

2024 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: \$653,973.25*

Strategies	Outcomes	Funding Allocation
Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention	81 youth received case management services 12 street outreach deployments to interrupt retaliation or mediate a situation	\$133,770.73
Community Mobilization	2,226 community members attended events, meetings, & presentations 50 community events, meetings, & presentations held	\$151,787.27
Education & Employment	20 youth participated in employment programs 13 youth participated in subsidized year-round employment	\$52,546.71
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	346 youth participated in recreation programs 318 youth participated in youth development programs	\$126,715.97
Suppression	121 hot spot patrols completed 52 gang members/high impact players arrested	\$156,956.22

*In 2024, \$32,196.35 was allocated to administrative/other costs for the site.

Youth Risk Assessments

- 7% **LOW-RISK*** Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.
- 45% **MODERATE-RISK*** Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.
- 48% **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 young, female single parent had little to no family/adult support and was in and out of foster care and residential programming her entire life. This year, she successfully completed a medical assistant program. During the program, she continued to work part-time as a CNA and care for her child, who required medical attention. We continued to provide case management services to her and the necessary support that she required. After completing the program, she secured unsubsidized employment as a medical assistant."

~ Bristol County Training Consortium / MassHire Bristol Career Centers

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 (2023/2024 Estimates)	7,136,171	93,840
Population Lives in Poverty (2024)	10.4%	20.9%
Unemployment Rate (2024)	3.4%	5.8%
Total School Population (2023-2024)	966,726	14,054
Low-Income (2024-2025)	42.1%	78.3%
High School Dropout Rate (2022-2023)	2.1%	5.0%

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

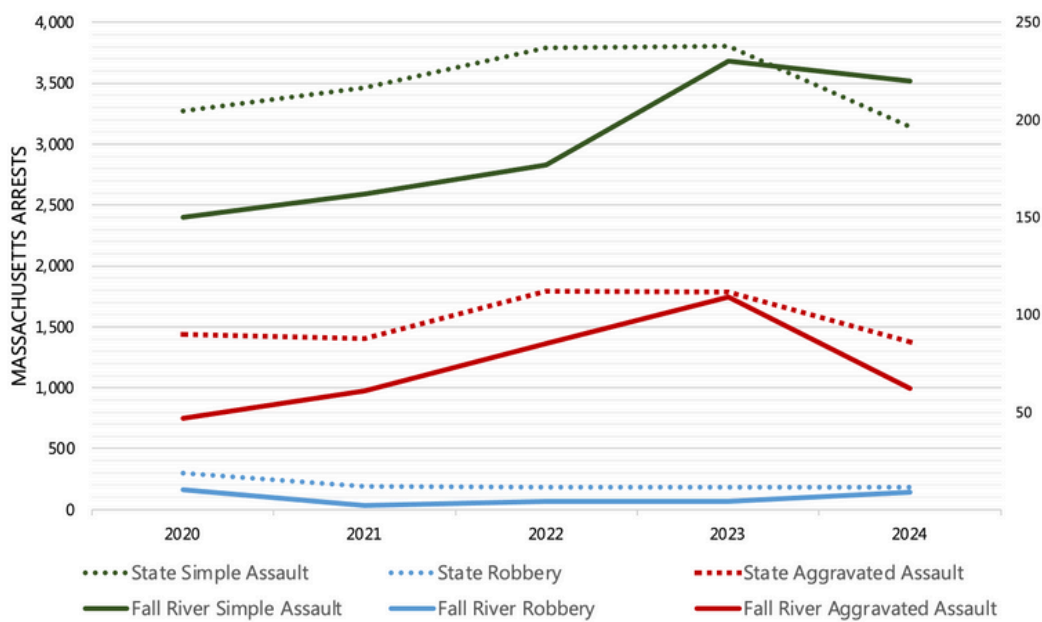
Gang Activity in Fall River

58
Street Gangs

761
Active Gang
Members

Social media has played a major role in gang activity, including escalating incidents and retaliation. Gangs create and share videos that glorify the “gang lifestyle” (i.e., guns, drugs, women, power, money) and use them for recruitment. Social media is also used to arrange drug sales, orchestrate violence, disrespect other gangs, provoke disputes, and make intimidating threats to adversaries. The widespread utilization of social media means that groups are no longer confined to a specific “turf.” Older gang members recruit juveniles to engage in criminal activity. The gang unit continues to observe the initial gang involvement/activity beginning at an earlier age than in the past. This trend coincides with youths’ increased use of social media and the fluidity of gangs. Many children are placed into roles such as lookout or are made responsible for holding weapons and drugs. In 2024, there has been a notable uptick in firearms seized from a younger juvenile demographic.

5-Year Crime Trends for Offenses Committed by Youth Ages 10-24, 2020-2024



Changes in Crime for Young People Ages 10-24, 2020-2024

Simple assaults from 2020-2024 in...

- Massachusetts decreased 4%
- Fall River increased 47%

Robberies from 2020-2024 in...

- Massachusetts decreased 40%
- Fall River decreased 10%

Aggravated assaults from 2020-2024 in...

- Massachusetts decreased 4%
- Fall River increased 32%

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.