

# 2024 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE WORCESTER

**Funded Partners:** Amateur Athletic Association/Fitness & Wellness, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Massachusetts & Metrowest, Boys & Girls Club of Worcester, Extreme Kid Inc., St. Bernard's Church/Our Lady of Providence Parish, The Torch Foundation, Worcester Community Action Council, Worcester Police Department, Worcester Youth Center Inc., Worcester Youth Violence Prevention Initiative, Yes We Care Inc., You Inc./Seven Hills Foundation

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: \$1,249,043.89\*

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention	<u>189</u> youth received case management services	<u>427</u> case management goals achieved	\$259,257.34
Community Mobilization	<u>328</u> community members attended events, meetings, & presentations	<u>16</u> community events, meetings, & presentations held	\$40,000.00
Education & Employment	<u>299</u> youth participated in employment programs	<u>195</u> youth participated in education programs	\$340,130.81
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	<u>645</u> youth participated in recreation programs	<u>331</u> youth participated in youth development programs	\$400,772.07
Suppression	<u>58</u> hot spot patrols completed	<u>14</u> gang members/high-impact players arrested	\$138,150.08

\*In 2024, \$70,733.59 was allocated to administrative/other costs for the site.

## Youth Risk Assessments

46%  
LOW-RISK\* Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.

25%  
MODERATE-RISK\* Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.

29%  
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

"SMARTT case manager was assigned to a 16 y/o male who was suspected to be gang affiliated. He was referred to the program by his alternative school after he brought a knife onto school property at his home school.

Since he was referred, he has participated in more than two years of subsidized employment programming. He is now about to turn 18 and has been doing incredibly well. He has been attending therapy and support groups, where he has gained coping mechanisms to help him deal with stress. While working within our subsidized employment programming, he opened a bank account and has been able to put money away for a vehicle. His case manager has signed him up for Drivers Ed, and he will be driving soon. He is currently set to graduate and is working with his guidance counselor and SMARTT case manager to discern the next steps towards his bright future."

~Worcester Community Action Council

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

Worcester

Total Population (2023/2024 Estimates)	7,136,171	207,621
Population Lives in Poverty (2024)	10.4%	19.8%
Unemployment Rate (2024)	3.4%	4.4%
Total School Population (2023-2024)	966,726	28,636
Low-Income (2024-2025)	42.1%	71.9%
High School Dropout Rate (2022-2023)	2.1%	3.1%

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

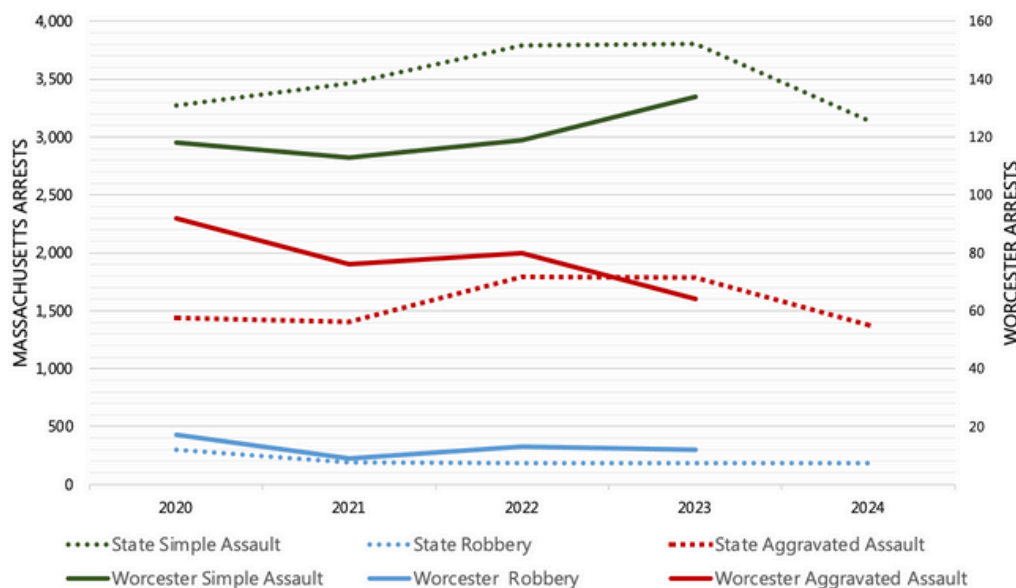
## Gang Activity in Worcester

23  
Street Gangs

291  
Gang Members  
Between the Ages  
10-24

Worcester Police Department (WPD) observed that gang activity has changed in response to current societal influences and law enforcement pressures. At present, there are 23 active gangs documented in the city, including city-wide gangs (9), national gangs (8), neighborhood-level gangs (5), and regional gangs (1). Collectively, membership among the active gangs is estimated to be 1,451, with actual levels likely to be greater. Approximately 20% of gang membership is composed of individuals under 25 years of age. Gangs frequently claim control over specific territory in the community, wear distinctive dress and colors, and may communicate through graffiti and hand signs, among other means. WPD also recognizes non-traditional or hybrid gangs that may lack symbols, turf, or identifiable leaders.

## 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%
  - Worcester increased 14% (2020-2023)
- Robberies from 2020-2024 in...
  - Massachusetts decreased 40%
  - Worcester decreased 29% (2020-2023)
- Aggravated assaults from 2020-2024 in...
  - Massachusetts decreased 4%
  - Worcester decreased 30% (2020-2023)

\*NIBRS data from Worcester is not available for 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.

# 2024 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE MASSACHUSETTS

Funded Communities: Boston, Brockton, Fall River, Fitchburg/Gardner, Haverhill/Methuen, Holyoke/Chicopee, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, Metro Mayors Coalition (Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, Winthrop), New Bedford, Pittsfield, Springfield, Taunton, Worcester

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. In 2024, Shannon awarded \$10.9 million to 15 sites that provide services across 24 Massachusetts communities. Funding supported positive youth development, recreation, case management, street outreach, education, employment, targeted suppression, and community mobilization programs. Additionally, Shannon funded the equivalent of approximately 157 full-time positions to strategically address youth gang violence within these communities.

## Strategies, Outcomes, and Funding Allocation

Total Funding: \$10,883,351.61\*

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
<b>Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention</b>	<u>3,588</u> youth received case management services	<u>1,124</u> youth received street outreach services	<b>\$2,208,128.23</b>
<b>Community Mobilization</b>	<u>50,954</u> community members attended events, meetings, & presentations	<u>1,493</u> community events, meetings, & presentations held	<b>\$932,324.23</b>
<b>Education &amp; Employment</b>	<u>2,826</u> youth participated in employment programs	<u>5,766</u> youth participated in education programs	<b>\$1,854,041.76</b>
<b>Positive Youth Development &amp; Recreation</b>	<u>11,452</u> youth participated in recreation programs	<u>11,069</u> youth participated in youth development programs	<b>\$3,252,377.44</b>
<b>Suppression</b>	<u>4,214</u> hot spot patrols completed	<u>350</u> gang members/high-impact players arrested	<b>\$2,051,642.61</b>

\*Statewide, \$584,837.35 was allocated to administrative/other costs in 2024 across the Shannon sites.

### Youth Risk Assessments

- 49% **LOW-RISK\*** Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.
- 32% **MODERATE-RISK\*** Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.
- 19% **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

*“Youth and families have a different image of law enforcement because they have the opportunity to see police in a different capacity and they can see that the officers genuinely care about the youth.”*

~ Shoot Hoops C3, Shannon Springfield Site

# Shannon Community Risk Factors 2024\*

	Total Population (state estimate as of July 1, 2024, all other estimates as of July 1, 2023)	Population Lives in Poverty (2020-2024)	Unemployment Rate (2024)	Total School Population (2023-2024)	Low-Income (2024-2025)	High School Dropout Rate (2022-2023) *2024 data has not yet been released
Massachusetts	7,136,171	10.4%	3.4%	966,726	42.1%	2.1%
Boston	653,833	16.9%	3.7%	66,220	70.1%	4.5%
Brockton	104,890	13.9%	5.0%	16,997	74.0%	5.9%
Fall River	93,840	20.9%	5.8%	14,054	78.3%	5.0%
Fitchburg	41,579	15.5%	5.5%	6,371	71.5%	2.0%
Gardner	20,974	14.3%	4.5%	2,952	63.0%	2.7%
Haverhill	67,415	10.6%	4.1%	9,524	61.0	4.3%
Methuen	53,455	8.2%	4.4%	7,875	54.3%	2.0%
Holyoke	37,628	23.7%	5.7%	5,360	83.6%	4.2%
Chicopee	54,838	15.2%	4.6%	7,661	65.2%	3.8%
Lawrence	88,172	18.2%	6.9%	16,684	84.7%	3.3%
Lowell	114,296	16.0%	4.7%	17,887	71.3%	4.5%
Lynn	101,241	13.7%	4.4%	18,733	73.9%	5.5%
Cambridge	118,214	12.4%	2.9%	9,070	36.4%	0.8%
Chelsea	38,319	20.6%	4.0%	7,277	78.9%	5.5%
Everett	50,318	15.4%	3.3%	8,298	72.2%	4.8
Malden	65,133	13.3%	3.7%	7,224	61.2%	3.0%
Quincy	101,597	11.4%	3.7%	9,866	47.5%	1.7%
Revere	57,954	12.4%	4.1%	8,788	66.1%	4.6%
Somerville	80,407	10.1%	3.2%	5,614	46.8%	2.0%
Winthrop	18,319	7.1%	3.3%	2,110	36.3%	1.5%
New Bedford	100,695	19.9%	5.7%	15,585	78.9%	4.2%
Pittsfield	43,076	13.6%	4.0%	5,544	64.6%	2.7%
Springfield	153,672	25.3%	6.4%	27,278	83.9%	4.0%
Taunton	60,412	13.7%	4.6%	8,877	58.6%	2.6%
Worcester	207,621	19.8%	4.4%	28,636	71.9%	3.1%

\* Shading in chart groups communities by the 15 Shannon sites.

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

## Gang Activity in Massachusetts

380+  
Street Gangs

Data on gang members under the age of 25 was not available from all police departments. For police departments that had available data, an estimated 4,120 gang members between the ages of 10-24 were identified.

10,180+  
Active Gang  
Members

Across the state, gangs/crews were primarily involved in drug trafficking, associated violence, carrying weapons, and property damage. Notably, social media was used to flash gang/crew membership and recruit new, younger members. Many at-risk youths were targeted to carry out gang/crew operations because of their advantageous juvenile status.

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.

# Putting Shannon Dollars to Work to Reduce Youth and Gang Violence

## \$10.9 Million Investment

145 Partners  
at 15 Sites



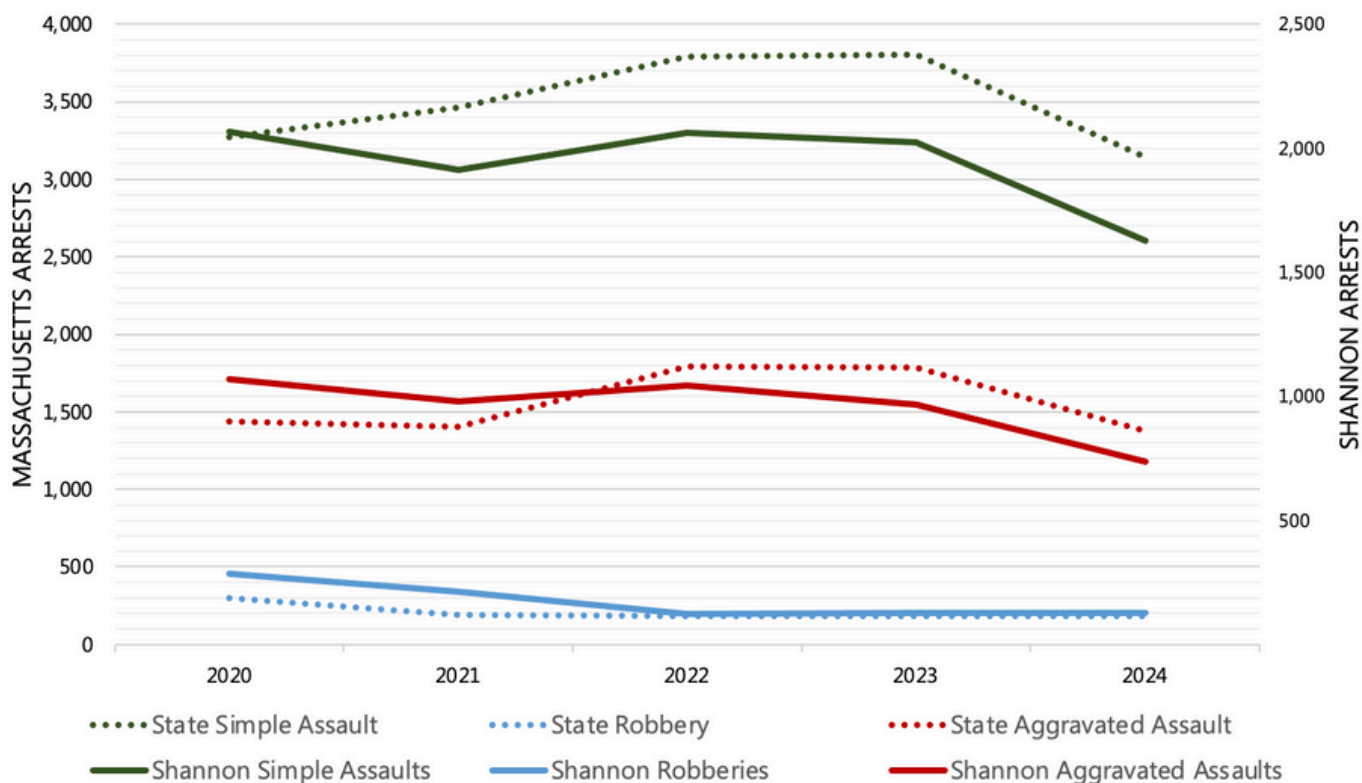
28,251 total youth served,  
averaging \$385.24 invested per  
youth across all services

\$468.62 invested per youth in  
Case Management, Street  
Outreach, or Intervention Efforts



\$180.60 invested per youth in  
Education or Employment Efforts

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



Source: National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

## Changes in Crime for Young People Ages 10-24, 2020-2024

### Simple assaults in...

- Massachusetts decreased 4%
- Shannon communities decreased 21%

### Robberies in...

- Massachusetts decreased 40%
- Shannon communities decreased 55%

### Aggravated assaults in...

- Massachusetts decreased 4%
- Shannon communities decreased 31%

# Overview of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comprehensive Gang Model

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Shannon Community Safety Initiative (Shannon CSI) is a multi-sector, data-driven approach modeled after the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Comprehensive Gang Model. After completing a community needs assessment, Shannon funded communities, in collaboration with steering committees, develop strategies in the following five areas:

## Positive Youth Development & Recreation\*



Positive Youth Development and Recreation Programs provide a prosocial outlet for youth to expand and enhance their interests, skills, and abilities. These programs are safe havens for recreational, enrichment, educational and prevention activities outside school hours (i.e., athletics and physical fitness, school achievement initiatives).

## Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention



Case Management Street Outreach or Intervention programs for gang involved and proven risk youth reach out and act as links to gang-involved youth, their families, and other traditional social service providers. For high-risk youth and at-risk youth, social intervention programs can include drop-in recreation, positive youth development, and other mechanisms to reach young people and connect them to positive adults and constructive activities.

## Education & Employment



Education and Employment Programs provide education, training, and employment opportunities to youth at high-risk for youth violence and gang involvement.

## Suppression



Suppression programs include close supervision or monitoring of gang involved youth and other high impact players by police, prosecutors, probation officers, and other officers of the court. These programs include hotspot patrols, law-enforcement home visits, ride-alongs, re-entry, and special prosecutors.

## Community Mobilization



Community Mobilization Programs educate community members about local gang and youth violence trends, as well as involving community members in strategies to confront the problem.

Two additional funded components of Shannon CSI include the Local Action Research Partners (LARPs), and the Statewide Youth Violence Research Partner (SRP). LARPs assist funded sites by providing strategic, analytic, technical, and research support. The SRP assists all funded Shannon CSI communities, LARPs and the Office of Grants and Research by providing strategic, analytic, and research support. Together the LARPs and SRP inform funded communities about best practices to maximize the effectiveness of the Shannon CSI.