



Executive Summary .....	2
I. OVERVIEW.....	3
Purpose.....	3
Scope .....	3
Methodology.....	3
Introduction .....	4
What Is a Gang?.....	4
II. GANGS .....	5
Street Gangs.....	5
Notable Street Gang Activity.....	6
Local/Neighborhood Gangs .....	6
Notable Local/Neighborhood Gang Activity .....	6
Prison Gangs .....	7
Notable Prison Gang Activity .....	7
Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs.....	9
Notable Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Activity.....	9
Gangs, Gang Members, and Gang-Related Crime Statistics .....	10
Trends.....	10
III. WHAT IS MARYLAND DOING?.....	10
Maryland Gang Legislature and Prosecution .....	10
GOCCP, Law Enforcement, and Community Initiatives .....	13

## Executive Summary

The 2013 Maryland Gang Threat Assessment was written using 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.

The state of Maryland continues to see an overall increase in the presence of gangs, gang members, and gang activity in our communities. Multiple factors, previously identified in the 2012 Maryland Gang Threat Assessment, continue to contribute to this increase:

- Law enforcement recognition of gang activity through increased training and awareness.
- The release of 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/crews to defend against the spread of larger regional or national gangs.

Law enforcement agencies have experienced success in prosecuting the members of some gangs such as the Bloods, Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), the Black Guerrilla Family (BGF), and Dead Man Incorporated (DMI) under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act and using the Maryland Gang Prosecution Act.

However, even while gang leaders have been indicted, and in many cases convicted, gangs continue to operate in Maryland communities and within prisons. This is most evident in the multiple indictments of members of the Black Guerrilla Family in the last four years.

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 and gang members do not stop at county lines. Areas such as Hagerstown, Waldorf, and Salisbury all experience organized gang activity and the associated violence. Rival gang expansion in some areas has also pushed gang members out of the major cities.

Gangs continue to recruit new members and establish new gangs within the suburban and rural portions of the state. Street gangs are recruiting in neighborhoods and in schools, sometimes by threat and intimidation. Prison gangs and outlaw motorcycle gangs recruit older members than do 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.

Gangs are spreading 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. There is limited funding and manpower for a specialized unit.

In 2013, the intelligence community has benefited from better cooperation and intelligence sharing among law enforcement agencies in an effort to combat these challenges.

The Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center has identified the current top gang threats:

- Black Guerrilla Family
- Bloods
- Crips
- Dead Man Inc.
- Hells Angels MC
- Latin Kings
- Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13)
- Pagan's MC
- Sureños
- Thunderguards MC

Local/neighborhood gangs are also a top threat; many agencies find that although these gangs are lacking in numbers and name recognition, they are just as dangerous as the larger gangs.

## 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 three 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. This section also addresses current gang activity and current trends.

The final section discusses what the state of Maryland and law enforcement agencies are doing in response to gang activity. This section also details federal RICO indictments for members of Maryland gangs.

### Methodology

The 2013 Maryland Gang Threat Assessment was written using open source documents and law enforcement documents from late 2012 to the end of 2013.

## Introduction

According to the 2010 U.S. census, the population of Maryland reached 5,733,552, with 9% of the population living below the poverty line.<sup>i</sup>

Baltimore is the largest city in Maryland, with a population of 620,961.<sup>ii</sup> As of 2011, 22.3% of Baltimore City's population was living below the poverty line. The cities of Hagerstown and Salisbury have seen increased gang activity and have similar poverty levels but for much smaller populations.<sup>iii</sup>

Poverty and despair could be contributing factors of why juveniles join gangs. Gangs, through illegal practices such as drug dealing, prostitution and robbery, offer a way to make money quickly.



Photo Source: AP Photo/Patrick Semansky via Business Insider

While the city of Baltimore remains the hub of gang activity in Maryland, many gang members reside in suburban areas and frequent Baltimore to commit crimes or for social activities (bars, clubs, parties, etc.).

There has been a similar pattern for Washington, DC—gang members residing in the surrounding counties of Prince George's, Montgomery, and Charles

counties. This means that county and local authorities have to deal with gang members from larger metropolitan areas.

### 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)<sup>1</sup>;
- (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.”

The Maryland Criminal Law Code 9-801 defines a criminal gang as a “group or 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.”

See Section III. *What Is Maryland Doing?* on page 9 for more information on gang legislation in Maryland.

<sup>1</sup> 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 criminal gangs in Maryland are 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 and crews confined to a neighborhood. These local gangs, though lacking national name recognition, are no less dangerous to Maryland communities or to law enforcement.

Sets, cliques, chapters, or tribes generally exist under the umbrella of a larger organization. However, some do not have a central leadership; for example, what may be a rule for a Crips set in one geographic location may not be a rule for a set in another. Because of this, each set, clique, or tribe is a uniquely named gang.

In general, males make up the majority of gang membership. The composition of a gang's membership varies according to that gang's rules or bylaws. In some cases, membership in a gang is also limited to a certain race.

Female-only gangs and female members in co-ed gangs are no less dangerous than their male counterparts are. In some areas of the United States, female-only gangs are on the rise<sup>iv</sup>, a trend that Maryland is experiencing as well.

Some male-dominated gangs do not consider females to be members; women are treated as property of the gang or just as associates without any rank. Their responsibilities could include enabling

communication, transporting contraband into prisons, or driving getaway vehicles.

The ages of street gang members range from early teens to early thirties. Street gangs typically 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 being assaulted by other members.

In addition, recruits 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.

For women, initiation into a male-dominated gang or into a female-only 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.

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.

## Notable Street Gang Activity

### Baltimore City – Gangs, Drug Turf Listed as Biggest Crime Problems

October 2013–Baltimore City Police Commissioner Anthony Batts spoke publicly about the increase in gang activity in Baltimore City, attributing the violence to drugs and gangs. Influences from the West Coast and the Black Guerrilla Family were named as some of the leading issues.<sup>v</sup>

### Hagerstown – Bloods & Crips

April 2013–Fourteen alleged members of the Bloods and Crips waged a gun battle in Hagerstown.<sup>vi</sup>

The incidents started over an argument between the two groups, resulting in four shootings and two non-life-threatening injuries.<sup>vii</sup> In all, police arrested and charged sixteen alleged members of the Crips and Bloods. Of those sixteen, eight have pleaded guilty, the charges were dismissed for six, one defendant was put on the inactive docket, and the last is still pending trial.<sup>viii</sup>

### Capitol Heights – 18<sup>th</sup> Street

April 2013–A man with alleged ties to the 18<sup>th</sup> Street gang was shot to death in an incident investigators believe to be gang-related. Two men were arrested in relation to the incident.<sup>ix</sup>

## Local/Neighborhood Gangs

Local/neighborhood gangs may be harder to identify because they do not possess the name recognition and may not have gang insignias like the more nationally and regionally known gangs. Even though these gangs are much smaller, they are no

less dangerous to the communities they inhabit.

Local/neighborhood gangs or “crews” are commonly created out of geographic boundaries, including neighborhoods, streets, intersections, and even apartment buildings. Some of the juvenile gangs are not from the same neighborhood but come together in middle and high schools.

## Notable Local/Neighborhood Gang Activity

### Montgomery County – Lil’ R



Photo Source: Montgomery County State’s Attorney via WAMU 88.5

July 2013–The second of four members of the “Little R” gang was sentenced for participation in a gang rape that occurred in October 2012. The man was sentenced to eight years in prison for holding an intoxicated female down while the three other members sexually assaulted her.<sup>x</sup>

All four members have been found guilty for their roles in the assault; one is still awaiting sentencing.

### Fort Washington – Baby Haiti & Danger Boys

January 2013–One juvenile and one adult were arrested after a gang dispute at a house party in Fort Washington ended with one juvenile dead. Both suspects were alleged to be members of Baby Haiti,

and the victim was alleged to be a member of a rival gang named Danger Boys.<sup>xi</sup>

### **Lewisdale – Lewisdale Crew & MS-13**

December 2012–A 14-year-old was gunned down in early December 2012 while walking with some friends who were reportedly members of the Lewisdale Crew, a local gang in the Lewisdale area. A 19-year-old was also injured in the drive-by. The assailants were alleged to be members of MS-13.<sup>xii</sup>

### **Harford & Baltimore County – World’s Most Dangerous**

October 2012–The Harford County Task Force, headed by the Harford County Sheriff’s Office, executed 15 search warrants, arresting 21 people, including ten alleged gang members in a drug ring operating in the county. The task force seized cash, vehicles, a handgun, and multiple types of drugs with a combined street value of \$680,000. The gang was a local gang to Harford and Baltimore counties, and Baltimore City named World’s Most Dangerous (WMD).<sup>xiii</sup>

Some of the offenders were indicted federally; the remaining faced state drug-related charges.<sup>xiv</sup>

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 [www.hidtagangs.org](http://www.hidtagangs.org)

## **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 like sending money back to other members in an institution. 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 bylaws; an example is the BGF, whose membership is limited by race. However, even with those rules in place, in some facilities, BGF has made alliances with Dead Man Incorporated, a predominantly white gang, in the past.

Prison gangs have an older demographic than do street gangs because they recruit in adult correctional institutions.

### **Notable Prison Gang Activity**

Summer 2013–Over a period of five weeks, eight North Branch Correctional Institution (NBCI) corrections officers were injured in gang-related assaults, including

one stabbing. Seven additional officers were injured responding to the assaults.<sup>xv</sup>

April 2013–The first 2013 federal RICO indictments of BGF were announced in early April, accusing ten men and 15 women, 13 of whom were corrections officers, of conspiracy to distribute and possession with intent to distribute drugs. Twenty of the defendants were also charged with money laundering.<sup>xvi</sup>



Photo source: Baltimore Fishbowl

November 2013–A second round of federal RICO indictments were announced, charging an additional 19 defendants, 14 of whom were corrections officers and a kitchen worker.<sup>xvii</sup>

The cases highlight prison corruption and the reach of BGF in Baltimore City; the ranking BGF member impregnated four correctional officers inside the Baltimore City Detention Center (BCDC).

BGF recruits were reportedly told to target female corrections officers with low self-esteem in an effort to convince them into smuggling contraband such as drugs.<sup>xviii</sup> Male corrections officers were recruited as well, including a K-9 officer and staff sergeant in the Maryland Army Reserves who smuggled cell phones in for the group.<sup>xix</sup>

## Black Guerrilla Family: Street or Prison Gang?

BGF, initially a prison gang originating in California, has been successful in extending its influence from within prison facilities to the streets.

In the summer of 2013, Baltimore PD unveiled a new tactic for soliciting public assistance on capturing assailants. The department named a “Public Enemy No. 1” in the media and once one was behind bars, it named another. Two of the public enemies identified in those first few weeks were members of BGF, both wanted for grisly murders.<sup>xx</sup>

In November 2013, the Baltimore City grand jury indicted 48 members and associates of BGF on charges including gang conspiracy, murder, drug wire conspiracy, assault, robbery, transferring firearms to a minor, and firearms possession, among others.<sup>xxi</sup>

This set, or “regime,” operating near Greenmount Cemetery in Baltimore, used violence to establish its dominance and maintain control of its territory for drug trade.<sup>xxii</sup>

Investigators were able to establish a pattern of criminal gang activity dating back to 2005 for the group. In 2007, the group originally known as the Young Guerrilla Family (YGF) came under the BGF umbrella.<sup>xxiii</sup>

The criminal acts perpetrated by BGF occurring outside of correctional institutions are of note because much of it was coordinated from within facilities.

## Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs

In 1947, a California motorcycle event spiraled out of control, ending 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.”<sup>xxiv</sup>

Outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMGs) have adopted this symbol as “1 Percenters,” which is reflected in a patch they wear.

Outlaw motorcycle gangs operate as gangs because of their involvement in criminal activity. One percent clubs are most often territorial; clubs seize territory for use in criminal activity.

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.

In recent years, OMG activity, while present in Maryland since the 1950s, has increased in the public eye. This could be attributed to the popularity of TV shows and movies about OMGs that fictionalize the lifestyle and glamorize the members.

### Notable Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Activity

#### Charles County – Iron Horsemen MC

May 2013–The president of the Iron Horsemen MC Southern Maryland Chapter pleaded guilty to drug and firearms charges stemming from an August 2012

raid on a car repair garage he managed. His nephew was also charged in a subsequent raid of his residence. Both defendants pleaded guilty.<sup>xxv</sup>

#### Baltimore County – Hells Angels MC & Pagan’s MC

February 2013–The organizers of the Timonium Motorcycle Show asked members of the Pagan’s MC to leave in an effort to avoid a confrontation with the Hells Angels MC. The event promoter considered the club to be problematic and contacted the Baltimore County Police Department to send extra officers. The Pagan’s MC left the event without incident.<sup>xxvi</sup>

#### Baltimore/Philadelphia – Outlaws MC

January 2013–A probe of methamphetamine dealing and extortion involving the Philadelphia chapter of the Outlaws Motorcycle Club exposed members of the club buying from dealers out of Baltimore with connections to Mexican drug cartels. Three of the four charged in the case were from Maryland.<sup>xxvii</sup>

#### Baltimore County – Demon Souls MC & Titans MC

November 2012–Baltimore County Police reported to North Point Flea Market regarding a fight between the Demon Souls MC and Titans MC. Three people were injured; one alleged Demon Souls member was transported to Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center for injuries sustained from being hit with a rubber mallet.<sup>xxviii</sup>

#### Cecil County – Thunderguards MC

November 2012–A multi-agency operation spearheaded by the Delaware State Police targeted a cocaine distribution network

controlled by the Thunderguards MC. One of the houses hit in the raid was in Cecil County, which yielded a small drug confiscation and evidence to assist the investigation. The investigation as whole resulted in eight arrests and the seizure of guns, vehicles, cash, marijuana, and 2,378 grams of cocaine with a street value of \$100,000.<sup>xxix</sup>

## Gangs, Gang Members, and Gang-Related Crime Statistics

There are many issues facing law enforcement when trying to quantify gangs and gang members. One obstacle is there is no clearinghouse for gang information. Each jurisdiction uses its own system (if it has one) for identifying gang members.

As previously reported, Maryland has a legislative definition of a gang; however, there is no definition of a gang member. This responsibility falls to the individual law enforcement agencies.

There continues to be a 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? Alternatively, does that crime have to benefit the gang for it to be gang-related?*

Agencies argue for either side; thus, these crimes are often underreported in statistics and pose a problem for prosecutors attempting to apply the gang statute.

## Trends

Law enforcement in Maryland has identified the following trends:

- Youth gangs using social media sites like Facebook®, Instagram®, Kik®, and Twitter® as tools to communicate, recruit, and threaten.
- The targeting of low-risk victims.
- Exploiting state personnel officers to smuggle contraband into MD DPSCS or for communication to the outside.
- All-female gangs.
- Gang members commuting to other areas to participate in criminal activity.

## III. 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. 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.

There have been successful pleas and prosecutions in 2013 using this law, including:

- An MS-13 member was convicted of witness retaliation and participating in a gang. He was sentenced to 11 years.<sup>xxx</sup>
- The leader of Lil' R in Montgomery County was convicted of participating in a criminal gang along with his role in a sexual assault that took place in 2012. He was sentenced to 15 years.<sup>xxxi</sup>

For the full text of the 2013 Maryland Criminal Law Code regarding criminal gang offenses, visit the Maryland General Assembly website at [mlis.state.md.us](http://mlis.state.md.us).

The 2013 Maryland Criminal Law Code defines a criminal gang as a group of three or more people who “collectively engage in a pattern of criminal activity.”<sup>xxxii</sup>

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.”<sup>xxxiii</sup>

These crimes include crimes of violence as per Maryland Criminal Law Section § 14-101.

See **Appendix** for the full list of crimes of violence included in Maryland Criminal Law Section § 14-101.

Law enforcement continues to perform successful investigations, indictments, and prosecutions federally using the RICO Act. Originally, the RICO Act was used to charge members of the Mafia, but federal prosecutors in Maryland and elsewhere have been able to apply these charges to criminal street gangs:

- Black Guerrilla Family April 2013 indictments—BGF, a once prison gang, have been very active in Baltimore. They are involved in drug trade, officer corruption, and extorting other prisoners for money. In all, 25 have been indicted in the April 2013 indictments (24 were previously indicted in 2009 & 2010) and as of this writing 16 have pleaded guilty.

The remaining defendants were charged in a superseding indictment in November.<sup>xxxiv</sup> (See **Page 8** for more details.)

- Howard County Bloods May 2013 indictments—In early May 2013, it was announced that 18 alleged Bloods members of various sets were indicted for federal racketeering charges along with three others indicted on drug conspiracy. The indictment alleged that the defendants shared firearms for use in criminal activity and distributed drugs to finance the gang’s illegal activities.<sup>xxxv</sup>

- Black Guerrilla Family November 2013 indictments—A new round of BGF indictments was announced in late 2013, charging 48 defendants at the state level with crimes ranging from gang law violations, murder,

attempted murder, drug-related crimes, and weapons-related crimes, to conspiracy to obstruct justice and conspiracy to interfere with a witness.

Another raid 14 days later charged an additional 19 defendants with racketeering, among other charges, at a federal level. All defendants are innocent until proven guilty.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

- MS-13 September 2013 indictments—In September 2013, federal prosecutors indicted men and alleged members of MS-13 in connection with a conspiracy to participate in murder in aid of a racketeering enterprise (MS-13).<sup>xxxvii</sup>

### **MS-13 Designated a Transnational Criminal Organization**

In October 2012, the U.S. Department of the Treasury along with the Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) designated Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) a transnational criminal organization (TCO).<sup>xxxviii</sup>

The designation entitles the Department of the Treasury to freeze assets of “those individuals and entities, who work with them, enable them and support them. Any property or property interest in the U.S., or in the possession or control of U.S. persons in which these targets have an interest are blocked, and U.S. persons are prohibited from engaging in transactions with them.”<sup>xxxix</sup>

The HSI National Gang Unit will continue to investigate members in an effort to “deter, disrupt and dismantle” the gang.<sup>xl</sup>

- Up Da Hill & Little Spelman 2013 indictments—In December 2013, two separate indictments charged 15 members of “Up da Hill” (UDH) and six members of Little Spelman with racketeering and drug conspiracy. The indictments came following three murders and two shootings in the Cherry Hill area of Baltimore following a dispute between the gangs in 2011.<sup>xi</sup>

There was a third indictment charging five additional defendants with conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine and heroin; however, if there is a gang affiliation, the suspects are not being charged with racketeering.<sup>xlii</sup>

Updates on previous indictments:

- DMI November 2011 indictments—In November 2011, federal prosecutors indicted 22 alleged members of DMI on charges of federal racketeering, murder, and drug charges, including drug conspiracy.<sup>xliii</sup>

In early 2013, both leaders of the gang accepted life sentences for their roles in the gang.<sup>xliv</sup>

- South Side Brims (SSB) Bloods October 2011 indictments—SSB Bloods is a set of the Bloods who were involved in a racketeering scheme including the distribution of controlled dangerous substances, robberies, firearms violations, attempted murder, witness intimidation, and other acts of violence. The gang operated across Maryland from the Eastern Shore to Western Maryland.<sup>xlv</sup>

Thirty-four of the original 35 indicted defendants have pleaded guilty to their roles in the gang—as of October 2013, 30 have received sentences.<sup>xlvi</sup>

In May 2010, the Safe Schools Act of 2010 was signed. This act is intended 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.”<sup>xlvii</sup>

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*. The policy 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 the community.<sup>xlviii</sup>

For the full text of the Maryland Model Gang Policy and the implementation process, visit the Maryland Department of Education website at [www.msde.maryland.gov](http://www.msde.maryland.gov).

## GOCCP, Law Enforcement, and Community 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.”<sup>xlix</sup>

In 2008, the GOCCP awarded Annapolis with the first Safe Streets Initiative (formerly CSAFE–Violence Prevention Initiative). This initiative is an “offender-based model established to institute collaboration and information sharing across all levels of government to dramatically reduce crime.”<sup>i</sup>

Currently, the GOCCP is funding safe streets sites in Annapolis, Salisbury, Frederick, Hagerstown, and Cecil and Harford counties, and within neighborhoods in Baltimore City.<sup>ii</sup>

There have been several local law enforcement initiatives to combat violent crime. In the summer of 2012, Prince George’s County Police commanders

targeted six of the most crime-ridden hotspots in the county with extra patrols and detectives, yielding some positive results.<sup>lii</sup>

Since September 2012, the Maryland State Police has been providing troopers to assist Baltimore City Police on patrols. By pairing troopers with patrol officers and utilizing emerging technology, the agencies hope to catch offenders and reduce crime.<sup>liii</sup>

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 affect 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.

# Maryland Gang Threat Assessment ENDNOTES | 2013

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# Maryland Gang Threat Assessment ENDNOTES | 2013

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Contents:

Maryland Criminal Law Section §14-101

Maryland: Gang Intervention and Prevention Resource Booklet  
(excerpts)

## 2013 Maryland Code

### CRIMINAL LAW

#### § 14-101 - Mandatory sentences for crimes of violence [Effective until October 1, 2013]

##### § 14-101.

(a) 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) This section does not apply if a person is sentenced to death.

(c) (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) (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) (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) (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

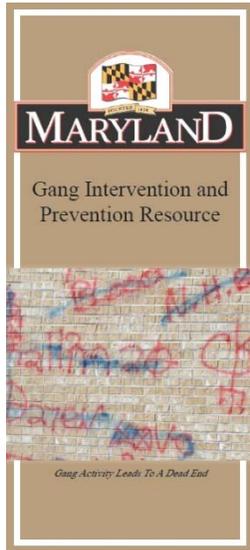
(ii) has served at least 15 years of the sentence imposed under this section.

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

[MD Crim Law Code § 14-101 (2013)]

## Maryland: Gang Intervention and Prevention Resource

For the full text of this booklet, please visit the Maryland Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services website at [www.dpscs.state.md.us](http://www.dpscs.state.md.us)



### Warning Signs of Possible Gang Activity

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

- 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, 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, gets arrested.

### How Can I Protect My Child from a Gang?

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

[www.goccp.maryland.gov](http://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 the needs of juvenile services, mental health and substance abuse services.

[www.mdcsf.org](http://www.mdcsf.org)

Maryland Attorney General's Office

[www.oag.state.md.us](http://www.oag.state.md.us)

Maryland Department of Juvenile Services

[www.djs.state.md.us](http://www.djs.state.md.us)

Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

[www.dpccs.state.md.us](http://www.dpccs.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 which offer help with youth prevention.

[www.hidtagangs.org](http://www.hidtagangs.org)

Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline

[www.help4mdyouth.org](http://www.help4mdyouth.org)  
1-800-422-0009

## 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](http://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 will be processed and subsequently referred to the respective law enforcement agency that would have jurisdiction.

Southern Maryland Information Center (SMIC)  
Waldorf, Maryland

[www.smictf.com](http://www.smictf.com)  
1-888-713-7171

Eastern Shore Information Center (ESIC)  
Salisbury, Maryland

[www.esic-md.org](http://www.esic-md.org)  
1-877-917-9191

Western Maryland Information Center (WMIC)  
Frederick, Maryland

[wmic@fredco-md.net](mailto:wmic@fredco-md.net)  
1-866-969-9642