

Latin Kings

Also known as: Almighty Latin King Nation (ALKN), Almighty Latin Charter Nation (ALCN), Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation (ALKQN)

History: The Latin Kings formed in Chicago in the mid-1960s with the goal of helping Puerto Rican immigrants overcome racial prejudice by forming an organization of “Kings.”

Membership/Hierarchy: The Latin Kings are highly organized and gang leadership exists at the national, regional, and local levels. Membership is governed by a constitution with established rules and by-laws. The gang consists predominately of Puerto Rican males. However, the gang has begun to allow other nationalities, such as Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Caribbean, and South Americans, to become members. Some Latin King chapters also have female associates, commonly referred to as Latin Queens. Latin King chapters are present nationwide with an estimated 25,000 to 50,000 members residing in 34 states. Chicago police estimate that nearly 25,000 Latin King members reside within the Chicago area alone.

Location: While active in 34 states, the Latin Kings can be found primarily in Chicago (where they are the largest street gang), Illinois, New York, Texas, and Florida. Open source reporting indicates that Latin King chapters exist in Central America and Spain.

Criminal Activity: Latin King members are particularly ruthless and are involved in a myriad of criminal activity, including the distribution and sale of drugs, weapons trafficking, murder, assault, armed robbery, kidnapping, burglary, auto theft, money laundering, extortion, racketeering, public corruption and intimidation, and alien smuggling. The gang is also known to order “hits” on correctional officers, rival gang members, and members who fail to follow orders.

Gang Identifiers:

- 5-pointed crown
- Graffiti: a lion wearing a crown; 5-pointed crown accompanied by the initials “LK”
- Yellow or gold colors