
Information about:

GANGS

A gang is a group of individuals that is generally involved in delinquent or criminal activities. The group includes: core members, regulars and peripheral members. The leadership, or core members, determine the nature, level and goals of gang activity. Some characteristics attributed to gangs include: group organization, leadership, violent behavior, territory, recurrent interaction, violent behavior and use of symbolism. A link exists between youth gang members and later adult crime. Gangs typically engage in illegal money-making activities such as drug and firearms trafficking.

Gang recruitment includes but is not limited to:

- Peer pressure, the promise of protection, community association or sense of family
- Monetary incentives
- Intimidation
- A history of family involvement with a particular gang

Why do people join gangs?

- Low self-esteem
- A sense of belonging due to lack of friends or family involvement
- Real or perceived protection
- Friend(s) or other acquaintances are gang members
- Family members already belong to a gang

Signs of gang involvement:

- New friends or associations with known gang members
- A loss of family interest
- Shows a disregard for others and their property
- Exhibits signs of likely drug or alcohol use
- Trouble with law enforcement
- An unwillingness to discuss their activities

What makes New Mexico susceptible to gang crime?

- Inadequate funding at all levels of the state's criminal justice system
- No gang legislation
- Limited treatment, prevention and intervention
- Proximity to Mexican border

New Mexico consistently ranks at or near the bottom of the fifty states in areas that are prime indicators of gang susceptibility.

- Drop-out rates, public school scores and teacher salaries
- Teenage pregnancy
- Median household income
- Single parent households

www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/center-for-prevention-of-youth-violence/resources/programs/gang-resources.html

www.NationalGangCenter.gov