### Report on Gang Violence in Maryland

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A Report on
GENE
VIOLANCE
in Maryland

The Governor's Executive Advisory Council

July 1994
A Report on Gang Violence in Maryland

Prepared by the Governor's Executive Advisory Council

Marshall M. Meyer, Chairman

Drake Ferguson, Vice Chairman

Jerry Yates, Vice Chairman

Edgar Koch, Sub-Panel on Drug Law Enforcement and Intelligence

Tony Avendorph, Committee on Gang Violence in Maryland
Dear Citizens:

The growing menace caused by gang violence must be addressed by every law enforcement agency. Every effort must be made to limit the threat of violence and criminal acts that permeate so many of our communities.

I have seen the dangers caused to our innocent citizens by gangs and the fear they create by their very presence. Maryland has been infiltrated by gangs as far away as Chicago and California. The growth of juvenile gangs is a deep concern of both our urban and rural communities; no area of the State is immune from the crime and criminality that these gangs are involved in.

I am well aware of the threat to our citizens and to the stability of our State, and I have asked my Executive Advisory Council to study the problem created by all gang groups and to develop a report that can be used as the basis for an in-depth study and analysis of the problem with recommendations for ways and means of dealing with the problem on a state-wide basis.

This request has resulted in this publication, which attempts to document the growing problem of gang violence, describing the nature and extent of its tentacles so that public safety and criminal justice officials will be better equipped to deal with these criminals.

I strongly recommend that public safety officials, communities, and educators work together closely to impede this danger and disruption in our communities.

Sincerely,

Governor
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Message from the Council Chairman

The Dangers Posed by Youth Gangs

Too many Americans still think of gangs as remnants of the Mafia or organized crime; others, mainly parents, think of gangs as groups of neighborhood kids seeking companionship to brag about their day's exploits and express their artistic abilities through graffiti, while wearing distinctive clothing.

The truth about youth gangs is closer to the annual report to the California Legislature by the State's Attorney General, Organized Crime in California 1987, which states in part:

"Traditional organized crime is, in some respects, the least of our worries. The most troubling developments in organized crime are the transformation of domestic street gangs into huge, violent networks with major drug connections. Even more alarming is the emergence from among the old-fashioned street gangs of some new and very dangerous forms of organized crime. But what the emergent crime groups have in common are increasing sophistication, predatory greed, and a ruthless willingness to use violence and intimidation to achieve their aims."

MI Journal Report

The media have long known about the serious gang problems in our nation but have done little to alert the country to the fact that hundreds of criminal gangs in America have become mobile, setting up satellites and "franchises" in likely communities - Maryland being a good example of this strategy for growth.

This report required the experience of many contributors - each aware of the dramatic growth of the street gangs that are proliferating and infesting our communities.

With the concurrence of Governor William Donald Schaefer, who initially ordered this study, the panel will remain intact and will be tasked to go even deeper into the problem - seeking ways and means to reduce the threat by knowing the enemy and his weakness.

One of the salient discoveries of the panel is how little detail is known specifically relating to gangs in Maryland.

Readers are asked to provide research and informational materials to the Council. When a gang activity has affected you, your family or community, or you are a target of extortion or intimidation, notify and trust your law enforcement agency to protect you.

I hope this initial report on gangs in Maryland will assist you and your colleagues in understanding the dangers Maryland faces from gang violence and that your cooperation in providing additional material will make future reports even more valuable.

Sincerely,

Marshall M. Meyer
The Committee on Gang Violence in Maryland

Interest in gang violence in Maryland grew out of a community policing project in Prince George's County. During that project two facts became obvious:

- In spite of widespread denial, criminal gangs do exist in Maryland
- There was virtually no organized information on gangs in Maryland.

These facts made clear to investigators the need to gather whatever sparse information could be collected and to organize it for the benefit of interested persons and to serve as a guideline for the collection of additional information.

The Governor's Executive Advisory Council (GEAC) became convinced of the danger of the problem identified in Prince George's County and in April 1993 set up a Committee on Gang Violence within the Sub-Panel on Drug Law Enforcement and Intelligence of the Panel on Public Safety and Criminal Justice of the GEAC.

The Committee was established with a two-fold mission:

- To take a leading role in raising awareness among state government leaders, law enforcement, and the people of Maryland as to the extent of the gang problem in Maryland and the violence associated with it.
- To prepare a report on gang activity that will provide an informational basis to help reduce gang-related crime and to prevent such crime by channeling young people into positive directions in their communities.

The present paper fulfills the second part of the mission — the report on gang activity. While the report was being prepared the paucity of organized information specific to gangs in Maryland became evident. On the other hand, considerable information is available on gangs in other states, and there appears to be influence on Maryland gangs by gangs in other states, as well as characteristics that are common to criminal gangs regardless of geography.

With that in mind, it was believed desirable to place the little that is known of Maryland gangs against the background of gang activity in other parts of the United States.

Since May 1993, the committee has met monthly, researching the juvenile gang problem in Maryland, bringing together law enforcement, schools, churches, and community organizations in identifying juvenile gangs, and discussing alternatives to the problem. There is now an awareness for the first time that criminal juvenile gangs exist in Maryland. Drug-oriented gangs evolve from juvenile gangs. Such gangs at the local level are dangerous enough, but if they become controlled or heavily influenced by larger, better organized gangs from outside the state they can become even more dangerous and violent.
Committee Membership

Law Enforcement

Cpl. Tony Avendorph  
Committee Chairman, Prince George's County Police Department
Sgt. Terry Katz  
Maryland State Police
Sgt. Sid Branham  
Baltimore County Police Department
Det. Ronald Hines  
Anne Arundel County Police Department
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Baltimore Police Department
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Mr. Sam Saxton  
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Mr. John Buffington  
State of Maryland, Department of Juvenile Services

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Mr. Dennis Curry  
Human Relations Specialist, Prince George's County Schools
Mrs. Carolyn Hall  
Wicomico County Council of PTA's
Acknowledgments

The Bureau of Justice Assistance, Washington, D.C.

The Chicago Police Department

The Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice, Washington, D.C.

The Lakewood, Colorado Police Department

The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department

The Maryland State Police

The National Gang Research Center, Chicago, Illinois

The committee wishes to thank Captain Thomas H. Carr, Maryland State Police, for making available the following members of his editorial staff in the development of this report: John Bacon, Valerie Hicks, and Gina Hilger.

A special thank you to Chief David B. Mitchell, Lt. Colonel Edward Adams, the late Major Larry D. Bowman, Major Alfonso Hawkins, Captain Hollis White, Lieutenant Richard Pounsberry, and Sergeant Clifford Mack of the Prince George's County Police Department for allowing me to work on this project.

Corporal Tony Avendorph (PC)
Committee on Gang Violence in Maryland
A Request to Criminal Justice Executives and Law Enforcement Officials

The Committee on Gang Violence in Maryland has been authorized to continue its study and analysis of gang violence. A second report will be issued in early 1995 that will include follow-up information and recommendations made by criminal justice executives and law enforcement officials.

Since gangs sometimes cross state borders and move from coast to coast, the committee will continue to work with out-of-state law enforcement. The committee will also continue to act as a repository for gang information in the service of interested parties.

All criminal justice executives and law enforcement officials are urged to study this report carefully. This first report has uncovered gaps in information and, the authors hope, has pointed the way toward dealing with some aspects of the gang problem. We urge all readers to forward information to the committee to fill in the gaps in our knowledge and to keep us current with new developments. Any and all recommendations for innovative approaches toward dealing with the problem are welcome.

You may communicate with the committee through its Chairman, Corporal Tony Avendorph, Prince George's County Police Department, (301) 336-2375.

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The Governor's Executive Advisory Council
The Office of the Governor
301 W. Preston Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Printed July 1994
Different Ways of Defining Gangs

The dictionary has two definitions for the word "gang":

- a group of people, usually young, who associate regularly on a social basis
- a group of criminals or hoodlums who band together for mutual protection and profit.

These definitions emphasize the two major divisions among gangs — there are social gangs and there are criminal gangs. Experience tells us that there can be overlapping between the two divisions. In addition, one observes different characteristics within criminal gangs. This experience and observation exacerbates the semantic confusion concerning gangs and underlies the debate as to whether there are gangs in Maryland. The confusion is further exacerbated by the lack among law enforcement and academic personnel of a definition to describe the "gang" phenomenon as it is experienced in the United States in the early 1990s.

The following criteria for gangs are used by the federal government:

- formal organizational structure
- identifiable leadership
- identification with a territory
- recurrent interaction
- engaging in serious or violent behavior.

The Committee on Gang Violence in Maryland defines a gang for purposes of this study as a group of individuals who form an alliance for a common purpose and engage in violent, unlawful or criminal activity. By examining the seriousness of crimes committed, three levels of gangs can be identified:

**Level One** Crimes qualifying within the RICO statute as racketeering, violations of federal firearms statutes, major felonies such as rape, aggravated assault, robbery, homicide, and shooting.

**Level Two** Felonies such as drug distribution and violent misdemeanors such as simple assault and carrying a concealed deadly weapon.

**Level Three** Misdemeanors such as possession of drugs, lesser violence, and vandalism.

The committee also distinguished juvenile gangs in Maryland by four characteristics:
Cultural Defined by nationality, ethnicity or other distinctive cultural traits.

Territorial Protection of the group's neighborhood or area claimed as its territory (or "turf").

Corporate Highly organized and structured gangs.

Scavenger Groups that are loosely organized and that may have a large number of adherents.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has commented that

Gangs can be said to be a group of three or more individuals bonded together by race, national origin, culture, or territory, who associate on a continual basis for the purpose of committing criminal acts.

The FBI has also commented that one of the basic obstacles in addressing gang activity is the absence of a universal definition.

Finally, another way of defining gangs is as follows:

**Crew** A loosely-knit association of street youths, whose primary reason for association is criminal activity. Many drug-dealing groups call themselves crews.

**Gang** A group of people who form an alliance for a common purpose such as social activity or mutual support. They may be an innocent clique and they may or may not engage in criminal activity.

**Taggers** Individuals or groups whose primary interest is graffiti writing. Taggers may form into gangs or be used by established gangs for gang purposes such as establishing territorial limits.

Gangs, by whatever name, are drawn from young people, in themselves a highly fluid, highly volatile, and largely unsophisticated group. A forming gang, made up largely of people from the same neighborhood or school, is more likely to make up rules that it likes, than to follow slavishly the half-understood practices of a distant group. Thus, by the time a listing of gang terms is written down it will be out of date. Hand-signs will be modified, and those used in one part of the country may be unknown everywhere else. Gangdom does not have a set of rules or a manual.
Gangs in Maryland

Overview

Gang Make-up

In Maryland, juvenile gangs may include members from as young as seven to the mid-twenties. The size of gangs is mostly unknown. In one instance, however, the Forest Creek Crew in Prince George's County, a territorially-based gang, is estimated to have about 65 members in a loosely-knit grouping of young people from eleven to 25-years old.

Another Maryland example is the Folks, or Gangster Disciples, also in Prince George's, which is modeled on the Folks gang in Chicago. This gang, which is school-based, is reported to have about 25 members. It engages in such activities as assaults and graffiti-writing.

Gang Identifiers

The use of distinctive clothing as a gang identifier is not widely practiced in Maryland. By far the most commonly found color worn by gang members is black. Similarly, hand-signs and tattoos are not widely used. However, the Folks gang uses to some extent the hand-signs and language used by the group in Chicago, and members of the Seat Pleasant Crew wear a baseball cap with the letters SPC. Asian gangs in Northern Virginia have identifiable tattoos and scars from cigarette burns on their hands. Members from these gangs have attempted to recruit Asian youths in Prince George's and Montgomery counties.

Graffiti by taggers and other gangs is widespread in the state.

Recruitment of Members

Recruitment of gang members is normally done within a single neighborhood, apartment complex, or school. There has been some evidence of the presence of gang members, or persons claiming to be gang members, from Chicago (Black Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, and Latin Kings) in Prince George's and Montgomery counties. In Clinton, Prince George's County, it has been reported that at a high school two students from Chicago have attempted to organize students for the Chicago Folks gang, indoctrinating students into Folks concepts and discipline. Graffiti identified as pertaining to the Folks has been found on thirty buildings in Clinton.

In a similar vein, there has been some suggestion of the activity of Los Angeles gangs (Crips and Bloods) in those two counties, as well as in the city of Baltimore and in Baltimore County. Details, however, are lacking.

There seems to be some effort among gangs to form alliances but, again, details are lacking. Instances of violent conflict between rival drug trafficking gangs in Maryland, however, have been documented.
Initiations of Gang Members

Gang members in Maryland who are police informants have reported that their initiation (or "jump in") into a gang consisted in their being beaten by several gang members for two or three minutes. Other more violent initiations or qualifying burglaries have been reported but confirmation is lacking.

Weapons

Although it is illegal in Maryland for juveniles to own firearms, it is easy for juveniles to get them. Handguns, including semi-automatic weapons, are apparently the choice of most gang members. Handgun violence, not only among drug dealers but also in schools, is prevalent in the state.

Gangs and Drugs

It is perhaps a fine distinction whether drug dealers form a gang or whether a gang becomes involved in dealing drugs; whether a drug dealer employs juveniles for reasons of added security and increased profit, or whether a juvenile is involved in drug dealing because he is a member of a juvenile gang. The fact is that many juveniles are involved in drug distribution gangs.

Types of Juvenile Gangs

On page 2, gangs were distinguished by four characteristics: cultural, territorial, corporate, and scavenger.

Juvenile criminal gangs in Maryland can be listed under all four.

Cultural gangs exist in Prince George's and Montgomery counties and in Baltimore City, where there are significant Hispanic and Asian populations, in particular Salvadorian, Honduran, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean. These gangs recruit from and carry out criminal activities against their own ethnic or nationality groups.

Territorial gangs predominate in Baltimore and in the Baltimore and Washington suburbs. Their territory may be a neighborhood, a street (Walker Mill Road), an apartment complex (Murphy Homes), or a shopping center (Prince George's Plaza). These groups identify themselves through graffiti, assaults, intimidation, drugs, vehicle thefts, robberies, and shootings. They recruit inside schools, using self-protection as a main selling point.

Corporate gangs from urban environments outside the state, such as the Crips, Gangster Disciples, or Latin Kings have been reported attempting to recruit in Prince George's County, Montgomery County, and Baltimore City. These groups have a nationwide network of criminal enterprises, ranging from drugs and prostitution to contract murders. A teenage boy from Colorado Springs, Colorado, living and attending school in Prince George's County, said that he is a Crip gang member and that Los Angeles-based Crip and Blood gang members have begun to organize recruiting and drug networks in Maryland because they believe that law enforcement in Maryland is not familiar with gangs on this level.
Scavenger gangs consist of juveniles born and raised in Maryland who on their own are attempting to carve a niche for themselves. Not all of these groups are criminal. Most begin as social groups, or juveniles, gathering on a street corner or by a particular locker at their school. While many remain at that level or go on to other activities in their lives, some develop into criminal gangs.

**Press Reporting**

*Strong as Steel.* A Baltimore heroin distribution gang. Four persons ranging between 25 and 37 years of age were indicted in April 1994 for federal drug and weapons charges, armed robberies, and burglaries. The four were also facing state charges on three killings.

*Old York Road Boys and the McCabe Avenue Boys.* One of the leaders of the McCabe Avenue Boys was sentenced to 25 years in prison for his third drug conviction. He was also under indictment for murder in a drive-by shooting that left two dead and six wounded as part of a feud carried on with the Old York Road Boys gang.

*The New York Boys.* As early as 1984, heroin and cocaine dealers came to Baltimore from New York, selling their drugs on selected street corners. These dealers, in time, formed gangs and established a level of permanency. One Baltimore police detective familiar with the New Yorkers estimated that between 1,500 and 2,000 of them were working in the drug trade in Baltimore. That number included three large-scale organizations. The New York Boys are generally associated with considerable violence. (The name "New York Boys" is not a gang name. Rather, it is a generic identifier used by both local dealers and police.)

*The Anthony Jones Gang.* An 18-year old drug dealer arrested in October 1991 repeatedly organized and ran a multi-million dollar drug distribution gang. He was said to be one of the "new breed" of drug traffickers, who took drugs out of their usual habitats, such as bars and pool rooms into open air markets. The "new breed" is also responsible for bringing children, sometimes as young as 11-years old, into the drug trade. The newer drug criminals have not had the benefit of learning their trade from established organizations. They make more money in a shorter time, but the life expectancy of their criminal career is very short. Their lack of understanding of the drug trade also leads to a greater number of violent conflicts.

*The Murray Brothers Gang.* This gang was led by three brothers from Jamaica. The arrest of the last of the brothers in January 1994 ended a five-year reign at the Hoffman and Holbrook streets open air market. The Murray Brothers brought
cocaine into Baltimore from New York and organized a network of distributors who
enforced order with high-powered handguns and assault rifles. Police attributed
eight deaths and 24 injuries to their activities.

**Jamaican Black Mafia.** This gang was made up largely of Nigerians who distributed
heroin in public housing developments in 1991 and 1992. They called themselves
Jamaican believing that the Jamaican reputation for violence would help them
intimidate their customers. The organization's violence was backed with a
sophisticated arsenal and extended to firebombing a police car. At least three
members of the gang were charged with killing their own colleagues in disputes over
money.

**Young Black Mafia (YBM).** This is a group of five young Baltimore rap musicians.
The group produced one tape but was also allegedly involved in drug trafficking.
Two of its members have been charged in two shootings and another was shot and
seriously wounded in a drug turf dispute.

**Gang Activity in Montgomery County.** An eight-to-ten member group of high school
students in Montgomery County formed a gang that partied, played basketball, and
protected one another in school. When accused of a serious crime, of which they
were cleared, a member told a reporter that they gave themselves a name because
they felt that they needed a name for their basketball team. He said that although
they drank beer together, they did not use or sell drugs.

**Gang Activity in Prince George's County.** A criminal gang composed of Chinese
nationals was discovered in Prince George's County in April 1994. The gang was part
of a network that smuggled illegal Chinese immigrants into the United States.

**Official Information**

In October 1993, Stuart O. Simms, State's Attorney in Baltimore, said that signs of gang
activity were increasing in Baltimore. Mr. Simms said that the juvenile unit in the
prosecutor's office found that young people involved in crimes who claimed affiliation with a
"crew" tended to be repeat offenders. Mr. Simms was quoted as saying: "We've been looking
at the problem here for a year now....There are gangs in this city."

Police officials, however, disputed Mr. Simms's characterization of violent youth activity as
the work of gangs. They said that those involved in gangs in Baltimore are fewer in number
and less sophisticated in organization than gang members elsewhere.

In the spring of 1992 the Council of Government of the Greater Washington Metropolitan
Area conducted a "Gang Survey" to determine the "scope and extent of gang activity" in the
area. The following groupings were counted as "gangs": delinquent youth, traditional turf-based groups, gain-oriented groups, and violent hate groups. Results of the survey follow:

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<th>Number of Gangs</th>
<th>Number of Gang Members</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Core Group †</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>300-500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenbelt</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince George's County</td>
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<td>35</td>
</tr>
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</table>

† Core Group includes regular members who are committing law offenses.
‡ Core Group & Associates includes hard core regulars, associates, and aspirants ("wannabes").

Frederick County said it had not experienced any gang activity.

Montgomery County did not respond to the survey. However, Captain Robert McKenna of the Montgomery County Police Department was quoted in the press as saying Montgomery County has "groups of adolescents who hang together" in Silver Spring and Gaithersburg and sometimes leave graffiti.

In November 1992 the Criminal Intelligence Division of the Maryland State Police wrote an Initial Gang Assessment for the State of Maryland. The report broke down gangs into: Class A, involved in crimes of violence; Class B, involved in non-violent felonies or drug trafficking; and Class C, involved with misdemeanors, particularly those considered delinquent behavior. Throughout the state, gangs were identified as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Number of Gangs</th>
<th>Number of Members</th>
<th>Class</th>
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<td>Eastern Shore</td>
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<td>39-41</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Shore</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>35-45</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince George's County</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore Area</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore City</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biker Gangs</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>116-121</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prison Gangs</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>A</td>
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The Committee on Gang Violence of the Governor's Executive Advisory Council collected data in 1993 and 1994 on gangs in Baltimore City and five Maryland counties.

Anne Arundel County

No juvenile gang activity was reported within the county. The committee was not able to obtain information from Annapolis or from the Anne Arundel County Board of Education.

There are indications of graffiti or "tagging" throughout the county, mostly in the eastern part of the county and on the outskirts of Annapolis. This may be an early indication of juvenile gang activity.

Baltimore City

The committee found that most juvenile gangs in the city are found in the schools and in neighborhoods near the schools. The problem appears to be growing in the city. The following "gang" names have been identified in Baltimore City. It should be noted that these gangs have not been characterized by type; that is, whether criminal or not.

- Black Mafia
- CBS
- Cherry Hill Group
- Collington Organized Group (Collington Avenue)
- Crypts
- Donald Heights
- Dutch Village
- East Side Dog Pound
- East Side Mob
- The Federal Street Posse
- Hollander Roads
- Junction Crew
- Lil Dutch
- M&B (Madison and Bradford)
- Marble Hall
- McCabe Boys
- Monroe and Ridge
- Murphy Homes
- NFL
- North and Pulaski
- OYC (Old York and Cater)
- Park Heights
- SCU
- Skinheads
- The Southern Boys
- Swansea Boys
Baltimore County

The Baltimore County Police Department has prepared a Gang Assessment Guideline to:

- Provide objective criteria in determining whether a "group" constitutes a gang or if an individual is a member of a gang.
- Differentiate between a street gang and a youth gang.
- Categorize gangs into "classes."

Baltimore County has classified juvenile gangs according to patterns of behavior:

**Class A** Any gang that is involved in felonies and violent, assaultive activity such as homicide, rape, armed robbery, etc. The criminal activity also includes narcotics trafficking, if in conjunction with violent behavior.

**Class B** Any gang involved in felony crimes or trafficking in narcotics, absent a pattern of violent behavior.

**Class C** A gang involved in misdemeanor crimes, particularly those consistent with delinquent behavior. The majority of these incidents are destruction of property, graffiti, petty thefts, and minor assaults.

The following gangs have been divided into precincts:

**Precinct 1**

The Baltimore Highlands Mafia (A)
Vandals of the First World (A)

**Precinct 2**

Campfield Posse (B)
Cross Creek Posse (A)
4 Nasty Boys
Kings

**Precinct 3**

Black Dragons
Blunt Bunch
Wicomico County

Wicomico County has experienced an increase in juvenile gang activity within the past year, consisting mainly of assaults and vandalism, with a mixture of random and racially motivated incidents.

- Black Mafia (An all white gang)
- Camden Court Posse
- Choir Boys
- 40 Ounce Posse
- Get Busy Posse
- Ghetto Busters
- JBM (Junior Black Mafia)
- Jersey Road Boys
- Kool Aid Kids
- PRP (Puerto Rican Posse)
- Skinheads
- 32 Ounce Posse
- West Side Boys
- Yellow Jackets
- Yosha

Montgomery County

Montgomery County is experiencing "taggers" and other juvenile gangs. Bordering on the District of Columbia, Montgomery County has seen an increase in Asian and Hispanic gangs in the Wheaton and Silver Spring areas and traveling into the county from Northern Virginia. Montgomery County schools have seen an increase in campus related incidents, with outsiders coming onto the campuses attempting to recruit students. Montgomery County is also experiencing an increase in hate crimes, specifically against Muslim and Middle Eastern groups.
Taggers

Alpha Omega  AO
Big Time Graffiti  BIG
Devils Art Gang  DAG
East Side Crew  ESC
East Side Hit Squad  ECHS
Everlasting Writers  ELW
Fuck You Crew  FYC
Furious Fighting Crew  FFC
Go A Head Crew  GHC
Good Hope Hustlers  GHH
Home Style Art  HSA
Juvenile Tagging Crew  JTC
Kings of Fame  KOF
Klepto Graffiti Brothers  KGB
Looney Benz of Chaos  LBOK
Murder Capitol Art  MCA
New Age Art  NAA
Out of Control Kids  OCK
Risky Art Form  RAF
Six Twelve Crew  6-12
Skilled to Kill  SKK
Sports Crew  Sports
Still Gettin’ Up  SGU
Suicide Crew  SC
True Midnight Express  TME
Twinbrook Boys  TB
Wheaton Bomb Crew  WBC
Writers on Rampage  WOR

Juvenile Gangs

Ace
Black Gangster Disciples/Folks Nation
East Side Crew
Fuk Ching
Head Banger Crew
King Brown
Korean Killers
Korean Power
La Raza
Latin Boys
Latin Kings
Lynchmob Crew
Maple Avenue Crew
Wheaton Bomb Crew
The Black Gangster Disciples and the Folks Nation are one and the same. The Black Gangster Disciples, a Chicago based street gang, have always represented themselves as "Folks." The Latin Kings are also a Chicago-based Puerto Rican street gang.

Prince George's County

The committee discovered that of the six jurisdictions, Prince George's County has experienced the heaviest concentration of juvenile groups. Of the 115 juvenile groups identified, 60 percent are composed of juveniles who have given themselves a name, congregate together, and look out for one another. The remaining 35 percent have been identified as criminally oriented and have been linked to violent activity. These groups are divided into the six police districts in Prince George's County. The largest number of these groups are situated in the police districts that share a common border with the District of Columbia.

District 1 (Hyattsville)

Apollo (Riverdale)
Belford Towers Crew
College Park Crew
Eighteenth Street (EST)
83th Avenue Crew
El Cholos
Highview Crew (Highview Apartments)
Kaywood
La Salle Crew
Lamada
Lamada Loco (Langley Park)
Landover Hills Crew
Latin Boys
Latin Kings
Lewisdale Crew
Mattapony (450 Crew)
New York Posse
North Carrollton Crew
Ridge Crest Crew (Chillum - Prince George's Plaza)
16th Avenue Crew
64th Avenue Crew
District II (Bowie)

Black Pegasus Crew
Damage Inc.
4 Horsemen
Greenbelt Crew
Meadows Mob
193 Crew
Psycho Ward
The Skaters (Free State Mall)
The Skinheads
Springhill Lake Crew
TKO (Seabrook)
Whitfield Chapel Crew
Wiggers

District III (Landover, District Heights, Forestville, Seat Pleasant)

A-1 Crew (Chapel Oaks)
Back Roads Crew (Fairmont Heights)
Belle Haven Crew (Belle Haven Apartments)
Brick Wall Crew (Penn-Southern Apartments)
Brightseat Road Crew
Chapel Oaks Crew
Columbia Park Crew
Dodge Park Crew
F. Street Mob
Fairfax Crew (Capitol Crossing)
Forest Creek Crew (Forest Creek Apartments)
Forest Dwellers (Penn-Mar Shopping Center)
Gas Station Crew (District Heights)
Glenarden Crew
Hill Road Crew
Hillcrest Crew
Hilltop Crew (Hilltop Apartments)
Kentland Crew
Landover Crew
Little Kentland Crew
Maryland Park Group
Mellwood Crew
Nalley Road Crew
Niggers with Attitudes (District of Columbia)
Palmer Park Crew
Putos Locos (Central High School)
Rushtown Crew (Suitland)
Seat Pleasant Crew
Seat Pleasant Mob
Shadyside Crew
Walker Mill Bunch

a. Walker Mill Road Crew
b. ANA
c. Tom’s Boys

186 Crew (5500 Marlboro Pike)
187 Crew (Wellington Square Apartments)
202 Crew
214 Crew (Central Gardens Apartments)
22 Crips
25 Hour Crew (Dodge Park)
301 Crew
402 (Capitol Heights)
409 Crew
48 Crew (Rochelle Avenue)
501 Crew
520 Crew (5240 Marlboro Pike)
808 Crew (Landover)

District IV (Oxon Hill)

Barkada (Filipino - Fort Washington)
Blackwell Group
Curtis Hill Crew (Curtis Drive)
Duce (Southview Apartments)
Elroy Place (Fort Washington)
Glassmanor Crew
Indian Queens Crew
Lynchmob Crew
Marcy avenue Crew
Maury Avenue Crew
Morningside Posse
Neptune Crew
Oxon Hill Crew
Park 16 (Vermilion Avenue)
Riverside (Riverside Apartments)
Robelee Gang (Robelee Acres)
Shadow High
Skyline Mob (Morningside)
Southlawn
2 Damn Hype Crew
Windbrook 505 (Windbrook Estates)
103 Crew (Oxon Hill Village, Potomac High School)
414 Crew (Temple Hills)
503 (Brookside Apartments)
District V (Clinton)

Alley Crew
Bloods (Surrattsville High School)
Crips (Surrattsville High School)
5 No Crew
.45 Caliber Crew
Gangster Disciples/Folks (Surrattsville High School)
Justice Gang
Ramblewood Avenue (RWA)

District VI (Bowie, Laurel)

Bellfield Towers
Beltcrest Crew
Partners in Crime (PIC)
Springhill Lake Crew (also in District II)
212 (Powder Mill Apartments/Calverton Shopping Center)

Countywide Juvenile Groups

Newtowne 20
Wrecking Crew

Maryland Prison Gangs

Prison gangs have become a "feeder" mechanism for juveniles and young adults returning back to the community. The committee included prison-oriented gangs for two reasons. First, juvenile gangs have become the "new wave" prison gangs. They have, in essence, replaced the traditional prison gangs, such as the Aryan Brotherhood or Black Guerilla Family, and are larger in number. Secondly, gang members are eventually released and need to be identified before they return to the community. These gangs are either reported as a risk problem by the United States Bureau of Prisons, or just active membership within a particular institution. The list is a composite of traditional prison gangs (P), motorcycle gangs (M), hate groups (H), street gangs (S), and ethnic gangs (E).

Aryan Brotherhood (P)
Aryan Circle (P)
Aryan Nation (P)
BGD's (S)
Black Gangsters (S)
Black Guerilla Family (P)
Black Mafia (unknown)
Bloods (S)
Brothers of the Struggle (P)
Crips (S)
Fates Assembly (M)
Five Percenters (P)
Fruits of Islam (P)
Giants (unknown)
Head Bangers (P)
Hell Raisers (M)
Hells Angels (M)
Humboldt (unknown)
Insane Vice Lords (S)
Intervale (unknown)
KKK (H)
Knights (unknown)
Knockers Bloods (unknown)
Mad Dogs (P)
Mexican Mafia (P)
Moors (E)
MSTA (unknown)
Neo-Nazis (H)
Organization of African Unity (unknown)
Outlaws (M)
Pagans (M)
Peoples (unknown)
Posse (E)
Raiders (unknown)
Skinheads (H)
Warriors (unknown)
White Knights (unknown)
X-Men (unknown)
Committee Activities and Recommendations

Law enforcement in Maryland is committed to identifying and understanding the various types of gangs, both juvenile and adult, that exist in the state. There is also a strong commitment by school systems to provide leadership and alternative programs to stem youth violence within the school systems. The committee also found community-based organizations eager to provide intervention and preventive choices.

Recommendations

The Committee

1. Establish the committee on a permanent basis and continue to meet monthly to update its research, and to provide leadership and guidance to law enforcement personnel, schools, prosecutors, the judiciary, and the public in cooperative activities and information sharing. The committee should provide information that comes to its attention concerning organized criminal gang activity, including graffiti that identifies gangs in the state.

2. Follow through on approaches by law enforcement authorities from Northern Virginia and the District of Columbia who have contacted the committee with the suggestion of forming a regional gang task force concentrating on juvenile criminal gangs formed by African Americans, Hispanics, and Asians.

3. Delineate the scope of the committee's activities. Should it be concerned with gangs in the broadest possible definition or limit itself to youth (or juvenile) gangs? If the latter, should gangs involved only in misdemeanors (e.g. taggers) be included? Should the committee's interest be more restrictive in matters of law enforcement than in matters of prevention in schools?

4. Establish standard gang definitions, descriptions of types of gangs, criteria, and classifications for adoption throughout the state.

5. Encourage law enforcement to make a concerted, continuous, organized effort to collect and disseminate through the committee information on gangs according to statewide definitions, criteria, and classifications. Information collected should include the names of gangs; their territory or their geographic location; type of gang (drug dealing, taggers, social, etc.); number of members; type or types of criminal activity engaged in, if any; age range of members; racial, ethnic, sport, hobby, cultural, political, or other traits held in common by members; identifying symbols such as graffiti, clothing, and tattoos.

6. Devote special attention to establishing cooperation between school authorities and law enforcement in order to develop information on gang activities in schools.
7. Assemble this school information together with an overview of gang activity in Maryland, in periodic, follow-up studies in a standardized format.

8. Develop a statewide database system on gang activity, which would feed into municipal and county law enforcement agencies, state and county correctional facilities, and school systems.

9. Develop juvenile gang units in jurisdictions with the heaviest concentration of juvenile gang activity.

10. Place police officers inside selected schools, or provide regular patrols to ensure the safety of the students and staff.

11. Form a liaison with the Metropolitan Police Department in the District of Columbia and law enforcement agencies in Northern Virginia to share information.

12. Consider state and local legislation that targets gang activity, gang violence, street terrorism, intimidation, extortion, and drive-by shootings. Anti-loitering laws, and graffiti ordinances might be considered.

13. Enlist the assistance of the United States Attorney's office in enforcement of federal statutes such as the RICO Racketeering statutes, 18 USC 924 (c); possession of a firearm with drugs; a mandatory five years with no parole, felon in possession of a firearm, and drug kingpin statutes.

14. Consider juvenile witness protection programs for youths under eighteen years of age.

School-based Strategies

1. Gather information on potential youth problems in schools.

2. Adopt gang awareness programs geared towards youth involvement, such as:

   - The G.R.E.A.T. program (Gang Resistance Education and Training) sponsored by the Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. This program focuses on seventh grade students, and Prince George’s County recently received a $400,000.00 grant for this program in seven middle schools.

   - The Watkins Mill High School (Montgomery County) Violence Prevention Crew, and God, Guns, "n" Gangs are programs that prevent violence.

   - Establish anti-gang philosophies with police departments by sharing information.

   - Establish a student dress awareness program that discourages wearing gang colors and other symbols.
• Organize parental awareness programs.

• Adopt Board of Education policies on gangs:
  ✓ schoolyard and campus disturbances
  ✓ prevention education
  ✓ community outreach
  ✓ intervention measures

3. Require law enforcement agencies to inform school systems of students with criminal backgrounds.

Community Based Strategies

1. **STOP INC. (Standing Together for Our Protection).** This is a community based program in Prince George's County with three components:

   The first is enforcement, which includes community-oriented policing, establishing a boot camp for non-violent offenders, a task force to develop a comprehensive gang policy, and enforcing laws that hold parents accountable for their children's violent offenses.

   The second is intervention, which requires a conflict resolution curriculum at all grade levels, establishing a clearinghouse for intervention programs to develop systems of networking to bid for funds, share data, and interface resources, and establishing, through the courts, programs that provide drug testing, alternative punishments, and job training and counseling for non-violent drug offenders who have been sentenced to probation.

   The third component is prevention, which requires a violence and gang prevention curriculum at middle school grade levels, such as the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.), which is sponsored by ATF. The religious community would also conduct violence prevention and gang prevention activities at all levels.

2. **The Center for Violence Prevention.** This is a community-based program funded by the W.K. Kellogg foundation, headquartered at Bowie State University. It has a four pronged approach:

   • A parent based component
   • A school based component
   • A church based component
   • A community based component
Appendixes
Appendix I

Gang Identifiers
Gang Identifiers

The following list of symbols, markings, and clothing may aid in the identification of street gang members.

Please Note: While these items have been reported in various parts of the United States, the list is not all inclusive. These signs and symbols are constantly evolving and changing and may vary from one region to another. Many items have either a Chicago or L.A. connection. It should also be noted that, if a person has one of these identifiers, it does not necessarily mean that he or she is a gang member.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signs and Symbols</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Left or Right Rule</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Left Side</strong></td>
<td>Vice Lords, 2-1, Bloods, and other gangs associated with them routinely wear clothing items and other symbols on the left side of the body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Right Side</strong></td>
<td>Disciples, Hellraisers, Crips, and other gangs associated with them routinely wear clothing items and other symbols on the right side of the body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stars</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five Pointed Stars</td>
<td>Displayed by Vice Lords, 2-1, and other gangs affiliated with them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six Pointed Stars</td>
<td>Displayed by Disciples, Hellraisers, and other gangs affiliated with them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rabbit Head</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straight Ears</td>
<td>Worn by Vice Lords</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bent Ear(s)</td>
<td>Worn by Disciples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Body Markings</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Earrings</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left Ear</td>
<td>Worn by Vice Lords and gangs associated with them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessory</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right Ear</td>
<td>Worn by 2-1 gang members (two earrings in the left ear and one in the right ear)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nose</td>
<td>Worn on the left or right side, depending on the gang</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fingernails**

Some gang members have been coloring their fingernails with gang colors. Usually two nails on either the left or right hand (depending on which side is associated with the gang) are painted.

**Tattoos**

Gang members sometimes wear tattoos or graffiti. Occasionally these markings are placed on the wrong side to show disrespect for the rival gang.

**Clothing and Other Accessories**

**Bandannas**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Gangs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red and worn to the left</td>
<td>Vice Lords, 2-1, and Bloods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue and worn to the right</td>
<td>Disciples, Hellraisers, and Crips</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bandannas are usually worn in a pocket or on a belt loop or tied around the head, wrist, or leg.

**Buttons**

Gang members sometimes wear buttons imprinted with various emblems, logos, or slogans.

**Combs**

Gang members will sometimes stick a comb in their hair or beard. The comb will be placed on the side (left or right) that symbolizes the gang. This practice originally started in the prison system but has been seen on the streets.

**Hats**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orientation</th>
<th>Gangs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tilted to the left</td>
<td>Vice Lords and 2-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tilted to the right</td>
<td>Disciples and Hellraisers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jackets

Examples of types of jackets - L.A. Raiders, L.A. Kings, Chicago Bulls, Georgetown, San Francisco 49'ers, Sox

Jelly Bracelets

A jelly bracelet is a colored rubber or plastic loop that is worn around the wrist. These bracelets may be worn in multiples representing the gang colors. Sometimes a second bracelet can be attached and worn around a finger and wrist together like a "slave bracelet."

Note: Caution should be used because these bracelets are popular with non-gang members.

Jewelry

Gang members may display their symbols (five or six pointed stars, rabbit heads, etc.) on jewelry such as necklaces, earrings, and keyrings. Recently, members of the Disciples have been noted wearing jewelry with the Italian horn. The horn is said to represent the devil's horn, which is part of the Disciples' logo.

Roller Skate Laces

Tied up and down on the left side  Vice Lords and 2-1
Tied up and down on the right side  Disciples and Hellraisers

Sweatshirts

Gang members may wear hooded sweatshirts with jackets over them. The hood usually hangs out over the collar of the jacket. Typically the color of the hood and the color of the jacket represent the gang colors.

Adapted from Gang Identifiers... Things to Remember, the Chicago Police Department, Gang Crimes Unit
Appendix II

Tattoos
Examples of Hand Tattoos

Homemade or prison type tattoos are becoming more popular.

Quarter burns and cigarette burns are commonly found on Asian gangsters.

Name, moniker, initials or gang name.
CUBAN INCARCERATION TATTOOS
"MARIELITOS"

TATTOO LOCATION

DRUG DEALER
SUPPLIER OF WEAPONS, CARS EQUIPMENT
ENFORCER, HITMAN, BODYGUARD
KIDNAP
MADRE
EXECUTIONER
MONEY-LOANS COUNTERFEIT

HABITUAL CRIMINAL
MURDER
ROBBER
LARCENY
NON SUPPORTER ANTI-CASTRO
Appendix III

Graffiti and Its Significance
Graffiti and its Significance

(Examples from Around the Country)

Graffiti is used extensively by Black, Hispanic, and Mexican Nationalist gangs to mark their territory, advertise their existence or claim credit for a crime and to serve notice and warning to all interlopers and intruders. (Graffiti is extremely important to read!) Hispanic and Mexican Nationalist graffiti differ from Black graffiti because of the script style. Black graffiti is usually crude, although West Coast Black graffiti is usually more graphic. The Skinheads also use graffiti.

Black Gang Graffiti

Most black gangs fall into one of two main groups: Crips and Bloods. Crip gangs, as a rule, are enemies of the Blood gangs, although not all Crip gangs get along with each other.

Black graffiti is not as uniform as Hispanic graffiti, but is read in the same manner, left to right, top to bottom. Black gangs more often use the slant sign (/) for a spacer. The numbers 1, 2, and 3 are often replaced with the terms Ace, Duce, and Trey (often spelled tray). They will also reverse and invert letters in a word or group of letters. It is not uncommon for words to be misspelled. If any graffiti is written upside-down, it shows disrespect to that gang and was written by an opposing gang.

A reader of black gang graffiti may need to rewrite what he/she sees on paper to fully understand the message left by a gang member(s). The graffiti is as easily readable as a newspaper once the more common terms are clear. The following is a dictionary of some of the more commonly used terms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BK</td>
<td>Blood killer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CK</td>
<td>Crip killer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMG</td>
<td>Crenshaw Mafia Gangsters (Bloods)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crab (Krab)</td>
<td>Crip gang member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erickett</td>
<td>Crip gang member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/S</td>
<td>East side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>killa</td>
<td>killer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 35 -
Loc (Lo, Locc)  
187  
RIP  
Slob or Slup  
30s  
W/S  

loco, crazy, insane  
California penal code for homicide  
tombstone memorializing dead gang members  
derogatory for Blood gang member  
Rollin 30 Crips  
West side

Crips will cross out the letters B and P, and Bloods will cross out the letter C as a threat or sign of disrespect to the rival gang.

Therefore, if C-187 was observed, it would mean Crip killer and would be painted in red, black, or green. D.C.C. SLOB KILLA would mean Dog City Crips are Blood killers.

T-LOC BK 24-7 means that T-Loc, a gang member, is a Blood killer 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Adapted from Reading Guide for Black Gang Graffiti, Lakewood, Colorado Police Department

Examples of Gang Graffiti

Crip for Life - The "R" and the "T" have been reversed and the "T" is upside down.
Black Hole Posse - A Crip gang. Again, the maker of this graffiti reversed several letters. The "B" has been crossed out due to its relationship with the Bloods.

Lakewood Gangsters - The tongs on the pitchfork are turned up. The "S" has been made into a dollar sign, symbolic of drugs available in the area.
SLOB - Crips' nickname for a Blood gang member. Again, the "B" has been crossed out as a threat or sign of disrespect to the rival gang.

E/S - East Side.

33RD ST - 33rd (or trey trey) Street Crips.

CUZZ - A name that the Crips call themselves.

TRIGGER and CYCO - Street names for the 33rd Street Crips who put up this graffiti.

O.G. - Stands for Original Gangster. This symbol is usually reserved for the older and most daring of the gang members.

$ - An indication that the 33rd Street Crips distribute crack cocaine.

8 Ball - A chunk of crack cocaine (approximately 1/8 of an ounce).
LWG - Lakewood Gangster. Includes a pitchfork with the tongs turned up, an upright cane or staff, and a six pointed star with one part of the star drawn as the letter "G." Ooz-e is the tag for the gang member responsible for writing the graffiti.

Burliegh Posse - An example of a roll call identifying all the members of the gang or posse. This roll call is a mixture of monikers (nicknames) and first names.
Appendix IV

Hand-signs
Appendix V

Prison and Gang Terms
## Prison and Gang Terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ace kool</td>
<td>best friend, backup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all beamed up</td>
<td>in red and black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all is one</td>
<td>a term used by the Disciples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all is well</td>
<td>a term used by the Vice Lords</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a shooter</td>
<td>use of force or firearms by a &quot;crazy&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ballin'</td>
<td>making big money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bank</td>
<td>money, bank roll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>barrio or varrio</td>
<td>the neighborhood of a particular gang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>base head</td>
<td>person hooked on cocaine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beemer</td>
<td>BMW vehicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>benzo</td>
<td>Mercedes Benz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bickin' it</td>
<td>kicking back, relaxing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BK</td>
<td>Blasting Krabs, Blood Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blast</td>
<td>shoot a gun, throw a punch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blob</td>
<td>Crips' nickname for Blood gang member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood</td>
<td>Piru, non-Crip, family, bounty hunter, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blunt</td>
<td>big fat joint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bo</td>
<td>marijuana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>boastin'</td>
<td>talking loud, bluffing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
boned out | quit, chickened out, left
booboo | color "blue"
book | run, get away, leave
boxed up | beat down
break | run, get away, leave
breakdown | shotgun
bucket | old junker car
bud | marijuana
bullet | one year in custody
bumper kit | girl's butt
bumping titties | fighting
busted, popped a cap | shot at someone
buster | young guy trying to be a gang member, or someone who leaves one set, goes to another
busting | involved in a violent act such as fighting
cabbage patch | popular dance
c-dogs | homies
check it out | listen to what I have to say
chill out | stop it, don't do that
choette | a firearm
choias | the police
CK all day | kill Krabs (Crips) all day
CK-mob | go somewhere to start trouble
clownin' | having fun, amusing others

- 50 -
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cluck</td>
<td>cocaine smokes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>colors</td>
<td>gang colors. This could be a handkerchief, gym shoe/lace, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>colum or commercial</td>
<td>Columbian marijuana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coolin'</td>
<td>kicking back, relaxing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>courting in</td>
<td>initiation into the gang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>courting out</td>
<td>expulsion from the gang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crab (or Krab)</td>
<td>Bloods' nickname for Crip gang member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cragared down</td>
<td>low-rider type car, or gang banger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crank</td>
<td>a mentally unstable person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crumbs</td>
<td>tiny pieces of rock cocaine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuz</td>
<td>Crip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuzz</td>
<td>a Crip, also affectionate nickname for Crip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;D&quot;</td>
<td>drugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dead rag</td>
<td>red rag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deft</td>
<td>looking good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>demonstration</td>
<td>gang fight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deuce &amp; a quarter</td>
<td>Buick 225 vehicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deuce, deuce</td>
<td>.22 caliber gun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dime speed</td>
<td>10-speed bicycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dis</td>
<td>disrespect, no respect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dissin'</td>
<td>being disrespectful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do a ghost</td>
<td>leave the scene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>donuts</td>
<td>Vice Lord term used to &quot;put-down&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
the Disciples

double deuce

down for mine

drag, mack, rush


draped

driz biz

drop a dime

dropping the flag

drop sacks

duckets

dumb blond

durage

dusted

eastly

8-ball

8-track

8-tray

ends

esseys

everything is everything

federated

finger bangers

firing on someone

.22 caliber gun

ability to protect self

ability to sweet talk girls

wearing a lot of gold jewelry

drive-by

snitch or tell on someone

leaving the gang

bailer giving drugs to servers

money

always clumsy

handkerchief wrapped around head

under the influence of PCP, known as "angel dust"

beastly, very ugly person

quarter ounce of dope or Old English 40 oz.

2 1/2 grams of cocaine

83

money

Mexicans

it's alright

Crips' disrespect for the color red

people talking shit

throwing a punch or shooting
5.0 1988 Mustang
500 BMW
flake, or "rooty pooh" booty hide
flashlight undecided member
flaunt dice to start crap game
flowers female Cobra Stone
flue rag blue rag
fly good looking
flying your colors representing gang colors
folks disciples and their affiliates
four five .45 caliber
49'ers 49 erickets running scared (Crips)
freak good looking girl
fresh good looking, clean
friew someone blue, Crip
frog girl with low moral standards (jumps into anyone's car)
gaffle police messing with someone
game criminal act
gang banger gang member
gang banging gang activity, or involved in gang activity
gat gauge, deuce-deuce, gun
gauge gun
g'd up dressed up in colors
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEAR Gangsters</td>
<td>Eliminate All Rickets (Crips)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>geek</td>
<td>someone who is high, loaded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>get a dime</td>
<td>get some business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>get down</td>
<td>fight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>get jammed</td>
<td>to be accosted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gig</td>
<td>gathering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>glass house</td>
<td>'77-'78 Chevy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>got it goin' on</td>
<td>successful person or function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g-ride</td>
<td>gangster ride in stolen car, or stolen car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grip</td>
<td>lots of money or time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gump</td>
<td>a homosexual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gun-up</td>
<td>getting ready to fight, usually &quot;boxing&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>head hunter</td>
<td>a female who does sexual acts for cocaine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>strawberry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>he's from nowhere</td>
<td>non-member of a gang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>holding down</td>
<td>controlling area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>holding it down</td>
<td>gang members controlling their area, turf, wing, dorm, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>homeboy</td>
<td>someone from the same gang. A friend, comrade or fellow associate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>homeboy, homegirl, homes, homey</td>
<td>fellow gang member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hooch</td>
<td>an alcoholic beverage made by fermenting a sugary syrup or liquid and bread.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hood</td>
<td>neighborhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hook</td>
<td>phony or imitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hook, trick</td>
<td>phony or sissy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hoopla</td>
<td>car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hoopty</td>
<td>car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hoo-rah</td>
<td>loud talking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hubba</td>
<td>rock cocaine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hustler, player</td>
<td>not into gangs, an individual just out to make money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>illing, illin'</td>
<td>making mental mistakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>insane rain</td>
<td>mixed drinks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in the mix</td>
<td>involved in gang activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jacked-up</td>
<td>beat up or assaulted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jammed</td>
<td>confronted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Jones</td>
<td>marijuana joint laced with cocaine, dipped in PCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jiving</td>
<td>attempting to fool someone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>juiced, lifts</td>
<td>vehicle has hydraulics to raise and lower car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KC</td>
<td>Killing Crabs, Krabs (Crips)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kibbles and bits</td>
<td>crumbs of cocaine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kicking back</td>
<td>relaxing, killing time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kick you down</td>
<td>give you something, set you up in drug trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kite</td>
<td>a letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kite in the wind</td>
<td>a letter in the mail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KKK</td>
<td>Krazy Krab Killa (Crips)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
kool It's all right
laces chrome, spoke rims
lady girlfriend
la hura the police
L.A. Raiders running around Denver, Erickets running scared
legit for real, proper
let's bail let's leave
let's go ride on somebody to seek someone out as a target
lifts, juiced vehicle has hydraulics to raise and lower car
liquid juice, sherm, wack PCP
lit up shot at
lizard butt ugly girl
locs dark sunglasses, whole bunch of ponytails
lollipop sucker wimp
love rock cocaine
low rider a minority individual involved in gang activity
mack, drag, rush ability to sweet talk girls
mackin' talking to girls
main man best friend, back-up
making bank making money
man cop
mark wannabee gang member
minutemen boys in Texas who "go down" for selling drugs and are released in 24 hours

mission contract hit, terrorize rival neighborhood

mob jump someone with others

mobile proper, nice looking

molded, scratched embarrassed

Monte C Monte Carlo vehicle

movin' things selling drugs

mud duck ugly girl

murder 8 .38 gun

new boodie new to the set

N.I.K.E. Niggers 'Illin Killin' Erickets

nut up angry, mad at someone

O/G original gangster

on fire all in red

on spook scared of something

on the pip freebasing cocaine

on the strengths based on these facts

one time police

packing, packin' gang member has a weapon on him, usually a gun

pay back vendetta or retaliation of a former wrong

peanut butter Crips' disrespect for Bloods

pimped out not into gangs, strictly out to make money
pink toe  white person
placa  graffiti that identifies a particular gang
player  cheats on girls, individual interested solely in girls
popped a cap, busted  shot at someone
posse  east coast term for gang
primo  marijuana joint laced with cocaine
puffer  cocaine smoker
pugging  fighting
pulling you on  making a fool of you
put 'em in check  discipline someone
put in work  hurt someone
put that on the set  to validate what you're saying is true
quoted  put in the set
rag  color of gang, bandanna, handkerchief or scarf
raise  leave
raising up  coming up in the gang
recruiting  looking for good looking girls
red eye  hard stare
relative  Bloods’ term for homeboys
ride  car
ride on, rode on  go to another rival neighborhood in vehicles to attack other gangs
rifa  when used in a placa it means "we control"
righteous
R.I.P.
road dog
robo cop
rock
rock star
roll 'em up
rollin'
rollin' deep
roll out
rooster
roscoe
Ru
ruca
scandalous
sell out
serve
set
sherm, wack, or liquid juice
shermed
shotcaller
six-deuce
sixty (60)
skeezer
ture or affirmative answer
Rest In Pain, or "Crip"
close friend
popular dance
crystallized cocaine
cocaine prostitute
arrested, forced out of scene
doing well, have a nice car
car full of people
leave
Piru (Blood)
firearm, usually handgun
Piru (Blood)
female comrade or associate,
girlfriend, wife
dead beat person, bad person
leave
sell drugs
neighborhood
PCP
high on PCP
person in charge
62
sissy
ugly girl
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>slang or slang</th>
<th>deals or sells cocaine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>slinger or slang</td>
<td>Crips' nickname for Blood gang member and &quot;Super Loked Out Blood&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slob</td>
<td>person who smokes cocaine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smoker</td>
<td>popular dance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>snake</td>
<td>money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>snaps</td>
<td>a white girl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>snow bunny</td>
<td>PCP, rock cocaine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>space base</td>
<td>vehicles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>springs</td>
<td>a person addicted to cocaine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sprung</td>
<td>fight, argue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>squab</td>
<td>Super Race Is White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRIW</td>
<td>What's up, What's going on?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surp?</td>
<td>white individual involved in gang activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>surfer</td>
<td>aggressive talking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>taking smack</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ten-five</td>
<td>.38 caliber gun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tray eight</td>
<td>phoney or sissy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trick, hook</td>
<td>too much, something else</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trip</td>
<td>the neighborhood of a particular gang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>varrio or barrio</td>
<td>Spanish slang means guys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vatos</td>
<td>PCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wack</td>
<td>high on PCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wacked</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where you from?
What set are you from?  
a way of asking for gang identification
Appendix VI

Selected Bibliography
Selected Bibliography

Gangs in General


This essay explores the ghetto environment that often stimulates gang involvement.


This book depicts the growing presence of gangs in the nation's schools with an emphasis on illegal gang activities, demographic/ethnic affiliation, and weapons acquisition.


This short article provides an excellent summary of the current gang problem, gang motivation, criminal activity, and the FBI's response to gangs.


This paper succinctly describes the activities, structure, and mentality of Hispanic, black, Asian, Caucasian, and motorcycle gangs.


This essay outlines the structure/organization of gangs, gang recruitment, warning signals, and preventive strategies.


This report reviews the characteristics of gangs, gang violence, drug trafficking, and the federal response to gangs.


This book is an anthology of selected papers that addresses the social and economic
issues of drugs and gang violence. Topics include substance abuse and criminal activity by multi-ethnic gangs, legal and policy concerns regarding gang violence, prevention strategies, and the impact of gang violence on survivors.


This is one of the most comprehensive overviews of juvenile gangs available. Topics include the history of gangs, gang composition and typologies, gang violence, and intervention strategies.


This article addresses gang motivation and violence, concluding that gang members make rational decisions to join organized crime subunits that specialize in drug distribution, car theft, extortion, and burglary.


This anthology discusses the organization and behavior of gangs, their associated violence, and drug trafficking activities.


This manual provides an overview of the gang/drug problem, emphasizing gang characteristics, communication, recruitment, and policy considerations. Other sections present statistical data on levels of crime and loss attributable to gangs and drug-related crimes.


This handbook analyzes patterns of ganging and gang intervention in the United States and describes current preventive efforts based on demographic, structural, and behavioral qualities.


This book evaluates the history of gang behavior and violence as well as the causes and motivations behind gang aggression.

This report examines recent findings regarding the nature, causes, and prevention of gangs and gang violence, especially among juvenile gangs.


This book focuses on the dynamics of youth gangs in inner city neighborhoods and the factors that induce juveniles to seek gang membership.

Hells Angels: Organized Crime, Criminal Intelligence Service, Canada, February 1994. FOR POLICE USE ONLY.

This report acts as a training aid to assist police agencies who have contact with members of Hells Angels.


This fact sheet offers an excellent overview of the nature and extent of America's gang problem, gang violence, drug trafficking, gang composition, and preventive strategies.


This paper offers a poignant insight into the dangers and difficulties of leaving the street gang.


This article summarizes gang characteristics, graffiti, legislative action used to combat gangs, and community gang programs.


This booklet considers how and why juvenile gangs develop, factors that make youths vulnerable to gangs, indicators of gang membership, and preventive strategies.


This handbook is an excellent synopsis of gang characteristics, mentality, membership benefits, and activities.

Maxson, Cheryl L., Malcolm W. Klein, and Lea C. Cunningham, Street Gangs and Drug Sales: A Report to the National Institute of Justice, University of Southern California: Social Science Research Institute, September 1993.

This study assesses the magnitude, characteristics, and generalizability of gang involvement in drug distribution in two suburban cities.

This essay addresses the issue of defining gangs and offers historical insight into the development of gangs.


This article analyzes the rise of gang activity in America's suburbia and outlines a ten-step preventive plan to curb its growth.


This paper provides a state-by-state assessment of outlaw motorcycle gangs including their evolution and criminal activity.


This manual briefly describes the types, characteristics, and structure of black street gangs as well as gang terminology and strategies to curb gang activity.


This handbook is an informative guide for teachers, parents, and school officials that describes gang activity and terminology as well as programs to prevent/reduce gang influence.

*Police, Schools and Community United Against Street Gangs*, Metropolitan Gang Task Force, Marion, Indiana, October 1993.

This article provides an excellent overview of gang characteristics, terminology, structure, symbols, and motivations.


This essay analyzes the relationship among juvenile delinquency, juvenile drug abuse, and juvenile gangs.

This handbook contains information regarding prison and street gang hand-signs, vernacular, codes, weapons produced, and organization/identification.


This report describes the historical evolvement of gangs, our nation's response to the gang problem, gang involvement in drug distribution, and various legal issues and cases regarding gangs.


This paper offers a comprehensive listing of gangs in New Jersey including their ethnicity, size, and criminal involvement.


This study defines youth gangs and related terms and covers such topics as the nature and causes of the gang phenomenon and the effectiveness of various responses from law enforcement, the judicial system, social welfare agencies, schools, and communities.

*Strategic Assessment of Juvenile Gangs*, Middle Atlantic-Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network, West Trenton, New Jersey, June 1994. FOR POLICE USE ONLY.

This document discusses gang identification, variations, vocabulary, hand-signs, graffiti, and narcotics trafficking.

*Street Gangs*, Reproduction and Graphic Arts Section, Chicago, Illinois, not dated. FOR POLICE USE ONLY.

This booklet highlights the motives, affiliations, and profiles of gang members.


This article identifies the characteristics, history, graffiti, and drug trafficking activities of the Bloods and Crips street gangs.


This booklet offers general information and indicators to assist law enforcement, school officials, parents, etc. in identifying gang members and tips on how to deal with them.
Statements provided during this hearing describe the rise in gang activity throughout America, the historical origins of gangs, and potential solutions to the gang problem.


This report discusses the various tattoos and symbols used by over 22 different gangs.


This document is one of the most comprehensive assessments of the current gang problem. Topics include gang characteristics, geography, violence, psychology, and gang targeting strategies. Over 150 sources are referenced.


This report provides an extensive history of prison gangs including their structure, demographics, operations, prison impact/problems, and preventive strategies.


This study explores the domestic and international organization, violent tendencies, and regional distribution of the Jamaican posses.


This report highlights the prominent gangs active in each state.


For updates, call 202-927-7900.

*What are the Signs of Gang Involvement?*, Youth Gang Services Project, California, not dated.

This paper identifies the dress, tattoos, language, and behavioral patterns associated with gangs.
The following centers can also be contacted for gang information:

Drugs and Crime Data Center and Clearinghouse
1600 Research Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20850
800-666-3332

Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse
Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20850
800-638-8736

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers
700 Rush Street
Chicago, IL 60611
312-782-0977

National Crime Prevention Council
1700 K Street, NW, Second Floor
Washington, DC 20006-3817
202-466-6272

National School Safety Center
4165 Thousand Oaks Boulevard
Westlake Village, CA 91362
805-373-9977

Police Executive Research Forum
2300 M Street, NW, Suite 910
Washington, DC 20037
202-466-7820

Gangs in Maryland

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_____ , "Neighbors seek to close two Pen Lucy carryouts; Sites said to hamper anti-drug effort," The Baltimore Sun, 3 February 1993, 1B.

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West, Norris P., "Police penetrate Nigerian drug gang; 2 indictments on heroin charges result," The Baltimore Sun, 15 January 1993, 1B.

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Mac Lucas, Jon N., Initial Gang Assessment for the State of Maryland, Criminal Intelligence Division, Maryland State Police, 30 November 1992.


Montgomery County, Maryland: Gang Assessment, Special Investigations Division, Montgomery County Police, not dated.