Gangs: Identification and Awareness

SPO Timothy Dean
• Title 11, Section 616: Gang Participation
  ◦ “Criminal street gang" means any ongoing organization, association, or group of 3 or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as 1 of its primary activities the commission of one or more of the criminal acts enumerated in subdivision (a)(2) of this section, having a common name or common identifying sign or symbol, and whose members individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity.”

Legal Definition
• Folk Nation
• People Nation
• Hispanic Gangs
Folk Nation

- Crips
- Gangster Disciples/ Black Gangster Disciples
  - Rivals: Bloods, Latin Kings
Crips
• Grew from a Los Angeles street gang called the Baby Avenues in 1969
• Founding fathers are Raymond Washington and Stanley “Tookie” Williams
• Crip members initiate new gang members by “Loc’ing-In”—a new member must commit a crime in front of current gang members
• Females have the option of “Loc’ing-In” or “Sexed-In”
Structure:
- Less structured than other gangs
- Crewed by brothers, sisters, cousins, and close friends
- Typically led by the oldest and toughest family member

Colors:
- Blue
- Gray
- Orange

Recommended reading: “Inside the Crips” by Colton Simpson with Ann Pearlman
• Clothing:
  ◦ British Knights clothing
  ◦ Colorado Rockies Athletic wear
  ◦ KSWISS
  ◦ Los Angeles Lakers
  ◦ New York Yankees NY Logo
  ◦ North Carolina State
Clothing

• Blue Bandanas
• Blue Beads
Tattoos

Photos Taken by WPD and NCCPD

Source: knowgangs.com
Graffiti

Photo taken by Corey Grubbs Newark, NJ PD

Photos Taken by WPD and NCCPD
Black Gangster Disciples
• Also known as Gangster Disciple Nation
• Originally formed in the 1960’s under David Barksdale
• When Barksdale died, his 2nd in command, Larry “King Hoover” Hoover, took over
• Grew into Chicago’s largest street gang
• Possibly largest gang in America
• When incarcerated, called “Brothers (Sisters) of the Struggle”
• Clothing:
  ◦ Carhart Clothing
  ◦ Detroit Lions Athletic Wear
  ◦ Georgetown University (Hoyas) Jerseys
  ◦ Growth and Development T-shirts
  ◦ LA Raiders
  ◦ New York Yankees
  ◦ Tampa Bay Lightning
• **Structure:**
  - Chairman (Larry Hoover)
  - Board of Directors
  - Governors
  - Regents
  - Soldiers

• **Colors:**
  - Black
  - Blue
  - Silver
  - White
  - Gray
People Nation

- Bloods/ United Blood Nation
  - Rivals:
    - Crips
    - Latin Kings (in some areas)
Prior to 1972, Compton Crips and Piru Street Boys (from Compton) were on friendly relations.

In the summer of ’72, Compton Crips and Piru Boys had a violent separation.

The Pirus decided to unite with the Bloods and any other group that was anti-Crip.
• The United Blood Nation was formed in 1993 from within Rikers Island
• Formed as a response (protection) to the Latin Kings
• The United Blood Nation emulated the Bloods street gangs in Los Angeles, CA
• East Coast Bloods & West Coast Bloods conducted meetings in 1999
• These meetings aligned all Blood gangs as one nation
• Structure
  ◦ First Superior/ General= 101
  ◦ Second Superior/ Captain= 102
  ◦ Third Superior/ Minister of Defense= 103
  ◦ Fourth Superior/ Minister of Education= 104
  ◦ Fifth Superior/ Field Commander (Drug Manager)= 105
  ◦ Blood Soldiers or Dawgs
  ◦ Drug dealers and associates

• Colors:
  ◦ Red
  ◦ Black
  ◦ Green
  ◦ Brown
Clothing:

- Chicago Bulls Athletic Clothing
- Fubu Designer Clothing
- Calvin Klein Clothing
- Philadelphia Phillies
- San Francisco 49ers
- The color Red
  - Clothing
  - Bandannas
  - Beads
  - Shoelaces
Dog Paws in a Tattoo

Photos Taken by WPD and NCCPD
• Hand Signs are referred to as “Single stacks” and “double stacks”.

Some Photos Taken by WPD and NCCPD
Some Photos Taken by WPD and NCCPD
Hispanic Gangs
Latin Kings
Graffiti, Tattoos and Art
• Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation
• Started in Chicago during the 1940’s
• The original 5 “King of Kings”: Papa King; Jose Rivera; Eddie Rodriguez; Joe Gunn; and Fast Eddy
• Common initiation rite is “hunting”- looking for the opportunity to do a drive-by
• “National Salute”- placing a clenched fist over the heart
• The salute means “I will die for you.”
• National Holiday occurs on January 6- honors their dead gang members
Clothing:
- LA Lakers clothing
- Gold Fubu Jerseys with # 05
- Black and yellow articles of clothing
• Structure:
  ◦ Overall Leader: Inca
  ◦ Cacique
  ◦ Enforcers
  ◦ Treasurer
  ◦ Investigator
  ◦ Secretary
  ◦ Cleaners
  ◦ Throwers
  ◦ Rank & file members

• Colors:
  ◦ Gold (Yellow)
  ◦ Black
  ◦ Red
  ◦ Purple
  ◦ Green
During the ’80s, California street gangs were divided into Surenos (Southerners) and Nortenos (Northerners)

Southern gangs are closely associated with the Mexican Mafia

Often use the number 13 in their gang and taggings as M is the 13th letter of the alphabet
- Blue Clothing
- Blue Bandannas
- Blue Sports Teams
- Clothing with “13” or south on it
- Gangster Cholo Look
Hash marks in Eyebrows “I” and “III”
Photos Taken by WPD and NCCPD
Juvenile Gangs
In a 2001 study involving 2,666 persons:

- 48.5% joined the gang before age 12
- 69.2% joined the gang before age 13
- 83.2% joined the gang before age 14
- 92.4% joined the gang before age 15
- Only 7.6% joined the gang after age 16
• Hybrid:
  ◦ May/may not have an allegiance to a traditional gang color
  ◦ Local gangs may adopt the symbols of large gangs in more than one city
  ◦ Gang members may change their affiliation from one gang to another
  ◦ A gang member may claim multiple affiliations
  ◦ Existing gangs may change their names or suddenly merge with other gangs to form new gangs
Many gangs are becoming increasingly diverse in both race/ethnicity and gender.

- Gang members who relocate from other areas may align themselves with a local gang that has no ties to their original gang.
- Members of rival gangs frequently cooperate in criminal activity.
Gang Mentality

Fully defined in “Gangs: A Guide to Understanding Street Gangs, 3rd ed.” by Dr. Al Valdez
• Payback
  ◦ Firmly believe in “payback” for perceived wrongs
• Code of Silence
  ◦ Non-cooperative with police and want to take care of their “business”
• Respect
  ◦ To gang members, respect = violence + fear
• Insults
  ◦ No insults go unanswered
• Survival instinct
  ◦ They believe that committing crimes and killing is justified because they have to be done to survive

• Not responsible for my actions
  ◦ Believe that innocent victims shouldn’t have been present to begin with

• Violence
  ◦ Gang violence can be indiscriminate and unpredictable

• The collective
  ◦ Sometimes when talking to an individual gang member, it’s like addressing the entire membership
• **Backup**
  ◦ Other members act as reinforcements

• **Quid pro quo**
  ◦ Joining a gang gives its member a sense of belonging, direction, and self

• **Being down**
  ◦ The blind loyalty that gang members give to their gang

• **Distorted Sense of Reality**
  ◦ Have never been outside their neighborhoods and believe that the entire world is like their neighborhood
Levels of Membership

Fully defined in “Gangs: A Guide to Understanding Street Gangs, 3rd ed.” by Dr. Al Valdez
- **Target group/ “wanna be”**
  - The pool of future gang members
- **Associate gang members/ “dabblers”**
  - Part-time membership/ apprentice
- **Regular gang members**
  - Committed to gang life
- **Hardcore gang members/ “OGs”**
  - Veterans of gang life and have typically spent time in jail and/or prison
Roll call
Facts & Figures
• According to FBI’s UCR data: 911 juvenile gang killings in 2002 compared to 580 in 1999
• Two nationwide surveys conducted of law enforcement agencies in 1996 & 1998 estimated that “11% and 8% respectively of all gang members were female”
A University of Washington study found that gang members (15% of sample) reported committing 58% of delinquent acts.

The University of Washington study found that juveniles in gangs reported committing violent offenses 5x as often as non-gang juveniles.
• Albany, SUNY study found that 30% of the sample were gang members and accounted for 65% of delinquent acts
• The Albany, SUNY study found that gang members committed 3x as many serious and violent offenses as non-gang juveniles
Why do juveniles join gangs?

by Dr. Al Valdez
- Safety
- Friendship
- Curiosity
- Economic reasons
- Status/ recognition

- Peer pressure
- Tradition/ generational
- Hide from authorities
- Excitement
- Drug abuse
Warning Signs
• The child becomes difficult to communicate with: They become argumentative when you talk about their activities and friends
• You notice a change in dress and appearance: they wear specific colors, sports teams, etc.
• Youths may tattoo themselves
- They change friends and you never meet their new friends
- They may not spend much time home and don’t want to attend family activities
- Lack of interest or complete withdrawal from school activities, sports programs, hobbies, etc.
- School attendance and performance declines
• Trouble with the law: theft, truancy, running away, graffiti, vandalism, violence, and possession of weapons
• They may use nicknames or refer to their friends by nicknames
• Alcohol and/or drug use
• Turn in school papers with gang markings, roll calls, nicknames, etc.
Conclusion
- National gangs
- Juvenile gangs
- Gang Mentality
- Reasons of joining
- Warning signs of gang membership
Questions????????

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