



MARYLAND GANG THREAT ASSESSMENT

2022

The 2022 Maryland Gang Threat Assessment is a product of the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center. This product is FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY. Any request for disclosure of this document or the information contained herein should be referred to: Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center at 800.492.8477 or mdwatch@mcac.maryland.gov.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2

PURPOSE 3

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY 3

INTRODUCTION..... 4

TYPES OF GANGS..... 5

STREET GANGS 5

LOCAL AND NEIGHBORHOOD GANGS 6

PRISON GANGS 7

OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANGS 8

STATEWIDE GANG TRENDS 11

HIGHLIGHTS OF GANG ACTIVITY BY REGION..... 13

RESPONSES TO GANG ACTIVITY 16

MARYLAND GANG LEGISLATION 16

GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH AND VICTIMS SERVICES AND LAW
ENFORCEMENT AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES 16

PERTINENT LEGISLATION 17

MARYLAND GANG INITIATIVES 18

CONCLUSION 19

APPENDIX-RESOURCES 20



JANUARY 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Maryland Gang Threat Assessment is a public document released by the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC). The goal of this document is twofold: 1) to inform the public of gang-related trends throughout the state of Maryland, and 2) to examine gang legislation and anti-gang community initiatives that successfully curb gang activity.

Street gangs, prison gangs, and Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMGs) are the most common types of gangs in the region. Each gang has distinctive characteristics that distinguish it from the others.

The Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center has identified the gangs below as the top threats in Maryland:

Black Guerrilla Family	Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13)
Bloods	18th Street
Dead Man Inc.	Pagans MC

Gang-related activity is not specific to one area of Maryland. Many gangs have migrated out of metropolitan areas into suburbia and rural areas to escape the scrutiny of law enforcement. Law enforcement in smaller geographic areas is assumed to be less prepared to curb gang activity.

It is in these suburban and rural areas where gang members find new members and expand their operations. Gang members coax teens in neighborhoods and area schools to join gangs through threats and intimidation. Gang members also offer kids a “family” of protection. Furthermore, drugs and alcohol are used to entice teens to join gangs.ⁱ

Common amongst gangs, the felonies presenting the largest threats to Maryland communities include murder, attempted murder, assault, firearms violations, possession of controlled dangerous substances (CDS) with intent to distribute, conspiracy to distribute CDS, and witness intimidation. Profits from drug sales, sex trafficking and weapons trafficking are instrumental in supporting gang operations.ⁱⁱ

MCAC Feedback Survey

Please take a moment to complete an [online survey](#) to evaluate the quality and value of this product. Your response will help us serve you more effectively in the future.



PURPOSE

The Maryland Gang Threat Assessment (MGTA) intends to inform decision-makers, stakeholders, first responders, other public safety officials, critical infrastructure owners/operators and the public about key gang threats to the State of Maryland.

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

The MGTA describes trends and patterns observed among gang threats between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2021. MCAC bases its analysis on open-source reporting.

Information cutoff: 31 December 2021



INTRODUCTION

MARYLAND DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the 2020 United States Census, the population of Maryland is 6,177,224, with 9.4% of the population living below the poverty line.ⁱⁱⁱ

Baltimore is the largest city in Maryland, with a population of 575,584.^{iv} As of 2020, 21.2% of Baltimore City’s population was living below the poverty line.



Source: The Business Journal

While metropolitan cities like Baltimore are hubs for gang activity, gang members oftentimes live outside these cities. Gang associates travel to Baltimore from all 23 counties in Maryland.

Maryland experiences a significant amount of MS-13 activity. A contributing factor is the concentration of El Salvadorian immigrants living in the state of Maryland. According to the 2019 US Census, approximately 198,863 El Salvadorian immigrants reside in Maryland, many of whom are illegal immigrants.^v

Poverty, escape, despair, protection, comradery, and excitement are all motivations for joining a gang. Gangs provide protection for juveniles who are otherwise targeted by rival groups. Gang members engage in drug distribution, robbery, burglary, human trafficking and prostitution; all are quick, illegal ways to finance their operations.

What is a gang?

The federal definition of a criminal street gang, as written in 18 USC § 521, is as follows:

A “criminal street gang” is an ongoing group, club, organization, or association of five or more persons—

- A. that has as one of its primary purposes the commission of one or more of the criminal offenses described in subsection (c);
- B. the members of which engage, or have engaged within the past five years, in a continuing series of offenses described in subsection (c); and
- C. the activities of which affect interstate or foreign commerce.^{vi}

The Maryland Criminal Law Code 9-801 defines a criminal organization as:

- A. an enterprise whose members:
 - 1. Individually or collectively engage in a pattern of organized crime activity;



2. have as one of their primary objectives or activities the commission of one or more underlying crimes, including acts by juveniles that would be underlying crimes if committed by adults; and
 3. have in common an overt or covert organizational or command structure.
- B. An “enterprise” includes:
1. a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, business trust, or other legal entity; or
 2. any group of individuals associated in fact, although not a legal entity.
- C. A “pattern of organized crime activity” means the commission of, attempted commission of, conspiracy to commit, or solicitation of two or more underlying crimes or acts by a juvenile that would be an underlying crime if committed by an adult, provided the crimes or acts were not part of the same incident.^{vii}

TYPES OF GANGS

STREET GANGS

Street gangs comprise most of the gangs in Maryland. Some gangs, such as the Bloods and the Crips, are part of larger, more intricate, national networks. Others, including Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), work transnationally with contacts in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Still others are neighborhood-based gangs or crews that lack national name recognition yet serve as a viable threat.

Street gangs frequently divide into sets, cliques, chapters, and crews that exist under the umbrella of a larger gang organization. These sets are more loosely structured with less centralized leadership. For example, rules adopted by one Crip set in one geographic location may not apply in another. Because of this, each set, clique, or crew is considered its own gang with its own identifying characteristics.

Common gang identifiers include tattoos, hats, jewelry, bandanas, belts, language, and hand signs. Historically, gangs have subscribed to specific colors, symbols and letters, but are now becoming more discreet as to not draw attention to themselves.

A gang’s ethnic composition depends on its rules and bylaws. Though not every gang has a formal set of rules, in some cases, membership is limited to specific races or backgrounds. This is particularly evident in gangs like MS-13, where Hispanic descent is a prerequisite. Conversely, gangs such as the 18th Street gang are multi-ethnic, comprised of African Americans, Caucasians, Indians and Asians.^{viii} The Bloods (Brotherly Love Overcomes Oppression and Destruction) typically welcome all races and genders.^{ix}

Males make up most of the regional gang membership, and female membership may be prohibited altogether. When females are eligible to join, they join as non-ranking associates and treated like property. Female gang members are tasked with sexual favors and ancillary responsibilities such as grooming victims, moving prison contraband, and helping to commit or cover up crimes.



A local case illustrates this point. In 2017, a female associate of MS-13 lured a female associate of the 18th Street gang to a secluded area in Crownsville. Once lured, several MS-13 members suffocated the 18th street associate, then stabbed her repeatedly and decapitated her.^x

Generally, the ages of street gang members range from early teens to the early thirties. Occasionally, older men join gangs to make money. In 2019, a retired 72-year old Maryland aviation worker was sentenced to prison for firearms, racketeering and drug crimes while working in the Black Guerrilla Family (BGF) network.^{xi}

Gangs recruit out of Maryland middle schools and high schools. Fifteen-year-old Alexandria Reyes-Rivas was stabbed with a large stick by MS-13 members to avenge the death of a fellow MS-13 member. Her mother believes Alexandria was recruited out of her Gaithersburg middle school.^{xii}

MS-13 even recruits elementary-aged prospects out of Hispanic communities. Once recruited, younger adolescents commit simple assaults and larceny. Over time, they graduate to more violent crimes and drug trafficking.^{xiii}

There is a wide continuum of gang initiation requirements. The gang initiation process compels many prospects to commit violent crimes to prove they are not part of law enforcement. Other members are “jumped in” and beaten by gang members for a specific amount of time. Girls are oftentimes “sexed in” and forced to have sexual intercourse with multiple gang members. Other recruits are required to memorize and recite bylaws as part of their initiation.

If recruits have earned the respect of a high-ranking member, they can be “blessed in” or held exempt from any initiation requirements. Most gang members are not able to get out of the gang because of what they know about the organization. Some gangs have a saying “blood in, blood out”,^{xiv}

LOCAL AND NEIGHBORHOOD GANGS

Local and neighborhood gangs are smaller, geographically-based gangs that are not part of a larger hierarchy. Local and neighborhood gangs may be more difficult to identify because they don't use national gang identifiers. Regardless of their size, local and neighborhood gangs strive to be just as dangerous to surrounding communities.

Hybrid gangs oftentimes exist as neighborhood gangs and consist of mixed ethnic participation from multiple gangs. They have vague rules about conduct and subscribe to gang identifiers from multiple gangs.^{xv} In October 2020, in Monmouth County, New Jersey, the leader of the G-Shine Bloods joined forces with the Grape Street Crips to form an intricate drug ring that trafficked heroin, cocaine, prescription pills and marijuana. A dogfighting operation was created to fund the gangs' activities.^{xvi}



PRISON GANGS

The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) classifies prison gangs as Security Threat Groups (STGs). STGs are comprised of three or more individuals who share a common goal, symbolism or philosophy and who pose a threat to the staff, inmates or public.^{xvii} Inmates join prison gangs for protection and comradery. Once in, STG members secure contraband and plan crimes with contacts on the “outside”.^{xviii}

STG bylaws dictate who is eligible to join. In some cases, only certain races can join an STG. One example is the BGF, whose membership is limited to African Americans. However, in some facilities, gangs of different races will conspire or form alliances. BGF has aligned with Dead Man Incorporated, a predominantly white gang, to carry out certain criminal acts. The Aryan Brotherhood has conspired with Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs in the past because of similar beliefs.

Members of smaller Maryland prison gangs usually drop their gang affiliations upon release. However, members of larger STGs maintain allegiance to their prison gangs. They commit crimes to finance gang operations and serve as go-betweens with members of drug trafficking organizations.^{xix}

BLACK GUERRILLA FAMILY

The Black Guerilla Family, also known as “BGF”, “Black Family” and “Black Vanguard”, was formed in 1966 by the Black Panther George Jackson as a shield of protection from racism and violence in the California prison system. With the help of Ray Olivias, a former inmate in the California Prison system, the BGF migrated to Maryland in 1996. Olivias adopted the pre-existing hierarchy and constitution in California and took the ideas back to Maryland prisons.^{xx}

The Black Guerilla Family is the largest STG in Maryland. In March 2019, a high-ranking member of BGF was sentenced to 35 years in prison for racketeering charges inclusive of narcotics distribution and conspiracy to murder a Blood’s gang member in Baltimore.^{xxi} This member had coordinated much of the drug trafficking in specific areas of Baltimore City.

The Black Guerilla Family organizes its members into “regimes” or “bubbles” related to specific territories in and around Baltimore and the 23 surrounding Maryland counties. It is through these areas where open-air drug markets are established.^{xxii} Each “bubble” reports to a higher-ranked statesman in charge of larger territories. Business is conducted and disputes are resolved through this organizational structure.

DEAD MAN INCORPORATED

Dead Man Incorporated (DMI), a predominantly white prison gang, was founded in the Maryland prison system by Perry Roark in the late 1990s or early 2000s. Roark merged three existing gangs after he was rejected by the BGF for being white.^{xxiii} He was sentenced to life in prison in 2013 on federal racketeering charges.

DMI consists of male and female members, and oftentimes aligns with BGF. It is the most established homegrown prison gang in Maryland. Like BGF, Dead Man Incorporated membership



is not limited to prisons. Many members operate outside the Maryland corrections system while getting directives from senior members behind bars.^{xxiv}

In March 2020, a known DMI member was arrested for a probation violation and several counts of illegal weapon possession in Thurmont, Maryland. After a warrant was served, several illegally-obtained weapons were seized from his nearby residence.^{xxv}

ARYAN BROTHERHOOD

The Aryan Brotherhood, otherwise known as “The Brand”, “Alice Baker”, and “AB”, is the oldest white supremacist prison gang in the United States. It was founded in 1964 in San Quentin, California as a form of protection for inmates^{xxvi}. The gang’s motto is “blood in, blood out”. Once a member, to leave the gang, one must die or engage in violence.

In prisons, members of the Aryan Brotherhood are known for drug trafficking, prostitution, gambling and extortion.^{xxvii} Outside of prison, AB members participate in robberies, murder, drug manufacturing, drug distribution and counterfeiting.

In September 2020, An Anne Arundel County judge handed down the maximum sentence to two members of the Aryan Brotherhood who killed a Dead Man Incorporated inmate by stabbing him over 50 times at the Maryland Correctional Institution Jessup. The victim was attacked as retribution for a gang-related assault against an Aryan Brotherhood member at a different prison.^{xxviii}

OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANGS

Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMGs), or the “1 percenters”, are the 1% of all motorcycle gangs who are non-conforming “outlaws”. The American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) conceptualized this term in response to a 1947 motorcycle event that escalated and resulted in several assaults and arrests. The AMA defended the reputations of its members and asserted that 99 percent of bikers are law-abiding citizens, and the last “one percent” is “outlaws.”^{xxix} Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMGs) have adopted this “1 Percenter” symbol, and openly display it on their apparel and belongings.



1 PERCENTER PATCHES SOURCE: ALIBABA.COM

Relative to street gangs, the age range amongst Outlaw Motorcycle Gang members is older. OMGs are tightly organized and, like street gangs, aggressively compete for power and territory.^{xxx} Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs have had a presence in Maryland since the 1950s.



Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs share similar organizational structures. Elected officers include the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Road Captain and Sergeant-At-Arms.^{xxxvi} Typically, there are four levels of membership including the “friend of the club”, which is an associate; the “hang around”, which has not announced an intention to join; the “prospect”, which is a new prospective member being tested; and the “patch member” which is an established, senior member of the gang.^{xxxvii}

THE PAGAN’S

The Pagan’s motorcycle gang is one of the four most dangerous OMG’s in the nation and has ties to the Italian Mafia and Aryan Brotherhood.^{xxxviii} In the United States, there are over 1300 Pagan’s members in 100 chapters.^{xxxix} The number “4” is often sewn in their jackets, representing the ‘Live and Die’ motto. ^{xl}

The Pagan’s has enjoyed a 50% surge in membership over the last three years. The Pagan’s boosted membership by allowing dark-skinned Hispanics and Asians to join for the first time in its history. ^{xli}



Pagan's patch

Source: onepercenterbikers.com

The Pagan’s goal is to be the prominent OMG on the East Coast, and the gang has become more violent as a result. The Pagan’s engages in drive-by shootings, unprovoked physical assaults, and brutal attacks on adversaries.^{xlii}

After a violent attack on a Hell’s Angels member at a Newark gas station two years ago, law enforcement began looking at the Pagan’s more closely. Violent attacks such as these are becoming more common and are indicative of the Pagan’s resurgence in the Mid-Atlantic states, specifically in New Jersey.^{xliiii}

In September 2019, two Hell’s Angels followed a lone Pagan’s member into a gas station in Frederick, Maryland. After words and punches were exchanged, the Pagan’s member was stabbed. Eventually, both clubs were interviewed and medically treated. The Hell’s Angel was arrested for the assault, but the charges were eventually dropped.^{xliiii}



Although the Hell's Angels do not have a strong presence in Maryland, they are very active in surrounding states. In May 2020 three New York Hell's Angels were charged with murdering the Bronx Pagan's leader in retaliation for an attack on Hell's Angels' headquarters four months earlier.^{xl}

In August 2021, A fight between rival motorcycle gangs at an Essex bar led to the arrest of seven men, two of whom are from Dundalk. The men, who are allegedly members of the Pagan's motorcycle club, were pulled over after police responded to a fight involving a gun. Nine alleged members of the Pagan's beat down a rival member, striking him on the head several times.^{xli}

In October 2021, Keith Richter, the national president of the Pagan's, aka "Conan", was sentenced to 33 months in prison as a convicted felon possessing a firearm. In February 2021 Richter was traveling home from a Pagan's party in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and was stopped in Mercer County, New Jersey. A loaded P345 .45 caliber handgun was seen in the vehicle in which Richter was riding. Later, a search warrant was conducted at Richter's residence, where the handgun was recovered by police.^{xlii}

WHEELS OF SOUL

The Wheels of Soul is a 1%er motorcycle gang that was founded in Philadelphia in 1967. It is a 400-500-member multi-ethnic OMG but is predominantly black.^{xliii} Members use the tag "WFFW", which stands for "Wheels Forever, Forever Wheels".^{xliii}



WOS patch Source: onepercenterbikers.com

In September 2020, several people were shot outside the Wheels of Soul Clubhouse in Baltimore City. One person died, and several others were injured. Law enforcement is unsure of the motive.^{xliv}

In May 2020, two Philadelphia men were shot and killed by members of Wheels of Soul in Camden, New Jersey. This happened just hours before three men were shot outside the Wheels and Soul clubhouse in Philadelphia.^{xlvi}



THUNDERGUARDS MC

The Thunderguards Motorcycle Club is a black 1%er motorcycle gang founded in 1965 in Wilmington, Delaware.



Thunderguards patch Source: onepercenterbikers.com

One of their mottos is “As Brothers We Ride, with Black Pride”.^{xlvii} In August 2020, a suspected Thunderguard member in Coatesville, Pennsylvania was charged with several counts of possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver, dealing in unlawful activities, receiving stolen property and illegal possession of firearms. Three illegal firearms, Thunderguard literature, more than \$60,000 in cash, cocaine, methamphetamine, prescription pills, drug packaging and manufacturing materials were seized by police in a raid of his home.

STATEWIDE GANG TRENDS

The following gang-related trends have been identified in Maryland:

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Youth gangs regularly use social media to communicate, recruit, and intimidate rival gang members. Social media such as Facebook®, Instagram®, SnapChat®, Signal®, WhatsApp®, Telegram®, TikTok® and You Tube® are popular platforms used by Maryland gangs.

Social media is useful for exaggerating actions to “one-up” rival gang members. Gang members exaggerate behaviors to convey gang allegiance, even when they are trying to pull out of a gang behind the scenes. Social media serves as an efficient mode of communication, enabling street gangs to issue threats beyond their geographic areas. YouTube, for example, reaches thousands of people at a time and is one of the most heavily used forms of social media.

In Baltimore, The Eight Trey Gangsta (ETG) Crips used social media 1) to claim drug territories, 2) to intimidate rival gangs and witnesses, and 3) to enhance their status. Members of the ETG



Crips posted photographs and rap videos to social media websites flaunting firearms and threatening to kill anyone standing in their way.^{xlix}

In 2019, the Murdaland Mafia Piru (MMP), a local Baltimore gang, posted graphic photographs and depictions of gun violence on social media to threaten anyone who interfered with the gang's activities.ⁱ

RECRUITMENT OF CORRECTIONS STAFF

Corrections officers in Maryland prisons are occasionally exploited to carry out gang-related duties. The following cases illustrate this trend.

April 2019 – A former Anne Arundel County Sheriff's employee was sentenced to more than one year in federal prison after leaking sensitive information to a gang. This former employee used her position at the sheriff's office to provide information to a violent Annapolis drug trafficking organization.ⁱⁱ

April 2019 – Nineteen people, including Bloods members and three prison guards, were arrested and charged with running a smuggling ring in Maryland Correctional Institute Jessup. The accused peddled heroin, cell phones and pornography in exchange for payments via sex, PayPal and Western Union money orders.ⁱⁱⁱ

September 2019 - A former Maryland corrections officer was sentenced to at least 20 years in prison for his strong ties to the Eight-Trey Crips street gang. The corrections officer used his position at the Maryland Correctional Institute Jessup to support 8-Trey Crips by smuggling contraband and delivering prison intelligence to the gang. Law enforcement searched his home and found handwritten evidence of his gang membership.ⁱⁱⁱⁱ

August 2020 – Nine people, including three correctional officers, were indicted in an alleged racketeering conspiracy at the Chesapeake Detention Facility in downtown Baltimore. The accused included three correctional officers, four inmates and two outside facilitators.^{lv}

SEX TRAFFICKING

Statistically, victims of sex trafficking are under the age of 18 and are oftentimes reported runaways or missing persons. On the streets, these girls befriend gang members and are brainwashed into believing that they need gangs for survival and familial support. Specific instances of gang-related sex trafficking in Maryland include:

January 2019 – A 52- year-old known associate of MS-13 was arrested for paying \$100 for sex with a 14-year old girl in a Wheaton residence, then blackmailing her. Pinos Locos, a clique of MS-13, repeatedly used this victim for sex and drug dealing. The victim tried to flee but was later caught and beaten with a baseball bat in a Kensington backyard. The girl recalled more than 25 excruciating blows to her body. Such attacks were used as a form of intimidation to keep the girls in line.^{lv}

August 2020 - Eleven members or close associates of MS-13 in Maryland and Northern Virginia were charged with multiple counts of sexual exploitation and physical abuse of a 13-year old girl.



The men were accused of repeatedly beating the girl, a runaway, into submission with a baseball bat, and then trafficking her for sex. This included several sexual acts where men lined up to have coerced intercourse with her. Gang members beat her over two dozen times when she did not comply. ^{lvi}

October 2021 - Gang leader David Tico Brown and associate Michael Anthony Copeland pled guilty to multiple offenses for their role in the “Brown Drug Trafficking Organization” throughout Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, and Baltimore City. Brown used the hotel to cook, package and distribute narcotics. Women were forced into sex trafficking in exchange for a hotel room, money and drugs. ^{lvii}

ILLEGAL RESIDENCY

Many Maryland gang members reside in the United States illegally. MS-13 is comprised of many undocumented aliens, and some return to the United States after being deported to their native countries. MS-13 and 18th Street gang members are reportedly dressing up as migrants at the United States border to prevent detection. ^{lviii} Some examples of gang-related cases involving illegal residency are described below:

May 2020 –Five MS-13 members were arrested for the murder of 16-year-old Gabriela Alejandra Gonzalez Ardon near the Loch Raven reservoir in rural Baltimore County. The victim was reported missing from Glen Cove, New York in March 2019. It is believed that she was targeted for communicating with a rival gang. Three of the five suspects were in the United States illegally. ^{lix}

August 2020 –Ten MS-13 members were charged with murdering 21-year old Daniel Cuellar in July 2020. Cuellar flashed a rival 18th Street Gang sign outside a Towson apartment complex. Surveillance cameras showed the perpetrators following the victim from a Loch Raven Village laundromat and stabbing him with a machete and a knife. Most of the accused were undocumented Salvadorans, and one was an illegal alien from Mexico. ^{lx}

HIGHLIGHTS OF GANG ACTIVITY BY REGION

Examples of gang-related activity in the four major regions of Maryland are highlighted in the following section:

BALTIMORE REGION

(ANNE ARUNDEL, BALTIMORE, BALTIMORE CITY, CARROLL, CECIL, HARFORD, AND HOWARD COUNTIES)

NOTABLE GANG ACTIVITY

June 2019 – Fourteen suspected members of the J30 Payback Crips were arrested in connection with a month’s long drug investigation in Northeast Baltimore. Police seized 200 grams of cocaine, 236 grams of heroin and fentanyl, three guns and over \$40,000 in cash. ^{lxi}



July 2019 – Four members of the violent Baltimore Hillside Gang were sentenced to at least 20 years in federal prison for federal racketeering charges including the sale of cocaine, heroin, oxycodone and marijuana. This gang operated in the Cherry Hill neighborhood in Baltimore.^{lxii}

August 2020 – At least 15 people were indicted in Anne Arundel County on conspiracy and gang participation charges for their alleged roles in a criminal enterprise that dealt drugs and trafficked women out of hotels. The gang primarily operated out of hotels in Brooklyn Park, yet members migrated to northern and western Anne Arundel County and parts of Baltimore and Baltimore County to distribute heroin and fentanyl, cocaine, MDMA, methamphetamine, oxycodone and marijuana.^{lxiii}

June 2021 - Gary Creek, the founder of the Triple-C gang and a resident of Baltimore, died from a self-inflicted wound after a three-hour standoff with Georgia police. He was one of 15 alleged members of the “Cruddy Conniving Crutballs” (CCC) indicted for crimes connected to a drug-dealing operation in east Baltimore. The list of charges against members of the Triple-C gang include 18 murders and 27 attempted murders.^{lxiv}

EASTERN REGION

(CAROLINE, DORCHESTER, KENT, QUEEN ANNE’S, SOMERSET, TALBOT, WICOMICO, AND WORCESTER COUNTIES)

NOTABLE GANG ACTIVITY

February 2019 – “Operation Hide and Seek” was an initiative that brought together the Maryland State Police Gang Enforcement Unit, Salisbury Police Department and other allied agencies in Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia. Its goal was to find and arrest suspects with active warrants. Eleven gang members were arrested, including members of the Bloods and Crips.^{lxv}

April 2019 – Maryland State Police, in conjunction with law enforcement agencies in Wicomico and Dorchester Counties, apprehended suspects with open arrest warrants. At least three Bloods members were arrested.^{lxvi}

March 2020 – Two known members of a local Bloods set were indicted on counts of attempted first-degree murder, attempted second-degree murder, malicious wounding, use of a firearm in a felony, and possession of a gun by a felon. These incidents occurred on the Eastern Shore in Accomac, Virginia, about 35 miles from the Maryland-Virginia border. One of the accused was apprehended at a motel in Pocomoke City, Maryland.^{lxvii}

WESTERN METRO REGION

(CHARLES, CALVERT, MONTGOMERY, PRINCE GEORGE’S, ST. MARY’S COUNTIES)

NOTABLE GANG ACTIVITY

February 2019 -Members of a Northern Virginia MS-13 clique murdered a fellow member of the gang. The 16-year old victim from Fairfax was killed inside a home in Landover Hills and his remains were transported to Stafford County.^{lxviii}



May 2019 – A 14-year old girl was stabbed with a machete and beaten with a baseball bat by a group of teens who were worried she would tell the police about a crime the group had committed. Prince George's County police said the death was an MS-13 related killing.^{lxxix}

December 2019 - Police charged four members of the 18th Street Gang with the murder of 19-year-old Sara Gutierrez-Villatoro, a runaway from Washington, D.C. Her body was recovered in a wooded area in Dickerson, Maryland. Police believe that Gutierrez-Villatoro had betrayed fellow gang members, and because of that, the accused ordered her murder.^{lxxx}

August 2020 – A known leader of the Delicias Locos Salvatruchas Clique of MS-13 in Oxon Hill was charged with conspiring to engage in the illegal trafficking of firearms, engaging in the business of dealing in firearms without a license, and seven counts of possession of a firearm by a person previously convicted of a crime. The accused led a firearm trafficking conspiracy where he obtained firearms from an MS-13 associate and sold them in Washington, DC for a profit at least eight times. Included in his arsenal were ten firearms and an assault rifle.^{lxxxi}

WESTERN REGION

(ALLEGANY, FREDERICK, GARRETT, AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES)

NOTABLE GANG ACTIVITY

April 2019 – A 16-year old's body was found by fishermen near the Chain Bridge in Washington, DC. The victim, a Frederick high school student, was beaten and repeatedly stabbed with a machete by three MS-13 members. One hand was completely severed from his body and the other was partially detached.^{lxxxii}

September 2019 – A state prison inmate at Roxbury Correctional Institution in Hagerstown, Maryland was sentenced to an additional seven years for assaulting another prisoner who wanted to leave the Bloods gang.^{lxxxiii}

February 2020 – A Frederick man already arrested for drug offenses in September 2019, was charged with first degree murder and attempted first-degree murder for the shooting of a witness who was to testify against the shooter in another case. The shooter was a member of PA-32, a local Frederick gang.^{lxxxiv}

May 2020 – Twenty-one members of a drug trafficking organization comprised of Bloods members were charged with more than 60 counts of distribution of fentanyl, heroin, and cocaine, as well as the trafficking of firearms from New York to Allegany County. Authorities seized more than 1,200 grams of fentanyl with a street value of \$192,000, more than 99 grams of heroin with a street value of almost \$16,000, and more than 475 grams of cocaine with a street value of more than \$47,500. Thirteen firearms were also seized. The sting coined "Operation Blood Clot" was a year-long investigation that resulted in the arrest of a Cumberland kingpin from Bronx, New York.^{lxxxv}

May 2020 – Two members of the Almighty Glo Boys gang were taken into custody for the attempted murder of a 16-year old in Hagerstown. Both suspects were charged with attempted first-degree murder, attempted second-degree murder, first-and-second-degree assault and



reckless endangerment. According to police, the gang members completed a drug deal with the victim, pistol-whipped him across the face, punched him and shot him in the groin.^{lxxvi}

RESPONSES TO GANG ACTIVITY

MARYLAND GANG LEGISLATION

The 2020 Maryland Criminal Law Code defines a criminal organization as an enterprise whose members: individually or collectively engage in a pattern of organized crime activity; have as one of their primary objectives or activities the commission of one or more underlying crimes, including acts by juveniles that would be underlying crimes if committed by adults; and have in common an overt or covert organizational or command structure.^{lxxvii}

DEFINING GANG MEMBERS

At the time of this report, Maryland does not have a formal statute definition of what defines a gang member.

GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH AND VICTIM SERVICES, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Task forces made up of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies have corroborated to target gang activity in Maryland communities. The Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services is instrumental in providing funding for some of these initiatives. Examples of this work are below:

January 2019 – The Black Magic drug gang, which operated in one of Baltimore’s most violent neighborhoods, was targeted and dismantled by the Baltimore City Major Case Squad. This four-month operation yielded 435 fentanyl gel caps, 100 grams of suspected fentanyl, 460 vials of suspected cocaine, \$16000 in cash and seven illegal firearms.^{lxxviii}

April 2019 – Maryland State Police collaborated with law enforcement agencies in Wicomico and Dorchester Counties as part of a continued effort to reduce the number of active fugitive warrants on the lower Eastern Shore. The goal of “Operation: On the Lamb” was to apprehend suspects with open arrest warrants issued through Maryland State Police and local police departments. This initiative resulted in 107 gang-related arrests.^{lxxix} This effort was a follow-up to “Operation: Hide and Seek”, which resulted in 41 arrests, 11 of which had ties to street gangs.

December 2019 – In Dorchester County, suspects of open criminal investigations, fugitives, and gang members were targeted and apprehended. Intelligence was gathered from a case previously investigated by the Dorchester County Narcotics Task Force and was used to serve a search and seizure warrant on a Cambridge residence. As a result, 27.4 grams of Cocaine, 25.8 grams of Heroin/ Fentanyl mix, 1.2 pounds of Marijuana, one digital scale, three cell phones, one loaded 40 caliber Ruger handgun and 13 live rounds of ammunition were seized.^{lxxx}

June 2020 – “Operation Blood Clot” was initiated by the Maryland State Police Heroin Investigative Unit, in conjunction with the Allegany County Narcotics Task Force and the Allegany



County State's Attorney's Office. The leader of a drug trafficking organization comprised of Bloods was indicted for the distribution of fentanyl, heroin, and cocaine, He was also indicted for illegal trafficking of firearms from New York to Allegany County.^{lxxxix}

September 2020 – the US Marshals Service's Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force, along with USMS personnel from Superior and District Courts, partnered with the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department and several other agencies to lead "Operation Washout". This was a national initiative that focused on the investigation and arrest of violent fugitives and gang members with active arrest warrants. The operation, which ran for nineteen days, led to 160 arrests, including 18 gang members. Twelve illegally-obtained firearms were also seized.^{lxxxii}

September 2020 – A strong collaboration between the Baltimore Police, State's Attorney's office and Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services resulted in the dismantling of a drug crew in West Baltimore. Two members were arrested, five were indicted, and more than 1000 gel caps of fentanyl were seized. Officers also seized cocaine, cutting agents, .45 caliber bullets and more than \$20,000 in cash from the One-Way drug crew.^{lxxxiii}

October 2020 – The Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) Strike Force Initiative, whose purpose is to target violent gangs and drug trafficking organizations, had its first major investigation which resulted in 19 indictments against Baltimore gang members. Charges included participation in a criminal gang, conspiracy to distribute narcotics, possession of a large volume of narcotics, and firearms violations. Maryland State Police, the Maryland Attorney General's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office each contributed to this investigation.^{lxxxiv}

July 2021 — More than 90 people were arrested as part of a coordinated effort by law enforcement at the federal, state and local levels. "Operation Washout" targeted violent criminals, gangs, and firearms, and was instrumental in helping Baltimore Police Department to serve 110 warrants of some of the most violent offenders^{lxxxv}.

PERTINENT LEGISLATION

Maryland law enforcement has benefited from better cooperation and intelligence sharing to combat challenges associated with gang prosecution. Some of the more effective strategies are listed here:

Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act – Under this critically important legislation, law enforcement has successfully prosecuted some of the most notorious gang members in Maryland. The RICO Act is a federal statute that provides for additional criminal penalties and a civil cause of action for acts performed as part of an ongoing criminal investigation. To prove that one has violated a RICO statute, it must be proven 1) that the criminal enterprise existed, 2) that the enterprise affected interstate commerce, 3) that the defendant was associated with or employed by the enterprise, 4) that the defendant engaged in a pattern of racketeering activity, and 5) that the defendant conducted in the enterprise through the commission of at least two acts of racketeering activity.^{lxxxvi}



The Maryland Criminal Code Title § 9-804 – This code prohibits all criminal organization participation and has been instrumental in supporting gang member prosecutions at the state level. Under this statute, it is illegal to participate in gang activity and crimes associated with such. Anyone committing such is guilty of a felony and upon conviction is subject to fines and imprisonment.^{lxxxvii}

MS-13 Legislation - In October 2012, the US Department of the Treasury along with the Department of Homeland Security/US Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) designated Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) a transnational criminal organization.^{lxxxviii}

The designation entitles the Department of the Treasury under Presidential Executive Order 13581, to freeze assets of those individuals and entities, who work with them, enable them and support them. Any property or property interest in the US, or in the possession or control of US persons in which these targets have an interest are blocked, and US persons are prohibited from engaging in transactions with them.^{lxxxix}

In 2020, the Justice Department for the first time charged an alleged gang leader as a terrorist and is seeking the death penalty against a Virginia MS-13 member.^{xc}

MARYLAND GANG INITIATIVES

The Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network (MCIN) – MCIN was established in 2017 by Governor Larry Hogan and is funded through the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. MCIN is a partnership coordinated at the local, state, and federal level targeting gangs, drugs, firearms and human trafficking. In 2020, Governor Hogan added Baltimore County and Harford County to the list of covered jurisdictions. This strategy has helped to disrupt and dismantle over 800 criminal organizations since 2018.^{xcii}

The Safe Schools Act - In May 2010 the Safe Schools Act was signed. This act is intended to improve communication between schools and law enforcement to better address the problem of gang-related activity in schools. It seeks to clarify "the authority of the juvenile court to notify specified school officials that a child has been found to be delinquent, in need of assistance, or in need of supervision and committed to a specified agency under specified circumstances; authorizing a court to notify specified school officials if a child found to be delinquent, in need of assistance, or in need of supervision is no longer committed to the custody of specified agencies; adding specified offenses to a specified list of offenses; etc."^{xciii}

SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTIONS OF MARYLAND GANG MEMBERS

Law enforcement and prosecutors are working diligently to prepare successful federal investigations, indictments, and prosecutions against Maryland gang members. This is particularly evident in cases against MS-13. As of October 2020, federal prosecutors charged 127 suspected members of MS-13, and six faced sentences of life in prison. Justice Department statistics indicate that federal prosecutors have brought cases against 749 defendants in MS-13-related cases since 2016.^{xciii}



Below are additional gang-related success stories in prosecution:

March 2019 - Two members of the Old York Money Gang were sentenced to life and 30 years in federal prison for charges of racketeering, murder, conspiracy to distribute drugs, conspiracy to use and carry a firearm; and eight counts of distribution and possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine, powder cocaine, and/or heroin. ^{xciv}

May 2019 – Four members of the Murdaland Mafia Piru Bloods pled guilty to Federal Racketeering charges including murder, extortion, money laundering, drug distribution, witness retaliation, and robbery. The Murdaland Mafia Piru is a subset of the Bloods gang that controlled the drug trade in large parts of northwest Baltimore and Baltimore County. ^{xcv}

June 2019 - A 26-year-old Baltimore man was sentenced to life in prison for several murders, stabbings and shootings he committed as a member of BGF. He was convicted of racketeering conspiracy, conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute controlled substances, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. ^{xcvi}

Sept 2019 – A member of MS-13 was sentenced to 51 months and three years of supervised release for extorting from area businesses. The convicted individual was a member of the Langley Park clique and extorted weekly payments from drug dealers, brothers, unlicensed stores, and legitimate food and beverage sellers. ^{xcvii}

October 2020 - A federal grand jury indicted 10 alleged members of the Eight Trey Gangsta (ETG) Crips gang in Baltimore with racketeering and drug conspiracies, murder and assault with a dangerous weapon in aid of racketeering, robbery, and related firearms charges. ^{xcviii}

June 2021 - Kevin Alexis Rodriguez-Flores of Annandale, Virginia was sentenced to 30 years in federal prison for conspiracy to participate in a racketeering enterprise and conspiracy to destroy and conceal evidence related to the murder of a MS-13 gang member. Rodriguez-Flores pled guilty to participating in the murder of a 16-year-old boy who was stabbed and cut more than 100 times before his body was set on fire. ^{xcix}

CONCLUSION

There is an assemblage of street gangs, prison gangs (STGs), and Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMGs) throughout the state of Maryland. These gangs strive to evade law enforcement by habitually changing monikers, methods of communication and rules of operation. The most pervasive Maryland street gang is the Bloods, yet MS-13 is, by far, the most violent.

Pockets of gang activity have wreaked havoc in certain areas of the state. However, through gang-dismantling initiatives, gang-targeting legislation, and state of the art information-sharing software, law enforcement and prosecutors have apprehended and sentenced a wide scope of violent gang members. It is through continued diligence and subsequent funding from federal and state agencies that the disruption of gang networks continues.

Specialized Gang Analysis Branches must remain steadfast in targeting and apprehending gang members. In some areas of the United States, police departments lie victim to budgetary constraints and police de-funding. This is a potential vulnerability; without a concerted, specialized



focus on gang dismantlement, drugs and violent crime will surge statewide. Gang-prevention strategies in Maryland communities must also continue to offset the tenacious recruitment of new members at young ages.

Looking ahead, it is important to remember that gangs quickly change methods to prevent detection. Ghost guns, for example, are privately-made firearms that contain no serial numbers. Ghost guns are popular with area gangs because kits are easy to purchase and require no background check. Ghost guns are legally obtained and untraceable and will continue plaguing Maryland streets until they are outlawed.

Drug, sex and weapons trafficking are widespread and will continue if money is being made. Hybrid gangs will continue to expand and are difficult to track because of their composition. Years ago, gangs would solely compete; now they can co-exist and collaborate if it means that the financial gain is higher.

The use of social media in the gang world will grow. New phone applications such as Threema, allowing for full anonymity in communication, will be more heavily utilized.

Because trends are changing, law enforcement must remain diligent in finding ways to build cases with these considerations in mind.

APPENDIX - RESOURCES

STATEWIDE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services provides resources to improve public safety in Maryland. They have access to federal and state grant funds and can aid many Maryland entities.

<http://www.goccp.maryland.gov>

Maryland Inmate Community Services Locator (MD-ICSL)

The MD-ICSL, operated by the Maryland Department of Corrections, is a website with an online directory for inmate resources including mental health and substance abuse services.

<http://www.mdcsldpscs.org>

Maryland Attorney General's Office

www.oag.state.md.us

Maryland Department of Juvenile Services

<https://djs.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx>



Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

www.dpscs.state.md.us

Maryland Suicide Prevention Program

<https://health.maryland.gov/bha/suicideprevention/>

Call 211, press "1"

National Gang Center

<https://nationalgangcenter.ojp.gov>

STATEWIDE FUSION AND REGIONAL INFORMATION CENTERS

The Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC) was established as a model facility for the analysis and dissemination of information in statewide support of law enforcement, public health and welfare, public safety and homeland security. The Citizens of Maryland can also use it as a centralized location to forward any "Tips" on suspected gang and criminal activity.

Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC)

Baltimore, Maryland

www.mcac.maryland.gov

1-800-492-TIPS (8477)

Regional Information Centers

Located throughout the state, these centers act independently, but also in cooperation with the MCAC. The centers allow citizens to call or electronically leave "tips" on suspected gang and criminal activity. Information will be processed and subsequently referred to the respective law enforcement agency that would have jurisdiction.

Southern Maryland Information Center (SMIC)

Waldorf, Maryland

www.smictf.com

smic@ccso.us

1-301-609-5939

Eastern Shore Information Center (ESIC)

Salisbury, Maryland

esic.mcac@maryland.gov

Western Maryland Information Center (WMIC)

Frederick, Maryland

wmic.mcac@maryland.gov

1-866-969-9642

For more information on gang news in Maryland, visit the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC) website at:

<http://www.mcac.maryland.gov/newsroom/Gang%20News>



References

- ⁱ Hunt, Geoffrey P. and Karen Joe Laidler, Alcohol and Violence in the Lives of Gang Members, *National Institute of Health*, <https://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/arh25-1/66-71.html/> accessed 23 Nov 2020.
- ⁱⁱ “15 Alleged Gang Members Indicted for Drug Distribution, Leaders Also Charged with Sex Trafficking”, *CBS Baltimore.com*, <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/crime/15-alleged-gang-members-indicted-for-drug-distribution-leaders-also-charged-with-sex-trafficking/ar-BB196GRP>, 16 September 2020.
- ⁱⁱⁱ 2020 US Census Data. www.census.gov accessed 7 December 2021.
- ^{iv} 2020 US Census Data. www.census.gov accessed 7 December 2021.
- ^v Hur, Robert K, Federal Crackdown on MS-13 Gang Activity in Maryland, *WBALTV*, <https://www.wbalTV.com/article/federal-crackdown-on-ms-13-gang-activity-in-maryland-robert-k-hur/31047505>, 21 Feb 2020.
- ^{vi} US Code 18 USC § 521 (2021).
- ^{vii} MD Crim Law Code §9-801 (2021).
- ^{viii} Serrano, Anibal, Eighteenth Street: The History of Barrio 18, *Small Wars Journal*, <https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/eighteenth-street-origins-barrio-18>, 30 Aug 2020.
- ^{ix} Baltimore Gangs, *fortunatfemme.com*, <https://fortunatfemme.com/tag/bloods/> accessed 23 Nov 2020.
- ^x Davis, Phil, Four Plead Guilty to Gruesome MS-13 Gang Murders in Anne Arundel County, *Capital Gazette*, <https://www.capitalgazette.com/news/crime/ac-cn-ms-13-murder-pleas-20191007-slewnx5efvf5jfcvsz57m4aiee-story.html>, 7 Oct 2019.
- ^{xi} Davis, Phil, Retired 72-year-old Maryland Aviation Worker Started 2nd Career, Selling Heroin for Black Guerrilla Family Gang, *Washington Post*, https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/retired-72-year-old-maryland-aviation-worker-started-2nd-career-selling-heroin-for-black-guerrilla-family-gang/2019/07/10/34916084-a290-11e9-bd56-eac6bb02d01d_story.html, 10 July 2019.
- ^{xii} 3 Teens, 2 Adults Charged in Death of 15-Year-Old VA Girl, *WUSA.com*, <https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/local/3-teens-2-adults-charged-in-death-of-15-year-old-va-girl/65-408956984>, 16 February 2017.
- ^{xiii} Ramirez, Stephanie, Gang Recruiting Seen As Early as Elementary School, *WUSA9.com*, <https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/local/gang-recruiting-seen-as-early-as-elementary-school/65-409171264>, 16 February 2017.
- ^{xiv} “Blood In, Blood Out” – It’s Not Easy Leaving A Cape Gang – 2oceansvibe News | South African and international news, Accessed 09 December 2021.
- ^{xv} Legal Definitions, Hybrid Gang Law and Legal Definition, USLegal <https://definitions.uslegal.com/h/hybrid-gang/>, accessed 21 April 2020.
- ^{xvi} Alexrod, Josh, Authorities Arrest 29 Alleged Gang Members in Sweeping Takedown, *NJ.com*, <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/crime/authorities-arrest-29-alleged-gang-members-in-sweeping-takedown/ar-BB1ayNPQ>, 30 October 2020.
- ^{xvii} <https://www.aacounty.org/departments/detention-facilities/specialized-units/security-threat-group/>, Accessed 9 December 2021.
- ^{xviii} The Economist Explains Why Prisoners Join Gangs, *The Economist*, <https://www.economist.com/the-economist-explains/2014/11/12/why-prisoners-join-gangs>, 12 November 2014.
- ^{xix} Prison Gangs, US Department of Justice Organized Crime and Gang Section, <https://www.justice.gov/criminal-ocgs/gallery/prison-gangs>, 11 May 2015.
- ^{xx} Feranti, Seth, Inside the History of the Black Guerrilla Family, *gorillaconvict.com*, <https://www.gorillaconvict.com/2015/05/inside-the-history-of-the-black-guerrilla-family/>, 15 May 2015.



- xxi Leader in the Black Guerilla Family Gang Sentenced to 35 Years in Federal Prison for Racketeering Conspiracy Including Authorizing Murder, U.S Attorney's Office, District of Maryland Press Release, <https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/leader-black-guerilla-family-gang-sentenced-35-years-federal-prison-racketeering>, 12 March 2019.
- xxii Ibid.
- xxiii Fenton, Justin, Leader of Dead Man Inc. Renounces Group at Sentencing, *Baltimore Sun*, <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/crime/bs-md-roark-dmi-sentencing-20130107-story.html>, 7 January 2013.
- xxiv Velazquez, Rose, Delmarva Now, <https://www.delmarva.com/story/news/local/maryland/2019/01/02/maryland-prison-gangs-who-they-and-where-did-they-come/2374547002/>, Accessed 27 Nov 2021
- xxv Keller, Mary Grace, Maryland State Police Arrest Alleged 'Known Gang Member', Transport Him to Carroll County, *Baltimore Sun*, <https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/carroll/news/crime/cc-maryland-state-police-thurmont-arrest-20200401-o7bmtxyxufcqzhic2uhnkqgeigg-story.html>, 1 April 2020.
- xxvi <https://www.adl.org/hate-symbols>, Retrieved 09 December 2021.
- xxvii <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/group/aryan-brotherhood>.
- xxviii Mann, Alex, Anne Arundel Jury to Decide if Inmates Charged in Death of Rival Gang Leader Had a Choice, *Capital Gazette*, <https://www.capitalgazette.com/news/crime/ac-cn-prison-murder-20200116-skqyyddg6ndqjamsvzwbap7jq-story.html>, 15 January 2020.
- xxix Smith, Jordan, The 'One Percenters' A short history of motorcycle clubs and the Banditos, *The Austin Chronicle* <https://www.austinchronicle.com/news/2006-05-19/366345/> 19 May 2006.
- xxx Thomas-Lester, Avis, Outlaw Biker Gangs Larger, More Violent, *Washington Post*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pagan%27s_Motorcycle_Club, Retrieved 14 August 2016.
- xxxi Lauchs M, Bain A, Bell P, *Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs*, Palgrave Macmillan UK, London, 2015.
- xxxii The Levels of Club Affiliation, Wolf Pack Motorcycle Club, <http://www.wolfpackmc.org/aboutlevels.php>, retrieved 23 November 2020.
- xxxiii The Most Dangerous Biker Gangs in America, *Complex.com*, <https://www.complex.com/sports/2020/04/10-most-dangerous-motorcycle-gangs-in-america/>, retrieved 23 November 2020.
- xxxiv https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pagan%27s_Motorcycle_Club, Accessed 20 December 2021.
- xxxv Pagans Motorcycle Club; <https://onepercenterbikers.com/pagans-mc/>; Accessed: 20 December 2021.
- xxxvi Hill, Michael, State agency: Training Needed to Counter Threat of Pagan's Outlaw Motorcycle Gang, *NJSpotlight.com*, <https://www.njspotlight.com/video/state-recommends-what-to-do-about-pagans-outlaw-motorcycle-gang/>, 15 September 2020.
- xxxvii Brown, Lee, Unprecedented Growth of Pagan's Biker Gang Behind Explosion of Violence in NJ, *NY Post*, <https://nypost.com/2020/09/09/growth-of-pagans-biker-gang-behind-explosion-of-violence-in-nj/>, 9 September 2020.
- xxxviii Ibid.
- xxxix Mongilio, Heather, Frederick Man Charged with Assault Following Alleged Parking Lot Fight, *Frederick Newspost*, https://www.fredericknewspost.com/news/crime_and_justice/cops_and_crime/frederick-man-charged-with-assault-following-alleged-parking-lot-fight/article_f4fbc495-5b01-5345-8e87-ec552a932cfb.html 23 September 2019.



- ^{xi} Shanahan, Ed and Rashbaum, William, Hells Angels Accused in Brazen Killing of Rival Biker Gang Leader, *New York Times*, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/22/nyregion/hells-angels-bronx-pagans-murder.html>, 22 July 2020.
- ^{xii} Belson, Dan, Dundalk Men Arrested in Alleged Motorcycle Gang Fight, *Dundalk Eagle*, <https://Dundalkmenarrestedinallegedmotorcyclegangfight|LocalNews|dundalkeagle.com>, 1 September 2021.
- ^{xiii} [National Leader of Pagan's Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Sentenced](#), *DEA Press Release*, 14 October 2021.
- ^{xiii} Wheels Of Soul MC (Motorcycle Club) - One Percenter Bikers; <https://onepercenterbikers.com/wheels-of-soul-mc-motorcycle-club/>; Accessed: 15 December 2021
- ^{xiv} Ibid.
- ^{xiv} NJ: Second Victim of Shooting at Wheels of Soul Clubhouse in Camden Died in Hospital, *Biker's News*, <https://biker-news.com/2020/09/21/n-j-second-victim-of-shooting-at-wheels-of-soul-clubhouse-in-camden-died-in-hospital.html>, 21 September 2020.
- ^{xvi} Ibid.
- ^{xvii} <https://onepercenterbikers.com/thunderguards-mc-motorcycle-club/>
- ^{xviii} Thunderguard Motorcycle Club, an Outlaw Motorcycle Gang, Arrested for Illegal Guns, Selling Cocaine from His Home, *Inside Throttle Biker News*, <https://harleyliberty.com/2020/08/19/thunderguard-motorcycle-club-an-outlaw-motorcycle-gangarrested-for-illegal-guns-selling-cocaine-from-his-home/>, 19 August 2020.
- ^{xix} Ten Alleged Members of Crips Gang in Baltimore Face Federal Indictment for Racketeering and Drug Conspiracies, Murder, Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, Robbery, and Related Firearms Charges, U.S Attorney's Office District of Maryland Press Release, <https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/ten-alleged-members-crips-gang-baltimore-face-federal-indictment-racketeering-and-drug>, 7 October 2020.
- ⁱ 4 Members of Bloods Gang Convicted on Federal Racketeering, Drug Crimes", *CBS Baltimore*, <https://baltimore.cbslocal.com/video/4077189-4-members-of-bloods-gang-convicted-on-federal-racketeering-related-crimes/>, 2 May 2019.
- ⁱⁱ Mann, Alex, Former Anne Arundel Sheriff's Employee Pleads Guilty to Sharing Info with Gang, *Capital Gazette*, <https://www.capitalgazette.com/news/crime/ac-cn-former-sheriffs-employee-sentenced-20190410-story.html>, 10 April 2019.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Prudente, Tim, [Maryland Prison Smuggling Ring: Drugs, Phones and Porn were Traded for PayPal Payments and Sex, Feds Allege](#), *Baltimore Sun*, 16 April 2019.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Ex-Marylander Gets Prison for Running Crips Conspiracy, *Associated Press*, <https://apnews.com/article/6b888076813145919f5337896feb843a>, 20 September 2019.
- ^{iv} Nine Defendants Face Criminal Charges for Alleged Racketeering Conspiracy to Smuggle Contraband into Maryland's Chesapeake Detention Facility in Exchange for Bribes, U.S Attorney's Office District of Maryland Press Release, <https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/nine-defendants-face-federal-charges-alleged-racketeering-conspiracy-smuggle-contraband>, 21 October 2020.
- ^{iv} Lewis, Kevin, Police: MS-13 Associate Pays Gang \$100 to Have Sex with Trafficked 14-Year Old Girl, *wjla.com*, <https://wjla.com/news/local/ms-13-associate-accused-of-paying-gang-leaders-100-to-have-sex-with-girl>, 11 January 2019.
- ^{vi} Jackson, Jay, MS-13 Gang Members Arranged Gang-Bangs for Thirteen Year Old Girl, *BigNewsNetwork*, <https://www.bignewsnetwork.com/news/266032050/ms-13-gang-members-arranged-gang-bangs-for-thirteen-year-old-girl>, 9 August 2020.



- ^{lvii} Montcalmo, Chris, Gang Leader, Associate Plead Guilty to Drug Distribution, Sex Trafficking Throughout Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, *NottinghamMd.com*, [Gang leader, associate plead guilty to drug distribution, sex trafficking throughout Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County \(nottinghammd.com\)](https://www.nottinghammd.com/news/2021/10/05/gang-leader-associate-plead-guilty-to-drug-distribution-sex-trafficking-throughout-anne-arundel-county-baltimore-county-nottinghammd-com/), 5 October 2021.
- ^{lviii} Nestel, N. L., [https:// Border Control Warns Violent MS-13 Gang Members are “Exploiting the Influx of Migrants” to Evade Arrest at US Border](https://www.us-sun.com/2021/05/01/border-control-warns-violent-ms-13-gang-members-are-exploiting-the-influx-of-migrants-to-evade-arrest-at-us-border/), *The US Sun*, 1 May 2021.
- ^{lix} Deville, Taylor, Five with Possible Links to MS-13 Gang Accused in Killing of Girl Near Loch Haven Reservoir, *Baltimore Sun*, <https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/baltimore-county/towson/cng-co-to-loch-raven-reservoir-ms13-20200831-u7n7b3nuqjdkxkyst3dnfvfhy-story.html>, 31 August 2020.
- ^{lx} Collins, David, Victim Targeted After Making Gang-Related Hand Gesture, *WBAL tv*, <https://www.wbal.com/article/victim-targeted-after-making-gang-related-hand-gesture-officials-say/28915384>, 11 September 2019.
- ^{lxi} Gessler, Paul, 14 Suspected Gang Members Arrested After Months-Long Drug Investigation in NE Baltimore, *13 WJZ CBS Baltimore*. <https://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2019/06/28/14-suspected-gang-members-arrested-after-months-long-drug-investigation-in-ne-baltimore/>, accessed 22 April 2020.
- ^{lxii} Four Cherry Hill Hillside Gang Members Sentenced To At Least 20 Years In Federal Prison—And A Fifth Sentenced To 14 Years In Federal Prison—For Racketeering Conspiracy Charges, U.S. Attorney’s Office District of Maryland Press Release, <https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/four-cherry-hill-hillside-gang-members-sentenced-least-20-years-federal-prison-and-fifth>, 12 July 2019.
- ^{lxiii} Mann, Alex, At Least 15 Indicted for Brooklyn Park Drug, Sex Trafficking, Gang Ring, *Capital Gazette*, <https://www.capitalgazette.com/news/crime/ac-cn-15-indicted-brooklyn-park-gang-20200824-5a7xcikinhzvo5p343qdpif7e-story.html>, 24 August 2020.
- ^{lxiv} Kushner, Kelsey, Gary Creek, Alleged Founder of ‘Triple-C’ Gang Dead in Georgia after 3-Hour Standoff. *CBS Local* [Gary Creek, Alleged Founder Of The ‘Triple-C’ Gang, Dead In Georgia After 3-Hour Barricade – CBS Baltimore \(cbslocal.com\)](https://www.cbslocal.com/news/gary-creek-alleged-founder-of-the-triple-c-gang-dead-in-georgia-after-3-hour-barricade/), 8 June 2021.
- ^{lxv} Velazquez, Rose, Multi-state operation targeting Wicomico warrants nets 41 arrests. *Delmarva now* <https://www.delmarvanow.com/story/news/local/maryland/2019/03/07/multi-state-operation-targeting-wicomico-warrants-nets-41-arrests-salisbury-seaford-bloods-crips/3092480002/>, 7 March 2019.
- ^{lxvi} Ash, Sarah, Second phase of MSP Fugitive Warrant Effort results in over 100 arrests in Wicomico and Dorchester Counties. *WMDT ABC 47* <https://www.wmdt.com/2019/04/second-phase-of-msp-fugitive-warrant-effort-results-in-over-100-arrests-in-wicomico-and-dorchester-counties/>, 12 February 2018.
- ^{lxvii} Cicoira, Linda, Bloods Gang Still Wrecking Havoc on Shore, *ShoreDailyNews*, <https://shoredailynews.com/headlines/bloods-gang-still-wreaking-havoc/>, 25 August 2020.
- ^{lxviii} Kubota, Samantha, Police: MS-13 Stabbed Teen Fairfax Gang Member 100+ Times and Set His Body on Fire, *wusa9.com*, <https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/crime/police-ms-13-stabbed-teen-fairfax-gang-member-100-times-and-set-his-body-on-fire/65-9764333d-bc8d-4645-bb36-50509d83651d>, 15 March 2019.
- ^{lxix} Bhi, Lynh, 14-year-old girl found dead in creek had been beaten and stabbed in MS-13 killing, police say. *The Washington Post*. https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/14-year-old-girl-found-dead-in-creek-had-been-beaten-and-stabbed-in-ms-13-killing-police-say/2019/05/16/d9cd4f52-7808-11e9-bd25-c989555e7766_story.html, 16 May 2019.
- ^{lxx} Iannelli, Nick, 4 Gang Members Arrested in Teen’s Death in Montgomery County, *wtop.com*, <https://wtop.com/montgomery-county/2019/12/montgomery-co-police-arrest-4-gang-members-in-teens-death/>, 19 December 2019.



- lxxi Oxon Hill El Salvadoran MS-13 Gang Member Arrested for Gun Trafficking, *shorennewsnetwork.com*, <https://www.shorennewsnetwork.com/2020/10/11/oxon-hill-el-salvadorian-ms-13-gang-member-arrested-for-gun-trafficking/>, 11 October 2020.
- lxxii Broom, Scott, MS-13 Suspected in Body Found With Severed Hand Believed to be Frederick Teen, *wusa9.com*, <https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/ms-13-suspected-in-body-found-with-severed-hand-believed-to-be-frederick-teen/65-ff881533-66c7-4f28-b5f7-ce7ce5eeb212>, 3 May 2019.
- lxxiii Aines, Don. Prisoner gets seven years in gang-related beating of fellow prisoner at Roxbury Correctional Institution. *heraldmailmedia.com* https://www.heraldmailmedia.com/news/local/prisoner-gets-seven-years-in-gang-related-beating-of-fellow/article_69649e63-9fc4-5fd0-ad3c-79267dcbabf4.html, 5 September 2019.
- lxxiv Arias, Jeremy. Police: Frederick man shot and killed a man who was set to testify against him. *The Frederick News Post*. https://www.fredericknews.com/news/crime_and_justice/police-frederick-man-shot-and-killed-man-who-was-set-to-testify-against-him/article_fe8b7f56-ec31-59c1-883a-fe6857ccf83f.html, 6 February 2020.
- lxxv Police Dismantle Drug Network, *Cumberland Times-News*, https://www.times-news.com/news/local_news/police-dismantle-drug-network/article_c600a0e4-c34b-596b-a746-090892245bfd.html, 10 July 2020.
- lxxvi Aines, Don, 'Almighty Glo Boys' Held in Church Street Shooting, *Heraldmailmedia*, https://www.heraldmailmedia.com/news/local/almighty-glo-boys-held-in-church-street-shooting/article_dce5f1fa-a6f5-5124-b597-0378b067f2ba.html, 22 May 2020.
- lxxvii MD Crim Law Code §9-801 (2017). Print.
- lxxviii Melsner, Lowell, Baltimore Police Announce Bust of Black Magic Drug Gang, *wbaltv.com*, <https://www.wbaltv.com/article/baltimore-police-announce-bust-of-black-magic-drug-gang/25923233>, 16 January 2019.
- lxxix Babo, Zachary, Operation: On the Lamb Nets 107 Arrests, *wmar2news.com*, <https://www.wmar2news.com/news/crime-checker/eastern-shore-crime/operation-on-the-lamb-nets-107-arrests>, 18 April 2019.
- lxxx Maryland State Police, Allied Agencies Target Criminal Activity, Drug Use in Eastern Shore Counties, *Maryland State Police News Release*, <https://news.maryland.gov/msp/2019/12/09/maryland-state-police-allied-agencies-target-criminal-activity-drug-use-in-eastern-shore-counties/>, 9 December 2019.
- lxxxi Multi-Jurisdictional Investigation Dismantles Western MD Drug Trafficking Organization, *Maryland State Police News Release*, <https://news.maryland.gov/msp/2020/07/09/multi-jurisdictional-investigation-dismantles-western-md-drug-trafficking-organization>, 9 July 2020.
- lxxxii US Marshalls News Release dated. 22 Sept 2020. <https://www.usmarshals.gov/news/index.html>
- lxxxiii Hellgren, Mike, 7 Suspected Drug Dealers Indicted, Large Amount of Fentanyl Seized in Baltimore, *cbslocal.com*, <https://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2020/09/29/7-suspected-drug-dealers-indicted-large-amount-of-fentanyl-seized-in-baltimore/>, 29 September 2020.
- lxxxiv Maryland Office of the Attorney General Press Release; <https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2020/100120.pdf>; dated 1 October 2020.
- lxxxv Janney, Elizabeth, 93 Arrested in 'Operation Washout in Baltimore: US Marshalls, *The Baltimore Patch*, <https://93-Arrested-In-'Operation-Washout'-In-Baltimore-US-Marshals-Baltimore-MD-Patch>, 17 August 2021.
- lxxxvi US Department of Justice Archives.
- lxxxvii MD Crim Law Code §9-804 (2017). Print.



lxxxviii US Treasury; "Treasury Sanctions Significant Members Of MS-13"; News Release dated. 5 June 2013, <https://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl1971.aspx>; Accessed: 15 December 2021.

US Treasury; "Treasury Sanctions Latin American Criminal Organization" News Release dated. 11 October 2012, <https://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/tg1733.aspx>; Accessed: 15 December 2021.

lxxxix US Treasury; "Treasury Sanctions Latin American Criminal Organization" News Release dated. 11 October 2012, <https://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/tg1733.aspx>; Accessed: 15 December 2021.

xc Weiner, Rachel, For the First Time Trump Administration Uses Terrorism Charges Against MS-13, *The Washington Post*, https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/for-the-first-time-trump-administration-uses-terrorism-charges-against-ms-13/2020/07/15/7079dd70-c6d3-11ea-a99f-3bbdfb1af38_story.html, 15 July 2020.

xc Governor Larry Hogan Announces Expansion of Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network, *Southern Maryland Chronicle*, <https://southernmarylandchronicle.com/2020/07/28/governor-larry-hogan-announces-expansion-of-maryland-criminal-intelligence-network/>, 28 July 2020.

xcii House Bill 1160, Chapter 188, <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2010rs/bills/hb/hb1160e.pdf>, accessed 09 June 2011.

xciii Balsamo, Michael, Justice Department: 127 Suspected MS-13 Members Charged This Year, *Associated Press*, <https://apnews.com/article/law-enforcement-agencies-immigration-latin-america-crime-united-states-bc88465560e1c70170b00cb5ac7ab36b>, 21 October 2020.

xciv Leader of Old York Money Gang Sentenced to Life in Federal Prison and Gang Member Sentenced to 30 Years in Federal Prison for Charges Related to Their Gang Activities, Including Racketeering Murder, Drug Conspiracy, Drug Dealing, and Gun Crimes, U.S Attorney's Office District of Maryland Press Release, <https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/leader-old-york-money-gang-sentenced-life-federal-prison-and-gang-member-sentenced-30>, 29 March 2019.

xcv 4 Members of Blood Gang Convicted on Federal Racketeering, Related Crimes, *Baltimore CBS Local*, <https://baltimore.cbslocal.com/video/4077189-4-members-of-bloods-gang-convicted-on-federal-racketeering-related-crimes/>, 1 May 2019.

xcvi Black Guerilla Family Gang Member Sentenced to Life in Prison for Federal Racketeering and Drug Conspiracy Charges, U.S Attorney's Office District of Maryland Press Release, <https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/black-guerilla-family-gang-member-sentenced-life-prison-federal-racketeering-and-drug>, 21 June 2019.

xcvii Massimo, Rick, MS-13 Member Sentenced for Extorting Businesses in Langley Park Area, *WTOP*, <https://wtop.com/prince-georges-county/2019/09/ms-13-member-sentenced-for-extorting-businesses-in-langley-park-area/> 9 September 2019.

xcviii 10 Alleged Members of the Eight Tray Gangsta Crips Indicted in Baltimore, Feds Say, *cbslocal.com*, <https://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2020/10/07/eight-tray-gangsta-crips-baltimore-gang-members-indicted-by-feds/>, 7 October 2020.

xcix Man Sentenced to 30 Years in Federal Prison for Conspiracy to Destroy and Conceal Murder Evidence, *newsbreak.com*, <https://Maryland Feds: Man Sentenced to 30 Years in Federal Prison for Conspiracy to Destroy and Conceal Murder Evidence - Newsbreak>, 30 July 2021.

