



Youth Gang Involvement Risk Assessment Questions

Created by: Katherine De Vito, MSSW, LCSW



Family Factors

Yes No

- Does the student live with both parents?
- Is there a good relationship between parents or guardians?
- Are there any family members involved in criminal activity?
- Is the student left home unsupervised frequently?
- Are there gang members within the family?
- Is the family experiencing any financial troubles?
- Is there a history of abuse and neglect?



School Factors

Yes No

- Are the student's grades good?
- Is the student involved in any school activities (sports, clubs, etc.)?
- Does the student attend in-school counseling?
- Are there good relationships with teachers and staff members?
- Does the student have discipline/behavioral problems in school?



Personal Factors

Yes No

- Does the student have trouble managing anger?
- Does the student desire/need to make money?
- Are there emotional difficulties or any mental health diagnosis?
- Does the student have a known learning disability?
- Does the student feel like he/she has opportunities available to be successful in life?
- Does the student feel like he/she has access to consistent reliable people?



Social Environment Factors

- | Yes | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Is there any involvement in church? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Is the student involved in any community activities? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Is there involvement in sports or clubs outside of school? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Has there been a history of involvement in criminal activity? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does the student have friends involved in criminal activity? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does the student have friends who are gang members? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Is the student living in a low-income neighborhood? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Is there a gang presence in the neighborhood? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does the student feel unsafe or feel the need for protection? |



Student Name: _____

**This assessment was created based on the research and practice of Katherine De Vito, LCSW.
You may use for professional or personal purposes.**

References:

- Alleyne, E. & Wood, J. Gang involvement: Social and environmental factors. (2014). *Crime & Delinquency*, 60(4), 547-568.
- Berger, R., Abu-Raiya, H., Heineberg, Y., & Zimbardo, P. (2016). The process of desistance among core ex-gang members. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 87(4), 487-502.
- Del Carmen, A., Rodriguez, J., Dobbs, R., Smith, R., Butler, R., & Sarver, R. (2009). In their own words: A study of gang members through their own perspective. *Journal of Gang Research*, 16(2), 57-76.
- De Vito, Katherine, unpublished work
- Gover, A. (2002). The effects of child maltreatment on violent offending among institutionalized youth. *Violence and Victims*, 17(6), 655-670.
- McNulty, T. & Bellair, P. (2003) Explaining racial and ethnic differences in serious adolescent violent behavior. *Criminology*, 41(3), 709-748.
- O'Brien, K., Daffern, M., Chu, C., & Thomas, S. (2013). Youth gang affiliation, violence, and criminal activities: A review of motivational, risk, and protective factors. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 18(4), 417-425.
- Pyrooz, D. & Decker, S. (2011). Motives and methods for leaving the gang: Understanding the process of gang desistance. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 39, 417-425.
- Ruble, N. & Turner, William. (2000). A systematic analysis of the dynamics and organization of urban street gangs. *The American Journal of Family Therapy*, 28, 117-132.