

# 2021 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE NEW BEDFORD

Funded Partners: Bristol County District Attorney's Office, New Bedford Police Department, United Way of Greater New Bedford

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: \$849,879.58  
Including \$25,000 COVID-19 relief funding

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
<b>Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention</b>	<b>321</b> Received Case Management Services	<b>321</b> Received Street Outreach Services	<b>\$280,606.94</b>
<b>Community Mobilization</b>	<b>9,857</b> Community Members Attended Events, Meetings, & Presentations	<b>194</b> Community Events, Meetings, & Presentations Held	<b>\$140,303.47</b>
<b>Education &amp; Employment</b>	<b>28</b> Participated in Employment Programs	<b>20</b> Completed a Subsidized Summer Employment Program	<b>\$140,303.47</b>
<b>Positive Youth Development &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>9</b> Participated in Recreation Programs	<b>9</b> Participated in Youth Development Programs	<b>\$140,303.47</b>
<b>Suppression</b>	<b>50</b> Hot Spot Patrols Completed	<b>91</b> High-Impact Players Arraigned	<b>\$148,362.24</b>

\*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

3%  
LOW-RISK\* Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.

42%  
MODERATE-RISK\* Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.

55%  
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 participants who was never gang involved a few years ago was stabbed while walking home. During his recovery, gang affiliates were able to convince him to associate with them and he became heavily involved. He gained a weapons charge, was arrested, and was on probation for at least a two years. Since then, he has participated in New Bedford Shannon's personal development groups, intensive case management, and a subsidized employment program. He graduated from high school, has not participated in gang activity for a year and a half, and is working a full time job."*

~New Bedford Shannon

# Community Risk Factors

Massachusetts

New Bedford

Total Population (2021/2020 Estimate)	6,984,723	101,079
Population Lives in Poverty	9.4%	20.3%
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	8.5%
Total School Population (2020-21)	970,443	16,679
Economically Disadvantaged	43.8%	82.5%
High School Dropout Rate	1.6%	3.2%

Sources: [www.census.gov/quickfacts](http://www.census.gov/quickfacts); [profiles.doe.mass.edu/](http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/); [www.mass.gov/lwd/economic-data/](http://www.mass.gov/lwd/economic-data/)

## Gang Activity in New Bedford

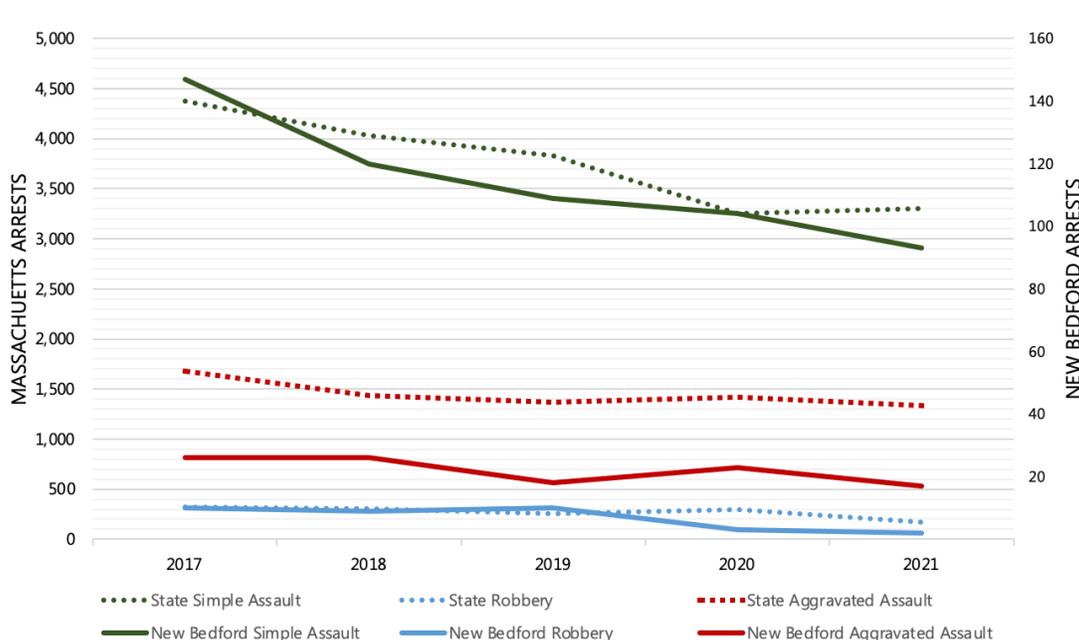
11  
Street Gangs

80  
Gang Members  
Under 25

In 2021, the New Bedford Police Department confirmed 11 active gangs with 120 validated gang members (2/3 under the age of 25). The gangs are considered "hybrid" street gangs, but affiliate with national gang organizations (i.e., Gangster Disciples, Bloods, Crips, Shotgun Crips, Latin Kings, Vice Lords). Cyberspace and social media platforms have become the most common means by which gangs communicate, disrespect, and threaten one another. Gang members openly flaunt weapons, drugs, and cash on their posts and use rap music videos to taunt rivals.

The NBPD Gang Unit has recently purged their gang database and is in the process of changing the criteria by which they measure an individual's gang affiliation; therefore, although it may look like our gang population has dropped, we continue to experience gang violence from primarily neighborhood gangs that often claim affiliation to national organizations.

## 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%
  - New Bedford decreased 37%
- Robberies in...
- Massachusetts decreased 47%
  - New Bedford decreased 80%
- Aggravated assaults in...
- Massachusetts decreased 20%
  - New Bedford decreased 35%

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.