

2023 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE MASSACHUSETTS

Funded Communities: Boston, Brockton, Fall River, Fitchburg/Gardner, Haverhill/Methuen, Holyoke/Chicopee, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, Metro Mayors Coalition (Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, Winthrop), New Bedford, Pittsfield, Springfield, Taunton, Worcester

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. In 2022, Shannon awarded \$10.5 million to 15 Massachusetts community sites greatly impacted by gang activity. Funding supported positive youth development, recreation, case management, street outreach, education employment, targeted suppression, and community mobilization programs. Additionally, Shannon funded the equivalent of approximately 130 full-time positions to strategically address youth gang violence within these communities.

Strategies, Outcomes, and Funding Allocation

Total Funding: \$10,444,259.08*

Strategies	Outcomes	Funding Allocation
Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention	1,879 youth received case management services 1,976 case management goals achieved	\$2,164,528.13
Community Mobilization	32,127 community members attended events, meetings, & presentations 1,248 community events, meetings, & presentations held	\$784,353.44
Education & Employment	1,497 youth participated in employment programs 531 youth completed a subsidized year-round employment program	\$2,036,770.52
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	9,157 youth participated in recreation programs 12,475 youth participated in youth development programs	\$2,795,181.05
Suppression	4,862 hot spot patrols completed 311 law enforcement home visits	\$1,973,191.35

*Statewide, \$690,234.59 was allocated to administrative/other costs in 2023 across the Shannon sites.

Youth Risk Assessments

- 38% **LOW-RISK*** Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.
- 27% **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

“There is significant collaboration among Shannon partners, which allows for shared access to resources and broader participation.”

~ Lowell Shannon Site Manager

Shannon Community Risk Factors 2023*

	Total Population (state estimate as of July 1, 2023 all other estimates as of July 1, 2022)	Population Lives in Poverty (2018-2022)	Unemployment Rate (January- November 2023)	Total School Population (2022-23)	Low-Income (2023)	High School Dropout Rate (2021-22) *2023 data has not yet been released
<u>Massachusetts</u>	7,001,399	10.4%	3.1%	964,066	42.2%	2.1%
Boston	650,706	17.5%	2.9%	65,566	69.8%	3.7%
Brockton	104,826	12.9%	4.3%	17,193	74%	5.1%
Fall River	93,682	19.7%	5.1%	14,646	78.5%	6.7%
Fitchburg	41,502	13.9%	4.4%	6,326	72.6%	2.8%
Gardner	20,902	14.8%	3.7%	2,735	64.8%	2.2%
Haverhill	67,153	10.6%	3.4%	9,675	61.1%	3.3%
Methuen	53,241	8.9%	3.5%	7,900	54.3%	2.4%
Holyoke	37,720	26%	4.5%	5,420	85.1%	3.5%
Chicopee	54,980	15.5%	3.8%	7,689	66.4%	3.5%
Lawrence	87,954	19.4%	5.5%	16,562	85.1%	3.4%
Lowell	113,608	16.6%	3.6%	18,721	72.3%	5.5%
Lynn	100,891	14.1%	3.6%	17,104	73.5%	4.3%
Cambridge	118,488	12.1%	2.2%	8,228	35.5%	0.9%
Chelsea	38,637	21.4%	3.1%	7,278	78.1%	6.5%
Everett	49,350	14.4%	2.6%	8,144	71.5%	3.7%
Malden	64,712	13.5%	2.8%	7,270	60.7%	3.1%
Quincy	101,727	11.2%	2.9%	10,419	47.2%	1.2%
Revere	58,528	12.3%	3.2%	8,611	65.2%	3.9%
Somerville	79,762	10.2%	2.4%	5,595	48.3%	3.4%
Winthrop	18,510	8.2%	2.8%	2,059	37.2%	3.0%
New Bedford	100,682	18.8%	5.0%	15,311	79.8%	6.2%
Pittsfield	43,310	13.8%	3.6%	5,809	65.5%	3.5%
Springfield	154,064	25.3%	5.1%	27,061	85%	3.9%
Taunton	59,922	12.7%	3.9%	8,643	58.4%	3.0%
Attleboro	46,601	9.2%	3.2%	6,739	40.5%	1.4%
Worcester	205,319	19.5%	3.5%	27,444	71.4%	2.1%

* Shading in chart groups communities by the 15 Shannon sites.

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

Gang Activity in Massachusetts

350+
Street Gangs

Data on gang members under the age of 25 was not available from all police departments. For police departments that had available data, 4,046 gang members between the ages of 10-24 were identified.

10,500+
Active Gang
Members

Across the state, gangs/crews were primarily involved in drug trafficking, associated violence, carrying weapons, and property damage. Notably, social media was used to flash gang/crew membership and recruit new, younger members. Many at-risk youths were targeted to carry out gang/crew operations because of their advantageous juvenile status.

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.

Putting Shannon Dollars to Work to Reduce Youth and Gang Violence

\$10.4 Million Investment

139 Partners
at 15 Sites



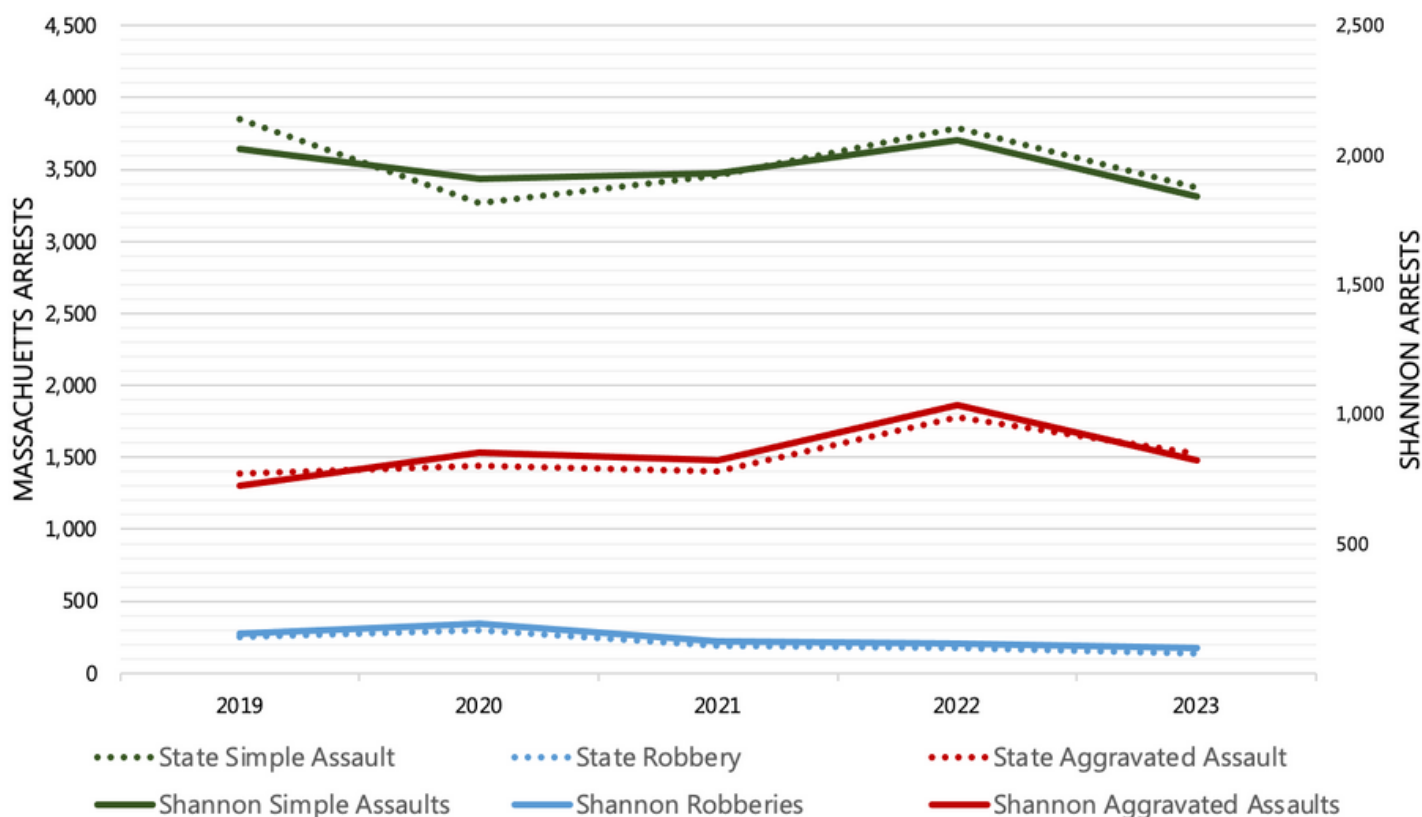
21,908 total youth served,
averaging \$476.73 invested per youth
across all services

\$670.55 invested per youth in
Case Management, Street
Outreach, or Intervention Efforts



\$349.54 invested per youth in
Education or Employment Efforts

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



Source: National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

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

Simple assaults in...

- Massachusetts decreased 12%
- Shannon communities decreased 9%

Robberies in...

- Massachusetts decreased 46%
- Shannon communities decreased 38%

Aggravated assaults in...

- Massachusetts increased 10%
- Shannon communities increased 13%

Overview of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comprehensive Gang Model

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts's Shannon Community Safety Initiative (Shannon CSI) is a multi-sector data-driven approach, modeled after the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Comprehensive Gang Model. After completing a community needs assessment, Shannon funded communities, in collaboration with steering committees, develop strategies in the following five areas:

Positive Youth Development & Recreation*



Positive Youth Development and Recreation Programs provide a prosocial outlet for youth to expand and enhance their interests, skills and abilities. These programs are safe havens for recreational, enrichment, educational and prevention activities outside school hours (i.e., athletics and physical fitness, school achievement initiatives).

Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention



Case Management Street Outreach or Intervention programs for gang involved and proven risk youth reach out and act as links to gang-involved youth, their families, and other traditional social service providers. For high risk youth and at-risk youth, social intervention programs can include drop-in recreation, positive youth development, and other mechanisms to reach young people and connect them to positive adults and constructive activities.

Education & Employment



Education and Employment Programs provide education, training, and employment opportunities to youth at high-risk for youth violence and gang involvement.

Suppression



Suppression programs include close supervision or monitoring of gang involved youth and other high impact players by police, prosecutors, probation officers, and other officers of the court. These programs include hotspot patrols, law-enforcement home visits, ride-alongs, re-entry, and special prosecutors.

Community Mobilization



Community Mobilization Programs educate community members about local gang and youth violence trends, as well as involving community members in strategies to confront the problem.

Two additional funded components of Shannon CSI include the Local Action Research Partners (LARPs), and the Statewide Youth Violence Research Partner (SRP). LARPs assist funded sites by providing strategic, analytic, technical, and research support. The SRP assists all funded Shannon CSI communities, LARPs and the Office of Grants and Research by providing strategic, analytic, and research support. Together the LARPs and SRP inform funded communities about best practices to maximize the effectiveness of the Shannon CSI.