

What Are The KEY DANGERS of GANGS?

GANG ACTIVITY is dangerous to gang members and to their families. It is dangerous to neighborhoods and entire cities. It affects society as a whole.

- In order to join a gang, new members go through an initiation, which can range from fighting other gang members to participating in criminal activity, such as thefts, vandalism, gang rape, drive-by shootings, or even murder.
- Gang members use alcohol and drugs.
- Gangs deal drugs in schools and on the street, especially to youth.
- Gang members get badly hurt or killed during gang fights and criminal acts.
- Families of gang members often become targets of violence when gangs are feuding.
- Gangs rely on weapons, especially guns. Anyone—not only gang members—can be injured in a gang-related crime or a fight between rival gangs.
- Gangs gain control over an area by using force and making people afraid. The area becomes their turf, where they sell drugs and commit other crimes to further their illicit objectives.
- Where there are gangs, the crime rate rises.
- Gangs look down on the school system. Youths in gangs do poorly in school or drop out entirely.
- Juvenile gang offenders usually become even more serious adult offenders.