

## **Bloods (West Coast)**

**Also known as:** Los Angeles based Bloods

**History:** The Bloods gang was formed during the 1970s in the Compton area of California. According to NDIC reporting, Silver Scott is credited with forming the Piru Street gang and Benson Owens established the Westside Pirus. Both groups aligned with several neighborhood gangs in an attempt to unite against the Crips. The group subsequently became known as the West Coast Bloods.

**Membership/Hierarchy:** According to NDIC reporting in 2004, Bloods membership was estimated between 15,000 and 20,000.

**Location:** Bloods gangs are located in the Southwest (Los Angeles, in particular), West Central, Pacific and, to a lesser extent, the Great Lakes and Southeast regions.

**Criminal Activity:** The Bloods primary source of income is derived from street-level distribution of cocaine and marijuana. Other criminal activities include assault, theft, burglary, carjacking, drive-by shooting, extortion, homicide, identification fraud, and robbery.

**Gang Identifiers:** Blood gang symbols include but are not limited to the following: a five-point star (symbolizing the Bloods affiliation with People Nation), "PIRU" (L.A. street name), "DAMU" (Swahili for Blood), "CK" (Crip killer) and various numbers representing Blood street sets. The Bloods primary choice of color is red. Blood members also wear sports apparel such as Chicago Bulls, Philadelphia Phillies and San Francisco Forty-Niners.