

NATIONAL GANG CENTER

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Gang Member Reentry:

Probation and Parole Perspectives

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The National Gang Center (NGC) is jointly funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Bureau of Justice Assistance. NGC conducts research on street gangs and serves as a clearinghouse for individuals and agencies seeking information, technical assistance, and training in the areas of gang prevention, intervention, suppression, and reentry.

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NATIONAL GANG CENTER

Contact:

NATIONAL GANG CENTER

Post Office Box 12729
Tallahassee, Florida 32317
Phone: (850) 385-0600
Ext. 224
Fax: (850) 386-5356

E-mail:
information@nationalgangcenter.gov
Web site:
www.nationalgangcenter.gov

Gang Member Reentry: Probation and Parole Perspectives

Written by:

Adam K. Matz, M.S., Research Associate, American Probation and Parole Association
Nathan C. Lowe, M.S., Research Associate, American Probation and Parole Association



A Force for Positive
CHANGE.

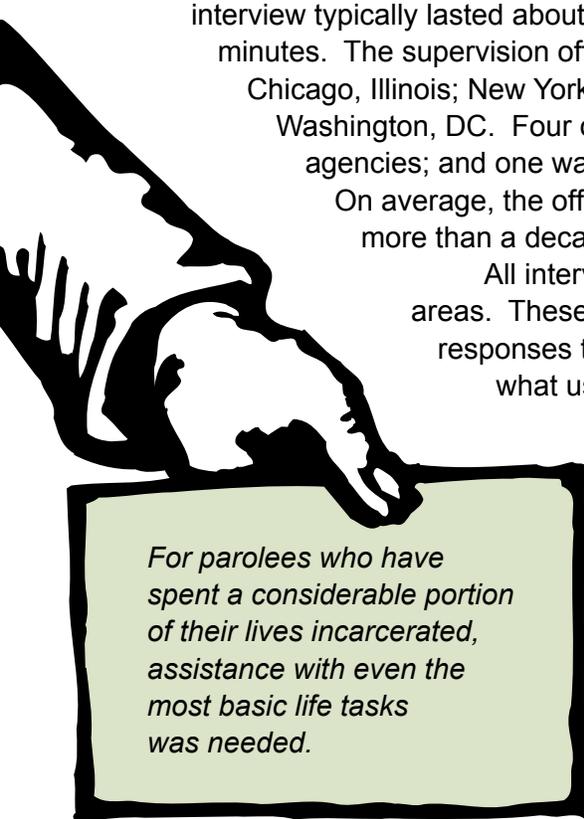
Earlier this year, the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) conducted a small number of telephone interviews with probation and parole officers. The central research questions concerned the perceived prevalence, problems, and needs of gang members under community supervision.¹

Multiple community supervision officers (i.e., probation, parole) participated in semi-structured interviews with an APPA research associate. Interviewees were solicited through an online flyer that was posted on the APPA Web site. The invitation was open to any probation/parole officer with experience working with gang members. Each interview typically lasted about 90

minutes. The supervision officers were diverse in origin, representing Boston, Massachusetts; Chicago, Illinois; New York City, New York; Sacramento, California; St. Louis, Missouri; and Washington, DC. Four of the agencies represented were county-based; two were federal agencies; and one was a state agency. The officers each represent urban jurisdictions. On average, the officers had worked in the justice system and with gang members for more than a decade.

All interviewees rated the presence of gang activity as very serious in their areas. These variations across time have been the result of changing justice responses to gangs and gang members. Specifically, one officer explained that what used to result in imprisonment for gang members now leads to probation. In another case, an officer explained how the relocation of the field office unintentionally removed that officer from the gang zones where the officer could be most effective. Finally, politics and the media were cited as a key influence on the resources and prioritization of gang problems. The interviewees often felt that the media exacerbates gang problems by glorifying gangs and further exposing youth to the gang lifestyle.

Officers reported a variety of key factors they perceived to influence gang involvement. These included lack of parental supervision, involvement, and support; persistent exposure to impoverished living conditions; and low educational achievement. The



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Gang Member Reentry

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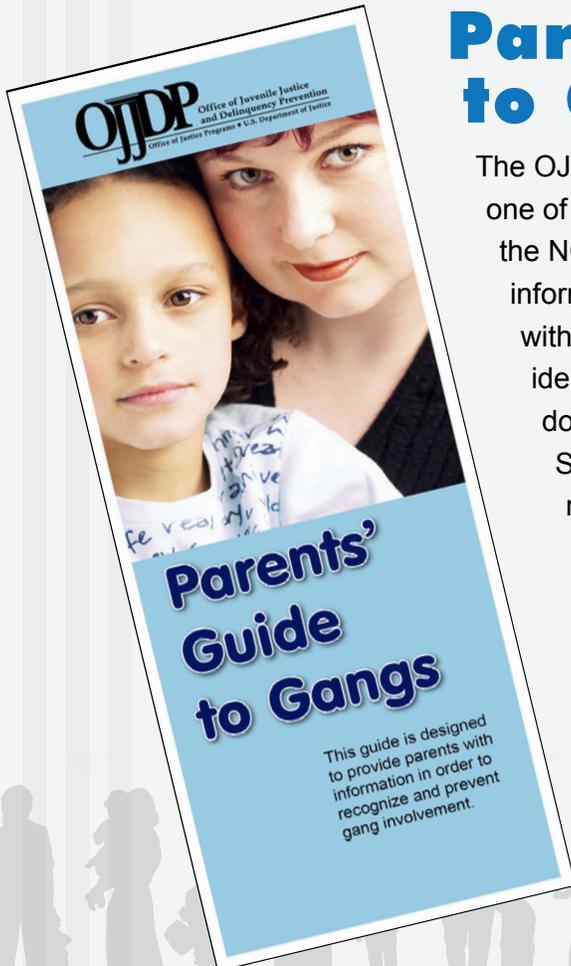
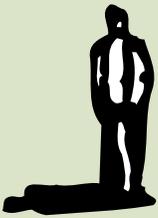
officers reiterated that gang-involved youth often live in a social reality that defies the conventional lifestyle of going to school or working at a steady job.

A variety of street gangs were reported, including nationally recognized gangs such as the Bloods, Crips, Latin Kings, MS-13, Vice Lords, and Gangster Disciples as well as hybrid and home-grown delinquent peer groups. Gang members were reportedly supervised in the probation/parole setting for a variety of original offenses including assault, robbery, homicide, drug trafficking, illegal firearms possession and distribution, and auto theft.

Finally, the interviewees provided their perspectives on the reentry needs of gang-affiliated probationers/parolees. They shared some common themes with other returning offenders, most notably the need for stable housing and employment. For parolees who have spent a considerable portion of their lives incarcerated, assistance with even the most basic life tasks was needed.

For additional information on the APPA, see <https://www.appa-net.org>.

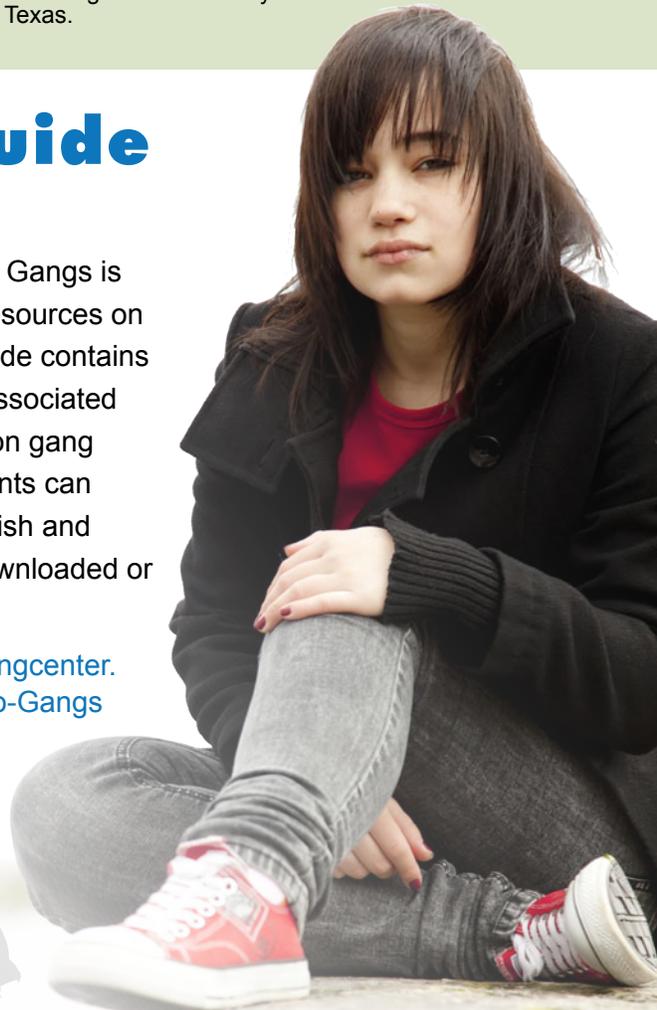
¹Contents of this update were previously presented at the annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) on March 21, 2013, in Dallas, Texas.



Parents' Guide to Gangs

The OJJDP Parents' Guide to Gangs is one of the most-requested resources on the NGC Web site. This guide contains information on behaviors associated with joining gangs, common gang identifiers, and what parents can do. It is available in English and Spanish and can be downloaded or requested here:

<http://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Parents-Guide-to-Gangs>



OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model Training



March 4–6, 2014 • Dallas, Texas

Sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), team training on the OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model will be offered by the National Gang Center (NGC) on March 4–6, 2014, in Dallas, Texas. At this time, registration is full.

Whether a community has an emerging gang problem or a deeply entrenched gang problem, this Model provides a framework for coordinated action that improves a community's capacity to respond to gangs. Working through the five strategies of the Model, teams will learn how to conduct a thorough gang assessment, organize the structure of the Model, build on community partnerships, plan for implementation, coordinate programs and staff functions within and across agencies to effectively utilize available resources, implement formal and informal social control strategies, and develop a street outreach component.

Each community attending the training has identified a team composed of agency representatives from law enforcement, probation, social services, and schools. The team members should be key policymakers/agency heads from agencies that will be involved in an assessment of the community's gang problem and the ultimate implementation of the Model.

Representatives from the NGC, who provide technical assistance and training to sites that are implementing the Model, as well as representatives from sites that have implemented or are currently implementing the Model, will

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OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model Training

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provide the instruction/facilitation. The format will be general sessions, individual team roundtable discussions, and practical exercises. For information on the OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model, see <http://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Comprehensive-Gang-Model>.

Since there has been an overwhelming response to this training, we would still like to hear from you if your community would like to participate in a future OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model Training.



This Model provides a framework for coordinated action that improves a community's capacity to respond to gangs.

Please fill out a Training and Technical Assistance Request Form at <http://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Training-and-Technical-Assistance/Request>, and note that you are interested in being considered for an OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model Training scheduled in the future.



Global: Collaboration and Information Sharing for Better Juvenile Justice



What Is "Global?"

The Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global) is an advisory body to the U.S. Attorney General and the Assistant Attorney General. Led by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) in collaboration with a wide range of partners and stakeholders, Global member organizations volunteer their support to represent the justice community. More than 30 premier organizations from across the entire justice landscape, at all levels of government, dedicate their time and expertise recommending technology and policy information sharing solutions and best practices that support effective, efficient solutions to business problems, advancing the justice system to influence and improve the lives of people in our communities. Global Advisory Committee members provide recommendations in an open, transparent, and collaborative manner to improve justice and public safety business processes and capabilities through efficient, effective, and timely information sharing.

Why Should I Care? How Does Global Intersect with and Support JJ?

In 1999, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) identified integrated information sharing as an essential tool to help justice, education, health, and other youth-serving agencies improve outcomes for at-risk youth, juvenile offenders, and their families.

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Global:

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Recently, there has been a strong move by OJJDP to leverage the power of a collection of Global solutions—specifically, the Global Standards Package (GSP), an interrelated collection of the hallmark resources—as a specific condition of its grant awards. This is an important step in advancing vital exchange opportunities between youth-serving communities critical to achieving the goals of protecting children from victimization, deterring at-risk juveniles from engaging in delinquent acts, and intervening in the lives of juvenile offenders (including youth gang members) to promote their rehabilitation and to prevent recidivism.

Collaboration and Information Sharing Equals Better Decision Making, Better Youth Services

The critical need to partner and share information in service to youth extends throughout communities in the United States. The sharing and assembling of current, complete, and accurate data is fundamental to making the best possible plans for at-risk juveniles, including those involved in gangs. Every day, youth-serving professionals are required to make significant decisions, but unfortunately, their agencies and organizations—particularly when developing plans for juveniles involved in multiple systems of care, such as the child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health, and education systems—face a significant challenge: no one system alone has all the critical information to best serve this vulnerable sector of America’s population. As a result, system-involved youth often receive inadequate, inappropriate, redundant, and possibly contradictory services.

Through significant efforts of OJJDP, OJJDP’s National Training and Technical Assistance Center, and BJA’s Global, technical and policy solutions developed in a consensus-driven, collaborative manner (including representation from the juvenile justice community) are already available.

Where Global Matters Most: Support for You, Success in the Field

Communities across the United States have implemented Global tools and resources to create business solutions to improve service provision to youth, families, and communities. For example, knowing that “GFIPM” stands for the “Global Federated Identity and Privilege Management framework” is not critical, but being aware that GFIPM provides an opportunity to share information through single sign-on and automated access control, all while maintaining control of its data, is a valuable resource in an agency’s toolbox.

Consider this story from the field. In 2008, the state of Colorado initiated the Colorado Children and Youth Information Sharing Collaborative (CCYIS) to address



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Global:

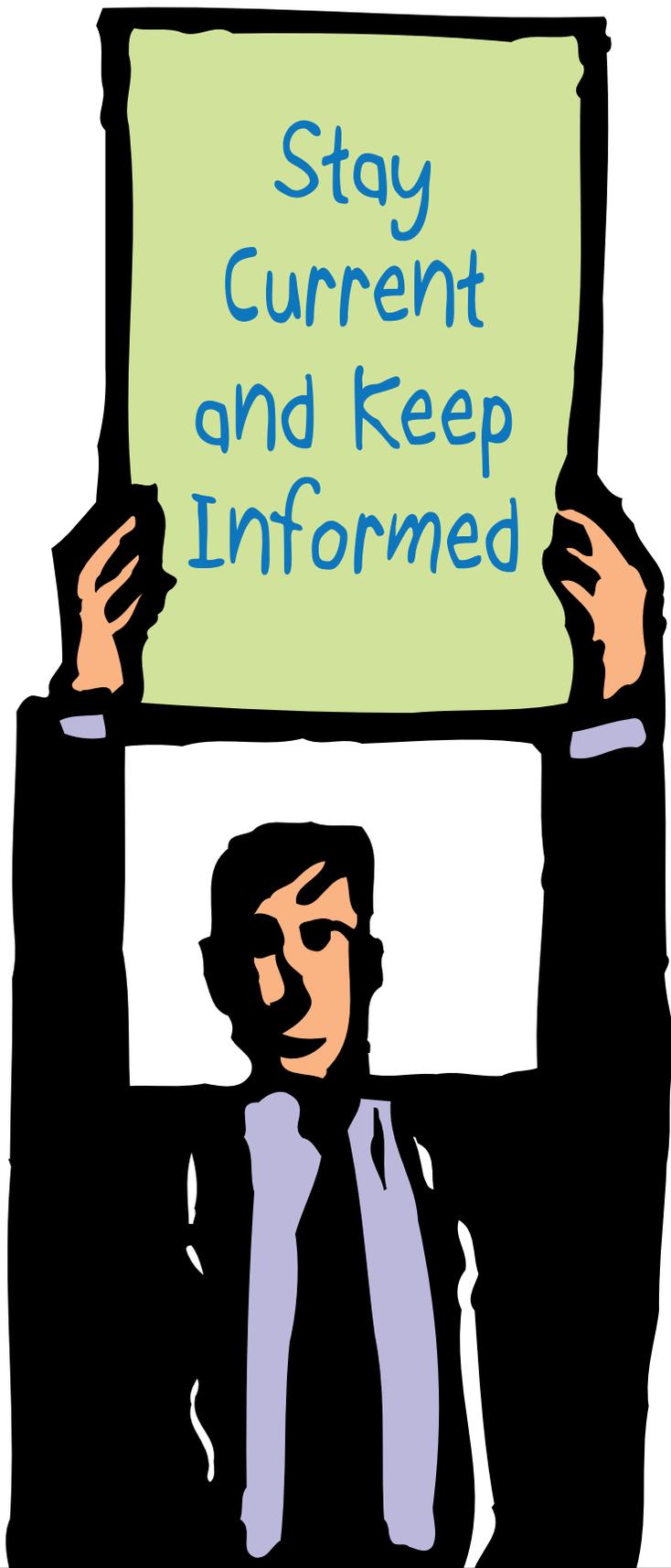
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children and youth information sharing issues and began participating in the BJA-supported Cross Boundary Information Exchange Pilot. The Colorado pilot supports implementation of promising practices that demonstrate results of national significance and potential nationwide replication and leverages the Global Standards Package as a cornerstone of its program design, including implementation of GFIPM, the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM), Global Reference Architecture, and standards-based exchanges. The salient points in the story are that Global solutions are facilitating the appropriate sharing of better data to improve policies and practices to address juvenile crime and victimization; inform development and implementation of effective and coordinated programs; and improve the juvenile justice system so that it protects public safety, holds offenders accountable, and provides treatment and rehabilitative services tailored to the needs of juveniles and their families. Exciting progress and milestone achievements in Colorado include completion of an Information Sharing Summit; creation of a standardized consent form to facilitate information sharing; ongoing training and technical assistance, educational efforts, and partnership building; and development of data exchanges, including support for sharing of Individual Education Plan (IEP), child welfare history, and Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI) data.

Global leaders look forward to the new year, to an increasing collection of promising projects and success stories like the CCYIS, and to strengthening the juvenile justice information sharing partnership for the benefit of all—particularly those relying on our guidance, service, and protection.

- The GSP and all Global solutions can be accessed through the Global Information Sharing Toolkit (GIST) located at <https://it.ojp.gov/gist>.
- For additional information regarding Global, see <https://it.ojp.gov/global>.
- For information regarding OJJDP’s Technical Assistance and Training Center, see <https://www.nttac.org>.
- For additional information on the State of Colorado information sharing efforts, please contact Meg Williams at meg.williams@state.co.us.





- **OJJDP News @ a Glance**

OJJDP's award-winning bimonthly electronic newsletter ***OJJDP News @ a Glance*** highlights agency activities, publications, funding opportunities, and upcoming events. For more information, visit <http://www.ojjdp.gov/enews/newsletter.html>.

- **OJJDP's JUVJUST**

OJJDP's ***JUVJUST*** listserv provides information on juvenile justice and other youth service-related publications, funding opportunities, and events. For more information, visit <http://www.ojjdp.gov/enews/juvjust.html>.

- **Justice Today**

Justice Today is a monthly newsletter developed by BJA containing information about new publications, initiatives, or funding opportunities. For more information, visit <https://www.bja.gov/JusticeToday>.



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

<http://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Training-and-Technical-Assistance/Law-Enforcement>



www.nationalgangcenter.gov



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