

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA  
MAYOR

June 23, 2008

Honorable Members of the Ad Hoc Committee  
on Gang Violence and Youth Development  
c/o City Clerk  
Room 395, City Hall  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attn: Adam Lid, Legislative Assistant

RE: Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zones Needs Assessments  
and Resource Mapping

Honorable Members:

Transmitted for your consideration are Needs Assessments and Resource Maps for six of the City's Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zones: Baldwin Village/Southwest; Cypress Park/Northeast; Florence-Graham/77<sup>th</sup>; Newton; Pacoima/Foothill; and Ramona Gardens. These six GRYD Zones were chosen as part of the original gang reduction strategy that my Office initiated in April 2007. In October of that year, we released an informal bid for contractors to conduct needs assessments. From that process, three proposers were selected: The Advancement Project, California State University Los Angeles, and Harder & Company. All assessments are now complete and are posted on the Mayor's website.

The contractors conducted community surveys, convened various focus groups (parent, youth, school/faculty, community leader/agency), inventoried community resources, and collected demographic and statistical data in each of the GRYD Zones. Needs assessment findings will be presented at an upcoming Ad Hoc Committee meeting with contractors present and available to answer questions. We appreciate the opportunity to share this information with the Ad Hoc Committee.

Very truly yours,

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA  
Mayor

ARV:sp

Attachments

JUN 26 2008  
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON  
GANG VIOLENCE &  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

## **Community Needs Assessment and Resource Mapping**

# **Pacoima-Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zone**

### **Prepared for:**

City of Los Angeles, Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa  
Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development  
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## **Project Objectives and Background**

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### **Project Objectives**

The purpose of this report is to present findings from research on the community needs and resources available for gang reduction in the Pacoima-Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zone. This report provides an analysis of community input regarding gangs, their presence in the community, and their relationship to the socio-economic factors present in the community. This report also provides recommendations for City support of gang reduction, and resources in the community, based on analysis of the data.

Recommendations are presented with the objective of providing ideas and suggestions on how the City can strengthen current cooperation and collaboration among community agencies in the GRYD Zone. While the report focuses on current collaborations on gang issues, analysis and recommendations also assess gaps in providing a comprehensive response to gangs and discuss the organizations and institutions that are best positioned to fill gaps in community gang reduction efforts.

### **Project Background**

The Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) was established by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa in 2007 in order to develop a comprehensive, collaborative, and community-based strategy to reduce gang crime and violence in the City's most impacted areas. The GRYD office is tasked with overseeing the City's gang prevention, intervention, and re-entry programs. In addition, the Mayor's office will implement comprehensive initiatives in six designated Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zones.

The GRYD approach includes generating an inventory of existing community services with the goal of increasing their integration and coordination into a comprehensive response to gangs. The GRYD Initiative also includes identifying and implementing best practices and programs related to reducing gang violence and crime. As part of the City's increased emphasis on reducing gang crime, the Mayor has identified six Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zones that will receive funding to provide direct resources on gang issues. The following are the Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zones identified by the Mayor's Office:

- Ramona Gardens, East Los Angeles
- Cypress Park/Northeast, Los Angeles
- Pacoima-Foothill, San Fernando Valley
- Newton, South Los Angeles
- Baldwin Village, South Los Angeles
- Florence-Graham/77<sup>th</sup>, South Los Angeles

In order to strategically allocate resources to these areas experiencing gang violence and crime, the Mayor's Office, in coordination with relevant Council District Offices, contracted with Harder+Company Community Research (Harder+Company) to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment and resource mapping for the Pacoima-Foothill GRYD Zone.

## **Community Needs Assessment and Resource Mapping**

The community-based needs assessment and resource mapping that this report represents constitute Phase I of the GRYD Initiative and is aimed at providing actionable information that will facilitate each GRYD site in developing a comprehensive strategy. The information gathered in this phase of the initiative should assist the City's leveraging of federal and state dollars to supplement locally-supported programs. Specifically, the purpose of this assessment is to identify the specific problems that gang activity generates in the GRYD Zone, assess gangs' causes, identify current resources directed to addressing gangs, and explore what further resources are needed by the community.

The needs assessment and this report include two major sources of data: one source consists of secondary GRYD Zone socio-economic data on the community. This includes data on poverty rates, gang-related crime rates, and residents' educational attainment, among other variables. The second major source of data for the report includes the gathering and analysis of the opinions, experiences, and perspectives of service providers, schools, law enforcement, businesses, parents, and youth in the community. These data were gathered directly from community residents and are discussed in detail below.

The community assessment creates the foundation for further action by the Mayor and facilitates a data-driven implementation of the City's plan to address gangs. As noted above, each site assessment includes the following information:

- **Socio-Economic and Gang Crime Data** including total population, ethnic composition of the community, educational attainment, employment rates, public assistance, teen birth rates, and other relevant information. This section also includes data on gang-related crimes, types of crimes, location of crimes, times when gang-crime is committed.
- **Community Resources Inventory** of organizations relevant to the gang problem including resources involved with counseling, drug treatment, job training, education and vocational training, after-school programs, parenting, mentoring, and employment, among other resources.
- **Community Surveys, Focus Groups, and Key Informant Interviews** including community-led surveys of residents, focus groups with gang-involved and non-gang involved parents and youth, and interviews with key school, law enforcement, business, and service provider informants.

## **Research Methods**

Harder+Company's research approach is participatory, multi-method, and collaborative and includes the integration of extensive secondary socio-economic and crime data and qualitative primary data from community residents. Socio-economic and gang crime data is gathered from institutions such as the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). This data was collected and analyzed in concert with GRYD program partners and the Mayor's Office. Qualitative data was gathered directly from residents and community leaders through focus groups and interviews.

### **Socio-Economic Data and Gang Crime Data**

The community socio-economic data is presented in order to create the context for residents' opinions and perspectives regarding gang and youth issues in their community. In order to provide a graphic depiction of the Pacoima-Foothill GRYD Zone resources, organizations, and institutions, this report also includes maps and tables that locate schools, parks, and community resources such as prenatal services, youth services, schools, and employment centers. The map also indicates Council District boundaries and LAPD reporting districts within the GRYD Zone. Each LAPD division includes 20-50 reporting districts that indicate areas covered by designated patrol cars. The reporting districts are used to compile crime data like those used in this report.

In order to ensure a close working relationship with the community, Harder+Company coordinated data collection with the Pacoima-Foothill GRYD program manager in order to ensure a broad and meaningful sample of survey, focus group, and interview participants. The data for this report is drawn primarily from community surveys, focus groups, and key informant interviews and socio-economic and gang crime data provided by the Advancement Project.

### **Community Resource Inventory**

In addition to the data on gang-related resources collected through interviews, focus groups, and surveys, this report includes a community resource inventory that lists the types and levels of resources in the community available for gang reduction and youth development activities. This inventory draws upon a variety of organizational lists and identifies resources from the Department of Health Services, local churches and clinics, schools, community centers, youth programs, and community mental health resources, among others.

### **Community Surveys**

Starting in January 2008, Harder+Company trained Pacoima-Foothill residents to administer community surveys aimed at assessing residents' perception of the strengths and weaknesses of their communities, their sense of safety in the area,

their opinions regarding gangs, and the organizations charged with addressing gang issues. A total of 102 respondents completed the community survey. Four community surveyors were recruited by GRYD program managers for the Pacoima-Foothill survey. All surveyors either lived or worked in the survey target area and received training on the overall project background and specific survey administration methods.

GRYD Zone target areas were divided according to LAPD reporting district (described above) with each of the surveyors assigned to a set of reporting districts. Each community surveyor was asked to obtain between 25 and 30 surveys and surveyors were given a \$300 stipend for completing a minimum of 25 surveys in their assigned area. Community surveyors were trained on selecting respondents, interviewing, and documenting the data gathering.

In order to ensure a balanced and representative survey of the community, five demographic quotas were implemented. Each surveyor was required to complete from 25 to 30 interviews within a prescribed section of the zone. Each was given quotas that roughly represent population groups but, more important, that ensured a sufficient number of persons in categories desired for analysis: gender, ethnicity, and at least 75% of respondents with children. To improve diversity of response, no more than five interviews per surveyor could be with a family member or friend. A log or tally sheet was used to monitor progress toward quotas and to ensure that all quotas were reached.

Table 1 below presents the community survey quotas for each of the four surveyors and Table 2<sup>1</sup> presents the demographic characteristics for all the actual community survey respondents.

**Table 1**

	Relations	Gender	Age	Ethnicity		Family Status
	Family or Friends	Male	30+ years old	Latino	African American	Parents
<b>Pacoima-Foothill GRYD Zone</b>	0-5	6-13	13-15	22-24	1-3	19

**Table 2**

	Gender		Age	Ethnicity			Total Respondents
	Male	Female	30+ years old	Latino	African American	White	
<b>Pacoima-Foothill GRYD Zone</b>	71 (70%)	31 (30%)	56 (55%)	76 (74%)	22 (22%)	4 (4%)	102

<sup>1</sup> Percentages in Table 2 may not equal 100% due to rounding.

The structured community surveys consisted of 14 items, most of which asked respondents to rate characteristics of their community on a five-point scale. The survey also included several open-ended items intended to allow respondents to write short responses to items seeking their opinions on neighborhood needs. All surveys were completed in January 2008.

### **Focus Groups**

In addition to the community survey, Harder+Company also conducted focus groups – in both English and Spanish – with gang involved and non-gang involved youth and parents. Protocols for the focus groups were developed in coordination with the Mayor’s office and other program partners. The focus groups were typically conducted at churches, schools, parks, and community-based organizations and the Harder+Company research team provided respondents with food and a small cash incentive for their participation in the focus groups.

The number of participants ranged from approximately 5-15 and lasted from 30 to 90 minutes. These group conversations provided in-depth qualitative information from the community on how gang activity in the Pacoima-Foothill GRYD Zone impacts children and families. Further information on the composition of the focus groups and an analysis of findings is found in the Research Findings section below.

### **Key Informant Interviews**

To supplement data gathered through community surveys and focus groups, Harder+Company interviewed school-based officials such as teachers, counselors, and principals at middle schools, high schools, and alternative schools in the Pacoima area. These respondents were identified in coordination with the GRYD program manager and were queried regarding their views of gang issues in their community and on campus and how it impacts students and families. In addition to interviews with school faculty and staff, Harder+Company conducted interviews with community members and leaders in the Pacoima area. Candidates for these interviews included executive directors of community-based organizations, business owners, and elected officials. All key informant interviews varied in length from approximately 15 to 45 minutes. Most interviews were conducted by phone by Harder+Company staff.

### **Report Organization**

Information on respondents’ perceptions, concerns, and recommendations regarding gangs in their communities are presented with additional analysis by topic and theme. This report presents Harder+Company’s findings in the Pacoima-Foothill GRYD Zone and are based on a community survey, focus groups, interviews, and socio-economic and crime data provided by the

Advancement Project. The recommendations in this report are directed at identifying existing collaborations viewed as effective in reducing gang activity in the community. The recommendations also identify gaps in this comprehensive and collaborative gang reduction model and suggest organizations and systems that would benefit from increased attention from the City.

## **Research Findings**

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This section presents research findings from a variety of data sources and includes a community resources inventory using information generated by the Mayor's Office, socio-economic and gang-related crime data, and educational data provided by the Los Angeles Unified School District. These background data provide readers with the socio-economic context for the data gathered directly from GRYD Zone residents: surveys, focus groups and interviews seeking residents' opinions, perspectives, and concerns on gang issues in their community. This primary data was gathered through Harder+Company's community survey, parent and youth focus groups, and individual interviews with key informants. The findings are presented thematically and include data gathered through all three sources.

### **Socio-Economic and Gang Crime Summary in the Pacoima-Foothill GRYD Zone**

The socio-economic data and analysis provided in this section are intended to build a context for the community data gathered through the surveys, focus groups and interviews. A summary of the socio-economic and crime data is provided here in the Research Findings section. The maps, charts and tables from which this summary analysis was created are found in the report in Appendix B.

#### **Socio-Economic Status**

Household poverty is moderately high in the Pacoima-Foothill GRYD Zone, as are conditions of unemployment. Educational attainment is very low, and the proportion of single parent households is consistently high through the zone. The zone is fairly densely populated, and is predominantly Latino, with a small African American presence. Respondents in interviews and focus groups discussed the difficult economic environment in their neighborhood, and repeatedly stated that the lack of educational and work opportunities in the community created a climate conducive to gang recruitment. The lack of job and training opportunities, combined with a strong gang presence in some neighborhoods have created a situation, as one informant indicated, in which youth have begun to perceive gangs as a career alternative – one of the few choices available to them to increase their economic opportunities.

The heavily Latino composition of the Pacoima-Foothill GRYD Zone also echoed respondents' descriptions of some of the language barriers that residents may face and the unwillingness of some undocumented residents to participate in activities for fear of deportation. Agencies who work with youth also discussed the issue in the context of how they are mandated to request the fingerprints of their volunteers. This request becomes an impediment to some undocumented

residents who may otherwise be willing to serve as mentors, but do not want to provide fingerprints.

The following selected data points illustrate the difficult socio-economic status of the Pacoima-Foothill GRYD Zone. As noted above, more detailed information can be found in Appendix B.

### **Income and Employment**

- Almost 21% of families live in poverty; this moderately high rate is consistent throughout the Pacoima-Foothill GRYD Zone
- Unemployment is moderately high (11%), with some concentration in the central area of the zone, near Van Nuys Boulevard
- Median household income is 25% less than the county figure; it has improved over the past 17 years, but has not kept up with countywide income

### **Education**

- Forty percent (40%) of adults over 25 years of age have less than a 9<sup>th</sup> grade education
- School attendance rates are fairly high: elementary school attendance rates are all above 95%, middle schools range between 92-95%

### **Ethnicity and Gender and Family Structure**

- The Pacoima-Foothill GRYD Zone has a very high concentration of Latinos (87%) in all areas, with some African Americans (6%) in the eastern section of the zone
- The distribution of genders by age in the zone is similar to the general population
- Single family households are fairly evenly high throughout the zone, with 15% of households identified as single family

### **Crime**

The gang-related crime picture in the Pacoima-Foothill GRYD Zone is mixed and less concentrated in the northwest part of the zone when compared to other areas. The zone's two parks and recreational centers are in or near moderately gang-impacted areas. Some public schools are in higher, others in lower impacted areas. Property crimes are more frequent than violent crimes, but violent crimes have increased over the past two years. There are few homicide victims, with no discernable patterns throughout the region. Most of the violent crimes occur in the evening hours. Youth are more likely to experience gang crime and to be victims of violent crime. Older residents are more likely to experience property crime, although younger victims have increased over the past two years.

Informants agreed that there were areas of Pacoima that were more dangerous than others, and attracted more gang activity. These areas were typically blighted. The interviewees and focus group participants also discussed the gang recruitment that occurs around the area's high schools and increasingly, middle schools. Parents, youth, and service providers were greatly concerned about the safety and well-being of the area's children and youth, saying that in some areas, the children were not able to travel freely without fear of harassment. The following selected data illustrate the frequency and targets of crime in the Pacoima-Foothill GRYD Zone.

### **General Crime**

- Patterns for all violent crimes parallel those outlined below for gang crime
- Property crime is mixed from one block group to another, with some concentration to the east, northeast and west of Whiteman Airport
- Homicides are low to moderate compared with Los Angeles County rates

### **Gang Crime**

- Violent gang-related crime is mixed, but fairly high near Whiteman Airport and Laurel Canyon Boulevard, and tends to be somewhat lower in the northwest area of the zone
- Patterns for all gang crimes are similar to patterns of violent gang activity
- The area's two parks and recreational centers are in or near moderately impacted gang crime areas
- Approximately half of gang crime occurs in the evening hours

### **Youth Resources**

The number and percentage of youth in the Pacoima-Foothill GRYD Zone is fairly high. Services for at-risk youth are concentrated in the eastern part of the zone on Van Nuys Boulevard. Areas with foster youth concentrations are not consistent with areas of crime. Teen births are high comparable to the County. An indirect crime indicator, parolees, probationers, and re-entry services are mostly concentrated in the northeast. This would be consistent with interviewees' suggestion that what happens on the streets is connected, or even controlled, by inmates in the penal system. More detailed information can be found in Appendix B.

### **Youth Demographics and Services**

- The number and percentage of youth in the Pacoima-Foothill GRYD Zone is fairly high across the geographical area
- Teen births are high relative to the County rates
- Both probationers and parolees are concentrated in the northeast area of the zone, as are services
- Services for at-risk youth are available along Van Nuys Boulevard as are prenatal services

### **Foster and Probation Youth**

- The number of youth in foster care is high relative to the County
- Elementary schools have relatively high numbers of foster youth (especially Fenton Avenue Elementary), particularly in the northern and eastern areas, where at-risk youth services are located
- Maclay Middle School, near the eastern part of the zone, has a moderately high number of youth in foster care
- Youth in middle school who are on probation are concentrated in the western area, where there are no at-risk youth service providers
- There are moderately high concentrations of high school youth who are on probation throughout the area, except in the northeast, where there are fewer youth on probation

### **Adult parolees, probationers and re-entry services**

- Parolees tend to live in the northeast area of the zone
- Like parolees, probationers tend to concentrate in the northeast
- Services to parolees and probationers concentrate in the northeast

### **Demographic Summary**

The poverty found in the Pacoima-Foothill GRYD Zone is scattered throughout the area, with unemployment clustering near the center of the zone. Residents have low levels of formal education throughout the zone. In terms of ethnicity, the zone is mostly Latino, with pockets of African Americans. Crime levels vary throughout the zone, with some concentration near the center and Whiteman Airport being a particular crime “hot spot.” In general, violent crime has increased over the past two years. The number and percent of youths are high in the Pacoima-Foothill GRYD Zone, as is the number of teen births. Services that target at-risk youth tend to be concentrated near the center, along the Van Nuys Boulevard corridor.

Clearly, there are major economic and social challenges facing the residents of the Pacoima-Foothill GRYD Zone. Surveys, focus groups, and interviews found that residents live in fear of violence and are greatly concerned for their well-being and that of their families. Furthermore, analysis shows a lack of consistent social support and few resources for children and youth, especially those who are gang-affiliated. Detailed research findings from the community research are found below.

### **Community Safety and Gangs**

#### **Gang Issues in the Community**

When asked for their perspectives on community safety and gangs, parents in the focus groups and key informants indicated that while gangs were undoubtedly a problem, there was a difference between tagging and skater

crews, who also mark and defend territories, and the “true gang members”, who may be engaging in drug sales and drive-by shootings. Others warned that youth are also sometimes labeled as gang members, whether they are or not, because of the way they dress or where they live.

Pacoima respondents expressed concern about their safety and well-being because of gang activities in their communities. Many respondents in the key informant interviews referred to their communities as having a “culture of fear.” Some parents said that they were concerned for their child’s safety when outside the home due to the number of drive-by shootings in the area. Adolescent respondents expressed concern about intimidation by gang members and discussed an uneasiness and tension present in their neighborhood that was linked to this intimidation. The community survey of Pacoima residents reinforced the view expressed by respondents in focus groups and interviews. More than half of respondents (51%) indicated that fear of crime sometimes prevented them from doing things they would like to do in their neighborhoods.

Pacoima respondents indicated that gang members engage in a variety of socially disruptive activities in their communities. While a range of activities was identified, several activities were mentioned consistently by respondents including drive-by shootings, fights, vandalism, drug sales, and graffiti. In schools, the primary problems caused by gangs included fighting and recruitment of younger children to join gangs. Parents and staff from park-based programs were also keenly aware that parks were associated with various gangs, creating a situation where even if there was no violence associated with the activities, community members and their children were afraid to use the parks and its resources. As one informant, discussing the area around the Teen Center at Humphrey Park, said: “What you have here is within a 10 block radius, you can have 8 groups who are protecting their turf, with some kids who can’t go to the recreation center because they can’t cross over territory.

The community survey indicated that residents perceive gangs and gang-related activity as among the area’s most pressing problems. A majority (81%) of respondents said that gang activity was at least sometimes a problem while 85% said that drugs were at least sometimes a problem. These two issues, gangs and drugs, were often linked in the key informant interviews, with participants indicating that many gangs were deeply involved in the drug trade. Other issues of great concern to residents were graffiti (77%) and intimidation by gangs (76%). Three out of four respondents (75%) characterized the police as being at least sometimes a problem. Overall, 74% of respondents to the survey indicated that they were concerned with crime in the neighborhood. Other community concerns were the lack of jobs (73%), presence of liquor stores in the neighborhood (69%), poor quality of schools (67%), family disorganization (67%), homelessness (63%), and domestic violence (53%).

## **Gangs in Schools**

School officials indicated that they were keenly aware of gangs and gang activity in their community. As one informant said, "I wouldn't say they (gangs) are on the school campuses specifically. What is seen is more of an issue of students' safe passage and it's an issue around students' performance at school." Other participants discussed elementary school age being recruited. One informant explained: "Gang recruitment has gone down to the younger age. So the kids in 5<sup>th</sup> grade are feeling the pressure to get involved in gangs."

Officials, parents and students discussed gang issues in the context of youth not feeling safe walking to and from school. At Telfair elementary School, for example, staff and volunteers patrol the area, along with the police, to track any malfeasance and ensure youth's safety.

According to participants, in schools, the primary problems caused by gangs included fighting and recruitment of younger children to join gangs. These activities, however, mostly take place off-campus, according to respondents. Interview and focus group participants indicated that the schools are still considered a "safe zone," although gang members are said to be "hanging around" the schools to recruit youth into their gangs. This tendency was also noted in other GRYD areas.

## **Gang Activity Trends**

Respondents indicated that some gang activities have increased in recent years while others have decreased. Respondents said that shootings have decreased, graffiti has increased, gangs are recruiting younger children and there is a stronger link with gang members inside the prison system. Interviewees and participants in the focus groups agreed that there was a decrease in shootings overall. The level of general violence, however, was perceived as rising in the community. A shooting in the playground area near the Pacoima Recreation Center a few months ago has parents, staff at the recreation center, and school personnel very concerned. According to participants, many parents initially refused to let their children participate in programs as a result.

Interviewees and focus group participants indicated that there was an increase in "tagging" in the neighborhood which they attributed to a growing gang problem. Some indicated that while tagging teams are not necessarily gang members, they sometimes act like gang members in that they will retaliate if their territorial markings are vandalized.

Informants also indicated that younger children are being recruited into gangs. Respondents said that previously, gangs' recruitment territory was in high schools. They said that junior highs are now being targeted and 12-13 year olds

are being recruited. In some cases, informants indicated that elementary school children as young as 7 or 8 years old are recruited by Pacoima gangs. The recruitment of younger members is a phenomenon that has been observed across GRYD sites

One of the most notable changes in recent years discussed by residents and service providers is how the gang “ethic” has changed. Community members said that the incarceration of older gang members created opportunities for younger gang members to take control of gangs. Due to their inexperience of the gangs’ evolving leadership, the gangs are more disorganized. Respondents thought that overall, the gangs were becoming more chaotic and violent because the younger members are seeking to impress the gang veterans with more brazen acts of violence. Other informants discussed how older gang members who were incarcerated in the 1990s are now being released from prison, and that this is creating some power struggles and rearrangement of territories. According to informants, this phenomenon is due in part to the larger issue of the lack of rehabilitation services and services for the integration of released prisoners into mainstream society.

## **Causes of Gangs**

Residents indicated that the gangs in their community are complex and said that it would be impossible to identify a single cause for their existence. The primary reasons for gangs, according to most participants, are race and poverty, with one participant saying: “The best way to frame this issue of gang activity is to acknowledge that there is continuity from 1965 in civil rights, and then there’s the whole issue of lack of trust because of immigrant status. Some participants questioned the public policy that results in significant investment in incarceration (\$90,000/year for youth and \$40,000/year for an adult) but inadequate funds for prevention.

Informants discussed the serious lack of available jobs in the Pacoima-Foothill area, with some informants noting that factories that previously provided employment in the area have moved to other countries in search of cheaper labor. Informants also discussed how the lack of training and mentoring opportunities for young people, as well as the lack of safe social and recreational opportunities, create social conditions for gang proliferation. As one informant stated: “There are so many issues, but it comes down to not having positive influences in their lives, and a lack of things to do. And it doesn’t help that in some families, it’s uncles and dads and aunts in gangs, and it becomes something that you have to do.”

A factor consistently associated with gang membership, according to informants, is the lack of strong family structure. People in the community said that youth who come from single parent homes, immigrant homes where parents work multiple jobs, or those from dysfunctional homes (i.e., homes with a prevalence

of domestic or substance abuse) are more likely to join a gang than those from more stable families.

Parents and adolescents said that the family plays an important role in whether or not a kid is likely to join the gangs. Respondents said that if the youth is raised in a strong, loving family, the likelihood of that child joining a gang is lower. Key informants and focus group participants agreed that while youth may have a number of risk factors by virtue of where they live and the nature of the family they were born into, not all will join gangs. Another reason discussed by informants in the interviews and focus groups is that many kids are born into multigenerational gang families. When youth have parents, brothers, uncles, or cousins who are gang members, that child will most likely follow the adults' lead. Informants also talked about the lack of hope that many youth experience, pointing out that they navigate a complicated world. For the youth who have gang affiliation, the current policy of zero tolerance in the school further alienates them. One provider explains: "There's a feeling that people give up on gang kids. They have zero tolerance, but the down side is that it's kids' lives being thrown away.

The lure of the gangs, according to informants, is strong. According to one participant: "The problem that we're seeing is that kids need something to belong to." Gangs offer a "family", a chance for youth to "prove themselves", it gives them people to hang out with, and opportunities for rituals (such as being given a new gang name) and bonding that many of the youth crave. Other reasons for joining gangs mentioned by participants included avoiding or overcoming intimidation, finding protection, and having friends in gangs.

### **Risk of Community Youth Joining Gangs**

Most of the informants in the key interviews and focus groups indicated that the risk of an average child in the neighborhood joining a gang was moderate to high, by reason of proximity to gangs against a background of poverty. Respondents said that their neighborhoods are overrun with gangs and that the fear and intimidation that children are subjected to pushes them toward joining a gang themselves.

Participants also discussed how the territoriality of the gangs also results in youth's geographical range being limited, with some youth never moving beyond a 3-4 mile radius of their homes or schools. Some key informant interviewees suggested that while the risk is fairly high, there is no predetermination that the youth will join gangs – pointing out that organized sports, or securing a mentor could be the factor that changes the dynamic in a given youth's life. The implication is that effective programming is vital for gang prevention.

Informants discussed the youth's development, indicating that youth in junior high seek a place to fit into, and that sometimes their families do not, or cannot give them that. By default, gangs are available, and sometimes can become youth's second families. According to participants, some youth join gangs because they are alone or with a few friends and cannot defend themselves from the violence directed at them. Others are born into multigenerational gang families, and being jumped into a gang is the natural outcome of being raised in those households.

## **Response to Gangs**

The community survey indicated that respondents felt that families, police and schools were most responsible for dealing with gang issues. Approximately 63% of respondents said that families were at least "very responsible" for gang issues while 60% thought police were responsible and 55% of respondents indicated the same regarding schools.

## **School Response to Gangs**

Schools have been central to the community's response to gangs. School administrators indicated that they had open door policies with parents, were actively involved in bringing programming into the schools, and were working with parents by offering prevention classes and workshops. At Telfair Elementary School, family advocates are assigned to families with at-risk students. The Advocates attend school meetings with the students, even when parents are unable to attend. The Advocates also hold informational sessions with families and youth to inform them about gangs and prevention. The program also offers counseling through interns, and before and after school programming (LA's BEST and Youth Services). Pacoima Elementary School administration has also conducted outreach to parents to inform them about gangs and to begin to find solutions to the problems in the community.

While informants and focus group participants indicated that schools were aggressively working to curb gang activity on the campuses, they were clear that the safe zone they create has limitations. Most informants from the schools indicated that while they do not have an active gang problem on the campuses, the gangs are recruiting in the vicinity of the schools. In response, some schools have adopted a "Safe Passages" program, where adult supervision and security is available through security guards, volunteers, and teachers to ensure that youth safely reach their homes or after-school activities.

An approach cited by participants in the focus groups and interviews was the intervention provided by some organizations in schools. One specific organization mentioned by respondents was "Communities in Schools" that provides enrichment programs for youth. Parents said that this programming is very effective because kids are deeply interested in what they do because the

activities are based on youth's expressed interests such as DJing, boxing, and artistic endeavors. Other activities include taking kids out of their environment and travelling outside the city to expose them to other areas of the city. Parents said that this activity of removing kids from their neighborhood for field trips is very effective because it shows kids other ways of living and other communities.

Some respondents also discussed the school districts' policy of moving students to other schools who misbehave or who may be gang-related as unhelpful. While one school may have defused a gang problem, the student's gang affiliation is simply transferred to another institution rather than dealt with directly. Conversely, informants who work with youth were concerned that some "hard-core" kids get transferred into the schools with staff unaware of that youth's history.

One informant, echoed by others, pointed out that true intervention with "hard core" gang youth would be ineffective in a school setting, saying: "We need programs that embrace the kids where they are, and they are not in the schools." The participant went on to describe how the gang youth are not welcome anywhere in the community and gravitate to the streets.

### **Community Response to Gangs**

Analysis of the community survey revealed that respondents viewed religious organizations and businesses as the strongest organizations in their community. Specifically, 56% of respondents said that religious organizations were at least "very strong" while 53% indicated the same regarding businesses. Residents said that the least strong individuals in their communities were the police, elected officials and community leaders. Specifically, less than half of respondents (43%) thought that the police were "very strong". Only 39% of residents said that elected officials were very strong, and 36% said that community leaders were very strong.

Parents and key informants questioned the quality of some of the existing programs dealing with gang issues. Some of the parents were particularly concerned with putting college students or other inexperienced staff in charge of after-school programs.

Community provider respondents said that agencies have sometimes received funding to serve gang members, yet have not always reached that population. One informant explained, "We use all these euphemisms, but as well as developing programs, we need to direct the resources away from folks who do not service this population, but say they do". One explanation offered for this was that the agencies wanted to ensure that they would meet their "outcomes" and opted to work with the more highly functional individuals and families that were easier to reach and retain in programs. Participants suggested that the

outcomes tied to the funding were a problem and needed to be reviewed for their reflection of the reality of its impact in the community.

Respondents also emphasized the need for continuity in anti-gang programming, saying that it doesn't make sense, for example, to have gang prevention programming for youth in junior high, but offer no prevention programming to high school students, when they clearly are under tremendous pressure from their peers to conform. Respondents also said that in working with "hard core" gang members, a 6-8 month period is not considered sufficient time — tattoo removal alone can take up to a year.

Two agencies were described by informants as "really working" with gang members in Pacoima-Foothill: Heroes of Life, Inc., and Communities in Schools. Both agencies provide prevention programming and services to gang members, moving them from the gang life and integrating them into mainstream society. Respondents said that El Nido Family Center intervenes with youth through a program that is co-located at the police station. Youth who face a first arrest and demonstrate remorse are diverted to a 15-week series of workshops targeting the youth and their parents.

The Heroes of Life, Inc. organization discussed by respondents, offers a prevention program, the "Youth Speak Collective", that engages youth in positive activities that engender a sense of belonging. In collaboration with County Parks and Recreation, Heroes of Life has also launched a young entrepreneur program, the "Youth Market Place", where youth become vendors of arts and crafts, and can earn money. Their musical program, "One Love for Each Other" also brings together youth to listen to, record, and DJ music. These programs collaborate with Options for Youth, YO-Valley, a city program that works with youth, and the Boys and Girls Club. Communities in Schools is also involved in a youth work program with the Department of Labor. In this program, participants are tested, and their learning deficiencies are addressed through tutoring and special education interventions. The youth are also trained and placed in jobs.

Respondents also discussed community centers, such as Youth Policy Institute (YPI), located near Pacoima Charter Elementary School and San Fernando Gardens (a public housing development) that offer a safe place for youth and provide after-school academic and recreational activities. YPI also has a computer resource room that is open to the community. The Teen Center at Humphrey Park provides programming for youth and parents. The youth program brings participants out of the area to broaden their perspectives. According to informants, more youth centers are needed, as is the dissemination of information about existing programs. In collaboration with some local schools, the Teen Center staff has organized the North East Valley Summer Impact Days event, whose purpose is to bring community members together to learn about community resources and summer programs for children and youth.

Most parents and youth expressed negative feelings regarding the response of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) toward gangs. Some parents mentioned that there often is not enough of a police presence in the community and when something happens that requires a police response, they said it takes a long time for the police to arrive and successfully address the situation. Some parents mentioned that sometimes they do not call to notify law enforcement when they know there will be a sluggish response. Other parents said the police, when they are present in the community, often end up harassing kids who are not necessarily involved in gangs, but “fit a certain profile”.

Some of the youth in the focus groups also felt that the community’s response to put more officers in the area was not an effective one. Adult participants suggested that the police were desensitized and out of touch with the community. Other respondents said that the police lacked social skills and empathy with those that they were serving. Echoing these findings, only 40% of survey participants indicated that the police have been somewhat to very effective in their response to neighborhood gangs. When asked about gang injunctions, only 39% of respondents indicated they were somewhat to every effective.

Parents in focus groups suggested that the members of the LAPD gang units be provided with the necessary training in order to avoid their coming into the community and “bullying” the kids and their families. Other parents indicated that beyond training, the police needed to change their attitude and posture toward the community so that law enforcement agents see themselves as protectors who are at the service of the community. Key informants and parents in focus groups suggested that there would be a direct benefit to the community if the police became more engaged and closer to the community they are serving. The CLEAR Collaborative, which brings together law enforcement, probation, the City, the gang units, and CBOs and community members, is seen as being effective at information-sharing, but as limited in its community impact. Perceptions of law enforcement approaches to the gang issue were summarized by one informant who said: “When you hear law enforcement saying we cannot arrest our way out of this, the hammer is no longer effective, then you need to take into consideration other paradigms.”

## **Improving the Community Response to Gangs**

In spite of some of the negative impression about law enforcement, the community survey indicated that police were seen as among the most effective organizations dealing with gangs. For example, 42% of survey respondents said that the police have been very effective at improving school safety and 41% indicated the same regarding schools’ impact on gangs and youth. The community survey indicates that respondents were not satisfied with the current response to gangs and that there was a desire for new strategies and organizations to attempt to address this issue.

Many participants, when asked what was needed most in the community, indicated both policing and programming. One participant indicated: "I'd like to see a combination of good strong programming, with adequate resources to do the kind of programming that is needed."

Respondents to the survey indicated uneven access to existing social services. For example, 61% of respondents said that it was at least somewhat easy to obtain assistance finding a job. More than two-thirds (69%) said it was somewhat easy getting help with family, mental health, or substance abuse services, with an even larger percentage (75%) saying that mentoring programs, and after-school programs for youth (82%) were readily available. But residents found gang-related programs for youth to be less accessible. For example, 57% of respondents said that it was "very hard" to find assistance in preventing youth from joining a gang and 61% said that it was "very hard" to obtain assistance to prevent gang violence. This trend was echoed across GRYD sites.

Community members also identified lack of transportation and lack of safe and affordable child care as two major barriers in effective service provision. Another major barrier cited was the lack of time for parents to participate in programs. Respondents said that some parents work at 2-3 jobs and feel that they do not have enough time to attend program sessions. In developing programming, it would be important to offer incentives for participation, and as feasible, offer childcare.

Respondents said that youth that were known to be affiliated with gangs were denied access to some programs, obviously limiting the impact these programs would have on current gang members. In working with gang-affiliated youth, some parents and key informants asked for a "scared straight" approach, where youth could be taken to visit juvenile facilities so that the reality of detention could be imprinted into their minds. Others wished for a boot camp approach, where the youth's lifestyle overall would be restructured. Providers indicated that an effective method for working with gang-affiliated youth was to engage the family, starting with a home visit. This is done in order to best understand that youth's life and also to take into consideration the individual's needs.

## **Youth Programs**

Parents and key informants agreed that their community needed to increase the number of programs dealing with gangs and increase youth and parent participation in existing prevention programs. A salient gap in services identified was seamless programming for gang prevention for junior and high school students, and programming for young gang-involved youth, who do not have access to Boys and Girls Clubs and other agencies.

Parents and youth mentioned that family support is essential and that sometimes people leave gangs because they form their own family and do not want to

expose their children to the gang life. Other reasons identified to leave a gang include a good education, an arrest, and watching something tragic happen to a friend or family member in relation to gangs. Some informants suggested that programming that targets gang members should be designed around these “windows of opportunity” in gang members’ lives. Overall, the community survey indicates that respondents are not satisfied with the current response to gangs and that there is a desire for new strategies and organizations to attempt to address this issue.

Overall, participants saw a greater role for schools, pointing out that they are a trusted institution within the community. In particular, informants indicated they would like to see at-risk youth caught for early intervention, preventing them from “falling through the cracks”. They thought that together, teachers and school counselors can identify families at highest risk, and arrange for services, perhaps through community-based agencies working at the school site. Respondents said that more schools could also be active in providing safe passages programs, as many schools are currently doing, to ensure that the youth can safely come to and from school. School can also be part of the solution through before and after school programs that are both academic and recreational, and keep youth safe until adult supervision is available at home. The school can also convene meetings where community issues are explained and discussed.

Community members also said that the lack of enrichment programs in schools or in after-school programs leaves students with excess free-time, and in effect, may promote gang affiliation. Parents said that students are generally more attracted to enrichment programs and vocational training that can help them find jobs, but they said that these activities are being eliminated from schools.

Participants in the interviews and focus groups consistently emphasized the need for the creation of a vocational charter school. Parents and youth recognized that not all children will go to college and they felt that there needed to be alternatives for youth who are not college-bound. Respondents who work with gang members indicated that a vocational school would provide the necessary training for those who wanted to get out of the gang life. The program would provide gang members with a way to make a living and find long-term employment, or for those with prison records, an opportunity to gain skills for self-employment.

Respondents said that the vocational schools should work closely with businesses in order to make linkages from training into apprenticeships and on-the-job learning opportunities that would bring much-needed jobs to the community. Parents and youth also identified the lack of affordable sports programs around their neighborhoods as an area that could be supported to give youth more activities in which to engage. Respondents said that although there are some sports programs in community parks, they are usually expensive and residents are unable to pay for them. The fees are particularly difficult for single parents and parents with multiple children. Respondents said that a skate park

in particular would effectively engage children in an activity away from gangs. Respondents said that many children in their community like to skate, but that they lack a place where they can do it without being harassed since most kids skate at nearby schools and are constantly kicked out by authorities.

Parent and youth involvement in programs is difficult, but respondents suggested several methods to increase parent participation. These ideas included distributing flyers at schools so that children can bring them home to inform parents about programs and activities. Other ideas suggested by respondents included providing child care so that parents can attend events without worrying about taking care of younger children. Finally, the creation of programs that are intergenerational was also discussed by respondents in order to address family problems that could lead to gang affiliation. Community members said that if parents and children were together, it would make them both more likely to participate. For parents that do not live as close to parks and other youth activity centers, transportation was a problem. Respondents said that if transportation was provided with programs, they and their children would be more likely to attend them.

Informants and focus group participants agreed that there is a wide array of programs that have recently closed due to lack of resources and community youth are very limited in the types of activities they can engage in after school. Respondents cited a lack of recreational venues such as movie theaters, bowling alleys, and ice skating rinks, all of which they said would be beneficial to the community and provide activities for youth, and for adults.

### **Community Collaborations**

Informants indicated that while a number of community collaborations have been meeting for years, there is now a "climate of readiness" to come together. The San Fernando Coalition on Gangs, in its 7<sup>th</sup> year, brings together law enforcement, the Recreation and Parks Department, the District Attorney's Office, CBOs, and community members. Informants indicated that the collaboration is building some momentum, with new organizations still joining. But still missing from the collaboration are community businesses, larger nonprofits that could assist with job readiness and job development, and the prison and probation systems.

Another collaborative discussed by respondents was the Pacoima Charter Initiative – a group of approximately 20 parents working under Urban Education Partnership (UEP) leadership. The focus of the collaborative is on improving their community. This group networks with close to 100 community organizations to improve the Pacoima-Foothill area. The collaborative brings together many county and city representation, but not law enforcement, in spite of the community's desire for their presence. According to participants, parent collaboratives are being started at Sylmar High School and at St. Didacus Church. Also, under UEP leadership, a collaboration has been set up at Maclay

Middle School where an impact team coordinates services for youth, streamlining the process by reducing duplication and enhancing early detection of at-risk youth.

## Community Resource Inventory

The following table below provides a sample of the types and levels of resources available to residents in the Pacoima-Foothill GRYD. By understanding the communities needs regarding programs and organizations dealing with youth and gang issues and using the resources listed below, the city can begin to use resources already existing in the community to strategically impact gangs.

Pacoima/Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zone  
List of Services (within the GRYD Zone)

NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP CODE	PHONE #
<b>Employment Services</b>				
Boys and Girls Club of San Fernando Valley	11251 Glenoaks Blvd.	Pacoima	91331	818-896-5261   818-897-5866 (FAX)
HACLA - San Fernando Gardens Worksource Satellite Portal	10896 Lehigh Ave.	Pacoima	91331	818-834-9266
Meet Each Need With Dignity	13460 Van Nuys Blvd.	Pacoima	91331	818-896-0246   818-897-5642 (FAX)
Pacoima Skills Center	13545 Van Nuys Blvd.	Pacoima	91331	818-896-9558
San Fernando Gardens Community Service Center	10896 Lehigh Ave.	Pacoima	91331	818-834-6440   818-834-9266
<b>General Re-entry Services</b>				
Alicia Broadus-Duncan Multipurpose Center	11300 Glenoaks Blvd.	Pacoima	91331	818-834-6100   818-834-6108 (FAX)
Cornerstone Christian Ministry	11449 Sproute Ave.	Pacoima	91331	818-899-5900
Eliza Shanks Home Inc.	13055 Weidner St.	Pacoima	91331	818-896-9304   818-335-1233   818-216-5439
Hanson Dam - SFV Rescue Mission	Foothill Blvd. & Osborne St.	Lake View Terrace	91342	818-785-4476   818-474-1297
Interfaith Food Pantry Coalition	11076 Norris Ave.	Pacoima	91331	818-718-6460, 3012
Meet Each Need With Dignity	13460 Van Nuys Blvd.	Pacoima	91331	818-896-0246   818-897-5642 (FAX)
NEVHC Pacoima Health Center WIC	12756 Van Nuys Blvd.	Pacoima	91331	
Pacoima Community Center	11243 Glenoaks Blvd.	Pacoima	91331	818-896-0246
<b>High &amp; At-Risk Youth Services</b>				
Hathaway-Sycamores - Foster Care Services	12450 Van Nuys Blvd.	Pacoima	91331	626-395-7100, 8675   818-896-3346
Hillview Independent Living Program	12408 Van Nuys Blvd.	Los Angeles	91331	
Pacoima "Housing First"	11243 Glenoaks Blvd., #3	Los Angeles	91331	
San Fernando Gardens	10909 Lehigh Ave., #411	Los Angeles	91331	
<b>Housing Services</b>				
Van Nuys - Pierce Park Apartments	12700 Van Nuys Blvd.	Pacoima	91331	818-896-0711   818-896-6639 (FAX)
<b>Mental Health Services</b>				
Alicia Broadus-Duncan Multipurpose Center	11300 Glenoaks Blvd.	Pacoima	91331	818-834-6100   818-834-6108 (FAX)
El Nido Services - Pacoima	12502 Van Nuys Blvd., Ste. 201	Pacoima	91331	818-896-7776   818-834-7976 (FAX)
Hillview Mental Health Center	12450 Van Nuys Blvd.	Pacoima	91331	818-896-1161
Low Cost Supportive Housing, Permanent	12408 Van Nuys Blvd.	Pacoima	91331	818-896-1161
<b>Prenatal Services</b>				
CHDP - North Regional Office	12502 Van Nuys Blvd., Rm. 116	Pacoima	91331	818-834-3380   818-897-6023 (FAX)
LA County DPH Pacoima Health Center	13300 Van Nuys Blvd.	Pacoima	91331	818-896-1903
Mission City Community Network - Pacoima Middle School Based Clinic	9919 Laurel Canyon Blvd.	Pacoima	91331	818-686-4243
NEVHC - Pacoima Health Center	12756 Van Nuys Blvd.	Pacoima	91331	818-896-0531   818-896-5850 (FAX)
<b>Schools</b>				
Charles Maclay Middle	12540 Pierce Ave.	Pacoima	91331	

Pacoima/Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zone  
List of Services (within the GRYD Zone)

Discovery Charter Preparatory #2	12550 Van Nuys Blvd.	Pacoima	91331
Haddon Avenue Elementary	10115 Haddon Ave.	Pacoima	91331
Hillery T. Broadous Elementary	12561 Filmore St	Pacoima	91331
Pacoima Charter Elementary	11016 Norris Ave.	Pacoima	91331
Pacoima Middle	9919 Laurel Canyon Blvd.	Pacoima	91331
Pacoima Skills Center	13323 Louvre St	Pacoima	91331
Sara Coughlin Elementary	11035 Borden St	Pacoima	91331
Telfair Avenue Elementary	10975 Telfair Ave.	Pacoima	91331
Substance Abuse Services			
none			

## Recommendations

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### Recommendations Context

Findings from the community survey, focus groups, and interviews revealed a number of consistent themes and perspectives from community stakeholders. Combined with the socio-economic and crime data provided by the Advancement Project, Harder+Company has developed the following recommendations for the Pacoima-Foothill GRYD Zone. Before presenting the recommendations, it is important to understand the context in which the recommendations are developed.

Findings, while extractions or summaries that are “close to the data,” are always at least somewhat interpretive, resting on a number of research assumptions about the representation of topics and respondents, and about the quality of data and analyses, generating recommendations from data findings takes research into areas of policy and planning. In some cases the research specialist may also be a subject matter specialist (e.g., a youth development expert or criminologist), or someone who has deep or broad experience with the people or community being studied. This full set of technical and social knowledge is called upon in this applied community research for Gang Reduction and Youth Development. The authors of this report seek not only to understand the needs and resources of a community, but to inform, even recommend, solutions.

Because getting recommendations right and relevant is so critical, it is important to acknowledge that they are always tentative as well. The short list of cautions presented below is intended to help interpret the report’s recommendations. They emphasize that while timely decisions about the application of resources must be based on the best available evidence, evidence is never complete and there is a continual need for more information about needs and resources. Some matters to keep in mind when assessing the decision-value of the recommendation presented here include:

- Indicators of socio-economic status (e.g., income, education) tend to be fairly direct, although they, too, can easily be over-interpreted (e.g., low income as an exact measure of poverty). Crime statistics are seen as relatively direct indicators of a community’s quality of life. Probation or parole numbers may be adequate indicators (correlates) of crime. A number of indicators are less direct, including many measures of “at-risk” such as number of foster youth and even teen pregnancy. In addition, even when the measure is a good one, it may not be precise. A few percentage point “drop” in crime may or may not be important. Six versus 12 foster youth at different schools may have no clear implications. All findings and recommendations require cautious interpretation.

- Sampling may not be fully representative of content or people. If the question is not asked or the observation not made, it will not appear in the findings. If a key stakeholder constituency is not sufficiently engaged, the bias of findings will be away from their perspective.
- Models of best practices are needed. Data never speak for themselves. Conceptual models – simple or sophisticated, explicit or implicit – are what give meaning to findings. The OJJDP comprehensive gang model is one. Others may be based more on assumptions about the role of religion, or discipline, or the media, for example.
- Goodwill is crucial. It is sometimes difficult to discern the extent to which the stated desires of some stakeholders are in the best interest of the community's youth. Again, a model of what works is needed.
- Political will is assumed. Recommendations should be feasible as well as idealistic. A recommendation for massive funding or service restructuring is probably not practicable. Some recommendations may be less feasible than assumed.

## Recommendations

- Support collaboratives such as the San Fernando Valley Coalition on Gangs and the Pacoima Charter Initiative, which were among the strongest collaborations in the Pacoima-Foothill GRYD Zone, according to key informant interviews.
  - The San Fernando Valley Coalition on Gangs brings together law enforcement, Recreation and Parks department, the DA's office, CBOs and community members, and is said to be building momentum, with additional agencies joining. Community-driven efforts, such as the Pacoima Charter Initiative, can provide the foundation for needed changes by involving residents in the solution to their own problems, with some community members indicating they were participating in the hope that "something can happen". However, significant business representation is absent from these two collaborative approaches. Active participation from the faith community is also not present. These two community institutions were perceived as being the strongest in the area. It would be important to support efforts at these comprehensive approaches by ensuring that law enforcement, probation, and the penal system join in finding comprehensive and creative long-term solutions to the gang issues facing Pacoima-Foothill GRYD Zone.
  - An important role for the City would be to convene key decision-makers from each of the agencies to undergo a strategic planning process to ensure a common vision and shared strategies.
- Ensure that service organizations are targeting those most in need who can be reached feasibly. Respondents note that there are organizations in the community that say they work with the gang population but lack the

expertise to do effective work, meeting their “outcomes” by working with the less needy.

- According to informants, the two agencies who work with the “hard core” gang populations are: Communities in Schools and Heroes Of Life, Inc.
  - In future funding, it would be important to ensure that the program goals and objectives expected from the recipient agencies be realistic and not favor working with less needy clients, potentially placing those agencies who perform but on the clients’ timeline, at a funding disadvantage.
  - An important role for the city would be to meet with teams of individuals from various agencies to review expectations from grants in order to frame expected outcomes that are realistic, given the population served.
- Identify mechanisms for engaging authentic youth and family input into planning for solutions. Participants recommended that an authentic and credible voice representing youth and parents in the area be included in community approaches to the gang issue.
- One especially vocal participant in the youth focus group expressed the importance of including the youth’s perspectives in the decision-making processes to ensure that the direction and the decisions will be acceptable and therefore useful to the targeted youth.
  - Parents in the focus group recommended that as much as possible, the needs of the gang members be ascertained to find windows of opportunity for negotiation and for peace-making.
  - In that context, the idea of brokered truces among overlapping territories is presented, with one suggestion to build on the “zones of safety” created by safe passage programs by opening communication pathways, and brokering truces block by block, radiating outward from the school or other community hub such as a trusted business, or a teen program at the park. It would be important to work with agencies that had intimate knowledge of the population in this process.
  - A central role for the City would be to consider funding pilot programs that build on “Zones of safety” by negotiating peace in the various gang territories, and programs that build on interventions with gang members during “windows of opportunities (births, deaths, and traumatic events in gang members’ lives).
- Support multiple service locations. When creating programs in the Pacoima-Foothill area officials must be mindful that having one center or agency for the entire area will not be sufficient.
- Gangs’ territories can define youths’ area of movement in their neighborhoods. It would be important in designing programs to remember that the geographic areas of concern are defined by territorial lines that are invisible, but salient to the youth who fear violent retaliation when those boundaries are crossed. In response, agencies like Communities In Schools, active at Maclay Middle School, and Heroes of Life, Inc., with their mobile sound recording studio and stage, link up with

other schools, after-school programs, bringing services to youth where they live, recreate, and attend school.

- A role for the City in its funding decisions would be to invest resources in programs that are either decentralized or that provide transportation. If youth are too afraid to cross gang boundary lines to attend programs, they will not participate.
- Locate programming at public schools. According to informants, schools, as trusted community institutions, have a central role to play in the initial coordinated response to the community's gang issues.
- Schools, because they are trusted institutions in the community, are in a unique position to bring together the key players to begin to form a comprehensive and coordinated plan that has buy-in from the various entities.
  - Over time, other trusted entities, like businesses and churches, can also be brought to the table, bringing added leadership to the process
  - Schools can also impact gang issues and youth issues by providing adult education and other programs for adults, including parenting and other life skills, as well programming for youth and their parents together.
  - A role for the City would be to assist in brokering access to school facilities for extensive programming: before and after-school programs, parent workshops, week-end activities, and designated areas for "free play."
- Repair distrust between residents and police. Participants in the focus groups and key informant interviews discussed the lack of trust between law enforcement and the community
- A role for the City would be to consider funding pilot programs where "beat cops" are placed in the neighborhoods. In that way, law enforcement can begin to integrate into the neighborhoods, building trust with residents in the process.
- Support early and continuing youth services. Participants in the focus groups and key informant interviews indicated that youth need continuous intervention, starting in elementary school through middle and high schools
- Specifically, participants identified the need for academic enrichment programs, mentoring, and supervised sports programs for all grades. Starting with the middle school youth, participants suggested launching vocational programs that lead to job readiness, job training, internships, and job placement. Seamless programming for gang-affiliated youth also was identified as a gap, with participants indicating that gang youth are left out of most mainstream programming
  - A role for the City would be to find ways to bridge the identified gaps in services. As feasible, consider funding prevention organizations that leverage existing resources, such as El Nido Family Center that co-

locates staff in the police station, or Heroes of Life, Inc. that bring mobile recording and stage equipment to schools and after-school programs, and engage youth in such entrepreneurial activities as the "Youth Vendors" in the parks. The Teen Center at Humphrey Park and the Pacoima Recreation Center have creative programming, such as field trips and boxing. These programs have established reputations in the community and need support at higher levels in order to reach more youth, and to expand programming to the 15-17 year olds, who typically leave the program as they get older.

# Appendices

## Appendix A: Community Survey

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ GRZ Site: \_\_\_\_\_ Interviewer ID: \_\_\_\_\_

### CITY OF LOS ANGELES GANG REDUCTION ZONES COMMUNITY SURVEY

Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am helping the City of Los Angeles in conducting a survey of our community. We are asking residents to answer a short set of questions about what they like or dislike in the neighborhood and any improvements they would like to see. Results of this survey will be used to provide better services in this area. Your answers will be kept confidential and at no point will we ask for your name or address. Would you like to participate?

1) Are you: <i>(Read each option and check one)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female				
2) What race or ethnicity do you consider yourself to be? <i>(Read each option and put a check next to those to which the person says yes. Okay to check more than one if the person says yes to more than one)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Black/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Asian-Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African-American <input type="checkbox"/> White/Caucasian <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____				
3) How old were you on your last birthday? _____					
4) Which major cross streets are the closest to your home? _____	<i>Read them the major intersections and if necessary share the map with them</i>				
5) What would you say are the three best things about your neighborhood?					
a.					
b.					
c.					
6) How safe do you feel being outside in your neighborhood at night?	Very Unsafe	Unsafe	Somewhat Safe	Safe	Very safe
	1	2	3	4	5
7) How safe do you feel being outside in your neighborhood during the day?	1	2	3	4	5
8) How often does worry/fear about crime prevent you from doing things you would like to do in your neighborhood?	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Often <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Often <input type="checkbox"/> Never				
9) In your opinion, how easy is it for people in your neighborhood to get help with the following?					
<i>(Read every statement and options 1- 5, circling only one answer)</i>	No Help Available at All	Very Hard to Get Help	Sometimes Available	Can Usually Find Help	Help is Always Available
a. Finding a Job	1	2	3	4	5
b. Preventing Youth from Joining a Gang	1	2	3	4	5
c. Stopping Gang Violence	1	2	3	4	5

	No Help Available at All	Very Hard to Get Help	Sometimes Available	Can Usually Find Help	Help is Always Available
d. Family/Mental Health/Substance Abuse Counseling	1	2	3	4	5
e. Mentoring for Youth	1	2	3	4	5
f. Afterschool Programs for Youth	1	2	3	4	5
g. Youth Recreational Programs	1	2	3	4	5

10) Please rate the strength of each of the following in your neighborhood:

<i>(Read every statement and options 1- 5, circling only one answer)</i>	Not at All Strong	Somewhat Strong	Neutral	Very Strong	Extremely Strong
a. Families	1	2	3	4	5
b. Community Leaders	1	2	3	4	5
c. Religious Organizations	1	2	3	4	5
d. Community Youth Service Organizations	1	2	3	4	5
e. Businesses	1	2	3	4	5
f. Elected Officials	1	2	3	4	5
g. Recreation & Parks Services	1	2	3	4	5
h. Schools	1	2	3	4	5
i. Police	1	2	3	4	5

11) Please indicate how much a problem, in your opinion, each of the following is in your neighborhood.

<i>(Read every statement and options 1- 5, circling only one answer)</i>	Not a Problem at All	Rarely a Problem	Sometimes a Problem	Often a Problem	Always a Problem
a. Gang Activity	1	2	3	4	5
b. Crime	1	2	3	4	5
c. General Disorder (trash, noise)	1	2	3	4	5
d. Family Disorganization	1	2	3	4	5
e. Police	1	2	3	4	5
f. Domestic Violence	1	2	3	4	5
g. Graffiti	1	2	3	4	5
h. Too many liquor stores	1	2	3	4	5
i. Homelessness	1	2	3	4	5
j. Drugs	1	2	3	4	5
k. Intimidation by Gang Members	1	2	3	4	5
l. Lack of Jobs	1	2	3	4	5
m. Poor Quality Schools	1	2	3	4	5

12) What level of responsibility do you feel each of the following should have in controlling problems related to gangs (e.g., crime, intimidation)?

<i>(Read every statement and options 1- 5, circling only one answer)</i>	Not Responsible at All	Only Somewhat Responsible	Moderately Responsible	Very Responsible	Extremely Responsible
a. Families	1	2	3	4	5
b. Community Leaders	1	2	3	4	5
c. Religious Organizations	1	2	3	4	5

	Not Responsible at All	Only Somewhat Responsible	Moderately Responsible	Very Responsible	Extremely Responsible
d. Community Youth Service Organizations	1	2	3	4	5
e. Elected Officials	1	2	3	4	5
f. Schools	1	2	3	4	5
g. Police	1	2	3	4	5

13) Over the past year, how effective do you think each of the following groups/agencies has been in improving the safety of your neighborhood?

*(Read every statement and options 1- 5, circling only one answer)*

	Totally Ineffective	Only Somewhat Effective	Moderately Effective	Very Effective	Extremely Effective
a. Families	1	2	3	4	5
b. Community Leaders	1	2	3	4	5
c. Religious Organizations	1	2	3	4	5
d. Community Youth Service Organizations	1	2	3	4	5
e. Elected Officials	1	2	3	4	5
f. Schools	1	2	3	4	5
g. Police	1	2	3	4	5

14) How satisfied are you with the response of each of the following to gang problems in your neighborhood during the past year?

*(Read every statement and options 1- 5, circling only one answer)*

	Very Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Very Satisfied
a. Police	1	2	3	4	5
b. The Community Law Enforcement and Recovery (CLEAR) Program	1	2	3	4	5
c. Gang Injunctions	1	2	3	4	5
d. Elected Officials	1	2	3	4	5

15) What three things do you feel your neighborhood needs in order to be better able to support its young children and youth?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Thank you for helping us with this survey.  
Your answers are very important for helping improve services in the community.**

## **Appendix B: Project Maps, Charts, and Tables**

The following are a list of project maps, charts, and tables used in the report to provide the socio-economic and crime context for the community survey, focus groups, and interviews. The most relevant of these resources are discussed in the Research Findings section. The maps, tables, and charts themselves follow this list.

### **Demographic Maps**

- Families in Poverty
- Unemployment
- Population
- Educational Attainment
- Single Parent Households
- Number and Percent of Youth
- Race/Ethnicity

### **Tables & Charts**

- Median Household Income (City/County of LA 1990, 2000, 2007)
- Household Income, City/County of LA 2007
- Household Income, City/County of LA 2007 – Chart
- Types of Household Income, City/County of LA 2007
- Sex by Age, 2007
- Sex by Age, 2007 – Chart
- Race/Ethnicity, City/County of LA, 2007
- Race/Ethnicity, City/County of LA, 2007 – Chart
- Educational Attainment, City/County of LA, 2007
- Educational Attainment, City/County of LA, 2007 - Chart
- Academic Performance Index by School, 2007
- Attendance Rate and Opportunity Transfers by Elementary and Middle Schools, 2007
- Number of Dropouts, Attendance Rate and Opportunity Transfers by High School, 2007
- Number of Violent Crimes by Specific Time Ranges, 2005-2007
- Number of Violent Crimes by Specific Time Ranges, 2005-2007 - Chart
- Number of Violent and Property Crimes, 2007
- Property and Violent Crimes, 2005-2007 – Chart
- Number of Victims by Type of Crime and Age (Homicide and Gang Crime), 2005-2007
- Number of Victims by Type of Crime and Age (Property Crime and Violent Crime), 2005-2007
- Homicide by Age Group of Victim, 2005-2007
- Gang Crimes by Age Group of Victim, 2005-2007 - Chart

- Property Crime by Age Group of Victim, 2005-2007 – Chart
- Violent Crime by Age Group of Victim, 2005-2007

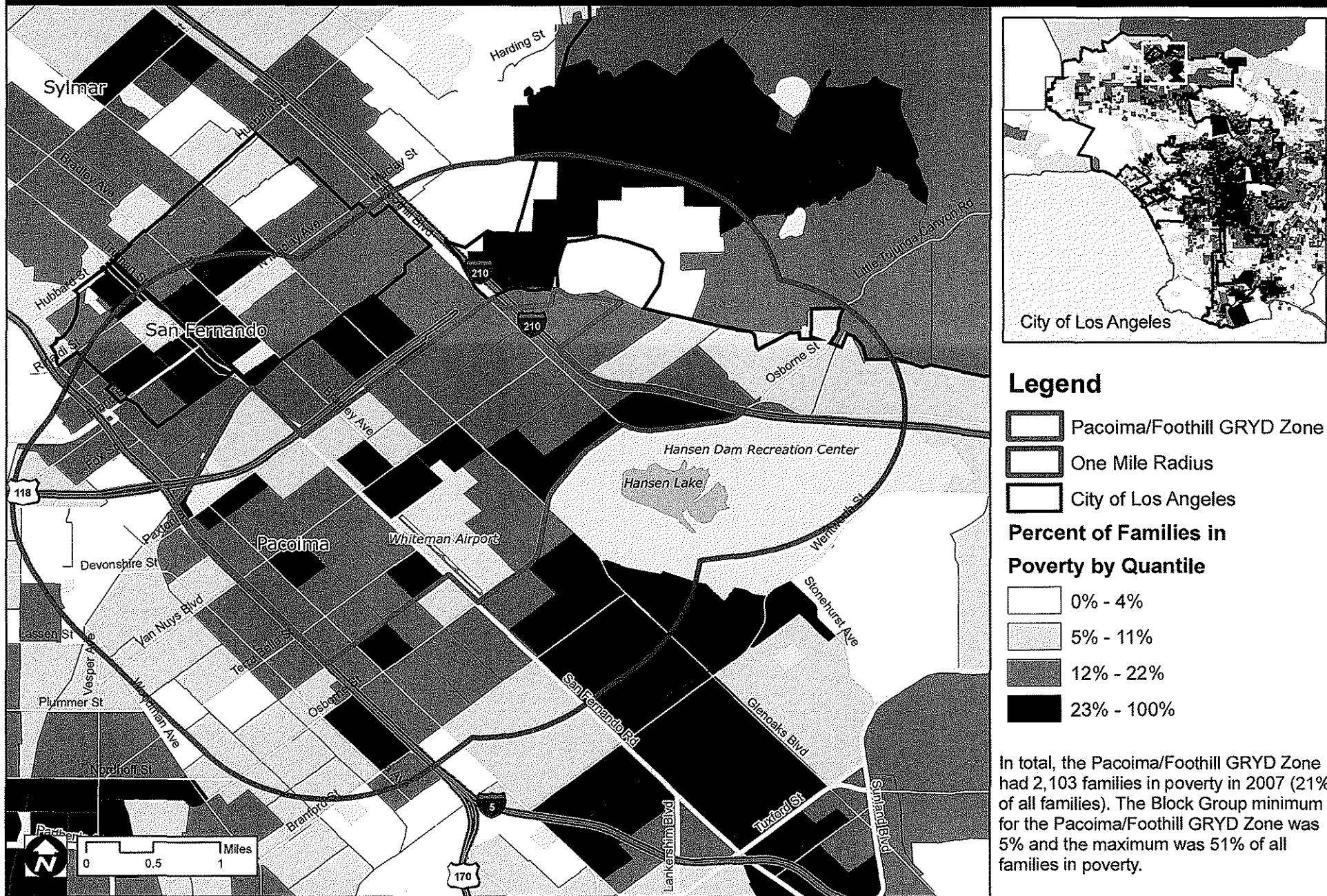
### **Crime Maps**

- Violent Gang-Related Crime
- All Gang-Related Crime
- All Violent Crime
- All Homicides
- Property Crime

### **Service Maps**

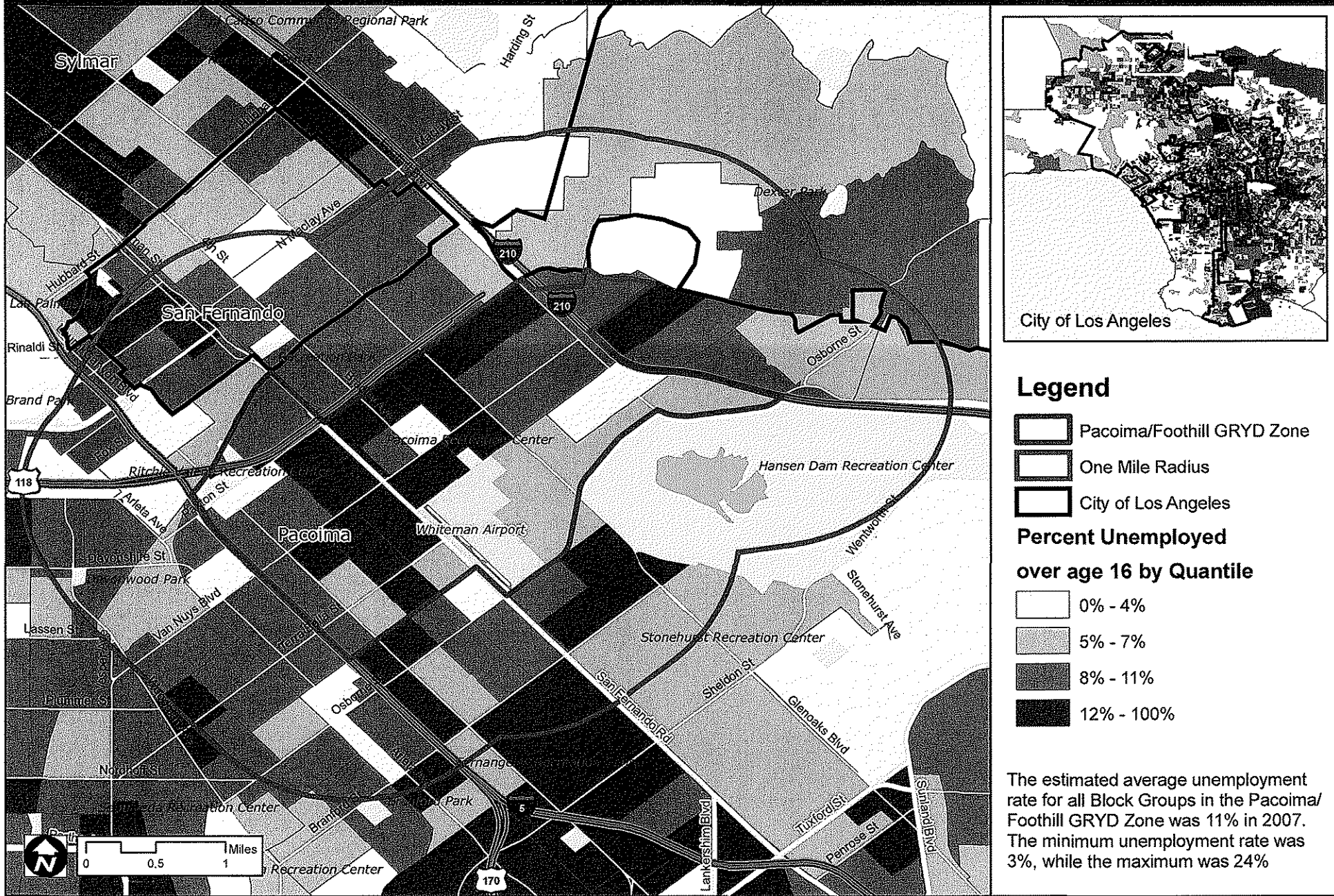
- Teen Births & Prenatal Services
- Youth under age 18 and At-risk Youth Services
- Violent Gang-Related Crime & Parks and Schools
- Foster Youth by LAUSD Elementary School Attendance Boundary
- Foster Youth by LAUSD Middle School Attendance Boundary
- Probation Youth by LAUSD Middle School Attendance Boundary
- Probation Youth by LAUSD High School Attendance Boundary
- Parolees & Re-entry Services by Census Tract (2004)
- Probationers & Re-entry Services by Census Tract (2006)

# Families in Poverty in the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone by Block Group, 2007



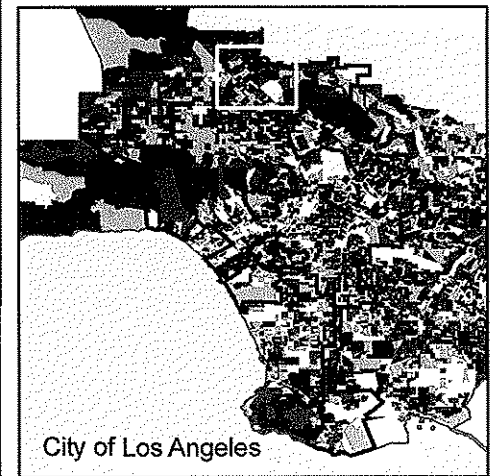
Map created by Healthy City January, 2008. Geographic data from Navteq, 2007. Families in Poverty (100% FPL) estimate data by U.S. Census Block Group, classified by quantile from Claritas, 2007. County Mean = 15%, Standard Deviation = 14%. Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zone compiled from LAPD Reporting Districts.

# Unemployment in the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone by Block Group, 2007



Map created by Healthy City, January 2008. Geographic data from Navteq, 2007. Civilian Labor Force Unemployment over age 16 estimate data by U.S. Census Block Group, classified by quantile from Claritas, 2007. County Mean = 9%, Standard Deviation = 7%. Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zone compiled from LAPD Reporting Districts.

# Population in the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone by Block Group, 2007



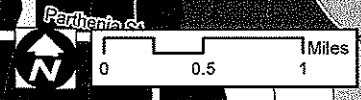
## Legend

- Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone
- One Mile Radius
- City of Los Angeles

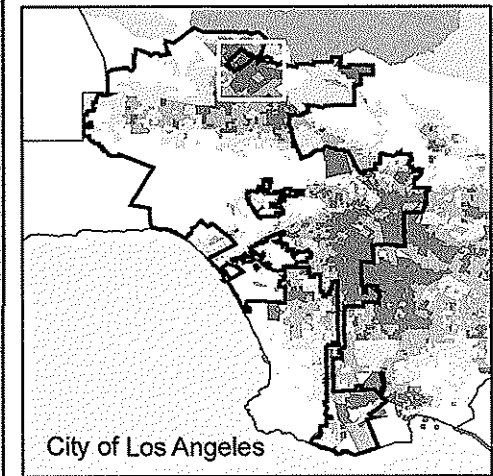
## Population by Quantile

- 0 - 933
- 934 - 1,369
- 1,370 - 2,031
- 2,032 - 18,399

In all, the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone had a population of 54,440 people in 2007. The minimum population for any given Block Group was 986 people in the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone, while no Block Group had more than 5,489 people.



# Educational Attainment in the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone by Block Group, 2007



## Legend

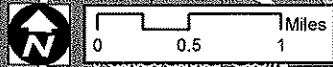
- Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone
- One Mile Radius
- City of Los Angeles

## Educational Attainment

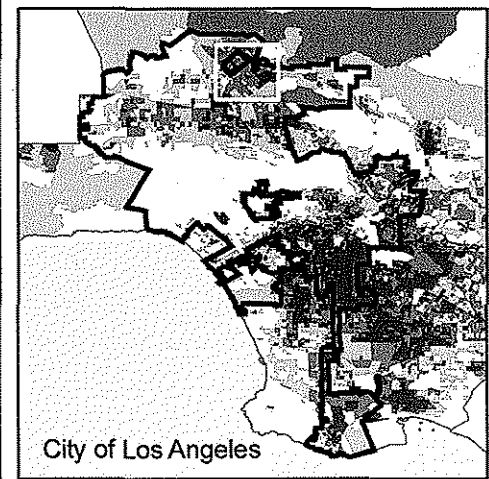
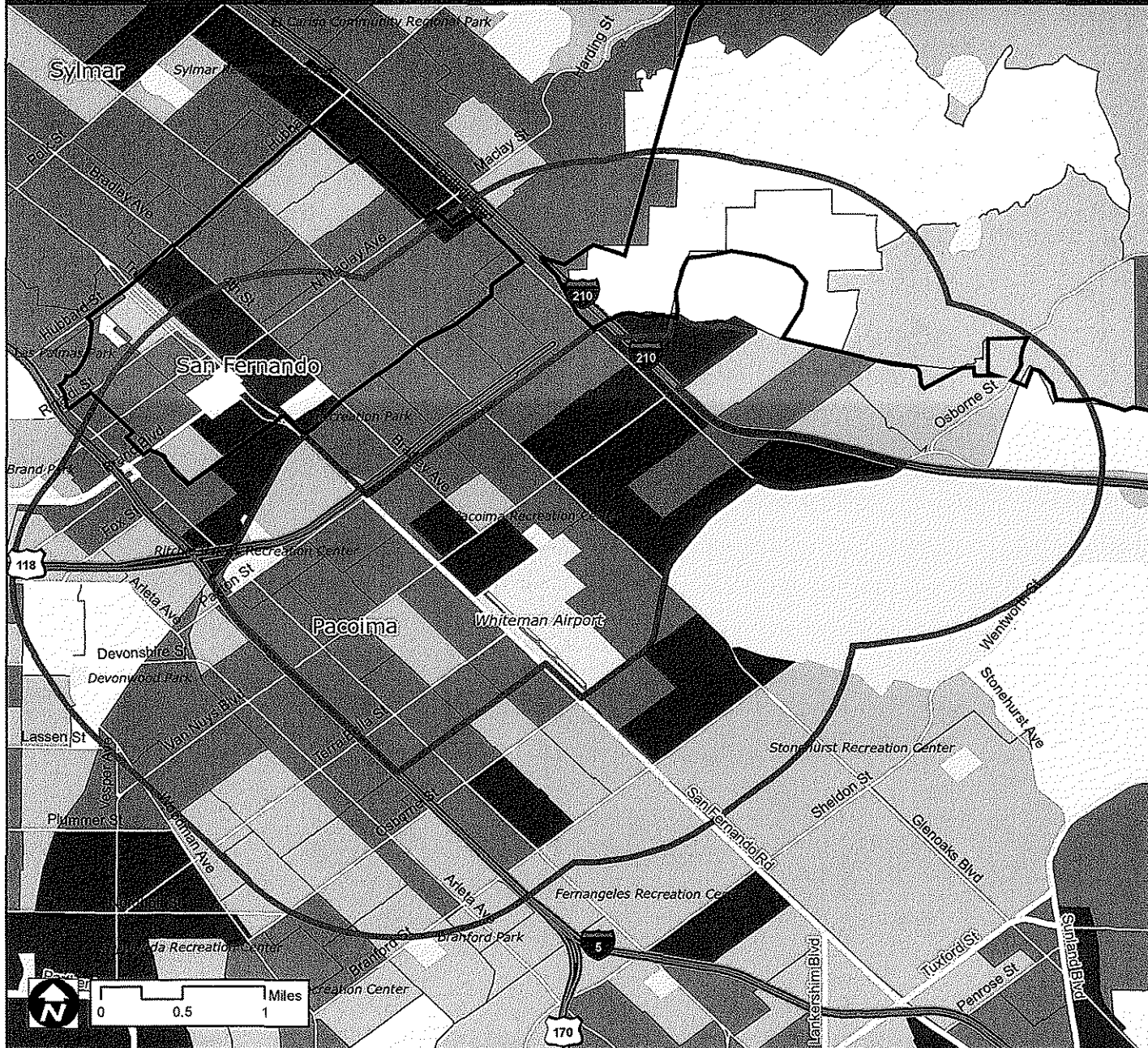
### Pct Without a H.S. Diploma by Quantile

- 0% - 10%
- 11% - 26%
- 27% - 49%
- 50% - 100%

Overall, the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone had 18,891 people over age 25 without a high school diploma in 2007, reflecting 65% of the total population over age 25.



# Single Parent Households in the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone by Block Group, 2007



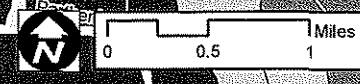
## Legend

- Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone
- One Mile Radius
- City of Los Angeles

## Percent of Single Parent Households by Quantile

- 0% - 6%
- 7% - 10%
- 11% - 16%
- 17% - 100%

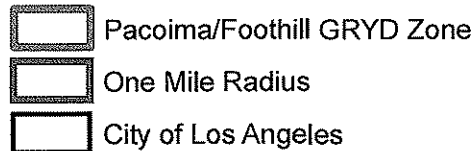
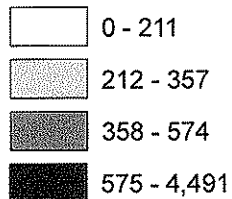
In 2007, an estimated 1,839 of 11,983 households (15%) were headed by a single parent in the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone. The minimum percent of single parent headed households in any Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone Block Group was 7%, and no Block Group had more than 29% single parent headed households.



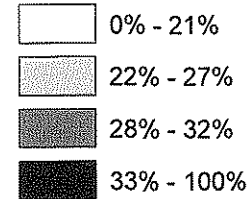
# Number and Percent of Youth in the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone by Block Group, 2007



## Number of Youth by Quantile

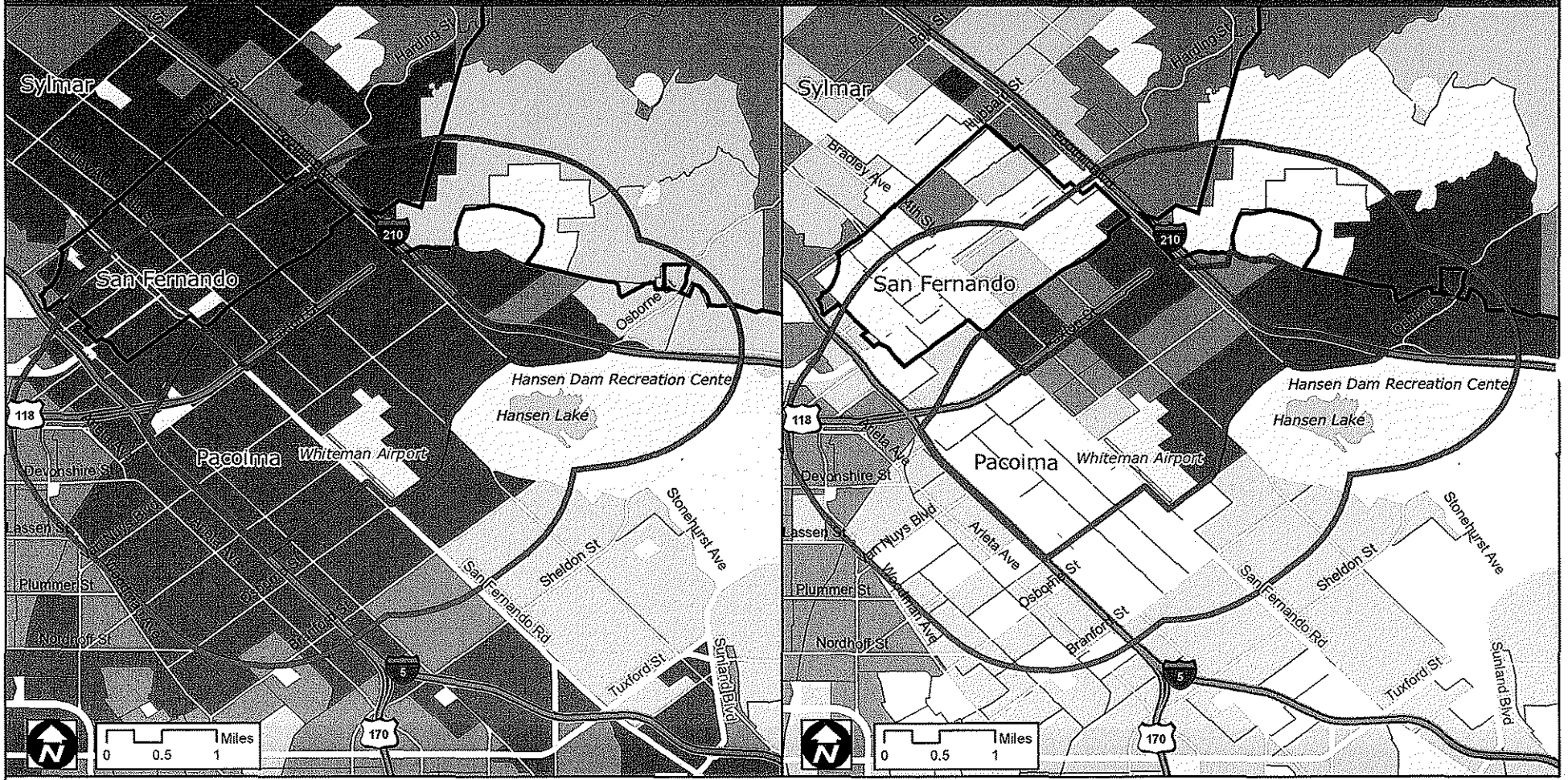


## Percent of Youth by Quantile

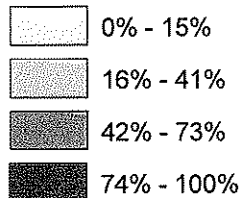


Map created by Healthy City, January 2008. Geographic data from Navteq, 2007. Youth estimate data from Claritas, 2007. The Pacoima/Foothill GRYD had 18,544 people under the age of 18 in 2007, or 34% of the total population. The minimum percentage of youth in a Block Group was 31%, and the maximum was 43%. Number and percent of youth classified by quantile for U.S. Census Block Groups. Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zone compiled from LAPD Reporting Districts.

# Race/Ethnicity in the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone by Block Group, 2007

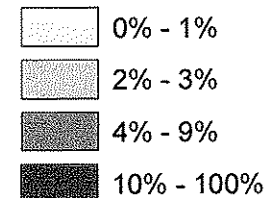


## Latino Percent of Total Population

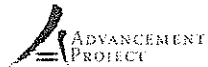


- Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone
- One Mile Radius
- City of Los Angeles

## African American/Black Percent of Total Population



Map created by Healthy City, January 2008. Geographic data from Navteq, 2007. Race/ethnicity estimate data by U.S. Census Block Group classified by quantiles from Claritas, 2007. There were an estimated 47,504 Latino and 3,313 African American/Black residents in the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone in 2007, representing 87% and 6% of the total population, respectively. Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zone compiled from LAPD Reporting Districts.



**Median Household Income, Pacoima / Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zone, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, 1990, 2000, 2007**

	Current Dollars			% of County Average		
	1990	2000	2007	1990	2000	2007
Pacoima / Foothill GRYD Zone	\$30,870	\$37,571	\$43,626	79	77	76
City of Los Angeles	\$35,806	\$43,928	\$51,406	92	90	90
Los Angeles County	\$38,930	\$48,726	\$57,338	100	100	100

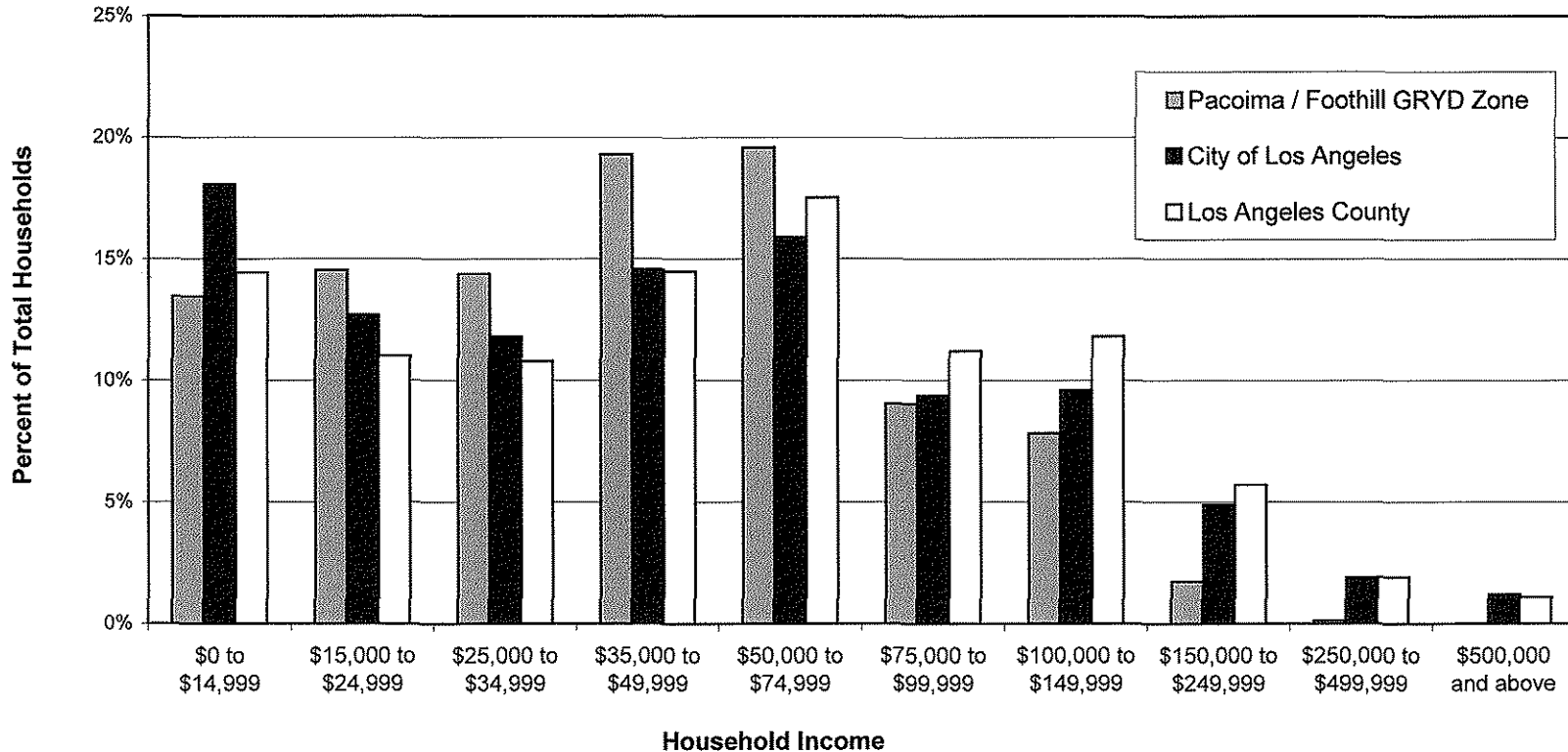
Source: Claritas estimates Tables PFSLG01, PFSLG04, PFSLG09. Median Household Income, 1990, 2000, 2007. Table created by Healthy City, January 2008.

**Household Income, Pacoima / Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zone, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, 2007**

	\$0 to \$14,999	\$15,000 to \$24,999	\$25,000 to \$34,999	\$35,000 to \$49,999	\$50,000 to \$74,999	\$75,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 to \$149,999	\$150,000 to \$249,999	\$250,000 to \$499,999	\$500,000 and above
Pacoima / Foothill GRYD Zone	13%	15%	14%	19%	20%	9%	8%	2%	0%	0%
City of Los Angeles	18%	13%	12%	15%	16%	9%	10%	5%	2%	1%
Los Angeles County	14%	11%	11%	14%	18%	11%	12%	6%	2%	1%

Source: Claritas estimates table PFSLG09. Households by Household Income, 2007.  
Table created by Healthy City, January 2008.

## Household Income, Pacoima / Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zone, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, 2007



Source: Claritas estimates table PFSLG09. Households by Household Income, 2007.  
 Chart created by Healthy City, January 2008.

In 2007, the Pacoima / Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zone had a disproportionately large percentage of low-income residents when compared to the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County. The Pacoima / Foothill GRYD Zone had larger shares of very low-income households, with 28% earning less than \$25,000 per year as well as low-income households, with 33% earning between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

**Types of Household Income, Pacoima / Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zone, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, 2007**

	Wages	Self Employment Income	Investment Income	Social Security Income	Supplemental Security Income	Public Assistance	Retirement Income	Other
Pacoima / Foothill GRYD Zone	83%	4%	2%	4%	1%	1%	3%	2%
City of Los Angeles	73%	10%	8%	3%	1%	1%	3%	2%
Los Angeles County	75%	8%	7%	4%	1%	1%	4%	2%

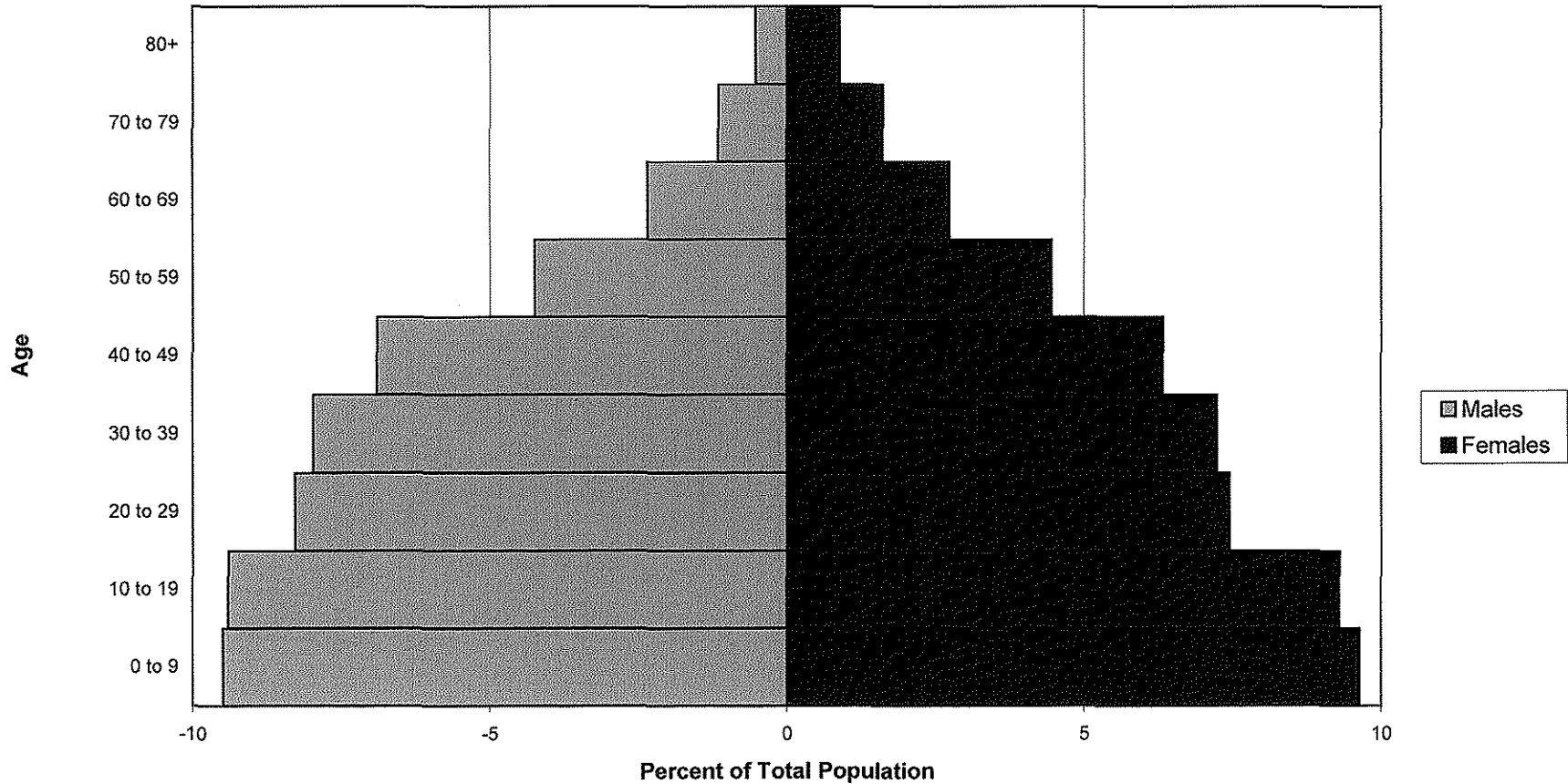
Source: Claritas estimates table PFSLG10. 2007 Aggregate Household Income by Type of Income.  
Table created by Healthy City, January 2008.

**Sex by Age, Pacoima / Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zone, 2007**

SEX	AGE									TOTAL
	0 to 9	10 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80+	
Males	9%	9%	8%	8%	7%	4%	2%	1%	1%	50%
Females	10%	9%	7%	7%	6%	4%	3%	2%	1%	50%

Source: Claritas estimates table PFSLG08. Population by Age and Sex, 2007.  
 Table created by Healthy City, January 2008.

### Sex by Age, Pacoima / Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zone, 2007



Source: Claritas estimates table PFSLG08. Population by Age and Sex, 2007. Chart created by Healthy City, January 2008.

The Pacoima / Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zone population is evenly distributed (50% male, 50% female) across the sexes and has many children and youth, with fewer adults, and relatively few seniors. In all, the Pacoima / Foothill GRYD had an estimated population of 54,440 people in 2007.

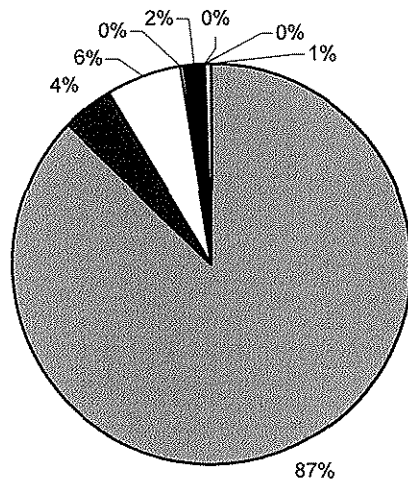
**Race/ Ethnicity, Pacoima / Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zone, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, 2007**

	Latino	White/ Euro American	Black/ African American	Native American	Asian/ Asian American	Pacific Islander	Other	Two or More Races	TOTAL
Pacoima / Foothill GRYD Zone	87%	4%	6%	0%	2%	0%	0%	1%	100%
City of Los Angeles	50%	27%	10%	0%	10%	0%	0%	2%	100%
Los Angeles County	47%	28%	9%	0%	13%	0%	0%	2%	100%

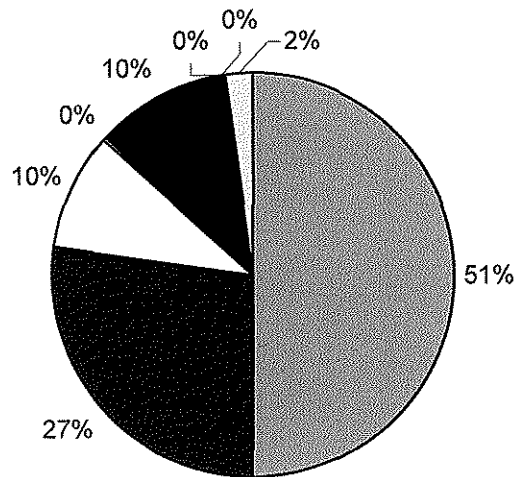
Source: Claritas estimates table PFSLG08. 2007 Population by Single Classification Census Race and Ethnicity.  
Table created by Healthy City, January 2008.

## Race/ Ethnicity Pacoima / Foothill GRYD Zone, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, 2007

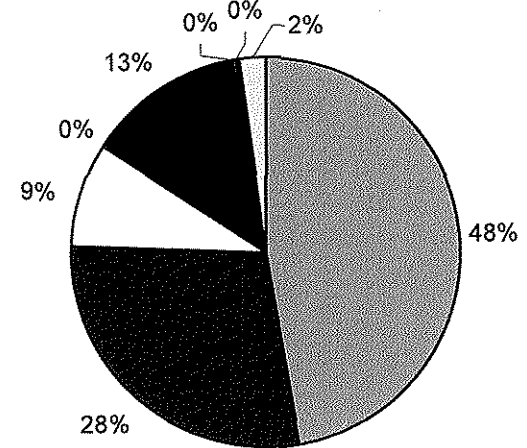
Pacoima / Foothill GRYD Zone



City of Los Angeles

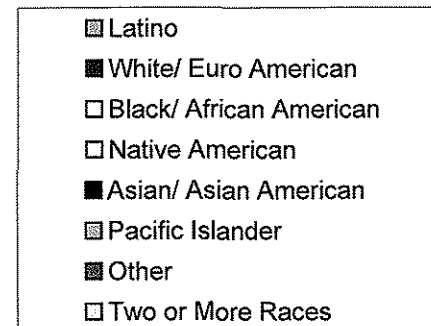


Los Angeles County



Source: Claritas estimates table PFSLG08. 2007 Population by Single Classification Census Race and Ethnicity. Charts created by Healthy City, January 2008.

The Pacoima / Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zone (GRYD) was primarily composed of Latino residents in 2007 (87%). Black/African American residents represented the second largest racial/ethnic group (6%). The Pacoima / Foothill GRYD had much less racial/ethnic diversity than the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County.

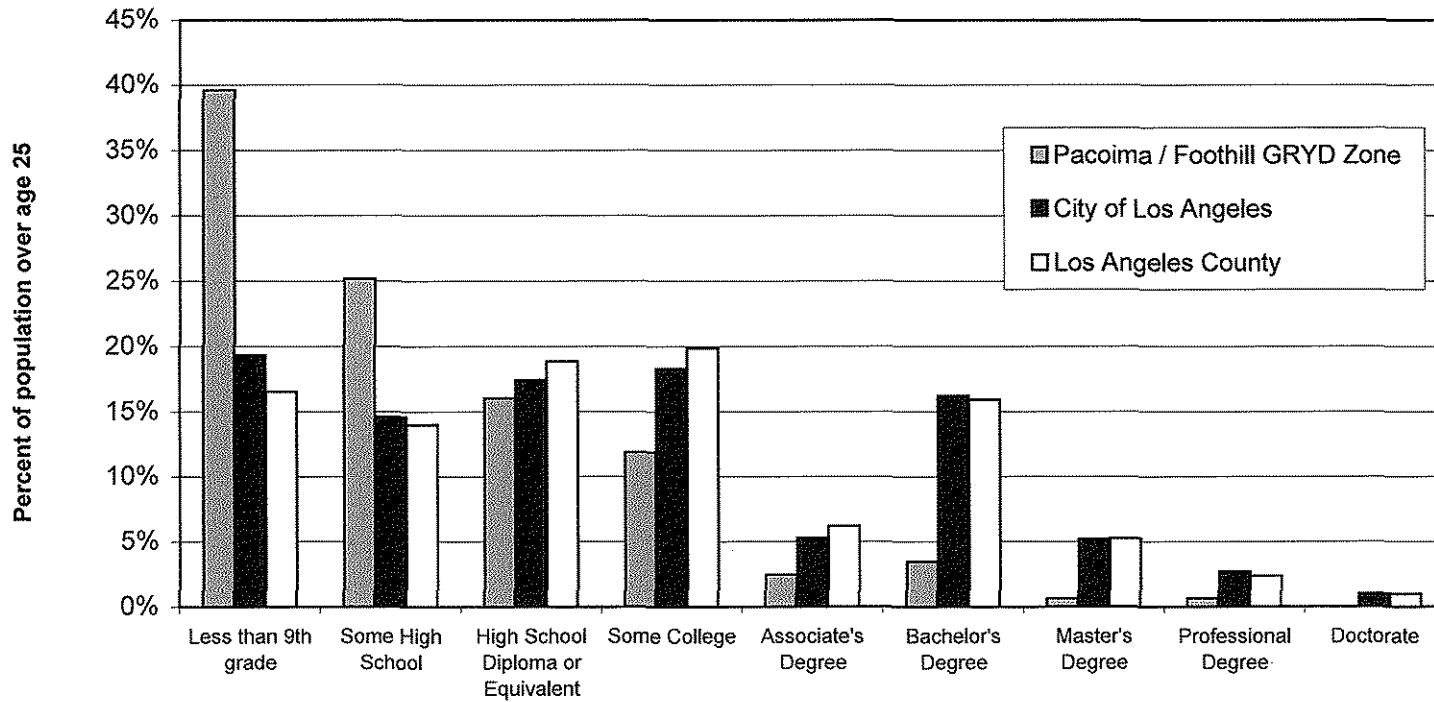


**Educational Attainment, Pacoima / Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zone, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, 2007**

	Less than 9th grade	Some High School	High School Diploma or Equivalent	Some College	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree	Professional Degree	Doctorate
Pacoima / Foothill GRYD Zone	40%	25%	16%	12%	2%	3%	1%	1%	0%
City of Los Angeles	19%	15%	17%	18%	5%	16%	5%	3%	1%
Los Angeles County	17%	14%	19%	20%	6%	16%	5%	2%	1%

Source: Claritas estimates table PFSLG11. Population Age 25 or Over by Educational Attainment, 2007  
 Table created by Healthy City, January 2008.

**Educational Attainment, Pacoima / Foothill GRYD Zone, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, 2007**



**Educational Attainment**

Source: Claritas estimates table PFSLG11. Population Age 25 or Over by Educational Attainment, 2007  
 Chart created by Healthy City, January 2008.

The Pacoima / Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zone (GRYD) had lower levels of educational attainment compared to the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County in 2007. In the Pacoima / Foothill GRYD Zone, 65% of adults over the age of 25 did not have a high school diploma and 40% had not completed the ninth grade. While, only 7% of adults over age 25 had obtained an Associate's, Bachelor's or advanced degree in the area, 30% of residents in the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County held these degrees.

**Academic Performance Index (API) Scores for Pacoima / Foothill GRYD Zone Schools, 2006 - 2007**

School	2007 API Score
<i>Elementary</i>	
Broadous Elementary	708
Coughlin Elementary	719
Haddon Elementary	695
Pacoima Elementary	652
Telfair Elementary	705
Vaughn LC	716
Fenton Ave Elementary*	740
Sharp Elementary*	704
<i>Middle</i>	
Maclay Middle	588
Pacoima Middle	643
San Fernando Middle*	597
<i>High</i>	
Kennedy High*	672
Polytechnic High*	608
San Fernando High*	561

Source: Los Angeles Unified School District, 2006-07 school year.

\* School attendance boundary overlaps with GRYD; school location is outside of GRYD.

Table created by Healthy City, January 2008.

**Attendance Rate and Opportunity Transfers for Elementary and Middle Schools, Pacoima / Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zone, 2006 - 2007**

School	2007 Attendance Rate %	2007 Opportunity Transfers
<i>Elementary</i>		
Broadous Elementary	95.1	0
Coughlin Elementary	95.3	0
Haddon Elementary	95.8	0
Pacoima Elementary	95.8	0
Telfair Elementary	96.5	0
Vaughn LC	98.0	0
Fenton Ave Elementary*	97.0	0
Sharp Elementary*	94.7	0
<i>Middle</i>		
Maclay Middle	91.8	37
Pacoima Middle	95.0	19
San Fernando Middle*	89.0	22

Source: Los Angeles Unified School District, 2006-07 school year.

\* School attendance boundary overlaps with GRYP; school location is outside of GRYP.

Table created by Healthy City, January 2008.

**Number of High School Dropouts, Attendance Rate and Opportunity, Pacoima / Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zone, 2006 - 2007**

High School	2007 Number of Dropouts	2007 Attendance Rate %	2007 Opportunity Transfers
Kennedy High*	n/a	91.7	46
Polytechnic High*	n/a	90.0	66
San Fernando High*	n/a	89.0	234

Source: Los Angeles Unified School District, 2006-07 school year.

\* School attendance boundary overlaps with GRYD; school location is outside of GRYD.

Table created by Healthy City, January 2008.

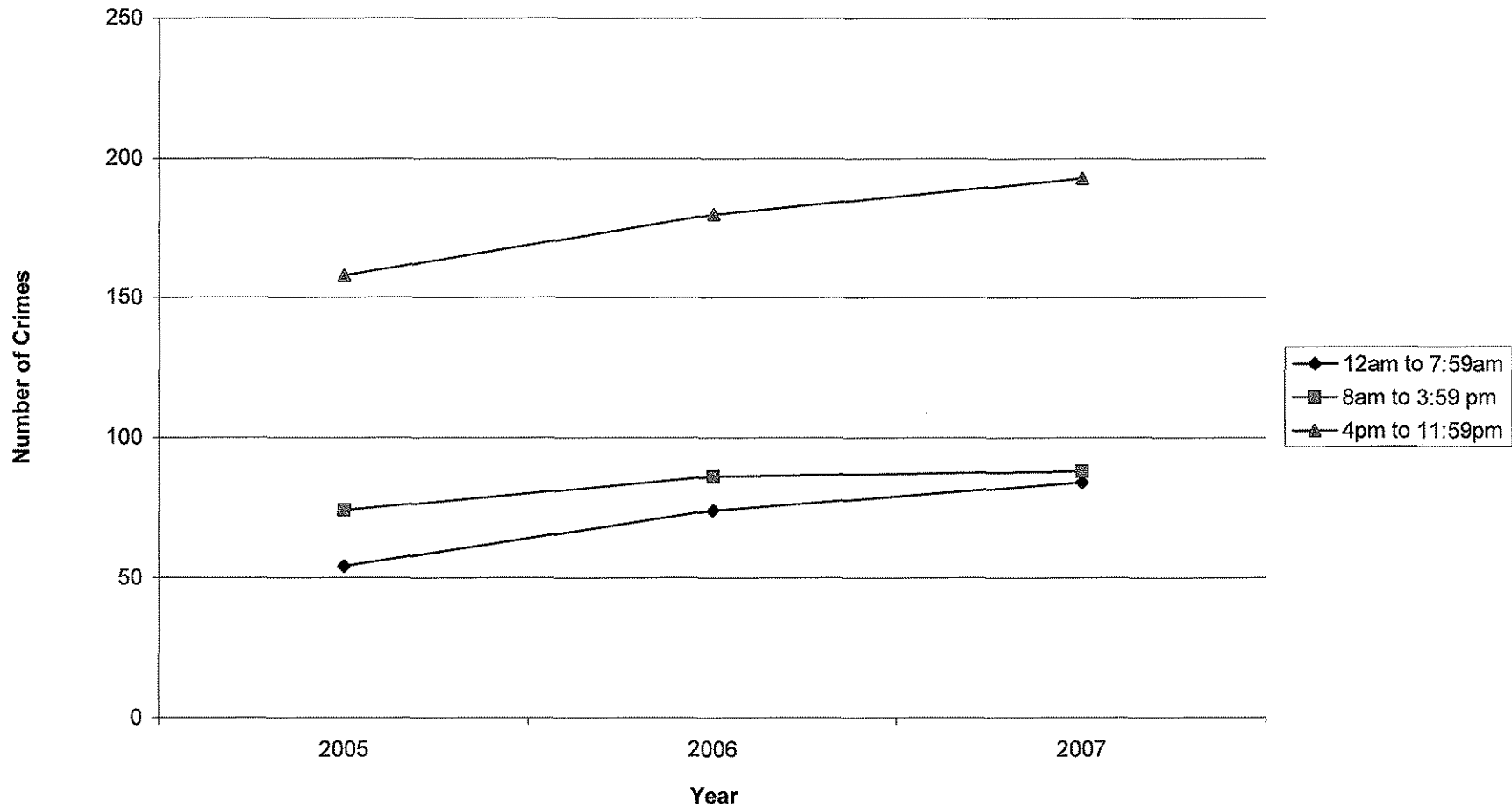
**Number of Violent Crimes by Specific Time Ranges, Pacoima / Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zone, 2005 - 2007**

	VIOLENT CRIMES				
	2007	2006	1 yr % Change	2005	2 yr % Change
12am to 7:59am	84	74	14%	54	56%
8am to 3:59 pm	88	86	2%	74	19%
4pm to 11:59pm	193	180	7%	158	22%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>28%</b>

Source: LAPD 2005, 2006, 2007.

Table created by Healthy City, January 2008.

**Violent Crime by Time of Day, Pacoima / Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development  
Zone (GRYD), 2005 - 2007**



Source: LAPD 2005, 2006, 2007  
Chart created by Healthy City, January 2008.

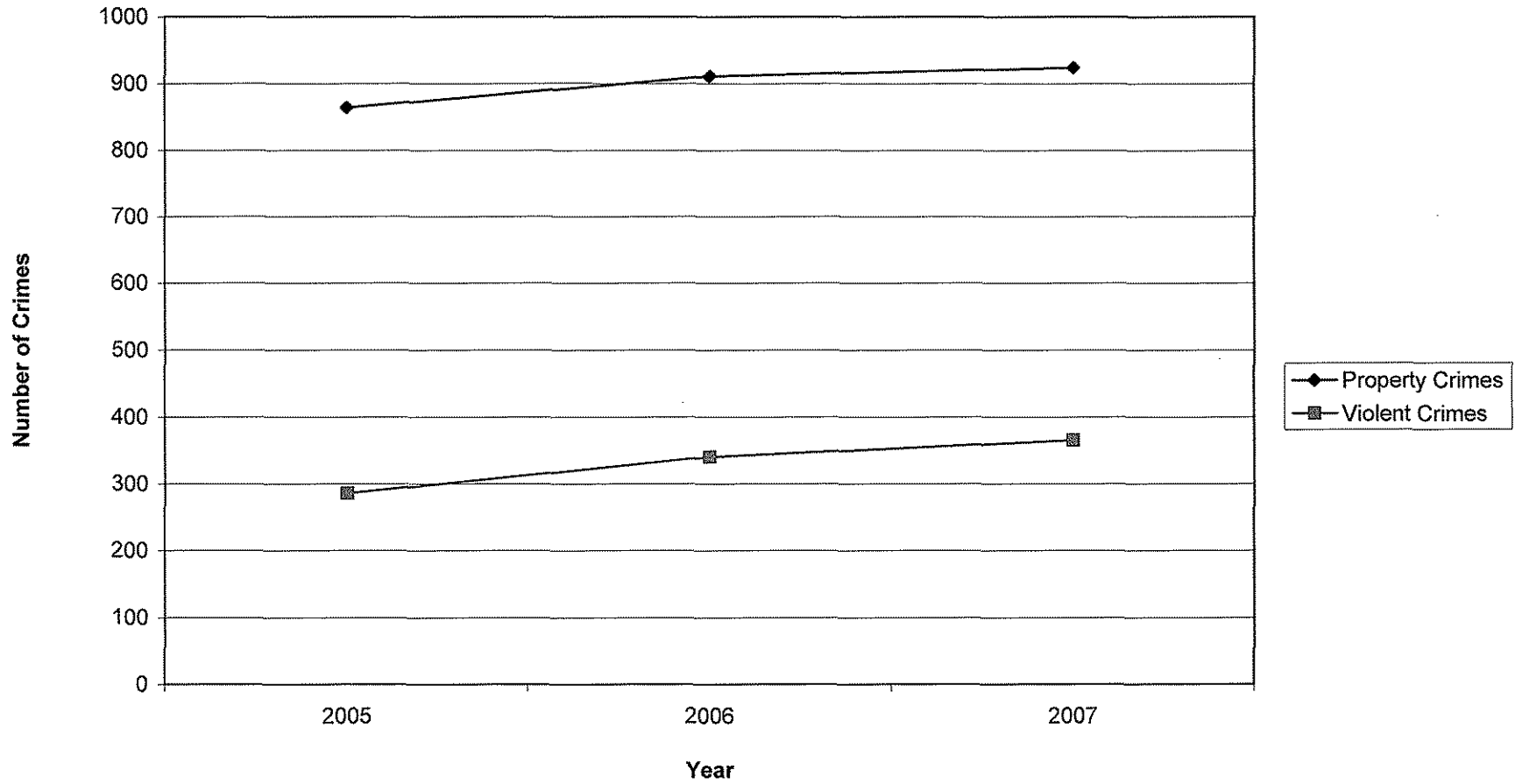
**Number of Violent and Property Crimes, Pacoima / Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zone, 2005 - 2007**

	2007	2006	1 yr % Change	2005	2 yr % Change
Property Crimes	924	911	1%	864	7%
Violent Crimes	365	340	7%	286	28%

Source: LAPD, 2005, 2006, 2007.

Table created by Healthy City, January 2008.

### Property and Violent Crimes in the Pacoima / Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zone, 2005 - 2007



Source: LAPD, 2005, 2006, 2007.  
Chart created by Healthy City, January 2008.

**Number of Victims by Type of Crime and Age\*, Pacoima / Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zone, 2005 - 2007**

HOMICIDE					
Age	2007	2006	1 yr % Change	2005	2 yr % Change
Under 18	0	3	-100%	1	-100%
18 - 24	2	3	-33%	1	100%
25 - 34	1	2	-50%	4	-75%
35 - 44	0	1	-100%	0	0%
45+	1	0	100%	0	100%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-56%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-33%</b>

GANG CRIME					
Age	2007	2006	1 yr % Change	2005	2 yr % Change
Under 18	40	41	-2%	42	-5%
18 - 24	57	48	19%	36	58%
25 - 34	31	25	24%	18	72%
35 - 44	17	14	21%	9	89%
45+	11	16	-31%	12	-8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>33%</b>

Source: LAPD 2005, 2006, 2007

\*Number of crimes by age only includes those crimes in which the age of the victim was known.  
Table created by Healthy City, January 2008.

**Number of Victims by Type of Crime and Age\*, Pacoima / Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zone, 2005 - 2007**

Age	PROPERTY CRIME				
	2007	2006	1 yr % Change	2005	2 yr % Change
Under 18	41	44	-7%	30	37%
18 - 24	110	105	5%	80	38%
25 - 34	145	132	10%	132	10%
35 - 44	138	127	9%	115	20%
45+	172	158	9%	133	29%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>24%</b>

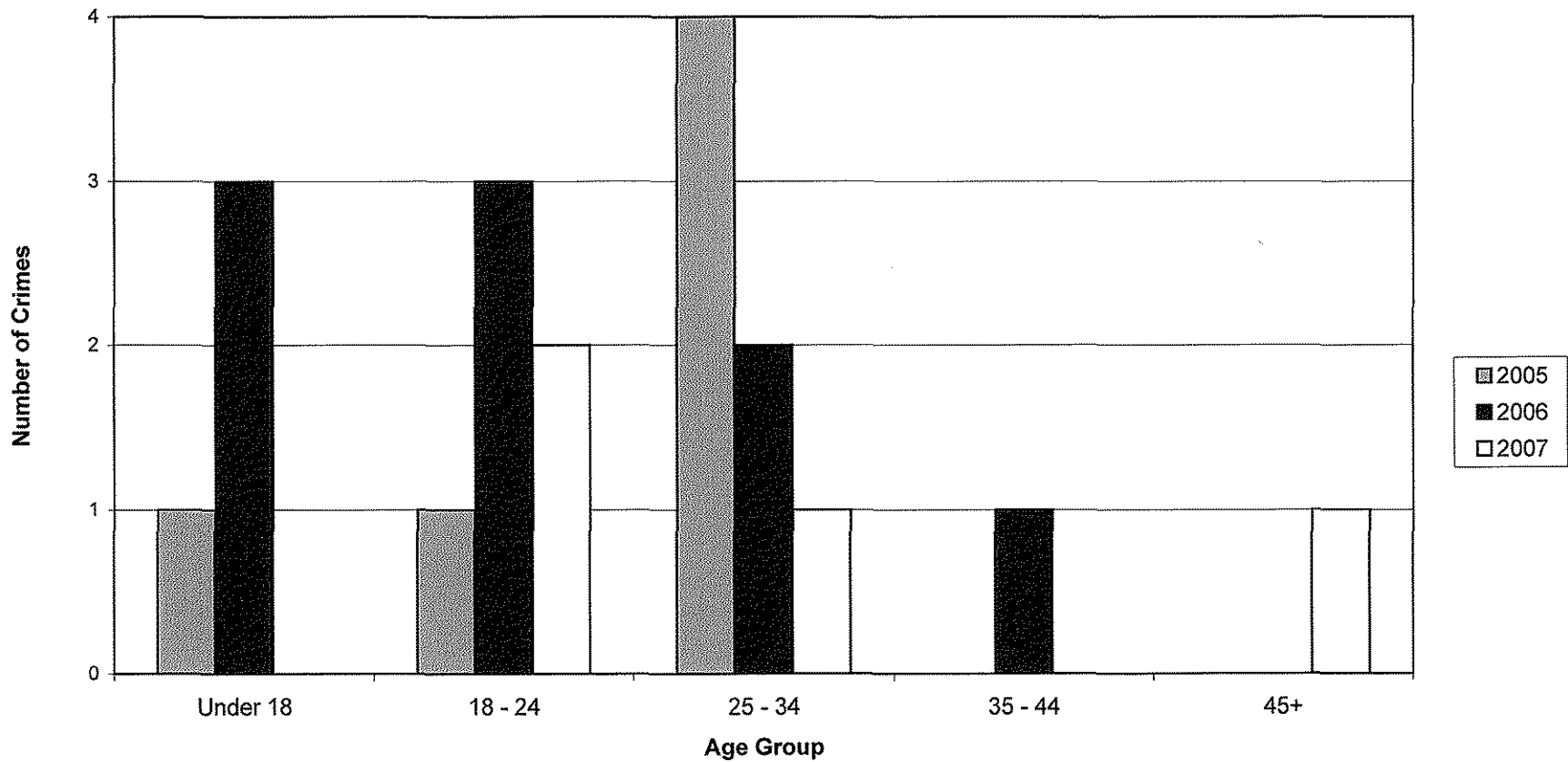
Age	VIOLENT CRIME				
	2007	2006	1 yr % Change	2005	2 yr % Change
Under 18	51	57	-11%	57	-11%
18 - 24	97	85	14%	85	14%
25 - 34	78	74	5%	74	5%
35 - 44	60	41	46%	41	46%
45+	70	68	3%	68	3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>10%</b>

Source: LAPD 2005, 2006, 2007

\*Number of crimes by age only includes those crimes in which the age of the victim was known.

Table created by Healthy City, January 2008.

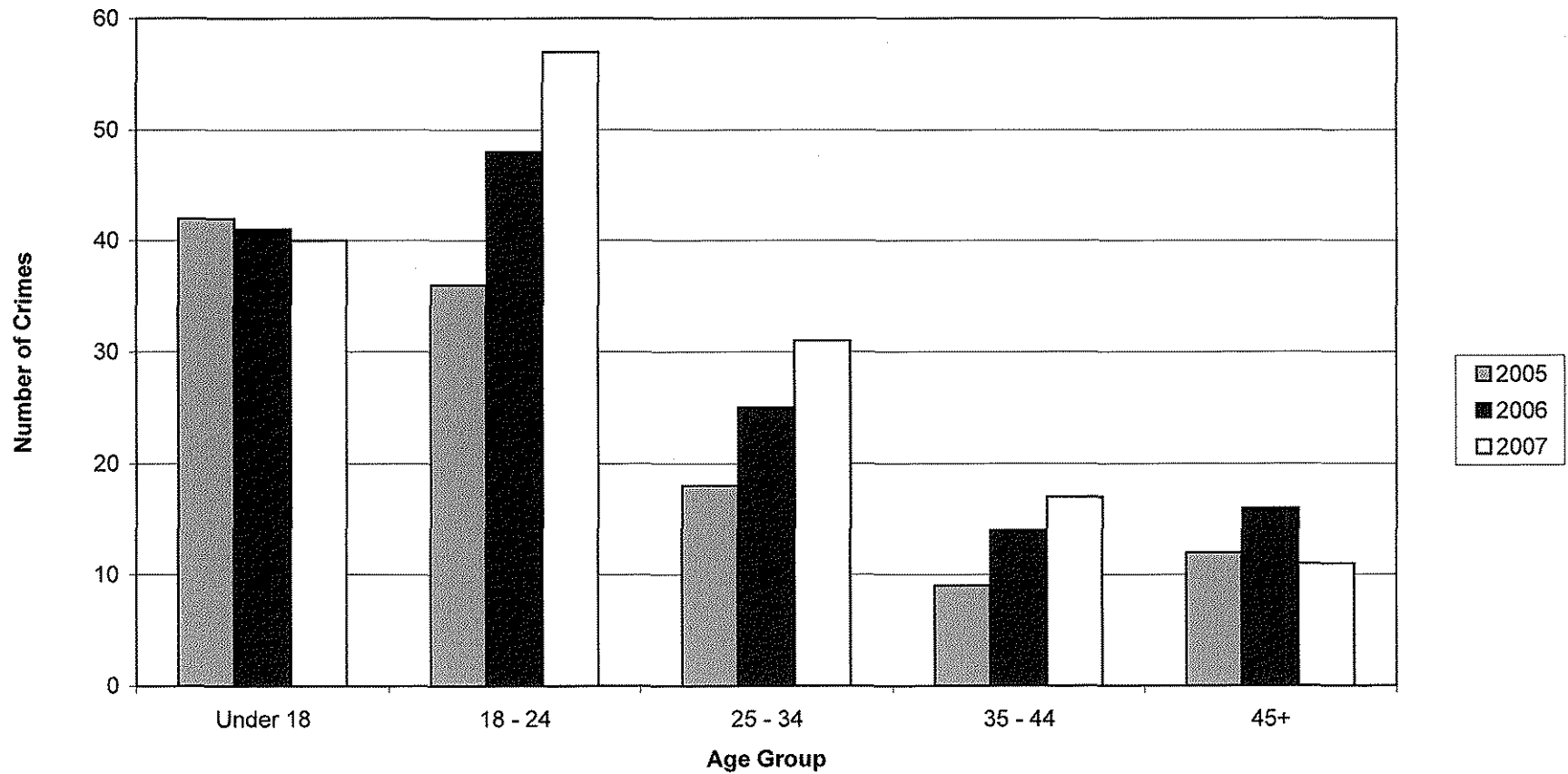
**Homicide by Age Group of Victim\* in the Pacoima / Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zone 2005 - 2007**



Source: LAPD 2005, 2006, 2007

\*Number of crimes by age only includes those crimes in which the age of the victim was known.  
Chart created by Healthy City, January 2008.

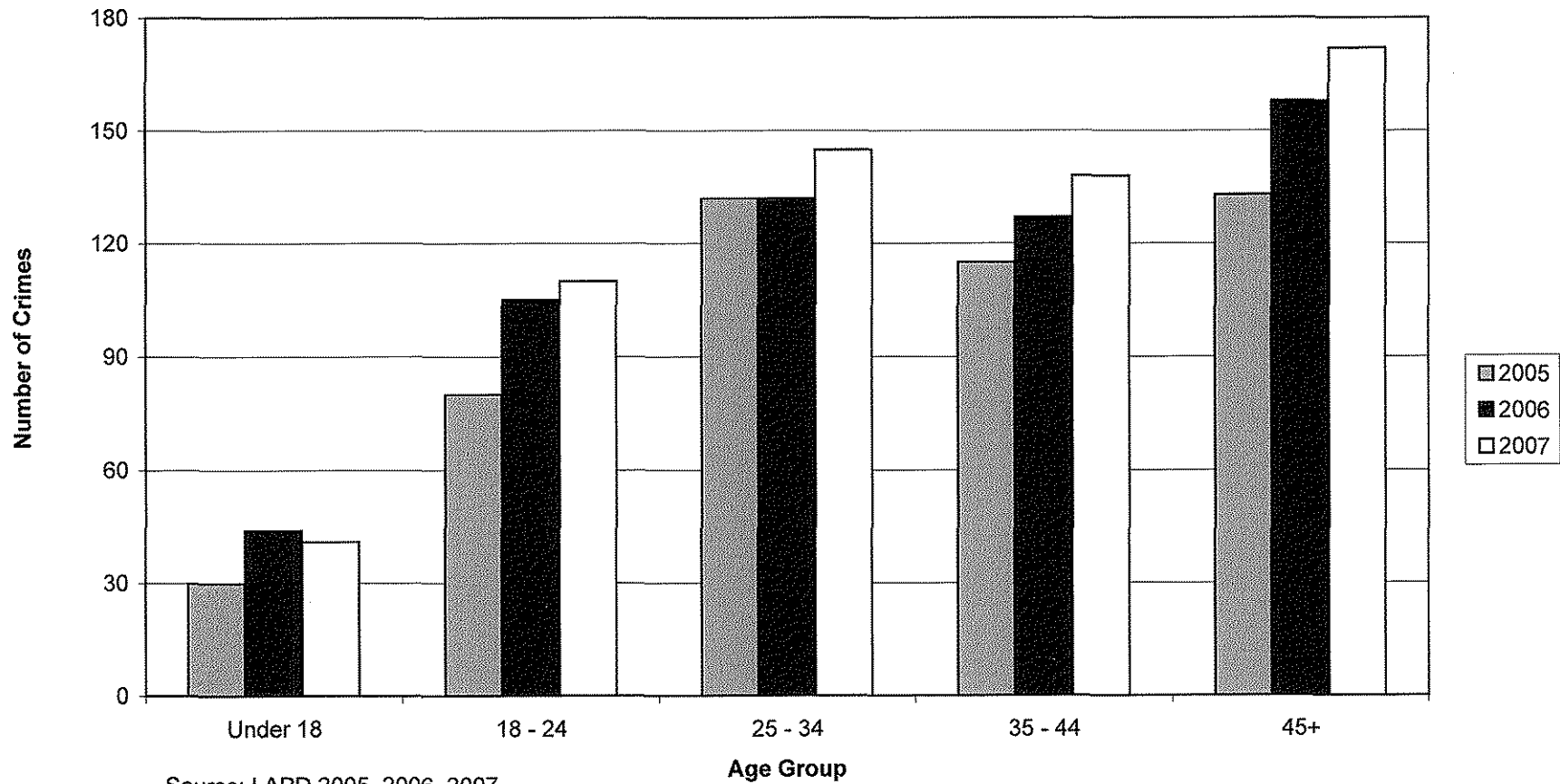
### Gang Crimes by Age Group of Victim\* in the Pacoima / Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zone 2005 - 2007



Source: LAPD 2005, 2006, 2007

\*Number of crimes by age only includes those crimes in which the age of the victim was known.  
Chart created by Healthy City, January 2008.

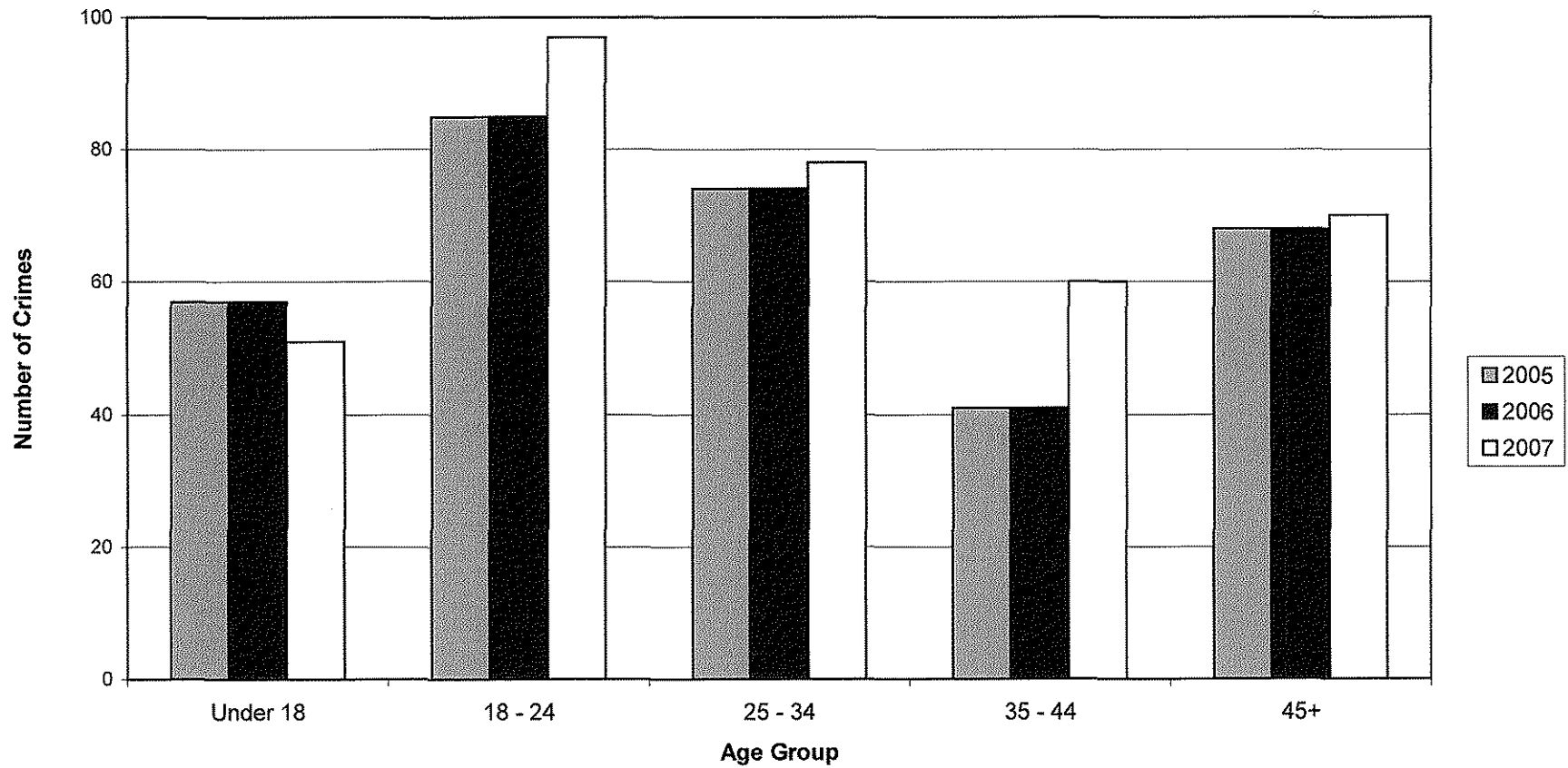
**Property Crime by Age Group of Victim\* in the Pacoima / Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zone 2005 - 2007**



Source: LAPD 2005, 2006, 2007

\*Number of crimes by age only includes those crimes in which the age of the victim was known.  
Chart created by Healthy City, January 2008.

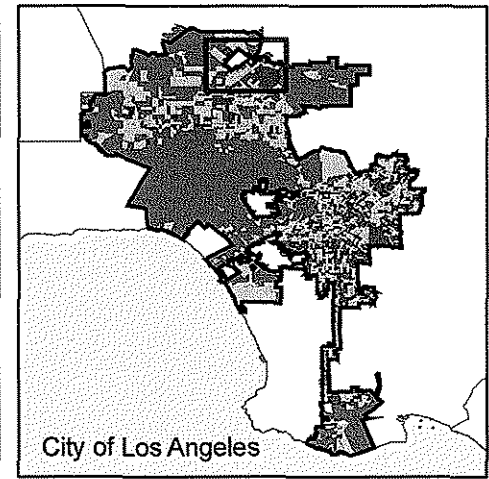
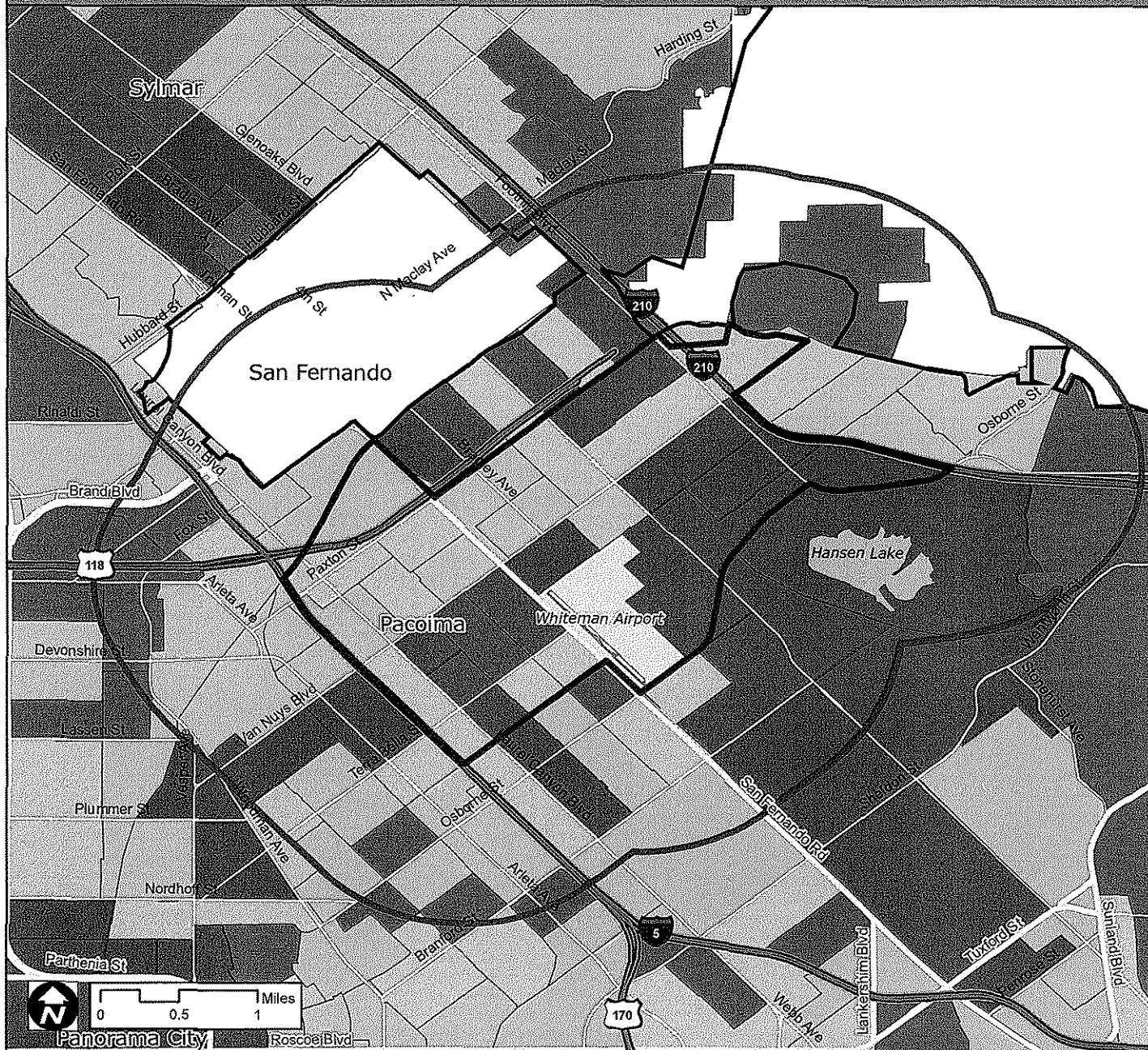
**Violent Crime by Age Group of Victim\* in the Pacoima / Foothill Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zone 2005 - 2007**



Source: LAPD 2005, 2006, 2007

\*Number of crimes by age only includes those crimes in which the age of the victim was known.  
 Chart created by Healthy City, January 2008.

# Violent Gang-Related Crime in the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone by Block Group, 2007



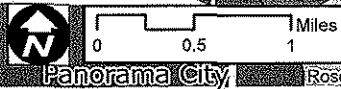
## Legend

- Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone
- One Mile Radius
- City of Los Angeles

## Number of Violent Gang Related Crimes by Quantile

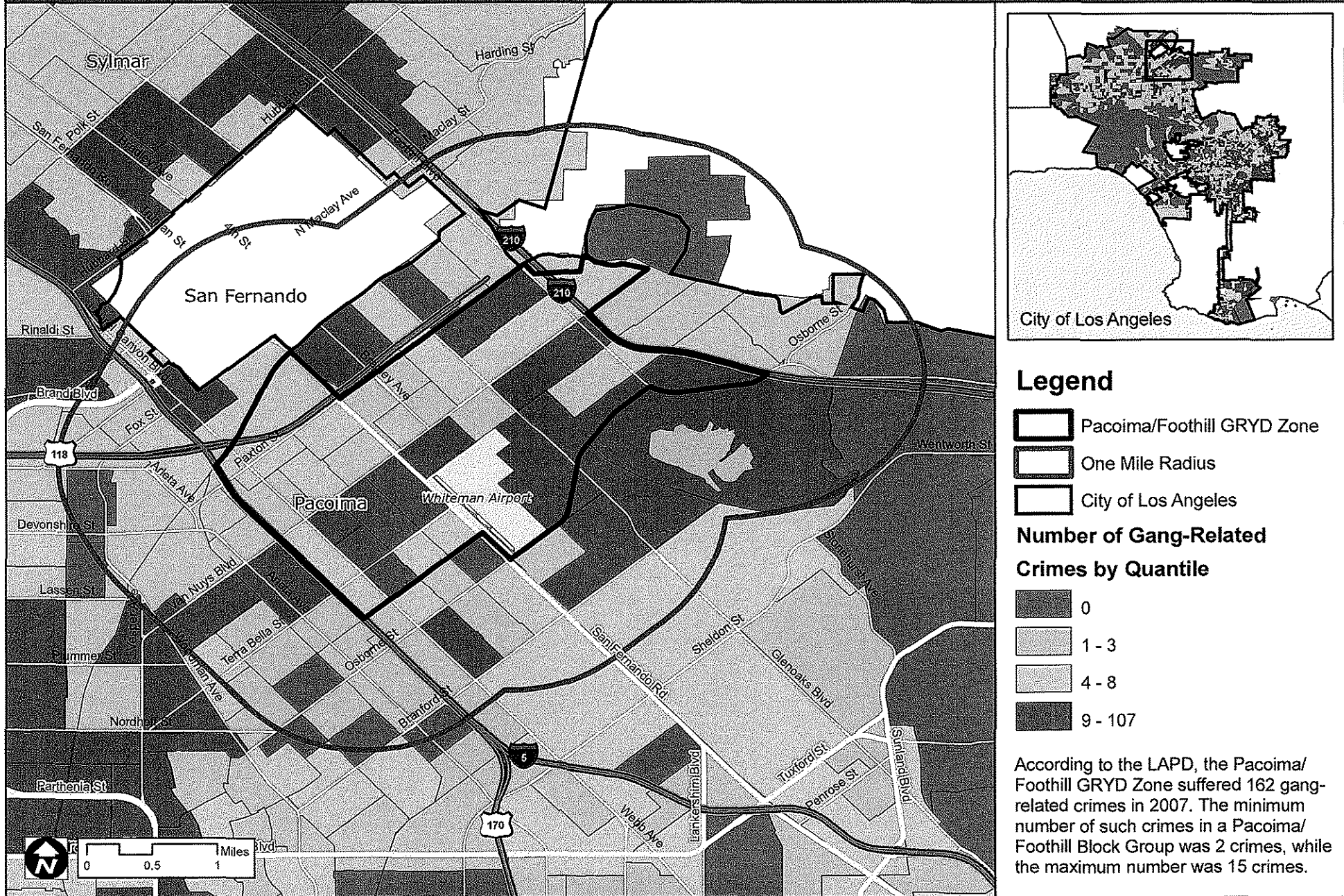
- 0
- 1 - 2
- 3 - 5
- 6 - 33

According to the LAPD, the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone suffered 134 violent gang-related crimes in 2007. The minimum number of violent gang-related crimes in a Pacoima/Foothill Block Group was 1, while the maximum was 14 crimes.



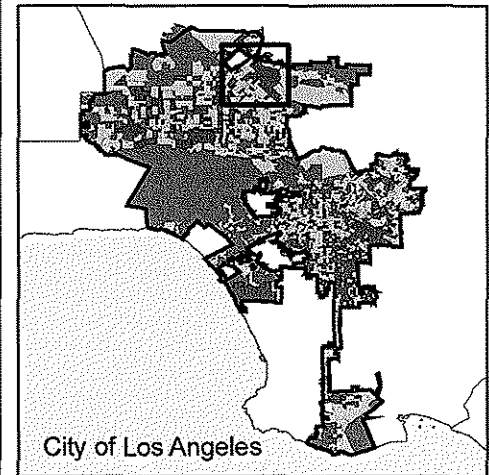
Map created by Healthy City January, 2008. Geographic data from Navteq, 2007. Violent Gang-Related Crime data classified by quantile by U.S. Census Block Group, from the LAPD, 2007. LAPD Mean = 3, Standard Deviation = 4. Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zone compiled from LAPD Reporting Districts.

# All Gang-Related Crime in the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone by Block Group, 2007



Map created by Healthy City January, 2008. Geographic data from Navteq, 2007. All Gang-Related Crime classified by quantile for U.S. Census Block Groups from the LAPD, 2007. LAPD Mean = 5, Standard Deviation = 7. Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zone compiled from LAPD Reporting Districts.

# All Violent Crime in the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone by Block Group, 2007



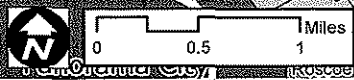
## Legend

- Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone
- One Mile Radius
- City of Los Angeles

## Number of Violent Crimes by Quantile

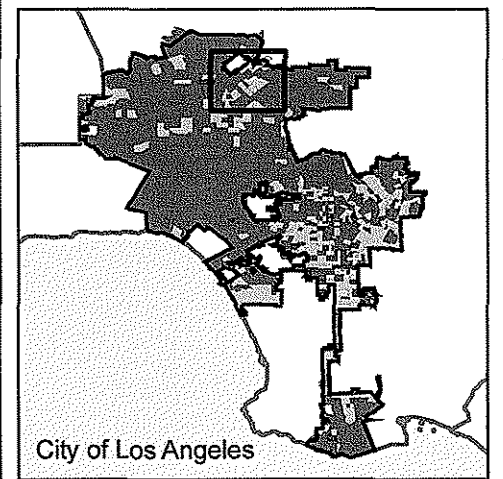
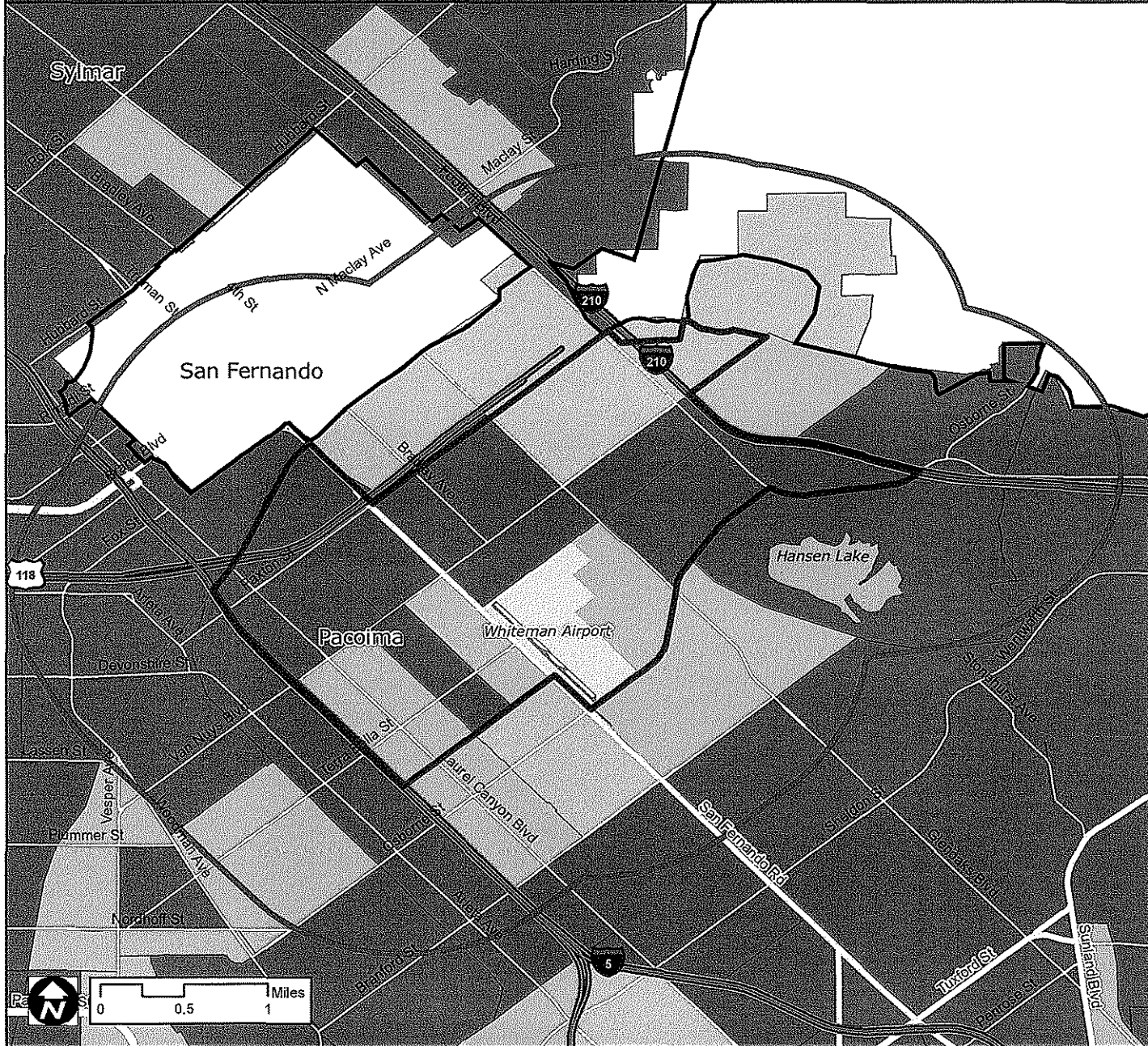
- 0 - 3
- 4 - 8
- 9 - 16
- 17 - 158

In 2007, 365 violent crimes occurred in the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone. The minimum number of violent crimes for a block group in the zone was 2, while the maximum was 42 violent crimes.



Map created by Healthy City January 2008. Geographic data from Navteq, 2007. All Violent Crime data classified by quantile, by U.S. Census Block Group from LAPD, 2007. LAPD Mean = 11, Standard Deviation = 13. Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zone compiled from LAPD Reporting Districts.

# All Homicides in the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone by Census Tract, 2007



## Legend

- Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone
- One Mile Radius
- City of Los Angeles

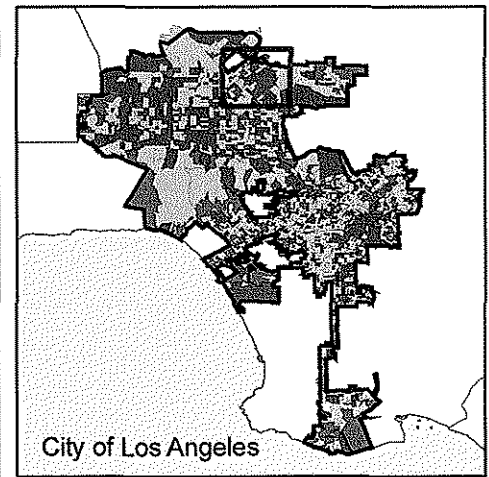
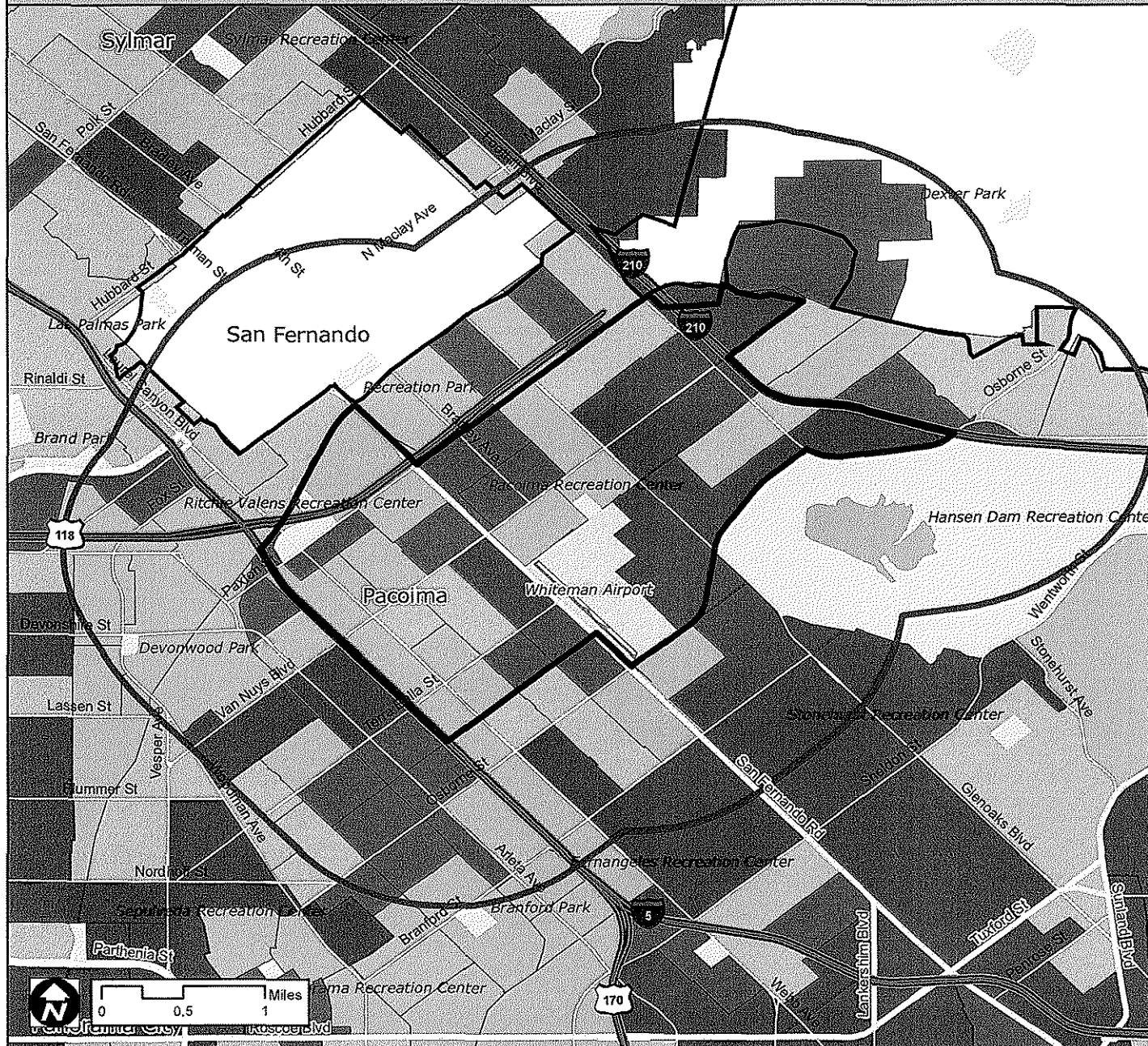
## Number of Homicides by Quantile

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3 - 8

According to the LAPD, the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone suffered 6 homicides in 2007. The minimum number of homicides in a Pacoima/Foothill Census Tract was 0 homicides, while the maximum number was 2 homicides.



# Property Crime in the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone by Block Group, 2007



**Legend**

- Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone
- One Mile Radius
- City of Los Angeles

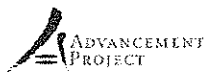
**Number of Property Crimes by Quantile**

- 0 - 20
- 21 - 32
- 33 - 50
- 51 - 1,397

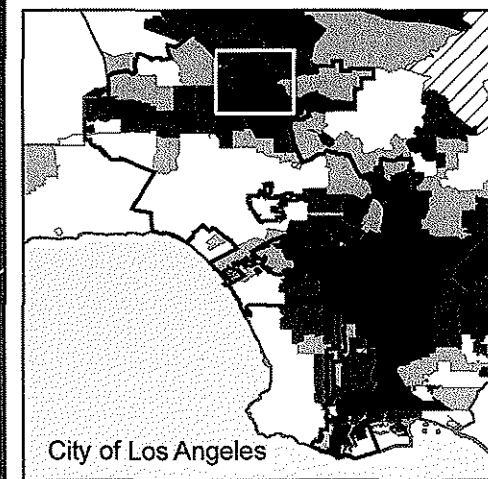
According to the LAPD, the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone suffered 924 property crimes in 2007 with an average of property 37 crimes per Block Group. The minimum number of property crimes per block group was 7, while the maximum was 120 crimes.



Map created by Healthy City, January 2008. Geographic data from Navteq, 2007. Property Crime classified by quantile by U.S. Census Block Group from the LAPD, 2007. LAPD Mean = 41, Standard Deviation = 47. Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zone compiled from LAPD Reporting Districts.



# Teen Births & Prenatal Services in the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone by ZIP Code, 2006



**Legend**

- Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone
- One Mile Radius
- Pacoima/Foothill Zip Code
- City of Los Angeles
- Prenatal Services

**Teen Births as a Percent of All Births by Quantile**

- 0% - 2%
- 3% - 7%
- 8% - 12%
- 13% - 44%
- No Data Available

In 2006, CA DHS reported 2,034 births in ZIP Codes 91331 of which 268 were to mothers under age 20.



Map created by Healthy City January 2008. Geographic data from Navteq, 2007. Birth data by ZIP Code, classified by quantile, from the California Department of Health Services 2006 Birth Records. Prenatal Service data from 211 Los Angeles County. County Mean = 7%, Standard Deviation = 6%. Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zone compiled from LAPD Reporting Districts.



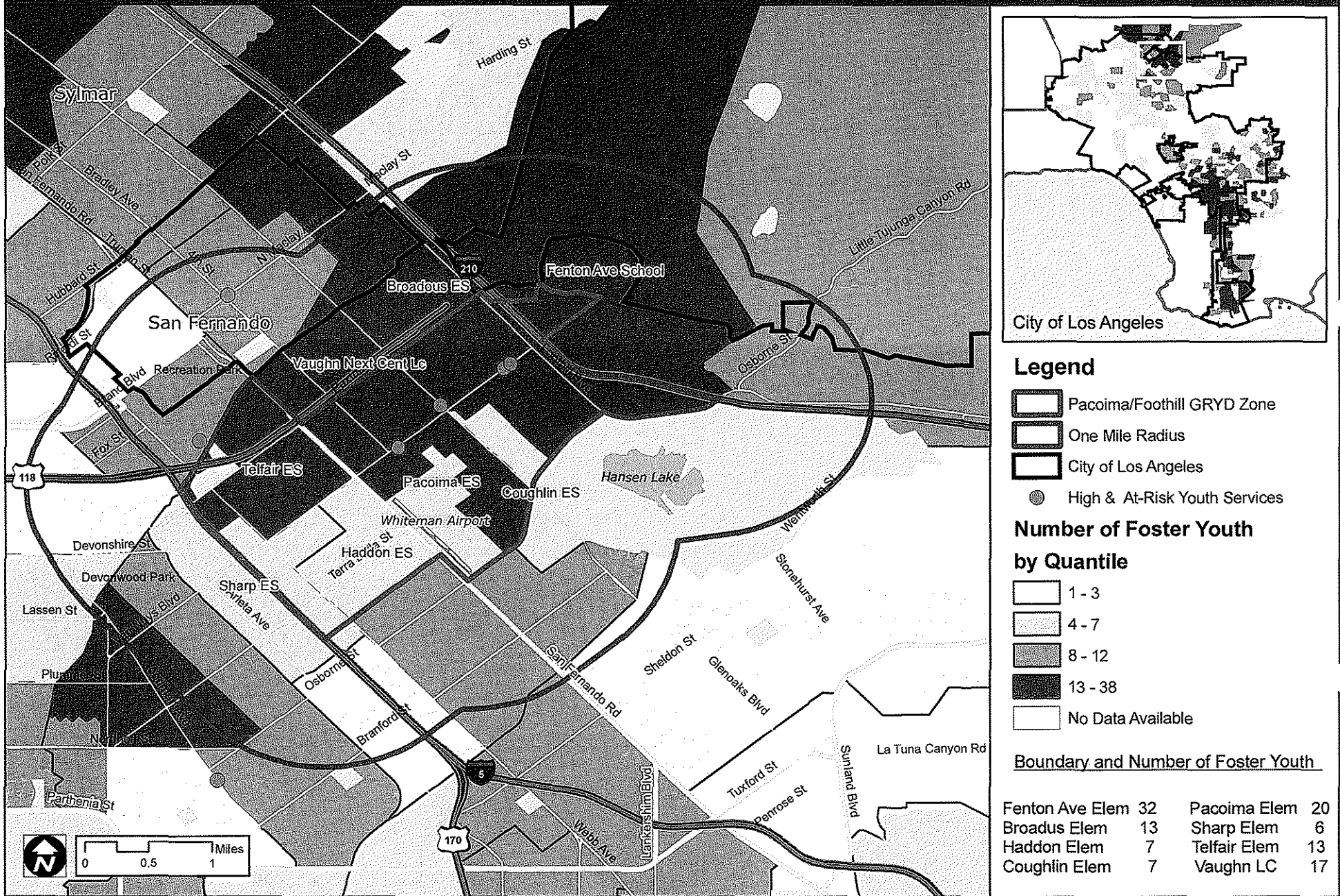


# Violent Gang-Related Crime & Parks and Schools in the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone by Block Group, 2007



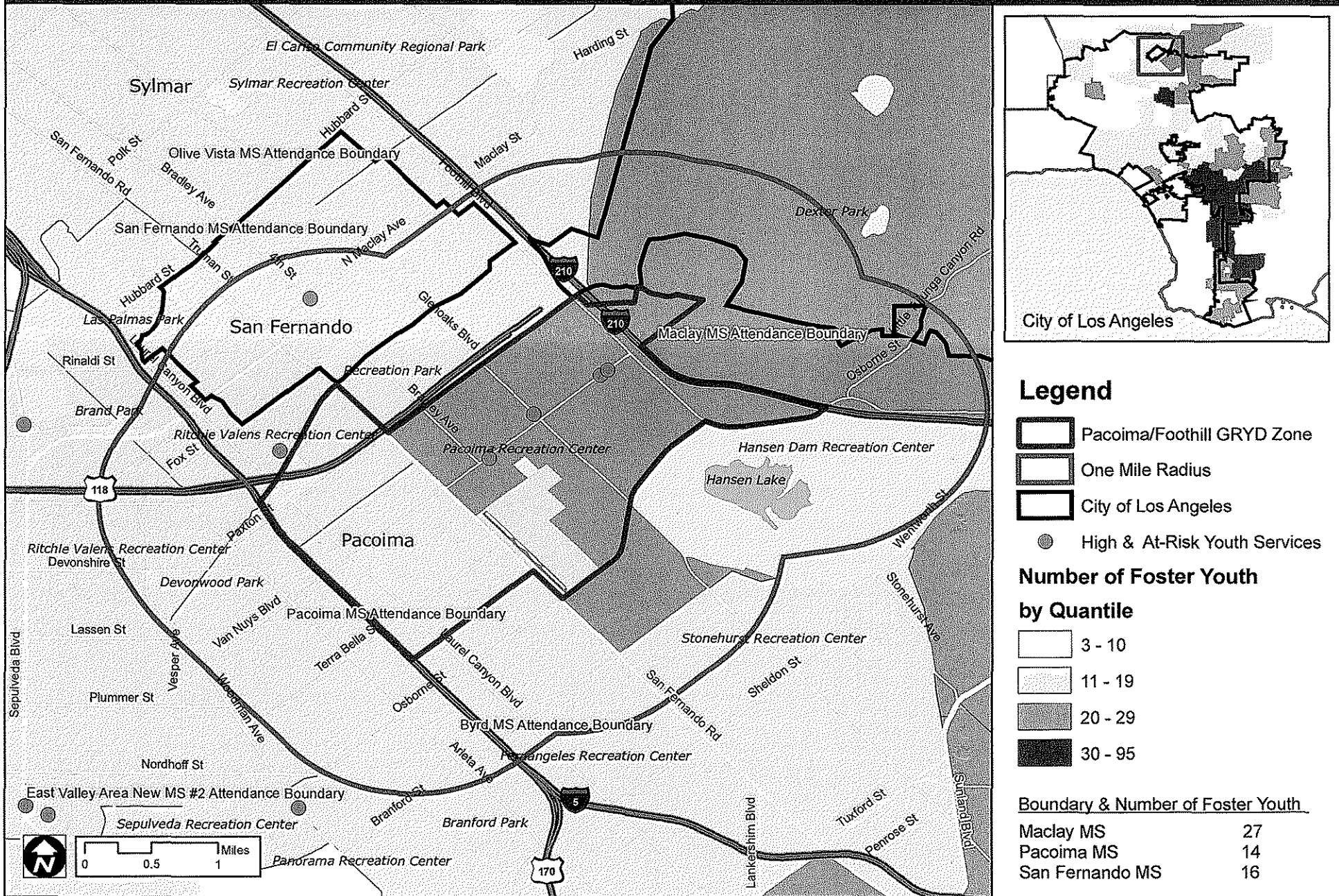
Map created by Healthy City, January 2007. Geographic data from Navteq, 2007. Violent Gang-Related Crime data classified by quantile by U.S. Census Block Group from the LAPD, 2007. LAPD Mean = 3, Standard Deviation = 4. Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zone compiled from LAPD Reporting Districts. LAUSD Schools data from the California Department of Education.

# Foster Youth in the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone by LAUSD Elementary School Attendance Boundary, 2006



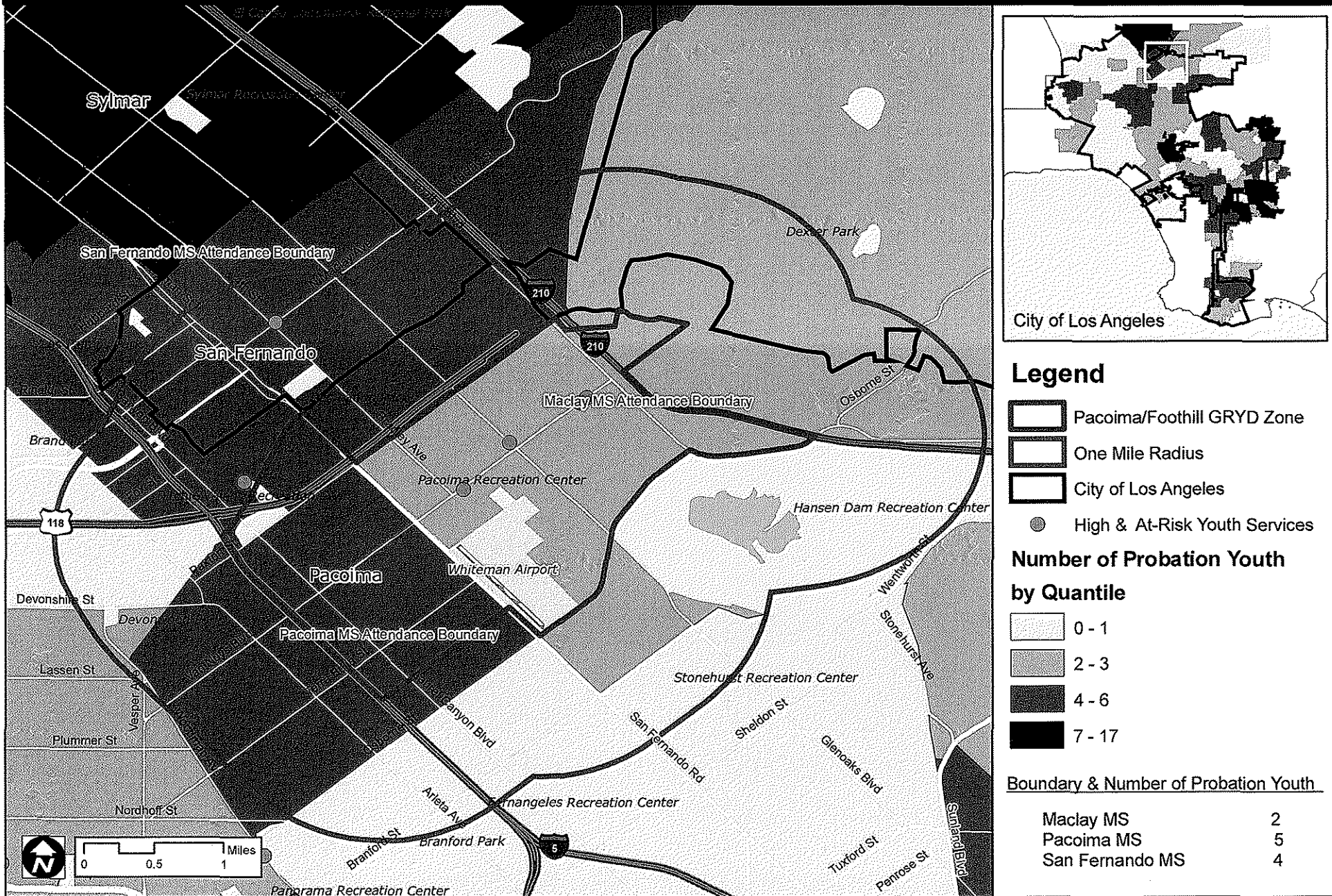
Map created by Healthy City, January 2008. Geographic data from Navteq, 2007. Foster Youth data by LAUSD Elementary School Attendance Boundary, classified by quantile from Education Coordinating Council, 2006. LAUSD Mean = 8, Standard Deviation = 7. High & At-Risk Youth Service data from 211 Los Angeles County. Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zone compiled from LAPD Reporting Districts.

# Foster Youth in the Pacoima/Foothill GRVD Zone by LAUSD Middle School Attendance Boundary, 2006



Map created by Healthy City, January 2008. Geographic data from Navteq, 2007. Foster Youth data by LAUSD middle school attendance boundary, classified by quantile, from Education Coordinating Council, 2006. LAUSD Mean = 22, Standard Deviation = 17. High & At-Risk Youth Service data from 211 Los Angeles County. Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zone compiled from LAPD Reporting Districts.

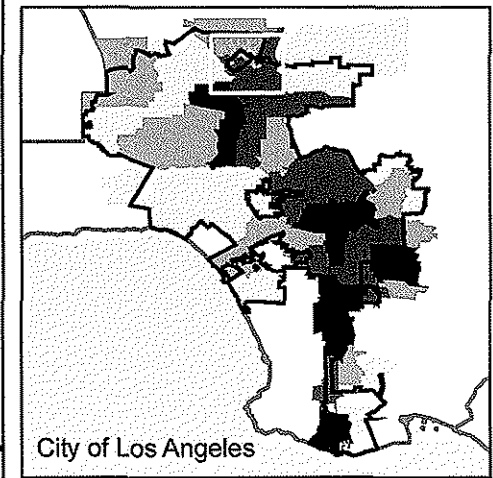
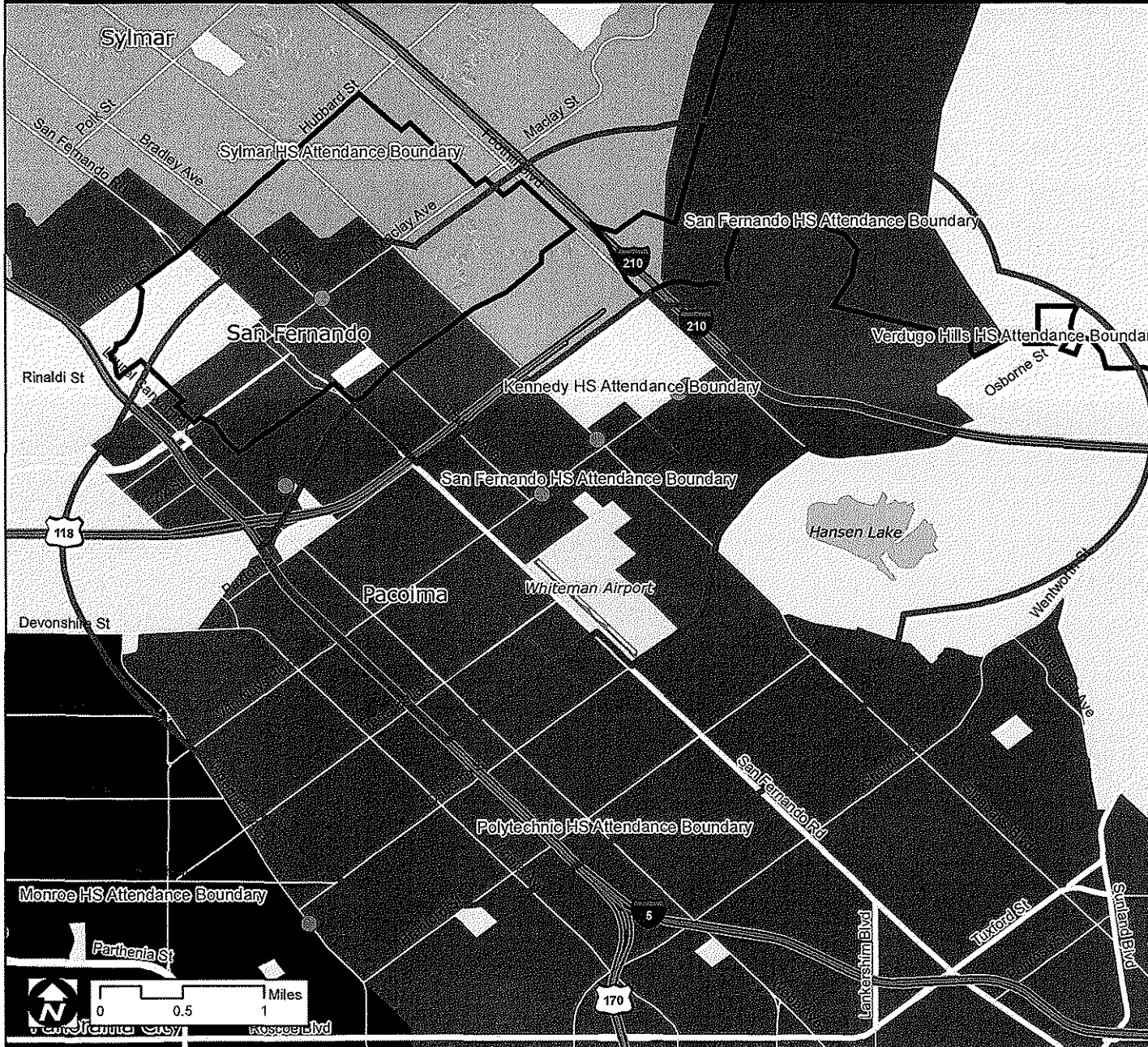
# Probation Youth Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone by LAUSD Middle School Attendance Boundary, 2006



Map created by Healthy City, January 2008. Geographic data from Navteq, 2007. Probation Youth data by LAUSD Middle School Attendance Boundary, classified by quartiles from Education Coordinating Council, 2006. LAUSD Mean = 3, Standard Deviation = 3. High & At-Risk Youth Service data from 211 Los Angeles County. Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zone compiled from LAPD Reporting Districts.



# Probation Youth in the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone by LAUSD High School Attendance Boundary, 2006



## Legend

- One Mile Radius
- Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone
- City of Los Angeles
- High & At-Risk Youth Services

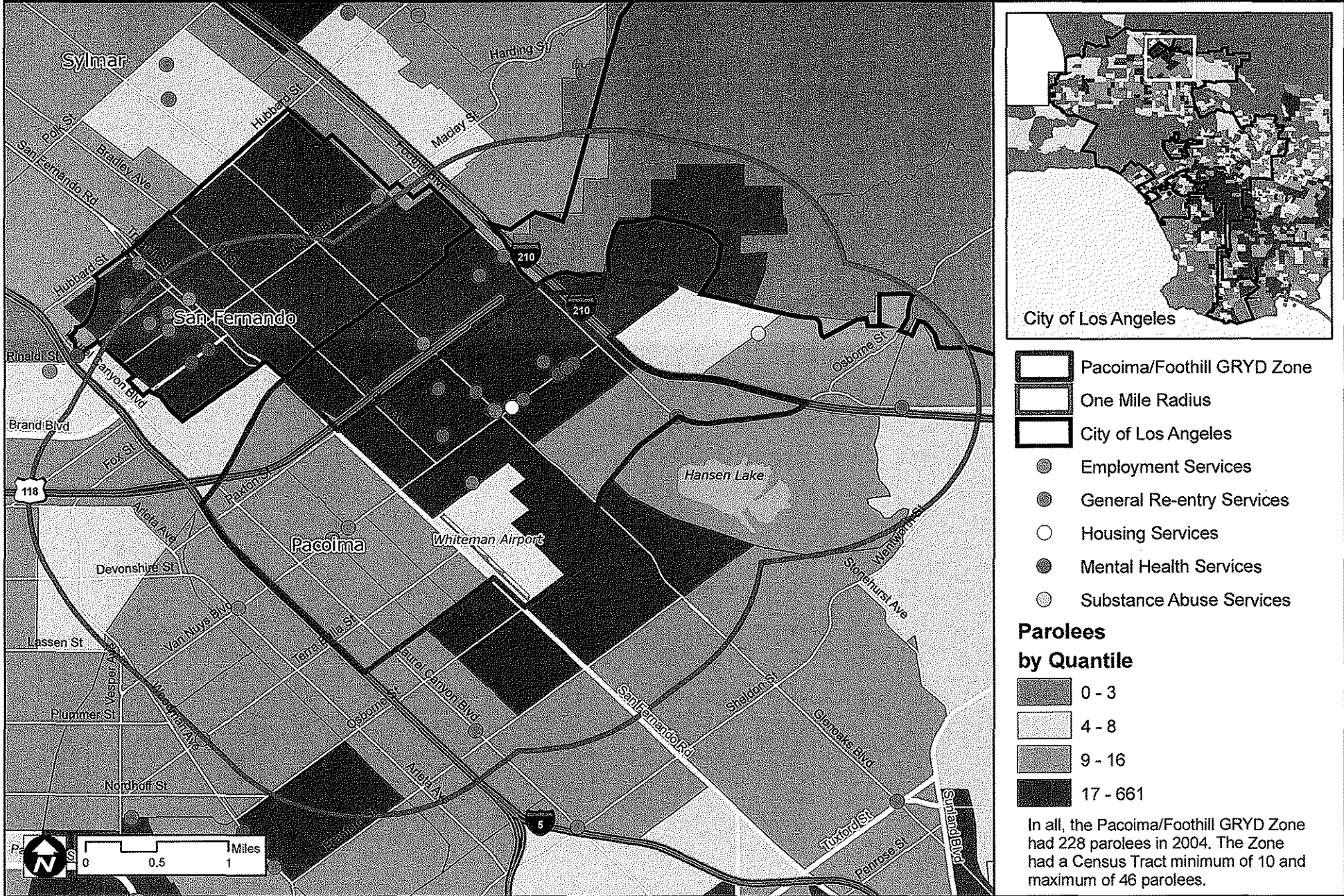
## Youth on Probation by Quantile

- 1 - 24
- 25 - 35
- 36 - 46
- 47 - 60

## Boundary & Number of Probation Youth

Polytechnic HS	45
Kennedy HS	21
San Fernando HS	36

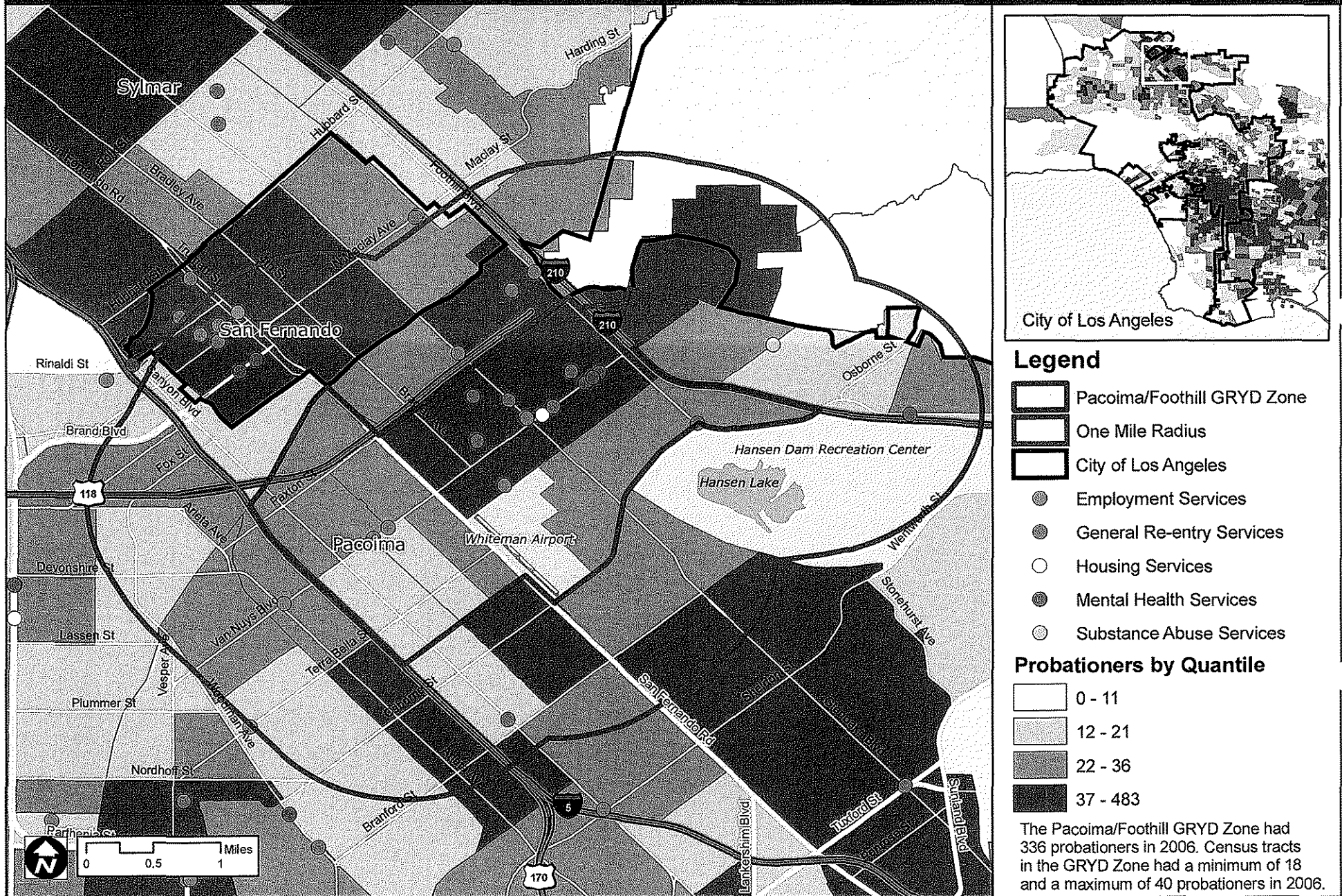
# Parolees & Re-entry Services Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone by Census Tract, 2004



Map created by Healthy City, January 2008. Geographic data from Navteq, 2007. Parolee data by Census Tract, classified by quantile from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, 2004. County Mean = 12, Standard Deviation = 20. Re-entry Service data from 211 Los Angeles County. Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zone compiled from LAPD Reporting Districts.



# Probationers & Re-entry Services in the Pacoima/Foothill GRYD Zone by Census Tract, 2006



Map created by Healthy City, January 2008. Geographic data from Navteq, 2007. Probation data classified by quantile from the Los Angeles Department of Probation, 2006. Los Angeles County Mean = 26, Standard Deviation = 23. Re-entry Service data from 211 Los Angeles County. Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zone compiled from LAPD Reporting Districts.