

# 2021 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE WORCESTER

Funded Partners: Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Club of Worcester, Main South CDC, Worcester Community Action Council, Worcester Police Department, Worcester Public Schools, Worcester Youth Center, You Inc.

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: \$1,284,659.86  
Including \$25,000 in COVID-19 relief funding

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
<b>Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention</b>	<b>313</b> Received Case Management Services	<b>20</b> Received Street Outreach Services	<b>\$456,625.01</b>
<b>Community Mobilization</b>	<b>50</b> Community Members Attended Events, Meetings, & Presentations	<b>53</b> Community Events, Meetings, & Presentations Held	<b>\$69,161.54</b>
<b>Education &amp; Employment</b>	<b>107</b> Participated in Employment Programs	<b>67</b> Completed a Subsidized Summer Employment Program	<b>\$215,674.62</b>
<b>Positive Youth Development &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>821</b> Participated in Recreation Programs	<b>1,050</b> Participated in Youth Development Programs	<b>\$246,553.68</b>
<b>Suppression</b>	<b>113</b> Hot Spot Patrols Completed	<b>10</b> Successful Home Visits (i.e., contact with youth or family)	<b>\$122,831.04</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. In Worcester, \$173,813.98 was allocated to administrative costs.

## Youth Risk Assessments

74% Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.  
**LOW-RISK\***

21% Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.  
**MODERATE-RISK\***

5% Youth who are perpetrators or victims of shooting or stabbing violence, and/or are known gang members.  
**HIGH-RISK\***

\* % 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 17 year old youth was referred to the Court Diversion program due to a reported history of frequent outbursts in the home and a recent assault of another member of their family. The court referred the youth and family to our services to support the youth in accessing behavioral health supports to process their anger management issues. The youth showed improvement in their grades, began volunteering as a basketball coach, was hired for a part time job, and passed the LSAT in preparation to attend college. One of the most impactful referrals was for In Home Therapy (IHT) which helped the youth manage their frustration and communicate more positively with their parents in times of anger or frustration."*

~You Inc.

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

Worcester

Total Population (2021/2020 Estimate)	6,984,723	206,518
Population Lives in Poverty	9.4%	20%
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	6.9%
Total School Population (2020-21)	970,443	27,491
Economically Disadvantaged	43.8%	74.3%
High School Dropout Rate	1.6%	1.7%

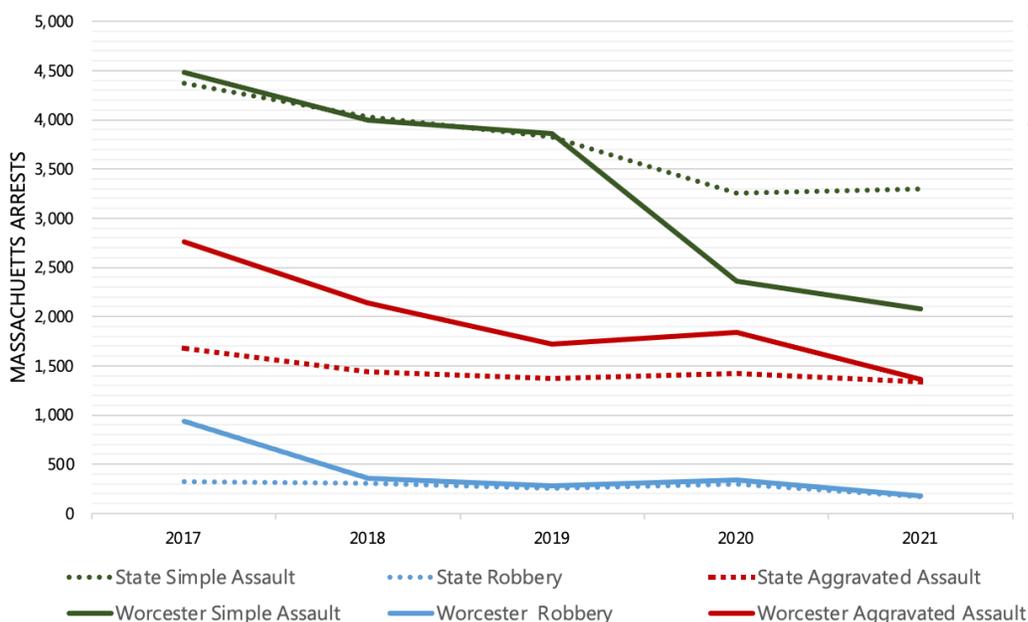
Sources: [www.census.gov/quickfacts](http://www.census.gov/quickfacts); [profiles.doe.mass.edu/](http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/); [www.mass.gov/lwd/economic-data/](http://www.mass.gov/lwd/economic-data/)

## Gang Activity in Worcester

20-24  
Street Gangs  
1,200  
Gang Members

Although there are a number of national gangs in Worcester, the majority of those involved are local street gangs. Recruitment starts with early teens often in high school. Violence among gangs is experienced throughout the city, most often in areas considered gang territory. Social media has played a major roll in communication between gangs marking the reason for ongoing feuds. Inter-gang violence includes but is not limited to: assaults, threats, stabbings and shootings.

## 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%
  - Worcester decreased 54%
- Robberies in...
  - Massachusetts decreased 47%
  - Worcester decreased 81%
- Aggravated assaults in...
  - Massachusetts decreased 20%
  - Worcester decreased 51%

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.