

# Genovese Family

- The Genovese family is seen as the dominant and most powerful force in the New York mafia, and has been nicknamed the "Rolls-Royce" of organized crime.
- With interests across New York City as well as New Jersey, Las Vegas and parts of Massachusetts and Connecticut, the family's main areas of operation are illegal gambling and racketeering.
- Named after former boss Vito Genovese, the family is thought to have had no fixed leader since the 2005 death of Vincent Gigante, known as "the Oddfather" because he faked insanity by wandering the streets in a bath robe.

# Gambino Family

- The Gambino crime family is thought to operate from New York to California, and was once held to be the most powerful mafia family in America.
- With reported involvement in activities as diverse as loansharking, extortion and prostitution, the modern family is named after Carlo Gambino, who is believed to have orchestrated the murder of Albert Anastasia to take control of the family in 1957.
- In 1992 senior family under-boss Sammy Gravano agreed to cooperate with federal agents and helped to bring down then-boss John Gotti along with several other senior members. The family's leadership crumbled due to a series of arrests and deaths over the following decades, leaving a power vacuum behind.

# Lucchese Family

- Named after 1950s boss Tommy "Three-Finger Brown" Lucchese, who united with the Gambino family to gain a monopoly over mob activities in New York City, the family was once one of the most powerful crime gangs in America.
- But it was torn apart after boss Anthony "Two Ducks" Corallo was arrested in 1986, naming Vittorio "Vic" Amuso and Anthony Casso to take his place.
- Casso ordered a series of murders of those he feared to be disloyal, leading to his former street boss defecting to the FBI in fear of his own life. Virtually every senior member was then arrested, including Casso.
- When Casso began co-operating with the FBI in order to save his own life, it cost the family a great deal of respect and status in the mafia world. It is thought to still be controlled by Amuso, who is serving a life sentence in prison.

# Colombo Family

- The newest of the Five Families, the Colombo crime family was originally founded in 1928 but underwent three internal wars during the 20th century.
- Named after Joseph "Joe C" Columbo, who united the family after the first war in the 1960s, two further power struggles resulted in the deaths of several members and irreparable differences which led on to several criminal convictions through informants.
- The faction of the family loyal to Carmine Persico, who was boss when the final dispute broke out in the 1990s, is currently thought to be run by Ralph DeLeo, with Persico in prison. His rival and former lieutenant, Victor Orena, is serving a life sentence.

# Bonanno Family

- The Bonanno family, named after founder Joseph "Joe Bananas" Bonanno, was the first to be thrown off the Commission, a gathering of family bosses aimed at maintaining relationships within the mafia, amid allegations of involvement in heroin dealing and infighting between close family members.
- The family suffered a major indignity in 1981 when it emerged that an undercover FBI agent using the alias Donnie Brasco had been gathering information on the family from the inside for six years.
- Due to being removed from the Commission the family was able to build its power up as it escaped involvement in the major federal Mafia Commission Trial of the 1980s, but its reputation plunged once more when boss Joseph Massino, who led its revival, became the first Mafia boss to break the sacred code of "omerta" and testify to the FBI.

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# **Lucchese Family**

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**“SIT DOWN”**

**TABLE**