

2025 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE HAVERHILL/METHUEN

Funded Partners: Boys & Girls Club of Greater Haverhill, CAI/MakeIT Haverhill, Haverhill Police Department, Methuen Arlington Neighborhood Inc., Methuen Police Department, North Shore YMCA, Somebody Cares New England, UTEC, Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School, YWCA of Northeastern 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: \$310,466.65*

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention	64 youth received case management services	172 youth received outreach services	\$95,220.16
Community Mobilization	4,042 community members attended events, meetings and presentations	253 community events, meetings, and presentations held	\$28,751.31
Education & Employment	3,008 youth participated in an education program	525 youth participated in an employment program	\$36,750.89
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	1,523 youth participated in a recreation program	2,146 youth participated in youth development programs	\$104,897.42
Suppression	49 hotspot patrols completed	2 gang members / high impacted players arraigned	\$34,031.87

*In 2025, \$10,815.00 was allocated to administrative/other costs for the site.

Youth Risk Assessments

67%
LOW-RISK* Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.

22%
MODERATE-RISK* Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.

11%
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 student who joined the Club's Positive Action program at the beginning of the academic year initially presented as a quiet and reserved individual and demonstrated a general lack of confidence. She would sit on the side, rarely volunteering answers or engaging actively in discussions. Through the implementation of the Positive Action curriculum, focusing on units such as Understanding My Feelings, Getting Along with Others, and Being Responsible, a remarkable transformation began to unfold."

~ Boys & Girls Club of Greater Haverhill

Community Risk Factors

Massachusetts

Haverhill

Methuen

Total Population (2025 Estimate)	7,154,084	68,291	54,272
Population Lives in Poverty (2020-2024)	9.7%	11.3%	7.9%
Unemployment Rate (2025)	4.8%	5.1%	5.1%
Total School Population (2024-2025)	948,709	9,554	7,966
Low-Income (2025-2026)	41.1%	60.8%	53.0%
High School Dropout Rate (2023-2024)	2.0%	3.0%	3.0%

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

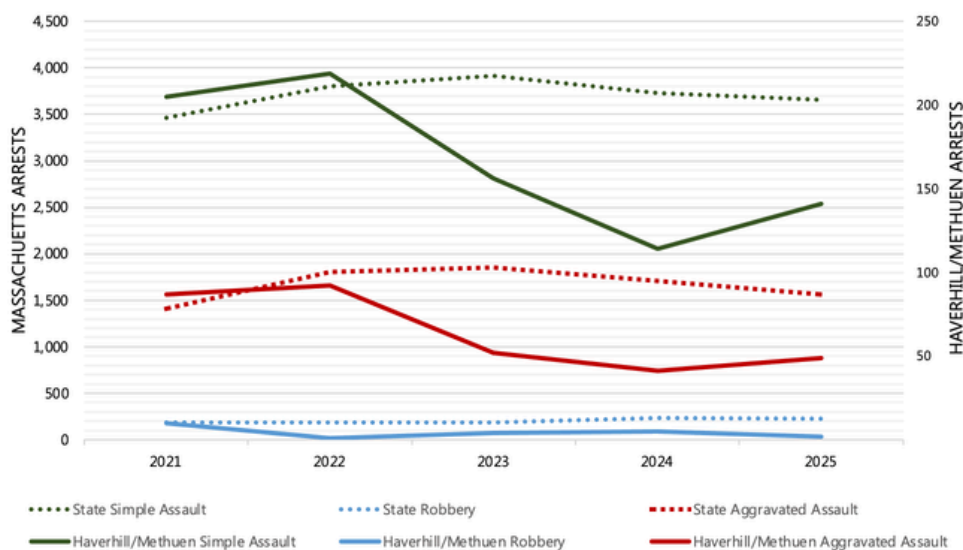
Gang Activity in Haverhill/Methuen

18-20
Street Gangs

700
Active Gang
Members

Haverhill reports 18-20 gangs with 500 members ranging from the likes of Trinitarios, Gangsta Disciples, Latin Kings, Blood and Crypts to neighborhood cliques. Methuen gang activity happens along the border with the Arlington neighborhood in Lawrence. The primary gangs are the Trinitarios and Gangsta Disciples with about 200 members. Street Outreach workers report gangs are primarily involved in crimes that are economic in nature: illegal drug trade, prostitution, home invasions, fire-arm sales, as well as violent crimes .

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



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

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

- Massachusetts increased 5%
- Haverhill/Methuen decreased 31%

Arrests for robberies from 2021-2025 in...

- Massachusetts increased 20%
- Haverhill/Methuen decreased 80%

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

- Massachusetts increased 11%
- Haverhill/Methuen decreased 44%

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.