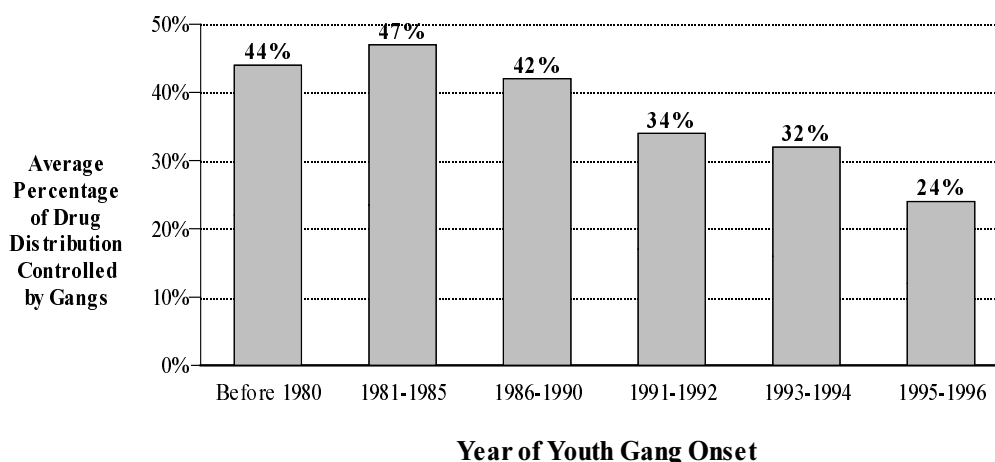


Police Perceive More Drug Dealing in Gangs Established Prior to 1990

“Cities with newer youth gang problems are much less likely to have youth gangs that control drug trafficking enterprises,” according to data from the 1996 National Youth Gang Survey (p. 8). Areas in which gangs first emerged prior to 1991 are perceived by local law enforcement officers to have the highest level of gang control of drug distribution (between 42% and 47%). In contrast, areas in which gangs were more recently established are perceived as having much lower levels of gang-controlled drug distribution (see figure below). The authors recommend that each community carefully assess their youth gang drug trafficking problem and tailor their response accordingly. A copy of the report, which includes descriptions of several programs aimed at reducing drug trafficking and other criminal behavior by gangs, is available online (<http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/ojjdp/178282.pdf>).

**Average Percentage of Drug Distribution Controlled by Youth Gangs
as Perceived by Local Law Enforcement Officers,
by Year of Gang Problem Onset**



NOTES: The 1996 National Youth Gang Survey was completed by 2,631 police and sheriff's departments in October 1997. A total of 1,385 respondents reported gang problems. Among these, 1,139 responded to the question regarding gang control of drug distribution. A "youth gang" was defined as "a group of youths or young adults in your jurisdiction that you or other responsible persons in your agency or community are willing to identify or classify as a 'gang.'"

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from James C. Howell and Debra K. Gleason, "Youth Gang Drug Trafficking," *OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin*, December 1999.