

2025 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE

BOSTON

Funded Partners: Apprentice Learning, Boston Centers for Youth & Families, Boston Medical Center's Violence Intervention Advocacy Program (VIAP), Boston Housing Authority, Boston Police Department, Boston Public Health Commission, Center for Teen Empowerment, Fathers' UpLift, Freedom House, Future Chefs, Hyde Square Task Force, JRI-MLMC/Strive, Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, Madison Park Development Corporation, Maverick Landing Community Services, Mothers for Justice & Equality, Project RIGHT, Roca Inc., Sportsmen's Tennis & Enrichment Center, Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, St. Stephen's Youth Program, Urban Guild, Veronica Robles Cultural Center, Young Man with a Plan, Youth Guidance Becoming a Man, YOU Boston, YouthBuild Boston, YouthConnect

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: \$1,735,107.39*

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention	2,487 youth received case management services	2,404 goals of case management achieved	\$439,908.64
Community Mobilization	6,287 community members attended events, meetings, and presentations	239 community events, meetings, and presentations held	\$94,558.64
Education & Employment	3,275 youth participated in an education program	1,218 youth participated in an employment program	\$293,617.28
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	4,015 youth participated in a recreation program	3,410 youth participated in youth development programs	\$402,908.64
Suppression	1,225 hotspot patrols completed	185 law enforcement home visits	\$223,600.00

*In 2025, \$280,514.19 was allocated to administrative/other costs for the Boston site.

Youth Risk Assessments

- 19% **LOW-RISK*** Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.
- 68% **MODERATE-RISK*** Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.
- 13% **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

"One of the most illustrative examples of the positive influence of our program is a young individual who was a high school dropout. Through our mentorship program, he not only gained support but also discovered his potential. He regained his confidence and committed to returning to school. This individual became a cornerstone in our program, leading our food programs and assuming a position that requires him to be accountable and tough. By throwing himself into entrepreneurial and hospitality training, he filled a void that existed between what he was learning in school and what is expected in a business environment. He has changed from being a disconnected youth to a leader who takes every challenge as a chance for growth."

~Veronica Robles Cultural Center

Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Secretary Gina Kwon
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

Boston

Total Population (2025 Estimate)	7,154,084	673,458
Population Lives in Poverty (2020-2024)	9.7%	16.6%
Unemployment Rate (2025)	4.8%	4.7%
Total School Population (2024-2025)	948,709	62,844
Low-Income (2025-2026)	41.1%	68.3%
High School Dropout Rate (2023-2024)	2.0%	4.5%

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

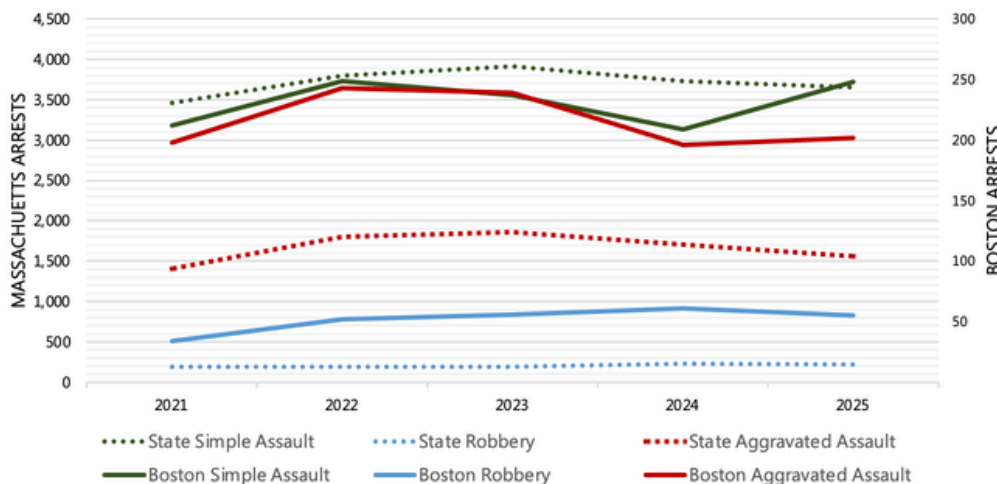
Gang Activity in Boston

65
Street Gangs

650
Gang Members
Between the Ages
of 14-24

During 2025, the Boston Police Department identified 65 active gangs. Within these identified gangs, Boston Police Gang and Intelligence Officers classified 650 members as between the ages of 14 and 24 years old. This intelligence was gathered through self-identification, field reports, arrest records, and collaboration with violence intervention workers, Department of Corrections, parole, clergy, and other community-based organizations. Neighborhoods most affected by youth and gang violence include Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan. Recruitment and membership are usually neighborhood-based and change rapidly due to housing issues and social media. Boston gangs may be larger due to the presence of adults (especially between 25 and 34 years of age).

5-Year Trends in Youth Arrests (ages 10-24), 2021-2025



Changes in Youth Arrests for Simple Assault, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault

Arrests for simple assaults from 2021-2025 in...

- Massachusetts increased 5%
- Boston increased by 17%

Arrests for robberies from 2021-2025 in...

- Massachusetts increased 20%
- Boston increased 62%

Arrests for aggravated assaults from 2021-2025 in...

- Massachusetts increased 11%
- Boston increased 2%

Source: National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

Further analytical work is needed to make an association between Shannon programming and changes in arrest trends in focal communities.

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.