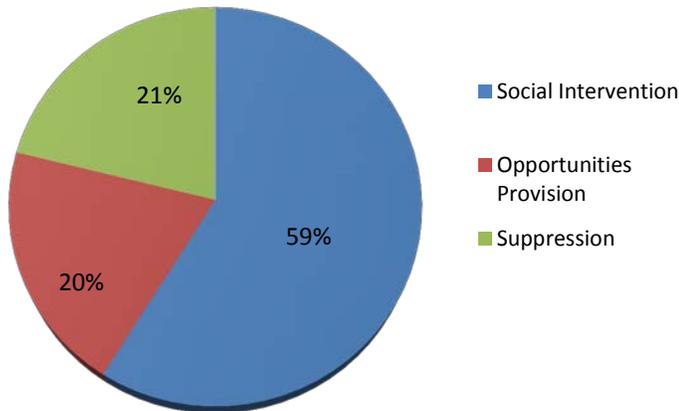


Holyoke/Chicopee Shannon CSI, 2015

Funded Partners: Boys and Girls Club of Greater Holyoke, Career Point, Chicopee Boys and Girls Club, Chicopee Police Department, Gandara Counseling Center, Hampden County Sheriff's Department, Holyoke High School, Holyoke Police Department, NEARI Jumpstart, River Valley Counseling 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. Holyoke/Chicopee Shannon CSI
2015 Funding Allocation: \$517,703**



Highlights of Shannon Participants:

Funded Population:

- 11 funded programs
- 1,340 youth served
 - 138 known to be gang involved

Education/Employment:

- 9 obtained a High School Equivalency Diploma
- 34 had subsidized summer employment
- 76 participated in employment programs

Law Enforcement/Courts and Prosecution:

- 800+ hours spent patrolling 10 hotspots
- 14 warrants served during warrant sweeps
- 9 gang members arrested during Shannon funded operations

Personal Development:

- 157 received case management
- 34 received mental health counseling
- 710 participated in youth development programs

Community Mobilization:

- 5 community meetings held

Community Gang Problem: Gang recruitment of children and youth for the purpose of engaging them in drug sales and distribution has been of particular concern for the past several years in Holyoke and Chicopee. Drug dealing in these communities is closely linked to three major gangs: La Familia, the Latin Kings, and the Latin Queens. It is estimated that 75% of the drug trade is being conducted by gangs. Youth who become gang affiliated and/or gang involved have a high risk of drug abuse and eventual disengagement from school.

Shannon Strategy: In 2015, Holyoke/Chicopee received \$517,703 in Shannon CSI funds to implement a three-pronged model of prevention, intervention, and suppression to reduce youth gang activities and to limit and control youth violence. Holyoke/Chicopee has developed and implemented a risk assessment tool to ensure that each young person is enrolled in a program best suited to meet his or her needs. Intensive mental health services are being integrated into this site's strategies. As shown in Figure 2, over the past five years of Shannon CSI funding, Holyoke/Chicopee have seen a dramatic decrease in youth and young adults being arrested for simple assault.

Figure 2. Holyoke/Chicopee Violent Arrestees Ages 14-24

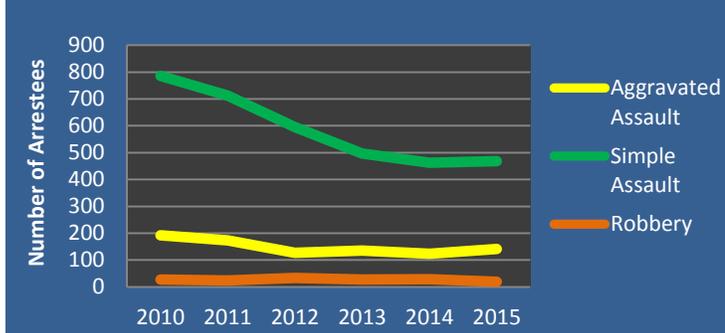
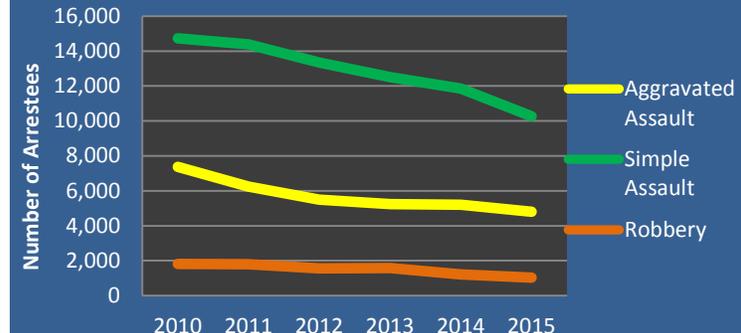


Figure 3. MA Violent Arrestees Ages 14-24

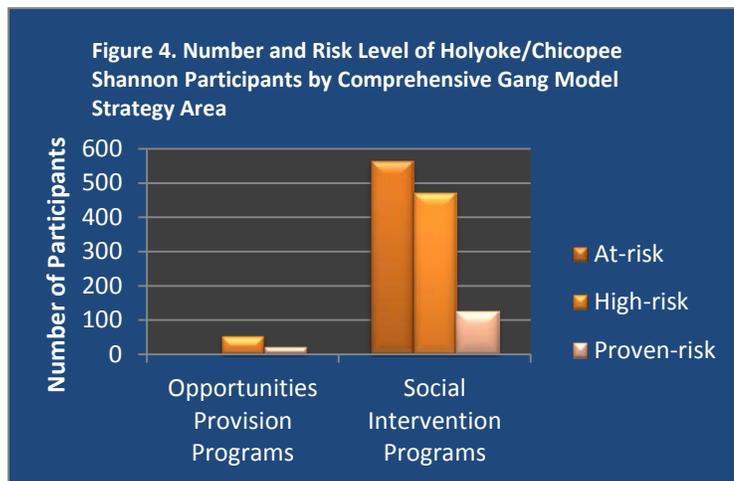


Community Risk Factors

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. In Holyoke, 31.5% of the population lives in poverty, which is almost triple the state rate of 11.4%. The student population is reported to be over two thirds economically disadvantaged in Holyoke and almost half in Chicopee. The Holyoke school dropout rate of 19.3% is almost four times that of the state and Chicopee's dropout rate of 10.0% is just about double the state rate. Given these community level risk factors, the successful transition of many Holyoke and Chicopee youth into adulthood is challenging compared to other non-disadvantaged communities.

	Holyoke	Chicopee	State
Poverty/ Unemployment			
Poverty ^a	31.5%	13.6%	11.4%
Economically Disadvantaged ^b	67.4%	48.4%	26.3%
Unemployment rate	7.6%	6.2%	4.6%
Education/ School Performance			
Graduation rate	62.0%	80.2%	87.3%
Dropout rate	19.3%	10.0%	5.1%
ELL Students	28.5%	4.6%	8.5%
Suspension rate	5.3%	5.5%	2.9%
Bachelor's Degree (25+)	20.2%	17.6%	39.4%
Total population (2014 estimate)	40,124	55,795	6,745,408
Total public school population (2014-2015)	5,573	7,841	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>



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.