Gangs and Preventive Measures
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Why Should We Care?

Estimates from the U.S. Department of Justice provide a rough profile of gang composition:
- In 2000, 94 percent of gang members were male and 6 percent were female.
- 39 percent of gangs active in 2000 had at least one female member; 2 percent of gangs were identified as being composed of predominantly female members.
- In 1996, 50 percent of gang members were under the age of 18, but in 1999 only 37 percent of gang members were under the age of 18.
- In 1999, 47 percent of gang members were Hispanic, 31 percent were African American, 13 percent were white, and 7 percent were Asian. These percentages have remained fairly steady over the years.
- In 2001, 100 percent of cities with a population of 250,000 or more reported gang activity, and 85 percent of cities with a population between 100,000 and 229,999 reported gang activity.

Gangs in Schools

Percentage of Students Reporting Gang Activity at Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Suburban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Crime Victimization Survey.

Abstract

The prevalence of gang involvement among youth has worsened over the years. My research includes an overview of gang history and brief statistics on gang involvement in today's society. The risk and protective factors associated with gang involvement are discussed. Specifically, I am concerned with motivations for gang membership, prevention programs that can be implemented, and with determining why some programs have been unsuccessful. I hope to design an effective program that will be implemented as a preventive measure. Its primary purpose will be to reduce gang membership and to educate students about the negative consequences of gang involvement. The proposed program would be introduced to students in the third grade. The curriculum would focus on goal-setting strategies, individual responsibility, conflict resolution techniques, and the dangers of becoming involved with gangs.

My Goal

To design a program to reduce gang membership and to educate students about the negative consequences of gang involvement.

Additional purposes:
- Educate parents
- Promote community awareness
- Provide comprehensive and coordinated services to meet the needs of at-risk families

Levels of Gang Involvement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Risk Factors</th>
<th>Protective Factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gang member</td>
<td>High risk</td>
<td>Low risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Gang member</td>
<td>Moderate risk</td>
<td>High risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Gang member</td>
<td>Low risk</td>
<td>Moderate risk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References


http://www.fbi.gov/aboutus/transformations/gangs.htm

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