

2024 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE

HOLYOKE/CHICOPEE

Funded Partners: Chicopee Boys & Girls Club, Chicopee Police Department, Hampden County Sheriff's Department, Holyoke Boys & Girls Club, Holyoke Police Department, MassHire Holyoke, Pa'lante, The Center for Resilience

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: \$576,814.28

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
Community Mobilization	<u>5,123</u> community members attended events, meetings, & presentations	<u>133</u> community events, meetings, & presentations held	\$132,474.84
Education & Employment	<u>14</u> youth participated in employment programs	<u>23</u> youth participated in education programs	\$38,249.39
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	<u>1,006</u> youth participated in recreation programs	<u>1,120</u> youth participated in youth development programs	\$231,408.01
Suppression	<u>76</u> hot spot patrols completed	<u>17</u> gang members/high impact players arrested	\$174,682.04

Youth Risk Assessments

4% **LOW-RISK*** Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.

55% **MODERATE-RISK*** Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.

41% **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 of our Shannon participants is one of six children, with a single mother and grandmother in the home. After the class on vehicle maintenance, her mother's car would not start, preventing her mother from getting the kids off to school and herself to work. The youth remembered her lesson and was able to jump her mother's car with her grandmother's car. She came back to the program with such joy to be able to tell her story of getting her mother back on the road and everyone to school/work on time.”

~Chicopee Police Department

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

Holyoke

Chicopee

Total Population (2023/2024 Estimates)	7,136,171	37,628	54,838
Population Lives in Poverty (2024)	10.4%	23.7%	15.2%
Unemployment Rate (2024)	3.4%	5.7%	4.6%
Total School Population (2023-2024)	966,726	5,360	7,661
Low-Income (2024-2025)	42.1%	83.6%	65.2%
High School Dropout Rate (2022-2023)	2.1%	4.2%	3.8%

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

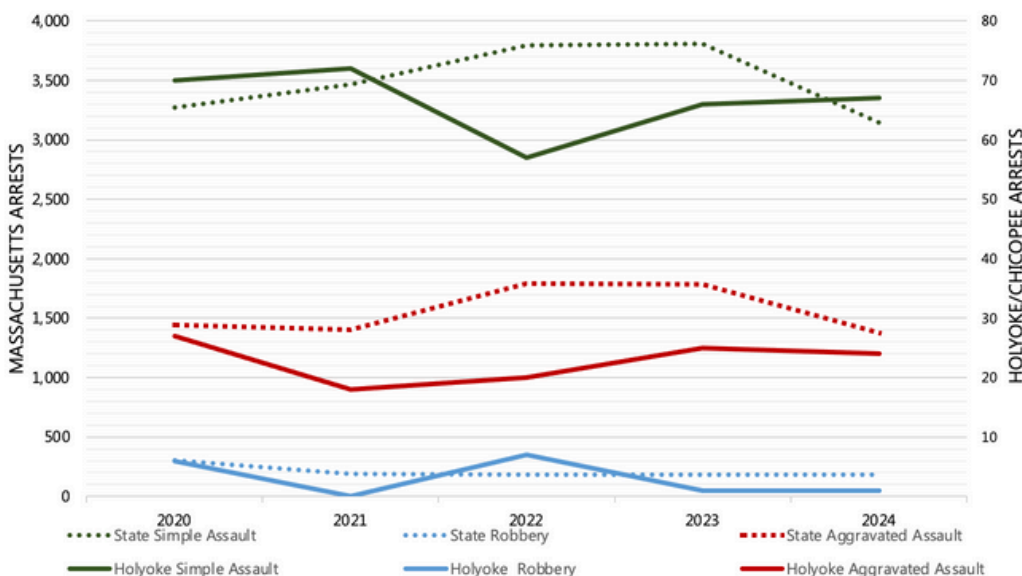
Gang Activity in Holyoke/Chicopee

6
Street Gangs

300
Gang Members

Residents and agencies are in agreement that the most serious issues affecting the neighborhoods are gangs. One of the key challenges is that Holyoke is a nexus of drug trafficking on the I-91 corridor, which continues to connect drugs from NYC to Northern Vermont. The national gangs, specifically, are engaged in trafficking via the I-91 corridor, creating challenges to the safety of the community and to our high-risk youth. Importantly, these gangs are also responsible for the distribution of fentanyl – usually via heroin sales – that are associated with extraordinary rates of overdoses in the communities. Of considerable concern are also the local gangs, which actively recruit juveniles at high rates and contribute to high levels of gang violence. Recruitment of youth into gangs is an issue in schools and on social media. We also continue to have problems with smaller crews and sets that are difficult to track but also represent major challenges to the communities. These groups tend to be less organized but engage in a range of illegal and illicit activities.

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%
 - Holyoke/Chicopee decreased 4%
- Robberies from 2020-2024 in...
 - Massachusetts decreased 40%
 - Holyoke/Chicopee decreased 83%
- Aggravated assaults from 2020-2024 in...
 - Massachusetts decreased 4%
 - Holyoke/Chicopee decreased 11%

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.