



# Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

January 2012

*\* BridgeStat was recognized by the International Association of Crime Analysts in the Statistical Bulletin Category at 2011 IACA Training Conference.*



# Part I Property Crime

Cambridge Police BridgeStat

	4 Week Snapshot			Year to Date			Five Year	
	12/6 - 1/2	1/3 - 1/30	Change	2011	2012	Change	Avg	Change
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>2%</b>
Commercial Break	5	3	-40%	12	4	-67%	9	-56%
Housebreak	25	36	44%	31	38	23%	32	19%
<b>Larceny</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>-19%</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>19%</b>
Larceny (Misc)	5	3	-40%	2	3	50%	1	200%
Larceny from Building	45	35	-22%	27	35	30%	33	6%
Larceny from MV	56	46	-18%	37	49	32%	58	-16%
Larceny from Person	38	30	-21%	11	33	200%	21	57%
Larceny from Residence	44	29	-34%	20	29	45%	15	93%
Larceny of Bicycle	18	17	-6%	3	17	467%	5	240%
Larceny of Plate	3	1	-67%	3	1	-67%	3	-67%
Larceny of Services	2	2	0%	3	2	-33%	2	0%
Shoplifting	30	32	7%	27	32	19%	29	10%
<b>Auto Theft</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-43%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-20%</b>
<b>Total Property Crime</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>-15%</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>14%</b>



# Part I Violent Crime

	4 Week Snapshot			Year to Date			Five Year	
	12/6 - 1/2	1/3 - 1/30	Change	2011	2012	Change	Avg	Change
Homicide	3	0	-100%	0	0	IN-CALC	0	IN-CALC
Rape	0	2	IN-CALC	5	2	-60%	3	-33%
Robbery	8	10	25%	3	10	233%	8	25%
Commercial Robbery	3	2	-33%	0	2	IN-CALC	1	100%
Street Robbery	5	8	60%	3	8	167%	8	0%
Aggravated Assault	13	17	31%	15	19	27%	18	6%
<b>Total Violent Crime</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>7%</b>



# Part I Total Crime

	<u>4 Week Snapshot</u>			<u>Year to Date</u>			<u>Five Year</u>	
	12/6 - 1/2	1/3 - 1/30	Change	2011	2012	Change	Avg	Change
Total Violent Crime	24	29	21%	23	31	35%	29	7%
Total Property Crime	285	242	-15%	184	251	36%	220	14%
Total Part I Crime	309	271	-12%	207	282	36%	249	13%



# Crime in Cambridge: 1/1/12 to 1/30/12

- There's an old saying that rain is the policeman's best friend in combating crime, well so are major snow storms. Through January of 2011, 60 inches of snow had already fallen in Cambridge; this winter our shovels are covered with cobwebs. The result: major increases have been realized across the board for robbery and all the classifications of larcenies, including: from buildings, motor vehicles, persons, residences and bicycles.
- Serious crime **soared 36%** when compared with the first month of 2011 and posted a **14% increase** when measured against the five-year weighted average for this timeframe. The majority of this increase can be attributed to the overall increase in larceny (**51%**) where there have been 68 additional thefts reported above January of 2011. Larceny from person jumped **200%** with a surge in dipper activity in Harvard Square. The seventeen bikes stolen in January accounted for a **467%** increase, no doubt because of the warmer weather, representing the highest total assigned to a winter month for this crime in recent memory.
- A detailed analysis of all statistics indicates that there were **67 additional property crimes recorded in the first month** of 2012 to register a **36% increase** when compared with January of 2011. **Violent crimes** registered an incline of **7%** when measured against the 5-year weighted average for previous Januarys. Through the fourth week of January 2012, there was an increase of eight violent crimes reported in Cambridge, which translates to a **35% upward swing**.



# MURDER

No Patterns

- There were no murders recorded in Cambridge during January of 2012.
- **Review of Cambridge murders over the past two years:** For only the fourth time in the past 50 years, there were no murders recorded in Cambridge in 2010. Point in fact; there had not been a murder in the City in over 20 months until the shooting of a 30-year old Cambridge resident near Central Square on March 12<sup>th</sup> of 2011. Over the final six weeks of 2011, there were four domestic homicides committed in Cambridge, including the tragic shooting of three family members on Grove Street on December 9<sup>th</sup>. With the suicide of the assailant in the Grove Street incident, and the subsequent arrest of the daughter in a domestic homicide on Elm Street on November 20<sup>th</sup>, only the March 12<sup>th</sup> shooting remains under investigation.
- Twenty-seven of the thirty-three murders in Cambridge since 1995 have been cleared by arrest or by the suicide of the perpetrator, which translates to an 82% clearance rate.

Last 4 Weeks

\*IN -CAL

Change\*

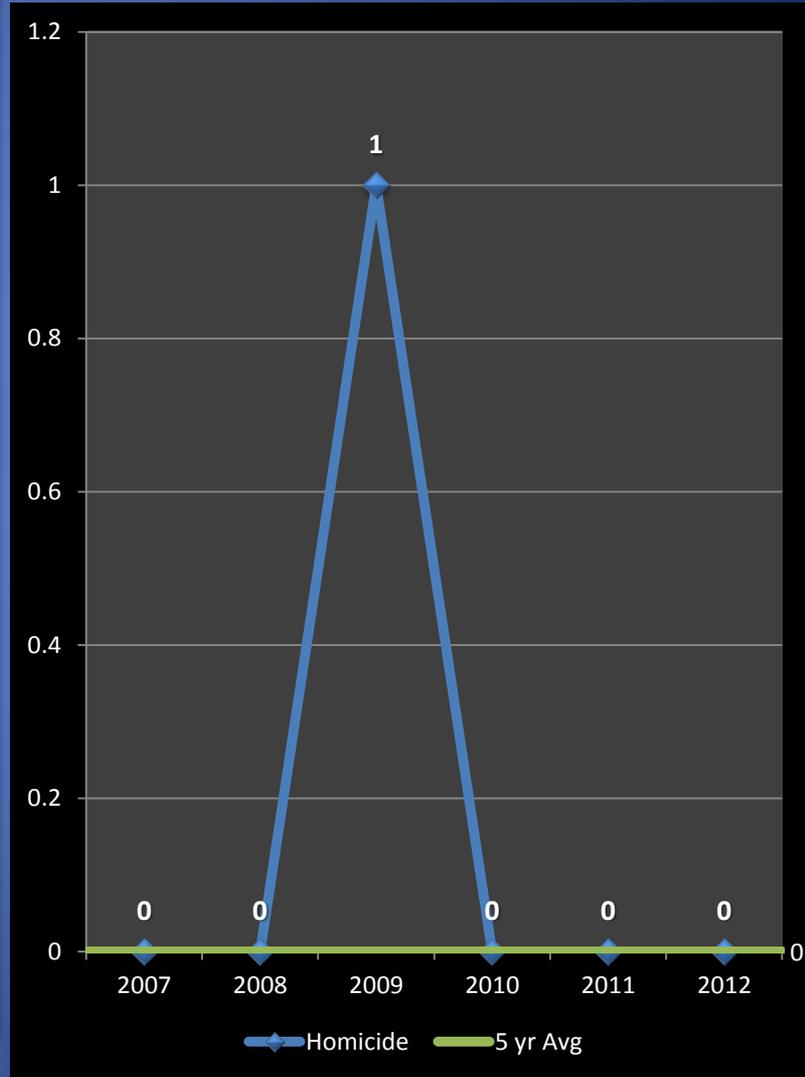
Previous Year

\*IN -CAL

5 Year Average

\*IN -CAL

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





# RAPE

No Patterns

- Over the first four weeks of 2012, there were two rapes reported in Cambridge. Both of these crimes were classified as non-stranger one as domestic in nature, the other as an acquaintance scenario. A former boyfriend and an acquaintance are the prime suspects that have been identified and the cases remain under investigation.
- Review of Rape Trends for Cambridge in 2011:** The total number of rapes for Cambridge last year remained unchanged when compared with the previous year, with 23 incidents reported in both 2010 and 2011. Eight of the twenty-three sexual assaults reported in 2011 occurred on a calendar date prior to that year. This is a trend that we have been observing over the past few years with 25% to 33% of the incidents involving domestic or supervisory positioned assailants as suspects being reported long after the original date of the incident.

## Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

Previous Year

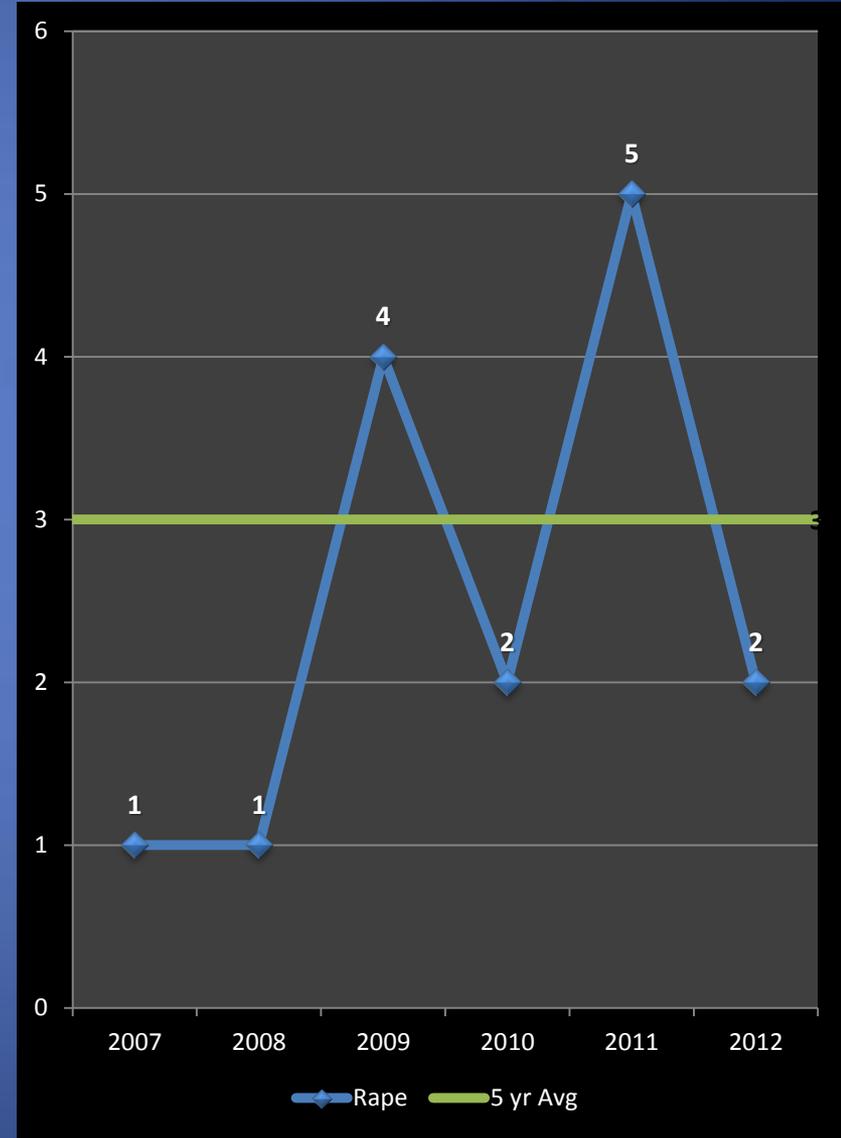
5 Year Average

**\*IN -CAL**

**-60%**

**-33%**

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





## Arrest Made in Indecent Assaults in Cambridge

At approximately 6:49PM on January 5<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge Police responded to a report of a female who was groped on Elm Street between Broadway and Hampshire Street. A short time later at 6:54PM, another female reported being groped on Columbia Street.

Cambridge Police patrol units and detectives flooded the area, and a 14 year old juvenile male suspect was quickly stopped, arrested, and charged with two counts of Indecent Assault and Battery after the victims positively identified him.

**These incidents were similar to the Indecent Assault and Indecent Exposure that occurred in the Inman Square area on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, where a woman reporter being indecent assaulted and another reporter witnessing an indecent exposure. On January 12<sup>th</sup>, after an extensive follow up investigation was conducted, Cambridge Police detectives identified this suspect as the perpetrator in both of these assaults.**

Cambridge Police ask women to exercise caution when walking alone, especially when it is dark out. Additional **Street Safety tips** can be found on our website at [www.CambridgePolice.org/SafetyTips](http://www.CambridgePolice.org/SafetyTips) .



# AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

*No Patterns*

- When measuring this violent index crime against the 5-year average for the first month of this year, there has been a **small increase of 6%, with one additional incident** above the projected average of 18 assaults. When compared to last January, **aggravated assaults have increased by 27%, with four more incidents than 2011.** There was also a higher count of four assaults over the past four week period than in December of 2011.
- Eight of the nineteen aggravated assaults that were reported in January were categorized as domestic in nature. There was **no repeat this month of the bar related assaults on weekends in Harvard and Central Squares that were a problem during the first quarter of 2011.** The most serious assault of the month was the slashing and stabbing of a Cambridge resident near Central Square on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012. One week later, **Mark McDonald was arrested on warrants and charged with attempted murder for this incident.**
- **Review of Aggravated Assault trends in Cambridge for 2011:** When measuring Aggravated Assault to the 5-year average in 2011, there has been a small increase of 2%, with five additional incidents registered. When comparing the previous year for this violent crime type, **aggravated assaults have increased by 4% or 10 more incidents above the 2010 total.**

## Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

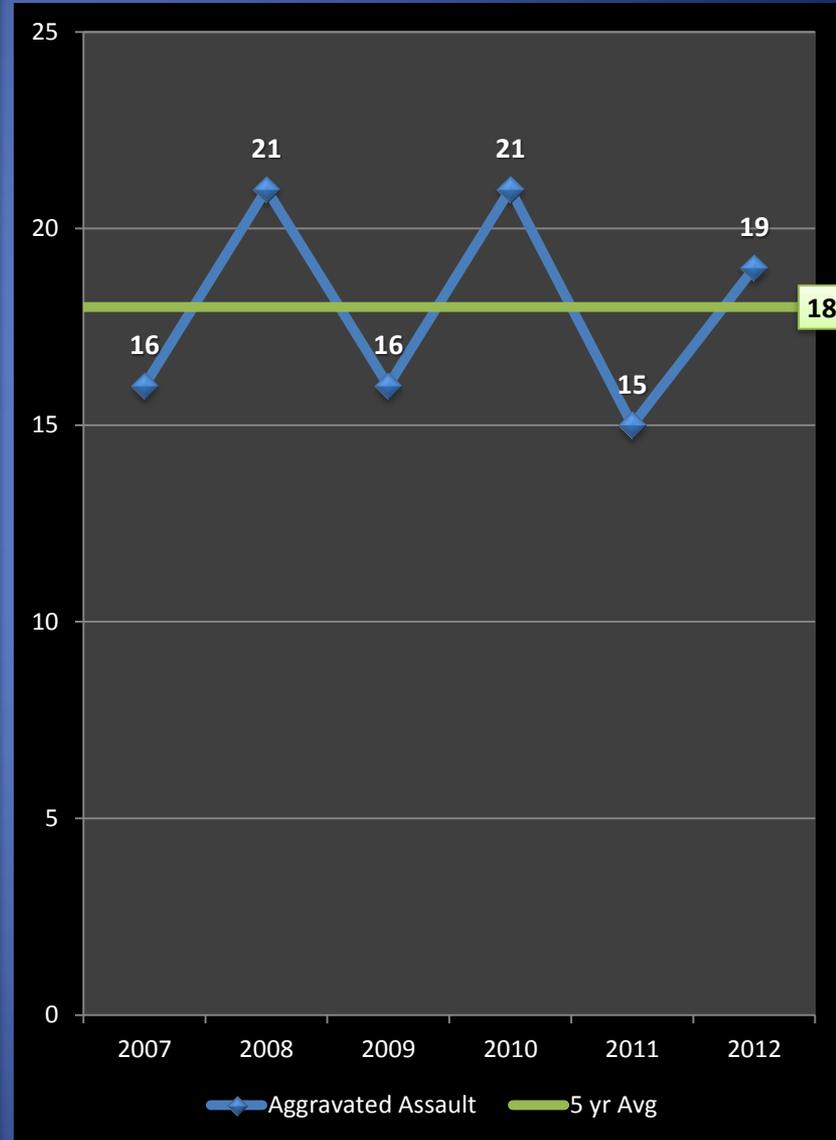
**+31%**

Previous Year

**+27%**

5 Year Average

**+6%**





# ROBBERY

No Patterns

## Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

+25%

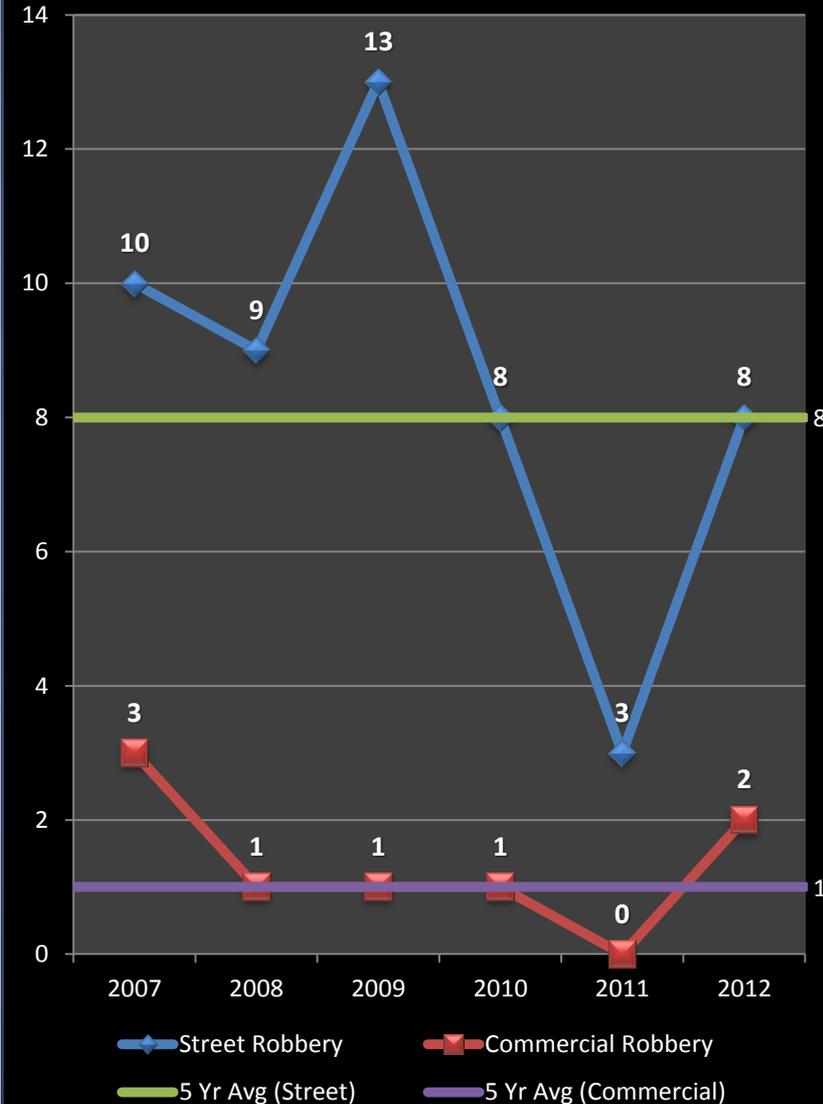
Previous Year

+233%

5 Year Average

+25%

- The 5-year average for overall robbery in Cambridge for the first month of the year is 8 incidents. From January 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of this month, ten robberies were recorded to register a 25% increase above the projected total. Possibly due to the severity of the weather last January, with its historic snowfall and below normal temperatures, there were only three robberies in Cambridge. In the first month of 2012, ten robberies have been reported, two commercial and eight street robberies.
- Between December of 2010 to May of 2011, there were no bank robberies committed in Cambridge. **Since May 19<sup>th</sup> of 2011, there have been 14 bank robberies in this city. This trend is mirroring a regional and national surge in bank heists.** The two commercial robberies in January of 2012 were also bank robberies.
- Review of Robbery trends in Cambridge for 2011:** In 2011, there were 147 robberies reported, which translates to a 10% decrease when compared with the 2010 total. When measured versus the five-year weighted average of 171 incidents for this crime, it indicates a 14% decline. Further analysis reveals that the most **positive trend related to crime indicators for Cambridge in 2011 was that street robbery declined by 20% and the 113 incidents was the lowest total for this crime in over 50 years.**





# Street Robberies

## *What can we do?*

### Police Response Strategy:

- Cambridge Police have shared information about the street robbery pattern and partnering with other agencies to address this regional pattern and identify possible suspects
- Extra patrols have been deployed to current hot-spot areas to help prevent any increase in activity during this unseasonably warm winter.

### Citizen Response Strategy:

- In order to help protect residents from becoming a victim of street robberies, Cambridge Police would like to remind students and citizens to take the following precautions when walking at night:
  - **Be aware of your surroundings at all times and trust your instincts.**
  - **Always walk with a friend or in a group when possible.**
  - **Do not wear earbuds**, headphones, or listen to music while walking alone.
  - If you feel you are being followed, show you are suspicious – Turn to look at the person. This sends a clear message that you will not be taken by surprise.
  - If approached, **DO NOT RESIST**, especially if you know or believe the robber to be armed. The best course of action is to hand over money and whatever other belongings are demanded as quickly as possible and try to disengage from this confrontational and potentially dangerous situation as soon as possible. **Remember, things can always be replaced.**
- For more safety tips, visit [www.CambridgePolice.org/SafetyTips](http://www.CambridgePolice.org/SafetyTips).



# BURGLARY

No Patterns

## Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

+30%

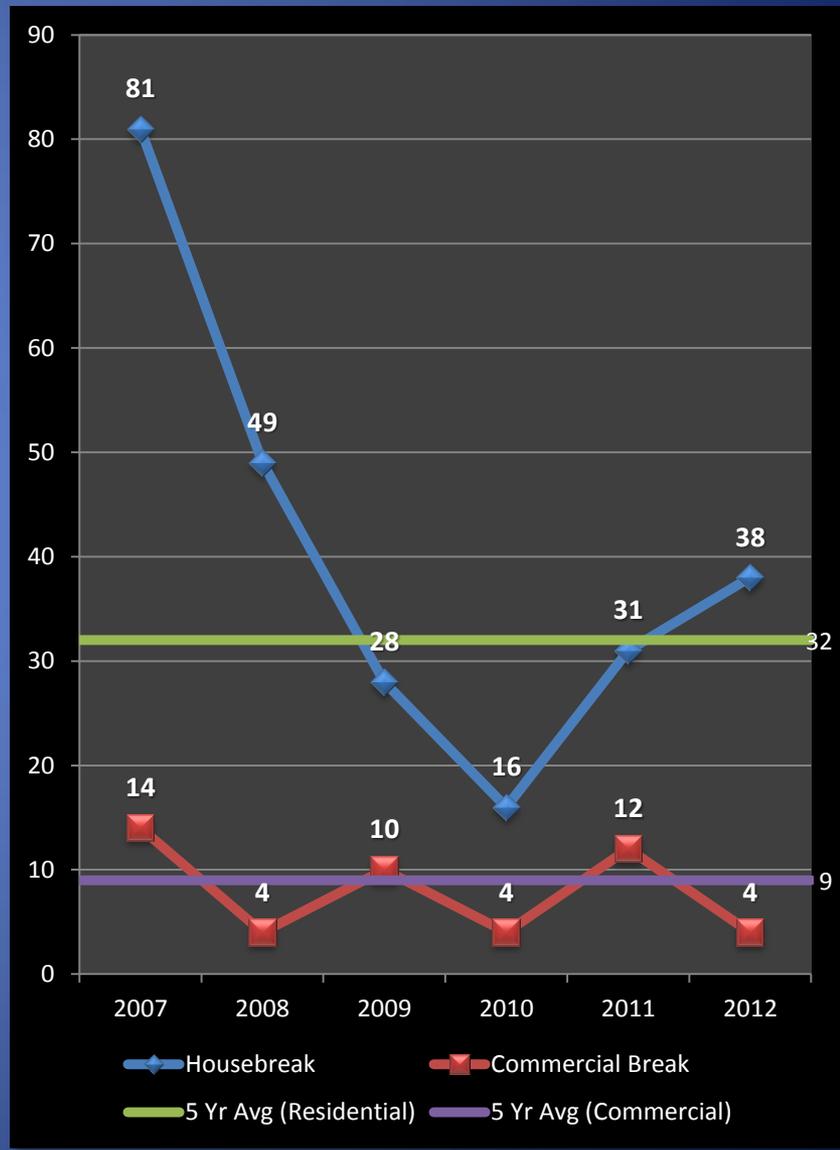
Previous Year

-2%

5 Year Average

+2%

- Total Burglary, the combination of residential and commercial burglary, is up 2% when compared to the 5-year average with one additional incident above the projection reported and down 2% when compared with last year with one fewer burglary counted. There has been a spike in this property crime when compared with the previous four week period in December with a 30% increase (11 more housebreaks). These incidents have been sporadic in nature and no patterns have been identified.
- During the first week of January there were three late afternoon housebreaks in East Cambridge. Extra patrols in the area quickly dispersed this series and nothing new has been reported since. **Mid Cambridge has seen an uptick in housebreaks on side streets off of the 300 to 400 blocks of Harvard and Broadway. This area continues to be monitored by investigative and patrol personnel.**
- Commercial breaks fell 67% when compared with January of 2011 and were down 56% when measured against the five-year average. There were only four breaks into businesses the past four weeks, with two being attempts. A regional problem, professional breaks of drug stores, was foiled by an alarm.
- **Review of burglary trends in Cambridge for 2011: One of the more significant trends that were identified in analyzing the crime totals in Cambridge in 2011 were that housebreaks registered a problematic increase of 19% when compared with 2010. Further analysis reveals that part of this incline should be tempered by the fact that 2010's total was historically low.**





# Housebreaks

## *What can we do?*

### Police Response Strategy:

- Cambridge Police deployed extra patrols to the affected areas in order to combat the recent increase in housebreaks.
  - The extra patrols placed in East Cambridge quickly dispatched the emerging housebreak pattern there.
- CPD is also utilizing plainclothes officers and detectives to the affected areas.

### 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](http://www.CambridgePolice.org/SafetyTips).



# LARCENY

*No Patterns*

## Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

**-19%**

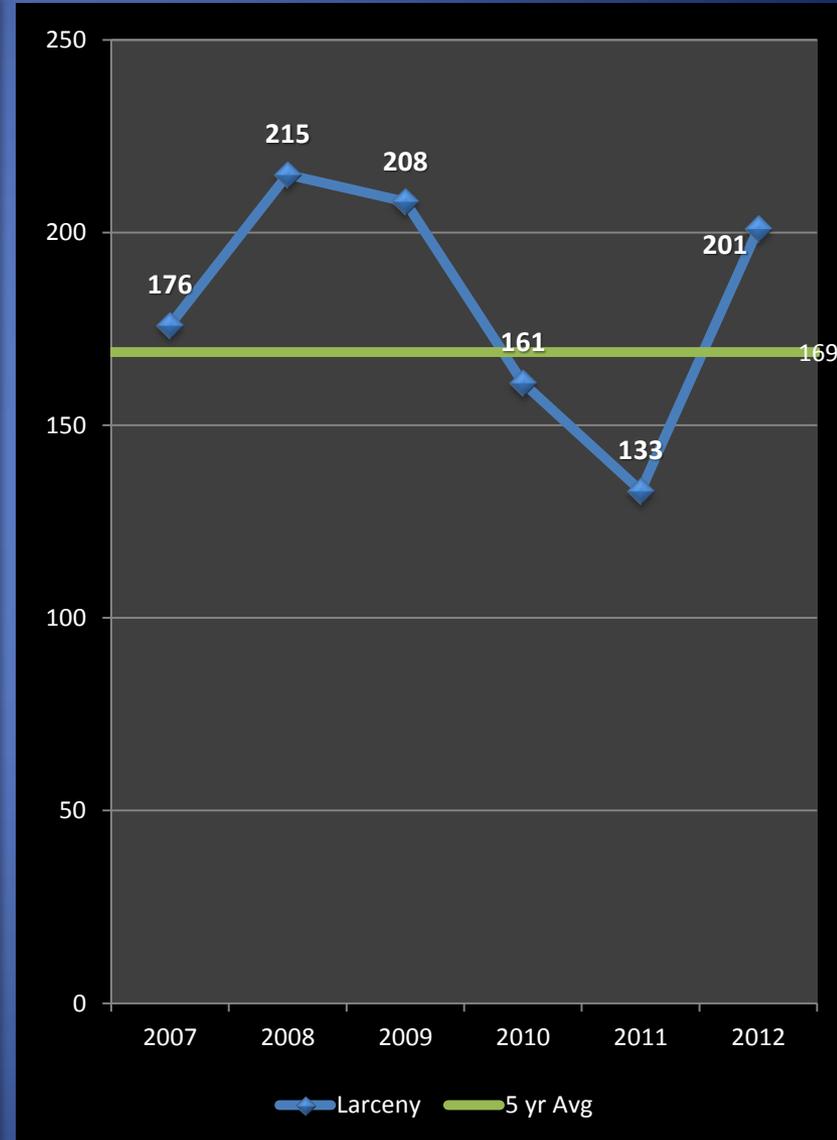
Previous Year

**+51%**

5 Year Average

**+19%**

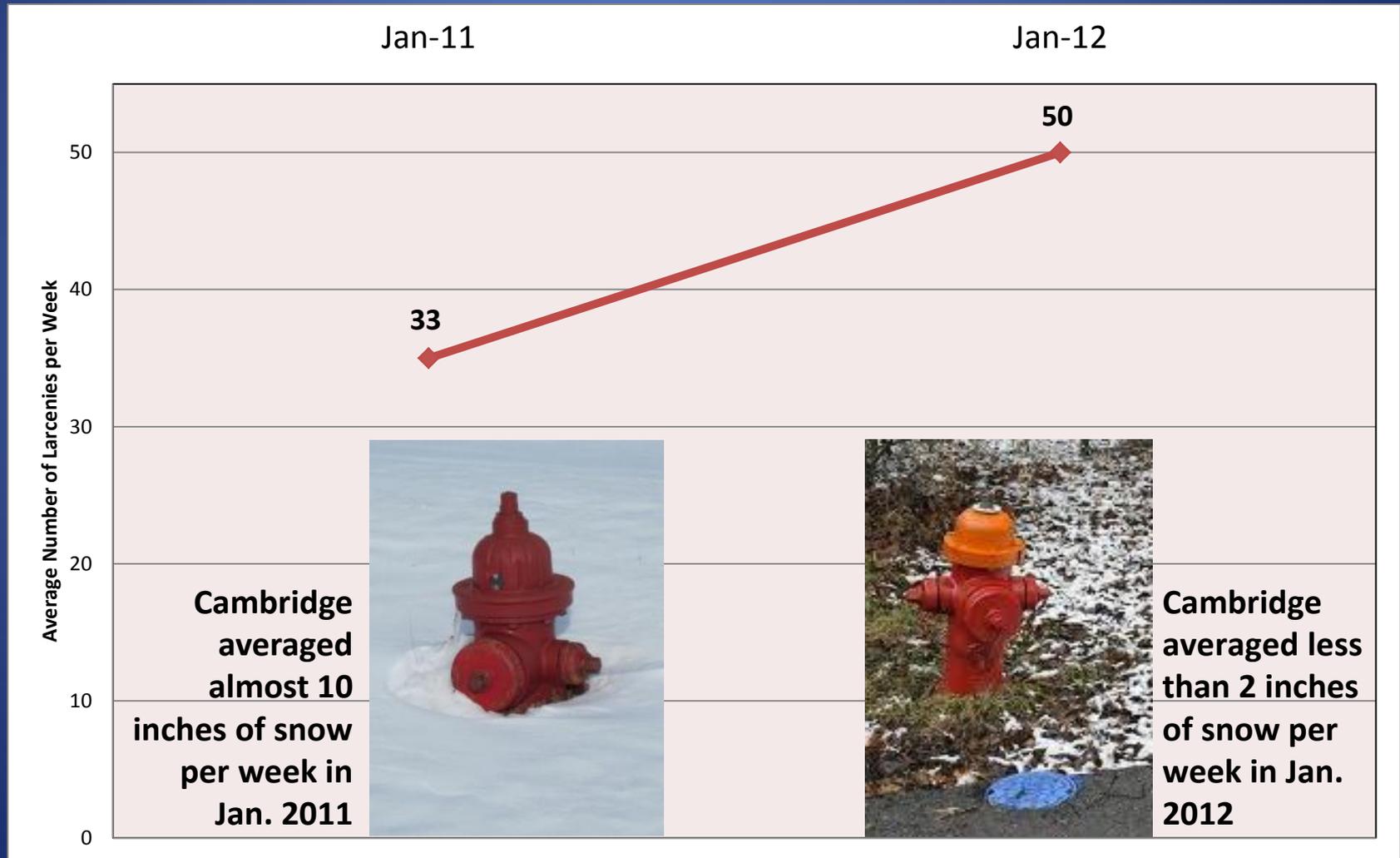
- Overall, larceny in the first month of 2012 has soared 51% when compared with January of 2010. When measured against the 5-year weighted average for this time frame, a 19% increase has been registered. However, when placed against larceny activity over the prior four weeks, a 19% decline was recorded.
- Despite the major increases in the various larceny types, only partial trends, not solid patterns, involving thefts from motor vehicles, packages stolen from delivery drivers, and pickpockets in cafes, have been identified.
- **Review of Larceny trends in Cambridge for 2011:** The property crime of larceny decreased by 4% when compared with 2010 and 6% when measured against the 5-year weighted average. There were 102 fewer larcenies reported in 2011 than the previous year.





# What a Difference a Year Makes:

In January 2011, weekly snow storms and cold weather led to a decrease in crime. In 2012, minimal snow amounts and warmer-than-average temperatures contributed to increased crime rates, particularly seen in property crimes such as Larceny (see chart below).





# LARCENY: *from MV*

*No Patterns*

- Larceny from Motor Vehicles are down 16% when compared with the 5-year average, with **nine fewer incidents** than the norm for the first month of the year. When measured against the previous four weeks, thefts from MVs fell by 18%. The current spike of 32%, when compared to January of last year, can be attributed to the snow packed streets of last January.
- Larceny from motor vehicles declined by 18% over the past four weeks, with ten less thefts reported over the previous month.
- **Review of LMV trends in Cambridge for 2011:** Larceny from Motor Vehicles was down 31% in 2011 when compared with the 5-year average, with nearly 300 fewer incidents than the norm for a given year. The number of thefts from vehicles recorded in 2011 was also 145 less than the 2010 total, which translates to a 18% reduction in thefts from cars.

## Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

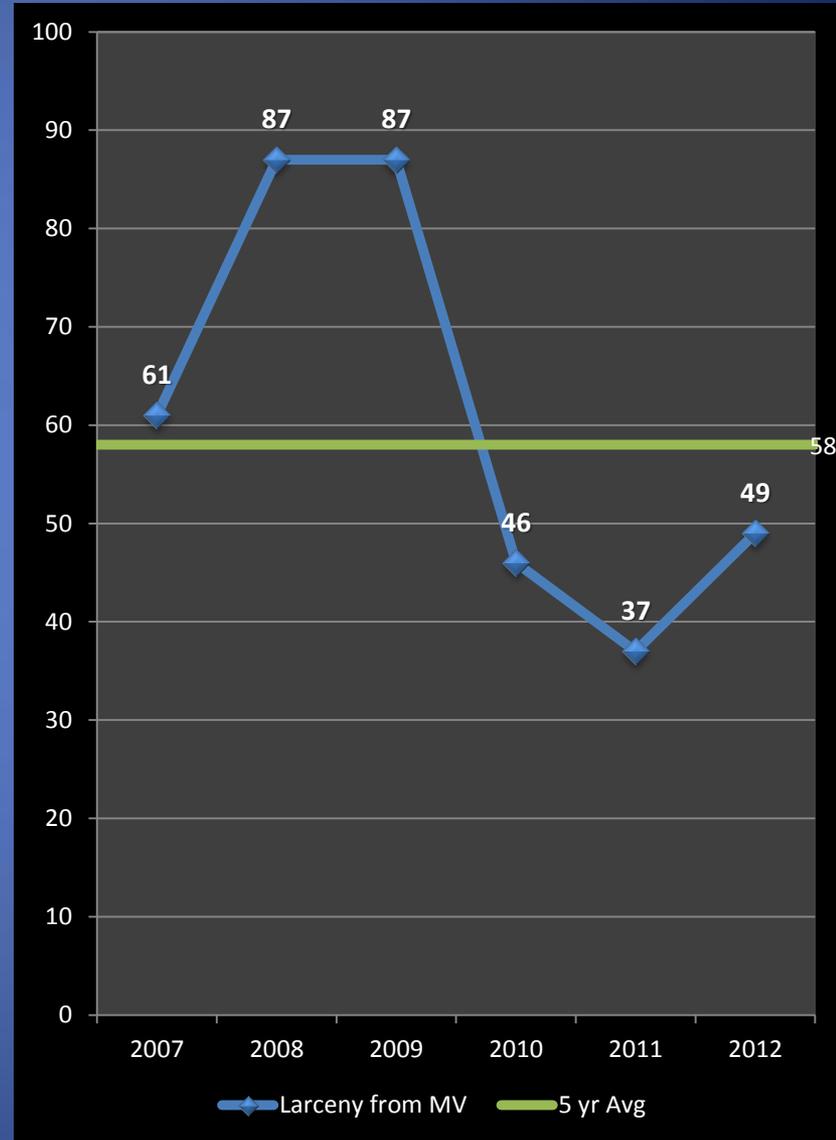
**-18%**

Previous Year

**+32%**

5 Year Average

**-16%**

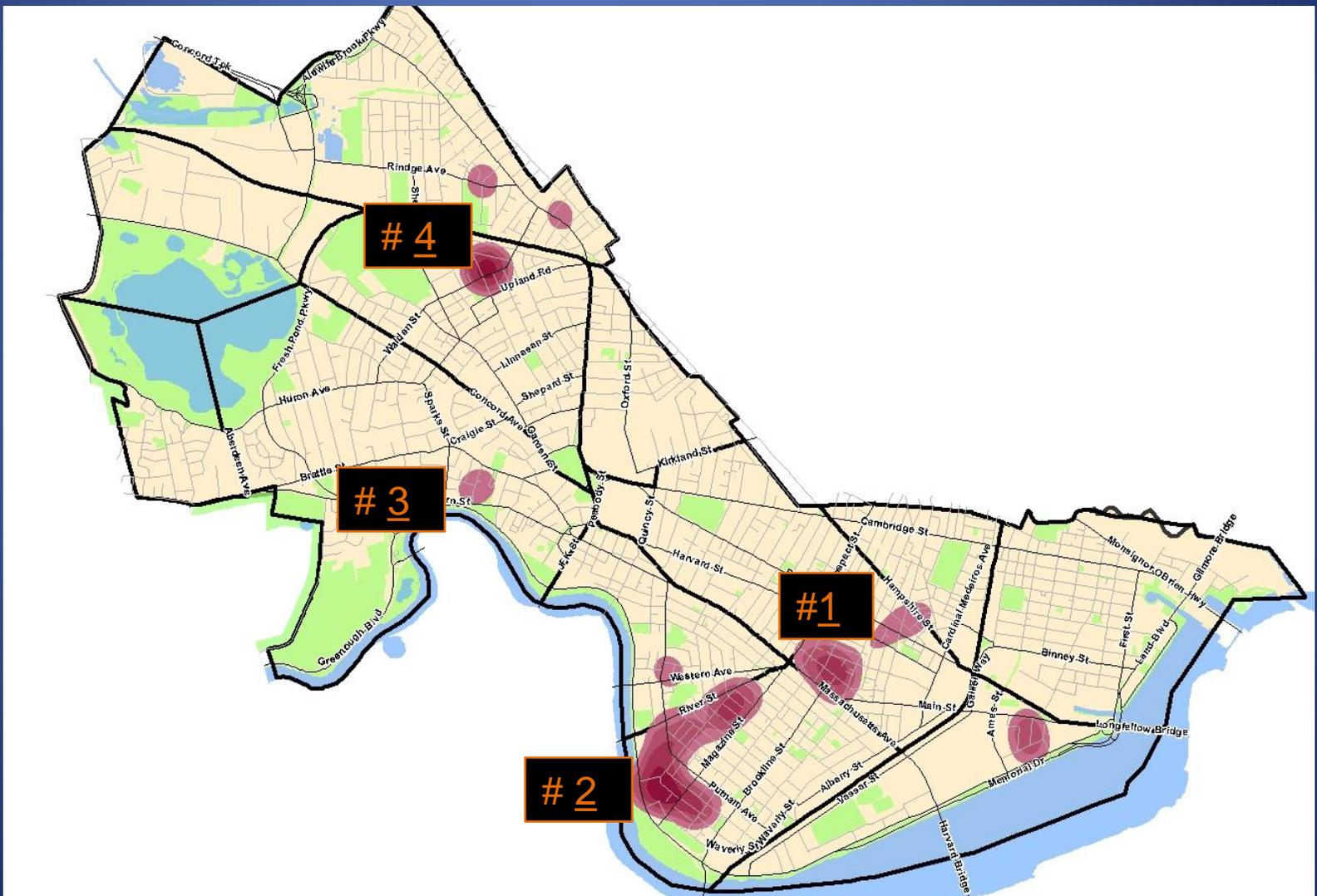




# Review of Larceny from Motor Vehicles - Activity for January of 2012

Cambridge Police BridgeStat

- # 1 Area 4 - 8 thefts - 800 to 900 block on Main St & lower Windsor St, no solid time frame.
- # 2 Cambridgeport - 13 thefts – area around Cottage St, Kelly Rd and Fairmont St on weekend nights.
- # 3 West Cambridge - 6 thefts – 200 block of Mt Auburn, lower Brattle St., no solid time frame.
- # 4 Peabody / North Cambridge - 11 thefts – along Walden St and south of Porter Square on weekends.





# LARCENY: of Bicycle

No Patterns

- In a typical January, as projected by the 5-year weighted average, five bicycles would be stolen in Cambridge. In 2011, there were three bikes stolen in the winter wonderland of Cambridge. No snow and warmer weather produced 17 bicycle thefts and a 267% increase over last year and a 240% over the norm for the first month of the year.
- As would be expected, as the temperature decreases so does the rate of bicycle theft. Since November, the only spatial trend identified with this crime has been from residences in the neighborhoods surrounding Central Square – Area 4, Cambridgeport, Mid Cambridge and Riverside. Although the numbers are small, close to 60% of the bike thefts citywide have gone down in these areas.
- **Review of bicycle trends in Cambridge for 2011:** Larceny of bicycles was down 3% in 2011 when compared with the previous year with ten fewer thefts reported. For the second year in a row, this property crime rose significantly (23%) above the 5-year year weighted average for this type of larceny reflecting the escalation observed on the regional and national levels.

## Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

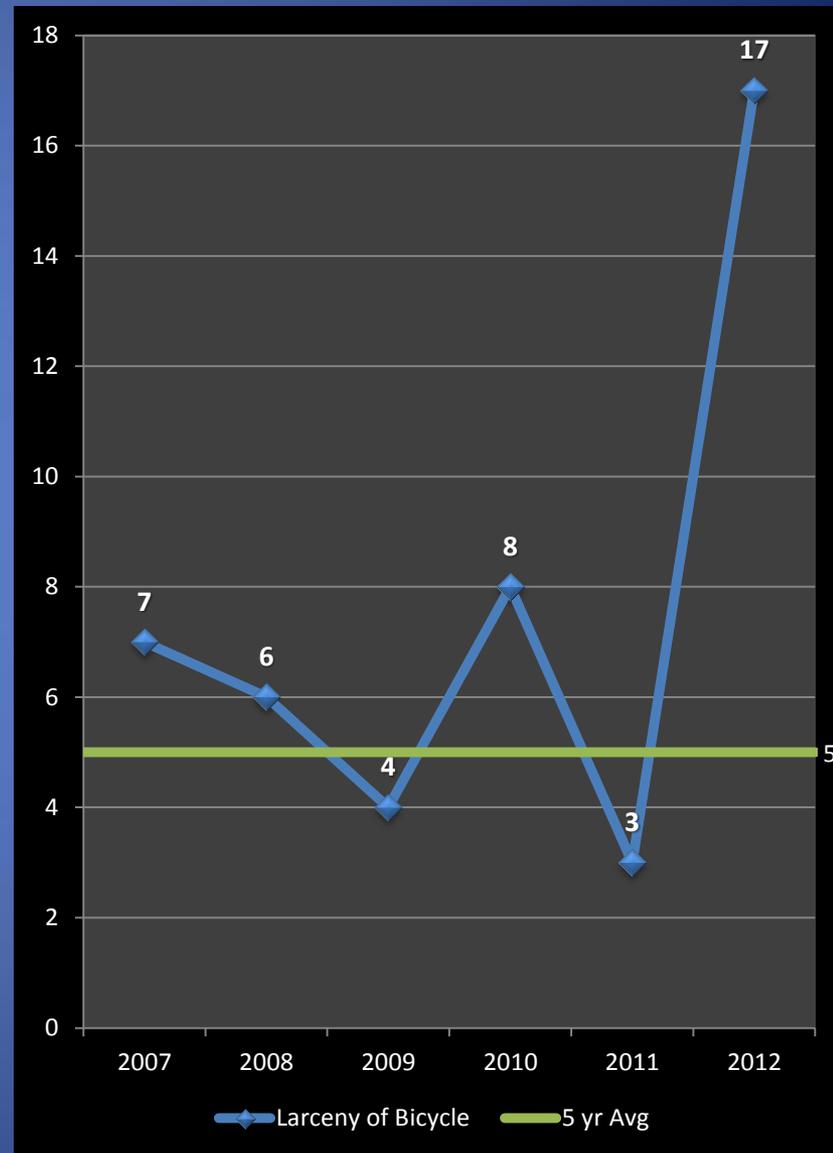
Previous Year

5 Year Average

-6%

+267%

+240%





# LARCENY: *from Person* *Emerging Patterns*

## Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

**-21%**

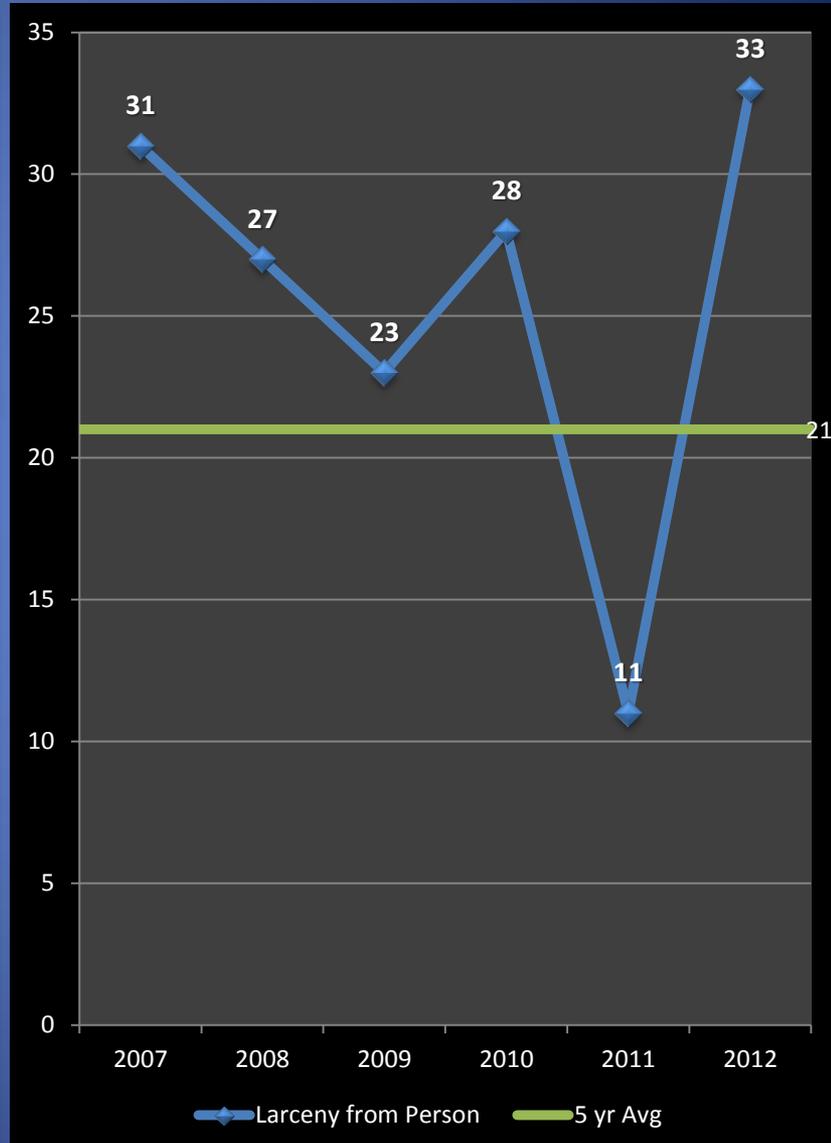
Previous Year

**+200%**

5 Year Average

**+57%**

- Despite the fact that two career / criminal pickpockets were arrested in Harvard Square at the beginning of the month, larceny from the person shot up 200% when compared with the first month of 2011 and produced twelve more incidents (+57%) for the projected norm for January.
- Since Christmas, there have been twenty –one dipper related crimes in Harvard Square. The two predominant scenarios for this criminal enterprise are: the theft of laptops, cellphones and wallets from victims sitting alone in cafes and coffee houses on Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons between the hours of 2:00PM and 4:00PM. Earlier in the month, when this scenario was on a weekday, a CPD Crime Analyst predicted the exact location and time of the next incident and the suspect was swept up in an undercover operation.
- The second scenario is the theft of personal items, clothing, cell phones on Saturday and Sunday between 1:00AM and 2:00AM or near closing time of the bars in the Square.





# AUTO THEFT

*No Patterns*

## Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

**-43%**

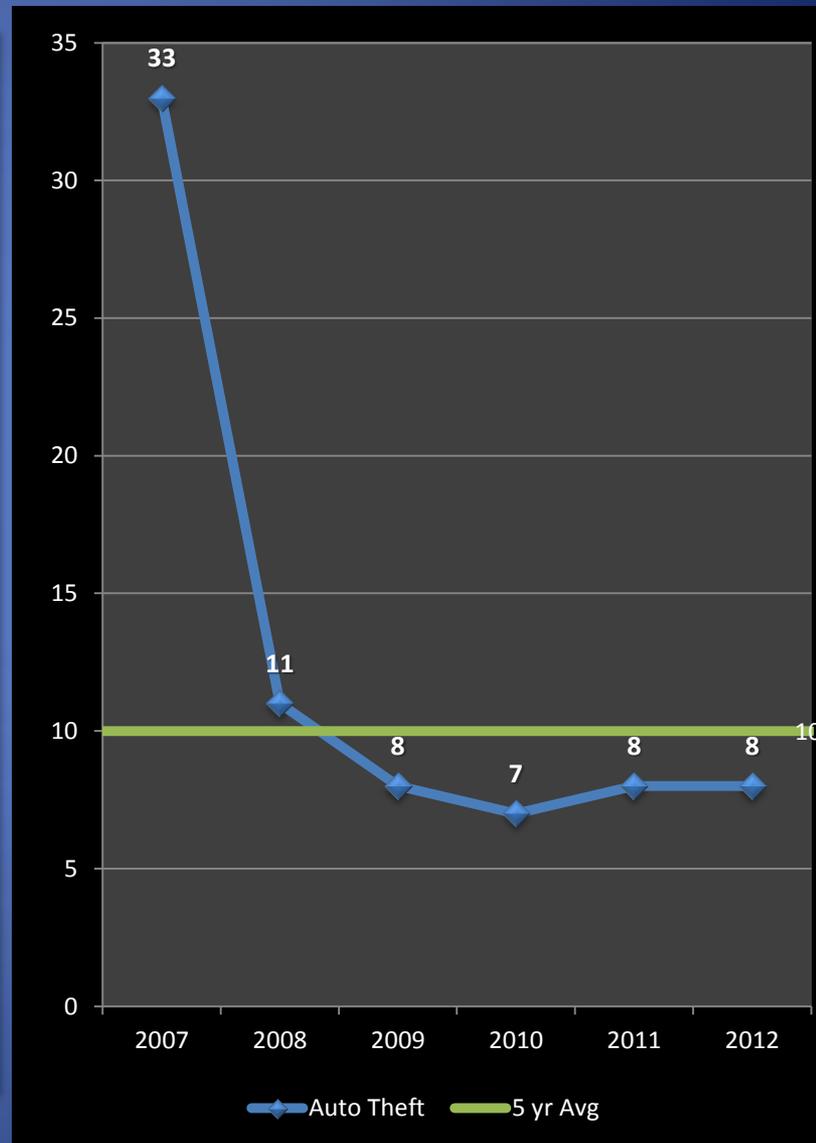
Previous Year

No Change

5 Year Average

**-20%**

- The 5-year weighted average applicable to auto theft for the first month of the year is ten incidents; there were eight cars stolen in January of 2012, a 20% drop. When compared with the previous 4-week period a 43% decline was registered. As in last January, there were eight cars stolen in Cambridge in the first month of 2012.
- The number of vehicles stolen in Cambridge dropped by 11 incidents, or 7%, to 158 incidents in 2011. This is the lowest auto theft total the City has seen in 50 years. This is a record low for a city that used to see staggering auto theft numbers – in 1974 there were 5,203 cars reported stolen.
- Very few auto theft patterns have been identified over the past decade. Hot spot clusters have been observed in and around the neighborhoods of Central Square – Area 4, Cambridgeport and Riverside, but no determinant spatial or temporal trend has been noted.





# National & Regional Crime Patterns & Trends:

## Eastern Mass



### Package Thefts /Delivery Trucks – Holiday Pattern Continues

There have been a number of 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 this year it has continued through the first month of the year and appears to be prevalent throughout Eastern Mass. A number of arrests of career criminals, invariable substance abusers, have been made by Cambridge, Somerville, Medford, and Danvers since Christmas. The Cambridge Police continue to monitor this problem.

## Eastern Mass



### Commercial Robberies – Banks, Convenience Stores & Gas Stations

There has been a dramatic increase in commercial robberies in Eastern Mass over the past two months. A series of lone wolf armed robbers have been active throughout the South Shore, North Shore, Boston and the surrounding communities near Cambridge. This same pattern, with different players surfaced last January. Bank robberies have been increasing since early December. After not experiencing a bank robbery from December of 2010 to May of 2011, there have been 14 bank heists over the past eight months in Cambridge. There have been arrests or warrants issued in the majority of the Cambridge bank robberies.



# National & Regional Crime Patterns & Trends:

National /Regional	Thefts of Catalytic Converters from Vehicles
	<p>Thefts of catalytic converters has been a growing trend across the country for the past five years. The converters contain precious metals such as platinum, palladium and rhodium which are quickly converted to cash at recycling facilities. For the most part, this trend has not surfaced in the greater Boston area. There have been fewer than five incidents in Cambridge in the past three years. This crime type may be on our doorsteps. Thefts on MBTA property increased from ten incidents in 2010 to 97 in 2011. In the first two weeks of January 2012, there were 26 incidents. Last week MBTA police arrested a husband / wife team that they believe were responsible for close to 100 catalytic converter thefts from MBTA commuter lots on the South Shore.</p>



# 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](http://www.CambridgeMa.gov/AlertNetwork).
- “Like” the Cambridge Police Department on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CambridgePolice](http://www.facebook.com/CambridgePolice)
- Follow [@CambridgePolice](https://twitter.com/CambridgePolice) on Twitter.
- Visit our website at [www.CambridgePolice.org](http://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 <http://1.usa.gov/yM6TNo> .

## 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](http://www.CambridgePolice.org/Tips)



# Questions?

- Our detailed Annual Crime Report will contain full data for 2011 and will be released in the coming weeks.
- We welcome all questions, comments, and suggestions.
- Please direct your feedback to:  
[BridgeStat@CambridgePolice.org](mailto:BridgeStat@CambridgePolice.org)
- To review previous editions of BridgeStat, visit our website at [www.CambridgePolice.org/BridgeStat](http://www.CambridgePolice.org/BridgeStat)