

**U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice**

147583-

147588

This document has been reproduced exactly as received from the person or organization originating it. Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the National Institute of Justice.

Permission to reproduce this ~~copyrighted~~ material has been granted by

NSSC/OJP/OJJDP

U.S. Department of Justice

to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS).

Further reproduction outside of the NCJRS system requires permission of the ~~copyright~~ owner.

Survey to assess gang activity across the nation 30399

The increasing violence in America related to gangs has caused great concern. Communities and families are being faced with violent gang activity that is spreading across America from major metropolitan areas into smaller suburban and rural communities as well.

The National School Safety Center frequently is called upon to address this national concern and has responded in several ways. Recently, NSSC solicited gang intelligence data from law enforcement agencies in 100 of the largest metropolitan areas around the country.

NSSC asked each jurisdiction to respond with information about the scope of gang activity in their locale, including numbers and kinds of gangs, gang membership, and gang-related crimes. Each jurisdiction also was asked to describe their gang violence prevention and intervention strategies, policies, and programs, as well as to send any task force reports, media clips, procedure manuals or photographs that might help with this assessment.

The information collected will be used to update NSSC's publication *Gangs in School: Breaking Up is Hard To Do*.

This popular booklet, already in its seventh printing, provides an introduction to youth gangs as well as valuable suggestions from law enforcers, school principals, prosecutors and other experts on preventing and reducing gang enclanchment in schools.

In addition, NSSC has developed a useful tool for assessing the scope of the gang problem in school districts and their neighboring communities. This revealing questionnaire asks simple questions and assigns point values to the responses. The completed score gives administrators a clear indication of the nature of the gang problem in their area.

NSSC staff recently worked with the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools in providing a daylong training session on gangs and school crisis management. NSSC is available to provide technical assistance on school safety-related topics.

On October 16, 1991, U.S. Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander called upon Dr. Ronald D. Stephens, executive director of NSSC, to participate in the AMERICA 2000 Daily Conference Call. U.S. Assistant Secretary of Education Diane Ravitch talked with Franklin L. Smith, superintendent of schools in Washington, D.C., and Dr. Stephens about preventing school violence.

The five-minute Daily Conference Call provides educators and other officials an opportunity to share information and review progress toward reaching the National Education Goals. Smith and Stephens discussed the sixth goal — making schools free of drugs and violence and offering a disciplined environment conducive to learning. Transcripts of the interview are available by calling 1-800/424-0214.

Pepperdine University's
National School Safety Center
4165 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Suite 290
Westlake Village, California 91362

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Pepperdine University

The *School Safety Update* is published by the National School Safety Center to communicate current trends and effective programs in school safety. As a component of the NSSC School Safety News Service, the newsletter is published six times each school year; the newsjournal is published three times a year in the fall, winter and spring. Annual subscription to NSSC School Safety News Service: \$119.00. Correspondence should be addressed to: NSSC, 4165 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Suite 290, Westlake Village, California 91362, telephone 805/373-9977, FAX 805/373-9277.

Prepared under Grant No. 85-MU-CX-0003 and funded in the amount of \$900,000 by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, and the U.S. Department of Education in partnership with Pepperdine University. Points of view or opinions in this document do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Departments of Justice

or Education or Pepperdine University. NSSC makes no warranty, expressed or implied, nor assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product or process described herein. Copyright © 1991 National School Safety Center.

Executive Editor: Ronald D. Stephens
Editor: Brenda Turner
Associate Editors: June Lane and G. Ellis Butterfield
Contributing Writer: Anthony Rodriguez
Typographer: Kimberly Billingsley
Special Counsel: Bernard James
Business Manager: James E. Campbell