



Western Cape
Government

Community Safety

BETTER TOGETHER.

UNCONFERENCING POLICY ISSUES AROUND CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES

The development of a Provincial Gang Prevention Strategy
(Provincial Response to the National Anti-Gangsterism Strategy)

Cape Town

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The problem of gang violence and youth opportunities in a few numbers

- Province: **57 murders per 100,000 people** (vs 35,8 murders per 100,000 people nationally)
- **Murder increase** between the 2016/17 and 2017/18 financial years:
 - Province: 12,6% (418 murders)
 - **Gang stations: 17,5%** (251 murders)
- **83% of all gang murders** in South Africa occurred **in the Western Cape**.
- **45% of all murders** in the Western Cape occurred **in gang stations**.

- **41.2% youth** (aged 15-24) are **unemployed** (2011 data).
- **32.6% of youth** are not in employment, education or training (**NEET**) (2011 data).
- 44.5% of youth live in income-poor households – less than R779 per month (2011 data).
- **153 youth victims** of contact crime per 10,000 youth (2015 data).
- **219 youth accused** of contact crime per 10,000 youth (2015 data) – **30% more than victims**.

Current “Safety and Violence Prevention” Policy Framework

● **International:** SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)

● **National**

- National Development Plan 2030 (2012)
- National Outcome 3 “All people in South Africa are and feel safe” (2014)
- White Paper on Policing (2016)
- White Paper on Safety and Security (2016)
- National Anti-Gangsterism Strategy (2016)

● **Provincial**

- Western Cape Social Transformation, Gang Prevention and Intervention Strategic Framework (2008)
- National Integrated Social Crime Prevention Strategy (2011)
- Western Cape Youth Development Strategy (2013)
- Western Cape Integrated Violence Prevention Policy Framework (2013)

● **Policy fatigue?**

● Development of a **Provincial Response to the NAGS, for adoption in 2019**

What do these policies recommend (and don't recommend)?

- All acknowledge that violence prevention and crime reduction must be approached holistically and require a coordinated approach from different government departments, across all three spheres of government.
- Many remain focused on proposing programmes and interventions.
- There is a slow call for the need for adequate evidence-based planning, monitoring, evaluation and a possible change in programmes if ineffective.
- None allude to or make specific reference to the science of behavioural insights, whether it is to respond to the complexity of gang membership or other behaviour that may lead to the youth joining gangs, or other complex policy problems.

Would BI be appropriate to address gang violence?

- BI could be used at content-level: to understand and respond to many of the complexities of the **gang eco-system**: gang violence, but also the attraction of gang membership or the social and regulatory role that gangs play in many communities.
- BI could also be used at government-level: to improve coordination and collaboration between government departments.

Examples of BI approaches to understand and respond to the gang eco-system

● Why do the youth join gangs?

- They provide a sense of belonging, identity, respect and role-models, which adolescents thrive for.
- The “cool” factor of gang membership.
- How can this be replaced using a BI approach?

● What social role do gangs play?

- Provide protection from other gangs (security);
- Provide basic necessities in poverty stricken communities, such as food parcels and money (to buy school uniforms and stationary, airtime, clothes, etc);
- These indicate a failure of (legitimate) state institutions in such communities and a resultant lack of trust and legitimacy of these legitimate state institutions.
- How can this be reversed using a BI approach?

● What is needed for a gang member to exit a gang?

- Can a BI approach be used to facilitate this?

Examples of BI approaches to improve inter-governmental collaboration

● Why do government departments not collaborate (enough) in addressing gang violence, its causes and consequences?

- Different spheres of government;
- Different government departments with different policy priorities and performance targets;
- Protection of respective “spheres of influence”;
- Fear of increased responsibilities outside budget and mandate;
- Those issues requiring strong collaboration between government departments also require strong government leadership with centralized oversight;
- How can this be improved using a BI approach?

Thank you

Contact Us



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