

2023 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE WORCESTER

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

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: \$1,203,086.00*

Strategies	Outcomes	Funding Allocation
Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention	179 youth received case management services 226 case management goals achieved	\$347,077.72
Community Mobilization	200 community members attended events, meetings, & presentations 11 community events, meetings, & presentations held	\$93,450.98
Education & Employment	45 youth participated in employment programs 20 youth completed a subsidized year-round employment program	\$259,251.10
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	790 youth participated in recreation programs 809 youth participated in youth development programs	\$233,799.48
Suppression	94 hot spot patrols completed 12 gang members/high-impact players arrested	\$172,191.99

*In 2023, \$97,314.73 was allocated to administrative/other costs for the site.

Youth Risk Assessments

- 64% Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.
LOW-RISK*
- 12% Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.
MODERATE-RISK*
- 24% Youth who are perpetrators or victims of shooting or stabbing violence, and/or are known gang members.
HIGH-RISK*

* % of youth assessed for risk

Success Highlight

*"One participant was recently released from a two-year jail term for gun-related charges. Since being out and working with WCAC, he has obtained a full-time job and is learning how to operate a forklift as part of his training."
~Worcester Community Action Counseling*

Community Risk Factors

Massachusetts

Worcester

Total Population (2022/2023 Estimates)	7,001,399	205,319
Population Lives in Poverty	10.4%	19.5%
Unemployment Rate (Jan. – Nov. 2023)	3.1%	3.5%
Total School Population (2022-23)	964,066	27,444
Low-Income	42.2%	71.4%
High School Dropout Rate (2020-21)	2.1%	2.1%

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

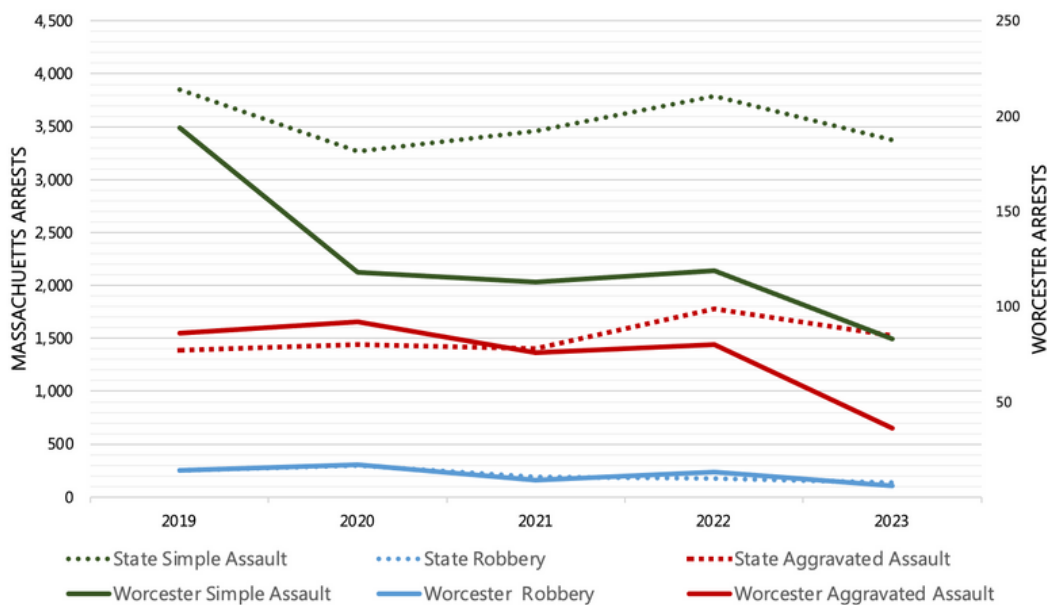
Gang Activity in Worcester

23
Street Gangs

1,451
Gang Members

At present, there are 23 active gangs documented in the city, including city-wide gangs, national gangs, neighborhood-level gangs, and regional gangs. Collectively, membership among the active gangs is estimated to be 1,451, with actual levels likely to be greater. Approximately 20% of gang membership comprises individuals under 25. Our gangs have identifiable leaders, names, or identifiable symbols. Members engage in drug trafficking and other criminal activities, claim control over specific territory (turf) in the community, wear distinctive dress and colors, and may communicate through graffiti and hand signs, among other means. Worcester Police Department also recognizes non-traditional or hybrid gangs that may lack symbols, turf, or identifiable leaders.

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%
 - Worcester decreased 57%
- Robberies in...
 - Massachusetts decreased 46%
 - Worcester decreased 57%
- Aggravated assaults in...
 - Massachusetts increased 10%
 - Worcester decreased 58%

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.