

# 2025 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE LAWRENCE

Funded Partners: ACT Lawrence Inc., Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence, Change the Play Inc., Lawrence Family Development & Education Fund, Inc., Lawrence Police Department, Merrimack Valley YMCA, Sueños Basketball, YWCA Northeastern Massachusetts Inc.

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: \$299,866.91

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention	<b>59</b> youth received case management services	<b>25</b> youth received outreach services	\$28,500.00
Community Mobilization	<b>1,184</b> community members attended events, meetings and presentations	<b>28</b> community events, meetings, and presentations held	\$13,500.00
Education & Employment	<b>540</b> youth participated in an education program	<b>151</b> youth participated in an employment program	\$58,500.00
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	<b>6,678</b> youth participated in a recreation program	<b>732</b> youth participated in youth development programs	\$145,446.76
Suppression	<b>36</b> hotspot patrols completed	<b>1</b> arrest of gang members/high impact players during hot spot patrols, warrant sweeps, or home visit	\$53,920.15

### Youth Risk Assessments

22.5% **LOW-RISK\*** Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.

55% **MODERATE-RISK\*** Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.

22.5% **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 our youth was a senior last year and is now a freshman at UMass Amherst. He is one of those kids who took advantage of everything the Club has to offer, including workforce development, Drivers Ed, the music program, and the Keystone Club, of which he was president. This past summer, he was a Bread Loaf leader at the Club and had a summer job with the DCR at the Harold Parker State Forest in North Andover, where he was very much appreciated by his employer. He is currently loving UMass Amherst.”*

*~ Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence*

# Community Risk Factors

Massachusetts

Lawrence

Total Population (2025 Estimate)	7,154,084	89,332
Population Lives in Poverty (2020-2024)	9.7%	17.6%
Unemployment Rate (2025)	4.8%	6.8%
Total School Population (2024-2025)	948,709	16,827
Low-Income (2025-2026)	41.1%	82.8%
High School Dropout Rate (2023-2024)	2.0%	7.8%

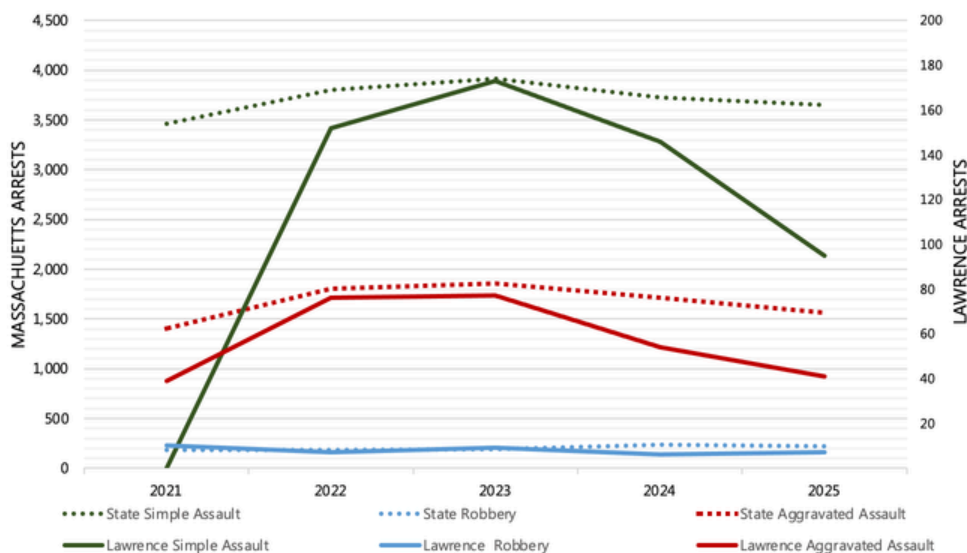
Sources: [www.census.gov/quickfacts](http://www.census.gov/quickfacts); [profiles.doe.mass.edu](http://profiles.doe.mass.edu); <https://lmi.dua.eol.mass.gov/LMI/LaborForceAndUnemployment#>

## Gang Activity in Lawrence

16  
Street Gangs  
72  
Gang Members  
Between the Ages  
14-24

During FY25, there were 62 incidents involving suspected gang members. In the same period, the city recorded 325 violent crimes (aggravated assault, robbery, and homicide), of which 23% involved victims ages 14–24. Among those victims, 10% were suspected, validated, or associated gang members. These incidents resulted in 248 offenders, with 23% between the ages of 14–24; of those, 16% were identified as suspected, validated, or associate gang members. Violent crime remains concentrated in the downtown area and northern sectors of the city, with additional pockets in the Stadium Projects area.

## 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%
- Lawrence decreased 38% (2022-2025)

Simple Assault data is not available in 2021.

Arrests for robberies from 2021-2025 in...

- Massachusetts increased 20%
- Lawrence decreased 30%

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

- Massachusetts increased 11%
- Lawrence increased 5%

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.