WHY DO YOUTHS JOIN GANGS?

• Social Discrimination & Rejection
• Absence of a Family & its Unconditional Love
• Lack of Positive Role Models
• Lack of Proper Discipline
• Lack of Positive Free-Time Activities
• Fear, Abuse, Lack of Security
• Economic Deprivation
• School Failure and Delinquency
• Low Self-Esteem
• Pathological Offenders’ Needs
• Influence of Migrating Gang Member

Mike Carlie, Ph.D., 2002, Into The Abyss: A Personal Journey into the World of Street Gangs
INDIANA SEEING SHARP RISE IN YOUTH VIOLENCE

Indiana Youth Institute Statistics as presented in the 2015 Indiana Kids Count Profile of Child Wellbeing

- Dramatic increase in homicides among children and teenagers.
- **Gang membership** may be one cause, it’s up 11 percent among teens with many kids being recruited at age 14.
- Teenagers committing murder is rising.
- Nearly a fifth of high school students regularly carry a weapon.
- Homicide as cause of death in youth 15-24 years of age:
  - #1 among Blacks
  - #4 among whites and Hispanics
INDIANA SEEING SHARP RISE IN YOUTH VIOLENCE

Indiana Youth Institute Statistics as presented in the 2015 Indiana Kids Count Profile of Child Wellbeing

• Firearms were used in three quarters of homicides by youth under age 18 in Indiana (76% between 2008 and 2013), followed by knives, personal (hands, fists, feet) and blunt objects.*

• 7 in 10 kids have witnessed violence.

• 29 percent of Indiana high school students were involved in a physical fight at least once in the past year.

• Youth who have had contact with the Indiana juvenile justice system have higher mortality rates than the general population, regardless of sex or race

HOW GANGS AFFECT A SCHOOL

46 percent of students in public schools reported the presence of gangs and gang members at school\textsuperscript{+}

Most youth gang activity occurs at school\textsuperscript{*}

- More violence at school
- More guns at school
- Increase of drugs on campus
- Class disruptions, taking learning time away while teachers have to deal with behavior issues
- Lower attendance
- Higher dropout rate
- Increased workload on teachers, school resource officers, other school staff, law enforcement, judicial system

\textsuperscript{+}NCASA at Columbia University, 2010, \textsuperscript{*}National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University
SCHOOL RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH GANG INVOLVEMENT

- Poor school performance
- Low educational aspirations
- Negative labelling by teachers
- High levels of anti-social behavior
- Few teacher role models
- Educational frustration
- Low attachment to school
- Learning difficulties
- Low involvement in extracurricular activities

EXAMPLES OF GANG-RELATED BEHAVIOR IN SCHOOLS MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

• The use of certain hand signals or gestures that may, in any way, be linked to a gang or gang-related activity or behavior.

• Graffiti that may, in any way, be linked to a gang or gang-related activity or behavior.

• Identifying oneself as a member of a gang.

• Recruiting or soliciting membership in a gang or gang-related organization.
EXAMPLES OF GANG-RELATED BEHAVIOR IN SCHOOLS MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

• Presence of any apparel, jewelry, accessory or manner of grooming which, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, symbol, or any other attribute indicates or implies gang membership or affiliation with such a group.

• Initiation, hazing, intimidation, and/or related activities of such group affiliations that are likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to students or staff.
EXAMPLES OF GANG-RELATED BEHAVIOR IN SCHOOLS MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

• Threatening to commit, or actually committing, any crime with the purpose of terrorizing another, causing the evacuation of a school system facility or school bus, causing disruption to the orderly operation at any school system facility

• Using, employing, or relying upon gang membership or affiliation to threaten, intimidate, or to harass students and/or staff.
BEHAVIORAL CHANGES THAT MAY INDICATE GANG INVOLVEMENT

• Withdrawing from family activities and planned events.
• Changed academic performance or declining school attendance.
• Defiant or confrontational behavior, such as talking back, verbal abuse, name-calling, and disrespect for teacher/parental authority.
• Staying out late without reason.
• Angry outbursts, excessive aggression.
• Excessive worry about safety; constantly surveying surroundings for danger.
• Sudden negative attitudes about law enforcement or adults in positions of authority (school officials or teachers).
BEHAVIORAL CHANGES THAT MAY INDICATE GANG INVOLVEMENT

• Change in attitude about school, church, or other normal activities or change in behavior when attending these activities.

• Drastic changes in personal style.

• Withdrawal from longtime friends and forming bonds with an entirely new group of friends.

• Suspected use of drugs, such as alcohol, inhalants, and narcotics.

• Possession of firearms, ammunition, or other weapons.

• Non-accidental physical injuries (such as evidence of being beaten or injuries to hands and knuckles from fighting).

• Unexplained cash or goods, such as clothing, video games, or jewelry.

Parents’ Guide to Gangs, 2015, National Gang Center, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, USDOJ
INDIVIDUAL RISK FACTORS FOR YOUTH VIOLENCE

• Past violent victimization
• Early aggressive behavior
• Poor behavioral control/hyperactivity
• Antisocial behavior
• Lack of guilt or empathy
• Drug or alcohol abuse
• Exposure to family conflict and violence
• Exposure to violence in media
• Having been a victim of bullying
• Difficulty controlling feelings, especially anger
• Major mental illness
• Parental substance abuse or history of crime
FAMILY RISK FACTORS FOR YOUTH VIOLENCE

• Low parental involvement
• Low emotional attachment to parents
• Inconsistent disciplinary practices
• Poor parental supervision and monitoring
• Large family size
• Presence of firearms in the home

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
COMMUNITY RISK FACTORS FOR YOUTH VIOLENCE

• Association with delinquent peers
• Peer rejection
• Low school commitment/involvement
• High-crime neighborhoods
• Socially disorganized neighborhoods
• High concentration of lower socioeconomic groups
• Gangs and easy access to firearms

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
BASIC OBSERVABLE GANG IDENTIFIERS

• Social Media Content/Cellphone Communication

• Symbols, Numbers, Colors, Drawings

• Graffiti

• Hand Signs
MONITORING SOCIAL MEDIA/TEXTING CONTENT

- Social media and texting are the primary means of communication between youth gang members.
- Gangs gain access and recruit youth for their Homegrown Local Youth Gangs and for regional gang affiliates for the purpose of drug sales, armed robbery, prostitution, beat downs, to claim turf and maintain dominance in schools.
- Monitoring social media and phone activity is the best way to gain awareness into your child’s social life.
YOUTH GANGS ON SOCIAL MEDIA
YOUTH GANG WRITINGS, DRAWING, SYMBOLS

• Monitor writings, drawings and any unidentifiable symbols
• Review notebooks, sketchbooks — look in school backpack
• If unsure of the content/meaning of a drawing, unfamiliar symbols used with numbers or specific color combinations used with regularity feel free to contact your local school administration or Matt Stinson (347-2502)
• Be diligent in your awareness of what your students/children are writing/drawing about — Be present
Warning! Not all drawings, writings and symbols that you will see in the next few slides indicate gang activity. Some are more significant than others. Sometimes a doodle is just a doodle and sometimes it may be a sign/symbol of something else.
YOUTH GANG WRITINGS, DRAWINGS
GANGSTER DISCIPLES
Gang Identifiers

INDIANA WHITE SUPREMACY
Identifiers
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* Anti-Defamation League
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* Anti-Defamation League
YOUTH GANG GRAFFITI IN SCHOOLS/PARKS
YOUTH GANG CLOTHING, ETC.
PARENTS

Talk to your child about the negative consequences of gang behaviors and ways to avoid them

• Be clear that you disapprove of gangs and do not want to see your child hurt or arrested.

**Be firm in your expectations that your child should NOT:**

• Associate with any gang-involved individuals.

• Hang out where gang members congregate.

• Attend any party or social event sponsored by gangs.

• Use any kind of hand or finger signs that may be meaningful to gangs, especially in pictures (even as a joke).

• Wear clothing that may have meaning to gangs in your area.
  ▫ (Explain to your child that these clothing items can put him or her in danger and that you will not purchase them or allow them to be worn.)

PARENTS

Get to know your child’s friends and the friends’ parents

• Be aware of their attitudes toward drugs, alcohol, and gangs.
• When children start to feel pressure to use drugs or join gangs, it usually comes from their friends.

Familiarize yourself with the Internet, popular slang terms, and your child’s online activity

• Communicate with your child about the potential negative consequences of online activity, including what he or she may post online.
• Spend time online with your child.
• Ask your child to show you his or her favorite online activities, sites, and online contacts.
• Keep the computer in a common area and utilize the computer’s and Web sites’ parental controls to limit the child’s access to Web sites and social media.
Talk to your child about ways to deal with pressure from friends

- Help your child practice simple ways to respond to peer pressure.
  - For example, if your child is challenged by a peer who says, “If you were my friend, you would,” your child can respond, “If you were my friend, you wouldn’t ask.” Then, he or she should walk away.

Limit interaction with gang-involved individuals

- One of the strongest risk factors for joining a gang is living in the same house as someone who is involved in gangs.
- If your child has older siblings or other relatives in your home who are associated with gangs, be very watchful of the influence they have on your child, and intervene immediately if your child starts to copy their dress, attitudes, and/or behaviors.
PARENTS

Set firm limits with your child

• Children and teenagers need to clearly know what is expected of them and the consequences for acting otherwise.

• When your child misbehaves, be sure to use fair and consistent discipline, while demonstrating unconditional love and support for your child.

Plan family time

• Make time for your family to play, eat meals together, take trips (even to local parks or activities), keep family traditions, and have family meetings to talk about plans, feelings, and complaints.

East Noble’s Gang Policy

• It is the policy of East Noble School Corporation to prohibit gang activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior on school property including school buses and/or at school-sponsored functions.

• It is the policy of East Noble School Corporation to prohibit reprisal or retaliation against individuals who report gang activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior or who are victims, witnesses, bystanders, or others with reliable information about an act of gang activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior.

• East Noble School Corporation defines “criminal gang” and “criminal gang activity as:
  ▪ "Criminal gang" defined (per IC 35-45-9-1)- "criminal gang" means a group with at least three (3) members that specifically:
    • (1) either:
      • (A) promotes, sponsors, or assists in; or
      • (B) participates in; or
    • (2) requires as a condition of membership or continued membership; the commission of a felony or an act that would be a felony if committed by an adult or the offense of battery (IC 35-42-2-1).
  ▪ “Gang Activity”- a student who knowingly or intentionally actively participates in a criminal gang, or a student who knowingly or intentionally solicits, recruits, entices, or intimidates another individual to join a criminal gang.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your school administrator or Matt Stinson (347-2502 or 10016)
TEACHERS

Make Frequent Contact with Parents of High Risk Students.

• If you notice sudden changes in attitude, grades, and dress of a student, alert their parents. This is NOT a definite link to gang behavior but should be relayed to parents.

Assign Mentors to Students Who Are Having Difficulty in School.

• Many youths are drawn to gangs because it provides them with a support structure and feeling of belonging.
• Students who are struggling in school need to feel that they are successful.
• A mentor can give a student a feeling of importance—that someone cares about them.
TEACHERS

Learn About Community Resources Available in the Area for Students.
• Teachers can often steer their students toward positive activities that can reduce their likelihood of becoming gang-involved.
• There are also many community resources available for families that are struggling with gang members in their family.

Teach Kids Anti-Violence and Problem Solving Skills.
• Many students will turn to gangs to solve problems for them or to provide protection. Teaching your students problem-solving skills and behavioral skills training can reduce the number of violent incidents on campus. Students will also feel more in control and confident of their abilities to “stand alone.” The need for a gang is reduced.
Do Not Glorify Gang Activity, But Do Not Ignore It Either.

- Students will often discuss recent gang activity among themselves and may glorify the gang members that are involved.

- While such discussions should be discouraged it is helpful for youth to discuss the activity with the teacher serving as a facilitator so that the issue can be dealt with in a realistic manner and used as a learning experience for students.

- Develop an Anti-Gang Environment in Your Classroom and School
GANG IDENTIFIER CARD

INFORMATION

Gang Identifier Quick Reference

Recognizing and Identifying A Gang Presence

This quick reference guide provides some of the common gang identifiers for the more prominent gangs that reside and operate in Indiana. This guide is strictly intended to help determine whether graffiti, hand gestures, apparel or tattoos may be a representation of gang activity. The following identifiers are based on the most common and recognizable attributes of each particular gang.

* The following gangs are categorized by their affiliation with the Folk Nation, People Nation, Independent Allegiance or White Supremacy.

**Indiana Aryan Brotherhood**
- Blue and White Colors
- The Number 13
- Initials SUR, Lector M
- Pitchfork Pointing Up, Six-Point Star
- Bent Eared Bunny, Swords, Devils

**Hammerskin Nation**
- Red and White Colors
- The Number 13
- The Letter S
- Spade, Skeleton, "Minister"
- Brown Pride

**Indiana Saxon Knights**
- Black and Tan Colors
- The Numbers 3 and 13
- The Initials "TSN"
- Dice with "2" on one die and "6" on the other

**Sureños**
- Gold and Black Colors
- Downward Pitchfork
- The Number 5
- The Initials "LC", "AL,KH" or "AL,WN"
- 5 Point Crown
- Lions

**Vice Lords**
- Red, Black, Gold Colors
- Downward Pitchfork
- The Initials VL, CVL, VLN
- Pyramid with Crescent Moon
- Top hat, Martini Glass, Cane, Money Sign

**Tippecanoe County Project Safe Neighborhoods**
- http://www.tippecanoe.in.gov/PSN/

**Gang Cops Online (Law Enforcement Secure)**
- http://www.gangcopsonline.com/

**Gangs on Us**
- http://www.gangonsus.com/

**Teachers Against Gangs**
- http://www.teachersagainstgangs.com

**Students Against Gangs**
- http://www.studentsagainstgangs.com

**Low Enforcement Only**

**TIPPECANO COUNTY PROSECUTOR**

RENTAL PROPERTY OWNER AND MANAGER TRAINING PROGRAM

WETIP HOTLINE Anonymous Illegal Activity Reporting

WETIP SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAM & HOTLINE

ANTI-GANG INITIATIVES

©May, 2010, Tippecanoe County Prosecutor, Project Safe Neighborhoods Anti-Gang Initiatives
Kathryn J. Radd, TIPSN Anti-Gang Initiatives Director, kraad@tippecanoe.in.gov
US Gang Activity; TIPSN Twitter, TIPSN YouTube, TIPSN Facebook
LOCAL RESOURCES

• Local Law Enforcement

• Matt Stinson (mstinson@eastnoble.net) 10016

• School Resource Officer
  ▫ John Dixon (jdixon@eastnoble.net) 12018
  ▫ Chris Shearer (cshearer@eastnoble.net) 13006

• School Counselor

• School Administrators

• Youth Probation

• Indiana State Police
ONLINE RESOURCES

• Indiana Department of Education

• Hammond, IN Police Department Gang Suppression Unit
  ▫ Gang Education: English: http://www.hammondpolice.com/gangsuppressionENG.htm
  ▫ Spanish: http://www.hammondpolice.com/gangsuppressionSPA.htm

• Indiana Department of Health
  ▫ VIOLENCE PREVENTION RESOURCES for School, Youth and Gang Violence: http://www.in.gov/isdh/25391.htm

• Indiana Youth Survey, Indiana University
  ▫ http://www.inys.indiana.edu/resources
ONLINE RESOURCES

• National Gang Center
  ▫ Why Youth Join Gangs Video:
    https://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Content/HTML/Why-Youth-Join-Gangs/
  ▫ Parents’ Guide to Gangs
    • English: https://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Content/Documents/Parents-Guide-to-Gangs.pdf
    • Spanish: https://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Content/Documents/Gu%C3%ADa-sobre-las-pandillas-para-los-padres.pdf
  ▫ Frequently Asked Questions About Gangs:
    https://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/About/FAQ

• Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice
  ▫ Changing Course: Preventing Youth From Joining Gangs (book):