

CHAPTER 13

13.1 Self Check page 471

What circumstances caused members of the juvenile justice system to renew their concern about gangs?

The four reasons, as listed in the bulleted list on page 470, are:

- The emergence of youth gangs in small and rural communities.
- The increased diversity of gang composition.
- The increased use of highly dangerous weapons and the higher level of violence.
- The controversy surrounding the role of gangs in drug trafficking.

13.2 Self Check page 477

1. Explain why defining gangs is so important.

Defining gangs is important because simply being a gang member is illegal in some states. In addition, many other states offer sentence enhancements for gang-related crimes. Therefore, defining a gang and a gang member is crucial to prevent unfair sentencing.

2. Name three reasons why young people join gangs.

Three main reasons are to feel belongingness with their peers, the peer respect that accompanies that, the prospect of earning money, and because they are seeking protection from other youth in the community.

13.3 Self Check page 479

Which three states have the largest number of gangs? The largest number of gang members?

The three states with the largest *reported* number of gangs are California, Texas, and Illinois. The gang members are the same in that order.

(It is important to note that these figures reflect the reported number of gang members. States such as New York and New Jersey have serious gang problems, but they are not reflected here.)

13.4 Self Check page 480

1. List the different types of gangs according to C. Ronald Huff.

Huff separates gangs into three categories: hedonistic gangs, which primarily get high and commit few delinquent acts; instrumental gangs, which commit property (as opposed to violent) offenses and will use, but rarely sell drugs; and predatory gangs, which are actively involved in violent crimes such as robbery, and often use and sell drugs.

2. Which type of gangs are the least prevalent according to the classifications established by Maxson and Klein?

The least prevalent gangs are collective and specialty gangs.

13.5 Self Check page 486

1. What factors account for gang migration?

One perspective holds that gang members actively try to expand their territory by branching out to new cities and recruiting members there. This theory, however, is not supported by research. More likely is that gang members' families move and the gang members take their gang affiliation with them, starting new gangs in their new locale either with or without the help or approval of their old gang.

2. Briefly describe the six major characteristics of gangs.

The six major characteristics are age, race/ethnicity, gender, gang migration, communication, and delinquent activity.

13.6 Self Check page 488

1. Describe the five strategies used by communities to respond to the gang problem.

The five most common strategies are:

- community organization
- opportunities provision
- organizational change and development
- social intervention
- suppression (i.e., arrest and incarceration)

2. What is the most frequently used strategy? The least frequently used?

Suppression is the most frequently used, and opportunities provision is used least frequently.

13.7 Self Check page 497

1. Briefly describe G.R.E.A.T.'s philosophy and curriculum.

G.R.E.A.T.'s philosophy is that students can be taught gang prevention in the schools. It states that law enforcement can play an active role in teaching children to say "NO" to gangs.

The curriculum teaches students how to resolve conflicts without violence and resist peer pressure to join a gang. It can be adjusted depending on the age of the students being taught, whether they are at the elementary, junior high, or middle-school level. For instance, middle-school students receive a nine-week curriculum.

2. What programs and strategies have been used by prosecutors and legislatures to respond to gangs? How successful have they been?

Some possible responses include:

- RICO, STEP Acts, and nuisance abatement laws are three popular prosecutorial options.
- Sentence enhancements for gang-related crimes, defining gang membership and participation as illegal, and defining drive-bys as a separate offense are three well-known legislative efforts.

13.8 Self Check page 497

Is the gang problem getting better or worse?

Regardless of opinion, answers should show an objective understanding of what the gang problem is and how the system is responding to it.