

2021 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE PITTSFIELD

Funded Partners: 18 Degrees - Pittsfield Community Connections, Pittsfield Police Department

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: \$355,255.33

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

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention	<u>120</u> Received Case Management Services	<u>45</u> Received Street Outreach Services	\$134,102.13
Community Mobilization	<u>215</u> Community Members Attended Events, Meetings, & Presentations	<u>43</u> Community Events, Meetings, & Presentations Held	\$67,051.07
Education & Employment	<u>51</u> Participated in Employment Programs	<u>36</u> Participated in Education Programs	\$67,051.07
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	<u>63</u> Participated in Recreation Programs	<u>52</u> Participated in Youth Development Programs	\$67,051.07
Suppression	<u>32</u> Hot Spot Patrols Completed	<u>2</u> Gang Members/High-Impact Players Arrested	\$20,000

*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

45% **LOW-RISK*** Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.

36% **MODERATE-RISK*** Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.

19% **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

*"A program participant was in need of support in managing the legal system after they had obtained charges for driving without a license. Throughout the months of court dates and probation, the youth communicated with the program about making appropriate decisions to secure a new job and attend their final year in school. The program provided assistance where the youth lacked resources and connected them to outside resources."
~18 Degrees - Pittsfield Community Connection*

Community Risk Factors

Massachusetts

Pittsfield

Total Population (2021/2020 Estimate)	6,984,723	43,927
Population Lives in Poverty	9.4%	13.4%
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	7.6%
Total School Population (2020-21)	970,443	5,976
Economically Disadvantaged	43.8%	67.5%
High School Dropout Rate	1.6%	2.5%

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

Gang Activity in Pittsfield

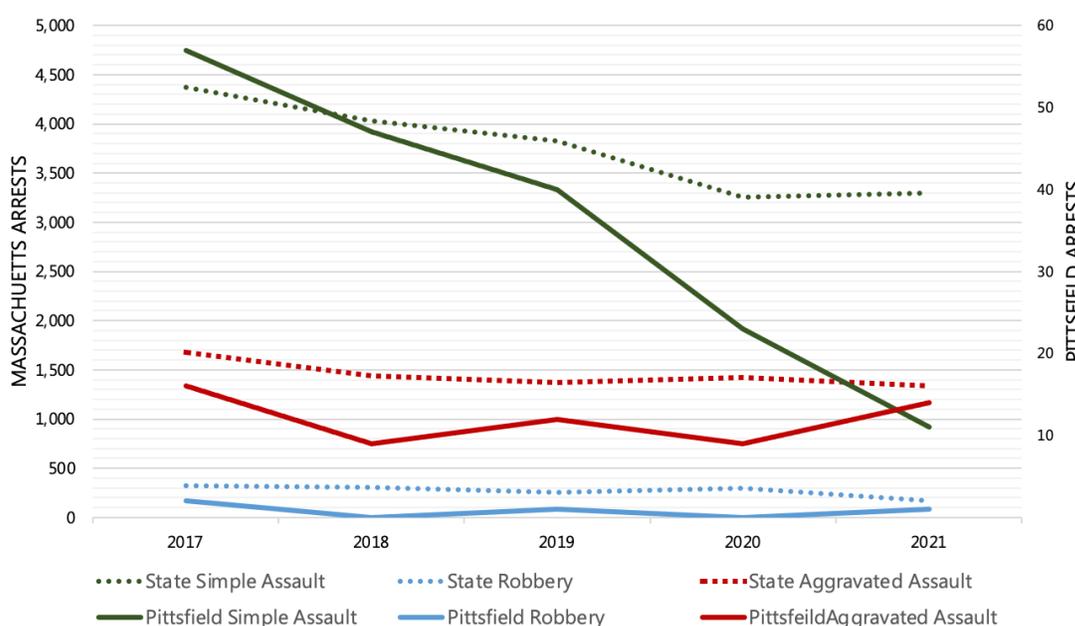
200+
Active
Gang Members

30-50
Gang Members
Under 25

"In Pittsfield we have a variety of different gangs, we have the national gangs that all people are aware of ie. Bloods, Crips, Latin kings. We also have street gangs that have developed in the area that will sometimes align themselves with the larger gangs. We also have the street gangs from the Springfield area that come to Pittsfield and/or Berkshire County. To my knowledge we haven't had any recent gang on gang violence, usually the violence stems from individual issues. Normally people think of Bloods and Crips being rival gangs, but often times we see groups that have members from both Gangs affiliating with one another in order to facilitate the sale of narcotics. The gang activity in Pittsfield revolves around the sales of narcotics and prostitution. Means of recruitment stem from neighborhood or street level recruitment, social media, and entertainment (music)."

-Investigator Thomas J. Bowler

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%
- Pittsfield decreased 81%

Robberies in...

- Massachusetts decreased 47%
- Pittsfield decreased 50%

Aggravated assaults in...

- Massachusetts decreased 20%
- Pittsfield decreased 13%

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.