

Gang 102 A Way Out

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City of San José
2013 Crime and Gang Prevention Summit



Purpose & Goals

- To follow up on previous gang awareness workshops and discuss the most current trends and climate in regard to San José gangs
- To increase community awareness on MGPTF activities to reduce gang membership and gang violence in San José
- To introduce a panel of former gang-impacted and affiliated young adults who will describe their experiences with the gang lifestyle and what choices they made to be successful today.

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Current Gang Trends in San José

- Hispanic Gangs
 - Make up largest population of gangs in San Jose
 - Majority of conflict is related to bordering territories
 - Increased mobility: Common to see gang members from nearby cities intermingled with San Jose gang members
 - Incarcerated gang demographics mirror street gang demographics; Norteños make up the large majority of incarcerated gang population

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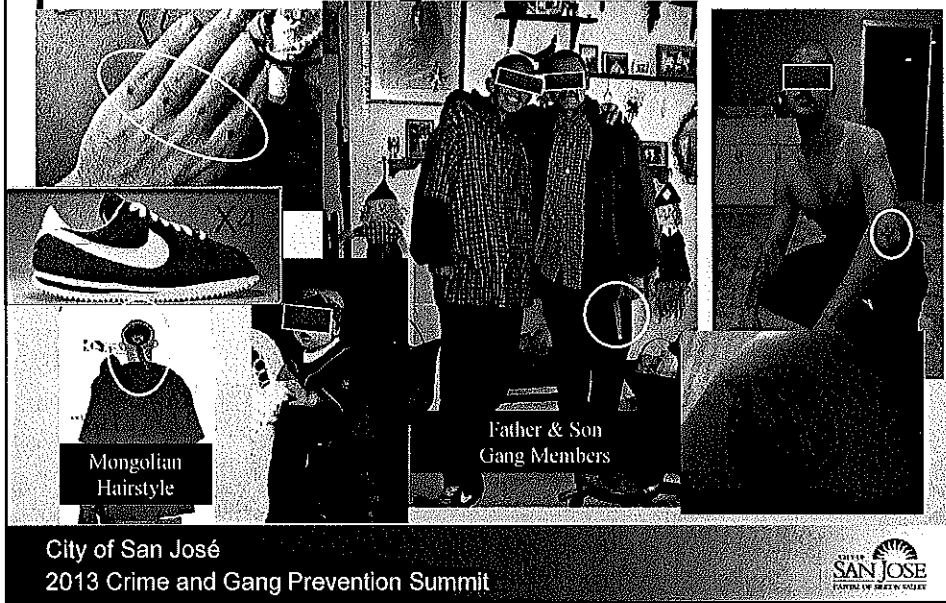
Current Gang Trends in San José

- Hispanic Gangs: Norteños
 - Most active of all gangs in San José, majority of time tend to be aggressors in violence
 - Increased lethality, weapons of choice include guns and knives
 - Tend to be more generational
 - Often utilize camouflage when "headhunting"
 - Heavy use of social media to promote gangs
 - Common tattoos include the San José Sharks logo & a shark fin; in East San José wear Sharks gear
 - Tagging can include "text code" tags (i.e.: 275 for CPL) and blending of letters, numbers, and Aztec symbols

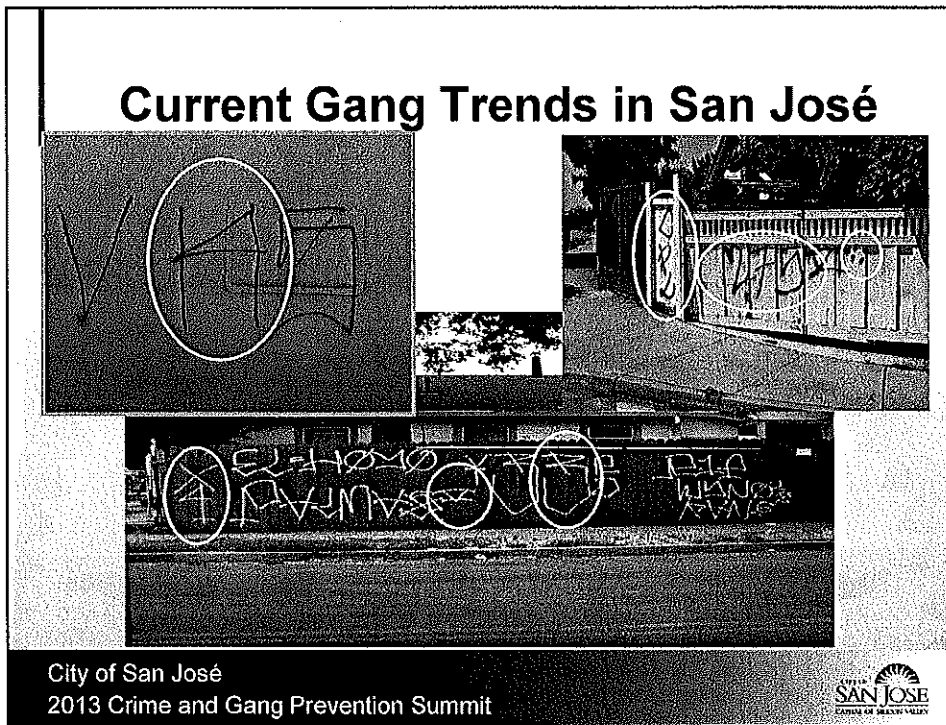
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Current Gang Trends in San José



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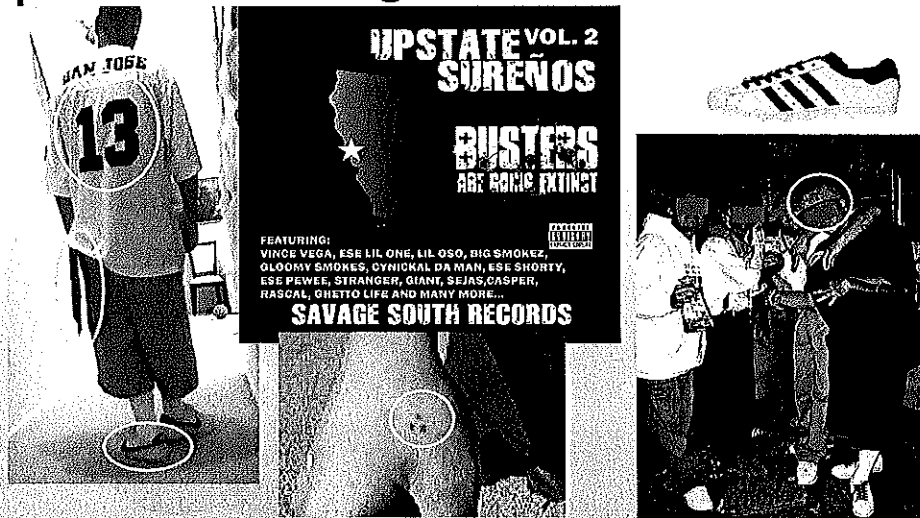
Current Gang Trends in San José

- Hispanic Gangs: Sureños
 - Recent increase as aggressors in gang violence
 - Increased lethality, weapons of choice include guns and knives
 - Often connected with LA-based gangs and loosely affiliated with Mexican cartels
 - Heavy use of social media to promote gangs
 - Have begun wearing San Jose Sharks gear as well, adopted other former Norteño indicators (ESSJ, 408, etc.)
 - Refer to themselves as “Upstate” Sureños
 - Tagging can include blending of letters, numbers, and Aztec symbols

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Current Gang Trends in San José



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Current Gang Trends in San José



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Current Gang Trends in San José

- African American Gangs
 - Tend to ally with Norteño gangs Primarily active in South San José (homegrown) and Downtown San José (out-of-towners)
 - Affiliate with Crips or Bloods, with Crips being the dominant group in San José
 - Tend to ally with Norteño gangs
 - Primary activity is drug dealing
 - Make up small demographic of San José gang members due to relatively small population in comparison to other ethnicities in San José

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Current Gang Trends in San José

- Asian Gangs

- Vietnamese gangs trend toward more sophisticated crimes (i.e.: gambling, prostitution, human trafficking, extortion, & home invasions)
- Illegal and violent activity tends to center around Asian coffee shops
- Tattooed heavily, but usually cover tattoos with clothing
- Gang members' "Code of Silence" strongly enforced
- Other Asian gangs (Cambodian, Laotian, Thai, etc.) trend more toward affiliation with Crips and Bloods; their crimes are more consistent with Hispanic gangs and they tattoo their bodies more liberally
- Victims and witnesses tend to be very uncooperative

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Current Gang Trends in San José



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New MGPTF Intervention Strategies

- Late Night Programming

- Six sites citywide
- Collaboration between MGPTF Intervention Agencies (SSCI, CYO, Firehouse Inc., Catholic Charities, and MACSA)
- Purpose is to outreach to "Gang Impacted" & "Gang Intentional" youth ages 13-24 years old
- Beyond recreation, structured activities and community resources are brought to bear
- Develop a "Bank of Trust" with neighborhood gangs and gang leaders

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New MGPTF Intervention Strategies

- Hospital-Based Intervention Programs

- Collaboration between City of San José, Santa Clara County, and Valley Medical Center
- Collaboration between Regional Medical Center and California Youth Outreach

- Mission

- Reach victims of violence at times of crisis
- Provide services & support to assist in life changes

- Model

- National Network of Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs (NNHVIP)
- Oakland's "Youth Alive!" Program

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Resources

**Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force/Safe School
Campus Initiative
(408) 794-1630**

**Anti-graffiti Hotline
(866) 249-0543
(408) 793-5510**

**Gang Hotline
(408) 293-GANG (4264)**

**Crime Stoppers Hotline
(408) 947-STOP**

**Cell phone 9-1-1
(408) 277-8911**

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