

## **Eurogang Youth Survey**

**Eurogang definition:** “A youth gang, or troublesome youth group, is a durable, street-oriented youth group whose involvement in illegal activity is part of their group identity.”

**Instrument development:** At conclusion of the second Eurogang meeting (convened in Oslo, Norway during September 1999), workgroups to tackle specific methodological and definitional concerns were established. The “community/youth” working group was charged with discussion of strategies that might prove beneficial for measuring gang membership and gang characteristics, precursors (or risk factors) associated with gang joining, and community factors associated with youth gangs. Early discussion led the group to a focus on developing a questionnaire focused on youth: an instrument that could be administered in interview or questionnaire format in a variety of contexts. Over the ensuing four years, the working group met during Eurogang meetings (Egmond an Zee, the Netherland, 2000; Straubing, Germany, 2002 and 2003) as well as communicated via email to develop the youth instrument. Following the 2002 meeting, a working draft was circulated to working members and researchers in six countries translated the instrument (see below) and pre-tests were conducted in six countries. Translation issues and pre-test results were presented and discussed at the 2003 meeting and a final English or, as some would say, American version was presented to the entire Eurogang group for approval.

**Pre-testing:** Pre-testing was conducted in both school settings and juvenile detention facilities. Depending upon location, pre-testing consisted of in-person interviews as well as group self-administered questionnaires. Some pre-testers debriefed respondents, asking for feedback regarding wording, content, and sequencing of questions. Pre-tests were conducted in the following locations:

France: in-person interviews with 10 youths aged 17 – 18 years

Germany: self-administered questionnaires (in-school) completed by 26 students aged 13 – 15 years

Netherlands: self-administered questionnaires (in-school) completed by 18 students 15 years of age

Norway: self-administered questionnaires (in multiple schools) completed by 1,917 students 15 – 17 years of age

Russia: self-administered questionnaires (in 6 schools – 3 each in Moscow and Kazan) completed by 350 students aged 12 – 17 years

USA: in-person interviews with 67 juvenile detention detainees (in Albany, NY and St. Louis, MO) aged 12 – 18 years

**Translations:** (Translations may reflect earlier versions)

Dutch, Frank Weerman

French, Youra Petrova

German, Kerstin Reich and Elmar Weitekamp

Norwegian, Thomas Hauland and Inger-Lise Lien

Russian, Alexander Sashkin and Alexander Salagev

Spanish, Juano Medina

**DRAFT: August, 2004**

**UPDATED: October, 2010**

## **Youth Questionnaire: Eurogang Program of Research**

This questionnaire was developed as part of the Eurogang Program of Research and consists of questions drawn from a number of studies of juvenile delinquency and youth gangs, including the National Youth Survey (Elliott et al. 1985), the Denver Youth Survey (Huizinga et al. 1992), the National Evaluation of the G.R.E.A.T. Program (Esbensen et al. 2001), and several studies of California youth (Maxson et al. 1998).

There are two types of questions included in this questionnaire: 1) those necessary to establish that the groups conform with the Eurogang definition of youth gang (#57, 58, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 70a, 71, 72, 73, 78, 79, 80, 81, 87); and 2) the remainder are highly recommended given prior research experience in the study of youth gangs.

**THE 7 ITEMS NEEDED TO CREATE A MEASURE OF GANG MEMBERSHIP  
CONSISTENT WITH THE EUROGANG DEFINITION: 58, 59, 64, 66, 71, 78, & 79**

Instructions:

1. Do NOT write your name on the questionnaire.
2. Your answers are CONFIDENTIAL – no one outside of the research staff will know how you answered the questions.
3. Please answer the questions in the order they appear.
4. Circle (or check) the number that best shows your answer to each question
5. There are no right or wrong answers. Your opinion is what counts.
6. You may skip any questions that you do not want to answer.
7. You can stop filling out the questionnaire any time you wish.
8. We hope you enjoy answering these questions.

We are going to start with a few questions about you and your background. Please circle the response that best describes you.

1. I am:                    1. Male                    2. Female

2. I am \_\_\_\_\_ years old.

3. Think of the place you live most of the time. Which of the following people live with you? (Choose all that apply.)

- |                |                                 |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Mother      | 8. Grandfather                  |
| 2. Father      | 9. Other adults (SPECIFY _____) |
| 3. Stepmother  | 10. Sister(s)                   |
| 4. Stepfather  | 11. Brother(s)                  |
| 5. Aunt        | 12. Stepsister(s)               |
| 6. Uncle       | 13. Stepbrother(s)              |
| 7. Grandmother | 14. Other children              |
|                | 15. I live alone                |

4. What is the highest level of schooling your father completed?

NOTE TO RESEARCHER: For questions 4 and 5, appropriate categories should be provided. By way of example, in the US, we might use the following categories:

1. Completed grade school or less
2. Some high school
3. Completed high school
4. Some college
5. Completed college
6. Graduate or professional school after college
7. I don't know

5. What is the highest level of schooling your mother completed?

SEE QUESTION # 4 FOR RESPONSE CATEGORIES

6. In what country were you born?

NOTE TO RESEARCHER: For Questions 6,7,& 8, provide response categories that are appropriate for your country. As an example, a Dutch researcher might use the following:

1. Netherlands
2. Other European country (SPECIFY: \_\_\_\_\_)
3. Morocco
4. Surinam
5. Turkey
6. Other (SPECIFY: \_\_\_\_\_)

7. In what country was your father born?

NOTE TO RESEARCHER: See Question # 6, plus add a response category of "I don't know."

8. In what country was your mother born?

NOTE TO RESEARCHER: See Question # 6, plus add a response category of "I don't know."

9. Did you have a job for which you were paid during the past 12 months?

1. No            2. Yes

9a. (IF YES) About how many hours a week did you work? \_\_\_\_\_hours

9b. How many weeks during the year did you work? \_\_\_\_\_weeks

The next several questions are about your family. Circle or check the number that best represents your opinion. Remember, there are no right or wrong answers.

10. When you go someplace, you leave a note for your parents or call them to tell them where you are.

1. Strongly disagree    2. Disagree    3. Uncertain    4. Agree    5. Strongly agree

11. Your parents know where you are when you are not at home or at school.

1. Strongly disagree    2. Disagree    3. Uncertain    4. Agree    5. Strongly agree

12. You know how to get in touch with your parents if they are not at home.

1. Strongly disagree    2. Disagree    3. Uncertain    4. Agree    5. Strongly agree

13. Your parents know who you are with if you are not at home.

1. Strongly disagree    2. Disagree    3. Uncertain    4. Agree    5. Strongly agree

14. You enjoy talking over your plans with your parents.

1. Strongly disagree    2. Disagree    3. Uncertain    4. Agree    5. Strongly agree

15. You can talk to your parents about anything.

1. Strongly disagree    2. Disagree    3. Uncertain    4. Agree    5. Strongly agree

16. Your parents don't try to understand your problems.

1. Strongly disagree    2. Disagree    3. Uncertain    4. Agree    5. Strongly agree

17. Your parents make you feel trusted.

1. Strongly disagree      2. Disagree      3. Uncertain      4. Agree      5. Strongly agree

18. Your parents are always picking on you.

1. Strongly disagree      2. Disagree      3. Uncertain      4. Agree      5. Strongly agree

19. You would like to be the kind of person your mother is.

1. Strongly disagree      2. Disagree      3. Uncertain      4. Agree      5. Strongly agree

20. You would like to be the kind of person your father is.

1. Strongly disagree      2. Disagree      3. Uncertain      4. Agree      5. Strongly agree

21. You depend upon your parents for advice and guidance.

1. Strongly disagree      2. Disagree      3. Uncertain      4. Agree      5. Strongly agree

22. Your parents praise you when you do well.

1. Strongly disagree      2. Disagree      3. Uncertain      4. Agree      5. Strongly agree

The following questions are about school and your friends. Please circle or check the number that best represents your opinion.

23. Homework is a waste of time.

1. Strongly disagree      2. Disagree      3. Uncertain      4. Agree      5. Strongly agree

24. You try hard in school.

1. Strongly disagree      2. Disagree      3. Uncertain      4. Agree      5. Strongly agree

25. Education is so important that it is worth it to put up with things about school that you don't like.

1. Strongly disagree      2. Disagree      3. Uncertain      4. Agree      5. Strongly agree

26. In general, you like school.

1. Strongly disagree    2. Disagree    3. Uncertain    4. Agree    5. Strongly agree

27. Grades are very important to you.

1. Strongly disagree    2. Disagree    3. Uncertain    4. Agree    5. Strongly agree

28. You usually finish your homework.

1. Strongly disagree    2. Disagree    3. Uncertain    4. Agree    5. Strongly agree

29. If you had to choose between studying to get a good grade on a test or going out with your friends, which would you do?

1. Definitely go with friends  
2. Probably go with friends  
3. Uncertain  
4. Probably study  
5. Definitely study

30. If your group of friends was getting you into trouble at home, how likely is it that you would still hang out with them?

1. Not at all likely    2. A little likely    3. Somewhat likely    4. Likely    5. Very likely

31. If your group of friends was getting you into trouble at school, how likely is it that you would still hang out with them?

1. Not at all likely    2. A little likely    3. Somewhat likely    4. Likely    5. Very likely

32. If your group of friends was getting you into trouble with the police, how likely is it that you would still hang out with them?

1. Not at all likely    2. A little likely    3. Somewhat likely    4. Likely    5. Very likely

Studies have found that many people break the rules and laws some of the time. Circle or check how often during the past 12 months you have done the following things?

During the past 12 months, how often have you.

33. Skipped classes without an excuse?

1. never    2. once or twice    3. 3 - 5 times    4. 6 - 10 times    5. more than 10 times

34. Lied about your age to get into some place or to buy something?

1. never    2. once or twice    3. 3 - 5 times    4. 6 - 10 times    5. more than 10 times

35. Avoided paying for something such as movies, bus or subway rides?

1. never    2. once or twice    3. 3 - 5 times    4. 6 - 10 times    5. more than 10 times

36. Purposely damaged or destroyed property that did not belong to you?

1. never    2. once or twice    3. 3 - 5 times    4. 6 - 10 times    5. more than 10 times

37. Carried a hidden weapon for protection?

1. never    2. once or twice    3. 3 - 5 times    4. 6 - 10 times    5. more than 10 times

38. Illegally spray painted a wall or building?

1. never    2. once or twice    3. 3 - 5 times    4. 6 - 10 times    5. more than 10 times

39. Stolen or tried to steal something worth less than \$50?

1. never    2. once or twice    3. 3 - 5 times    4. 6 - 10 times    5. more than 10 times

40. Stolen or tried to steal something worth more than \$50?

1. never    2. once or twice    3. 3 - 5 times    4. 6 - 10 times    5. more than 10 times

41. Gone into or tried to go into a building to steal something?

1. never    2. once or twice    3. 3 - 5 times    4. 6 - 10 times    5. more than 10 times

42. Stolen or tried to steal a motor vehicle?

1. never    2. once or twice    3. 3 - 5 times    4. 6 - 10 times    5. more than 10 times

43. Hit someone with the idea of hurting them?

1. never    2. once or twice    3. 3 - 5 times    4. 6 - 10 times    5. more than 10 times

44. Attacked someone with a weapon?

1. never    2. once or twice    3. 3 - 5 times    4. 6 - 10 times    5. more than 10 times

45. Used a weapon or force to get money or things from people?

1. never    2. once or twice    3. 3 - 5 times    4. 6 - 10 times    5. more than 10 times

46. Been involved in “gang fights”?

1. never    2. once or twice    3. 3 - 5 times    4. 6 - 10 times    5. more than 10 times

47. Sold illegal drugs?

1. never    2. once or twice    3. 3 - 5 times    4. 6 - 10 times    5. more than 10 times

For the following drugs, please indicate how often you have used each drug during the past 12 months.

During the past 12 months, how often have you used ...

48. Cigarettes, chewing tobacco or other tobacco products?

1. never    2. once or twice    3. once a month    4. once a week    5. every day

49. Alcohol?

1. never    2. once or twice    3. once a month    4. once a week    5. every day

50. Marijuana?

1. never    2. once or twice    3. 3 - 5 times    4. 6 - 10 times    5. more than 10 times

51. Ecstasy?

1. never    2. once or twice    3. 3 - 5 times    4. 6 - 10 times    5. more than 10 times

52. Other illegal drugs?

1. never    2. once or twice    3. 3 - 5 times    4. 6 - 10 times    5. more than 10 times

Have any of the following things happened to you during the past 12 months? That is, how often in the past 12 months have you ....

53. Been hit by someone trying to hurt you?

1. never    2. once or twice    3. 3 - 5 times    4. 6 - 10 times    5. more than 10 times

54. Had someone use a threat, a weapon or force to get money or things from you?

1. never    2. once or twice    3. 3 - 5 times    4. 6 - 10 times    5. more than 10 times

55. Been attacked by someone with a weapon or by someone trying to seriously hurt or kill you?

1. never    2. once or twice    3. 3 - 5 times    4. 6 - 10 times    5. more than 10 times

56. Had some of your things stolen?

1. never    2. once or twice    3. 3 - 5 times    4. 6 - 10 times    5. more than 10 times



The following questions are about your friends or the people you spend time with.

57. During the past 12 months, have you participated in any teams, scouts, sports club, or other formal groups in your school, neighborhood or city?

- 1. No
- 2. Yes
- IF YES, SPECIFY \_\_\_\_\_

58. In addition to any such formal groups, some people have a certain group of friends that they spend time with, doing things together or just hanging out. Do you have a group of friends like that?

- 1.No
- 2. Yes (IF YES, GO TO QUESTION # 59)

(IF NO, GO TO QUESTION - researcher inserts appropriate question # that follows the eurogang core questions)

IF MORE THAN ONE SUCH GROUP, ANSWER FOR THE ONE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU

59. About how many people, including you, belong to this group?

- 2
- 3-10
- 11-20
- 21-50
- 51-100
- more than 100

60. How many of your close friends belong to this group?

- 1. All of them
- 2. Most of them
- 3. About half of them
- 4. Less than half of them
- 5. None of them

61. Which of the following categories best describes this group?

- 1. All male
- 2. Mostly male
- 3. About half male, half female
- 4. Mostly female
- 5. All female

62. How old is the youngest person in this group? \_\_\_\_\_ years

63. How old is the oldest person in this group? \_\_\_\_\_ years

64. Which one of the following best describes the ages of people in your group?

- 1. Under twelve
- 2. Twelve to fifteen
- 3. Sixteen to eighteen
- 4. Nineteen to twenty-five
- 5. Over twenty-five

65. Which of the following categories describes the people in your group? (CIRCLE OR CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- |             |                |                 |                 |                 |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. NATIVE   | a. all of them | b. most of them | c. some of them | d. none of them |
| 2. Pakistan | a. all of them | b. most of them | c. some of them | d. none of them |
| 3. Morocco  | a. all of them | b. most of them | c. some of them | d. none of them |
| 4. Turkey   | a. all of them | b. most of them | c. some of them | d. none of them |

(Researcher should list appropriate nationalities/ethnicities/religions/racial groups as they apply to their nations or settings.)

66. Does this group spend a lot of time together in public places like the park, the street, shopping areas, or the neighborhood?

1. No            2. Yes

67. Does this group have an area or place that it calls its own?

1. No            2. Yes  
(IF NO, GO TO #71)

68. IF YES, Is this area or place ...

1. a park or playground
2. a street, streetcorner or square
3. a drinking or eating place (such as a pub, café, restaurant)
4. living space (such as an apartment, house, flat)
5. a neighborhood or area of the city
6. shopping area
7. other (SPECIFY)\_\_\_\_\_

69. Does your group let other groups come into this area or place?

1. No            2. Yes

70. Does your group defend this area or place against other groups?

1. No            2. Yes

70a. IF YES, how do they do that?

1. Fight
2. Intimidate or threaten others
3. Other (SPECIFY)\_\_\_\_\_

71. How long has this group existed?

1. Less than three months
2. Three months to less than one year
3. One to four years
4. Five to ten years
5. Eleven to twenty years
6. More than twenty years

72. Within your group, are there distinct subgroups or cliques that especially spend time together, either because of their age, sex, or because they live in the same neighborhood?

1. No
2. Yes

73. IF YES, are these subgroups based on .... (Circle all that apply)

1. age
2. sex
3. neighborhood
4. other (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)

74. Does your group have a name for itself?

1. No
2. Yes

74a. IF YES, What is the group's name? \_\_\_\_\_

75. The following is a list of reasons that young people give for joining groups. Which of them were important reasons for you to join your group? (Circle all that apply)

1. to make friends
2. to feel important
3. to feel like you belong to something
4. to prepare for the future
5. to keep out of trouble
6. for protection
7. to share secrets
8. to get away with illegal activities
9. to participate in group activities
10. to have a territory of your own
11. to get your parents' respect
12. because someone in your family was a member of the group
13. to meet members of the opposite sex
14. to get money or other things
15. to get money or other things from selling drugs
16. because a friend was a member of the group
17. for company
18. any other reasons for why you joined your groups? (SPECIFY) \_\_\_\_\_

76. Which of the following characteristics describes your group?

- |  |       |        |
|--|-------|--------|
| 1. Recognized leaders                      | 1. no | 2. yes |
| 2. Symbols                                 | 1. no | 2. yes |
| 3. Boys and girls do different things      | 1. no | 2. yes |
| 4. Regular meetings                        | 1. no | 2. yes |
| 5. Specific rules or codes                 | 1. no | 2. yes |
| 6. You have to do special things to get in | 1. no | 2. yes |
| 7. Special clothing                        | 1. no | 2. yes |
| 8. Tattoos                                 | 1. no | 2. yes |

77. Does your group promote or support a particular political issue?

1. No            2. Yes

77a. IF YES, what political issues? \_\_\_\_\_

78. Is doing illegal things accepted by or okay for your group?

1. No            2. Yes

79. Do people in your group actually do illegal things together?

1. No            2. Yes

80. How often are the following things done by your group?

- |  |         |                      |         |
|--|---------|----------------------|---------|
| 1. Threaten people                         | 1 Never | 2 Rarely 3 Sometimes | 4 Often |
| 2. Fight                                   | 1 Never | 2 Rarely 3 Sometimes | 4 Often |
| 3. Steal things                            | 1 Never | 2 Rarely 3 Sometimes | 4 Often |
| 4. Get protection money                    | 1 Never | 2 Rarely 3 Sometimes | 4 Often |
| 5. Rob other people                        | 1 Never | 2 Rarely 3 Sometimes | 4 Often |
| 6. Steal cars                              | 1 Never | 2 Rarely 3 Sometimes | 4 Often |
| 7. Sell illegal drugs                      | 1 Never | 2 Rarely 3 Sometimes | 4 Often |
| 8. Carry illegal weapons                   | 1 Never | 2 Rarely 3 Sometimes | 4 Often |
| 9. Damage or destroy property              | 1 Never | 2 Rarely 3 Sometimes | 4 Often |
| 10. Beat up someone                        | 1 Never | 2 Rarely 3 Sometimes | 4 Often |
| 11. Write graffiti                         | 1 Never | 2 Rarely 3 Sometimes | 4 Often |
| 12. Use drugs                              | 1 Never | 2 Rarely 3 Sometimes | 4 Often |
| 13. Use alcohol                            | 1 Never | 2 Rarely 3 Sometimes | 4 Often |
| 14. Break and enter (burglary)             | 1 Never | 2 Rarely 3 Sometimes | 4 Often |
| 15. Other illegal offenses (SPECIFY) _____ | 1 Never | 2 Rarely 3 Sometimes | 4 Often |

81. Do you consider your group of friends to be a gang?

1. No            2. Yes            (IF YES, go to 85)

82. If you are not now, have you ever been in such a gang?

1. No            2. Yes

83. If you do not use the word “gang” for your group, is there some other term you would use? For example, some groups call themselves clubs, bands, crews, posses, taggers, bikers, party crews, and so on. If your group uses a term other than “gang”, what is that term? \_\_\_\_\_

84. Have any of your brothers or sisters ever been in a gang?

1. No            2. Yes            3. I have no brothers/sisters

85. Have any of your friends ever been in a gang?

1. No            2. Yes            3. I have no friends

86. Are there people living on your street who belong to a gang?

1. No            2. Yes            3. I don't know

87. Are there any gangs in your neighborhood or city?

1. No            2. Yes            3. I don't know

The next set of questions is about your group of friends. Please circle or check the number that best represents how you feel.

88. Being in my group makes me feel important.

1. Strongly disagree   2. Disagree   3. Uncertain   4. Agree   5. Strongly agree

89. My group provides a good deal of support and loyalty for each other.

1. Strongly disagree   2. Disagree   3. Uncertain   4. Agree   5. Strongly agree

90. Being in my group makes me feel respected.

1. Strongly disagree   2. Disagree   3. Uncertain   4. Agree   5. Strongly agree

91. Being in my group makes me feel like I'm a useful person.

1. Strongly disagree 2. Disagree 3. Uncertain 4. Agree 5. Strongly agree

92. Being in my group makes me feel like I belong somewhere.

1. Strongly disagree 2. Disagree 3. Uncertain 4. Agree 5. Strongly agree

93. I really enjoy being in my group.

1. Strongly disagree 2. Disagree 3. Uncertain 4. Agree 5. Strongly agree

94. My group is like a family to me.

1. Strongly disagree 2. Disagree 3. Uncertain 4. Agree 5. Strongly agree