



King County Street Gangs

King County Sheriff's Office

Definitions

- **Criminal Street Gang:**
 - Three or more people,
 - With a common name, or a common identifying sign or symbol;
 - Who have as one of their *primary activities* the commission of criminal acts;
 - And whose members have engaged in a pattern of criminal street gang activity *within the past three years.*

RCW 9.94A.030 (12)

Definitions

■ Criminal Street Gang Member or Associate:

- Any person who actively participates in any criminal street gang
- and who intentionally promotes, furthers, or assists in any criminal act by the criminal street gang.

RCW 9.94A.030 (13)

Gangs in King County

- **116** active Criminal Street Gangs in King County as of September 2019
 - An additional **67** criminal street gangs from other jurisdictions are represented by active members
 - Currently tracking six (6) threat groups
- Approximately **15,000** gang members in King County, or **0.67%** of population

To put that in perspective:

- Los Angeles has **450** active criminal street gangs with membership of approximately 45,000 (1.13%)
- Los Angeles County has **1,462** active criminal street gangs with membership of approximately 168,750 (1.67%)



Perception vs. Reality

Reality is different
Gangs DO NOT discriminate based on:

Perception vs. Reality

Race



Perception vs. Reality

Gender



Perception vs. Reality

Age





Perception vs. Reality

Gangs are a problem that affect **EVERY** community, and **EVERY MEMBER** of those communities.

Current Trends

- **Increasing involvement of juveniles**
 - Increasing levels of juvenile violence
 - Recruitment at younger ages
- **Increasing connections between the street and the prisons**
- **Increasing membership in non-traditional street gangs**