Youth Gangs And Community Intervention Research Practice And Evidence

This book explores the policies and practices of comprehensive community efforts to reduce gang and youth violence through a specific conceptual framework, the Comprehensive Gang Model. Tailored gang reduction strategies rooted in this framework and in communities' ecological constitutions are showcased throughout the book using case study methodology. The results of these investigations have relevant implications for scholars, learners, and practitioners who seek to address gang violence using customized responses.
Summarizes research and professional criminal justice perspectives on gangs; describes some current gang prevention, intervention, and suppression strategies; and presents recommendations for dealing with street gangs at the community level. Extensive bibliography.
The author, who is involved in evaluating Chicago's gang reduction and intervention programs, provides a systematic analysis of youth gangs in the United States and examines the factors of gang member personality, gang dynamics, criminal organization, and the influence of family, school, prisons, and politics.
Community Models : Research Summary
An Overview of Research and Programs. Juvenile Justice Bulletin
Gangs in America's Communities
Crime and Drug Trafficking
An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Suppression A Collaborative Framework for Comprehensive Gang Reduction
European Street Gangs and Troublesome Youth Groups

Essays in this anthology examine contemporary gangs, gang life, and law enforcement efforts to study and coordinate the community response to them.

This book delves deep into the hidden population of former gang members who share their positive and negative experiences of being gang members. Their stories of violence, hopelessness, despair, and loneliness also offer a seed of hope – they contain the building blocks for prevention. By understanding why they each turned to gangs, how they turned to gangs, and what went wrong for some along their pathways during childhood, as well as how and why they chose to leave the gang lifestyle, we can begin to put the pieces together and understand tools for gang prevention. Schools are in the unique position to become an oasis or a safe haven for a child in a world that does not otherwise feel safe to them. School staff members can step in and become consistent people in a child's life. They can help to identify at-risk youth and intervene, facilitating a change in path away from gang membership. This book discusses how schools and staff can be instrumental in gang prevention and outlines warning signs and risk and protective factors for gang involvement. It also talks about components of gang prevention programs in schools. Additional topics explored include: Theories of Gang Involvement Lack of Family Consistency: Relating Attachment Theory with Gang Involvement "Brotherhood, Sisterhood, Unity:" Gangs as Replacement Family "No Other Option:" The Role of Social Environment "Death, Jail, or a Turnaround:" Making the Decision to Disengage A Piece About Trauma-Informed Practice Authored by a school social worker who has an insider's perspective on working in a school, Gang Prevention in Schools is a useful resource that gives a humanistic view of former gang members. The book will engage readers in the fields of psychology, social work, education and educational administration, and criminal justice, as well as have potential appeal to a lay audience due to the richness of the stories and interviews.

This report presents a prototype for the design and mobilization of community initiatives to counter youth gangs through efforts by police, prosecutors, judges, probation and parole officers, corrections officers, schools, employers, community- based agencies, and a range of grassroots organizations. The proposed models assume that the gang problem and related criminal behavior stem from two interacting conditions: poverty and social disorganization. Other significant or contributing factors include institutional racism, cultural misadaptation, deficiencies in social policy, and the availability of criminal opportunities. Implementation of the models requires addressing community mobilization, provision of opportunities, social intervention, suppression, and organizational change and development. Implementation issues such as problem assessment, development of youth gang policy, managing the collaborative process, creation of program goals and objectives, community participation, etc. are also discussed. Roles for police, prosecution, courts, probation, corrections, parole, schools, youth employment, a community-based youth agency, and grassroots organizations are suggested. (NCJRS, modified).

General Community Design
Youth Gang Programs and Strategies
Street Gangs
Best Practices to Address Community Gang Problems: OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model (2nd ed.)
Gangs, Groups, and Crime
Research, Practice, and Evidence

This bulletin presents research on why youth join gangs and how a community can build gang prevention and intervention services. The author summarizes recent literature on gang formation and identifies promising and effective programs for gang prevention. The following are some key findings: (1) Youth join gangs for protection, enjoyment, respect, money, or because a friend is in a gang; (2) Youth are at higher risk of joining a gang if they engage in delinquent behaviors, are aggressive or violent, experience multiple caretaker transitions, have many problems at school, associate with other gang-involved youth, or live in communities where they feel unsafe and where many youth are in trouble; and (3) To prevent youth from joining gangs, communities must strengthen families and schools, improve community supervision, train teachers and parents to manage disruptive youth, and teach students interpersonal skills. (Contains 1 table, 2 figures and 7 endnotes.).

The growth of youth gang violence and the proliferation of youth gangs into smaller cities and rural areas in recent years have focused public attention on the youth gang problem and made it an increasingly significant social policy issue. The public's concern is understandable, with more than 800,000 gang members active in over 3,000 gangs according to the latest National Youth Gang Survey. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) shares this concern and is addressing it on several fronts, in particular, through OJJDP's National Youth Gang Center. Youth Gang Programs and Strategies draws on more than a half-century of gang program evaluations to summarize what we have learned about: - Prevention programs (including early childhood, school-based, and afterschool initiatives). - Intervention programs (including those that work to create violence-free zones, establish gang summits and truces, and rehabilitate gang members in juvenile detention and correctional facilities). - Suppression programs (including those focused on prosecution, police response, and geomapping and other tracking systems). - Strategies using multiple techniques (such as community policing). - Multiagency initiatives (including local, State, and Federal efforts). - Comprehensive approaches to gang problems (such as the Comprehensive Community-Wide Approach to Gang Prevention, Intervention, and Suppression). - Legislation (at the local, State, and Federal levels). This Summary also describes an OJJDP - sponsored nationwide assessment of youth gang prevention, intervention, and suppression programs; debunks prevalent stereotypes surrounding youth gang members; and provides research-based recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of youth gang programs and strategies. Youth gangs imperil not only the safety of America's communities but the future of our Nation's youth. I trust that the information provided in these pages will improve our efforts to combat this danger.

Published in 1998, Adolescent Gangs is a valuable contribution to the field of Counseling and School Therapy.

The American Street Gang
The Youth Gang Problem
An Overview
Community Strategies to Reduce Gang Violence
The Little Village Gang Project in Chicago
An Overview of Programs and Practices

Although a range of program and policy responses to youth gangs exist, most are largely based on suppression, implemented by the police or other criminal justice agencies. Less attention and fewer resources have been directed to prevention and intervention strategies that draw on the participation of community organizations, schools, and social service agencies in the neighborhoods in which gangs operate. Also underemphasized is the importance of integrating such approaches at the local level. In this volume, leading researchers discuss effective intervention among youth gangs, focusing on the ideas behind, approaches to, and evidence about the effectiveness of community-based, youth gang interventions. Treating community as a crucial unit of analysis and action, these essays reorient our understanding of gangs and the measures undertaken to defeat them. They emphasize the importance of community, both as a context that shapes opportunity and as a resource that promotes positive youth engagement. Covering key themes and debates, this book explores the role of social capital and collective efficacy in informing youth gang intervention and evaluation, the importance of focusing on youth development within the context of community opportunities and pressures, and the possibilities of better linking research, policy, and practice when responding to youth gangs, among other critical issues.

This title is part of The Wadsworth Professionalism in Policing Series, edited by Samuel Walker. This reader is a descriptive presentation of current practices within policing and juvenile justice (focusing on gangs) that utilize the community-policing model. By looking at specific strategies and their efficacy, the authors attempt to combat a major perceived problem with community policing; that the methodology of community policing can be subjective and nebulous, using ill-defined and misinterpreted practices. This book shows what is working for agencies across the country and how these "best practices" can be employed.

This report presents an overview of gang research and programs in the United States and examines how gangs form and why youth join them. It is based on information on research findings and prevention strategies disseminated by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention as part of its comprehensive anti-gang initiative. This report describes how community members can start assessing their gang problems and enhance prevention and intervention activities to help prevent delinquency and gang violence. It identifies promising and effective programs for gang prevention. Illustrations. This is a print on demand edition of an important, hard-to-find publication.

Current Knowledge and Strategies
Community Mobilization
Old Issues, New Approaches
Policing Gangs and Youth Violence
Problem and Response : Research Summary
Creating a Secure Base and Safe Haven

The first comprehensive national survey of organized agency and community group responses to gang problems in the U.S. The only national assessment of efforts to combat gangs. Presents a comprehensive gang prevention and intervention model based on this national assessment. These models are recommended as effective policies, practices, and strategies for communities to combat gangs. Covers: gangs as organizations, membership demographics and experiences, the social contexts of gang development, social opportunities: schools and jobs, and more.

In this book, Irving Spergel details the efforts of his Chicago youth gang project, a comprehensive, community-based model designed to reduce gang problems, including violence and illegal drug activity. He offers an in-depth description of the Little Village Gang Violence Reduction Project, revealing the successes and failures of intervention at each level: individual youths, the gang itself, and the community at large. Spergel relates how a coalition of criminal justice, neighborhood, and academic organizations_along with a team of tactical officers, probation officers, former gang leaders, and a neighborhood organization_developed strategies for dealing with hardcore violent male youths from two gangs: the Latin Kings and Two Six. This well-known project has become the model for a series of national initiatives. Policymakers, criminologists, and gang researchers will find this model valuable for assessing gang programs and reducing gang violence.

As communities face ever-growing gang-related problems, Gangs in America III provides the most up-to-date information on the diverse perspectives and complex issues that arise in our efforts to understand, prevent, and control gang violence and crime.

Ending the Expansion and Influence of Youth Gangs: A Systematic Literature Review Examining the Factors of Youth Gang Involvement and the Effectiveness of Intervention Programs
A Community Approach
Juvenile Gangs
Gang Members and Delinquent Behavior
Gangs in America III
Its Nature, Prevalence, and Control

The purpose of this project is to examine correlates of youth gang involvement and evaluate the available intervention programs to combat the problem. An introduction to this topic is provided, followed by literature reviews regarding the impact of each factor of gang involvement and levels of effectiveness for the intervention programs. Results from this project show that race, socioeconomic status (SES), low parental monitoring, poor family cohesion, poor neighborhood quality, deviant peers, low self-esteem, and emotional dysregulation, among many others, are factors of youth gang involvement. In addition, intervention programs were only found to be somewhat effective on a micro level for individual youth. Intervention programs were found to be ineffective on mezzo and community levels. These results provide information that can help social workers and other service providers brainstorm new and alternative ways to prevent the growth of youth gangs and combat the overall problem for the youth and their communities.

Gangs, Groups and Crime looks at the rapidly growing problem of youth crime using data gathered from those who are positioned to best address the problem of collective youth crimes at some specific level -- informative, operational or administrative. Law enforcement professionals from police and sheriff's departments were interviewed, as well as those involved in youth services such as court counselors, correctional officers and educators. Respondents addressed four broad areas: the perceived scope and nature of the problems, the perceived causes of the problems, the effectiveness of prevention and intervention strategies, and their organizations' responses to problems. The resulting data shows a strong perception that the youth gang and group problems have become more serious and widespread in recent years, largely due to the prevalence of drug-related activities and the growing presence of non-indigenous groups. Using North Carolina as a case study, Oehme looks at youth involvement in criminal activities and at the differing characteristics between gangs and groups. Special attention is paid to identifying what locations experienced perceived or actual youth crime problems and determining the form in which the problems were manifested. The book also compares and contrasts the characteristics and activities of youth gangs with those of other crime-oriented groups. Overlaying these issues is the question of how various organizations respond to the problems of youth crime and violence.

The United States has seen rapid proliferation of youth gangs since 1980. During this period, the number of cities with gang problems increased from an estimated 286 jurisdictions with more than 2,000 gangs and nearly 100,000 gang members in 1980 (Miller, 1992) to about 4,800 jurisdictions with more than 31,000 gangs and approximately 846,000 gang members in 1996(Moore and Terrett, in press). An 11-city survey of eighth graders found that 9 percent were currently gang members, and 17 percent said they had belonged to a gang at some point in their lives (Esbensen and Osgood, 1997).Other studies reported comparable percentages and also showed that gang members were responsible for a large proportion of violent offenses. In the Rochester site of the OJJDP-funded Program of Research on the Causes and Correlates of Delinquency, gang members (30 percent of the sample) self-reported committing 68 percent of all violent offenses (Thornberry, 1998). In the Denver site, adolescent gang members (14 percent of the sample) self-reported committing 89 percent of all serious violent offenses (Huizinga, 1997). In another study, supported by OJJDP and several other agenciesand organizations, adolescent gang members in Seattle (15 percent of the sample) self-reported involvement in 85 percent of robberies committed by the entire sample (Battin et al., 1998).This Bulletin reviews data and research to consolidate available knowledge on youth gangs that are involved in criminal activity. Following a historical perspective, demographic information ispresented. The scope of the problem is assessed, including gang problems in juvenile detention and correctional facilities. Several issues are then addressed by reviewing gang studies to provide aclearer understanding of youth gang problems.An extensive list of references is provided for further review.

Youth Gangs
Culture, Peers, and Delinquency
Community Based Youth Agency
Addressing Youth Gang Problems
Florida House Survey on the Incidence and Extent of Youth Gangs
Gangs in the Era of Internet and Social Media

Gangs in America's Communities, Third Edition blends theory with current research to help you identify essential features associated with youth violence and gangs, as well as apply strategies for gang control and prevention. Authors Dr. James C. Howell and Dr. Elizabeth Griffiths introduce you to theories of gang formation, illustrate various ways of defining and classifying gangs, and discuss national trends in gang presence and gang-related violence across American cities. They also offer evidence-based strategies for positioning communities to prevent, intervene, and address gang activity. New to the Third Edition: A series of new case studies document the evolution of numerous gangs in large cities, including the community aspect, evolutionary nature, and how cities influence levels of violence. New discussions highlighting the role of social media, insights into how gangs use it to recruit members, and the response from law enforcement. Current nationwide gang trends are discussed to encourage you to analyze and interpret the most recent statistics for which representative data is available. Updated macro and micro gang theories enable you to explore a recent encapsulation of leading developmental models. New discussions around female gang members offer you potentially effective programs for discouraging females from joining gangs—along with highly regarded delinquency prevention and reduction programs that have the potency to be effective in reducing gang crimes among young women. A comprehensive gang prevention, intervention, and suppression program in Multnomah County, Oregon shows how theory was successfully applied to reduce gang activity in a local community. New research on “ gang structures ” and their rates of crime illustrate the connections between violent crimes and the amount of violent offenders within a gang. Additional discussion of distinguishing features (e.g., typologies) of major gangs, and numerous examples of gang symbols, tattoos, and graffiti has been added to help readers identify and differentiate various types of gangs.

The ubiquity of the internet and social media has influenced the lives of people across the globe, including young people involved in street gangs and troublesome youth groups. This development raises important questions about the causes, features, and consequences of online gang behavior, as well as the consequences of this new phenomenon for gang prevention and intervention. In this edited volume, members of an international network of gang researchers, the Eurogang Program of Research, present findings and insights from recent academic gang studies focused on the use of internet and social media. It focuses on online features of gangs and the consequences of social media for the study of these groups. The second section of the book focuses on the meaning of online media for the prevention, monitoring and intervention of gangs, and for gang disengagement processes. This is the first volume focused on the role of internet and social media in the study of gangs. Providing much needed insights into online gang processes, it will appeal to students and researchers interested in gangs and juvenile delinquency, and to professionals, practitioners, and policy-makers working on preventing or reducing gang involvement and delinquent behavior.

This book lays out steps needed to develop a collaborative approach to transform neighborhoods away from gang susceptibility and to help communities avoid unnecessary pitfalls. By looking at gangs through a community health prism, by demystifying the gang-reduction process and by showing how to develop a collaborative approach, the Project 110% model offers a way to reduce gangs before they become violent and criminal.

Gang Prevention in Schools
A Statewide Directory of Programs : Prevention - Intervention - Suppression
Communitywide responses crucial for dealing with youth gangs
Gangs
An Overview of Research and Programs
Reducing Youth Gang Violence

Increase your understanding of the etiology, prevention, and treatment of delinquency! This informative book provides you with specific strategies to assess delinquency and to increase the effectiveness of any prevention program. In addition, it presents a community peer model of delinquency with important implications for delinquency prevention programs and for delinquency research. Examining specific cultural groups in the United States, including Caucasians, East Asians, South-East Asians, Polynesians/Micronesians, and Vietnamese, as well as Japanese youths in their homeland, this model shows how families, schools, and neighborhoods affect the formation of peer groups—and how these groups can facilitate or inhibit delinquency. Culture, Peers, and Delinquency explores the interplay of historical, traditional culture with contemporary youth culture. It also examines the relationship between individual outcome and community disorganization and illustrates how peer relationships are conditioned by gender. The book will increase your understanding of the etiology, prevention, and treatment of delinquency with examples that show treatment alternatives and outcomes, focusing on: intercultural differences in major descriptors of the attitudes and activities of youth the demographics, economics, and history, as well as a fascinating and disturbing cultural analysis of the ever-increasing rate of juvenile delinquency in Japan the influence of peers and culture on Vietnamese youth gangs in Honolulu gender-difference studies of mixed-culture incarcerated adolescents—and what these youths have to say about the detention facility where they go to school a careful analysis of homes, schools, and neighborhoods in terms of their dysfunctions and how they increase the likelihood that their youth will spend time with similar peers and without adult supervision

"[Gangs in America ′ s Communities] is one of the most comprehensive treatments of gangs in the marketplace. . . . I highly recommend its adoption as you will not be disappointed and, most importantly, neither will your students." —Elvira White-Lewis, Texas A&M University-Commerce Gangs in America ′ s Communities, Third Edition blends theory with current research to help readers identify essential features associated with youth violence and gangs, as well as apply strategies for gang control and prevention. Authors Dr. James C. Howell and Dr. Elizabeth Griffiths introduce readers to theories of gang formation, illustrate various ways of defining and classifying gangs, and discuss national trends in gang presence and gang-related violence across American cities. They also offer evidence-based strategies for positioning communities to prevent, intervene, and address gang activity. New to the Third Edition: A series of new case studies document the evolution of numerous gangs in large cities, including the community aspect, evolutionary nature, and how cities influence levels of violence. New discussions highlighting the role of social media, insights into how gangs use it to recruit members, and the response from law enforcement. Current nationwide gang trends are discussed to encourage readers to analyze and interpret the most recent statistics for which representative data is available. Updated macro and micro gang theories enable readers to explore a recent encapsulation of leading developmental models. New discussions around female gang members offer readers potentially effective programs for discouraging females from joining gangs—along with highly regarded delinquency prevention and reduction programs that have the potency to be effective in reducing gang crimes among young women. A comprehensive gang prevention, intervention, and suppression program in Multnomah County, Oregon shows how theory was successfully applied to reduce gang activity in a local community. New research on "gang structures" and their rates of crime illustrate the connections between violent crimes and the amount of violent offenders within a gang. Additional discussion of distinguishing features (e.g., typologies) of major gangs, and numerous examples of gang symbols, tattoos, and graffiti has been added to help readers identify and differentiate various types of gangs.

Street gangs and other violent criminal groups, including racist groups, exist in European and US cities alike. This volume presents new data on European youth gangs, describing important characteristics of these groups, and their similarities and differences to American gangs.

Youth Gangs and Community Intervention
Gang Suppression and Intervention
Gang Suppression & Intervention
National Youth Gang Suppression and Intervention Program
Perceptions and Responses of Community Organizations
An Assessment

The American Street Gang provides a detailed accounting, through statistics, interviews, and personal experience, of what street gangs are, how they have changed, their involvement in drug sales, and why we have not been able to stop them. Klein has been studying street gangs for more than thirty years, and he brings a sophisticated understanding of the problem to bear in this often surprising book. In contrast to the image of rigid organization and military-style leadership we see in the press, he writes, street gangs are usually loose bodies of associates, with informal and multiple leadership. Street gangs, he makes clear, are quite distinct from drug gangs - though they may share individual members. In a drug-selling operation tight discipline is required - the members are more like employees - whereas street gangs are held together by affiliation and common rivalries, with far less discipline. With statistics and revealing anecdotes, Klein offers a strong critique of the approach of many law enforcement agencies, which have demonized street gangs while ignoring the fact that they are the worst possible bodies for running disciplined criminal operations - let alone colonizing other cities. On the other hand, he shows that street gangs do spur criminal activity, and he demonstrates the shocking rise in gang homicides and the proliferation of gangs across America. Ironically, he writes, the liberal approach to gangs advocated by many (assigning a social worker to a gang, organizing non-violent gang activities) can actually increase group cohesion, which leads to still more criminal activity. And programs to erode that cohesion, Klein tells us from personal experience, can work - butthey require intensive, exhausting effort.

Adolescent Gangs
Gang Prevention
Problem and Response
Looking Beyond Suppression