

GRAF ASSESSMENT: Los Angeles GRYD program version of the Youth Services Eligibility Tool (YSET)

Hennigan, K., Maxson, C., Sloane, D., Kolnick, K. & Vindel, F. (2014).
Identifying high-risk youth for secondary gang prevention, *Journal of Crime
and Justice*, 37(1), 104-128.

In the boxes below please write: A (Agree), SA (Strongly Agree), D
(Disagree), or SD (Strongly Disagree) in the box. For Yes/No questions, write
a Y/N in the box. There is also a short answer section.

Antisocial/Prosocial Tendencies

- I try to be nice to other people because I care about their feelings.
- I get very angry and lose my temper.
- I do as I am told.
- I try to scare people to get what I want.
- I am accused of not telling the truth or cheating.
- I take things that are not mine from home, school, or elsewhere.
- Total

Weak Parental Supervision

- When I go out, I tell my parents or guardians where I am going or leave them a note (or text or phone them).
- My parents or guardians know where I am when I am not at home or at school.
- My parents or guardians know who I am with, when I am not at home or at school.
- Total

Critical Life Events

- Did you fail to go on to the next grade in school or fail a class in school?
- Did you get suspended, expelled, or transferred to another school for disciplinary reasons?
- Did you go out on a date with a boyfriend or girlfriend for the very first time?
- Did you break up with a boyfriend or girlfriend or did he or she break up with you?

Weak Parental Supervision

- Did you have a big fight or problem with a friend?
- Did you start hanging out with a new group of friends?
- Did anyone you were close to die or get seriously injured?
- Total

Impulsive Risk Taking

- Sometimes I like to do something dangerous just for the fun of it.
- I sometimes find it exciting to do things that might get me in trouble.
- I often do things without stopping to think if I will get in trouble for it.
- I like to have fun when I can, even if I will get into trouble for it later.
- Total

Neutralization

- It is okay for me to lie (or not tell the truth) if it will keep my friends from getting in trouble with parents, teachers, or police.
- It is okay for me to lie (or not tell the truth) to someone if it will keep me from getting into trouble with him or her.
- It is okay to steal something from someone who is rich and can easily replace it.
- It is okay to take little things from a store without paying for them because stores make so much money that it won't hurt them.
- It is okay to beat people up if they hit me first.
- It is okay to beat people up if I do it to stand up for myself.
- Total

Family Gang Influence

- Including everyone you think of as being in your family, how many people in your family think that you probably will join a gang someday?
- How many people in your family are gang members now?
- Total

Negative Peer Influence

- If your friends were getting you into trouble at home, would you still hang out with them?
- If your friends were getting you into trouble at school, would you still hang out with them?
- If your friends were getting you into trouble with the police, would you still hang out with them?
- If your friends told you not to do something because it is wrong, would you listen to them?
- If your friends told you not to do something because it is against the law, would you listen to them?
- Total

Peer Delinquency

- How many of your friends have skipped school without an excuse?
- How many of your friends have stolen something?
- How many of your friends have attacked someone with a weapon?
- How many of your friends have sold marijuana or other illegal drugs?
- How many of your friends have used any of these: cigarettes, tobacco, alcohol, marijuana or other illegal drugs?
- How many of your friends have belonged to a gang?
- Total

Self-report Delinquency (6 months time frame)

- Used alcohol or cigarettes?
- Used marijuana or other illegal drugs?
- Used paint or glue or other things you inhale to get high?
- Skipped classes without an excuse?
- Lied about your age to get into some place or to buy something?
- Avoided paying for things such as movies, bus, or subway rides?
- Purposely damaged or destroyed property not belonging to you?

Self-report Delinquency (6 months time frame) continued

- Carried a hidden weapon for protection?
- Illegally spray-painted a wall or a building - doing graffiti?
- Stolen or tried to steal something worth \$50 or less?
- Stolen or tried to steal something worth more than \$50?
- Gone into or tried to go into a building to steal something?
- Hit someone with the idea of hurting him/her?
- Attacked someone with a weapon?
- Used a weapon or force to get money or things from people?
- Been involved in gang fights?
- Sold marijuana or other illegal drugs?
- Hung out with gang members in your neighborhood?
- Participated in gang activities or actions?
- Been a member of a gang?
- Total

Used to screen for gang involvement: Based on provider feedback (asked only if the youth indicated he or she is in a gang)

Did you have to do anything to join the gang? Explain ...

Which of the things in the list above have you done with another member of your gang in the last 6 months?

From: Eurogang Youth Survey (<http://www.umsl.edu/ccj/eurogang/euroganghome.html>)

Some people have a group of friends that they spend time with, doing things together, just hanging out or kicking it. Do you have a group of friends like that?

How old are the people in your group of friends?

Does your group of friends spend a lot of time together in public places like the park, the street, shopping areas, or out in the neighborhood?

How long has this group existed?

Is doing illegal things accepted or okay for your group?

Do people in your group actually do illegal things together?

What kind of illegal things do people in your group do together?

Auxiliary Questions

Is your group of friends: a gang, a crew, clique, crowd, or posse that is not a gang?

Right now, are you a gang member, a member of a crew, clique, crowd, or posse that is not a gang?

Does your group have a name?

Tell me three things that you and others in your group do together.

The Youth Services Eligibility Tool (YSET)

(information provided from The Evaluation of the Los Angeles Gang Reduction and Youth Development Program (Becker-Cohen, Cahill, Harder + Company, Hennigan, Janetta, Lowry, Paddock, Serakos, Tiry, Park, 2015) Urban Institute)

The YSET was developed to identify youth who have a variety of characteristics, attitudes, circumstances, and behaviors that are empirically associated with gang joining (Hennigan et al, 2014). The identified youth can become involved in intensive programs structured to reduce risk factors by addressing their needs (Hennigan et al, 2014). The YSET was used with the GRYD Prevention program to help determine eligibility of youth for that program. The YSET is commissioned by the GRYD Office and developed by researchers at the University of Southern California (USC).

The YSET contains nine measurement scales: seven attitudinal and two behavioral. The scales, the number of items in each scale, and the range of possible responses to items are presented in the table below.

The YSET consists of questions with five response options for each question, rank ordered from low to high risk. A value of 1 is assigned to the lowest risk response (e.g., "Strongly Agree" on such items as "I do as I am told") and a value of 5 is assigned to the highest risk response (e.g., "Strongly Agree" on such items as "I take things that are not mine from home, school, or elsewhere"). To obtain a score for a respondent on any scale, the responses to the items on that scale are summed. The result is then compared to the risk threshold USC has established for the scale to determine if the youth is at risk according to that scale. On Scale A for instance, which has a maximum possible risk score of 30 (6 items, with 5 the highest risk response on each item), a youth between the ages of 13 and 15 is considered at risk with a score of 16 or more.

TABLE 4. STRUCTURE OF THE YSET RISK SCALES

Risk Scales	Scale Structure			
	# of scored items	Range of response values	Maximum possible risk score	Risk threshold score, 13 yrs or older
A Anti-Social/Pro-Social Tendencies	6	1-5	30	16
B Parental Supervision	3	1-5	15	7
C Critical Life Events	7	0-1	7	4
DE Impulsive Risk Taking	4	1-5	20	14
F Neutralization	6	1-5	30	19
G Negative/Positive Peer Influence	3	1-5	15	10
H Peer Delinquency	6	1-5	30	14
IJ Self-Reported Delinquency or Substance Abuse	17	0-1	17	6
T Family Gang Influence	2	0-2 ^a	2	2

^a The two items in this scale are open-ended quantitative questions; however, the scoring structure assigns zero, one, or two points for this scale overall, based on responses to the two items.

For scales that have questions with Yes/No responses, possible response values are 0 (no) and 1 (yes). This produces a lower maximum risk score, but the logic behind establishing the level of risk is the same. On Scale C, Critical Life Events, for instance, a score of 4 puts a 13-year-old above the at-risk threshold. There are modest downward adjustments in the risk threshold for youth ages 12 or younger on some of the scales, but the same decision rules are applied.

A youth is deemed eligible or not eligible for GRYD services based on the number of scales for which the youth has scores above the at-risk threshold: a youth who meets the "at-risk" threshold on four or more scales is deemed eligible to enroll in the program and receive GRYD services.