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

Calif ornia

- 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

(OVER)
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*

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*

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