

# CHAPTER 1

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## Test Bank

### MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. The dominant law-enforcement perspective is that gangs are essentially criminal conspiracies with:
  - a. A large membership
  - b. A few hard-core members
  - c. A violent objective
  - d. A large percentage of minorities

ANS: B      REF: 24

2. Which is not an element of a youth gang as defined by Huff?
  - a. Frequently involved in illegal activity
  - b. Interact with one another
  - c. Are extremely violent in nature
  - d. Associate themselves with a name

ANS: C      REF: 25-26

3. The main difference between a youth gang and an organized crime group as defined by Huff is:
  - a. A better defined leadership
  - b. Frequently involved in illegal activity
  - c. Interact frequently with each other
  - d. Are made of adults

ANS: A      REF: 25

4. Which is not a descriptor of gang activity as defined by the text?
- a. Vice related activity
  - b. Representation
  - c. Retaliation
  - d. Recruitment
  - e. All are descriptors

ANS: D      REF: 28-29

5. Which is not a stereotype of a gang member according to the text?
- a. Are mostly males
  - b. Mostly minorities
  - c. Are mostly located in the inner-city
  - d. All are stereotypes

ANS: D      REF: 30

6. The National Gang Center collects data on gangs in the United States. From where does the center get the data?
- a. School Districts
  - b. Court records
  - c. Police department
  - d. Self-report surveys

ANS: C      REF: 31

7. From 1996-2008 there has been a \_\_\_\_\_ in the number of gang members?
- a. Increase
  - b. Decrease
  - c. Significant increase
  - d. Sharp decline

ANS: B      REF: 32

8. CRASH was a specialized gang unit created in the 1970's by:
- a. The Chicago Police Department
  - b. The New York Police Department
  - c. The Los Angeles Police Department
  - d. The Dallas Police Department.

ANS: C      REF: 32

9. What percentage of youth report being affiliated with a gang according to a self-report survey?
- a. 5-10%
  - b. 10-15%
  - c. 15-18%
  - d. 19-20%

ANS: B      REF: 33

10. The largest reason for the growth of gangs according to the text is:
- a. Community social conditions
  - b. Lack of enforcing minor juvenile laws
  - c. Communities denying the gang problem
  - d. Lack of after school activities for youths

ANS: A      REF: 33-34

11. The movement of gangs from one city to another is called:
- a. Migration
  - b. Proliferation
  - c. Expansion
  - d. Enlistment

ANS: A      REF: 34

12. According to recent studies, what area of the United States has experienced the largest gang migration?

- a. Northern
- b. Southern
- c. Eastern
- d. Western

ANS: D      REF: 35

13. According to the National Gang Center, which is not an element of a gang?

- a. Aged 12-24
- b. Identity to name/color/symbol
- c. Some organization
- d. Involved in criminal activity
- e. All are elements of a gang

ANS: E      REF: 23

14. “A group or collectivity of persons engaged in significant illegitimate or criminal activities, mainly threatening and violent” is the definition of:

- a. Traditional youth gang
- b. Street gang
- c. Posse
- d. Criminal organization

ANS: B      REF: 24

15. The terms “unsupervised peer groups” is another term for:

- a. Troublesome youth groups
- b. Traditional youth gang
- c. Street gang
- d. Posse

ANS: A      REF: 27

16. Defacing of gang graffiti and passing through a designated gang territory, frequently a favorite hangout of a particular gang would be an example of which descriptor?

- a. Recruitment
- b. Vice-Related
- c. Turf-Violations
- d. Retaliation

ANS: C      REF: 29

17. If the criminal or victim has a gang affiliation, then the crime is considered to be?

- a. Gang related
- b. Gang motivated
- c. Member based
- d. Gang directed

ANS: A      REF: 29

18. Gangs can be found:

- a. In prisons
- b. In schools
- c. In cities
- d. All are locations of gangs

ANS: D      REF: 31

19. What location of gang activity fluctuates the most according to the text?

- a. On the streets
- b. Prisons and Jails
- c. Schools
- d. Rural

ANS: C      REF: 31

20. A person who portrays themselves as a gang member when they are not officially affiliated with a gang is called:
- a. A wannabe
  - b. A false banger
  - c. A poser
  - d. A fugasi

ANS: A      REF: 36

### TRUE/FALSE

1. There is no one single definition of a gang.

ANS: True      REF: 23

2. Gang members are all hard-core members.

ANS: False      REF: 25

3. Organized crime is not considered a gang.

ANS: False      REF: 25-26

4. Most gang members spend the bulk of their time simply hanging out or engaging in other non-delinquent activities.

ANS: True      REF: 26

5. Determining what exactly what is a gang related offense can be difficult.

ANS: True      REF: 27

6. Part of the problem in arriving at a consensus definition of *gang* and *gang-related crime* is that we are dealing with widely accepted stereotypes of gangs.

ANS: True      REF: 30

7. Gangs can be found in all cities with populations of 300,000 or more.

ANS: False      REF: 32

8. Gang activity inside schools fluctuates quite a bit.

ANS: True REF: 31

9. In 2008 there were an estimated 27,900 gangs and approximately 774,000 gang members.

ANS: True REF: 32

10. The percentage of youths who self-report being in a gang or engaging in gang-related behavior has not changed significantly during the past two decades. Typically, no more than 10 to 15% of all youths report being in a gang.

ANS: True REF: 33

### **FILL IN THE BLANK**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ signifies the increase in the number of communities in the nation reporting that they have gang problems.

ANS: Proliferation REF: 34

2. The movement of gangs from one city to another is called \_\_\_\_\_.

ANS: Gang Migration REF: 34

3. The \_\_\_\_\_ collects and disseminates data about gangs in the United States.

ANS: National Gang Center REF: 23

4. A group or collectivity of persons engaged in significant illegitimate or criminal activities, mainly threatening and violent is a \_\_\_\_\_.

ANS: Gang REF: 25

5. A \_\_\_\_\_ is far less organized than a gang.

ANS: Delinquent group REF: 25

## ESSAY

1. Describe the difference between a street gang, a youth gang and delinquent group

ANS: A street as “a group or collectivity of persons engaged in significant illegitimate or criminal activities, mainly threatening and violent.”

A youth gang refers to a youth or adolescent gang and often to the youth sector of a street gang. Such a group is concerned primarily with issues of status, prestige, and turf protection. The youth gang may have a name and a location, be relatively well organized, and persist over time.

Delinquent groups are far less organized and criminal than the gangs defined previously and do not have distinctive dress, colors, signs, and so on.

REF: p. 25

2. According to Huff (1993) there are several distinctions between a youth gang and a organized crime group; explain the differences.

ANS: Youth gang-- collectivity consisting primarily of adolescents and young adults who (a) interact frequently with one another; (b) are frequently and deliberately involved in illegal activities; (c) share a common collective identity that is usually, but not always, expressed through a gang name; and (d) typically express that identity by adopting certain symbols and/or claiming control over certain “turf”

Organized crime group-- collectivity consisting primarily of adults who (a) interact frequently with one another; (b) are frequently and deliberately involved in illegal activities directed toward economic gain, primarily through the provision of illegal goods and services; and (c) generally have better defined leadership and organizational structure than does the youth gang.

REF: pp. 25-26

3. Identify the Chicago 10 descriptors of a gang and explain each.

*ANS: Representing*—denotes any incident in which, in the process of committing a crime, the offender represents himself as being a member of a particular gang. This can be a verbal statement, a hand-sign, a display of colors, or any other similar symbolic gesture. In a recent period of time (January 1, 1987, through July 31, 1988) Chicago police noted that this descriptor was found in 32 percent of all street-gang-related cases.

*Retaliation*—denotes when one gang resorts to some form of violence to solve certain conflicts with one or more other gangs. Examples include attempts to protect its own



interests, uphold its interests, and seek revenge (for example, for a harm done to one of its own members). Such behavior arises out of insults, chance altercations, and infringements on one's criminal activities. This descriptor was found in about 8 percent of gang-related activities in Chicago.

*Street Fighting*—similar to the classic rumble, whether it be spontaneous or planned, an execution or hit, or simply a fair fight. The most common are “spontaneous assaultive engagements among small groups (three to five persons), random encounters among antagonistic rivals, and small bands of two or three persons assaulting non-gang victims” (Bobrowski, 1988:22). These actions constituted 24 percent of gang-related crimes in Chicago.

*Vice-Related*—this category accounted for 30 percent of all the street-gang-related offenses. About 92 percent of these were narcotics, liquor-law violations, gambling, and prostitution offenses. It should be noted that less than 1 percent of all non-vice offenses involved drug activities (for example, evidence of vice activity was found in only 2 out of 82 homicides during the period under study).

*Recruitment*—refers to activities in which a gang member in some way attempts to force a nonmember to join the gang. Usually it is a type of “join or continue to pay” situation. Recruitment is probably grossly underrepresented in these statistics. Victims are often fearful of further actions against them by the gang and simply distrust the police; therefore, reporting does not occur. Also, if the youth joins the gang, the likelihood of the incidents being reported to the police is almost nil. Statistically, recruitment efforts constitute only 3 percent of the reported gang crimes.

*Turf Violations*—include the defacing of gang graffiti and passing through a designated gang territory, frequently a favorite hangout of a particular gang (for example, a restaurant, street corner, or bar). These events are also woefully underreported for basically the same reasons as noted in recruitment. Officially, these violations accounted for only 1.5 percent of all street-gang crimes in Chicago.

*Other Descriptors*—include such crimes as extortion (mostly forcing people to pay turf tax to cross into and through gang territory), personal conflicts among gang members, and prestige-related crimes, which may be greater than reported. These offenses “may include acts committed to satisfy membership initiation; to establish a special reputation, a position of responsibility, or a leadership role; to respond to challenges or avoid reproach; or to prevail in internal power struggles” (Bobrowski, 1988:27). Together all of these constituted only 4 percent of the officially reported gang crimes in Chicago.

REF: pp. 28-29

4. Identify the most common stereotypes of gangs and gang members as identified in your text.

ANS: (1) They are composed of males (no females) who are violent, addicted to drugs and alcohol, sexually hyperactive, unpredictable, and confrontational;

(2) They are either all African-American or all Hispanic;

(3) They thrive in inner-city neighborhoods where they dominate, intimidate, and prey upon innocent citizens;

(4) They all deal heavily in drugs, especially crack cocaine;

(5) “A gang is a gang is a gang”—in other words, they are all alike or “you see one and you see them all”;

(6) There is no good in gangs, it is all bad (a corollary to this is that anyone who would want to join a gang must be stupid or crazy);

(7) Gangs are basically criminal enterprises and that youths start gangs in order to collectively commit crimes; in other words, there is a tendency to confuse individual and group criminality;

(8) The “West Side Story” image of aggressive, rebellious, but nice kids has been replaced in recent years by the “gangster” image of a very disciplined criminal organization complete with “soldiers.” (Moore, 1993:28–29)

ANS: p. 30

5. Describe the term “Gang Migration”

ANS: This term suggests “the movement of gang members from one city to another.” Maxson’s study of gang migration defined migration rather broadly to include:

- “temporary relocations” (e.g., visits to relatives);
- “short trips to sell drugs or develop other criminal enterprises”;
- “longer stays while escaping crackdowns on gangs or gang activity”;
- “residential moves (either individually or with family members)”;
- “court placements”

REF: pp. 34-36