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Preventative factors for youth gang involvement: a meta analysis Matthew, Marissa Erin

URI: http://hdl.handle.net/10211.2/1518

Date: 2012-06-19

Abstract:

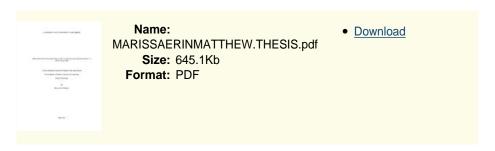
Examining recent trends across the United States, there is an overall increase in gang activity in schools throughout the country. Many gang prevention programs have been implemented, yet only a few have rigorously been evaluated. This study seeks to determine which prevention programs actually decrease the chances of youth members from joining gangs. Research-based services and programs will be the most successful in addressing the needs of the community, family and school with regard to gang prevention and youth delinquency. A synthesis of research data on prevention programs related to youth gang involvement will be reviewed. A total of 10 studies met the eligibility criteria for this metaanalysis. The purpose of the meta-analysis was to assess which prevention-related factors within five domains (i.e., family, school, peer, structured programming and community) have statistical evidence for deterring youth from gang membership. Multi-level community based prevention strategies had a large effect in programming in five studies. Four general prevention strategies revealed large effect sizes, within the school, structure programming and multi-level community based strategies. An analysis of the meta-analysis is provided with the assumption that research based prevention programs will be used in the future to stop atrisk youth members from joining gangs.

Description:

Includes bibliographical references (pages 63-68)

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