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# Gangs and Relationship Violence: The Connection

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LOS ANGELES COMMISSION  
ON ASSAULTS  
AGAINST WOMEN  
IS



# Why We Are Here

- Define High Risk Youth population
- Discuss the connection between relationship violence and gangs
- Share programs and services
- Introduce our partnership with Homeboy Industries

# High Risk Youth Definition

- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Core

# High Risk Youth Definition

- Primary – Lower Level
  - In danger of failing grades, defiance of authority (teachers and parents)

# High Risk Youth Definition cont.

- Secondary-
  - First signs of behavior change, begin to fail classes, begins to display interest in gang involvement, begins to display interest in violent acts, disruptive in class, in danger of suspension, very little respect for authority

# High Risk Youth Definition cont.

- Tertiary – Higher Level
  - School Suspensions, several physical altercations, failing most or all classes, truancies, curfew violations, increased gang involvement, some type of negative contact with law enforcement, beginning to experiment with drugs

# High Risk Youth Definitions

## Cont.

- Core – Highest Level
  - zero respect for ANY type of authority, expulsions, arrests, citations, full blown gang affiliation, extremely violent, drug and/or alcohol addiction, risky sexual behavior. At this level the youth has dropped out of school.

# Risk Factors

- History of family violence
  - Domestic Violence
  - Child Abuse , Neglect
  - Alcohol and/or Drug Abuse
  - Gang Affiliation, family generations

# Risk Factors

- Poverty
  - Public Housing
  - Public Assistance
  - Communities

# Risk Factors

- Parent Involvement
  - Lack of parenting skills
  - Very little, no supervision
  - No fathers in the home

# Relationship Violence

- Relationship violence is a pattern of behavior where one person uses intimidation, threats of or actual physical, emotional, or sexual violence in order to maintain power and control over their partner

# Types of Abuse

- Physical--slapping, kicking, punching, holding down, beating, throwing
- Sexual--rape, sexual assault, forced exposure to pornography, forced to have sex with multiple partners, sexual battery
- Emotional/Verbal--name calling, threats, put downs, stalking, harassment, bullying
- Mental

# Cycle of Violence

- Honeymoon, Sprung, or Loving Respite Phase
- Tension-Building Phase
- Acute/Abusive Phase

# Relationship Violence within Gang Culture

- Differences – not many
- Similarities –
  - Severity
  - Frequency
  - Power and Control Dynamics
  - Cycle of Violence

# Barriers to Identifying RV

- Language
- Culture
- Denial
- Notion of justifiable violence
  - “he/she does not beat me, we get down”

# Programs

- Intervention
- Prevention

# Programs

- Prevention
  - BeStrong – Gender Specific - Females
  - MyStrength – Gender Specific – Males
  - In Touch With Teens – Violence Prevention Curriculum

# Programs

- Intervention
  - One on One Counseling
  - Group Counseling
  - Crisis Intervention

# Contact Information

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