

2024 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE

LOWELL

Funded Partners: Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell, Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association, Career Center of Lowell, Community Teamwork Inc - YouthBuild, Lowell Community Health Center, Lowell High School, Lowell Parks & Recreation, Lowell Police Department, UTEC, YWCA

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: \$761,325.27

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention	<u>157</u> youth received case management services	<u>157</u> case management goals achieved	\$61,999.80
Education & Employment	<u>264</u> youth participated in education programs	<u>182</u> youth participated in employment programs	\$223,565.20
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	<u>751</u> youth participated in recreation programs	<u>1,337</u> youth participated in youth development programs	\$268,263.31
Suppression	<u>308</u> hot spot patrols completed	<u>15</u> gang members/high impact players arrested	\$207,496.96

Youth Risk Assessments

88% Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.
LOW-RISK*

9% Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.
MODERATE-RISK*

3% 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

"Our staff have been mentoring a young man who joined our summer youth internship program. During youth discussions, we learned that he had been involved in risky behaviors and gang violence. However, since then, he has continued to visit and confide in staff about the challenges he's facing. His mentor has done an excellent job guiding him through his options and helping him recognize positive opportunities. The real success here is that he has identified a positive adult role model in his life. When he attends programming, he is more likely to engage in constructive activities, marking an important step in his personal growth and making healthier choices."

~Lowell Community Health Center

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

Lowell

Total Population (2023/2024 Estimates)	7,136,171	114,296
Population Lives in Poverty (2024)	10.4%	16.0%
Unemployment Rate (2024)	3.4%	4.7%
Total School Population (2023-2024)	966,726	17,887
Low-Income (2024-2025)	42.1%	71.3%
High School Dropout Rate (2022-2023)	2.1%	4.5%

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

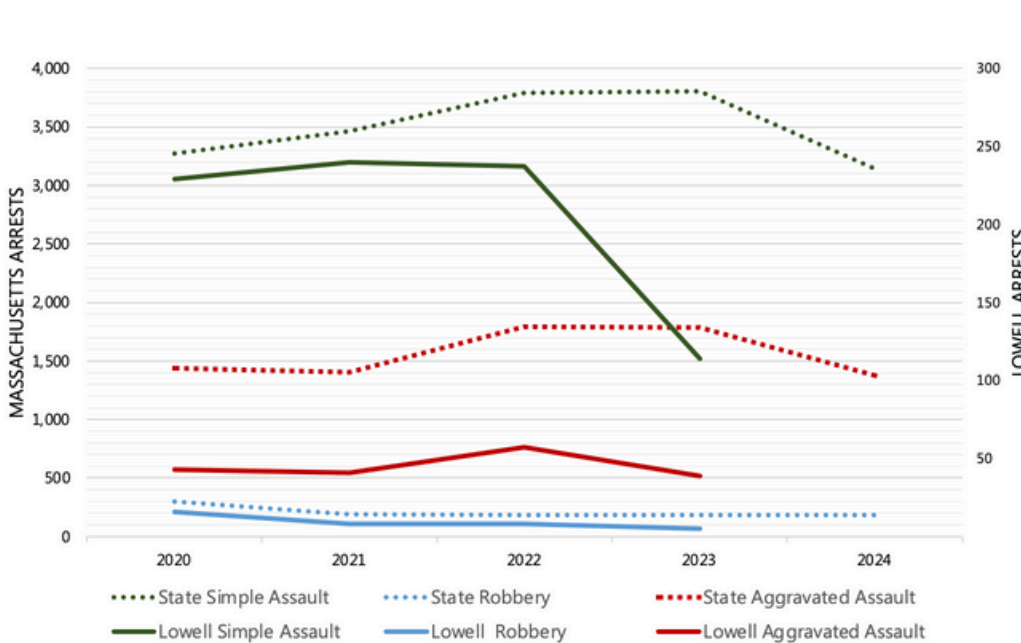
Gang Activity in Lowell

21
Street Gangs

300
Gang Members
between the Ages
of 10-24

There were 148 suspected gang-related incidents in Lowell from January 1, 2024-August 31, 2024, with 54% involving individuals within the Shannon age range (10-24). Members of these gangs are in their teens to late 20s and have been involved in shots fired incidents and multiple fights, particularly in the downtown area of the city during Lowell High School dismissal. Gang graffiti has also been spotted throughout the newly renovated Lowell High School. 20% of those gang-related incidents are considered serious crimes, including aggravated assaults, robberies, drug offenses, shots fired, and weapons offenses. Social media is used for recruitment as well as to sell marijuana, flash firearms, and encourage violence, such as "jumping" members.

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%
 - Lowell decreased 50% (2020-2023)
- Robberies from 2020-2024 in...
 - Massachusetts decreased 40%
 - Lowell decreased 69% (2020-2023)
- Aggravated assaults from 2020-2024 in...
 - Massachusetts decreased 4%
 - Lowell decreased 9% (2020-2023)

Source: National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

*NIBRS data from Lowell is not available for 2024.

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.