Suspected and Documented Gang-Involved Youth

Myths vs. Facts

(Updated: April 2014)

Myth: Most juvenile offenders are gang-involved youth.
Fact: Less than 5% of youth arrested have any gang alert. However, those with gang alerts are more likely to have been first arrested at age 12 or younger, and more likely to be Serious, Violent, and Chronic (SVC) Offenders.

Results from all juvenile arrests between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2013 indicate:

- Only 4% of youth arrested have any gang alert with 1.4% of youth arrested being documented gang members;
- Documented gang members committed 3% of all offenses (twice their proportion of offenders) and averaged 3.7 arrests each over the two year period;
- The vast majority of both males and females have no gang alerts, though the prevalence of being a documented gang member for males is 4.5 times (450%) the rate for females;
- Youth with gang alerts indicated are considerably more likely to be high risk to re-offend on the C-PACT assessment and to be classified as Serious, Violent, and Chronic (SVC) offenders.
- Youth with gang alerts are more likely to have past alcohol and drug use, and over 50% had household members with jail or prison history;
- Over 30% of those with gang alerts were 12 or under at the age of their first ever arrest;
- Documented gang members (1.4% of the youth) are referred for a disproportionate share of serious and violent felony and weapons offenses, including three times their proportion of the offender population of the murder/manslaughter, attempted murder/manslaughter, armed robberies, obstruction of justice with violence, automobile theft, and escape from a secure FDJJ setting over the two years examined;
- Youth with any gang alert (roughly 4% of the juvenile offender population) committed 24% of all attempted murder/manslaughter offenses for which an arrest of a juvenile was made.

REFERENCES

For detailed results of the Drug Offenses: Trends and Offenders analysis, visit:
http://www.djj.state.fl.us/docs/research2/briefing-report-gang-offenses.pdf?sfvrsn=0