

2021 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE

LOWELL

Funded Partners: Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell, Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association, Career Center of Lowell, Lowell Community Health Center, Lowell High School, Lowell Parks and Recreation, Lowell Police Department, UTEC, West End Gym, YWCA

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: \$659,861.81

Including \$25,000 in COVID-19 relief funding

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention	64 Received Case Management Services	61 Case Management Goals Achieved	\$65,176.72
Education & Employment	131 Participated in Employment Programs	278 Participated in Education Programs	\$202,602.98
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	232 Participated in Recreation Programs	463 Participated in Youth Development Programs	\$233,169.38
Suppression	393 Hot Spot Patrols Completed	14 Gang Members/High-Impact Players Arrested	\$158,912.73

*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

19% **LOW-RISK*** Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.

55% **MODERATE-RISK*** Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.

26% **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

"The Shannon program helped fund Peace League, a basketball program that served 80 youth. One of those youth was struggling in his home life. This member enjoyed playing basketball and the staff convinced him to join the team. His confidence grew and he tried out for the Lowell High basketball team. He played on both teams with high hopes of attending college and having the possibility of playing there also. This member graduated high school and is now attending culinary school."

~Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell

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

Lowell

Total Population (2021/2020 Estimate)	6,984,723	115,554
Population Lives in Poverty	9.4%	19%
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	6.9%
Total School Population (2020-21)	970,443	19,019
Economically Disadvantaged	43.8%	75%
High School Dropout Rate	1.6%	3.3%

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

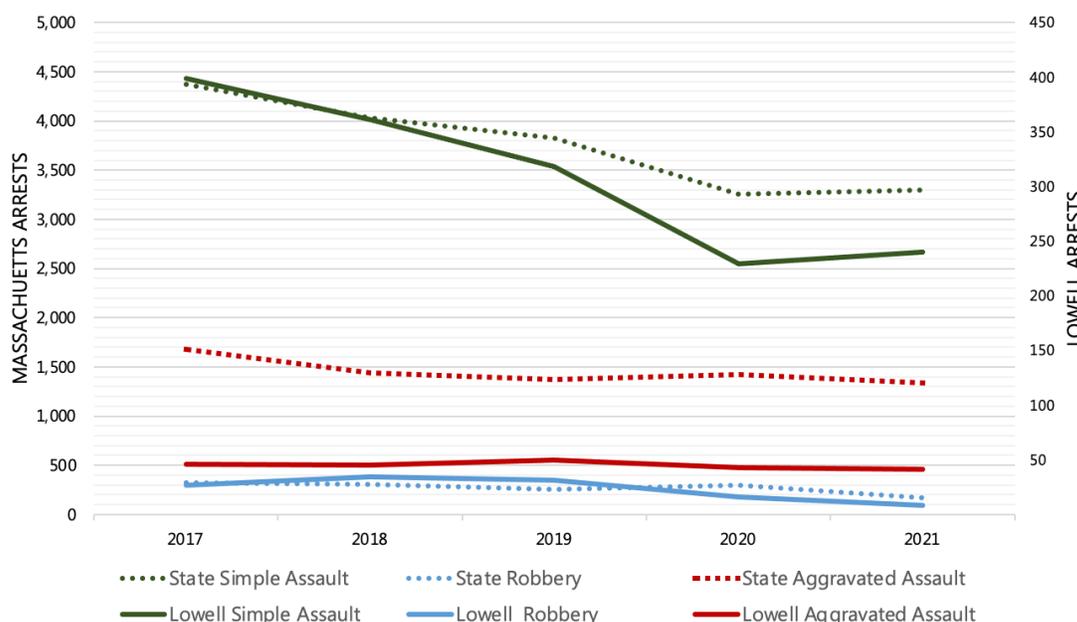
Gang Activity in Lowell

17
Street Gangs

101
Gang Members
Under 25

In 2021, the Lowell Police Department's Crime Analysis and Intelligence Unit confirmed 17 active gangs consisting of approximately 615 individuals, of which over 16% were under the age of 25. Competition in the drug market is the most common cause of inter-gang violence in the City (e.g. Trinitarios vs Gangster Disciples). Lowell continues to see gang utilization of juveniles as drug runners because the sentences in juvenile court are less harsh. Additionally, Lowell continues to see an increase in gang members from Lawrence entering and committing drug-related and violent offenses. Increased communication between the Lowell and Lawrence police departments has been critical for identifying members and understanding group rivalry.

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%
 - Lowell decreased 40%
- Robberies in...
- Massachusetts decreased 47%
 - Lowell decreased 70%
- Aggravated assaults in...
- Massachusetts decreased 20%
 - Lowell decreased 11%

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, the Center on Crime and Community Resilience at Northeastern University, for preparing this brief.