

2025 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE SPRINGFIELD

Funded Partners: COGIC Family Services, Greater New Life Christian Center, Martin Luther King Jr. Family Services, New North Citizens' Council, Regreen Springfield, South End Community Center, Springfield Boys & Girls Club, Springfield Boys & Girls Club Family Center, Springfield Parks Department, Springfield Police Department, The Dunbar Center Inc., The Mission Inc., The Salvation Army, YMCA of Greater Springfield, YWCA of Western 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: \$1,247,411.92

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention	20 youth received case management services	683 youth received outreach services	\$125,017.76
Community Mobilization	210 community members attended events, meetings and presentations	2 community events, meetings, and presentations held	\$21,154.78
Education & Employment	1,306 youth participated in an education program	263 youth participated in an employment program	\$218,049.75
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	1,217 youth participated in a recreation program	1,588 youth participated in youth development programs	\$492,829.91
Suppression	41 hotspot patrols completed	138 arrests of gang members/high impact players during hot spot patrols, warrant sweeps, or home visit	\$390,359.72

Youth Risk Assessments

- 48% **LOW-RISK*** Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.
- 28% **MODERATE-RISK*** Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.
- 24% **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

"This year, we were introduced to a 12-year-old girl. She first met us at her school during an outreach with a group of her friends. At the time, she was very involved in peer drama and easily influenced by others. She was suspended from school for fighting and skipping class. She confided in staff and developed a relationship with the after-school team. In her time with us, she expressed struggles at home and within herself. She and her family received wrap-around support from the after-school team. She was provided with a mentor who would meet with her in and out of school; she also participated in 2 groups that would help develop her leadership skills."

~New North Citizen's Council

Community Risk Factors

Massachusetts

Springfield

Total Population (2025 Estimate)	7,154,084	154,888
Population Lives in Poverty (2020-2024)	9.7%	25.8%
Unemployment Rate (2025)	4.8%	7.3%
Total School Population (2024-2025)	948,709	25,880
Low-Income (2025-2026)	41.1%	82.9%
High School Dropout Rate (2023-2024)	2.0%	3.9%

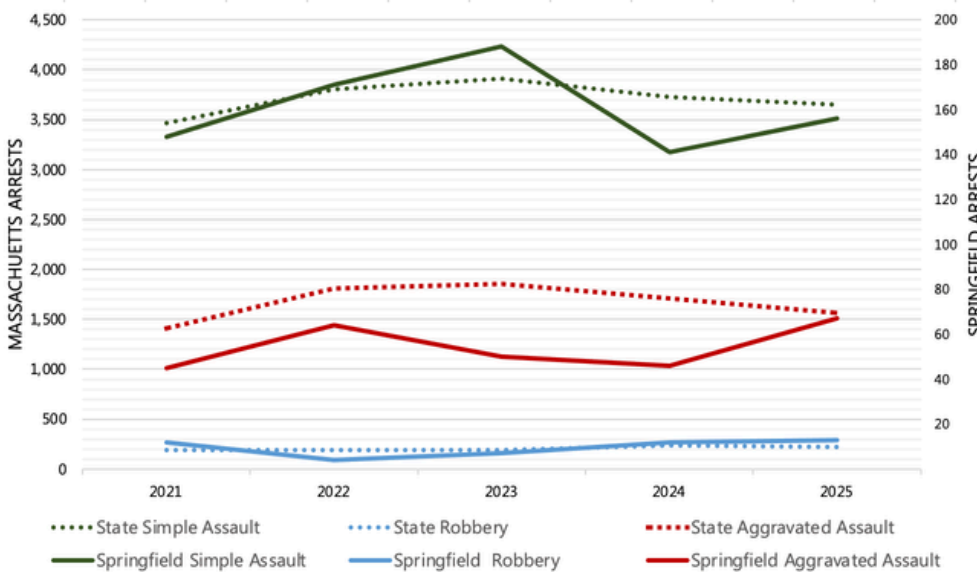
Sources: www.census.gov/quickfacts; profiles.doe.mass.edu; <https://lmi.dua.eol.mass.gov/LMI/LaborForceAndUnemployment#>

Gang Activity in Springfield

65
Street Gangs
1,000-1,200
Gang Members
between the Ages
of 10-24

In 2025, Springfield's gang landscape is defined by rival groups forming strategic alliances ("clicking up") to strengthen power, expand influence, and sustain ongoing conflicts, driven by shared rivalries, access to narcotics and firearms, and the need to increase numbers. Sycamore Street Posse remains aligned with Plainfield Street Posse/Orchard Street Boricuas, while the Burr Street faction maintains ties with "The O" in Indian Orchard. Eastern Avenue Posse continues its coalition with Knox Street, Maynard Street, Spades, FP Babies, and Wealthblock, reinforcing a rivalry linked to firearm violence across neighborhoods. The Gangster Disciples (ATM set) remain active in conflicts with the Latin Kings, Los Solidos/H\$M, and Eastern Avenue-affiliated groups. Violence is largely driven by competition over narcotics distribution in the Belmont Avenue-Fort Pleasant Avenue corridor, with additional tensions in the Worthington Street area. Overall, these alliances and territorial disputes sustain a volatile, interconnected gang environment and ongoing public safety challenges.

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%
- Springfield increased 5%

Arrests for robberies from 2021-2025 in...

- Massachusetts increased 20%
- Springfield increased 8%

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

- Massachusetts increased 11%
- Springfield increased 49%

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.