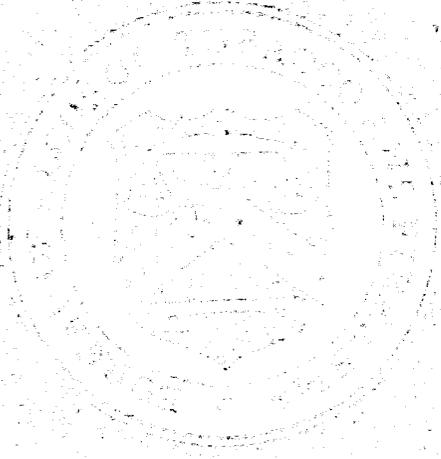


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PREFACE

A major objective of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is to help decrease the violence associated with street gangs throughout the United States. The intention of this intelligence booklet is to provide information in support of that objective. It will be distributed throughout the law enforcement community.

This publication is not all inclusive. It does, however, include the gangs that have been reported as the most criminally active. It does not include detailed intelligence concerning the Crips and Bloods street gangs and the Jamaican Posses. The Crips and Bloods street gangs, which have approximately 45,000 members and associates, and the Jamaican Posses, with an estimated national and international membership of approximately 20,000, are addressed in separate ATF publications.

It is hoped that this report will aid law enforcement personnel in identifying and investigating violent street gangs.

INTRODUCTION

Street gangs have plagued American cities for over 20 years. During this period gang members increasingly demonstrated their willingness to commit violent acts. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) has made this rising threat to society one of its top priorities. These gang members are more and more resorting to the use of illegal weapons and explosives to commit criminal activities. The Bureau's mission is to enhance the Federal Government's authority and ability to deter violent crimes committed by these street gangs.

The purpose of this publication is to provide a general overview concerning the growing number of violent street gangs in the United States. It has been provided by ATF as a reference to support law enforcement administrators and investigators who are engaged in, or entering into, the investigations related to this growing crime problem.

This report is listed in alphabetical order by State, followed by the city in which the organization exists. The publication will depict the history, characteristics, and criminal activities of Afro-American, white, and Hispanic street gangs operating locally in the United States.

The contents of this report are based on information provided by ATF special agents and intelligence research specialists, who are involved in monitoring the criminal actions of street gang members.

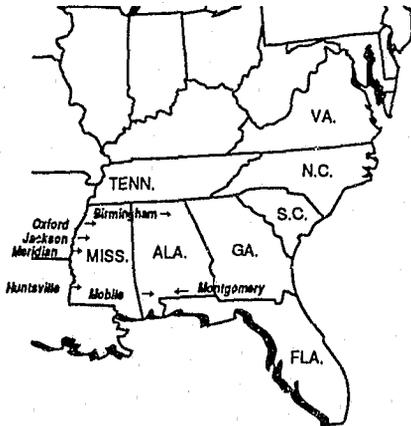
ALABAMA

BIRMINGHAM

Black Gangster Disciples

One of the most predominant street gangs now in existence in the Alabama area is the Birmingham-based *Black Gangster Disciples (BGDs)*. The BGDs, an Afro-American street gang also known as the *Disciples*, has no known connections with the gangs of the same name in the Illinois or Washington areas.

The Birmingham-based Black Gangster Disciples is comprised of approximately 1,200 members. They are mostly young males in their teens and early twenties. The organization's members, who are centered in Birmingham, Alabama, have now spread to Huntsville, Montgomery, and Mobile, Alabama. The gang has also moved to nearby Mississippi, where it controls parts of Jackson, Meridian, and Oxford.



The philosophy of the BGDs is to create a separate nation for the development of the Afro-American brotherhood, and it is suspected that the gang sought assistance from the Nation of Islam. The Nation of Islam is believed to be an Afro-American religious organization that may preach militant actions to accomplish its goals. Recently, in the Birmingham area, the BGDs, along with the Nation of Islam, held a press conference to deny the formation of a "gang." During the press conference, the police department was denounced with a warning to stay out of the problem.

The BGDs in this area is not a highly structured organization. It does, however, have a reigning king, a prince, and foot soldiers.

Birmingham-Based Black Gangster Disciples Gang Structure

King
(President)

King/President: The King is the individual who has the most money or the one who has a reputation of being the most feared.

Prince
(Lieutenant)

Prince/Lieutenant: The Prince assists in the distribution of narcotics and cash flow. He may also be designated as a club enforcer, who assists the King in retaliations, enforcing club rules and collecting debts.

Foot Soldiers
(Minutemen)

Foot Soldiers/Minutemen: The Foot Soldiers report to the Prince. Foot Soldiers act as salesmen.

The BGDs operate mainly "crack" cocaine and cocaine distribution networks, and the ring leaders launder the drug money. It is believed that the gang members in this area are supplied with multikilos of cocaine from an unknown source on a regular basis. Gang members have been observed using Western Union or one of the many overnight package services to send money to individuals located in California.

Where there are gangs, there are also violent crimes and weapon offenses. Ninety-seven drive-by shootings were reported in the city of Birmingham in 1990 alone.

Gang members have developed a method of operation that is consistent with drive-by shootings. An automobile is stolen from an auto dealer or local shopping mall. Once the automobile has been stolen, a separate "safe" vehicle is provided. The stolen automobile is then driven near the anticipated shooting scene. The second automobile is loaded with gang members, who will participate in the crime. Finally, a third automobile will drive to the meeting location, usually loaded with firearms. All the firearms and gang members are then loaded into the stolen vehicle. The members then drive by the target location and fire their weapons. After the attack, the stolen automobile is abandoned, and the two "safe" cars again carry the firearms, while the other carries the gang members.

Gang members are also involved in murder, attempted murder, assault, auto theft, and burglary. They often carry and utilize a multitude of semiautomatic pistols. These semiautomatics are usually 9mm and have extended fire power consisting of 13 rounds or more. Weapons confis-

cated from gang members were Smith and Wesson, Browning, and Tec-9 pistols. Also recovered were a few AK-47 rifles and sawed-off shotguns.

Gang members often acquire firearms by burglarizing firearms dealers. During such burglaries, they drive a stolen automobile through a firearms dealer's front door to gain entry. In some instances, gang members may have a nonprohibited person purchase firearms for them from a Federal firearms dealer. They will also purchase stolen weapons from individuals trafficking them.

Members of BGDs refer to themselves as a "folk nation" and title themselves "folk." The basic symbol used by the BGDs is a three-pronged pitchfork, fork side up, with three arrows attached to each fork.

Members prefer to dress in black, but sometimes dress in green to symbolize money. They wear baseball caps with L.A. Raiders and L.A. Kings written on them. The L.A. Kings attire is worn frequently because the sports club's symbol is a crown, which symbolizes a king. Boston Celtic attire is also worn, especially by those gang members who have acquired money through narcotics sales and other criminal activity.

ARIZONA

PHOENIX

Southside Posse

The presence of street gangs in Phoenix, Arizona, has not gone unnoticed. Law enforcement officials arrested approximately 60 street gang members in 1990, up from 30 in 1989. One of the most dominant street gangs in the Phoenix area is the *Southside Posse*.

The Southside Posse is a Latin street gang established in the Phoenix area in 1987. The gang started with four Latins, who called themselves *Ping's Posse*. They wore red at that time and claimed Bloods affiliations. The gang now consists of approximately 300 members. The alleged leaders are Jamie Florez and Jerry Gilmet.

This gang is a consensus-type organization and uses military-type training due to Gilmet's military experience. It is believed to be very dangerous and has been involved in at least two homicides in Phoenix.

In March 1990, members of the Southside Posse fired at a police car. They have also threatened to shoot gang detectives of the Phoenix Police Department and are involved in the distribution of marijuana and PCP, possession of firearms such as 9mm handguns and sawed-off shotguns, aggravated assaults, and property crimes.

The Southside Posse is identified by the colors red and black. They wear Chicago Bulls clothing and "SSP" tattoos.

The Southside Posse claims to have connections with the Bloods from the Los Angeles area. There is nothing documented, however, to indicate that the Southside Posse is a faction of the Bloods. It is known to be associated with the Bloods and the Broadway Gangster street gangs. Its members are rivals of traditional Hispanic gangs and of the Crips.

ARKANSAS

WEST MEMPHIS

N.W.A. (Niggers With An Attitude)

The fastest growing street gang in the Arkansas area is *N.W.A. (Niggers With An Attitude)*. This gang was formed in 1989 in West Memphis, Arkansas, by a group of young Afro-American men. It consists of 50 members, and it is believed that these men came from the low-income area of West Memphis and united to gain financial power through illegal activity. The gang members' philosophy is "I'm not afraid to kill or be killed - no matter what it takes."

At the present, an ongoing ATF investigation is targeting several members of N.W.A. The gang is involved in narcotics distribution, which includes cocaine, "crack" cocaine, and marijuana. Gang members use minors to facilitate these criminal activities. They have also been implicated in firearms trafficking, drive-by shootings, assaults, burglary, and receiving, concealing, and sometimes distributing of stolen property. To commit these crimes, gang members often use shotguns, rifles, and handguns, which are acquired primarily through burglary.

Members of N.W.A. have been known to wear black and silver. They also wear baseball caps and jackets with the N.W.A. logo.

Niggers With An Attitude gang members have no known affiliations with other gang members, nor do they have any known adversaries.

CALIFORNIA

SANTA ANA

F-Troop

The number of gang arrests in Santa Ana, California, is increasing. In 1990 there were approximately 700 arrests; in 1989, approximately 500. There is still, however, a high visibility of gang members in the area. A very active Hispanic gang in the Santa Ana area is *F-Troop*. *F-Troop*, also known as *FX-Troop*, was organized about 20 years ago

in Santa Ana, California. This gang is said to be named after a television show and was originally a church group in the area.

The gang consists of 800 members divided into 11 "cliques" throughout the Santa Ana area. It is believed that the gang is headed by Juan Acosta and Juan Pedroza. They both carry the title of veterano.

F-Troop gang members are involved in drive-by shootings and in trafficking narcotics, such as marijuana, "rock" cocaine, and base cocaine. Other criminal activities are armed robbery, burglary, and auto theft.

F-Troop gang members use various weapons to commit criminal acts, but they prefer 9mm handguns and shotguns. These weapons are acquired from residential burglaries, street sales, and straw purchases. The F-Troop gang has also been known to use molotov cocktails.

Members of F-Troop are associated with the color black. They wear black T-shirts, jackets, and baseball caps. They often display tattoos reading "FXTX."

F-Troop members are believed to have some connections with outlaw motorcycle gangs in the distribution of methamphetamine. They also have ties to all other F-Troop cliques. F-Troop members are enemies of the Lopers street gang in the Santa Ana area.

Lopers

Another very active street gang in Santa Ana, California, is the *Lopers*. The gang originated in the area approximately 15 years ago for protection against Latin American youth gangs.

There are 1,200 Hispanic members in this gang, most of whom are illegal aliens. There are nine factions of the *Lopers*. The leader is believed to be Jose Guitierrez.

The *Lopers* have been implicated in the trafficking of narcotics such as marijuana, "rock" cocaine, and base cocaine. Other criminal acts include drive-by shootings, felony assaults, robbery, burglary, and auto theft.

The gang is known to use all types of weapons, which are obtained from straw purchases, street sales, residential burglaries, and auto burglaries. They also use molotov cocktails as a means of defense.

The *Lopers* general attire includes T-shirts, jackets, and baseball caps with the clique name on it or the insignia LPS. They also have tattoos reading "LPS" and "Lopers."

It is believed that the *Lopers* have some affiliation with the Crips and Bloods. They were also associated with the Border Brothers while in prison. The *Lopers* gang members are adversaries of F-Troop and Delhi gang members in the Santa Ana area.

LOS ANGELES

Harpys

The *Harpys*, an Hispanic street gang, is a criminal organization that originated as a car club in El Paso, Texas, in the late 1940's or early 1950's. In the early 1960's, the car club expanded and moved to Los Angeles, California. After arrival in the Los Angeles area, the *Harpys* were encountered by members of the 18th Street gang. As a result of this encounter, and because of the desire to keep their area, the car club became the *Harpys* street gang.

The *Harpys* street gang is comprised of approximately 800-1,000 members. Members of this gang range from 10 to 40 years of age. The *Harpys* control approximately 4 square miles in southwest Los Angeles. This area, commonly referred to as "turf," extends from Washington to Figueroa and from Normandie to Exposition. It is expected that the gang will expand to areas of Pomona and Montebello. The boundaries controlled by the *Harpys* has now extended far beyond the Los Angeles area to Juarez, Mexico, and El Paso, Texas. It is also believed that they are located in Utah, Idaho, Oklahoma, and Florida.



Harpys gang members will "mark" their area of control by the use of graffiti, which shows rival gang members that it is their area and also reminds the residents of that particular neighborhood that *Harpys* are in control there.

Street gang members are discovering more and more the ever-present need for strong organization. *Harpys* are broken down into joint organizations, commonly referred to as "cliques," which are groups of individuals divided into smaller organizations.

The *Harpys* gang members are divided into 15 "cliques." This structure is similar to that of more traditional criminal enterprises, such as the La Cosa Nostra. The gang's structure is composed of leaders referred to as veteranos, o.g.s (original gangsters), road dogs, little road dogs, homeboys, and youngsters/chicos.

Harpys gang members share common goals and interests when it comes to committing crimes and controlling the turf. The Harpys are notoriously violent and have been implicated in numerous homicides and drive-by shootings. The gang appears to have clear connections with the distribution of narcotics such as heroin, PCP, cocaine, marijuana, and speed. They are also involved in firearms trafficking, murder, extortion, rape, kidnapping, armed robbery, and the smuggling of illegal aliens into the United States.

This gang is against any kind of law and order. Because of this, police officers are constantly being threatened by gang members and are often targets of ambushes or shootings. The Harpys are known to ruthlessly eliminate anyone who stands in the way.

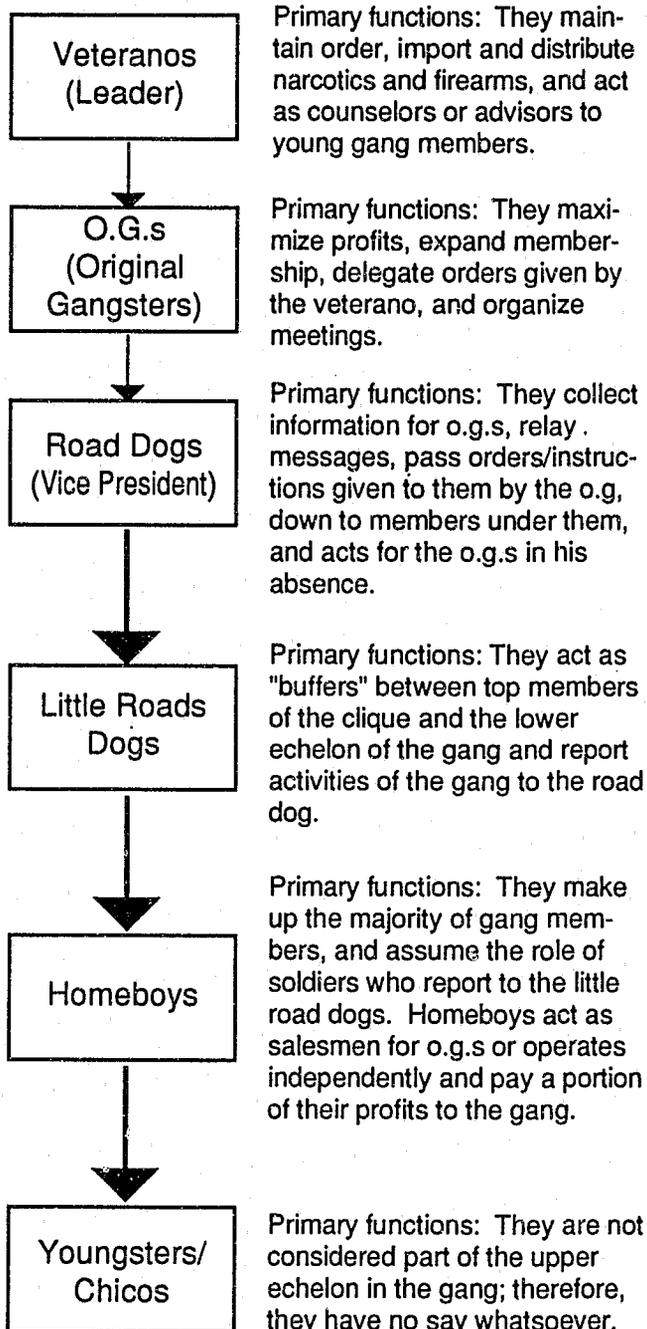
Harpys members believe that they must maintain and control their territory, and will destroy anyone who betrays them. Their justice is quick and final. These acts are achieved by the use of handguns, shotguns, machineguns, rifles, and knives. The firearms are often obtained by burglaries, loans, purchases from fellow or allied gang members, and legal or straw purchases from licensed FFLs.

The Harpys gang members' attire is similar to that of other Hispanic street gangs - baggy pants, oversized, long shirts that are buttoned up to the collar, black bedroom slippers, and blue and/or red bandannas. They wear their hair cut short, and grow goatees. Gang members sport tattoos that read "Harpys," "HPS," "Varrío Harpys," "Barrio Harpys," "WS HPS," and "SUR X3."

Associates of the Harpys include the Rolling 20's (Bloods), Florencia 13, Playboys, and White Fence. It is also believed that the gang may have very strong ties to members of the Mexican Mafia or the Nuestra Familia.

Harpys members are in competition with members of the 18th Street gang. Their disputes have often ended with the death of a member. Other adversaries are Mara Salvatrucha, Primera Flats, and Compton Crips.

Harpys Organizational Structure



18th Street

Los Angeles, California, has the largest street gang population in the United States. It has been estimated that there are over 75,000 Afro-American, white, Hispanic, and Asian gang members in the Los Angeles area alone. Recent studies by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department show a surge in the number of Hispanic gang members. They currently outnumber the Afro-American street gang population. The reason for this increase is unclear at this time.

The largest and oldest Hispanic street gang in Los Angeles is *18th Street*, also known as *Diez y Ocho* and *One Eight*. This gang was established in the 1950's to protect members of the community from other street gangs.

In 1988, the 18th Street gang had more than 2,000 members in a 12 to 13 block area. Now there are more than 5,000 members operating in Los Angeles and San Francisco, California, and in Tijuana, Mexico.



This gang is one of the most violent street gangs in the Los Angeles area, and is responsible for numerous homicides, drive-by shootings, and threats and ambushes of police officers. These violent acts are usually committed with handguns, shotguns, machineguns, and rifles. The gang's firearms are obtained through burglaries, loans from fellow gang members, and legal purchases from FFLs. Other weapons used are knives, bats, and clubs.

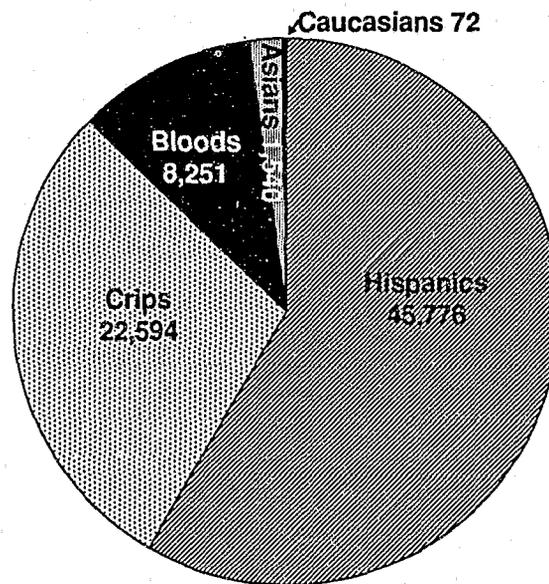
Eighteenth Street gang members are also involved in the distribution of narcotics, which include heroin, PCP, cocaine, marijuana, and speed. Other criminal activities include armed robbery, rape, and auto theft.

Members of the 18th Street gang wear baggy pants, oversized long shirts, which are buttoned at the collar, and black bedroom slippers. Members are also known to wear blue bandannas (blue rags) and tattoos reading "XVIII," "XV3," and "18."

Members of the 18th Street gang are closely associated with the following street gangs: Black Diamonds, Mara Salvatrucha, Rolling 30's (Crips), and the Pueblo Bishops (Bloods).

Rivals of 18th Street gang members include the Harpys, White Fence, Playboys, and the Rolling 20's (Bloods).

GANG MEMBERS IN LOS ANGELES



CONNECTICUT

NEW HAVEN

Kensington Street International

Gang violence has been on the rise in the Connecticut area; even with the 100 arrests of area gang members in 1990, the problem remains. Possibly the largest and most violent gang in the New Haven area is the *Kensington Street International (K.S.I.)*.

This Afro-American street gang consists of about 50 members who organized in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1985 to protect the neighborhood and profit at all costs. K.S.I. gang members follow a standard street gang hierarchy of lieutenants and enforcers and are believed to be headed by Montez Diamond.

Kensington Street International gang members are involved in drive-by shootings and distribution of cocaine and "crack" cocaine. Gang members have been known to use distinctive drug packaging logos such as "Red Bag" and "Yellow Cap." Members of K.S.I. use ninja-type weapons and large caliber firearms.

The Kensington Street International street gang is closely aligned with Jamaicans. Its members are rivals of the Jungle Boys and Island Brothers street gangs.

FLORIDA

SOUTHWEST DADE COUNTY

International Posse (INP)

The largest and the most active street gang in the Florida area is the *International Posse (INP)*. This gang was organized in Miami in 1987. There are now 13 chapters, all located in the southwest Miami area. The International Posse has approximately 500 members composed of Afro-American, white, and Hispanic individuals. This membership accounts for the gang's name, International Posse. The gang is believed to be led by Willy Howard and Timothy Blackburn.

Initiation for a gang member involves proving oneself as a person who is not afraid of law enforcement officers. This initiation tactic could be the reason for actions by gang members of the International Posse; during a recent fight, they assaulted a youth gang officer. Potential members must also prove their ability to defy law enforcement officials and other street gangs.

Reports indicate that there have been well over 100 arrests of International Posse members since January 1990. These arrests resulted from auto thefts, burglaries, aggravated assaults, and drive-by shootings.

Members of the International Posse are known to have shaved haircuts and wear tattoos reading "INP." At one time they wore green, red, and yellow medallions shaped like the continent of Africa. This seems to have been a passing fad. International Posse members do, however, engrave the initials "INP" on all property coming into their possession. They also use specific graffiti designating International Posse territory.

One of the International Posse's main rivals is the Kings gang. Therefore, members of the International Posse wear tattoos with INP over an inverted crown, indicating "King Killer."

BROWARD COUNTY

Zulu

The *Zulu* street gang is comprised of Hispanic, Afro-American, and white males who originated in New York and moved to the Broward County area of Florida. The group of 500 members range in age from 14 to 20. The majority of the members, however, are 16 or 17 years old.

This gang is divided into three chapters, one in north Fort Lauderdale, another in middle Fort Lauderdale, and a third in Hollywood, Florida. It is also believed that the Zulus may be starting a chapter in north Miami. Each of the chapters has appointed a separate leader.



The Zulu is an extremely violent gang that has progressed from graffiti to drive-by shootings, car bombings, and physical assaults against rival gang members. ATF is investigating a case against a Zulu member identified as a bomb manufacturer. At least two car bombings in Broward County are attributed to Zulu gang members.

The gang is primarily involved in buying and selling weapons. It has been known to burglarize the homes of police officers in search of these weapons. It is believed that the Zulus are stockpiling weapons. Local law enforcement officials, however, have not yet determined the location, nor the individuals involved in this activity. The Zulus have also been implicated in narcotics trafficking and strong-armed robbery.

Zulu members tend to identify themselves by wearing black beads on a string. However, due to local law enforcement knowledge of this form of identification, they are attempting to disguise it by adding a holy cross. They have also been known to wear "Zulu Nation" pendants. They sometimes wear tattoos reading "Zulu Nation," "Chapter #," or "Zulu" across the knuckles and, most commonly, "Zulu" tattooed on the inside of the ankle.

SOUTH DADE COUNTY

308 Street Boys

The *308 Street Boys* is a well organized youth gang, established in 1987 in the Homestead and Leisure City areas of South Dade County in Florida. The group is comprised of 75 Hispanic, Afro-American, and white gang members. This crossover of races is becoming common among street gangs. This gang is suspected of being led by Joaquin Agrenot and Richard Reyes.

The 308 Street Boys appear to be well aware of the new State laws enacted regarding juvenile youth gangs. This gang is primarily involved in home invasions, strong-

armed robberies, and narcotics trafficking and distribution of cocaine and "crack" cocaine. The gang conducts narcotics transactions in the Leisure City area. It is currently believed that one member handles receipt and distribution of the narcotics activities.

Gang members of the 308 Street Boys tend to be discreet with their gang involvement. They do not wear colors, tattoos, or any other identifiers. They do, however, identify their graffiti by using the pitch fork symbol.

GEORGIA

COLUMBUS

Major Problems

The presence of street gang activity seems to be declining in Columbus, Georgia. It has been reported that the 17 drive-by shootings in 1989, which were the result of gang members defending their territory, has been cut in half. Nonetheless, there is still the existence of *Major Problems*, also known as the *Crips and Bloods* and *Phi Sigma Lovers*. The group Crips and Bloods is not affiliated with the Los Angeles gangs of the same name.

This Afro-American gang was established in Columbus, Georgia, in 1989. It is believed that the group formed after the motion picture "Colors" came out. This organization first started as a fraternity and has now moved to criminal activities.

Gang members are involved in the sale of "crack" cocaine and marijuana. Some members also commit burglaries when not associated with other gang members, but not on a large scale. They use such weapons as pistols, rifles, and shotguns, which are usually stolen from residences.

The gang is affiliated with a street gang in the Columbus area known as the Boys in the Hood. There are no known rivals because the gangs in this area tend to claim and defend their territory and do not venture into another gangs' territory to start trouble.

JONESBORO

Phinokes

The presence of street gangs in the Jonesboro area appears to be minimum. One of the most active street gangs in the area, however, is the *Phinokes*, also known as the *Fenokes*. It is believed that the gang was formed in the area high schools.

There are approximately 300 Afro-American members in this gang who range in age from 9 to 26; however, most of them are 16 years old. It is believed that these members do not follow any type of structure or hierarchy.

Members of the Phinokes have been implicated in various weapons violations. They use such firearms as .38 and .380-caliber weapons, and 9mm handguns, which are usually acquired through burglaries. Since January 1990, there have been approximately 12 arrests of members of the Phinokes. They have also been involved in other crimes, including drive-by shootings into houses, aggravated assaults, armed robberies, and thefts.

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO

Black Gangster Disciples

The largest and the most unorganized gang in the Chicago area is the *Black Gangster Disciples*, also known as *G.D.* and *Gangster Disciples*. This Afro-American street gang was formed in the early 1970's. At this time there are no known connections with the Black Gangster Disciples in the Alabama and Washington areas.

The Chicago-based Black Gangster Disciples is comprised of 10,000 members. This gang was believed to be founded by the late David Barksdadle, who was allegedly killed by Larry Hoover. Hoover is believed to hold the title "king," and is now in control. As previously stated, this group is not very organized. There is no real gang structure. They do, however, refer to themselves as "kings" and "enforcers."

There have been approximately 8,000 gang member arrests from 1989 to 1990, but this has not stopped the Black Gangster Disciples. They are involved in the distribution of narcotics, including cocaine, heroin, and marijuana. Other criminal activities are murder, robbery, and burglary. This gang has also been implicated in several firearms violations. It is known to use machineguns, shotguns, rifles, and 9mm pistols. These firearms are obtained through burglaries and straw purchases.



Black Gangster Disciple members often wear black or blue. Their symbol is a six-point star, or a heart with wings on the side and a pitchfork and dagger through the heart. These symbols are often tattooed on their bodies. Other identifiers of the gang are jackets representing professional sports teams, and gold jewelry. Black Gangster Disciples members are also known to dress to the

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National Institute of Justice

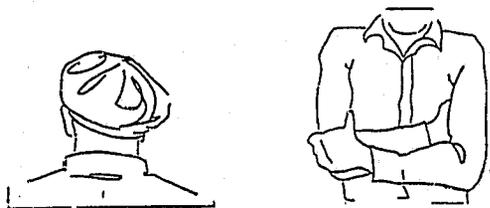
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right. For example, they cock their hats to the right and may wear an earring in their right ear.



The Black Gangster Disciples are affiliated with the Latin Disciples, a street gang from the Chicago area, and the Crips. They are adversaries of the Latin Kings, the Bloods, the Black Disciples, and the Vice Lords.

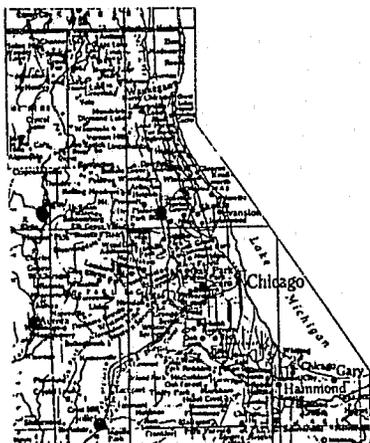
El Rukns

The *El Rukns* street gang, known as the one of the most notorious in the Chicago area, has been the target of several ATF investigations. These investigations resulted in the indictment of 65 members and associates on various violations of RICO, firearms, narcotics and conspiracy statutes. The defendants are now on trial.

The gang is believed to have been founded by Jeff Fort, who was convicted of a 1981 murder and sentenced to 155 years in prison. He continued to operate the organization from prison for some time. It is suspected that Jeff Fort's brother, Jamie Fort, began to head the criminal enterprise in the absence of his brother. The organization, comprised of 30-35 members, is known to law enforcement officials as the "*Baby Ruks*." Jamie and 19 members of the second generation *El Rukns* have been indicted on violations of Federal firearms and narcotics laws.

Latin Kings

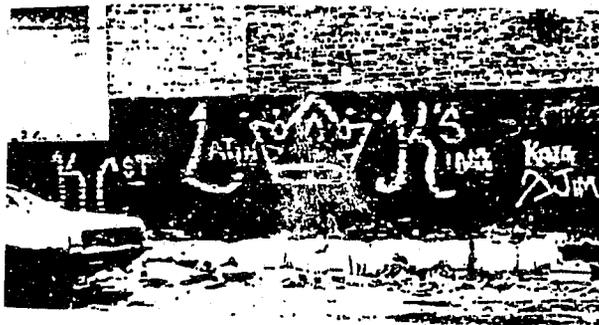
The *Latin Kings*, also known as the *Almighty Latin King Nation*, is comprised of Afro-American, white, and Hispanic members. The gang was established in Chicago, Illinois, in 1960. Almost half of the 30,000 members are now found throughout Illinois State prisons. The remainder have expanded their operations to Elgin, Joliet, Des Plaines, Prospect Heights, and Aurora, Illinois.



The Latin Kings organizational structure consists of a king, crown prince, enforcer, inca, cacique, investigator, treasurer, secretary, advisor, and chairman. The leaders at this time are believed to be two individuals; one with the last name of Colon, titled "Lord Gino," and the other, Gonzalez, titled "Baby King." The gang is highly structured and holds national meetings.

Members of the Latin Kings are targets of several ATF investigations. They have been implicated in the use of firearms to facilitate narcotics trafficking and illegal sales of narcotics such as marijuana, cocaine, acid, heroin, and PCP. They have also been involved in several burglaries. They use firearms such as MAC-10s, sawed-off shotguns, 9mm pistols, and silencers. These weapons are obtained through straw purchases from gun dealers, at gun shows, and through burglaries.

The Latin Kings identify themselves with the colors black and gold, the "L" "K" and a crown, and a crown with fingers. These symbols are often used as graffiti and tattoos.



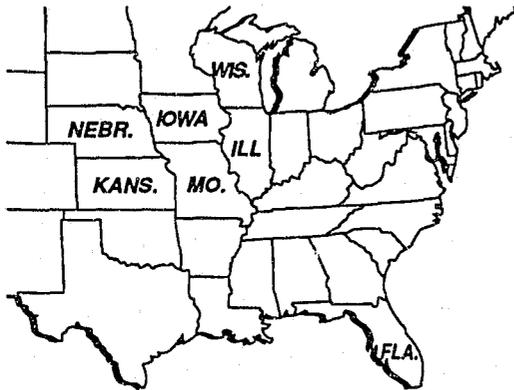
Latin Kings are associated with all street gangs labeled as "people." They are also affiliated with the Insane Unknowns, Spanish Lords, *El Rukns*, and the Vice Lords street gangs. They are currently at war with the Spanish Cobras, and are enemies of every street gang labeled "folks." They are rivals of the Latin Disciples, Black Gangster Disciples, Black Disciples, and the Imperial Gangsters.

Vice Lords

The *Vice Lords*, an Afro-American street gang, was organized in the mid 1950's by a group of individuals serving sentences in Juvenile Detention Center, St. Charles, Illinois. Upon release, these former inmates started the *Vice Lords* gang on the west side of Chicago, Illinois.

In the 1970's the gang died out because of imprisonment of members and death of the leadership. In the 1980's, when members were released from prison, the gang resurfaced and expanded to East St. Louis, Illinois, and St. Louis,

Missouri. The gang is now comprised of 200 members. It is believed that the Vice Lords have also moved to parts of Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Wisconsin.



The Vice Lords have a strong, single leadership. The gang is comprised of approximately 19 separate sets. Each of the sets has a different name and individual leadership. The Vice Lords in the Chicago area is a unique group that has tried to show society that on the surface it is a legitimate organization by requesting and being awarded Federal assistance to help area youth. This was used to mask the violence and drug dealings. The funds were mismanaged by some of the gang's members.

At the present, there are several ongoing ATF investigations involving the Vice Lords. The gang has been implicated in weapons violations, murder, distribution of "crack" cocaine, assault, extortion, armed robbery, auto theft, burglary, and shoplifting. Members of the gang use sawed-off shot guns, .357-caliber handguns, semiautomatic handguns, and machineguns (believed to be MAC-10s). These weapons are acquired from burglaries and fences.

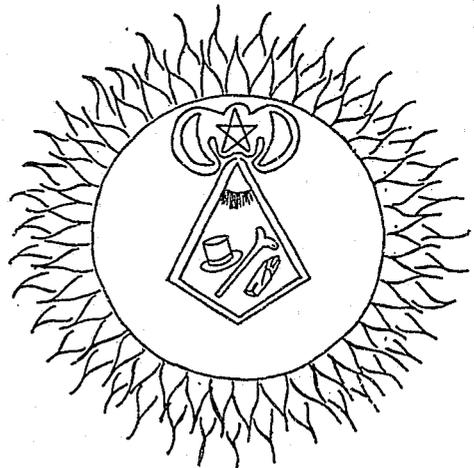
The gang has expressed strong feelings against law enforcement officials. A member of the Vice Lords, from East St. Louis, Illinois, has threatened to kill a police official. Another member from the same area has threatened an Illinois State police officer.

The Vice Lords' basic colors are black and gold. They use symbols such as a circle surrounded by fire, two half crescent moons, a five-point star, a pyramid with a top hat, a cane, white gloves, the Playboy bunny head, dice, the numbers 7 or 11, and a martini glass. These symbols are used for tattoos and graffiti. They also have their own alphabet listing.

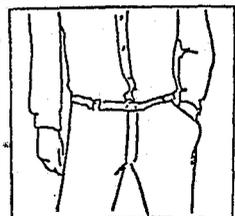
VICE LORDS ALPHABET

A	g	N	v
B	6	O	
C	x	P	-
D	8	Q	S
E	~)	R	4
F	↑	T	"o"
G	#	U	^
H	=	V	ρ
I	·	W	→
J	.)	X	-
K	∪	Y)))
L	(. .)	Z	#
M	^		

NOTE: There is no symbol for the letter 'S'.
The letter 'Z' is probably used in its place.



Members of the Vice Lords refer to themselves as "people." They often wear Pittsburgh Pirates baseball caps that have the letter "p," which they interpret as meaning "people." They also wear gray Civil War-type hats. Vice Lords dress to the left. They wear their hats tilted to the left and their earrings in the left ear.



The Vice Lords are associated with the Latin Kings, El Rukns, Black-P-Stones, Spanish Lords, Cobra Stones, Insane Dueces, Gaylords, and the Insane Unknowns street gangs. It is also believed that the gang is distributing drugs for the Crips and Bloods in the East St. Louis, Illinois, area. They are rivals of the Two-Six Boys, Disciples, Simon City Royals, Ambrose, Harrison Gents, Spanish Cobras, Black Mad Souls, Imperial Gangsters, Latin Disciples, Latin Eables, Satan Disciples, and the Latin Jivers street gangs.

INDIANA

INDIANAPOLIS

Disciples

One of the most dominant street gangs in Indiana is the *Disciples*. This gang is comprised of Afro-American, white, and Hispanic members. It is believed that the gang may have started from the Black Gangster Disciples in Chicago. Because of the mixed race of the Disciples, however, they do not associate with one another.

The Disciples is comprised of 200 members. The gang formed to protect its neighborhoods and later incorporated the neighborhoods into its drug territory. Younger gang members usually fight to protect this territory.

Members of the Disciples are involved in various firearms violations. The weapons used are usually handguns, which are obtained through burglaries. They have also been implicated in cocaine distribution, robbery, burglary, and rape.

Disciples gang members' general attire usually includes the color blue. They wear professional sports jackets, jeans, and bandannas.

The Disciples claim to have close affiliations with the Crips, but there is no known proof supporting the claim. They are rivals of the Vice Lords street gang.

LOUISIANA

NEW ORLEANS

Bally Boys

A very small, but dominant street gang operating in the Louisiana area is the *Bally Boys*. This Afro-American gang was formed in New Orleans in 1988. The Bally Boys' name derived from the expensive Swiss dress shoe and is believed to have organized for self-protection against rival gangs. Unlike most other gangs, the 30 members of this organization are from middle and upper class families.

This gang does not have any formal structure. It consists of about 8 to 10 hard core members and approximately 20 associates. The ages of these individuals range from 15 to 20. The alleged leaders of this group are Joseph Alexander and Kenneth Dunkley.

The Bally Boys have been implicated in the distribution of cocaine and "crack" cocaine. Other criminal acts include murder, robbery, and auto theft (mostly of Chevrolet vans). Two members were recently convicted of murder: one for the murder of a rival gang member, and the other for the murder of a sales clerk during a robbery. Members of this gang use 9mm pistols, mostly obtained from FFLs and burglaries.

The Bally Boys' general attire often includes the color black. They also wear sports designer clothes and designer shoes by Bally, Reebok, and Nike.

The gang is associated with the Bally Girls, and its enemies include the Michoud Crew and the East Shore Posse.

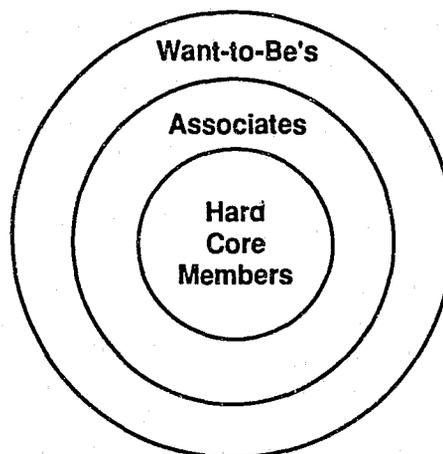
MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON

X-Men

One of the most active gangs in the Jamaica Plain area of Boston is the *X-Men* street gang. The X-Men, an Hispanic gang, was formed in 1988 in Boston as protection groups for drug businesses. The gang consists of approximately 80 members. It is suspected that these members operate under the guidance of Alexis Meja and Daniel Torres.

The X-Men follow the bullseye gang structure. There are approximately six hard core members in the inner circle, and in the outer circles are the associates and the want-to-be's, who hope to become full members.



X-Men gang members are very violent toward law enforcement officials. On numerous occasions police officers have been shot at, or their lives threatened during the arrest of gang members.

Members of this gang have been involved in firearms violations and narcotics trafficking of cocaine, "crack" cocaine, and marijuana. They are also involved in street robberies. The X-Men's firearms consist of revolvers, pistols, long-guns, and knives. The weapons are usually purchased in Massachusetts, Florida, Georgia, and Virginia. Members have also been known to use molotov cocktails as a means of defense.

Members wear baseball caps with "X-Men" on them, and sometimes wear the colors black and white. To identify themselves as X-Men members, they cross their index and middle finger to form an X.

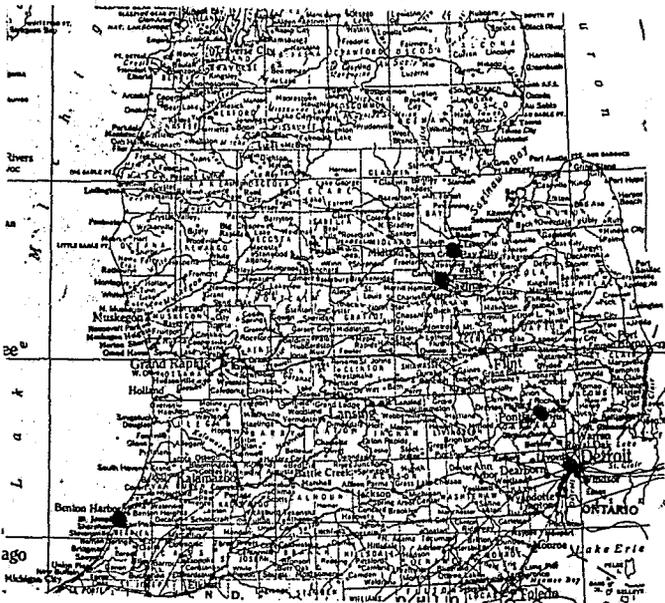
X-Men members have, on occasion, had contact with Jamaicans in the area. The Jamaicans sell narcotics to the gang. The X-Men seem to be adversaries of all other gangs in the area, especially Academy Home.

MICHIGAN

DETROIT

Best Friends

Best Friends, an Afro-American street gang in the Michigan area, is considered by law enforcement officials to be the most vicious and violent of all current gangs in the area. The gang is comprised of approximately 100 members and controls areas of Detroit, Bay City, Benton Harbor, Pontiac, and Saginaw, Michigan.



The gang was formed on the East Side of Detroit in 1983 and was allegedly headed by Reginald "Rockin' Reggie" Brown, who is currently serving a life term in prison. The

organization is now believed to be headed by Reginald's brother, Terrence "Boogaloo" Brown. Best Friends started as a cocaine trafficking business. Now it is known as a top murder-for-hire and drug organization in the Detroit area. It traffics and distributes large amounts of cocaine, believed to be coming from a Colombian source. It also distributes "crack" cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and marijuana. Members have been implicated in several murders and drive-by shootings.

The Best Friends has access to a large quantity of weapons, including 9mm and .45-caliber semiautomatic handguns, AK-47, Tec-9, and Uzi assault rifles. They also use molotov cocktails and grenade launchers as weapons. Sources of the Best Friends weapons are believed to be a white male living in Waterford, Michigan, known only as "Mike," and home burglaries.

Members of the gang preferred to wear "Troop" designer clothing and drive rental cars that are red in color. To make themselves less noticeable to law enforcement officials, however, they now tend to wear sweatsuits, like their peers. With the exception of an excess of gold jewelry, they fit in with the crowd.

The gang has strong connections with Outlaws, Forbidden Wheels, Scorpions, and Highwaymen motorcycle gangs in the Detroit area.

Peoples Organization

The *Peoples Organization*, an organization in which most of the members were former members of the *Young Boys Inc. (Y.B.I.)*, is a small, Afro-American street gang established in Detroit, Michigan, in 1976. At that time it was involved in the distribution of heroin. In 1982, and then again in 1987, a massive Federal indictment dismantled the organization. They are now back in business, however. This criminal enterprise is responsible for the interstate procurement, transportation, and distribution of kilo quantities of cocaine and heroin. The organization is also involved in the distribution of "crack" cocaine and marijuana. The source of these narcotics is believed to be dealers from the Detroit area and sources in Los Angeles, California, and Miami, Florida. To distribute these narcotics, the organization tends to employ youngsters between the ages of 12 and 16 from inner-city locations.

The structure of the *Peoples Organization* is like that of most narcotics organizations. This gang has 45 members and is believed to be headed by 28-year-old Timothy Lee Peoples, a convicted felon. Peoples has a few close associates known as "lieutenants." One such alleged lieutenant is Herbert Cleveland Daniels, 33 years of age, also known as "Fat Herbie." He is believed to be Peoples' "right hand man." A convicted felon, and an original member of the Y.B.I. Another suspected lieutenant is Emanuel Cromer, 27, a convicted felon. A third lieutenant is believed to be 29-year-old Maurice Bell, also known as

"Lil Moe," an original Y.B.I. member. This gang has expanded beyond northwest Detroit to Chicago, Illinois, and Cleveland, Ohio.

Peoples controls a major narcotics operation through which firearms, mostly large caliber handguns, semiautomatic pistols, and assault rifles are used. A high propensity for violence exists. These weapons are obtained from several FFLs who operate from their homes in the Detroit area. The organization has also been known to use explosives such as molotov cocktails, pipe bombs, and other high powered explosives.

Members of this organization are associated with the Forbidden Wheels, Highwaymen, Outlaws, and Scorpions motorcycle gangs. They are adversaries of all other motorcycle gangs in the Detroit area. At this time, there is no known connection with other street gangs.

Young Boys' back in business?

U.S. probes drug ring made up of former gang members

By Allan Lengel
Detroit News Staff Writer

A convicted member of Young Boys Inc. (YBI), the notorious gang that once dominated Detroit's drug trade, is allegedly back in business with former colleagues, according to court documents.

A federal search warrant unsealed last week in U.S. District Court in Detroit alleges that Timothy Peoples, released from prison four years ago, has joined with other former YBI members to organize a new cocaine and heroin ring that bears his name.

"This criminal operation (YBI) was disrupted with the arrest and conviction of several associates and principals," the court document says. "Many have since been released from prison and have formed the Peoples' Organization."

Some suspects linked to the suspected new gang have been charged, but not Peoples. Federal officials say they're trying to "perfect" their cases against the alleged gang members.

Two waves of federal indictments in 1982 and 1987 crushed the Young Boys gang, which eventually was replaced by such groups as the Pony Downs, Curry Brothers and Cham-

bers Brothers.

Today, many of the more than 50 members convicted in those two crackdowns have been paroled from federal prison. Peoples, now 27, was sentenced to four years in prison in June 1983 for conspiracy to distribute heroin and cocaine for YBI. He was paroled three years later.

His brother, Raymond Peoples, also described by authorities as a top lieutenant and suspected enforcer for YBI, was shot to death in his car on Detroit's west side in August 1985 shortly after he had served two years in prison. Three years earlier, Raymond Peoples had survived six bullet

wounds during an attempted execution.

A federal task force in recent months has been probing the activity of former YBI gang members, court documents indicate. However, federal officials have been reluctant to discuss details.

"Some of the (former) YBI members are in the Peoples organization, and they are also members of other organizations," said Bernard LaForest, special agent in charge of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in Detroit. "What we're trying to do in the task force is perfect the cases as much as possible

so they won't return to the street as fast as they did before.

"If we're successful, we're going to put them away for a lot longer than that."

Peoples' lawyer, N.C. Dedyz Larenc, declined to comment. Attempts to reach Peoples were unsuccessful.

The information about Peoples is contained in a search warrant and affidavit for Steven "Fletch" Cochran of West Bloomfield Township, who federal authorities allege "is a narcotic supplier to the Peoples Organization."

Cochran was arrested earlier this year after federal agents searched his car and condominium on Maple Road near Orchard Lake and seized

records, operated several Detroit party stores and is believed to have sold cocaine "over the counter of World Wide Party (Store), at 12th Street and Calvert, Detroit." He has not been charged with any drug offense to date. Federal officials said there was no indication he was associated with YBI in the early days.

In addition to Cochran, federal officials said they recently have indicted other alleged associates of Peoples.

Last week, a suspected former YBI associate, 36-year-old George "Rerun" Reid, and Britton W. Hooten, were arraigned before U.S. Magistrate Virginia Morgan on heroin trafficking charges.

In June 1989, Andre Reeves, "a known associate of Timothy Peoples," told Detroit police narcotics officers that Reid was his drug supplier, according to court records. Reeves made the statement after police raided his home in the 18000 block of Westmoreland in Detroit.

YBI emerged in the late 1970s in Detroit's 10th (Livernoak) Precinct on the city's west side. From there, the group spread throughout Detroit and into such cities as Flint and Pontiac.

Top gang leaders remained insulated from the day-to-day operations by relying on street peddlers and couriers too young to be prosecuted as adults.

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL

Vice Lords

One of the major street gangs now in existence in the area of Minneapolis and St. Paul is the Minnesota-based *Vice Lords*, also referred to as the *Vice Lord Nation* and the *Unknown Vice Lords*. The Minnesota-based Vice Lords is a subgroup of the Conservative Vice Lords, a faction of the Vice Lords in Chicago, Illinois. There are no known connections with the Minnesota-based Vice Lords and the Chicago-based Vice Lords. This Afro-American gang was established in the 1950's on the west side of Chicago, Illinois. It has now expanded to Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, as well as Milwaukee, Kenosha, and Racine, Wisconsin.



The Minnesota-based Vice Lords, which includes Minneapolis and St. Paul, is comprised of 800 members, 700 of whom are in Milwaukee. The number of members in Kenosha and Racine, Wisconsin, is unknown. The Vice Lords operates with an organizational structure of seniors, juniors, midgets, and peewees. The Minnesota faction is suspected to be led by Willie "Dan" Lloyd, and the Wisconsin faction is believed to be led by Glen T. Allen, also known as "Sir Cigar."

The Vice Lords, a turf-oriented gang, was originally organized as a social club for neighborhood protection. Now, the gang participates in intimidation and other criminal activities. The philosophy of the Vice Lords is a religious belief called "Lordism" - belief in one God. "Vice" means having faults by human nature. This gang believes that man is considered "Vice Lord" of the physical world and that God has granted "Vice Lords" power to rule over other human beings. This philosophy accepts other religions as being equal.

The Vice Lords of all areas usually stick together. There is currently, however, a power struggle between Willie Lloyd and Samuel K. Willis. Willis is suspected of holding the title of "Minister of Justice" for the Minneapolis Vice Lords faction. This power struggle came about because of several shooting incidents. The Vice Lords has been implicated in such criminal activities as firearms violations, illegal trade of cocaine and "crack" cocaine, homicides, assaults, robberies, auto thefts, burglaries, and credit card fraud.

Gang Young Boys' back in the drug business?

From page 18

machine gun with a silencer, two ski masks, rubber gloves, \$16,000, and a police radio. He is in custody pending a July 2 trial on charges of being a felon in possession of a gun and possession of an unregistered machine gun and silencer.

Cochran, according to court re-

The Vice Lords members often use sawed-off shotguns, handguns, and assault rifles. The firearms are acquired by gang members through residential and gun shop burglaries and straw purchases from FFLs by relatives and associates who do not have criminal records.

Members of the Vice Lords refer to themselves as "people," and use various symbols of identification. These symbols include a 360 degree circle, a pyramid, a top hat, a playboy, a pair of rabbit ears pointed up, and dice showing 7 and 11. All these symbols are used for tattoos and graffiti. Members also identify themselves with the colors black and gold, or black and red.

The Vice Lords are associated with the Crips and Bloods street gangs from Los Angeles, California. It is believed that these gangs have supplied cocaine to the Vice Lords. They also are affiliated with other Vice Lord factions and the Latin Kings street gang. They are adversaries of the Black Gangster Disciples, and often display this when using graffiti by turning down the pitchfork symbol of the Black Gangster Disciples.

MISSOURI

ST. LOUIS

Sydney Street Hustlers

Sydney Street Hustlers is an Afro-American street gang established in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1987 or 1988. The gang is also known as *Accomac Boyz* and *One-Two-Homes*. This gang is believed to have its roots as a neighborhood youth gang, with the neighborhood as its focus. With time, it began dealing in narcotics, and individual profits became its focus.

The Sydney Street Hustlers is comprised of 85-100 members. They do not, however, have any distinctive organized structure.

The gang has been implicated in the distribution of "crack" cocaine, extortion, robbery, auto theft, and burglary. The most common weapons used by the gang members are .38-caliber handguns, obtained through burglaries and thefts.

Sydney Street Hustlers tend to use young juveniles as lookouts and couriers of the "crack" cocaine operation. They promise to make the youngsters gang members if they do a good job.

The gang tends to wear blue or black professional sports team jackets and baseball caps, especially Oakland Raiders.

The Sydney Street Hustlers has no known affiliations with other gangs. It does have conflicts with smaller gangs in the St. Louis area.

NEW MEXICO

ALBUQUERQUE

Juaritos

The *Juaritos* is an Hispanic gang established in Juarez, Mexico, in the 1980's. The organization is believed to have appeared with the influx of illegal aliens during that time period. The gang is comprised of 140 members. It has expanded to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where it is now located. Many *Juaritos* are incarcerated in New Mexico prisons.

The *Juaritos* are involved in the distribution of heroin, cocaine, and marijuana. Members have also been implicated in violent crimes, during which various types of firearms and knives are used. The sources of the weapons are usually burglaries, flea markets, and straw purchases. Other criminal acts include burglaries and auto thefts.

Members of the *Juaritos* wear tattoos reading "JMV," which stands for Juarez Mara-Villas. The gang's general attire is similar to that of other Hispanic street gangs. Members wear jeans, together with white T-shirts or long-sleeved plaid shirts buttoned at the neck.

The *Juaritos* have no known associates. Its adversaries include other smaller Hispanic street gangs in the area.

NORTH CAROLINA

HIGH POINT

Juice Crew

In the North Carolina area there are several very small street gangs in operation. One of the best known is the *Juice Crew*. This gang organized in High Point, North Carolina, in 1989.

The *Juice Crew* is a group of approximately 18 Afro-American members suspected to be headed by Jerome Bethea. Bethea moved to North Carolina from New York City. It is believed that he moved to the area after learning of the high profit to be had in the narcotic market in the area.

It has been reported that there were 12 arrests of *Juice Crew* members in 1990 and 9 in 1989. Despite this, the operation continues. The gang controls the "crack" cocaine, cocaine, and marijuana sales in High Point and uses violence and intimidation to recruit members and control its territory. The gang's structure consists of a supplier, supervisor, money collector, director of street sales, courier, and street seller.

The gang has been implicated in concealing weapons, violent assaults, money laundering, and robbery. The Juice Crew uses weapons such as .25 and .357-caliber and 9mm pistols, revolvers, and knives. The weapons are usually procured by thefts and straw purchases.

The Juice Crew is associated with the Tribe gang from Greensboro, North Carolina.

OHIO

YOUNGSTOWN

Ready-Rock Boys

The *Ready-Rock Boys*, also known as the *Detroit Boys*, is an Afro-American street gang that formed in the Ohio area in 1988. The gang has now expanded its criminal operation to other cities in Ohio, and in Detroit, Michigan. The organization is comprised of 65 members and is believed to be headed by Aaron Rodgers and Darnell Walker. The inner circle of this organization is related by blood.



The Ready-Rock Boys is an extensive narcotics distribution network that believes in protecting its territory and usually does so by shooting anyone who gets in its way. Members often shoot rival narcotic dealers. It is believed that the Ready-Rock Boys is the cause of a recent bombing, which resulted in several injuries. The gang has also been involved in 12 drive-by shootings.

Members have been implicated in the distribution of "crack" cocaine, purchases of illegal firearms, and assaults. The gang's source of cocaine is in Detroit, Michigan, where they also operate several crack houses. In addition to crack houses in the Detroit area, they also have several in Cleveland, Canton, and Youngstown, Ohio.

Gang members use assault-type firearms and high capacity handguns, which are obtained by associates who make straw purchases from FFLs. Members of the Ready-Rock Boys wear expensive sports clothes and sneakers. They also wear lots of gold jewelry and drive expensive new cars.

The Ready-Rock Boys is associated with outlaw motorcycle gang members and purchases "crack" cocaine from them, particularly, the Pagans. It is an affiliate of Jamaicans, Cubans, and a Detroit street gang known as the Young Boys Inc. It is an adversary of the Bloods, Crips, and the Eastsiders street gangs.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA

Junior Black Mafia (J.B.M.)

The *Junior Black Mafia (J.B.M.)*, is an Afro-American street gang established in mid-1987 on the west side of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The gang has now expanded its operations throughout the city. The organization is comprised of 60-75 members, who are usually no older than 26. The J.B.M. is believed to be led by Aaron Jones.

The gang's structure consists of 10-15 hard core members who make the decisions. These decision makers have 20-30 workers under them. Each member contributes \$1,000 to join the organization. It is believed that the J.B.M. has patterned itself after the La Cosa Nostra (L.C.N.) because of its similar interests and emphasis on a family crime group. Members of the J.B.M. have been seen meeting with the younger members of the Philadelphia family of the La Cosa Nostra at the LCN headquarters. The extent of the relationship has not yet been determined.

The Junior Black Mafia has developed a propensity for violence and usually intimidates its opponents. It has been implicated in firearms violations, contract murders to gain monopoly, armored car robberies, and the large scale importation, manufacture, and distribution of narcotics, including cocaine, "crack" cocaine, and methamphetamine. J.B.M. members are the target of investigations by ATF and other agencies. Most members have no fear of the court system. They have been known to hire some of the same attorneys that have defended Scarfo and his associates.

The gang uses high powered firearms in its quest to gain total control of the drug market in the Philadelphia area. It uses 9mm handguns, shotguns, and rifles. They engage in straw purchases to procure these weapons. Most of the guns are purchased from FFLs in west Philadelphia, and some are from out-of-State buys. In one case there were approximately 140 guns purchased in Ohio and transported to Philadelphia for resale. The serial numbers had been removed. The Organized Drug Gang Task Force, in conjunction with ATF, intercepted these firearms.

The organization uses legitimate businesses for money laundering. The traffick at these businesses has now stopped, however, because of the awareness of law enforcement officials. The J.B.M. has now developed ownership in corner stores, body shops, carryouts, and night clubs.

The Junior Black Mafia members are no longer identified by any colors, clothing, or symbols. They do, however, wear expensive clothing and jewelry. They sometimes wear a gold ring with the letters "JBM" in diamonds, or a large medallion in the shape of a bush or tree. On this tree are large diamonds, placed according to their rank in the

organization. Members also tend to drive extremely flashy automobiles, mainly Jaguars, BMWs, Cadillacs, and four-wheel drive vehicles.

Associates of the J.B.M. include younger members of the La Cosa Nostra, the Black Mafia, and Young Guns street gang. The J.B.M. are adversaries of smaller independent dealers in the Philadelphia area.

TEXAS

DALLAS

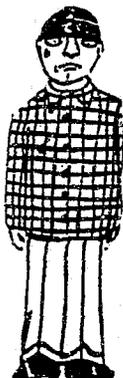
East Side Locos

The *East Side Locos*, also known as the *East Side Homeboys*, is one of the most active and fastest growing gangs in the area. This Hispanic gang organized in east Dallas about 20 years ago. It has approximately 200 to 300 members, who range in age from 13 to 20. There are also some first-generation gang members in their mid 30's and 40's.

In 1990, there were more than 300 arrests of gang members who were involved in firearms violations, distribution of narcotics (cocaine, marijuana, and heroin), assault, burglary, rape, robbery, and auto theft. The *East Side Locos* has also been implicated in drive-by shootings, in which two law enforcement officials were shot at. In another case, an officer was wounded.

The *East Side Locos* use firearms and knives to commit violent acts. These weapons are acquired through burglaries, and straw purchases, and at flea markets.

Gang members of the *East Side Locos* often deny membership and hide any associations with the gang. Therefore, they do not seem to be associated with any colors or other symbols. They do, however, identify themselves with an "E" hand sign. They do this by bending one of two middle fingers. Their attire consists of plaid, long sleeve shirts that are buttoned to the top, baggy jeans, tennis shoes, and bandannas.



The *East Side Locos* are affiliates of the AV Boys street gang and are adversaries of the Wayne Street Boys.

HOUSTON

Greenspoint Posse

The *Greenspoint Posse*, an Afro-American street gang in the Houston area, is on the rise and seemingly becoming more violent. This gang of 100 members was established in the area in 1989 as reputed offshoots of the Los Angeles Crips street gang.

The gang has a three-tiered hierarchy that includes officers, supervisors, and workers. The *Greenspoint Posse* is suspected to be led by Lemond Robinson, president, and Timothy Russell, vice president.

Reports show that in 1990, 125 gang members were arrested, up from the 50 in 1989. The *Greenspoint Posse* engages in various criminal activities such as drive-by shootings, homicides, armed robberies, and distribution of "crack" cocaine, cocaine, and marijuana. This gang is also believed to be a danger to law enforcement officials. It threatened a Houston Police Department officer who lives in the area frequented by the gang. It also vandalized the officer's personal car.

The *Greenspoint Posse* uses such firearms as high-capacity handguns, semiautomatic weapons, and shotguns. They get these firearms from straw purchases. It is suspected that they use female members or associates to make the purchase for distribution to gang members.

Gang members wear bright colored shirts, loose fitting pants, and lots of gold jewelry. The gang's symbol appears to be a silver-colored key with a cadillac symbol on it.

As previously stated, the *Greenspoint Posse* is associated with Crips from Los Angeles, California. It is suspected that members of area Jamaican Posses engage in narcotics and possibly firearms trafficking with the gang. The *Greenspoint Posse* is a rival of the Bloods street gang from Los Angeles and local Hispanic street gangs.

AUSTIN

Latin Kings

The Austin-based *Latin Kings* was originally established as the *Bishops Gang* in the 1980's in Austin, Texas. In 1986, Pedro Valdez, Jr., one of the alleged original founders of the *Bishops Gang*, was incarcerated in the Chicago, Illinois, area. When he returned to Austin, the *Bishops Gang* renamed itself the *Latin Kings*. The organization is comprised of approximately 200 members.

The *Latin Kings* are extremely violent and are involved in the trafficking of cocaine and heroin, as well as large scale auto theft rings. It is also believed that the Austin-based *Latin Kings*, to some extent, may be a source of heroin for the Chicago-based *Latin Kings*.

The Latin Kings identify themselves with the colors black and gold and are tattooed with a three-pointed crown.

The Austin-based Latin Kings claim to be affiliated with the Chicago-based Latin Kings. There have been several Chicago members arrested in the Austin, Texas, area.

VIRGINIA

NORFOLK

Fila Mafia

There are few street gangs in the Virginia area. In Norfolk, however, there is the presence of a street gang known as the *Fila Mafia*. The gang is also known as the *Mestizos*. It is believed that the gang formed in 1984, and most members are recruited from the local schools.

There are approximately 75 Afro-American, white, and Hispanic members in this gang. The structure of the *Fila Mafia* consists of the alleged leader, Albert Buckram, and a six-man enforcement squad.

Members of the *Fila Mafia* maintain control of areas of Norfolk through violence and extortion. The gang is believed to be a threat to law enforcement officials. Recently, during a traffic stop, members of the gang assaulted a Norfolk police officer. Since January 1990, there have been 70 to 100 gang member arrests. The *Fila Mafia* is involved in shootings, assaults, burglaries, and fire bombings with the use of molotov cocktails. It uses revolvers, semiautomatic weapons, and baseball bats to commit violent acts.

Members of the *Fila Mafia* wear a silver chain with a teardrop pendant and a fish hook through the teardrop.

The *Fila Mafia* has no known affiliations. It is, however, an adversary of the L.T. Posse and Lafayette Blouvard Boys street gangs.

WASHINGTON

SEATTLE

Black Gangster Disciples

The emergence of street gangs has been ongoing from mid-1986 to the present in Seattle, Washington. Of all the gangs now in existence in the area, the Seattle-based *Black Gangster Disciples (BGDs)* is one of the most dominant. BGDs members are well known for their high crime profile and are often responsible for frequent acts of violence.

The Black Gangster Disciples (BGDs), also known as *Folks*, is an Afro-American street gang of approximately 400 members; it formed in Seattle in 1987. The BGDs began to surface in the area because of the relocation of some California Crips and Bloods. Local youths become

BGDs to protect their neighborhoods, which were being inundated with members of the Crips and Bloods street gangs.

The reputed founder of the Seattle-based Black Gangster Disciples is Allen McGary, who is believed to have emigrated from Chicago, Illinois. At this time there are no other documented links between BGDs in Chicago and those in Seattle.

The group is divided into sets consistent with geographical areas of Seattle's inner city. Leadership roles of the set are very vague, and are often based merely on one's reputation for violence, financial success from involvement in criminal activities, and the age or duration of one's membership. Leadership frequently changes due to gang member arrests, geographical movements, incapacity, and sometimes death.

The BGDs are well known for their high crime profile in the Seattle area. They are involved in trafficking of "crack" cocaine and marijuana, as well as firearms violations, drive-by shootings, murder, assault, rape, robbery, and burglary.

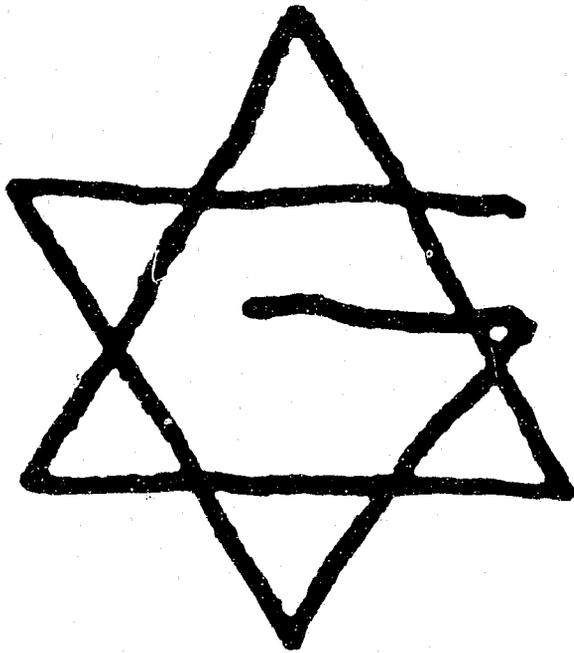
An area of grave concern is the increase in gang violence toward the police in the area. More and more frequently, officers are finding themselves in volatile situations generated by gang member's attempts to incite neighborhood onlookers to attack the law enforcement officials. There has also been an increase in gang assaults on police, and in resisting arrest. Gang graffiti displays the message of killing police officers, and is increasing.

The Black Gangster Disciples carry out acts of violence, using various weapons. The BGDs weaponry consist of handguns (of various degrees of quality and calibers), sawed-off shotguns, and AK-47s. Most of these weapons are stolen, and others are straw-purchased from local FFLs.

The gang has also been known to use molotov cocktails. There have been approximately six incidents in Seattle since the midsummer of 1990.

The BGDs often wear "baggy" or sagging trousers and black professional sports jackets and caps, usually L.A. Raider attire. Most recently, in Seattle there have been numerous incidents of jacket robberies. People wearing professional sports attire are being assaulted and their clothing stolen.

The Black Gangster Disciples members are identified by the color black. They use a six-point star as their primary symbol. This symbol is often tattooed on their bodies.



Gang affiliations and adversaries are difficult to define in the Seattle area. Originally BGDs aligned with Bloods. They now have become independent as a strong, violent gang in the area. Although some Black Gangster Disciples in one neighborhood may peacefully coexist with some Crips or Bloods sets, a few blocks away they may be at war with one another.

WISCONSIN

MILWAUKEE

Brothers of the Struggle (B.O.S.)

One of the most active street gangs in Wisconsin is the *Brothers of the Struggle (B.O.S.)*. B.O.S. is an Afro-American organization comprised of 160 members located in Milwaukee and an unknown number of members in Chicago, Illinois. It is believed that the B.O.S. organization began to form in 1978 at Statesville Correction Institution in Joliet, Illinois, by two members of the Black Gangster Disciples and one member of the Vice Lords. It was not until 1986, however, that inmates released from the Illinois institution went to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and established the Brothers of the Struggle.

B.O.S. is a subgroup of the Black Gangster Disciples Nation (BGDN), and refer to themselves as "folks," like its counterpart, BGDN. The Brothers of the Struggle is believed to be headed by Michael Daniels. The organization's hierarchy includes a king, don, prince, godfather, cannon, bishop, pharaoh, general, or chief, who acts as enforcer, violator, recruiter, sergeant at arms, and foot soldier.

At the present, ongoing ATF investigations have targeted several members of this gang and their criminal activities. In 1990, ATF, DEA, and the Milwaukee police jointly arrested 16 B.O.S. members for Federal firearms and drug violations. In 1989, ATF and the Milwaukee police arrested four B.O.S. members for Federal firearms and drug violations. The gang has also been implicated in murder, distribution of cocaine and marijuana, armed robbery, and auto theft.

Drug houses controlled by this gang usually have armed members with high powered weapons. They are involved in various drive-by shootings directed against other gangs. They carry out these acts with the use of sawed-off shotguns and 9mm handguns with silencers. These weapons are acquired through residential and gun shop burglaries, straw-purchases from FFLs by relatives and female associates who do not have criminal records, and by using false or stolen identification to buy new guns from gun shops.

As previously stated, B.O.S. members refer to themselves as folks. Their symbols include the six-point star of David and the winged heart, which often has pitchforks and B.O.S. or BGDN inscribed on it.

The Brothers of the Struggle is an affiliate of the Black Gangster Disciples Nation and the 1-9 Deacons and the 2-7s, both local street gangs from the Wisconsin area. The Brothers of the Struggle is a rival of the Vice Lords.

BULLETIN

DES MOINES, IOWA

The *Black Gangster Disciples (BGDs)* street gang has been operating on the north side of Des Moines, Iowa, for approximately 2 years and has just recently begun to increase in size and to expand its criminal activities. This area is known for its high volume of narcotics trafficking and violent criminal activity. It is believed that the BGDs in the Des Moines area is linked to other BGD members throughout the Midwest. They are also closely aligned with the Crips, and are adversaries of the Vice Lords and Bloods. It has also been indicated the BGDs are operating in Kansas City, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, and Omaha.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigations of the *Peoples Organization* criminal cases regarding 13 defendants have been perfected and forwarded to the U.S. attorney's office recommending prosecution for the violations of Federal firearms and/or narcotics laws. Of the 13 defendants, 7 have been convicted, another 2 are under indictment, and 4 are pending indictment.

CONCLUSION

Evident throughout this publication, which is the result of an ATF street gang survey conducted throughout the United States, is a growing presence of violent street gangs which is continuing to expand across the nation. What was once a local problem is now becoming a multigeographical one.

Most of these gangs are comprised of males in their teens and midtwenties. These street gangs are not very structured and tend to be located in low- and middle-income neighborhoods.

The gangs control and sometimes completely take-over these neighborhoods by using 9mm semiautomatic weapons, rifles, and large caliber shotguns and handguns. The source of these weapons are burglaries of residences and firearms dealers, straw purchases, and purchases from FFLs. These gangs are also using explosives as a means of intimidation or protection. They use such explosives devices as molotov cocktails, grenades, and pipe bombs. These street gangs have also been implicated in narcotics violations which include, trafficking and distribution of mostly cocaine, "crack" cocaine, marijuana, heroin, and PCP. Some other criminal activities involve murder, drive-by shootings, assaults, burglaries, robberies, and auto thefts.

Most of these gangs display some kind of identifier. Others tend to be discrete. The identifiers include gang colors, tattoos, symbols, and graffiti. Many of the Afro-American gang members are sporting the popular professional sports team jackets and baseball caps. Some of the Hispanic gangs wear baggy pants and oversized long shirts, which are buttoned at the collar.

Gang members who operate locally are often associates or adversaries of other local street gangs. Some local street gangs are known, or claim to be associated with the Crips and Bloods from Los Angeles, California, Jamaican Posses, and outlaw motorcycle gangs.

For additional information on street gang activity, contact the ATF Intelligence Branch, at 202-566-7871 or your local ATF office.

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