

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

Gangs in Palm Beach County

"Characteristics"

Definition of a gang:

A group (3 or more) of individuals who have a common name, color, or any other means, which identifies them as being together. The individuals in the group will have two or more committing crimes and/or delinquent acts, which benefit the group. **(Florida State Statute 874.03)**

Criminal street gang activity, enhanced penalties. **(Florida State Statute 874.04)**

Number of gangs in PBC:

There are an estimated 160 gangs in Palm Beach County.

Number of gang members:

There is an estimated 7000 gang members in Palm Beach County.

Origin of gangs in PBC:

A majority of the gangs in Palm Beach County are local/non-tradition types of gangs. They are named after a specific neighborhood, local street, or park (Monroe Heights Posses, B-Town Boys, Top 6, Jack Boys, Buckwild, 40 Boyz, Sandcastle Soldiers, etc.). These gangs normally do not have any affiliation with national recognized gangs. Nationally recognized gangs are very structured and designed more like a real organization (Bloods, Crips, Latin Kings, Gangster Disciples, Outlaws, etc).

Gang symbols or signs:

Most gangs have particular symbols or signs which identify them. These signs range from crowns, numbers, shaved eyebrows, the type of gold on their teeth, to clothing, shoes, and many other identifiers.

Things for parents to check:

Parents need to check their children's belongings for gang paraphernalia. They need to look for symbols, signs, names, etc. If a child lives in Riviera Beach, parents need to look for the names of Buckwild (BW), Monroe Heights Posses (MHP), 9 Pound, and Firehouse Click. In the Belle Glade area parents need to look for the Jack Boys, Dogs Under Fire (DUF), and others.

Questions: If parents have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding any of this information, please contact the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Gang Unit at (561) 688-4090.