

2024 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE FITCHBURG/GARDNER

Funded Partners: Fitchburg Police Department, Gardner Police Department, Leominster Police Department, Making Opportunity Count, Mount Wachusett Community College, Shining Light Ministries, 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: \$450,250.50*

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention	<u>97</u> youth received case management services	<u>97</u> case management goals achieved	\$51,850.50
Education & Employment	<u>43</u> youth participated in employment programs	<u>114</u> youth participated in education programs	\$113,135.10
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	<u>195</u> youth participated in recreation programs	<u>146</u> youth participated in youth development programs	\$148,654.90
Suppression	<u>118</u> hot spot patrols completed	<u>184</u> law enforcement home visits completed	\$105,570.00

*In 2024, \$31,040.00 was allocated to administrative/other costs for the site.

Youth Risk Assessments

- 50% **LOW-RISK*** Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.
- 49% **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

"In the summer of 2024, one of our Shannon participants faced a significant life-altering event which resulted in visual neuropathy. We worked closely with him to connect him to the Disability Services Office, assist with processing the required documentation, and identify available accommodations to support his transition. The student was reassured that he could take the time needed to adjust to these life changes and was reminded of the program's ongoing commitment to providing a supportive community to help him achieve his academic goals when he is ready to return."

~ Mount Wachusett Community College

Community Risk Factors

Massachusetts Fitchburg Gardner

	Massachusetts	Fitchburg	Gardner
Total Population (2023/2024 Estimates)	7,136,171	41,579	20,974
Population Lives in Poverty (2024)	10.4%	15.5%	14.3%
Unemployment Rate (2024)	3.4%	5.5%	4.5%
Total School Population (2023-2024)	966,726	6,371	2,952
Low-Income (2024-2025)	42.1%	71.5%	63.0%
High School Dropout Rate (2022-2023)	2.1%	2.0%	2.7%

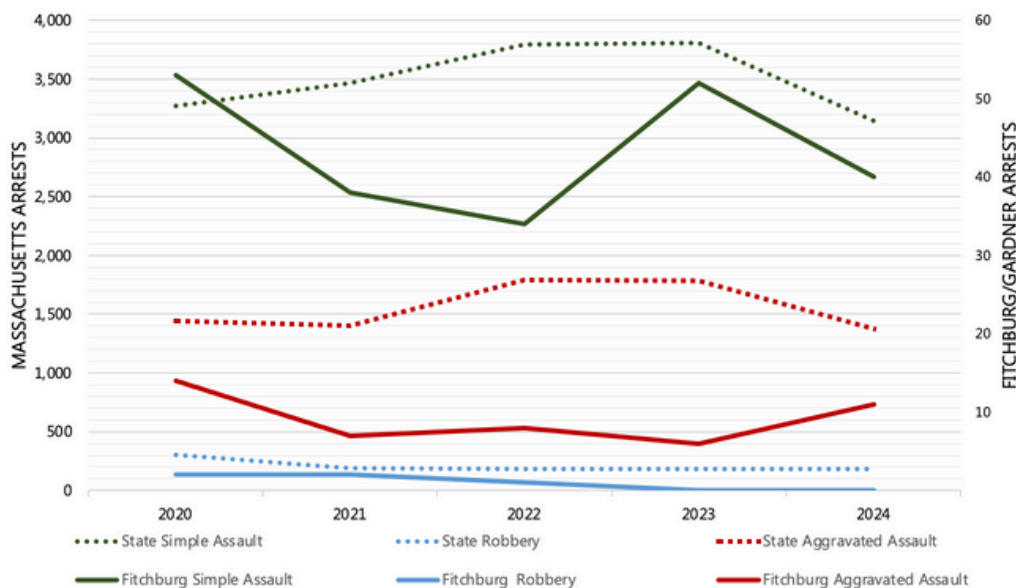
Sources: www.census.gov/quickfacts; profiles.doe.mass.edu; <https://lmi.dua.eol.mass.gov/LMI/LaborForceAndUnemployment#>

Gang Activity in Fitchburg/Gardner

8
Street Gangs
36 Estimated Gang
Members
Between the Ages of
10-24

The youth gang problem in Fitchburg mainly involves small, unorganized gangs in which members or associates have historically used certain codes to identify membership. Fitchburg is home to a large number of gangs, which include prolific national gangs such as the Almighty Latin Kings & Queens, Vice Lords, Bloods, and local street gangs. These gangs engage in gun violence, juvenile crime, and narcotics activity. Most crime is highly concentrated amongst a small number of highly active offenders. Although many of these crimes are reported, a significant number of serious gang-related crimes go unreported for fear of repercussions or of being exposed to police as being involved in criminal activity.

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%
 - Fitchburg/Gardner decreased 25%
- Robberies from 2020-2024 in...
 - Massachusetts decreased 40%
 - Fitchburg/Gardner decreased 100%
- Aggravated assaults from 2020-2024 in...
 - Massachusetts decreased 4%
 - Fitchburg/Gardner decreased 21%

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.