

Why Involved? Reasons (Source #1)

Finding the cause of gangs is important in resolving the problem. Some causes of youth joining gangs are: desire for camaraderie, money, respect and success, need for outlet of rage and anger, have no hope or alternative, gangs give protection, and it's part of family tradition. (Friedrichs).

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Gang Description (Source #1)

Gang violence accounts for one of the largest, single, personal threats to public safety in the state of California. Common examples of gang violence are physical assaults, drive-by shootings, homicides, and brutal home-invasion robberies (Friedrichs).

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Behavior: Young Description (Source #2)

"Young people tend to engage in risk-taking behavior" (Morgan 63). Q

Gang Description (Source #2)

In the United States today there are 2,500 distinct gangs. Street gangs demand respect and revenge on rivals to prove dominance is common (Morgan 64).

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Why Involved? Reasons (Source #2)

In street gangs, youth join for several reasons, including structure, nurturing, belonging, economic opportunity, and excitement (Morgan 64).

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Why Gangs? Protection (Source #2)

The majority of gangs exist as protection from other gangs; however, correctional systems find that gangs are involved in extortion, murder, gambling, prostitution, and drug-trafficking (Morgan 64).

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Gang Description (Source #3)

"It never stopped, this running. We were constant prey, and the hunters soon became big blurs: the police, the gangs, the junkies, the dudes on Garvey Boulevard who took our money, all smudged into one. Sometimes they were teachers who jumped on us Mexicans as if we were born with a hideous stain. We were always afraid. Always running" (Rodriguez 36). Q

Why Involved? Belonging (Source #3)

"It was something to belong to- something that was ours. The Impersonations is how we wove something out of the threads of nothing" (Rodriguez 41). Q

Why Involved? Belonging (Source #3)

"I had certain yearnings at the time, which a lot of us had, to acquire authority in our own lives in the face of police, joblessness and powerlessness. Las Lomas was our path to that, but I was frustrated because I felt the violence was eating us alive" (Rodriguez 113). Q

Why Gangs? Mexican (Source #3)

“Sometimes we pay even when there’s been no mistake. Just for being who we are, you know what I mean? Just for being Mexican. That’s all the wrong I have to do” (Rodriguez 144).

Q

Why Involved? Money and Respect (Source #4)

“He explained that he was a member of the Unknown Vice Lords. He said his gang needed smart kids like me for lookouts. He told me I could make good money working for him” (Utley 38).

Q

Quitting: Gang Description (Source #4)

“People just didn’t quit gangs” (Utley 39).

Q

Trouble: Young Description (Source #4)

“But I wasn’t serious - I just wanted to get out of trouble” (Utley 39). Q

Why Gangs? Poverty (Source #5)

Male adolescents and youths often grow up close together as children usually because of being in a low-income neighborhood of a city (Vigil 226).

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Old vs Young: Gang Description (Source #5)

“This cohorting network works to maintain the size of the gang as older members “mature out” and the younger gang members, approximately from the ages of 14 to 18, are more likely to be led into and participate in violent behavior” (Vigil 226).

Q

Females: Young Description (Source #5)

“Like young males, many female youths are subjected to: culture conflict, poverty, and associated family and school problems” (Vigil 227).

Q

Why Gangs? Respect (Source #5)

Now, young females are also turning to gangs to channel their rage. They desire to be able to hold their own in the violence of the street gang world (Vigil 227).

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Stat: Gang Description (Source #5)

“Nevertheless, most aggressive gang behavior is committed by male youths between 14 and 18 years of age” (Vigil 227).

Q

Young Description (Source #5)

“Ambivalence and unpredictability characterize that period of human development, as teens face their new social and sexual identities and roles with uncertainty. As a result, they increasingly rely on peers and slightly older male role models as guides” (Vigil 227).

Q

Why Gangs? Tradition (Source #5)

“The subculture of violence construct posits that it is the normative behavioral systems of groups that support, encourage, and condone violence” (Vigil 228).

Q

Why Gangs? Respect (Source #5)

“Failure to live up to these norms brings a loss of honor, and, as Horowitz (1983) has stated, ones self-image is tarnished for either not promoting or defending these norms” (Vigil 228-229).

Q

Why Gangs? Tradition (Source #5)

“Street socialization is important because some individuals with particularly tarnished, traumatic family and personal backgrounds have had to spend most of their lives in the streets...As a result, youth who are street socialized dictate the behavioral and attitudinal traits of the streets. The streets have become the arena for what is learned and expected by others to gain recognition and approval” (Vigil 230).

Q

Why Involved? Protection (Source #5)

“This type of survival through safety in numbers and reliance on friends to ‘watch your back’ can lead to reckless behavior and an early adoption of locura as a way to negotiate the streets and especially to gain the support of street peers” (Vigil 230).

Q

Why Involved? Minority (Source #5)

“Thus, immigration and the experiences of immigrants adapting and adjusting to city life form the basis for all else that follows” (Vigil 232).

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