



Role of Gangs in the Juvenile Justice System

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Reasons Gang Members Become Part of the Juvenile Justice System

- Increase in gang crime in the community
- The arrests and suppression initiatives by law enforcement of gang members
- Poverty/ No jobs/ Drugs
- Lack of family supervision or structure
- Lack of school attachment
- Lack of gang prevention and intervention programming



How Do Gangs Function in Juvenile Justice System?

- Recruitment and meetings
- Unite and share gang information
- Find ways to still use gang identifiers
- Fight rivals who are incarcerated in the same facility
- Correspondence with members in the community
- Gather information from criminal justice employees and defense lawyers

The Impact of Gangs

- Courts
- Detention Centers
- Probation or Parole
- Administration



Court Challenges

- High volume of gang cases
- No resources to refer to for gang involvement
- Lack of gang education
- Determining proper punishment
- What is the proper placement for youth?



Detention Center Facilities

- Lack of gang information
- Staff communication is sometimes poor
- Staff training is limited
- Moral can be poor
- Facilities may lack proper equipment, space or technology
- Teamwork not taking place



Probation and Parole

- Quantity vs Quality issues concerning caseloads
- Lack of gang training or information
- No incentive pay for working a specialized caseload
- Lack of resources to refer youth
- Security risks- home visits, removing youth from the home, threats by gangs



Administration Challenges

- Have to adjust the way one supervises because of the influx of gang members into the juvenile justice system
- Has to spend extra time building relationships with outside agencies to address the issue of gangs
- Readjust or find a way to increase budget to meet needs
- Putting the right people in the right places





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