

Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI)

Legislative Report



February 2022

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
Background	6
SSYI Program Components	8
Characteristics of Cities with SSYI Programs	8
SSYI Program Administration and Operations	9
SSYI Grantees	10
Goals and Benchmarks for Grant Recipients	12
Report Methods	13
SSYI Database.....	13
Program Activities Across the Six Core Components	14
Youth Identified for Services.....	14
Outreach and Case Management.....	16
Educational, Occupational Training and Employment, and Behavioral Health Services	17
Program Participation Among Young Women.....	20
Race and Ethnicity	20
SSYI Evaluation	22
Program Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic	25
Success Stories	29
Operational and Technical Support: Trainings and Meetings	30
Program Management Support	30
Data Management and Reporting Services.....	32
SSYI Human Trafficking Grant Program	33
Youth Violence Prevention and Intervention State Agency Collaboration	38
References	40
Appendix A: Cities with Safe and Successful Youth Initiative Programs	41
Appendix B: Characteristics of SSYI Cities	42
Appendix C: Key Performance Indicators	46

Executive Summary

Background

The Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI) is a youth violence prevention and intervention initiative that operates in 14 cities across the Commonwealth with the highest juvenile crime rates. SSYI focuses efforts on a small number of individuals, ages 17–24, that local police have identified as “proven risk” or “impact players.” These individuals are determined by police to be substantially gang involved, most likely to be victims or perpetrators of violent weapons offenses, or engaged in significant illegal activity. SSYI workers reach out and develop relationships with these individuals and then offer them a chance to redirect their lives through educational, employment, and behavioral health services. SSYI combines public health and public safety approaches for eliminating youth violence.

The 14 SSYI programs are overseen by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), Office of Children, Youth and Families. Commonwealth Corporation provides program management assistance to EOHHS and technical assistance to the 14 programs. The UMass Chan Medical School’s Commonwealth Medicine (CWM) division provides data management, data reporting, and other supportive services. Each SSYI program is composed of a police department, lead agency, and program partners. Lead agencies are community-based organizations or quasi-governmental organizations that manage and coordinate all SSYI program activities, services, policies, operations, and reporting. Program partners provide services or opportunities to SSYI clients. Program partners may include community, municipal, county, state, federal, nonprofit, for-profit or private sector organizations, and licensed mental health clinics.

EOHHS also operates the SSYI Human Trafficking Grant Program under the SSYI umbrella to meet the needs of youth ages 10–24 (male and female cisgender, transgender, and gender expansive youth), who are survivors or at risk of human trafficking.

Legislative Mandate

This report is issued pursuant to Chapter 24 of the Acts of 2021, line item 4000-0005:¹

For youth violence prevention program grants administered by the executive office of health and human services; provided, that the grants shall be targeted at reducing youth violence among young persons at highest annual risk of being perpetrators or victims of gun and community violence; provided further, that any new grants awarded from this item in fiscal year 2022 shall comply with the grant application requirements set forth in item 4000-0005 of section 2 of chapter 38 of the acts of 2013; provided further, that the executive office may select the same evaluator in fiscal year 2022 as selected in fiscal year 2021; provided further, that not later than February 15, 2022, the secretary of health and human services shall submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means detailing: (i) successful grant applications; (ii) the criteria used in selecting grant recipients; (iii) a set of clearly-defined goals and benchmarks on which grant recipients shall be evaluated; and (iv) outcomes and findings that demonstrate program success from the grant awards fiscal year 2021; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended for the Merrimack Valley Public Safety Youth Center in the city of Lawrence to provide a safe space for structured education, health and recreational programming for at-risk youth throughout the Merrimack Valley; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended for the Violence Intervention and Prevention program at Haverhill high school; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended for the Boston Asian: Youth Essential Services youth violence prevention programs;

¹ An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2022 for the Maintenance of the Departments, Boards, Commissions, Institutions and Certain Activities of the Commonwealth, for Interest, Sinking Fund and Serial Bond Requirements and for Certain Permanent Improvements, 2021.

provided further, that funds may be set aside for the administration of these programs; and provided further, that these funds shall be available to those municipalities with the highest number of annual youth homicides and serious assaults as determined by the executive office.

SSYI Outcomes and Findings

This report details successful SSYI grant applications, program goals, and benchmarks for evaluating grant recipients, and SSYI program outcomes and findings for state fiscal year 2021 for the 14 SSYI programs and the three SSYI Human Trafficking grantee programs.

The data for the 14 SSYI cities provided in this report are primarily derived from the SSYI case management system referred to as the SSYI database. The database supports SSYI program operations and reporting across all SSYI roles, including police departments, lead agencies, and program partners. All SSYI sites use this single system for youth identification, outreach, and contact with youth, enrollment and case management, education, employment, and behavioral health functions. The SSYI database improves operations by facilitating consistency in case management and outreach processes, and it also improves reporting consistency across SSYI program locations. To ensure data security, the SSYI database is implemented within Microsoft's cloud-based Dynamics 365 CRM service. Dynamics 365 meets the compliance standards of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Service Organization Controls (SOC) 2.²

During the period covered by this report, SSYI provided innovative and important services to youth whom police departments identified as being most likely to be victims or perpetrators of violent weapons offenses. In summary:

- A total of **1,931 youth were identified by police as eligible for SSYI** in FY21 (5% decrease compared to FY20). Outreach workers contacted youth identified as being the most likely to be victims or perpetrators of violent weapons offenses to solicit their participation in SSYI. There were **1,015 youth contacted in FY21** (2% increase compared to FY20).
- If youth agreed to enroll in SSYI, a case manager conducted an intake interview to gather information about them and enroll them in the program. Enrolled youth received case management services. A total of **963 youth were enrolled and received case management services in FY21** (6% decrease compared to FY20).
- Case managers coordinated with local service providers to engage clients in education programs. Educational services primarily focused on maintaining high school or alternative high school enrollment and graduation or assisted with the attainment of HiSET or GED qualifications. A total of **600 youth received education services in FY21** (5% increase compared to FY20).
- SSYI programs also offered occupational training and employment services to provide youth with both the soft and hard skills necessary to succeed in the workplace. Youth who enrolled in transitional/subsidized employment received SSYI program support in obtaining and maintaining unsubsidized jobs, including ongoing communication with their case managers and assistance with problem resolution, job retention, and further career planning and skill development. A total of **644 youth participated in employment activities in FY21** (3% decrease compared to FY20).
- Many SSYI youth have experienced trauma, and many have mental health issues or substance use disorders. Case managers helped SSYI youth to access behavioral health services. A total of **753 youth participated in behavioral health services in FY21** (12% increase compared to FY19).

² More information about this certification is available from Microsoft, <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/trustcenter/Compliance/SOC?Search=true>.

- Most youth eligible for SSYI were non-White (89%), including Latinx youth. **The percentages of non-White eligible youth participating in services were higher compared to White eligible youth**, and were as follows: education, 36% vs. 30%; employment, 38% vs. 34%; and behavioral health, 44% vs. 36%.
- SSYI grantees reported that the COVID-19 pandemic affected youth and SSYI programming. **Grantees made program changes to lessen the effects of the pandemic.** Grantees reported that the pandemic increased financial hardship, social isolation, and stress among youth. The pandemic also limited and/or decreased the amount of SSYI in-person programming and made it more difficult to connect youth with needed health care and social services. To lessen the effects of the pandemic on youth and programming, SSYI grantees increased the focus on behavioral health, provided programming in a hybrid or virtual mode, took on a COVID-19 public health role, and increased support for basic needs.
- In the **SSYI Human Trafficking Grant Program**, in FY21, 100 youth were enrolled. All received survivor mentoring and an array of services; 88% received behavioral health services, 74% received physical health services, 67% received educational services, and 56% received housing services. In addition, most youth received direct financial assistance. Grantees also conducted trainings.

The American Institutes for Research (AIR), in partnership with WestEd, has been the state evaluator for SSYI since 2013. In the earliest studies of SSYI, the AIR-WestEd research team found that the intervention was associated with a reduced level of victimization from violent crime in SSYI communities³ and a reduced likelihood of incarceration for SSYI participants.⁴ An economic analysis conducted in only the two largest program sites—Springfield and Boston—found that each dollar invested in these SSYI sites was associated with societal cost savings of as much as \$7.35 in 2013 dollars.⁵

In FY19 and FY20, the AIR-WestEd team was awarded a contract through FY21 to continue evaluating the impact of SSYI.^{6,7} The findings from these continued evaluations include the following:

- Between 2012 and 2017, there was a decrease in **annual violent offenses in cities with SSYI funding** by as many as 2.2 offenses per 1,000 population, and annual violent crime victimizations decreased by almost 3.2 victimizations per 1,000 population among individuals ages 14–24.
- After 2012, **young men enrolled in SSYI had 36% fewer violent offenses**, including 50% fewer weapon-related offenses, and 20% fewer non-violent offenses than young men identified for the program who never enrolled.
- Young men with more contacts and meetings with SSYI outreach workers and case managers **had lower recidivism** after program exit compared to young men with fewer contacts and meetings.
- The more services young men engaged with, the less likely they were to re-offend after program exit.

³ See Petrosino et al., 2014.

⁴ See Campie et al., 2014.

⁵ See Bradham, Campie, and Petrosino, 2014.

⁶ See Campie et al., 2019.

⁷ See Campie et al., 2021.

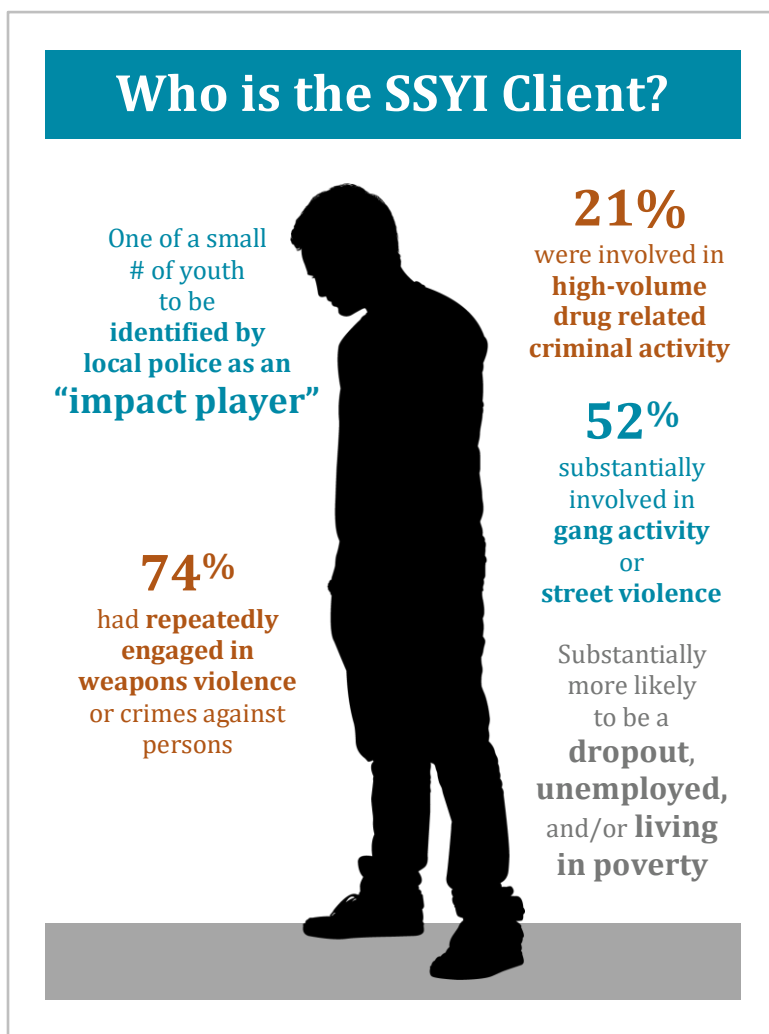
Background

SSYI is a youth violence prevention and intervention initiative that operates in cities with the highest juvenile crime rates. SSYI targets a small number of individuals, ages 17–24, that local police have identified as “proven risk” or “impact players.” These individuals are determined by police to be substantially gang-involved, most likely to be victims or perpetrators of violent weapons offenses, or engaged in high-volume illegal activity. SSYI reaches out to these individuals and offers them a chance to redirect their lives through educational, employment, and behavioral health services.

SSYI combines public health and safety approaches for eliminating youth violence. The original SSYI model was driven by research conducted by the Boston Police Department regarding high-crime neighborhoods. The program model reflects the belief that a disproportionately small number of individuals drive most of the violent crime. By identifying these high-impact players in each community, SSYI aims to directly intervene in their lives in a positive way, thus reducing violent crime. SSYI fills gaps in direct services currently available to such proven-risk youth, as they require extensive intentional outreach and engagement and are not typically served by traditional youth-focused organizations.

The process of identifying individuals eligible for SSYI services is rigorous and performed by local police departments, with input from other law enforcement partners, stakeholders, and service providers. Following identification, specialized outreach/street workers are tasked with contacting those high-risk young adults and attempt to engage them in SSYI program services.⁸ Outreach can be very challenging, since the youth have typically been disconnected from school and other resources; some SSYI youth are in a House of Correction or state prison at the time of initial contact. Outreach workers may themselves have a similar background to the young adults and can frequently establish positive relationships with them, making them feel comfortable with various aspects of SSYI programming. Enrolling eligible clients into the SSYI program typically requires numerous contact attempts and ongoing support from the outreach workers throughout the program.

⁸ In FY19, EOHHS modified the program eligibility criteria to allow services for young women, in addition to young men.



Once enrolled in SSYI, clients receive intensive case management. Case managers, working closely with mental health clinicians and outreach workers, stay in contact with the young adults and assess their needs and progress on an ongoing basis. Case managers also coordinate with other service providers to provide educational, employment, and behavioral health services. Educational services focus on maintaining high school or alternative high school enrollment and graduation or assisting with attaining HiSET or GED qualifications.

The SSYI program also offers occupational training and employment services, which provide youth with both the soft and hard skills necessary to succeed in the workplace. With proven-risk populations, there is a need for intensive soft-skill development to address the chronic underdevelopment of their professional skills and enhance their employability. Clients then enroll in transitional/subsidized employment and receive support in obtaining and maintaining unsubsidized jobs, including ongoing communication with their case managers, assistance with problem resolution, job retention, and further career planning and skill development.

Another distinguishing element of the SSYI model is behavioral health services, where clients can access licensed clinicians with experience working with troubled youth and with skills in trauma treatment and other appropriate therapies. Behavioral health services also reflect an awareness of substance abuse prevention, reduction, and treatment, including screening and services targeting opioid addiction and abuse.



SSYI Program Components

The SSYI model, as previously described, is composed of six core components (Table 1).

Table 1: Core Components of SSYI Program

Program Component	Component Description
Identification	Police identify youth most likely to be victims or perpetrators of violent weapons offenses. These individuals comprise the eligible youth. In FY21, an eligible individual was 17–24 years old and known to law enforcement as meeting at least one of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeatedly engages in crimes against persons, or • Repeatedly engages in weapons violence, or • Is in a leadership role in a gang, or • Is substantially involved in gang activity or street violence, or • Significantly facilitates gang activity or street violence.
Outreach/Contact	Specialized outreach/street workers contact high-risk eligible youth and attempt to enroll them in the SSYI program.
Enrollment/Case Management	Enrolled SSYI clients receive intensive case management. Case managers work closely with mental health clinicians and outreach workers to assess client needs and progress. Case managers also coordinate with local agencies to provide education, employment, and behavioral health services to clients.
Education	Educational services are provided to youth. These services include high school, alternative high school, and HiSET and GED programs.
Occupational Training & Employment Services	The SSYI program provides occupational training and employment services to youth, including the soft and hard skills necessary to succeed in the workplace.
Behavioral Health Services	SSYI clients have access to licensed clinicians with experience working with troubled youth, including trauma treatment and substance abuse prevention, screening, reduction, and treatment.

* These criteria were implemented in FY20, and some youth were eligible under prior-year criteria. For additional details, see the “Program Activities Across the Six Core Components” section.

Cities with SSYI Programs

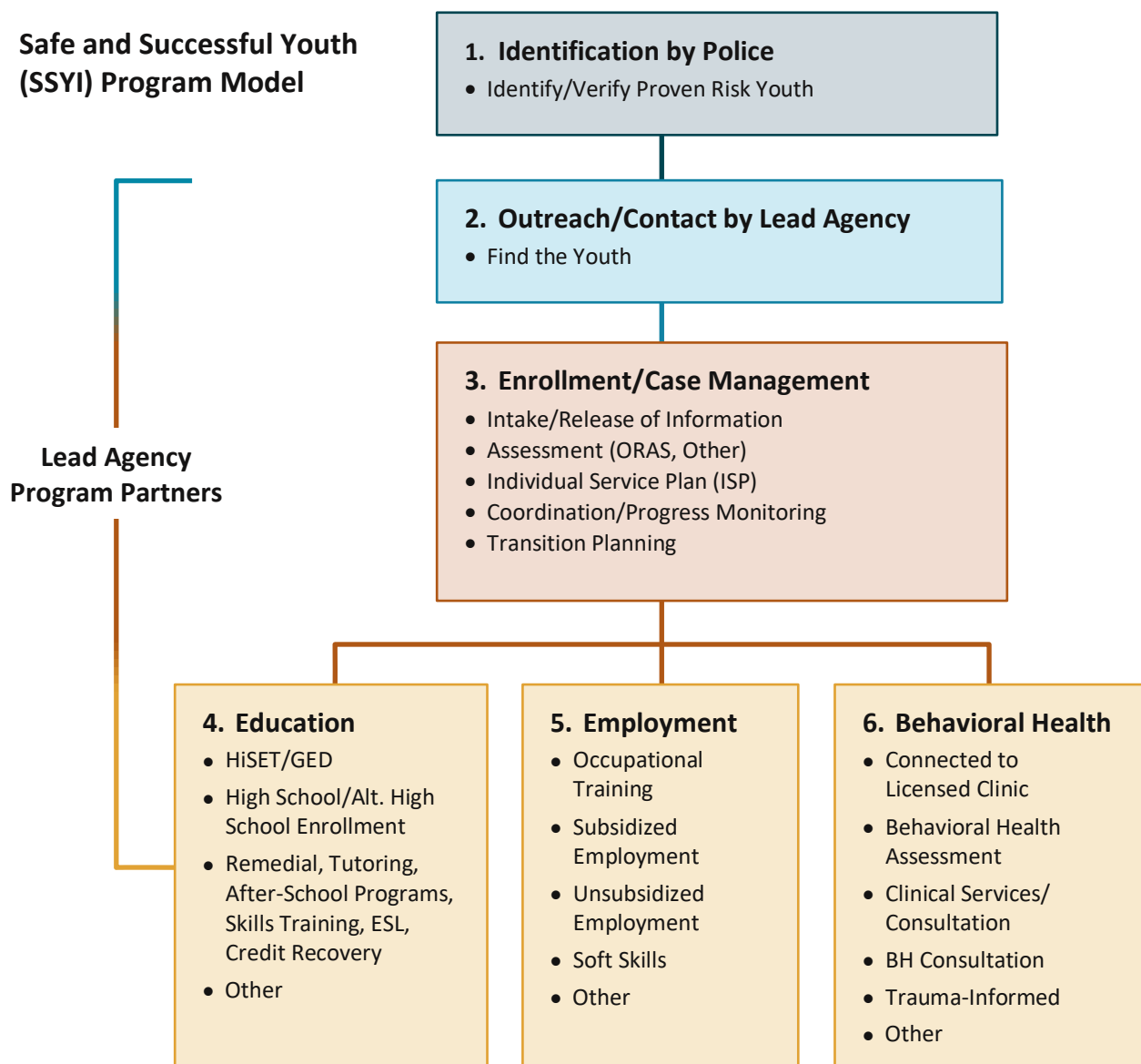
SSYI programs operate in the following 14 cities: Boston, Brockton, Chelsea, Fall River, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, New Bedford, North Adams, Pittsfield, Springfield, and Worcester, (see Appendix A). These cities have high poverty rates, ranging from 12.5% in Haverhill to 29.3% in Holyoke for the 2015 through 2019 period (Appendix Figure B1). Many SSYI cities also have high unemployment rates, and these rates increased substantially in the spring of 2020 at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, decreasing somewhat in FY21. The Massachusetts unemployment rate in September 2021 was 5.1%, and all 14 SSYI cities have unemployment rates that exceed the state rate (Appendix Figure B2). The Commonwealth’s 2015–2019 unemployment rate for persons ages 16–24 was 11.2%; nine SSYI cities have higher rates, including six cities—Lawrence, Fall River, Springfield, Brockton, Holyoke, and Boston—with rates exceeding 15% (Appendix Figure B3). Male high school dropout rates in 2020 ranged from 7.1% in Worcester to 20.8% in Chelsea (Appendix Figure B4). In 2019, the violent crime rates in SSYI cities ranged from 363 crimes per

100,000 residents to 905 crimes per 100,000 residents (Appendix Table B1).

SSYI Program Administration and Operations

EOHHS oversees and administers the SSYI program and awards grants to police departments. Commonwealth Corporation supports the program's administration by providing program management support, technical assistance, professional development, and training services to the local SSYI programs. UMass Chan Medical School's Commonwealth Medicine (CWM) division provides data management, information system training and support, and program reporting.

Each SSYI program (see below) comprises a police department, lead agency, and program partners. Police departments receive grant funding and provide overall leadership and oversight to lead agencies and program partners. Lead agencies are community-based organizations or quasi-governmental organizations that manage and coordinate all SSYI program activities, services, policies, operations, and reporting. Program partners provide services or opportunities to SSYI clients and may include community, municipal, county, state, federal, nonprofit, for-profit or private sector organizations, or licensed mental health clinics.



SSYI Grantees

SSYI funds are administered by EOHHS and available to cities with the highest annual number of youth homicides and serious assaults. SSYI completed a procurement in 2015 and reopened the procurement in 2018 and 2019 to add one additional city each year. EOHHS currently contracts with 14 SSYI grantees (municipalities/police departments) that have grant agreements through June 30, 2022, with the option to extend through June 30, 2025. This allocation additionally funds 14 lead agencies, 11 mental health providers, and 18 local provider agencies (Table 2).

Table 2: Current SSYI Grantees

City	Grantee (FY2021 Funding)	Lead Agency	Mental Health Clinic	Program Partners that Receive SSYI Funds
Boston	Boston Police Department (\$1,150,000)	Boston Public Health Commission	Boston Medical Center, Bay Cove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MissionSAFE • Youth Options Unlimited (YOU) Boston • More Than Words
Brockton	Brockton Police Department (\$500,000)	Old Colony YMCA	Old Colony YMCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MassHire Greater Brockton Workforce Board
Chelsea	Chelsea Police Department (\$500,000)	Roca	North Suffolk Mental Health	
Fall River	Fall River Police Department (\$600,000)	Greater Fall River RE-CREATION	Solid Ground Psychotherapy Associates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bristol County Training Consortium (MassHire Bristol) • Bristol County Sheriff's Office • City of Fall River
Haverhill	Haverhill Police Department (\$500,000)	United Teen Equality Center (UTECE)	NFI	
Holyoke	Holyoke Police Department (\$600,000)	Roca	River Valley Counseling Center (RVCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MassHire Holyoke
Lawrence	Lawrence Police Department (\$700,000)	Lawrence Family Development D/B/A Lawrence Prospera	Children's Friend and Family Services, a Division of the Justice Resource Institute (JRI)	

City	Grantee (FY2021 Funding)	Lead Agency	Mental Health Clinic	Program Partners that Receive SSYI Funds
Lowell	Lowell Police Department (\$700,000)	Utec	Utec	
Lynn	Lynn Police Department (\$500,000)	Roca	Children's Friend and Family Services, a Division of JRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lynn Youth Street Outreach Advocacy (LYSOA)
New Bedford	New Bedford Police Department (\$500,000)	United Way of Greater New Bedford	Child & Family Services, Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bristol County Sheriff's Office
North Adams	North Adams Police Department (\$420,000)	18 Degrees		
Pittsfield	Pittsfield Police Department (\$500,000)	18 Degrees		
Springfield	Springfield Police Department (\$650,000)	Roca	Clinical & Support Options (CSO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baystate Medical Center • All-Inclusive Support Services (AISS) Hampden County Sheriff's Department • MassHire
Worcester	Worcester Police Department (\$700,000)	Worcester Community Action Council (WCAC)	Open Sky Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legendary Legacies • Worcester Youth Center • Worcester Public Schools • Laurie Ross, PhD

Goals and Benchmarks for Grant Recipients

The current grant agreements between EOHHS and SSYI grantees require them to demonstrate effective approaches toward meeting annual performance targets (Table 3; Appendix C). Grantees set individualized performance targets with a goal of meeting or exceeding statewide averages for each of the six core program components. The *Annual Target* (Table 3 below) represents the sum target for all cities.

Table 3: Annual Performance Targets by Component

Program Component	Target Description	Annual Target
Identification Target	Youth who have been identified for participation in the SSYI program, referred to as eligible youth	1,739
Outreach/Contact	The number of eligible youth who have been contacted by outreach staff	1,437
Enrollment/Case Management	Eligible youth who enroll in the program	990
Education	Eligible youth who are participating in educational services	636
Occupational Training and Employment Services	Eligible youth who are participating in occupational training and employment services	719
Behavioral Health Services	Eligible youth who are participating in behavioral health services	718



Report Methods

SSYI Database

The data provided in this report are primarily derived from the SSYI case management system referred to as the **SSYI database**. The database supports SSYI program operations and reporting across all SSYI roles, including police departments, lead agencies, and program partners. All SSYI sites use this single system for youth identification, outreach, and case management functions.

The SSYI database was implemented in 2017 by the CWM Data Management group in collaboration with local SSYI programs, EOHHS, and Commonwealth Corporation. The data in this report reflect the fourth full fiscal year of data available in the SSYI database. The SSYI database was built on the Microsoft Dynamics Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system and is accessed via the internet using a web browser (via Secure Sockets Layer) and includes web pages designed specifically to support the day-to-day operations of the SSYI programs.

The SSYI database includes role-based permissions where staff roles define data access and business functions. Police officers maintain a list of the eligible youth, enter eligibility criteria, and refer youth to program directors. Police officers do not have access to youth assessment, enrollment/case management, outreach, or service data. Program directors in lead agencies use the SSYI dataset to assign clients to outreach workers and case managers and track client progress. Outreach workers use the SSYI database to track client contacts and record case notes. Using the SSYI database, case managers record intake and assessment information, enroll clients, track and maintain individual service plans, and track and monitor progress in SSYI educational, employment, and behavioral health activities.



Program Activities Across the Six Core Components

Youth Identified for Services

Police departments identify the youth most likely to be victims or perpetrators of violent weapons offenses for participation in the SSYI programs. These individuals comprise the eligible youth. An eligible individual is 17–24 years old and known to law enforcement. Youth identified prior to July 1, 2019, met at least two of the following criteria (1,478 youth):

- Repeatedly engages in weapons violence or crimes against persons, or
- Was a victim of weapons violence or crimes against persons, or
- Engages in high-volume, drug-related criminal activity, or
- Is in a leadership role in a gang or significantly involved in gang activity

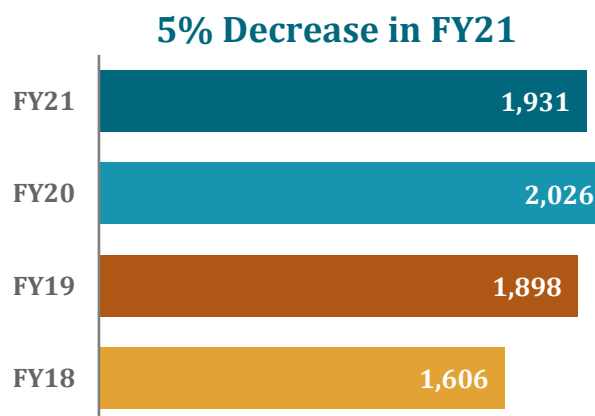
Youth identified on or after July 1, 2019, met at least one of the following criteria (453 youth):

- Repeatedly engages in crimes against persons, or
- Repeatedly engages in weapons violence, or
- Is in a leadership role in a gang, or
- Is substantially involved in gang activity or street violence, or
- Significantly facilitates gang activity or street violence

There were 1,931 eligible youth during FY21 (Figure 1).⁹ The number of eligible youth increased by 18% between FY18 and FY19 and 7% between FY19 and FY20. The number of youth decreased by 5% between FY20 and FY21 (Figure 1).

Approximately three-quarters (74%) of the eligible youth were eligible for program participation because they repeatedly engaged in weapons violence or crimes against persons (Figure 2). More than one-half (52%) were eligible because they were in a leadership role in a gang, or substantially involved in gang activities or street violence, or significantly facilitated gang activity or street violence.

Figure 1: Unduplicated SSYI Eligible Youth



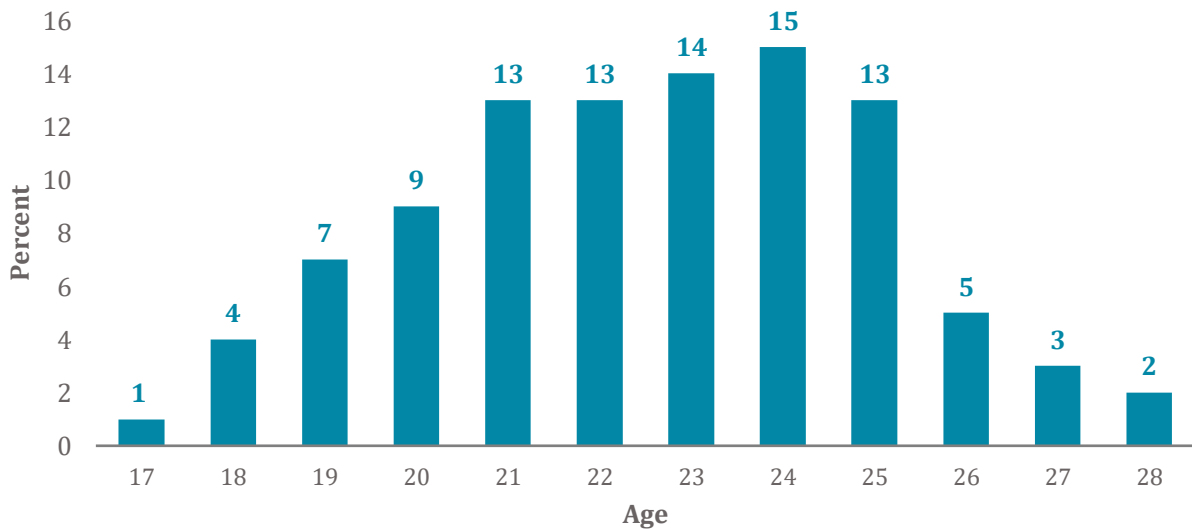
⁹ See Appendix Table C1 for the number of unduplicated youth on the SSYI list for each program.

Figure 2: Percent Youth by Eligibility Criteria



The age distribution of eligible youth is shown in Figure 3.¹⁰

Figure 3: Age Distribution (%) of SSYI Eligible Youth

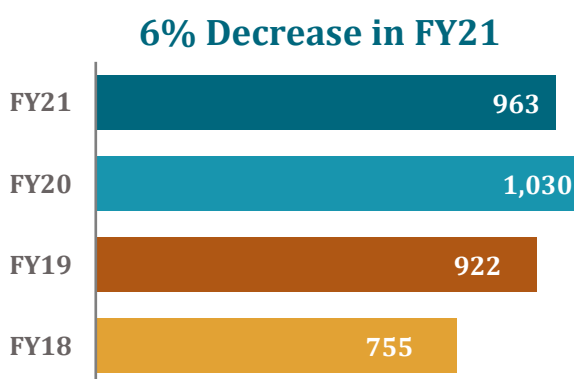


¹⁰ In some cases, youth ages 25 and above have been served as an exception, with prior EOHHS approval.

Outreach and Case Management

Outreach workers contact eligible youth to solicit program enrollment. Once youth agree to enroll in SSYI, case managers have recurring contact with them to gather intake and assessment information, develop individual service plans, and coordinate and track SSYI services. Contact occurs in person, by phone (verbal or voicemail), or through social media or text messaging. For this reporting period, most contact occurred either in person (Table 4; 41%) or verbally by phone (25%).

Figure 4: Number of Youth Receiving Case Management



Once a client agrees to enroll in SSYI, a case manager conducts an intake interview to gather information about them. Enrolled youth then receive case management services. There were 963 youth receiving case management services during FY21 (Figure 4).¹¹ The number of youth receiving case management increased by 22% between FY18 and FY19 and 12% between FY19 and FY20. The number of youth receiving case management decreased by 6% between FY20 and FY21.

Table 4: Successful Contacts of Youth by Contact Type

Contact Type	Number of Contacts (%)
	FY21
In Person	13,332 (41)
Phone (Verbal)	8,522 (25)
Phone (Voicemail)	186 (0.5)
Social Media	872 (3)
Text Message	10,385 (31)
Email	438 (1)
No Contact Type	153 (0.5)
Total	33,888 (100)

¹¹ See Appendix Table C3 for the number of unduplicated youth enrolled by city.

Educational, Occupational Training and Employment, and Behavioral Health Services

Case managers coordinate with local service providers to engage clients in educational programs. Educational services primarily focus on maintaining high school or alternative high school enrollment and graduation or assist with the attainment of HiSET or GED qualifications.

SSYI clients participated in 757 educational activities in FY21 (Table 5). Approximately 29% of these activities were HiSET or GED programs. There were 600 youth participating in educational activities in FY21, an increase of 5% compared to FY20 (Figure 5).¹² There was a 37% increase from FY18 to FY19 and a 5% increase from FY19 to FY20.

Figure 5: Number of Youth Participating in Educational Services

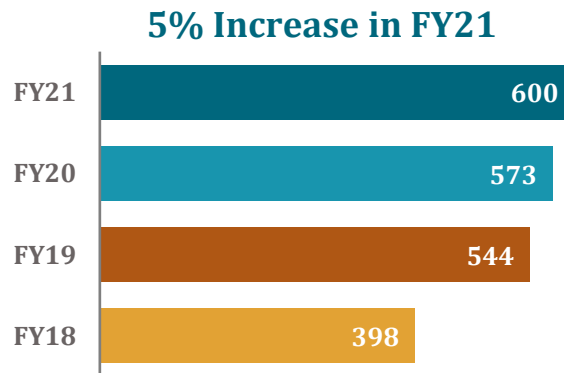


Table 5: Youth Educational Activities

Education Type	Number of Activities (%)
	FY21
HiSET or GED	461 (55)
High School	52 (8)
Associate Degree	15 (2)
Other*	229 (35)
Total	757 (100)

* "Other" includes peer education, SSYI grantee educational programming, and life skills.

¹² See Appendix Table C4 for the number of unduplicated youth participating in education activities by city.

The SSYI program also offers occupational training and employment services, which provide youth with both the soft and hard skills necessary to succeed in the workplace. This includes soft-skill development to enhance employability. Clients who enroll in transitional/subsidized employment receive SSYI program support to obtain and maintain unsubsidized jobs, plus ongoing communication with their case managers and assistance with problem resolution, job retention, and further career planning and skill development.

SSYI clients participated in 885 employment activities in FY21 (Table 6). Proportionally, the activities were divided between unsubsidized employment, subsidized employment, and occupational/job readiness training. Unsubsidized employment accounted for approximately 45% of employment activities, subsidized employment accounted for 35% of employment activities, and occupational job readiness accounted for 17%.

There were 644 youth participating in employment activities during FY21 (Figure 6).¹³ This is a 3% decrease compared to FY20. There was a 31% increase in FY19 relative to FY18 and a 5% increase in FY20 relative to FY19.

Figure 6: Number of Youth Employed or Participating in Occupational Training

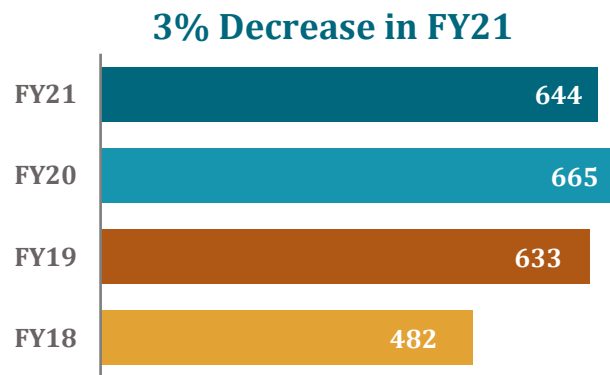


Table 6: Youth Employment

Employment Type	Number of Activities (%)
	FY21
Occupational Readiness Training	15 (2)
Job Readiness Training	130 (15)
Full Time (Unsubsidized)	216 (24)
Part-Time (Unsubsidized)	189 (21)
Subsidized	312 (35)
Other*	23 (3)
Total	885 (100)

* “Other” includes identifying and collaborating with employers, coaching and assistance with job applications and preparation for job interviews, and ongoing communication with youth and their employers, as appropriate, to assist clients with problem resolution, job retention, and additional career planning and skill development needs.

¹³ See Appendix Table C5 for the number of unduplicated youth participating in employment activities by city.

Many SSYI youth have experienced trauma, and some have behavioral health issues and/or substance use disorder. Case managers and clinicians supported by SSYI help youth access behavioral health services.

SSYI youth participated in 1,550 behavioral health services in FY21 (Table 7). Clinical evaluations are the first step, and 310 clinical evaluations took place. Support groups provide a space where youth can share their experiences and recognize that other youth may be dealing with similar challenges. Many SSYI clients have experienced trauma, and addressing this as a component of behavioral health services helps youth overcome their traumatic experiences. SSYI youth participated in 262 trauma-informed services.

There were 753 youth participating in behavioral health services in FY21 (Figure 7).¹⁴ This is an increase of 12% compared to FY19. There was an increase of 36% from FY18 to FY19 and an increase of 9% from FY19 to FY20.

Figure 7: Number of Youth Participating in Behavioral Health Services

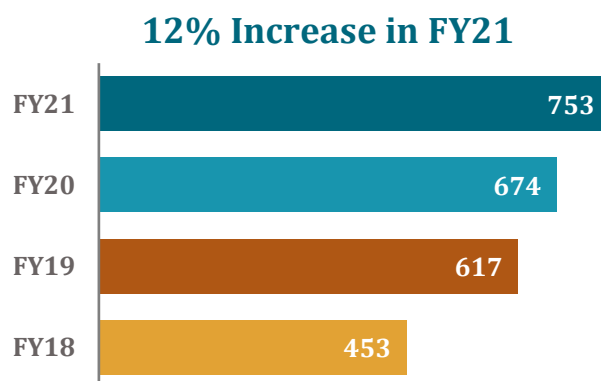


Table 7: Behavioral Health Services, FY21

Service Type	Number of Services (%)
	FY21
Anger Management Class	26 (2)
Circles	165 (11)
Clinical Evaluation	310 (20)
Fatherhood Class	12 (1)
Substance Abuse Services	14 (1)
Support Group	15 (1)
Trauma-Informed Services	262 (17)
Other*	746 (48)
Total	1,550 (100)

*“Other” includes individual counseling, peace-building skill groups, social problem-solving groups, and so forth.

¹⁴ See Appendix Table C6 for the number of unduplicated youth participating in behavioral health services by city.

Program Participation Among Young Women

The SSYI program was expanded in FY19 to include young women. There were 160 SSYI-eligible young women in FY21 (Table 8). Among these women, 102 completed the SSYI intake process and agreed to enroll in SSYI. Fifty-two young women participated in educational services, 53 in employment services, and 62 in behavioral health services.

Table 8: Program Participation Among Young Women

Program Component	Number of Young Women
Eligible Young Women	160
Successful Contact	72
Enrolled in Case Management	102
Educational Services	52
Employment Services	53
Behavioral Health Services	62

Race and Ethnicity

SSYI youth self-report their race and ethnicity data as part of the intake process. Data were collected in a two-question format with separate questions for race and ethnicity; youth may report multiple races and ethnicities. Table 9 provides race and ethnicity statistics for eligible youth.

The data are presented in two formats: an ordered format and a combination format (Table 9).¹⁵ In the ordered format, youth are included in a race or ethnicity category in a specified order. Once a youth is counted in a category, they are not counted in subsequent categories in the order. Thus, the categories are mutually exclusive, and the sum of the counts for each category equals the total number of youth. The order is as follows: Hispanic/Latinx, Black or African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and Other. With this order, the Hispanic/Latinx category includes 48% of youth, and the Black or African American and White categories include 35% and 12%, respectively.

In the combination format, high-frequency combinations are reported. The combinations occurring at the highest frequency are the following: Hispanic/Latinx and White (26%), Hispanic/Latinx and Other (10%), and Hispanic/Latinx and Black or African American (5%).

¹⁵ These reporting formats follow the guideline reporting standards for Race/Ethnicity developed by the Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board Data Subcommittee.

Table 9: Race and Ethnicity Categories

	Number of Youth (%)
Race and Ethnicity Category	Eligible Youth, FY21
Total Youth*	1,654 (100)
Hispanic/Latinx	790 (48)
Black or African American	582 (35)
American Indian/Alaska Native	4 (0.2)
Asian	25 (2)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	2 (0.1)
White	190 (12)
Other	61 (4)
Most Frequent Reported Combinations	
Hispanic/Latinx and White	430 (26)
Hispanic/Latinx and Other	162 (10)
Hispanic/Latinx and Black or African American	84 (5)

* The total does not include 253 youth with missing race or ethnicity.

Tables 10 and 11 provide service participation statistics by race and ethnicity categories as a preliminary indication of racial equity. Table 10 compares service participation rates among eligible youth in three race and ethnicity categories: Hispanic/Latinx, Black or African American, and White. The percentage of eligible youth who were enrolled is lower among Whites (45%) compared to Hispanic/Latinx (56%) and Black or African American (55%). The percentage of Hispanic/Latinx-eligible youth participating in services (educational, employment, and behavioral health) were higher compared to the percentages for Hispanic/Latinx or Black or African American eligible youth. Comparing non-White and White youth, the percentage of eligible youth who were enrolled was higher among non-White youth (55%) compared to White youth (45%). (See Table 11.). The percentage of non-White eligible youth participating in services was higher compared to White eligible youth: Educational, 36% vs. 30%; Employment, 38% vs. 34%; and Behavioral Health, 44% vs. 36%. (See Table 11.).

Table 10: Service Participation by Race and Ethnicity Categories

	% of Total Eligible Youth (N = 1,654)	% of Eligible Youth in Services by Race and Ethnicity Category			
Race and Ethnicity Category		Enrolled	Educational	Employment	Behavioral Health
Hispanic/Latinx	48%	56%	40%	39%	49%
Black or African American	35%	55%	27%	34%	36%
White	12%	45%	30%	34%	36%

Note: This table does not include data on youth who did not report race and ethnicity. Data is not included for the following race and ethnicity categories: American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, or Other.

Table 11: Service Participation by Non-White and White Race and Ethnicity Categories

	% Total Eligible Youth	% of Eligible Youth in Services by Race and Ethnicity Category			
Race and Ethnicity Category		Enrolled	Educational	Employment	Behavioral Health
Non-White	89%	55%	36%	38%	44%
White	12%	45%	30%	34%	36%

Note: This table does not include data on youth who did not report race and ethnicity.

SSYI Evaluation

AIR, in partnership with WestEd, has been the state evaluator for SSYI since 2013. In the earliest studies of SSYI, the AIR-WestEd research team found that the intervention was associated with a reduced level of victimization from violent crime in SSYI communities¹⁶ and a reduced likelihood of incarceration for SSYI participants.¹⁷ An economic analysis conducted in the two largest program sites, Springfield and Boston, found that each dollar invested in these SSYI sites was associated with societal cost savings of as much as \$7.35 in 2013 dollars.¹⁸

In FY19 and FY20, AIR-WestEd was awarded a contract by EOHHS, which extended through FY21, to continue

¹⁶ See Petrosino et al., 2014.

¹⁷ See Campie et al., 2014.

¹⁸ See Bradham, Campie, and Petrosino, 2014.

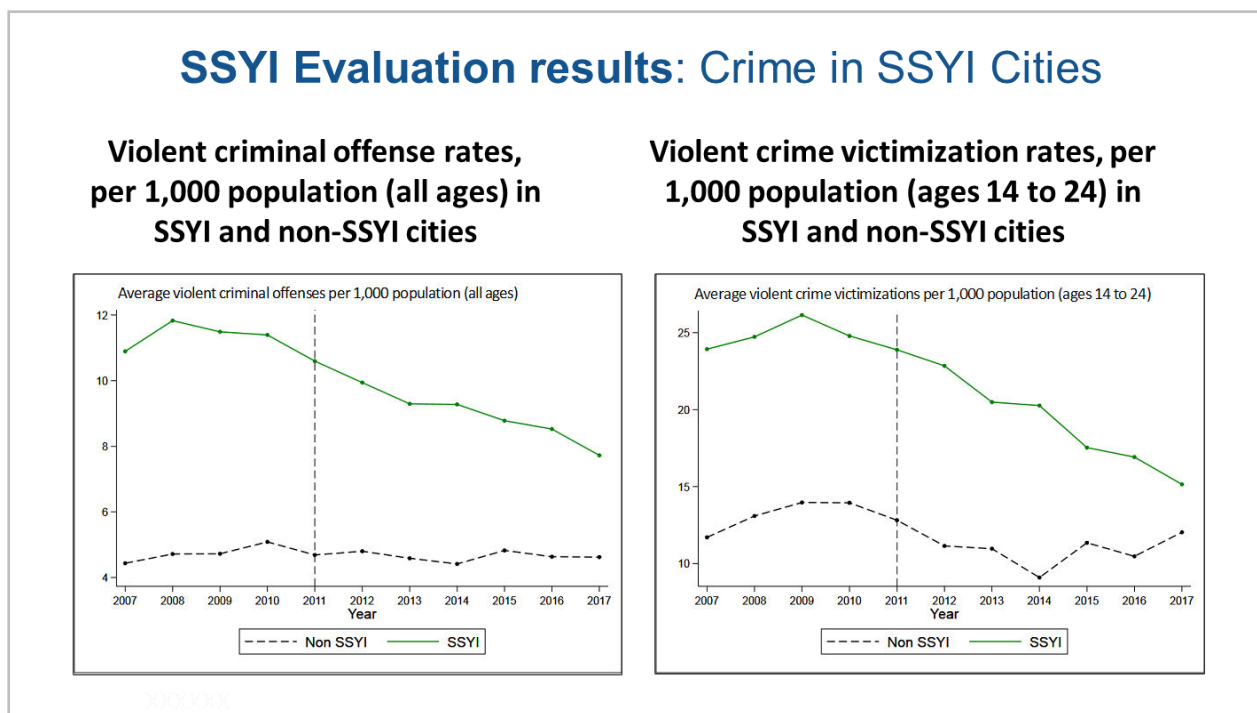
to evaluate the impact of SSYI.¹⁹ This section provides summary findings from the subsequent evaluations. Additional details on these evaluations can be found in the references listed in the References section.

In April 2021, based on evaluation results, SSYI was designated as a promising program by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ).²⁰ SSYI is also featured as a model program in the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s (OJJDP), Model Programs Guide (MPG). According to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ):

This secondary violence prevention program targets young men most likely to commit or be victim of gang or gun crime to reduce their incarceration and victimization from violent crime. The program is rated Promising. SSYI youths were statistically significantly less likely to be incarcerated compared with comparison group youths. SSYI-funded cities had statistically significant reductions in all measured city-level crime victimization rates, compared with comparison cities.

Between 2012 and 2017, cities with SSYI funding saw annual violent offenses decrease by as many as 2.2 offenses per 1,000 population and annual violent crime victimizations decrease by almost 3.2 victimizations per 1,000 population for ages 14–24. (See Figure 8.) While multiple efforts exist in cities to reduce violent crime, the greater reduction in violent offenses and violent crime victimizations in SSYI cities compared to non-SSYI cities suggests that SSYI effectively reduces violent offenses and victimization.²¹

Figure 8: Comparison of Violent Crime Rate Trends of SSYI and Non-SSYI Cities



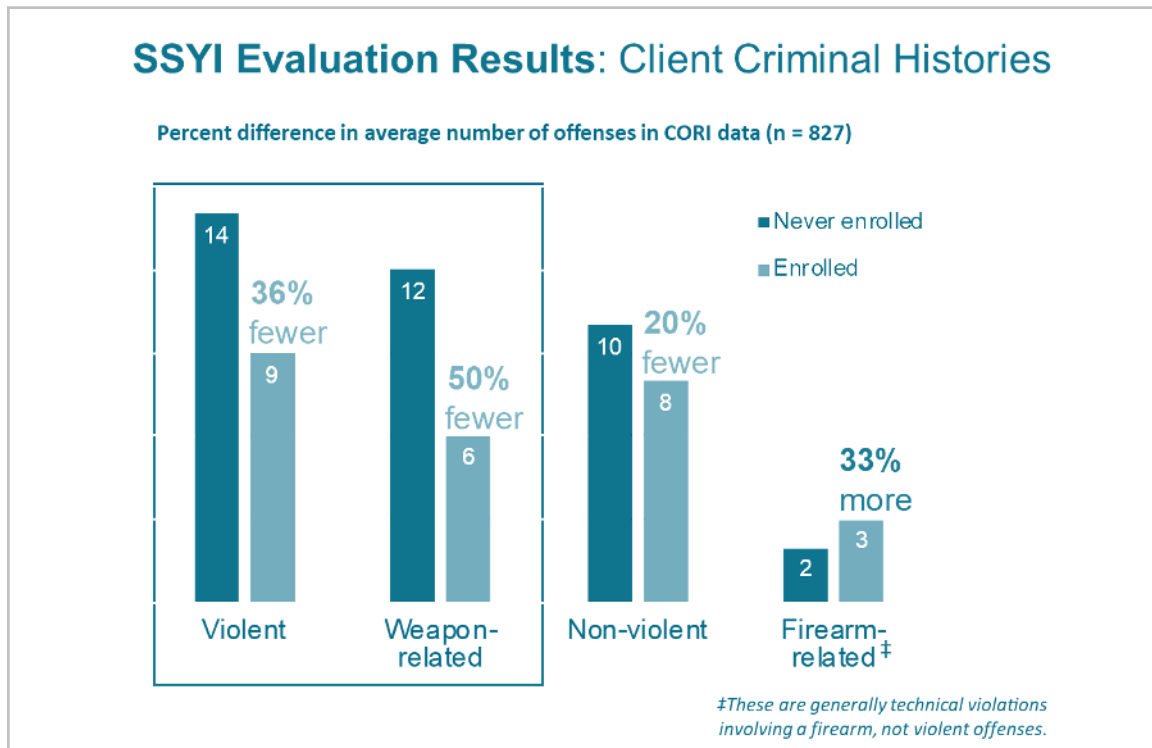
After 2012, clients enrolled in SSYI had 36% fewer violent offenses, including 50% fewer weapon-related offenses, and 20% fewer non-violent offenses than young men identified for the program who never enrolled. (See Figure 9.)

¹⁹ See Campie et al., 2021.

²⁰ National Crime Institute, 2021.

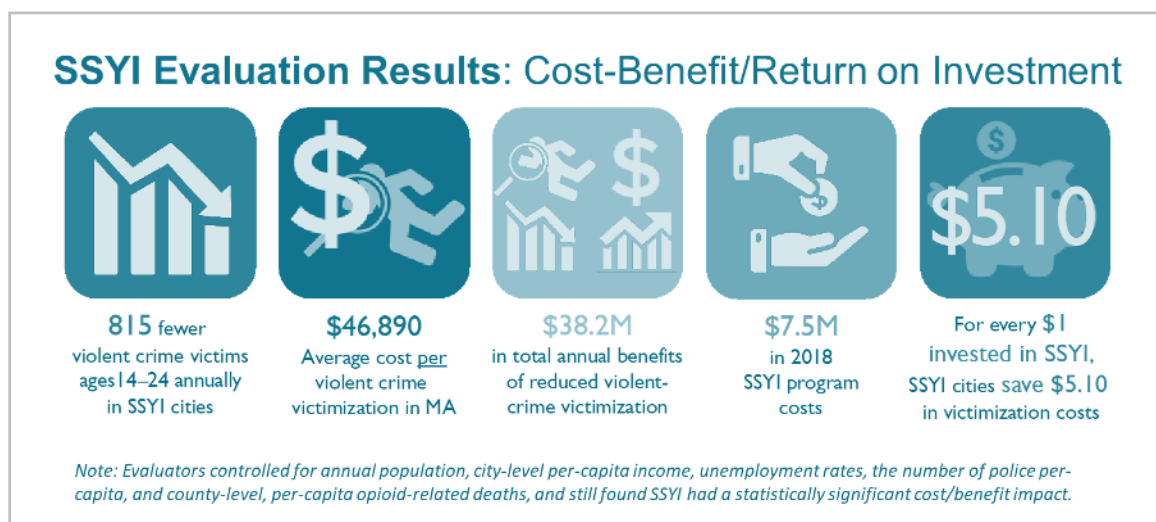
²¹ The greater reduction in violent offenses and violent crime victimizations was statistically significant.

Figure 9: Comparison of Client Criminal Histories, Enrolled and Identified but Never Enrolled Young Men



There were 815 fewer violent crime victims, ages 14–24, annually in SSYI cities, suggesting an annual cost savings of \$38,243,359, against SSYI program expenditures of \$7,549,079. (See Figure 10.) This suggests that for every \$1 the cities invested in SSYI, they saved \$5.10 in victimization costs.

Figure 10: Estimate of SSYI Cost-Benefit/Return on Investment



Most recently, the AIR-WestEd team evaluated SSYI impacts at the individual level. Using extant data on offense history and case management records for 313 SSYI clients through July 2019, the recent study focused on four research questions that examine client recidivism outcomes affected by the dosage and

cumulative impact of SSYI client outreach, case management, and service engagement strategies. (See Campie et al., 2021 for additional details.)

The findings are as follows:

- Outreach frequency (e.g., once a week, once a month) and outreach amount (count of outreach contacts) were directly related to an SSYI client's time to enrollment and eventual program participation. This relationship was statistically significant.
- The total number of outreach contacts that clients experienced correlated positively with the total number of priority risks and needs assessed after enrollment; and case managers were statistically more likely to meet more frequently with clients who were assessed for risk and needs.
- The overall level of SSYI clients' engagement in services was directly related to their total amount of contact with outreach workers and case managers; and having a case plan with goals and objectives for clients was related to greater levels of contact with outreach workers and case managers. Both results were statistically significant.
- The total number of contacts between clients and outreach workers and the total number of meetings between clients and case managers were each inversely related to recidivism after program exit. These relationships were statistically significant.
- The more services clients engaged with, the less likely they were to re-offend after leaving SSYI. There was an inverse relationship between engagement in multiple SSYI services and recidivism, and this relationship was statistically significant.
- The most typical SSYI clients did not have recidivism events during their enrollment in SSYI, and recidivism events declined as clients remained engaged in the program. Only 20% of clients who left the program recidivated within 18 months after exit.

These findings provide support for the SSYI theory of change, whereby frequent client involvement with outreach workers and case managers is associated with greater service engagement, program retention, and decreased recidivism.

Program evaluation has been, and will continue to be, a key component of the SSYI program. EOHHS is committed to continuous quality improvement and integrating learning from evaluations into program operations.

Program Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

SSYI grantees reported that the COVID-19 pandemic had adverse impacts on youth and SSYI programming. Grantees made program changes to, at least in part, alleviate the adverse impacts. This section summarizes the youth impacts, program impacts, and SSYI programming changes, as reported by the SSYI grantees.

Youth Impacts

Grantees reported that financial hardship increased among youth and their families during the pandemic. Hardship increased because lower levels of employment decreased income and rising inflation decreased purchasing power. Also, because of the lower levels of employment, SSYI youth gained fewer job skills during the pandemic compared to pre-pandemic periods.

Grantees also reported that the pandemic increased social isolation and stress among youth and decreased their access to social and behavioral health services. Grantees reported that the increased isolation and stress and decreased access to services were associated with increases in gang violence and substance use.

Employment and Income Impacts:

SSYI youth faced challenges from the loss of employment and wages that were exacerbated by the rising cost of food, gas, heating, and housing. (Brockton)

We had many young people who did not want to participate in our subsidized employment program (TEP) or who would not apply for jobs because they preferred to continue receiving unemployment benefits. Unfortunately, most of our young people did not save unemployment money or spend it wisely—at times they didn't even use it to pay rent. Additionally, being out of work for such a long period resulted in young people losing some of the practical life skills that we worked so hard to develop; for example, waking up early, smoking and drinking less, using public transportation to get to work, setting and following a budget. (Chelsea/Lynn)

The lack of employment opportunities had the greatest impact. Not only were the youth not developing job skills, but they were also not earning money. (Fall River)

Social Isolation, Stress, and Access to Services:

Fewer basketball hoops were put up in the community because of COVID. Basketball is a huge stress reliever for young men and women from this population, and COVID limited access to it. (Worcester)

SSYI Roca staff observed increases in substance abuse due to social isolation, lack of available resources, and the burden of constant uncertainty. Many young people relapsed and are no longer sober and others have increased their use of hard drugs and alcohol. Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings moved to virtual platforms and young men did not attend. Outreach-based behavioral health services also shut down. These changes impacted young people in two major ways. First, there was high demand for drugs, so young people were hitting the street and selling more, being arrested more, and gangs were competing more—all of these led to increased violence. Second, young people were relapsing or having substance abuse issues at much higher rates. (Chelsea/Lynn)

Many families received eviction notices, and housing court case processing is incredibly slow because of the backlog of eviction cases. COVID-19 created such a high demand for housing that young people are facing continued challenges. Though there is more money for housing assistance, they simply cannot find reasonably priced apartments. (Chelsea/Lynn)

Lastly, our young people were affected by COVID because the many institutions they engage with were limited and processes, consequently, took much longer...young people had open cases for longer, were on house arrest longer, were held in jail pre-trial longer.... [This] means young people remain out of the community for longer or remain court-involved for longer, and this always creates risk. (Chelsea/Lynn)

The pandemic has created more domestic violence concerns amongst our participants. (Worcester)

Program Impacts

In FY21, the pandemic and the need to restrict person-to-person contact continued to limit and/or reduce the amount of in-person SSYI programming. Grantees reported that this reduced some of the positive effects of the programming. The pandemic also made it more difficult for SSYI programs to connect youth with needed services and maintain adequate staffing levels.

Impacts on In-Person Programming:

Some youth did not have access to either Wi-Fi or a useable device that would allow them to interact virtually with case managers or therapists. Employers remained closed or had a limited number of employees, which affected our ability to get participants involved. (Worcester)

COVID-19 rates in Brockton continue to rise, and it is difficult for young people who are diagnosed with COVID to participate in SSYI programs, services, and employment placements. (Brockton)

We have had to limit the number of young adults in programming and limit the number of staff being in the building at the same time. We've also had to limit the number of people we can transport in a van. (Lowell/Haverhill)

Prior to COVID-19, both the Boston Public Health Commission case management services and the services provided by our contracted partners primarily occurred in person. Since the pandemic, most of these services, including visits with clients in institutional settings, work readiness, job training, HiSET preparation, and behavioral health appointments have transitioned to virtual platforms. (Boston)

During much of the fiscal year we were not able to bring participants in as groups to receive SSYI services. Because of this, many participants were unable to receive the full dosage of programming and services and did not receive our full behavior change model. (Holyoke/Springfield)

Our Transitional Employment Program not only pays our participants for their work, but it also teaches them valuable skills that are applicable to the workforce outside of the program. COVID restrictions mandated that fewer people could travel in vehicles together. This limited the number of participants we could transport to work sites, and who could earn income and learn workforce readiness skills. . . . We also observed that the young people who were unable to participate consistently on our crews and subsequently found outside employment were unable to keep their jobs because of a lack of workforce readiness skills. (Holyoke/Springfield)

Impacts on Social Services, Health Services, and Staffing:

Our ability to address basic needs also changed because many agency offices were either closed or required an appointment. Available appointments at the RMV and Social Security offices are highly limited and delay youth in obtaining important identifications. Local community health centers and behavioral health organizations have extremely long waitlists, making it difficult to make referrals and get outside resources and support. Getting medications and other vital items like glasses has been very difficult. In addition, we were unable to make appointments for young people to see a psychiatrist due to long waitlists. (Chelsea/Lynn)

COVID-19 also continues to impact staffing and make it difficult to maintain staffing levels as the COVID numbers returned to red in Brockton. (Brockton)

Program Response

SSYI grantees made program changes to address the adverse impacts of the pandemic on youth and programming by: (1) increasing the focus on behavioral health, (2) providing programming in a hybrid or virtual mode, (3) initiating COVID-19 public health activities, and (4) increasing support for basic needs.

Behavioral Health:

We increased our focus on mental health services. Our strategy was to prioritize open communication, coping skills, and trusting relationships with case managers to support young adults' needs. (Worcester)

To address increasing substance use, we changed our approach with young people to make sure that we address substance use, promote harm reduction, and get young people into treatment. (Chelsea/Lynn)

Virtual or Hybrid Programming:

We created a hybrid system of independent work-at-home and in-person, half-day programming. (Lowell/Haverhill)

We learned a lot from COVID. We engaged with our young adults in creative ways by using social media, text messaging, and FaceTime. (Lowell/Haverhill)

One huge impact was our inability to adequately reach out to our clients during the initial shutdown. We used social media, texts, emails and Zoom to communicate as best we could. (Pittsfield)

Depending on the time of the year and the number of positive cases, we adapted our outreach and programming to reflect the situation. During the summer, we took advantage of the warm weather and held some programming and all our celebratory events outside. (Lowell/Haverhill)

Staff continuously reached out in a variety of ways to maintain consistency (call, text, social media, Zoom meetings, virtual sessions). Partners offered virtual sessions for counseling and HiSET. (Fall River)

COVID-19 Public Health:

The outreach workers continue to assist youth and the community by providing COVID-19 information whenever possible. (Brockton)

We continue with our on-site and outreach COVID-19 safety protocols following Board of Health guidelines and best practices—for example, wearing masks, social distancing, personal protective equipment—and creative ways of delivering programming, such as Zoom video meetings, outdoor home visits, and transportation protocols that include safety and wellness practices. (Brockton)

While young adults are in programming, we have them get tested and they wear masks while in the building. These precautions were not always accepted by the young adults, so we provided information on the importance of these measures to prevent spread of the virus and to keep people safe. Another challenge was battling the misinformation or vaccine hesitancy and providing information on the importance of vaccinations. (Lowell/Haverhill)

The top priority has been to increase clients' and partnering agencies' knowledge of how to access health care, COVID-19 testing, and vaccinations. We have also provided information on prevention strategies and local, state, and federal government guidelines. SSYI Boston staff have also expanded efforts to combat disinformation and misinformation that is circulating both online and in the community. (Boston)

As we get into winter and the number of positive cases increases, we are supplying young adults with at-home tests for use during the holidays and before they come back to programming. We also conduct weekly pool testing at all our sites. (Lowell/Haverhill)

Basic Needs:

The newest resource to assist with SSYI and COVID-19 support is the "Y ON THE FLY" van. This new resource on wheels is used for the safe delivery of food, basic needs, and wellness supplies. The team is steadily responding to many calls for assistance during the winter season. (Brockton)

Fortunately, because of SSYI funding, we were able to provide incentives, stipends, and much-needed assistance to help youth and their families meet their basic needs. (Fall River)

Success Stories

The following success stories, from Chelsea, Lynn, Fall River, and Worcester, provide a snapshot of three lives impacted by the SSYI program.

Chelsea Young Adult

We have been working with this young man for 18 months. When he arrived at SSYI Roca, he was struggling with behavioral health issues, severe learning disabilities, and anger management. He joined our Transitional Employment Program (TEP) and within 10 months he was terminated more than 15 times for disrespecting staff, not showing up, leaving work without permission, and verbal confrontations with other youth. During the 10 months, he never worked more than three consecutive weeks without termination. He is a young father but was not able to see his daughter because of conflict with the mother of his child. His youth worker was very frustrated with the lack of progress and the team did a “participant pull” during which the team discussed how to better serve this young person. SSYI Roca is excited to report that this young man recently surpassed four weeks of the TEP, and he has only one write-up (youth are terminated on their fourth write-up). He has been taking HiSET classes and is more engaged with his goals. He started meeting with the SSYI Roca clinician and did a few sessions with the mother of his child, which resulted in him being able to visit his daughter. This story is a good example of how relentlessness and consistency pay off. He was given chance after chance; he was not penalized for his inconsistency; and the staff stuck with him and never stopped reaching out and pushing him. Change takes time, and behavioral relapse is part of the change process. This young man is succeeding and moving forward. He is not giving up, and he is recommitting, again and again, to his personal growth.

Lynn Young Adult

There were many young men from Lynn that accomplished major goals this past year; from getting licenses and jobs to completing probation. The young man being highlighted took important steps toward building a safe life. SSYI Roca staff met this young man two years ago because he was friends with another Roca participant. He had three open assault and battery cases and a long history of street involvement. He quickly engaged with staff and programming and joined our Transitional Employment Program (TEP), but he often disappeared after paydays and would not return for weeks. SSYI Roca staff started catching him in areas where individuals frequently use narcotics. Staff noticed that he started looking sick and suspected he was struggling with substance use. Two SSYI Roca staff (both in recovery) started having intentional conversations with him, and at first, he would not admit there was an issue. Eventually he opened up and explained he was frequently using crack cocaine. Staff began taking him to Narcotics Anonymous meetings and after a bad bender weekend, he reached out and was ready to go to detox. SSYI Roca staff found a detox placement and provided transportation, and 12 days later he returned to Lynn. He has been sober for nearly 190 days and attends Narcotics Anonymous meetings with staff. He also meets with the SSYI Roca clinician. He rejoined TEP and reconciled with his mother. He is living with his family again. Though sobriety is a lifelong journey, SSYI Roca staff are proud to report the progress this young man has made.

Fall River Young Adult

In 2017, Fall River enrolled a client in the SSYI program who was qualified due to open gun charges. His home situation was tumultuous, and he was living with his stepfather because his mother was not capable of taking care of him. He battled addiction, and it affected his home life and his motivation for steady employment.

The young man started working at REC shortly after being enrolled in SSYI. He learned soft skills and workplace environment practices. He was subsequently placed in a subsidized workplace position with a local employer and learned many needed skills.

At the end of the subsidized employment, he decided to change his employment path, and SSYI staff helped him to secure new employment. He started a full-time position three years ago and is still employed. During this time, he was promoted to department manager. He obtained his driver's license, and he and his girlfriend are in the process of moving to their own place. The pandemic has slowed the process, but he has been planning and saving for the past year, maintaining a positive attitude, and is not allowing past obstacles to get in his way.

Worcester Young Adult

Worcester SSYI staff have been working with this participant for almost a year and a half; he's currently 21 years old. When SSYI staff met this young man, he was awaiting a trial for a case involving weapons and drugs. He was unemployed and in desperate need of positive influences in his life. SSYI staff immediately engaged the participant in work readiness workshops and subsidized employment at a local barbershop. The barbershop was not his first choice but because the location was safe and because the owner wanted to be an ally and mentor in addition to an employer, he agreed to try it. After the subsidy was over, the employer stated that he would be more than willing to offer the participant a full-time position when one became available. SSYI staff were also able to place the participant in a great program where he meets with peers twice a month in a group setting to share issues, concerns, and growth strategies. His ability to participate in this environment, without viewing it as a threat, shows his commitment to changing the way he thinks. The participant indicates that the SSYI program has been beneficial to him in more ways than one. He is currently working full time and has been employed for nearly one year. The young man has distanced himself from anti-social peers and has not had legal issues since enrolling in SSYI.

Operational and Technical Support: Trainings and Meetings

Program Management Support

EOHHS, with support from Commonwealth Corporation, has monitored the operation of the SSYI programs throughout the year. Due to the persistent nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, the management team has conducted virtual meetings for the duration of the fiscal year. Meeting weekly, the operations team, made up of EOHHS, CWM, and Commonwealth Corporation staff, checks in on policy and programmatic successes and challenges, and has crafted a technical assistance, management, and oversight strategy that focuses on systems development, program improvement, data-driven decision-making, and professional development for program staff. Additional monthly Zoom meetings were also conducted with the 14 SSYI cities to talk through the challenges of engaging, supporting, and working with proven-risk youth during the pandemic.

Management oversight: EOHHS and Commonwealth Corporation staff work collaboratively with SSYI sites to ensure the program model is being implemented with fidelity. There are regular conference calls to discuss compliance, contract/budget review, and data. Quarterly convenings of the program administrators, representing law enforcement agencies and their lead agency partners, focus on operations, program design, and delivery, as well as policy issues. In FY21, these meetings were more frequent due to the pandemic and included monthly meetings with law enforcement and lead agency partners.

On-site and remote technical assistance: Commonwealth Corporation staff have years of direct service experience working in programs that serve the SSYI population. Regular site visits are conducted for each SSYI site. These visits are an opportunity for site program staff to get support with programmatic challenges. Visits also provide technical assistance on program design and/or implementation. In FY2021, approximately 200 virtual technical assistance visits and calls were conducted with the 14 sites. Technical assistance focused on evidence-based practice, remote delivery, and tools for engaging the service population at a time that called for a radical pivot in the service structure.

Professional development: To strengthen service delivery, professional development is provided to staff within the SSI network. The focus of these offerings in 2021 was self-care, networking, resiliency, racial equity, engagement in a remote environment, and virtual service delivery modalities. Other professional development supported the continued expansion of evidence-based practice, as the third phase of a three-phase rollout to all sites was underway using the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS). ORAS training provided by the University of Cincinnati resulted in five SSI frontline staff receiving their lead trainer certifications. The National Youth Screening and Assessment Partners (NYSAP) provided case planning training and quality assurance trainings. Motivational Interviewing trainings were also offered regularly.

Program development support: Staff from program sites convened remotely to work on program development across the network. To ensure program consistency in implementing the ORAS, 10 of the 14 sites convened multiple times so that a consistent set of policies and protocols would be used across the programs.

Affinity group meetings: Commonwealth Corporation hosted statewide meetings throughout the year to share best practices, provide updates, offer professional development, and strengthen operations. These meetings allowed SSI program directors, law enforcement personnel, education and employment specialists, as well as case managers and behavioral health specialists, to meet with their peers from across the state, share best practices, and participate in professional development. In FY21, the focus continued to be on technical assistance support to staff that transitioned from a hands-on, in-person service model to one that was remote and virtual. The following is a list of the FY21 convenings; all aimed to support effective practice, systems development, and cross-initiative alignment:

Law Enforcement Personnel Meetings:

- Aug. 18, 2020

Professional Development Trainings:

- Motivational Interviewing—Oct. 14–15, 2020; Oct. 21–22, 2020; March 10, 2021; April 8, 2021
- ORAS Training
- ORAS Train the Trainer

Program Development Support:

- ORAS ISP Training and QA Training Working Group—met 13 times, from July 2020, through June 30, 2021

Statewide Youth Violence Prevention Partners Meetings:

- Monthly

Education/Employment Affinity Group:

- Nov. 17, 2020
- Jan. 19, 2021

Case Managers and Outreach Affinity Group:

- May 18, 2021
- July 22, 2020

Clinical/Behavioral Health Affinity Group:

- Oct. 20, 2020
- Feb. 16, 2021

Administrators Meetings:

- Sept. 14, 2020

- Dec. 15, 2020
- March 16, 2021
- June 15, 2021

Data Management and Reporting Services

CWM provides SSYI data management and data reporting services to EOHHS and SSYI sites. To support SSYI program staff, CWM hosts meetings, which provide training for newly hired staff, reviews of operational reports, and assessments of data integrity with program directors. Additionally, CWM provided technical assistance, responding to more than 1,000 phone and email questions in FY21. CWM provided the technical assistance trainings, videoconference trainings, and data integrity assessments listed in Table 12. There were no on-site trainings in FY21 due to the pandemic.

Table 12: SSYI Videoconference (Zoom) Trainings and Data Integrity Assessments

July 21, 2020 – Pittsfield	Dec. 18, 2020 – Springfield	March 30, 2021 – Worcester
July 22, 2020 – Lawrence	Dec. 30, 2020 – Pittsfield	April 8, 2021 – Fall River
July 23, 2020 – Lawrence	Dec. 31, 2020 – Pittsfield	April 8, 2021 – Brockton
July 27, 2020 – Pittsfield	Jan. 6, 2021 – Lowell	April 9, 2021 – Lowell/Haverhill
Aug. 14, 2020 – North Adams	Jan. 11, 2021 – Brockton	April 22, 2021 – Brockton
Aug. 14, 2020 – Boston	Jan. 21, 2021 – Lawrence	April 29, 2021 – New Bedford
Aug. 27, 2020 – Boston	Jan. 27, 2021 – Lowell/Haverhill	May 5, 2021 – New Bedford
Aug. 27, 2020 – Worcester	Feb. 5, 2021 – New Bedford	May 11, 2021 – Pittsfield/North Adams
Sept. 2, 2020 – Pittsfield	Feb. 16, 2021 – Worcester	May 12, 2021 – Brockton
Sept. 3, 2020 – Pittsfield	Feb. 23, 2021 – Brockton	May 12, 2021 – Fall River
Sept. 11, 2020 – Pittsfield	Feb. 25, 2021 – Haverhill	May 14, 2021 – Pittsfield/North Adams
Sept. 23, 2020 – Lowell/Haverhill	March 8, 2021 – Worcester	May 14, 2021 – All Sites
Sept. 25, 2020 – New Bedford	March 9, 2021 – New Bedford	May 24, 2021 – Pittsfield/North Adams
Sept. 29, 2020 – New Bedford	March 9, 2021 – Springfield	May 24, 2021 – Worcester
Oct. 6, 2020 – Worcester	March 15, 2021 – Worcester	May 24, 2021 – Worcester
Oct. 9, 2020 – Lawrence	March 16, 2021 – Brockton	May 28, 2021 – Lawrence
Oct. 14, 2020 – Fall River	March 16, 2021 – Springfield	June 8, 2021 – Pittsfield
Oct. 16, 2020 – New Bedford	March 17, 2021 – Worcester	June 9, 2021 – Fall River
Oct. 16, 2020 – Brockton	March 18, 2021 – New Bedford	June 16, 2021 – Fall River
Nov. 19, 2020 – Boston	March 19, 2021 – Worcester	June 16, 2021 – Pittsfield/North Adams
Dec. 4, 2020 – New Bedford	March 19, 2021 – New Bedford	June 17, 2021 – Fall River
Dec. 9, 2020 – Lawrence	March 22, 2021 – Lawrence	June 25, 2021 – Lowell
Dec. 10, 2020 – New Bedford	March 26, 2021 – Lowell/Haverhill	June 28, 2021 – Pittsfield/North Adams
Dec. 14, 2020 – Pittsfield/New Bedford	March 29, 2021 – Worcester	June 28, 2021 – New Bedford
Dec. 16, 2020 – Brockton	March 29, 2021 – Fall River	June 29, 2021 – Lawrence

SSYI Human Trafficking Grant Program

Background

Following the implementation of a pilot project providing services to females, EOHHS established the SSYI Human Trafficking Grant Program as a distinct program under the SSYI umbrella to meet the needs of youth ages 10–24 (male and female cisgender, transgender, and gender expansive youth), who are survivors or at risk of human trafficking.

As defined in the budget line item 4000-0005, SSYI is a violence prevention and intervention program administered by EOHHS; “. . .the grants shall be targeted at reducing youth violence among young persons at highest risk of being perpetrators or victims of gun and community violence. . ..”²² The EOHHS Office of Children, Youth, and Families acknowledges human trafficking as a severe form of community violence. According to the federal Administration for Children and Families, “Human trafficking is a violent crime often connected with the experience of or exposure to other forms of interpersonal and community violence, including child abuse and neglect, interpersonal violence and sexual assault, and gang violence. Individuals who have experienced violence may be at higher risk of experiencing human trafficking, and individuals who have experienced human trafficking may be at higher risk of experiencing other forms of violence later in life.”²³

On December 20, 2019, EOHHS issued a grant application for vendors to operate a human trafficking grant program. EOHHS received three responses by the application response due date of February 7, 2020. An evaluation committee reviewed each proposal. Contract negotiations were conducted in March and contracts were signed on April 17, 2020.

EOHHS has allocated \$1 million in grants (over FY20 and FY21) to three agencies that are providing services to survivors of human trafficking. (See Table 13.)

Table 13: Grantees Providing Services to Survivors of Human Trafficking

Grantee	FY21 Funding
My Life My Choice (MLMC), a program of the Justice Resource Institute (JRI)	\$176,075
Living in Freedom Together (LIFT)	\$222,237
Robert F. Kennedy Children’s Action Corps	\$101,688

The funds supported eight survivor mentor FTEs in FY21, including mentors in the priority locations of Worcester County and Hampden County. A survivor mentor is a trained, supervised individual who has “lived experience” related to exploitation and provides interpersonal support to youth survivors and youth at risk of exploitation.

In addition to hiring survivor mentors, the funding also supports case managers who conduct assessments, develop individual service plans, maintain contact with youth, and connect youth with supportive services. These supportive services include:

²² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2019.

²³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2019.

- Outreach to youth and young adults
- Crisis intervention, engagement, and direct services support
- Communication or coordination with law enforcement, first responders, or other parties
- Risk assessment and de-escalation
- Needs assessment, health and safety planning, and development of individual service plans
- Provision of supports and referrals to address immediate needs (e.g., housing, food, medical needs)
- Referrals to other services, programs, and providers
- Advocacy and referrals to other service providers
- Direct financial assistance to youth survivors, including food/groceries, housing-related costs, transportation, education, legal costs, childcare, subsidies related to substance abuse recovery, cell phone costs, and other expenses not covered by existing programs or federal or local funding sources

Additionally, MLCM and LIFT are using funding to provide training and technical assistance that increases the capacity of families and service providers to effectively meet the needs of youth. The grantees coordinate with other programs that focus on human trafficking.

SSYI Human Trafficking Program Demographics and Program Activities

In FY21, 71 youth were newly enrolled and 100 youth received services. Youth were referred to the program from a variety of sources; the Department of Children and Families was the biggest referral source (60%), followed by mental health providers (17%). Participants' race, gender, and age characteristics were the following:

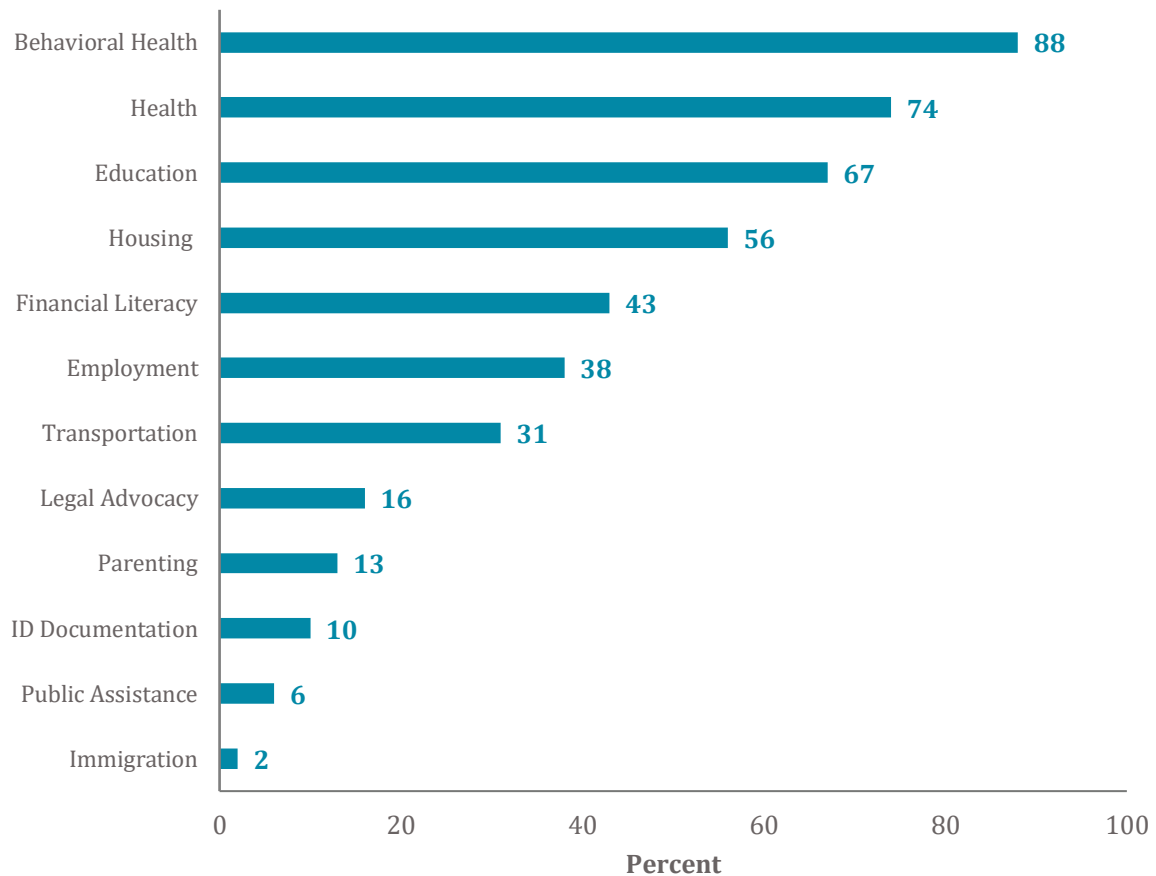
- Race:
 - 67% people of color, including Latinx²⁴
 - 45% Latinx
 - 22% Black or African American
 - 32% White
 - 1% Unknown
- Gender:
 - 85% female
 - 9% transgender or nonbinary
 - 6% male
- Age:
 - 72% under age 18
 - 28% 18 years and older

In FY21, there were 2,036 contacts between program staff and enrolled youth. In addition to direct contact with youth, staff contacted family members, social service agencies, and others on behalf of youth; these contacts represented a substantial part of the mentors' efforts to support and advocate for youth.

Youth received a broad range of support services. (See Figure 11.) A high percentage of youth received services for behavioral health (88%), physical health (74%), education (67%) and housing (56%). (See Figure 11.) In addition, most youth received direct financial assistance.

²⁴ These data are presented in an order format. Once youth of color are counted in a category, they are not counted in subsequent categories. Among youth of color, youth identified as Latinx are counted first and subsequently, the non-Latinx Black or African American youth are counted.

Figure 11: Percent of Youth Who Received Support Services by Type



SSYI Human Trafficking Grantee Trainings

SSYI Human Trafficking grantees held numerous trainings in FY21, including the following:

- A series of trainings for local police on the impact of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), red flags that indicate CSEC may be occurring, and information on how to respond
- A large-scale awareness event and survivor panel on the realities of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) and dangerous gaps in services
- A provider training for youth workers on the warning signs of CSE, supporting survivors and vulnerable youth, and social justice
- A training at another agency's health and wellness family event and at a community event for Trauma Awareness Month
- A medical student training on signs of CSE in youth and how to respond
- A training on setting specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-bound (SMART) goals for work with survivor mentees
- A training and discussion for SSYI youth violence cities on gangs and CSE

Grantees also participated in meetings with other service providers for the following purposes:

- To inform them of their services
- To collaborate on youth treatment plans and other issues related to specific youth

- To discuss youth outreach strategies
- To create curricula
- To collaborate on meeting the needs of vulnerable and survivor youth who are involved with the Department of Youth Services, who are parents, who are refugee and Spanish-speaking parents, and who are in recovery from trauma and substance use disorder/opioid abuse
- To discuss mental health crisis response, engaging survivors in counseling, and equipping survivors with coping skills
- To consult on a CSEC public service announcement

An SSI Human Trafficking grantee also held a focus group with older survivors to discuss how to support youth. And, this grantee agency met with another grantee's youth survivor leaders. Two grantees attended another's training on its prevention curriculum. SSI Human Trafficking survivor mentors from the three grantee agencies also met to discuss challenges and provide peer professional support.

What SSI Human Trafficking Survivor Mentees Say

The SSI Human Trafficking grant program provides mentoring services to survivors. Mentees provided the following testimonials:

Something that I thought was impossible was to one day be happy. [Through the program] I have found happiness, and I know that I can make friends and do anything I set my mind to.
— "Tara," survivor mentee, age 16

My mentor is a strong, passionate, driven, and dedicated mother of two. She's a survivor. She's a light....I definitely feel safe. — "Olivia," survivor mentee, age 15

Mentors are survivors themselves. So, they have a firsthand experience of what we we've already been going through so they can really understand and help you focus and pinpoint the issues that you're having. It doesn't feel like you're talking to someone who doesn't know what they're saying, because they've been through it. So, who knows better than them? And they're also really resourceful and helpful.
— "Dina," survivor mentee, age 17

When you work with people that have been through what you've been through and they show you the skills and the life practice of how they changed their lives it really gives you perspective on how you can change your life to be like them. — "Dina," survivor mentee, age 17

SSI Human Trafficking Success Stories²⁵

The following stories show how the SSI Human Trafficking program affected three survivors.

"Gabby"

"Gabby" was 16 when she was enrolled in the SSI Human Trafficking program. With no family and no support, she had a significant history of sex trafficking. Initially, she refused services and disappeared quickly.

After Gabby was placed in a Department of Youth Services facility, an SSI Human Trafficking mentor, "Tanya," was granted permission to visit her in person.

²⁵ Names and identifying details have been changed to protect survivors' confidentiality and safety.

Like many other survivors, Gabby had acquired distorted beliefs from her trafficker and the abuse, twisting love with exploitation. Tanya, who is a survivor herself, knows the beliefs well. Nonjudgmental, Tanya supported Gabby in starting the painful process of untwisting the beliefs, exposing reality: The trafficker wasn't Gabby's boyfriend. Sexual exploitation isn't love.

A sort of a brainwashing happens in trafficking. The survivor forms a complex attachment to the trafficker—this trauma bonding grips the survivor. Someone who has lived through this experience is uniquely positioned to support the survivor in unraveling the bonds and exposing the exploitation.

The trafficker who exploited Gabby was well known—including to prosecutors—he reeled numerous girls in through a money-making scam. A prosecutor asked Gabby to take part in a forensic interview. Reluctant, Gabby was in the early stages of understanding what had happened to her—and she faced persistent harassment from the trafficker.

After connecting with her mentor over time, Gabby gained clarity and confidence and ultimately decided to do the forensic interview. Tanya was there for her throughout the day: Beforehand, Tanya took Gabby to breakfast; they walked in the park and listened to music. Tanya wasn't allowed in for the interview, so she waited outside. When Gabby was finished, Tanya took her to dinner to debrief and destress.

During the interview, Gabby had successfully detailed the crimes that the trafficker had committed against her, including when he took her across state lines—this allowed prosecutors to add a federal charge, which would lead to a more severe punishment. Ultimately, because of her participation in the prosecution, the trafficker is now serving a formidable prison sentence, no longer able to exploit Gabby or other girls.

In a relatively short amount of time in the SSYI Human Trafficking program, Gabby reached major milestones: she formed a connection with a caring adult that she hadn't had. She began to see her experience for what it was—sex trafficking. And, she held her perpetrator accountable, resulting in his imprisonment.

The ongoing effects of human trafficking continue to cause struggles for Gabby. It is her mentor, Tanya, that she turns to, who remains a steadfast presence in Gabby's life.

“Ana”

“Ana” was referred to the SSYI Human Trafficking program at age 13, because the adults in her life suspected she was being exploited. She was in the care and custody of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) after being removed from the home at age six, due to sexual abuse. She had then been placed in a foster home where she was once again sexually abused. By the time she was referred to the program, she had been experiencing commercial sexual exploitation with men she had met online. She was frequently going missing from care and finding herself in extremely dangerous situations.

When Ana met her survivor mentor, she told her everything that had happened to her. Through this relationship, she opened herself up to building healthier connections. She also participated in the grantee agency's other programs. In collaboration with her mentor, she reconnected to the non-offending members of her biological family. She is doing well at school and has hope for her future. She credits the mentoring relationship to bringing her the stability, the accountability, and the unconditional love that she needed.

“Dana”

Dana was referred to the SSYI Human Trafficking program at age 15 after police had found clear evidence that she was being commercially sexually exploited. She was placed in a psychiatric hospital, since her mental health had deteriorated. While at the hospital, her biological father came to visit. It was at this time that she disclosed that in fact he was her exploiter, selling her to innumerable men and sexually assaulting her himself.

After she told, a multidisciplinary team was put in place to support her, including her newly referred survivor mentor, the local Children's Advocacy Center, and the human trafficking unit of the area police department.

This team provided ongoing intensive support to Dana while she bravely went through the court process and testified against her father. She spoke with her mentor almost daily.

When she felt like she wasn't sure if she wanted to be involved in the prosecution any longer, it was her mentor whom she called to sit with her, talk with her, and help her think it through.

Dana's father is currently serving forty years to life for the crimes he committed against her. While recovery is a long and challenging process for Dana, she is grateful for the team that stood by her and the survivor mentor who gave her hope.

Youth Violence Prevention and Intervention State Agency Collaboration

State and National Collaborations

SSYI values collaboration at both the state and national level. At the State level, SSYI currently coordinates the statewide Youth Violence Prevention Partners (YVPP). At the national level, SSYI participates in the Community Violence State Administrator Peer Network, a multi-state collaboration hosted by the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

Youth Violence Prevention Partners (YVPP)

YVPP membership includes a cross-secretariat group of managers who operate state funded youth violence prevention and intervention programs. Members include representatives from EOHHS (SSYI and human trafficking programs), Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (Shannon Community Safety grants) Commonwealth Corporation (Youthworks), Department of Children and Families (Family Resource Centers), Department of Youth Services, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Probation, homeless youth services, Department of Mental Health (transition age youth services) and Department of Public Health (Gun violence, LGBTQ and youth development programs). The goal of YVPP is to increase collaboration and communication across state funded youth violence prevention programs and to support reductions in youth violence through better outcomes for children, youth and families.

YVPP with support from CWM hosted five statewide trainings for managers and direct service staff on trauma and racial equity and COVID-19 response. YVPP has also developed data reports related to YVPP programs by city. In FY21, programs share best practices related to COVID-19 response. We met bi-weekly throughout COVID-19, then as the pandemic began to subside, we moved to monthly meetings. A statewide streetworker conference was planned but has had to be postponed twice due to continuing concerns related to COVID-19. In FY22, we are working to continue supports related to COVID mitigation efforts, update the YVPP program database, hold a streetworker conference/appreciation event, and support CWM implementation of a statewide trauma center.

Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence

In 2017, SSYI (and the Shannon Community Safety Initiative) were featured by the Gifford Law Center in a report entitled "Investing in Intervention: The Critical Role of State-Level Support in Breaking the Cycle of Urban Gun Violence."²⁶ According to Giffords: "...the majority of [SSYI and Shannon] funds are being used to address the underlying causes of gun violence—such as poverty, lack of education, and inadequate mental health resources... This investment in the public health approach to violence reduction pays large dividends

²⁶ Giffords Law Center, 2017

in terms of the number of lives and taxpayer dollars saved...”

In a subsequent October 2018 press release Giffords highlighted SSYI as “...one of the most innovative and effective state-level violence reduction programs operating anywhere in the nation...SSYI has been one of the driving factors behind Massachusetts’s impressive reductions in gun violence in recent years...”²⁷.

In June of 2021, SSYI was invited by Giffords to participate in a Community Violence State Administrator Peer Network which meets on a quarterly basis to share information, learning and best practices. The other states that are invited include New York, New Jersey, Washington, Virginia, Delaware, California, Maryland, Illinois, and Connecticut.

²⁷ Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, 2018.

References

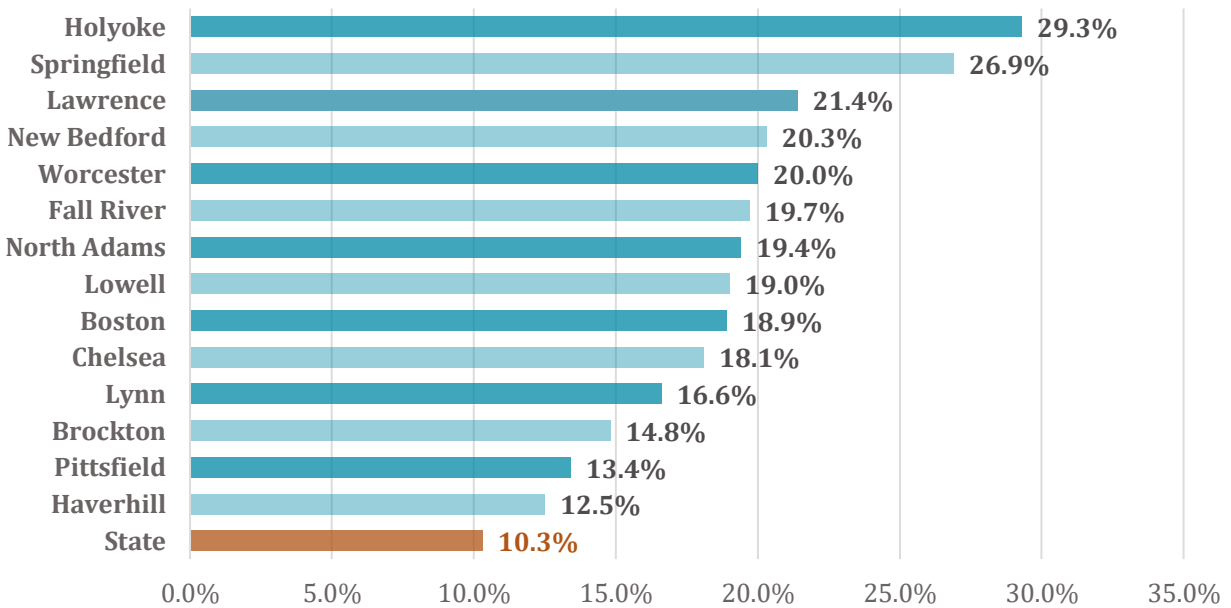
- An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2022 for the Maintenance of the Departments, Boards, Commissions, Institutions and Certain Activities of the Commonwealth, for Interest, Sinking Fund and Serial Bond Requirements and for Certain Permanent Improvements. 2021 Mass. Acts. St.2021, c. 24, §§ 4000-0005.
- Campie, P., Petrosino, A., Fronius, T. & Read, N. (2017). *Community-Based Violence Prevention Study of the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative: An Intervention to Prevent Urban Gun Violence*. Washington, D.C.: American Institutes for Research.
- Campie, P.E., Read, N.W., Fronius, T., Pakstis, A., Rothbard, V., & Toungui, A. (2021). *Understanding the Influence of Outreach, Case Management, and Service Engagement on Client Outcomes in the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative*. Boston, MA: Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services.
- Campie, P. E., Read, N.W., Fronius, T., Siwach, G., Kamto, K., Guckenburger, S., Briggs, O., Persson, H., & Petrosino, A. (2019). *Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI) Evaluation: 2018–19 Final Programmatic Report*. Boston, MA: Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services.
- Campie, P.E., Vriniotis, M., Read, N.W., Fronius, T., & Petrosino, A., (2014). *A Comparative Study using Propensity Score Matching to Predict Incarceration Likelihoods among SSYI and non-SSYI Youth from 2011–2013*. Boston, MA: Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services.
- Giffords Law Center. (2017). *Investing in Intervention: The Critical Role of State-Level Support in Breaking the Cycle of Urban Gun Violence*. San Francisco: Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. Retrieved January 2020 from <https://giffords.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Investing-in-Intervention-02.14.18.pdf>
- Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. (2018, October). *Press Release: Giffords Applauds Governor Baker and the Massachusetts Legislature for Funding Programs that Saves Lives Through Urban Gun Violence Initiatives*. Retrieved January 2022 from <https://giffords.org/press-release/2018/10/urban-gun-violence-funding>
- National Institute of Crime Solutions. (2021, April). Program Profile: Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI) (Massachusetts). Retrieved January 2022 from <https://crimesolutions.ojp.gov/ratedprograms/717>
- Petrosino, A., Turner, H., Hanson, T., Fronius, T., & Campie, P.E. (2014). *The Impact of the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI) on City-Level Youth Crime Victimization Rates. An Interrupted Time Series Analysis with Comparison Groups*. Boston, MA: Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services.
- Petrosino, A., Turner, H., Hanson, T., Fronius, T., Campie, P., & Cooke, C. (2017). The Impact of the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI) on City-Level Youth Crime Victimization Rates. *Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation*, 13(29), 8–15.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office on Trafficking in Persons. (2019). *Information Memorandum: Definitions and Principles to Inform Human Trafficking Prevention (Doc No: OTIP-IM-19-01.01)*. Retrieved from https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/otip/im_definitions_and_principles_of_human_trafficking_prevention.pdf

Appendix A: Cities with Safe and Successful Youth Initiative Programs



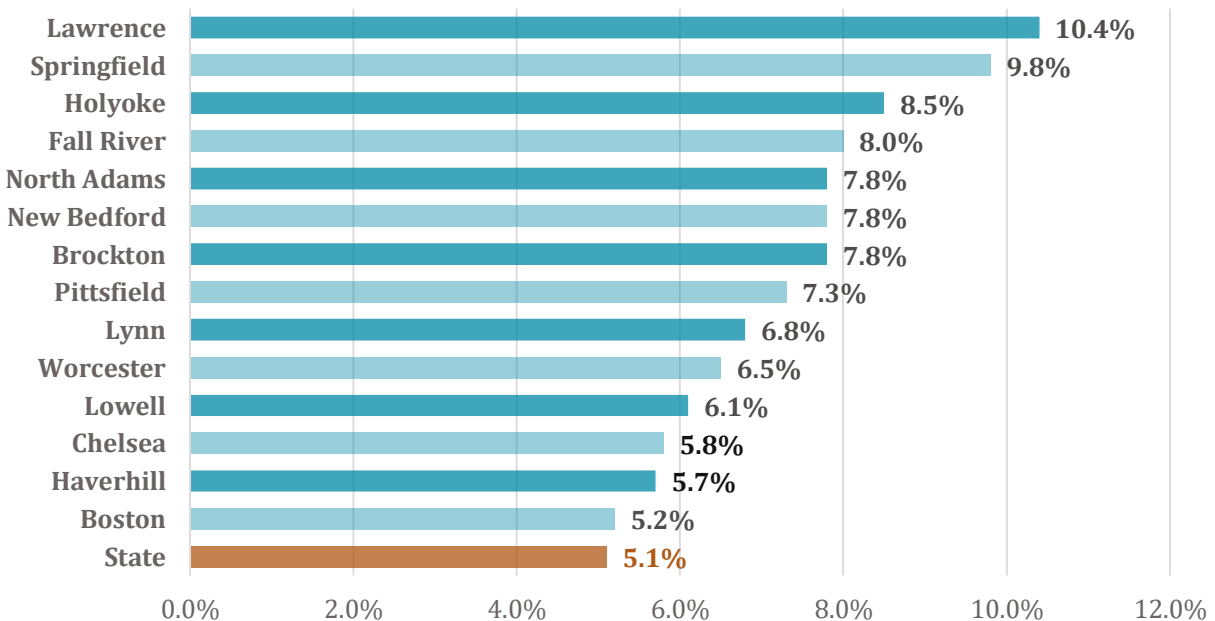
Appendix B: Characteristics of SSYI Cities

Figure B1: Estimated Percentage of Individuals Living in Poverty, 2015–2019



Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate

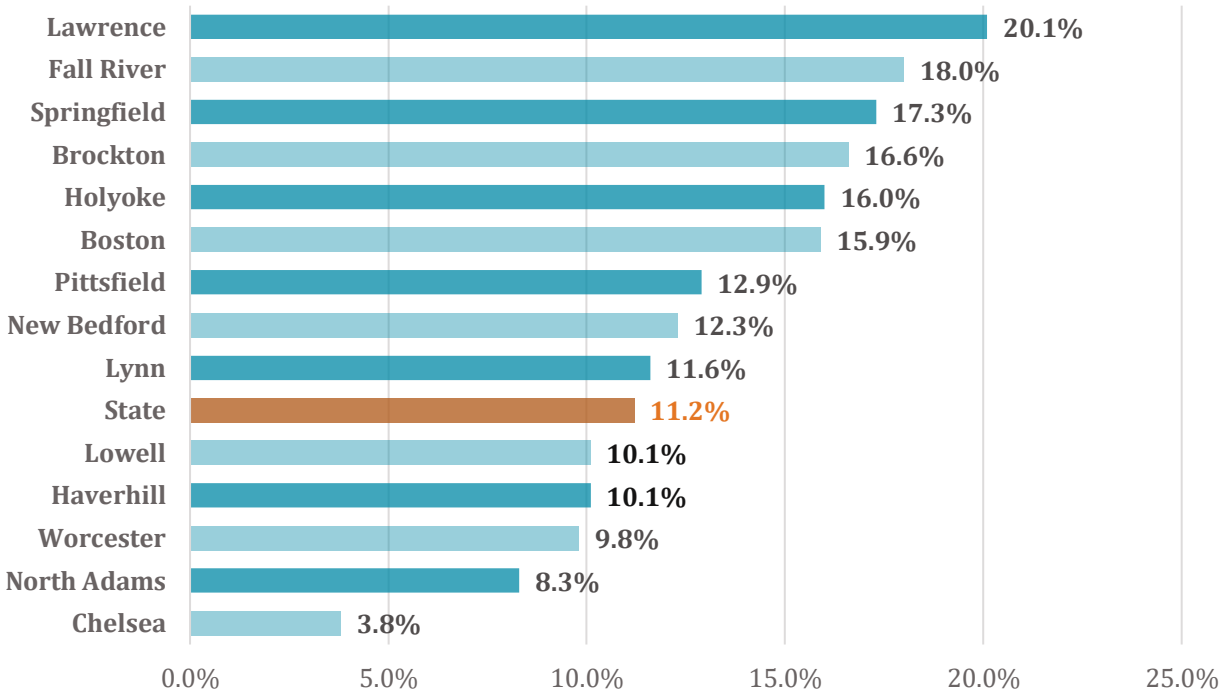
Figure B2: Unemployment Rates, September 2021



Source: Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

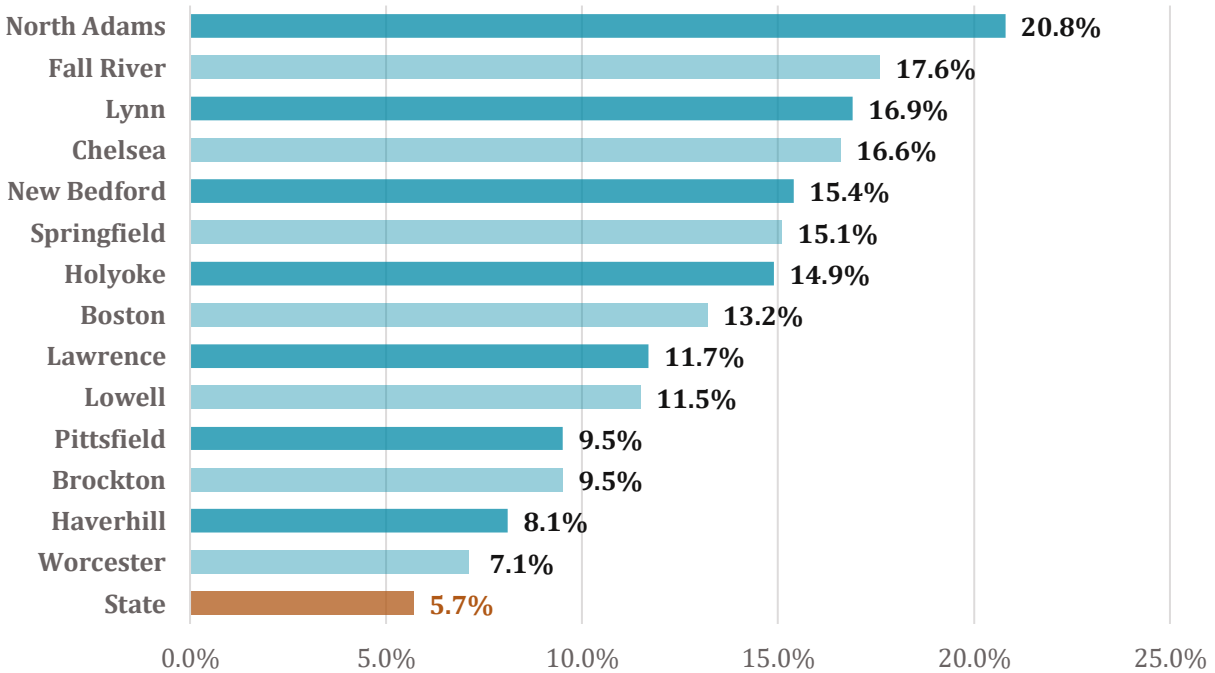
<https://lmi.dua.eol.mass.gov/lmi/LaborForceAndUnemployment/TownComparison>

Figure B3: Estimated Unemployment Rate, Ages 16-24, 2015-2019



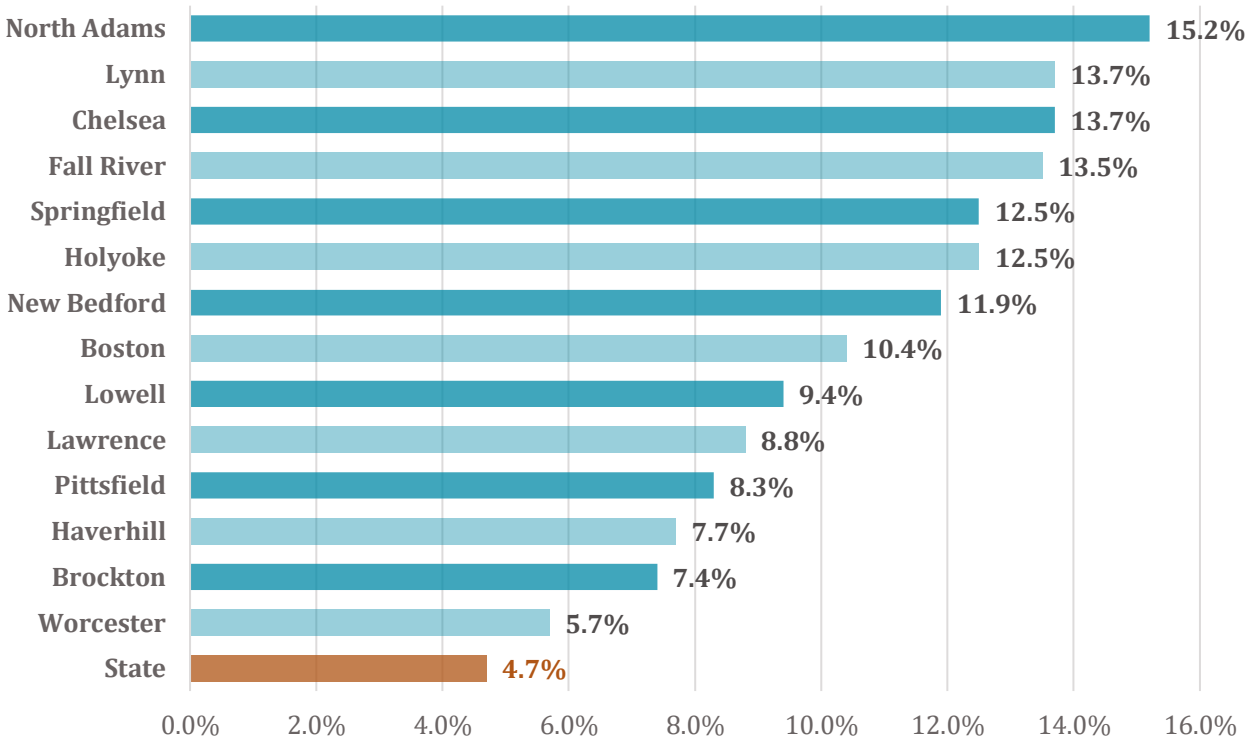
Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate

Figure B4: Male Drop Out Rate in SSI Cities, 2020



Source: MA DESE 2020 Graduation Rate Report (DISTRICT) Male: 4-Year Graduation Rate; % Dropped Out
<http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/statereport/gradrates.aspx>

Figure B5: Drop Out Rate in SSI Cities, 2020



Source: MA DESE 2020 Graduation Rate Report (DISTRICT) for All Students: 4-Year Graduation Rate; % Dropped Out (<http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/statereport/gradrates.aspx>)

Table B1: 2007 to 2019 Violent Crime Rate (per 100,000)

Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics – UCR Data Online

Agency	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Boston	1,155	1,104	992	904	845	835	782	726	707	707	669	622	607
Brockton	1,291	1,203	1,247	1,161	1,229	1,143	1,231	1,052	991	1,081	955	905	821
Chelsea	1,871	1,743	1,675	1,774	1,743	1,852	1,223	1,112	1,080	923	778	676	667
Fall River	1,194	1,200	1,183	1,224	1,218	1,063	1,059	1,167	1,141	1,093	989	1,014	868
Haverhill	605	672	542	575	591	675	670	698	542	593	618	559	524
Holyoke	1,252	1,135	987	1,196	1,007	949	1,042	967	948	1,070	1,083	966	859
Lawrence	718	653	712	826	994	1,011	997	1,094	879	741	723	619	674
Lowell	850	1,064	1,044	1,128	742	539	572	546	435	342	289	324	363
Lynn	1,062	915	901	847	885	821	889	777	777	772	715	595	492
New Bedford	1,197	1,312	1,310	1,223	1,143	1,073	1,093	1,258	N/A	866	666	634	664
North Adams	677	617	819	942	N/A	705	984	557	1,079	N/A	1490	777	563
Pittsfield	683	700	662	628	598	426	252	444	654	790	881	842	710
Springfield	1,369	1,255	1,263	1,367	1,027	1,039	1,092	1,091	1,073	1,032	874	989	905
Worcester	873	971	1,010	973	988	959	955	965	887	890	727	683	630

Notes:

Data are derived from the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The UCR is a nationwide, cooperative, statistical effort of nearly 18,000 city, university and college, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies voluntarily reporting data on crimes brought to their attention. The UCR Program collects statistics on the number of offenses known to law enforcement.

Sources: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, prepared by the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data

<http://www.ucrdatatool.gov/>

2017 data source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2017/crime-in-the-u.s.-2017/tables/table-8/table-8-state-cuts/massachusetts.xls>

2018 data source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2018/crime-in-the-u.s.-2018/tables/table-8/table-8-state-cuts/massachusetts.xls>

2019 data source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/tables/table-8/table-8-state-cuts/massachusetts.xls>

Appendix C: Key Performance Indicators

Table C1: Number of Unduplicated Eligible Youth, FY21

City	Number of Unduplicated Youth
	FY21
Boston	231
Brockton	95
Chelsea	161
Fall River	82
Haverhill	86
Holyoke	134
Lawrence	144
Lowell	164
Lynn	169
New Bedford	146
North Adams	30
Pittsfield	92
Springfield	263
Worcester	134
Total	1,931

Table C2: Number of Contact Events, FY21

City	Number of Contact Events
	FY21
Boston	3,552
Brockton	447
Chelsea	4,079
Fall River	1,382
Haverhill	722
Holyoke	2,230
Lawrence	1,593
Lowell	3,979
Lynn	2,950
New Bedford	1,674
North Adams	866
Pittsfield	1,241
Springfield	4,725
Worcester	4,442
Total	33,882

Table C3: Number of Case Management/Enrolled Individuals, FY21

	Number of Case Management/ Enrolled Individuals
City	FY21
Boston	122
Brockton	33
Chelsea	71
Fall River	38
Haverhill	47
Holyoke	92
Lawrence	60
Lowell	92
Lynn	57
New Bedford	54
North Adams	19
Pittsfield	50
Springfield	168
Worcester	60
Total	963

Table C4: Number of Individuals Who Received Education Support, FY21

	Individuals Receiving Education Support
City	FY21
Boston	61
Brockton	11
Chelsea	36
Fall River	15
Haverhill	54
Holyoke	58
Lawrence	32
Lowell	109
Lynn	38
New Bedford	51
North Adams	8
Pittsfield	9
Springfield	111
Worcester	7
Total	600

Table C5: Number of Individuals Receiving Occupational Training/Employment Support, FY21

	Individuals Receiving Occupational Training/Employment Support
City	FY21
Boston	76
Brockton	19
Chelsea	27
Fall River	22
Haverhill	60
Holyoke	38
Lawrence	65
Lowell	106
Lynn	30
New Bedford	41
North Adams	15
Pittsfield	21
Springfield	82
Worcester	42
Total	644

Table C6: Number of Individuals Who Received Behavioral Health Support, FY21

	Individuals Receiving Behavioral Health Support
City	FY21
Boston	76
Brockton	14
Chelsea	61
Fall River	22
Haverhill	53
Holyoke	62
Lawrence	70
Lowell	106
Lynn	53
New Bedford	45
North Adams	2
Pittsfield	15
Springfield	154
Worcester	20
Total	753

Table C7: Number of Youth Who Received Any SSYI-Related Services, FY21

City	Individuals Receiving Any SSYI-Related Services
	FY21
Boston	131
Brockton	55
Chelsea	88
Fall River	45
Haverhill	74
Holyoke	99
Lawrence	104
Lowell	141
Lynn	70
New Bedford	87
North Adams	26
Pittsfield	63
Springfield	199
Worcester	122
Total	1,304

**Safe and Successful Youth Initiative Legislative Report:
February 2022**

Prepared for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services
by UMass Chan Medical School, Commonwealth Medicine

For more information regarding the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative, please contact:
Glenn Daly, Director, Office of Children, Youth and Families,
Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, glenn.daly@mass.gov