

## News

### **Report Finds Inadequacies with Anti-Gang Enforcement** **WNYC Newsroom**

NEW YORK, NY July 18, 2007 —Many of the pervasive assumptions about gangs are just not accurate, according to a report by the Justice Policy Institute. The study examines gangs across the US, over several decades and debunks current approaches by law enforcement officials, including the focus on intense suppression tactics like "sweeps," where police arrest large numbers of people suspected of gang involvement.

REPORTER: Co-author Kevin Prannis says in general, gangs are responsible for a relatively small share of crime.

PRANNIS: They're very romantic and gets lots of attention. It's easy to get publicity, for example, by attacking gangs, promising to crack down on gangs - whether it's for police or elected officials.

REPORTER: Prannis says gangs often welcome the image of being strong and fearless. The report recommends promoting jobs and education for youth to prevent gang activity.

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