

# Vice Lords

**Also known as:** Vice Lord Nation, Conservative Vice Lords, Imperial Vice Lords, Insane Vice Lords, Four Corner Hustlers

**History:** The Vice Lords are the oldest and currently one of the most dominant and organized criminal enterprises in the state of Illinois. Originating in south Chicago, Illinois in 1958 by a group of African American juveniles who had met at the Illinois Training School for Boys in St. Charles, Illinois, the gang was formed for protection and profit.

**Membership/Hierarchy:** As the second largest street gang in Chicago under the People Nation alliance, the Vice Lords represent a major force in Chicago and throughout the state of Illinois. The gang has an estimated 20,000 members throughout the state, both in prison and on the streets. Although endemic to the Chicago region, the Vice Lords have expanded into neighboring states to advance the gang's criminal activity, and currently sets have been confirmed in 28 states, with a nationwide membership of nearly 35,000 members and associates.

The Vice Lords are a predominately African-American gang consisting of numerous gang sets each with its own leadership and rank structure. Although recent attempts to unify the various sets under one umbrella organization have been unsuccessful, the gang, collectively, is becoming more sophisticated and organized.

**Location:** Vice Lord sets have been confirmed in 28 states in the United States, the primary location being Chicago, Midwestern states and Eastern cities. Sets can also be found in Central America and Spain.

**Criminal Activity:** Members of the Vice Lords are primarily recognized for their drug trafficking activities and violent acts to protect their drug trade and territory. Members are actively involved in numerous criminal activities including murder, drive-by-shootings, and weapons smuggling.

## **Gang Identifiers:**

- 5-pointed star; top hat; martini glass; Playboy bunny; dollar sign; cane
- Handsigns that form the letters "VL"
- Gold, black, and red colors
- University of Iowa, Pittsburg Steelers, and Penguins attire; Louis Vitton (LV) caps; UNLV Jackets (UNLV- VLNU reversed, Vice Lord Nations United)