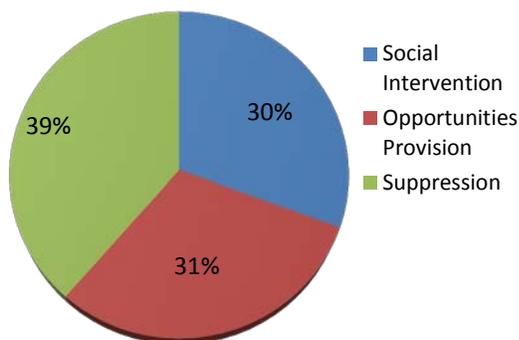


Lawrence Shannon CSI, 2015

Funded Partners: Arlington Community Trabajando, Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence, Lawrence Methuen Community Coalition, Lawrence Police Department, Merrimack Valley YMCA, YWCA of Greater Lawrence, Youth Build

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. Lawrence Shannon CSI 2015 Funding Allocation: \$342,445



Highlights of Shannon Participants:

Funded Population:

- 7 funded programs
- 4,825 youth served
 - 186 known to be high-risk youth

Education/Employment:

- 5 obtained a high school equivalency diploma
- 32 had subsidized summer employment

Law Enforcement/Courts and Prosecution:

- 45 hot spot patrols completed
- 247 law enforcement supported home visits completed

Personal Development:

- 20 received case management
- 563 participated in youth development programming
- 236 engaged in community service

Community Mobilization:

- 11 community meetings held

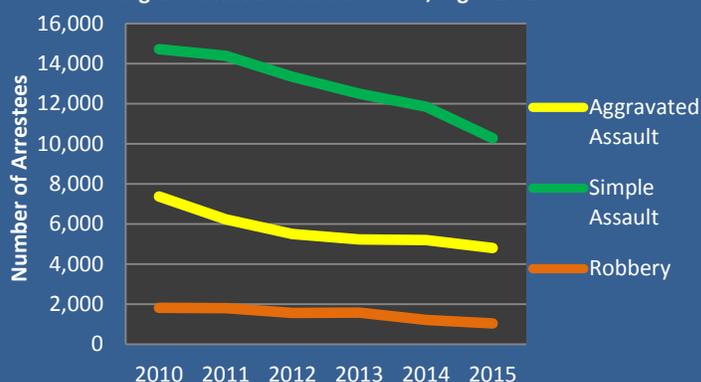
Community Gang Problem: Of the five homicides reported in Lawrence in 2015, at least one was gang related. Gangs in Lawrence aggressively recruit youth in the Lawrence public schools with the majority (75%) of the suspected members being between the ages of 14-24 years. Over the past several years, gangs in Lawrence have committed a variety of offenses including multiple shootings, stabbings, robberies and firearm incidents. Currently, one gang is the subject of a federal investigation.

Shannon Strategy: In 2015, Lawrence received \$342,445 in Shannon CSI funding to aid in reducing youth and gang violence among high-risk youth. Funded programs are intended to teach self-confidence, personal identity and positive alternatives to prevent gang involvement. The Lawrence Police Department continues to engage in suppression efforts and community outreach. As Figure 2 shows, Lawrence experienced a decline in arrests for aggravated assaults committed by youth ages 14-24 years. Data for simple assault were not available.

Figure 2. Lawrence 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 Lawrence, about one-third of the population lives in poverty, 2.5 times the state rate of 11.4%, with almost two-thirds of students defined as economically disadvantaged. Additionally, the four year school dropout rate is 10.8%. Given these community level risk factors, the successful transition of many Lawrence youth into adulthood is challenging compared to other non-disadvantaged communities.

Table 1. Lawrence Risk Factors, 2015

	Lawrence	State
Poverty/ Unemployment		
Poverty ^a	29.2%	11.4%
Economically Disadvantaged ^b	61.7%	26.3%
Unemployment rate	9.3%	4.6%
Education/ School Performance		
Graduation rate	71.8%	87.3%
Dropout rate	10.8%	5.1%
ELL Students	29.9%	8.5%
Suspension rate	3.9%	2.9%
Bachelor's Degree (25+)	11.1%	39.4%
Total population (2014 estimate)	78,197	6,745,408
Total public school population (2014-2015)	13,889	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>

Figure 4. Number and Risk Level of Lawrence 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.