

2025 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE PITTSFIELD

Funded Partners: 18 Degrees - Pittsfield Community Connections, Pittsfield Police Department

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: \$439,015.06

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention	62 youth received case management services	83 youth received outreach services	\$77,922.27
Community Mobilization	755 community members attended events, meetings and presentations	106 community events, meetings, and presentations held	\$155,844.53
Education & Employment	8 youth completed a subsidized year-round employment program	12 youth participated in an employment program	\$77,922.27
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	45 youth participated in a recreation program	83 youth participated in youth development programs	\$77,922.27
Suppression	66 hotspot patrols completed	9 arrests of gang members/high impact players during hot spot patrols, warrant sweeps, or home visit	\$49,403.73

Youth Risk Assessments

- 52% **LOW-RISK*** Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.
- 45% **MODERATE-RISK*** Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.
- 3% **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

"An 18-year-old participant achieved several major milestones that highlight the impact of Shannon programming. After earning her high school diploma in 2024, she welcomed her first child in January 2025. This young mother had been engaged with PCC for some time, and through her ongoing relationship with the program, she was able to secure safe housing for herself and her newborn. In November, with the support of PCC case management and access to RAFT (Residential Assistance for Families in Transition) funds, she successfully moved into a larger, more suitable apartment, providing a healthier environment as her child reached key developmental milestones."

~ 18 Degrees - Pittsfield Community Correction

Community Risk Factors

Massachusetts

Pittsfield

Total Population (2025 Estimate)	7,154,084	43,121
Population Lives in Poverty (2019-2023)	9.7%	14.9%
Unemployment Rate (2025)	4.8%	4.7%
Total School Population (2024-2025)	948,709	5,601
Low-Income (2025-2026)	41.1%	62.9%
High School Dropout Rate (2023-2024)	2.0%	4.8%

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

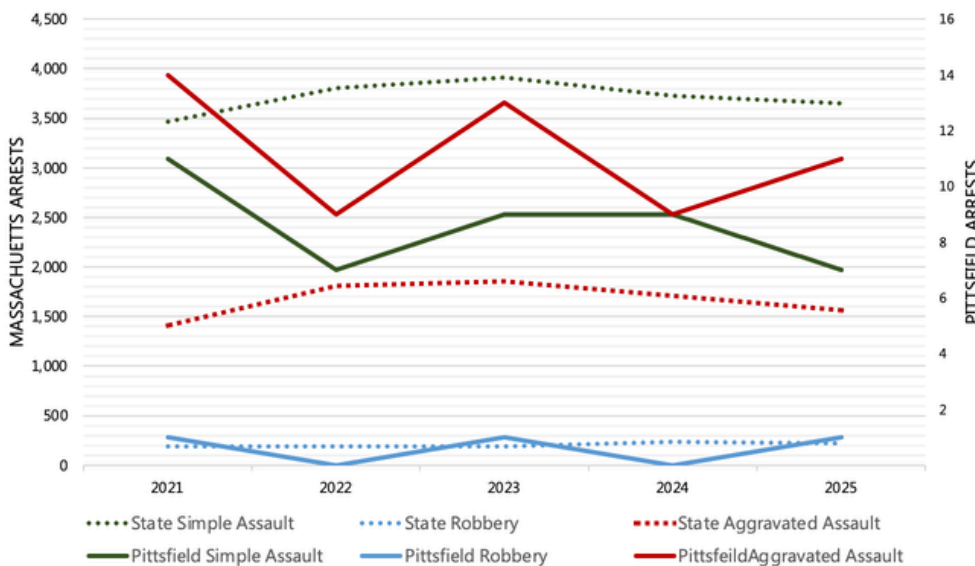
Gang Activity in Pittsfield

3
Active Gangs

50-60
Gang Members
between the Ages
of 10-24

Most active groups within Pittsfield are informal cliques and/or hybrid gangs. These groups may claim affiliations to Bloods and Crips, but they lack formal structure, rules, or hierarchy. Pittsfield groups do not commonly display colors or use symbols or markings, and it is difficult to link specific groups to stable geographic areas. Pittsfield groups engage in gang-related conflicts in social media spheres and will often “go live” as a show of affiliation. Violence is often driven by social media conflicts and feuds amongst rap groups. Most of these groups are generating profit through drug sales, and this is the most frequent activity among juvenile members. Many gang members possess weapons and illegally carry firearms.

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



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.

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

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

- Massachusetts increased 5%
- Pittsfield decreased 36%

Arrests for robberies from 2021-2025 in...

- Massachusetts increased 20%
- Pittsfield increased 0%

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

- Massachusetts increased 11%
- Pittsfield decreased 21%

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.