

• NGC NEWSLETTER •

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More findings and analyses from the National Youth Gang Surveys can be found **HERE**.



The Gang Member Migration Proposition—Part 1

The National Gang Center (NGC) is jointly funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Bureau of Justice Assistance. NGC conducts research on street gangs and serves as a clearinghouse for individuals and agencies seeking information, technical assistance, and training in the areas of gang prevention, intervention, suppression, and reentry.

For at least the last 20 years, numerous newspaper and other media articles have periodically revisited the notion that gangs are expanding their presence across the United States through the movement of members from metropolitan areas—where gang activity is historically concentrated—to nonmetropolitan areas. In fact, the “gang member migration” proposition remains one of the most discussed influential factors in the spread of gang activity nationwide. A quick perusal of recent local newspaper articles pertaining to gangs shows this topic remains as popular as ever. (The National Gang Center [NGC] catalogues gang-related news articles daily and can be found here: <http://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Gang-Related-News>.) But conspicuously overlooked in these reports is an examination of just how prevalent and substantial gang member migration is across the entirety of the United States. This article briefly summarizes recent analyses on that topic.

Annually, NGC collects gang survey data from a nationally representative sample of local law enforcement agencies. (The representative design of the survey permits the most appropriate way to measure the prevalence of particular gang-related issues, such as migration.) In the 2010 NGC survey, more than 2,500 agencies were asked about the presence of gang activity and, subsequently, gang member migration in their areas. (Further results from the 2010 survey can be found here: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/pubs/237542.pdf>.) The figure below displays findings among the police and sheriffs' departments located outside the traditionally gang-affected metropolitan areas (referred to here simply as “nonmetro”). The pie chart portion shows that little more than 10 percent of these agencies experienced both gang activity and migration (compared with

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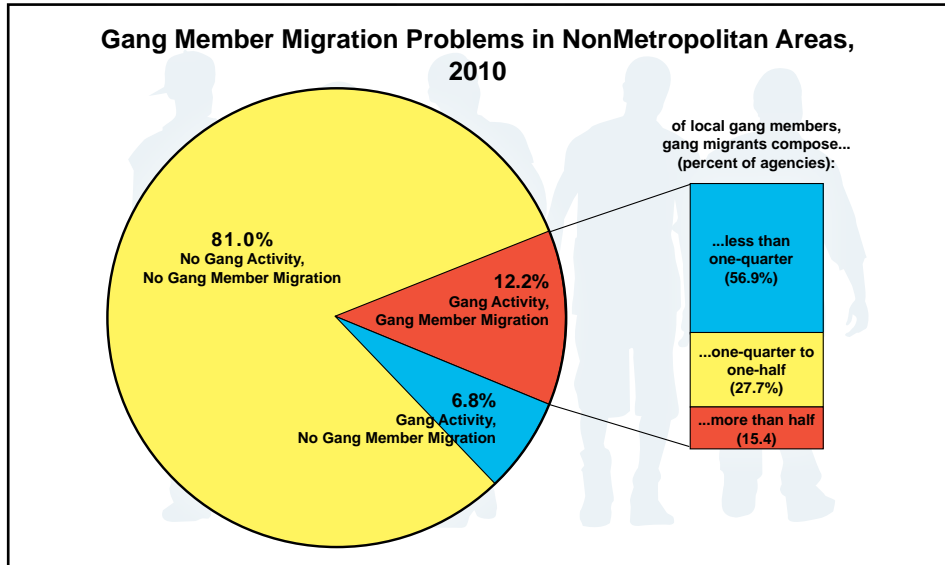
Web site: www.nationalgangcenter.gov

Gang Member Migration

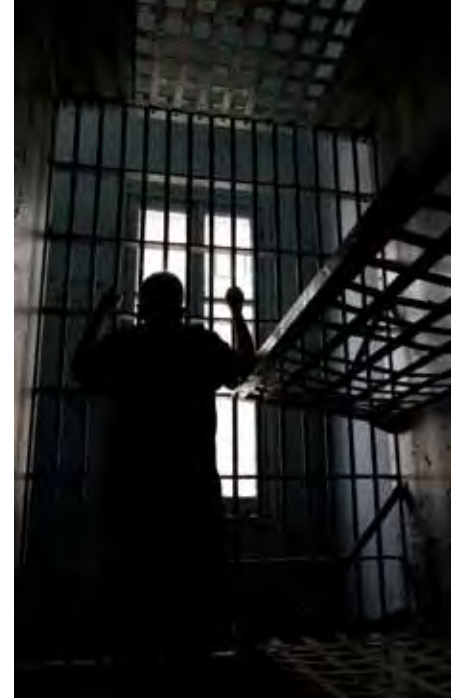
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81 percent that experienced neither), while the bar chart portion shows that local gang members far outnumber gang members who have migrated into the area.

While these findings do not address relative changes over time, they do provide clear evidence that gang member migration is a relatively infrequent occurrence among the thousands of nonmetro law enforcement agencies throughout the United States. And, if it occurs, gang member migrants typically constitute only a small proportion of the local gang population. These findings underscore the importance of contextual examinations in discussions of the prominence of gang issues nationwide. In a future installment, we will examine a related topic: the motivating factors behind gang member migration. ■



Effective Gang Reentry a Priority for Criminal Justice



In response to the need for effective reentry practices, the United States Congress approved the Second Chance Act in 2008. The Second Chance Act supports policymakers, researchers, and practitioners in the development and evaluation of model reentry policies and programs aimed at successful offender reentry. In recognition of the importance of reentry, the Federal Reentry Council, made up of 18 federal departments and agencies and chaired by the Attorney General, was established.

Reentry services benefit from best practices implemented during the institutional/facility, structured transition, and community reintegration phases of the incarcerated individual's experience. Reentry planning at each phase recognizes the individual's need for supervision, safety, housing, education, employment, treatment, and social support.

Reentry services for gang members bring additional challenges. The gang member has support systems in the community that can meet his need for safety, to make money, and provide social support. The challenge for the

It's About Time: Prevention and Intervention Services for Gang-Affiliated Girls

The National Council on Crime and Delinquency released a bulletin for the California Cities Gang Prevention Network (CCGPN) titled "It's About Time: Prevention and Intervention Services for Gang-Affiliated Girls" in March 2012. This bulletin is designed to bring to CCGPN cities' attention the vulnerabilities and consequences of gang involvement for girls; the service needs of girls in gangs and girls at risk of joining gangs; and the importance of addressing these service needs as a critical component of cities' gang violence-prevention efforts. It also provides examples of how various programs are currently addressing the gender-specific



service needs of girls involved in gangs. Click the URL below to download the bulletin:

<http://www.ccgpn.org/Publications/CCGPN%20Bulletin%202026.pdf> ■

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Effective Gang Reentry

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criminal justice system is to provide positive interventions and alternatives to continued gang affiliation as a means of providing support to the gang member.

Gang members typically come from poor environments, both family and neighborhood. They may be returning to homes with family gang involvement in neighborhoods where violence is the rule rather than the exception. They may lack education or job skills. Gang members are often heavily tattooed, which, when added to their criminal history, makes finding employment and acceptance by the community difficult. Poor planning and decision-making skills are common among gang members, and positive role models are not readily available to most of them. They are returning to an environment that allows them to slip easily back into preexisting substance abuse and mental health issues without a safety net.

Gang reentry practices include gang level classification, ongoing intelligence gathering, and possibly renunciation programs at the institutional phase. At all phases, staff training in gang awareness and management is recommended. Continuous case management, substance abuse and mental health services, and cognitive-based training are recommended for all

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Gang Violence Protocols for Medical Facilities



In November 2011, in the Bronx, New York, a gang member opened fire on a rival in an emergency room (ER) waiting area, wounding a nurse and a security guard. In March 2012, a dispute among gang members at a North Miami-area funeral home sparked a mass shooting that injured 12 people and killed 2. The multiple victims, family members, and rival gang members converged on local emergency rooms, creating a chaotic and highly volatile atmosphere.

These scenarios have become all too common. Gang violence can be a threat in any medical facility where patients may be involved in gangs. Long-standing rivalries, tensions between gangs, and escalating acts of retaliation can occur in hospital emergency rooms, parking lots, waiting areas, and care facilities. Many gang-involved victims receive treatment in the ER, and rival gang members may seek them out. As a result, ER personnel can be caught in the crossfire.

Here are some gang response action steps for medical facilities:

1. Request gang identification training for ER personnel, including receptionists and security officers, from local gang officers on an annual basis. This training should include visuals of local gang tattoos, clothing, and other identifiers, and should also describe existing rivalries.

2. Develop a relationship with local gang unit administrators. Request dispatcher notification when victims of a gang conflict are transported to the ER. Emergency room personnel should also

request further information, including the names/identifiers of the gangs involved and descriptions of suspects/vehicles. This information should be shared with security and reception personnel.

3. Limit the number of visitors who can accompany patients into waiting and treatment areas.

4. Notify security and/or request a law enforcement response in the ER when a gang-involved victim is treated.

5. Rival gang members may encounter one another inside hospital facilities and in parking areas, so both areas require attention and security. Hospital administrators may wish to incorporate [Crime Prevention through Environmental Design \(CPTED\)](#) strategies. Many law enforcement and city planning agencies can provide CPTED reviews.

6. Prepare for the possibility of treating rival gang members at the same time. Do not allow rival gang members or their visitors to have contact, either inside or outside of the facility.

7. In the event of a serious gang incident in the community, hospitals may wish to develop escalated security protocols that include locking down the emergency room and waiting area.

8. Consider adopting protocols used for domestic violence or child protection screening for use with gang-involved victims. The American Medical Association provides an online guide for youth violence screening: <http://virtualmentor.ama-assn.org/2009/02/ccas3-0902.html>

<http://info-you-need>

Did You KNOW?

The NGC has a Gang-Related Legislation page that is updated annually. This resource identifies gang-related legislation by state or by selected topic. Click [HERE](#) to visit the page.

NGC Products and Services

Surveys and Analysis

Training and Technical Assistance

Comprehensive Gang Model

Law Enforcement Anti-Gang Training

Gang News

GANGINFO Mailing List

Legislation

This collaboration recognizes that street gang activities transcend age and other structural and jurisdictional boundaries. Thus, strategies ranging from prevention through intervention, suppression, and reentry are needed to combat them.

Effective Gang Reentry

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phases of reentry. Upon reintegration, safe alternative housing, mentoring relationships, and vocational and employment programs including tattoo removal are essential. Collaborative relationships between agencies providing supervision and services at the community level to share resources and information are important.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance funded the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) to develop a product outlining organizational and practice guidelines and resources for gang reentry at each phase of the process. The Guidelines for Gang Reentry are available in a DVD format and can be ordered from the APPA Web site by clicking [here](#). The [National Reentry Resource Center](#) is another resource for reentry information and programs. ■

Interested in Anti-Gang Training?

Check out the links below for dates and locations:

Training and Conferences

<http://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/About/Other-Training-and-Conferences>

Law Enforcement Anti-Gang Training

<http://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Training-and-Technical-Assistance/Law-Enforcement>

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