

Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

March 2023

Produced by the Crime Analysis Unit





Part I Total Crime

An analysis of serious crime statistics for March of 2023 points to a sizable increase of 22% in the Part One index total for Cambridge when compared with the same time frame in 2022. During the first three months of this year, there were 679 serious crimes reported in the City. For the same time period in 2022, the combined total for Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny & Auto theft was 558 incidents. When measured against the five-year average, a 26% rise in the crime index has been registered.

Further analysis of the crime totals for the first three months of 2023 indicates that violent crimes recorded a 14% increase to start the year when compared with last year. Similarly, property crimes rose 23% with 110 additional crimes reported when compared with the first three months of 2022. There were zero homicides, 11 rapes, 20 robberies, and 59 aggravated assaults recorded in the first 93 days of 2023.

The 117% increase in shoplifting, the 51% rise in aggravated assault, and the 47% increase in bicycle larcenies when compared with 2022 are the key trend indicators observed so far in 2023 that have driven the upward curve in the crime index for March. Conversely, overall robberies decreased by 31% from 29 to 20 incidents and larcenies from motor vehicles dropped 20% from 110 thefts to 88 when comparing the first quarter of 2023 with that of 2022.

When analyzing the serious crime totals of March of 2023 versus the previous month of February 2023, there has been a minimal decrease of 1% in the number of index incidents with just two fewer crimes reported.

	4 Week Snapshot		Year to Date			<u>Five Year</u>		
	2/7/23 - 3/6/23	3/7/23 - 4/3/23	Change	2022	2023	Change	Avg	Change
Total Violent Crime	32	24	-25%	79	90	14%	68	32%
Total Property Crime	178	184	3%	479	589	23%	470	25%
Total Part I Crime	210	208	-1%	558	679	22%	538	26%





Part I Property Crime

Analysis of property crime totals through March of 2023 reveals a 23% increase when measured against the 2022 totals through March and a 25% rise above the five-year average of 470.

A majority of the property crime categories below recorded inclines when measured against the first three months of 2022, most notably a 117% jump in shopliftings (up 68 incidents), a 47% rise in bike thefts (up 24 incidents), a 33% increase in commercial breaks (up 3 incidents) and a 40% rise in thefts from residences (up 27). Meanwhile, larcenies from motor vehicles dropped 20% (down 22 thefts) and housebreaks decreased by 21% (down 11 incidents).

	4 Week Snapshot		Year to Date			Five Year		
	2/7/23 - 3/6/23	3/7/23 - 4/3/23	Change	2022	2023	Change	Avg	Change
Burglary	18	19	6%	62	54	-13%	52	4%
Commercial Break	2	4	100%	9	12	33%	12	0%
Housebreak	16	15	-6%	53	42	-21%	39	8%
Larceny	150	154	3%	393	505	28%	398	27 %
Larceny (Misc)	5	4	-20%	18	18	0%	11	64%
Larceny from Building	17	18	6%	58	58	0%	54	7%
Larceny from MV	16	22	38%	110	88	-20%	89	-1%
Larceny from Person	7	6	-14%	21	22	5%	23	-4%
Larceny from Residence	32	33	3%	68	95	40%	83	14%
Larceny of Bicycle	19	29	53%	51	75	47%	63	19%
Larceny of Plate	6	2	-67%	5	14	180%	4	250%
Larceny of Services	3	1	-67%	4	9	125%	3	200%
Shoplifting	45	39	-13%	58	126	117%	69	83%
Auto Theft	10	11	10%	24	30	25%	20	50%
Total Property Crime	178	184	3%	479	589	23%	470	25%





Part I Violent Crime

From January 1st to April 3rd of 2023, there were 90 violent crimes recorded in Cambridge, 11 incidents (+14%) above last year's first quarter total of 79 and 22 incidents above the 68 crimes forecasted for the first three months of the year.

There have been 11 rapes reported in Cambridge thus far in 2023, the same number that was reported during the first three months of 2022. The rapes reported in 2023 have been categorized as four domestic incidents, three acquaintance incidents, three contact scenarios, and one blitz assault.

The trend observed during the past couple years of a high percentage of aggravated assaults and street robberies occurring in Central Square and on peripheral side streets has at least temporarily subsided during 2023. So far, three months into the year, only 15 of the 59 aggravated assaults and one of the nine street robberies have been reported in the Central Square area.

For only the fourth time in 20 years, no murders were reported in Cambridge in 2022 and this trend has continued through March of 2023. The last murder in Cambridge took place on March 27th, 2021, on Pemberton St. It remains under investigation.

	4 Week Snapshot		Year to Date			<u>Five Year</u>		
	2/7/23 - 3/6/23	3/7/23 - 4/3/23	Change	2022	2023	Change	Avg	Change
Homicide	0	0	IN-CALC	0	0	IN-CALC	0	IN-CALC
Rape	5	4	-20%	11	11	0%	7	57%
Robbery	5	8	60%	29	20	-31%	18	11%
Commercial Robbery	2	5	150%	5	11	120%	4	175%
Street Robbery	3	3	0%	24	9	-63%	13	-31%
Aggravated Assault	22	12	-45%	39	59	51%	43	37%
Total Violent Crime	32	24	-25%	79	90	14%	68	32%



MURDER

No Patterns

- No murders have been reported in Cambridge in 2023 through April 3, 2023.*
- There were no murders recorded in Cambridge in 2022.
 This has happened only three other times in the past 20 years—in 2004, 2007, and 2010.
- In the last reported homicide in Cambridge, on Saturday 3/27/21, there was a fatal shooting that occurred at approximately 12:40 a.m. on Pemberton Street. The victim was reportedly located unconscious outside his vehicle by a passerby who called 911. The victim was transported to Mount Auburn Hospital where he later died. The victim has been identified as Xavier Louis-Jacques, 19, of Cambridge. The investigation is ongoing.
- On April 23, 2020, Jose Bermudez was arrested for the fatal daylight stabbing of 33-year-old Danilo Perez in Central Square on April 14. Bermudez and Perez were both part of the homeless community and were known to each other. Bermudez is being held without bail. This was the only homicide recorded in 2020.
- There was one murder in Cambridge in 2019. The Middlesex DA's Office and the Cambridge Police are asking for public assistance regarding the ongoing investigation into the fatal incident that occurred in the New Street area of Danehy Park around 6:30PM on the night of January 2nd, 2019. This incident is being investigated as a homicide. The preliminary investigation suggests that the victim, 60-year-old Paul Wilson, died as a result of blunt force trauma and that robbery does not appear to have been the motive.

Percent Change*

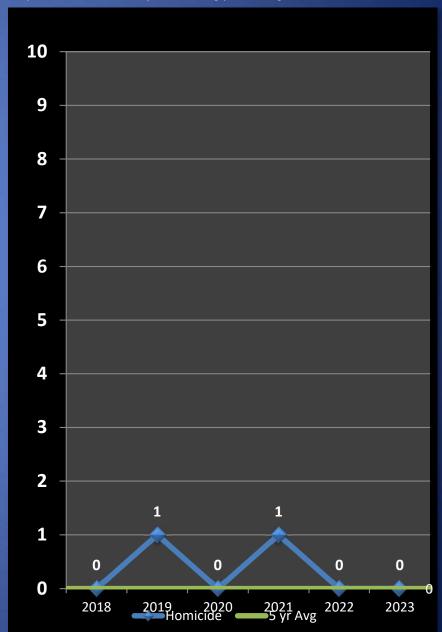
Previous Year 5-Year Average

0% 0%

Last 4 Weeks

0%

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



^{*} Please note: These figures exclude the fatal Cambridge Police officer-involved shooting of Sayed Faisal on January 4, 2023.



RAPE

No Patterns

 There were 11 rapes reported in Cambridge during the first quarter of 2023, which is equal to the number reported through the same time frame in 2022. The rapes reported thus far in 2023 have been categorized as four domestic incidents, three acquaintance incidents, three contact scenarios, and one blitz assault.

2022 Review:

- Final counts indicate that there were 43
 rapes reported in 2022, seven more than
 were reported during the same time frame in
 2021. The total is also 13 incidents above the
 five-year average of 30 crimes.
- The 43 rapes reported in 2022 were categorized as 23 acquaintance incidents, five blitz scenarios, 10 domestic incidents, four contact assaults, and a home invasion. One of the blitz incidents did result in an arrest.
- The total number of reported rapes tends to fluctuate from year to year, but the number of stranger-to-stranger rapes reported each year in Cambridge—typically between one and five—remains extremely low.

Percent Change*

Last 4 Weeks Previous Year

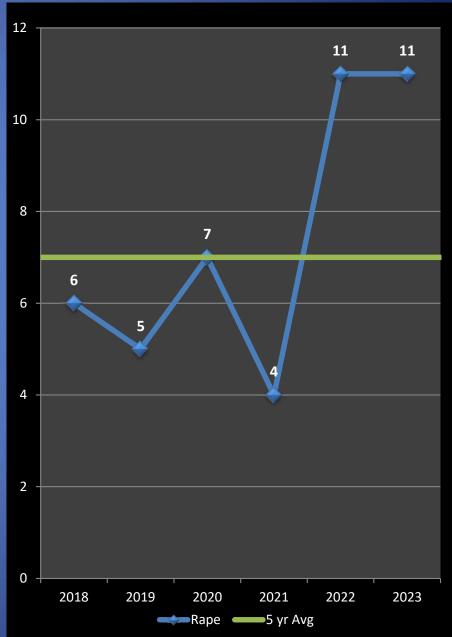
-20%

0%

57%

5-Year Average

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





AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

No Patterns

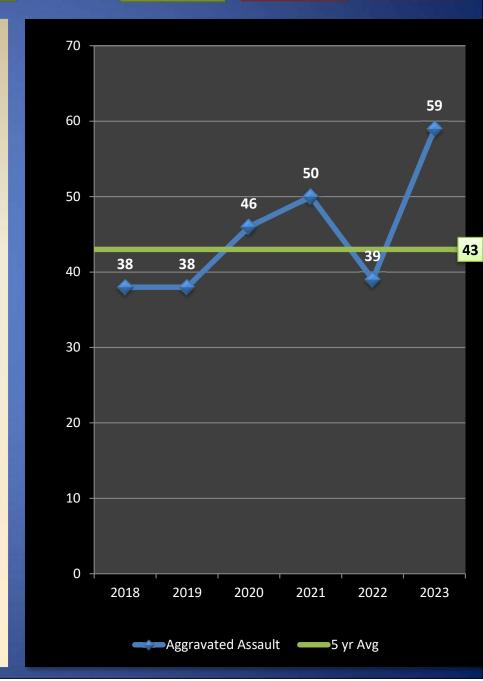
- The total of 59 aggravated assaults reported through April 3rd of 2023 was 20 crimes (+51%) above the total for the first three months of 2022, as well as 16 incidents (+37%) above the five-year average of 43 crimes.
- The 59 aggravated assaults reported over the first 13 weeks of this year were comprised of the following classifications:
 12 unprovoked scenarios; 12 psychotic episodes; 9 domestic altercations; 8 juvenile-related assaults; 6 assaults between acquaintances; 3 traffic-and-parking incidents; 2 each of affrays/brawls, drug deals gone awry, shop owner/patron assaults; and one each of the following: landlord/neighbor assault, unhoused assault, and a workplace incident.
- The trend observed during the past couple years of a high percentage of aggravated assaults occurring in Central Square and on peripheral side streets has at least temporarily subsided in 2023. Thus far in 2023, only 15 of the 59 aggravated assaults citywide have been reported in Central Sq.
- There has been one confirmed shots fired incident in Cambridge through April 3, 2023*, resulting in the non-fatal shooting of two victims on Washington St. Through the same time period in 2022, there were four shots fired incidents, none of which resulted in gunshot wounds. See map on slide 9 for more info.
- * Please note: This figure excludes the fatal Cambridge Police officer-involved shooting of Sayed Faisal on January 4, 2023.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks Previous Year 5-Year Average



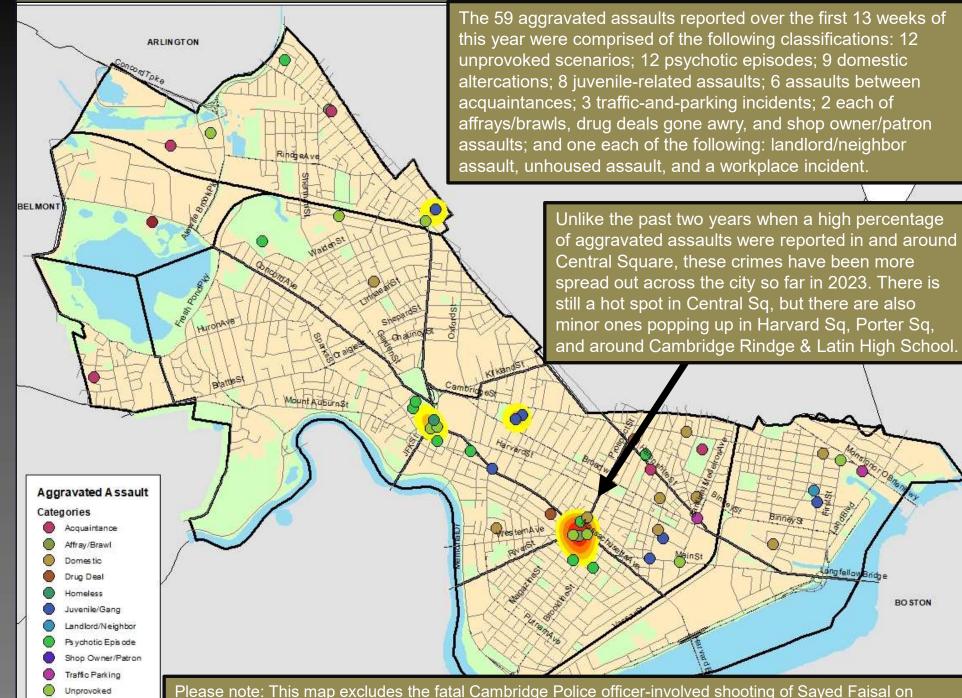




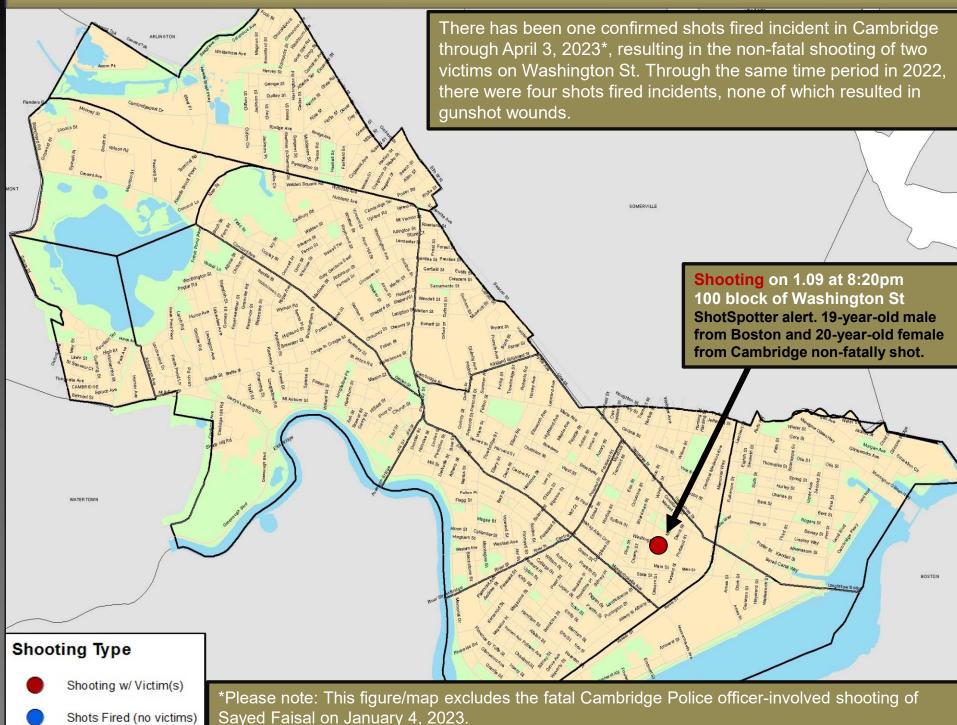
January 4, 2023.



Geographic Breakdown of Aggravated Assaults: 1.1.23 – 4.3.23



Confirmed Shots Fired and Shootings in Cambridge: 1.1.23 – 4.3.23



March 2023

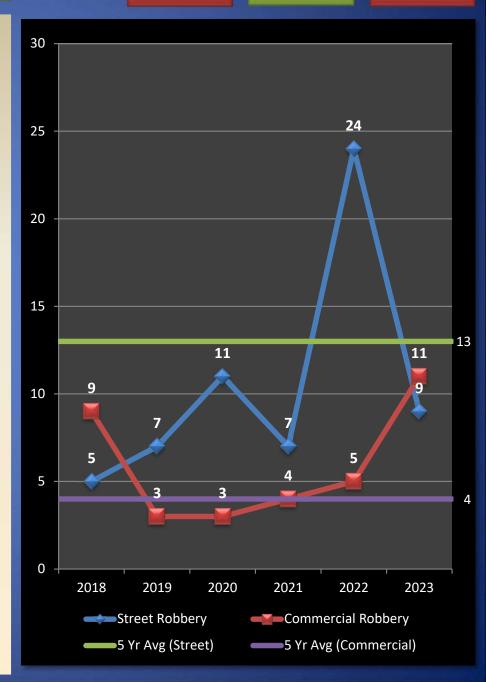


Robbery

No Patterns

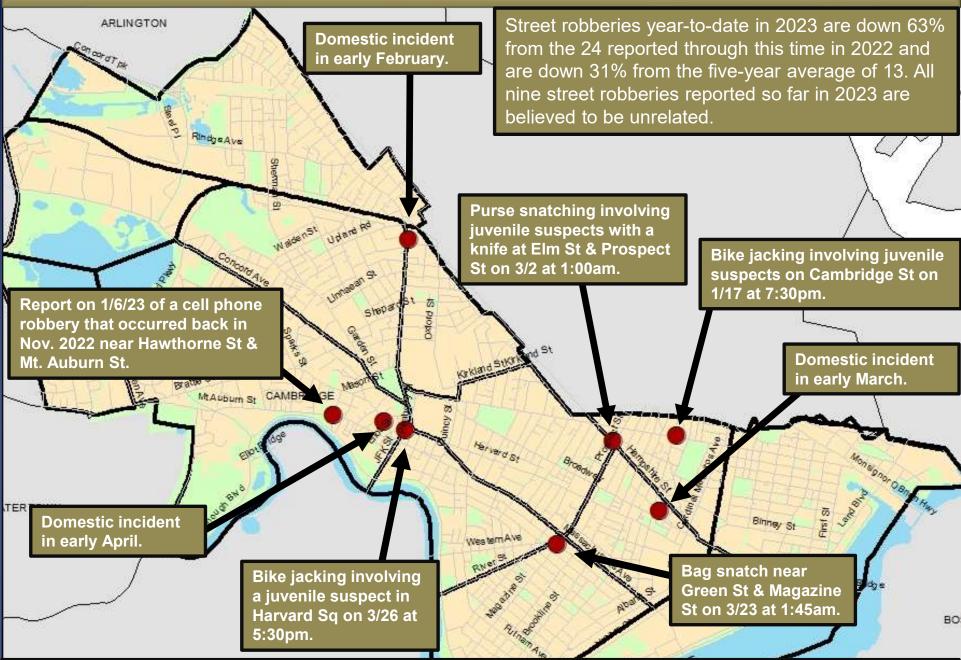
- The five-year average for overall robbery in Cambridge for the first quarter of the year is 18 incidents. Through April 3rd of 2023, 20 robberies were recorded, which translates to an 11% increase above the projected total and a 31% decline below the 29 robberies counted for the first quarter of 2022.
- Commercial robberies in 2023 rose another five incidents in March, bringing the year-to-date total to 11. This total is 120% above the five robberies reported through April 3rd of last year and 175% above the five-year average of four. Part of the increase in 2023 can be attributed to a regional pattern of armed commercial robberies involving a lone male suspect with a firearm that affected both Cambridge and Boston mostly over the past two months. This pattern came to an end in late March with the arrest of a Cambridge male. In this city, three robberies in 2023 and one in 2022 have been tied to this suspect.
- The nine street robberies reported year-to-date in 2023 are down 63% from the 24 reported through this time in 2022 and are down 31% from the fiveyear average of 13. No street robbery patterns have emerged anywhere in Cambridge year-to-date.







Geographic Breakdown of Street Robberies: 1.1.23 – 4.3.23

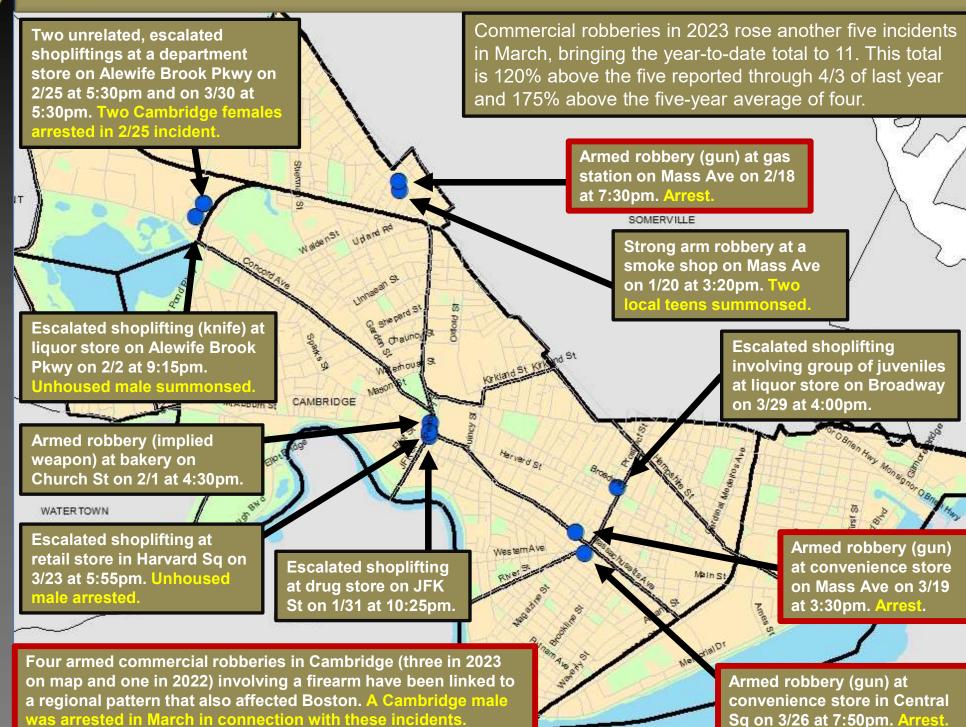


Unlike the first quarter of 2022 when 11 of the 24 reported street robberies were committed in and around the periphery of Central Square, continuing a trend of increased activity in the area that began in 2021, only one of the street robberies so far in 2023 has taken place in/near Central Square. It remains to be seen whether this is a reversing trend or just a temporary reprieve.

March 2023



Geographic Breakdown of Commercial Robberies: 1.1.23 – 4.3.23





Burglary

No Patterns

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks Previous Year

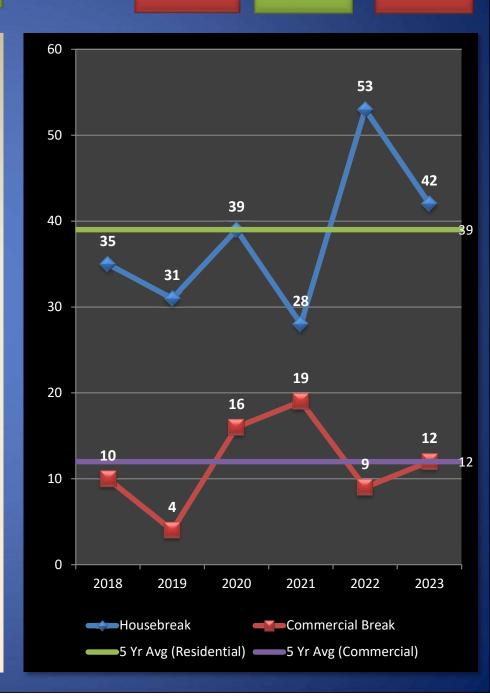
5-Year Average

+6%

-13%

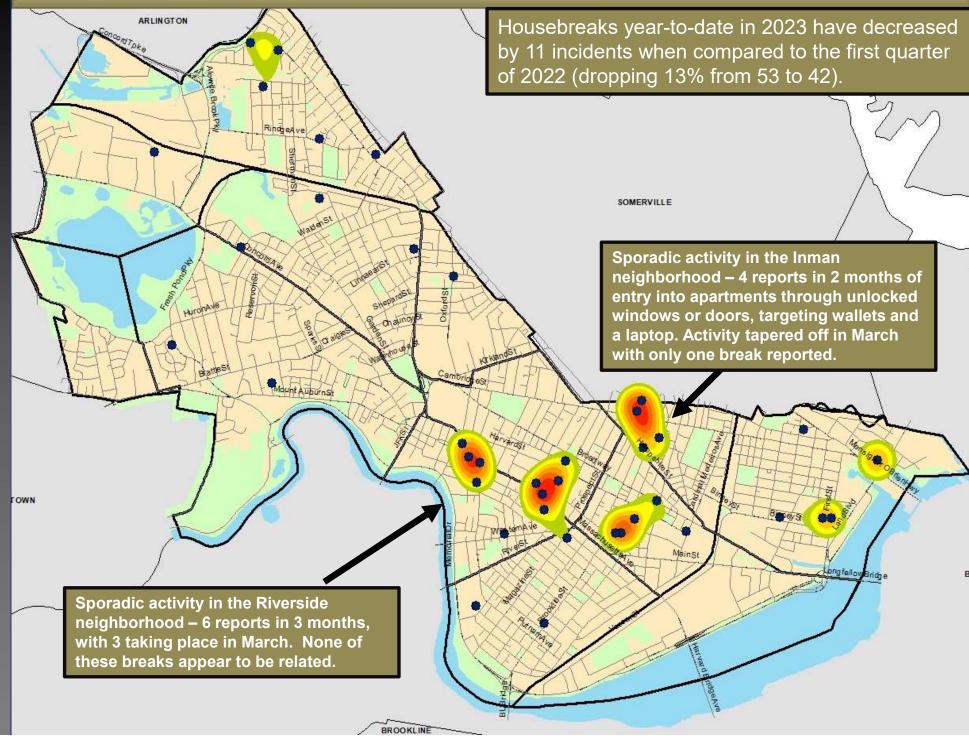
+4%

- The property index crime of burglary, the combination of residential and commercial breaks, has recorded an increase of 4% through March of 2023 when compared to the five-year average, with two additional incidents reported above the projected total of 52 breaks. When compared with last year's total of 62 incidents for the first three months of the year, a 13% decrease has been registered (down eight incidents in 2023).
- Housebreaks year-to-date in 2023 have decreased by 11 incidents when compared to 2022 (dropping 21% from 53 to 42). March saw the highest number of housebreaks to date in 2023 with 18 reported. However, at least one person has been arrested in connection with a housebreak each month.
- Commercial breaks for the first quarter have risen by three crimes (+33%), from nine in 2022 to 12 in 2023. The breaks have been spread out across the city with no discernable patterns.
- Three individuals have been arrested in connection with three different commercial breaks year-to-date, and a suspect has been developed in a fourth.



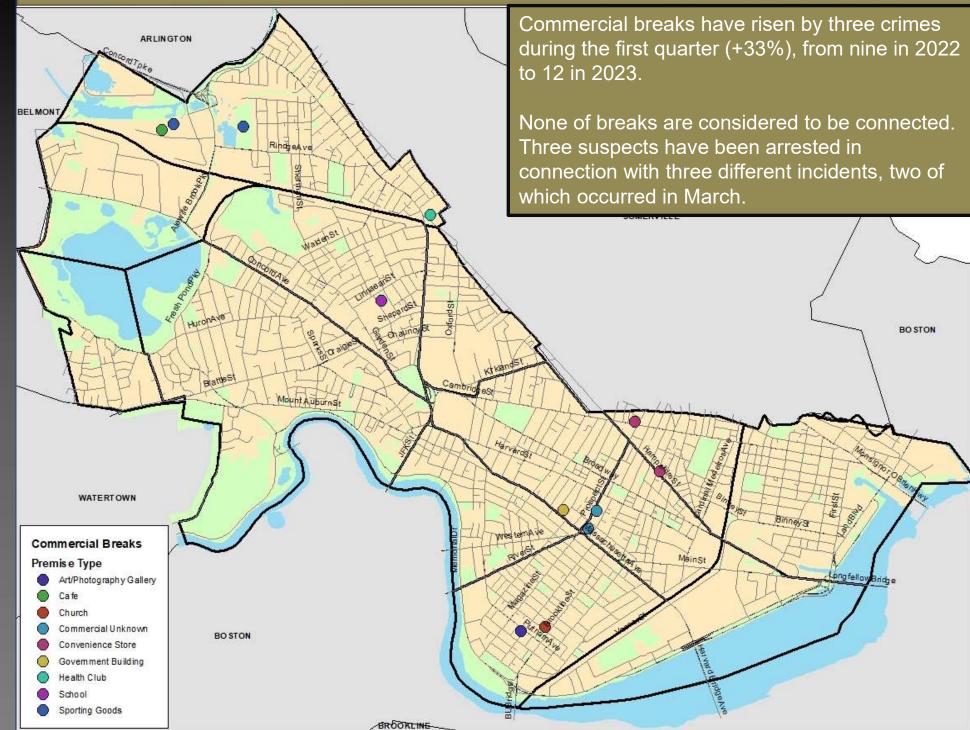


Geographic Breakdown of Housebreaks: 1.1.23 – 4.3.23





Geographic Breakdown of Commercial Breaks: 1.1.23 – 4.3.23





LARCENY

No Patterns

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks Previous Year

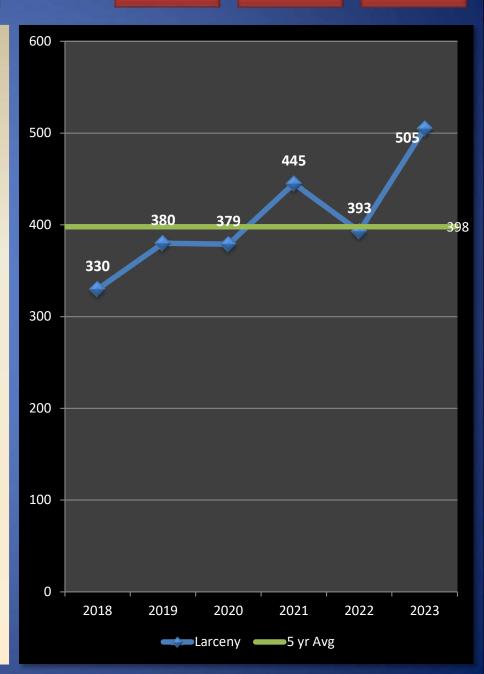
+3%

+28%

+27%

5-Year Average

- Preliminary stats indicate that overall larceny through April 3rd
 2023 is registering at 505 incidents, 28% above the same time
 frame in 2022. The total of 505 larcenies reported year-to-date in
 2023 is also 27% above the 5-year average of 398 incidents.
- The larceny from motor vehicles total through 4/3 in 2023 is 88 incidents, 20% below the same time frame in 2022. The 88 thefts reported are one less than the number forecasted for 2023. The decrease in 2023 compared to last year can be attributed to a drop in catalytic converter thefts so far in 2023—in 2022, 34 were reported through 4/3/22, while only 21 have been reported so far this year.
- Through April 3, 2023, there were 22 larcenies from the person reported in Cambridge, up one incident (5%) compared to the same time period in 2022. The 2023 total is 4% (1 incident) below than the 5-year average of 23. Central Square has seen the most activity so far this year with 13 incidents.
- There were 58 larcenies from buildings reported through April 3, 2023. This total is in line with last year and four incidents (7%) above the 5-year average. The increase in incidents over the last two years can be attributed to a continued trend of thefts from lockers at a local gym in Porter Sq.
- Larcenies from residences are up 27 incidents (40%) in 2023 when compared with 2022. Package thefts have made up the majority of this crime type in recent years and registered even higher than average in 2020-2022, likely due to the increased volume of deliveries during the pandemic. Package thefts have accounted for 63 (or 66%) of the 95 larcenies from residences thus far in 2023.
- There were 75 larcenies of bicycles reported through April 3rd of 2023. This total is 24 incidents (+47%) above last year's total and 12 incidents (+19%) above the five-year average of 63. The warmer and less snowy weather this year when compared to 2022 may partly be a cause for the increase so far in 2023, as overall ridership may have remained higher this year.





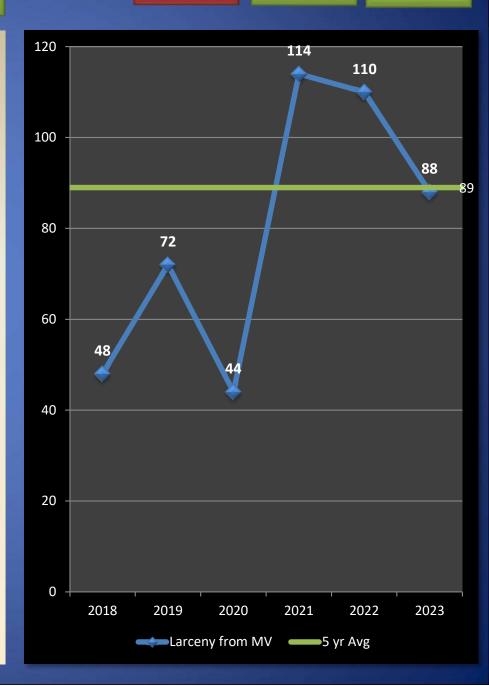
LARCENY From MV

No Patterns

- The larceny from motor vehicle total for the first quarter of 2023 is 88 incidents, which is 20% below the total for the same time period in 2022. The 88 thefts from cars reported thus far in 2023 is only one incident below the number forecasted through the first 13 weeks of 2023.
- The neighborhoods with the highest larceny from motor vehicle totals so far in 2023 are: North Cambridge (22), Riverside (12) and Peabody (10).
- Comparing the last four weeks (March) to the previous four (February), there was a 38% increase in larcenies from motor vehicles, with six additional crimes reported.
- Catalytic converter thefts became a problem in Cambridge in January of 2021. Surges continued sporadically throughout 2021 and 2022, with at least 128 reported in 2022 alone. This activity has not been as prolific in 2023, with only 21 incidents reported so far this year compared to the 34 thefts reported during the same time frame in 2022, but this crime type will likely remain one that continues to affect the city and region for some time to come.
 - The majority of the catalytic converter thefts in Cambridge in recent years have involved 2004-2009 Toyota Priuses.
 - Thus far in 2023, the majority of the catalytic converter theft activity has been reported overnight in the upper half of Cambridge, north and west of Harvard Square.

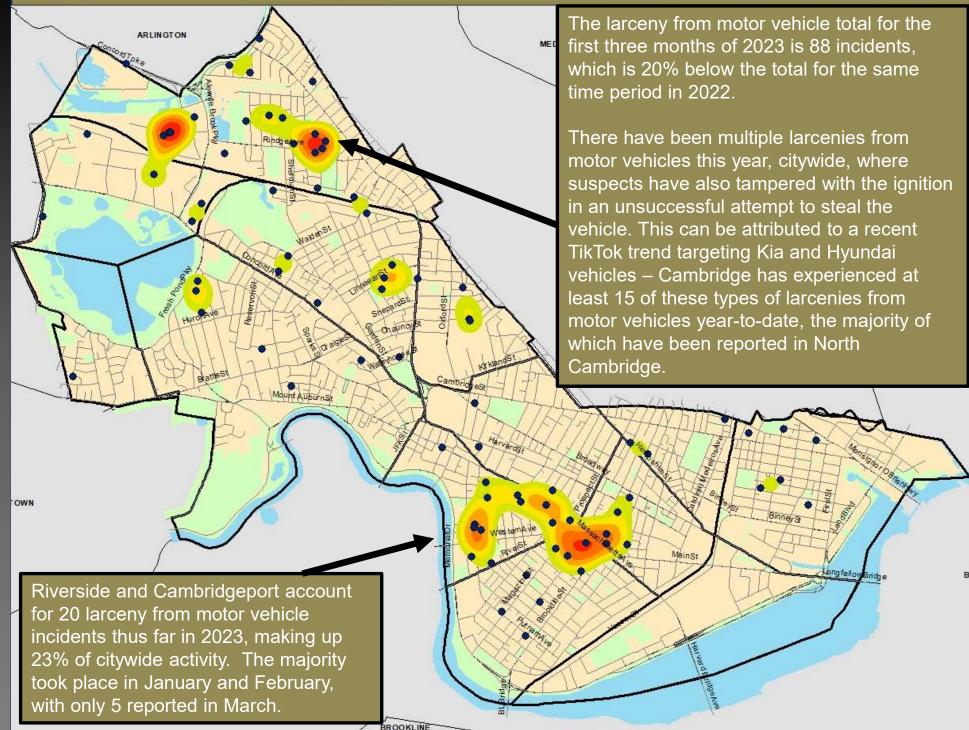
Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks Previous Year 5-Year Average +38% -20% -1%





Geographic Breakdown of Larceny from Motor Vehicles: 1.1.23 – 4.3.23





LARCENY from Person No Patterns

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks Previous Year

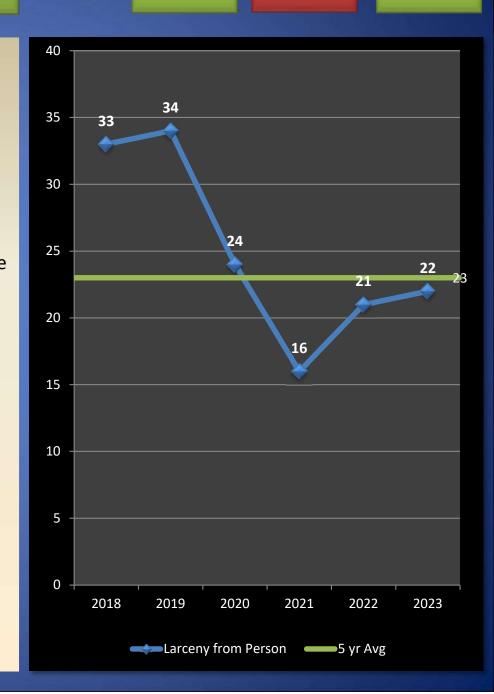
5-Year Average

-14%

+5%

-4%

- Larcenies from the person during the first quarter of 2023 increased by one incident (5%) over the same time period in 2022 and dropped by one incident when comparing 2023 to the five-year average of 23. Six thefts were reported in the past four weeks (March), down one from the previous four weeks (February).
- Thirteen of the 22 incidents year-to-date in 2023 took place in Central Square. The other incidents took place throughout the city, with Harvard Square registering the next highest amount with three thefts, followed by one each in the Cambridgeport/Riverside area, the East Cambridge/CambridgeSide area, the Porter Square area, the Bay Square area, the Alewife/West Cambridge area, and the Kendall Square/MIT area. This crime type is starting to return to pre-COVID levels after experiencing substantial reductions during 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-related closures and restrictions around the City.
- In recent years, higher numbers in Central Square have mainly been due to grab-and-run situations and/or incidents that involved individuals who are unhoused whose property may have been stolen while they were asleep or otherwise distracted. Eight of the 13 thefts in Central Square thus far in 2023 have fallen into these categories.





LARCENY of Bicycle

+53%

Last 4 Weeks

Previous Year +47%

Percent Change

+19%

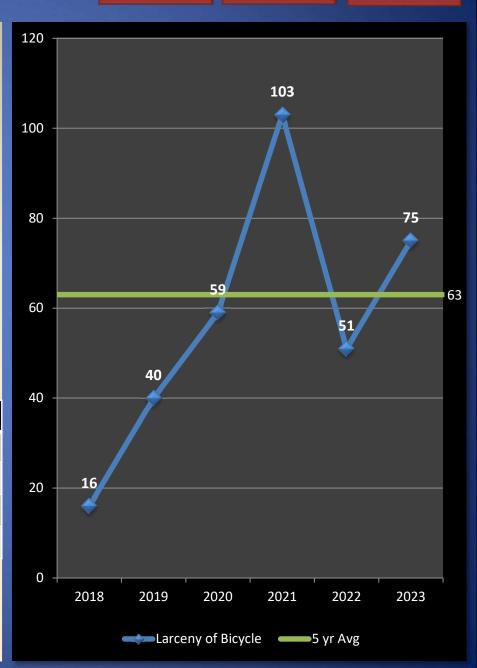
5-Year Average

No Patterns

- Likely due at least in part to the warmer weather and limited snow this year, 2023 has started off with an increase in bike thefts when compared to 2022.
 Seventy-five thefts were reported citywide through April 3^{rd,} 2023, compared to 51 through the same time in 2022, equaling a 47% increase this year. Additionally, the 2023 total was 19% (12 incidents) above the five-year average of 63.
- March saw an increase in bike thefts when compared with February, with 10 more thefts reported in March (+53%).
- Of the 75 bike thefts reported so far in 2023, 61 (81%) were reportedly locked at the time of the theft.

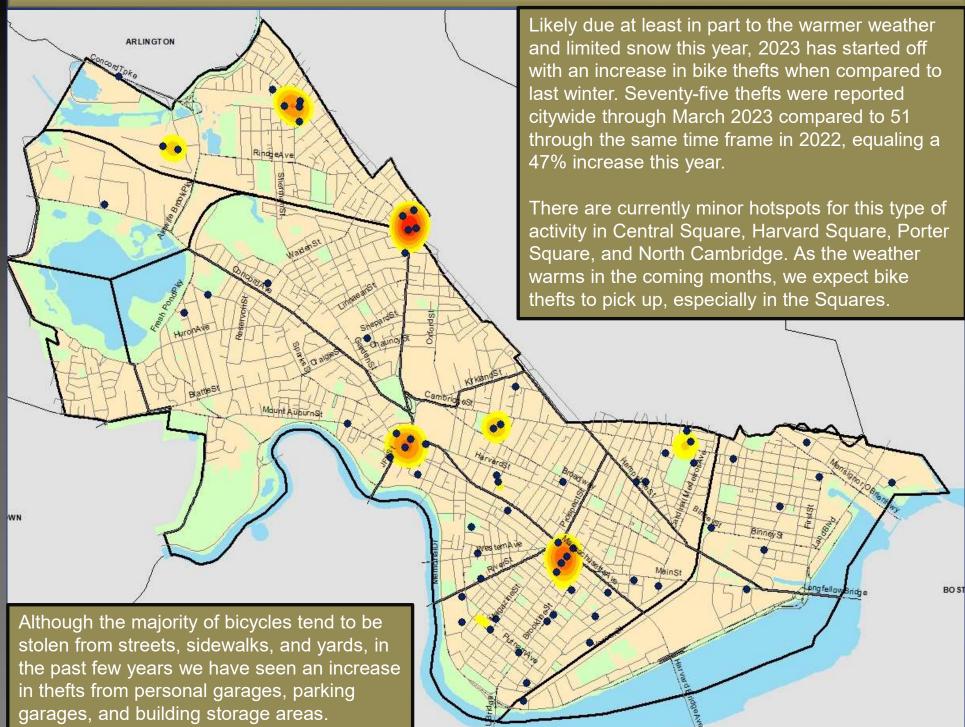
Top Neighborhoods for Bike Thefts in 2023:

Neighborhood	YTD Total	% Citywide
Cambridgeport / N. Cambridge	15 each	20% each
Mid-Cambridge	9	12%
Riverside	8	11%
E. Cambridge / Inman	7 each	9% each



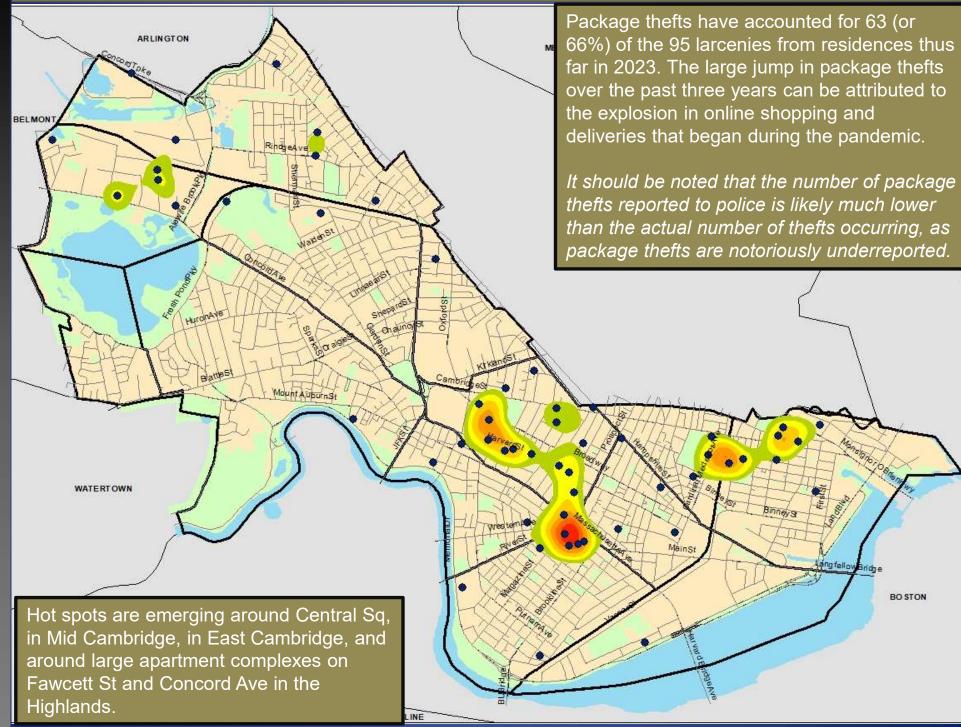


Geographic Breakdown of Larceny of Bicycles: 1.1.23 – 4.3.23

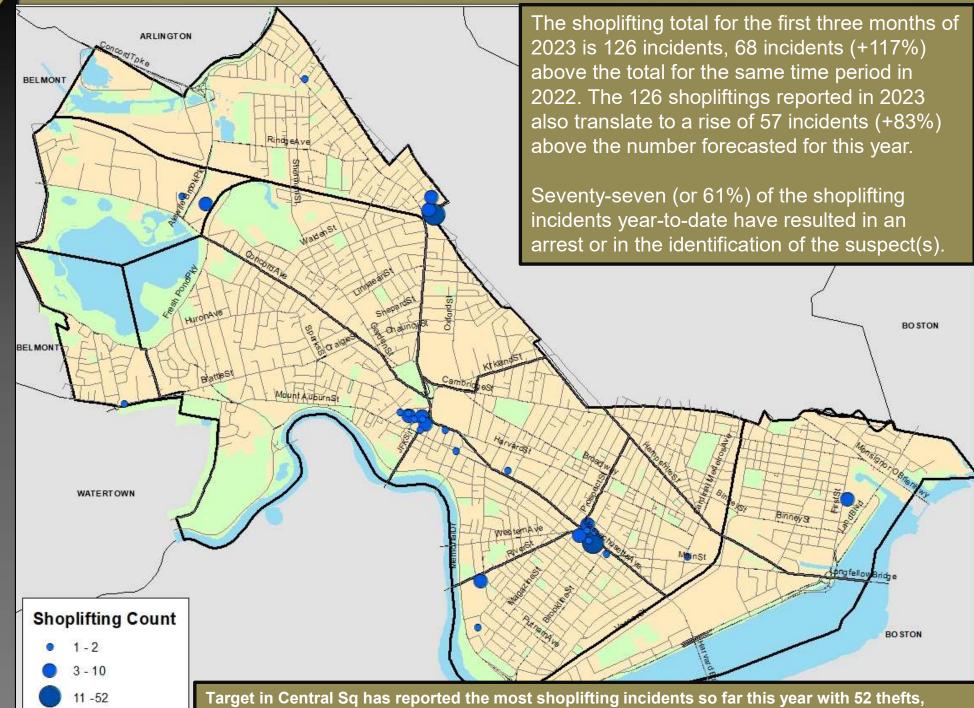




Geographic Breakdown of Package Thefts: 1.1.23 – 4.3.23



Geographic Breakdown of Shoplifting: 1.1.23 – 4.3.23



followed by the Target in Porter Sq with 13 thefts.

March 2023



AUTO THEFT

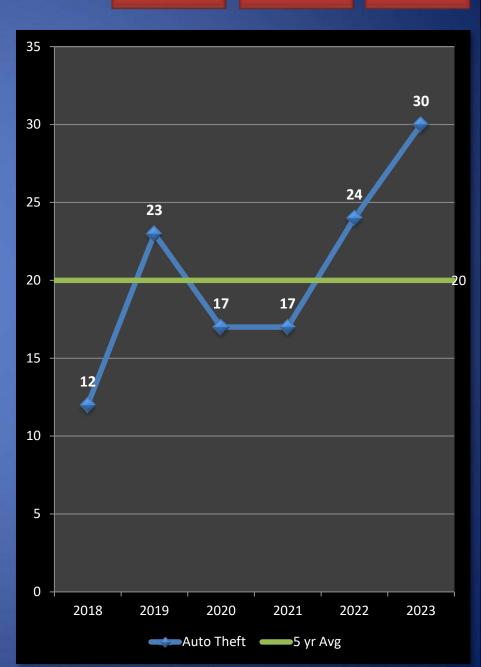
No Patterns

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks Previous Year 5-Year Average

+10% +25% +50%

- The five-year weighted average for auto thefts through April 3rd is 20, and with 30 reported so far in 2023, Cambridge has experienced an increase of 50% above the expected total. Auto thefts in 2023 are also up 25% above last year's total of 24 through April 3rd.
- When comparing the most recent four weeks (March) to the previous four weeks (February), auto thefts increased by 10%, with one more incident reported in March than in February.
- The neighborhood breakdown for auto theft totals so far in 2023 is as follows: Highlands 5; Cambridgeport 4; The Port 4; Inman/Harrington 4; Mid-Cambridge 3; North Cambridge 3; Baldwin 2; West Cambridge 2; Riverside 1; East Cambridge 1; and Peabody 1.
- There have been eight thefts reported so far in 2023 where the operator left the vehicle unlocked and running in order to warm up the vehicle, deliver a package, or grab food.
 When the victim returned, the vehicle was gone.
- There is an emerging trend in Cambridge and regionally of Kia and Hyundai thefts due to a recent TikTok trend targeting these vehicles. There have possibly been seven of these thefts so far in 2023, as well as multiple breaks into these model cars, as mentioned on the Larceny from Motor Vehicle map on slide 18.
- Fifteen of the 30 vehicles reported stolen so far in 2023 have been recovered to date.







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 <a>@CambridgePolice on Twitter.
- Visit our website at <u>www.CambridgePolice.org</u> for valuable information and reports including the Daily Log and BridgeStat, which is published on the first Friday of every month.
- Download our "MyPD" smartphone app at <u>www.CambridgePolice.org/MyPD</u>.

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