

street gangs

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The Street Gangs in the US

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Abstract

Street gangs have continued to cause havoc in the American society. These gangs have been engaged in various heinous activities that cause harm to the people. Some of the activities that these street gangs have been involved in are the sale of guns, sale of drugs, human trafficking, and extortion among others. The problems facing various law enforcement in combating these gangs is the fact that they operate within the community making it difficult to identify them easily. Most youths in society join these gangs as a way of getting cash without fully understanding the repercussions. The government has undertaken strict measures that will ensure that these groups have been addressed. The agencies use different theoretical frameworks and observation of patterns to identify the areas with an increase in illegal activities. The FBI and other agencies have been conducting investigations on these gangs and making arrests. Combating these street gangs will restore sanity and peace in the society.

Introduction

Street gang activities are on the rise within the United States. These gangs have different origins, history, and the nature of the activities they carry out. Gangs are termed as a group of individuals who act unlawfully and they are in possession of traits that are not desirable. Many gangs are still operating in the US leading to high crime rates. Some of these street gangs include the 18th, MS-13, American Mafia, Florencia 13, Barrio Azteca, Juggalos, Trinitarios, and the Dixie Mafia among others. These gangs are dominated by male although they also consist of female members. Studies have revealed that there are about 1.15 Million gangs members in the US from about 2450 street gangs. Approximately 8 percent of the gang members are female. The paper expounds on the street gangs in the US.

Street Gangs in the US

The increase in the membership of these street gangs has been linked to various factors. The interrelationships, the collective behavior, and the social change are some of the issues that trigger joining these gangs. Most of the young people who are joining such groups at times have little knowledge of the activities that these gangs engage in every day. The gangs also involved in the sale of weapons, drugs, cybercrimes, and human trafficking among other illegalities. The lack of self-esteem, limited job opportunities, drug use, and family instabilities among other causes. However, the primary goals as to why the youth from poor backgrounds join these gang groups are to earn a living (Fleisher, 2017).

Tracking the street gangs has been a difficult task for the FBI unit because these gangs have been absorbed in the society. Most of these gang members live among people in the community, and they do not engage in activities that might lead to them being reported the authorities. All these gangs have different ways of recognizing their members, and they do value

loyalty and commitment to what they do (Howell, Braun & Bellatty, 2017). The government has been in coming up with different initiatives aimed at combating these illegal activities and especially fights and conflicts among these street gangs. Different agencies have been taking part in this initiative to combat these crimes by the gangs. The fight has been a concerted effort between state, local, and the federal agencies of enforcing the law. There is still hope that these efforts will bear fruit in the long run and guarantee the safety of the people (Moule Jr, Pyrooz & Decker, 2014).

The FBI and other security agencies have continued to use special investigation skills to hunt these gangs operating in the US. The investigations conducted by these agencies are consistent, coordinated, and persistent to ensure that all these gang operations have been stopped. The Social Disorganization Theory, Control Theory, and Group dynamics theory have been resourceful in designing ways to combat the crimes conducted by these gangs (Howell & Griffiths, 2018).

Conclusion

In conclusion, then rise in the street gangs has continued to pose a threat to most residents in the US. These street gangs getting involved in activities that are destructive and not conforming to the norms of a society. The tracking down of these street gangs have also been challenging because they live in communities, making it difficult for outsiders to identify them. However, efforts by the FBI and other groups will make it possible to reduce the dominance of these gangs and make the society safer.

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