

# Crips

**Also known As:** Crips are also referred to by their geographical names such as the Inglewood Crips or the Hoover Crips, and further by their set names such as the Grape Street Watts Crips or the Rolling 60s Crips.

**History:** The Crips street gang was established in Los Angeles in the early 1970s by Raymond Lee Washington, now deceased. Stanley Tookie Williams, referred to as the Crips' co-founder, is currently on death row at San Quentin for murder.

**Membership/Hierarchy:** The Crips consist primarily of African-American males. According to the NDIC there are approximately 35,000 Crips members throughout the United States. They have no charter or national hierarchy. Local sets vary in their level of formal structure, from no formal leadership, to a hierarchy which consists of a leader, lieutenants, drug coordinators, soldiers, and drug couriers.

**Criminal Activity:** The Crips primary source of income is derived from drug trafficking which they use to support gang activities and to purchase expensive cars, watches, and clothes. Members of the Crips are also involved in drive-by shootings, theft, prostitution, and violent takeover bank robberies.

**Location:** The Crips are most active in the Los Angeles area, though factions can be found in a number of cities throughout the Western Region and in the Southeast, Central and Northeast Regions. Crips on the East Coast are aligned with Folk Nation gangs.

**Gang Identifiers:** The Crips dominant color is blue. On the West Coast, however, many of them no longer openly display their gang affiliation. The Grape Street Crips in Watts and New Jersey wear the color purple. Most Crips "represent" to the right by tilting their hats to the right side, wearing blue-colored laces on the right shoe, and rolling up the right pant's leg, etc. The Crips in Minnesota represent to the left. Crips have been known to replace the letter "B" with the letter "C" in writings. Crips' symbols include the six-pointed star which represents Life, Loyalty, Love, Knowledge, Wisdom, and Understanding.