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Governor

Karyn Polito  
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# Safe and Successful Youth Initiative Annual Report

March 2017

Executive Office of Health and Human Services





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Chapter 133 of the Acts of 2015, line item 4000-0005 requires that “the secretary [of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS)] shall report to the house and senate committees on ways and means not later than March 15, 2017 detailing: (a) successful grant applications; (b) a set of clearly-defined goals and benchmarks on which grant recipients shall be evaluated; and (c) outcomes and findings from the grant awards for fiscal year 2016.” The intent of this report is to meet such requirement.

The Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI) is a youth violence prevention and intervention initiative that operates in cities with the highest juvenile crime rates. SSYI targets a small number of individuals, age 17-24, that local police have identified as “proven risk” or “impact players.” These individuals are determined by police as most likely to be a victim or perpetrator of violent weapons offense. SSYI reaches out to these individuals and offers them a chance to redirect their lives through educational, employment and behavioral health services. An independent evaluation of SSYI showed a statistically significant positive impact on victimization rates in the cities that implement the program.

**a. Successful Grant Applications**

SSYI was last procured in July, 2015. EOHHS currently contracts with 12 SSYI grantees, who have grant agreements through June 30, 2017, with an option to extend for eight additional years through June 30, 2025, in increments determined by EOHHS.

Current SSYI grantees include the following:  
(Table 1)

<b>City</b>	<b>Grantee (FY2017 Funding)</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Mental Health Clinic</b>	<b>Program Partners that Receive SSYI Funds</b>
<b>Boston</b>	Boston Police Department (\$800,000)	Boston Public Health Commission	Boston Medical Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boston Centers for Youth &amp; Families,</li> <li>• Boston Medical Center/ Violence Intervention Advocacy Program (VIAP),</li> <li>• Notre Dame Education Center, Inc.,</li> <li>• College Bound Dorchester,</li> <li>• Maritime Apprentice Program-</li> <li>• Dorchester College Bound,</li> <li>• Dorchester Youth Collaborative,</li> <li>• Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries,</li> <li>• Mission Safe, More than Words,</li> <li>• Center for Teen Empowerment,</li> <li>• Economic Development and Industrial Corporation of Boston- Youth Options Unlimited Boston (YOU),</li> <li>• Project Right, Inc.,</li> <li>• Youth Connect</li> </ul>
<b>Brockton</b>	Brockton Police Department (\$350,000)	Old Colony YMCA	Old Colony YMCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brockton Housing Authority,</li> <li>• Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board</li> </ul>
<b>Chelsea</b>	Chelsea Police Department (\$350,000)	ROCA	North Suffolk Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Neighborhood Developers (TND)</li> </ul>
<b>Fall River</b>	Fall River Police Department (\$500,000)	Greater Fall River RE-CREATION	Solidground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bristol County Training Consortium,</li> <li>• Positive Action Against Chemical Addiction (PAACA),</li> <li>• Bristol County Sheriff's Office</li> </ul>
<b>Holyoke</b>	Holyoke Police Department (\$500,000)	River Valley Counseling Center	River Valley Counseling Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boys &amp; Girls Club of Greater Holyoke,</li> <li>• CareerPoint</li> </ul>

<b>City</b>	<b>Grantee (FY2017 Funding)</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Mental Health Clinic</b>	<b>Program Partners that Receive SSI Funds</b>
<b>Lawrence</b>	Lawrence Police Department (\$600,000)	Lawrence Family Development & Education Fund, Inc.	Children's Friend and Family Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essex Art Center,</li> <li>• Family Services of the Merrimack Valley,</li> <li>• Project Adventure</li> </ul>
<b>Lowell</b>	Lowell Police Department (\$600,000)	Utec	Greater Lowell Mental Health Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Career Center</li> </ul>
<b>Lynn</b>	Lynn Police Department (\$350,000)	ROCA	Children's Friend and Family Services, Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catholic Charities North (CCN) ,</li> <li>• Lynn Youth Street Outreach Advocacy (LYSOA),</li> <li>• Lynn Housing Authority &amp; Neighborhood Development (LHAND),</li> <li>• North Shore Youth Career Center (NSYCC)</li> </ul>
<b>New Bedford</b>	New Bedford Police Department (\$350,000)	United Way of Greater New Bedford (UWGNB)	Child & Family Services, Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive Action Against Chemical Addiction (PAACA),</li> <li>• PACE YouthBuild</li> </ul>
<b>Pittsfield</b>	Pittsfield Police Department (\$350,000)	Berkshire Children and Families, Inc.	Brien Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Berkshire Works</li> </ul>
<b>Springfield</b>	Springfield Police Department (\$500,000)	ROCA	Clinical Support & Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bay State Medical Center,</li> <li>• The Salvation Army,</li> <li>• Hampden County Regional Employment Board (REB)/ Career Point,</li> <li>• Hampden County Sheriff's Department (AISS)</li> </ul>
<b>Worcester</b>	Worcester Police Department (\$600,000)	Straight Ahead Ministries	LUK, Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friendly House,</li> <li>• Worcester Youth Center,</li> <li>• Worcester Public Schools,</li> <li>• Worcester Community Action Council</li> </ul>

**b. Goals and Benchmarks for Grant Recipients**

The current grant agreements require each grantee to ensure the SSYI program demonstrates an effective approach toward meeting the annual performance targets (see *Table 2*) defined by EOHHS for each SSYI program component. EOHHS is reviewing and modifying these targets for 2017, (see *Table 3* below).

*(Table 2)*

<b>Program Component</b>	<b>Metric</b>	<b>Target</b>
Outreach	Young men from SSYI list who have been contacted by Outreach staff	85%
Case Management	Young men from SSYI list who enroll in the Program	30-60 %
	Enrolled young men who have a current Individual Service Plan	100 %
Education	Enrolled young men in need of Education services who are offered Education services	80 %
Occupational Training and Employment Services	Enrolled young men who are offered transitional employment services	80 %
	Enrolled young men who move to a higher tier of employment services	25 %
Behavioral Health Services	Enrolled young men who are offered Behavioral Health services	100 %
	Enrolled young men who access Behavioral Health services	50 %

**c. Outcomes and Findings for Calendar Year 2016 (Unduplicated Counts)**

EOHHS is currently in the process of implementing a single case management and data reporting system across all SSYI programs. The new system is anticipated to be in place by July 2017. It will allow for consistent reporting and will streamline client services, program operations and oversight.

The annual metrics reported by the SSYI communities for calendar year 2016 are summarized below:

(Table 3)

City	Unduplicated youth on <b>SSYI list</b> (“Proven Risk,” and “Impact Players”)	Unduplicated number of youth on SSYI list <b>contacted</b> this year (by Outreach staff)	Unduplicated SSYI youth <b>enrolled</b> in an SSYI program (Receiving Case Management)	Unduplicated number of SSYI youth enrolled in an <b>education</b> program this year	Unduplicated number of SSYI youth who were <b>employed</b> this year (Subsidized & Unsubsidized)	Unduplicated number of SSYI youth that have received <b>trauma counseling</b>
<b>Boston</b>	205	161	83	29	78	24
<b>Brockton</b>	40	32	13	--**	--**	--**
<b>Chelsea</b>	109	48	63	26	27	10
<b>Fall River</b>	171	112	65	45	58	31
<b>Holyoke</b>	181	85	67	31	54	27
<b>Lawrence</b>	97	77	56	20	27	19
<b>Lowell</b>	124	99	60	20	68	10
<b>Lynn</b>	118	33	43	14	--**	15
<b>New Bedford</b>	44	17	28	17	15	--**
<b>Pittsfield</b>	71	57	30	15	10	12
<b>Springfield</b>	247	115	126	72	63	62
<b>Worcester</b>	124	97	81	47	73	34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,531</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>336**</b>	<b>473**</b>	<b>244**</b>
<i>Progress</i>		<i>61% of list</i>	<i>47% of list</i>	<i>47%** of enrolled</i>	<i>66%** of enrolled</i>	<i>34%** of enrolled</i>

In addition to the outcomes identified above, 14 SSYI clients graduated from school (traditional or alternative) and 29 SSYI clients were awarded a Massachusetts High School Equivalency Credential (HiSet diploma) in 2016.

EOHHS, with support from the Commonwealth Corporation, has monitored the operation of SSYI programs and hosted statewide affinity group meetings throughout the year to share best practices, provide updates and further strengthen operations. These meetings allowed SSYI program directors, law enforcement personnel, outreach worker and clinicians to meet with their peers from across the state. Statewide meetings, by affinity group, were held as follows:

Program Director Meetings:

- January 13, Worcester
- August 18, Worcester
- December, 2 Fall River

\*\* Counts lower than 10 are withheld to maintain confidentiality and avoid the potential identification of individual SSYI clients. Such counts are furthermore not included in total counts, thus resulting in lower reported statewide totals.

#### Law Enforcement Personnel Meetings:

- August 2, Worcester
- November 2, Lynn

#### Outreach Worker Meetings:

- July 21, Brockton
- October 28, Pittsfield
- November 16, Foxborough

#### Clinician Meetings:

- June 10, Worcester
- July 19, Lawrence
- November 15, Brockton

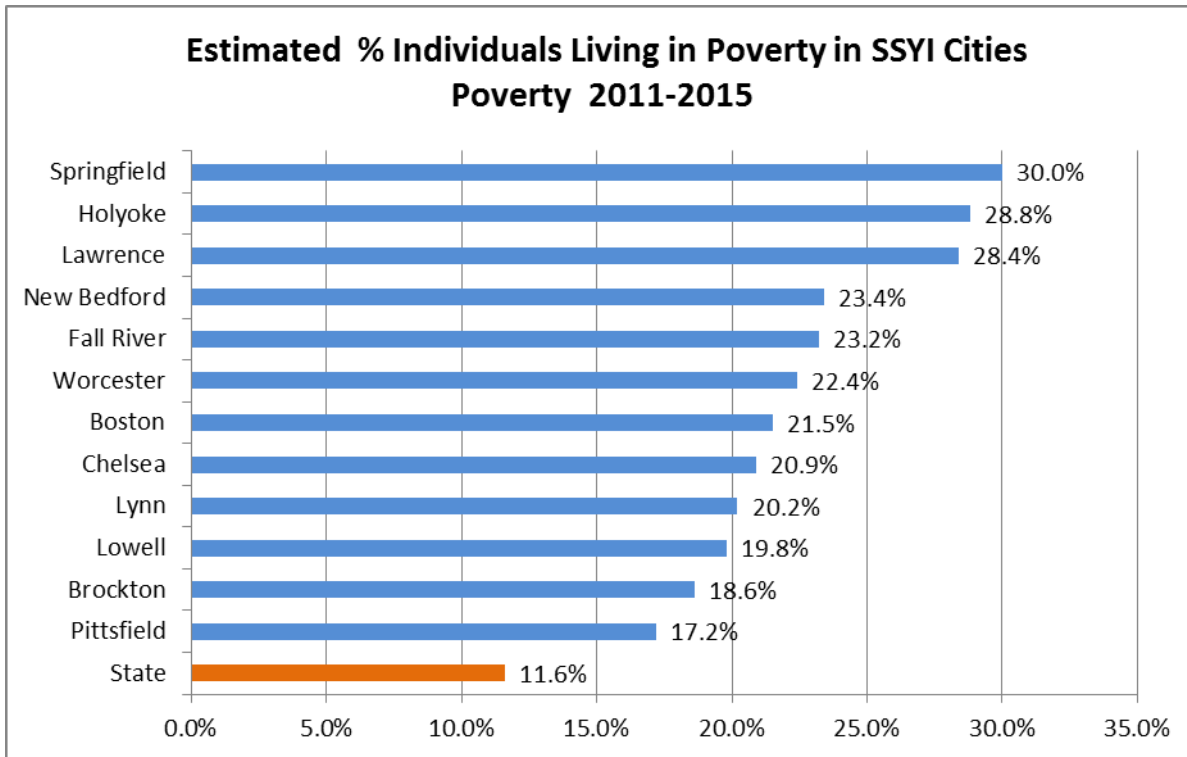


Source: Fall River SSYI, <http://www.gfrpartners.com/16SSYITour.html>

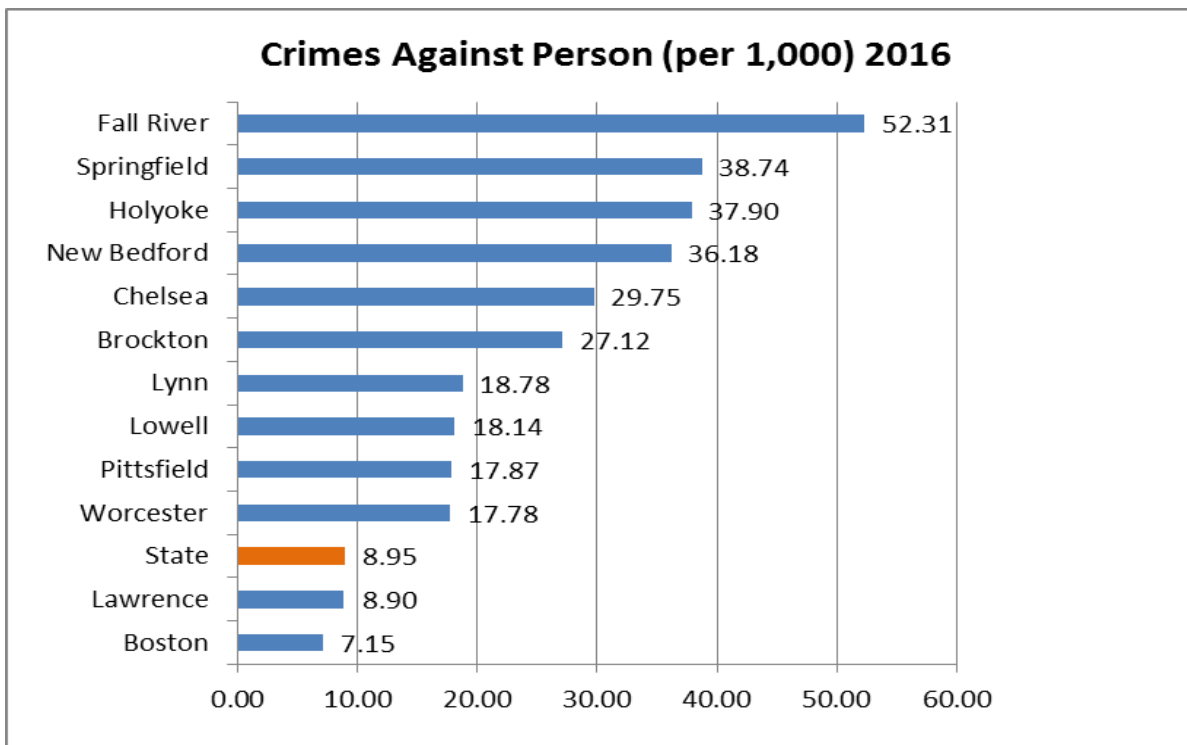
## Conclusion

The Safe and Successful Youth Initiative continues to provide innovative, valuable, and cost effective services to the highest risk youth in the Commonwealth's most challenged cities. In 2016, 1,531 youth were identified by local law enforcement as SSYI eligible; 933 youth were contacted through street outreach; 715 received case management; 336 were enrolled in school or an education program; 473 were employed; 244 accessed behavioral health services. As a 2014 SSYI independent study found, SSYI had a statistically significant impact in reducing the number of victims of violent crimes, including a reduction in the number of victims of homicide and aggravated assault. A cost-benefit analysis further found that for every dollar invested in the Springfield and Boston programs, there is a societal cost-savings of as much as \$7.35. These results highlight the effectiveness of SSYI's collaborative and targeted approach, and EOHHS hopes to continue to provide the support that communities need to further decrease violence in youth populations.

**Appendix 1: Conditions in SSYI Cities that Impact Crime**

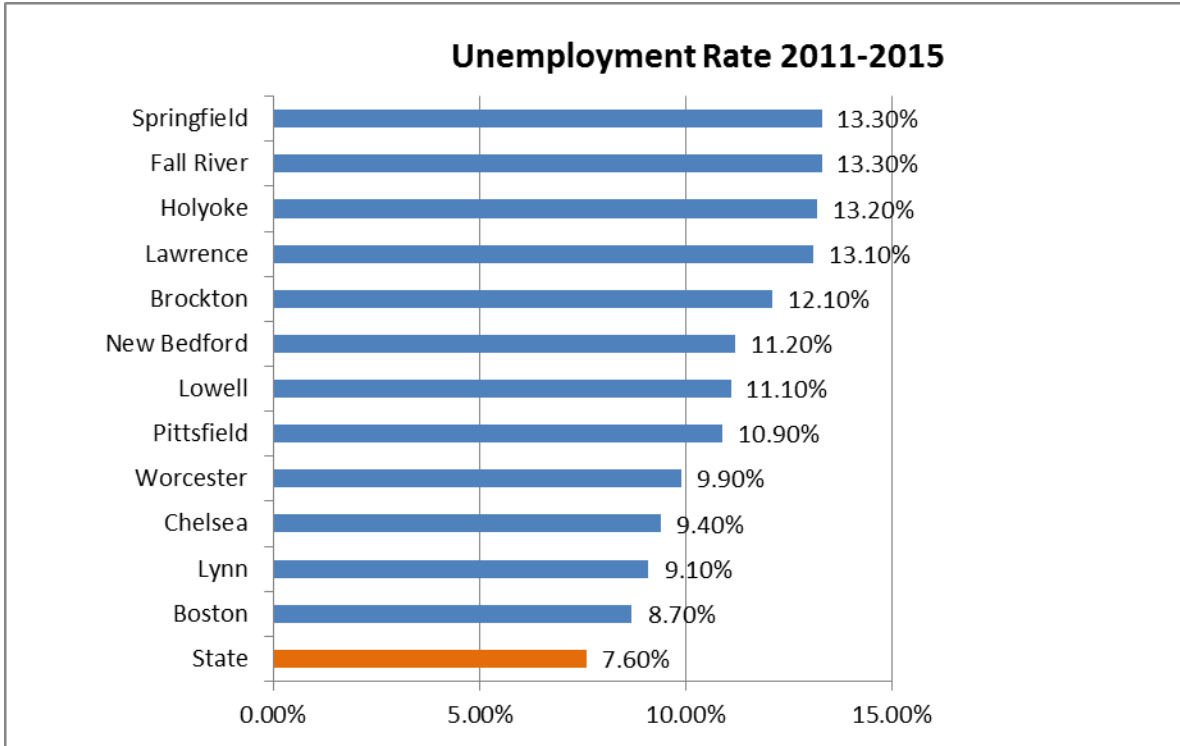


Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

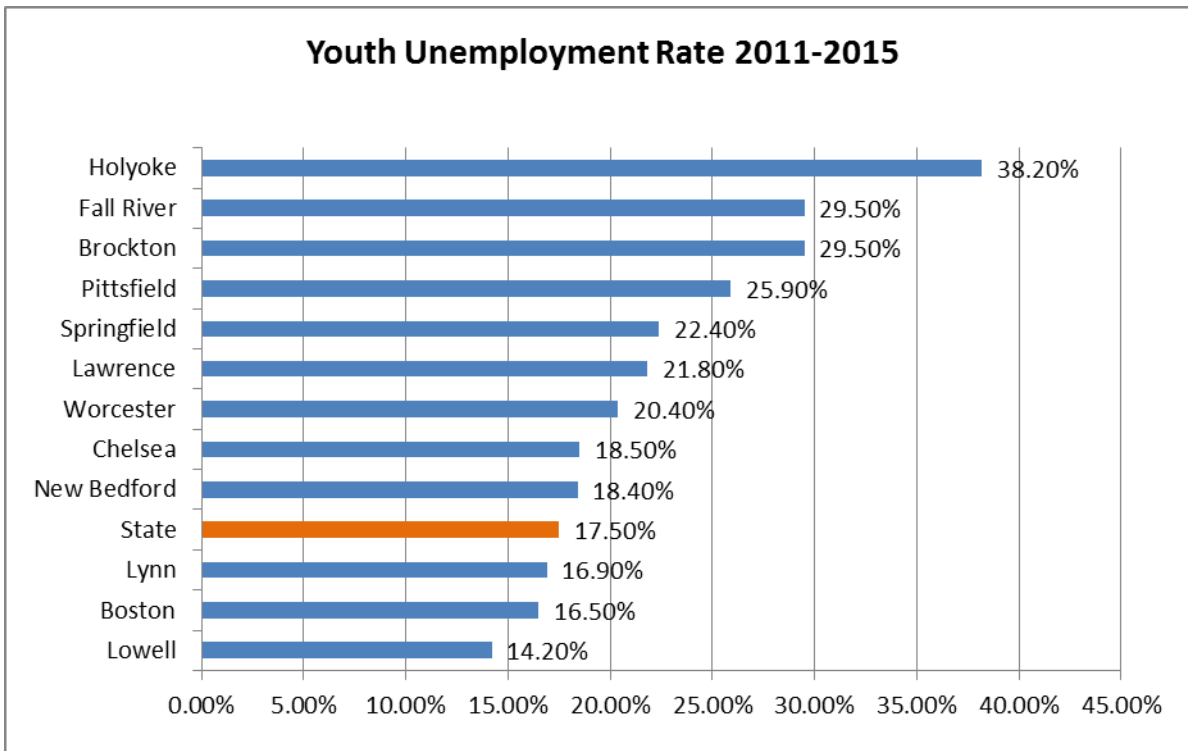


Source: Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS)

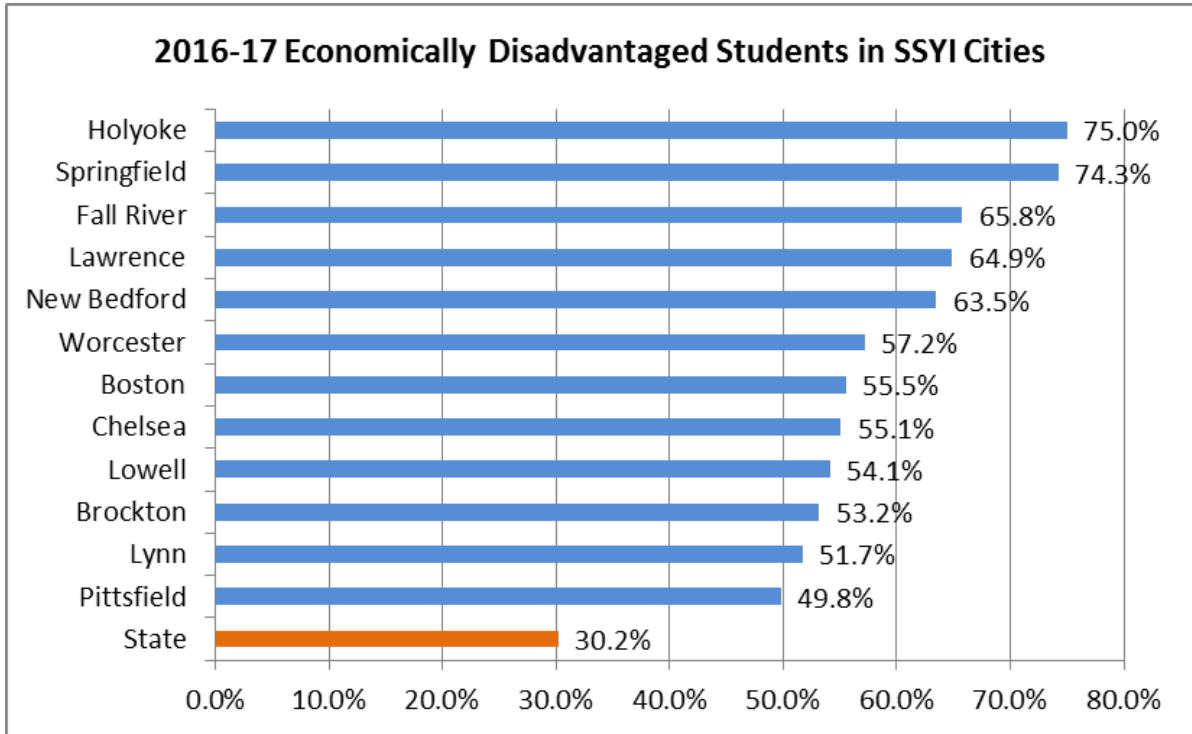




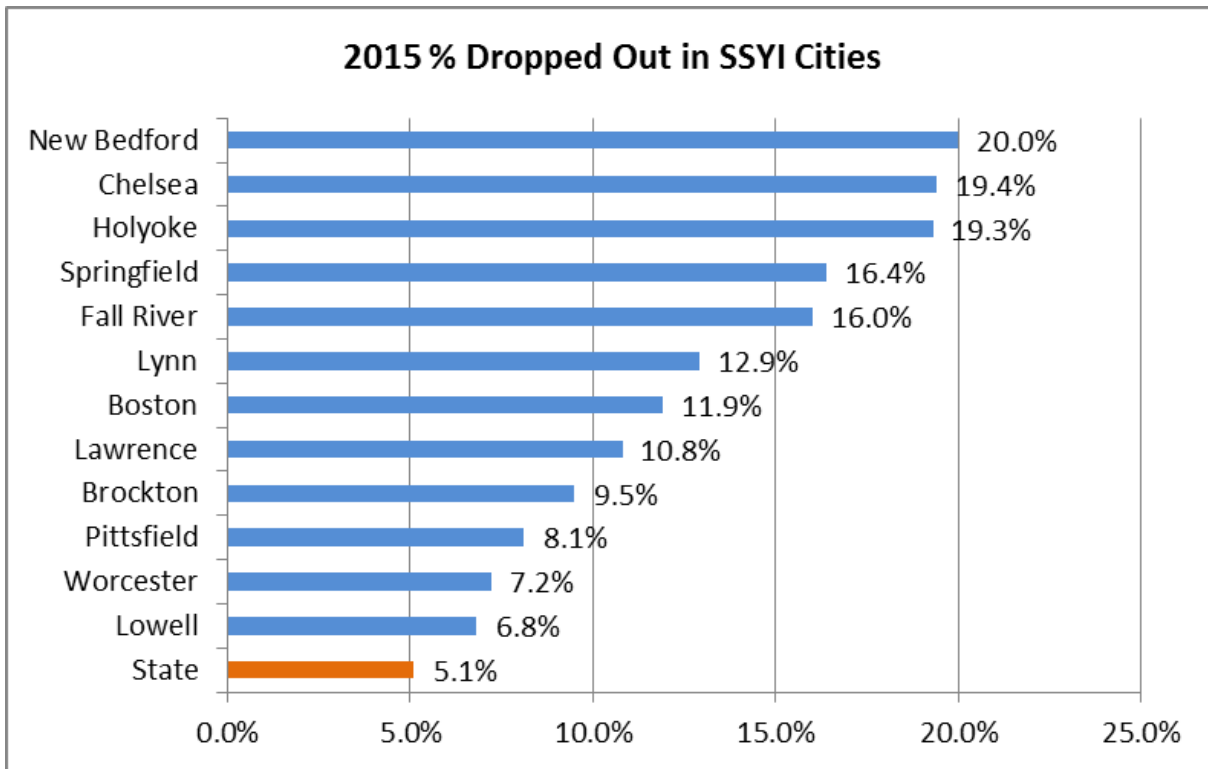
Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



Source: MA DESE 2016-17 Selected Populations Report (District) Economically Disadvantaged Students



Source: MA DESE 2015 Graduation Rate Report (DISTRICT) for All Students: 4 year Graduation Rate; % Dropped Out

S.S.Y.I.  
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MY LIFE

\* Source: Holyoke SSYI Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/HolyokeSSYI>