

Gang Prevention Program

- A) No program has been developed to prevent gangs from emerging.
- B) However, to prevent youth from joining gangs, communities must employ multiple strategies and service, including: addressing elevated risk factors for joining a gang.

Why do youth join gangs?

- 1) Protection
- 2) Enjoyment
- 3) Respect
- 4) Money
- 5) Peer Pressure

- C) To prevent youth from joining gangs, communities must strengthen families, and schools. Improve community supervision, train teachers and parents to manage disruptive youth and teach students interpersonal skills.

Programs that are missing from the African American and Latina Communities:

- 1) Boy Scouts
- 2) Girl Scouts
- 3) Cub Scouts
- 4) Brownies
- 5) Mentors

Programs are big.

Leaders in the communities

Police Officer working with youths (building trust)

The most common age for youth to join a gang is between 13 and 15.
However youth are joining gangs in Elementary Schools.

Youth that join gangs are more likely to abuse drugs, engage in high-risk sexual behavior.

Prevention efforts, particularly with families of young children show promising results.

School based programs addressing substance abuse, delinquency and violence prevention have reduced risk factors for gang-joining when implement.

Community partnership can help reinforce and enhance the existing strengths of families and communities to help youths from joining gangs.