

Bennington Juvenile Offender Case Studies

Drug-Related Shootings in Bennington, 2022 (# of rounds fired)

- January 26-Shootout at residence in Pownal, VT (20+)
- February 7-Juvenile (17) murder Danby VT (unknown)
- March 1-53 Applegate (3)
- March 12-115 Gage St (1)
- March 14-702 Main St (1)
- March 13, 14 and 15-Route 279on NY/VT border (5 each)
- March 16-Pleasant St driveby (3)
- June 7-McCall St (10)
- July 1-546 Main St (4)
- August 5-Patrick Mullinex murder (3)
- September 5-104 Barber St (3)
- September 22-715 Main St (20+)
- October 26-Ulysses Ivey murder (1)
- December 14- 108 Lafayette St (14)

Other violence

- February 21-53 Applegate home invasion
- April kidnapping of Peter Aleksonis
- June-Stubbing at 97 Burgess Road
- July-Stubbing of a female drug customer
- Multiple vehicle pursuits



Keniel Santiago (19)

- Arrested in November 2021 during a search warrant with 49 grams of crack, 23 grams (1,100 bags) of fentanyl, \$10,000, and three handguns.
- Odalys Velez-Perez, Johans Rivera, Jorge Adorno were also arrested during this warrant. All of these subjects were 19 years of age. One of the pistols seized was a Glock illegally converted to a machine gun, with a defaced serial number. Had previously threatened others on social media with firearms.
- 10 days after Santiago was released from jail in Vermont, he kidnapped a female in Springfield, MA and pointed a firearm at a responding officer, resulting in a shooting incident.
- Validated member of the Plainfield street gang.

Cristal Matos (19)

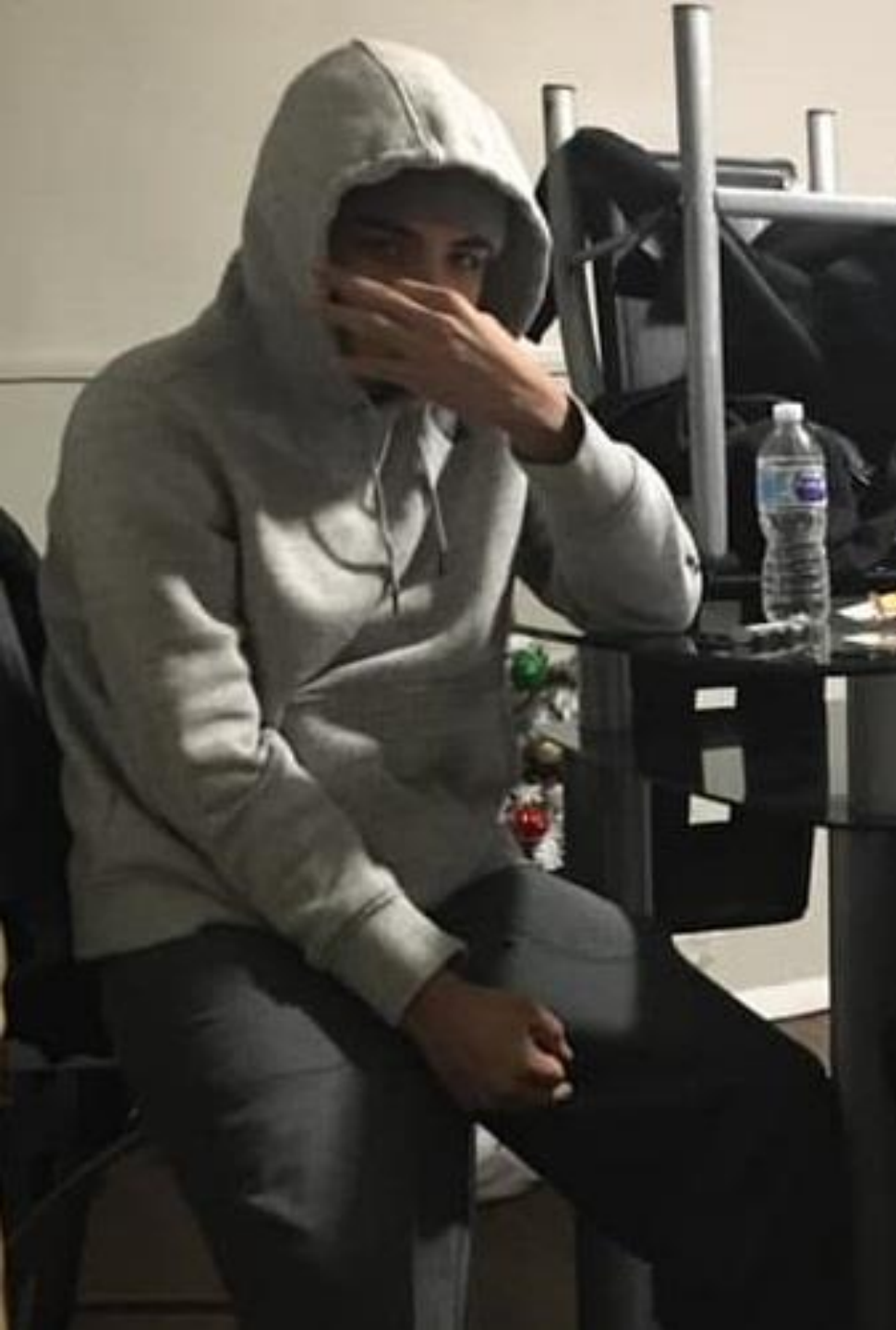
- Oblock gang associate, current love interest of Christopher Arroyo-Cruz. Regularly advertises drugs for sale on social media.
- October 2022 Poured bleach into an urn containing the ashes of a drug customer's deceased relative over an unpaid drug debt. Also threatened the drug customer with a handgun.
- November 2022 referenced putting a "hit" on a Bennington drug customer over a social media insult.





Kyara Gonzalez 18/19

- Controlled purchase of fentanyl was made from her in February 2022.
- February 2022 participated in a home invasion of a drug customer. Gonzalez & others threatened to kill the customer over a drug debt. Gonzalez destroyed items in the apartment with a hammer while others held the customer at gunpoint.
- March 2022 arrested with a pistol & fentanyl in Massachusetts with Juvenile JR and an adult male from Bennington VT.
- March 2022 arrested in Bennington after a foot pursuit for a warrant, an adult male with her had ammunition in his possession. A backpack she was seen with immediately prior to the arrest could not be located.
- Kidnapped an adult male in April 2022, pistol whipped a juvenile in May 2022. Videos showed this juvenile was sexually exploited by adult males around the same time.
- January, March, June, July 2022 there were five shootings at locations where she was known to sell drugs
- July 2022, attempted to take the firearm of an HSI Special Agent during an arrest for her state kidnapping warrant.
- Known associate of the 03 street gang.
- Pictured posing with Odalys Velez-Perez and a firearm in a social media video.



Juvenile IR (17 at time of death)

- Controlled purchase of fentanyl from him in October 2020
- December 2020 social media image is him displaying the handsign for the street gang 03
- Arrested June 2021 in an ATF buy/bust of fentanyl in Holyoke, MA while carrying a handgun
- Shot to death in Danby Vermont in February 2022.

Christopher Arroyo-Cruz (18)

- Leader of the Oblock gang
- Witnesses stated he was the intended target of the 546 Main Street shooting; was inside when shots were fired.
- Present during controlled purchase of fentanyl & cocaine June 2022
- August 2022-During a SW execution, a handgun with a defaced serial # was thrown out the window of bathroom he was found inside. Female victim, a drug customer located in the same apartment, had been severely sexually assaulted prior to the SW execution. She required immediate hospitalization. She was not willing/able to make statements to investigators, and died from an infection in the following months.
- Arroyo-Cruz was arrested again with a firearm in Massachusetts shortly after he bonded out of jail in Vermont.

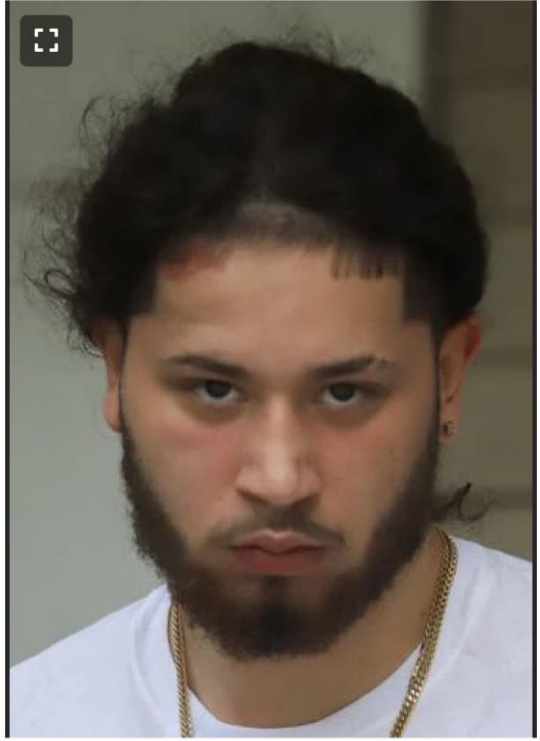
10:13 LTE

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July 14 Bennington police raids

More charges, bail reviews from last week's police raid in Bennington







By Lex Merrell, Bennington Banner Jul 18, 2022



Christopher Arroyo-Cruz, 18, of Springfield, Mass., was granted bail Monday.

Bennington Banner

09:18 LTE


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FEATURED

A look at 2022 through the Banner camera lens







Bennington Banner 19 hrs ago

4 of 8




This photograph of the first of several daylight police raids showed the reality of what is happening right down the block on Main Street. Bennington is experiencing a surge in gang violence and shootings never before seen in our community. This is the best of what local journalism does — shines a light on what we sometimes do not want to see, so as a community we can respond and move forward.

Michael Albans — Bennington Banner

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Adrian Torres (18)

- Kidnapped and robbed an adult male in April 2022 with Kyara Gonzalez and others.
- Involved in a high-profile search warrant in April 2022 where a .32 caliber handgun was located in the room he climbed out of the window of. Social media messages indicate this firearm likely belonged to Kyara Gonzalez, who police had seen leave the apartment prior to the SW execution.
- Known associate of the Oblock gang. S P (17) and Alexander Escalera (19), also Oblock associates, were also arrested. Escalera also fled onto the roof with Torres, and was found to have .380 caliber ammunition in his pocket.
- Tenant stated the juveniles had taken over her apartment against her will for drug sales; tenant died of a fentanyl overdose in late 2022 requiring charges against Escalera to be dropped. Torres plead guilty to charges related to the April kidnapping.

Miguel Perez-Agramonte (18)

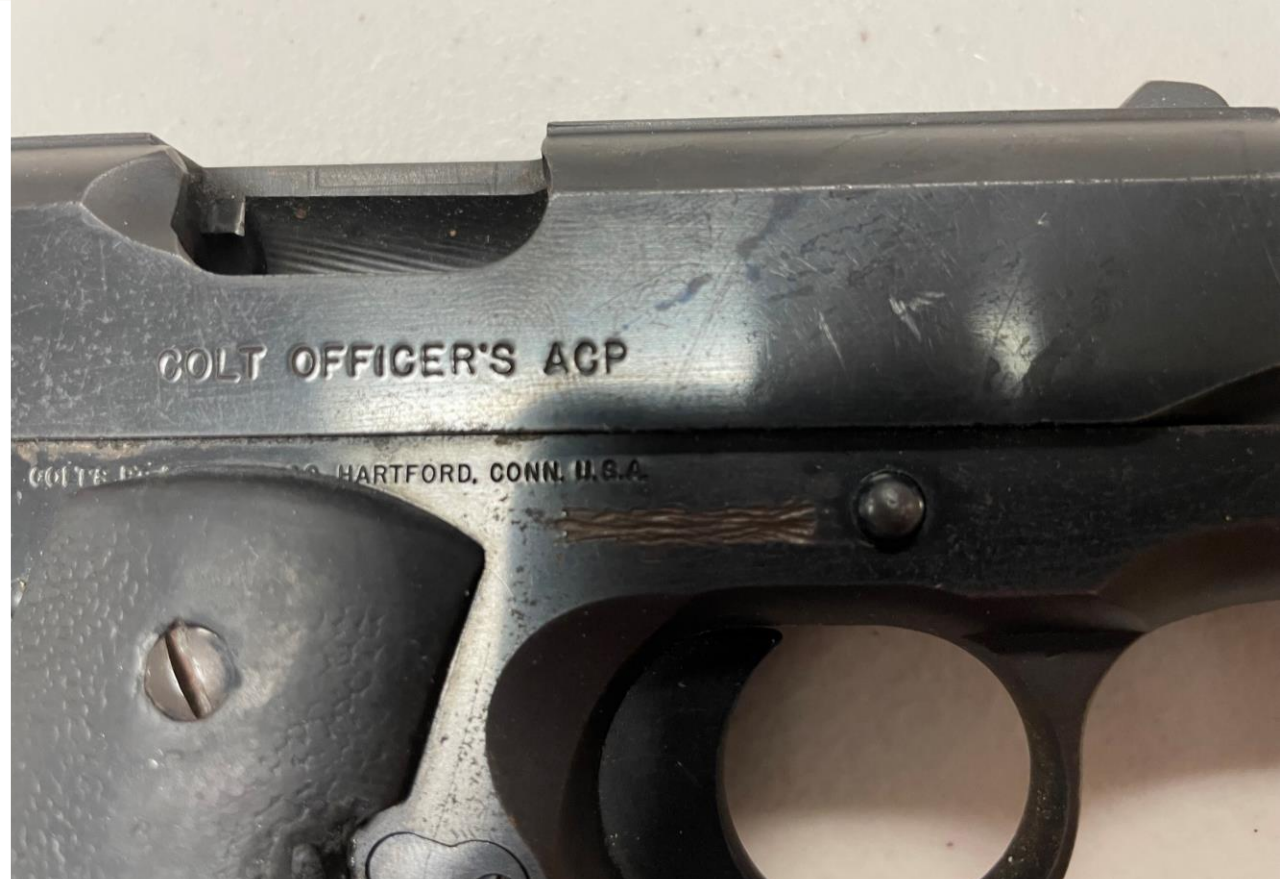
- September 2022 controlled purchase of fentanyl
- October 2022 arrested with 25 grams crack cocaine, 147 grams (7,200 bags) of fentanyl, \$8,000 cash and three handguns, one of which had a defaced serial number. The AR-15 shotgun in the photo was not found inside.
- Perez-Agramonte is a self admitted member of the Plainfield street gang. He stated that Christian Torres-Santiago (20) and Gabriel Lebron (32), arrested with him, were members of the 03 and Patton street gangs.
- Admitted to using the Glock to shoot into a residence at 104 Barber Street over a drug debt in September.
- Admitted to using the Glock during an attempted home invasion in Bennington at 715 Main Street. Also assisting in the shooting were Caleb Rivera & John Nazario, both 19. All three have been charged with attempted murder.
- Covert surveillance photo of him armed with a Glock days after the 715 Main St shooting.



Christopher Morgan (19)

- In October 2022, the day after the search warrant where Perez-Agramonte was arrested, a concerned citizen called 911 reporting seeing Morgan place an AR-15 in the trunk of a car.
- Morgan wouldn't stop for the officer and was arrested by another officer attempting to leave the area. Morgan also had a handgun, fentanyl, and cash on his person. The AR-15 was the same one in the photo being held by Torres-Santiago, and had a defaced serial number.





Firearms seized during the SW & from Morgan with defaced serial numbers



Juvenile JR (16)

- Known associate of the Oblock gang; uses the moniker “Oblock Hitta” on Facebook
- March 2022 arrested with Kyara Gonzalez and others en route to Bennington from Massachusetts with firearms and drugs
- June 2022 controlled purchase of fentanyl where he was carrying a machete, and others were brandishing firearms. Concerned citizen photo shows him with a machete at the same time.
- Arrested during a search warrant with Christopher Arroyo-Cruz. Was charged with aggravated assault for hitting Kyara Gonzalez in the head with a baseball bat in a drug robbery.
- While out on conditions for the assault, arrested after a vehicle pursuit/bailout involving a stolen vehicle in Bennington.
- Suspect in the June 2022 armed robbery of Raul Cardona, who was arrested for a shooting murder in Bennington in August 2022.