

2024 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE PITTSFIELD

Funded Partners: 18 Degrees - Pittsfield Community Connections, Pittsfield Police Department

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: \$409,382.80

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention	<u>108</u> youth received case management services	<u>12</u> street outreach deployments to interrupt retaliation or mediate a situation	\$194,691.40
Community Mobilization	<u>590</u> community members attended events, meetings, & presentations	<u>67</u> community events, meetings, & presentations held	\$97,345.70
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	<u>106</u> youth participated in recreation programs	<u>96</u> youth participated in youth development programs	\$97,345.70
Suppression	<u>21</u> hot spot patrols completed		\$20,000.00

Youth Risk Assessments

61% **LOW-RISK*** Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.

35% **MODERATE-RISK*** Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.

4% **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 program participant successfully started college at Berkshire Community College in September. With the support of case management, this young adult ensured schoolwork and workload were managed and successfully passed their first college courses. The participant was able to maintain a full-time job at a local nursing home while completing college courses. In addition, they began engaging with the agency clinician to support their mental health.”
~ 18 Degrees - Pittsfield Community Correction

Community Risk Factors

Massachusetts

Pittsfield

Total Population (2023/2024 Estimates)	7,136,171	43,076
Population Lives in Poverty (2024)	10.4%	13.6%
Unemployment Rate (2024)	3.4%	4.0%
Total School Population (2023-2024)	966,726	5,544
Low-Income (2024-2025)	42.1%	64.6%
High School Dropout Rate (2022-2023)	2.1%	2.7%

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

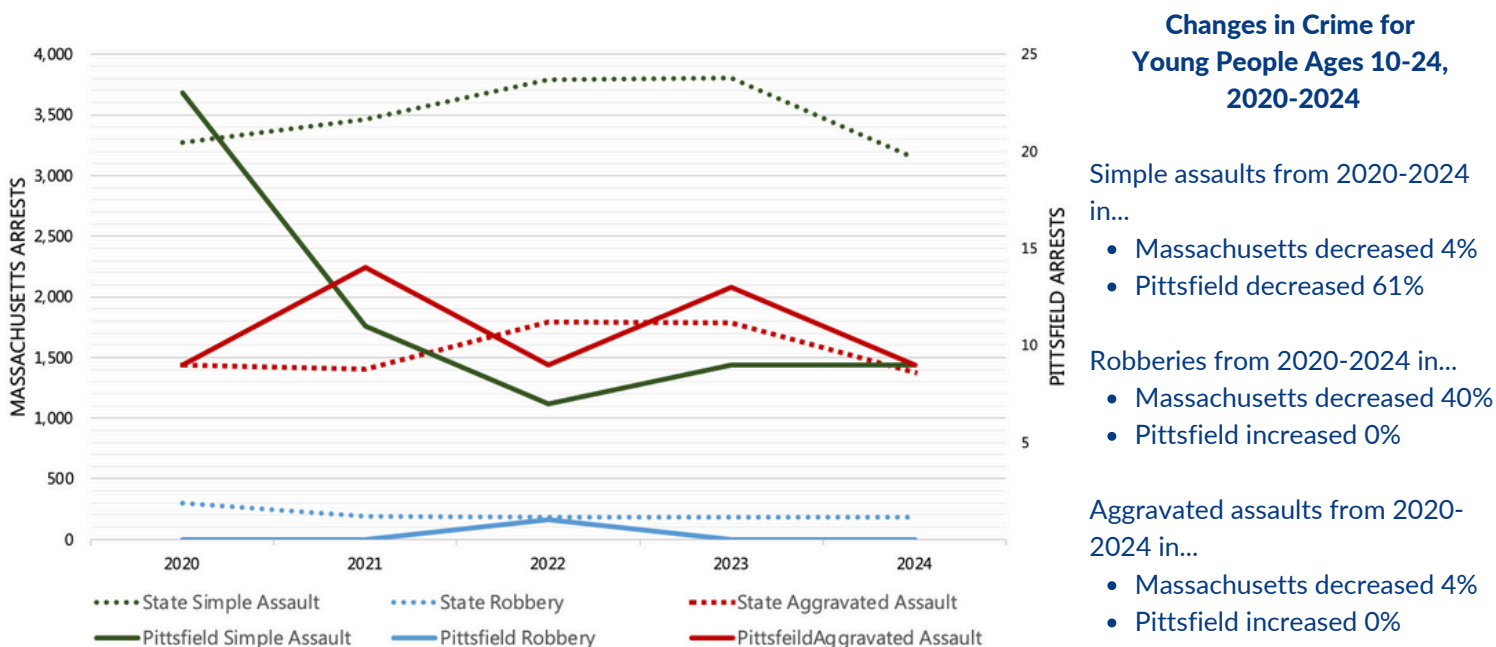
Gang Activity in Pittsfield

2-7
Active Gangs

20-100
Gang Members
between the Ages
of 10-24

Membership numbers are rough estimates based on a recent group/gang audit and interviews with Pittsfield Police Department detectives and community partners. Officers and community members noted that many group-associated individuals in Pittsfield will claim Blood or Crip affiliations, but these affiliations are loose and shift often. In addition to those affiliations, youth have formed neighborhood groups that change often. Youth, specifically, have more fluid associations, and conflicts among young group members are more often sparked in online venues. There are very few incidents of gang-on-gang conflict over territory, as conflict among associated members largely involves personal disputes and drug-related disputes/robberies that lead to serious gun violence.

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



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.