Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI) Legislative Report

March 16, 2020

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Cities with Safe and Successful Youth Initiative Programs

Executive Summary

Background

The Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI) is a youth violence prevention and intervention initiative that operates in 14 Commonwealth 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 a victim or perpetrator of violent weapons offense, 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 public safety approaches for eliminating youth violence.

The 14 SSYI programs are overseen by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS). Commonwealth Corporation provides program management assistance to EOHHS, and the University of Massachusetts Medical School's Commonwealth Medicine (UMMS/CWM) provides data management and data reporting services. Each SSYI program is comprised of a Police Department, a 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, non-profit, for-profit or private sector organizations, and licensed mental health clinics.

Legislative Mandate

This report is issued pursuant to line item 4000-0005 of Chapter 41 of the Acts of 2019:

4000-0005........ 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 risk of being perpetrators or victims of gun and community violence; provided further, that not less than $25,000 shall be expended to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Services, Inc. to provide comprehensive youth development and violence prevention services to at-risk youth; provided further, that not less than $10,000 shall be expended for Central City Boxing and Barbell, Inc.'s Youth Development Program in the city of Springfield; provided further, that not less than $5,000 shall be expended for Parent Villages, Inc. for the parent villages program in the city of Springfield to provide comprehensive youth development and violence prevention services to at-risk youth; provided further, that not less than $5,000 shall be expended for the Springfield Partners, Inc. for the it's your turn take the mic program in the city of Springfield to provide comprehensive youth development and violence prevention services to at-risk youth; provided further, that not less than $50,000 shall be expended for Springfield Partners, Inc. for the AWAKE program in the city of Springfield to provide comprehensive youth development and violence prevention services to at-risk youth; provided further, that not less than $25,000 shall be expended for the Merrimack Valley public safety youth center in the city of Lawrence; provided further, that not less than $75,000 shall be expended for the South End community center's community youth corps program; provided further, that any new grants awarded from this item in fiscal year 2020 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 of health and human services may select the same evaluator in fiscal year 2020 as selected in fiscal year 2019; provided further, that not later than March 16, 2020 the secretary shall submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means not later than March 16, 2020 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 for fiscal year 2019; 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... $10,195,000

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 2019 which includes 14 SSYI programs.

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 now use this single system for youth identification, outreach and case management functions. The SSYI Database improved operations by facilitating consistency in case management and outreach processes and it also improved 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 Services Organization Controls (SOC) 2.[1]

During the time period covered by this report, SSYI provided innovative and important services to youth who were identified by Police Departments as being most likely to be a victim or perpetrator of violent weapons offenses. In summary:

- A total of **1,898 youth were on the list** in FY19 (18% increase compared to FY18).

- Youth that that were identified as being most likely to be a victim or perpetrator of violent weapons offenses were contacted by Outreach Workers to solicit their participation in the SSYI Program. There were **1023 youth contacted in FY19** (24% increase compared to FY18).

- If a youth agreed to enroll in SSYI, a Case Manager conducted an intake interview to gather information about the client and to enroll the youth in SSYI. Enrolled youth received case management services. A total of **922 youth received case management services in FY19** (22% increase compared to FY18).

- 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 (GED) qualifications. A total of **544 youth received education services in FY19** (37% increase compared to FY18).

- SSYI programs also offered occupational training and employment services to provide the youth with both the soft and hard skills necessary to be successful in the work place. Youth that 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 **633 youth participated in employment activities in FY19** (31% increase compared to FY18).

- A number of SSYI youth have experienced trauma, have mental health issues, or have substance use disorders. Case Managers helped SSYI youth to access behavioral health services. A total of **617 youth participated in behavioral health services in FY19** (36% increase compared to FY18).

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

SSYI Evaluation

The American Institutes for Research (AIR), in partnership with WestEd, has served as the state evaluator for the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI) since 2013. SSYI is a multifaceted, community-based strategy that combines public health and public safety approaches to eliminating serious violence among proven-risk, urban youth ages 17–24. SSYI sites serve more than 1,000 youth at any given time in communities that include Boston, Brockton, Chelsea, Fall River, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, New Bedford, North Adams, Pittsfield, Springfield, and Worcester.[2] 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 communities[3] and a reduced likelihood of incarceration for SSYI participants.[4] An economic analysis conducted in the two largest program sites only, Springfield and Boston, Massachusetts, 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, AIR-WestEd was awarded a contract by EOHHS to continue to evaluate the impact of SSYI. Findings from the current evaluation include:

- 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 to 24. While multiple efforts exist in cities to reduce violent crime, SSYI had a statistically significant impact on the reduction of annual violent offenses and victimization.

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

- There were 815 fewer violent crime victims, ages 14 to 24, in SSYI cities in 2018, resulting in annual cost savings of $38,243,359, against program expenditures of $7,549,079. For every $1 cities invested in SSYI, they saved $5.10 in victimization costs.

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[2] Note: Haverhill became an SSYI grantee on May, 7, 2018; North Adams became an SSYI grantee on June 3, 2019.
[3] See Petrosino et al., 2014.
[4] See Campie et al., 2014
[5] See Bradham, Campie, and Petrosino, 2014.

Background

The Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (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, as most likely to be a victim or perpetrator of violent weapons offense 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 public safety approaches for eliminating youth violence. The original SSYI model was driven by research conducted by the City of Boston Police Department regarding high crime neighborhoods. The program model reflects the belief that a disproportionately small number of individuals drive the majority of violent crime. By identifying these high impact players in a given community, SSYI aims to directly intervene in their lives in a positive way, and thus reduce 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 is 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

Who is the SSYI Client?

One of a small # of youth to be **identified by local police as an** **"impact player"**

89% had **repeatedly engaged in weapons violence** or crimes against persons

56% were in a **leadership role** or substantially involved **in a gang**

31% were involved in **high volume drug related criminal activity**

Among the most **challenging populations** to serve

Substantially more likely to be a **drop out**, **unemployed** and/or **living in poverty**

men, in an attempt to engage them in SSYI program services.[6] Outreach can be very challenging as 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 background similar to the young men and are frequently able to establish positive relationships with them and make 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.

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[6] In FY19, EOHHS modified the program eligibility criteria to allow services for young women as well.
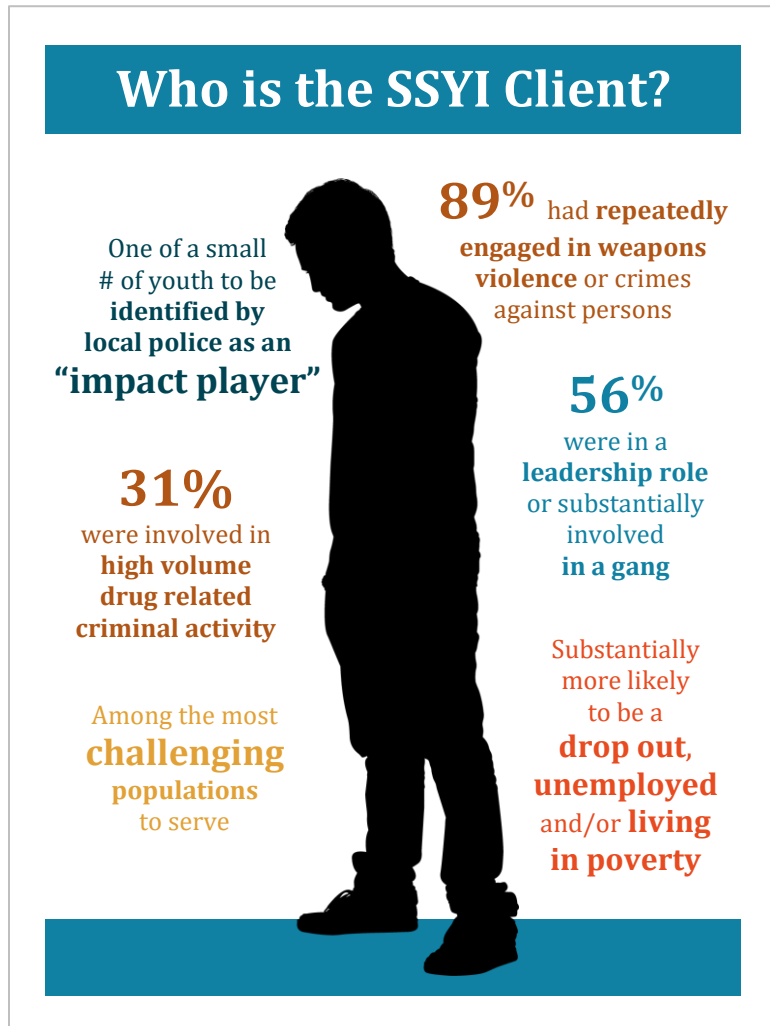
Once enrolled in SSYI, clients receive intensive case management. Case managers, working closely with mental health clinicians and outreach workers, stay in active contact with the young men and assess their needs and progress on an ongoing basis. Case managers also coordinate with other service providers, specifically as it relates to education, employment, and behavioral health services. Educational services supported through SSYI focus on maintaining high school or alternative high school enrollment and graduation or assist with the attainment of HiSET (GED) qualifications. The SSYI program also offers occupational training and employment services, which provide the youth with both the soft and hard skills necessary to be successful in the work place. 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 are able to access licensed clinicians with experience working with troubled youth and 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.

Prior studies of the SSYI program have estimated the effects of SSYI program on crime and incarceration by comparing SSYI cities to non-SSYI cities and by comparing SSYI youth to non-SSYI youth within SSYI cities.[7] The studies found reductions in violent crime in SSYI cities compared to non-SSYI cities and lower rates of re-incarceration for youth involved in SSYI programs compared to non-involved youth.

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[7] The studies are listed in the References Section.

SSYI Program Components

The SSYI model, as described above, is comprised of six core components (Table 1)

Table 1: Core Components of SSYI Program

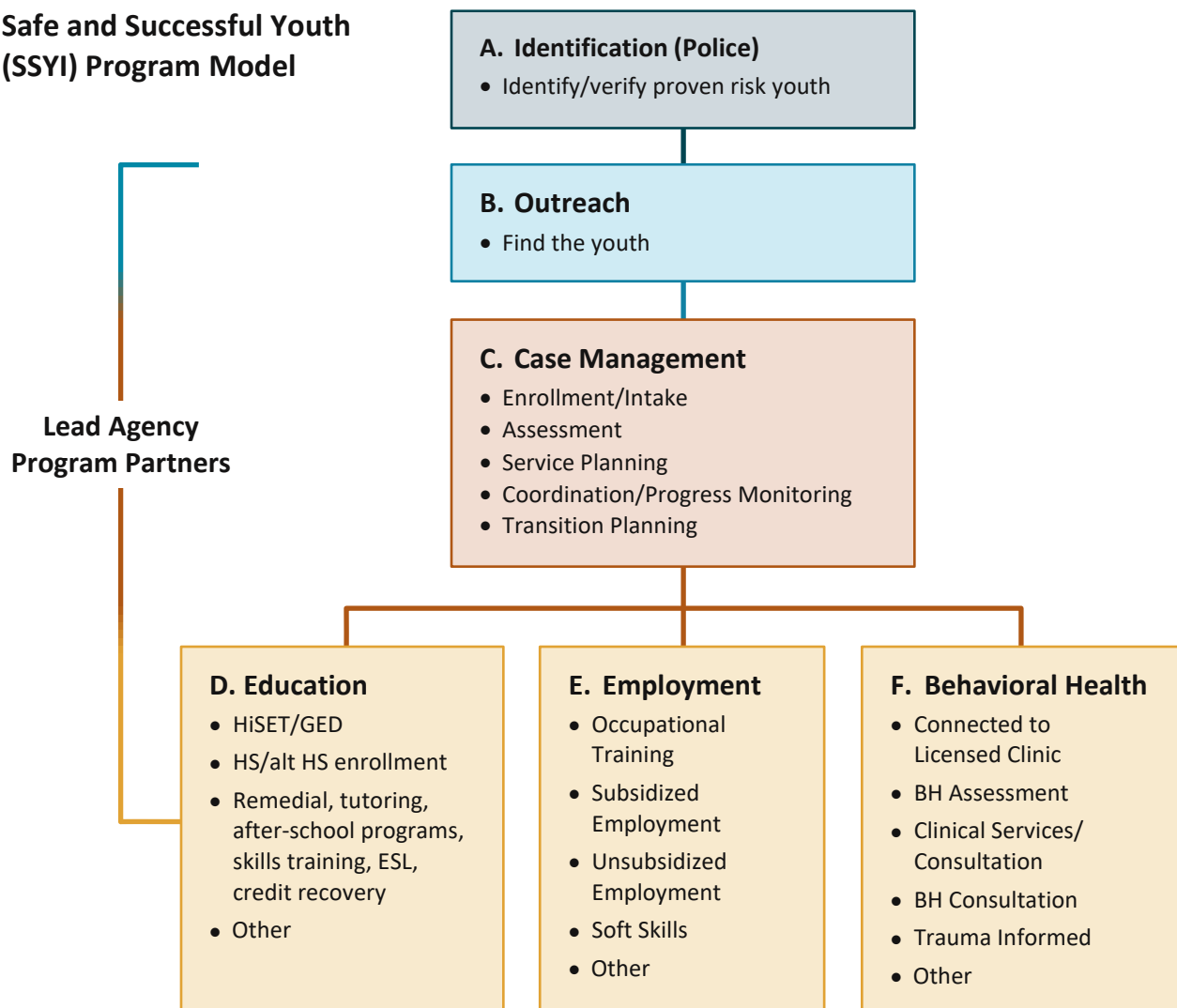| Program Component	Component Description
Identification	Police identify youth, most likely to be a victim or perpetrator of violent weapons offense. These individuals comprise the 'SSYI list.' In FY19, an eligible individual was a male who was 17-24 years old who was known to law enforcement as meeting at least two of the following criteria: • 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.
Outreach	Specialized outreach/street workers contact high-risk young men on the list in an attempt to enroll them in the SSYI program.
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 (GED) programs.
Occupational Training and Employment Services	The SSYI program provides occupational training and employment services to youth including both the soft and hard skills necessary to be successful in the work place.
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.

Characteristics of Cities with SSYI Programs

There are SSYI programs in the following 14 Massachusetts cities, including North Adams which was awarded a contract on June 3, 2019. This report reflects the following 13 cities that were fully operational in FY19: Boston, Brockton, Chelsea, Fall River, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, New Bedford, Pittsfield, Springfield, and Worcester. These cities have high poverty rates, ranging from 13.2% in Haverhill to 29.7% in Springfield for the 2014 through 2018 time period (Appendix Figure B1). Many SSYI cities also have high unemployment rates. The Massachusetts unemployment rate in November, 2019 was 2.3% and 11 of the 13 SSYI cities have higher unemployment rates (Appendix Figure B2). The Commonwealth's 2014-2018 unemployment rate for persons aged 16-24 was 11.4%; eight SSYI cities have higher rates including five cities, Lawrence, Fall River, Brockton, Springfield, and Holyoke, with rates exceeding 15% (Appendix Figure B3). Male dropout rates in 2018 ranged from 5.5% in Worcester to 25.3% in Chelsea (Appendix Figure B4). In 2017, the violent crime rates in SSYI cities ranged from 324 crimes per 100,000 residents to 1,014 crimes per 100,000 residents (Appendix Table B1).

SSYI Program Administration and Operations

The SSYI programs are overseen by EOHHS Office of Children Youth and Families. EOHHS administers the SSYI program and awards grants to Police Departments. Commonwealth Corporation supports the administration of the program by providing program management support and training services to the local SSYI programs. The University of Massachusetts Medical School's Commonwealth Medicine (UMMS/CWM) provides data management, information system training and support, and program reporting.

Each SSYI program (see below) is comprised of a Police Department, a 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 commmunity-based organizations or quasi-governmental organizations that manage and coordinate all SSYI Program activies, services, policies, operations and reporting. Program Partners provide services or opportunities to SSYI clients. Program Partners may include community, municipal, county, state, federal, non-profit, for-profit or private sector organizations, or licensed mental health clinics.

Safe and Successful Youth (SSYI) Program Model

Lead Agency Program Partners

A. Identification (Police)
- Identify/verify proven risk youth

B. Outreach
- Find the youth

C. Case Management
- Enrollment/Intake
- Assessment
- Service Planning
- Coordination/Progress Monitoring
- Transition Planning

D. Education
- HiSET/GED
- HS/alt HS enrollment
- Remedial, tutoring, after-school programs, skills training, ESL, credit recovery
- Other

E. Employment
- Occupational Training
- Subsidized Employment
- Unsubsidized Employment
- Soft Skills
- Other

F. Behavioral Health
- Connected to Licensed Clinic
- BH Assessment
- Clinical Services/ Consultation
- BH Consultation
- Trauma Informed
- Other

SSYI Grantees

SSYI funds are administered by EOHHS and are 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 in each year. EOHHS currently contracts with 14 SSYI grantees that have grant agreements through June 30, 2021 with option to extend through June 30, 2025, in increments determined by EOHHS.

Table 2: Current SSYI Grantees

City	Grantee (FY2020 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	• Project Right • Mission SAFE • Youth Options Unlimited • STRIVE Boston • More Than Words
Brockton	Brockton Police Department ($500,000)	Old Colony YMCA	Old Colony YMCA	• MassHire Greater Brockton Workforce Board • Health Imperatives
Chelsea	Chelsea Police Department ($500,000)	ROCA	North Suffolk Mental Health	
Fall River	Fall River Police Department ($600,000)	Greater Fall River RE-CREATION	Solidground	• Bristol County Training Consortium • Positive Action Against Chemical Addiction (PAACA) • Bristol County Sheriff's Office • City of Fall River
Haverhill	Haverhill Police Department ($500,000)	United Teen Equality Center (UTEC)	Greater Lowell Mental Health Association	
Holyoke	Holyoke Police Department ($600,000)	ROCA	River Valley Counseling Center	• CareerPoint
Lawrence	Lawrence Police Department ($700,000)	Lawrence Family Development & Education Fund, Inc.	Children's Friend and Family Services	

City	Grantee (FY2020 Funding)	Lead Agency	Mental Health Clinic	Program Partners that Receive SSYI Funds
Lowell	Lowell Police Department ($700,000)	United Teen Equality Center (UTEC)	Greater Lowell Mental Health Association	
Lynn	Lynn Police Department ($500,000)	ROCA	Children's Friend and Family Services, Inc.	• Catholic Charities North (CCN) • Lynn Youth Street Outreach Advocacy (LYSOA) • North Shore Youth Career Center (NSYCC)
New Bedford	New Bedford Police Department ($500,000)	United Way of Greater New Bedford (UWGNB)	Child & Family Services, Inc.	• Bristol County Sheriff's Office • PACE YouthBuild
North Adams	North Adams Police Department ($420,000)		Brien Center	
Pittsfield	Pittsfield Police Department ($500,000)	Berkshire Children and Families, Inc.	Brien Center	
Springfield	Springfield Police Department ($650,000)	ROCA	Clinical Support & Options	• Bay State Medical Center • Hampden County Regional Employment Board (REB)/ Career Point • Hampden County Sheriff's Department (AISS)
Worcester	Worcester Police Department ($700,000)	Worcester Community Action Council	LUK, Inc.	• Friendly House • Worcester Youth Center • Worcester Public Schools • Worcester Community Action Council

Goals and Benchmarks for Grant Recipients

The current grant agreements between EOHHS and SSYI grantees require SSYI grantees to demonstrate effective approaches toward meeting annual performance targets (Table 3). The annual performance targets set performance goals for each of the six core program components.

Table 3: Annual Performance Targets by Component

Program Component	Target Description	Annual Target
Identification Target	Young men that have been identified for participation in the SSYI program	**1,524**
Outreach	Young men from SSYI list who have been contacted by Outreach staff	**1,293**
Case Management	Young men from SSYI list who enroll in the program	**852**
Education	Young men from SSYI list who are participating in education services	**518**
Occupational Training and Employment Services	Young men from SSYI list who are participating in occupational training and employment services	**616**
Behavioral Health Services	Young men from SSYI list who are participating in behavioral health service	**502**

Progress toward annual performance targets is included in "Program Activities across the Six Core Components" section below.

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 2018 by the UMMS/CWM Data Management group in collaboration with the local SSYI programs, EOHHS, and Commonwealth Corporation. This data in this report reflect the second full fiscal year of data available in the SSYI database. The SSYI database was built on the Microsoft Dynamics Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. The SSYI Database is accessed via the internet using a web browser (via Secure Socket 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 data access and business functions are defined by staff roles. Police Officers maintain the SSYI list, enter eligibility criteria, and refer youth to Program Directors. Police Officers do not have access to youth assessment, case management, outreach, or service data. Program Directors in Lead Agencies use the SSYI dataset to assign clients to Outreach Workers and Case Mangers and to 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 education, employment, and behavioral health activities.

Program Activities across the Six Core Components

Youth Identified for Services

Police departments identify the youth that are most likely to be a victim or perpetrator of violent weapons offense for participation in the SSYI programs. These individuals comprise the 'SSYI List.' An eligible individual is a male who is 17-24 years old who is known to law enforcement as meeting at least two of the following criteria:
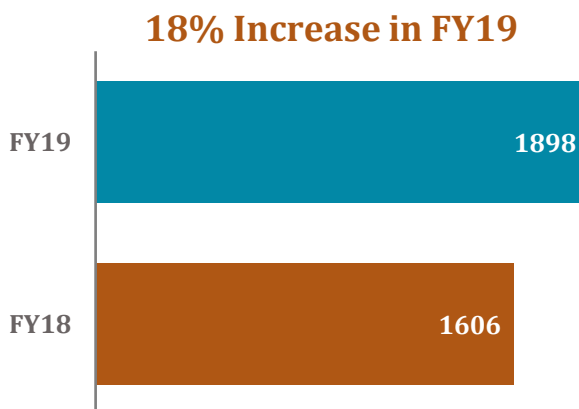
- Repeatedly engages in weapons violence or crimes against persons, or

- 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.

Figure 1: Unduplicated Youth on SSYI List

18% Increase in FY19

There were 1,898 youth on the SSYI List during FY19 (Figure 1).[8] Compared to FY18, the number of youth on the list increased by 18% in FY19 (Figure 1).

Nearly all (89%) of the youth on the list were eligible for program participation because they repeatedly engaged in weapons violence or crimes against persons (Figure 2). More than one-half (56%) were on the list because they were in a leadership role in a gang or significantly involved in gang activity.

Youth are eligible for SSYI participation through age 24. [9] The age distribution of youth on the list is shown in Figure 3.

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[8] See Appendix Table A1 for the number of unduplicated Youth on the SSYI list for each program.
[9] In some cases, 25 and 26-year olds have been served as an exception, with prior EOHHS approval
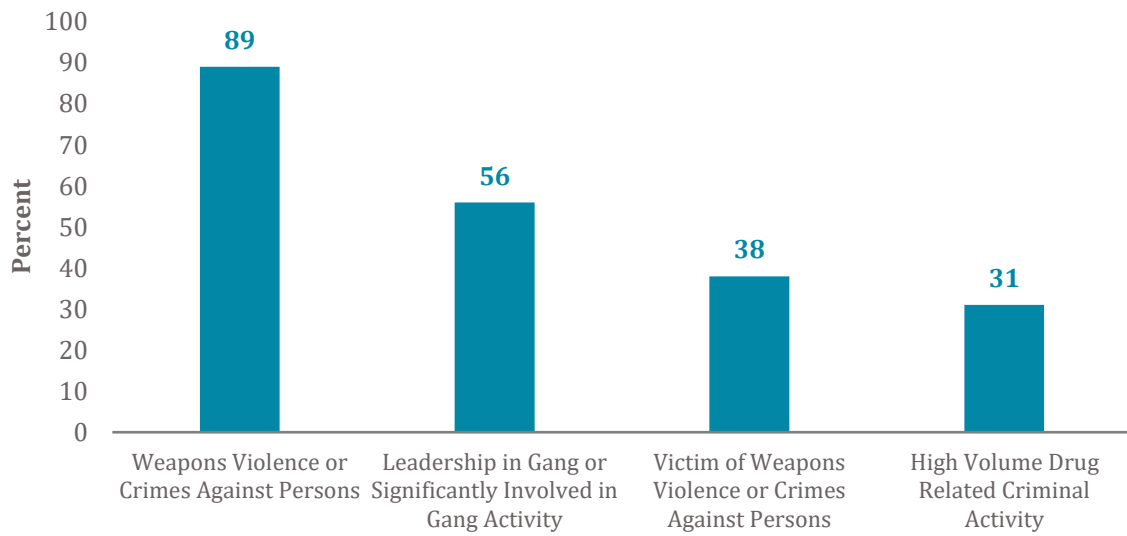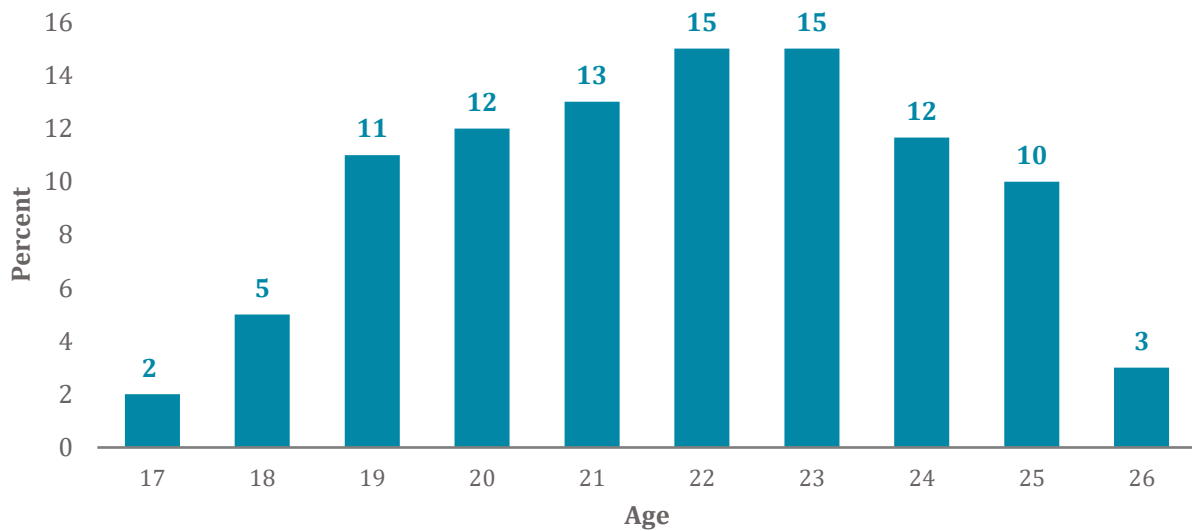
Figure 2: Percent Youth by Eligibility Criteria

Figure 3: Age Distribution (%) of Youth on SSYI List

Outreach and Case Management

Outreach workers contact youth on the SSYI list to solicit program enrollment. Once youth agree to enroll in SSYI, Case Managers have recurring contact with youth to gather intake and assessment information, to develop Individual Service Plans, and to coordinate and track SSYI services. Contacts occur in person, by phone (verbal or voicemail), through social media, or through text messages. For this reporting period, most contacts occurred either in person (Table 4; 54%) or verbally by phone (23%).

There were 1,023 youth contacted during FY19 (Figure 4).[10] The number of youth contacted increased by 24% compared to FY18 (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Number of Youth Contacted (Outreach)

24% Increase in FY19
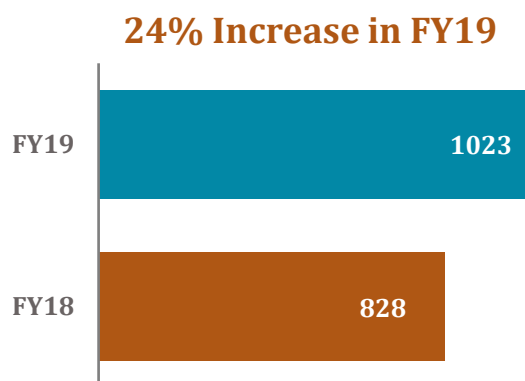
Table 4: Successful Contacts of Youth by Contact Type

	Number of Contacts (%)
Contact	**FY19**
In Person	17,172(54)
Phone (Verbal)	7,149(23)
Phone (Voicemail)	318 (1)
Social Media	986 (3)
Text Message	5,867 (19)
Total	**31,492 (100)**

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[10] See Appendix Table A2 for the number of unduplicated youth contacted for each SSYI program.

Once a client agrees to enroll in SSYI, a Case Manager conducts an intake interview to gather information about the client and to enroll the client. Enrolled youth then receive case management services.

There were 922 youth receiving case management services during FY19 (Figure 5).[11] This is an increase of 22% compared to FY18 (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Case Management Youth

22% Increase in FY19

FY19 — 922
FY18 — 755

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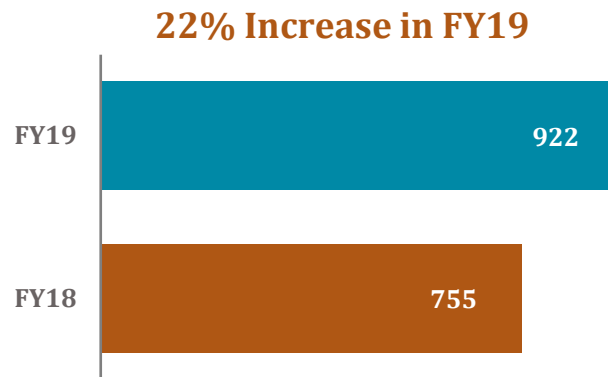
[11] See Appendix Table A3 for the number of unduplicated youth enrolled.

Education, Occupational Training and Employment, and Behavioral Health Services

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

SSYI clients participated in 996 education activities FY19 (Table 5). Approximately 49% of these activities were HiSET or GED programs. There were 544 youth participating in educational activities (Figure 6) in FY19, an increase of 37% compared to FY18 (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Number of Youth Participating in Education

37% Increase in FY19

FY19	544
FY18	398
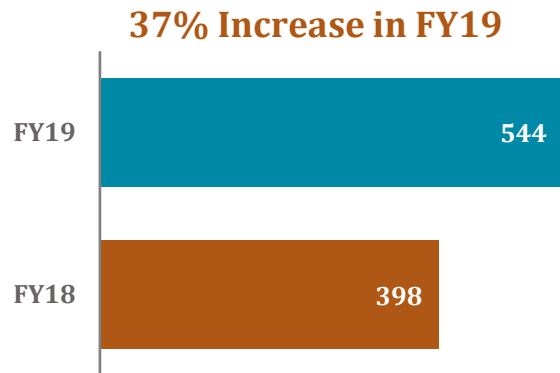
Table 5: Youth Education Activities

	Number of Activities (%)
Education Type	**FY19**
HiSET or GED	488 (49)
High School	61 (6)
Associates Degree	14 (1)
Bachelor's Degree	2 (0.2)
Other[1]	431 (43)
Total	**996 (100)**

[1] Other includes peer education, SSYI grantee educational programming, and life skills.

The SSYI program also offers occupational training and employment services, which provide the youth with both the soft and hard skills necessary to be successful in the work place. This includes soft-skill development to enhance employability. Clients that enroll in transitional/subsidized employment receive 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.

SSYI clients participated in 1343 employment activities in FY19 (Table 6). Proportionally, the activities were approximately equally divided between unsubsidized employment, subsidized employment, and occupational/job readiness training. Unsubsidized employment accounted for approximately 37% of employment activities; subsidized employment accounted for 24% of employment activities; and occupational job readiness accounted for 29%.

Figure 7: Number of Youth Employed or Participating in Occupational Training

There were 633 youth participating in employment activities during FY19 (Figure 7).[12] This is a 31% increase compared to FY18 (Figure 7).
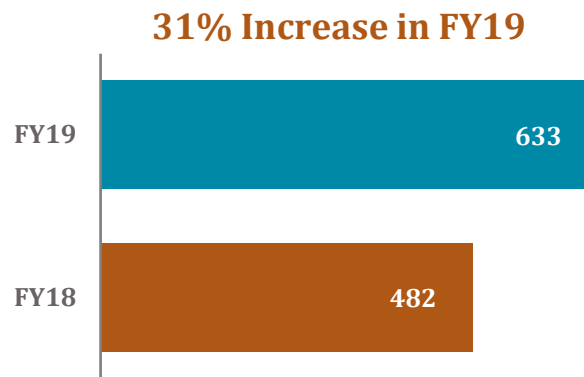
Table 6: Youth Employment

	Number of Activities (%)
Employment Type	**FY19**
Occupational Readiness Training	29 (2)
Job Readiness Training	389 (29)
Full Time (Unsubsidized)	299 (22)
Part Time (Unsubsidized)	201 (15)
Subsidized	324 (24)
Other[1]	101 (8)
Total	**1343 (100)**

[1] Other includes identification of and collaboration with employers; client coaching and assistance with job applications and preparation for job interviews, ongoing communication with clients and their employers, as appropriate, to assist clients with problem resolution, job retention, and further career planning and skill development needs

[12] See Appendix Table A5 for the number of unduplicated youth enrolled.

A number of SSYI youth have experienced trauma, have behavioral health issues, or have substance addiction. Case Managers and clinicians supported by SSYI help SSYI youth get access to behavioral health services.

SSYI youth participated in 1,290 behavioral health services FY19 (Table 7). Clinical evaluations are a first step and there were 314 clinical evaluations. Support groups provide a space where youth can share their experiences and understand that other youth may be dealing with similar challenges. There were 88 support group activities in FY19. Many SSYI clients have experienced trauma and addressing their trauma as a component of behavioral health services helps youth to overcome their traumatic experiences. SSYI youth participated in 241 trauma informed services.

There were 617 youth participating in behavioral health services FY19 (Figure 8).[13] This is an increase of 36% compared to FY18 (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Number of Youth Participating in Behavioral Health Services

36% Increase in FY19

FY19	617
FY18	453
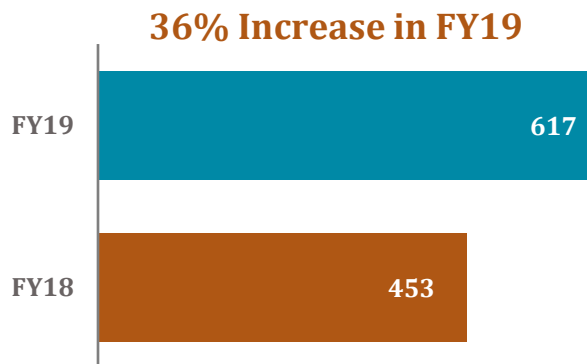
Table 7: Behavioral Health Services, FY19

Service Type	Number of Services (%)
	FY19
Anger Management Class	23 (2)
Circles	168 (13)
Clinical Evaluation	314 (24)
Fatherhood Class	7 (1)
Substance Abuse Services	17 (1)
Support Group	88 (7)
Trauma Informed Services	241 (19)
Other[1]	432 (33)
Total	**1290 (100)**

[1] Other includes individual counseling, peace-building skill groups, social problem-solving groups, etc.

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[13] See Appendix Table A6 for the number of unduplicated youth enrolled.

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. The management team meets weekly, 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-based staff.

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 as well as their lead agency partners focus on operations, program design and delivery as well as policy issues.

Onsite Technical Assistance: Commonwealth Corporation staff have years of experience in direct service 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 for any programmatic challenges. Visits are also used to provide technical assistance on program design or implementation. In FY 2019, approximately 140 technical assistance in-person visits and calls with the 13 sites were conducted.

Professional Development: In order to strengthen service delivery, professional development is provided to staff within the SSYI network. The focus of these offerings in 2019 was on trauma, resiliency and race, as well as Motivational Interviewing, Case Planning as well as training on an evidence-based risk assessment tool (as the first phase of a 3-phase roll-out to all sites) on the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS).

Program Development Support: Staff from programs sites were convened to work on program development across the network. For program consistency on the implementation of an evidence-based risk assessment tool (ORAS), four pilot sites were convened multiple times so that a consistent set of policies and protocol would be used across the programs. Sites were also convened to plan for adding young women to the service population. Additionally, sites were convened to modify Signal Success for the SSYI programs. Signal Success is a work-readiness/ career exploration tool being used across many other programs in the state including YouthWorks, WIOA, DESE's Innovation Pathways and the Mass Rehabilitation Commission.

Affinity Group Meetings: Commonwealth Corporation hosted statewide meetings throughout the year to share best practices, provide updates, and strengthen operations. These meetings allowed SSYI 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 as well as participate in professional development related to program service delivery.

Youth Violence Prevention and Intervention State Agency Collaboration: EOHHS, with support from UMMS, convened state agency partners who also work toward youth violence prevention and reduction through grant-making and programs. Partners from the Department of Public Health, the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and the Shannon Grant Program, the Department of Probation, the Department of Youth Services, Homeless Youth Coalition, the Dept. of Children and Families and the Family Resource Centers Network, the Dept. of Education, the Dept. of Career Services and Commonwealth Corporation have been meeting to discuss initiatives and policies with the aim of finding alignment across initiatives. Planning is underway to host a conference for service providers focused on youth violence prevention and intervention in the Spring of 2020.

Below is a list of many of the convenings held in FY 2019, all aimed at supporting effective practice, systems-development and cross-initiative alignment.

Law Enforcement Personnel Meetings:

- March 1, 2019

Professional Development Trainings:

- Trauma Training – Series offered in six locations across the state (in partnership with UMMS)
- Motivational Interviewing – April 9 and April 23, 2019
- Signal Success curriculum training – June 4, 2019, two prep sessions with five pilot sites in March and May

Individual Service Planning using a Risk Assessment Tool training- June 6 & 7, 2019

Program Development Support:

- ORAS Policy and Protocol Development Working Group – Nov. 8, 2018, Nov. 30, 2018, Dec. 13, 2018, Jan. 24, 2019, Feb 14, 2019, March 21, 2019
- Strategic Service Planning, Adding Young Women to the SSYI Cohort – Feb. 21, 2019, April 9, 2019

Statewide Youth Violence Prevention Partners Meetings:

- June 5, 2019

Education/Employment Affinity Group:

- Nov 19, 2019

Administrators' Meetings:

- Oct. 2, 2019
- Jan. 11, 2019
- Feb. 1, 2019
- June 12, 2019

Data Management and Reporting Services

UMMS provides SSYI data management and data reporting services to EOHHS and the SSYI sites. To support SSYI program staff, UMMS/CWM hosted over 25 video conferences with SSYI program staff, providing training for newly hired staff, reviewing operational reports with program directors, and reviewing data integrity with program directors. In addition, UMMS/CWM provided technical assistance via phone and email, responding to more than 1,000 phone and email questions in fiscal year 2019. UMMS/CWM also provided the following onsite technical assistance and training.

On-Site SSYI Database Trainings:

- July 19, 2018 – Haverhill
- Aug. 20, 2018 – Lowell
- Oct. 22, 2018 – Lawrence
- Dec. 14, 2018 – New Bedford
- April 9, 2019 – Worcester
- April 19, 2019 – Brockton
- June 19, 2019 – New Bedford

- June 21, 2019 – Pittsfield

Trauma and Resilience Training

In collaboration with UMMS Department of Psychiatry and All Aces, UMMS provided six trainings across the state for SSYI staff in Trauma, Resilience and Racial Equity.

- May 17, 2019 – Cape Cod
- May 28, 2019 – Worcester
- May 31, 2019 – Lowell
- June 11, 2019 – New Bedford
- June 20, 2019 – Amherst
- June 27, 2019 – Brockton

References

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.* American Institutes for Research. Washington, D.C.

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.* Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services. Boston, MA.

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.* Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services. Boston, MA.

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.

Appendix A: Key Performance Indicators

Table A1: Number of Unduplicated Youth on SSY List, FY19

	Unduplicated Number of Youth
City	**FY19**
Boston	291
Brockton	89
Chelsea	170
Fall River	218
Haverhill	69
Holyoke	125
Lawrence	145
Lowell	121
Lynn	145
New Bedford	103
Pittsfield	96
Springfield	196
Worcester	129
Total	**1,897**

Table A2: Number of Contacted Individuals, FY19

	Number of Contacted Individuals
City	**FY19**
Boston	158
Brockton	47
Chelsea	67
Fall River	61
Haverhill	28
Holyoke	82
Lawrence	89
Lowell	67
Lynn	59
New Bedford	82
Pittsfield	40
Springfield	128
Worcester	114
Total	**1021**

Table A3: Number of Case Management/Enrolled Individuals, FY19

City	Number of Case Management/ Enrolled Individuals
	FY19
Boston	81
Brockton	33
Chelsea	91
Fall River	55
Haverhill	22
Holyoke	99
Lawrence	50
Lowell	84
Lynn	69
New Bedford	79
Pittsfield	30
Springfield	162
Worcester	66
Total	**921**

Table A4: Number of Education Individuals, from FY19

City	Education Individuals
	FY19
Boston	40
Brockton	15
Chelsea	49
Fall River	30
Holyoke	60
Haverhill	23
Lawrence	25
Lowell	86
Lynn	54
New Bedford	39
Pittsfield	13
Springfield	90
Worcester	19
Total	**543**

Table A5: Number of OT/Employment Individuals, FY19

City	Number of OT/ Employment Individuals
	FY19
Boston	48
Brockton	24
Chelsea	50
Fall River	37
Haverhill	35
Holyoke	57
Lawrence	43
Lowell	84
Lynn	45
New Bedford	41
Pittsfield	22
Springfield	97
Worcester	49
Total	**632**

Table A6: Number of Behavioral Health Individuals, FY19

City	Behavioral Health Individuals
	FY19
Boston	48
Brockton	24
Chelsea	71
Fall River	24
Haverhill	23
Holyoke	66
Lawrence	37
Lowell	87
Lynn	63
New Bedford	38
Pittsfield	9
Springfield	114
Worcester	12
Total	**617**

Table A7: Number of Contact Events, FY19

	Number of Contact Events
City	FY19
Boston	2,100
Brockton	569
Chelsea	3.625
Fall River	1,993
Haverhill	840
Holyoke	5,091
Lawrence	330
Lowell	1,914
Lynn	4,202
New Bedford	677
Pittsfield	689
Springfield	5,182
Worcester	4,279
Total	31,492

Table A8: Number of Any SSYI Related Services, FY19

	Any SSYI Related Services
City	FY19
Boston	178
Brockton	56
Chelsea	107
Fall River	80
Haverhill	41
Holyoke	101
Lawrence	102
Lowell	94
Lynn	74
New Bedford	91
Pittsfield	47
Springfield	183
Worcester	116
Total	1,270

Appendix B: Characteristics of SSYI Cities

Figure B1: Estimated Percent Individuals Living in Poverty, 2014-2018

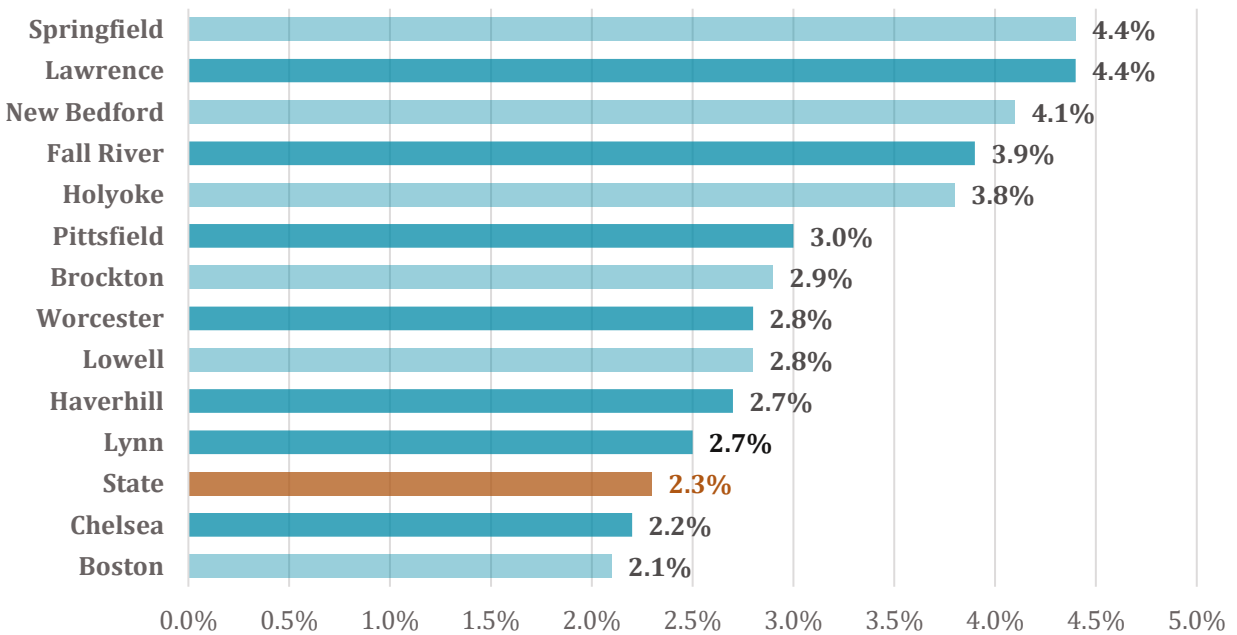| City	Percent
Holyoke	29.7%
Springfield	28.6%
Lawrence	23.7%
New Bedford	21.1%
Worcester	21.1%
Lowell	20.7%
Boston	20.2%
Fall River	19.4%
Chelsea	18.8%
Lynn	17.3%
Brockton	15.6%
Pittsfield	14.6%
Haverhill	13.2%
State	10.0%
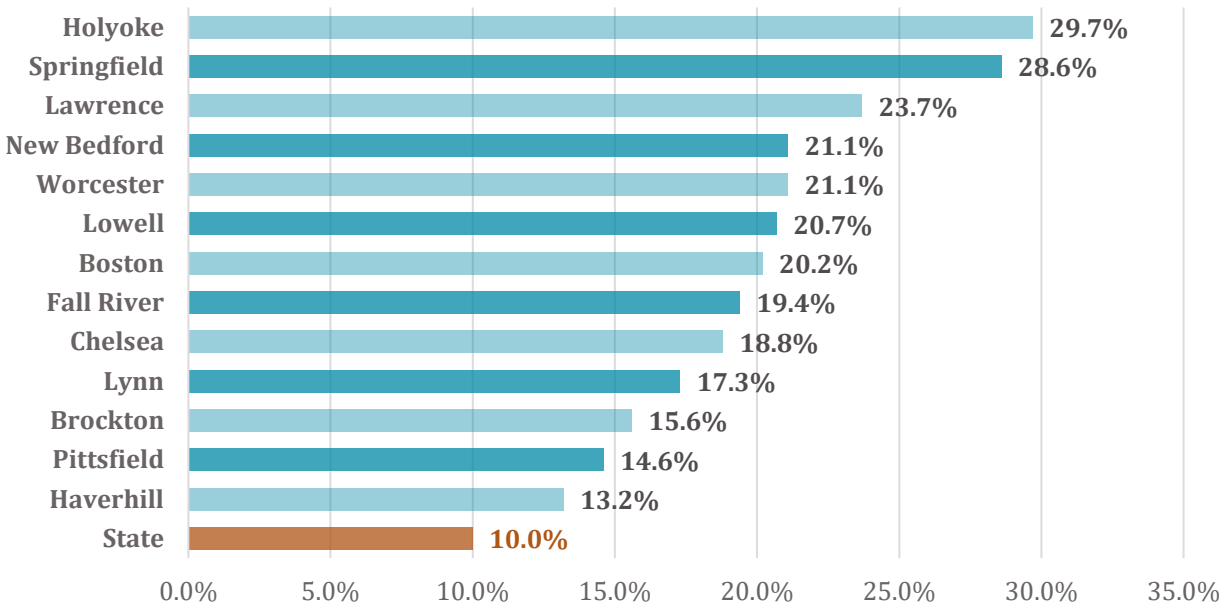
Source: 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate

Figure B2: Unemployments Rates, November 2019

City	Rate
Springfield	4.4%
Lawrence	4.4%
New Bedford	4.1%
Fall River	3.9%
Holyoke	3.8%
Pittsfield	3.0%
Brockton	2.9%
Worcester	2.8%
Lowell	2.8%
Haverhill	2.7%
Lynn	2.7%
State	2.3%
Chelsea	2.2%
Boston	2.1%

Source: Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/lmi_lur_a.asp

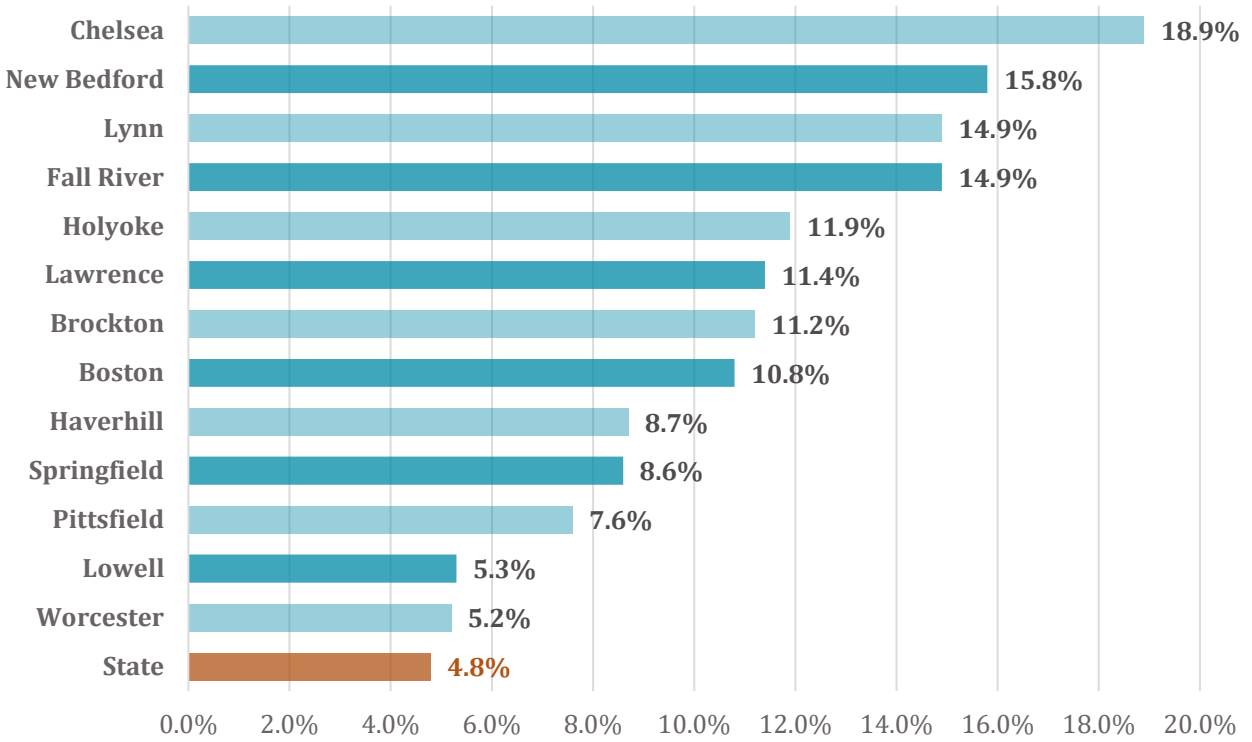## Figure B3: Estimated Unemployment Rate, Ages 16-24, 2014-2018

City	Rate
Holyoke	22.0%
Springfield	18.1%
Brockton	17.8%
Fall River	17.0%
Lawrence	15.8%
Boston	14.8%
Pittsfield	14.1%
New Bedford	11.4%
State	11.4%
Lowell	11.2%
Worcester	10.8%
Lynn	10.3%
Haverhill	9.0%
Chelsea	3.3%
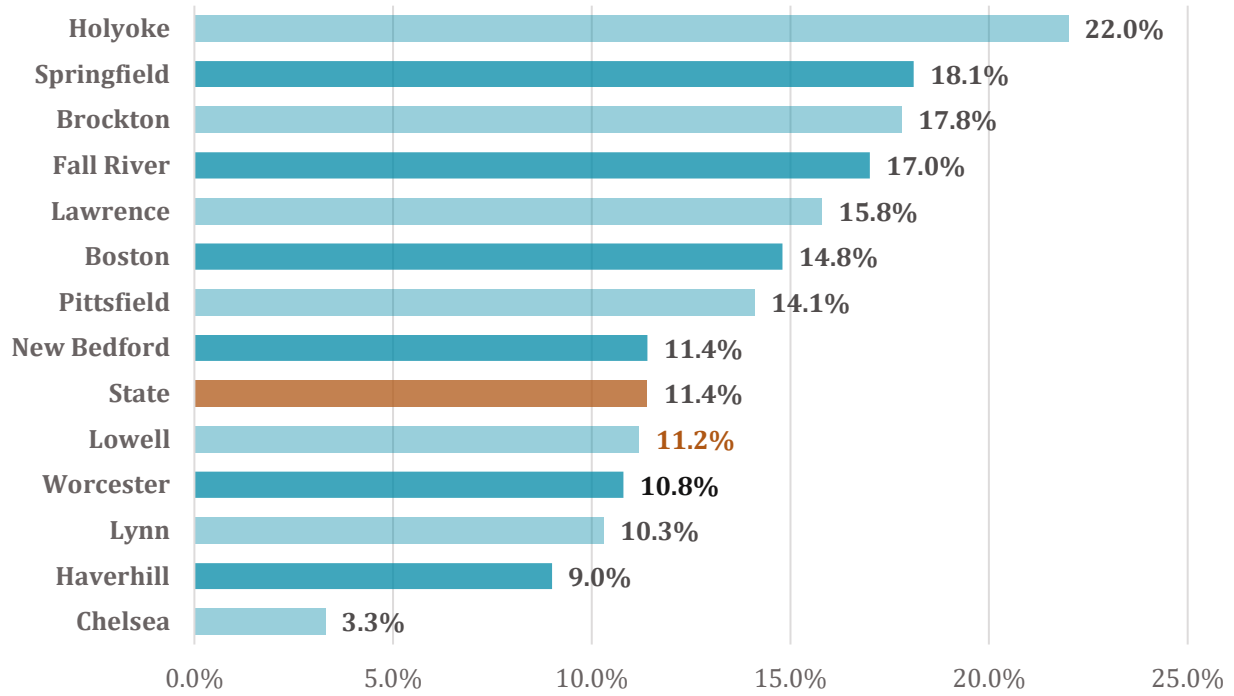
Source: 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate

Figure B4: Male Dropout Rate in SSYI Cities, 2018

City	Rate
Chelsea	25.3%
New Bedford	22.6%
Lynn	18.6%
Fall River	18.4%
Lawrence	16.3%
Boston	13.6%
Holyoke	13.3%
Brockton	13.3%
Haverhill	10.0%
Springfield	9.7%
Pittsfield	9.2%
Lowell	6.8%
State	5.8%
Worcester	5.5%
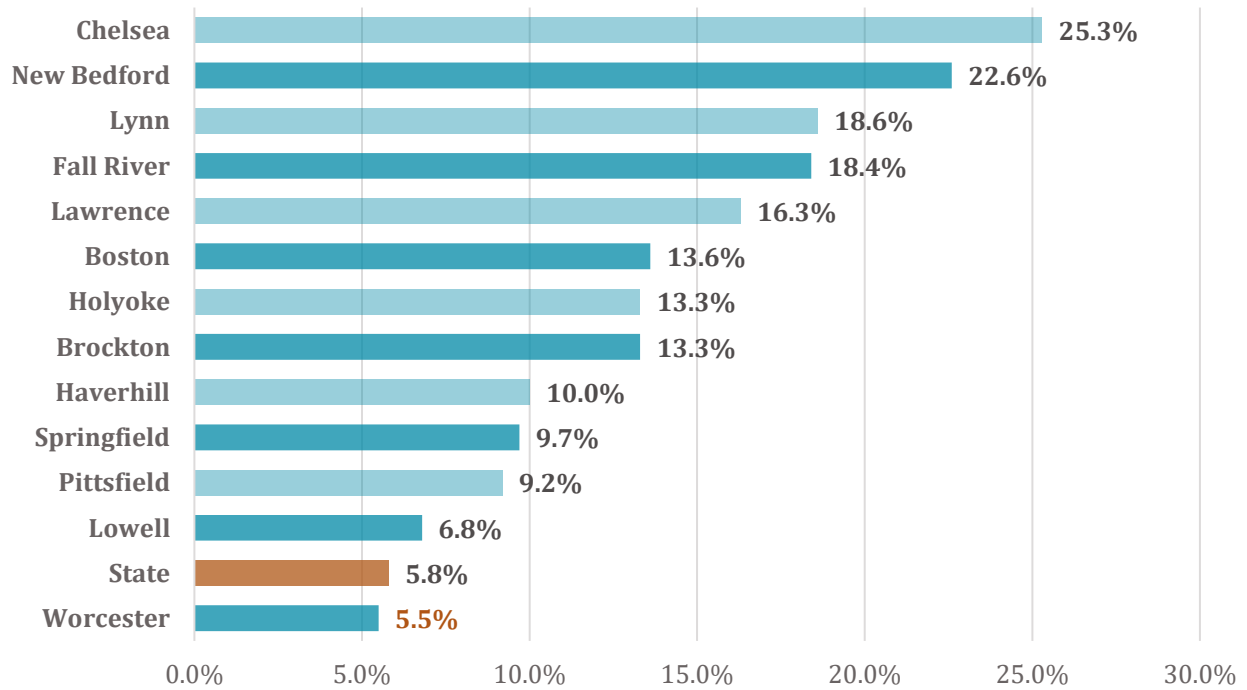
Source: MA DESE 2018 Graduation Rate Report (DISTRICT) Male: 4-Year Graduation Rate; % Dropped Out
(http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/statereport/gradrates.aspx)

Figure B5: Dropout Rate in SSYI Cities, 2018

City	Dropout Rate
Chelsea	18.9%
New Bedford	15.8%
Lynn	14.9%
Fall River	14.9%
Holyoke	11.9%
Lawrence	11.4%
Brockton	11.2%
Boston	10.8%
Haverhill	8.7%
Springfield	8.6%
Pittsfield	7.6%
Lowell	5.3%
Worcester	5.2%
State	4.8%

Source: MA DESE 2018 Graduation Rate Report (DISTRICT) for All Students: 4-Year Graduation Rate; % Dropped Out

Table B1: 2017 Violent Crime Rate (per 100,000)

Agency	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Boston	1,340	1,155	1,104	992	904	845	835	782	726	707	707	669	622
Brockton	1,474	1,291	1,203	1,247	1,161	1,229	1,143	1,231	1,052	991	1,081	955	905
Chelsea	1,791	1,871	1,743	1,675	1,774	1,743	1,852	1,223	1,112	1,080	923	778	676
Fall River	1,302	1,194	1,200	1,183	1,224	1,218	1,063	1,059	1,167	1,141	1,093	989	1,014
Haverhill	470	605	672	542	575	591	675	670	698	542	593	618	559
Holyoke	1,993	1,252	1,135	987	1,196	1,007	949	1,042	967	948	1,070	1,083	966
Lawrence	917	718	653	712	826	994	1,011	997	1,094	879	741	723	619
Lowell	887	850	1,064	1,044	1,128	742	539	572	546	435	342	289	324
Lynn	954	1,062	915	901	847	885	821	889	777	777	772	715	595
New Bedford	1,234	1,197	1,312	1,310	1,223	1,143	1,073	1,093	1,258	N/A	866	666	634
Pittsfield	786	683	700	662	628	598	426	252	444	654	790	881	842
Springfield	1,481	1,369	1,255	1,263	1,367	1,027	1,039	1,092	1,091	1,073	1,032	874	989
Worcester	852	873	971	1,010	973	988	959	955	965	887	890	727	683

Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics - UCR Data Online

Notes:

This data is 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.

"Violent Crime Rate" (cited above) consists of rates related to murder and nonnegligent homicide, rape (legacy & revised), robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, larceny-theft, and arson.

- When data are unavailable, the cells are blank, or the year is not presented.

- Variations in population coverage and reporting practices may cause differences in reporting from year to year.

- Crime rates are not available for agencies that report data for less than 12 months of a year.

- Brockton Police Dept. Massachusetts 2006 – The data collection methodology for the offense of aggravated assault used by these agencies does not comply with national UCR guidelines. Consequently, their figures for aggravated assault and violent crime (of which aggravated assault is a part) are not included in this table.

- Brockton Police Dept. Massachusetts 2007 – The data collection methodology for the offense of aggravated assault used by this agency does not comply with national UCR Program guidelines.

- Brockton Police Dept. Massachusetts 2008 – The data collection methodology for the offense of aggravated assault used by this agency does not comply with national UCR Program guidelines.

- Chelsea Police Dept. Massachusetts 2006 – The data collection methodology for the offense of aggravated assault used by these agencies does not comply with national UCR guidelines. Consequently, their figures for aggravated assault and violent crime (of which aggravated assault is a part) are not included in this table.

- Holyoke Police Dept. Massachusetts 2006 – The data collection methodology for the offense of aggravated assault used by these agencies does not comply with national UCR guidelines. Consequently, their figures for aggravated assault and violent crime (of which aggravated assault is a part) are not included in this table.

- Lowell Police Dept. Massachusetts 2008 – Because of changes in the state/local agency's reporting practices, figures are not comparable to previous years' data.

Sources: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, prepared by the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data
Date of download: Mar 06 2018

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

Safe and Successful Youth Initiative Annual Report:
March 2020

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