

Gangs in America's Communities

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Chapter 2: Myths and Realities of Youth Gangs

1. Which of the following is NOT one of the common myths promoted about gangs?

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Knowledge; Answer Location: Throughout whole chapter; Question Type: MC

- a. Gangs of the same name are connected.
- b. Children are joining gangs at younger and younger ages.
- c. Gangs spend most of their time planning and committing crimes.
- \*d. Gangs are key players in firearms trafficking.

Type: MR

2. CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY: The authors use the term "myths" rather than "fallacy" to describe beliefs about gangs because...

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Comprehension; Answer Location: Pg. 23; Question Type: MR

- a. They are synonyms, and either term is acceptable, but "myths" was chosen to keep the language consistent.
- \*b. It is more inclusive.
- \*c. There are exceptions to each gang myth.
- d. "Fallacy" is a term reserved for the physical sciences.

3. Which of the following gang activities is NOT an example of the "false coral snake" phenomenon described by Felson (2006)?

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Application; Answer Location: Pg. 24; Question Type: MC

- a. Wearing only red to look like a "Blood"
- \*b. Dealing on a street corner
- c. Flashing a hand sign
- d. Painting gang graffiti

4. Which of the following myths promoted in broadcast media would gang members be most likely to promote themselves?

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Application; Answer Location: Pg. 24; Question Type: MC

- \*a. Violence is pervasive.
- b. Gangs are an urban problem.
- c. There is very little diversity in the types of gangs that exist.
- d. Gangs are trying to spread throughout the country.

5. Most gangs do not meet the criteria for organized crime because they are not well \_\_\_\_\_.

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Comprehension; Answer Location: Pg. 25; Question Type: MC

- \*a. structured
- b. armed
- c. funded
- d. diversified

6. Gangs' set spaces are \_\_\_\_\_.

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Knowledge; Answer Location: Pg. 26; Question Type: MC

- a. larger than neighborhoods
- b. the same size as neighborhoods
- c. unknown in size
- \*d. smaller than neighborhoods

7. Exceptions to the myth that gangs of the same name are connected are most commonly found among \_\_\_\_\_ gangs.

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Application; Answer Location: Pg. 26; Question Type: MC

- a. Black
- b. prison
- \*c. transnational
- d. female

Type: MR

8. CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY. The following reflect traits of gang "shot callers":

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Comprehension; Answer Location: Pgs. 25-26; Question

- \*a. They are the equivalent of leaders in gangs.
- \*b. They reflect the informal division of labor in gangs.
- c. They are always permanent positions.
- \*d. The person in the position may change from one gang activity to the next.

Type: MR

9. Which of the following phrases reflects the process whereby gangs promote their own myths about their dangerousness?

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Knowledge; Answer Location: Pg. 23; Question Type: MC

- a. Fallacy
- \*b. Big gang theory
- c. Crime reporting wave
- d. Gang suppression

10. Which of the following is NOT a source of gang myths?

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Comprehension; Answer Location: Pgs. 23, 24; Question Type: MC

- a. Broadcast media
- b. Gang members themselves
- \*c. Prison officials

d. Legislators

Type: MR

11. CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY. Which of the following gangs represent exceptions to the myth that gangs of the same name are connected?

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Knowledge; Answer Location: Pg. 26; Question Type: MR

a. Crips

\*b. Gangster Disciples

\*c. 18th Street

\*d. Mara Salvatrucha

12. What is the most common sub-myth of the “gang migration myth”?

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Comprehension; Answer Location: Pg. 26; Question Type: MC

a. Gangs migrate to advance firearm trafficking goals.

\*b. Gangs migrate to set up drug trafficking operations.

c. Gangs migrate to avoid prosecution.

d. Gangs migrate to war with other gangs.

13. It is implied that \_\_\_\_\_ largely responsible for spreading the myth that MR-13 and 18th Street presence are growing throughout the country.

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Comprehension; Answer Location: Pg. 27; Question Type: MC

a. local police departments are

\*b. the FBI is

c. Maras are

d. the broadcast media is

14. The real reason behind much of so-called “gang migration” implies that:

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Analysis; Answer Location: Pg. 27; Question Type: MC

a. Gang members are more connected to their gangs than their friends and families.

b. Gang members are interested in establishing transnational criminal networks.

\*c. Gang members are more connected to their families and friends than their gangs.

d. Gang members are interested in conducting recruitment efforts away from their home base.

15. Which of the following gang myths is hard to prove given the inability to distinguish general immigration patterns from gang membership patterns?

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Comprehension; Answer Location: Pg. 27; Question Type: MC

a. Gangs of the same name are connected.

b. Gang members are a new wave of super-predators.

c. Gangs were actively involved in the crack epidemic.

\*d. The MR-13 and 18th Street gangs are spreading across the United States.

16. Which of the following is NOT a component of big gang theory?

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Comprehension; Answer Location: Pg. 28; Question Type: MC

- \*a. Gangs recruit students in the public school system.
- b. Gangs migrate.
- c. Gangs are involved in drug trafficking.
- d. Gangs are inevitably violent.

17. Which is NOT an example of a characteristic common to drug gangs?

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Application; Answer Location: Pg. 29; Question Type: MC

- a. A 54-year-old member.
- b. One defined leader.
- c. A mandate of loyalty.
- \*d. Rivalries between gangs.

18. Curry, Decker, and Egely (2002) found that, among youth who reported never having been in a gang, \_\_\_\_\_ had reported engaging in gang-related behavior.

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Comprehension; Answer Location: Pg. 30; Question Type: MC

- \*a. about half
- b. equal to
- c. about twice as many
- d. unknown in relation to

19. Which of the following is the most common myth told about gangs in the broadcast media?

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Comprehension; Answer Location: Pg. 30; Question Type: MC

- a. Gangs, drugs, and violence are inexorably linked.
- \*b. Children are joining gangs at younger and younger ages.
- c. Gangs spend most of their time planning and committing crimes.
- d. Gangs of the same name are always connected.

20. All of the following are components of the reality relating to the age that individuals join gangs except:

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Analysis; Answer location: Pgs. 30-31; Question Type: MC

- a. Blessed-in children are the exception to the myth.
- b. The "child gangs" that Thrasher found were really just children's playgroups.
- \*c. The gang initiation phase usually takes place between middle school and high school.
- d. Gang recruitment depends in large part on children feeling alienated from their parents.

Type: MR

21. CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY. Which of the following reflect reasons why children are actually not joining gangs at younger and younger ages?

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Analysis; Answer Location: Pgs. 30-31; Question Type: MR

- \*a. Children below a certain age are not sufficiently exposed to gangs.
- \*b. Teenagers and young adults in gangs prefer not to hang out with children.
- c. Children do not develop negative stereotypes about law enforcement until later.
- d. Most gang members join gangs after getting their first minimum wage job.

22. All of the following are components of “gang-related” crime except:

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Analysis; Answer Location: Pg. 16; Question Type: MC

- \*a. It refers to crimes committed on behalf of a gang.
- b. It is different from “gang-motivated” crime.
- c. It is more general a measure than “gang-motivated” crime.
- d. It encompasses a wide variety of crimes.

23. Which of the following is NOT an example of an urban myth told about gangs?

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Application; Answer Location: Pgs. 16-17; Question Type: MC

- \*a. They mimic or imitate the signs and symbols of larger gangs to seem more menacing.
- b. They randomly find victims for their violent acts.
- c. They engage in weird initiation rituals.
- d. Adult gang members act almost like pedophiles in their attempts to stealthily recruit new members.

24. \_\_\_\_\_ exercise the greatest influence in determining whether or not an individual joins a group.

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Comprehension; Answer Location: Pg. 37; Question Type: MC

- a. Parents
- b. Older social influencers
- \*c. Peers
- d. Broadcast media

25. Which of the following is NOT a component of a “crime reporting wave”?

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Comprehension; Answer Location: Pg. 35; Question Type: MC

- a. Gathering data from police departments
- \*b. Journalists making bonuses for being the first to report on a crime story
- c. Repetition of one news outlet’s story by another one
- d. The embellishment of a new story as it gets added to

26. “Fallacy” is a synonym for “myth.”

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Comprehension; Answer Location: Pg. 23; Question Type: TF

- a. True
- \*b. False

27. Broadcast media and gang members themselves are the primary sources of myths about gangs.  
@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Knowledge; Answer Location: Pg. 23; Question Type: TF

- \*a. True
- b. False

28. The popular media implies that gangs and gang members are ethnically and racially diverse.  
@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Comprehension; Answer Location: Pg. 24; Question Type: TF

- a. True
- \*b. False

29. There is an inverse relationship between gangs' public images and their "set spaces" in reality.  
@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Analysis; Answer Location: Pg. 26; Question Type: TF

- \*a. True
- b. False

30. Gangs are structured similarly to corporations.  
@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Comprehension; Answer Location: Pg. 25; Question Type: TF

- a. True
- \*b. False

31. Law enforcement agencies are not prone to promote myths about gangs.  
@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Analysis; Answer Location: Pg. 25; Question Type: TF

- a. True
- \*b. False

32. The myth that gang members reflect a new wave of super-predators is one of the most complex gang myths.  
@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Comprehension; Answer Location: Pgs. 28, 34; Question Type: TF

- a. True
- \*b. False

33. Street gang members are most likely to be involved in the drug market via their involvement in street sales.  
@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Comprehension; Answer Location: Pg. 29; Question Type: TF

- a. True
- \*b. False

34. Law enforcement personnel attribute the majority of gang violence to gang migration.

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Comprehension; Answer Location: Pg. 28; Question Type: TF

- a. True
- \*b. False

35. The bulk of drug-related gang violence is due to fighting over market control of the drug market.

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Comprehension; Answer Location: Pgs. 29, 37; Question Type: TF

- a. True
- \*b. False

Type: E

36. What are the key differences between organized crime syndicates and gangs?

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Comprehension; Answer Location: Pg. 25; Question Type: SA

\*a. Answer: Organized crime syndicates are well-structured and have defined leadership roles, a code of loyalty, serious consequences for those who do not abide by the code, and the business savvy required to engage in large-scale drug trafficking activities. Gangs, on the other hand, are often much less organized, with frequently changing membership and hierarchies that act with a very informal division of labor and do not have the entrepreneurial skills to lead drug-trafficking operations.

Type: E

37. What is a moral panic, and how is the term related to myths about gangs?

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Comprehension; Answer Location: Pg. 40; Question Type: SA

\*a. Answer: A moral panic is a phenomenon in which myths and stereotypes lead a diverse range of societal leaders, including social and political leaders, to view a whole group of people as a threat to our values and norms. In the context of gangs, growing gang myths in the 1980s and 1990s led to a moral panic in which leaders responded by advancing punitive gang suppression legislation.

Type: E

38. Summarize a recent anti-gang piece of legislation or policy that you are familiar with and then evaluate it in relation to the extent and number of myths implied by the policy. How could you strengthen the legislation to more accurately address realities of gangs and their activities?

@ Learning objective: N/A; Cognitive Domain: Analysis; Answer Location: For the above example, see pg. 37; Question Type: ESS

\*a. Answer: Varies. Students should first identify a public policy directed at suppressing gang activity, such as the CRASH unit in Los Angeles, which involved the raiding and arresting of nearly 1,500 suspected gang members in a street sweeping operation. This program was based on a number of gang

myths, primarily the myth that a sole reliance on law enforcement efforts will help ameliorate gang problems. The CRASH unit also implied a number of other myths about gangs, such as the myth that gangs, drugs, and violence are inexorably linked, and that gang members spend the preponderance of their time planning on committing crimes. It appears that this program was not based on research indicating wholly aggressive intervention efforts do not work in wiping out gang activity, and that treatment goals should be set instead that focus on preventing gang membership and the commission of serious crimes, since so few of the individuals arrested in the CRASH sweeps were ever prosecuted.