

# 2022 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE FITCHBURG/GARDNER

Funded Partners: City of Fitchburg Police Department, City of Gardner Police Department, Making Opportunity Count, Mount Wachusett Community College, Shining Light Ministries Inc., Spanish American Center

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: \$416,812.00

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
<b>Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention</b>	<b>90</b> Received Case Management Services	<b>172</b> Case Management Goals Achieved	<b>\$48,837.50</b>
<b>Education &amp; Employment</b>	<b>63</b> Participated in Employment Programs	<b>90</b> Participated in Education Programs	<b>\$88,575.00</b>
<b>Positive Youth Development &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>166</b> Participated in Recreation Programs	<b>338</b> Participated in Youth Development Programs	<b>\$183,771.50</b>
<b>Suppression</b>	<b>133</b> Hot Spot Patrols Completed	<b>36</b> Gang Members/High Impact Players Arrested	<b>\$95,628.00</b>

### Youth Risk Assessments

- 91% **LOW-RISK\*** Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.
- 8% **MODERATE-RISK\*** Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.
- 1% **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

*"One youth came into our program facing challenges around mental health; particularly in the area of anxiety and socialization which has become even more challenging during the pandemic. Program staff supported the youth with resources and referrals and through training, groups, positive youth development, and job placement working with younger youth at a summer program, the youth had great success in managing mental health needs and has fully improved on socialization with peers and working as a mentor for younger youth. The participant is continuing to improve and has taken additional youth leadership training and programs with us during the school year and will continue with our employment program."*

*~Making Opportunity Count*

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/service-details/shannon-community-safety-initiative-csi>

# Community Risk Factors

Massachusetts      Fitchburg      Gardner

	Massachusetts	Fitchburg	Gardner
Total Population (2021/2022 Estimates)	6,981,974	41,732	21,191
Population Lives in Poverty	10.4%	14.6%	14.1%
Unemployment Rate (Nov. 2021 – Nov. 2022)	4%	5.5%	4.6%
Total School Population (2021-22)	957,774	6,579	2,816
Low-Income	42.3%	73.5%	63.8%
High School Dropout Rate (2020-21)	1.5%	1.5%	2.1%

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)

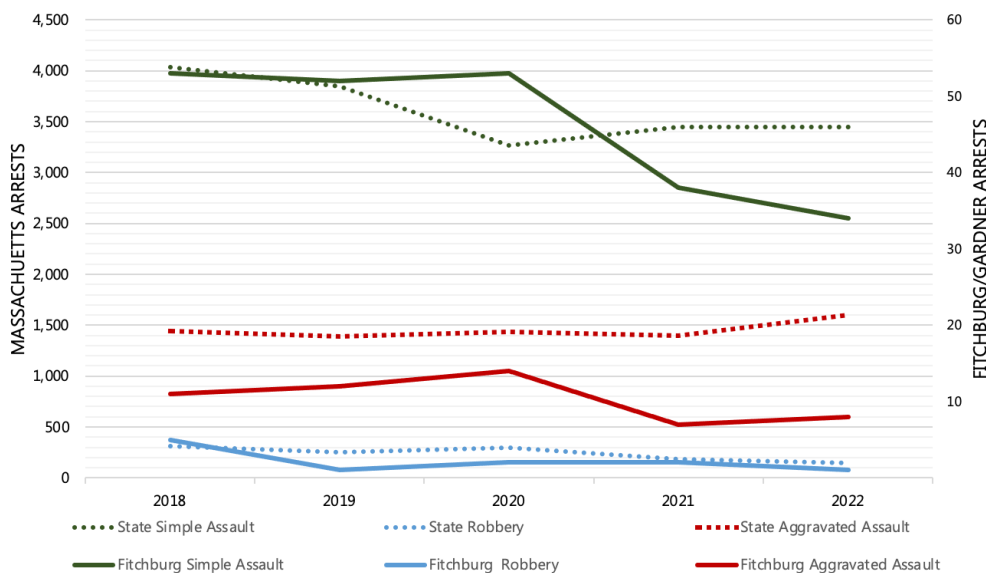
## Gang Activity in Fitchburg/Gardner

4  
Street Gangs

23  
Gang Members  
Under 25

The Fitchburg Police Department uses a static gang database. Therefore, data isn't updated to reflect who may no longer be involved in gang activity. The numbers listed are our best estimation given the static data. In 2020, the Fitchburg Police Department (FPD) confirmed 284 active and former gang members from 25 different gangs in the region. Roughly, 8% of the gang members were under the age of 25. In the past, gang activity in Fitchburg included weapons-related offenses, narcotics trafficking, violent offenses, and property crime. Recruitment has historically been done at school and in park/outdoor settings. Due to the transient nature of gang activity in the region, it is difficult to state that one gang may be based in one community.

## 5-Year Crime Trends for Offenses Committed by Youth Ages 10-24, 2018-2022



### Changes in Crime for Young People Ages 10-24, 2018-2022

- Simple assaults in...
  - Massachusetts decreased 15%
  - Fitchburg/Gardner decreased 36%
- Robberies in...
  - Massachusetts decreased 52%
  - Fitchburg/Gardner decreased 80%
- Aggravated assaults in...
  - Massachusetts increased 11%
  - Fitchburg/Gardner decreased 27%

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.