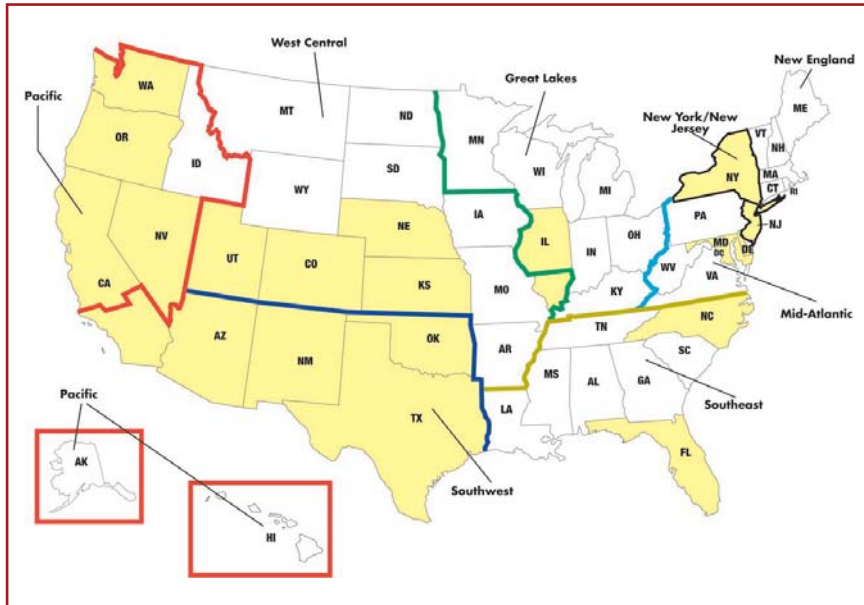


# An Epidemic of Gang Violence - The National Statistics -

## States reporting 18th Street gang activity (in yellow)



*The 18th Street gang, which was formed in Los Angeles, is a collection of loosely associated sets or cliques, each led by an influential member. Membership in the gang is estimated to be 30,000 to 50,000. In California an estimated 80 percent of the gang's members are illegal aliens from Mexico and Central America. The gang is most active in the Southwest and Pacific regions and is expanding in the New York/New Jersey and West Central regions. Its main source of income is street-level distribution of cocaine and marijuana and, to a lesser extent, heroin and methamphetamine. Gang members also commit auto theft, assault, carjacking, drive-by shooting, homicide, identification fraud, robbery, and extortion.*  
(National Drug Intelligence Center)