

GIRLS GOTECH

Project supported by Dell
YouthConnect Pilot Program

Dell YouthConnect Project – Emerson High School

Gaby's Wishlist

- I Wish I Would've Listened To My Mother When She Warned Me about Certain Things.
- I Wish I Could've Done Things Better During My Pregnancy... Like Eating Right And Doing More Exercises.
- I Wish I Would've Used More Protection Than What We Did.
- I Wish That I Had More Support From My Father During And After My Pregnancy.
- I Wish That I Would've accepted More Help From People Who Offered It.
- I Wish I would've Waited A Little Longer To Have My Son, But I Don't Regret Him Because He Made Me A Different Person.
- I Wish I Didn't Have So Many Responsibilities.
- I Wish I Could Just walk Away From All My Problems.
- I Wish That I Could Have A Day Of Relaxation.
- I wish I Will Be Able To Do What Is Best For Me And My Child.
- I Wish That I Can Follow My Dreams And Become What I've Always Wanted.
- I Wish That One Day My Son Would Say He Looks Up To Me Because I Am A Good Role Model.
- I Wish That My Son Will Not Go Through What I Did At A Young Age.
- I Wish I Could've Been On Birth Control.
- I Wish I Could Be A Great Mother.
- I Wish That I Can Do All I Can For Both Me And My Child.
- I Wish I Would've waited A Little Longer to Lose My Virginity.
- I Wish That My Future will be What I Want It To Be.

“I wish that my son will not go through what I did at a young age.

What Is A Gang?

By Jasmine M. and Alondra Puentes

- A gang may be defined as a group of three or more individuals who have a name or identifiable leadership, associate on a regular basis, and engage in delinquent and/or criminal activities. The group may claim a geographic area and/or an economic or criminal enterprise.

Categories Of Gang Members

- Gang members usually fall into three categories: original gangsters; gangsters; and baby gangsters. Original gangster members are the core founders of the group. They have an established reputation for criminal acts and violence. They are often referred to as “O.G’s” and function as role models for younger members. Gangster members are often the most visible, active and violent. They strive to establish a reputation for criminal acts and violence so that they, too, may achieve “O.G” status. Baby gangster members are just the beginning to dabble in the gang culture. They have adopted the gang style of dress and mannerisms, but are not official members. They generally associate with one or more members on a semi-regular basis. Baby gangsters are commonly referred to as “wannabes”. However, this is a misleading term that can lead to a false sense of complacency. Baby gangsters often attempt to emulate established gangsters by committing violent acts to gain gang status.

Consequences of Gang Affiliation

- Gang members often pay a high price for membership. Initiation rights often involve committing serious criminal and sometimes violent acts to prove loyalty. Membership often guarantees a criminal history that can impede a person's ability or likelihood to succeed in life. Gang members also place their loved ones in jeopardy. Drive-by shootings into residences have resulted in the serious injury or death of individuals who are not gang affiliated.

Gang Clothing

- Gang members have learned that wearing one primary color, such as red or blue, makes them too identifiable. Therefore, they have shifted to wearing sports team clothing to identify their particular gang set. To a gang member, these articles of clothing have a specific meaning. Gang members will usually dress in a particular style that is identifiable with their particular gang.



- 2008 National Youth Gang Survey reported that there were 774,000 gang members and 27,900 active street gang members

Gang Violence

Bloods and Crips: How They Started

By Brittany Johnson and Chanteal Graves

“I wish I would’ve listened to my Mother when she warned me about certain things.”

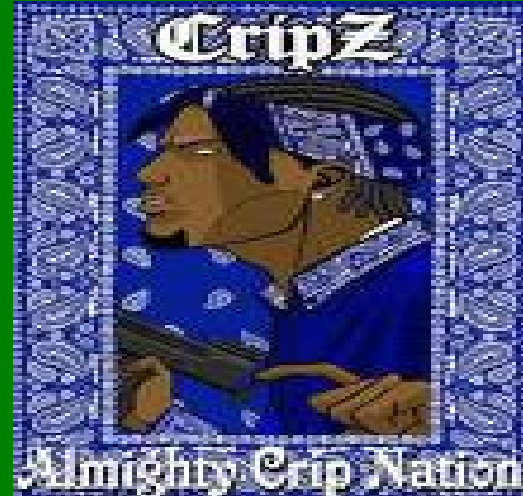
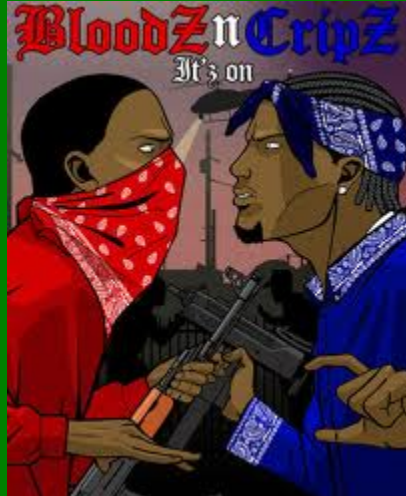
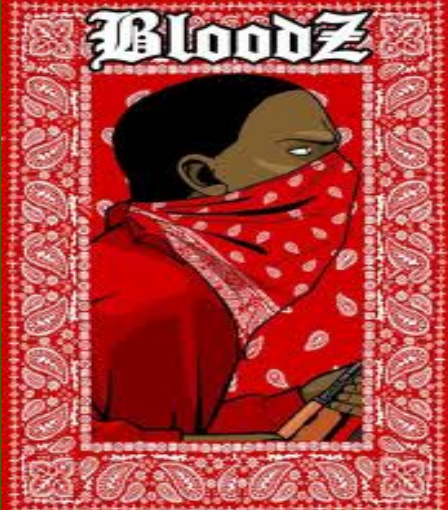
Crips



How They Were Created

- The Crips are a primarily, but not exclusively, African American gang. They were founded in Los Angeles, California in 1969 mainly by Raymond Washington and Stanley Williams. What was once a single alliance between two autonomous gangs is now a loosely connected network of individual *sets*, often engaged in open warfare with one another.

- The Crips are one of the largest and most violent associations of street gangs in the United States, with an estimated 30,000 to 35,000 members. The gang is known to be involved in murders, robberies, and drug dealing, among many other criminal pursuits. The gang is known for its gang members' use of the color blue in their clothing. However, this practice has waned due to police crackdowns on gang members.



GANGS

by Renita Wells





Crip Gangs



- A gang may be defined as a group of three or more individuals who have a name or identifiable leadership, associate on a regular basis, and engage in delinquent and/or criminal activities. The group may claim a geographic area and/or an economic or criminal enterprise. The term “gang” may also be used in a broad sense to denote a particular allegiance. For instance, many gangs claim to be “Crips.” The term Crips evolved from an initial gang in Los Angeles, which led to many other gangs, or “sets” calling themselves variations of the name, e.g. 107 Hoover Crips, 8/3 Crips, etc. Therefore, we may define a “set” as a subgroup of the primary gang allegiance. Some well-known gang allegiances are Crips, Bloods, Folk and People. Each of the categories has many “sets.” A gang may also form around a shared philosophy. Skinhead gangs and Militia groups, for example, usually contain members who share a common hatred for minorities, homosexuals, and Jewish heritage.



Why Kids Join Gangs?

- There are different reasons for different kids.
- Some are drawn by parties, girls and drugs.
- Some are looking for respect and power.
- Some find a feeling of caring and attention in a gang. It becomes almost a family to them.
- Some want to make money to help out at home or to have nice clothes, etc.
- Some join for self-protection because they are picked on by other gang members.
- Some grow up in a neighborhood where it is almost a way of life.
- Most have some real or imagined problem at home that makes them prefer the streets.
- Some gang members are addicted to drugs. The problems at home can become worse because parents don't know how to cope with their addiction.

Blood Gangs

Started in Los Angeles as a street gang in the 1960s, spread to Texas prisons in the 1980s. Besides serving the broader purpose of neighborhood protection, the Bloods street gang originally arose as an opposing force to their rivals the Crips, who had been allying with various other gangs in the 1970s and becoming more powerful. As a result, the Piru gang allied with the Denver Lanes, the LA Brims and the Lueeders Park Hustlers to become the Bloods in 1972. "Bloods" was a term that African-American fighting men called each other in the Vietnam War. The Pirus later changed their name to Bloods.

The East Coast Bloods began in 1993 in New York City. Leonard "Deadeye" MacKenzie, then 26-year-old inmate from Brooklyn living inside a Rikers Island cell, and fellow prisoner O.G. "Original Gangsta" Mack, founded the New York chapter of the United Blood Nation in 1993. Deadeye is now in his late 30s and is incarcerated in upstate New York.

By the late 1990s, New York Latin Kings leader Antonio Fernandez (AKA King Tone) acknowledged that the Bloods have begun to dominate New York's prison system, and that his own gang has abandoned criminal operations in favor of political-activism. Because of this abatement in Latin King crime, the Bloods have a stronger and larger population in jail.

“I wish that I would’ve accepted more help from people who offered it.”

Getting out of a Gang

By Alexia

It all depends on how long you been in the gang, what type of gang you are in, and how close you live to the area the gang is in. You may have to move to another state or city to truly avoid the gang. Some people say that just how you get jumped into the gang you can get jumped out but the hits and the way the other gang members will hit you is way worse. Another way to leave the gang and try to avoid it is going to the police and getting a protection order, but most likely that will just make things worst and you will probably get killed for being a trader. You can also “age out” or “fade out.” It’s also said to be easier for those who are not leaders or counted on very much to be able to get out of a gang easier. Now a days it’s said that since a lot of times you don’t have to be “sexed” or “beat in” that it’s much easier to get out of a gang because it’s not as serious.

Most people may just claim to be in a gang and may hang out with gang members and may do some things a gang member may do, but since they did not get in seriously by being “sexed” or “beat in,” you can just simply stop hanging out with those certain people and stop doing those certain things to consider yourself not in that gang anymore. There are also certain programs to help gang members turn their lives around. These programs help gang members get their G.E.D’s, they also provide therapy, substance abuse counseling, job training and give advice and suggestions on how to stay away from other gang members.

“I wish that I can follow my dreams and become what I’ve always wanted.”

TO PREVENT SUICIDE...

By Alondra

Suicide never only affects the person that committed it. It affects everyone and the person too. But many suicidal thoughts can be prevented if the warning signs are recognized and proper action is taken. for someone who is already having what is called: "Suicidal Ideation". This means that they have already considered actions to harm themselves some way in order to feel something different that what is causing them distress.

Depression

- They may also take a drug or drink alcohol because they like the way it makes them feel. Or they may believe that it makes them more grown up. Teens tend to try new things and take risks, and they may take drugs or drink alcohol because it seems exciting. Teens with family members who have problems with alcohol or other drugs are more likely to be affected and have the same type of problem. Also, teens who feel that they are not important to their parents or that their not being paid enough attention are at greater risk at doing drugs. Teens with poor self-esteem or emotional or mental problems, such as depression, also are at increased risk.

Teen Drug Abuse

Methamphetamine, or meth, is a highly addictive synthetic chemical that acts as a stimulant. It is snorted, injected, smoked, or swallowed.

Methamphetamine Abuse

- Most of the methamphetamine abused in this country comes from foreign or domestic super labs, although it can also be made in small, illegal laboratories, where its production endangers the people in the labs, their neighbors, and the environment.
- Meth can cause a severe "crash" after the effects wear off.
- Meth can kill you by causing overheating, convulsions, and coma.

When you use meth

- Meth users may have cracked or deteriorating teeth that must be extracted. This is often caused by a combination of xerostomia (dry mouth), extended periods of poor oral hygiene, frequent consumption of high calorie, carbonated beverages and tooth grinding and clenching. Some reports have also speculated that the acidic nature of the drug is a contributing factor.

Meth can be made of

- Meth can be made from readily available ingredients like battery acid, drain cleaner, lantern fuel, and antifreeze.

What Meth damages

- Meth can damage blood vessels in the brain leading to strokes (which can produce irreversible damage).
- Today's teens face more challenges than any other generation has. More is expected from them in their school. There are new drugs and forms of drugs

Drugs and alcohol

- Alcohol is popular as ever also and some teens prefer alcohol instead. Peer pressure is also takes a big tool on the teenage community and influence on their choices. Relationships with their parents and their siblings are important and have a strong pull in decision making.
- Drugs play more of a role in a teenager's attitude, schooling and health than most parents realize. Drugs are constantly increasing and teens are able to get them at anytime with no problem. Teens use alcohol and other drugs for many reasons. They may do it because they want to fit in with friends or certain groups.

Teen Drug Abuse is not a Drug

- Some teens prefer their parents to just talk to them and not just let them do whatever they want. Teen drug abuse is not so much a crime but the things that the drug do to the teen body and their mind it should be. Parents should sometimes check up on their teens in school and also in the outside world because you never know just by checking up and not pressuring them just might help out.

Teen Alcohol Abuse

By Jasmine

How much alcohol do teens use?

- Alcohol is the most frequently used drug by teenagers in the United States. About half of junior high and senior high school students drink alcohol on a monthly basis, and 14% of teens have been intoxicated at least once in the past year. Nearly 8% of teens who drink say they drink at least five or more alcoholic drinks in a row (binge drink).

What are the dangerous effects of alcohol use in teens?

- Alcohol decreases teens' ability to pay attention.
- Teens who have experienced alcohol withdrawal tend to have difficulties with memory.
- In contrast to adults, teens tend to abuse alcohol with other substances, usually marijuana.
- Male teens who drink heavily tend to complete fewer years of education compared to male teens who do not.
- The younger a person is when they begin drinking, the more likely they are to develop a problem with alcohol.
- Each year, almost 2,000 people under the age of 21 years die in car crashes in which underage drinking is involved. Alcohol is involved in nearly half of all violent deaths involving teens.
- More than three times the number of eighth-grade girls who drink heavily said they have attempted suicide compared to girls in that grade who do not drink.
- Intoxication is associated with suicide attempts using more lethal methods, and positive blood alcohol levels are often found in people who complete suicide.
- Teens who drink are more likely to engage in sexual activity, have unprotected sex, have sex with a stranger, or be the victim or perpetrator of a sexual assault.
- Excess alcohol use can cause or mask other emotional problems, like anxiety or depression.
- Drinking in excess can lead to the use of other drugs, like marijuana, cocaine, or heroin.

What are the causes and risk factors of teen alcoholism?

- Family risk factors for teenagers developing drinking problems include low levels of parent supervision or communication, family conflicts, inconsistent or severe parental discipline, and a family history of alcohol or drug abuse. Individual risk factors include problems managing impulses, emotional instability, thrill-seeking behaviors, and perceiving the risk of using alcohol to be low. Girls who drink, as well as teens who begin drinking prior to 14 years of age and those whose mothers have drinking problems, are more likely to develop alcoholism. Teen risk factors for alcoholism differ a bit between the 14- to 16-year-old and 16- to 18-year-old age groups, in that 16- to 18-year-olds tend to be less likely to drink in excess when they have a close relationship with their mothers.

What are the symptoms of alcohol abuse in teens?

- Some of the most common symptoms of alcohol abuse in teenagers include lying, making excuses, breaking curfew, staying in their room, becoming verbally or physically abusive toward others, having items in their possession that are connected to alcohol use (paraphernalia), the smell of alcohol on their breath or body, mood swings, stealing, and changes in friends.

What is the treatment for alcohol intoxication?

- Replacing fluids that are lost as a result of the increased urination associated with drinking is often used to treat alcohol intoxication. Doctors frequently use fluids that contain sugars for that purpose.

What is alcohol poisoning?

- Alcohol poisoning is the potentially fatal result of drinking excessive amounts of alcohol in a short period of time. It is caused by alcohol slowing down the body's functions (for example, breathing, heart rate, and gag reflex), thereby potentially leading to choking, coma, stopped breathing, stopped heart, and death. Treatment involves getting the person to the hospital immediately so he or she can be closely watched by medical professionals, given oxygen and fluids, and so that other measures can be taken in order to prevent choking, as well as stopped breathing or heartbeat.

“I wish that I will be able to do what is best for me and my child.”

Verbal Abuse

By Cristina Montoya
Emerson High School

Abusers

Abusers often come across to the public as very nice and charming people. But most of the time, they exert control in the home environment. At home, the two-sided message is "I love you . . . but I don't." The twisted expression of the abuser's love causes others in the home to feel helpless and confused.

What is verbal abuse?

verbal abuse is a form of abusive behavior involving the use of language. It is very hurtful to humans. It is an abuse that often can't be seen. It is one of many types of abuses.

verbal abuse on teenagers

Most of teenage verbal abuse is cause by relationships. It is often the male that is the abuser.

- Verbal/Emotional Abuse is anything that the abuser says or does that causes you to be afraid, lowers your self-esteem, or manipulates or controls your feelings or behavior. It includes:
- Name-calling and put-downs
- Yelling and screaming
- Intentionally embarrassing you in front of other people
- Keeping you from seeing or talking with friends and family
- Telling you what to do
- Using online communities or cell phones to control, intimidate, or humiliate you
- Making you feel responsible for the abuse
- Stalking
- Threatening to commit suicide in order to manipulate you
- Threats of violence and harm to you or people you care about
- Threats to expose your secrets (such as sexual orientation or immigration status), start rumors, or to take away your children

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