

How do gangs affect Communities?

By Facundo Acevedo

Have you ever wondered how gangs affect communities? Well here are some facts I found when researching this topic. Gangs increase the levels of crimes in communities, and set a bad example for kids in the area. They create an image of power and respect, when in reality they drop out of school, struggle with unemployment, abuse drugs and alcohol or end up in jail. Communities fear them because of the harm they can bring to others.

According to Los Angeles Times, 20% of Orange County residents own guns, compared to 14% of Los Angeles residents who own guns. Dana Loesch, a talk show guest, stated that most gun deaths were the result of gang violence, therefore, America has a gang problem, not a gun problem. The amount of guns used by gangs leads to more gun killings in Orange County, increasing the death rate. Orange County's death rate is twice as high compared to Los Angeles County.

On April 8, 2015, The O.C. Register mentioned that Orange County Homeland Security Agents conducted a gang crackdown, and arrested sixteen people. The agents were going after one person, and arrested him near a playground in the 300 block of La Jolla Avenue. The man could have harmed some children because he was near a playground. Unfortunately, the man was never identified to the public.

Based on the information I found, I do not admire gangs. Gangs are a bad influence on children and teens, who think joining them would be cool. Another reason is that gang violence is all about dangerous things like killing, fighting, robbing, gun violence, and tagging. Gang violence is a problem because they affect many innocent lives.

All in all these are my opinions on gangs. Researching about this was very interesting, and I learned lots of things that I never knew about gangs.