

## **Street Gangs**

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority JAG Planning Meeting  
July 22, 2013

### Nature and Challenges

1. How Do We “Know” What We Know?
  - Sources of information
  - Limitations of data, research
  - Lack of common definitions
  - Misperceptions
2. Who Joins Gangs?
  - Why join
  - Why stay
3. Changes Over Time
  - Traditional gangs
  - Hybrid gangs
  - Contemporary gangs

### “Solutions”

1. Assess/describe the problem (who, what, where, etc.)
2. Identify population(s) in need
3. Responses
  - Multiple components
  - Interdisciplinary
  - Informed by research from criminology, sociology, psychology, public health
  - Ex.: Comprehensive Gang Model and offshoots