



A Project of Community Partners

FACT SHEET: GANG VIOLENCE

UNITED STATES

- ❖ Approximately 1 million gang members belonging to more than 20,000 gangs were criminally active within all 50 states and the District of Columbia as of September 2008. *US Department of Justice, 2009*
- ❖ In rural counties between 2002 and 2007, the number of jurisdictions reporting a gang problem increased by nearly 25%, and the overall number of gangs and gang members increased 64 percent and 36 percent, respectively. *US Department of Justice, 2009*
- ❖ More males experience gang violence than females. However, female involvement in gangs continues to increase. In high-risk, high-crime neighborhoods, 29.4% of girls and 32.4% of boys claimed gang membership. *US Department of Justice, 2009*
- ❖ Urban victims (8.6%) are more likely than suburban (7.3%) or rural victims (5.9%) to identify offenders as gang members. *US department of Justice, 2005*

Recruitment and Expansion

- ❖ Local neighborhoods, prisons, the Internet, and schools have been targeted as "hot-spots" for gang recruitment. *Loosle, 2006*
- ❖ Many gangs actively use the Internet to recruit new members and to communicate with members in other areas of the United States and in foreign countries. *US Department of Justice, 2009*

Criminal Acts

- ❖ Typical gang-related crimes include alien smuggling, armed robbery, assault, auto theft, drug trafficking, extortion, fraud, home invasions, identity theft, murder, and weapons trafficking. *US Department of Justice, 2009*

CALIFORNIA

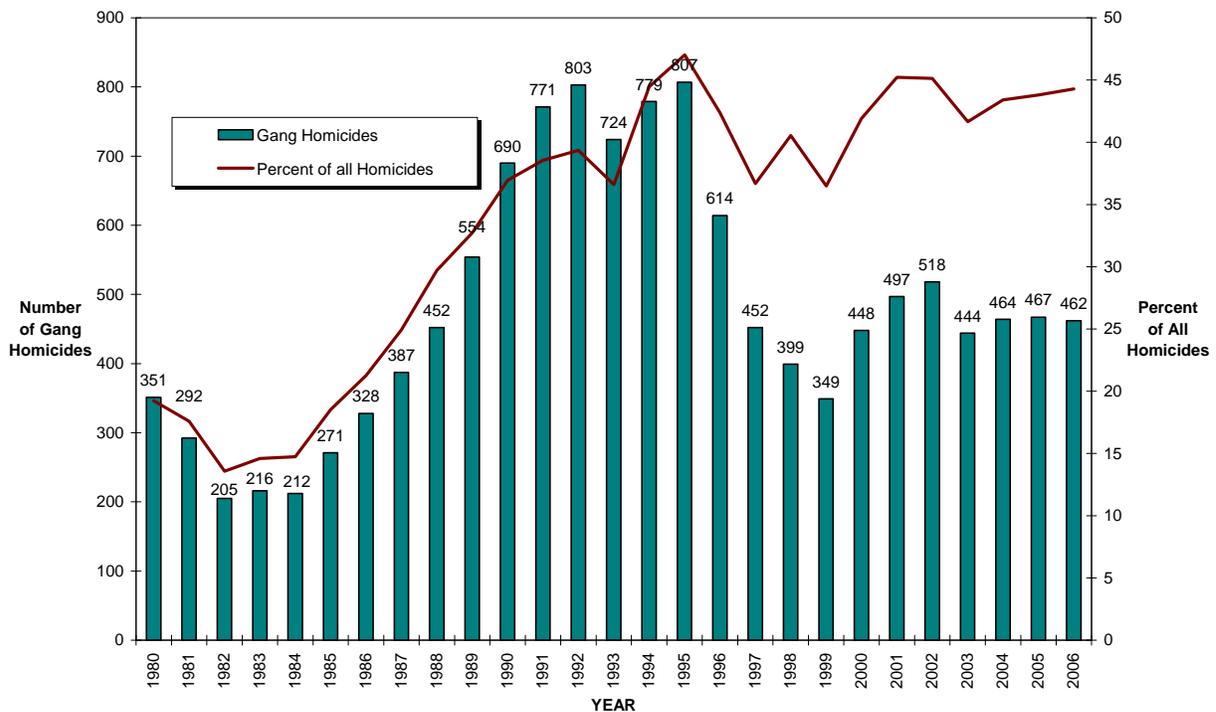
- ❖ In 2007, where the contributing circumstance was known, 41.8% of homicides were the result of an argument and 32.7% were gang-related. *California Department of Justice, 2008*
- ❖ From 1998 to 2007, the number of gang-related homicides increased 16.1%. *California Department of Justice, 2008*
- ❖ In 2007, 37.5% of homicides involving a male victim were gang-related, compared to 11.4% of homicides involving a female victim. *California Department of Justice, 2008*
- ❖ In 2007, the proportion of gang-related homicides was greater for Hispanics and blacks than for whites (42.5, 34.6, and 7.1%, respectively). *California Department of Justice, 2008*
- ❖ In 2007, the greatest percentage of homicide victims aged 5–17 (57.7%) and aged 18–29 (42.7%) were killed as a result of gang or drug-related activities. *California Department of Justice, 2008*

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY and CITY

- ❖ Almost 75% of youth gang homicides in the state of California have occurred in Los Angeles County. *Advancement Project, 2005*
- ❖ In the City of Los Angeles alone, there are approximately 700 gangs and over 40,000 members. *Advancement Project, 2005*

Gang Homicides in Los Angeles County, 1980-2006



Prepared by Los Angeles County Dept of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Program. Nov 10, 2008.

Sources: LA Sheriff Dept, LA Police Dept, LA Dept of Coroner, CA Dept of Health Services - Center for Health Statistics, Death Statistical Master File

- ❖ Gangs account for approximately 44% of all homicides in Los Angeles County. Of the 1043 homicides in 2006, 462 were gang-related. *Los Angeles County Dept of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Program, 2008*
- ❖ In 2007, 48.5% homicides in the City of Los Angeles were gang-related (191 out of 394). *Los Angeles Police Department, 2008*
- ❖ Violent gang crime costs the taxpayers and victims more than \$2 billion every year in LA County. If gang homicides were reduced by 20% every year for five years, \$100 million would be saved. *Advancement Project, 2005*
- ❖ In the Southeast Division of LAPD, the chances of being murdered are 1 in 2,200 or almost nine times higher than the national average, whereas the chances are 1 in 78,000 in LAPD's West LA Division and 1 in 6,100 in the Hollenbeck Division of East Los Angeles. *Advancement Project, 2005*
- ❖ In the City of Los Angeles, approximately 850,000 children live in violent crime areas. Of these children, over 290,000 live in high gang crime areas. *Advancement Project, 2005*
- ❖ The migration of gang members from Los Angeles to other regions of the United States has led to a rapid proliferation of these gangs in many smaller suburban and rural areas not accustomed to gang activity and its related crimes. *Loosle, 2006*

For full citations or more information, please contact Billie Weiss, MPH at bpweiss@ucla.edu.

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