

Different Types of Gangs

- ☆ **African American Gangs** Crip and Blood gangs are the most famous. The illegal trafficking of drugs became a major factor that intensified the rivalry between the two gangs.
- ☆ **Asian Gangs** Some mimic western gangs in dress style, the use of tattoos, graffiti, and criminal behavior. Other Asian gangs develop expertise in particular crimes, such as home invasion robberies, credit card and check fraud, and computer chip thefts.
- ☆ **Hispanic Gangs** often consider themselves the 'policemen' of their neighborhoods. Thus, they are motivated to protect these areas.
- ☆ **Tagging Crews** "In tagging crews, also known as 'graffiti vandals', the individual members are called 'taggers.' Initially tagging individuals or crews who had no specific gang affiliation. As fatal violence began to occur among tagging crews. Rivalries have intensified, and some tagging crews have begun to claim turf-life traditional gangs and regularly arm themselves with guns."

- ☆ **Female Gang Members** in many cases, are not merely girlfriends of gang members anymore.



Know Gangs

This pamphlet was produced by PASS (Positive Alternative Student Services), the Lake County Center for Dropout Prevention, a program that serves Lake County, and is funded by the Illinois State Board of Education's Truant's Alternative & Optional Education Program (TAOEP). For more information about PASS, call (847) 223-3400, x223 or go to our website www.lake.k12.il.us.



Know Gangs



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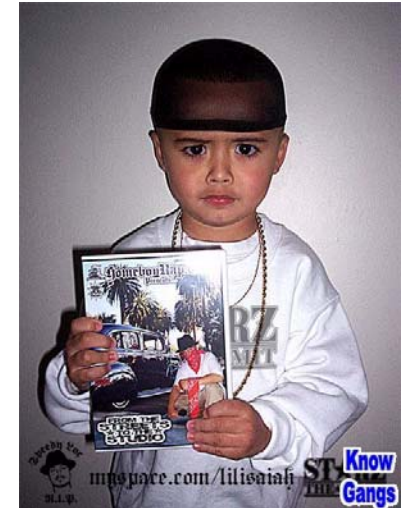


School Contact:

Youth Voices

Grown Up Choices

Students Against Violence Everywhere



Know Gangs

How to Get Out of a Gang

Compiled by the North Chicago High School
SAVE Chapter Administered by:

PASS
(Positive Alternative Student Services)



Make a Plan for Getting Out

If you decide that you want to leave the gang, here are a few simple steps to follow:

- ☆ **Never tell the gang that you plan to leave.** You may be beaten or even killed.
- ☆ **Begin spending your time doing other things.** Instead of spending time hanging out with your gang friends, find something else to do during that time. Look around. There are possibilities everywhere: sports, recreation centers, Boys and Girls Clubs, arts programs, drama, school activities, and even spending time with your family.
- ☆ **Try to stop looking like a gangster.** For many gang members, dressing down makes them feel safe because other people are afraid of the way they look. As you begin to believe in yourself, you will find that you don't need to make other people feel afraid in order to feel good about yourself. Stop wearing the clothes that you think have a gang meaning.



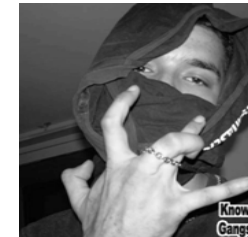
- ☆ **Find other things to say, other things to do, and other people to do them with.** (Hint: This is much easier if you stop dressing like a gang member first). Stop hanging out with gang members, talking like a gang member, and acting like a gang member.
- ☆ **Get good at making excuses.** Your parents can probably help you with this, but if not, try asking a teacher for help or maybe just an older friend. Some former gang members have said that when they started trying to leave the gang, they stopped taking phone calls from their gang friends, or had their family members tell their friends from the gang that they were busy or involved in some other activity.
- ☆ **Find people who will support you and believe in you.** Getting out of a gang isn't easy, but it can be done. Young people across America make the decision to have a better life every day. Find people, especially adults, who think that you are special and will keep telling you that. In your mind, think of a supportive adult wherever you go (school, neighborhood, rec center) whom you can touch base with if you have a problem or need to talk. Then use these people to help support you as you change

with good advice and assistance. Finally, begin believing in your power to change. Gangs are a dead-end street. No matter who you are, what you have done, or where you live, you deserve better.

Source:

National Alliance of Gang Investigators. Written by Michelle Arciaga, and updated/reprinted with permission of the Salt Lake Area Gang Project, Salt Lake City, Utah. Also available on-line at <http://www.nagia.org>.

You Deserve Better!!!



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