

————— **Research Brief** —————

**Selected Annotated Bibliography:
Evaluations of Gang Intervention Programs**

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**Selected Annotated Bibliography:
Evaluations of Gang Intervention Programs**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gangs and criminal organizations have become a growing concern for Canadians, and identifying the impact of gang affiliated offenders on correctional staff and institutions has become a priority for the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC). Recognizing the influence such offenders may have, CSC has mandated a number of initiatives to better understand gangs and criminal organizations both inside and outside the institutions while examining the effectiveness of current policies and procedures aimed at managing gang affiliates.

In order to better inform policies and best practices related to criminal organizations, this research brief provides a review of gang prevention and intervention strategies. Focusing only on those strategies which were formally evaluated, program descriptions and outcome results are presented.

Brief Highlights:

- Although many gang prevention and intervention initiatives are in operation, the majority have not been evaluated. Many of those that have been evaluated lack robust statistical methodology, relying heavily on qualitative data, hearsay reports, and non-experimental designs. Program evaluations have generally focused on youth in community settings rather than institutional settings.
- Prevention and intervention programs have adopted several strategies. Detached-worker programs, curriculum-based prevention programs, and suppression programs encompass the majority of program efforts. Recently, multi-faceted approaches to intervention have employed a combination of these strategies along with provision of job opportunities, education, and individual and family counselling for gang members.
- Program evaluations suggest that curriculum-based prevention programs targeting youth at-risk for gang involvement, such as the Gang Resistance Education and Training program (G.R.E.A.T.), effect modest short-term change. However, follow-up studies have found program participants to be as likely as non-participants to become gang members in the long-term.
- Detached-worker programs, which employ social workers, paraprofessionals or indigenous leaders in an effort to provide outreach to gangs, have been found to be both ineffective and detrimental. More modern detached-worker programs (e.g., Broader Urban Involvement and Leadership Development) have included curriculum components addressing consequences of gang involvement, peer pressure, and substance abuse. Despite this addition, these programs have also been found to be ineffective in preventing youth from joining gangs.
- Gang suppression programs focus on a coordinated justice response to gangs, emphasizing the persecution and conviction of gang members. Partially designed to remove gang leadership in an effort to reduce gang activity, evaluations have found mixed results. Although effective in decreasing gang-related crime in the short term, gang suppression

programs fail to address important issues such as drug treatment, education and employment.

- Among the most promising are multi-component programs such as the Little Village Gang Violence Reduction Project. These programs incorporate targeted control of gang members, increased police supervision and suppression, and the provision of a broad spectrum of social services and opportunities for targeted youth. Evaluations of multi-component programs have indicated that these programs are successful in reducing arrests for violent crime but fail to impact the size and cohesion of targeted gangs.
- Gang intervention and prevention is made difficult by the paucity of information regarding why and how youth gangs form and desist. In addition, current gang interventions are seldom theoretically based. Findings suggest that frequency of service and strategy provision is not predictive of gang involvement. Instead, the nature of the services provided is most important in predicting future gang involvement, most significantly the provision of individual counselling for at-risk youth.

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ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Braga, A.A., Kennedy, D.M., Waring, E.J., and Piehl, A.M. (2001). Problem-oriented policing, deterrence and youth violence: An evaluation of Boston's Operation Ceasefire. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 38(3), 195-225.

USA: Operation Ceasefire is a gang-violence intervention program intended to control and deter serious gang violence, but not to eliminate gang activity altogether. Using the deterrence strategy of "pulling-levers" (coordinated criminal justice response), the program subjected violent gangs to a range of criminal justice action (e.g., serving outstanding warrants, delivering strict probation and parole enforcement, and seizing drug proceeds and other assets), and directly communicating that gang violence would lead to harsh and immediate punishment. In addition to the "pulling-levers" initiatives, streetworkers, probation and parole officers, churches and other community groups offered services, such as counselling, to gang members. Gangs were informed about program intentions and services through formal meetings, individual police and probation contacts, meetings with inmates at juvenile facilities in Boston, and streetworkers. **Methods**: Analysis of the program's impact consisted of a one-group time-series design, which measured the outcome variables for the targeted group at multiple times during intervention. Key outcome variables were the monthly number of homicide victims aged 24 or younger in targeted areas, and the monthly counts of citywide shots-fired citizen calls for service and citywide official gun assault incident report data. As well, youth homicide trends in Boston were compared with youth homicide trends in other large U.S. cities. The program started in May, 1996 and ended in May, 1998. Data were examined from January, 1991 to May, 1998. **Results**: Time series analyses showed a 63% decrease in mean monthly number of youth homicide victims from pretest (3.5 youth homicides per month from January 1991 to May 1996) to posttest (1.3 youth homicides per month from July 1996 to May 1998). After controlling for several confounding variables (specifically, changes in the following: Boston's employment rate, Boston's youth population, citywide trends in violence and homicide victimization among older victims over 25, and youth involvement in street-level drug market activity), significant reductions in youth homicide, shots-fired calls for service, and gun assault incidents were found. In comparison with 39 other U.S. cities, Boston experienced the most significant reduction in youth homicide, indicating that there was no national trend explaining the change in youth homicide occurring in Boston. Researchers were unable to collect pretest and posttest data to shed light on inter or intra-gang dynamics resulting from program activities.

Caplan, N.S., Deshaies, D.J., Suttles, G.D. & Mattick, H.W. (1967). The nature, variety, and patterning of street club work in an urban setting. In M. Klein & B.G. Myerhoff (Eds.), *Juvenile gangs in context* (pp. 194-202).

USA: This report is a cross-sectional evaluation of the Chicago Youth Development Project (CYDP), a street club worker program using 'detached workers', or social service agents, who work with gangs in the field in an effort to turn criminal gangs into more

prosocial groups or clubs. **Methods:** At the study's commencement, the program had been operating for 18 months in three high delinquency, inner-city areas of Chicago, each about one square mile in size. The program targeted all boys aged 10 to 19 residing within the three target areas ($n=645$). Thirty-eight percent of the targeted boys had recorded histories of delinquent behaviour. Workers rated each targeted youth on several dimensions, including level of perceived influence over the particular target, time spent with target, mutual confidence and trust between worker and target, and general liking for target. Analyses examined if these variables were correlated with target delinquency and legal involvement, also rated by workers. **Results:** Although causal relationships cannot be inferred, high ratings on "liking for target" in the initial phase of contact may have predisposed some workers to overuse program resources for targets who were better-liked. Highly interrelated variables were: degree of perceived program success for target (reported delinquency and legal involvement), influence over target, closeness of relationship with target, success with target, liking for target and liking for worker by target. Since the study relied strictly upon street workers' reported perceptions, no assumptions about outcome effectiveness (i.e., delinquency rates) can be made.

Derezotes, D. (1995). Evaluation of the Late Nite Basketball project. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 12(1), 33-50.

USA: This article provides a qualitative evaluation of the Late Nite Basketball Program, an organized league modeled after the National Basketball Association. The program was facilitated by volunteer mentors from the Utah Jazz and University of Utah basketball teams, who held mandatory workshops after games providing information and discussions on subjects such as substance abuse, education and training, and employment opportunities. Program goals comprised redirecting youth energy in more positive ways, improving the quality of life for youth, and improving discipline and character to prepare youth for future opportunities. **Methods:** Participants were drawn from ten teams of at-risk males (ages 16-20) who were selected in a screening process organized by Police and other local agencies. Data were collected from interviews of over 100 gang members, family members, and staff. Interviews began in November of 1993, were completed in March of 1994, and were analyzed using qualitative methodology. **Results:** Participants, although reporting a positive attitude toward the program and its benefits (fun of playing ball, opportunity for jobs and scholarships, workshops, reducing inter-gang violence, and new relationships), reported that they did not believe the program could eliminate gang activity. Also problematic was that youth-mentor relationships were not clearly established (37% of youth and 54% of family members did not know who their mentor was). Several youth reported the workshops after the games to be ineffective. Similar to participants, both family and staff members described positive feelings about the program, although reported feeling it could not stop gang activity.

Esbensen, F. (2001). The National Evaluation of the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program. In J. Miller, C.L. Maxson and M.W. Klein (Eds.), *The Modern Gang Reader* (2nd ed.), (pp. 289 – 302). LA: Roxbury.

USA: This article summarizes a national evaluation of the GREAT program, a gang-prevention program developed in 1991 by the Phoenix Police Department, carried through from October 1994 to September 2000. As of January 2000, more than 3500 U.S. police officers had been trained to educate youth about the consequences of gang involvement. GREAT consists of a nine-week, nine-lesson curriculum offered to middle school students. Lessons cover topics such as cultural sensitivity, drugs, conflict resolution, goal setting, and resisting peer pressure. Students also discuss gangs and how they affect the quality of youths' lives. **Methods**: Evaluation design consisted of a process evaluation, where research staff observed five officer training sessions during the first program year as well as 87 GREAT lessons, and an outcome evaluation, consisting of two strategies. First, a cross-sectional study was conducted on 5,935 ethnically diverse eighth-grade students in 11 different U.S. cities receiving GREAT. Second, a five-year longitudinal, quasi-experimental design was conducted in six of those cities, using a different sample of randomly assigned seventh grade students from 22 schools in selected cities. In total, there were 76 GREAT classrooms representing 1871 students, and 77 control classrooms with 1697 students. Measures for the cross-sectional and longitudinal outcome studies were identical, consisting of questionnaires assessing attitudes toward gang membership, as well as a questionnaire assessing self-reported delinquency. At pretest, 17% of GREAT participants reported that they had been part of a gang, and 9% indicated current gang membership. 2,629 students (45%) reported they had completed the program (and became the treatment group), and 3,207 (55%) reported they had not (and became the comparison group). **Results**: Officer training sessions were well organized and staffed by competent officers. As well, officers adhered to lesson outlines and conformed to lesson content. In sum, the program was found to be delivered as it was intended. The cross-sectional outcome evaluation, in which data were gathered one year after completion of GREAT, revealed that GREAT participants reported significantly lower levels of gang affiliation and delinquency compared with non-participants. GREAT participants also reported significantly more positive attitudes about police, more negative attitudes about gangs, higher levels of guilt at committing deviant acts, and more commitment to school. When students were divided into high and low-risk groups GREAT was found to be more effective for high-risk students. Longitudinal analyses, consisting of pre-post, one and two-year follow-ups, failed to replicate cross-sectional results, finding no consistent behavioural or attitudinal differences between participants and non-participants over time. Further analyses dividing high and low risk participants, and focusing on GREAT in cities that had highest quality program implementation, also revealed no significant differences. The author notes that it is unlikely that individual-based prevention programs can effect gang involvement when social, structural and community conditions are not addressed.

Esbensen, F. & Osgood, D.W. (1999). Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) : Results from the national evaluation. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 36, 194-225.

USA: This study reports the cross-sectional portion of the evaluation of GREAT, a prevention program introduced by the Phoenix Police Department in 1991 and modelled after the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program. GREAT has been incorporated into school curricula in 47 states, and consists of nine lessons offered once per week, introducing middle-school students (primarily seventh graders) to conflict resolution skills, cultural sensitivity, and the negative aspects of gang life. Objectives of the program are to: (1) reduce gang activity, and (2) educate young people about the consequences of gang involvement. Intended to provide life skills to empower adolescents to resist peer pressure to join gangs, a cognitive approach was used that seeks to produce attitude and behavioural change through instruction, discussion and role-playing. **Methods**: A cross-sectional, posttest-only comparison of 5935 eighth grade students was conducted one year after program completion. This evaluation focused on constructs from the program's curriculum that are both theoretically and empirically linked to gang membership and delinquency, with the logic that short-term effects on these variables provide promise for long-term benefits of reduced gang involvement. Gang involvement was measured with self-reports in answer to the questions "Have you ever been a gang member?" and "Are you now in a gang?", with responses to either question being interpreted as present gang membership, due to the young age of the sample. Students were classified as gang members only if they reported their gangs to engage in at least one type of delinquent behaviour (stealing, robbing people, fighting other gangs). **Results**: The program assessment is an average of the within-school differences between GREAT participants and non-participants (weighted according to sample size), adjusted for any differences in sex, age, race, family and parent education. Program effects were statistically modest, however, students who completed GREAT reported lower levels on all measures of gang affiliation and self-reported delinquency, lower rates of drug use and minor delinquent offences, with these differences often being statistically significant. The program appears to have no effect on rates of victimization, selling drugs, or involvement in status offences (standardized effect sizes $<.035$, $p>.3$).

Fritsch, E.J., Caeti, T.J. & Taylor, R.W. (1999). Gang suppression through saturation patrol, aggressive curfew, and truancy enforcement: A quasi-experimental test of the Dallas Anti-Gang Initiative. *Crime and Delinquency*, 45(1), 122-139.

USA: This article provides an evaluation of the anti-gang initiative implemented by the Dallas Police Department in 1996. Five targeted areas home to the city's most violent gangs received overtime-funded officers to implement several enforcement strategies including saturation patrol, and aggressive curfew and truancy enforcement. **Methods**: A quasi-experimental design was used, in which the five targeted areas were compared with four control areas matched on number of violent gang-related offences. Two data sets were used to measure impact on crime: (1) offences reported to police from June 1, 1995 through May 31, 1997 and (2) data from the gang unit on all gang-related offences reported during the same time frame. These two time periods (the year prior to the anti-gang initiative, and the year during the initiative) were compared for differences in mean values. In the case of

significant differences, the strategy employed during the time period (e.g. curfew enforcement, truancy enforcement or saturation patrol) was examined. **Results:** Overall, there was a 57% decrease ($p < .05$) in gang-related violence in target areas during the initiative. Statistically significant decreases in gang violence were also observed in the control areas during the anti-gang initiative, however, this decrease was less substantial at 37%. Compared with the year prior to the anti-gang initiative, significant reductions in violent gang-related offences occurred in three of five target areas during the program period. The gang-suppression strategy used in these areas was truancy enforcement (efforts to enforce truancy and curfew laws). The two matched control areas experienced a 22% increase in gang-related offences, however, this increase could be due to the migration of gang members into city areas with less law enforcement presence. The two target areas not experiencing a significant decrease in gang-related violence employed an undirected saturation patrol strategy. Therefore, increased police presence alone was not effective in decreasing gang violence.

Gandy, J.M. (1959). Preventive work with street corner groups: The Hyde Park Youth Project, Chicago. *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, March 1959, 107-116.

USA: This article provides a pre-post outcome evaluation (no control group) of the Hyde Park Youth Project, a three-year street-worker gang prevention/intervention program completed in a low-income area of Chicago in the 1950s. While the overall project consisted of several initiatives, only the work with street-corner groups is reported in this paper. The Hyde Park neighbourhood was chosen as a target area due to the prevalence of gang activity, but also because it was an area that possessed resources (community agencies) to offer promise for developing a delinquency prevention program. The program targeted street-corner youths (an antiquated term used to refer to gang-involved youth) in Hyde Park not already served by other community agencies, and aimed to prevent or reduce criminal activity. Little explanation is given regarding specific duties/roles of the street-workers. **Method:** Three street-workers worked with 11 street clubs over a three-year period. With street clubs possessing between nine and 36 members, over 300 youth were served by the project. A street-corner group was included in the project if it met the following criteria: a collection of individuals who shared a meeting place in the Hyde Park Area; demonstrated antisocial tendencies; caused community anxiety; possessed the ability to be helped by project services; and not already being served by a community agency. Three groups comprised entirely African-American members, six groups were entirely Caucasian, and two clubs were racially heterogeneous. Only one of the groups (one of the all-White groups) was comprised of both boys and girls. Frequency of antisocial behaviour was measured pre and post-project by street-workers recording their estimates of the extent of each youth's antisocial involvement on a five-point scale, ranging from "no known or suspected participation" to "institutionalized at time of rating". Street-workers were instructed to use data from police and law-enforcement agencies, records from schools, civic groups, merchants, and their own opinions from frequent contacts with youth. The pre and post ratings were based on a four-month period at the beginning and end of the project. **Results:** No statistical analyses was conducted on street-workers' ratings, however, they indicated that: 46% ($n=151$) of youths participated in less criminal activity at posttest,

while 130 youths were unchanged from pretest to posttest. More than half of this group of 130, ($n=73$), had no known participation in antisocial behaviour at pretest, while the other 57 participants remained at their pretest level of antisocial behaviour. Of the entire group, 10% of youths ($n=34$) were rated as showing more antisocial behaviour at posttest. Only nine youth moved from “frequent participation” at pretest to “no participation” at posttest.

Goldstein, A.P. & Glick, B. (1994). *The prosocial gang: Implementing Aggression Replacement Training*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

USA: This book describes several studies on Aggression Replacement Training (ART), with one study focusing on its impact on gang-involved youth. ART consists of classroom sessions on skillstreaming (learning how to express complaints, respond to others’ feelings, and prepare for stressful interactions in a prosocial way), moral reasoning (discussing moral responses to hypothetical moral dilemmas) and anger control training (self-assessment, relaxation training, and learning to identify emotional triggers through role-play). A 32 session ART was operated in several low-income, gang-saturated neighbourhoods in collaboration with a number of youth agencies across New York. Intact gangs were chosen as targets as it was hypothesized that targeting an entire gang would allow more opportunity to turn youths’ social environments in more prosocial directions.

Method: Questionnaires were either self-report or completed by youth workers. Participants ($n=38$) and controls ($n=27$, consisting of non-participating gang members from the same areas) were assessed on interpersonal skills (assessing skills taught and practiced with the ART curriculum), anger control (Anger Situations inventory, Hoshmand & Austin, 1987), community functioning (The Community Adjustment Rating Scale, Goldstein & Glick, 1987), and recidivism (re-arrest tracked over eight months, four during the ART training and four after). All participants (and controls) had been arrested at least once and often several times, in the past. **Results**: Relative to controls, ART participants were rated as having significantly higher interpersonal skills, and better adjustment to work. No significant differences were found between participants and controls for anger control or community functioning, however, the direction of the results favoured ART participants. Five of 38 ART participants (13 %) and 14 of 27 controls (52%) were rearrested during the eight-month tracking period ($\chi^2=6.08, p<.01$). The only mention of gang desistance was a comment suggesting that in the months immediately following their ART training, many gang members desisted and took jobs in retail businesses or construction trades.

Hagenbucher, G. (2003). PROGRESS: An enhanced supervision program for high-risk criminal offenders. *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, September 2003, 20 – 24.

USA: The Proactive Gang Resistance Enforcement, Suppression and Supervision (PROGRESS) program (October 1999 – September 2001), developed by the Wasau, Wisconsin Police Department and the Wisconsin Department of Corrections in Marathon County, works with high-risk offenders (gang members, violent criminals, and sex offenders). Probation/parole agents conduct systematic, unexpected home visits on these offenders to detect risk factors before offenders violate their rules of supervision. Program objectives were: (1) for offenders to realize the certainty of detection of rule violations and

(2) for offenders to experience immediate consequences of such violations. Home visits were led by selected probation/parole officers with police officers available as support, in which agents discussed rules of supervision with all occupants of the offender's home and performed a walk-through of the residence. During two years of operation, the PROGRESS team conducted nearly 2500 offender contacts in 4000 home visits and slightly more than 1100 contacts with offenders' families or friends. Roughly 200 offenders were found in violation of their supervision, with the majority involving alcohol and curfew infractions, followed by contact with unauthorized persons. **Method:** There was no comparison group, and program effectiveness was measured by examining frequency of probation violations during the program period. **Results:** Violations per contact declined by 43% from October 1999 to September 2000. The beginning quarter of the program (October through December 1999) reported a ratio of one violation per every seven visits, whereas the ending quarter (July through September 2001) reported a ratio of one violation per every 39 visits. As well, the number of rule compliance violations decreased from 14% in the first program year to 3% in the second.

Kent, D.R. & Smith, P. (1995). The Tri-Agency Resource Gang Enforcement Team: A selective approach to reduce gang crime. In M.W. Klein, C.L. Maxson & J. Miller (Eds.), *The Modern Gang Reader* (pp.292-296). Los Angeles: Roxbury.

USA: This article describes a gang suppression program offered by law enforcement agencies in Westminister, Southern California. The main program goal was to remove gang leadership in order to reduce gang crime/activity in the city. Operational goals of the program were to vigorously arrest, prosecute and convict target subjects, vigilantly supervise target subject probationers, and expand information sharing among cooperating agencies to assist identification of "hardcore" gang members. All gang members in contact with police officers in the City of Westminister were identified and entered into a county-wide information database. 2,158 known gang members were identified. 647 gang members were identified as potential targets, and 77 of these were selected as "hardcore" targets and monitored for criminal activity. Police conducted heavy surveillance on targets, and when arrests were made, targets faced vertical prosecution, enhanced penalties, and aggressive probation supervision. In addition to focusing on hardcore members, the entire membership of two highly active gangs was sued in civil court to abate an area in the city in which they engage in criminal activity. **Methods:** Little detail is provided, however, police data were examined to determine patterns in gang-related crime over a one-year period program period. **Results:** Of the 77 hardcore gang members targeted, 53 were placed in custody. A 62% decrease occurred in serious gang-related crime during the one-year span of the project.

Klein, W.K. (1969). Gang cohesiveness, delinquency, and a street-work program. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 6, 135-166.

USA: This article provides an evaluation of the Group Guidance Project, a detached-worker operation of the Los Angeles County Probation Department in which workers engaged with gang youth in their inner-city neighbourhoods. In 1961, Group Guidance launched a four-year experimental project designed to provide employment, educational and recreational services to hard-core gang youth built around a core of detached workers. The aim was to prevent the development of African Gangs in South-Central Los Angeles

by “de-isolating” gang members from their community institutions. Five detached workers were employed, and while worker style was highly diverse (and in some instances changed by events during the project), activities characteristic of the program were individual counselling, weekly club meetings, and special group activities such as sports, dances, and outings. Meetings with parents and contacts with agency officials about school, recreation and employment concerns were secondary. **Method:** A process evaluation of detached-worker activities was conducted by examining daily worker reports. An outcome evaluation was conducted using a within-subjects, longitudinal design with no control group. 576 boys and 202 girls were identified as members of four gang clusters in Los Angeles County. No appropriate control groups or geographic areas were identified as suitable for comparison purposes, therefore, gang-member offences (determined from probation records) during the project period (July 1961 – June 1965) were compared with offences in the pre-project period (July 1957 – July 1961). As well, to control for age effects (as the author assumed that delinquency generally peaks at age 16, and program effects were examined within-subjects over an eight-year period), the actual number of offences during the project period was compared with the *expected* number of offences based on pre-project period offence data. **Results:** Daily activity reports from detached workers indicated that only one-third of their work time was spent in contact with gang youth (other time was spent in office, traveling, and hanging around youth gathering spots). Group activities were the main tool used to make contact with youth. Few gang members showed up at club meetings (used to teach democratic values and activity planning to youth), however, special activities (sports events, outings and truce meetings) were well-attended (although only by gang members least in need of programming). There was a significant *increase* in gang delinquency, especially among 12 to 15 year olds, and in high companionship offences (offences occurring in a group setting), and the actual number of offences exceeded the expected number in 35 out of 48 project months. There were also positive correlations among levels of group programming, cohesiveness, and recorded number of offences committed by targeted gangs. The report concluded that a group-work approach to gang intervention may inadvertently defeat its own purpose, as group programming may provide gang members with more opportunities to recruit members and detached-workers may become sources of gang cohesiveness. Indeed, detached-worker removal was followed by a reduction in gang cohesiveness.

Klein, W.K. (1971). *The Ladino Hills Project*. In W.K. Klein, *Street Gangs and Street Workers*, (pp. 223-329). Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

USA: This book provides an in-depth description and outcome evaluation of the Ladino Hills Project. Created in South-Central Los Angeles in 1961, this 18 month detached-worker program was designed as an improvement of the Group Guidance Project. The Ladino Hills Project aimed to change the detached-worker paradigm of group-based intervention by refocusing central project goals to dissolving the gang by decreasing sources of gang cohesiveness, and encouraging positive gang-member activities on an individual level. Central project activities consisted of detached workers providing individual, group and family counselling, and community resource workers providing alternatives to gang participation, while emphasizing education, employment opportunities, and recreational activities. Resource workers also paired gang members with adult

indigenous sponsors in a “Big Brother” approach. Group activities were discouraged and gang fights were downplayed as unimportant (as opposed to having a truce meeting, typical of a detached worker program). Core gang members and new recruits were most actively targeted with services. **Methods:** At project commencement in 1966, the active roster of gang members comprised 75 boys and 20 girls, with another 50 boys and 20 girls in various inactive statuses. Over the course of the project, 64 gang members were targeted for services and tracked over time on the basis of employment status, custody status and therapy participation. Data gathered during a pretest period (the 18 months preceding the project) were compared with data collected during the project period itself (18 months). Group cohesiveness was measured by detached workers’ recording the number of contacts observed between gang members, while delinquency was measured with police arrest data. **Results:** The Latin gang cluster decreased in cohesiveness over the project period, gang size was reduced by approximately 40%, and recruitment of new members was halted. However, monthly arrest numbers did not decrease significantly. Despite that absolute number of offences decreased (by 35%) for targeted members, from 139 charges during the pre-project period to 91 charges during the project period, no significant differences were found when age effects were controlled. Absolute delinquency decrease was attributed to the reduction in gang size.

Meltzer, G.R. (2002). Evaluation of a probation department gang reduction and suppression program. *Dissertation Abstracts International*, 62, 11B.

USA: This study reported the effectiveness of a probation department Gang Reduction and Suppression Program (GRASP). **Methods:** Participants were 45 gang-involved adolescent males on probation from the San Bernardino County Probation Department who were court mandated to attend the program. The design was self-report, and consisted of a pretest and posttest with no comparison group. Measures included questionnaires regarding cognitive distortions, general attitudes, knowledge about and attitudes toward laws and law enforcement, and gang affiliation. **Results:** Program participation increased participants’ knowledge about the laws and enhanced penalties for gang involvement, as well as increasing concern about risks and dangers of gang involvement. However, no differences were found between pre and post program measures of self-serving cognitive distortions, attitudes toward problem behaviour, or gang involvement.

Miller, W.B. (1962). The impact of a “total community” delinquency control project. *Social Problems*, 10, 168-191.

USA: This article provides an outcome evaluation of the Midcity Project, a community-based, detached worker program employed in a low-socioeconomic status district of Boston between 1954 and 1957. Project goals included developing and strengthening community agencies/groups, enabling them to work together to combat the youth gang problem, and to focus community efforts in order to bring about a more effective prevention and intervention program. Detached workers facilitated activities such as individual and group counselling, opportunities provision, structured recreational activities, and superordinate community projects in which community adults and gang members served together on joint committees. **Methods:** Seven project workers maintained contact

with 400 gang-affiliated youth aged 12 to 21, who comprised the membership of 21 street-corner gangs. Seven gangs ($n=205$) were given intensive attention. Four of the intensive service groups were Caucasian males (approximately $n=30$ in each group), one group was African-American males (approximately $n=30$), one group was Caucasian females (approximately $n=9$), and one group was African-American females (approximately $n=9$). Project effectiveness was measured using three sources: 1) frequency of immoral behaviour as rated by detached workers, 2) illegal behaviour and 3) frequency of court appearances. For behavioural evaluations made by workers, each worker's term of contact with gangs was divided into three equal phases, and their ratings of gang youth during Phase I were compared with ratings during Phase III. Court appearances pre and post project were obtained and compared with an equivalent control group. **Results:** Detached workers contacted gangs an average of 3.5 times per week, for an average of 5 or 6 hours/contact. Total duration of contact ranged from 10 to 34 months. Worker-rated frequency of immoral behaviour was not significantly reduced from the Phase I to Phase III. Worker-rated frequency of illegal behaviour was reduced from Phase I to Phase III (by 9.1%), however, when only male gangs were examined, frequency of illegal behaviour actually increased by 1.3%. Moreover, frequency of participation in "major" offences increased by 11.2%. Frequency of court appearances also did not significantly decrease. Overall, there were negligible changes across all three measures of program effectiveness, and no significant differences were found between project and control groups. Both project targets and controls showed a peak of court appearance frequency between the ages of 16 and 20, suggesting that criminal behaviour may have had more to do with age than project influence. As well, appearances tapered off after age 20 for both groups, indicating the same.

Pennell, S. & Melton, R. (2002). Evaluation of a task force approach to gangs. In W.L. Reed & S.H. Decker (Eds.), *Responding to gangs: Evaluation and research*, (pp. 225-263). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs.

USA: This article reports a process and outcome evaluation (no control group) of the first two years of Jurisdictions United for Drug Gang Enforcement (JUDGE), a multi-jurisdictional gang task force operating in San Diego County since 1988. Targets met the following criteria: drug history, ward of the court, and gang member. JUDGE has three components: enforcing conditions of probation and drug laws with undercover tactics, intensive supervision, and vertical prosecution. **Methods:** 56% of ($n=279$) targets were 16-17 years old, equally divided between African-Americans (45%) and Hispanics (52%). Limitations in data collection provided for only a descriptive, one-group, pre-post study of youths processed by JUDGE. Data examined included arrests, probation violations, and court-cases filed. **Results:** The program was implemented as designed and appropriate targets and methods were selected for ensuring offender accountability. 83% of targets were re-arrested within 2 years after JUDGE intervention. Arrests for felony drug violations decreased significantly from 63% of the total to 28%, however, arrests for violent felonies increased slightly, from 22% to 27%. A follow-up study of targets in 1995 revealed that 64% of the 279 targets had new court cases filed, with an average of 3 cases per individual, indicating that many JUDGE targets remained involved in criminal activity. The authors mentioned that this finding is difficult to interpret as not enough is known about the targeted group of offenders to determine whether they are particularly crime-

prone or whether the JUDGE enforcement approach actually contributes to reoffending because it does not address important issues such as drug treatment, education and employment.

Ramsey, A.L., Rust, J.O., Sobel, S.M. (2003). Evaluation of the gang resistance education and training (GREAT) program: A school-based prevention program. *Education, 124(2), 297-309.*

USA: This article provides an evaluation of the Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) program, a prevention program designed to reduce school violence and gang participation. The program emphasizes to youth the negative consequences of gang activity, as well as teaching skills such as goal-setting, resisting peer pressure, and resolving peer conflicts. These skills and values were taught by a uniformed police officer conducting one lesson per week for nine weeks. Although the program has been evaluated on a national level, this article highlights one urban middle school in Tennessee. The purpose of the study was to determine if GREAT participation was related to student attitude change. **Methods**: 274 seventh grade students participated in a standardized nine lesson curriculum and were compared with a non-participating comparison group of eighth grade students from the same school ($n=148$). Both groups completed pre and post questionnaires designed to measure risk seeking behaviour, impulsivity, attitudes toward authority, deviant behaviour, gang membership and punishment for gang membership. **Results**: Treatment and comparison groups were equivalent at pretest. Two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was conducted to determine if participation in GREAT had a significant effect on program participants' attitudes toward gangs and gang-related activities. Small, but significant pre-post differences emerged for all four subscales (risk taking, impulsivity, attitudes toward police and ideas about negative aspects of gangs (neutralization)), with all pre-post changes reflecting greater gang resistance attitudes at posttest. Means for risk-taking, impulsivity, and neutralization decreased, while the mean for positive attitude toward police increased. As well, students reported significantly less perceived benefits and more penalties for gang membership at posttest. Despite these achievements, *both* treatment group and comparison groups reported greater gang resistant attitudes at posttest, suggesting that improvements were not related to program participation. The authors speculate that responses to questionnaires of program participants may reflect participation in GREAT, while responses of non-participants may reflect maturity (i.e., "growing out of" negative attitudes).

Sechrest, D.K., Schram, P.J., Bichler, G., Tibbetts, S., Worrall, J. (2003). *Second Biannual Evaluation Report for the Riverside County Probation Department Juvenile Crime Prevention Act Program. San Bernardino, CA: California State University, Center for Criminal Justice Research.*

USA: This report provides a preliminary evaluation (the first two years of the grant period, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003) of the Building Resources for the Intervention and Deterrence of Gang Engagements (BRIDGE) project. Project BRIDGE targets potential gang members, aged 12 through 19, in the City of Riverside, California as part of a larger program of gang intervention and suppression. BRIDGE intervention (although not

consistent and unelaborated in the report) involves counselling related to gang issues, job training, and free enrolment in a driver training program. **Methods:** From 2001-2002, 33 youth were involved in BRIDGE, of which 28 were contacted by BRIDGE staff. In 2002-2003, 60 youth were enrolled and 56 were contacted by BRIDGE staff. For both years, youth participants were predominantly Hispanic and male. Success of the program was measured by length of intervention contact with participants and arrest/gang criminal activity data from the City of Riverside. **Results:** In 2001-2002, length of contact with clients ranged from 30 minutes to about sixteen hours per year. Almost half (12 of 28 contact youth) had seven hours of contact or less for the year. In 2002-2003, almost 30 percent (18 of 60 enrolled) had less than 12 hours of contact for the year. Pre-post comparisons indicated that arrests increased from pre-enrolment (43 arrests) to post-enrollment (59 arrests). Minutes spent with each youth was unrelated their reoffending. The authors speculate that this relation is likely due to a self-selection bias, with lower-risk youth selectively participating more than higher risk youth. Program evaluators have recommended that BRIDGE be low priority for continued funding, given the low number of youths enrolled and high cost per youth. In the meantime, recommendations include: better scheduling to make contact hours with youth more equitable (as currently, low-risk youth are receiving disproportionately more contact), and focusing on program aspects that appear to prevent recidivism (although these are unproven at this time).

Spergel, I.A. (1986). The violent gang problem in Chicago: A local community approach. *Social Service Review*, 60, 94-131.

USA: This article provides an outcome evaluation of a pilot gang violence reduction program, Crisis Intervention Services Project (CRISP), in operation between October 1983 and July 1984. CRISP comprised: crisis intervention and mediation with youth gangs; intensive work with individual gang youth; mobilization of neighbourhood groups to deal with gang problems; and development of an advisory group of citywide citizens to oversee and continue the project, and facilitate communication between participating groups and agencies. Approximately 20 gangs, mostly Hispanic, existed within the target area, a Chicago neighbourhood (population = 70,000) with an extremely high homicide rate and the highest intensity of gang violence in the city of Chicago. **Methods:** Change in gang crime was assessed over time using comparable months before, during and after the CRISP project period. The target area was compared with a non-targeted, control area matched on socio-demographic and physical characteristics, as well as police procedures. The main source of data was monthly summary reports of gang incidents from the Chicago Police Department (comprised of Part I offences such as homicide, robbery, aggravated assault, and aggravated battery, and Part II offences such as simple assault, simple battery, intimidation, gang recruitment, and unlawful use of a weapon). Time periods of comparison varied, however, in general, data from eight to ten months before the project period were compared with data collected during the program. **Results:** There was a significant reduction in the rate of increase of violent gang crimes in the target area, as the rate of increase in the non-target area (from 43 to 124 incidents) was nearly two and a half times greater than the increase in the target area (from 64 to 109). The project had no effect on gang homicide patterns in both target and non-target areas. The *severity* of reported gang crime decreased in the target area, while the non-targeted area showed an increase in

the severity of gang crimes. Part I crimes (specifically aggravated assault and battery) significantly decreased in the target area, particularly for juveniles, however, the pattern of Part II (less violent) crimes showed little change. In fact, Part II gang crimes increased slightly in the target area, particularly for adults. Specific services – individual and family counselling, surveillance, opportunities provision, and legal assistance - were provided for a small subgroup ($n=26$) of serious juvenile offenders, however these services had no effect on subsequent delinquency when the sub-group was compared to a comparison group ($n=32$). Overall, the project achieved modestly positive results despite limitations of part-time staff and relatively short (ten month) duration.

Spergel, I.A. & Grossman, S.F. (1997). The little village project: A community approach to the gang problem. *Social work*, 42(5), 456-470.

USA: This article provides a detailed summary of both a process and outcome evaluation of the Little Village Gang Violence Reduction Project (GVRP). The project consists of the following interrelated strategies: community mobilization, opportunities provision, social intervention, suppression, organizational change and development, and targeting. Over four years, the program targeted approximately 200 youths from two gangs in Little Village accounting for 70% of Little Village's serious gang violence. A team of police officers, probation officers, community youth workers, and representatives from several independent local organizations were employed to collaboratively infiltrate gangs and reduce gang-violence. **Methods**: Data from interviews of three cohorts of youths ($n=194$) entering the program, police data, court data, and detention data were collected. Data gathered during the project were compared with data gathered during a three-year pre-project period, and with two control groups obtained through arrests of non-targeted youths at program entry. **Results**: Although only preliminary data were available, results appeared to be consistently positive, with analysis of 125 target youth over three years indicating that nearly all (98.4%) had contact with community youth workers, and many (36.8%) were contacted and sometimes arrested by project police. Smaller percentages were contacted by probation officers (10.4%) and community organizations (14.4%). Program participants experienced a relative reduction in gang crime (particularly violence) compared with two groups of controls (non-targeted gang youths receiving some services but not coordinated intensive service, and non-targeted youths from the same gangs). Crime patterns of program youths from pre-project to project period were also compared, controlling for age in a modified cohort analysis. Detailed results and comparisons are provided, however, the coordinated service group, compared with the two control groups, generally evidenced greater declines in gang-crime activity (self-report data and police reports) and greater declines in average arrests for both younger and older participants.

Spergel, I.A. , Wa, K.M., Grossman, S., Jacob, A., Choi, S.E., Sosa, R.V., Barrios, E.M. & Spergel, A. (March, 2003). *The Little Village Gang Violence Reduction Project in Chicago*. Chicago: University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration.

USA: This is the full evaluation report of the Gang Violence Reduction Project (GVRP) in Little Village, an inner-city area of Chicago experiencing a chronic gang-violence problem. GVRP employed community mobilization (integrating efforts of law enforcement with

those of local citizens), social intervention (youth outreach), provision of social opportunities (education and jobs), suppression (carried out by police and youth workers), and organizational change and development (changes in policies and procedures of organizations facilitating strategies). **Method:** Approximately 200 gang youth were targeted. 127 individual gang-youth interviews (over three annual time periods, representing a period of two years between time I and III), monthly activity reports to the Chicago Police Department, gang member surveys and self-reports, project worker summary reports, field observations, focus group findings, and police arrest and incident data were among methods used to assess program effectiveness. Relevant data gathered during the project were compared with data gathered during a three-year pre-project period, and with two control groups obtained through arrests of non-targeted youths at program entry. **Results:** All program youth were contacted by staff about four times per week, and highest-risk youth (17 and 18 year-olds) were provided with more contact. Based on worker-tracking data and impressions of workers, frequency, length of time, and intensity of services were not consistently related to gang activity. Rather, the nature of worker efforts (types of services and strategies) was a stronger predictor. Multivariate statistical procedures (logistic analysis) revealed that youth with more individual counselling were more likely to reduce their involvement in gang activities. Interviewed gang members reported size and cohesion, and between-gang fighting to be constant. Some younger youth indicated they were no longer active gang members at time III, however other younger youth progressed from peripheral member to core leadership at time III. Self-reported offence and arrests decreased significantly in frequency from time I to time III, and the best predictors of reduced offending was perception that probation officers were addressing the gang problem at Time I, youth spending more time with wives or girlfriends at Time I, youth being over 19 years of age, youth having a stronger connection between future occupational goals and expectations, fewer household/family crises at Time III, and the youth's perception that the gang was smaller at time III. Compared with control groups, violent crime arrests for target youth at all ages was significantly reduced. Overall, the project was effective in reducing certain types of crime among targeted hardcore gang youth, however, it was much less effective in influencing overall gang crime in the Little Village community as a whole.

Stum, K. & Chu, M. (1999). Gang prevention and intervention in a rural town in California: At-risk youths and the Community Policing School Partnership Program. *Journal of Gang Research*, 7, 1-12.

USA: This article is a qualitative evaluation of a community policing school-partnership program that targeted at-risk youth (youth who have a high risk of gang involvement) and gang members in a California town. Volunteer police officers made daily visits to the school's campus attempting to positively interact with students and decrease negative perceptions of law enforcement. The town experienced a 300 percent increase in documented gang members and associates between 1993 and 1995, and identified 27 operational gangs. Students at the targeted school were generally low SES, at-risk or gang affiliated youth who had been referred by a school district following the recommendation by a school review board or at the request of parents. Students had either committed offences resulting in their suspension from mainstream school, or had fallen behind in

credits at a mainstream school. **Methods:** 20 ethnically diverse students (aged 14 – 18) participated in nine 1-hour focus groups over a two and a half-week period. Almost one-third of students were gang members. Focus groups were conducted to gather information about perceptions of program effectiveness. **Results:** Participants did not perceive the school partnership program to be effective, with only two participants reporting seeing the police officer on campus. All students believed that the program fell short of its goal of promoting positive interactions between youths and law enforcement. Reasons for this were: 1) Youths had no knowledge of the program, 2) there was minimal or non-existent visual or positive physical interaction with the police officer and 3) youth were fearful of being identified by law enforcement as deviant because they attended that particular school.

Thompson, D. & Jason, L. (1988). Street gangs and preventive intervention. *Criminal Justice and Behaviour*, 15, 323-333.

USA: This article reports the results of the preventive intervention program, BUILD (Broader Urban Involvement and Leadership Development). BUILD's mission was to channel individual gang members' talents and leadership abilities into more productive and socially acceptable activities. BUILD worked with 29 youth gangs on Chicago's North Side (25% of identified youth gangs in that city) and included two components: (a) prevention, focusing on identifying youth most likely to become involved with street gangs and providing alternative activities, and (b) remediation, a detached-worker program that targets identified members of the gangs within BUILD's service area. This evaluation focused on the preventive aspects of BUILD. **Methods:** Subjects were 117 eighth grade students (70 male, 45 female, 2 unknown) from six schools participating in BUILD, representing a cross-section of neighbourhoods served by the program. Subjects were identified as gang members, non-members, or at risk for gang membership by gang informants, teacher reports and BUILD staff members. In a quasi-experimental design, targeted youth were assigned to one of two levels of treatment (12 classroom sessions or a combination of classroom sessions and structured after-school activities) or to a no-treatment control group. Classroom sessions consisted of: (a) presentations, movies, and structured discussions about gangs and consequences of gang involvement, peer pressure, and substance abuse in the gang context, (b) guest speakers (persons from ethnic-minority backgrounds who have succeeded in traditional society), (c) role-playing, written exercises, and values clarification. The structured after-school activities consisted of: organized sports clinics and competitions (often with youth from other neighbourhoods), vocational training, and social/recreational activities (i.e., pizza parties). **Results:** At the end of the school year, gang membership was determined by comparing participants' names with gang rosters from informants. The three groups (no treatment ($n=43$), classroom sessions ($n=36$), and both after-school and classroom sessions ($n=38$)) were compared. Data were grouped according to gang membership (member vs. non-member) and condition (control group versus experimental group). Four control and one experimental group youth (all males) joined gangs during the year. None of the combined after-school and classroom session group had joined gangs, however, when this group was separately compared with the control and class session groups, results did not approach statistical significance.

Thrasher, F.M. (1936). The Boys' Club and juvenile delinquency. *American Journal of Sociology*, 41, 66-80.

USA: This article provides an outcome evaluation of The Boys' Club, a community delinquency prevention program in New York City in place from 1928 until 1931. The program did not target gangs in particular, however, several youth receiving program services were known gang members. The program consisted of "club group" activities, or prosocial group activities run by adult leaders, which included recreation, club meetings, special events, sports, and vocational placement. **Methods**: Delinquency rates (determined by Children's Court Records) were examined in a study of 11,700 club members as well as for a representative sub-sample of 548 club members. Rates were compared with a control group, the nature of which was unspecified in the article. Case studies of an unspecified number of selected club members were also conducted. **Results**: Boys' club members, compared with non-served community youths (not the control group, but the overall youth population in community), were more likely to be either 'at-risk' for delinquency or have a higher rate of delinquency. Although data are difficult to interpret due to problems with record keeping, recorded monthly membership statistics indicated that the Club did not achieve more than 63% of its estimated 4000-youth service capacity for any month. Often, membership was only nominal for hundreds of participants, and this was not accounted for in the analyses. 18% of club-member offences were committed before the program, 28% were committed after a short membership period, and 61% were committed during a period of active affiliation with the club. Delinquent behaviour was significantly related to Club membership, and two year consecutive club members had a higher rate of delinquent behaviour than participants with inconsistent membership. Analyses with 548 club members, compared with controls (details of control group unspecified) showed that the delinquency rate for consistent club members was equivalent with that of controls. Limited information from case studies revealed the program had negligible impact upon its more high-risk members. The author concluded that null effects of the program might have largely been due to a lack of volunteer training and a lack of a comprehensive community approach (involving schools, police, families, and local organizations).

Thurman, Q., Giazomazzi, A., Reisig, M. & Mueller, D. (1996). Community-based gang prevention and intervention: An evaluation of the neutral zone. *Crime and Delinquency*, 42, 279-295.

USA: This evaluation focuses on the implementation and short-term effectiveness of the Neutral Zone, a neutral place where at-risk youth were expected to congregate voluntarily during times and days of the week coinciding with high rates of criminal activity (between 10 pm and 2 am). Located in a local elementary school in a residential area of the city, the program provided youth with a wide range of activities (e.g., basketball, music, movies) and free food, counselling, and other services (e.g., job preparation). **Methods**: Data collection consisted of direct observation (four researchers observed the program over two weekends), focus group interviews (eight sessions conducted with 15 program staff and 55 youth in small groups of 6-12), and police data (weekend calls-for-service from the local police department). It was argued that if the Neutral Zone had no impact on crime, calls-for-service should increase significantly during the evening hours on Friday and Saturday

through the early morning hours of Saturday and Sunday, respectively. No baseline data were available for pre-and post-program comparisons since the Neutral Zone was in operation approximately two years before the evaluation. **Results:** Direct observation methods suggested a positive environment for youth, and focus groups revealed that all participants reported the program to exceed their initial expectations and reported positive benefits such as appreciation for diverse social groups. However, participants unanimously reported that pressure to participate in gang activity was ignored rather than dealt with in the program. Police data indicated that there were significantly fewer calls-for-service during Neutral Zone hours compared with during the four-hour periods immediately prior to and following the program's operation.

Torok, W. & Trump, K.S. (1994). *Gang intervention: Police and school collaboration. FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, 63(5), 13-18.*

USA: This evaluation reported results of the Cleveland, Ohio public school system's gang intervention program, a collaboration with the Cleveland Police Department during the school year of 1992-1993. A Youth Gang Unit, consisting of four school security officers and a unit coordinator, worked closely with the police gang squad to deter gang activity in schools across the city, serving 127 schools with over 73,000 students. Security officers visited schools throughout the day (400 gang-related school incidents were examined during the first year, over 1000 gang members were identified, and over 7000 staff were trained). The unit also taught intervention techniques to school staff, parents, students and youth service providers (specific techniques unelaborated). Unit officers prioritized investigations, mediated disputes between students, and attempted to dispel gang-related rumours within schools. As well, they made anti-gang presentations in classrooms and assemblies, networked community-wide to develop programs designed to reduce gang activity, and coordinated resources for at-risk and gang-involved youth. **Methods:** no details were provided, however, frequency of court filings and school gang-related incidents were compared between the pre-program (1991-1992 school year) and program (1992-1993 school year) periods. **Results:** Within the Cleveland Police Youth/Gang Unit, juvenile court filings decreased by 15 percent comparing the program-period with the year prior. Public schools experienced a 39 percent reduction in school gang-related incidents during the 1992-1993 school year, compared with the 1991-1992 school year.

Torres, D.M. (1978). *Gang Violence Reduction Project first evaluation report. November 1976 – September 1977. Sacramento, CA: Department of the Youth Authority.*

USA: This report is an evaluation of the first operation period (November 1976 – September 1977) of the Gang Violence Reduction Project, a gang intervention program using community organization, crisis intervention and conflict resolution. Program objectives were to reduce gang-related crime by ten percent in one year in the East Los Angeles unincorporated area, by mitigating gang feuds, and providing gang members with positive/prosocial activities. In order to implement these strategies, ten leaders from seven gangs were hired as "consultants" who, together with Youth Authority staff, developed strategies to reduce inter-gang antagonization. Gang consultants then went into the community and created a forum (which served as a place for gang members to communicate concerns) with the hope of resolving or reducing inter-gang conflicts. Gang

consultants organized these forums to work for positive goals in the community. **Method:** Homicide and overall violent crime rates among gangs in the East Los Angeles area were analyzed. **Results:** By September 1977, each of the seven gangs working with the project had begun to form gang associations with the intent of involving gang members in positive activities (recreational, business ventures, sports, etc.). One major feud was resolved, and two additional peace agreements between rival gangs were resolved. A key turning point occurred when a training session was held for gang consultants to help them form the trust they needed between each other. Unhappy with the trainer's suggestions, they united together to draw up a list of "common-ground" beliefs. It is theorized that their rejecting the trainer gave them a common ground and a common goal to work toward together. Target area gang-related homicides decreased by 15%, and between-gang homicides decreased by 60% over the first eleven months of the project's operation. Despite this, gang-related violent incidents continued to increase slightly. Non-violent crimes were not examined due to lack of adequate data. As well, no systematic study of changes in self-orientation of gang members was undertaken, however, the authors observed that there were no significant changes in gang members' orientation except for the adoption of peace as a value.

Torres, D.M. (1980). *Gang Violence Reduction Project evaluation report: Third funding period. June 1978 – June 1979. Sacramento, CA: California Department of the Youth Authority.*

USA: A third evaluation of the Gang Violence Reduction Project, a large-scale intervention that worked with seven of 18 rival/feuding gangs in the target area of unincorporated East Los Angeles. This third funding period differed from the first and second in that only the most powerful and influential area gangs were targeted. The goal of GVRP was to hire gang leaders as consultants to work with project staff in community organizing, crisis intervention, and conflict resolution. Consultants' function was to promote the project's goal of peace in their gangs, and to organize gang associations to work for positive goals in the community. It was hoped that through consultants, leaders from each gang neighbourhood could be brought together as representatives to a forum where feuds could be discussed and mitigated. As well, the project aimed to provide recreational activities that involved members from one or several gangs. Community involvement projects provided learning experiences and activities for gang members. Program goals were to reduce gang homicides to six or less, and reduce violent incidents to 163 or less during a 12-month period. **Methods:** A participant observer took part in the majority of program activities, and reported on effectiveness of implementation. Police/court data were examined to determine trends in gang-related homicides and violent incidents. **Results:** The participant observer reported that project activities (such as conflict resolution and sports activities) were effective for reducing between-gang conflict, concluding that a major community involvement project (building and completion of handball courts in the neighbourhood park) was particularly successful. Program goals were achieved, as gang-related homicides were reduced to two and violent incidents to 133. Trends were examined for the time period preceding the project's operation (through first, second and third funding periods). Pre-intervention, trends for gang-related homicides and violent incidents had been rising sharply, but dropped and levelled off at a lower rate during the program. Between-gang

violent incidents showed a strong decline, reaching a low plateau in January-June 1975, during the first funding period. Violent incidents of non-targeted gangs did not decrease. Rather, incidents remained somewhat variable with an overall increase evident.

Wassenberg, P., Dorman, L.G., McGahey, L.A., Syrcle, J. & Bass, B. (2002). *An impact evaluation of juvenile probation projects in Christian, Peoria, and Winnebago Counties*. Springfield, Illinois: University of Illinois at Springfield, Center for Legal Studies.

USA: Building Resources for the Intervention and Deterrence of Gang Engagements (BRIDGES), an anti-gang program, was offered to Peoria County Anti-Gang and Drug Abuse Unit (AGDAU) probationers and other juvenile probationers. The AGDAU participants were already undergoing a special probation program designed to reduce gang-related behaviour, consisting of intensive monitoring and surveillance, counselling, substance-abuse treatment, and community or public service. AGDAU participants and others attended BRIDGES once a week (75 minute session) for 12 weeks. Sessions consisted of religious leaders and probation officers speaking with participants about gang issues. **Methods**: 118 participants (aged 12 to 18, 80% male and 60% African American) were evaluated (24 remained in the program, 50 successfully completed, 44 unsuccessfully discharged). A sample of 67 participants who completed the program was tracked to determine the program's impact on number of arrests for new offences. Qualitative and quantitative methods were used, including interviews with staff, participants' file information, focus groups with participants and parents, and post-release criminal arrest data. **Results**: Lack of data from the drug treatment provider and an inability to secure a comparison group limited results. Participants who successfully completed the program were more likely to (a) remain in school, (b) be female, (c) be older at time of first offence, (d) have less prior offences and a shorter probation term and (e) have a lesser history of mental health problems. Twenty-eight of the 67 participants who completed the program were charged with new offences after discharge from AGDAU, with one-third of these having at least one offence against a person. Fifteen of these 28 participants were incarcerated as a result of their new offences. Observers of the BRIDGES program reported low participation, participants appearing bored and uninterested, and concerns about accuracy of material presented. Evaluators' recommendations include: increased communication between all segments of the juvenile justice system in terms of understanding AGDAU, revamping BRIDGES and making it a separate program, non-inclusive of AGDAU participants, to minimize participants' contact with gang-involved youth.

Williams, K., Curry, G.D., & Cohen, M.I. (2002). *Gang prevention programs for female adolescents: An evaluation*. In W.L. Reed & S.H. Decker (Eds.), *Responding to gangs: Evaluation and research*, (pp.225-263). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs.

USA: This article is an evaluation of three youth gang and drug intervention programs for females primarily from minority groups (average age = 14). Programs took place in Boston (primarily for African American girls living in public housing developments), Colorado (primarily for at-risk Mexican-American youth) and Seattle (primarily for adjudicated and

pre-adjudicated adolescent females). Depending on the location, the program consisted of some combination of: recreational, personal growth and support group services, mediation and conflict resolution, cultural awareness training, and self-esteem enhancement.

Methods: A process evaluation addressed the design, implementation, operation and community context of the three projects. Data sources included proposals and quarterly reports, project-developed material, interviews with project staff and knowledgeable community leaders, as well as direct observation of project activities during site visits. An outcome evaluation addressed pre-post and control group differences in school performance, delinquency and self-esteem. **Results:** All three programs experienced problems with implementation, such as staff turnover, lack of transportation for participants, lack of parental involvement/participation, problems implementing activities, participant recruitment/retention problems, inadequate site facilities, and inadequate local evaluations. Due to data collection problems in Boston and Seattle (finding female gang members to interview was difficult, as program numbers were low or few actual gang members were served), only findings from Colorado were reported. Program and control groups did not differ on important pre-test comparison variables (age, self-reported gang membership, ethnicity, household structure, and school status). Length of program participation averaged 8 months (ranging from 1.3 months to 20 months). Post-program, participants reported significantly less delinquency (e.g., property damage, stealing, running away), and the gap in academic standing was narrowed and no longer significant between participants and controls (with controls reporting significantly higher grades at pre-test). No between-group self-esteem differences were found at posttest.

Woodson, R.L. (1981). *A summons to life: Mediating structures and the prevention of youth crime*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

USA: This book provides a descriptive case study of House of Umoja, a community-based gang program that began operating in Philadelphia in the 1970s. House of Umoja was a unique grassroots program initiated by community residents David and Falaka Fattah. It consisted of a residential and non-residential program for gang and other delinquent youths, providing a refuge from life on the streets, while assisting target youth through a program including educational and career development, employment assistance, and individual counselling. The program was based on an idea of 'extended family' - treating community youth as if they were part of one family. **Methods:** With no formal design, this evaluation consisted of the author's observations, consultations and work with members of the House of Umoja organization. Case-study and observation-recording methods included note-taking, interviews, and informal focus groups with facilitators and participants. Philadelphia gang homicide rates were also examined. **Results:** House of Umoja instigated an organized gang summit in 1974. This summit drew 500 members from 75% of the city's gangs, and no gang members died during a resulting 60-day truce. The author concluded that the truce and other House of Umoja activities were instrumental in reducing gang homicides in Philadelphia from an average of 39 per year in 1973 to six per year in 1976, and to only one in 1977. Since no controlled evaluation was conducted, it is possible that part of this reduction was due to other gang programs running concurrently in the city.

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METHODOLOGY INDEX

All definitions in this section are taken from the following sources:

Babbie, E. (2001). *The practice of social research* (9th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Isaac, S. & Michael, W.B. (1995). *Handbook in research and evaluation: For education and the behavioral sciences* (3rd ed.). San Diego, CA: Educational and Industrial Testing Services.

Quasi-Experimental Study (criteria): designs that approximate the conditions of a true experiment in a setting which does not allow the control and/or manipulation of all relevant variables (Isaac & Michael, 1995). These quasi-experimental designs are characterized by a lack of random assignment of subjects to experimental and control groups.

Esbensen (2001)

Fritsch et al. (1999)

Goldstein & Glick (1994)

Ramsey et al. (2003)

Spergel (1986)

Spergel et al. (2003)

Thompson & Jason (1988)

Thrasher (1936)

Williams et al. (2002)

Between Subjects (only) Design

Esbensen & Osgood (1999)

Thompson & Jason (1988)

Within Subjects Design

Braga et al. (2001).

Esbensen (2001)

Klein (1969)

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Thrasher (1936)
Wassenberg et al. (2002)
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Comparison Group/Geographic Area

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Thompson & Jason (1988)
Thrasher (1936)
Williams et al. (2002)

Cross-sectional Study

Caplan et al. (1967)
Esbensen (2001)
Esbensen & Osgood (1999)
Stum & Chu (1999) – qualitative evaluation
Thurman et al. (1996)

Longitudinal Study

Braga et al. (2001)
Esbensen (2001)
Hagenbucher (2003)
Kent & Smith (1995)
Klein (1969)
Meltzer (2002)
Miller (1962)
Pennell & Melton (2002)
Ramsey et al. (2003)

Sechrest et al. (2003)
Spergel (1986)
Spergel et al. (2003)
Thompson & Jason (1988)
Thrasher (1936)
Torok & Trump (1994)
Torres (1978)
Torres (1980)
Wassenberg et al. (2002)
Williams et al. (2002)

Self-report Questionnaire

Goldstein & Glick (1994)
Meltzer (2002)
Ramsey et al. (2003)
Spergel et al. (2003)

Field Observation (Criteria): Researchers, streetworkers or social workers recorded personal qualitative observations of program activity, or completed previously designed check-lists to rate program activity in the field (Babbie, 2001).

Caplan et al. (1967).
Gandy (1959)
Goldstein & Glick (1994)
Klein (1969)
Klein (1971)
Miller (1962)
Spergel et al. (2003)
Thurman et al. (1996)
Torres (1980)
Wassenberg et al. (2002)
Williams et al. (2002)
Woodson (1981)

Process Evaluation (Definition): An evaluation that attempts to identify defects in the procedural design or implementation of the program (Isaac & Michael, 1995).

Esbensen (2001)
Klein (1969)
Pennell & Melton (2002)
Sechrest et al. (2003)
Stum & Chu (1999)
Torres (1978)
Torres (1980)
Wassenberg et al. (2002)
Williams et al. (2002)

Qualitative Study (Definition): The nonnumerical examination and interpretation of observations, for the purpose of discovering underlying meanings and patterns of relationships (Babbie, 2001).

Spergel et al. (2003)
Stum & Chu (1999)
Thurman et al. (1996)
Wassenberg et al. (2002)
Woodson (1981)

Interview Study (Criteria): Any or all of gang members, comparison participants, parents or teachers were interviewed by researchers.

Derezotes (1995)
Spergel et al. (2003)
Stum & Chu (1999)
Thurman et al. (1996)
Wassenberg et al. (2002)
Williams et al. (2002)
Woodson (1981)

Focus Group Study (Definition): A group of participants interviewed together, prompting a discussion (Babbie, 2001).

Spergel et al. (2003)

Stum & Chu (1999)

Thurman et al. (1996)

Wassenberg et al. (2002)

Woodson (1981)

Case Study

Thrasher (1936)

Woodson (1981)

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