

Kansas City, Missouri Police Department Gang Squad

Gangs in Kansas City, Missouri

The Kansas City, Missouri metropolitan area began to experience problems with street gangs in 1987. Members of Los Angeles street gangs began arriving in many cities throughout the Midwest to establish drug distributions operations. Many local youths became involved in selling drugs and also adopted the gang culture brought from Los Angeles. Thus, many local gangs began to spring up, many of which bear the names of original street gangs from Los Angeles. Around 1990, members of Chicago street gangs also appeared in the Kansas City area, frequently to avoid arrest or to set up drug operations. As the gang culture began to flourish, many gangs have formed throughout the Kansas City area. Most of these have evolved from persons who live in the same neighborhoods, schools and have little or no actual connection or affiliation to gangs in other cities.

There are believed to be approximately 3055 gang members or affiliates in Kansas City, Missouri. There are over 442 different gangs in the area, however many of these consist of only a few members. Street gangs in the area have been arrested for all forms of crimes: murder, robbery, rape, assault, narcotics, firearms violations, auto theft, and numerous other crimes.

In October of 1993, the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department recognized the need for a full time unit devoted to identifying criminal gang activity and investigating it. The Gang Squad was developed and places particular emphasis on violent crimes, narcotics activity and firearms violations. The Gang Squad works closely with federal and state prosecutors, other law enforcement agencies, and community groups in an effort to prevent crime, improve relationships and provide excellent customer service.

Location of Street Gangs in Kansas City, Missouri

The City of Kansas City, Missouri has gangs throughout the entire city. Street gangs have spread from urban areas to the suburbs. Today, the gang life style draws young people from all walks of life, socio-economic backgrounds, races and ethnic groups.

Gang Structures in Kansas City, Missouri

The vast majority of gangs in Kansas City, Missouri are “community based” gangs where the gang members grow up together on the same block, same area, or go to the same school. These gangs are unsophisticated with little or no hierarchical organizational structures. However, the association of these gang sets sometimes manifests itself into some loosely aligned gangs that have a significant impact in many area of the community. It is not uncommon for gang members in this area to change their gang affiliation and to claim affiliation to more than one gang set. The commonality is that these gang members reflect a constituency of those at the very bottom of the social ladder with little hope of legitimate advancement in society. The lack of accurate reporting on gangs and gang activity only enhances their possible threat or lack of threat. Gangs in Kansas City, Missouri to date have had little to no connection or commonality with the national gangs since the late 1980’s. This is not to say in the future there is a possibility of national gangs infiltrating the City of Kansas City Missouri again.

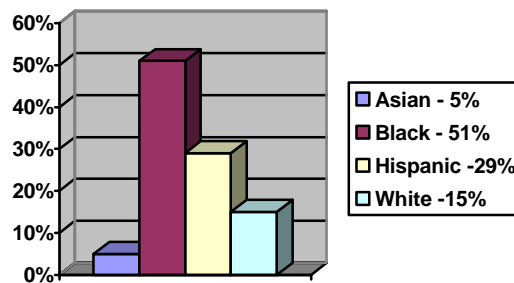
Gang Criminal Activities in Kansas City, Missouri

Narcotics –Approximately 90% of their activity involves narcotics.
Murder
Robbery
Assaults (Drive-bys, Aggravated, Non-aggravated)
Auto Theft
Firearms Violations (Felon in Possession, CCW, etc.)
Property Damage (Tagging)

Predominant age and gender of gang members in Kansas City, Missouri

Gang members have been identified as young as 12 years old and as old as 49 years old. The majority of identified gang members in Kansas City, Missouri ages range from 15 to 35 years old. .Approximately 95% of the gang members in Kansas City, Missouri are male.

Predominant race, ethnicity and culture of gangs in Kansas City, Missouri



Local Gang Graffiti

To claim the area as their “Turf”.
To challenge or intimidate rival gangs in the area.
To intimidate or alarm a neighborhood.

Common gang-related symbols which may appear in “Gang” graffiti

Six-pointed stars, Pitchforks, Heart with Wings, number 6 are associated with Crip’s
Kings crowns, top hat or canes are associated with Latino Gangs
U.B.N., 5 point star, dawg paws are associated with Blood’s
Name of the gang set
Nicknames of gang members
Numbers 13, 18, etc....

HOW TO READ GANG GRAFFITI

Names: Gang names are usually abbreviated to two or three letters, but may include the affiliation of the gang written out (Crip, Blood, Surenos/SUR, ESL, etc.), as well as slogans, such as "Brown Pride."

Nicknames: The nicknames of gang members are frequently included within the graffiti, often in a roll-call list or *placa*. These names may be simple, and typically are descriptions of the appearance or personality of individual gang members: *Green Eyes, Casper, Smiley, Goofy*, or other similar names.

Territory: The area claimed by the gang, including directional locators (east side), street names, city names, and telephone area codes.

Threats and Challenges: Often graffiti threatens or challenges rival gangs. A gang may "X" out or cross out the graffiti of a rival gang or gang member, or write "187" (homicide) next to it. A gang member may also write "killer" in conjunction with a rival gang's name or abbreviate it with the initial of the gang and the letter K (i.e., B/K).

Numbers: Gangs often use numbers as part of their name (18th Street), or area codes to identify where the gang is located. The numbers 13 and 14 are very common in Hispanic gang graffiti.

Symbols: Some gangs use a common symbol to identify their affiliation. Examples of this include a crown (Mexican Gangs) Bulldog Tattoos (Bloods) Skull (Crips) Spiderweb (Prison Gang), and others.

Community Response to Graffiti

Notify the police (Non-emergency #816-234-5111)

The graffiti should be photographed and documented by police

Get an estimate to restore property to original condition.

The graffiti should immediately be removed. A neighborhood that ignores graffiti is sending a message that indicated apathy or intimidation.

Prosecute the suspect(s)

Narcotics Trends

“Crack” Cocaine

Marijuana

PCP - Vanilla Extract Bottles/Moore Brand Cigarettes.

Methamphetamine (ICE)

Ecstasy

Cocaine

Weapons Trends

Assault Rifles - AK-47, SKS, and Tech-9's.

Handguns

Shotguns

Body Armor

Active Gangs in Kansas City

Central Area of City

12th Street 9th St – 12th St. Harrison – Benton Blvd.
Tre-Wall / Click-Clack/ 33rd Street (East & West) 27th & 43rd Troost – Van Brunt
Hilltop - Truman Blvd – Hardesty - 435
24th Street / NBG / Twampside Truman Rd – 31st Street - Prospect – Topping
27th Street Pros – Truman Rd – 39th St Troost - Hardesty
4-Trey Crips/4-Block 39th – 47th Woodland – Van Brunt
FOG / 51st Street (5-Block) Cleaver Blvd – Meyer Blvd Woodland – Van Brunt
Rollin 60's Crips – 59th Street – Meyer Blvd Troost – Jackson
67th / 68th Street Blood - 63rd Street – Meyer Blvd Troost – Jackson
Five-Ace-Deuce (Combination of 12 Street/51st Street/24th Street/Hilltop)
Deuces 63rd St - 72nd St Paseo- Cleveland

Northeast Area of City

ESL – Eastside Locos
SD – Satan Disciples
BP – Barrio Pobre
Mexican Mafia
BPF – Brown Pride Family All of these gangs are in the same area
Latin Counts
F-13 (Florescia) River – 27th Street Prospect - 435
Mexican Kings
Fremont Hustlers
Sur-13 (Surenos)
VD-13 (Vatos Delinquents)
NES - Northeast Side Gang
MD-18 (Mexican Disciples)
Eastside 15

Westside of City

WS- Westside River – 31st Street S/W Traffic way – State line
Holly Block Gangsters

North of City

Sur-13 All these gangs are all over north of the river.
3WP – 3rd World Players
UTP – Up Town Players

Most of these gangs do not have common signs, dress or symbols. They also associate with other gangs in other parts of the city and primarily are involved in narcotics.

Reporting Gang Activity

Call the Gang Squad at 482-8235 (Leave message) or call the TIPS Hotline 474-TIPS (8477). The only way to help improve the quality of life in the neighborhoods is to get involved and provide information on gang activity.