



San Diego County Office of Education

GANG AWARENESS AND PREVENTION STRATEGIES



Anthony Ceja

Student Support Services Department

(858) 569-5442

aceja@sdcoe.net

Objectives

- **Understanding of Current Gang Trends**
- **Ability to Recognize Potential Gang Involvement and Risk Signs**
- **Understanding of Gang Prevention Strategies**
- **Ability to Help Parents With Prevention Strategies at Home**



The Quiz *(Continued)*

- 13, X3, XIII
- Sur
- Crab
- Slob
- BK
- 187
- RIP

The Quiz

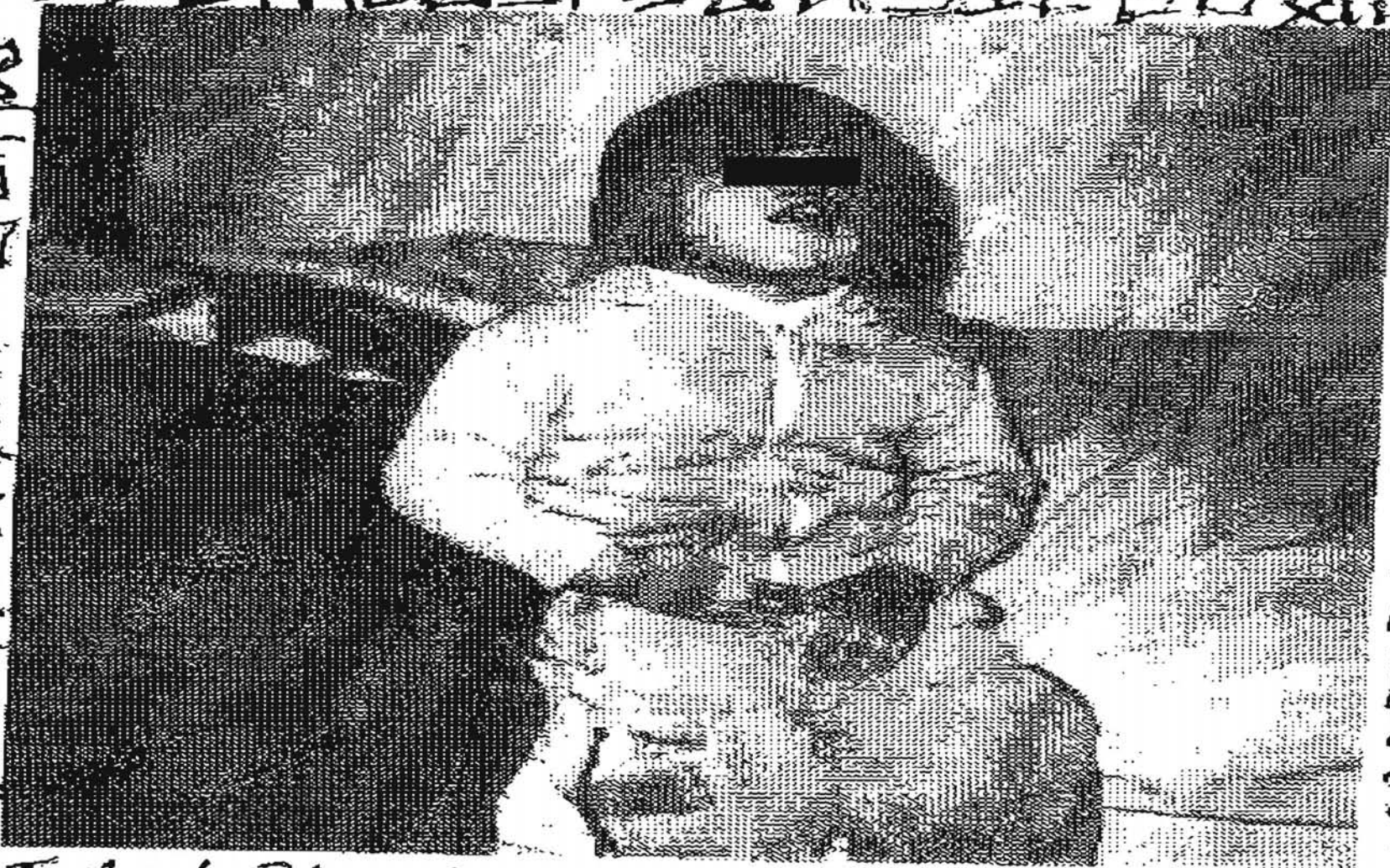
- Banging
- Represent
- Mean Muggin
- SWP
- 88
- Race Trader

National Gang Statistics and Trends *(Continued)*

- **Gang Migration**
- **Influence of Prison Gangs on Street Gangs**
- **Involvement in Narcotic Trafficking by Traditional Gang**
 - Ties to Major International Drug Trafficking Organizations**
- **Increase in Gang Homicides in Smaller Communities**
- **Involvement at Younger Ages (11)**
- **Native American Involvement is Increasing**

SOUTHEAST SAVANNAH

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



XXXXXXXXXXXX

SUB #7
SHEANAWAY

National Gang Statistics and Trends *(Continued)*

- **Use of More Sophisticated Weapons**
- **Formation of Copy-cat Type Gangs**
- **Use of the Internet**
- **Increase in Hate Gangs**
- **Tagger Crews Becoming More Violent**
- **Gangs Increased Involvement in Business of Prostitution**

MS 13 – Gang Site



~SMOKEY~'s Interests



General	
Muslc	Video Code provided by VideoCodeZone.Com
Movies	
Television	

"3L BIG SMOKEY"
 Male - 20 years old
 DA VELT, NEW YORK, United States



Criminal Street Gang Definition

- **Ongoing:**
 - **Organization**
 - **Association**
 - **Or group of three or more persons**
- **Formal or Informal**
- **Common Name**
- **Common Signs or Symbols**
- **Pattern of Criminal Activity**

GANG

Structure



Gang Typologies

- **Traditional Gangs**
- **Business/Profit Gangs**
- **White Hate Gangs**
- **Copy-Cat Gangs**
- **Tagger Crews/Tagbangers**

Why Youth Join Gangs

- **Born into it**
- **Neighborhood Norm, Peer Pressure**
- **Power, Protection, Prestige**
- **Cultural Identity, Friendship**
- **Sense of Belonging, Attention, Love**
- **Respect**
- **Money, Drugs, Excitement**

Gang Involvement Indicators

- **Verbal Indicators**
 - **Self-Admits Membership**
 - Shout-outs**
 - **Challenges**
 - **“Where You From?”**
 - **Use of Gang Slang**
 - **Slob, Crab, Scrap**

Gang Involvement Indicators

(Continued)

- **Non-Verbal Indicators**
 - **Tattoos, Brands, Burning, Scarring**
 - **Graffiti**
 - **Handsigns**
 - **Colors**
 - **Attire**
 - **Photos**

Tattoos, Brands, Burning, Scarring

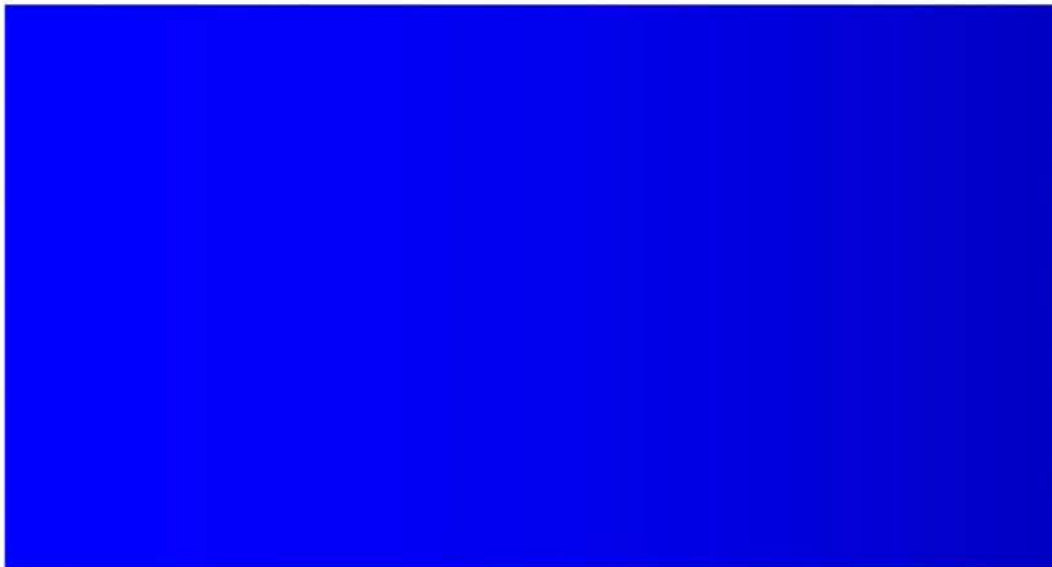
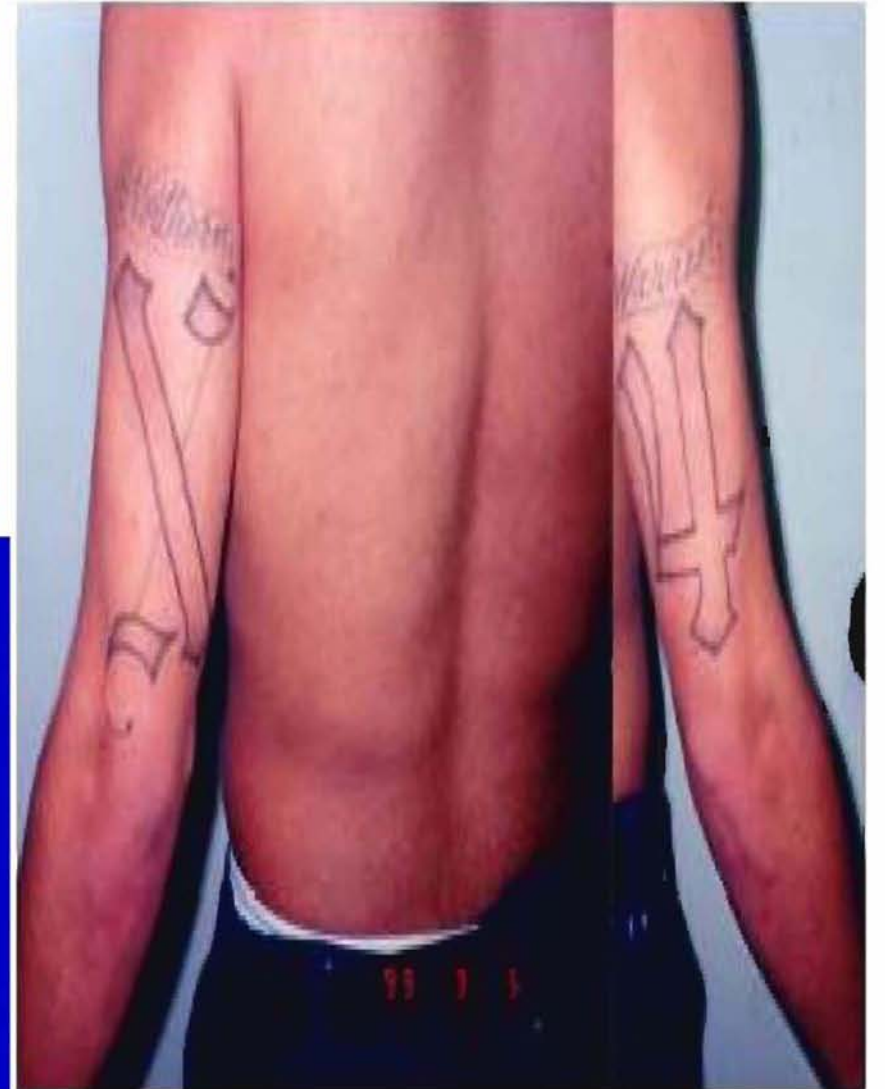
- **Name of the Gang (City, Neighborhood, Street, Area Code)**
- **Nickname**
- **Slogans/Symbols**

Tattoos, Brands, Burning, Scarring *(Continued)*

- **Latino/Hispanic**
 - **Smile Now Cry Later (Theatrical Masks)**
 - **Mi Vida Loca (Three Dots)**
 - **Surenos or Nortenos (13 or 14)**
 - **Area Codes (619, 213, 310)**
 - **Religious Symbols (Cross, Virgin Mary)**
 - **Gang Name on Stomach, Back or Neck**
 - **Tear Drop**

Tattoos, Brands, Burning, Scarring *(Continued)*

- **Crips, Bloods, Pirus, Folks, People**
 - **CK**
 - **BK/PK**
 - **Pitchforks**
 - **Pointed Up-Folk**
 - **Pointed Down-People**
 - **Stars/Crowns**
 - **Six Pointed-Folk**
 - **Five Pointed-People**



Tattoos, Brands, Burning, Scarring *(Continued)*

- **Hate Gang**
 - **Supreme White People/Power (SWP, WP)**
 - **Peckerwood (Woody Woodpecker)**
 - **Nazi Symbols (Swastika, SS, etc.)**
 - **Nordic Symbols**
 - **Racist Symbols (KKK, etc.)**
 - **Celtic Cross**
 - **88/14**
 - **ZOG**





Tattoos, Brands, Burning, Scarring *(Continued)*

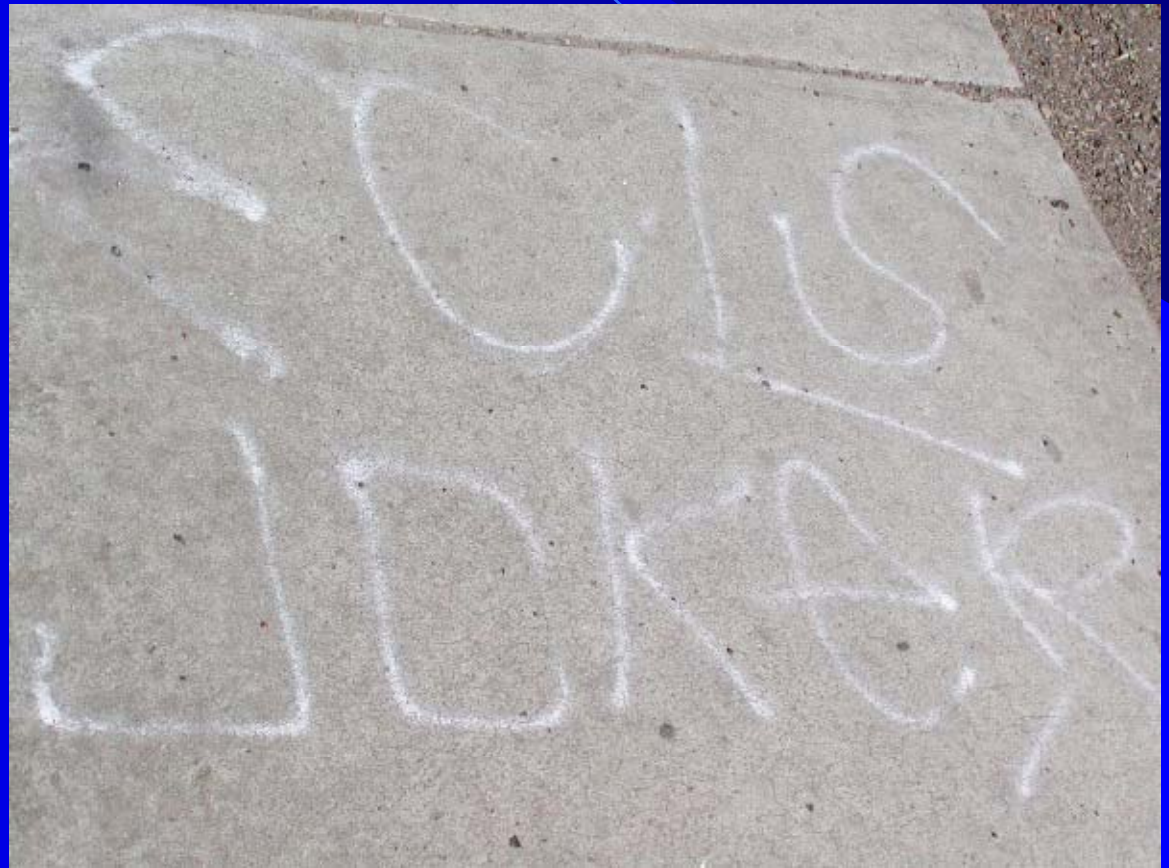
- **Southeast Asian Gang**
 - **TTTT(T)**
 - **Tinh-Love**
 - **Tien-Money**
 - **Tu-Prison**
 - **Toi-Crime**
 - **Revenge**
 - **Cigarette Burns**
 - **Five Dots**
 - **Scarring**

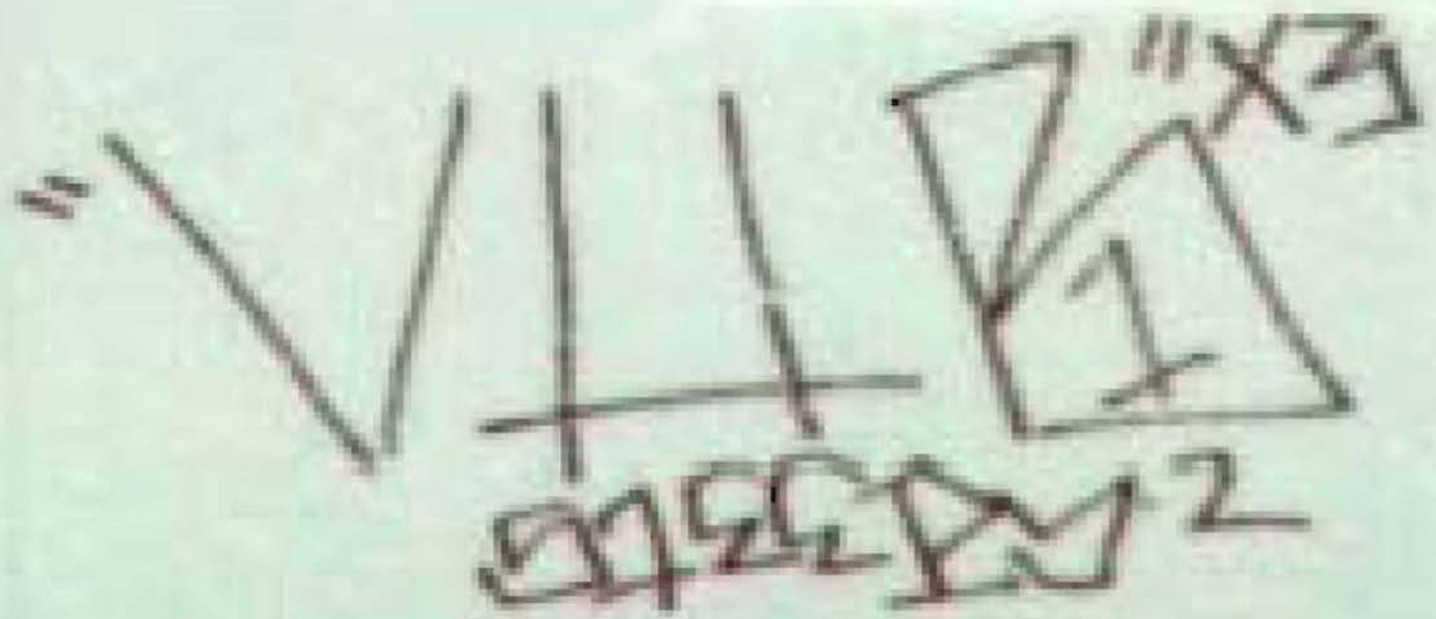
Gang Graffiti

- **Denotes Territory**
- **Issued as a Challenge/Threat to Other Gangs**
- **May Include a Roster of Some Members**

Graffiti

- El Cajon
Locos
- Joker







V X 3 X □ 15
□ 5 K □ 4

Taggers

- **Continually Practicing Graffiti**
- **Graffiti Oftentimes Found in Their Notebooks, on Backpacks, Hats**
- **Baggy Clothing With Several Pockets and Backpack May Contain Paint, Markers, Etching Tool**
- **Paint or Ink May Be Found on Clothes, Shoes, and Under Fingernails**
- **Piecer Books are Often Carried in Backpack**

Tagger Crews

- **Tends to Form and Disperse Quickly**
- **The More Time the Crew Exists, The More likely to Be in Conflict With a Local Gang**
- **Members Create the Crew's Name, Oftentimes Using Three Words**
 - **The Crew's Tag Comes From The First Letters of The Crew's Name. For Example:**
 - **RTS = Running The Show**
 - **DTK = Down To Kill**
 - **EBK = East Bound Crew**
 - **UIS = Up In Smoke**

Tagger Graffiti





Handsigns

- **Rapid Movement of Hands and Fingers**
- **Letters, Numbers or Symbols Associated With the Gang**
- **Issued as a Greeting or Challenge**



Gang Attire and Paraphernalia

- **Use of Colors**
- **Sports Team Logos**
- **Graffiti/Symbols on Clothing**
- **Use of Clothing**
 - **Slits on Pant Legs**
 - **Rolled up Pant Legs**
 - **Right Side-Folk**
 - **Left Side-People**
- **Bagging, Sagging and Dragging**



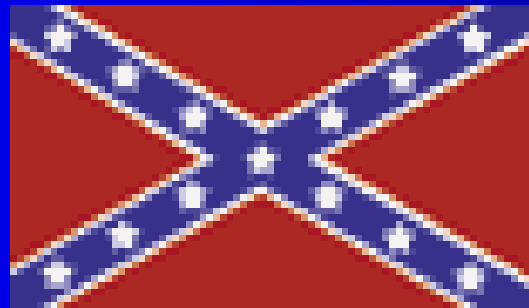
White Supremacy Gangs

- **Will Not Refer To Themselves as A Gang**
- **Believe They Are A Political Movement**
- **Believe They Are Protecting The Purity Of The Aryan Race**
- **Targets Include All Groups of Color, Jews, Homosexuals, Race Traders**
- **Internet and Music Heavily Used As Tool For Recruitment and Propaganda**
- **Have Been Known to Recruit in Skate Parks and Schools**

White Supremacy Gangs (Cont)

- **Can Have Connection to Other Organized White Supremacy Groups such as:**
 - **Aryan Brotherhood (AB), Nazi Low Riders, Hells Angels, Skinheads, White Aryan Resistance (WAR), Ku Klux Klan (KKK)**
- **Resistance Records is A Record Label Dedicated to Producing Music Promoting White Supremacy and Hate.**

HATE Related Symbols



Gang Warning Signs

- **Back-pack or Notebooks have identifiers**
 - Graffiti
 - Inappropriate Language
 - Inappropriate Drawings
 - Pictures of “friends” you do not know
- **Develops a Violent or Aggressive Attitude**
- **Language Changes**
- **New Friends into Gang Culture**
- **Starts Using a Nickname**
- **Change in Dress**
 - Consistent use on one color, bandana
- **Secrecy**
- **Unexplained Money, Jewelry, Other Items**

Gang Warning Signs

- **Unexplained Cuts and Bruises**
- **Observed Practicing Behaviors**
 - Hand-signs
 - Tattoos
 - Graffiti
 - Hard stares
- **Spray cans, Markers, Etching tools**
- **Graffiti or Symbols Found Around House**
- **Unusual Paraphernalia**
 - Drug Use
 - Weapons

Gang Warning Signs

- **Gang Paraphernalia**
- **Music**
 - **Gangster Rap**
 - **Hate Music**
 - **Drugs and Suicide**
- **Computer Use**
 - **Gang web sites**
 - **Hate web sites**
 - **Drug web sites**
 - **Violent web sites**
- **Loss of Interest in Normal Areas**
- **School Attendance Problems**
- **Drop in Grades**

Establishing a Neutral Site

- **Policies and Procedures**
 - **Rules**
 - **Dress Codes**
 - **No tolerance for gang identifiers**
- **Consistent Enforcement**
- **Remove Graffiti**
- **Peer Assistance Programs**
- **Gang Mediation**
 - **Peace Treaties**

School & Community Based Prevention

- **Staff Awareness**
- **Targeted Prevention**
- **Mentoring**
- **Positive Activities**
- **Enrichment**
- **After School Programs**
- **Youth Development/Resource**
- **Parent Awareness**

Prevention Strategies

**What Parents Can Do At Home To Help
Prevent Their Children From Becoming
Involved In Gangs**

Gangs and Youth

What can Parents Do?

- **Spend Time with your Child**
- **Promote Positive Communication**
- **Show and Speak of Your Love**
- **Promote Positive Attitudes and Values**
- **Know Your Child's Friends**
- **Talk to Your Child About Gangs**
- **Maintain Discipline in Your Home**
- **Guide Your Child Toward a Good Education**
- **Participate in Community Activities**
- **Control the Amount of Violence Your Child is Exposed to Through the Media**

Gangs and Youth

What can Parents Do?

1. Spend Time With Your Child

- Plan activities that the whole family will enjoy**
- Spend time alone with your child**
- Show interest in the things that are important to your child**
- Take your children to different locations outside of the community (museums, parks, the beach, etc.)**
- Remember to talk and listen to your child daily**

Gangs and Youth

What can Parents Do?

2. Promote Positive Communication

- Listen with all your attention**
- Don't interrupt or give your opinion until your child asks for it**
- Listen and value what your child tells you (small or big)**
- Don't be sarcastic or accusatory**
- Talk and listen to your child daily**

Gangs and Youth

What can Parents Do?

3. Show and Speak of Your Love

- Take time to show your child that they are special**
- Teach them to feel good/proud of themselves**
- Identify the positive in your child and recognize their attributes**
- Be aware of the power of your words (minimize negative comments)**
- Give them hope of a bright future**

Gangs and Youth

What can Parents Do?

4. Promote Positive Attitudes and Values

- Starting at a very young age, teach your child to care for and respect themselves and others**
- Teach them the difference between bad and good**
- Teach them that by hard work they will achieve their goals**
- Be a good example for your child**

Gangs and Youth

What can Parents Do?

5. Know Your Child's Friends

- Know where and how your child spends their free time.
- Entertain your child with positive activities and games
- Know the influence that your child's friends have on them
- Know the parents of your child's friends, and learn what they think about gangs
- Don't allow your child to associate with gang members

Gangs and Youth

What can Parents Do?

6. Talk to Your Child about Gangs

- Learn how to identify the gang risk signs**
- Identify the names of the gangs in your area, learn how to read the gang graffiti**
- Always maintain your weapons in a secured location**

Gangs and Youth

What can Parents Do?

7. Maintain Discipline in your Home

- Children and youth need discipline and structure to develop**
- Develop with your children a list of the rules and consequences of the house**
- Be just, consistent and firm**
- Do not discipline when you are too angry. Wait until you calm down**
- Tell your family when you are angry and maintain respect for your children**

Gangs and Youth

What can Parents Do?

8. Guide Your Child Toward a Good Education

- Take an active interest in your child's education**
- Take your child to visit the local colleges and universities**
- Emphasize the importance of a good education and remind your child about the opportunities that education provides them**

Gangs and Youth

What can Parents Do?

9. Participate in Community Activities

- Know and speak with your neighbors**
- Paint over graffiti immediately**

Teach your children to be proud of where they live

- Research what programs and activities are offered for your child (sports, social services, etc.)**

Gangs and Youth

What can Parents Do?

10. Control the Amount of Violence your Child is Exposed to through the Media

- Help your child select programs that are within your family guidelines**
- Be conscious of what your child is viewing outside of your home or when you are not present**
- Be a good example when you make your own program selections**
- View television together and discuss what your child feels about what they saw, What they understand and don't understand, etc.**

Gang Program Resources

- National Gang Center Website
www.nationalgangcenter.gov
- OJJDP Summary: Youth Gang Programs and Strategies (Howell, 2000)
www.iir.com/nygc/PublicationLinks.htm#YGPI
- G.R.E.A.T Programs
www.great-online.org
- National Crime Prevention Council: Teens, Crime, and the Community
www.ncpc.org/tcc

Gang Program Resources (cont.)

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Resource

San Diego County Office of Education

Student Support Services Department

- **Anthony Ceja**, Student Support Services Coordinator:
858-569-5442 aceja@sdcoe.net

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