

2024 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE SPRINGFIELD

Funded Partners: COGIC Family Services, Greater New Life Christian Center, Martin Luther King Jr. Family Services, New North Citizens' Council, Regreen Springfield, Shoot Hoops C3, South End Community Center, Springfield Boys & Girls Club, Springfield Boys & Girls Club Family Center, Springfield Police Department, The Mission Inc., The Salvation Army, YMCA Dunbar, YWCA of Western 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: \$1,247,411.92

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention	<u>131</u> youth received case management services	<u>166</u> youth received street outreach services	\$150,760.00
Community Mobilization	<u>5,410</u> community members attended events, meetings, & presentations	<u>73</u> community events, meetings, & presentations held	\$11,200.00
Education & Employment	<u>230</u> youth participated in employment programs	<u>1,051</u> youth participated in education programs	\$248,755.12
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	<u>1,690</u> youth participated in recreation programs	<u>1,568</u> youth participated in youth development programs	\$412,576.75
Suppression	<u>79</u> hot spot patrols completed	<u>163</u> gang members/high-impact players arrested	\$424,120.05

Youth Risk Assessments

- 13% **LOW-RISK*** Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.
- 47% **MODERATE-RISK*** Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.
- 40% **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

"We had a club member in our program that was stealing our supplies. We notified her parents and kept her out of the club for a couple of weeks. When she returned, she had to sit down with the staff and discuss what she did. She earned her way back to being a full-time member and started helping out around the club. She signed up for our jr. staff program but was not selected in the first group. She kept helping out around the club, and when it was time to hire jr. staff for the second round, she made the cut. The teen director stated that she is the top performer of the second group thus far. We are proud of her, and the staff have selected her to run for our youth of the year."

~Springfield Boys & Girls Club

Community Risk Factors

Massachusetts

Springfield

Total Population (2023/2024 Estimates)	7,136,171	153,672
Population Lives in Poverty (2024)	10.4%	25.3%
Unemployment Rate (2024)	3.4%	6.4%
Total School Population (2023-2024)	966,726	27,278
Low-Income (2024-2025)	42.1%	83.9%
High School Dropout Rate (2022-2023)	2.1%	4.0%

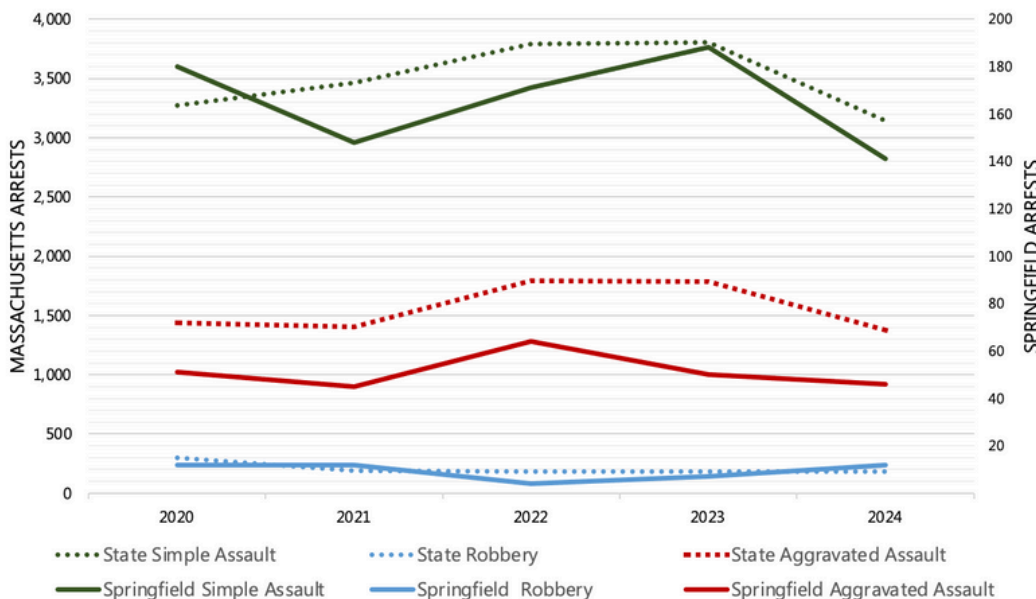
Sources: www.census.gov/quickfacts; profiles.doe.mass.edu; <https://lmi.dua.eol.mass.gov/LMI/LaborForceAndUnemployment#>

Gang Activity in Springfield

63
Street Gangs
1,000-1,200
Gang Members
between the Ages
of 10-24

The gang activity within the City of Springfield has been changing in recent years. There has been a rise in gun violence since 2019. Local gangs are the most violent, whereas the national-based gangs try to stay off the radar with the intent of making as much money as possible. Recruitment for these gangs happens all over the city through social media, jail/prison/DYS sentences, the school systems, or the neighborhood in which individuals reside. Individuals with gang involvement continue to be involved in narcotics distribution, sex trafficking, armed carjackings, armed/unarmed robberies, shootings, police pursuits, and homicides. Many of the inter-gang conflicts stem from gang members' social media presence. Gang members use social media as a tool to identify where opposing gang members are located to commit acts of violence.

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%
- Springfield decreased 22%

Robberies from 2020-2024 in...

- Massachusetts decreased 40%
- Springfield increased 0%

Aggravated assaults from 2020-2024 in...

- Massachusetts increased 4%
- Springfield decreased 10%

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.