

2023 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE LAWRENCE

Funded Partners: ACT Lawrence, Boys & 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: \$250,500.00

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention	<u>30</u> youth received case management services	<u>30</u> youth received street outreach services	\$20,900.00
Community Mobilization	<u>2,200</u> community members attended events, meetings, & presentations	<u>8</u> community events, meetings, & presentations held	\$4,400.00
Education & Employment	<u>390</u> youth participated in education programs	<u>59</u> youth participated in employment programs	\$37,400.00
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	<u>474</u> youth participated in recreation programs	<u>541</u> youth participated in youth development programs	\$129,900.00
Suppression	<u>212</u> hot spot patrols completed	<u>24</u> gang members arraigned	\$57,900.00

Youth Risk Assessments

31% LOW-RISK*	Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.
30% MODERATE-RISK*	Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.
39% 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 14-year-old was often getting in trouble at school. The school counselor referred him to our organization. The young man came into our program and, in the beginning, was always mad, cursing, and was not getting along with the other participants. He participated in our mentoring program, and after a few weeks, his behavior changed. He started talking more, not cursing, and participating in all the activities. His school counselor called, stating that he was now doing well at school, and his grades and behavior had improved tremendously."

~ Sueños Basketball

Community Risk Factors

Massachusetts

Lawrence

Total Population (2022/2023 Estimates)	7,001,399	87,954
Population Lives in Poverty	10.4%	19.4%
Unemployment Rate (Jan. – Nov. 2023)	3.1%	5.5%
Total School Population (2022-23)	964,066	16,562
Low-Income (2023)	42.2%	85.1%
High School Dropout Rate (2020-21)	2.1%	3.4%

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

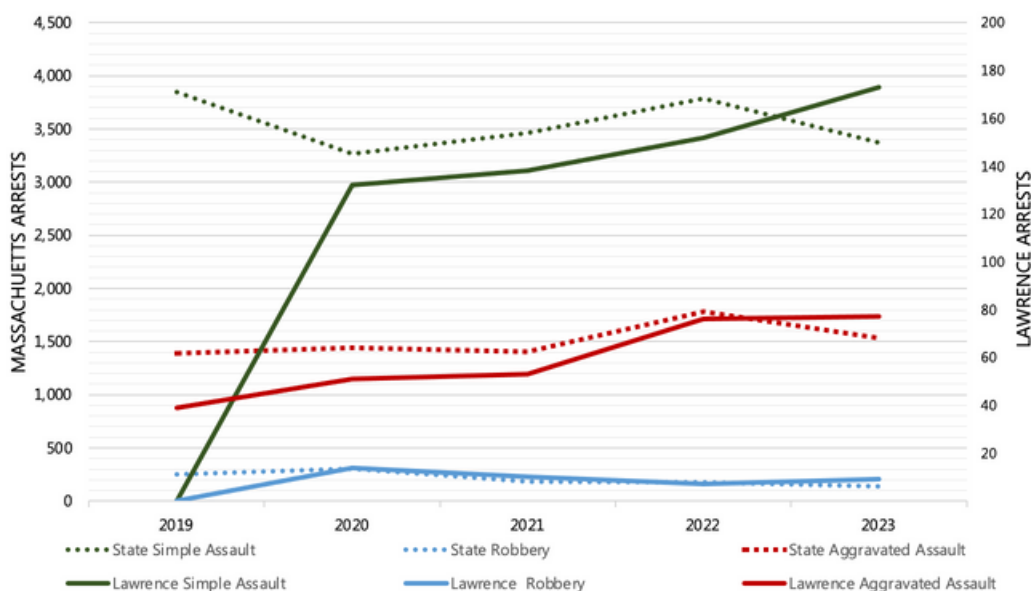
Gang Activity in Lawrence

5
Street Gangs

900
Gang Members

The Lawrence Police Department knows of at least five active street gangs in the city, as well as possible smaller neighborhood gangs. These gangs include approximately 900 suspected, associated, and validated gang members. Primary gang-related crimes include drug trafficking, drug distribution, robbery, motor vehicle theft, inter-gang violence (including shootings), check forgery and the unlawful possession of firearms.

5-Year Crime Trends for Offenses Committed by Youth Ages 10-24, 2019-2023



Changes in Crime for Young People Ages 10-24, 2019-2023*

Simple assaults in...

- Massachusetts decreased 12%
- Lawrence increased 31% (2020-2023)

Robberies in...

- Massachusetts decreased 46%
- Lawrence decreased 36% (2020-2023)

Aggravated assaults in...

- Massachusetts increased 10%
- Lawrence increased 97%

*Lawrence statistics on simple assaults and robberies are not available prior to 2020.

Source: National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

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.