

Fighting organized crime: the power of systematic searching

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A search strategy covering all aspects of gangs, criminal networks and organized crime

With the help of the systematic search methodology from HTA, and by building on previous efforts, as well as by involving experts from different disciplines, a complex, multifaceted and exhaustive search strategy was created within the framework of a Swedish government assignment.

The aim was to create a search strategy that can identify all relevant studies on preventive or law enforcement efforts against gangs, criminal networks and organized crime. The search strategy will be of use in different research areas, e.g. social services, criminology and police research. By developing and sharing this search strategy, the aim is ultimately to facilitate researchers' work and hopefully contributing to the existing knowledge base in the field.

Substantial rise of organized crime highlights need for evaluation of interventions

In Sweden, the incidence of gang-related crime and various manifestations of networked criminal activities has increased significantly in recent years.

Extensive efforts to combat this societal issue have been initiated, underscoring the importance of their evaluation.

Systematic reviews of interventions are essential for effective evaluation

Systematic reviews play a crucial role in by ensuring that procedures are grounded in rigorous, evidence-based methodologies. They provide a structured approach to evaluating the effectiveness of various strategies, such as community policing initiatives, use of force policies, and crime prevention programs.

A comprehensive and well-conducted literature search is an important cornerstone of systematic reviews and ensures that all relevant research is identified and taken into account. A systematic review based on too thin a literature search will not generate a solid knowledge base.

Facts

- 8 databases
- 8 search facets
- 2000–2024
- 18 540 hits
- The outcome of the search strategy will be analyzed in late 2024

Criminal Justice Abstracts via EBSCO 13 May 2024	Items Found
Search terms	
Types of co-operating criminal networks	
1. (((((((ZU "gangs")) or (ZU "organized crime prevention")) or ((ZU "mafia")) or ((ZU "transnational crime")) or (ZU "cartels")) or (ZU "gang violence")) or (ZU "gang members")) or (ZU "gang prevention")) or ((ZU "outlaws")) or ((ZU "international crimes"))	5470
2. TI (((((clan-based w1 (crime or criminal)) or (clan* n1 (crime or criminal)) or cartel* or "co-offending network*" or (crime w1 (cartel* or clan* or group* or network* or organ* or ring or syndicate*)) or criminal w1 (association* or business or cartel or cartels or clan* or enterpri* or gang* or group* or family* or network* or organisation* or organization* or syndicate*)) or "delinquent peer group*" or gang* or (family-based n1 (crime or criminal or network*)) or (global w1 (crime or criminal or "gang take-down*" or "inter-gang*" or "intergang*" or mafia or MOCs or OCGs or OCGs or (organised w1 (crime or criminal or gang*)) or (organized w1 (crime or criminal or gang*)) or "outlaw bikers*" or "outlaw group*" or "outlaw motorcycle*" or "patron-client network*" or "smuggling organ*" or (trafficking n2 (mafia* or networks* or syndicate*)) or "transnational crime*" or "transnational organised groups*" or "transnational organized groups*" or "transnational street organ*" or "villainous group*" or yakuza)))	3808
3. AB (((((clan-based w1 (crime or criminal)) or (clan* n1 (crime or criminal)) or cartel* or "co-offending network*" or (crime w1 (cartel* or clan* or group* or network* or organ* or ring or syndicate*)) or (criminal w1 (association* or business or cartel or cartels or clan* or enterpri* or gang* or group* or family* or network* or organisation* or organization* or syndicate*)) or "delinquent gang*" or "delinquent peer group*" or (family-based n1 (crime or criminal or network*)) or "family gang*" or "gang-affiliat*" or "gang-crime*" or "gang-involved*" or "gang-related*" or (gang w1 (activit* or affiliation or area* or assault* or association*)) or (gang w1 (conflict* or control or crime*)) or (gang n1 (delinquency or desistance or disengag* or dissipation) or (gang w1 (embeddedness or enforcement or enrolment or entry or exit* or exposure) or (gang w1 (families or fights)) or "gang homicide*" or (gang w1 (identity or illegal or intervention* or involvement) or "gang joining*" or "gang killing*" or (gang w1 (member* or membership)) or (gang w1 (neighborhood* or network*)) or (gang w1 (offenders or organ*)) or (gang w1 (participation or presence or prevent* or problem* or program*)) or (gang w1 (reduction or research* or recidivism or regulation or resistance or recruiting or recruitment) or (gang w1 (status or suppress*)) or "gang take-down*" or (gang w1 (victimization or violence)) or "hybrid gang*" or (global w1 (crime or criminal or gang*)) or "high-harm gangs*" or (international w1 gang*)) or "inter-gang*" or "intergang*" or "juvenile gang*" or "lawless gang*" or (mafia w1 (network* or organ* or syndicate*)) or MOCs or OCGs or "motorcycle gang*" or OCGs or OCGs or (organised w1 (crime or criminal or gang*)) or (organized w1 (crime or criminal or gang*)) or "outlaw bikers*" or "outlaw group*" or "outlaw motorcycle*" or "patron-client network*" or "smuggling organ*" or "street gang*" or (trafficking n1 (mafia* or networks* or syndicate*)) or "transnational crime*" or "transnational organised groups*" or "transnational organized groups*" or "transnational street organ*" or "villainous group*" or yakuza)))	6884
4. KW (((((clan-based w1 (crime or criminal)) or (clan* n1 (crime or criminal)) or cartel* or "co-offending network*" or (crime w1 (cartel* or clan* or family* or group* or network* or organ* or ring or syndicate*)) or (criminal w1 (association* or business or cartel or cartels or clan* or enterpri* or gang* or group* or family* or network* or organisation* or organization* or syndicate*)) or "delinquent gang*" or "delinquent peer group*" or gang* or (family-based n1 (crime or criminal or network*)) or (global w1 (crime or criminal or "gang take-down*" or "inter-gang*" or "intergang*" or mafia or MOCs or OCGs or OCGs or (organised w1 (crime or criminal or gang*)) or (organized w1 (crime or criminal or gang*)) or "outlaw bikers*" or "outlaw group*" or "outlaw motorcycle*" or "patron-client network*" or "smuggling organ*" or (trafficking n2 (mafia* or networks* or syndicate*)) or "transnational crime*" or "transnational organised groups*" or "transnational organized groups*" or "transnational street organ*" or "villainous group*" or yakuza)))	1970
5. 1-4 (or)	9672
6. ((ZU "bribery")) or (ZU "racketeering"))	645
7. TI ((bribery or rackets or racketeering or anti-bribery or anti-racketeering or extortion or rackets or racketeering or "undue influence" or "unlawful influence" or "witness intimidation" or "witness tampering")) OR KW ((bribery or rackets or racketeering or anti-bribery or anti-racketeering or rackets or racketeering or "undue influence" or "unlawful influence" or "witness intimidation" or "witness tampering"))	568
8. 6 or 7	992
9. (ZU "prevention of shootings (crime)") or (ZU "shootings (crime)") or (ZU "firearms & crime")	993
10. labor* or "forced labour" or forgery or fraud or frauds or fraudsters or "fraudulent calls" or (human n1 (smuggling or trafficking)) or "identity theft*" or "illegal gambling" or "illegal migration" or "illegal waste" or (illicit w1 (finance or financial or trade)) or "labor trafficking" or "money laund*" or "money mule*" or "MTIC fraud" or "organizational offending" or "organisational offending" or "organised immigration crime" or "organized immigration crime" or pharming or phishing or "Ponzi scheme*" or "procurement rigging" or (prostitution n1 (ring or trafficking)) or "Pyramid scheme*" or racketeering or ransomware or scams or schemes or "sex trafficking" or smishing or spoofing or "tax evasion" or "undeclared labour" or "undeclared work" or vishing or white-collar or "white washing" or "workplace crime"))	1568
11. or shooting* or smuggling or trafficking	1568
12. ated violence" or (gun* w1 (assault* or	1568
13. or "victimization" or violence)) or	1568
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