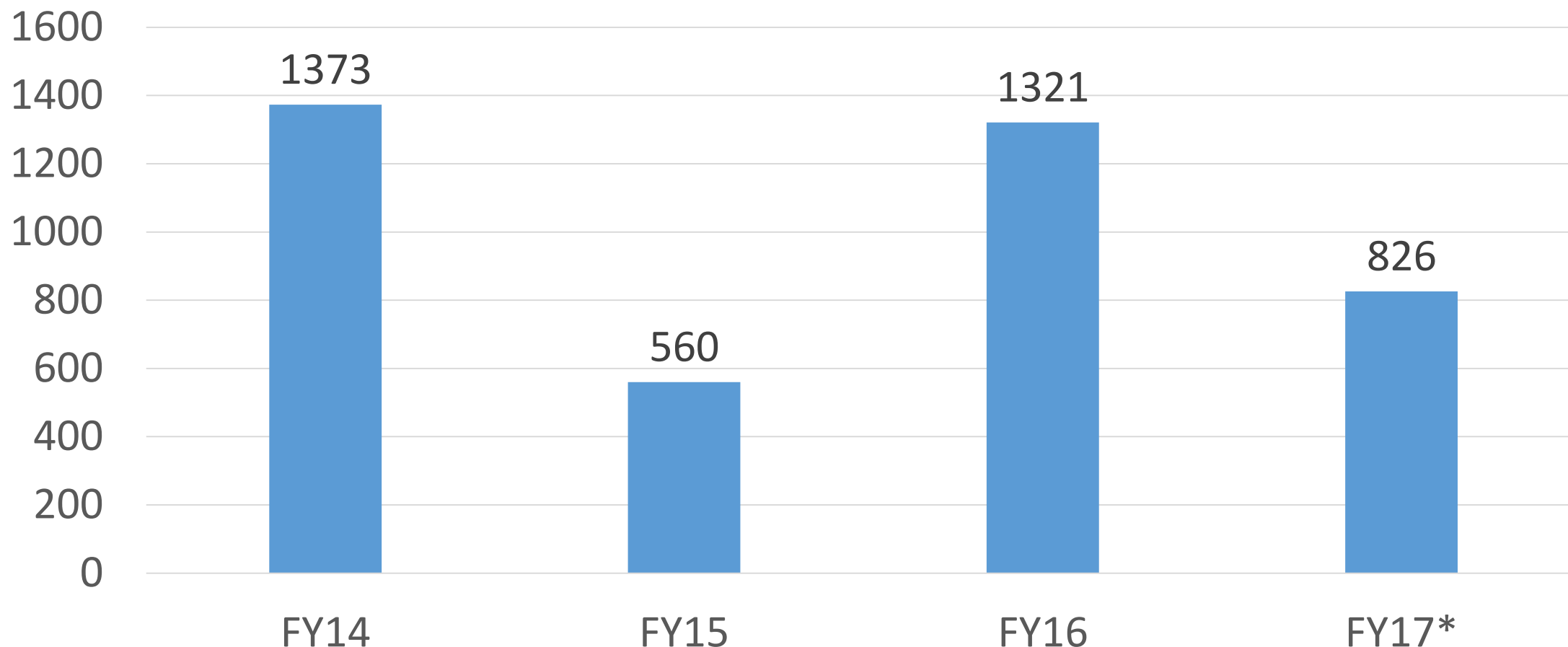
Key risk factors and root causes are unchanged.

- Social isolation
- Lack of a sense of belonging
- Proximity to others involved

Increases in reunifying families exacerbates these risk factors for many.

- Exposure to violence/trauma
- Reunification
- Disrupted education
- Current climate

Unaccompanied Children Released by ORR to Sponsors in Fairfax County



NOTE: Federal Fiscal Year is 10/1 – 9/30

* Through 3/31/17

Source: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/about/ucs/facts-and-data> ¹²

Our overall approach has not changed.

Education/Awareness and Primary Prevention

- Community presentations and other awareness activities
- FCPS gang prevention and sex trafficking prevention curricula
- Middle School After School Program, Boys and Girls Clubs, teen centers, etc.
- Key stakeholder outreach (e.g., school administrators, program providers)

Targeted Prevention and Intervention

- NVFS Intervention, Prevention, and Education Program
- Place-based services (e.g., Opportunity Neighborhoods, Culmore Partners)
- Road DAWG

Enforcement/Suppression

- Gang Unit
- Regional Task Force
- Cooperation with federal government

Some programs have been cut, however, resulting in less sustained attention and cross-system collaboration.

- Gang coordinator position eliminated
- School Education Officers eliminated
- Regional cooperation reduced
- Intervention, Prevention, and Education Program reduced

We have adapted, within existing resources.

- Reunification programming
- Social media
- Domestic & sexual violence and trafficking efforts
- Trauma-informed services

Recommendations

Education and Awareness/Primary Prevention

1. Update the gang prevention website to establish it as a cross-system hub of information, consolidating existing sites.
2. Develop and implement a coordinated approach - across FCPS, human services agencies, and federal and resettlement agencies - to early intervention screening and services for reunifying families.
3. Develop a social media strategy to counter recruitment activities by engaging young people at risk.
4. Expand community education activities, including printed and social media materials and outreach efforts.
5. Offer gang awareness and prevention training through the Out of School Time Network.

Recommendations

Intervention/Targeted Prevention

6. Expand the IPE Program to serve more youth and young adults identified as at high risk for gang involvement.
7. Expand FCPS Families Reunite program to serve more reunifying families.
8. Expand use of services that help to assimilate and educate recent immigrants.
9. Enhance after-school activities to focus on coordination with Police and key human services agencies and organizations to target activities to youth identified as at risk for gang involvement.

Enforcement/Suppression

10. Establish a Data Analyst position in the Police Department to better track and predict gang activity and target opportunities for prevention and intervention.

Recommendations

Data and Coordination

11. Reestablish a Gang Prevention Coordinator position.
12. Develop and implement a cross-agency team to focus on intensive information sharing and coordination.
13. Establish standard and regular data collection and reporting procedures.
14. Advocate for improved data sharing with ORR to help focus local efforts and target early intervention services. This may require legislative changes.

Questions and Discussion