

# Gang intervention



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Suppression Programs There are many types of intervention programs which are designed for the prevention of gang proliferation. One kind of program developed for such need is the suppression programs that employ the use of all the aspects of law enforcement. The suppression program is a mixture of prosecution that involves trial, police hands-on work and imprisonment that is primarily used to restrain the formation of gangs, crack their criminal activities and eliminate gang members from the core group (Youth Gang Programs and Strategies, 2000). The prosecution suppression program Operation Hardcore was initially formed in 1979 by the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office. This is the original prosecution program which aimed to restrain brutal juvenile gang crimes that are severe. Operation Hardcore led to lesser caseloads, further investigative report, vertical prosecution and resources to help victims of gang related offenses (Youth Gang Programs and Strategies, 2000). Currently operating as Hardcore Gang Division (Operation Hardcore), the program is said to be a total success since it provided more convictions for all types of charges and prison/confinement for program subject cases in comparison with cases of the same nature that underwent the standard prosecution procedure. Operation Hardcore is a reputable program that established improvements in managing and administering criminal justice processes on cases involving gang defendants (Youth Gang Programs and Strategies, 2000). On the other hand, police hands-on work or police response is the second aspect of gang suppression programs which began during the early 1980s at the Southwest to deal with the rising problems on youth and adult gangs. This program was implemented by having police officers do gang intelligence work like surveillance and doing neighborhood cruising in a caravan of patrol cars (caravanning) (Youth Gang

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Programs and Strategies, 2000). Doing police response utilizes the implementation of gang sweeps, intensified police patrol or saturation to apply pressure on gangs, and marked hotspots. Such method however is not considered successful due primarily to factors like inadequate police training for such operations, highly structured gang organization and diversified gang criminal activities; which usually leads to quite a number of arrests that ends in a few number of charges (Youth Gang Programs and Strategies, 2000).

Some studies on police response also show that while the operation is still in existent the number of gang activities tend to diminish; but once the operation ceases, the numbers of gang and gang related activities start almost immediately (Youth Gang Programs and Strategies, 2000). The third aspect of gang suppression programs is geomapping and tacking systems which incorporates the use of computers for necessary databases, management information systems (MIS), criminal ID and tracking.

Geomapping and tracking system was primarily used during the early 1990s by the Anti-Gang Office and Task Force established by the Mayor of Houston, Texas. Other states also had similar systems like the Gang Incident Tracking System (GITS) in Orange County, California and the ICAM program of the Chicago, Illinois Police Department. While these systems provide indispensable information about gangs and their activities it is quite difficult to establish an individual's gang connection due to sporadic and occasional alliance with the group; or leaving the gang by drifting out and slowly disassociating themselves from the gang itself; and lack of official records (Youth Gang Programs and Strategies, 2000). Consequently, Carlie (2002) stated that the imprisonment or elimination of certain gang members as part of the nation's or state's suppression programs are considered by many to

be quite extreme. However, if educational and other forms of deterrent/suppression therapy fail; it is vital to understand that the nation or state has the prerogative to keep the society safe. Hence, a more severe resolution is needed to imply that violent criminal actions cannot be tolerated. References Carlie, M. K. (2002). Into the Abyss: A Personal Journey into the World of Street Gangs. Retrieved from <http://people.missouristate.edu/MichaelCarlie/SOLUTIONS/THEORIES/theories.htm> Youth Gang Programs and Strategies. (2000, August). Suppression Programs - OJJDP Summary. Retrieved from [http://www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojjdp/summary\\_2000\\_8/suppression.html](http://www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojjdp/summary_2000_8/suppression.html)