



Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

December 2012

Produced by the Crime Analysis Unit

****Preliminary 2012 YTD numbers are subject to change as data are finalized in the coming weeks.***



Part I Total Crime

- Serious crime in Cambridge slipped downward by 3% when compared with 2011, and when measured against the 5-year weighted average for this time frame, a 6% decline (**209 fewer crimes than the average**) has been recorded.
- Despite the 4% increase in the past 4 weeks for Part I crime, it appears that we will be closing out the year with decreases in both violent and property crime when compared to 2011 and the 5 year average.
- Although finishing 2012 with a 5% decrease concerning violent crime, the month of December saw a large increase of 63% when compared to the previous 4 weeks.
- A detailed analysis of all statistics indicates that there were **75 less property crimes recorded in 2012**, which translates to a **2% decrease** when measured against the 2011 statistics.

	4 Week Snapshot			Year to Date			Five Year	
	11/6 - 12/3	12/4 - 12/31	Change	2011	2012	Change	Avg	Change
Total Violent Crime	19	31	63%	434	412	-5%	450	-8%
Total Property Crime	209	206	-1%	3137	3062	-2%	3233	-5%
Total Part I Crime	228	237	4%	3571	3474	-3%	3683	-6%



Part I Property Crime

Larceny from motor vehicles **(+7%)** with 45 additional incidents, and larceny from persons **(+14%)** with 46 thefts above last year, were not enough to register an increase over 2011, as we are closing out the year **(-2%)** below. Housebreaks, which are 6% above the 5 year average have nosedived over the past 7 months and are now **4% under last year's total**.

	4 Week Snapshot				Year to Date				Five Year	
	11/6 - 12/3	12/4 - 12/31	Change		2011	2012	Change		Avg	Change
Burglary	32	39	22%		520	498	-4%		486	2%
Commercial Break	7	8	14%		84	78	-7%		88	-11%
Housebreak	25	31	24%		436	420	-4%		398	6%
Larceny	168	164	-2%		2458	2445	-1%		2561	-5%
Larceny (Misc)	5	1	-80%		37	43	16%		31	39%
Larceny from Building	27	27	0%		433	370	-15%		396	-7%
Larceny from MV	50	40	-20%		640	685	7%		828	-17%
Larceny from Person	31	31	0%		321	367	14%		335	10%
Larceny from Residence	16	19	19%		234	224	-4%		206	9%
Larceny of Bicycle	13	5	-62%		371	356	-4%		334	7%
Larceny of Plate	2	6	200%		43	40	-7%		45	-11%
Larceny of Services	3	2	-33%		26	16	-38%		27	-41%
Shoplifting	21	33	57%		353	344	-3%		360	-4%
Auto Theft	9	3	-67%		159	119	-25%		186	-36%
Total Property Crime	209	206	-1%		3137	3062	-2%		3233	-5%



Part I Violent Crime

- In 2011, there were 434 violent crimes reported. In 2012, **there were 412 violent crimes registered in Cambridge, 22 incidents below last year (-5%) and 38 incidents under the 5-year average (-8%).**
- There was 1 murder in Cambridge in 2012. The crime occurred on the night of June 3rd on Willow Street. A 16-year-old female was the victim of a drive-by shooting. **This case remains under investigation.**
- The number of rapes remains unchanged when compared with 2011 and the violent index crime of aggravated assault has fallen 1% when compared with 2011.
- There were 22 fewer robberies (-15%) in 2012 in Cambridge when compared to 2011.

	4 Week Snapshot				Year to Date				Five Year	
	11/6 - 12/3	12/4 - 12/31	Change		2011	2012	Change		Avg	Change
Homicide	0	0	IN-CALC		3	1	-67%		2	-50%
Rape	1	0	-100%		26	26	0%		30	-13%
Robbery	5	10	100%		147	125	-15%		161	-22%
Commercial Robbery	1	0	-100%		34	16	-53%		29	-45%
Street Robbery	4	10	150%		113	109	-4%		132	-17%
Aggravated Assault	13	21	62%		258	260	1%		257	1%
Total Violent Crime	19	31	63%		434	412	-5%		450	-8%



MURDER

No Patterns

- The first and only homicide to be recorded in Cambridge in 2012 occurred on Sunday, June 3rd, at approximately 8pm. 2 female victims ages 16 and 17 were in the area of 34 Willow St when they were shot by unknown suspects who drove by in a motor vehicle. Both victims were transported to the hospital where the 16-year-old victim was pronounced dead and the 17-year-old victim was critically injured. The investigation is ongoing.

Murder Trends in the United States in 2011:

- The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program defines murder and nonnegligent manslaughter as the willful (nonnegligent) killing of 1 human being by another. In 2011, an estimated 14,612 persons were murdered in the United States. This **was a 0.7% decrease from the 2010 estimate, a 14.7% decline from the 2007 figure, and a 10.0% decrease from the 2002 estimate.**
- There were 4.7 murders per 100,000 inhabitants, a 1.5% decrease from the 2010 rate. Compared with the 2007 rate, the murder rate declined 17.4%, and compared with the 2002 rate, the murder rate decreased 16.8%.

Change*

Last 4 Weeks

Previous Year

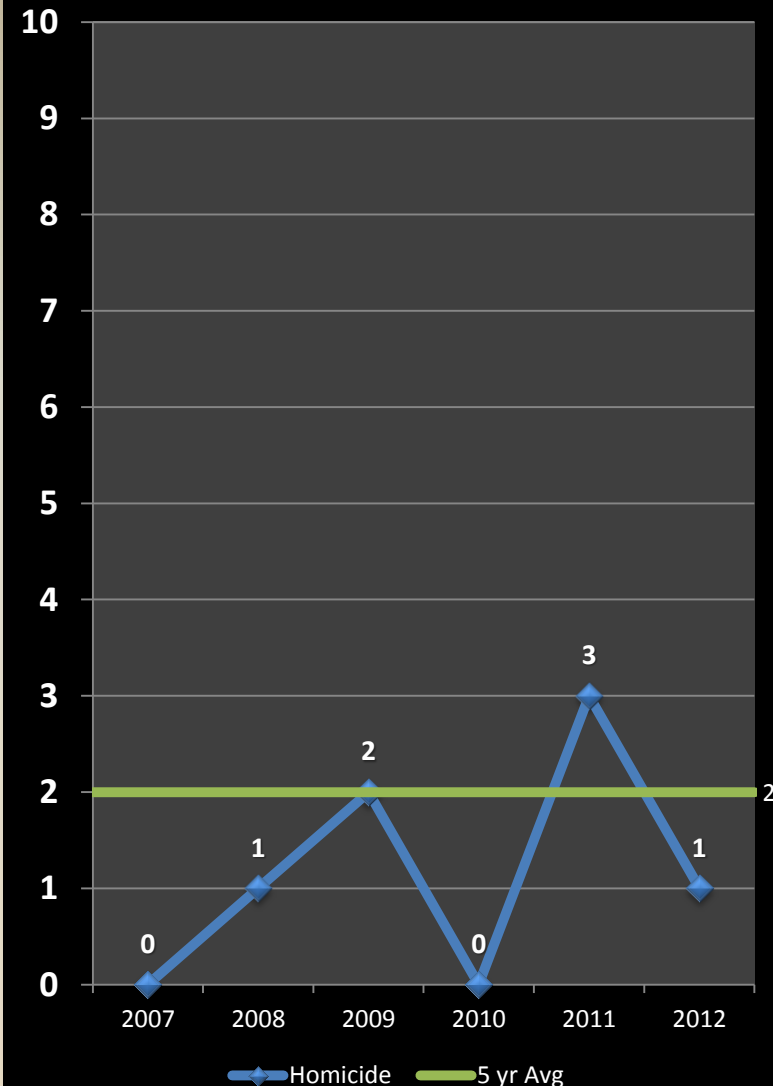
5 Year Average

***IN -CAL**

-67%

-50%

*IN -CAL: Percentages are not calculated for numbers so small as to present a statistically misleading percentage.





RAPE

No Patterns

- In 2012, there have been 26 rapes reported in Cambridge, the same number that was recorded during this time frame last year. There were no rapes reported in Cambridge in December.
- 25 of the 26 rapes in Cambridge for 2012 were categorized as **non-stranger incidents**. A blitz scenario rape in late April remains under investigation at the present time.

Rape Trends in the United States in 2011:

- There were an estimated 83,425 forcible rapes reported to law enforcement in 2011. This estimate **was 2.5% lower than the 2010 estimate and 9.5% and 12.4% lower than the 2007 and 2002 estimates, respectively.**
- The rate of forcible rapes in 2011 was estimated at 52.7 per 100,000 female inhabitants.
- Rapes by force comprised 93.0% of reported rape offenses in 2011, and attempts or assaults to commit rape accounted for 7.0% of reported rapes.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

Previous Year

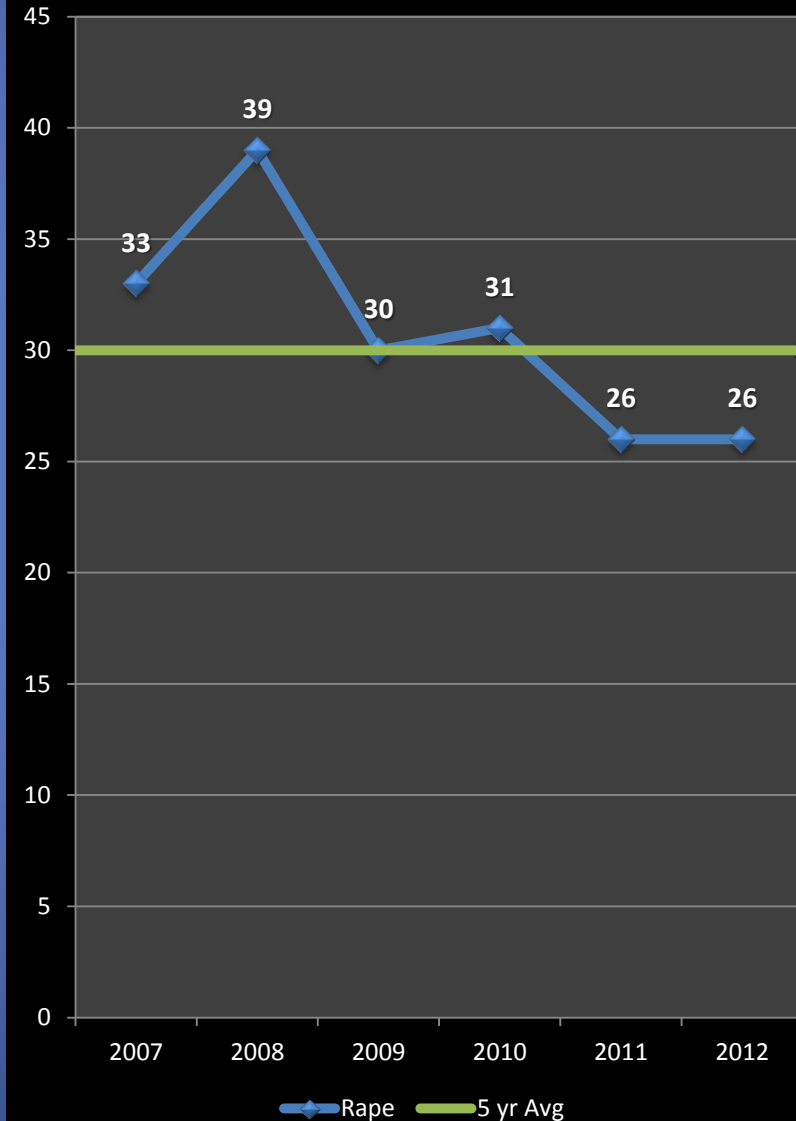
5 Year Average

In-Cal

0%

-13%

*IN -CAL: Percentages are not calculated for numbers so small as to present a statistically misleading percentage.





AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

No Patterns

- When compared to 2011, aggravated assaults have increased by 1%, with 2 more incidents counted in 2012. When measuring this violent index crime against the 5-year average for, there has been a slight increase of 1%, with 3 more incidents above the projected average of 257 assaults. Over the past 4 weeks, there was a dramatic increase in the number off aggravated assaults reported – up from 13 crimes in November to 21 incidents in December.
- The dramatic increase over the past 4 weeks was likely due to the 9 domestic related assaults that were reported, account for 43% of the total. The holidays tend to heighten tensions in families and often result in domestic disputes and assaults.

Aggravated Assault Trends in the United States in 2011:

- In 2011, there were an estimated 751,131 aggravated assaults in the nation. The estimated number of aggravated assaults in 2011 declined 3.9% when compared with data from 2010 and 15.7% when compared with the estimate for 2002.
- A 10-year comparison of data from 2002 and 2011 showed that the rate of aggravated assaults in 2011 dropped 22.1% in the nation.
- 26.9% were committed with personal weapons such as hands, fists, or feet. Slightly more than 21% (21.2) of aggravated assaults were committed with firearms, and 19.1% were committed with knives or cutting instruments.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

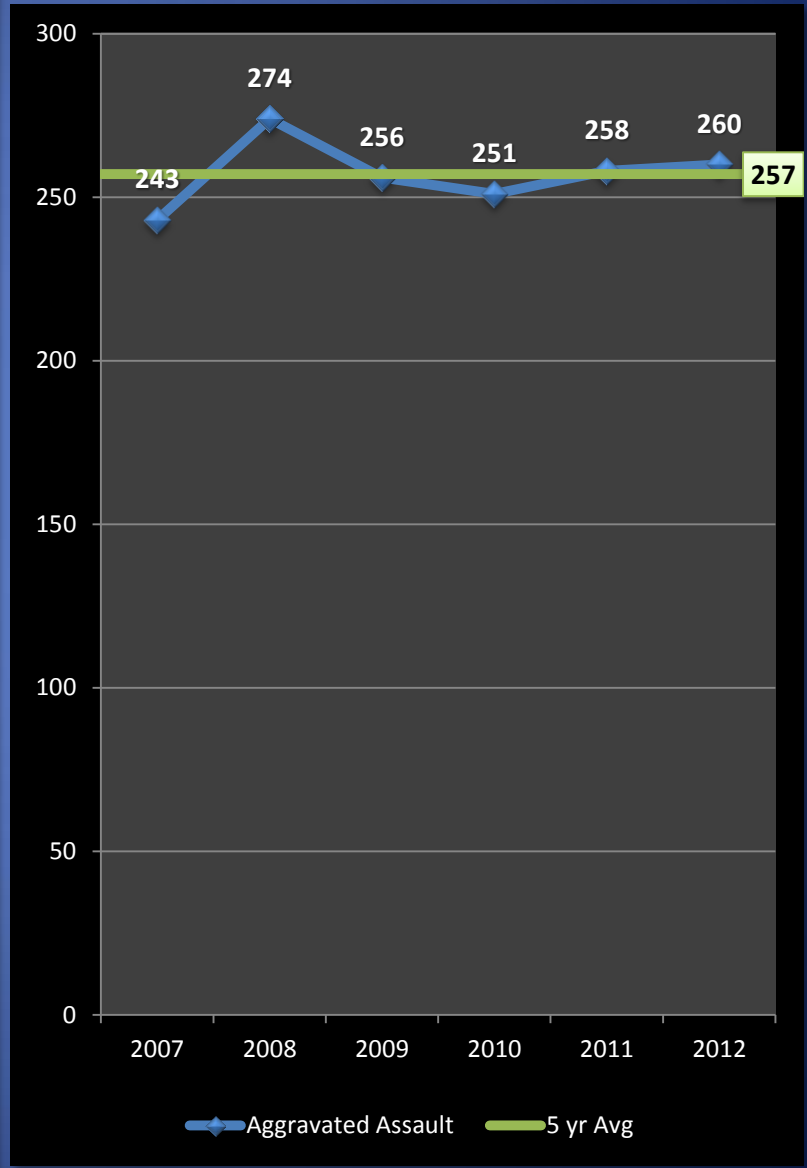
62%

Previous Year

1%

5 Year Average

1%





ROBBERY

No Patterns

- The 5-year average for overall robbery in Cambridge is 161 incidents. In 2012, 125 robberies have been recorded to post a 22% decrease below the projected total. The 125 robberies reported in Cambridge in 2012 represents 22 fewer robberies than 2011, which translates to a 15% decrease.
- Street robberies have fallen 22% when measured against the 5-year average and decreased 4% when compared to the 2011, with 4 fewer incidents reported.
- After only registering 14 street robberies in Cambridge during the warm weather months of July and August, this violent index type increased sporadically during the fourth quarter. The 100% increase, 5 more incidents than the past 4 week period, followed no patterns as 7 different neighborhoods registered at least 1.
- Over 2012, there have been only 16 commercial robberies reported a 53% decline from 2011. This list includes 6 banks, 4 drug stores, 2 gas stations and a clothing store.
- Arrests have been made in 5 of the 6 bank robberies.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

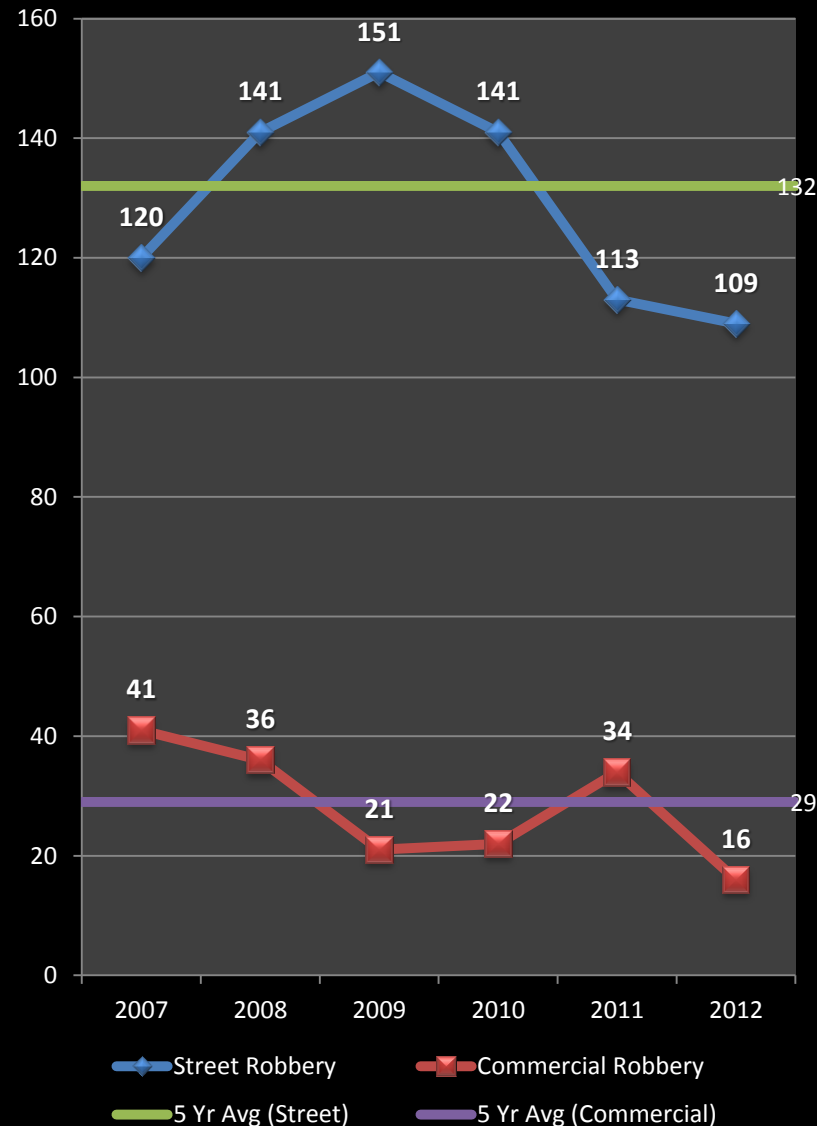
100%

Previous Year

-15%

5 Year Average

-22%





Cambridge Police BridgeStat





Burglary

No Patterns

- Total burglary, the combination of residential and commercial burglary, is up 2% when compared to the 5-year average, with 12 additional incidents above the projected total of 486 crimes, and down 4% when compared with last year's total with 22 fewer burglaries counted. When comparing this property crime with November of 2012, a 22% increase was registered (7 additional incidents were recorded in December).
- Commercial burglary has dropped 7% when compared with 2011, with 6 fewer incidents counted, and has dropped 11% when measured against the 5-year average. The 78 commercial burglaries in 2012 have been scattered throughout the City with no patterns identified.
- Analysis of housebreak activity in Cambridge over 2012 indicates that approximately 70% of all the housebreaks in Cambridge in 2012 have been clustered in 4 pattern areas: Area 4, West Cambridge / Peabody, East Cambridge and Cambridgeport / Riverside.
- **West Cambridge, Area 4, East Cambridge** have shown marked decreases over the past 2 months.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

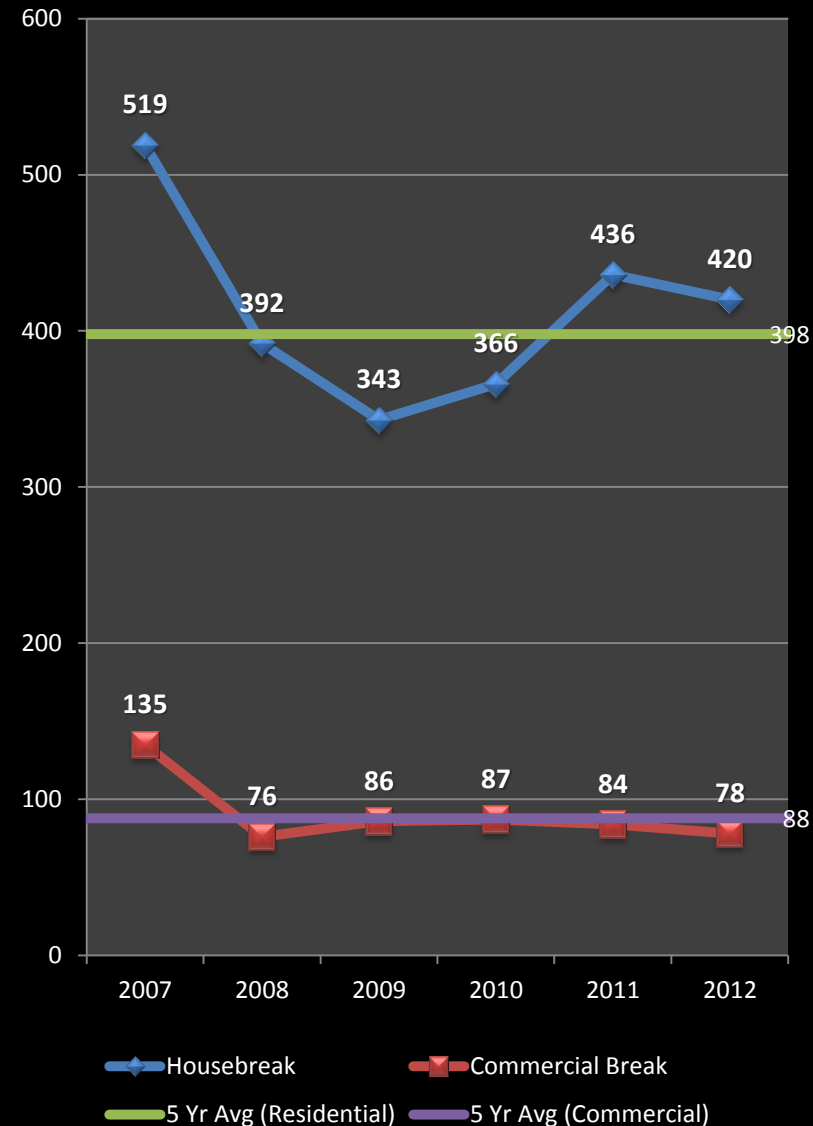
Previous Year

5 Year Average

+22%

-4%

+2%





Housebreaks

What can we do?

Police Response Strategy:

- Cambridge Police have deployed extra patrols to the affected areas in order to combat the recent increase in housebreaks.
- CPD is also utilizing plainclothes officers and detectives in the affected areas.
- Several arrests have been made.



Citizen Response Strategy:

- Citizens are asked to take the following precautions to protect themselves, their homes, and their belongings from burglaries:
 - Try “**casing**” your own home.
 - **ALWAYS lock your doors and windows.** Many housebreaks have occurred through open windows or unlocked doors.
 - **Leave a light on** when you leave.
 - Install motion sensor lights.
 - **NEVER** prop open the door or let someone in behind you.
 - **Be vigilant.** If you suspect suspicious activity, please report it to the police immediately by calling **617-349-3300**.
 - **Document serial numbers** of all electronics and take pictures of all valuables.
 - **Request a Residential Security Survey** from the Cambridge Police Department. For more info, please call **617-349-3236**.
- For more info on how to protect yourself from housebreaks, visit www.CambridgePolice.org/SafetyTips.



LARCENY

No Patterns

- Overall, **larceny decreased by 1%** when compared with 2011 and dropped slightly (-5%) when measured against the 5-year weighted average.
- The increase in larceny from motor vehicles (+7%) can be attributed to a surge in thefts during the snowless First Quarter of this year when compared with the first 3 months of 2011 when there were 70 inches of snow on the ground. There was a 20% drop in car breaks from November to December, Mt Auburn St and Brattle St have remained the hot spots.
- Larcenies from persons citywide stayed the same in the last 4 weeks. **However, this crime type is up 14% when compared to last year and up 10% when compared to the 5-year average.** The majority of these thefts (39%) took place in Harvard Sq from restaurants, bars and cafes. Numerous arrests were made throughout the year.
- In 2012 there were 356 reported bike thefts in Cambridge, which is 15 less than in 2011. No patterns exist at the present time.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

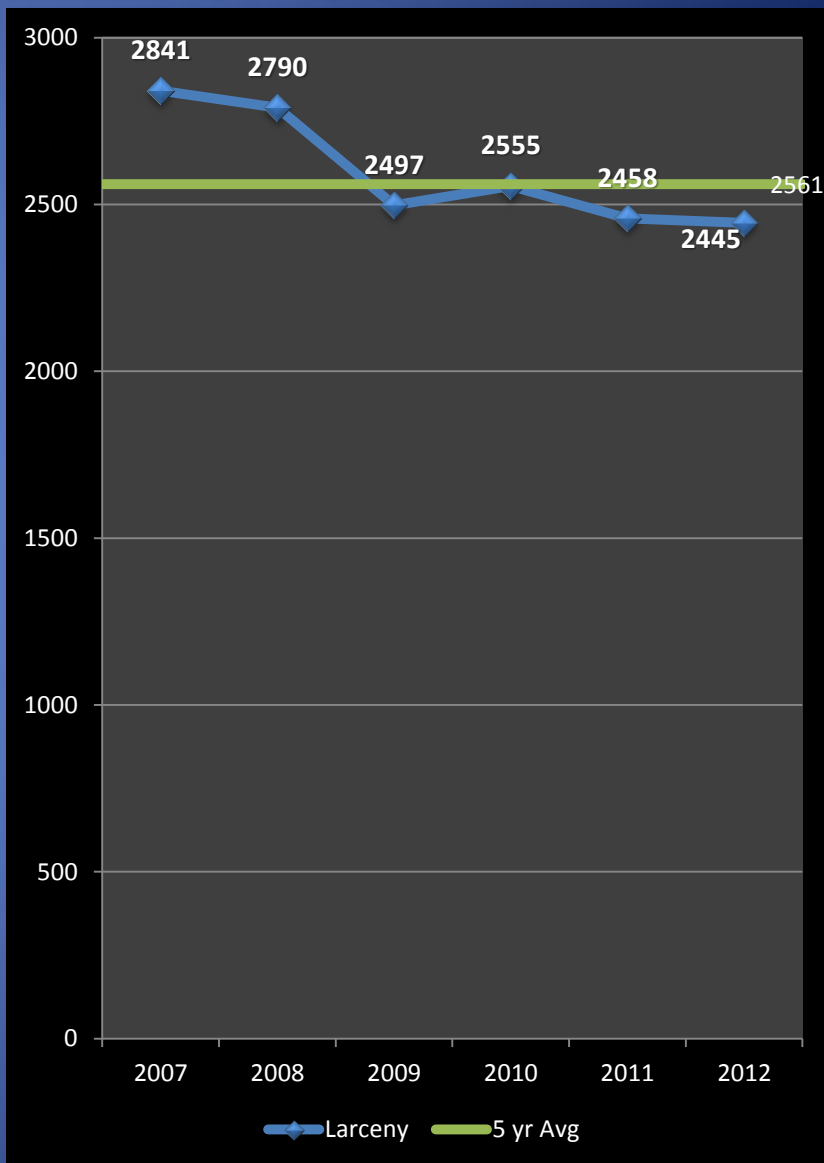
-2%

Previous Year

-1%

5 Year Average

-5%





LARCENY: *from MV*

No Patterns

- Larcenies from MVs are up 7% when compared with 2011, with 45 additional thefts recorded. The majority of this increase can be attributed to a 75% surge when compared to the first 93 days of last year when the streets of Cambridge were under 70 inches of snow cover.
- Larcenies from motor vehicles have declined **17%** when compared with the 5-year average, with **143 incidents below** the norm for 2012. When measured against the previous 4 weeks, thefts from MVs fell by 20% with 10 fewer incidents than in November of 2012.
- The area of West Cambridge in close proximity to the 100 to 200 blocks of Mt Auburn and Brattle Streets has been the major hot spot for this crime in the City over the summer and into the fourth quarter. This area, along with the neighborhoods that border Central Square (Area 4, Mid-Cambridge, Cambridgeport, and Riverside), accounted for nearly 70% of thefts from cars over the past 4 months.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

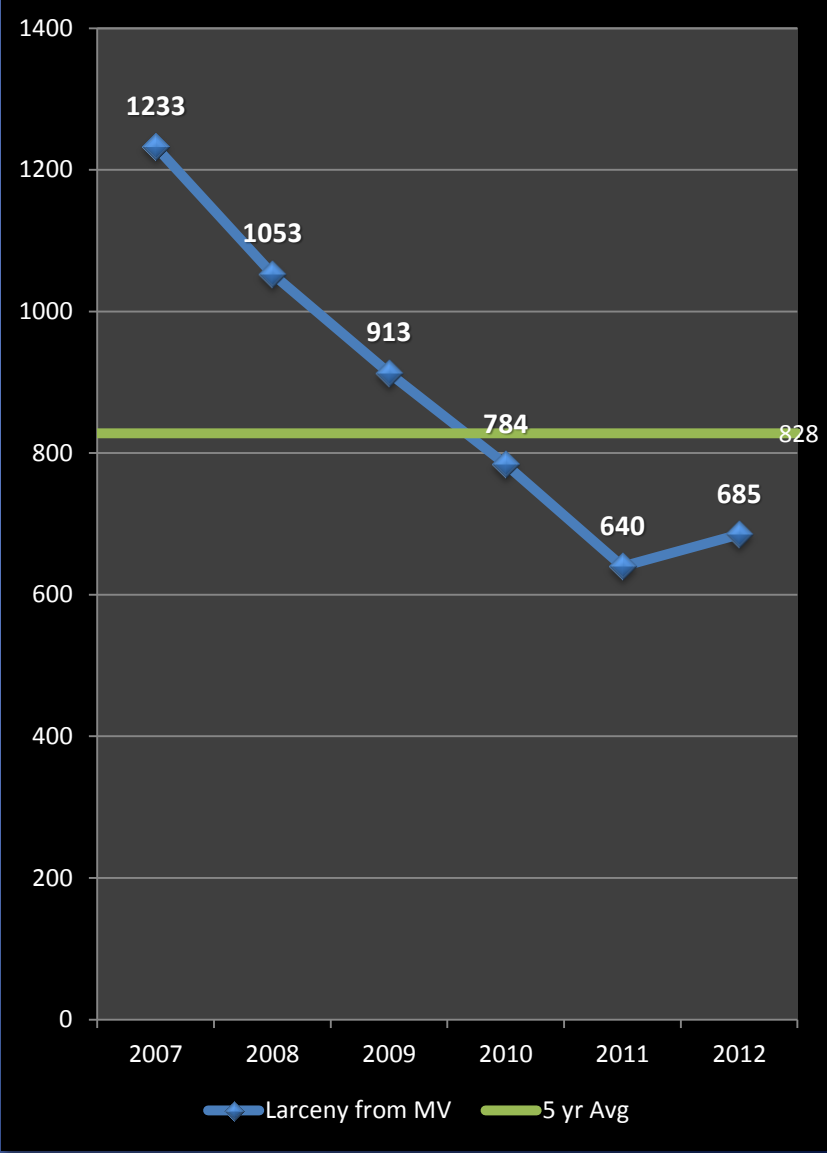
-20%

Previous Year

+7%

5 Year Average

-17%





Larceny from Motor Vehicles

What can we do?

Police Response Strategy:

- Cambridge Police are focused on prevention of these crimes by increasing officer visibility in targeted areas.
- Citizens are encouraged to take the proper precautions to protect their vehicles and their belongings by doing everything possible to not make their vehicles easy targets.



Citizen Response Strategy:

- Citizens are asked to take the following precautions to protect themselves, their vehicles, and their belongings from theft:
 - **Make sure all of your car doors are locked when you leave your vehicle.**
 - **Take extra care when out doing your shopping.**
 - **If you are approached by a suspicious person while you are in your vehicle, sound your horn to attract attention.**
 - **NEVER LEAVE VALUABLES EXPOSED IN YOUR CAR.**
 - If you must leave packages or valuables in your car, **place them in the trunk of under a blanket to conceal them**
 - Visit our website for more tips to keep your vehicles and belongings at www.CambridgePolice.org/SafetyTips



LARCENY: *from Person*

No patterns

- When compared to 2011, larcenies from persons are up 14%. The 5-year average for this larceny type averages around 335 incidents through the end of each year. With 367 recorded incidents over 2012, a 10% increase over the projected total was recorded.
- The majority, 58%, of these types of thefts over the past month have taken place in Harvard Square. The 2 scenarios for the majority of these thefts were the theft of cell phones and wallets from victims who were out at bars between the hours of 8 p.m. and midnight OR during the late morning and early afternoon hours at cafes. People often leave their belongings unattended and realize as they are leaving establishments that they have been stolen.
- A career criminal from Boston has been connected to a series of thefts from elderly shopper's purses while they were in supermarkets in Cambridge. This suspect may have hit seven times between late October and early December.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

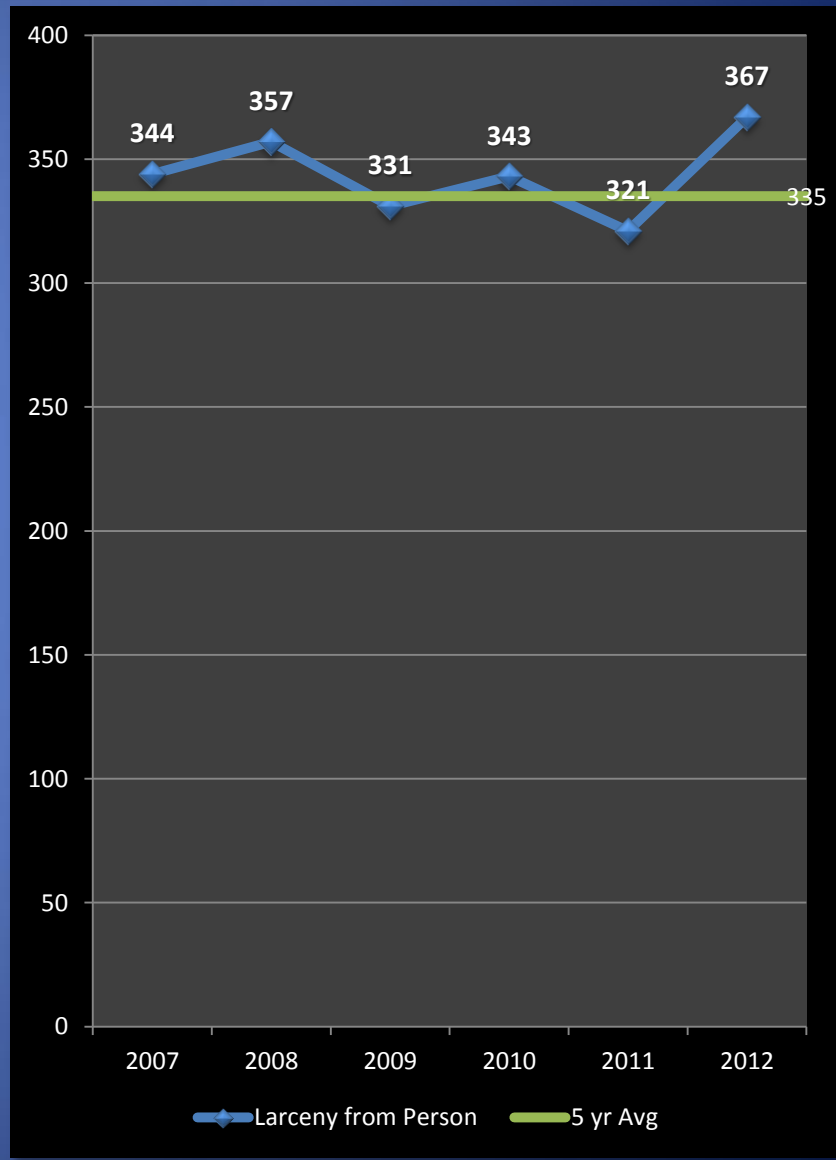
0%

Previous Year

+14%

5 Year Average

+10%





Larceny from Person

What can we do?

Police Response Strategy:

- Cambridge Police have not identified any discernable patterns for these crimes at this time.
 - Extra patrols have been deployed to current hot-spot areas to help prevent any increase in activity.
 - A majority of thefts have taken place in Harvard Square recently, and we have made our officers in that area aware of the uptick.
 - Prevention information has been shared with local businesses in the affected area(s).

Citizen Response Strategy:

- In order to help protect residents from becoming a victim of larcenies, Cambridge Police would like to remind students and citizens to take the following precautions to protect their belongings:
 - While dining out, do not place your purse or jacket over the back of your chair. Keep your purse on your lap or between your feet with the handle around the leg of your chair or your foot.
 - Do not leave a cell phone, laptop, or tablet unattended on your table.
 - When shopping, do not leave your purse or wallet unattended.
 - At work, put your purse or wallet in a drawer. Do not leave it on or under a desk.
 - Always keep your purse closed.
 - Do not keep your Personal Identification Numbers (PIN) in your purse or wallet.
 - Keep a list of all credit and ID cards at home along with the card number and customer service phone number in the event you need to close the account due to theft.



LARCENY: of Bicycle

No Patterns

- Just as bike ridership drops in the Fall, so does the rate of bicycle thefts. The 5-year weighted average of bike thefts for the year is 334 incidents. Through 2012, there were 356 bikes reported stolen, which is 7% above the norm. There were 15 less bike stolen, when comparing 2012 with 2011.
- For the 4th consecutive month, bike thefts decreased considerably in December. When compared to the previous 4 weeks, this crime fell 62% from 13 thefts to 5. We observe this decline every Autumn/Winter as the weather becomes colder.
- **Top Neighborhoods Year-to-Date for Thefts:**

Neighborhood	Total	% Citywide
Cambridgeport	62	18%
East Cambridge	41	12%
Riverside	41	12%
Mid-Cambridge	39	11%
West Cambridge	35	10%

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

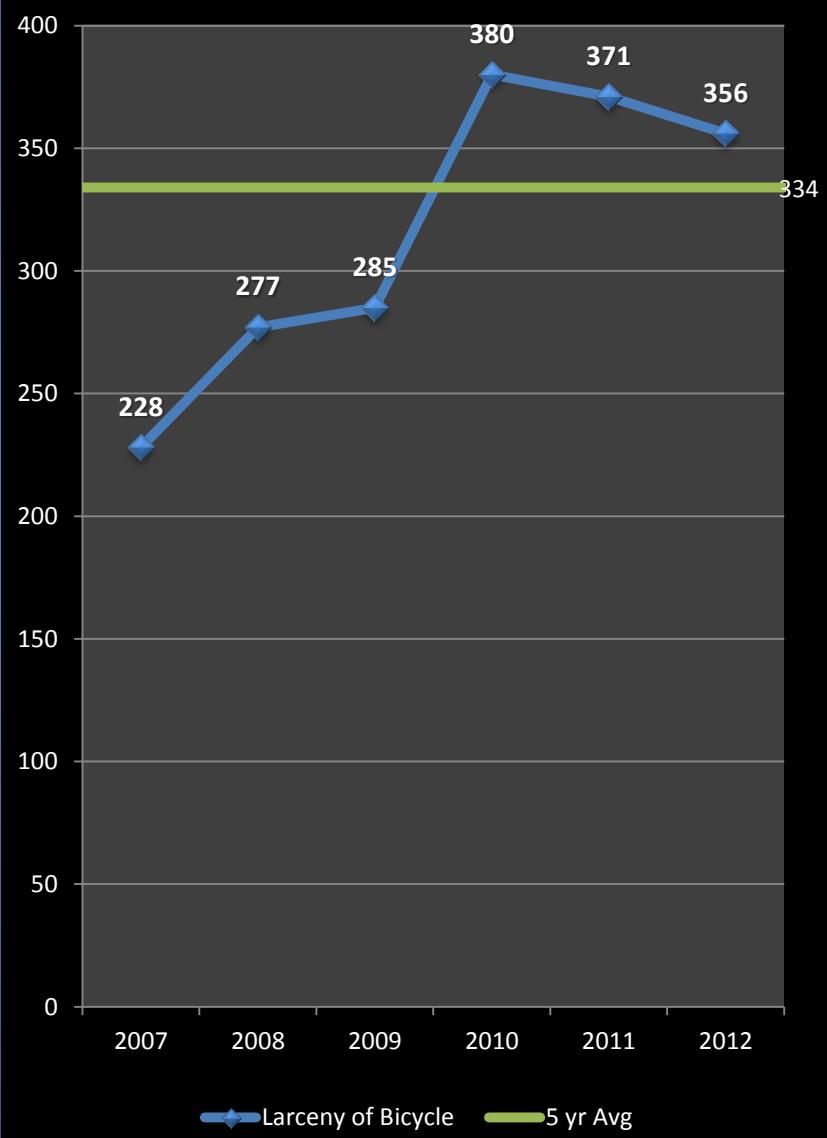
-62%

Previous Year

-4%

5 Year Average

+7%





AUTO THEFT

No patterns

- The projected 5-year weighted average assigned to auto theft for the year is 186 incidents; there were only 119 vehicles reported stolen through 2012, translating to a substantive 36% decline. When measured versus 2011, there were 40 fewer auto thefts counted and a 25% decline posted.
- 3 auto thefts were reported in December, down 67% from the previous 4 weeks. In the June and July BridgeStats, there was a regional trend of scooter and motorcycles thefts. These incidents have dissipated with the colder weather and none of the 3 in the past month involved scooters or motorcycles. There is a possibility that a substantial number of the stolen motorcycles were being chopped and sold for parts.
- Year to date, 48% of stolen motor vehicles have been recovered.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

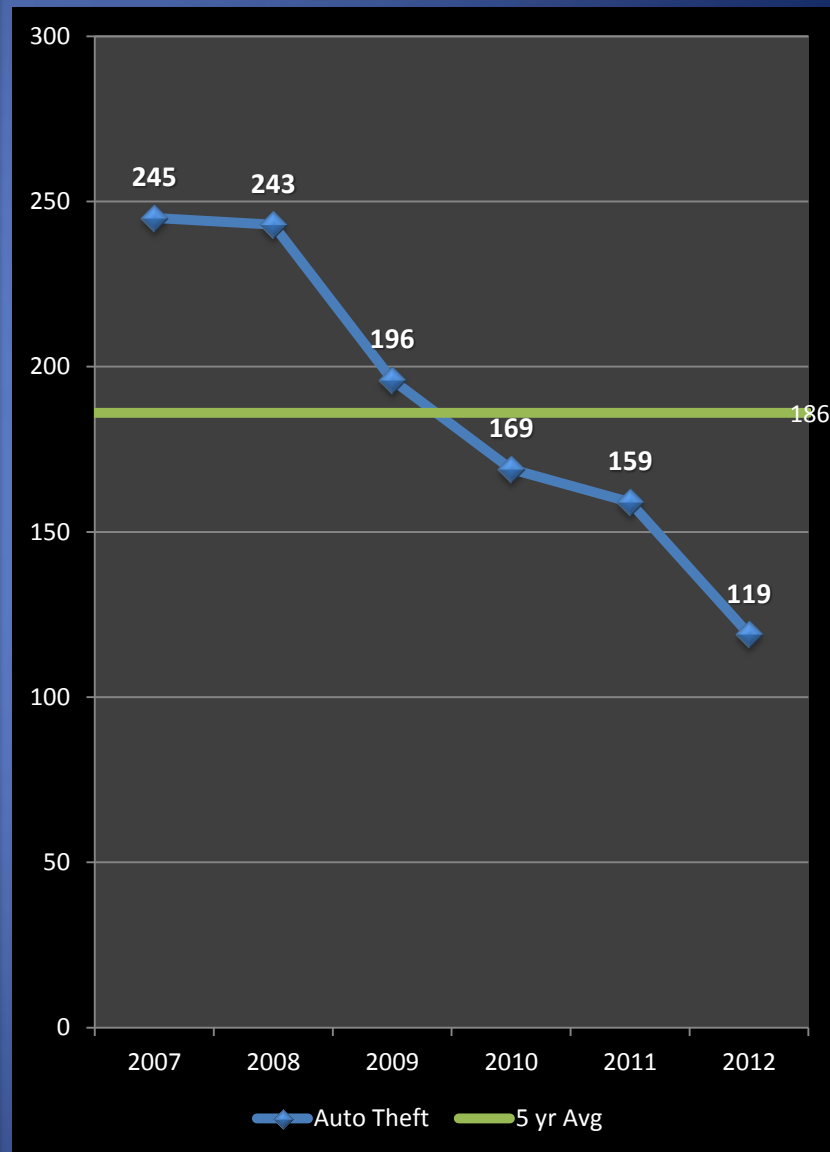
-67%

Previous Year

-25%

5 Year Average

-36%





Holiday Package Theft Pattern

Package theft hot spots during December 2011

UPDATE: During December of 2012 we only experienced reports of 7 package thefts. This is a 77% decline over the reports from 2011.

In 2011, starting 2 weeks prior to Christmas, there were 30 reports and subsequent arrests in an ongoing pattern of thieves following FEDEX / UPS trucks delivering merchandise purchased over the internet. This pattern usually surfaces every holiday season but last year it continued through the first month of the year and was prevalent throughout Eastern Mass. Multi-unit buildings on Harvard, Chauncy, Mass Ave and Concord Ave were targeted. The majority of the thefts occurred between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM. Arrests of career criminals, invariable substance abusers, were made by Cambridge, Somerville, Medford, and Danvers police.



Help Prevent Crime

And keep yourself informed!

To receive information from the CPD:

- Sign up with for the **Cambridge Alert Network**, to receive alerts about emerging crime patterns, neighborhood meetings, and crime prevention tips, by visiting www.CambridgeMa.gov/AlertNetwork.
- “Like” the Cambridge Police Department on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CambridgePolice
- Follow [@CambridgePolice](https://twitter.com/CambridgePolice) on Twitter.
- Visit our website at www.CambridgePolice.org for valuable information and reports including the Daily Log and BridgeStat, which is published on the first Friday of every month.
- Download our new “MyPD” smartphone app at www.CambridgePolice.org/MyPD.

To Share Information with the CPD:

- Call our Non-Emergency Telephone Number at **617-349-3300**.
 - Every call for service generates a police response, so help drive our resources by reporting things that seem suspicious or out of the ordinary.
- Send an Anonymous TEXT-A-TIP:
 - Send an ANONYMOUS text message to **Tip411 (847411)**. Begin your message with Tip650 and then type your message. You will receive a response from the Cambridge Police with the option to continue communicating. Please remember that this is not a replacement for 9-1-1. **If you witness an emergency situation, please call 9-1-1 immediately.**
- Send an Anonymous Crime Tip E-Mail at www.CambridgePolice.org/Tips



Questions?

- In the coming weeks, a “2012 Crime Snapshot” will be released on our website.
- We welcome all questions, comments, and suggestions.
- Please direct your feedback to:
BridgeStat@CambridgePolice.org.
- To review previous editions of BridgeStat, visit our website at www.CambridgePolice.org/BridgeStat.