

2025 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE

FALL RIVER

Funded Partners: Bristol County Training Consortium/MassHire Bristol Career Centers, Fall River Boys & Girls Club, Fall River Police Department, Fall River Public Schools, Fall River YMCA, Fall River Youth Court, Family Service Association, Greater Fall River RE-CREATION, Massachusetts Parole Board, Solid Ground Psychotherapy, United Neighbors of Fall River, YouthBuild Fall River

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: \$653,973.25*

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention	56 youth received case management services	81 goals of case management achieved	\$118,765.80
Community Mobilization	2,599 community members attended events, meetings, and presentations	51 community events, meetings, and presentations held	\$103,668.03
Education & Employment	29 youth participated in an education program	19 youth participated in an employment program	\$139,402.60
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	596 youth participated in a recreation program	483 youth participated in youth development programs	\$94,526.86
Suppression	54 hotspot patrols completed	73 law enforcement home visits	\$117,710.19

*In 2025, \$79,899.76 was allocated to administrative/other costs for the site.

Youth Risk Assessments

- 3% **LOW-RISK*** Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.
- 41% **MODERATE-RISK*** Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.
- 56% **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

"In 2025, a YouthBuild graduate and former Shannon youth joined our staff as a graduate assistant. After earning his HiSET, HBI/PACT certificate, OSHA 10 certification, and demonstrating an unmatched ability to navigate mentoring his peers while consistently working towards his own goals, he became a full-time assistant for the remainder of the year. In this position, he is responsible for outreach and retention, as well as tutoring and mentoring current students. While he is working as a grad assistant, he is waiting to begin post-secondary education and pursuing more long-term employment opportunities."

~ YouthBuild Fall River

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

Fall River

Total Population (2025 Estimate)	7,154,084	94,689
Population Lives in Poverty (2020-2024)	9.7%	19.6%
Unemployment Rate (2025)	4.8%	6.8%
Total School Population (2024-2025)	948,709	14,858
Low-Income (2025-2026)	41.1%	77.7%
High School Dropout Rate (2023-2024)	2.0%	5.0%

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

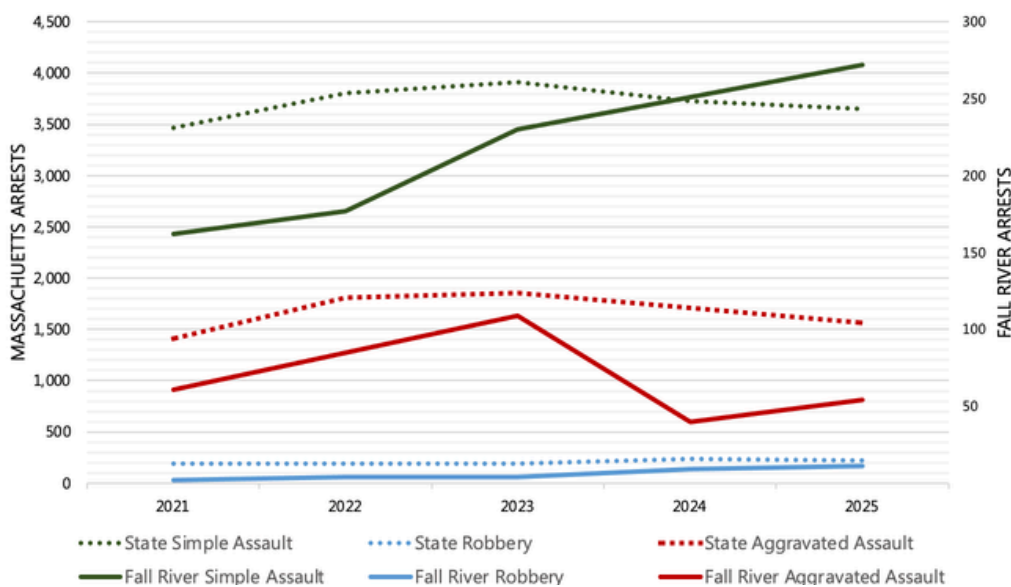
Gang Activity in Fall River

In Fall River, gangs are frequently involved in drug trafficking, violent crime, weapons possession, and property damage. While most gang members are of high school age, children as young as 10 years old are often targeted for recruitment, based on the perception that younger individuals face reduced legal consequences. Gangs in Fall River are typically organized by neighborhood. The regional gangs most active in the community include the Asian Boyz, Gangster Disciples, Crips, Mafiosos, 40 Blocc, Latin Kings, motorcycle gangs, and Boston-based street gangs. Individual risk factors associated with gang involvement include the desire for peer connection, antisocial thinking patterns and attitudes, peer and familial influences, prior or current involvement in the justice system, limited access to prosocial activities, and low school achievement. Communities most affected by gang activity and violence often experience high rates of unemployment and poverty, limited financial and social resources, and a higher prevalence of violent crime.

20
Street Gangs

350
Gang Members
Between Ages 10-
24

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%
- Fall River increased 68%

Arrests for robberies from 2021-2025 in...

- Massachusetts increased 20%
- Fall River increased 450%

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

- Massachusetts increased 11%
- Fall River decreased 11%

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 at the University of Pennsylvania, for preparing this brief.