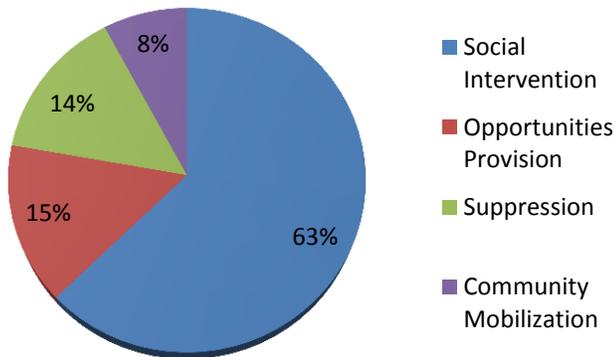


Tri-City (Fitchburg, Leominster, Gardner) Shannon CSI, 2015

Funded Partners: Fitchburg Police, Leominster Police, Gardner Police, Elm St. Congregational Church, House of Peace Education, Montachusett Opportunity Council, Mount Wachusett Community College Division of Access and Transition, Shining Light Ministries, Inc., United Neighbors of Fitchburg, Inc./ Cleghorn Neighborhood Center

This initiative is funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Office of Grants and Research, Justice and Prevention Division, Daniel Bennett, Secretary

Figure 1. Tri-City Shannon CSI 2015
Funding Allocation: \$228,200



Highlights of Shannon Participants:

Funded Population:

- 17 funded programs
- 1,659 youth served
 - 37 are known to be proven-risk or gang involved

Education/Employment:

- 282 in educational programs
- 85 in subsidized summer employment
- 124 completed a job training program

Law Enforcement/Courts and Prosecution:

- 77 hot spot patrols completed
 - 18 arrests made of gang members or high impact players
- 87 law enforcement supported home visits completed

Personal Development:

- 523 participated in youth development programs
- 148 participated in community service

Community Gang Problem: Given the proximity of Fitchburg, Leominster, and Gardner, individuals engaged in criminal and gang activity move across the borders of these cities. The Fitchburg Police Department maintains a regional gang database comprised of 280 active and former gang members. In 2015, Fitchburg Police received 78 shots fired calls and recovered approximately 59 spent shell casings. According to the Massachusetts State Police, an increased number of violent Blood gang members are relocating to Fitchburg area from New York. These gang members have begun to establish themselves in the firearm and narcotics trade. Leominster has witnessed an increase in larceny, counterfeiting, and motor vehicle theft. Gardner has experienced an increase in youth violence and drug crimes.

Shannon Strategy: In 2015, Tri-City received \$228,200 in Shannon CSI funds to engage community agencies, police, faith-based organizations, public schools, and a community college in a multi-disciplinary strategy. This strategy strives to keep high-risk youth connected to school, enhance out-of-school violence prevention and intervention activities, and expand individualized outreach efforts to at-risk and high-risk youth. As Figure 2 shows, over the past five years of Shannon CSI funding, Tri-City has experienced relatively steady declines in youth and young adult arrests for simple assaults.

Figure 2. Tri-City Violent Arrestees Ages 14-24

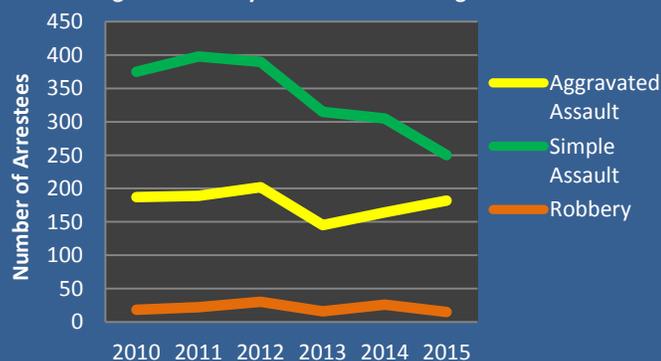
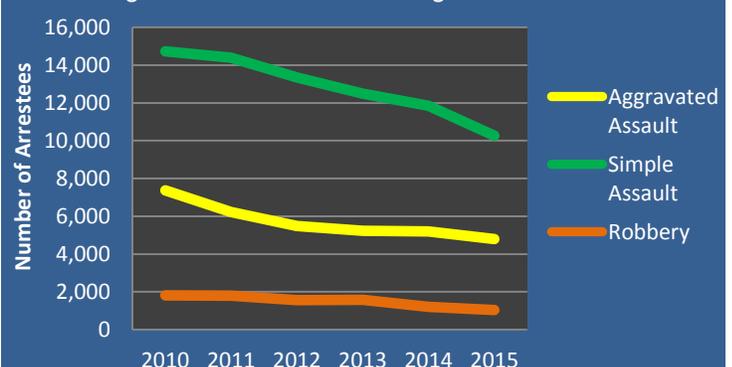


Figure 3. MA Violent Arrestees Ages 14-24



Community Risk Factors

Each community receiving Shannon CSI funds must demonstrate a need for funding based on a high number of risk factors present in the community which perpetuates youth and gang violence. On average, about 15% of the population in these three communities is below the poverty line, with more than 40% of students categorized as economically disadvantaged, more than one half of students in Fitchburg alone. The four-year dropout rate is 7.8%, almost 3 percentage points above the state rate. Given these community level risk factors, the successful transition of many Tri-City youth into adulthood is challenging compared to other non-disadvantaged communities.

Table 1. Tri-City Risk Factors, 2015

	Fitchburg	Gardner	Leominster	State
Poverty/ Unemployment				
Poverty ^a	20.6%	14.4%	10.5%	11.4%
Economically Disadvantaged ^b	52.9%	43.1%	33.1%	26.3%
Unemployment rate	6.7%	6.5%	5.6%	4.6%
Education/ School Performance				
Graduation rate	73.2%	82.3%	90.7%	87.3%
Dropout rate	11.3%	8.0%	4.2%	5.1%
ELL Students	14.6%	4.3%	5.0%	8.5%
Suspension rate	7.0%	5.1%	2.4%	2.9%
Bachelor's Degree (25+)	20.1%	17.2%	25.8%	39.4%
Total population (2014 estimate)				
	40,445	20,381	41,150	6,745,408
Total public school population (2014-2015)				
	5,041	2,473	6,096	955,844

^aAs defined by the US Census Bureau
www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/overview/measure.html
^bAs defined by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/ed.html>

Table 4. Number and Risk Level of Tri-City Shannon Participants by Comprehensive Gang Model Strategy Area



Individual Risk Level Definitions

At-risk youth are in danger of engaging in risky behaviors because of the presence of risk factors in their environment (either home or community). These factors include but are not limited to: lack of healthy role models; poor community education outcomes; high rates of community substance abuse; high rates of community violence; and high unemployment and/or poverty rates.

High-risk youth are exposed to similar risk factors as at-risk youth, and are exposed to additional risk factors such as school failure or early school leaving; substance abuse; court involvement; witnessing violence; or violent victimization.

Proven-risk youth are identified as those youth being perpetrators or victims of shooting or stabbing violence.

Overview: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comprehensive Gang Model

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts's Shannon Community Safety Initiative (CSI) is modeled after the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP) Comprehensive Gang Model (CGM). The CGM is a multi-sector approach to addressing a community's gang and youth violence problem. After completing a needs assessment, communities assemble a steering committee which uses data to develop strategies in the following five areas:

- **Social intervention programs** for gang involved and proven risk youth include street outreach and case management. These programs reach out and act as links to gang-involved youth, their families, and other traditional social service providers. For high risk youth and at-risk youth, social intervention programs can include drop-in recreation, positive youth development, and other mechanisms to reach young people and connect them to positive adults and constructive activities.
- **Suppression programs** include close supervision or monitoring of gang involved youth and other high impact players by police, prosecutors, probation officers, and other officers of the court. These programs include hotspot patrols, law enforcement home visits, ride-alongs, re-entry, and special prosecutors.
- **Opportunity provision programs** provide education, training, and employment programs for gang involved youth and young people at high risk for youth violence and gang involvement.
- **Organizational change** is the development and implementation of policies and procedures that result in the most effective use of available and potential resources, within and across agencies, to better address the gang problem.
- **Community mobilization** includes educating the community about gang and youth violence trends in their city or neighborhood and involving them in strategies to confront the problem.