

**GANG PREVENTION STRATEGIES OF  
THE DAVAO CITY POLICE OFFICE**



**A Thesis Presented to the Faculty of the  
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**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of  
Science in Criminology**

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Most specially, to our Almighty God for the wisdom and strength.

J.S.B

A.J.M.S

C.D.E

## **ABSTRACT**

This study would like to assessed the gang prevention strategies of the Davao City Police Office which it was conducted to 11 police stations in the city. Validated self-made questionnaire was utilized. The answering of the survey questionnaire fell within month of January 2018. The study found out that the gang prevention strategies of the Davao City Police Office was always applied. There was no significant difference on the gang prevention strategies of the Davao City Police Office when they are grouped by stations.

*Keywords: Gang Prevention Strategies, Davao City Police Office*

## DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to our beloved parents;  
for without them we will not be able  
to reach the status that we have.  
To them, we will be forever be  
grateful.

J.S.B

A.J.M.S

C.D.E

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## Chapter 1

### THE PROBLEM AND ITS SETTING

#### Background of the Study

The prevention efforts to the youth who are involved in gangs is integral in promoting optimal individual and community well being, specifically in those area that are susceptible to have gang activities. In recent years there has been an emphasis placed on evaluating gang prevention programs to discern effective approaches and provide a more comprehensive approach.(Dubois et al., 2011).

Sacramento Gang Prevention and Intervention Task Force is made to react to expanded gang activities in the city of Sacramento. Gang group are an issue in the community that requires a wide reaction. The City of Sacramento's Gang Prevention and Intervention Task Force is concentrating on a plan, to address gang viciousness. The arrangement joins most recent research and best practices with deliberate spotlight on giving more counteractive action and intercession administrations to high-hazard and gang included populaces (Wright, 2013).

In the Philippines, the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (PAOCC) has conducted symposia and conference among campuses and barangays with the support of the PNP, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, local government units and non-government organizations to discuss the problem of "youth gangsterism." They sought the assistance of city representatives, known gang leaders in their youth, to speak

among the youth and their parents about the problem and its possible eradication (Felipe 2009).

Davao City Police Office (DCPO) has levelled their efforts in countering street gangs that are involved in crimes and riots, they call on parents of the minors to strictly monitor their children to escape involvement in any perverse activities. The implementation of curfew and apprehension on minors who are still on the street beyond 10 pm to prevent them to be involved in any inappropriate activities. (Sun Star News, 2016.)

Hence, the above cited premises prompted the researchers to urgently conduct this study to determine the gang prevention strategies of the Davao City Police Office.

### **Statement of the Problem**

This research study will determine the strategies of Davao City Police Office in preventing gang activities. Also this study is sought to answer the following question:

1. What are the gang prevention strategies of the Davao City Police Office in terms of:
  - a. Apprehension
  - b. Prevention
  - c. Community Collaboration
2. Is there any significant difference on the gang prevention strategies of the Davao City Police Office when grouped by stations.

## **Hyphothesis**

At 0.05 level of significance, the null hyphothesis was formulated and tested. It assumes that there is no significant difference on the gang prevention strategies of the Davao City Police Office when grouped by stations.

## **Review of Related Literature**

In this portion, the related literatures are presented whose sources came from newspapers, journals, internet and books.

A research study proposes three distinct strategies for beforehand intervention with predelinquents and delinquents. The first strategy was to intervene in the individual level with at-risk children, particularly disruptive children. The second strategy was family prevention, and the third strategy was school- and community-level prevention. If these intervention strategies will address risked and protective factors at or slightly before the developmental points at which they begin to forecast later gang involvement and other problem behaviors, they were more likely to be effective. Prevention agendas targeted youth at risk of gang involvement and help reduce the number of youth who join gangs. Intervention programs and strategies provide penalties and services for younger youth who were actively tangled in gangs to pushed them away from gangs. Law enforcement inhibition strategies and exquisiteservices target and reform the most tumultuous gangs and older, criminally active gang elements (Howel, 2010).

Administrators at Corrections Corporation of America had discovered success in easing gangs by identifying gang members upon initial entry to a facility, and assigning the proper housing unit and level of watch among gang members. This technique, in the context of CCA's zero-tolerance policy for gangs, has declined the inmates' ability to arrange factions inside the prisons. Corrections Corporation Of America uses its Inmate Management System, a database of known gang membership and affiliations, photos of gang-culture tattoos and other identifying markings, to track confirmed inmate gang members and to monitor all suspicions of inmate gang membership and activities. In an exertion to suppress facility gang activity, correctional administrators and staff members catechized system from other correctional systems as well as companywide best practices. Administrators from different places worked to demonstrate an aggressive strategy to address gangs and developed what is now CCA's gang management program (Smith, 2008).

According to Flores (2009), how a community begins to address gang issues depend on the event or events that draw people attention aftermath. A high-profile, often tragic event occurs that galvanizes the community and stimulates mobilization to address gangs in some cases. A groundswell of public transport to deal with gangs builds more gradually and lacks only an individual or agency to serve as a catalyst in other cases. At some point, key organizations and community leaders begin to openly discuss and address gang issues. At that point, a standing task force, committee, or organizational structure should be convened and begin to work on next method. Ideally, this

group oversees an assessment of the local gang problem and using data obtained through the assessment, develops strategies to combat it.

All over the United States, thousands of youth gangs frighten neighbourhoods, trafficking of illegal drugs and weapons, and commit violent crimes. The lawmakers aims to develop laws and ordinances that, when implemented effectively, equip police and prosecutors with an effective means against gang-related crimes. Also Careful drafting of state laws on street gang activities requires knowledge of gangs' nature, limit, and relationship to crime. Laws drafted have identified buildings in which gang activities occurs as a nuisance that should be abated, increased penalties for drive-by shootings, made repeat vandalism a felony, prohibited the sale of graffiti implements (such as paint) to minors, and provided for special penalties for coercive behavior by gang members. The laws typically increase penalties for violations (e.g., upgrade violations to felonies) or impose mandatory minimum sentences for some offenses (Davids, 2017).

The Gang Suppression Team (GST), previously referred to as the Violent Crime Suppression Team, that has a part to the overall strategy of the Calgary Police Service to combat violence in the community. This is a full time team of uniform officers that work towards reducing violent crime, which included drug and gang related violence, as it relates to licensed establishments throughout Calgary. The Team worked in partnership with establishment owners and management to promote a safe environment for patrons within licensed premises. There are no foreseen implications for a business owner seeing the GST in their premise. The Team patrols a variety

of bars, nightclubs, pubs and other licensed establishments located throughout the city. Being in a location that is checked by the GST doesn't make it a bad place; it just indicates the establishment is a licensed premise. The GST operates within the authority provided to them by the Criminal Code of Canada, Provincial, and Municipal legislation. The Team performs numerous policing roles within and around licensed premises and being asked to produce identification doesn't indicate the individual is a suspect in any crime (Tyler, 2017).

Engaging and developing the community are essential to the growth of any comprehensive community initiative. A community initiative by its very definition is driven, defined and shaped by the community. Without purposeful and sustained attention to the engagement and the development of community will. An initiative is not likely to move forward and is not likely to reach the desired outcomes. Without community engagement and community will there is no comprehensive community initiative. Community engagement is an ongoing process of moving out to larger and larger circles of people. A community problem-solving effort may begin with a few individuals or a few organizations, but it needs to continually seek out additional participants and involve multiple sectors to be seen and valued as a community-wide effort. From the onset, Community Solution to Gang Violence was driven by this same reasoning. It is the reason community engagement and development of community will is the centre point of the initiative and the primary marker of success. Each phase of the development of a comprehensive community initiative must in some way further engage the community and continually build community will (Erickson, 2013)

In order to prevent the harmful effects of youth gangs in communities and to prevent young people from becoming involved in gang activity, a four component are proposed: Healthy neighbourhood Cohesion, Prevention, Intervention and Suppression. Each of these components requires an integrated approach that united youth, families, schools, community, socials service agencies and police in multiple efforts to reduce gang activity. The different components also needed to be integrated together in order to create a web of community, family and services that nurture young people and prevent the attraction of gang life (Kelly, 2009).

Although there is no “one size fits all” approach which could solve the community’s gang problem, actions can be taken to reduce gang violence and prevent future gang activity. Identifying those who are the greatest risk for current or future gang activity is crucial to successfully preventing gang membership and crimes. Although many youths have risk factors for gang membership, not all will join gangs. There are many programs designed to intervene in the lives of young people and give them alternatives to a gang lifestyle. Suppression strategies, such as those practiced by the Dallas Anti-Gang initiative and Boston's Operation Ceasefire which demonstrated success in de-escalating gang violence. The most effective approach appeared to be combining prevention, intervention, and suppression strategies instead of just focusing on one tactic (Brown, 2011).

In addition according to Decker (2010) there are a number of basic strategies we can use for responding to gangs. Of course, suppression has to be a part of the strategy. You can’t do it without the cops, but if that’s all you have, then you’re not going to be successful. As the saying goes, “We can’t

arrest our way out of this problem.” There have to be other parts to the solution, such as providing opportunities, jobs, job training, school involvement, social interventions, access to counseling, crisis intervention, and organizational change and development.

Elements is an all-inclusive gang prevention, intervention, diversion, and suppression initiative of the New Hanover County sheriff's office gang task force in southeastern North Carolina. The mission of Elements is "to prevent children from joining gangs, to intervene with young people who have gang affiliation, divert youth and young adults from continued gang involvement and to suppress those who seek to prevent any of the above." Elements is a comprehensive 12-month program that focuses on individualized goals and the theory that gangs are a coping mechanism for many young people. A primary focus of Elements is to understand the underlying reason that youths seek out gang membership. The overall goal of Elements is to provide alternatives to gang involvement, treatment for any underlying emotional needs, advocacy, group interaction, exposure to positive community adults, and ultimately the desire to disassociate from gang participation. Elements provides individual, group, and family therapy directed toward underlying factors that lead to gang affiliation. Case management services provide one-on-one monitoring, implementation of behavior modification techniques, and advocates for youth and their family. (Hughes, 2012)

The literature and studies presented above provided present overviews on the gang prevention situations. Lastly the related literature also provided basis for the interpretation of results.



## **Theoretical and Conceptual Framework**

This study is anchored on the Comprehensive Gang Model (Spergel, 1987). The Comprehensive Gang Model holds that “neither social disorganization, underclass, nor poverty theory” alone explains the scope and nature of youth delinquency or criminal gang association and gang crime. Social disorganization or lack of integration of essential elements of a local community system provides the basic stimulus for the formation of youth gangs. Lack of legitimate opportunity and the presence of alternative criminal opportunities are more likely to explain the character and scope of gang behaviour.” The Spergel Model included a multidisciplinary Intervention Team, composed of law enforcement, probation, and outreach personnel who worked together to case manage gang intervention targets within the context of five interrelated strategies: social intervention, opportunities provision, community mobilization, suppression, and organizational change and development.

This is further supported by the Social Control Theory (Hirschi, 1969). Social control theory is used to help us understand and reduce levels of criminal activity. It's based upon the idea that an individual's basic belief system, values, morals, commitments and relationships foster a lawful environment. Individuals who have these beliefs and commitments often have a level of self-control over their actions or are, as Janet Jackson would say, 'in control' of their lives - they are accordingly prepped to stay on the right side of the law. Furthermore, social control theory examines how society influences criminal behavior.

Variable

**Gang Prevention Strategies of the Davao City Police Office**

- Apprehension
- Prevention
- Community Collaboration



Police Stations

Figure 1 shows the conceptual framework of the study. The variable is the gang prevention strategies consisting of gang suppression, patrol, monitoring, community approach and intervention.

### **Significance of the Study**

The findings of the study will be beneficial to the following:

**Davao City Police Office.** The result of this study will help the DCPO in enhancing their efforts in suppressing and prevention of gang elements in the community.

**Davao City Barangays Officials.** Considering that the barangay is the first responsible in maintaining peace and order, this study will help the barangay officials in drafting barangay ordinances and program regarding with gang prevention.

**Davao City Residents.** The result of this study is critical for all Davao City residents considering that they play a major role in helping the police in dealing with gang prevention. Likewise, this study will help the residents especially the parents on what and how they should act in order to prevent their children in joining gang groups so that they will be guided and be educated about the dark side of joining gang

**Future Researchers.** The findings of the study would serve as the basis of the future researches to conduct another study, particularly the gang prevention strategies of the Davao City Police Office.

### **Definition of Terms**

The terms used in the study are operationally defined

**Gang Prevention Strategies.** This refers to the process of determining on how the Davao City Police Office deals with the gang prevention and the possible strategies in preventing gangs.

**Davao City Police Office.** This refers to the agency that deals with gang prevention.

## **Chapter 2**

### **Method**

Presented in this chapter are the research design, research subjects, research instruments, data gathering procedure and statistical treatment of data.

#### **Research Design**

This research study used the descriptive survey method which determined the prevailing condition and relationships required to better assess the status. Furthermore, it gave adequate and more accurate understanding of the findings for the researcher would base his analysis and interpretation.

Descriptive survey was appropriate whenever the object of a class varied among themselves and one was interested in knowing the different conditions obtain among these subjects (Good and Scates, 1972). The word survey signified the gathering of data regarding present conditions. In this study, the descriptive survey was used in order to determine the gang prevention strategies of the Davao City Police Office.

#### **Research Subjects**

This study was conducted in 11 police stations in Davao City namely: Sta. Ana Police Station, San Pedro Police Station, Talomo Police Station, Sasa Police Station, Buhangin Police Station, Bunawan Police Station, Toril Police Station, Tugbok Police Station, Calinan Police Station, Baguio Police Station and Marilog Police Station. The selection of these police stations will

be based on the consideration that the area of responsibility of these police stations was known for the many gang elements.

The station commanders of the identified police stations were chosen as the respondents of the study using the universal sampling technique. The station commanders would be chosen as the responders because they have the direct knowledge and observation concerning the gang prevention strategies of Davao City Police Office.

### **Research Instruments**

The researchers constructed a questionnaire to determine the gang prevention strategies of Davao City Police Office. The questionnaire determined on how the Davao City Police Office prevents gang in terms of apprehension, prevention and community collaboration.

The preliminary draft was submitted to the adviser for corrections and then a panel of experts were consulted to ensure its reliability and validity. The questionnaires were validated by Dr. Nestor Nabe, Prof Agnes Capili and Prof. Eduardo Berco.

Scaling the variable for the gang prevention strategies of Davao City Police Office is as follows:

<b>Range of Means</b>	<b>Verbal Meaning</b>	<b>descriptive Interpretation</b>
4.20-5.00	Always	That the strategy is always applied
3.40-4.19	Often	That the strategy is often applied
2.60-3.39 applied	Sometimes	That the strategy is sometimes
1.80-2.59	Seldom	That the strategy is seldom applied
1.00-1.79	Never	That the strategy is never applied

### **Data Gathering Procedures**

The following steps were observed in conducting this research study:

1. The researchers will ask approval to the Station Commander to conduct study
2. Upon securing the approval, the researchers will proceed in administering the prepared questionnaires to the respondents.
3. The answered questionnaires will be retrieved and subjected for analysis and interpretation.

### **Statistical Treatment of Data**

The following statistical tools were used in the treatment of the data.

**Mean.** This was used to determine the gang prevention strategies of the Davao City Police Office

**Analysis of Variance (ANOVA).** This was used to determine if there is a significant difference on the gang prevention strategies of the Davao City Police Office when they are grouped by stations.

## Chapter 3

### ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

Presented in this chapter are the presentation of analysis and interpretation of findings. Discussion of the topic is arranged according to the following subheadings: Level of strategies of Davao City Police Office in preventing gangs, Summary of ANOVA results showing the differences in the strategies of Davao City Police Office in preventing gangs when analyzed by stations.

#### **Gang Prevention Strategies of the Davao City Police Office base on their Apprehension, Prevention, and Community Collaboration**

Presented in Table 1 is the gang prevention strategies of the Davao City Police Office with an overall mean score of 4.64(SD= 0.383) as always. This means that the Gang Prevention Preventions of the Davao City are always applied.

In terms of prevention it attained a mean score of 4.67 described as always. This means that the gang prevention strategies of the Davao City Police Office when it comes to prevention are always applied. In terms of apprehension it attained a mean score of 4.62 described as always. This means that the gang prevention strategies of the Davao City Police Office when it comes to apprehension are always applied. In terms of community collaboration it attained a mean score of 4.62. This means that the gang prevention strategies of the Davao City Police Office when it comes to community collaboration are always applied.



This is supported by Decker, S (2010) who said that the police are in a unique position to make an early identification of youth who are at risk of joining a gang. Because they are active in neighborhoods at times when (and in places where) other adults are not, the police can play a vital role in efforts to prevent gang-joining, including referrals to services. Police legitimacy can be increased through partnerships with community groups and agencies that are trying to reduce the attraction of gangs; when police play a more active, visible role in gang-prevention activities, it builds trust and improves community efficacy. Law enforcement leaders should place more emphasis on recognizing gang-prevention work of patrol officers and making that work more visible to the public.

**Table 1. *Level of strategies of Davao City Police Office in preventing gangs, n=11***

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Mean (<math>\bar{x}</math>)</b>	<b>Std. Deviation(SD)</b>
Apprehension	4.62	0.460
Prevention	4.67	0.338
Community Collaboration	4.62	0.352
<b>Overall</b>	<b>4.64</b>	<b>0.383</b>

**Summary of results showing the differences in the strategies of Davao City Police Office in preventing gangs when analyzed by stations.**

Table 2 show the Summary of results showing the differences in the strategies of Davao City Police Office in preventing gangs when analyzed by stations. As revealed in the table, the overall respondents on was found to have no differences among between group (0.060) and within groups (0.084), based on the computed f-value of 0.707, with the probability level of 0.521, which is greater than  $p < 0.05$ . Thus corroborates the null hypothesis stating of no significant difference in the strategies of Davao City Police Office in preventing gangs when analyzed by stations. This was supported by Bueermann, J (2012) who said that Law enforcement agencies implement a variety of strategies and methods to combat crime and ensure public safety. Policing strategies extend beyond traditional models of responding to calls for service and often seek to increase crime prevention, intervention, and response effectiveness through techniques such as community outreach, efficient resource distribution, crime mapping, crime data collection, or suspect location.

**Table 2. Summary of results showing the differences in the strategies of Davao City Police Office in preventing gangs when analyzed by stations.**

	<b>Sum of Squares</b>	<b>Df</b>	<b>Mean Square</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Sig.</b>
Between Groups	0.119	2	0.060	0.707	0.521
Within Groups	0.675	8	0.084		
Total	0.794	10			

\* $p < 0.05$

## Chapter 4

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter presented the summary, conclusions and recommendations.

#### Summary

This primary objective of the study was to determine the Gang Prevention Strategies of the Davao City Police Office

Specifically, it sought answers to the following questions:

1. What are the gang prevention strategies of the Davao City Police Office in terms of:
  - 1.1 Apprehension
  - 1.2 Prevention
  - 1.3 Community Collaboration
2. Is there any significant difference on the gang prevention strategies of the Davao City Police Office when grouped by stations?

The findings of the study were summarized as follows:

1. The gang prevention strategies of the Davao City office was high. In terms of apprehension the score was 4.62 or high. In terms of prevention the score was 4.67 or high. In terms of community collaboration, the mean score was 4.62 or high.

2. There was no significant difference on the gang prevention strategies of the Davao City Police Office when they were grouped by stations.

## **Conclusions**

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions are drawn

1. The gang prevention strategy of the Davao City Police Office was described as always.
2. There was no significant difference on the gang prevention strategies of the Davao City Police Office when they are grouped by stations.

## **Recommendations**

Based on the findings and conclusions, the following recommendations are given.

1. The Davao City Police Office should enhance their efforts regarding gang prevention. They should develop more effective strategies so that gang activities will be totally eradicated. They should also coordinate with the different barangays regarding gang preventions where gangs are rampant.
2. The barangay officials of Davao City should monitor those involved in gang so that gang violence will be eradicated. The Barangay tanods should conduct patrol in their vicinity so that gang members will be deterred from committing crimes.

3. The residents of Davao City should cooperate with the officials in reporting gang related incidents that happens in the community so that police can easily apprehend those involved in such incident.
4. The future researchers should conduct a deeper study regarding gang prevention to prevent crimes that involve gangs in the future.

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