

# 2023 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE

## FALL RIVER

**Funded Partners:** Bristol County District Attorney's Office, Bristol County Sheriff's Office, Bristol County Training Consortium/MassHire Bristol Career Centers, Fall River Boys & Girls Club, Fall River Police Department, Fall River Public Schools, Fall River YMCA, Fall River Youth Court, Family Service Association, Greater Fall River RE-CREATION, Massachusetts Parole Board, Solid Ground Psychotherapy, United Neighbors of Fall River, YouthBuild Fall River

Funded by the Office of Grants and Research, a state agency that is part of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, 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: \$629,910.66\*

Strategies	Outcomes	Funding Allocation
<b>Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention</b>	<b>83</b> youth received case management services <b>8</b> youth received outreach services	<b>\$121,814.85</b>
<b>Community Mobilization</b>	<b>2,087</b> community members attended events, meetings, & presentations <b>61</b> community events, meetings, & presentations Held	<b>\$108,545.63</b>
<b>Education &amp; Employment</b>	<b>12</b> youth participated in employment programs <b>10</b> youth participated in subsidized summer employment	<b>\$38,322.96</b>
<b>Positive Youth Development &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>1,036</b> youth participated in recreation programs <b>338</b> youth participated in youth development programs	<b>\$187,435.42</b>
<b>Suppression</b>	<b>125</b> hot spot patrols completed <b>14</b> gang members/high impact players arrested	<b>\$143,525.00</b>

\*In 2023, \$30,266.81 was allocated to administrative/other costs for the site.

### Youth Risk Assessments

- 12% **LOW-RISK\*** Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.
- 53% **MODERATE-RISK\*** Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.
- 35% **HIGH-RISK\*** Youth who are perpetrators or victims of shooting or stabbing violence, and/or are known gang members.

\* % of youth assessed for risk

### Success Highlight

*"In 2023, we processed 20 young people in Youth Court who were given additional services through Shannon funding. Of those 20 youths, 13 have completed Youth Court and have avoided a criminal stain on their record. We saw positive improvements in their behaviors during their case management...Several of these youths were using illegal substances when they came into Youth Court, and by the end of our program, they had clean screens. We engaged one of the 13 youths in a 30-day mental health clinic that allowed them to receive much-needed services. One of our Shannon youths asked for assistance in detoxing from alcohol and getting into recovery services. We were able to help them navigate the recovery world and follow up with them to ensure they were getting all of the assistance out there for them at their age."*

~ Fall River Youth Court

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

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

# Community Risk Factors

Massachusetts

Fall River

Total Population (2022/2023 Estimates)	7,001,399	93,682
Population Lives in Poverty	10.4%	19.7%
Unemployment Rate (Jan. – Nov. 2023)	3.1%	5.1%
Total School Population (2022-23)	964,066	14,646
Low-Income (2023)	42.2%	78.5%
High School Dropout Rate (2020-21)	2.1%	6.7%

Sources: [www.census.gov/quickfacts](http://www.census.gov/quickfacts); [profiles.doe.mass.edu](http://profiles.doe.mass.edu); [www.lmi.dua.eol.mass.gov/LMI/LaborForceAndUnemployment](http://www.lmi.dua.eol.mass.gov/LMI/LaborForceAndUnemployment)

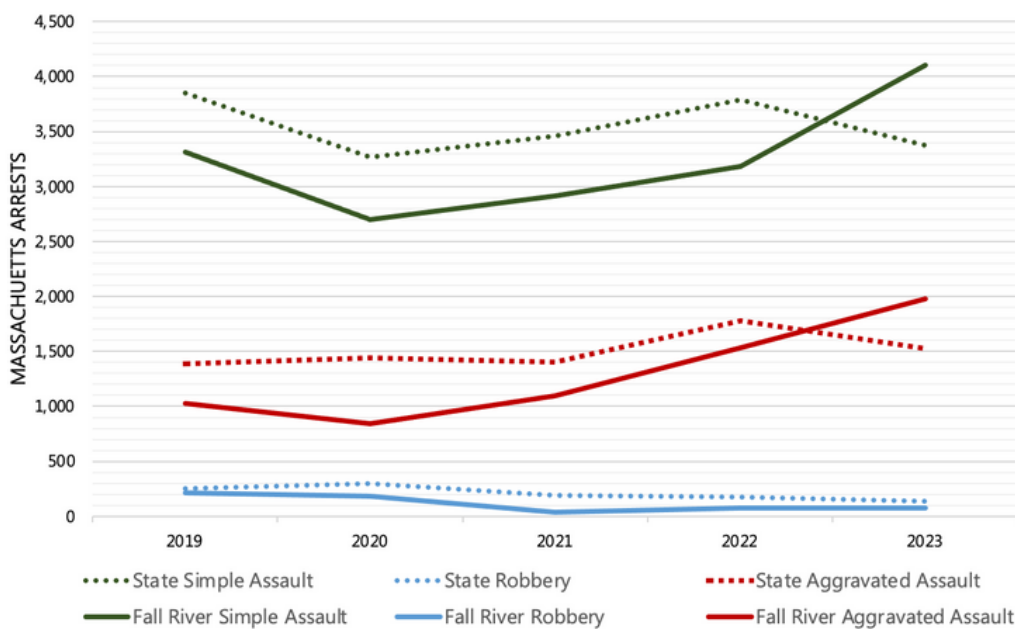
## Gang Activity in Fall River

20  
Street Gangs

350  
Gang Members  
Between the Ages  
of 10-24

Conflict between gangs consists of narcotic sales, turf, girlfriends, or the belief that disrespect has occurred from one gang to the other. The consistent conflict escalates into violent confrontations, revenge shootings, stabbings, home invasions, robberies, beatings, random attacks, spray painting, and firearm possession. Fall River gangs participate in all these activities but also commit other crimes such as domestic violence, rape, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Gangs of Fall River have engaged in sex trafficking crimes, including prostitution and the formation of trafficking rings. Drug and firearm trafficking are the primary sources of profit for gangs. Social media has allowed these groups to create and share videos that glorify the “gang lifestyle” and use them for recruitment. Older gang members recruit juveniles to engage in criminal activity (being a lookout or holding weapons and drugs). The gang unit has observed initial gang involvement/activity beginning at an earlier age than in the past. Officers continue to see the recruitment and exploitation of children as young as ten years old. We have also seen an uptick in a large group of young teens who are branching out and trying to get credibility by creating their own “subsets” within the city.

## 5-Year Crime Trends for Offenses Committed by Youth Ages 10-24, 2019-2023



### Changes in Crime for Young People Ages 10-24, 2019-2023

- Simple assaults in...
  - Massachusetts decreased 12%
  - Fall River increased 24%
- Robberies in...
  - Massachusetts decreased 46%
  - Fall River decreased 67%
- Aggravated assaults in...
  - Massachusetts increased 10%
  - Fall River increased 93%

Source: National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

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 at the University of Pennsylvania, for preparing this brief.