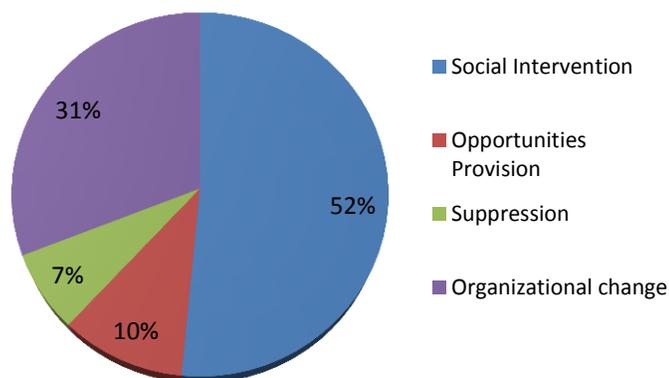


Pittsfield Shannon CSI, 2015

Funded Partners: Pittsfield Community Connection, Pittsfield Police Department

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. Pittsfield Shannon CSI 2015
Funding Allocation: \$139,999



Highlights of Shannon Participants:

Funded Population:

- 4 funded programs
- 44 youth served
 - 9 known to be gang involved

Education/Employment:

- 28 had subsidized summer employment
- 15 had an unsubsidized employment opportunity

Law Enforcement/Courts and Prosecution:

- 300 completed hot spot patrols

Personal Development:

- 44 received case management
- 35 received mental health counseling

Community Mobilization

- 7 community meetings held

Community Gang Problem: In the summer of 2015, Pittsfield experienced an increase in gang related fatal shootings, which strengthened the ongoing concern regarding the increased number of overt demonstrations of violence, i.e. an increase in the possession of weapons and the use of intimidation by younger aged youth in the Pittsfield public schools. Additionally, in 2015 Pittsfield experienced a high number of direct referrals of younger children, ages 10-14 years, to the Department of Children and Families and juvenile probation services.

Shannon Strategy: In 2015, Pittsfield received \$139,999 in Shannon CSI funding to accelerate ongoing youth and gang violence prevention activities and implement additional elements of the Shannon gang prevention model. The Pittsfield CSI initiative combines individual prevention and intervention strategies aimed at the family and neighborhood level. Specifically, a team comprised of a program coordinator, two outreach workers, and a caseworker provide youth mentoring and develop individual treatment plans for high-risk youth. Additionally, Shannon funds are used to implement neighborhood mobilization and hot-spot patrols in high-risk neighborhoods.

Figure 2. Pittsfield Violent Arrestees, Ages 14-24

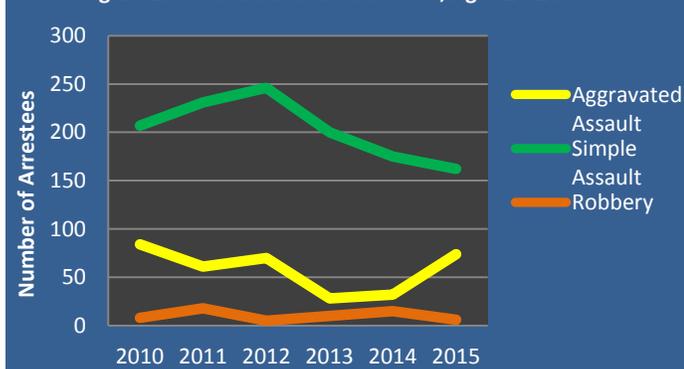
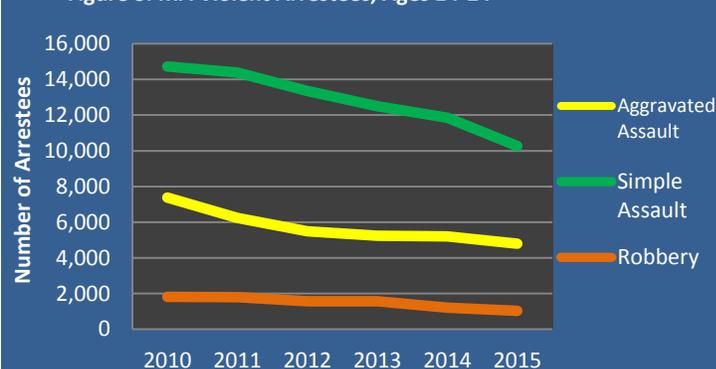


Figure 3. MA Violent Arrestees, Ages 14-24



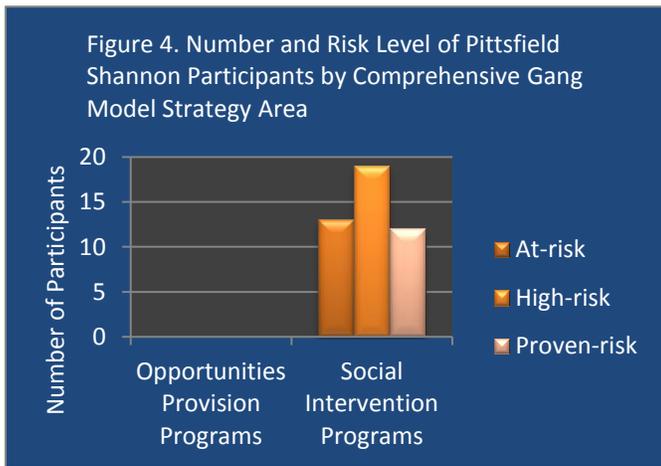
Community Risk Factors

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. Approximately 17% of Pittsfield's population is below poverty, with 43.4% of the student population categorized as economically disadvantaged. The 8.1% four-year dropout rate is three percentage points higher than the state's. Given these community level risk factors, the successful transition of many Pittsfield youth into adulthood is challenging compared to other non-disadvantaged communities.

Table 1. Pittsfield Risk Factors, 2015

	Pittsfield	State
Poverty/ Unemployment		
Poverty ^a	17.1%	11.4%
Economically Disadvantaged ^b	43.4%	26.3%
Unemployment rate	5.8%	4.6%
Education/ School Performance		
Graduation rate	82.9%	87.3%
Dropout rate	8.1%	5.1%
ELL Students	4.4%	8.5%
Suspension rate	1.7%	2.9%
Bachelor's Degree (25+)	25.0%	39.4%
Total population (2014 estimate)	43,697	6,745,408
Total public school population (2014-2015)	5,744	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.