

Gang Enforcement Team



Audit highlights - March 2018

ABOUT THIS AUDIT

The Portland Police Bureau's Gang Enforcement Team patrols areas of the city and investigates violent crimes with a gang connection. This audit assessed the results of the Gang Enforcement Team's work and resulted in two reports.

PATROL

Portland Police must show that traffic stops are effective

There were racial disparities in traffic stops

Traffic stops by the Gang Enforcement Team disproportionately affected African Americans, who made up 59 percent of people stopped.



Some community members questioned these stops and were concerned that they were not limited to gang suspects.

Police Bureau cannot show that stops were effective

Gang Enforcement officers did not record the *investigative reasons* why they made stops. The pretext of a minor traffic violation is not sufficient as an explanation.



The team did not analyze *results* of stops, such as how many led to arrest or gun seizures. Officers did not record how many led to contact with gang suspects.

Document, analyze, and publicly report the reasons and the results of stops.

WHAT AUDITORS FOUND

WHAT AUDITORS RECOMMEND

INVESTIGATIONS

Lack of accountability and transparency reduced the community's trust

Sensitive information collected without a policy

The Gang Enforcement Team created lists of "most active" gang members and associates, but without:

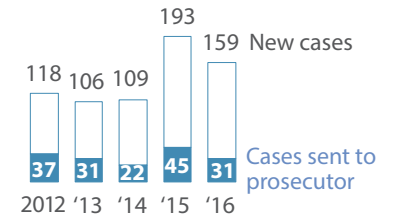
- Setting up safeguards or a policy
- Seeking public input

Community members had concerns about similar police practices from the past, such as people getting listed even though they have no gang involvement. The most active list also raises legal questions.

Results of investigations not assessed

The Gang Enforcement Team started 159 new investigations in 2016, but managers did not pay attention to how many investigations the team completed.

Auditors estimated 31 cases were sent to prosecutors in 2016.



Adopt policy for the most active list and put in safeguards. Use clearance rate to track, and report on results of investigations.

