

Signs to look for!

A youth gang is a group of people who get together on a regular basis to carry out violent, illegal or anti-social activities, including intimidation, assault, vandalism, burglary and even murder.

Gang members generally tend to be male teenagers but they can also be females and even be as young as seven years old.

If you think your child's school or social group is immune from gang activity, think again. There is evidence of gangs in every social, academic and ethnic category.

Look for these signs that may indicate a child may be involved with a gang:

- The child begins hanging out with a new group of friends
- There is a marked and noticeable change in the child's habits or personality
- You find evidence of or suspect drug or alcohol use
- The child frequently shows signs of being bruised or injured
- You observe the child using hand signs, nicknames or street language
- The child is carrying guns, knives or other weapons
- You observe strange symbols or graffiti on notebooks or folders
- The child withdrawals from family members or friends
- Grades fall and/or incidents requiring discipline become more frequent
- The child obtains money without your knowledge
- The child dresses in the same color clothing every day or wears tattoos, unusual jewelry, hairstyles or clothing that could identify a particular gang.

If you could suspect gang involvement, contact your school's resource officer or the Spring Lake Police Department.

300 RUTH STREET
SPRING LAKE, NC 28390

www.spring-lake.org

Emergency Calls - 911

Non-emergency calls - (910) 436-0350

or

(910) 436-0351

Fax - (910) 436-4081

Command Staff:

Chief Troy McDuffie

Captain Jeff Stafford

Lieutenant Jerrel Johnson



Administrative Support:

Lissa Jones, Administrative Assistant to the Chief

Jeanne Autry, Administrative Aide

Administrative Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

After Hours and Weekends:

Phones transfer to Cumberland County Dispatch



GANG ACTIVITY



Brought to you by the:
SPRING LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT
Troy McDuffie, Chief



SPRING LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Some gangs adhere to strict dress codes. A common gang "uniform" consists of khaki pants with sharp creases ironed down the front of each leg, a white T-shirt worn under a plaid flannel shirt, and a bandana. The way the clothing is worn and the color of the clothing varies with the individual gangs. For example, members of some Hispanic gangs wear their shirts buttoned only at the collar, while black gangs wear their shirts open. Certain gangs also favor one side of their bodies. For example one gang may favor the left side of their bodies by wearing their hats turned towards the left, the left leg of their pants rolled up and a bandana on their left side. While their rival gang will favor the right side of their bodies and wear the same type of clothing, on the right side of their bodies. Gangs openly wear their signifying clothing.

Tattoos are not a tell-tale sign that the wearer is a gang member. Though many gang members do wear tattoos, some do not. Hispanic gangs frequently tattoo their arms, hands, shoulders, stomachs, back of necks and backs. The tattoo may be small or large enough to cover the entire back or stomach. Often, the gang member will have the name of his or her gang tattooed somewhere on their bodies. Unlike many Hispanic gangs, black gang members do not usually use tattoos to identify their gang membership.

Most gangs use hand signs to identify their gang and as a form of communication. Hand signs are also used to "flash" a warning or a threat to rival gangs. Some gangs have elaborate hand and body signals, so advanced, that they can have complete conversations without saying a word. These signs are frequently used when they don't want others to know what they are about to do.

Gang related graffiti may be the first sign that there are gangs in the community. Gangs use graffiti as their "newspapers," their way of marking boundaries and warning rival gangs. Graffiti may also be used to advertise the selling of drugs or as a means of erecting a memorial to a killed gang member.

The following charts were taken from the 2008 Governor's Crime Commission NC Department of Crime Control and Public Safety - A Comprehensive Assessment of Gangs in North Carolina : A report to the General Assembly Report

Figure 1 : Number of Reported Gangs

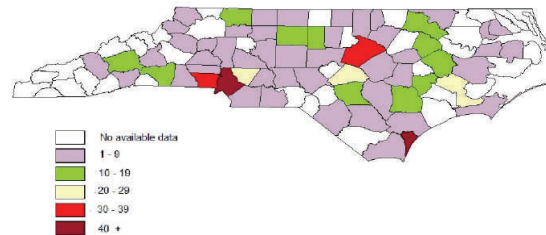


Figure 2 : Number of Reported Gang Members

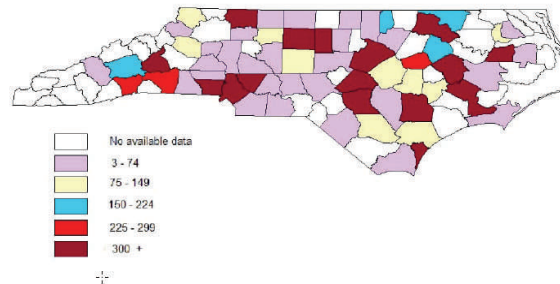
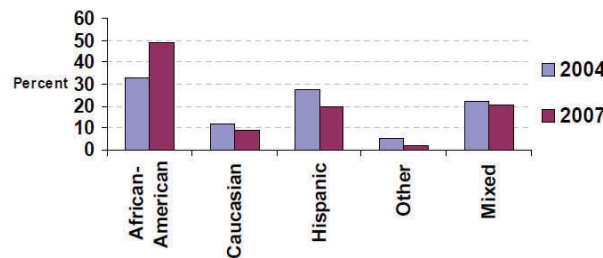


Figure 5 Gang Composition by Race/Ethnicity 2007



WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO PREVENT GANG INVOLVEMENT

- Spend quality time with your child
- Get involved in your child's school activities
- Be a positive role model and set the right example
- Know your child's friends and their families
- Encourage good study habits
- Teach your child how to cope with peer pressure
- Help your child develop good conflict resolution skills
- Encourage your child to participate in positive afterschool activities with adult supervision (recreation centers, organized sports, youth groups)
- Take action in your neighborhood (create a neighborhood alliance, report and remove graffiti)
- Talk with your child about the dangers and consequences of gang involvement. Let your child know that you don't want to see them hurt or arrested. Explain to your child that they should NOT:
 - Associate with gang members
 - Attend parties or social events sponsored by Gangs
 - Use hand signs, symbols or language that is meaningful to gangs
 - wear clothing, including specific colors, which may have meaning to gangs in your area

