Strategies to Address Gang Crime: A Guidebook for Local Law Enforcement

To assist law enforcement and parents in identifying and addressing gang crime, the COPS Office has developed a variety of tools and resources including Strategies to Address Gang Crime: A Guidebook for Local Law Enforcement. Author Scott H. Decker, PhD provides information about developing and enhancing local law enforcement responses to gangs in their jurisdictions. The focus of the guidebook is on the use of problem-solving strategies to help agencies select the interventions most appropriate for their jurisdictions. In particular, the guidebook describes the SARA model (Scanning, Analysis, Response and Assessment), a strategic problem-solving process with which local law enforcement is familiar and can apply to its local gang problem. This is the must-have resource to help law enforcement understanding the factors that contribute to their gang problem and select appropriate responses.

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It's designed to help law enforcement agencies find and learn about effective strategies and put them into action. The toolkit could be a valuable resource for police in a climate where effective policing strategies are more needed than ever. A wave of racially charged incidents throughout the country—including a fatal shooting just outside the city of Pittsburgh in June—has triggered tension and distrust among some communities and their police forces. Pittsburgh police say that two early indicators may show that the focused deterrence effort is working to reduce gang-related gun violence. First, gun crimes have decreased. According to Glick, gun violence in the city has fallen by over 25 percent in the past year. Local governments and law enforcement agencies that shun involvement in immigration law enforcement are missing an opportunity to protect their communities from criminal immigrant gang activity. The most significant increases were for crimes often associated with gang activity, such as homicide, robbery, and aggravated assault. Immigrant and Transnational Gangs. While many of these gangs dissipated after years of law enforcement efforts and assimilation, a resurgence of gang activity began in the 1980s, when law enforcement activity targeted at gangs (and illegal immigration) was abating just as illegal immigration was increasing. A Practical Guide for Law Enforcement and Their Municipal Partners. Nancy G. La Vigne Samantha S. Lowry Allison M. Dwyer Joshua A. Markman. The COPS Office awards grants to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to hire and train community policing professionals, acquire and deploy cutting-edge crime-fighting technologies, and develop and test innovative policing strategies. The COPS Office funding also provides training and technical assistance to community members and local government leaders and all levels of law enforcement. This guidebook summarizes lessons learned from an in-depth data collection effort in regards to the use and benefits of public surveillance systems, as well as providing answers to implementing or expanding your own system.