

# 2025 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE

## NEW BEDFORD

Funded Partners: Bristol County District Attorney's Office, New Bedford Police Department, NorthStar Learning Center

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: \$1,168,615.71

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention	<b>367</b> youth received case management services	<b>367</b> youth received outreach services	\$365,020.28
Community Mobilization	<b>19,850</b> community members attended events, meetings and presentations	<b>376</b> community events, meetings, and presentations held	\$182,510.14
Education & Employment	<b>39</b> youth participated in an education program	<b>39</b> youth participated in an employment program	\$182,510.14
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	<b>132</b> youth participated in a recreation program	<b>179</b> youth participated in youth development programs	\$182,510.14
Suppression	<b>78</b> hotspot patrols completed	<b>32</b> arrests of gang members/high impact players during hot spot patrols, warrant sweeps, or home visit	\$256,065.00

### Youth Risk Assessments

- 21% **LOW-RISK\*** Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.
- 49% **MODERATE-RISK\*** Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.
- 30% **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

*"We were able to enroll him in our Power Source groups and summer program, where he developed an understanding of being in control of his life and having the power to improve. The participant has been very proactive with his positive approach while facing adversity. He was able to set realistic goals and follow through with his plan to achieve them. His first goal was to earn his way back into public school. Not only did he achieve this goal, but he also became a role model by making the right choices, earning a place on the honor roll, and being readmitted to New Bedford High School."*

~ North Star Learning Center

# Community Risk Factors

Massachusetts

New Bedford

Total Population (2025 Estimate)	7,154,084	101,318
Population Lives in Poverty (2020-2024)	9.7%	20.6%
Unemployment Rate (2025)	4.8%	6.8%
Total School Population (2024-2025)	948,709	15,623
Low-Income (2025-2026)	41.1%	77.3%
High School Dropout Rate (2023-2024)	2.0%	3.0%

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#>

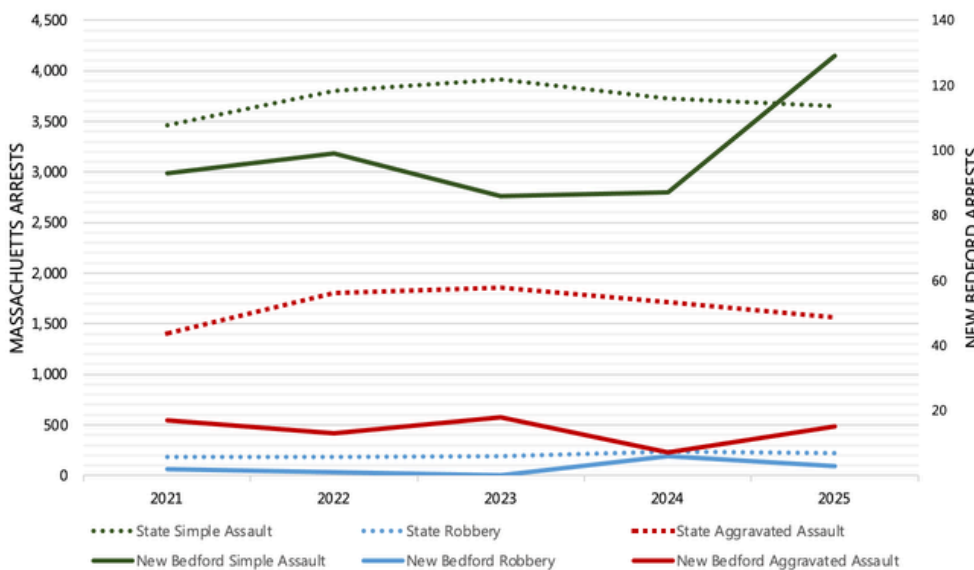
## Gang Activity in New Bedford

28  
Street Gangs

230-275  
Gang Members  
between the Ages  
of 10-24

In 2026, New Bedford continues to address the "hybrid" gang model, where local crews identified by neighborhoods—such as South First Street, Blue Meadows, and the Lane Gang/Baby Glocks—intersect with established national gangs like the Crips and Gangster Disciples (GDs). Major trends in New Bedford's gang activity for 2026 include: an increase in the use of dirt bikes and scooters to carry out drive-by shootings and facilitate quick escapes through the city's narrow streets. Recruitment and rivalries are heavily driven by social media platforms. "Diss tracks" and professionally made music videos act as the main triggers for retaliatory violence.

## 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%
- New Bedford increased 39%

Arrests for robberies from 2021-2025 in...

- Massachusetts increased 20%
- New Bedford increased 50%

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

- Massachusetts increased 11%
- New Bedford decreased 12%

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.