

2021 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE HOLYOKE/CHICOPEE

Funded Partners: Chicopee Boys & Girls Club, Hampden County Sheriff's Department, Holyoke Boys & Girls Club, Holyoke Community College, Holyoke High School, Holyoke Police Department, MassHire Holyoke, Opportunity Academy

Funded by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants and Research, the Charles E. Shannon Community Safety Initiative (Shannon) is modeled after the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Comprehensive Gang Model. Shannon is a multi-sector approach used to address a community's gang and youth violence problem. Each community receiving Shannon funding demonstrates the presence of risk factors for youth and gang violence. Shannon participants must be between the ages of 10-24 years.

Strategies, Outcomes, and Funding Allocation*

Total Funding: \$500,224.47

Including \$24,990.00 in COVID-19 relief funding

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
Education & Employment	<u>21</u> in Employment Programs	<u>16</u> Participated in Education Programs	\$85,856.80
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	<u>464</u> Participated in Recreation Programs	<u>514</u> Participated in Youth Development Programs	\$279,154.03
Suppression	<u>64</u> Hot Spot Patrols Completed	<u>5</u> High-Impact Players Arraigned	\$135,213.64

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Shannon CSI programs may have adjusted programming options (e.g., reduced numbers served to meet restrictions, remote programming) and/or shifted funding allocations.

Youth Risk Assessments

53%
LOW-RISK* Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.

22%
MODERATE-RISK* Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.

25%
HIGH-RISK* Youth who are perpetrators or victims of shooting or stabbing violence, and/or are known gang members.

* % of youth assessed for risk; responses in risk assessment may have been impacted by changes in context due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Success Highlight

"One of our new teen members had a negative home environment and no one to listen to him. This led to outbursts, fights, arguments at home/school, a negative outlook, and being in the hospital on medication. As he began to let relationships develop with our staff and other teens, he found the Club to be his second home. This is a place/program that has impacted his life for the better, has given him the confidence to be himself, and puts a smile on his face. He was awarded the Teen member of the Month in December for his accomplishments!"

~Chicopee Boys & Girls Club (CBGC)

Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Office of Grants and Research, Terrence Reidy, Secretary

To learn more visit: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/shannon-community-safety-initiative-csi>

Community Risk Factors

Massachusetts

Holyoke

Chicopee

Total Population (2021/2020 Estimate)	6,984,723	38,238	55,560
Population Lives in Poverty	9.4%	29.3%	13.8%
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	9%	7.3%
Total School Population (2020-21)	970,443	5,571	7,721
Economically Disadvantaged	43.8%	86.5%	69%
High School Dropout Rate	1.6%	3.4%	2.1%

Sources: www.census.gov/quickfacts; profiles.doe.mass.edu/; www.mass.gov/lwd/economic-data/

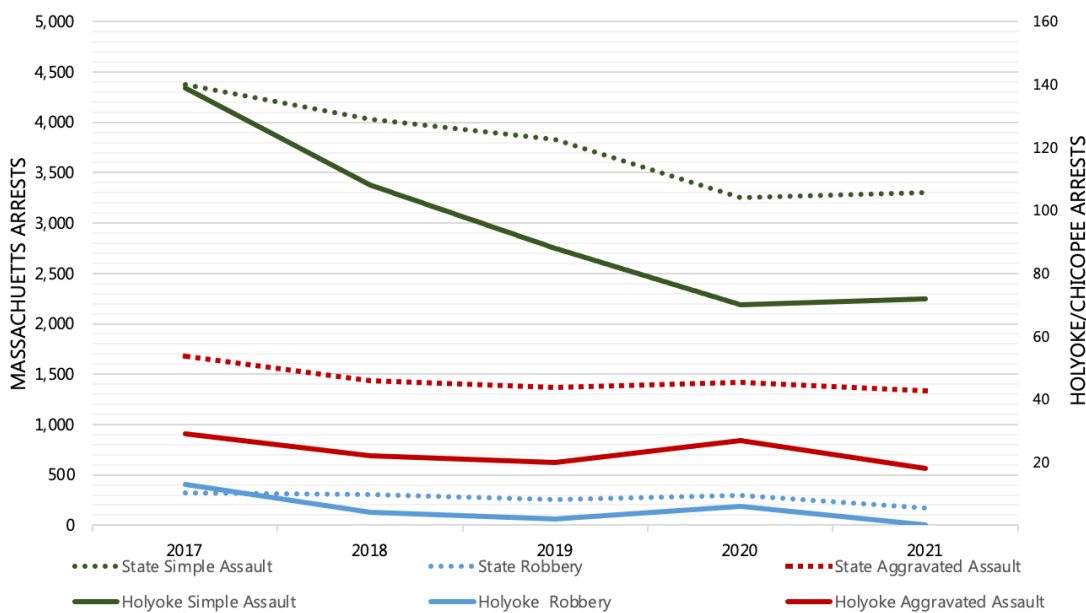
Gang Activity in Holyoke/Chicopee

10
Street Gangs

300
Gang Members

The majority of drug trade and associated crime within Holyoke and Chicopee is conducted by gangs, including local, national, and internationally known gangs (e.g., Latin Kings, Latin Queens, and La Familia). Of considerable concern are additional national gangs (Bloods) and local gangs (e.g., Dirty South, Flatbush Posse, NETAS, NHB Rollin 20s, and R2D). These gangs actively recruit juveniles at high rates and contribute to high levels of gang violence. Because Holyoke and Chicopee are ideally located on the I90 corridor that links New York city to CT, MA, VT, and NH, these cities, particularly Holyoke, have become central to drug trafficking. The gangs occupy substantial turf in central Holyoke, with substantial street dealing of opiates including heroin and heroin with fentanyl. According to the police leadership, approximately 75% of violent crime and 90% of drug-related crimes are gang-related. While recruitment is difficult to track, it does occur in schools and with youth who are disengaged from school and who are already engaged in low-level delinquent behavior.

5-Year Crime Trends for Young People Ages 10-24, 2017-2021



Changes in Crime for Young People Ages 10-24, 2017-2021

- Simple assaults in...
 - Massachusetts decreased 25%
 - Holyoke/Chicopee decreased 48%
- Robberies in...
 - Massachusetts decreased 47%
 - Holyoke/Chicopee decreased 100%
- Aggravated assaults in...
 - Massachusetts decreased 20%
 - Holyoke/Chicopee increased 38%

Information contained in this report is from funding applications, reports supplied by the site, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, US Census, MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, and Office of Grants and Research / Research Policy and Analysis Division. Special thanks to the Statewide Research Partner, Northeastern University and the Crime and Justice Policy Lab of the University of Pennsylvania, for preparing this brief.