

Campus Safety CONFERENCE CSC

AT EDspaces
Designing the Future of Education
Pittsburgh, PA | November 3-5, 2021

Gang Activity in K-12 and Post-Secondary Settings: Class is in Session

Dr. Jay Findling
Advisory Board Member
Past NYC Regional Director (NLE)
New York Gang Investigators Association
(NYGIA)



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- Access to the presentation
- Q&A
- Evaluations
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- Special Announcements

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About Me

Dr. J. Findling

- Urban educator 29 years
 - Teacher, Building Administrator
 - Field Director, Central Agency Director
- Former NYC Regional Director, NYGIA
- Current Advisory Board Member, NYGIA
- National presentations on gangs
- Various articles and collaborations
- Community Crisis Chaplain, NYSCTF
- Most importantly, loving husband and proud father!



Attendees Will:

- **Understand** the **basic identifiers** of students who may be/are involved in gang activity.
- Be able to **create teams** within appropriate school settings where these teams can **begin the intervention and prevention process** with **students and families**.
- Be prepared to **collaborate with law enforcement and community based partners** to develop plans to address gang activity in their **schools and community**.



16-year-old busted in connection to Bronx murder of 13-year-old

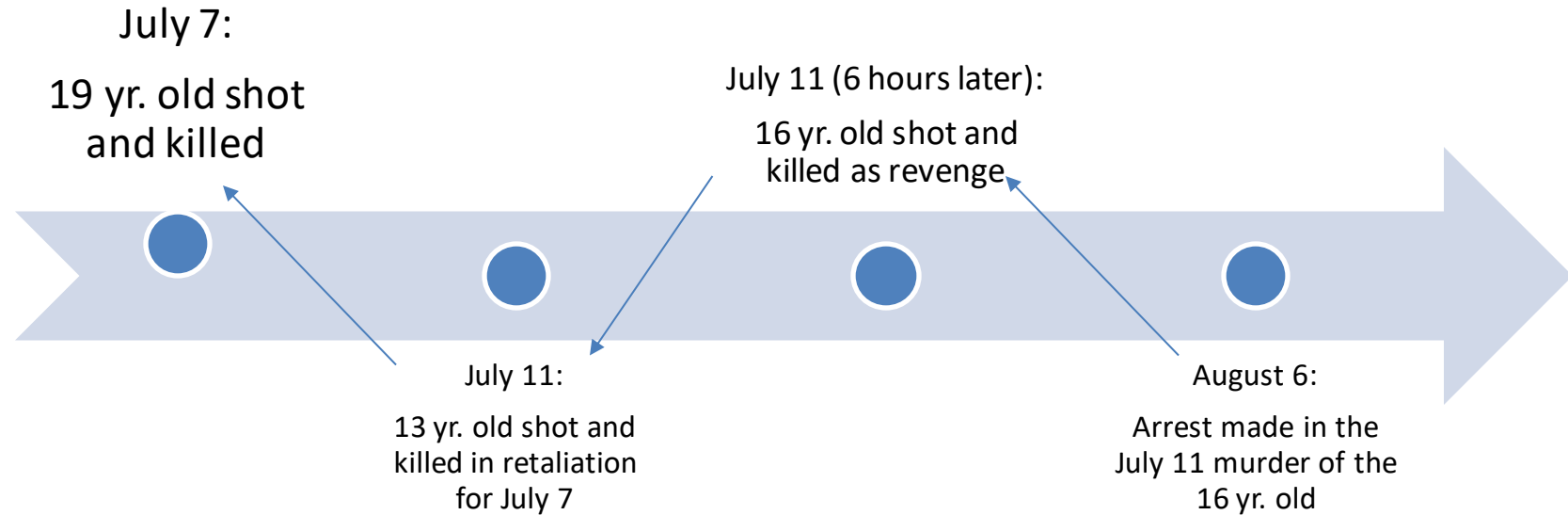
By Amanda Woods August 6, 2021 NY Post Metro Section



- A **16-year-old boy** was busted this week in connection to the **slaying of a 13-year-old in the Bronx** — part of a string of gun violence described by police as “a major gang war.”
- The 16-year-old was charged with murder, manslaughter and criminal possession of a firearm.
- The **13 yr old was slain in retaliation** for the death of a **19 yr old**, who was shot in the head in front of his home on July 7.
- **Several hours after the 13 yr. old was shot, revenge** for his murder was taken on a **16-year-old** who was gunned down by two males on scooters a little over a mile away.
- The 16 yr old, who **was affiliated with the 800 YGz, or “Young Gunnaz,” gang**, had been at the scene of the 13-year-old’s slaying, although it is not clear if he was responsible for the killing, sources said.



THE 1 MONTH TIMELINE AND CONNECTIONS



BEFORE WE BEGIN...





ADVANCED GANGS REQUIRE MORE EDUCATED LEADERS

National Gang Intelligence Center (NGIC) report (2009)

STILL TRUE TODAY?

INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION IS THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING THE 3 STAGES



1st Stage

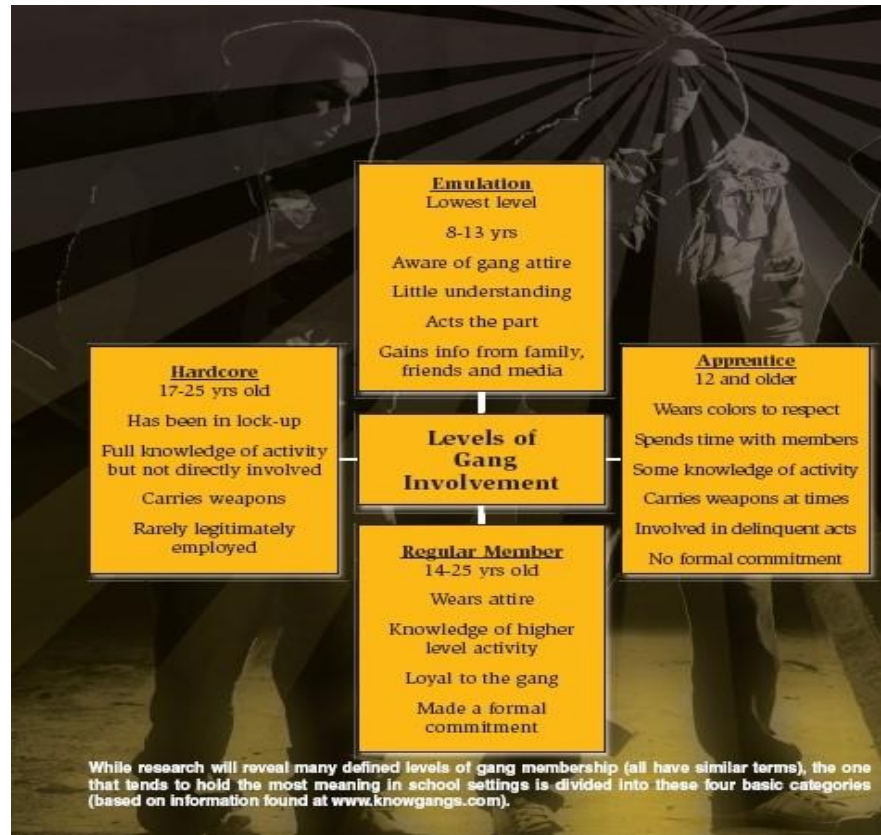
YOU **SEE IT** WHEN YOU **KNOW IT** BUT
ONLY AFTER YOU **ACCEPT IT**



CAN YOU TELL
THE STORY?

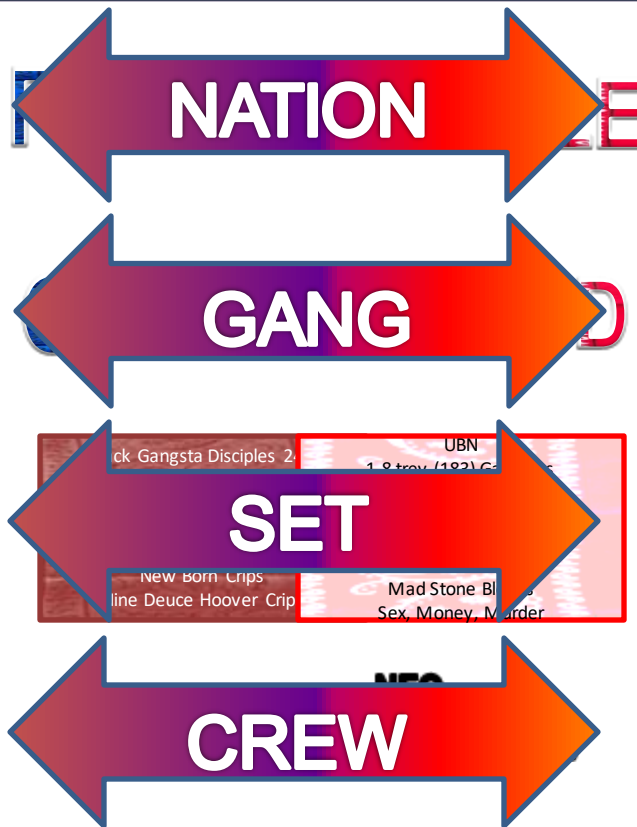






UNDERSTAND THE LAND: STREET GANGS

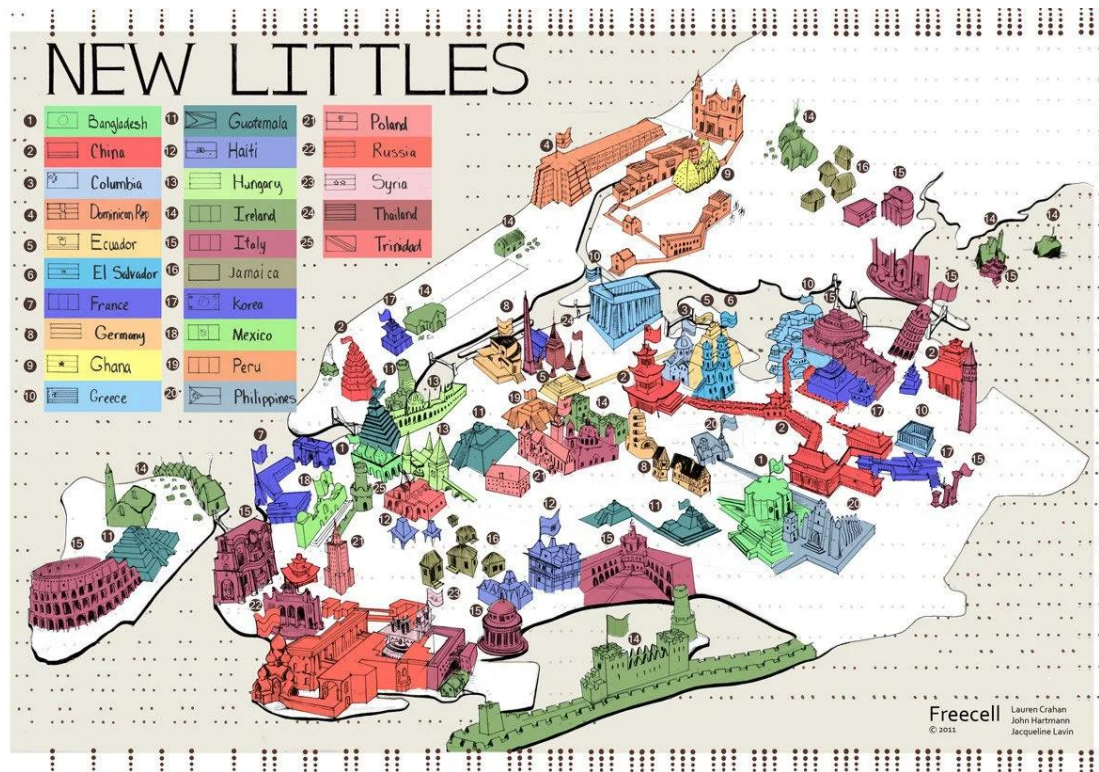
(one example)



ETHNIC GANGS



MANY PLACES TO EXIST: THE NYC EXAMPLE



LAW ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION HELPS



STREET AND ETHNIC GANGS

STREET

1. Often born in the country.
 - Live in the localized area.
 - Loyalty to the gang and its turf.
 - Neighborhood boundary markers.
2. Tattoos/scarring usually consistent with specific gang identifiers.
3. Unique coded language when needed that is specific to the gang.
4. Street crime is common but also has its own organized model:
 - Higher level of violent infractions, as well as drug sales and gambling.
 - Rape, Robbery, Murder, Grand Larceny, Assault (F), Grand Larceny Auto, Burglary
 - Involved in sex work but more commonly on the street access level (including online access).
 - Getting into more “white collar” patterns as generational gang members are attending college and trade schools resulting in more mainstream blending and access to new markets.
 - Mortgage fraud, identity theft, social media extortion
5. Victims often don’t report crimes:
 - Out of fear (live in neighborhood and can’t escape).
 - May also have criminal record and want to avoid the law.
 - In larger cities, may also be in the country illegally.

ETHNIC

1. Often among the immigrant population:
 - For US citizens with strong connections to their ethnic homeland, membership is an advantage.
2. Tattoos/scarring and a display of flags or other unique ethnic identifiers from their homeland :
 - Landscape
 - Nature
 - Animals
3. Native language used frequently.
4. Organized crime model:
 - Drug trafficking/provider to the street.
 - Human trafficking/sex work on a “classy” level .
 - Home invasions (often known targets).
 - Extortion/protection.
 - High level gambling.
 - “White collar” crime: computer crime, credit, finance, dealerships.
5. Victims often immigrants: most victims don’t report as they are also illegal immigrants.

INTERESTING POINT:

Victims, especially if they have a connection to the school, often feel comfortable seeking help with a criminal issue from school officials.

However, this changes once school officials state that they need to involve the authorities.



Warning Signs for At-Risk Youth

There may be students who are engaged in gang life but rarely demonstrate signs of at-risk behavior. This is not the norm, but it cannot be forgotten. It is also critical to note that not all students who demonstrate signs of at-risk behavior for academic or social distress are necessarily at-risk for becoming involved in gangs. Some of the warning signs of at-risk behavior for gang membership may include:

- ✓ A sudden drop in grades and a lack of interest in school
- ✓ New friends (boys or girls) who are “questionable” characters in the eyes of parents
- ✓ Secretive/defensiveness about activities with friends
- ✓ Disengagement from family
- ✓ Delinquency issues with police
- ✓ Out of control behavior: curfew, runaway, defiant
- ✓ Flashing of hand signs (hand gestures) to friends (or even when alone)
- ✓ Changes in manner or dress, and adopting gang-style clothing, jewelry, and/or tattoos
- ✓ Gang graffiti or symbols on his/her personal property
- ✓ Changing a nickname to something more acceptable to a gang
- ✓ Unexplained increase in his/her personal monetary income
- ✓ Possession of drugs or other controlled substances
- ✓ Changes in health that may be due to drug/alcohol abuse
- ✓ Unexplained threats/messages from callers who refuse to identify themselves to parents
- ✓ Inability to account for time spent away from home

2nd Stage

YOU KNOW IT WHEN YOU SEE IT,
SO DON'T DENY IT SINCE
IT'S NOT A SECRET ANYMORE

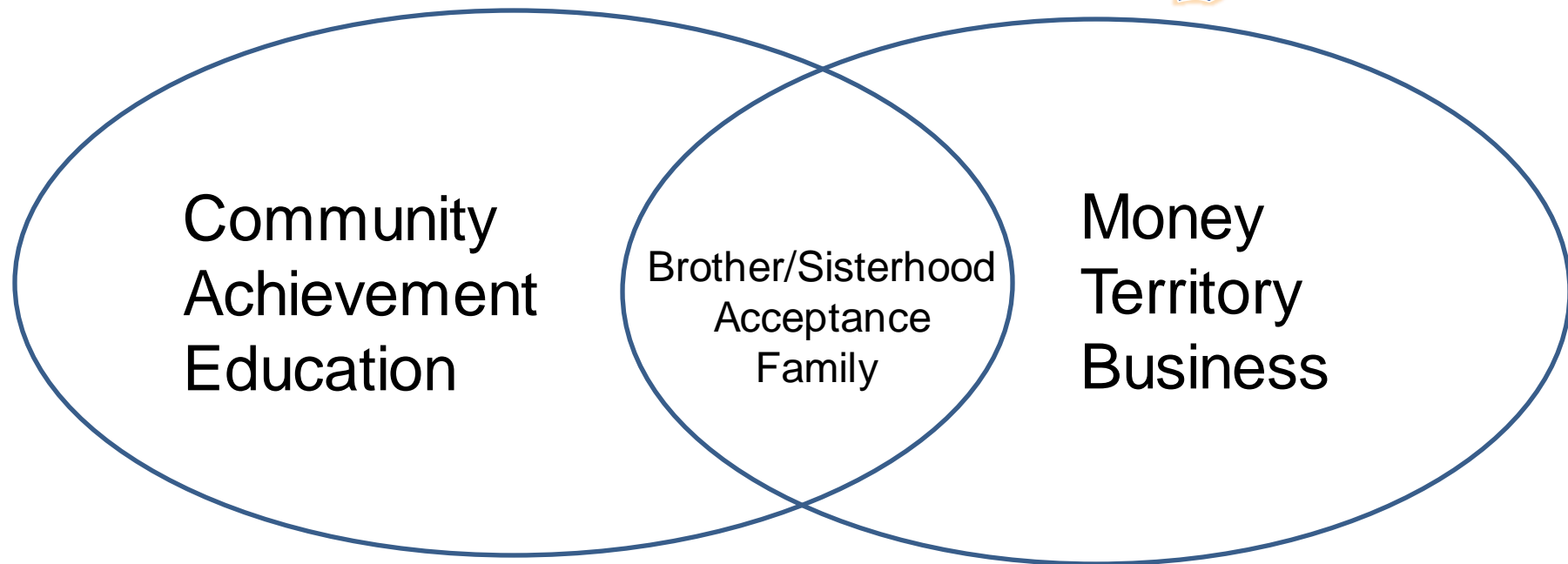


WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

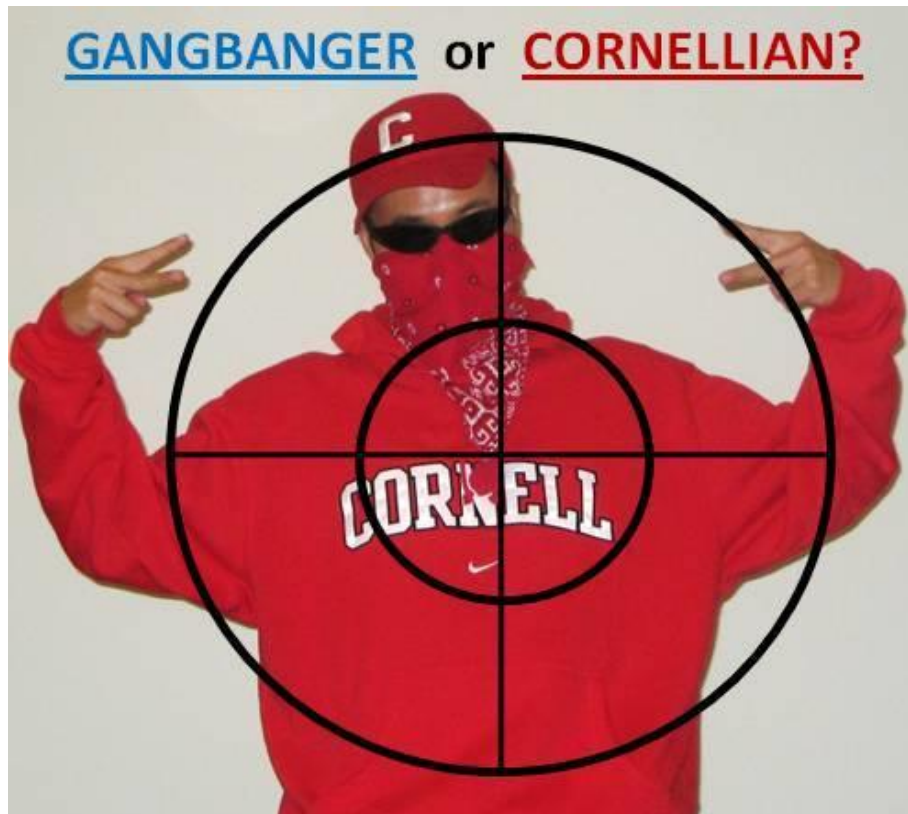


GRΣΣK

Gang



GANGBANGER or CORNELLIAN?



POPULAR CULTURE



KEEP
CALM
AND
CARRY
ON

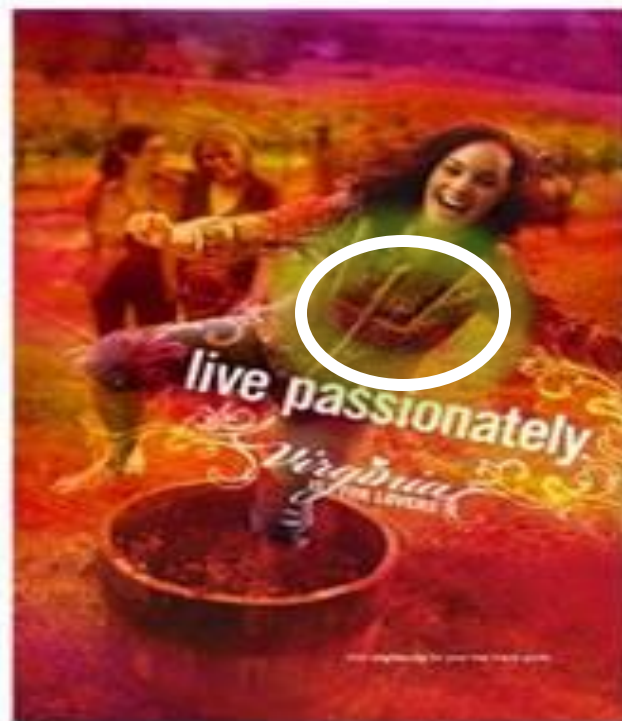
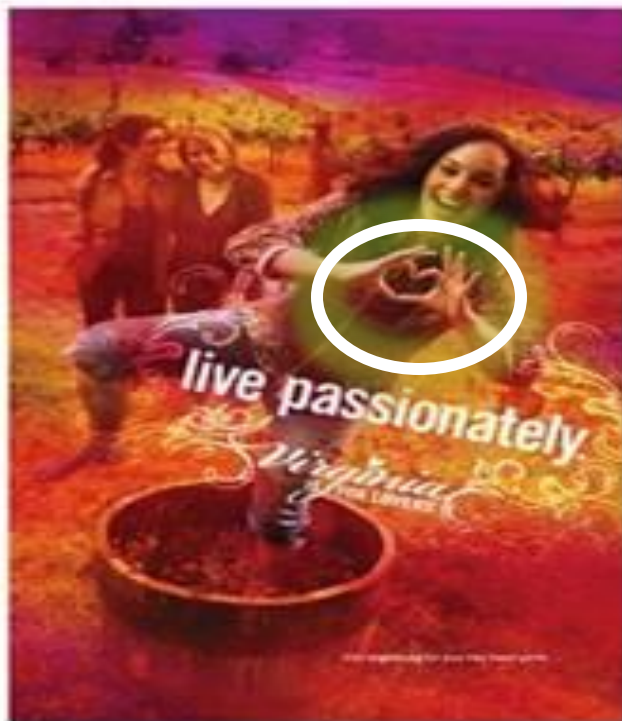
MAINSTREAM



UNDERGROUND









MILITARY

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Presented by: The University of Maryland System
November 10, November 11, 2017



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NUMBER MUST BE HIGHER TODAY



Source: NAGIA Survey Data,
courtesy fbi.gov
2015 National Gang Report

FEMALES







For school officials, when you believe someone is a member of a gang, look for 3 of the 12 agreed upon list of identifiers among gang specialists:

1. Self admission
2. Gang Tattoos
3. Affiliated style of dress
4. Gang graffiti
5. Use of gang signs
6. Use of gang symbols
7. “Priors” with known gang members
8. Identified by family members
9. Identified by other LE agency
10. Observed at gang functions
11. Identified by other gang members
12. Identified by reliable informants

3rd Stage: BELIEVE IT WHEN YOU SEE IT

FOX From the Streets to Cyberspace:

FOX

THE

Home

When is credit-card theft a good thing? When the culprits might otherwise be killing you.

The [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#) says national gangs like the Bloods and Crips are becoming more sophisticated, turning to white-collar financial crime and cyber attacks that threaten Corporate America and, well, everyone.


The evolving criminal schemes, which include mortgage fraud, counterfeiting, bank and credit card fraud and identity theft, are attractive because they are much less risky than traditional gang-related crimes such as murder, drug trafficking and robbery, and have the potential to yield much greater profits, according to a new national gang threat assessment from the FBI.

U.S.
re



StreetGangs.Com forum on Gangs in the United State...

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StreetGangs.Com forum on Gangs in the United States

Answers & Questions about gangs, organized crime, graffiti & gang activity around the World

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Gang members and college

Many Gang members go to college. From what I've seen, some go as a result of their abilities in sports. However, there are many who come from families that can afford to send them and want to get them into a different environment (Away from the homies). I think that there is a misconception that all Gang members are dummies, however that couldn't be further from the truth. While their actions and decisions may be considered by many as dumb, some are extremely intelligent and could perform easily in academia. Instead they choose to place their efforts into criminal activities and go into a different direction.

Re: ...
 By ...
 Many ...
 are ...
 (Away from the homies). I think that there is a misconception that all Gang members are dummies, however that couldn't be further from the truth. While their actions and decisions may be considered by many as dumb, some are extremely intelligent and could perform easily in academia. Instead they choose to place their efforts into criminal activities and go into a different direction.

Joined: September 6th, 2011
 Country: United States
 If in the United States: Georgia
 What city do you live in now?: Tuskegee





- Over the last decade, gangs have become highly organized and sophisticated criminal organizations.
- Both street and ethnic gangs now operate in a global environment and have begun to take advantage of collaborating.
 - Relationships based on:
 - Prison
 - Connections with immigrants residing within street gang areas but with ethnic gang access.
 - School (all levels)
- Members of gangs, especially those in leadership positions, are most likely to benefit from the advanced thought process and access encouraged by higher education.
- Ethnic and street gangs, which have established cells in foreign countries, assist gangs operating in the United States in developed associations with global drug trafficking and other criminal organizations.
- Gang members are becoming more sophisticated in their operations. Gangs in several jurisdictions have modified or ceased traditional and stereotypical gang indicators and no longer display colors, tattoos, or hand signs (NGIC, 2011).
 - This has begun to resurface over the last few years and more so during the pandemic.

INVOLVEMENT
IS NOT
ILLEGAL





WHAT COMES NEXT?

- LE and NLE **MUST** collaborate:
 - Will often hear things that are not easy to accept.
 - Keep it confidential.
 - REMEMBER THE LAW (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act).
- Start educating children when they are young and engage families:
 - Remember our obligations:
 - Mandated reporters.
 - Support SEL and early intervention.
 - Develop trusting relationships with families for the good of the children.





CAN YOU TELL
THE STORY
NOW?



Resources (just a few)

- www.nagia.org (National Association to find your local association)
- www.nysgangprevention.com
- www.streetgangs.com
- www.gangscrossamerica.com
- www.knowgangs.com

Reminders

- Access to the presentation
- Evaluations
- Social Media
- Special Announcements

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