

Regional Gang Intelligence Database UPDATE

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In March 2019, the Cook County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) responded to a FOIA request for the final version of the Regional Gang Intelligence Database (RGID) when it was decommissioned on January 15, 2019. We compared the **January 2019** version of RGID to the **June 2018** version published by ProPublica. We also reviewed newly released documents that include CCSO policies and procedures as well as data-sharing agreements for RGID.

SIZE

In January 2019, RGID contained information on **26,144** individuals. More than 1000 people were added to the database after June 11, 2018. On average, **5 people were added to the list every day from June 2018 to January 2019.**

RACE

Among the people whose race is identified on the January 2019 RGID, **84% are people of color.**

	JANUARY 2019	JUNE 2018
BLACK	51.7%	51.7%
LATINX	28.9%	30.7%
WHITE	16.2%	16%

Everyone else is listed as multiracial, Middle Eastern, Asian, Native American, or Pacific Islander.

CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION

The new documents include a form used by law enforcement to add an individual to the RGID. Along with the person's name, date of birth, and gang affiliation, the officer was instructed to identify **at least two criteria** that justified adding the person to the database. The January 2019 RGID spreadsheet contains information on which criteria were used for each person. The information below shows the percentage of people identified as meeting each criterion:

82.6% ADMITTED MEMBERSHIP IN A CRIMINAL GANG

45.2% POSSESSES TATTOOS THAT A TRAINED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OR AGENT HAS REASONABLE SUSPICION TO BELIEVE SIGNIFY GANG MEMBERSHIP

84.6% IDENTIFIED BY AN INDIVIDUAL OF PROVEN RELIABILITY AS A CRIMINAL GANG MEMBER

57.7% RESIDES IN OR FREQUENTS A PARTICULAR CRIMINAL GANG'S AREA OR AFFECT THEIR STYLE OF DRESS, USE OF HAND SIGNS, SYMBOLS, OR MAINTAIN AN ONGOING RELATIONSHIP WITH KNOWN CRIMINAL GANG MEMBERS, AND WHERE THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER DOCUMENTS REASONABLE SUSPICION THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS INVOLVED IN CRIMINAL GANG-RELATED ACTIVITY OR ENTERPRISE

23.9% ARRESTED IN THE COMPANY OF KNOWN CRIMINAL GANG MEMBERS FOR OFFENSES WHICH ARE CONSISTENT WITH CRIMINAL GANG ACTIVITY

Most of these criteria are open to interpretation or officer discretion. But the new documents raise additional questions about the two most common criteria:

(1) self-admission and (2) identification by an individual of proven reliability.

1 The January 2019 spreadsheet contains **two** columns about self-admission. One column suggests that 82.6% of people admit to being gang members while the other column suggests that only 71.9% of people self-admit. Beyond other concerns about self-admission, this inconsistency affects more than 2750 people.

2 A newly released document clarifies the meaning of “an individual of proven reliability.” According to a CCSO presentation on RGID, that simply means: “Does an **informant** identify an individual as a gang member?”

DATA SHARING

The new documents reveal that **Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)** had direct access to RGID. We now know that **367 local, state, and federal agencies** had access to RGID, including:

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE)
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI)
DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (DEA)
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS, AND EXPLOSIVES (ATF)
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)
CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (CBP)
OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)
US ATTORNEY
US STATE DEPARTMENT

DESTROYING THE DATABASE

The CCSO intends to physically destroy the RGID as early as March 26, 2019. If the CCSO destroys RGID, the sheriff's office will not be able to notify people that they were on the gang database. Community organizations have asked the CCSO to delay the destruction until after mandatory public hearings and the opportunity to inform 26,144 people that their data was contained in the RGID.