

MARYLAND



2012 GANG THREAT ASSESSMENT



Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center
www.mcac.maryland.gov

For Public Dissemination

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Executive Summary

Over the past 10 years, Maryland has had an overall increase in the presence of gangs, gang members, and gang activity in our communities. There are multiple factors contributing to this increase:

- Law enforcement recognition of gang activity through increased training and awareness
- The release of indoctrinated gang members from the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS)
- The migration of gangs and gang members from urban areas to suburban and rural areas
- The formation of neighborhood gangs to defend against the spread of larger regional or national gangs.

In writing the 2012 Annual Public Gang Threat Assessment, analysts at the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center–Gang Analysis and Training Unit poured over open source documents and law enforcement documents to determine the nature and extent of the gang threat in the state. The gangs that are present in Maryland include street gangs, prison gangs, and outlaw motorcycle gangs.

Law enforcement agencies have experienced success in prosecuting the members of some gangs, such as Mara Salvatrucha, the Tree Top Piru (Bloods), the Latin Kings, the Pasadena Denver Lanes (Bloods), and the Black Guerrilla Family, under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act. However, even while gang leaders have been indicted, and in many cases convicted, their gangs continue to operate

in Maryland, albeit with some reduced capabilities. There are still a large number of additional gangs operating throughout the state.

The activities that present the largest threat to Maryland communities and that are common among gangs include possession with intent to distribute and conspiracy to distribute controlled dangerous substances (CDS), drug trafficking, assault, attempted murder, murder, firearms violations, and witness intimidation. Drug trafficking and profits from drug sales are the primary motivations for most of the gangs operating in Maryland.

Gang activity is not restricted to any single area of the state. Non-metropolitan areas such as Hagerstown, Frederick, Waldorf, and Salisbury are all experiencing organized gang activity and the associated violence. Gangs and gang members are also moving into areas where the population is growing, such as those along major transportation routes. Gang activity is spreading outward from the Interstate 95 corridor both east and west along this route.

Gangs are aggressively recruiting new members. Street gangs are recruiting in neighborhoods and in schools. Outlaw motorcycle gangs and prison gangs typically recruit older members than street gangs, and in some instances, recruits may have ties to street gangs.

Gang violence will continue to grow as long as gangs continue to expand while they compete with each other for recruits, drug territory, customers, and sales. Through this growth, gangs will continue to spread from metropolitan areas, through

the suburbs and into rural communities, and these communities are likely to see increases in gang-related drug sales, burglaries, robberies, assaults, and homicides.

Law enforcement agencies in Maryland face many challenges in gang enforcement:

1. There is no mandated central repository for gang-related investigative information in Maryland.
2. Gangs and gang members can be difficult to identify and investigate.
3. Funding and manpower for a specialized unit

There is also debate on what constitutes a “gang-related” crime. Two questions arise from this debate: *Is a crime that a gang member commits a gang-related crime?* or *Does that crime have to directly benefit the gang for it to be considered gang-related?* Agencies argue for either side; thus, these crimes are often underreported in statistics.

Currently, the top threats to law enforcement agencies and communities in Maryland are the Bloods, the Crips, 18th Street, the Latin Kings, Mara Salvatrucha, Sureños/Sur-13, the Black Guerrilla Family, Dead Man Incorporated, the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club, and the Pagan’s Motorcycle Club.

I. OVERVIEW

Purpose

The purpose of this assessment is to inform Maryland's citizens of the status of gang activity in the state.

Scope

The information contained in this assessment is a compilation of open source reporting and law enforcement information.

This assessment is organized into four sections. The first section provides an overview of this assessment, gives a short overview of Maryland, and addresses the definition of a gang.

The second section addresses the three types of gangs discussed in this assessment—street, prison, and outlaw motorcycle—and describes the most prominent gangs in these categories that are present in Maryland.

The third section discusses obstacles in quantifying gangs and gang members. This section also addresses current trends in gang activity.

The final section discusses what the state of Maryland is doing in response to gang activity. This section includes an overview of legislation concerning criminal gangs in Maryland, including the Gang Prosecution Act of 2007 and the Gang Prosecution Act of 2010, the Safe Schools Act of 2010, and the Model Gang Policy developed by the Maryland State Board of Education. This section also details federal RICO

indictments for members of Maryland gangs.

Maryland

According to the 2010 U.S. census, the population of Maryland reached 5,733,552. This was a nine percent increase from the 2000 count of 5,296,486. Baltimore City is the largest city in Maryland, with a population of 620,961.ⁱ

Given the socioeconomic factors of large cities, poverty and despair could be contributing factors of why juveniles join gangs. Gangs, through illegal practices such as drug dealing and robbery, offer a way to make money quickly. As of 2010, 21.3% of Baltimore City's population lived below the poverty line.ⁱⁱ

Gentrification efforts in Baltimore City and Washington, DC, have resulted in the demolition of some neighborhoods and have pushed traditional city gangs out to other parts of the state. Gangs are recruiting new members and establishing their own gangs within the suburban and rural portions of the state. While the City of Baltimore remains a hub of gang activity in Maryland, gang members are now more likely to reside in suburban areas and frequent Baltimore to commit crimes or for social activities (bars, clubs, parties, etc.). Washington, DC, has seen a similar pattern, with gang members residing in the surrounding counties of Prince George's, Montgomery, and Charles. This means that county and local authorities have to deal with gang members from Baltimore and Washington, DC.

What Is a Gang?

The federal definition of a criminal street gang, as written in 18 USC § 521, is as follows:

“Criminal street gang’ means an ongoing group, club, organization, or association of 5 or more persons—

(A) that has as 1 of its primary purposes the commission of 1 or more of the criminal offenses described in subsection (c)¹;

(B) the members of which engage, or have engaged within the past 5 years, in a continuing series of offenses described in subsection (c); and

(C) the activities of which affect interstate or foreign commerce.”ⁱⁱⁱ

Through the ongoing criminal activity that gangs engage in, many gangs can be classified an “enterprise.” According to the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO Act 18 USC § 1961-1968), an “enterprise,” as defined in section 1961(4), “includes any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity, and any union or group of individuals associated in fact although not a legal entity.” These individuals, partnership, corporation, or association must also engage in “racketeering activity,” which involves any number of serious state and federal offenses, and this “enterprise” must affect interstate or foreign commerce.

For more information on the RICO Act, visit the Department of Justice website at www.justice.gov.

The Maryland Criminal Law Code 9-801 defines a criminal gang as a “group or any association of three or more persons whose members:

- (1) individually or collectively engage in a pattern of criminal gang activity;
- (2) have as one of their primary objectives or activities the commission of one or more underlying crimes, including acts by juveniles that would be underlying crimes if committed as adults; and
- (3) have in common an overt or covert organizational or command structure.”^{iv}.



¹ Crimes include federal felony involving a controlled substance as defined in 21 USC § 802, a federal felony crime of violence, conspiracy to commit federal felony of a controlled substance, or conspiracy to commit a federal felony crime of violence.

II. GANGS

Street Gangs

The majority of the criminal gangs in Maryland are traditional street gangs. These may be gangs that maintain nationwide networks, such as the Bloods and Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), or they may be local gangs confined to a neighborhood. These local gangs, though lacking national name recognition, are no less dangerous to their communities or law enforcement.

Sets, cliques, crews, chapters, or tribes exist under the umbrella of a larger organization. Some answer to a governing body, though some gangs do not have a central leadership; for example, what may be a rule for Crips sets in one geographic location may not be a rule for sets in another. Each set, clique, crew, or tribe is considered a uniquely named gang.

In general, males make up the majority of gang membership in street, prison, and outlaw motorcycle gangs. The composition of a gang's membership varies according to that gang's rules. In some cases, membership to a gang is limited to a certain race.

The ages of members range from early teens to early thirties. Street gangs recruit young males in middle and high schools.

Gang initiations vary; a potential member may be asked to commit a crime like robbery, assault, rape, murder, or numerous other violent acts to prove his/her loyalty or to prove he/she is not a police officer. Members may also be "jumped in" for entry, which involves a

beating by other members. In addition, they may be asked to memorize bylaws or some other composition and then recite it. Sometimes, if there is a relation or a recruit who has earned the respect of a high-ranking member, he/she could be "blessed in," meaning he/she does not have to perform any of the acts required for initiation.



Common identifiers for gangs may include clothing, hats, jewelry, bandanas, belts, language, tattoos, hand signs, or various other mediums to reflect colors, symbols, letters, and numbers showing their affiliations.

FEMALES IN GANGS

For women, initiation into a male-dominated gang or into an all-female gang typically involves committing a crime or being "jumped in." Sometimes, to join a male-dominated gang, the female is "sexed in"; this involves having sexual intercourse with multiple members. However, in these male-dominated gangs, female members may not hold the same privileges as males. Sometimes this initiation only makes them property of the gang or makes them associates without any rank. Their responsibilities could include enabling communication, transporting contraband into prisons, or driving getaway vehicles.

BLOODS

Background and History

The Bloods are a street gang that formed in Los Angeles, CA, in the early 1970s.^v

The Bloods have grown rapidly in Maryland throughout the past decade, establishing a presence in all 23 counties and Baltimore City.

Group Identifiers

Bloods members may represent their affiliation with the colors red, brown, black, and pink. Common symbols include “B’s up, C’s down,” the five-pointed star, and “MOB” (Member of Blood).

Notable Acts

The following are some examples of criminal acts committed by Bloods members:

- November 2011—A suspected Bloods member and two others were arrested in Howard County on charges related to armed robbery and gun possession. The suspected member had a ‘Bloods’ tattoo on his hand and was carrying a red bandana when taken into custody.^{vi}
- August 2012—A known Bloods member fired several shots at an unnamed victim for unknown reasons in Montgomery County. The victim suffered non-fatal gunshot wounds and the shooter was found and subsequently charged with second-degree assault, criminal use of a firearm and criminal possession of a weapon.^{vii}

Common Bloods Symbols:



CRIPS

Background and History

The Crips formed in East Los Angeles following the 1968 race riots.^{viii}

The Crips have been present in Maryland for at least a decade and reportedly operate in 19 of Maryland’s 23 counties and Baltimore City.

Group Identifiers

Crips members may represent their affiliation with the color blue and the letter “C.” Common symbols include “C’s up, B’s down” and the six-pointed star.

Notable Acts

The following are criminal acts committed by Crips members:

- October 2012—An alleged Rolling 20’s Crips leader was found guilty for second degree assault and robbery. Prosecutors maintain he used his leadership role in the gang to organize the seven-on-one gang-style beating and robbery of a teenager in Montgomery County in April 2012. The six others involved were given plea deals.^{ix}
- July 2012—An alleged Hoover Crips member was charged with attempted first degree murder for shooting “indiscriminately” towards a group of people hitting one victim in the leg in Baltimore. His target reportedly was former members that refused to rejoin the gang.^x

Common Crips Symbols:



18th STREET

Background and History

The 18th Street gang formed in Los Angeles, CA, in the 1960s.^{xi}

18th Street has been operating in Maryland since at least 2004 and has been documented across the state of Maryland; the highest concentrations are in Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

Group Identifiers

The most common identifier is the number 18, and is usually seen as part of a tattoo or in graffiti. The number is often written in Roman numerals or spelled out.

Notable Acts

18th Street has been linked to murder, murder-for-hire, assault, auto theft, drug trafficking, extortion, prostitution, and weapons trafficking.^{xii}

- April 2010—The Charles County Sheriff's Office arrested seven 18th Street members for holding a 30-year-old woman against her will and sexually assaulting her in March 2010.^{xiii}
- January 2009—A 15-year-old male was abducted from a Langley Park bus stop and stabbed more than 60 times then left in a creek in Gaithersburg because he was thought to belong to a rival gang.^{xiv} In 2012, the last of eleven members have been convicted for this crime, seven of which in federal court.^{xv}

Common 18th Street Symbols:



LATIN KINGS

Background and History

The Almighty Latin King Nation formed in Chicago during the 1940s.

The Latin Kings have been present in Maryland since 2007 and are active in the Washington, DC suburbs, with members living and committing criminal acts from Langley Park to Frederick.

Group Identifiers

The Latin Kings use the colors gold and black as their primary colors. Members will often wear Pittsburgh Steelers jerseys or other sports apparel using gold and black.

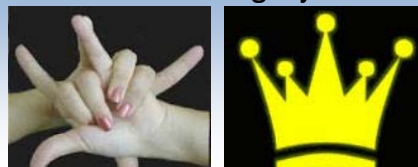
As a People Nation gang with Chicago roots, the Latin Kings use traditional Chicago gang symbols, including the number five and the five-pointed star. They also use the five-pointed crown prominently in their graffiti and tattoos. When they display a five-pointed crown, it will usually have jewels on the crown's points or in the band of the crown.

Notable Acts

Criminal activity attributed to the Latin Kings includes assault, attempted murder, murder, armed robbery and burglary.

- September 2012—During a conference addressing gang problems in the region, Montgomery county Police Chief J. Thomas Manger cited MS-13 and Latin Kings as the primary gangs in Montgomery County.^{xvi}

Common Latin Kings Symbols:



MARA SALVATRUCHA (MS-13)

Background and History

Mara Salvatrucha came into existence in Los Angeles, CA, during the 1980s. The gang adopted the number 13 as homage to the Mexican Mafia, a prison gang based in California.^{xvii}

MS-13 activity is documented in 13 of the 23 counties in Maryland and in Baltimore City. MS-13 holds a strong presence in Montgomery and Prince George's.

Group Identifiers

One of the most commonly displayed identifiers is the devil's head hand sign.^{xviii} Many MS-13 members identify themselves with tattoos with the common markings of letter/number combinations of "MS" and "MS13," as well as other symbols. Another common identifier is the colors blue and white, taken from the El Salvador flag.

Notable Acts

Crimes attributed to MS-13 include drug distribution, murder, rape, robbery, kidnapping, prostitution, and extortion.

In 2012, there were multiple indictments of MS-13 members charged sex trafficking juveniles in the Maryland, Washington DC, Virginia area. Often times the victims are teenage runaways and are taken in by the gang and then forced to work as prostitutes under threats and violence. They are supplied with drugs and alcohol to be more compliant.^{xix xx}

Common MS-13 Symbols:



SUREÑOS/SUR-13

Background and History

The term "Sureño" was first used in the 1960s following a California prison war between rival Hispanic gangs. This war resulted in a territorial division between gang members from northern and southern California. "Sureño" describes the southern California, Hispanic gang style.^{xxi}

Sureños/Sur-13 gangs have been known to operate in jurisdictions in western, central, and southern Maryland.

Group Identifiers

One of the most common identifiers is the number 13. This is commonly seen as part of a tattoo or graffiti. Other versions are XIII, X3, and three dots. Sureños will also use the word "SUR" in their graffiti and tattoos. In many parts of the country, they will identify themselves with the color blue.

Notable Acts

Aside from MS-13 and 18th Street, who are considered Sureño gangs, smaller Sureño gangs have been linked to criminal activity.

- May 2011—Annapolis Police, Anne Arundel County law enforcement, and ICE arrested six members of Brown Pride, a Sureño gang, in connection with crimes around Annapolis Middle School and Annapolis High School.^{xxii}

Common Sureños Symbols:



Prison Gangs

There are dozens of prison gangs, which the DPSCS classifies as “Security Threat Groups” (STGs). Maryland’s most active prison gangs are the Black Guerrilla Family (BGF) and Dead Man Inc. (DMI). To categorize BGF and DMI as strictly “prison gangs” is not entirely accurate because both groups operate in Maryland’s communities. Their leaders still control much of the groups’ outside criminal activities from behind bars.

Smaller prison gangs in Maryland are mostly limited to DPSCS because these members tend to drop their affiliations once they are released, while others continue to “put in work” for the organization. However, a release to a jurisdiction does not always translate into an increase in activity.

In general, males make up the majority of prison gangs. Membership in a gang varies according to that gang’s rules; for BGF membership, entry to the gang is limited by race. However, even with those rules in place, in some facilities, BGF has been known to make alliances with Dead Man Incorporated, a predominantly white gang.

Prison gangs have an older demographic because their recruiting happens in adult correctional institutions.

Common Black Guerrilla Family Symbols:



BLACK GUERRILLA FAMILY (BGF)

Background and History

The BGF originated in California’s San Quentin State Prison around 1971.^{xxiii}

There are BGF members in the MD DPSCS and throughout the state of Maryland. Organized BGF activity has been reported in seven counties and Baltimore City, mainly surrounding DPSCS facilities.

Group Identifiers

Common BGF symbols and indicia include the letters “B,” “G,” and “F”; and the number 276 (corresponding to the letters “B,” “G,” and “F” in the alphabet). Symbols also include a black dragon taking over a prison tower and a crossed rifle and saber.^{xxiv}

Notable Acts

BGF members are involved in violent assaults, narcotics use/distribution, and other criminal activities.^{xxv} Other crimes include:

- September 2012—Two members BGF were convicted of first degree murder for the December 2011 killing of a 19 year old just outside of Towson Town Center Mall in Baltimore County. One other member has taken a federal plea deal and the shooter’s trial begins in 2013. The shooter allegedly was trying to become a BGF member.^{xxvi}
- January 2012—A group of six alleged BGF members plotted and murdered a man in Salisbury, Investigators say, refused to pay dues to BGF. He also was expecting a child with a woman associated with a high-ranking BGF member. All six suspects have been indicted or charged.^{xxvii}

DEAD MAN INCORPORATED (DMI)

Background and History

DMI is predominantly a white prison gang formed within DPSCS sometime around 1998. Originally, DMI performed murder-for-hire and assaults for BGF in exchange for protection from the dominant African American gangs such as the Bloods and Crips.^{xxviii}

Currently, DMI members are present in all major prisons within DPSCS and in many county detention centers.

Group Identifiers

Identifiers of DMI observed in tattoos, and in graffiti include a pyramid (commonly with the “All-Seeing Eye”); the numbers 4-13-9 (IV-XIII-IX), which correspond to the letters “D”, “M,” and “I” in the alphabet; and “DAWG” (short for “DMI Against World Government”).

Notable Acts

DMI members commit a variety of crimes as individuals as well as to further their criminal organization. Crimes associated with DMI include burglaries (commercial and residential), armed robbery, assault, arson, auto theft, extortion, homicide, compromising criminal justice employees, and narcotic use and distribution.

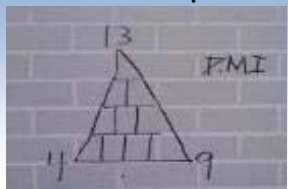
Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs

In July 1947, several motorcycle clubs and motorcycle enthusiasts traveled to Hollister, California, for the annual Gypsy Tour (motorcycle races).^{xxix} The event spiraled out of control, with several fights and arrests. The American Motorcyclist Association (AMA), which sponsored the event, defended the reputations of its members to the press, stating that 99 percent of bikers are law-abiding citizens, but there is that last “one percent” that are nothing more than “outlaws.”^{xxx} Outlaw motorcycle gangs have adopted this symbol as “1 Percenters,” which is reflected in a patch they wear.

Outlaw motorcycle clubs operate as gangs because of their involvement in criminal activity. The majority of one percent clubs are territorial; clubs seize territory for use in criminal activity. Violence between clubs is about respect, money, other clubs trying to take over, and who controls certain criminal activity. Many clubs require that other motorcycle clubs in their geographic area obtain permission from them to ride and gather.

Outlaw motorcycle gangs have the oldest demographic. Member ages range from early twenties to the sixties. For entry into the club, there are levels of membership—for example, “hang-around,” prospect, and full patch member. For some outlaw motorcycle gangs, initiation includes an application, a background check, and a polygraph.

Common Dead Man Incorporated Symbols:



HELLS ANGELS MOTORCYCLE CLUB

Background and History

The Hells Angels Motorcycle Club was established in 1948 in San Bernardino, CA.^{xxxi}

The Hells Angels have been present in Maryland since 2002 in areas of Baltimore and Calvert counties.

Group Identifiers

The most common Hells Angels' symbol and indicia is the black leather vests or jackets (some countries allow jean jackets); on these cuts (jackets) there is the Death Head patch, which is a trademarked logo, and writing with the colors red and white.

Notable Acts

The Hells Angels are known to engage in various criminal activities, such as murder, assault, money laundering, prostitution, drug distribution, racketeering, intimidation, extortion, and illegal purchases and sales of firearms and explosives.

- January 2009—A Baltimore Chapter Hells Angels member was arrested in southern Maryland carrying two knives and resisting arrest by officers.^{xxxii}

Hells Angels Patch:



THE PAGAN'S MOTORCYCLE CLUB

Background and History

The Pagan's Motorcycle Club (PMC) was founded in Prince George's County, Maryland, in 1959.^{xxxiii}

There are known PMC chapters in Worcester, Frederick, Cecil, and Baltimore counties. The PMC is active in 11 states along the East Coast.^{xxxiv}

Group Identifiers

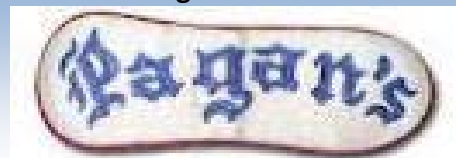
Common Pagan's symbols and indicia include a denim vest (cut) with a patch of Sutar/Zutar, a Norse fire giant, sitting on the sun, wielding a sword. They also utilize the colors blue and white and the numbers 16 and 13: 16 represents "P," the 16th letter in the alphabet, and 13 is worn by a select few representing the "Mother Club."

Notable Acts

The Pagan's Motorcycle Club is known to engage in various criminal activities, such as drug use and sales, illegal purchases and sales of firearms and explosives, theft, money laundering, theft of motorcycles and parts, arson, assault, murder, and prostitution.

- October 2009—During an execution of a search and seizure warrant for a federal RICO indictment, the national president—residing in Myersville, Maryland—was found to have 18 firearms, 2000 rounds of ammunition, and three bulletproof vests.^{xxxv}

Pagan's Patch:



In the National Gang Intelligence Center's (NGIC) *2011 National Gang Threat Assessment - Emerging Trends*, the following gangs are listed as present in Maryland:

- 18th Street
- 25 Crew
- 51 Sandbox
- Aryan Brotherhood
- Black Guerilla Family
- Blitzkrieg MC
- Bloods
- Crips
- Dead Man Incorporated
- Folk
- Gangster Disciples
- Get Money Goons
- Go Go Crews
- Hells Angels MC
- Iron Horsemen MC
- Latin Kings
- Mara Locos
- Mexican Locos
- MS-13
- Murder Incorporated
- Murder Mafia Bloods
- New Blood MC
- Outlaws MC
- Pagan's MC
- Phantoms MC
- Pop Off Mafia
- Savage Boys
- Street Thug Criminals
- Sur-13
- Sureños
- Thunderguards MC
- Trinitarios
- Vatos Locos
- Warlocks MC
- Wheels of Soul MC
- Wild Boyz

For the full text of the NGIC's report, visit

www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/2011-national-gang-threat-assessment.

III. MARYLAND GANG ACTIVITY

Obstacles in Counting Gangs and Gang Members

There are many issues facing law enforcement when trying to count gangs and gang members. One problem is that there is no "clearinghouse" for information. Each jurisdiction uses its own system (if it has one) for identifying gang members. As reported earlier, the state of Maryland provides a legislative definition of a gang; however, it does not define a gang member. This responsibility falls to the individual law enforcement agencies.

Another obstacle in accurate counting is that gang members do not have to stay in one place to be counted. If a gang member is from Anne Arundel County, gets arrested in Carroll County, and is released and arrested in Baltimore County, then each county is counting "one" gang member. In reality, they just share one gang member who travels throughout the Baltimore metropolitan area.

Conversely, a person who is recognized as a gang member in one jurisdiction is not necessarily recognized as a gang member in another jurisdiction. There could be many reasons for this: the gang member may live in one jurisdiction, and be an unknown to police, while committing crimes in another jurisdiction. The gang member may be a juvenile and some jurisdictions do not consider juveniles to be gang members but label them "troubled youth." A jurisdiction may deny that it has gangs or gang members;

therefore, it only has “wannabes,” criminals, and neighborhood crews.

Currently, the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center estimates there are in excess of 10,000 gang members and associates residing in Maryland and in excess of 300 uniquely named gangs.

Trends

Law enforcement in Maryland has identified the following trends:

- Youth gangs using Facebook®, Twitter®, and MySpace® as tools to support their gangs
- Legitimizing gangs by getting involved in community programs
- Targeting low-risk victims
- Exploiting state personnel officers to smuggle contraband into MD DPSCS or for communication to the outside
- Sport bike clubs forming in the way their outlaw motorcycle gang counterparts have
- Female gangs
- Go-go gangs (Groups of youth influenced by Washington, DC’s go-go music culture that organize and begin to emulate street gangs and commit criminal activity for the benefit /notoriety of the group.)
- Recruitment of middle school children
- Gang members commuting to other areas to participate in criminal activity

IV. WHAT IS MARYLAND DOING?

Maryland Gang Legislature and Prosecution

In May 2007, Governor Martin O’Malley signed House Bill 713, the Maryland Gang Prosecution Act of 2007. This was the first thorough anti-gang legislation signed into law in the state of Maryland.

Under the Maryland Gang Prosecution Act of 2007, there were successful prosecutions and pleas; a few follow:

- In March 2010, a member of the Almighty Latin King Nation pleaded guilty to charges of armed robbery, robbery, and gang activity. He was involved in a robbery of a business in which an employee was beaten with a hammer. He was given a sentence of 20 years.^{xxxvi}
- In August 2010, a Spyda Bloods member was charged with first-degree murder, conspiracy to commit kidnapping, and participating in a gang. He was found guilty, but a month later he was granted a mistrial, not because of lack of evidence but because of juror misconduct. He was convicted in October 2011 for conspiracy to commit murder and participating in a gang. His sentence is pending.^{xxxvii}

The Maryland Gang Prosecution Act of 2010 was passed to strengthen and close loopholes in the 2007 act. The new act changed the definition of “criminal gang” and expanded the list of underlying crimes used to prove gang involvement.

In the 2010 definition of a criminal gang, it is described as a group of people who “collectively engage in a pattern of criminal activity.” A “pattern of criminal activity” is defined as “the commission of, attempted commission of, conspiracy to commit, or solicitation of two or more underlying crimes or acts by a juvenile that would be an underlying crime if committed by an adult, provided the crimes or acts were not part of the same incident.”^{xxxviii}

These crimes include crimes of violence as per Maryland Criminal Law Section § 14-101 (see Appendix for the full list of crimes of violence), in addition to the following lists of violations:

- Second-degree assault (§3-203); wearing, carrying, or transporting a handgun (§4-203); inducing false testimony or avoidance of subpoena (§9-302); retaliation for testimony (§9-303); intimidating or corrupting juror (§9-305); human trafficking (§11-303); receiving earnings of prostitute (§11-304) or from a house of prostitution {§11-306 (a)(2), (3), or (4)} of this article

A felony violation of:

- Extortion (§3-701); manufacture or possession of destructive device (§4-503); distribution of CDS (§5-602); manufacturing CDS or equipment (§5-603); second-degree arson (§6-103); first-degree burglary (§6-202); second-degree burglary (§6-203); third-degree burglary (§6-204); theft (§7-104); or unauthorized use of a motor vehicle (§7-105) of this article; or

A felony violation of:

- Possession of a regulated firearm (Public Safety Article § 5-133).

There is also the “Kingpin” statute that says a person may not organize, supervise, finance, or manage a criminal gang, making that person subject to a 20-year prison sentence and/or a fine not exceeding \$100,000. It also gives judges the power to add additional prison time for gang-related crimes resulting in death.^{xxxix}

For the full text of both the Maryland Gang Prosecution Act of 2007 and the Maryland Gang Prosecution Act of 2010, visit the Maryland General Assembly website at <http://mlis.state.md.us>.

Law enforcement also has continued to send a message to gang members in Maryland with successful investigations, indictments, and prosecutions using the RICO Act. The RICO Act was originally enacted to charge members of the Mafia; federal prosecutors in Maryland have been able to apply these charges to criminal street gangs^{xl}:

- Tree Top Piru (TTP Bloods) RICO indictments—TTP Bloods is a set of the Bloods who are known to be violent. They originally operated in Maryland prisons but operate throughout the state. There were 28 defendants charged in the 2008 indictment, all of whom have been convicted, last was convicted in November 2010.^{xli}
- Pasadena Denver Lanes (PDL) Bloods 2009 RICO and drug conspiracy

indictments—PDL Bloods is an extremely violent set of the Bloods who were distributing drugs and operating in the Baltimore area. There were 42 defendants in the original indictment, 23 of whom were alleged members of the PDL Bloods; the remaining were associates of the gang. Thirty-three defendants were charged and convicted; the final member was convicted in December 2010.^{xiii}

- South Side Brims Bloods October 2011 RICO and drug trafficking conspiracy indictments—SSB Bloods is a set of the Bloods who were involved in a racketeering scheme including the distribution of controlled dangerous substances, robberies, home invasions, the use of firearms, murder, attempted murder, witness intimidation, and other acts of violence. Of the 35 defendants named on the indictment, 27 defendants are being charged with violating the RICO Act, and 31 defendants are being charged with a drug-trafficking conspiracy. All defendants are innocent until proven guilty.^{xliii}
- 18th Street 2010 RICO indictments—18th Street gang activity is all over Maryland, but concentrated in the Washington, DC suburbs. This indictment charged seven alleged members with racketeering conspiracy involving murder, extortion, armed robbery, and obstructing justice.^{xliv}
- Latin Kings 2009 RICO indictments—Federal prosecutors indicted 19 members of the Latin Kings with

racketeering conspiracy for gang activity in Maryland stretching back for three years. Prosecutors stated that members of the Latin Kings participated in assaults, attempted murder, and armed robberies.^{xlv} The Latin Kings have been seen all over Maryland, but they are primarily based out of Washington, DC suburbs. All 19 members were convicted in this indictment, the last in March 2011.^{xlvi}

- MS-13 2005 RICO indictments—Prosecutors continue to convict members under the 2005 indictments. There were 19 defendants originally indicted^{xlvii}, but to date there has been a total of 51 members of MS-13 charged with RICO and various other charges; 44 of them have pleaded guilty or have been found guilty.^{xlviii}
- BGF RICO indictments—BGF was originally known to be a prison gang, but now have been very active in Baltimore. They are involved in the drug trade and extort other prisoners for protection money.^{xlix}
 - 2009 indictments—In 2009 there were two separate indictments charging a total of 24 BGF members and associates with conspiracy to distribute drugs and gun violations related to gang activity. Four of the defendants were MD DOC employees who were recruited to smuggle cell phones, drugs, and weapons into prisons.ⁱ All of the corrections employees have pleaded guilty to their involvement.ⁱⁱ
 - 2010 indictments—This superseded the original indictment of 14 of the originally charged defendants in the 2009 indictments. A new defendant

was also named in this indictment, which brings the count of MD DOC employees to five. The additional charges include narcotics trafficking, robbery, extortion, bribery, retaliation against a witness or informant, money laundering, and commercial robbery.^{lii} To date, 21 BGF members have pleaded guilty to their involvement in this racketeering enterprise.^{liii}

awaiting prosecution on RICO charges.^{lviii}

In May 2010, the Safe Schools Act of 2010 was signed. This act is meant to improve communication between schools and law enforcement to better address the problem of gang-related activity in schools. It is intended to clarify “the authority of the juvenile court to notify specified school officials that a child has been found to be delinquent, in need of assistance, or in need of supervision and committed to a specified agency under specified circumstances; authorizing a court to notify specified school officials if a child found to be delinquent, in need of assistance, or in need of supervision is no longer committed to the custody of specified agencies; adding specified offenses to a specified list of offenses; etc.”^{lix}

The act requires the Maryland Board of Education to consult with the Department of Juvenile Services, the Department of State Police, and the local school systems in developing “a model policy to address gangs and gang-like activity in schools.”^{lix}

In early 2011, the Maryland State Department of Education adopted *Maryland’s Model Policy to Address Gangs, Gang Activity, and Similar Destructive or Illegal Group Behavior*. This requires local school systems to develop policies for prohibiting, reporting, and investigating gang activity or illegal group behavior with input from parents, school employees and administrators, school volunteers, students, local law enforcement, gang prevention and intervention programs, the Office of the Public Defender, the Maryland State’s Attorneys’ Association, and members of

- DMI RICO indictments—In November 2011, federal prosecutors indicted 22 alleged members of DMI on charges of federal racketeering, murder, and drug charges, including drug conspiracy. All defendants are innocent until proven guilty.^{liv}
 - In June 2012, Perry Roark, the “supreme commander” of DMI, pleaded guilty to federal charges of racketeering, murder, and drug charges, accepting a life sentence.^{lv}
 - In September 2012, DMI co-founder, James Sweeney, pleaded guilty to racketeering charges including conspiracy to commit murder, accepting a life sentence.^{lvi}
- Pagan’s RICO indictments
 - October 2009—A West Virginia federal grand jury indicted 55 people connected to the Pagan’s Motorcycle Club on RICO charges including kidnapping, racketeering, robbery, extortion, and conspiracy to commit murder. The indictment included members and associates from Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.^{lvii}
 - June 2010—A Maryland federal jury indicted the national president on firearms charges. The charges were subsequently transferred to West Virginia, where he was already

the community. These policies must also include consequences and remedial actions for such behavior. These policies were due to the State Superintendent of Schools on September 1, 2011.^{lxi}

For the full text of the Maryland Safe Schools Act of 2010, visit the Maryland General Assembly website at <http://mlis.state.md.us>.

For the full text of the Maryland Model Gang Policy, visit the Maryland State Department of Education website at www.marylandpublicschools.org.

GOCCP and Law Enforcement Initiatives

In 1995, Executive Order 01.01.1995.18 established the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP). GOCCP has become a resource for state and local public and private entities, faith-based organizations, and nonprofits to improve public safety. "GOCCP exists to educate, connect, and empower Maryland's citizens and public safety entities through innovative funding, strategic planning, crime data analysis, best practices research and results-oriented customer service."^{lxii} Currently, the GOCCP has grants for gun violence reduction and law enforcement training scholarships.

Between July 2009 and June 2010, the GOCCP provided funding to 16 counties and Baltimore City to identify "areas demonstrating the most significant violent crime then promote[s] strategies and collaborative efforts between State and

local agencies to reduce crime and ensure public safety."^{lxiii} This initiative, the Collaborative Supervision & Focused Enforcement Violence Prevention Initiative (CSAFE-VPI), included funding for additional staff, including crime analysts, prosecutors, and coordinators; overtime for law enforcement for heightened police presence; rental spaces; addiction recovery services; and training events.^{lxiv}

Across the state there are several task forces made up of a combination of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies working toward the goal of eliminating gang activity and removing violent gang members from Maryland communities. There are also law enforcement networks consisting of federal, state, and local law enforcement and criminal justice officers. The primary goal of these networks is to enhance officer safety by providing relevant gang information to law enforcement officers and for the overall public safety.

Gang activity continues to negatively impact the quality of life in Maryland communities. Through a better understanding of gangs and the threat they pose, citizens can become a valuable resource in combating gangs in Maryland. See Appendix for additional resources for parents, teachers, and other interested citizens.

For more information on the gangs identified in your area including an interactive map, visit the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) website at <http://gangs.umd.edu>.

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Contents:

Maryland Criminal Law Section §14-101

Maryland: Gang Intervention and Prevention Resource Booklet
(excerpts)

2010 Maryland Code
CRIMINAL LAW
TITLE 14 - GENERAL SENTENCING PROVISIONS
Subtitle 1 - Sentencing
Section 14-101 - Mandatory sentences for crimes of violence.

§ 14-101. Mandatory sentences for crimes of violence.

(a) "Crime of violence" defined.- In this section, "crime of violence" means:

- (1) abduction;
 - (2) arson in the first degree;
 - (3) kidnapping;
 - (4) manslaughter, except involuntary manslaughter;
 - (5) mayhem;
 - (6) maiming, as previously proscribed under former Article 27, §§ 385 and 386 of the Code;
 - (7) murder;
 - (8) rape;
 - (9) robbery under § 3-402 or § 3-403 of this article;
 - (10) carjacking;
 - (11) armed carjacking;
 - (12) sexual offense in the first degree;
 - (13) sexual offense in the second degree;
 - (14) use of a handgun in the commission of a felony or other crime of violence;
 - (15) child abuse in the first degree under § 3-601 of this article;
 - (16) sexual abuse of a minor under § 3-602 of this article if:
 - (i) the victim is under the age of 13 years and the offender is an adult at the time of the offense; and
 - (ii) the offense involved:
 1. vaginal intercourse, as defined in § 3-301 of this article;
 2. a sexual act, as defined in § 3-301 of this article;
 3. an act in which a part of the offender's body penetrates, however slightly, into the victim's genital opening or anus; or
 4. the intentional touching, not through the clothing, of the victim's or the offender's genital, anal, or other intimate area for sexual arousal, gratification, or abuse;
 - (17) an attempt to commit any of the crimes described in items (1) through (16) of this subsection;
 - (18) continuing course of conduct with a child under § 3-315 of this article;
 - (19) assault in the first degree;
 - (20) assault with intent to murder;
 - (21) assault with intent to rape;
 - (22) assault with intent to rob;
 - (23) assault with intent to commit a sexual offense in the first degree; and
 - (24) assault with intent to commit a sexual offense in the second degree.
- (b) Scope of section.- This section does not apply if a person is sentenced to death.

(c) Fourth conviction of crime of violence.-

(1) Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, on conviction for a fourth time of a crime of violence, a person who has served three separate terms of confinement in a correctional facility as a result of three separate convictions of any crime of violence shall be sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

(2) Notwithstanding any other law, the provisions of this subsection are mandatory.

(d) Third conviction of crime of violence.-

(1) Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, on conviction for a third time of a crime of violence, a person shall be sentenced to imprisonment for the term allowed by law but not less than 25 years, if the person:

(i) has been convicted of a crime of violence on two prior separate occasions:

1. in which the second or succeeding crime is committed after there has been a charging document filed for the preceding occasion; and

2. for which the convictions do not arise from a single incident; and

(ii) has served at least one term of confinement in a correctional facility as a result of a conviction of a crime of violence.

(2) The court may not suspend all or part of the mandatory 25-year sentence required under this subsection.

(3) A person sentenced under this subsection is not eligible for parole except in accordance with the provisions of § 4-305 of the Correctional Services Article.

(e) Second conviction of crime of violence.-

(1) On conviction for a second time of a crime of violence committed on or after October 1, 1994, a person shall be sentenced to imprisonment for the term allowed by law, but not less than 10 years, if the person:

(i) has been convicted on a prior occasion of a crime of violence, including a conviction for a crime committed before October 1, 1994; and

(ii) served a term of confinement in a correctional facility for that conviction.

(2) The court may not suspend all or part of the mandatory 10-year sentence required under this subsection.

(f) Compliance with Maryland Rules.- If the State intends to proceed against a person as a subsequent offender under this section, it shall comply with the procedures set forth in the Maryland Rules for the indictment and trial of a subsequent offender.

(g) Eligibility for parole after age 65.-

(1) A person sentenced under this section may petition for and be granted parole if the person:

(i) is at least 65 years old; and

(ii) has served at least 15 years of the sentence imposed under this section.

(2) The Maryland Parole Commission shall adopt regulations to implement this subsection.

[An. Code 1957, art. 27, § 643B; 2002, ch. 26, § 2; 2004, ch. 25; 2006, ch. 261; 2007, chs. 524, 525.]

Maryland: Gang Intervention and Prevention Resource

For the full text of this booklet, please visit the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services website at www.dpscs.state.md.us.

Warning Signs of Possible Gang Activity

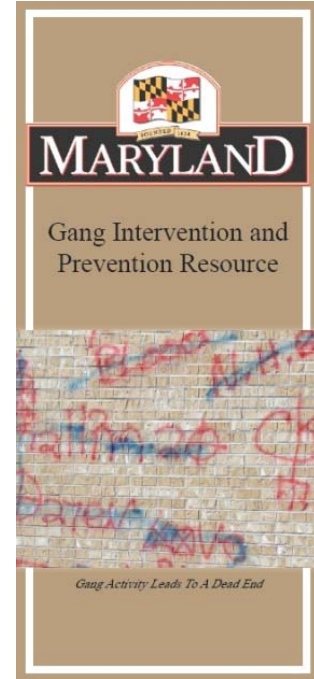
“Red flags” for gang activity. Below are a few signs to look for:

- Shows changes in attitude, behavior, style of dress, friends, taste in music, etc.
- Shows an interest in a gang/admits to being in a gang.
- Has unexplained physical injuries/fighting-related bruises.
- Has unexplained cash or goods, such as clothes/jewelry and cell phones.
- Carries a weapon/uses unusual hand signals.
- Displays an unusual desire for secrecy.
- Places gang symbols on school books, clothes, walls, etc.
- Has a gang symbol tattoo.
- Breaks rules, skips school, or gets arrested.

How Can I Protect My Child from Gangs?

Parents and guardians are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the local gang symbols and to seek help early by contacting community resources for information/support. There are a couple of basic things you can do every day that may help prevent your child from joining a gang:

- Be a positive role model. Every day!
- Set realistic goals and limits for your children; be consistent and enforce the limits you set.
- Show your children how to set goals, to hold high standards, and how to prepare for a positive future.
- Praise your children for doing well and encourage them to do their very best. Celebrate your children’s successes.
- Know your children’s friends and their families. Do things together. Talk regularly.
- Get involved in your children’s education and activities.
- Teach your children how to have good study habits and encourage them to stay in school.
- Talk to your children about positive ways to cope with peer pressure and how to use non-violent ways to resolve conflict.
- Talk to your children about the dangers and consequences of gang involvement.
- Tell your children that you disapprove of gangs and you don’t want to see them hurt or arrested.
- Show your children that you and other parents are working together against gangs by participating in community organizations.



Statewide Government Agencies

Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
Provides a list of grants available to Maryland jurisdictions to combat gangs.
www.goccp.maryland.gov

Maryland Community Services Locator (MDCSL)
The MDCSL, operated by the Center for Substance Abuse Research, is an interactive website with an online directory that includes more than 2,200 services. These resources relate to juvenile, mental health, and substance abuse services.
www.mdcs.org

Maryland Attorney General's Office
Criminal Division, Gang Unit
410-576-6380
www.oag.state.md.us

Maryland Department of Juvenile Services
Gang Intelligence Unit
410-480-7841
www.djs.state.md.us

Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
DPSCS Intelligence Coordinating Unit
www.dpscs.state.md.us

Maryland Gangs/Information and Prevention
This is a website developed by the University of Maryland offering a citizen's guide to gangs, specific gang locations in Maryland, and resources that offer help with youth prevention.
www.gangs.umd.edu

Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline
800-422-0009

Statewide Fusion and Information Centers

The Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC) was established as a model facility for the analysis and dissemination of information in statewide support of law enforcement, public health and welfare, public safety, and homeland security. The citizens of Maryland can also use it as a centralized location to forward any "tips" on suspected gang and criminal activity.

Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC)
Baltimore, Maryland www.mcac.maryland.gov
1-800-492-TIPS (8477)

Regional Information Centers

Located throughout the state, these centers act independently, but also in cooperation with the MCAC. The centers allow citizens to call or electronically leave "tips" on suspected gang and criminal activity. Information is processed and subsequently referred to the respective law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction.

Southern Maryland Information Center (SMIC)
Waldorf, Maryland smic@ccso.us
1-888-713-7171

Eastern Shore Information Center (ESIC)
Salisbury, Maryland esic@leo.gov
1-877-917-9191

Western Maryland Information Center (WMIC)
Frederick, Maryland
wmic@frederickcountymd.gov
1-866-969-WMIC (9642)