

Key Findings

Uncovering the Social Pecking Order in Gang Violence¹

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Case Generation

We used court cases wherein at least one defendant was a Blood or Crip gang member at the time of the incident and

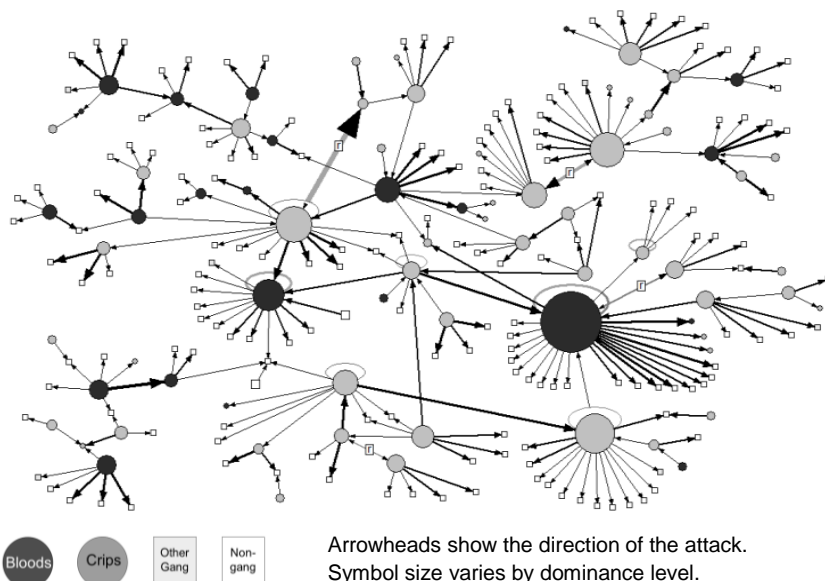
1. it occurred in LA County (Jan. 1, 2002 – Dec. 31, 2010);
2. there was at least one charge/conviction for assault with a deadly weapon, attempted homicide or homicide; and
3. the defendant was tried as an adult.

This protocol resulted in 284 cases involving 439 offenders and 384 victims. Due to cases with multiple victims or co-defendants the violence network included 625 victimization pairs (an offender connected to a victim). These crimes involved 157 gang subsets (factions), of which there were 38 Bloods subsets (24%), 109 Crips subsets (70%), and 10 subsets from other gangs (6%).

Pecking Order

There is continuing public concern about gang conflict, specifically, that competition among gangs increases the risk of violent victimization for communities caught in the crossfire. Evident in the violent network depicted below, the Bloods and Crips showed a strong tendency of victimizing community members (clear squares). Tables 1 and 2 report that 4 of the subsets central to the violence network (based on a statistic called outdegree centrality) pose risks to the community and other gang subgroups.

Figure 1. Network of Violent Attacks



Victimization

All victimizations (N=625)

67.4% victims had no known gang affiliation

20.3% victims were from the same gang as the attacker
(7.7% was reciprocal violence)

12.3% victims were from a different gang
(0.5% was reciprocal violence)

Subgroup of gang-on-gang victimizations (N=205)

- 61.9% involved members of the same gang (23.4% reciprocal)
- 37.6% involved inter-gang conflict (1.5% reciprocal)

Table 1. Subsets Posing the Greatest Community Risks

RANK	Subset
1	BLACK P-STONE BLOODS
2	ROLLIN 60S NEIGHBORHOOD CRIPS
3	INSANE CRIPS
4	BOUNTY HUNTER BLOODS
5	GRAPE STREET WATTS CRIPS
6	INGLEWOOD FAMILY BLOODS

Table 2. Subsets Dominating other Groups

RANK	Subset
1	ROLLIN 60S NEIGHBORHOOD CRIPS
2	BLACK P-STONE BLOODS
3	INSANE CRIPS
4	FRUIT TOWN PIRUS
5	BOUNTY HUNTER BLOODS
5	ROLLIN 40S NEIGHBORHOOD CRIPS
5	EAST COAST CRIPS
5	ACACIA BLOCK CRIPS

Note: Names in bold appear on both lists.

¹ For more information see: Randle, Jasmin and Gisela Bichler (forthcoming). Uncovering the Social Pecking Order in Gang Violence. In *Crime Prevention in the 21st Century*, Benoit Leclerc and Ernesto Savona (Eds.) Springer.