



**Gangs: What you should know,  
part two  
384  
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Wednesday, March 31, 2010 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Note**

- This is not the full presentation. This is for note-taking during the presentation. The full presentation includes numerous photographs that I cannot release to the public.
- The full presentation will be shown during the session.
- Thank you for understanding.

**Part II**  
**Gangs: What you should know.**

- This presentation is to include: emergency responders, schools, jails, hospitals....
- Along with items learned in Part I, learner will:
  1. Recognize the difference between rival gangs;
  2. Should be able to recognize the gang member in charge;
  3. Will understand the need to talk to gang member/leader at the scene, and more

**Note**

Gang members will apply for jobs in professions that arrest and incarcerate gang members. They will also apply for jobs in any profession where they need access.

Watch for them.

**Note to Emergency Responders**

Develop a strong relationship with local police

Join the Ohio Crime Prevention Association (OCPA)

Join your local Chapter of the Midwest Gang Investigators Association (MGIA)

**Gang Management**

- #1 Manage your fear and that of your staff.
- #2 You are the person in authority, never divert from that position. Treat all individuals in accordance with your building policy/rules.
- #3 Be fair – firm – consistent always.
- #4 If you do not have a police officer in your building, please consider it.

## Gang Management

- #5 Remove graffiti from your classrooms, cells, inmate/student clothing, and buildings – continually check for it. If it is allowed to remain, it can cause violence.
- #6 Do not allow gang members to wear their colors in your building – bandanas, belt buckles, etc. should be considered contraband. Watch visitors.

## Gang Management

### Speaking with a gang member

- Gangs structure themselves (see lit books).
- If you do not expect the same discipline from them as you do from your other students/inmates, you are showing a sign of weakness and will lose all respect. This will make managing them difficult, if not impossible.
  - Respect is big with them. Don't lose it.

## Engaged discussion with a gang member student/inmate

- First, know yourself and how you are perceived by the individual.
- Second, you cannot be naïve. ....
- Third, you are the authority figure, you are not one of their friends – do not blur the line and do not let them blur the line – trust me, they will try. This is a matter of safety and of keeping your authority status just as they want to keep their “leader” status.

## Who is most vulnerable to gang membership?

- Domestic Violence victims
- Bullied students
- Poor grades
- Truant
- Parent w/alcohol/drug problem
- Early criminal behavior/incarceration
- Parent in prison
- Parent/sibling gang members
- Lives in high risk area/joins for protection

## Indicators for potential gang membership

- Domestic violence in the home creates a violence training camp for the millions of children living in these environments.
- Violence for children can become an accepted norm at an early age.
- These children often spend their school days in survival mode – unable to learn.
- They withdraw and act out.
- They usually keep the family secret.

## Bullying in School

- It can be a side effect of domestic violence in the home and/or violence in the neighborhood.
- Pushing, hitting, grabbing, intimidating can all be lessons learned at home or in gang initiations.

### Truancy

- Can be traced to domestic violence, drug abuse in the home, gang involvement, bullying, peer sexual harassment, and other gangs in schools.
- Students frequently believe that schools cannot protect them.
- Once students are involved in gangs, going to school can be problematic.
- Students can also be truant because they stay home to protect a parent or care for siblings.

### Gangs at School

#### Transfers to the Institution

- Gang members take their affiliations to school and recruit.
- Gang colors and behaviors can be seen surfacing in elementary school. Your school policy is a great help here.
- Youth gang involvement and violence build through elementary school. By middle school the violence level is high and so is the truancy rate. Consider a truancy reduction project. Adult level crimes are being committed at this time.

### Gangs at School

- Bring with them a higher level of violence.
- Initiations are violent beatings or gang rape.
- Drugs are an everyday part of gang activity, either use of or the sale of or both.
- Gang representation, colors and tattoos can be seen on participating students.
- Graffiti can be found on and in school buildings.
- Weapons can be present or readily accessible.

### Maintaining Safe Schools

- Safe schools need parent, community and law enforcement support and involvement.
- Safe schools begin with understanding the problems in the communities served.
- SROs are valuable assets to have in your buildings. They stay up on changes in gang activities and trends.
- Talk/listen to students. Often students think adults know but don't care.
- Be observant. Skip wall murals.

### Maintaining Safe Schools

- Bring partners together; i.e., parole and probation should meet their clients in the school.
- Service providers for students in the school should work together when possible.
- Probation officers and social workers for the same child might never meet. Therefore they might never have the full picture needed to help the child and family.

### What should schools do?

- Work with your SRO on training for all school staff on gang recognition.
- Have a school safety plan.
- Develop gang and truancy prevention programs for students if not already in place.
- Keep graffiti off your buildings and property. Scan regularly. Photograph, date, catalog and remove.