For at least the last 20 years, numerous newspaper and other media articles have periodically revisited the notion that gangs are expanding their presence across the United States through the movement of members from metropolitan areas—where gang activity is historically concentrated—to nonmetropolitan areas. In fact, the “gang member migration” proposition remains one of the most discussed influential factors in the spread of gang activity nationwide. A quick perusal of recent local newspaper articles pertaining to gangs shows this topic remains as popular as ever. (The National Gang Center [NGC] catalogues gang-related news articles daily and can be found here: http://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Gang-Related-News.) But conspicuously overlooked in these reports is an examination of just how prevalent and substantial gang member migration is across the entirety of the United States. This article briefly summarizes recent analyses on that topic.

Annually, NGC collects gang survey data from a nationally representative sample of local law enforcement agencies. (The representative design of the survey permits the most appropriate way to measure the prevalence of particular gang-related issues, such as migration.) In the 2010 NGC survey, more than 2,500 agencies were asked about the presence of gang activity and, subsequently, gang member migration in their areas. (Further results from the 2010 survey can be found here: http://www.ojjdp.gov/pubs/237542.pdf.) The figure below displays findings among the police and sheriffs’ departments located outside the traditionally gang-affected metropolitan areas (referred to here simply as “nonmetro”). The pie chart portion shows that little more than 10 percent of these agencies experienced both gang activity and migration (compared with
Gang Member Migration
Continued from front page

81 percent that experienced neither), while the bar chart portion shows that local gang members far outnumber gang members who have migrated into the area.

While these findings do not address relative changes over time, they do provide clear evidence that gang member migration is a relatively infrequent occurrence among the thousands of nonmetropolitan law enforcement agencies throughout the United States. And, if it occurs, gang member migrants typically constitute only a small proportion of the local gang population. These findings underscore the importance of contextual examinations in discussions of the prominence of gang issues nationwide. In a future installment, we will examine a related topic: the motivating factors behind gang member migration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gang Member Migration Problems in NonMetropolitan Areas, 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>of local gang members, gang migrants compose... (percent of agencies):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...less than one-quarter (36.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...one-quarter to one-half (27.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...more than half (15.4%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It’s About Time:
Prevention and Intervention Services for Gang-Affiliated Girls

The National Council on Crime and Delinquency released a bulletin for the California Cities Gang Prevention Network (CCGPN) titled “It’s About Time: Prevention and Intervention Services for Gang-Affiliated Girls” in March 2012. This bulletin is designed to bring to CCGPN cities’ attention the vulnerabilities and consequences of gang involvement for girls; the service needs of girls in gangs and girls at risk of joining gangs; and the importance of addressing these service needs as a critical component of cities’ gang violence-prevention efforts. It also provides examples of how various programs are currently addressing the gender-specific service needs of girls involved in gangs.

Click the URL below to download the bulletin:
http://www.ccgpn.org/Publications/CCGPN%20Bulletin%2026.pdf

Effective Gang Reentry a Priority for Criminal Justice

In response to the need for effective reentry practices, the United States Congress approved the Second Chance Act in 2008. The Second Chance Act supports policymakers, researchers, and practitioners in the development and evaluation of model reentry policies and programs aimed at successful offender reentry. In recognition of the importance of reentry, the Federal Reentry Council, made up of 18 federal departments and agencies and chaired by the Attorney General, was established.

Reentry services benefit from best practices implemented during the institutional/facility, structured transition, and community reintegration phases of the incarcerated individual’s experience. Reentry planning at each phase recognizes the individual’s need for supervision, safety, housing, education, employment, treatment, and social support.

Reentry services for gang members bring additional challenges. The gang member has support systems in the community that can meet his need for safety, to make money, and provide social support. The challenge for the...
Gang Violence Protocols for Medical Facilities

In November 2011, in the Bronx, New York, a gang member opened fire on a rival in an emergency room (ER) waiting area, wounding a nurse and a security guard. In March 2012, a dispute among gang members at a North Miami-area funeral home sparked a mass shooting that injured 12 people and killed 2. The multiple victims, family members, and rival gang members converged on local emergency rooms, creating a chaotic and highly volatile atmosphere.

These scenarios have become all too common. Gang violence can be a threat in any medical facility where patients may be involved in gangs. Long-standing rivalries, tensions between gangs, and escalating acts of retaliation can occur in hospital emergency rooms, parking lots, waiting areas, and care facilities. Many gang-involved victims receive treatment in the ER, and rival gang members may seek them out. As a result, ER personnel can be caught in the crossfire.

Here are some gang response action steps for medical facilities:

1. Request gang identification training for ER personnel, including receptionists and security officers, from local gang officers on an annual basis. This training should include visuals of local gang tattoos, clothing, and other identifiers, and should also describe existing rivalries.

2. Develop a relationship with local gang unit administrators. Request dispatcher notification when victims of a gang conflict are transported to the ER. Emergency room personnel should also request further information, including the names/identifiers of the gangs involved and descriptions of suspects/vehicles. This information should be shared with security and reception personnel.

3. Limit the number of visitors who can accompany patients into waiting and treatment areas.

4. Notify security and/or request a law enforcement response in the ER when a gang-involved victim is treated.

5. Rival gang members may encounter one another inside hospital facilities and in parking areas, so both areas require attention and security. Hospital administrators may wish to incorporate Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies. Many law enforcement and city planning agencies can provide CPTED reviews.

6. Prepare for the possibility of treating rival gang members at the same time. Do not allow rival gang members or their visitors to have contact, either inside or outside of the facility.

7. In the event of a serious gang incident in the community, hospitals may wish to develop escalated security protocols that include locking down the emergency room and waiting area.

Effective Gang Reentry

Continued from page 3

phases of reentry. Upon reintegration, safe alternative housing, mentoring relationships, and vocational and employment programs including tattoo removal are essential. Collaborative relationships between agencies providing supervision and services at the community level to share resources and information are important.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance funded the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) to develop a product outlining organizational and practice guidelines and resources for gang reentry at each phase of the process. The Guidelines for Gang Reentry are available in a DVD format and can be ordered from the APPA Web site by clicking here. The National Reentry Resource Center is another resource for reentry information and programs.

Interested in Anti-Gang Training?

Check out the links below for dates and locations:

Training and Conferences
http://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/About/Other-Training-and-Conferences

Law Enforcement Anti-Gang Training

To subscribe to the NGC Newsletter, visit:
http://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Newsletter/Subscribe

www.nationalgangcenter.gov

This project was supported by Cooperative Agreement No. 2011-MU-MU-K001, awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.