

# **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

## National 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

# Graffiti

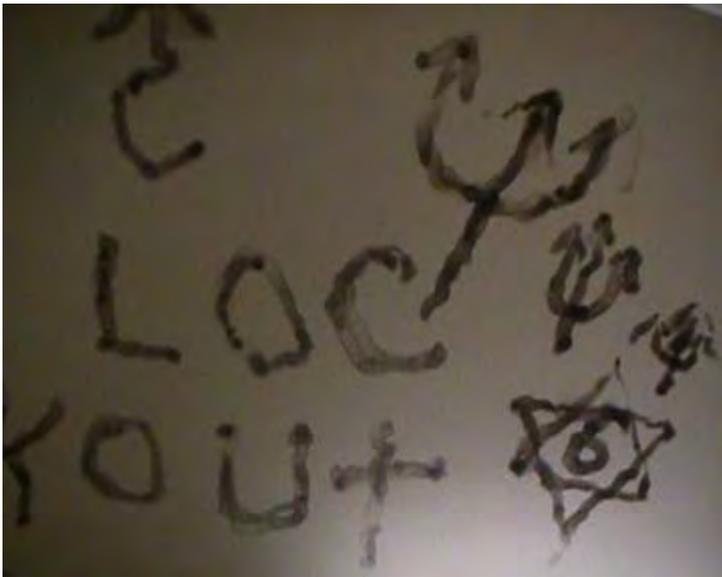


Photo taken by Corey Grubbs Newark,  
NJ PD

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

- Hand Signs are referred to as " Single stacks" and "double stacks".





Some Photos Taken by WPD and NCCPD



# Hispanic Gangs

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# 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

**Surenos-13**

- During the '80s, California street gangs were divided into Sureños (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 13<sup>th</sup> letter of the alphabet

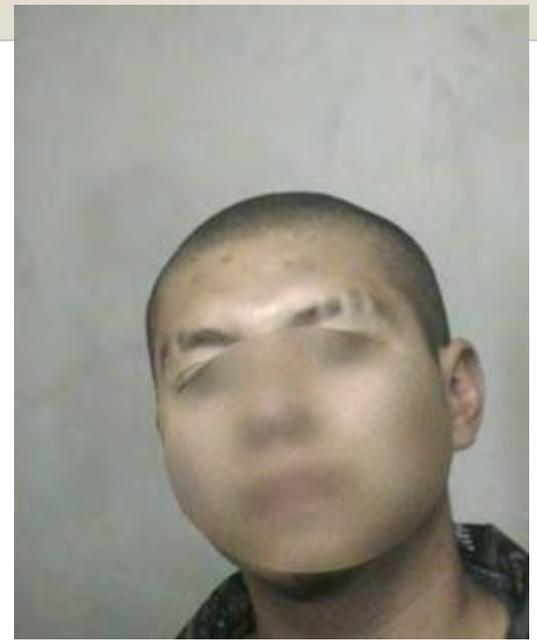
- **Blue Clothing**
- **Blue Bandannas**
- **Blue Sports Teams**
- **Clothing with “13” or south on it**
- **Gangster Cholo Look**



Photos Taken by WPD and NCCPD



Hash marks in  
Eyebrows "I" and  
"III"



# Tattoos



Photos Taken by WPD and NCCPD





Photos Taken by WPD and NCCPD





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

Information by: **Special Report of the NGCRC:  
Preliminary Results of Project GANGMILL**

- 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

**Juvenile 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



**Tagging**



**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?

"Gangs: A Guide to Understanding Street Gangs" 5<sup>th</sup> ed.  
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????????**

[Timothy.dean@state.de.us](mailto:Timothy.dean@state.de.us)

Cell# 302-357-6417