

2023 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE PITTSFIELD

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

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: \$394,319.78

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention	133 youth received case management services	18 street outreach deployments to interrupt retaliation or mediate a situation	\$149,688.04
Community Mobilization	714 community members attended events, meetings, & presentations	65 community events, meetings, & presentations held	\$74,844.02
Education & Employment	1 youth who completed a subsidized year-round employment program	7 youth who completed a subsidized summer employment program	\$74,844.02
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	60 youth participated in recreation programs	89 youth participated in youth development programs	\$74,844.02
Suppression	28 hot spot patrols completed	8 gang members/high impact players arrested	\$20,099.68

Youth Risk Assessments

67% **LOW-RISK*** Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.

29% **MODERATE-RISK*** Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.

4% **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

"A 16-year-old participant, who has consistently been truant from school since the 6th grade, had three felony assault charges from 13-15 years old and refused to engage in any community-based programs joined our program. Within the last year, this participant has consistently been involved in case management and outreach services. During this time, this youth was successfully discharged from juvenile probation, improved attendance and engagement in academics, and complied with rules and expectations in the home. This youth also got their state ID with the assistance of their case manager and has been applying for employment opportunities for after-school care facilities to help give back to youth in need of developing healthy relationships with positive support, as they did with this agency. This youth has shown significant growth in developing interpersonal relationships, conflict resolution, critical thinking, and problem-solving in the home and community."

~ 18 Degrees - Pittsfield Community Correction

Community Risk Factors

Massachusetts

Pittsfield

Total Population (2022/2023 Estimates)	7,001,399	43,310
Population Lives in Poverty	10.4%	13.8%
Unemployment Rate (Jan. – Nov. 2023)	3.1%	3.6%
Total School Population (2022-23)	964,066	5,809
Low-Income	42.2%	65.5%
High School Dropout Rate (2020-21)	2.1%	3.5%

Sources: www.census.gov/quickfacts; profiles.doe.mass.edu; www.lmi.dua.eol.mass.gov/LMI/LaborForceAndUnemployment

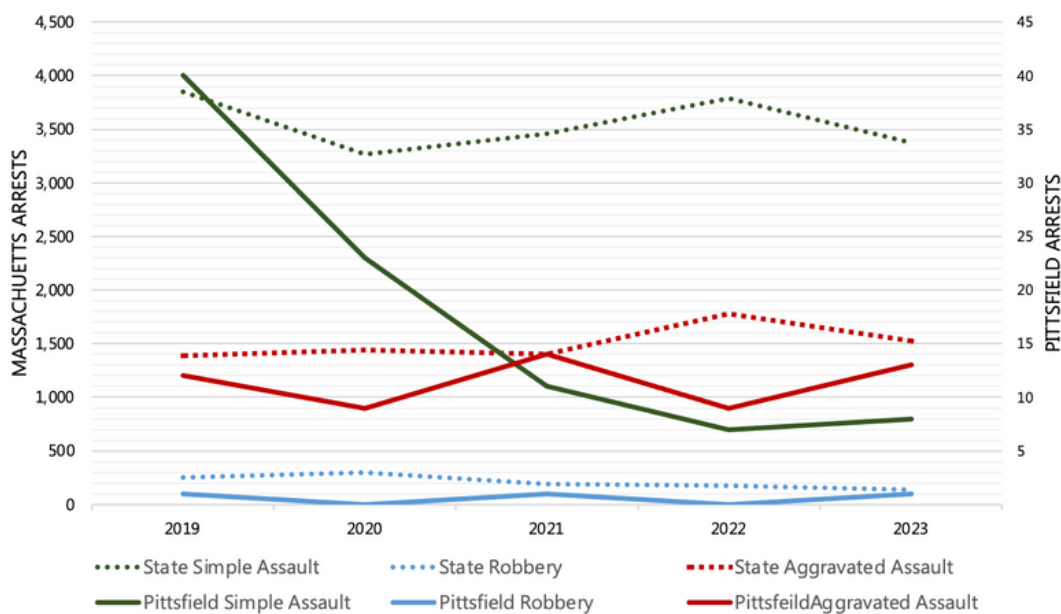
Gang Activity in Pittsfield

2-7
Street Gangs

50-150
Active
Gang Members

Membership numbers are rough estimates based on interviews with Pittsfield Police Department detectives. Officers and community members noted that many group-associated individuals in Pittsfield will claim Blood or Crip affiliations, but these affiliations are loose and shift often. Additionally, younger people have formed neighborhood groups that frequently change. Conflicts among young group members are often sparked in online venues. The case review of homicides and nonfatal shootings for our Community Risk Assessment indicated that no gun violence incidents in the sample occurred purely due to a group-on-group conflict (e.g., Blood in Crip territory). However, at least 64% of homicides and nonfatal shootings involved group members as victims, suspects, or both. Group/gang members are frequently involved in personal disputes, drug-related disputes, and robberies that lead to serious gun violence.

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%
 - Pittsfield decreased 80%
- Robberies in...
 - Massachusetts decreased 46%
 - Pittsfield decreased 0%
- Aggravated assaults in...
 - Massachusetts increased 10%
 - Pittsfield increased 8%

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 of the University of Pennsylvania, for preparing this brief.