

2024 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE LAWRENCE

Funded Partners: ACT Lawrence Inc., Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence, Change the Play Inc., Lawrence Family Development & Education Fund Inc., Lawrence Police Department, Merrimack Valley YMCA, Sueños Basketball, YWCA Northeastern Massachusetts

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: \$299,866.91

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention	<u>123</u> youth received case management services	<u>33</u> youth received street outreach services	\$28,500.00
Community Mobilization	<u>1,197</u> community members attended events, meetings, & presentations	<u>55</u> community events, meetings, & presentations held	\$13,500.00
Education & Employment	<u>264</u> youth participated in education programs	<u>159</u> youth participated in employment programs	\$46,500.00
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	<u>597</u> youth participated in recreation programs	<u>726</u> youth participated in youth development programs	\$157,446.76
Suppression	<u>187</u> hot spot patrols completed	<u>7</u> gang members/high impact players arrested	\$53,920.15

Youth Risk Assessments

26% **LOW-RISK*** Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.

48% **MODERATE-RISK*** Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.

26% **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 man was referred to SISU several years ago. His family is gang involved, but he was doing everything he could to avoid being drawn into the lifestyle. He was getting ready to graduate from high school and was interested in continuing his education, as well as learning music. The SISU team helped him enroll at Northern Essex Community College. He attends classes in the morning and works at SISU in the afternoon. He mastered the embroidery and screen printing shops and was soon teaching others. Over the summer, he was promoted to peer mentor and shop supervisor. He continues to serve as a role model to other SISU participants."

~ Lawrence Family Development & Education Fund, Inc.

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

Lawrence

Total Population (2023/2024 Estimates)	7,136,171	88,172
Population Lives in Poverty (2024)	10.4%	18.2%
Unemployment Rate (2024)	3.4%	6.9%
Total School Population (2023-2024)	966,726	16,684
Low-Income (2024-2025)	42.1%	84.7%
High School Dropout Rate (2022-2023)	2.1%	3.3%

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

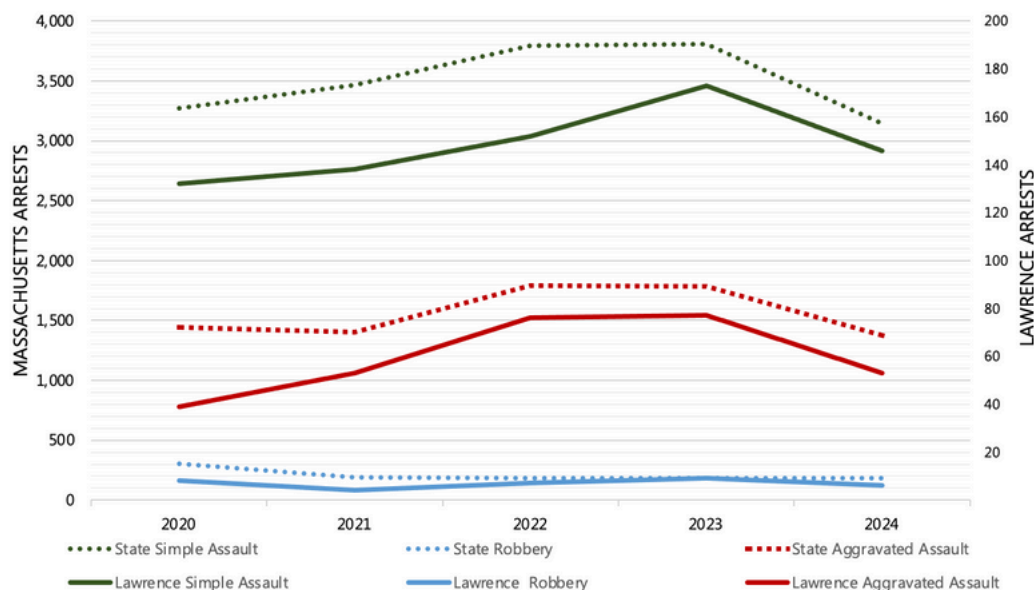
Gang Activity in Lawrence

7
Street Gangs

500
Gang Members
Between the Ages
10-14

The Lawrence Police Department has confirmed the presence of at least seven active street gangs operating within the city. Additionally, there is concern over smaller, neighborhood-based gangs that may also be active. The total number of suspected, associated, and/or validated gang members is estimated to exceed 1,000 individuals, signaling a significant gang presence in the community. The presence of these gangs has been linked to a range of criminal activities including drug trafficking and distribution, robbery, motor vehicle theft, inter-gang violence including shootings, check forgery, and unlawful possession of firearms.

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%
 - Lawrence decreased 16%
- Robberies from 2020-2024 in...
 - Massachusetts decreased 40%
 - Lawrence decreased 25%
- Aggravated assaults from 2020-2024 in...
 - Massachusetts decreased 4%
 - Lawrence increased 36%

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.