Introduction
Youth Astray: The connection between youth gangs, schools, family, and the government

Background
In these three census tracts, there are youths who hang out on corners, use drugs and/or alcohol, and or even end up joining gangs. This research has been compiled to try and explain possible reasons and effects of these actions.

Maps

Census Tract# 929: College Point
Today’s youth, in College Point, have begun to grow up more rapidly than most teens in terms of maturity, which has caused an early introduction to alcohol and drug culture. This problem has an effect on both the teens themselves and others in the community.

- There are three main parks where teens in the area hangout.
- There are not many programs or community centers that provide a safe place for teens to hangout.
- Without productive forms of entertainment, local teens have turned towards illegal means of passing the time.

Census Tract# 271: Washington Heights
46% of all New York children are NOT enrolled in after-school programs.

Due to low income, there is high number of rentals in W.H. Many are forced to rent rooms in their already rented apartments to pay rent. Low quality of life= higher influence to join gangs.

Statistics
The lack of government funding for educational and anti-gang programs also contributes to the ignorance of these youths of the risks of death and prison they are vulnerable to once they join a gang.

- 44.1% are on income support
- over 60,000 are on Medicaid/Medicare
- 48.7% of Hispanic students didn't graduate high school in four years
- Overall crime is up 15.89 percent in the 34th Precinct year-to-date

Conclusion
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Youth that have not been previously educated about the malice of street dangers and the repercussions of being a drop-out, easily fall into the temptations of illicit activities such as alcohol, drugs, and gangs.