Cambridge Police Department

Annual Crime Report 2019

Crime Analysis Unit

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Cambridge at a Glance

Cambridge Police Department
Organized: 1859
Sworn Officers: 271
Civilian Personnel: 41
Commissioner: Branville G. Bard, Jr.
Budget (FY 2020): $63,384,730
2019 Calls for Service: 121,201
2019 Total Index Crimes: 2,259

Crime Analysis Foreword

Crime Analysis is the process of turning crime data into information, and then turning that information into knowledge about crime and safety in a particular community. While it is a growing field across this country and internationally, Cambridge has had a Crime Analysis Unit in operation for over 40 years.

The function of the Crime Analysis Unit (CAU) is to support the daily operations of the Police Department by collecting, managing, and analyzing crime, calls for service, and other data. The CAU also works together with analysts from neighboring departments to address cross-jurisdictional patterns. By making timely observations of emerging crime patterns, hot spots, and other crime problems, the CAU ultimately aims to assist the Department in its criminal apprehension and crime reduction strategies.

The Cambridge Police Department's 2019 Annual Crime Report is an attempt to provide detailed information so that citizens can make informed decisions about crime and safety in their neighborhoods.

The Annual Report offers a comprehensive analysis of the crimes reported by the Cambridge Police Department to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The UCR Program has been collecting national crime statistics from local police departments since 1930. Based on seriousness and frequency, police departments are required to report their statistics on seven crimes which comprise the UCR Crime Index: murder, rape, aggravated assault, robbery, burglary, larceny, and auto theft. In 2007, the Cambridge Police Department initiated the submission of crimes into the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). The general concepts, such as jurisdictional rules, of collecting and reporting UCR data are the same in NIBRS. The difference in the programs is that NIBRS captures much greater detail on each crime than the summary-based UCR program.

The true picture of crime and disorder in a city is seldom conveyed to the public through simple statistics. Crimes are complex events, and these complexities encompass many dimensions. It is our endeavor in this report to unravel the web of factors that comprise the crime rate. The publication of detailed neighborhood crime statistics, patterns, and trends gives Cantabrigians a realistic view of their risks of victimization and helps residents, business owners, and visitors have a fuller understanding of crime problems in their areas.

This report outlines two distinctions that make up criminal incidents: (1) whether offenses are committed against strangers or against relatives and acquaintances; and (2) when and where crimes occur, focusing on where the hotspots are and the best time frames for the majority of the incidents. Outlining these factors is imperative to understanding the anatomy of crime in Cambridge, and to developing appropriate responses.

Conventions Used in this Report

This report uses several common crime analysis conventions for the reporting of statistical information. These conventions are consistent with general crime analysis practice, standards issued by the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program (where applicable), past Cambridge Police Annual Crime Reports, and monthly "BridgeStat" crime reports available on the Cambridge Police web site.

Part I and Part II Crimes

The FBI UCR program standardizes the way in which law enforcement agencies report crime statistics. The program classifies crimes as "Part I" and "Part II." The "Part I" crimes are a list of seven common crimes that together form an "index" of criminal activity, much like the Dow Jones Industrial Average provides a general assessment of the stock market based on an index of 30 stocks. These seven crimes are murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and auto theft. All other crimes—including fraud and forgery, vandalism, drug offenses, and other sex offenses—are "Part II Crimes." Definitions of each of these crimes are included at the beginnings of their respective sections.

The Hierarchy Rule

The Hierarchy Rule states that if multiple offenses are committed in the same incident, it is classified (and reported) as the most serious of the offenses. Thus, although almost all robberies involve both an assault and a theft, such incidents are included only under the "robbery" category. Similarly, the statistics for "larceny" only include incidents in which larceny is the primary crime; thefts from houses and businesses that involve illegal entry are "burglaries" and are reported there.

Using the hierarchy rule helps both police and community members understand crime. If you see that larcenies have increased 10% in your area, you don't have to worry that those thefts involve threats or violence. If they did, they would be reported as robberies instead of larcenies.

Best Data at the Time

All statistics, including yearly totals and weighted averages, are calculated using the best available data at the time. Occasionally, after our reports are published, factors determined during investigation will cause us to reclassify a crime to a higher or lower category, and thus you may see slight discrepancies between current and past reports. In all cases, the more recent data is the more correct data.

Weighted Averages

Because crime can fluctuate significantly from year to year, the Crime Analysis Unit makes most of its comparisons based on averages rather than individual years. If housebreaks decrease by 39% from 2018 to 2019, there's no way to tell from that figure whether 2018 was unusually high or 2019 was unusually low. But comparing 2019 to an average helps us better assess whether the crime truly went up or down in the most recent year.

We specifically use a five-year weighted average in which the earliest year (2014 in this report) is weighted once and the most recent year in the average (2018) is weighted five times, with the years in between weighted twice, three times, and four times. This common statistical convention helps produce a figure that best represents the "expected" value for the current year (2019), and to thus determine how unusual 2019's deviation is from that average. We also provide graphs for most crimes to help assess long-term trends.

Rates

In a few places, we offer crime statistics in terms of rates rather than raw numbers. Using rates is important when comparing geographic areas of very different populations, so that we can better assess each resident's individual risk. For instance, in 2019, Cambridge had 189 aggravated assaults, 50% more than Malden, which reported 126. However, Cambridge also has nearly double the number of residents that Malden has. When we look at it on the basis of rates, Cambridge had 158 assaults per 100,000 residents, while Malden had 207 assaults per 100,000 residents, which means that a Malden resident's *risk* of aggravated assault was actually higher than a Cantabrigian's. We only provide rates for certain crimes, however, as not all crimes are best compared in terms of residential population.

2019 Crime Index

The Crime Index is composed of selected offenses used to gauge fluctuations in the overall volume and rate of crime reported to police. The offenses included are the violent crimes of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault; and the property crimes of burglary, larceny, and auto theft. The Crime Index was developed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting program to standardize the way in which law enforcement agencies report crime statistics.

Crime	2016	2017	2018	2019	2018-2019 Change	5-Year Wtd. Avg.	Avg.-2019 Change
Murder	2	2	1	1	0%	2	-50%
Rape	27	19	29	28	-3%	25	12%
Stranger	2	0	2	2	0%	1	100%
Non-Stranger	25	19	27	26	-4%	24	8%
Robbery	81	104	99	73	-26%	93	-22%
Commercial	23	39	37	11	-70%	32	-66%
Street	58	65	62	62	0%	60	3%
Aggravated Assault	161	173	188	189	1%	178	6%
Total Violent Crime	271	298	317	291	-8%	298	-2%
Burglary	308	252	252	155	-38%	290	-47%
Commercial	45	49	56	36	-36%	57	-37%
Residential	263	203	196	119	-39%	233	-49%
Larceny	1,931	1,679	1,704	1,704	0%	1,813	-6%
from Building	297	273	272	217	-20%	295	-26%
from Vehicle	371	289	270	236	-13%	329	-28%
From Person	221	158	166	159	-4%	180	-12%
from Residence	270	187	256	248	-3%	243	2%
of Bicycle	375	303	307	425	38%	328	30%
of License Plate	22	28	23	18	-22%	25	-28%
of Services	17	31	26	15	-42%	24	-38%
Miscellaneous	32	40	46	39	-15%	42	-7%
Shoplifting	326	370	338	347	3%	347	0%
Auto Theft	110	91	111	109	-2%	109	0%
Total Property Crime	2,349	2,022	2,067	1,968	-5%	2,212	-11%
Crime Index Total	2,620	2,320	2,384	2,259	-5%	2,509	-10%

Cambridge Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics, 2000-2019*

Crime	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Avg. 2000-2009	Avg. 2010-2019	Avg. 2000-2019	Change 2018-2019**	Change 2000-2019**
Murder	1	1	6	3	0	3	2	0	1	2	0	5	1	3	2	3	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	0%	0%
Rape	11	15	10	7	10	14	11	16	17	20	23	23	23	17	24	25	27	19	29	28	13	24	18	-3%	155%
Robbery	186	181	195	229	245	239	208	161	177	172	163	147	128	118	81	77	81	104	99	73	199	107	153	-26%	-61%
Aggravated Assault	322	272	284	271	248	244	237	243	274	256	251	258	262	189	184	186	161	173	188	189	265	204	235	1%	-41%
Burglary	552	688	720	651	724	623	685	653	467	429	453	520	499	390	286	438	308	252	252	155	619	355	487	-38%	-72%
Larceny	2,820	2,740	2,764	2,389	2,654	2,396	2,377	2,838	2,788	2,497	2,555	2,458	2,448	2,376	2,159	2,000	1,931	1,679	1,704	1,704	2,626	2,101	2,364	0%	-40%
Auto Theft	498	523	425	419	438	295	233	244	244	196	169	159	117	106	136	125	110	91	111	109	352	123	237	-2%	-78%
Total Violent	520	469	495	510	503	500	458	420	469	450	437	433	414	327	291	291	271	298	317	291	479	337	408	-8%	-44%
Total Property	3,870	3,951	3,909	3,459	3,816	3,314	3,295	3,735	3,499	3,122	3,177	3,137	3,064	2,872	2,581	2,563	2,349	2,022	2,067	1,968	3,597	2,580	3,089	-5%	-49%
Total	4,390	4,420	4,404	3,969	4,319	3,814	3,753	4,155	3,968	3,572	3,614	3,570	3,478	3,199	2,872	2,854	2,620	2,320	2,385	2,259	4,076	2,917	3,497	-5%	-49%

*The Cambridge Police Department voluntarily submits Uniform Crime Reporting statistics to the FBI for national comparison. See http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm for more information.

**Percent changes are rounded to the nearest whole number. A 0% change indicates there was less than a 0.5% increase or decrease.
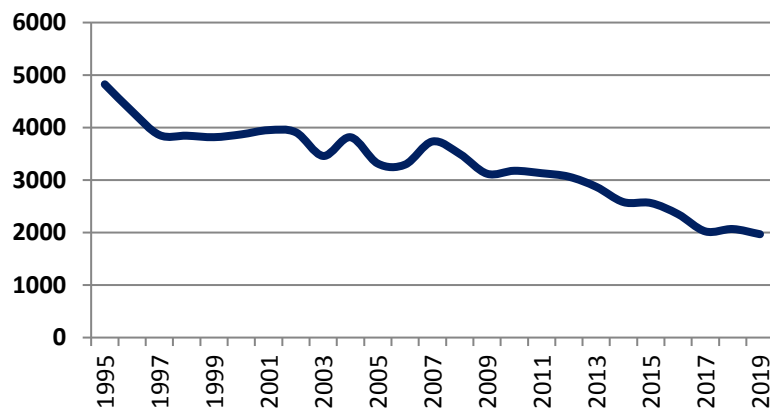
Total Part I (Index Crimes)
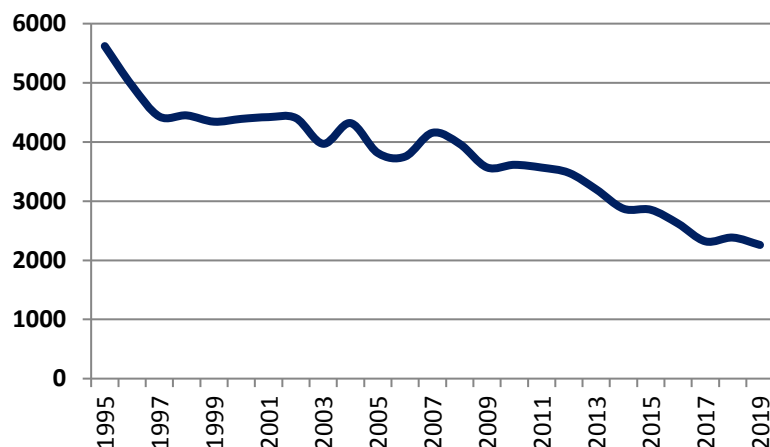
The lowest Part I crime index since 1963 was recorded in 2019 at 2,259 after 2018 saw a slight increase over the previous low in 2017. Despite some bumps in the early 1980s and early 1990s, crime has decreased steadily since it peaked in 1974 at more than 10,000 Part I crimes. The last big decrease was between 1990 and 1998. Crime fluctuated around the 3,700 mark for about a decade before dropping below 3,000 for the first time in 2014 and below 2,500 for the first time in 2017, where it has remained since.

Violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) hit their peak in 1990, amidst a nationwide gang and drug epidemic, but then fell dramatically in the following decade and remained around 450-500 per year throughout the 2000s. The 2016 violent crime total of 271 incidents was the lowest number recorded since the late 1960s. In 2019, there was a total of 291 violent crimes reported, which is only 7% above the low seen in 2016 but is well below the 25-year high of 796 shown on the chart in 1995.

Total Part I Violent Crimes

Total Part I Property Crimes

Property crime (burglary, larceny, and auto theft) makes up about 85-90% of the total Part I crime index each year, and its graph therefore looks almost identical to the total crime graph above. The 50-year low for property crime was recorded in 2019 with 1,968 incidents, which is 54 incidents below the previous low total set two years ago in 2017. One category that has seen a consistent decline since its peak of 1,234 incidents in 2007 is larceny from motor vehicles, which has dropped an astounding 81% since that year, with only 236 incidents reported in 2019.

Serious crime in Cambridge dropped to record levels in 2019, with 2,259 reported incidents. This is the lowest total of index crimes reported to the FBI since Congress enacted the Omnibus Crime Control Act in 1968. This is also only the third time in the past 50 years that the crime total has dropped below 2,500 incidents in Cambridge.

Further analysis of the crime breakdown indicates that there were 99 fewer property crimes reported in 2019 to record a 5% decline when compared with last year and an 11% reduction below the five-year weighted average of 2,212. Meanwhile, there were 291 violent crimes reported in the City in 2019, 26 fewer incidents than in 2018, which translates to a decrease of 8% below 2018 and 2% below the five-year average of 298. Overall, the total of 2,259 serious crimes reported in 2019 was 5% below the 2018 total of 2,384 incidents and 10% below the five-year average of 2,509 incidents.

Murder

- On January 2, 2019, 60-year-old Paul Wilson of Cambridge was assaulted while walking in the New Street area of Danehy Park. Wilson was taken to a nearby hospital where he was later pronounced deceased as a result of blunt force trauma to the head. No suspects have been identified and the incident remains under investigation. This was the only homicide recorded in Cambridge in 2019.

- On July 22, 2018, 15-year-old Richelle Robinson of Cambridge died following an assault in which she was shoved to the ground on Cambridge Street. On July 30, 2019, Isaias Plaza, a homeless male who was 18-years-old at the time of the incident, was arraigned on charges of manslaughter and assault and battery causing serious bodily injury in connection with Robinson's death.

- Since 1990, Cambridge has averaged two murders per year, which is a decrease from the 30-year period between 1960 and 1989 when the average was slightly less than five per year.

- Trend analysis for the past twenty years points to two recurring murder scenarios in Cambridge: a domestic murder in which one family member is killed by another, and the murder of young males by a handgun or knife typically in acts of retaliatory street violence.

- Handguns have been used in 20 of the 36 murders in Cambridge since 2000. Six have involved knives.

- Twenty-six of the 36 murders in Cambridge since 2000 (72%) have been cleared by an arrest/suicide of the perpetrator, including all three murders in both 2013 and 2015, and one of the two in 2014 and 2017. For comparison, the 2010 clearance rate for murder was 65% nationally and 50% in New England.

Rape

- The total number of reported rapes in Cambridge dropped one incident from 29 in 2018 to 28 in 2019.

- Seventeen of the rapes in 2019 involved acquaintances, nine were domestic situations, and two were classified as blitz assaults, both of which were stranger-to-stranger rapes. There were no contact rapes reported in 2019.

- The number of stranger-to-stranger rapes each year—between one and five—remains extremely low. Patterns of reported rape are very rare in Cambridge.

Robbery

- In 2019, there were 73 total robberies reported, translating to a 26% decrease below the 2018 total. When measured against the five-year weighted average of 93 incidents, a 22% decline was recorded.

- Street robberies stayed the same from 2018 to 2019, with 62 incidents reported each year. The 2019 street robbery total was also two incidents (3%) above the five-year average of 60 incidents. Only one brief street robbery pattern emerged in 2019, a series of six incidents in September that targeted delivery drivers and males walking in Mid-Cambridge during the evening hours. Two suspects were arrested and a third suspect was summonsed to court in connection with this pattern.

- A 70% decrease in commercial robberies was reported in 2019. Incidents dropped from 37 robberies in 2018 to just 11 this year. Commercial robberies in 2019 were also 66% below the five-year weighted average of 32. For the first time in over 20 years, not a single bank robbery was reported anywhere in Cambridge this year.

Aggravated Assault

- The total of 189 aggravated assaults reported in Cambridge in 2019 is 1% above the 2018 total of 188 incidents and 6% above the five-year average of 178 assaults.

- Domestic assaults, which typically constitute 30-40% of the assault total each year, dropped from 63 incidents in 2018 to 41 in 2019, which is only 22% of the assault total this year. Meanwhile, aggravated assaults between homeless individuals rose from 12 in 2018 to 19 in 2019.

- Twelve of the aggravated assaults in 2019 (6%) resulted in serious or life-threatening injuries, including one from a firearm and two from knives.

- The most common weapons used in aggravated assaults in 2019 were knifes (21%), followed by hands and/or feet (without shoes) at 12%. Shod feet were used in 11% of the incidents, and walls/floors were used in 9%. There were 11 aggravated assaults that involved the use of a firearm in 2019, up two from the previous year.

- A little over 39% of aggravated assaults resulted in an arrest in 2019, compared to 26% of simple assaults.

Burglary

- Total burglary, the combination of residential and commercial breaks, registered a 38% decline in 2019 when compared with the 2018 total and a 47% drop when measured against the five-year weighted average for this crime. The total of 155 incidents recorded in 2019 was the lowest seen in over 20 years.

- Housebreaks saw a decrease of 39% from 196 in 2018 to 119 in 2019. This crime type also dropped 49% below the five-year weighted average of 233. Only one brief pattern of housebreaks emerged in Cambridge this year; a series of late afternoon and early evening incidents in March in Cambridgebport that involved window-entry and targeted laptops and jewelry.

- Similar to residential burglaries, there was a notable decrease in commercial burglaries in Cambridge this year as well, dropping 36% from 56 incidents in 2018 to 36 in 2019. This total was also 37% below the five-year weighted average of 57. Cambridge was devoid of any well-established commercial burglary patterns in 2019

Larceny

- In 2019, the property crime of larceny stayed even with 2018, with both years recording 1,704 incidents. When measured against the five-year weighted average of 1,813, larceny in 2019 registered a decrease of 6%.

- Larceny is always the most prevalent of the Part One crimes in Cambridge. In 2019, it accounted for 75% of the total Part I crime and 87% of the total property crime.

- Larcenies from motor vehicles (LMVs) this year were down 13% from the 2018 figures. The 2019 total of 236 LMVs was also down 28% when compared with the five-year weighted average. The most common method of entry in recent years has been through unlocked car doors.

- Larceny from the person decreased by 4% in 2019, down seven incidents below the 166 reported in 2018. The 2019 total of 159 incidents was also 12% below the five-year weighted average of 180.

- Larceny of bicycles was one of the few crimes to see an increase in 2019, rising 38% from 307 incidents in 2018 to 425 in 2019. This property crime was also 30% below the five-year weighted average of 328.

- Larceny from residences saw a slight decline in 2019, dropping 3% from 256 incidents to 248. By far the most prevalent scenario for this crime type in recent years has involved the theft of packages from the front steps or vestibules of residences. This scenario accounted for 62% of the larcenies from residences in 2019.

Auto Theft

- In 2019, auto thefts in Cambridge decreased slightly by 2%, dropping two incidents below the 2018 total of 111 thefts. The 109 incidents reported in 2019 were also on par with the five-year average of 109. These totals are remarkably low for a city that used to see staggering auto theft numbers—in 1974, there were 5,203 cars reported stolen.

- Riverside recorded the largest number of auto thefts in 2019 with 21 incidents reported, thanks to a month-long pattern of auto thefts that emerged in Riverside in mid-June. During this pattern, at least six early 2000's model Toyota Camrys and Toyota Corollas were both stolen from and recovered in the areas of Western Avenue, River Street, and Putnam Avenue. A suspect was arrested in one of the stolen motor vehicles in Somerville in mid-July, ending the pattern.

- Approximately 25% of the auto thefts reported in 2019 involved the theft of a motorcycle, scooter, or moped.

- Roughly 54% of the cars reported stolen in Cambridge this year have been recovered to date. The majority (69%) of the recovered cars in 2019 were located in Cambridge.

Regional Crime Comparison

The following table compares Cambridge to other Massachusetts cities and towns with populations greater than 50,000 residents. The data is from 2019, as this is the most recent year for which data is available from the FBI UCR program. Data is presented in terms of rates per 100,000 residents, rather than raw totals, so that we can validly compare cities and towns of very different population sizes.

2019 Rates per 100,000 residents for selected Massachusetts Cities and Towns

City	Population	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Violent Total	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Property Total	Total
Brockton	95,287	5	66	155	594	821	260	1,382	302	1,945	**2,765**
Brookline	58,928	2	3	24	68	97	75	769	10	854	**950**
Chicopee	55,293	4	63	103	445	615	443	1,756	188	2,387	**3,002**
Fall River	89,066	6	57	127	678	868	463	560	183	1,206	**2,074**
Framingham	73,127	1	27	40	338	406	216	833	45	1,094	**1,500**
Haverhill	63,935	2	23	23	475	524	280	892	139	1,311	**1,835**
Lawrence	80,243	4	40	108	522	674	141	844	204	1,189	**1,863**
Lowell	111,423	4	18	90	252	363	262	1,068	153	1,483	**1,846**
Lynn	94,449	8	35	109	340	492	320	961	145	1,426	**1,918**
Malden	60,746	2	15	43	207	267	170	858	156	1,184	**1,450**
Medford	57,484	0	12	30	160	202	89	769	57	915	**1,117**
Methuen	50,727	2	2	22	162	187	114	879	95	1,088	**1,275**
New Bedford	94,613	3	70	186	405	664	491	1,599	157	2,248	**2,912**
Newton	88,658	0	5	11	39	55	85	478	12	575	**631**
Peabody	53,104	0	40	15	177	232	104	659	56	819	**1,051**
Plymouth	60,870	0	62	18	246	327	120	805	51	976	**1,303**
Quincy	94,113	1	33	65	300	398	230	930	58	1,218	**1,616**
Revere	53,654	4	21	71	227	322	127	977	114	1,217	**1,539**
Somerville	81,668	0	20	47	137	203	171	975	109	1,255	**1,458**
Springfield	154,306	13	52	232	608	905	483	1,793	319	2,595	**3,501**
Taunton	57,028	4	26	30	321	381	151	417	37	605	**985**
Waltham	62,737	0	21	11	131	163	112	669	35	816	**979**
Weymouth	57,776	0	36	16	242	294	76	668	55	800	**1,094**
Worcester	184,945	7	22	124	477	630	425	1,426	200	2,050	**2,680**
Average*	**80,591**	4	33	87	361	490	260	1,035	139	1,434	**1,924**
Cambridge	119,908	1	23	61	158	243	129	1,421	91	1,641	**1,884**

** Cambridge figures are not included in the average so as to allow a better comparison between Cambridge and the average.

Statistics from the rest of the state shows that Cambridge had less per-capita crime in six categories (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, and auto theft), while conversely registering more larcenies than the average, which also affected the property crime total. The rate for the overall crime total in 2017 in Cambridge was slightly below the average for the region.

The high larceny figure for Cambridge is consistent with past data. Cambridge's large business and education populations create opportunities for thefts from vehicles, pocket-picking, shoplifting, thefts from buildings, and bicycle thefts —opportunities not present in many less trafficked cities and towns.
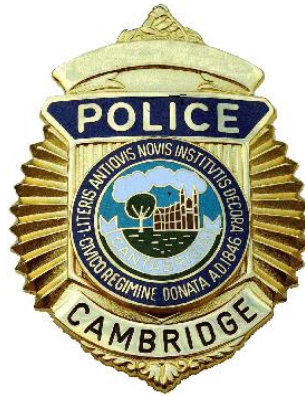
Section II

Part I Crimes

Murder
Rape
Robbery
Aggravated Assault
Burglary
Larceny
Auto Theft

Murder

Definition

Murder and non-negligent manslaughter encompasses the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another. The classification of this offense, as for all other Crime Index Offenses, is based solely on police investigation as opposed to the determination of a court, medical examiner, coroner, jury, or other judicial body. Not included in the count for this offense classification are deaths caused by negligence, suicide, or accident; justifiable homicides; and attempts to murder or assaults with the intent to murder, which are counted as aggravated assaults.

Murders reported in Cambridge*
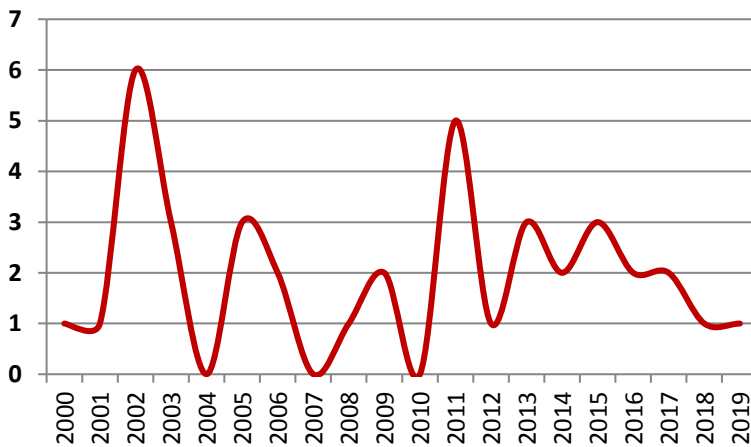
*Murders are counted by victim rather than incidents; one incident can have multiple victims.

On January 2, 2019, 60-year-old Paul Wilson of Cambridge was assaulted while walking in the New Street area of Danehy Park. Wilson was taken to a nearby hospital where he was later pronounced deceased as a result of blunt force trauma to the head. No suspects have been identified and the incident remains under investigation. This was the only homicide recorded in Cambridge in 2019.

Similarly, only one homicide was reported in 2018 as well. On July 22, 2018, 15-year-old Richelle Robinson of Cambridge died following an assault in which she was shoved to the ground on Cambridge Street. On July 30, 2019, Isaias Plaza, a homeless male who was 18-years-old at the time of the incident, was arraigned on charges of manslaughter and assault and battery causing serious bodily injury in connection with Robinson's death, following a year-long investigation by the Cambridge Police Department, the Massachusetts State Police, and the Middlesex District Attorney's Office.

Cambridge murder statistics, 1990-2019

- 62 people murdered in 57 incidents (in four of the incidents, two or more people were killed)
- 42 victims were male (average age of 35)
- 20 victims were female (average age of 40)
- Most common weapons: handguns (29 incidents) and knives (13 incidents)
- 19 of the 57 cases are still under investigation or remain unsolved.
- 26 of the 36 cases since 2000 have been cleared by arrest or by the death of the suspect, including all three murders in both 2013 and 2015, and one of the two murders in 2014 and 2017.

Murder in Cambridge, 2010–2019

(See 2010 Annual Report for information on murders committed during the 1990s and early 2000s.)

Date & Time	Location	Victim(s)	Offender(s)	Story	Status
3/12/2011 00:15	Watson St & Brookline St (Cambridgeport)	James Lauture, 30, of Cambridge	Unknown	Lauture was shot and killed while sitting in the driver's seat of a vehicle parked at Watson & Brookline St.	Ongoing investigation.
11/20/2011 10:30	77 Elm St (The Port)	Guy Verna, 62, of Cambridge	Gylene Verna, 29, of Cambridge	Gylene Verna allegedly strangled and killed her father, Guy Verna, during a verbal altercation at her apartment.	Verna was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter and sentenced to 8-10 years in prison.
12/9/2011 18:35	161 Grove St (Strawberry Hill)	Mary Pizzuto, 91, of Cambridge, Patrick Pizzuto, 63, of Lexington, & Robert Pizzuto, 52, of Arlington	John Brosnahan, 68, of Cambridge	Brosnahan, a retired Bedford police officer, allegedly shot and killed his mother-in-law and two of his brothers-in-law during a disagreement at his residence. Brosnahan fled the scene and was found later that evening in Brighton where he died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.	John Brosnahan committed suicide.
6/3/2012 20:00	34 Willow St (Inman/Harringt on)	Charlene Holmes, 16, of Cambridge	Unknown	Holmes was shot while standing outside a residence on Willow Street. She was transported to the hospital with gunshot wounds where she succumbed to her injuries.	Ongoing investigation.
1/16/2013	34 Ash St (West Cambridge)	Rehma Sabir, 1, of Cambridge	Aisling Brady McCarthy, 34, of Quincy	On April 12, 2013, nanny Aisling Brady McCarthy, of Quincy, was charged with murder in the death of 1-year-old Rehma Sabir of Cambridge, who died on January 16, 2013, from injuries sustained on January 14, 2013.	Charges were dropped against Aisling McCarthy in August 2015 after the medical examiner amended the manner of death to "undetermined."
4/18/2013 22:30	Vassar St & Main St (M.I.T.)	Sean Collier, 27, of Somerville	Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, 19, of Cambridge	M.I.T. Officer Sean Collier was found shot in his vehicle on the M.I.T. campus. He was transported to Mass General Hospital and pronounced deceased. The Middlesex Attorney's Office obtained a default warrant against Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev for this incident on 10/7/13.	Tsarnaev was found guilty of Officer Collier's murder on 4/8/15.
11/25/2013 23:50	243 Broadway (The Port)	Jesse Maxwell Jr, 73, of Cambridge	Harold Antoine Maxwell, 33, of Cambridge	The body of Jesse Maxwell was found in his apartment at 243 Broadway, where he died as a result of injuries to the head and neck. The victim's nephew, Harold Maxwell, was arrested and charged with his uncle's murder.	Harold Maxwell is awaiting trial.
2/2/2014 06:00	396 Putnam Ave (Cambridgeport)	Dana Robinson, 46, of Brockton	Malia Gomez, 40, of Cambridge	Gomez admitted to stabbing Robinson, an acquaintance, in her apartment building following an argument. Robinson later died at Beth Israel Hospital.	Gomez is awaiting trial.
7/3/2014 21:57	119 Windsor St (The Port)	Kensley David, 22, of Roxbury	Unknown	David suffered a single fatal gunshot wound to the head during a shooting on Windsor Street. The incident is not believed to be random.	Ongoing investigation.
4/4/2015 07:53	157 Sixth St (East Cambridge)	Jonathan Camilien, 26, of Somerville	Carlos Colina, 32, of Cambridge	Camilien's dismembered body was found inside a duffel bag on a walkway off of Binney Street. A crime scene was later located inside Colina's apartment on Sixth Street and he was arrested. The two were acquaintances.	Colina was found guilty of 1st degree murder and sentenced to life in prison w/o parole.
8/12/2015 20:40	Washington St & Windsor St (The Port)	Rasaun Nichols, 31, of Cambridge	Roosselin Altidor, 25, of Medford	Nichols was struck by gunshots while in a vehicle that was departing Newtowne Court. Altidor was arrested 9 days later. Nichols and Altidor were known to each other.	Altidor is awaiting trial.
9/12/2015 01:40	750 Mass Ave (Riverside)	Tywann Jones, 35, of Roxbury	Antwan Gonsalves,	Jones was stabbed while standing outside the 7-Eleven in Central Square. He later died at	Gonsalves was found guilty of 1st

Date & Time	Location	Victim(s)	Offender(s)	Story	Status
			33, of Cambridge	MGH. Gonsalves was arrested on September 24 on a warrant for Jones's murder.	degree murder and sentenced to life in prison w/o parole.
3/22/16 21:57	321 Mount Auburn St (West Cambridge)	Armando Hernandez, 30, of Belmont	Unknown	Hernandez was shot and killed while walking on Mount Auburn St. A second male was non-fatally shot in the leg.	Ongoing Investigation.
6/25/16 00:18	140 Harvard St (The Port)	Anthony Clay, 49, of Cambridge	Unknown	Clay was shot while standing outside of 140 Harvard St. He was pronounced deceased at Mass General Hospital.	Ongoing Investigation.
10/14/17 03:40	Windsor St & Evereteze Way (Inman)	Ednilson DaCosta, 28, of Dorchester	Unknown	DaCosta was shot while sitting in a vehicle at Windsor St & Evereteze Way. He was pronounced deceased at Cambridge City Hospital.	Ongoing investigation.
11/16/17 19:30	Tremont St & Hampshire St (The Port)	Malachi Mims, 28, of Cambridge	Kevin Reddick, 17, and Osiris Chambers, 16, both of Cambridge	Mims was shot outside a vehicle in the area of Tremont & Hampshire St. He was pronounced deceased at Cambridge City Hospital. On December 31, 2017, Reddick was arrested in Boston in connection with this homicide. On November 29, 2018, Chambers was also arraigned in connection with Mims' death.	Reddick and Chambers pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter and were sentenced to 11 to 13 years in state prison.
7/22/18 18:43	Cambridge St & Warren St	Richelle Robinson, 15, of Cambridge	Isaias Plaza, 18, homeless	Robinson died following an assault in which she was shoved to the ground on Cambridge Street. Cause of death was determined to be blunt force trauma. Plaza was arraigned in July 2019 on charges of manslaughter and A&B causing serious bodily injury in connection with Robinson's death.	Plaza is awaiting trial.
1/2/19 18:48	Danehy Park, New St side	Paul Wilson, 60, of Cambridge	Unknown	Wilson was assaulted and sustained fatal blunt force injuries to the head while walking through Danehy Park.	Ongoing Investigation.

Murder across the state and nation in 2019

In 2019, the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports recorded an estimated 16,425 murders nationwide. With population taken into consideration, 5.0 murders per 100,000 people were recorded in 2019. Over the past 10 years (from 2010 to 2019), the national murder rate has increased by 5.1%.

The murder rate in Massachusetts is well below that for the nation as a whole. In 2019, Massachusetts reported 2.2 murders per 100,000 residents, while the national rate in 2019 was 5.0 per 100,000. Boston experiences the majority of the state's homicides, as it did in 2019 with 42 homicides. Of the five towns surrounding Cambridge (Arlington, Belmont, Brookline, Somerville, and Watertown), only Brookline reported a homicide (1) in 2019. Only a few Massachusetts cities and towns reported more than two murders in 2019. Those reporting four or more were Boston (42), Springfield (20), Worcester (13), Lynn (8), Brockton (5), Fall River (5), Abington (4), Holyoke (4), and Lowell (4).
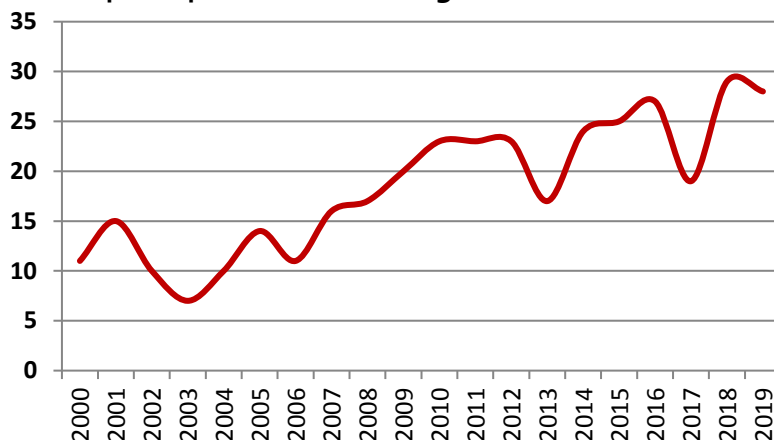
Rape

Definition

Sexual intercourse with a male or female, either forcibly and against that person's will, or non-forcibly but when the victim is incapable of giving consent because of temporary mental or physical incapacity, or because of youth. Assaults with intent to commit rape are included. Statutory rape (without force), incest, molestation, and other sex offenses are excluded.

Statistics	
Five-Year Average	25
2018	29
2019	28
Change from 2018	-3%
Change from Average	+12%

Rapes reported in Cambridge

There were 28 rapes reported in Cambridge in 2019, down one crime from the 29 incidents reported in 2018, which points to a 3% decrease. When the 2019 total is measured against the five-year average for rapes annually in the city, a 12% uptick was recorded.

Seventeen of the rapes in 2019 involved acquaintances, nine were domestic situations, and two were classified as blitz assaults (see below for definitions).

Given the tendency for rape statistics to fluctuate each year, projecting future totals is a risky business at best. The actual number of stranger-to-stranger rapes each year in Cambridge—between one and five—remains extremely low.

Categories of rape

- **Acquaintance Rapes** are non-domestic rapes committed by someone who knows the victim. They include rapes of co-workers, schoolmates, friends, and other acquaintances. Seventeen of the 28 incidents in 2019 were perpetrated by acquaintances.

Rapes by Category

Year	Acquaintance	Contact	Blitz	Domestic	Total
2017	7	6	0	6	19
2018	14	3	2	10	29
2019	17	0	2	9	28

- **Blitz Rapes** are rapes in which the suspect "comes out of nowhere." Usually, the attacker is a stranger, but this is not necessarily the case. Among all of the categorizations of rape, the blitz rape, or "street rape," tends to invoke the most fear in the average citizen. There were two blitz rapes recorded in Cambridge in 2019.

- **Contact Rapes** are rapes in which the suspect contacts the victim and tries to gain his/her confidence before assaulting him/her. Contact rapists typically pick up their victims in bars and lure them into their cars or houses, or otherwise try to coerce the victim into a situation in which they can begin their assault. There were no incidents in Cambridge in 2019 that fit into this category.

- **Domestic Rapes** involve rapes between spouses, romantic partners, or family members. Nine domestic rapes were reported in 2019. Incest and statutory rapes are excluded, per the FBI UCR definition of rape, which was revised in 2013.
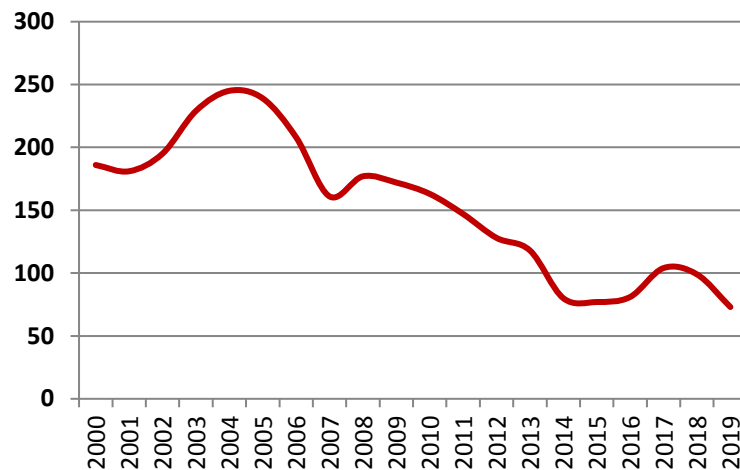
Robbery

Definition

Robbery is the taking or attempted taking of anything of value from another person by violence, threat of violence, or putting the victim in fear. Unlike larceny or theft, it involves a direct confrontation between the offender and victim. Incidents described as "muggings," "purse snatchings," and "hold-ups" are usually robberies.

Statistics

Five-Year Average	93
2018	99
2019	73
Change from 2018	-26%
Change from Average	-22%

Robberies reported in Cambridge

Due to its violent nature, robbery is one of the most feared crimes. For this reason, it is often considered by a citizen when he or she gauges the general "safety" of an area. It is also one of the main concerns of business owners.

Often, suspects approach their target, threatening to cause harm if the victim does not relinquish money or property. Weapons are brandished in some incidents, but a suspect may simply rely on the victim's perceived fear of harm. Most incidents involve little physical contact, especially when victims comply with the suspect's demands.

Robberies by category

Category	2018	2019	Change
Commercial Robbery	37	11	-70%
Street Robbery	62	62	0%
Total	**99**	**73**	**-26%**

Commercial robbery

Commercial robbery is described as the taking by force or threat of force anything of value from the care or custody of a commercial or financial establishment. Examples of this crime include a bank heist, a cab stick-up, and a convenience store hold-up. Commercial incidents tend to occur early in the morning or late into the night.

Commercial robberies dropped an incredible 70% from 37 robberies in 2018 to just 11 in 2019. The business district that experienced the most commercial robberies in 2019 was Porter Square

Commercial robbery, 2010-2019
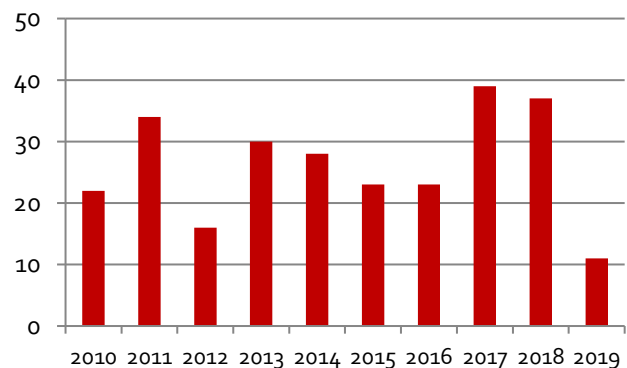
with four incidents, followed by Harvard Square and the East Cambridge/CambridgeSide Shopping Center area with two incidents each.

Commercial robberies by location type

Type	2017	2018	2019	Change 2018-2019
Convenience/Grocery	8	12	4	-67%
Misc. Retail	9	7	3	-57%
Drug Store	4	7	2	-71%
Gas Station	3	5	2	-60%
Bank/Armored Car	11	4	0	-100%
Café/Restaurant	3	1	0	-100%
Other	0	1	0	-100%
Electronics/Computer	1	0	0	0%
Total	**39**	**37**	**11**	**-70%**

In 2019, every premise type that typically sees robbery incidents experienced notable decreases. Convenience/grocery/liquor stores were the most common establishments to experience commercial robberies, with four reported incidents, though this was down 67% from the 12 incidents reported the previous year.

One of the most notable decreases over the past two years has been seen in bank robberies. After 11 bank robberies were reported in 2017, only four occurred in 2018 and not a single bank robbery was reported anywhere in Cambridge in 2019. This is the first time in at least 20 years that no bank robberies were reported in an entire year in Cambridge.

In total, only one of the 11 commercial robberies in 2019 resulted in an arrest and a possible suspect was developed in another two.
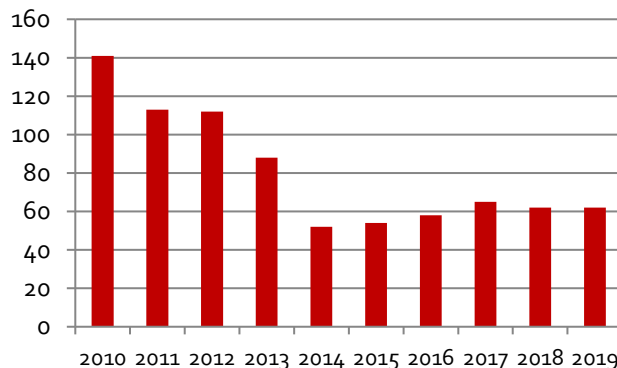
Street robbery

Street robbery involves all robberies committed against individuals, as opposed to commercial establishments. Examples of street robberies are "muggings," "carjackings," and "purse snatchings." The number of street robberies remained static from 2018 to 2019, with both years recording 62 incidents.

Despite the name, a "street" robbery does not necessarily have to occur on the street, although the majority of them do. In 2019, 71% of all street robberies occurred on a street, parking lot, or sidewalk. The second highest single location for robberies was parks, where five incidents were reported to have taken place. The remaining premise types in 2019 included residences, restaurants, a youth center, an ATM, train tracks, a convenience store, and an MBTA station.

Street robbery, 2010-2019

In 2019, 32 (52%) of the street robberies were unarmed, involving either no weapon at all or just the use of hands and/or feet without shoes. The remaining 30 robberies (48%) involved the use or threat of a weapon. Knives were used in seven incidents, firearms were used in five incidents, the implied threat of a firearm was used in four incidents, and shod feet (feet with shoes) were also used in seven incidents. Other weapons that were reported to have been used in at least one incident included a BB gun, a bottle/glass, a club or stick, and a wall or floor.

The number of street robberies across each neighborhood varies widely, which is a reflection of the residential and commercial mixture in each area. For example, Cambridgeport, East Cambridge, and The Port are more

Street robberies by neighborhood

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2018	2019	Change from Avg.
East Cambridge	5	2	5	0%
MIT	1	0	2	100%
Inman/Harrington	2	0	1	-50%
The Port	10	14	7	-30%
Cambridgeport	15	11	12	-20%
Mid-Cambridge	4	6	9	125%
Riverside	9	15	9	0%
Agassiz	0	0	0	N/A
Peabody	2	1	4	100%
West Cambridge	7	8	5	-29%
North Cambridge	5	4	3	-40%
Cambridge Highlands	1	1	3	200%
Strawberry Hill	0	0	2	N/A
Total	**60**	**62**	**62**	**3%**

*N/A = % change cannot be calculated when the 2017 total is zero.

densely populated than other neighborhoods and are closer to train stations and drinking establishments. These are factors that contribute to higher numbers of potential targets for street robbers, as individuals can become targets when they are walking alone late at night, distracted or intoxicated. The neighborhood that experienced the most robberies in 2019 was Cambridgeport.

The only street robbery pattern that emerged in Cambridge in 2019 took place from mid to late September and involved a series of six similar incidents targeting victims' cash. Two of the robberies involved delivery drivers while the other four incidents involved males walking in Mid-Cambridge during the evening hours. Two local teens were arrested in late September during one incident, and a third known male was summonsed to court in October. The pattern effectively ended following these arrests.

In total, arrests were made in only eight of the 62 robberies in 2019 at the time of the incident. However, upon follow-up investigation, more parties may have been linked to the crimes, as possible suspects were also listed in 23 additional incidents.

Frequently occurring street robbery scenarios

A long-term trend analysis of street robberies in Cambridge reveals a number of frequently recurring scenarios. The number in parenthesis after the category indicates how frequently that categorization occurred in Cambridge during the past year:

- **Acquaintance Robberies** (7): Related to domestic robbery and homeless robbery, acquaintance robberies are committed by someone the victim knows. Common scenarios include drinking buddies robbing each other after a night at the bar, friends turning on each other, and robberies between co-workers.

- **ATM Robberies** (0): In this type of robbery, the suspect may approach the victim immediately after the victim withdraws money from an ATM and demand that he or she hand over the cash, or the suspect may wait behind the victim as they make a transaction, then take the money directly from the ATM and run. An ATM robbery can also occur when suspects approach a victim on the street, threaten the victim by displaying or implying a weapon, and demand the victim go to an ATM and withdraw money for them.

- **Bikejackers** (2): Juvenile robberies where the primary property targets are bicycles.

- **Bully Boys** (4): Juvenile robberies of intimidation. In most occurrences, the victim knows the perpetrators. Committed by and against school-aged youths, they occur on the way home from school, or at playgrounds, malls, parks, or skating rinks. They usually involve two to four juveniles strong-arming their victims, stealing such things as cell phones, other electronics, or lunch money.

- **Carjacking** (0): In this scenario, a predator confronts a victim entering or exiting his or her car, or when stopped at a traffic light. The robber orders the victim out of the car and demands the keys.

- **Dial-A-Victim** (3): In these situations, suspects usually brandish a knife or gun to rob a delivery person.

- **Domestic** (2): A scenario in which someone close to the victim, like a family member, romantic partner, or roommate, takes money or property from them by the use or threat of violence.

- **Drug Deal** (3): Typically drug deals gone awry.

- **Home Invasion** (0): One of the most serious robbery types. Home invasions involve robbers entering their victims' homes, subduing the residents, and robbing the home. Fortunately, this type of robbery is rare in Cambridge, and when it occurs, the victim generally knows the perpetrator.

- **Homeless Robberies** (8): These are incidents of homeless people robbing each other. The majority of these robberies occur in the vicinity of Central and Harvard Squares, or at various shelters. The victim is usually acquainted with the perpetrator, and in many cases, both are intoxicated. Property stolen ranges from a blanket or a pair of shoes to a cell phone to prescription drugs.

- **Pack Robberies** (7): In this situation, a group of three or more individuals will target victims around shopping malls, MBTA stations, streets, or recreational areas. The robberies are not always premeditated and the typical victim is often a male between the ages of 15-25, walking alone.

- **Predatory Robberies** (19): This type of street robbery has the most pronounced effect on a citizen's perception of safety. Predatory robberies are synonymous with "muggings." In the typical scenario, one or two men approach the victim with a weapon or otherwise threaten violence and demand cash. Cambridge typically experiences more two-person predatory robberies than any other type.

- **Purse Snatch** (7): The purse-snatcher is generally unarmed and has little intent to cause injury. After "casing" a victim—usually a female carrying a purse or bag—this robber approaches quickly on foot or on a bicycle and snatches the item out of the victim's hands or off her shoulder before she has a chance to react, often effecting a "body check" in the process.
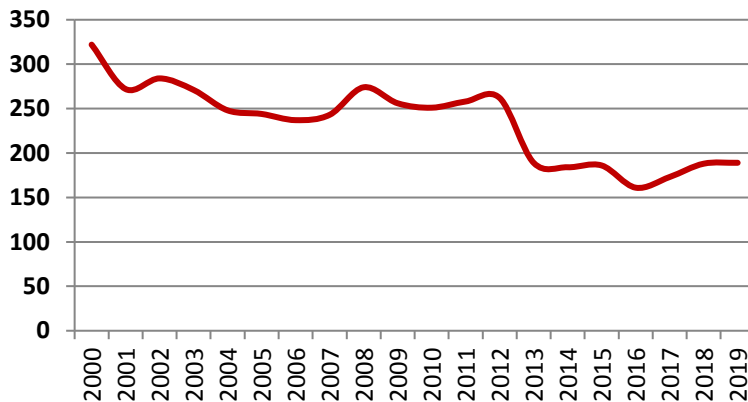
Aggravated Assault

Definition

An attack by one person on another for the purpose of inflicting severe bodily injury. To be an "aggravated assault" as opposed to a "simple assault," the crime must involve one of the following: 1) a weapon capable of causing death or severe injury (e.g., a gun, knife, or blunt object); 2) a method of assault capable of causing death or severe injury (e.g., pushing someone down the stairs); or 3) actual severe bodily injury (e.g., a punch that fractures the victim's nose).

Statistics

Five-Year Average	178
2018	188
2019	189
Change from 2018	1%
Change from Average	6%

Aggravated assaults reported in Cambridge

Aggravated assaults rise from the "heat of the moment," and unlike robberies, rarely involve personal gain (assaults that do involve thefts are coded in the "Robbery" section). Although a serious and dangerous crime, the average citizen has little to fear from a random aggravated assault: typically, two-thirds of assault victims know their attackers personally. Although we provide statistics by neighborhood, the risk of aggravated assaults derives more from dangerous *relationships* than dangerous *areas*.

Aggravated assaults by neighborhood

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2018	2019	Change from Avg.	% of Total (2019)
East Cambridge	23	32	10	-57%	5%
M.I.T.	4	5	4	0%	2%
Inman/Harrington	14	16	16	14%	8%
The Port	23	26	20	-13%	11%
Cambridgeport	32	33	42	31%	22%
Mid-Cambridge	15	14	19	27%	10%
Riverside	18	18	24	33%	13%
Agassiz	2	2	2	0%	1%
Peabody	9	6	7	-22%	4%
West Cambridge	15	16	22	47%	12%
North Cambridge	16	13	16	0%	8%
Cambridge Highlands	4	3	5	25%	3%
Strawberry Hill	4	4	2	-50%	1%
Total	**178**	**188**	**189**	**6%**	

Aggravated assault by relationship

Although making up only 37% of all assaults, "stranger" is the largest single category, comprised of most of the cases in the "random," "traffic/parking," "bar/alcohol," and "on police officer" categories. But the other categories combined outweigh "strangers" by about two-to-one. For the majority of aggravated assault victims, violence comes from a familiar place: intimate partners, spouses, parents, children, friends, customers, co-workers, and other relationships. Simple assaults, disputes, and other incidents between the offender and victim often precede an aggravated assault.
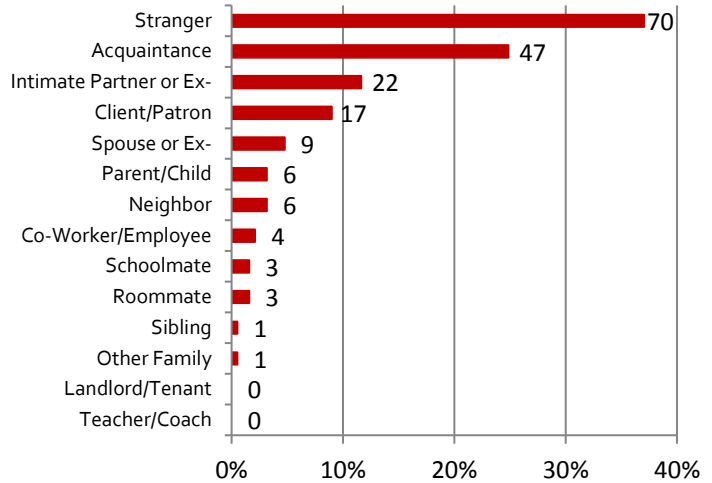
Aggravated assault by categorization
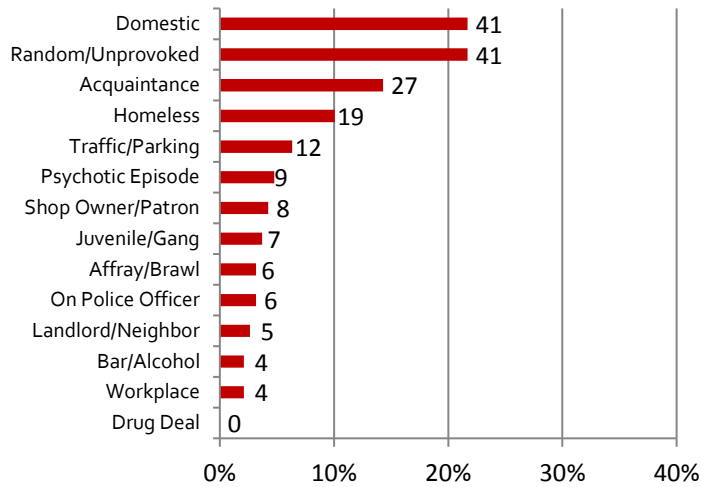
In any year, domestic assaults typically make up 30-40% of the total. However, in 2019, this category dropped to just 22% of the aggravated assault total. These incidents involve a variety of relationships, but as the chart above shows, most common are among intimate partners/ex-intimate partners, spouses/ex-spouses, and parents/children. These unique circumstances are covered in the "Domestic Crimes" section of this report, as aggravated assault is only one of many crimes that may be the result of an abusive relationship. Other categories that saw some of the most notable changes this year were acquaintance assaults (+7 incidents over 2018), psychotic episodes (+6 incidents over 2018), and juvenile/gang assaults (-7 incidents below 2018).

Notable findings on aggravated assault in 2019

- Twelve of the aggravated assaults in 2019 (6%) resulted in serious or life-threatening injuries (including one from a firearm and two from knives).

- There were 11 shots fired incidents in 2019, only one of which resulted in a non-fatal shooting injury. See the map on the next page for more information.

- The most common weapons used in aggravated assaults in 2019 were knifes (21%), followed by hands and/or feet (without shoes) at 12%. Shod feet were used in 11% of the incidents, and walls/floors were used in 9%. There were 11 aggravated assaults that involved the use of a firearm in 2019, up two from the previous year.

- A little over 39% of aggravated assaults resulted in an arrest in 2019, compared to 26% of simple assaults.

Shootings & Shots Fired in Cambridge: 1.1.19 – 12.31.19

Shots fired on 6.6 at 3:00am
16 Eliot St
No ShotSpotter alert (outside of coverage area). 2 males fired gun at 4 victims after verbal dispute inside IHOP. 1 shell casing recovered. No injuries.

Shots fired on 10.12 at 7:15pm
Hampshire & Windsor St
No ShotSpotter alert. Multiple shots fired. Two vehicles seen fleeing. Four shell casings recovered and no injuries reported.

Shots fired on 1.23 at 3:00am
1000 block of Cambridge St.
ShotSpotter alert. Suspect fired multiple rounds at victim during altercation outside of Richie's Shell gas station. No injuries. Somerville male arrested on 1.24 in connection with this incident.

Shots fired on 10.5 at 8:45pm
Area of York St & Hamlin St
ShotSpotter alert. 1-2 shots heard. Bullet hole located in parked car window. No injuries.

Shooting on 5.12 at 3:30am
20 Eliot St
No ShotSpotter alert (outside of coverage area). 18-year-old Cambridge male non-fatally shot during fight outside IHOP. 4 casings recovered. 3 Somerville males (2 adults and 1 juvenile) were arrested on warrants in connection with this shooting on 5.16.

Shots fired on 10.12 at 11:30pm
100 block of Sciarappa St
No ShotSpotter alert. Multiple reports of gunshots. No injuries reported. Involved party was identified and will be charged with firearm offenses. Ammo and two firearms were recovered.

Shots fired on 5.13 at 5:50pm
Pearl St & Mass Ave
No ShotSpotter alert. Male suspect seen firing gun, accompanied by 3 other males. All fled. 2 shell casings and 1 spent round recovered. No victims with injuries. 2 Boston males (both juveniles) were arrested on warrants on 5.21.

Shots fired on 8.7 at 2:35am
Main St / Newtowne Court
ShotSpotter alert. Witness saw argument & heard 1 shot fired. No shell casings recovered and no injuries reported.

Shots fired on 4.24 at 12:05am
0 Block of Brookline St.
ShotSpotter alert. Suspect was reportedly seen firing gun straight up into the air. Suspect fled. No victims. No shell casings recovered.

Shots fired on 5.21 at 2:05am
Bishop Allen Dr & School St
ShotSpotter alert. Multiple calls for shots fired. 5 bullet holes found in building on Bishop Allen Dr. No shell casings found. No injuries reported.

Shots fired on 6.27 at 1am
Cherry St & School St
ShotSpotter alert. Reports of 2 shots fired. One shell casing recovered. No injuries reported.

Shooting Type

● Shooting w/ Victim(s)

● Shots Fired (no victims)

Simple assault

When analyzing aggravated assault, it is important to keep tabs on simple assault as well. (The difference between the two is often a matter of luck rather than intent.) Because simple assaults do not result in serious injury and do not involve the use of a deadly weapon, the underreporting rate is likely even higher than for aggravated assault.

Simple assaults have changed very little in recent years, fluctuating between 400 and 460 incidents since 2006. In 2019, nine additional simple assaults were reported when compared with 2018 (431 in 2019 versus 422 in 2018). Simple assaults tend to mirror aggravated assaults in categories and relationships.

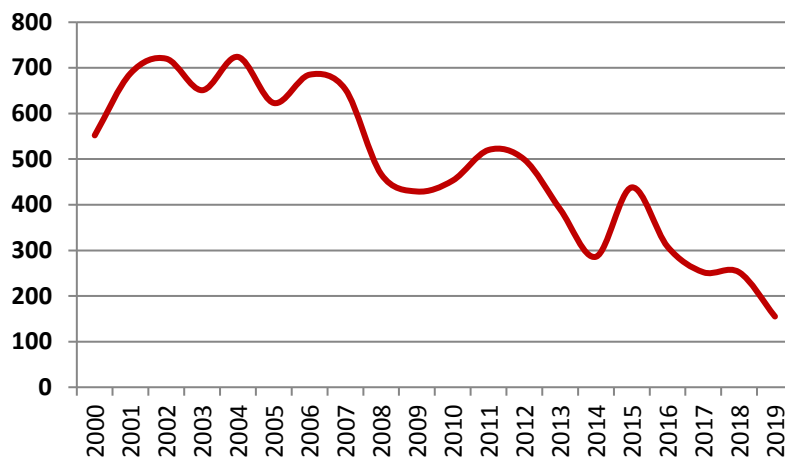**Simple assaults reported in Cambridge**
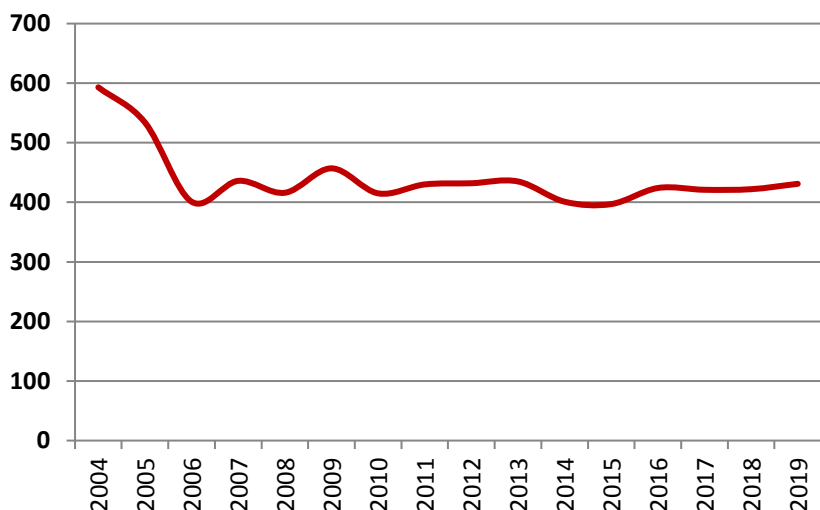
Burglary

Definition

Burglary is the unlawful entry of a structure (residence, business, or other building) to commit a theft or another crime. Force (e.g., prying a door, breaking a window) is not required, but the entry itself must be illegal. (Lawful entry to commit a theft would be coded as a larceny.) Automobile "burglaries" are also excluded (this crime has a larceny category). Attempts are included in the total.

Statistics

Five-Year Average	290
2018	252
2019	155
Change from 2018	-38%
Change from Average	-47%

Burglary is categorized as a more serious crime than larceny because it involves the use of force and unlawful entry into a business or residence. Perpetrators employ various techniques to enter residences or businesses. Since burglars need to pull off their heists quickly, break-ins are occasionally only unsuccessful "attempts," in which no entry is made, but damage is caused to the structure. For the purposes of analysis, burglary is divided into two main categories: commercial and residential (also known as "housebreaks").

Burglaries reported in Cambridge

Burglaries by category

Category	2018	2019	Change
Commercial Burglary	56	36	-36%
Residential Burglary	196	119	-39%
Total	**252**	**155**	**-38%**

Top items targeted in 2019

Rank	Residential	Commercial
1	Computers	Cash
2	Jewelry	Computers
3	Cash	Cigarettes
4	Misc. Electronics	Food/Groceries
5	Wallets/Purses/Bags	Lottery Tickets

Commercial burglary

A commercial burglary, more commonly referred to as a *commercial break*, is the unlawful entry into a commercial establishment, including business, government, religious, or retail establishments. From 2018 to 2019, there was a 36% decrease in commercial breaks in Cambridge.

Approximately 11% of the breaks in 2019 were attempts in which no entry was gained, and three incidents (8%) were considered an "inside job" in which an employee or known associate was believed to be responsible.

Commercial burglary, 2010-2019
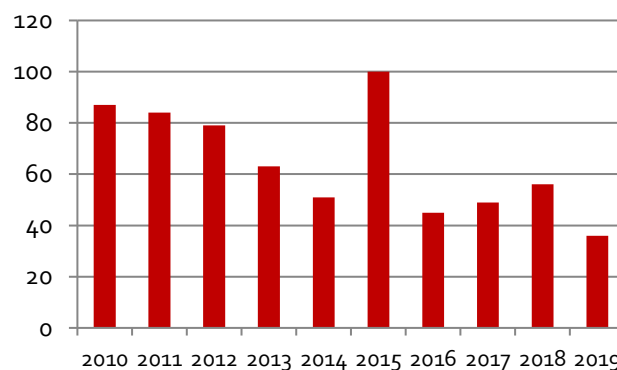
Commercial burglaries by business district

Business District	5-Yr. Avg.	2018	2019	Change from Avg.	% of Total (2019)
CambridgeSide/East Cambridge	4	3	7	75%	19%
Kendall/M.I.T.	2	4	3	50%	8%
Inman Square	4	2	1	-75%	3%
Central Square	12	12	10	-17%	28%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	1	1	0	-100%	0%
Bay Square/Upper Broadway	5	5	0	-100%	0%
Harvard Square	10	9	7	-30%	19%
1500-1900 Massachusetts Avenue	3	3	2	-33%	6%
Porter Square/North Cambridge	8	7	2	-75%	6%
Alewife/West Cambridge	8	10	4	-50%	11%
Total	**57**	**56**	**36**	**-37%**	

A wide variety of establishments are targeted in commercial burglary using an array of methods. Breaks can often be categorized as one of the following:

- **Smash & grab** burglaries involve quick entry and exit through windows/glass doors of businesses, often at convenience stores or gas stations. The entire endeavor may take less than a minute.
- **Retail burglars** usually force their way into stores or other locations with the intent to steal merchandise or money from cash registers.
- **Restaurant/bar** burglars often cross multiple jurisdictions, breaking into similar franchises looking for safes or easily fenced items.
- **Business burglars** enter real-estate/law offices, technology companies, etc., looking for laptop computers and other expensive equipment.
- **Construction site/industrial area** thieves are a special breed of burglars who know how to select, steal, and sell expensive power tools, building supplies, heavy equipment, and precious metals.
- **Church burglars** are historically homeless individuals with substance abuse problems. They enter lightly secured houses of worship, looking for petty cash and easily fenced items.
- **School burglars** are usually juveniles, breaking into their own schools to vandalize or steal computers and other expensive everyday goods. Youth centers/daycares are included.

Commercial burglaries by location type

Type	2018	2019
Bar/restaurant/social	18	5
Business offices	6	5
Industrial/construction	6	5
Retail establishments	6	4
Convenience/gas	6	4
Government building	2	2
School/youth center	2	1
Church	2	1
Other	8	9
Total	**56**	**36**

Commercial burglary patterns

Cambridge was devoid of any well-established commercial burglary patterns in 2019.

Four locations reported more than one incident during the year. The construction site/vacant building at the old courthouse at 40 Thorndike Street was broken into in June and December; in the June incident, the suspect may have been squatting in the vacant building. A convenience store in Central Square was broken into in August and again in October; the two incidents were not related and suspects were identified in both. A restaurant on Eliot Street in Harvard Square was broken into twice in March; a person of interest was identified in both. And the main office of an apartment complex in the 200 block of Franklin St was broken into twice in July by residents.
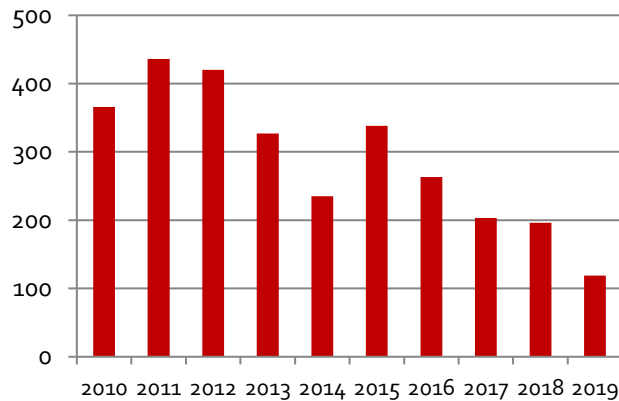
Residential burglary

In 2019, residential burglaries, also known as housebreaks, dropped to levels not seen in over 30 years in Cambridge. The 2019 total of 119 housebreaks was 77 incidents (39%) below the 196 reported in 2018 and 114 incidents (49%) below the five-year average of 233.

Part of the reason housebreak numbers were so low in 2019 was the lack of any prolific or long-lasting patterns of this crime type this year. Only one discernable housebreak pattern emerged in 2019. In mid to late March, a series of six possibly related, late afternoon and early evening housebreaks occurred in the Cambridgeport neighborhood. The breaks involved mostly window entry and targeted laptops and jewelry. No arrests were made, nor suspects identified, but the pattern came to an end by early April.

Residential burglary, 2010-2019

Relation of Offender to Victim in Residential Burglaries

Type	2018	2019
Stranger/Unknown	176	107
Domestic (family member, romantic partner, etc.)	7	5
Acquaintance (friend, landlord, etc.)	13	7
Total	**196**	**119**

Point/Method of Entry into Homes

Category	2018	2019
Door Entry	131	73
Pried/forced/broken	45	25
Unlocked/open	65	30
Other/unknown	21	18
Window Entry	53	37
Pried/forced/broken	15	11
Cut/removed screens	16	12
Unlocked/open	18	10
Other/unknown	4	4
Other/Unknown entry	12	9
Total	**196**	**119**

Residential burglaries by neighborhood

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2018	2019	Change from Avg.	Population (2010)	2019 Rate/10,000
East Cambridge	18	12	20	11%	9,234	22
M.I.T.	0	0	2	N/A*	5,057	4
Inman/Harrington	25	18	5	-80%	6,516	8
The Port	24	20	9	-63%	6,792	13
Cambridgeport	45	37	16	-64%	12,220	13
Mid-Cambridge	32	22	14	-56%	12,991	11
Riverside	24	22	8	-67%	12,695	6
Agassiz	11	8	4	-64%	4,977	8
Peabody	17	26	12	-29%	11,399	11
West Cambridge	17	15	5	-71%	8,023	6
North Cambridge	16	12	16	0%	11,908	13
Cambridge Highlands	1	1	2	100%	832	24
Strawberry Hill	3	3	6	100%	2,518	22
Total	**233**	**196**	**119**	**-49%**	**105,162**	

*N/A = % change cannot be calculated when the 2018 total is zero.
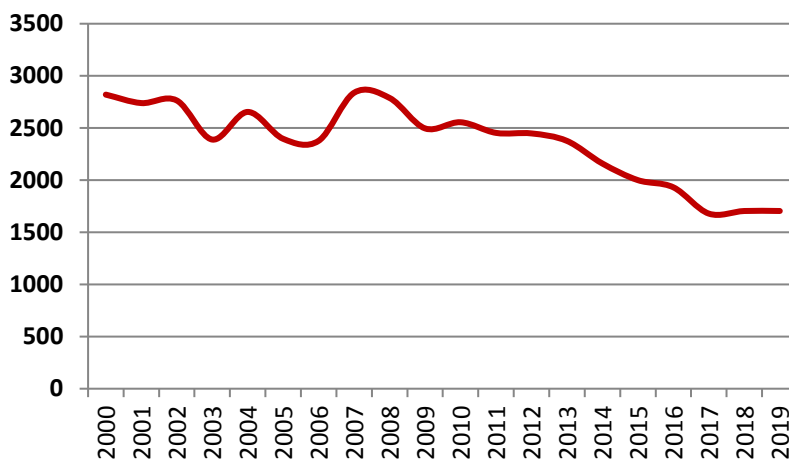
Larceny

Definition

Larceny is the illegal taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of someone else's property. It includes crimes such as shoplifting, pocket-picking, thefts from vehicles, thefts of auto parts and accessories, bicycle thefts, and all other thefts in which no force, violence, fraud, or burglary occurs. The crime does not include embezzlement, "con" games, forgery, or bad checks, nor does it include auto theft, which is a separate offense.

Statistics	
Five-Year Average	**1,813**
2018	**1,704**
2019	**1,704**
Change from 2018	**0%**
Change from Average	**-6%**

Larcenies reported in Cambridge

Larceny is always the most common of the Part I crimes in Cambridge. This year it accounted for 75% of the total Part I crime and 87% of the total property crime. Larceny often produces the most patterns. Many of the categories can be fueled by changes in technology. As electronics such as laptops, cell phones, and portable music players become more popular and evolve, they become easier targets, easier to conceal, and ultimately easier to sell.

Larceny is broken down into the nine categories listed in the table below. Most of the larceny categories experienced reductions from 2018 to 2019: larcenies from buildings (-20%), larcenies from motor vehicles (-13%), larcenies from the person (-4%), larcenies from residences (-3%), larcenies of license plates (-22%), larcenies of services (-42%), and miscellaneous larcenies (-15%). Meanwhile, the only larceny types that experienced increases in 2019 over 2018 were larcenies of bicycles (+38%) and shoplifting (+3%).

Larcenies by type

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2018	2019	Change from Avg.	% of Total (2019)
Larcenies from buildings	295	272	217	-26%	13%
Larcenies from motor vehicles	329	270	236	-28%	14%
Larcenies from persons	180	166	159	-12%	9%
Larcenies from residences	243	256	248	2%	15%
Larcenies of bicycles	328	307	425	30%	25%
Larcenies of license plates	25	23	18	-28%	1%
Larcenies of services	24	26	15	-38%	1%
Shoplifting	347	338	347	0%	20%
Other (unclassifiable) larcenies	42	46	39	-7%	2%
Total	**1,813**	**1,704**	**1,704**	**-6%**	

Larcenies from buildings

Larcenies from buildings are non-burglary thefts from commercial establishments. "Non-burglary" means that either the offender had a specific right to be on the premises, or that the building was open to the general public, and that no force was used to gain entry to the building where the theft was committed.

Larcenies from buildings by business district

Business District	2018	2019	Change
CambridgeSide/East Cambridge	38	23	-39%
Kendall/M.I.T.	23	12	-48%
Inman Square	14	10	-29%
Central Square	58	51	-12%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	10	8	-20%
Bay Sq./Upper Broadway	14	10	-29%
Harvard Square	62	49	-21%
1500-1900 Mass. Ave.	11	21	91%
Porter Sq./N. Cambridge	19	6	-68%
Alewife/West Cambridge	23	27	17%
Total	**272**	**217**	**-20%**

There were 217 larcenies from buildings reported in 2019. This total represents a decrease of 55 incidents (-20%) from 2018 and a 26% drop below the five-year average of 295.

Larceny from building scenarios

The following are the most common larceny from building scenarios in Cambridge in 2019:

1. Thefts of property intentionally left unattended for a short time: **51 incidents**
2. Thefts of property accidentally left behind at a location: **39 incidents**
3. Thefts from a health club: **36 incidents**
4. Thefts of company property by an employee ("inside job"): **18 incidents**
5. Thefts of property left unattended on a store counter: **16 incidents**
6. Thefts of personal/company property from an office building during business hours: **16 incidents**
7. Thefts of employee property from the "back room" of a commercial establishment: **10 incidents**
8. Thefts from a hotel room: **9 incidents**
9. Thefts from a construction site: **8 incidents**
10. Thefts from a school: **6 incidents**

Top hot spots of 2019

1. **Planet Fitness**
   1815 Massachusetts Avenue
   20 incidents

2. **CambridgeSide Shopping Center**
   100 CambridgeSide Place
   12 incidents

3. **Charles Hotel–Wellbridge Athletic Club**
   5 Bennett Street
   9 incidents

4. **Mount Auburn Hospital**
   330 Mount Auburn Street
   4 incidents

5. **Warming Center (at the Senior Center)**
   806 Massachusetts Avenue
   3 incidents

6. **Courtyard Boston Cambridge Hotel**
   777 Memorial Drive
   3 incidents

7. **Caffe Nero**
   589 Massachusetts Avenue
   3 incidents

8. **Russell House Tavern**
   14 JFK Street
   3 incidents

9. **Tasty Burger**
   40 JFK Street
   3 incidents

10. **Cambridge Public Library**
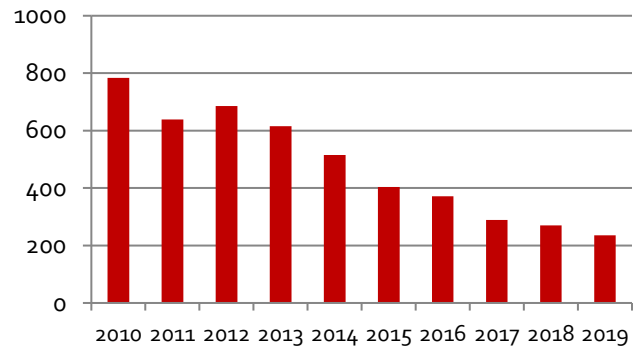   449 Broadway
    3 incidents

Larcenies from motor vehicles

Larcenies from motor vehicles (LMVs) involve an offender either breaking into a car and stealing valuables from within or stealing an accessory, such as tires or hubcaps.

This crime type hit its peak in 2007—when GPS units became a hot target—and has been steadily decreasing each year since then, with only one slight increase in 2012. The total of 236 car breaks reported in 2019 was 13% below the 2018 total of 270 and 28% below the five-year weighted average of 329.

LMV activity tends to be concentrated in a few specific areas each year. Very few established patterns of this crime emerged in 2019, however. The most notable series of LMVs this year took place in February and March and involved a concentration of overnight thefts from unlocked vehicles along the periphery of Central Square, particularly in the River Street/Western Avenue triangle. Extra patrols in the area helped to cool this activity by late March.

Larcenies from motor vehicles, 2010-2019

Top stolen items of 2019		Top methods of entry
1. Cash/Coins	68	1. Entry through unlocked door or open window, accounted for 43% in 2019.
2. Backpacks/Bags/ Purses/Wallets	59	
3. Misc. Electronics (Phones, MP3 Players, GPS Units, etc.)	44	
4. Laptops	23	2. In 37% of cases, means of entry were unknown, with no signs of force.
5. Glasses/Sunglasses	19	
6. Clothing/Coats/Shoes	16	
7. Credit/ATM cards	15	
8. Keys	15	3. Breaking a window; this accounted for only 9% of larcenies in 2019.
9. Auto Parts	9	
10. Identification	8	

Larcenies from vehicles by neighborhood

| Neighborhood	2018	2019	Change
East Cambridge	22	22	0%
M.I.T.	2	0	-100%
Inman/Harrington	16	19	19%
The Port	7	15	114%
Cambridgeport	35	35	0%
Mid-Cambridge	16	13	-19%
Riverside	33	19	-42%
Agassiz	7	6	-14%
Peabody	29	24	-17%
West Cambridge	34	35	3%
North Cambridge	52	35	-33%
Cambridge Highlands	11	5	-55%
Strawberry Hill	6	8	33%
Total	**270**	**236**	**-13%**

Larcenies from persons

Larceny from the person describes pocket-picking or any theft that occurs within the victim's area of control. The thefts are non-confrontational, and often the victim is not aware of the theft until after it has occurred. If any physical confrontation between offender and victim takes place, the crime is recorded as a robbery.

After a decrease of 29% was reported in 2017, resulting in the lowest total seen in over 20 years in Cambridge, larcenies from the person reversed direction in 2018 and rose 5% to 166 incidents. In 2019, this crime type dropped back down 159, just one incident above the record low total seen in 2017. Also notable in 2019 is that five of the larcenies from persons in 2019 resulted in an arrest at the time of the incident, and a suspect was developed in an additional 23 incidents. See the scenarios below for more on larcenies from the person in 2019.

Larcenies from persons by business district

Business District	2018	2019	Change
CambridgeSide/ East Cambridge	21	20	-5%
Kendall/M.I.T.	5	4	-20%
Inman Square	3	1	-67%
Central Square	62	63	2%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	1	8	700%
Bay Sq./Upper Broadway	4	4	0%
Harvard Square	49	38	-22%
1500-1900 Mass. Ave.	1	6	500%
Porter Sq./N. Cambridge	9	8	-11%
Alewife/West Cambridge	11	7	-36%
Total	**166**	**159**	**-4%**

Larcenies from persons, 2010-2019
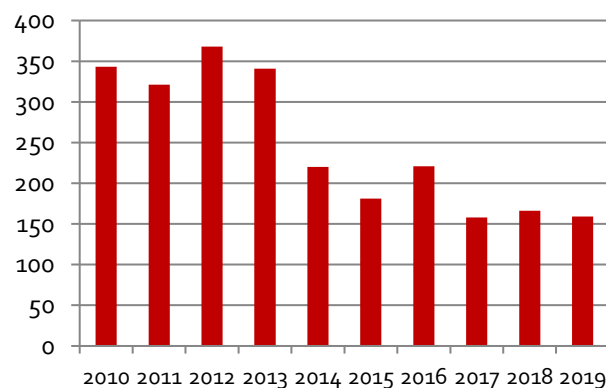
The following represents a few of the recurring larceny from person scenarios in Cambridge:

1. Two categories tied for the title of most common larceny from person scenario in Cambridge in 2019. The first involved the theft of items after they were left unattended by their owners. This scenario accounted for approximately 24% of the larcenies from persons in 2019. This includes purses, wallets, and other belongings left briefly unattended in bars, restaurants, churches, schools, bus stops, parks, etc. In one typical scenario of this type, a student leaves his or her cell phone in a backpack near a basketball court and returns to find that the phone is missing. Another repeat scenario is the theft of belongings from residents of local homeless shelters while those residents are asleep.

2. The other most common larceny from person scenario in Cambridge in 2019 was when items were stolen from patrons of local restaurants and bars in the city. An example is when a diner hangs a purse over the back of a chair and someone takes valuables from within. This scenario, also known as dipper activity, also accounted for 24% of the larcenies from persons in 2019. Harvard and Central Squares are almost always the city hotspots for this type of activity. In 2019, 15 incidents were reported in Harvard Square and 14 were seen in Central Square, with two establishments in Harvard Square and one in Central Square reporting multiple incidents.

3. Another popular scenario in 2019 was the grab-and-run incident. An example of this scenario is when a commuter is sitting at a bus stop with his backpack on the bench next to him and someone takes the backpack and flees. Another scenario involves when two people meet in person to make an exchange for property that was arranged online; during the trade, the suspect manages to escape with both the property and the money. Grab-and-run incidents accounted for 21% of the larceny from person reports citywide in 2019.

Larcenies from residences

Larcenies from residences are non-burglary thefts from apartments, hallways, garages, or yards. "Non-burglary" means that no force or trespass was involved in the theft. Typically, around a quarter of these thefts are committed by someone known to the victim or by people who have a right to be on the property.

There were 248 larcenies from residences reported in Cambridge in 2019, a 3% decrease below 2018. The thefts of packages from the front steps or vestibules of residences continued to dominate this crime category this year, with 149 incidents reported. This number is down slightly from the 159 package thefts reported in 2018, but it should be noted that these incidents are believed to be vastly underreported, so the actual number of packages stolen each year is unknown.

The most common larceny from residence scenarios are:
- Thefts of mail/packages delivered by a parcel service: **62%**
- Thefts committed by someone working in the residence, such as a painter, plumber, contractor, or maintenance worker: **10%**
- Thefts committed by visitors or guests of a residence: **9%**
- Thefts from a yard, porch, or other area surrounding a residence: **9%**
- Thefts from a common area of an apartment building: **4%**
- Thefts committed by a family member, spouse, or romantic partner (i.e., "domestic thefts"): **4%**
- Thefts from a storage area of an apartment building or complex: **1%**
- Thefts committed while victims are in the process of moving: **0%**

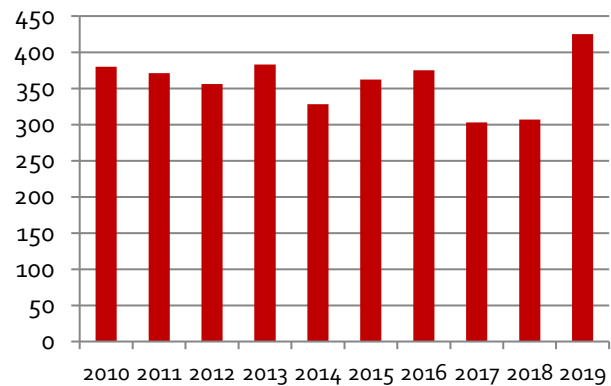**Larcenies from residences by neighborhood**

Neighborhood	2018	2019	Change
East Cambridge	36	21	-42%
MIT	1	3	200%
Inman/Harrington	39	28	-28%
The Port	35	25	-29%
Cambridgeport	34	29	-15%
Mid-Cambridge	22	41	86%
Riverside	20	27	35%
Agassiz	6	10	67%
Peabody	23	24	4%
West Cambridge	9	9	0%
North Cambridge	21	23	10%
Cambridge Highlands	6	3	-50%
Strawberry Hill	4	5	25%
Total	**256**	**248**	**-3%**

Larcenies of bicycles*

Larcenies of bicycles by neighborhood

Neighborhood	2018	2019	Change
East Cambridge	36	58	61%
M.I.T.	6	14	133%
Inman/Harrington	15	19	27%
The Port	33	37	12%
Cambridgeport	44	56	27%
Mid-Cambridge	29	47	62%
Riverside	38	35	-8%
Agassiz	5	8	60%
Peabody	20	18	-10%
West Cambridge	46	52	13%
North Cambridge	30	76	153%
Cambridge Highlands	3	5	67%
Strawberry Hill	2	0	-100%
Total	**307**	**425**	**38%**

Larcenies of bicycles, 2010-2019

Larcenies of bicycles by month in 2019

Month	Number of thefts
January	10
February	7
March	19
April	33
May	34
June	68
July	67
August	83
September	45
October	41
November	11
December	7
Total	**425**

There were 425 reported incidents of stolen bicycles in 2019, an increase of 108 incidents (38%) over 2018 and a 30% rise over the five-year weighted average of 328 thefts. Consistent with expectations, the largest numbers of bicycle thefts occurred during the late spring, summer, and early fall, when bicycles were most prevalent along the city's streets and sidewalks because of the warmer weather. Also as would be expected, these incidents dropped off substantially with the arrival of colder weather in November and December.

Locks present little difficulty to bicycle thieves, who often bring bolt cutters or pry bars with them. Approximately 58% of all reported bicycle thefts this year involved locked and unattended bicycles on a street, sidewalk, or rack. Only 16% of thefts involved locked bicycles on private property, such as in private back yards or in apartment building hallways. Another 10% percent of the larcenies involved bicycles that were left unlocked and unprotected. Unlocked bicycles that were on private property followed, making up the remaining 16% of reported incidents.

Similar to 2018, two of the hardest hit areas for bicycle thefts in 2019 were Central Square (85 incidents) and Harvard Square (51 incidents). Unlike in 2018, however, there was a substantial increase in thefts in the Alewife/West Cambridge business district in 2019, up from 29 in 2018 to 64 in 2019, thanks to an emerging trend of thefts from parking garages and storage areas around the city. In the Alewife area alone, there were 34 bicycles reported stolen from the parking garages and bicycle storage areas of buildings along Cambridgepark Drive. Two individuals were arrested during one of these incidents and a third was identified through surveillance. Citywide, thefts from parking garages and storage areas increased from 28 in 2018 to 89 in 2019.

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* The Cambridge Police Department's bicycle theft statistics do not include thefts reported to the MIT or Harvard University Police Departments. These additional thefts could add several hundred to the theft total.

Shoplifting

Shoplifting increased by 3% in 2019, rising from 338 incidents in 2018 to 347 this year. As is typical, the CambridgeSide/East Cambridge area experienced the majority of the shopliftings this year with 42% of the incidents. Other business areas with notable shoplifting numbers are Central Square, Harvard Square, Porter Square, and the Alewife/West Cambridge area. It is important to note that since shoplifting incidents are often only reported when an arrest is made, underreporting can be a serious problem. However, 80% of the reported incidents in 2019 did *not* result in an arrest, which may indicate an increase in the tendency to report incidents regardless of whether an arrest was made. Some stores may also choose to trespass the shoplifter instead of pressing charges.

Shoplifting by business district			
Business District	2018	2019	Change
CambridgeSide/ East Cambridge	113	146	29%
Kendall/MIT	4	1	-75%
Inman Square	4	5	25%
Central Square	91	76	-16%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	5	9	80%
Bay Sq./Upper Broadway	3	2	-33%
Harvard Square	49	45	-8%
1500-1900 Mass. Ave.	6	4	-33%
Porter Sq./N. Cambridge	31	36	16%
Alewife/West Cambridge	32	23	-28%
Total	**338**	**347**	**3%**

Shoplifters usually fall into one of five categories:

1. **Juvenile shoplifters**, who steal on a dare to impress their peers, to get an "adrenaline rush," or to compensate for lack of money.
2. **Impulse shoplifters**, who seize a sudden chance, such as an unattended dressing room or a blind aisle. Sometimes, the "impulse" is a long line or lack of money.
3. **Homeless persons and/or individuals with substance abuse disorders**, who might steal erratically or clumsily, are sometimes more likely than other shoplifters to get violent when caught (see "Shop Owner/Patron" assaults in the Assault section).
4. Shoplifters who steal to **satisfy a psychological need**.
5. **Professionals**, who steal expensive items and resell them to fences or "flea markets."

Larcenies of services

This crime includes taxicab fare evasion, "dining and ditching," "gassing and going," and other failures to pay for services already rendered. There were 15 of these crimes reported in 2019, which is down 42% from the 26 reported in 2018. "Dining and ditching" incidents were reported most often this year (nine incidents), followed by gasoline thefts (four incidents), and two incidents in which guests failed to pay for rented hotel rooms.

Miscellaneous larceny

This category includes all other unclassifiable larcenies. Miscellaneous larcenies in 2019 fell by 15% from 46 in 2018 to 39 in 2019. This crime category was also 7% below the five-year weighted average of 42. There were no notable patterns of any miscellaneous types of larceny this year.

Auto Theft

Definition

Auto theft is the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. The offense category includes theft of automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, motor scooters, and snowmobiles. The definition excludes the taking of a vehicle for temporary use by individuals with lawful access (e.g., a son taking his mother's car for the night).

Auto thefts reported in Cambridge
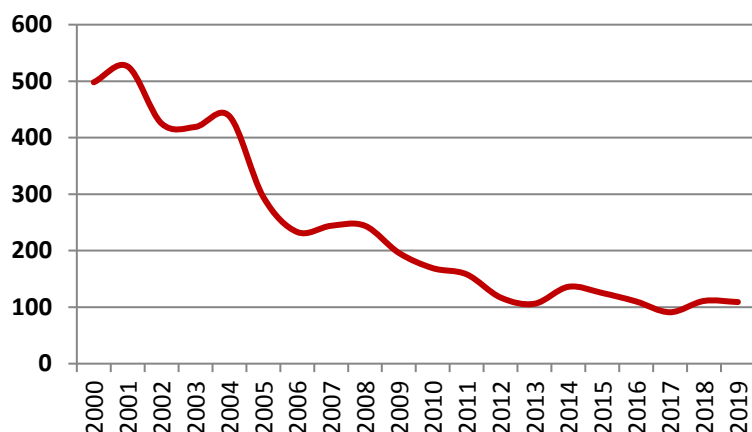
Forty years ago, there were nearly 3,000 cars reported stolen yearly in Cambridge. These figures declined to less than 1,000 thefts per year in the 1990's and today's figures represent one of the most dramatic reported decreases in a single crime type. The overall decrease can be attributed to the virtual elimination of "chop shops" and interstate auto theft rings, crackdowns on insurance fraud, advances in automobile security, and technology that enables patrol officers to quickly check a vehicle's registry listing to determine if it is stolen.

The 91 auto thefts reported in 2017 marked the lowest auto theft total ever recorded in Cambridge and was also the only year that this figure has dropped below 100 thefts so far. Auto thefts rose back to 111 incidents in 2018, and those numbers stayed relatively consistent in 2019 with 109 thefts reported citywide.

Although auto thefts tend to stay relatively consistent from year to year in each neighborhood, the most notable increase in 2019 was recorded in Riverside, where auto thefts increased by 13 incidents this year over 2018, putting the neighborhood at 200% above its five-year average of 7. This increase was due mostly to a month-long pattern of afternoon and overnight auto thefts that emerged in Riverside in mid-June. During this pattern, at least six early 2000's model Toyota Camrys and Toyota Corollas were both stolen from and recovered in the areas of Western Avenue, River Street, and Putnam Avenue. A suspect was arrested in one of the stolen motor vehicles in Somerville in mid-July, effectively bring the pattern to a close.

Auto thefts by neighborhood

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2018	2019	Change from Avg.	% of Total (2019)
East Cambridge	14	13	13	-7%	12%
MIT	3	4	9	200%	8%
Inman/Harrington	11	15	7	-36%	6%
The Port	13	13	13	0%	12%
Cambridgeport	16	17	10	-38%	9%
Mid-Cambridge	10	6	4	-60%	4%
Riverside	7	8	21	200%	19%
Agassiz	4	4	5	25%	5%
Peabody	8	6	2	-75%	2%
West Cambridge	12	13	12	0%	11%
North Cambridge	10	11	11	10%	10%
Cambridge Highlands	1	1	2	100%	2%
Strawberry Hill	1	0	0	-100%	0%
Total	**109**	**111**	**109**	**0%**	

Makes and models

Toyota overtook Honda to be the most stolen automobile make in Cambridge in 2019, constituting 21% of all auto theft reports this year. Honda came in second with 13% of the auto thefts, followed by Ford with 6% and Mercedes and Subaru with 5% each. This information, while typically consistent with historical and national trends, can change from year to year with different targeted models rising in the ranks. This was the case in 2019. Honda Civics had been the most commonly stolen vehicles in Cambridge (either alone

Top 4 stolen makes and models in 2019

Makes		Models	
Toyota	23	Toyota Corolla*+	13
Honda	14	Toyota Camry*+	8
Ford	6	Honda Accord*+	4
Mercedes / Subaru	5 each	Honda Civic*+ Honda CR-V*+ Subaru Forester	3 each

*Also in the national top 10 (for 2019)
+Also in the Massachusetts top 10 (for 2019)

or tied with another model) since 2002. But this all changed in 2019. For the first time in nearly 20 years, Toyota Corollas were reported stolen more often than Honda Civics in Cambridge in 2019. However, as the chart above shows, Honda Civics still made the top stolen list. Typically, Toyotas and Hondas are stolen more than other cars due to the following factors. First, these cars are some of the most commonly owned models in the nation, making them more widely available. Statistical probability alone would place them near the top of the theft list. Second, car thieves tend to look for average-cost, commonly owned, inconspicuous cars. High-priced luxury cars are not stolen very often because they are too easy for police to spot and are more likely to be equipped with expensive alarm systems.

Thefts of motorcycles, scooters, and mopeds have also become more common throughout the city and region over the past few years. This vehicle type accounted for 25% of all auto thefts in Cambridge in 2019, which is down slightly from 30% in 2018.

The table to the right shows the incidence of auto theft by model year (14 vehicles did not report the model year, as a lot of scooter and moped owners are not aware of this information, and 8 thefts involved model years prior to 1996). Analysis of the age of stolen vehicles shows that the highest demand is typically for cars less than 10 years old.

Auto thefts in 2019 by model year
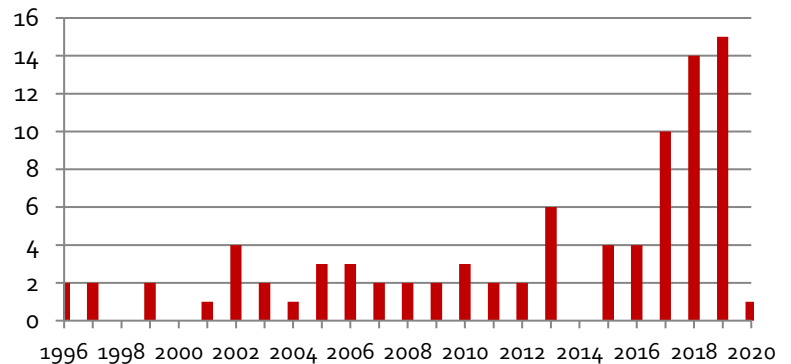
Auto theft recoveries by location

Approximately 54% of the cars reported stolen in 2019 have been reported as recovered to date. More than two-thirds of the recovered cars this year were found within Cambridge.

Cambridge Recoveries	41
Riverside	14
Cambridgeport	4
The Port	4
MIT	4
North Cambridge	4
West Cambridge	4
East Cambridge	3
Inman/Harrington	1
Peabody	1
The Highlands	1
Strawberry Hill	1

Recovers in Other cities/towns	18
Boston	7
Somerville	3
Out of State	2
Medford	2
Chelsea	1
Everett	1
Falmouth	1
Quincy	1

Part II Crimes

Drug Offenses
Sex Crimes
Fraud
Vandalism
Other Part II Crimes

Drug Offenses

Definition

Drug offenses include all incidents in which the police made an arrest, or complaint for the possession or distribution of illegal narcotics. Drug statistics do not include all instances of drug use or distribution; they only reflect those cases that are known to the police. The totals here represent only one arrest charge and one type of drug per incident. A few individuals were arrested for multiple charges or had more than one type of drug on them, but only the most serious was chosen in each incident. Note: These incidents are ones in which the highest offense is drug-related. Incidents that also involve a more serious Part 1 offense (such as Larceny, Burglary, etc.) are not counted in this section.

Statistics

Five-Year Average	63
2018	66
2019	79
Change from 2018	21%
Change from Average	27%

The Cambridge Police Department's Special Investigations Unit (SIU) is a specialized group of officers who deal with vice activity throughout the city on a daily basis. Targeting drug activity remains the top goal of the unit. Through strategic planning methods, the members of this unit attempt to alleviate the burdens bestowed upon society by the culture of drug use and sales. By aggressively pursuing low-level street dealers, the SIU, along with patrol officers, are able to climb the drug network and annually arrest top drug suppliers across Cambridge.

To the right is a geographic breakdown of drug incidents across the 13 neighborhoods in Cambridge. Cambridgeport accounted for the most drug activity in the City in 2019, with 21 incidents.

In total, 80 drug incidents were reported in 2019 and 73 people were arrested in 55 of these incidents.

Drug incidents by neighborhood

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2018	2019	% of Total (2019)*
East Cambridge	6	10	4	5%
MIT	0	0	2	3%
Inman/Harrington	3	3	2	3%
The Port	12	15	11	14%
Cambridgeport	17	15	21	26%
Mid-Cambridge	5	4	8	10%
Riverside	10	10	12	15%
Agassiz	0	0	1	1%
Peabody	2	1	3	4%
West Cambridge	4	3	7	9%
North Cambridge	2	2	3	4%
Cambridge Highlands	1	2	6	8%
Strawberry Hill	1	1	0	0%
Total	**63**	**66**	**80**	

Drug offense scenarios

There are seven common ways that the police learn about drug activity in the city.

1. The Cambridge Police Department's Special Investigation Unit initiates an investigation or conducts surveillance resulting in an arrest. Many of these investigations are due to information supplied by confidential sources: 31 cases in 2018

2. A police officer on patrol observes suspicious street activity and upon further investigation discovers narcotics: 24 cases in 2019

3. During a routine motor vehicle stop, a police officer observes narcotics inside the vehicle: 8 cases in 2019

4. During an arrest for another crime, the arresting officer or booking officer finds narcotics on the arrested person: 8 cases in 2019

5. A citizen witnesses a person or persons using drugs and notifies the police: 7 cases in 2019

6. A Cambridge school official or court officer observes drug use: 2 cases in 2019

7. Pharmacists discover patrons attempting to fill fake prescriptions: 0 cases in 2019

Type of drug involved in incidents

Category	2019
Cocaine or crack cocaine	24
Heroin/Opioids	17
Marijuana	12
Prescription drugs	9
Methamphetamine	8
Hallucinogens	2
Other (inhalants, etc.)	8

Drug related activities for which persons are arrested

Category	2019
Possession	44
Possession with intent to distribute*	18
Drug sale (observed)	13
Trafficking**	5

*Carrying a significant amount of drugs not for personal use
**Selling, possessing, or transporting of copious amounts of drugs

Summary of overdose incidents

Over the past decade, drug overdoses have become a significant concern both locally and nationwide. A public health emergency was declared in March 2014 in Massachusetts due to the growing number of opioid overdoses and deaths emerging at the time. A substantial surge was then seen in 2016 across Cambridge, particularly involving overdoses that were fatal. Although the number of suspected opioid overdoses have fluctuated in Cambridge over the past few years, the concern remains and an intensive effort continues to be put forth both within the police department and citywide to fight this epidemic.

Although overdose incidents are generally medical in nature, police often respond to assist Fire and EMS agencies. In 2019, 296 total overdose incidents *of all types* (with 19 fatalities) were reported to the Cambridge Police, which is up 6% from the 278 overdoses (with 11 fatalities) reported to the police in 2018.

When a victim cannot or will not report what substance was involved in an overdose, officers must often rely on witness statements, medical personnel evaluations, and/or evidence at the scene to make a determination. The chart below provides a breakdown of the suspected drug type involved in each overdose report for 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019.* Following that is a breakdown of the fatal overdoses from the past four years.

*This data is only what is available through police reports. Additional overdoses are reported to EMS/Fire agencies in Cambridge, but police are not always alerted to respond as the call is often considered medical, not criminal in nature.

Suspected drug ingested

Drug	2016	2017	2018	2019
Heroin	149	104	74	81
Other Opioids (including opioids used in combination with other drugs)	50	47	67	100
Prescription/OTC Meds	56	61	55	34
Cocaine	1	4	5	10
Marijuana/THC	3	9	31	12
Crystal Meth	1	1	9	9
K2	2	1	2	0
Other (Designer Drugs, Hallucinogens, Mixes not involving opioids, etc.)	14	6	20	36
Unknown	19	18	15	14
Total	**295**	**251**	**278**	**296**

Trend Note: Suspected heroin overdoses were down in 2018 and 2019 when compared with 2016 and 2017, but it should be noted that Cambridge saw a notable increase in overdoses involving fentanyl and/or poly-drug use (using two or more drugs at the same time) in the most recent two years. There were 26 suspected poly-drug overdoses in 2018, and that number nearly doubled to 50 in 2019, 40-50% of which involved heroin, fentanyl, or other opioids in combination with other drug types (such as prescription pills or cocaine) each year. In contrast, there were only four recorded poly-drug overdoses in 2017, three of which involved opioids. Whether this increase is due to an improvement in tracking and classifying overdoses or to an actual increase in drug combinations is unclear at this time.

In 2019, there were 19 fatal overdoses:
- 11 confirmed overdoses involving fentanyl, heroin, or another opioid in combination with one or more additional drugs, such as cocaine, meth, or pills (poly-drug overdoses)
- 5 confirmed fentanyl overdoses (not combined with any other drug)
- 2 confirmed overdoses by way of pills or over-the-counter medications
- 1 confirmed overdose involving a mix of cocaine and alcohol

In 2018, there were 11 fatal overdoses
- 3 likely/confirmed heroin overdoses
- 1 confirmed fentanyl overdose
- 1 overdose involving an unspecified opioid
- 1 confirmed overdose involving cocaine
- 5 possible overdoses with unknown involved drug types

In 2017, there were 15 fatal overdoses:
- 6 likely/confirmed heroin overdoses
- 1 likely/confirmed fentanyl overdose
- 3 overdoses involving unspecified opioids
- 1 overdose from a suspected mix of cocaine and prescription pills
- 4 possible overdoses with unknown involved drug types

In 2016, there were 29 fatal overdoses:
- 20 likely/confirmed heroin overdoses
- 3 possible heroin overdoses (cause of death is unknown but victims had history of opioid use)
- 2 overdoses involving fentanyl
- 1 prescription medication overdose
- 3 possible overdoses with unknown involved drug types

Suspected Opioid Overdose Details and Demographics Breakdown in 2019:

.
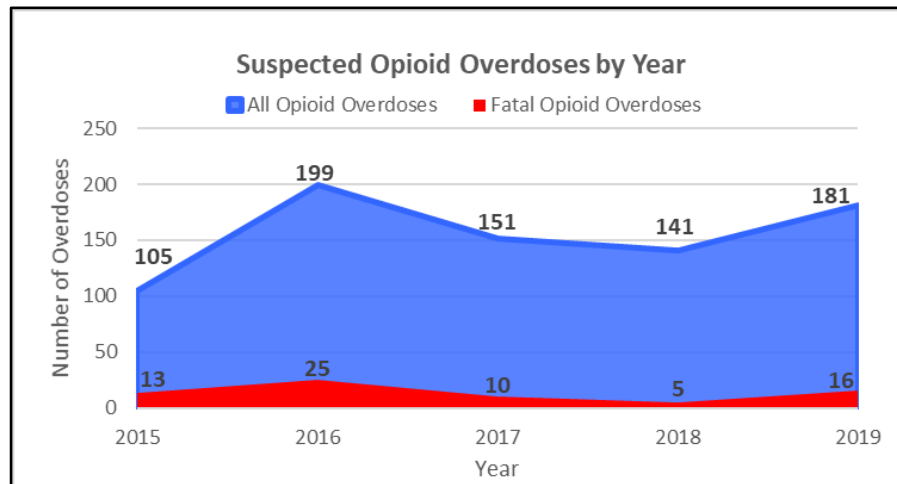
Sex Offenses

Definition

Sex Offenses include six crimes of a sexual nature: annoying and accosting, indecent assault, indecent exposure, obscene telephone calls, peeping & spying, and prostitution & solicitation. Rape is not included because it is a Part I crime.

Sex offenses by type

Category	5-Yr. Avg.	2018	2019	Change from Avg.
Indecent assault	31	20	46	48%
Indecent exposure	23	26	18	-22%
Peeping & Spying	7	6	9	29%
Annoying & accosting	8	5	12	50%
Obscene phone calls	5	4	2	-60%
Prostitution & solicitation	5	2	1	-80%
Total	78	63	88	13%

Indecent Assault

Indecent assault is the unwanted touching of a person by another in a private area or with sexual overtones. Any incident where force or injury occurs is an aggravated assault rather than an indecent assault. In 2019, the offender was a stranger to the victim in 30% of the reported assaults. Five of the incidents in 2019 resulted in arrest at the time of the incident and a suspect was identified in 30 others. No patterns of this crime type emerged anywhere in Cambridge this year.

Indecent Exposure

Indecent exposure is the offensive, often suggestive display of one's body (usually the genitals) in public. The main offenders are typically vagrants or inebriated individuals. Six (33%) of the 18 indecent exposure incidents in 2019 involved suspects masturbating or engaging in sexual acts in public, eight individuals (44%) were seen urinating/defecating in public, and four incidents (22%) were flashing incidents. Arrests were made in nine incidents and suspects were identified in an additional ten.

Peeping and Spying

Five of the nine peeping and spying incidents reported in Cambridge in 2019 involved offenders peering through windows of houses or apartments, generally at night. The other four incidents involved the videotaping and/or photographing of unsuspecting victims during situations in which privacy was expected. No arrests were made at the time of any of these incidents, but suspects were later identified in one of the window peeping incidents and three of the incidents involving unauthorized filming.

Annoying & Accosting

Annoying and accosting a member of the opposite sex is a form of criminal harassment. (Note: Incidents involving phone call harassment are not considered annoying and accosting. Phone calls are a separate category.) Often, annoying and accosting involves a man repeatedly following, shouting, making off-color suggestions, hooting, repeatedly asking for a date, or otherwise harassing a woman. It happens most often on the street. Ten of the incidents in 2019 were perpetrated by strangers, while the remaining two involved a patron of a store and a neighbor. None of the incidents resulted in arrests at the time of their occurrence, but suspects were later developed in six incidents.

Obscene Telephone Calls

Obscene telephone calls are unwanted phone calls of an offensive or repulsive nature. Often the caller uses sexual or vulgar language to cause discomfort and possibly fear to the victim receiving the calls. The caller was unknown to the victim in both incidents in 2019.

Prostitution and Soliciting Sex for a Fee

Prostitution is commonly associated with "streetwalking," (prostitutes working the streets) but also includes escort services, where a "john" (client) will call and a prostitute will be sent to the "john's" location. In the 1990's, the Cambridge Police Special Investigations Unit (SIU) had proactively fought the visible "streetwalking" problem, nearly eradicating it in Cambridge. In recent years, the problem has re-emerged in Cambridge in a less public fashion, particularly through internet advertisements. Only one prostitution incident was recorded in 2019, which involved a human trafficking investigation conducted by the Department of Homeland Security, the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, and the Cambridge Police Department's Special Investigation Unit.

Fraud

Definition

Fraud, larceny under false pretenses, forgery, embezzlement, and confidence games are not included among types of larceny in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting System. Yet in many cases, fraud is a much more serious crime than theft. Victims of check forgery and "con" games stand to lose thousands of dollars. Often added to this loss is the personal humiliation that accompanies being "duped" by a "con man." The confidence game crook, a particularly crafty breed of criminal who has no problem deceiving his victims face-to-face, expects (often correctly) that his victim's embarrassment will deter him or her from reporting the crime to the police.

Statistics

Five-Year Average	568
2018	530
2019	585
Change from 2018	10%
Change from Average	3%

Across the nation, police departments are seeing fraud become an increasingly popular crime. In 2019, this crime type in Cambridge increased by 10% from the previous year.

Counterfeiting

This crime category almost always involves counterfeit bills. In Cambridge, these incidents tend to occur most often at grocery stores, convenience stores, and gas stations, and at the CambridgeSide Shopping Center.

Bad Check

This is defined as the writing of checks on insufficient funds or closed accounts.

Forged Check

Writing a forged check includes any incident in which a suspect forges the signature of the victim, or changes the amount written on the check.

ATM/Credit Card Fraud

One of the most common types of fraud reported in Cambridge typically involves the use of credit and ATM cards. Major commercial areas such as Harvard/Central Squares and CambridgeSide are typical hotspots for this activity. There are two main ways that victims become aware of this type of crime; either victims are informed by their credit card companies of unusual activity on their charge or debit cards, or a victim finds unauthorized charges on his or her credit card account after the card is lost/stolen/skimmed. Increasingly, victims are also reporting fraudulent activity while they are still in possession of their card. Credit card fraud was one of

Fraud by type

Category	2018	2019	Change from 2018*
Counterfeiting	13	21	62%
Forgery/Uttering	291	293	1%
Identity theft	127	150	18%
Credit/ATM cards	97	92	-5%
Forged check	36	38	6%
Bad check	27	9	-67%
Prescription	1	1	0%
Application	3	1	-67%
Other/miscellaneous	0	1	N/A
Con Games	219	271	24%
Internet-related	69	85	23%
Housing Scam	55	54	-2%
Government	43	86	100%
Extortion/Kidnap	12	15	25%
Housework/Utilities	16	11	-31%
Travel	4	1	-75%
Lottery	6	3	-50%
Charity	1	1	0%
Big Carrot	0	1	N/A
Cash shuffle	1	0	-100%
Psychic	0	0	N/A
Miscellaneous	12	14	17%
Embezzlement	7	0	-100%
Total	530	585	10%

*N/A = % change cannot be calculated when the 2018 total is zero.

the main types of forgery that was expected to increase consistently in the coming years, as many criminal enterprises have taken to electronic methods due to the complexity of solving such cases. However, this type of fraud actually dropped by 25% (32 incidents) in 2018 and slipped another 5% (five incidents) in 2019. The cause for the decreases in 2018 and 2019 is unknown at this time, but one possible explanation could be the tendency

for fewer victims to report fraudulent charges on their credit or debit cards when their credit card companies take care of the charges without requiring a police report.

Identity Theft
This scenario is when a known or unknown person opens accounts in the victim's name with his or her social security number. This can include utilities, credit cards, or even filing tax returns.

Embezzlement
This occurs when employees take advantage of their position for financial gain, often diverting company funds to their own account. Historically, retail stores in Harvard/Central Squares and CambridgeSide are most affected by this crime. Often, incidents of this type involve employees stealing several thousand dollars from the companies for which they work.

"Con" Games
Internet-related incidents continue to account for a high number of con games. In recent years, there has also been a large increase in new scam scenarios, contributing to our need to create new categories in our data collection process. These categories include "Lottery", "Travel", "Housing Scam", "Government," and "Extortion/Kidnap." These were previously listed as miscellaneous con games when they were less prevalent or non-existent prior to 2014. The call-out box below details some of the more prevalent phone/internet scams reported in Cambridge recently.

The Cambridge Police issued several alerts in recent years about on-going phone scams affecting residents and businesses in the area. Many of the scams involved victims transferring money via Western Union or "Green Dot MoneyPak" cards, which are reloadable prepaid cards.

The following is a list of some of the recent scams:
- Online rental scams in which a victim sends money and later discovers that there is no apartment to rent. ("Housing Scam" category)
- A caller claims to be from the IRS and says that the victim has been audited and owes money. This scam is often prevalent throughout tax season.
- A caller claims to work for the government and states that there is a warrant out for the victim's arrest unless s/he pays a fee to clear it up. ("Government" scam category)
- A caller claims to be from a utility company and demands payment on an outstanding bill.
- A caller claims to have either kidnapped or been in an accident with a victim's relative and states that the relative is being held for ransom. ("Extortion/Kidnap" scam category)
- A caller claims to be offering computer services/anti-virus software and needs access to a victim's computer where they are able to remotely gain personal information.
- Someone approaches a victim on the street stating they need money for gas. ("Travel" scam category)

The following tips can help you avoid falling victim to one of these scams:
- Be suspicious of callers who demand immediate payment for any reason, and never give out personal or financial information to anyone who emails or calls you unsolicited.
- Never wire money or provide debit or credit card numbers or Green Dot MoneyPak card numbers to someone you do not know. Also, keep in mind that utility companies and government agencies will NOT contact you demanding immediate payment by MoneyPak.
- If you have doubts about a phone call or communication you received, contact the company or organization who allegedly contacted you.
- If you experience this type of activity, please report it to the Cambridge Police at 617-349-3300.

Malicious Destruction

Definition

Malicious destruction, or vandalism of property, includes tire-slashing, window-smashing, spray-painting, and a myriad of other crimes in which someone's property is willfully and maliciously damaged. It is the most commonly reported crime in Cambridge, yet we suspect that vandalism is one of the most underreported crimes; residents and businesses frequently ignore "minor" incidents of vandalism and graffiti.

Statistics

Five-Year Average	353
2018	300
2019	322
Change from 2018	7%
Change from Average	-9%

Vandalism by neighborhood

Neighborhood	2018	2019	% of Total (2019)
East Cambridge	43	51	16%
M.I.T.	8	3	1%
Inman/Harrington	16	23	7%
The Port	43	32	10%
Cambridgeport	47	36	11%
Mid-Cambridge	23	37	11%
Riverside	28	35	11%
Agassiz	5	4	1%
Peabody	15	17	5%
West Cambridge	28	40	12%
North Cambridge	27	31	10%
Cambridge Highlands	3	8	2%
Strawberry Hill	14	5	2%
Total	**300**	**322**	

Vandalism by category

| Category	2018	2019	Change from 2018
Total auto damage	**155**	**161**	**4%**
Dents/damage to car	57	70	23%
Car window broken	36	40	11%
Scratches, "pinstripes"	30	30	0%
Tires slashed or punctured	30	15	-50%
Attempted theft	2	6	200%
Total residence damage	**36**	**38**	**6%**
Misc. damage to residences	20	29	45%
Residence window broken	16	9	-44%
Total business damage	**53**	**73**	**38%**
Misc. damage to businesses	29	40	38%
Business window broken	24	33	38%
Graffiti	**29**	**33**	**14%**
Miscellaneous damage	**27**	**17**	**-37%**
Total	**300**	**322**	**7%**

Other Part II Crimes

Definition

Under the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, any actual crime not recorded as a Part I Crime (Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny, and Auto Theft) is a Part II Crime. The relative infrequency of patterns and trends among these crimes discourages detailed analysis.

Statistics

Five-Year Average	1,010
2018	1,041
2019	1,043
Change from 2018	0%
Change from Average	3%

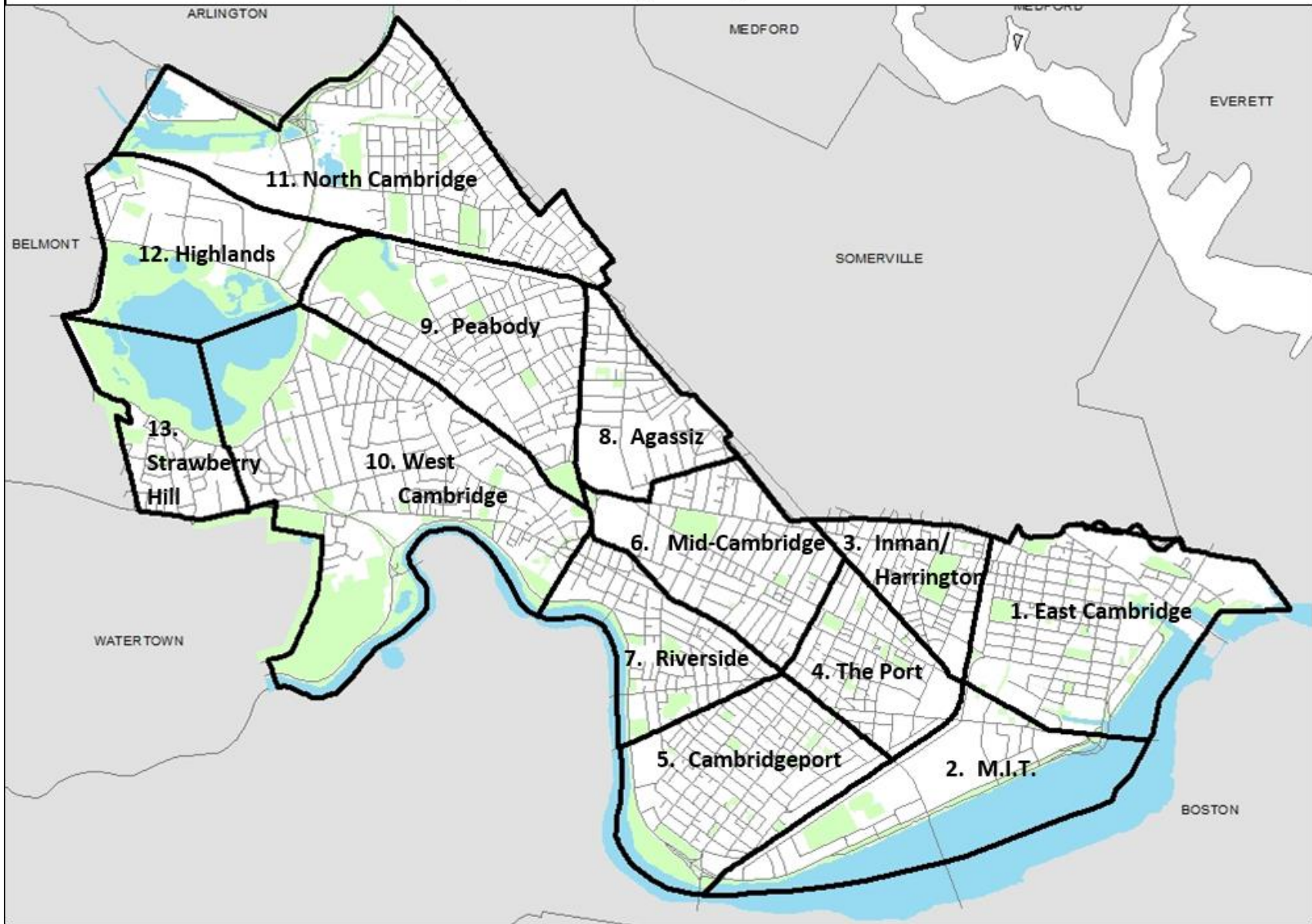| Category	2018	2019	Change from 2018
Hit & Run Crashes	642	621	-3%
Threats	201	197	-2%
Trespassing	50	52	4%
OUI	28	36	29%
Traffic Arrests	35	25	-29%
Disorderly Conduct	28	18	-36%
Weapons Violations	28	22	-21%
Drinking in Public	14	58	314%
Extortion/Blackmail	13	6	-54%
Liquor Violations	1	3	200%
Kidnapping	1	5	400%
Total	**1,041**	**1,043**	**0%**
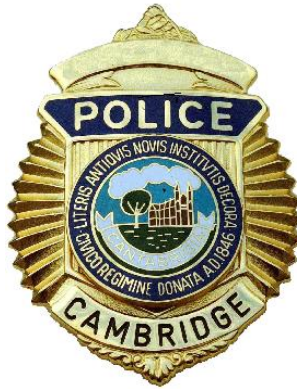
Section IV

Neighborhood Profiles

East Cambridge
M.I.T./Kendall
Inman/Harrington
The Port
Cambridgeport
Mid-Cambridge
Riverside
Agassiz
Peabody
West Cambridge
North Cambridge
Cambridge Highlands
Strawberry Hill

City of Cambridge Neighborhoods

ARLINGTON

MEDFORD

MEDFORD

EVERETT

11. North Cambridge

BELMONT

12. Highlands

SOMERVILLE

9. Peabody

13. Strawberry Hill

10. West Cambridge

8. Agassiz

6. Mid-Cambridge

3. Inman/ Harrington

1. East Cambridge

WATERTOWN

7. Riverside

4. The Port

5. Cambridgeport

2. M.I.T.

BOSTON

Neighborhood breakdown of index crimes in 2019

Crime	East Camb	M.I.T.	Inman/ Harr.	The Port	Camb Port	Mid-Camb	River-side	Agassiz	Pea-body	W. Camb	N. Camb	Camb H'lands	Strw. Hill	Total
Aggravated Assault	10	4	16	20	42	19	24	2	7	22	16	5	2	189
Auto Theft	13	9	7	13	10	4	21	5	2	12	11	2	0	109
Commercial Break	7	2	1	4	2	2	4	1	1	6	2	4	0	36
Commercial Robbery	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	4	0	0	11
Drugs	4	2	2	11	21	8	12	1	3	7	3	6	0	80
Flim Flam	43	3	18	18	35	35	19	14	23	20	29	3	11	271
Forgery	54	5	20	30	36	27	31	5	19	26	26	8	6	293
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Housebreak	20	2	5	9	16	14	8	4	12	5	16	2	6	119
Indecent Assault	5	2	2	2	14	4	8	1	0	2	5	1	0	46
Indecent Exposure	0	0	2	1	7	2	2	0	2	1	0	1	0	18
Larceny from Building	26	8	7	19	31	13	32	20	3	31	10	15	2	217
Larceny from MV	22	0	19	15	35	13	19	6	24	35	35	5	8	236
Larceny from Person	21	2	1	19	43	4	21	2	5	29	9	3	0	159
Larceny from Residence	21	3	28	25	29	41	27	10	24	9	23	3	5	248
Larceny of Bicycle	58	14	19	37	56	47	35	8	18	52	76	5	0	425
Mal. Dest. Property	51	3	23	32	36	37	35	4	17	40	31	8	5	322
Shoplifting	147	0	3	21	59	5	26	1	3	24	36	20	2	347
Simple Assault	59	9	26	44	73	32	41	3	25	51	47	15	6	431
Street Robbery	5	2	1	7	12	9	9	0	4	5	3	3	2	62

The following neighborhood slides contain census data pertaining to population and estimated median incomes by neighborhood. The population data (number of residents & households) was provided by the Cambridge Community Development Department and is based on 2010 Census data. The estimated median incomes are from the 2006-2010 American Community Survey data set, as analyzed by the Cambridge Community Development Department.

Neighborhood 1: East Cambridge
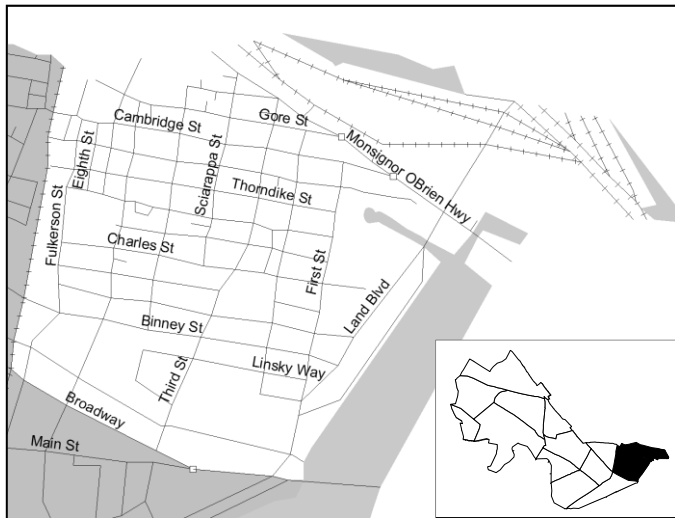
Boundaries: Bordered by the Charles River, Main Street, Broadway, the B&A Railroad, and the Somerville border.

Population as of 2010:
9,234 residents
5,050 households

Estimated median income (2006-2010)
$63,915

Neighborhood 1 lies within the patrol boundaries of Car 1 (2 officers) and Car 1R (1 officer). Also included are walking routes 1A, 1B, and 1C.
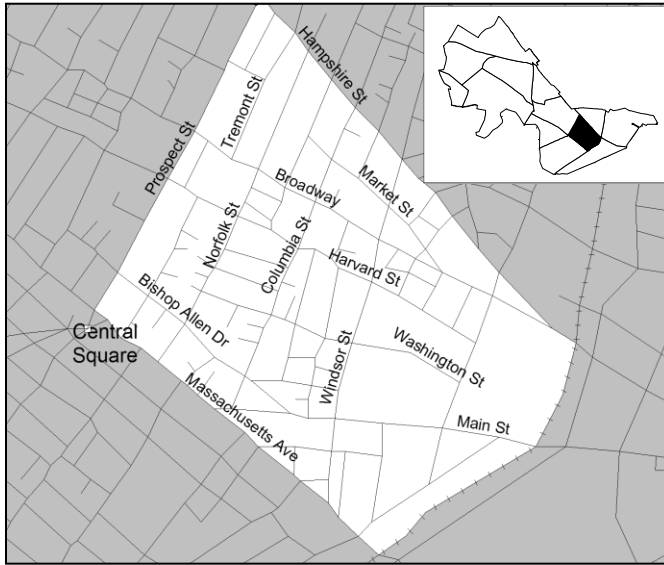
COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2015-2019					
Crime	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Housebreaks	34	19	16	12	20
Street Robbery	3	7	7	2	5
Auto Theft	15	12	16	13	13
Larceny from MVs	19	36	29	22	22
Malicious Destruction	49	44	33	43	51
Drug Incidents	5	5	2	6	4

Annual Average for East Cambridge Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2019
Housebreaks	38	36	37	23
Street Robbery	10	19	16	7
Auto Theft	156	86	34	15
Larceny from MVs	121	106	101	40
Malicious Destruction	118	110	93	50

Neighborhood 2: M.I.T. Area
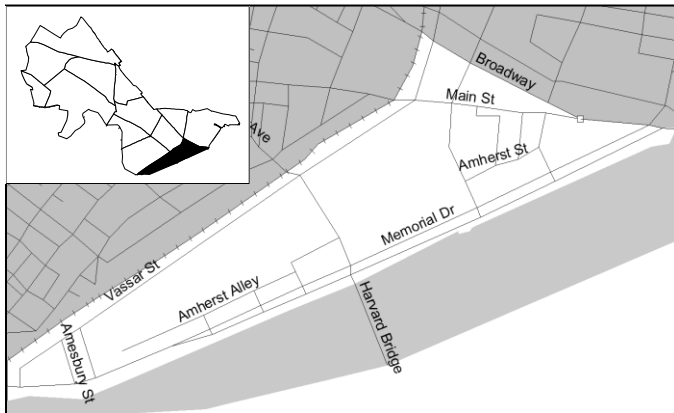
Boundaries: Bounded by Main Street, Broadway, the B&A Railroad, and the Charles River.

Population as of 2010:
5,057 residents
322 households

Estimated median income (2006-2010)
$56,713

Neighborhood #2 is encompassed within the patrol boundaries of Car 1 and Car 3 (2 officer cars). M.I.T. has its own police force that patrols this area as well. The Cambridge Police Department's crime statistics do not include incidents that are reported to the M.I.T. Police Department.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2015-2019					
Crime	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Housebreaks	0	0	0	0	2
Street Robbery	0	2	1	0	2
Auto Theft	3	1	2	4	9
Larceny from MVs	1	7	3	2	0
Malicious Destruction	8	7	7	8	3
Drug Incidents	1	0	0	0	2

Annual Average for M.I.T. Area Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2019
Housebreaks	19	4	1	0
Street Robbery	11	5	3	1
Auto Theft	102	55	8	3
Larceny from MVs	56	49	24	6
Malicious Destruction	47	28	8	7

Neighborhood 3: Inman/Harrington
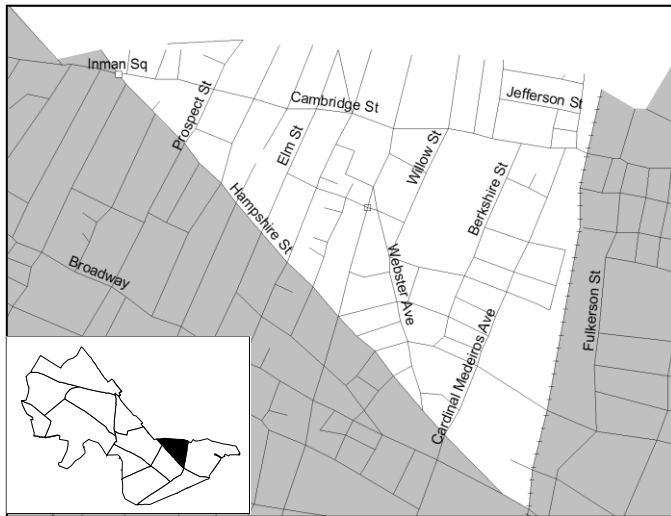
Boundaries: Bounded by the B&A Railroad, Hampshire Street, and the Somerville line.

Population as of 2010:
6,516 residents
2,882 households

Estimated median income (2006-2010)
$48,470

Neighborhood #3 is encompassed in the patrol boundaries of Car 1 (2 officers) and Car 3R (1 officer). Also included within this area are walking routes 3A, 3B, and 3C.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2015-2019					
Crime	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Housebreaks	34	30	27	18	5
Street Robbery	4	1	4	0	1
Auto Theft	13	7	9	15	7
Larceny from MVs	18	19	9	16	19
Malicious Destruction	40	34	24	16	23
Drug Incidents	4	5	1	3	2

Annual Average for Inman/Harrington Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2019
Housebreaks	57	38	46	26
Street Robbery	14	15	11	4
Auto Theft	89	48	30	10
Larceny from MVs	66	45	45	24
Malicious Destruction	94	79	67	37

Boundaries: Bounded by the B&A Railroad, Massachusetts Avenue, Prospect Street, and Hampshire Street.

Population as of 2010:
6,792 residents
2,653 households

Estimated median income (2006-2010)
$55,857

Neighborhood #4 is encompassed in the patrol boundaries of Car 2 (2 officers), and Car 4R (1 officer). Also included are walking routes 4A, 4B, and 4C, and Central 10.
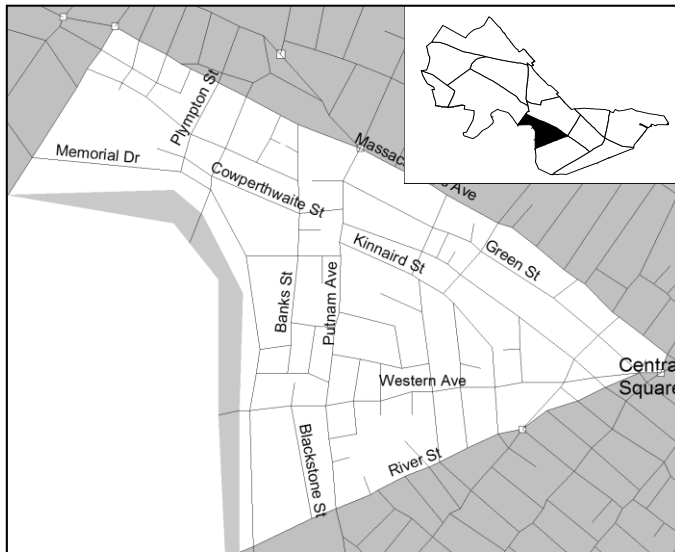
COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2015-2019					
Crime	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Housebreaks	32	43	12	20	9
Street Robbery	11	9	7	14	7
Auto Theft	13	17	7	13	13
Larceny from MVs	42	41	19	7	15
Malicious Destruction	65	40	40	43	32
Drug Incidents	10	4	16	15	11

Annual Average for The Port Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2019
Housebreaks	101	62	53	29
Street Robbery	75	47	28	11
Auto Theft	147	78	39	13
Larceny from MVs	134	77	78	36
Malicious Destruction	131	109	80	53

Neighborhood 5: Cambridgeport
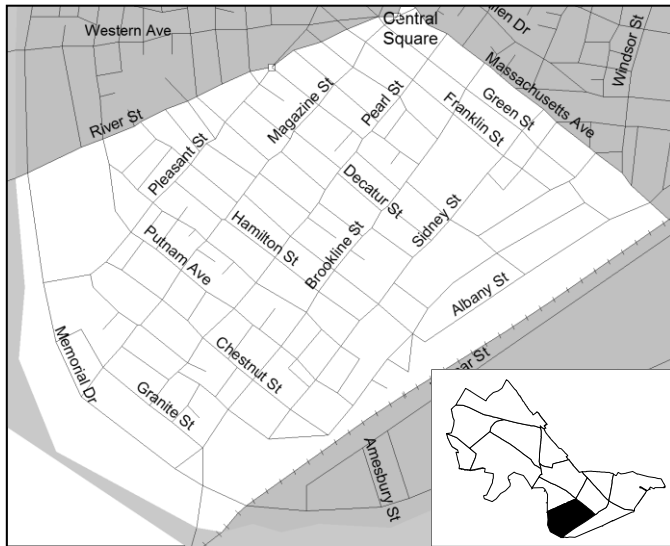
Boundaries: Bounded by Massachusetts Avenue, the B&A railroad, the Charles River, and River Street.

Population as of 2010:
 12,220 residents
 5,049 households

Estimated median income (2006-2010)
 $63,830

Neighborhood #5 is encompassed by the patrol boundaries of Car 3 (2 officers) and Car 5R (1 officer). Also included are walking routes 5A, 5B, and Central 12. The new Cambridge Police Central Square Substation opened in this neighborhood in 2018, located at Carl Barron Plaza on Massachusetts Avenue.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2015-2019					
Crime	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Housebreaks	70	50	40	37	16
Street Robbery	16	20	16	11	12
Auto Theft	18	21	9	17	10
Larceny from MVs	70	60	38	35	35
Malicious Destruction	54	58	47	47	36
Drug Incidents	13	20	22	15	21

Annual Average for Cambridgeport Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2019
Housebreaks	156	66	57	47
Street Robbery	57	31	26	15
Auto Theft	165	85	44	18
Larceny from MVs	126	92	103	65
Malicious Destruction	106	106	99	55

Neighborhood 6: Mid-Cambridge
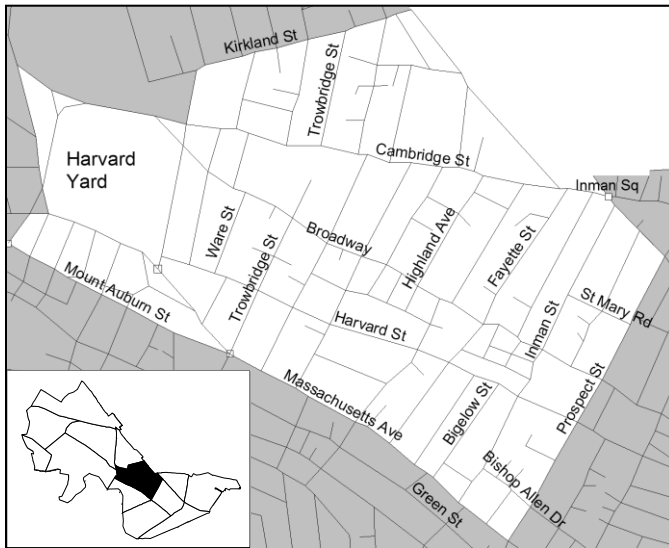
Boundaries: Bounded by Massachusetts Avenue, Prospect Street, Hampshire Street, the Somerville border, Kirkland Street, Quincy Street, and Cambridge Street.

Population as of 2010:
12,991 residents
6,195 households

Estimated median income (2006-2010)
$99,585

Neighborhood #6 is encompassed in the patrol boundaries of Car 2 (2 officers) and 6R (1 officer). It also includes walking routes 6A, 6B, 6C, and Harvard 15.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2015-2019					
Crime	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Housebreaks	49	33	34	22	14
Street Robbery	2	5	4	6	9
Auto Theft	12	15	10	6	4
Larceny from MVs	44	33	30	16	13
Malicious Destruction	34	31	31	23	37
Drug Incidents	6	3	6	4	8

Annual Average for Mid-Cambridge Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2019
Housebreaks	226	103	77	41
Street Robbery	49	18	15	7
Auto Theft	147	69	31	13
Larceny from MVs	198	103	104	50
Malicious Destruction	149	102	71	33

Neighborhood 7: Riverside

Boundaries: Bounded by Massachusetts Avenue, River Street, the Charles River, and JFK Street.

Population as of 2010:
  12,695 residents
  4,069 households

Estimated median income (2006-2010)
  $50,928

Neighborhood #7 is encompassed within the patrol boundaries of Car 3 (2 officer cars) and Cars 6R and 10R (1 officer cars). Also included within its boundaries are walking routes 7A and 7B.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2015-2019					
Crime	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Housebreaks	34	22	25	22	8
Street Robbery	6	5	4	15	9
Auto Theft	6	6	5	8	21
Larceny from MVs	27	34	20	33	19
Malicious Destruction	37	33	30	28	35
Drug Incidents	6	15	9	10	12

Annual Average for Riverside Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2019
Housebreaks	83	43	37	26
Street Robbery	34	17	14	9
Auto Theft	92	41	21	10
Larceny from MVs	87	47	49	40
Malicious Destruction	78	75	64	40

Neighborhood 8: Agassiz
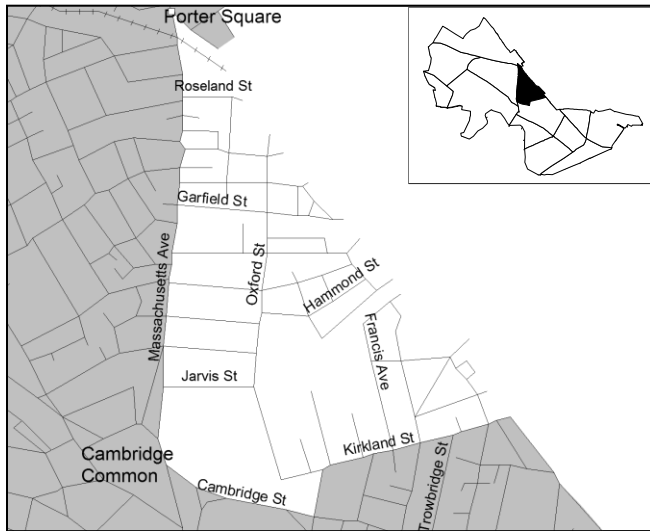
Boundaries: Bounded by Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge Street, Quincy Street, Kirkland Street, and the Somerville border

Population as of 2010:
4,977 residents
1,755 households

Estimated median income (2006-2010)
$62,117

Neighborhood #8 is encompassed by the patrol boundaries of Car 5 (2 officers) and Car 9R (1 officer). It is also covered by walking routes 8A, 8B, and 8C.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2015-2019					
Crime	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Housebreaks	12	16	10	8	4
Street Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Auto Theft	6	4	1	4	5
Larceny from MVs	11	11	9	7	6
Malicious Destruction	7	7	8	5	4
Drug Incidents	0	0	0	0	1

Annual Average for Agassiz Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2019
Housebreaks	67	26	25	12
Street Robbery	11	7	4	0
Auto Theft	45	19	11	4
Larceny from MVs	47	30	49	18
Malicious Destruction	45	28	18	8

Neighborhood 9: Peabody

Boundaries: Bounded by the B&M Railroad, Concord Avenue, Garden Street, and Massachusetts Avenue.

Population as of 2010:
11,399 residents
5,427 households

Estimated median income (2006-2010)
$70,704

Neighborhood #9 is encompassed by Car 5 (2 officers) and Car 9R (1 officer). It also includes walking routes 9A, 9B, 9C, and 9D.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2015-2019					
Crime	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Housebreaks	14	17	6	26	12
Street Robbery	2	1	4	1	4
Auto Theft	7	10	9	6	2
Larceny from MVs	58	32	28	29	24
Malicious Destruction	33	22	55	15	17
Drug Incidents	2	2	2	1	3

Annual Average for Peabody Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2019
Housebreaks	150	53	49	25
Street Robbery	21	14	10	3
Auto Theft	94	42	30	8
Larceny from MVs	74	60	80	44
Malicious Destruction	135	72	74	28

Neighborhood 10: West Cambridge
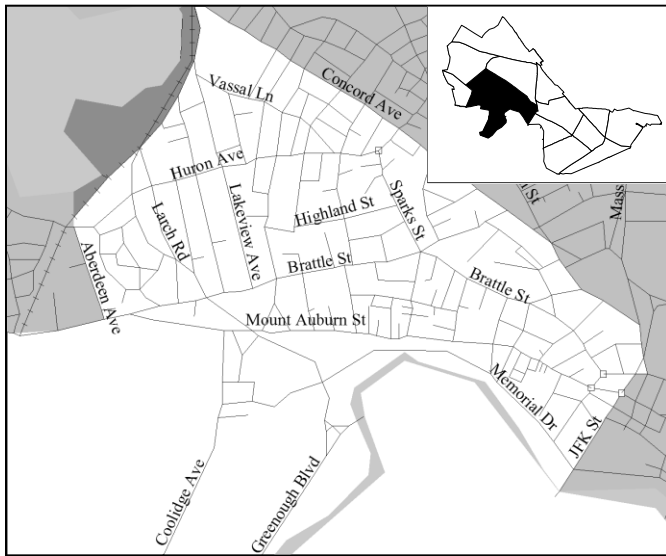
Boundaries: Bounded by the Charles River, JFK Street, Garden Street, Concord Avenue, Fresh Pond, Aberdeen Avenue, and the Watertown line.

Population as of 2010:
8,023 residents
3,760 households

Estimated median income (2006-2010)
$100,946

Neighborhood #10 is encompassed by the patrol boundaries of Car 4 (2 officers) and Cars 10R and 13R (1-officer cars). It also includes walking routes 10A, 10B, 10C, and Harvard 16.
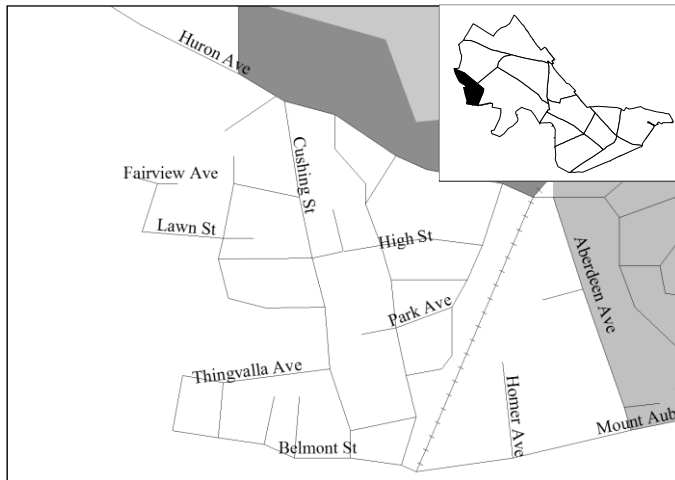
COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2015-2019					
Crime	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Housebreaks	26	16	13	15	5
Street Robbery	3	2	9	8	5
Auto Theft	12	7	13	13	12
Larceny from MVs	47	50	43	34	35
Malicious Destruction	36	31	32	28	40
Drug Incidents	6	4	3	3	7

Annual Average for West Cambridge Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2019
Housebreaks	105	38	37	26
Street Robbery	18	11	9	8
Auto Theft	105	41	25	11
Larceny from MVs	134	72	81	60
Malicious Destruction	92	76	58	37

Neighborhood 11: North Cambridge
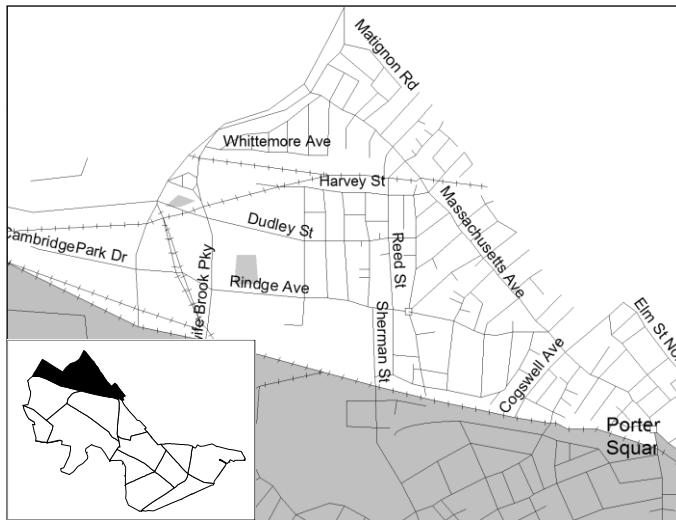
Boundaries: Bounded by the Belmont line, the Arlington Line, the Somerville Line, Porter Square, and the B&M Railroad.

Population as of 2010:
    11,908 residents
    5,359 households

Estimated median income (2006-2010)
    $62,650

Neighborhood #11 is encompassed in the patrol boundaries of Car 5 (2 officers) and Car 11R (1 officer). It also includes walking routes 11A, 11B, 11C, and 11D.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2015-2019					
Crime	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Housebreaks	27	15	17	12	16
Street Robbery	6	5	7	4	3
Auto Theft	17	8	8	11	11
Larceny from MVs	49	37	53	52	35
Malicious Destruction	40	35	41	27	31
Drug Incidents	3	2	2	2	3

Annual Average for North Cambridge Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2019
Housebreaks	100	64	49	21
Street Robbery	30	21	16	6
Auto Theft	130	68	32	11
Larceny from MVs	105	62	71	49
Malicious Destruction	125	112	89	42

Neighborhood 12: Cambridge Highlands
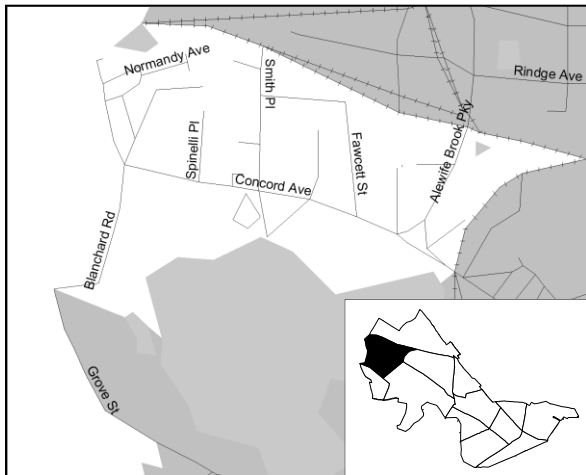
Boundaries: Bounded by the B&M Railroad, the Belmont line, and Fresh Pond.

Population as of 2010:
  832 residents
  371 households

Estimated median income (2006-2010)
  $62,499

Neighborhood #12 is encompassed within the patrol boundaries of Car 4 (2 officers) and Car 13R (1 officer). Also included is walking route 12C.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2015-2019					
Crime	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Housebreaks	2	0	1	1	2
Street Robbery	1	1	2	1	3
Auto Theft	3	0	1	1	2
Larceny from MVs	3	1	5	11	5
Malicious Destruction	11	13	7	3	8
Drug Incidents	1	0	1	2	6

Annual Average for Cambridge Highlands Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2019
Housebreaks	6	2	2	1
Street Robbery	8	2	2	1
Auto Theft	54	16	5	1
Larceny from MVs	38	23	16	6
Malicious Destruction	28	26	19	9

Neighborhood 13: Strawberry Hill

Boundaries: Bounded by Fresh Pond, Aberdeen Avenue, the Watertown line, and the Belmont line.

Population as of 2010:
2,518 residents
1,140 households

Estimated median income (2006-2010)
$69,941

Neighborhood #13 is encompassed within the patrol boundaries of Car 4 (2 officers) and Car 13R (1 officer). Also included are walking routes 13A and 13B.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2015-2019					
Crime	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Housebreaks	4	2	2	3	6
Street Robbery	0	0	0	0	2
Auto Theft	0	2	1	0	0
Larceny from MVs	15	11	3	6	8
Malicious Destruction	8	9	3	14	5
Drug Incidents	1	1	0	1	0

Annual Average for Strawberry Hill Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2019
Housebreaks	17	10	9	4
Street Robbery	4	3	2	1
Auto Theft	17	8	7	1
Larceny from MVs	22	12	18	10
Malicious Destruction	25	23	21	9

Section V

Traffic Analysis

TRAFFIC SAFETY

In 2019, with 1,454 crash reports, road users in Cambridge experienced the lowest number of crashes in at least 21 years. Furthermore, while the total number of crash-related calls increased slightly from 2018 to 2019, the number of these calls resulting in an involved party transported to the hospital by Emergency Medical Services fell 6%: 231 crashes required EMS transport in 2019, the lowest number since rigorous recording began in the mid-2000s. While these metrics for traffic safety experience variability from year to year, crashes and crash-related injuries have trended downward in general. The number of crashes reported in Cambridge in recent years is summarized in the table to the right.

Categories of Motor Vehicle Crashes	10-Year Average	2018 Total	2019 Total	% Change from 2018
Crash Calls for Service	2890	2699	2732	1%
Crash CFS with EMS Transport	305	245	231	-6%
Total Crash Reports	1560	1488	1454	-2%
Bicycle Crash Reports	170	144	146	1%
Pedestrian Crash Reports	104	110	106	-4%

CALLS FOR SERVICE

LONG-TERM TRENDS IN CRASH CFS

A Crash Call for Service is any instance when a person in Cambridge calls to request police assistance for a traffic collision. The Police Department responded to 2,732 calls for service (CFS) relating to traffic crashes in 2019. This was a slight increase year-over-year, after the city experienced the lowest number of Crash CFS in nearly two decades in 2017. Total Crash CFS increased 1% compared to 2,699 in 2019 but is down 5.4% compared to the 10-year average of 2,890 calls.

The following figure shows the average Crash CFS per day for each month, adjusted for seasonal variability. This accounts for the expected seasonal changes in Crash CFS each year, leaving only the long-term trends in Crash CFS (shown in black). The linear trend (shown in blue) demonstrates the rate of the long-term decline in Crash CFS from 2000 to 2019. The seasonally adjusted total for 2019 shows a slight uptick in the Crash CFS compared to 2018, but the total for the year falls within expectations of interannual variability in Crash CFS – the trend of Crash CFS continues downward in general.
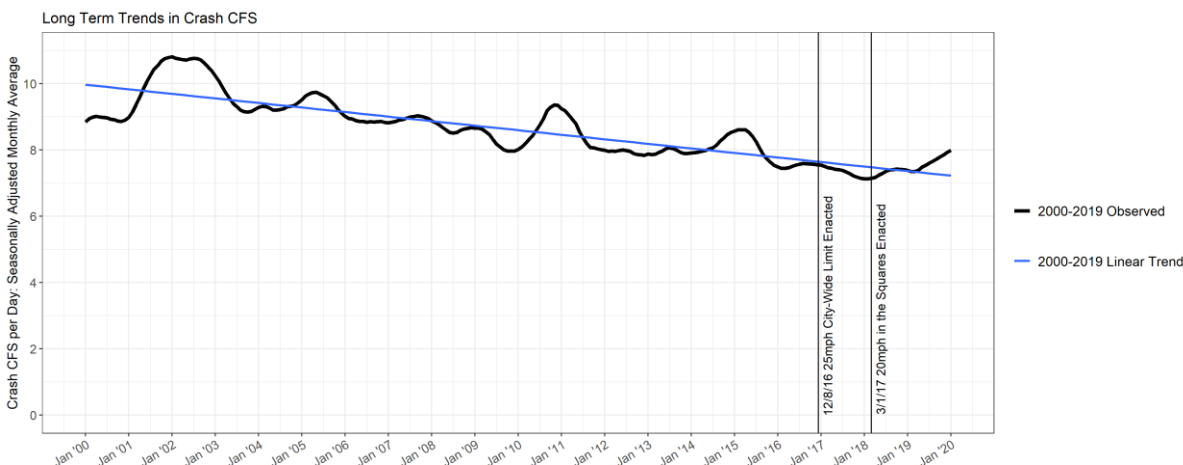
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Average Crash CFS per Day. The number of Crash CFS in 2017 was the lowest in nearly 20 years of modern records and fell below expectations based on the 2000-2019 linear trend.

CRASH CFS WITH EMS TRANSPORT REQUIRED

A useful metric for understanding crashes resulting in injury is whether an involved party required transport to the hospital by Emergency Medical Services (EMS Transport). Of the 2,732 Crash CFS in 2019, 231 resulted in an EMS Transport. For the third year in a row, this is the lowest number of EMS Transports reported since consistent reporting began in 2005. EMS Transports in 2019 decreased 6% compared to 2018, and 24% compared to the 10-year average.

The annual total Crash CFS and the annual total crash-related EMS Transports for the past fourteen years (since consistent recording began) are shown in the following figure. In 2019, 8% of Crash CFS required EMS transport to the hospital, compared to 9% in 2018. This demonstrates a slight upwards trend in the absolute number of EMS Transports, but a decline in the proportion of Crash CFS requiring EMS transport to the hospital.
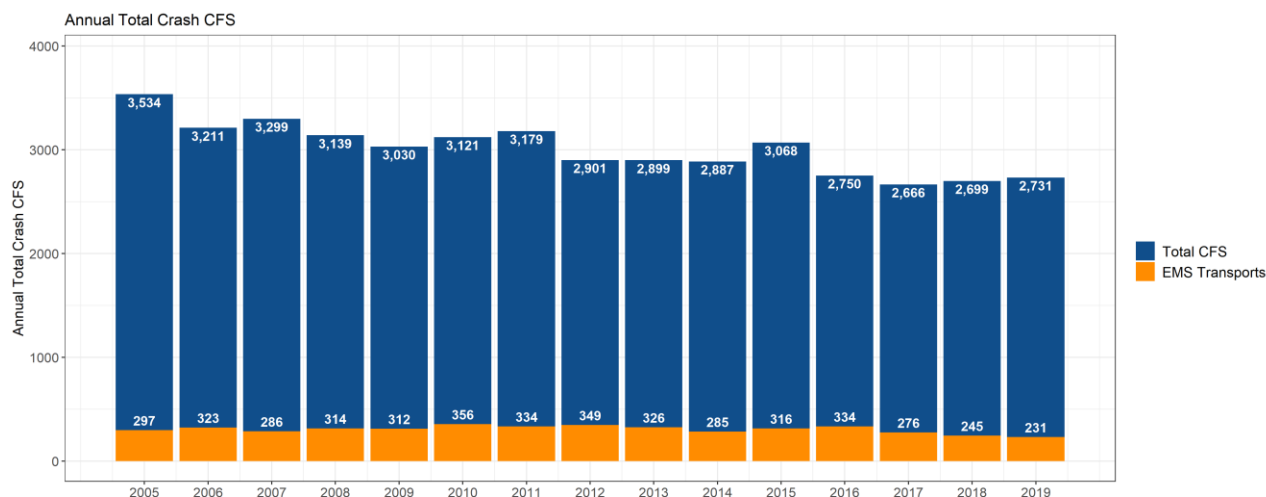
Annual Total Crash CFS and Crash CFS requiring EMS Transport to the Hospital.

CRASH REPORTS

CRASH REPORTS BY ROAD USER TYPE

Massachusetts General Law requires that a police crash report be filed for any motor vehicle crash resulting in any degree of injury or at least $1,000 of property damage. On average, approximately half of the Crash CFS result in the filing of a police crash report. In 2019, there were 1,454 crash reports, down 2.2% versus 2018.
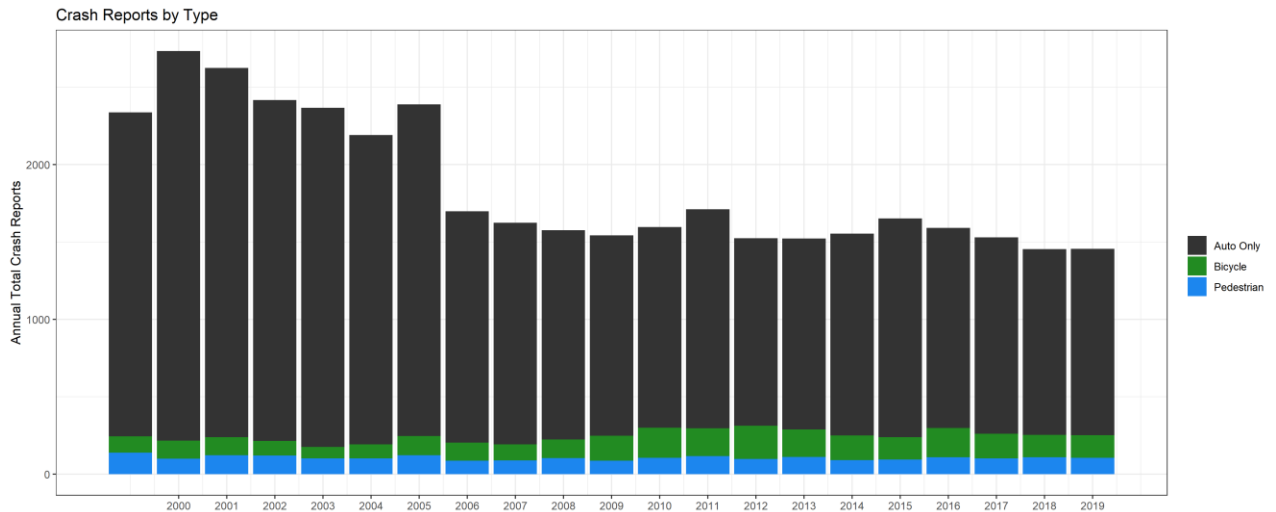
Annual Total Police Crash Reports by Type of Road User Involved. Bicycle and Pedestrian Crashes involve one or more motor vehicles and a cyclist or pedestrian, while Auto Only crashes involve only motor vehicles.

When a crash report is filed, the responding officer records detailed information about the circumstances of the crash, including detailed crash location and the type of road users involved. Of the 1,454 crash reports in 2019, 17% (250 crashes) involved a non-motorist. This represents a decrease of 1.6% compared to 254 non-motorist crashes in 2018, and a decline of 8.8% compared to the 10-year average (274 non-motorist crashes).
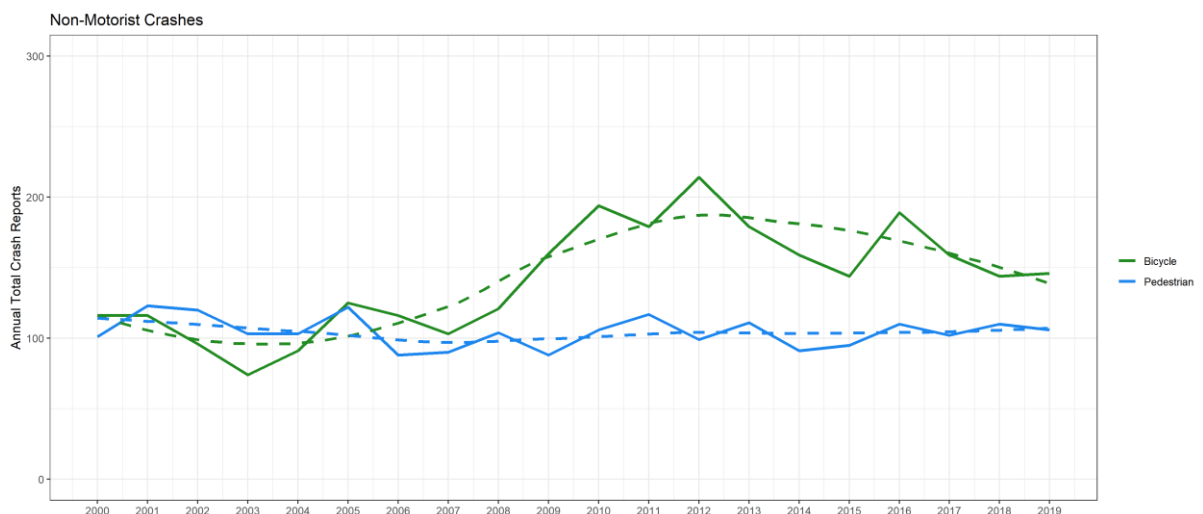
Annual Total Crashes involving Non-Motorists.

EMS TRANSPORTS BY ROAD USER TYPE

Non-motorists are the road users most vulnerable to injury. In the past four years (2016 through 2019), 12.7% of all crashes required EMS transport to the hospital, but 38.8% of crashes involving non-motorists required EMS Transport. In 2019, the portion of non-motorist crashes requiring EMS Transport decreased slightly from 41.4% in 2018 to 40.4% in 2019.
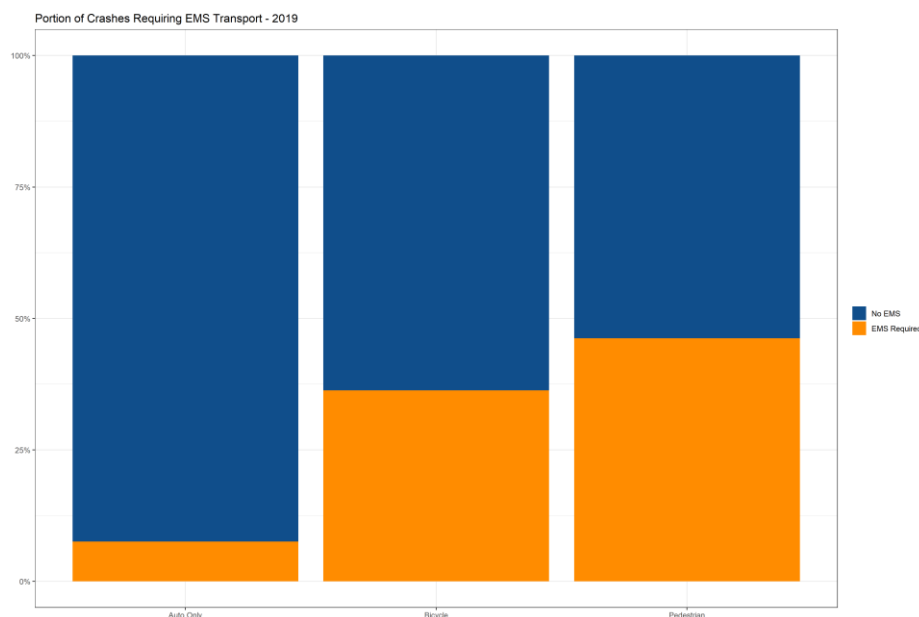
Portion of Crashes of Each Type Requiring EMS Transport to the Hospital in 2019.

CRASH LOCATIONS

In general, crashes in Cambridge occur most frequently along major corridors (Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge Street, Hampshire Street) and in the squares (Central Square, Inman Square, Porter Square, Harvard Square). Bicycle crashes are more tightly clustered along the Massachusetts Avenue, Hampshire Street, and Broadway corridors, while pedestrian crashes are more tightly clustered in Porter Square, Harvard Square, and in pockets along lower Massachusetts Avenue between Central Square and Memorial Drive. Crashes requiring EMS Transport are indicative of areas with higher risk of crash-related injury, including areas along Massachusetts Avenue and Cambridge Street, especially near Harvard Square, Central Square, MIT, and Inman Square.

The following neighborhood maps depicts the density of Crash Reports with all road user types in the year 2019.
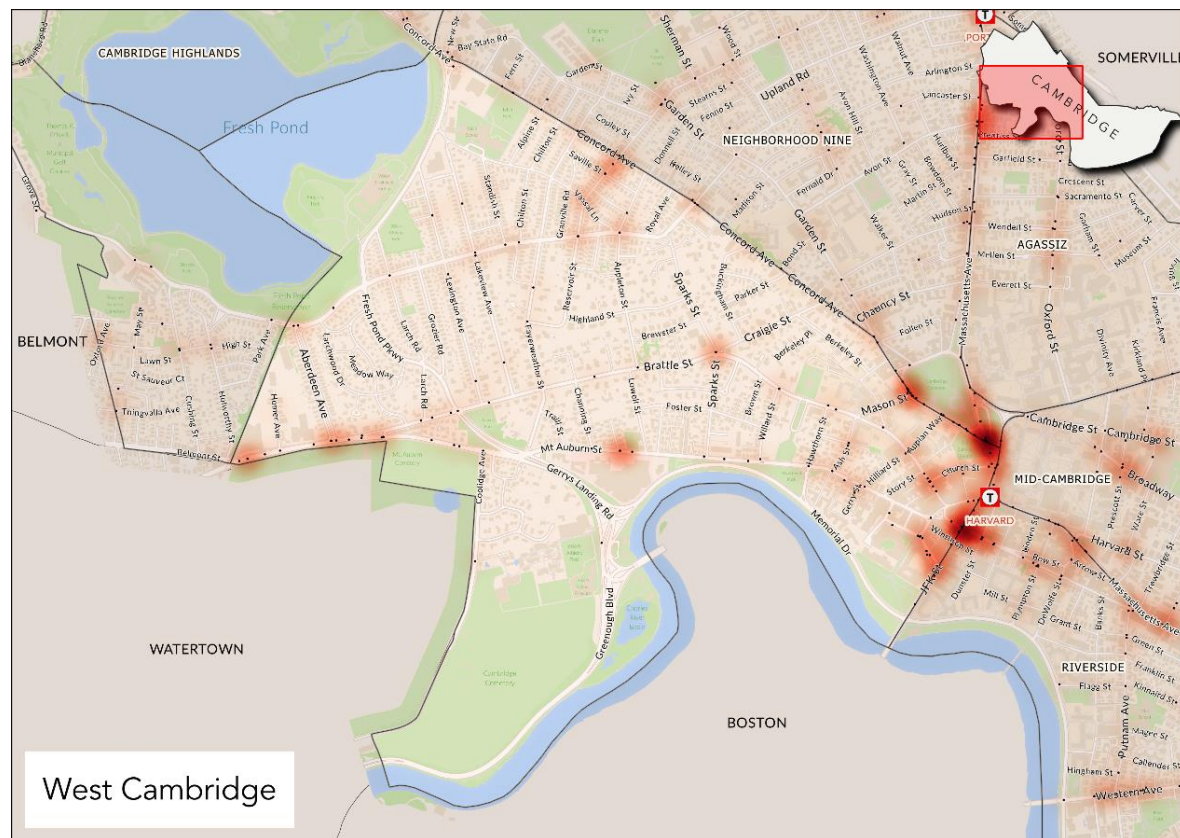
Crash Density: All Crashes in 2019
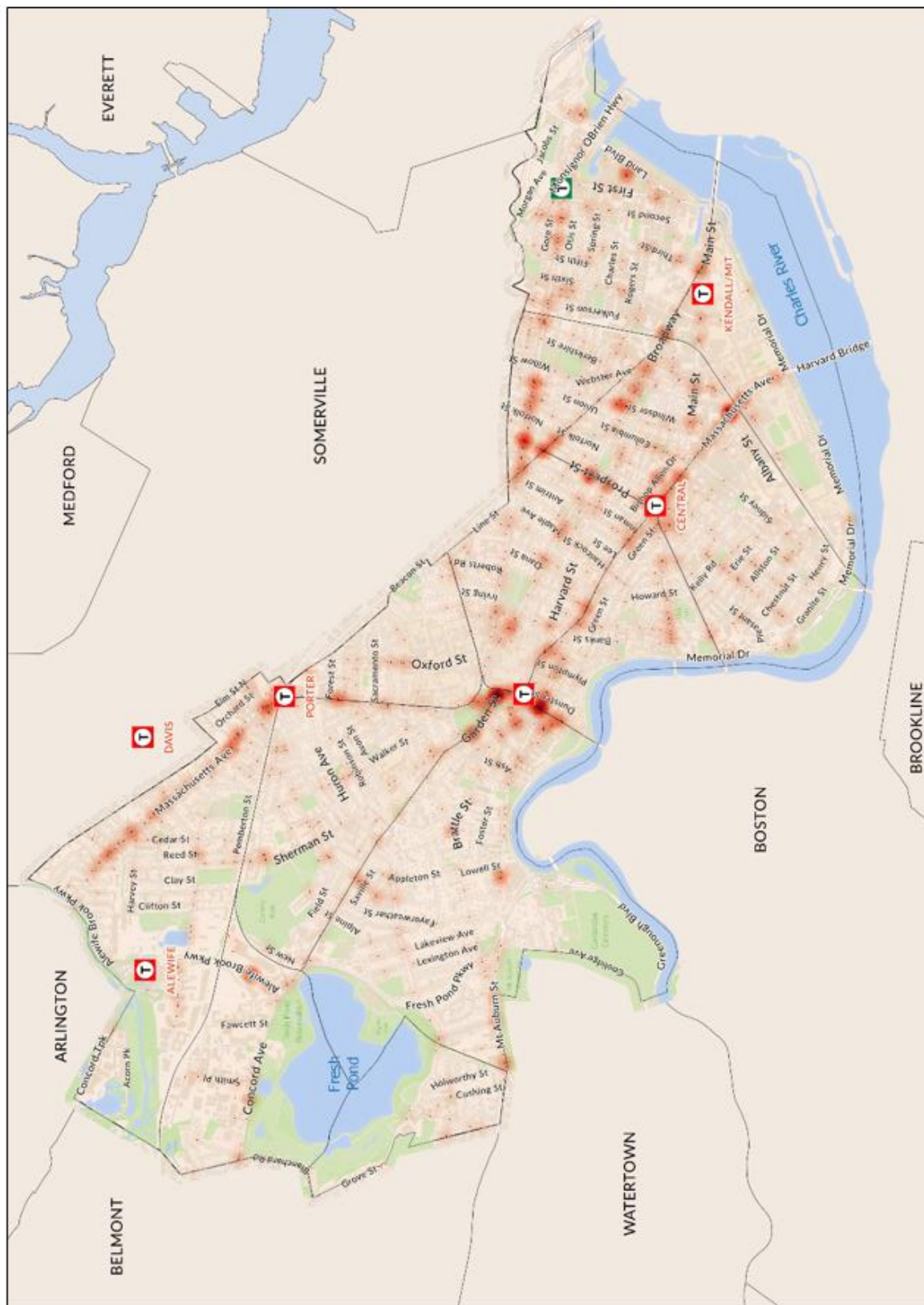
Crash Density: All Crashes in 2019, by Neighborhood

East Cambridge

Area 2/MIT

Inman/Harrington

The Port

Cambridgeport

Mid-Cambridge

Riverside

Agassiz

Peabody

West Cambridge

North Cambridge
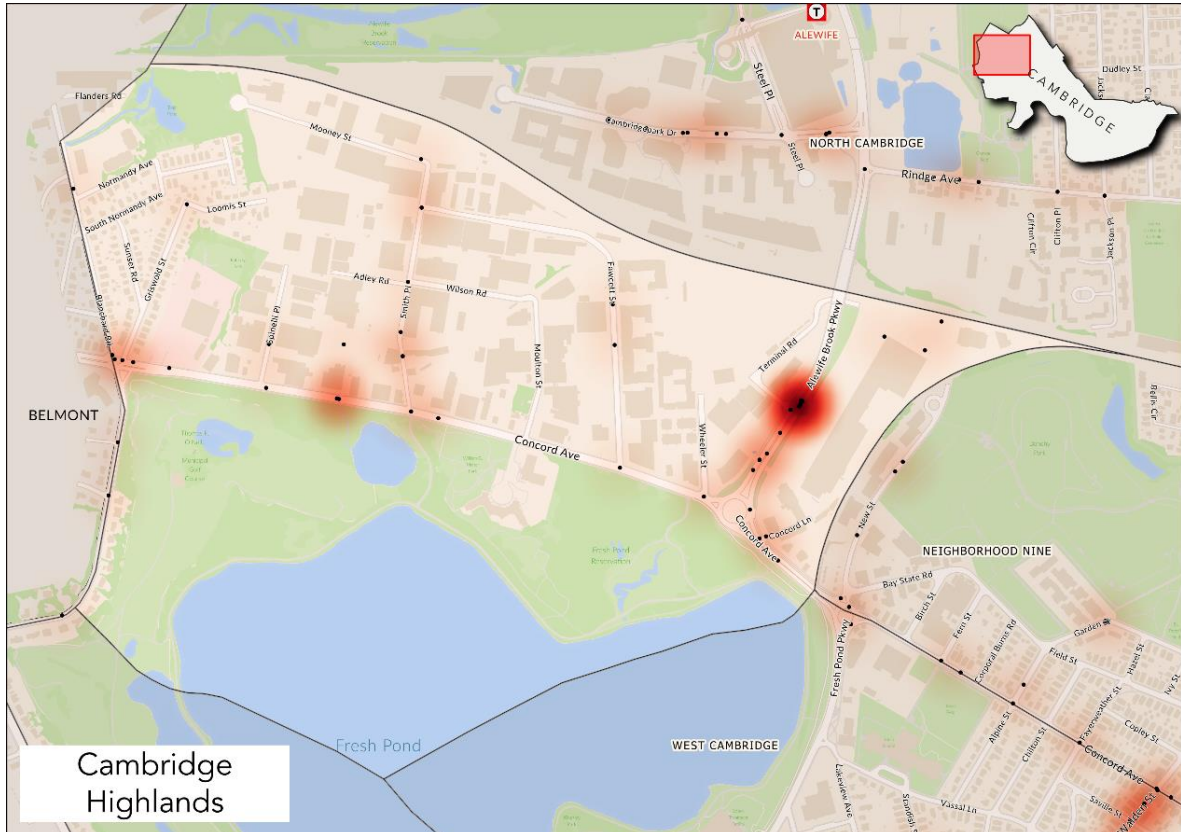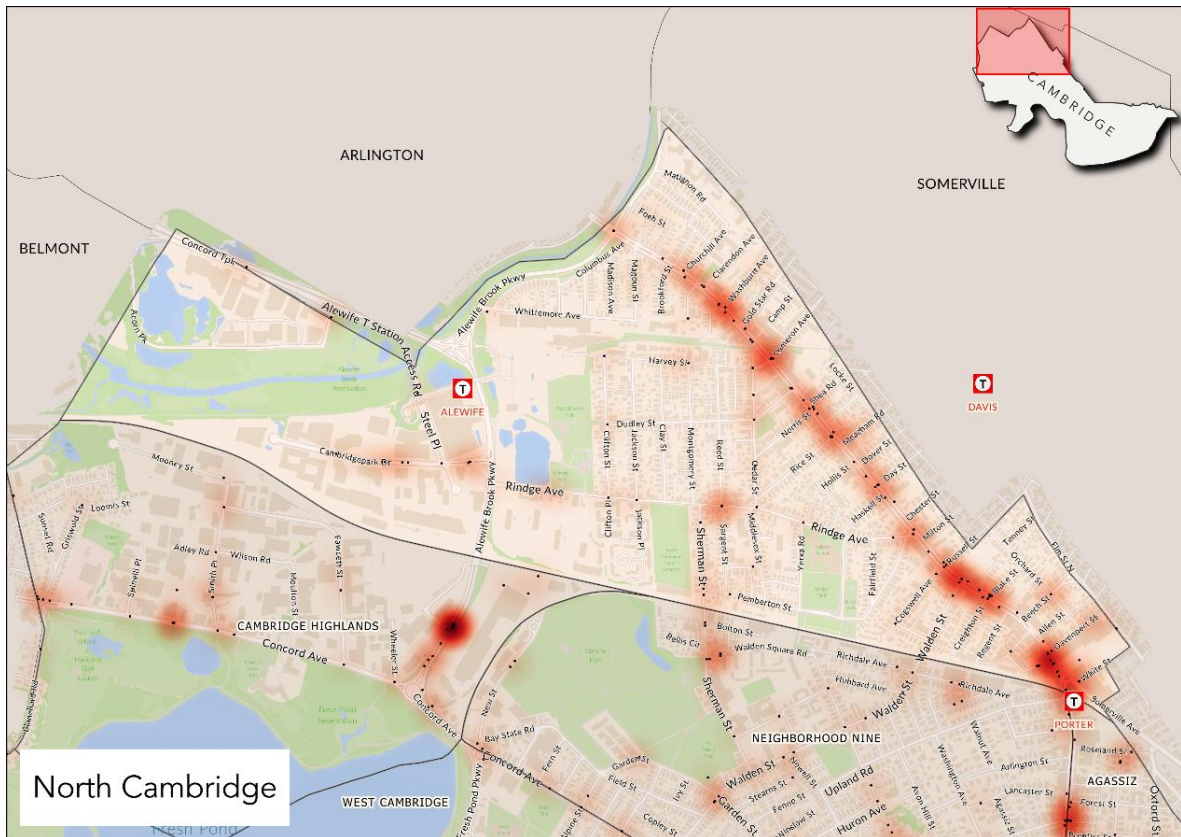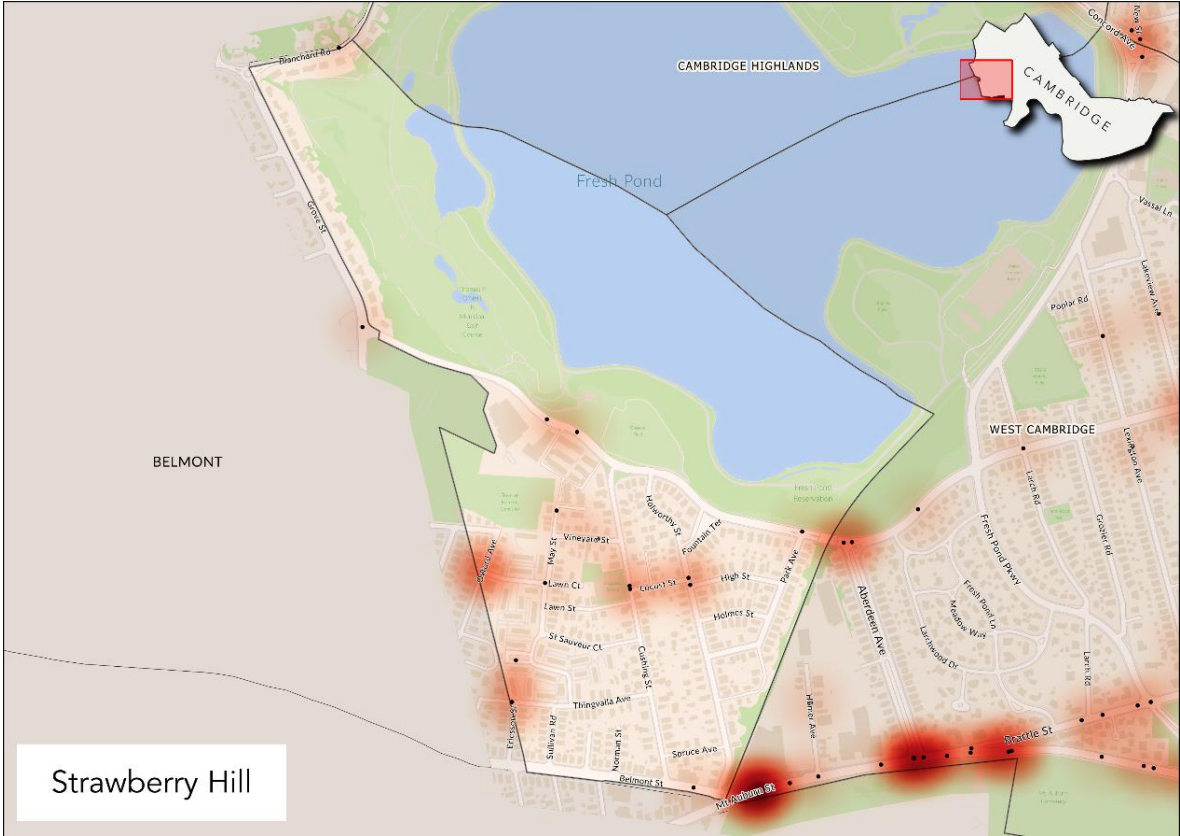

Cambridge
Highlands

Strawberry Hill
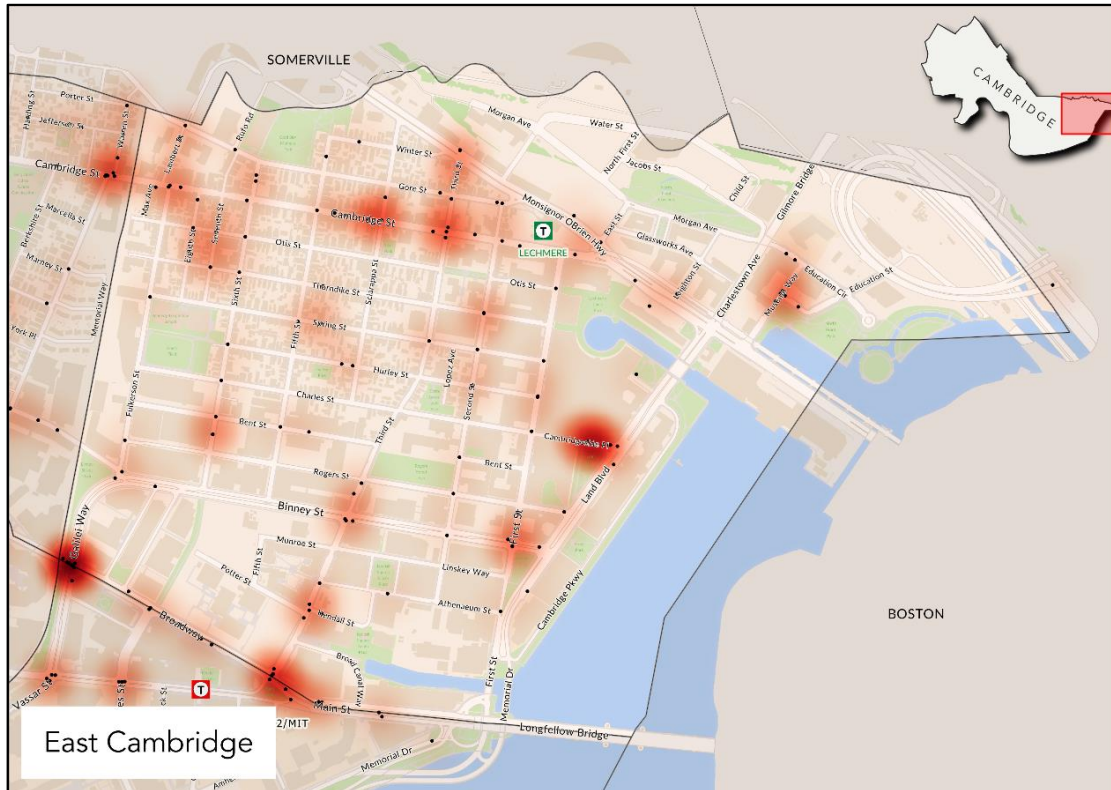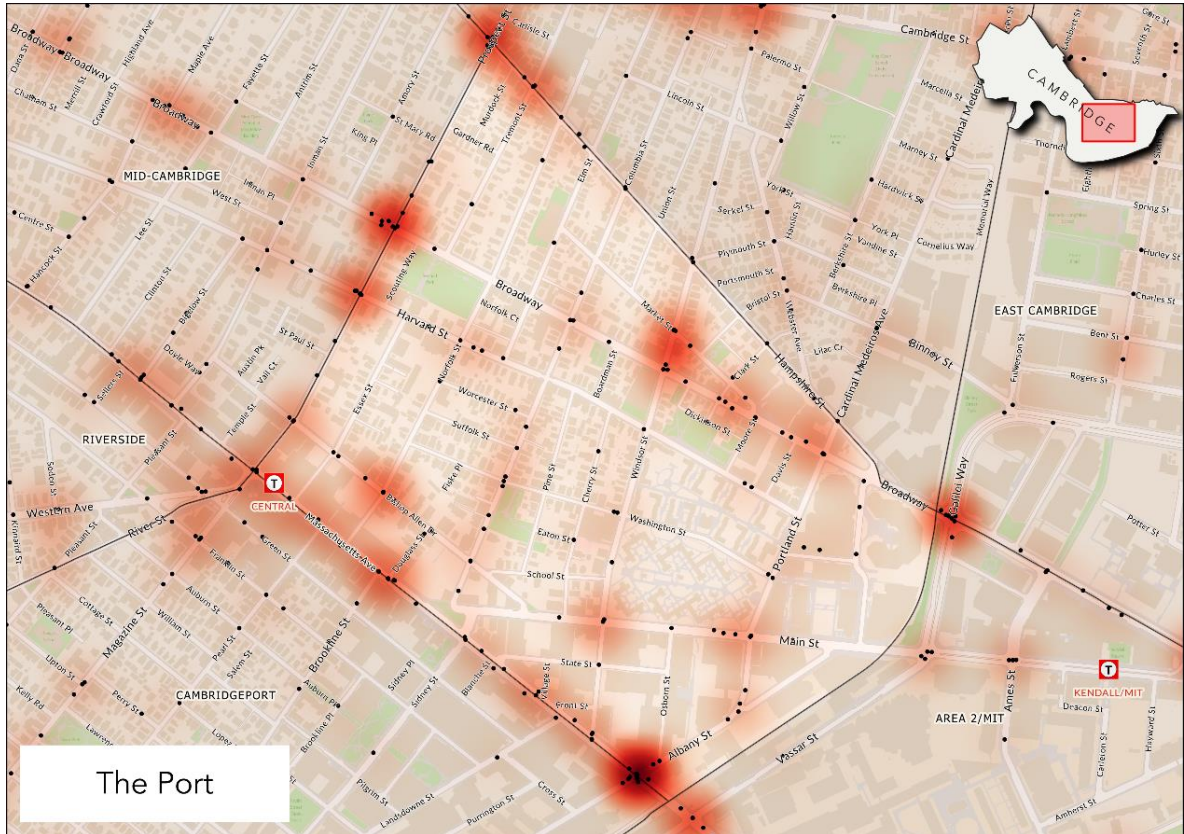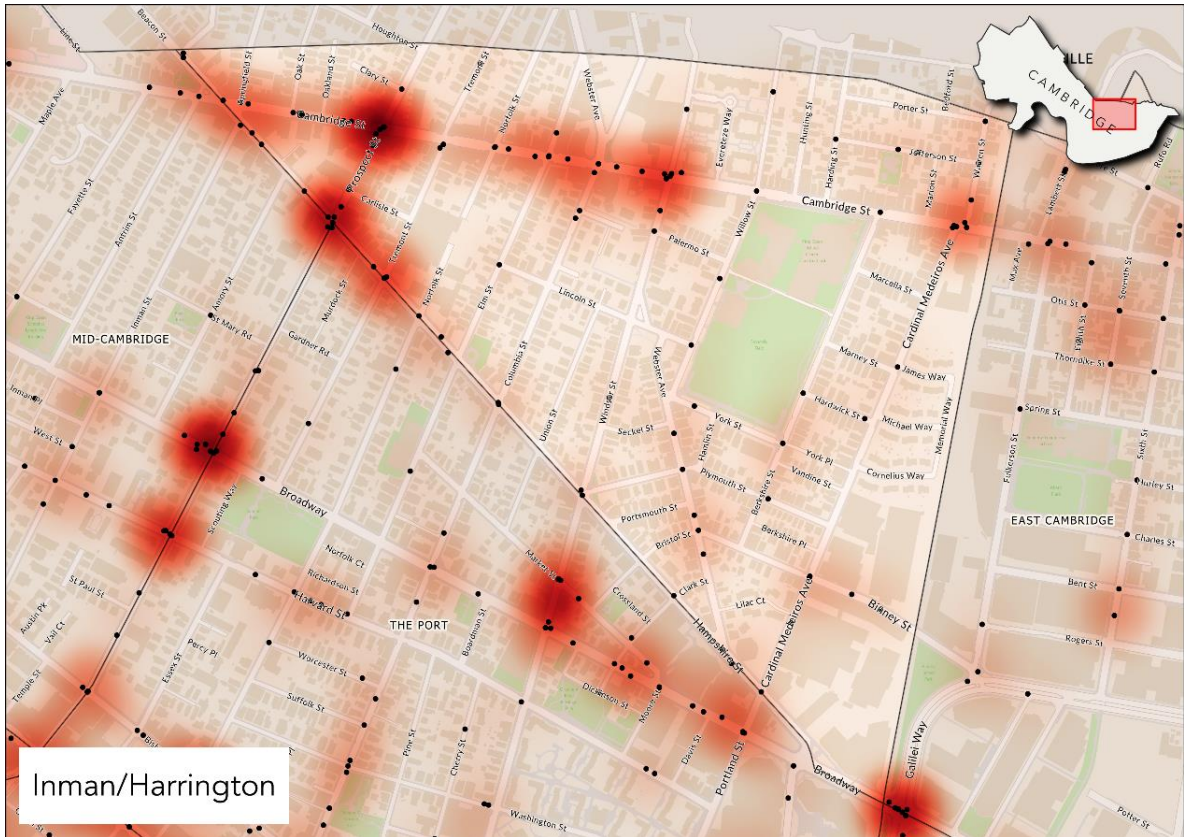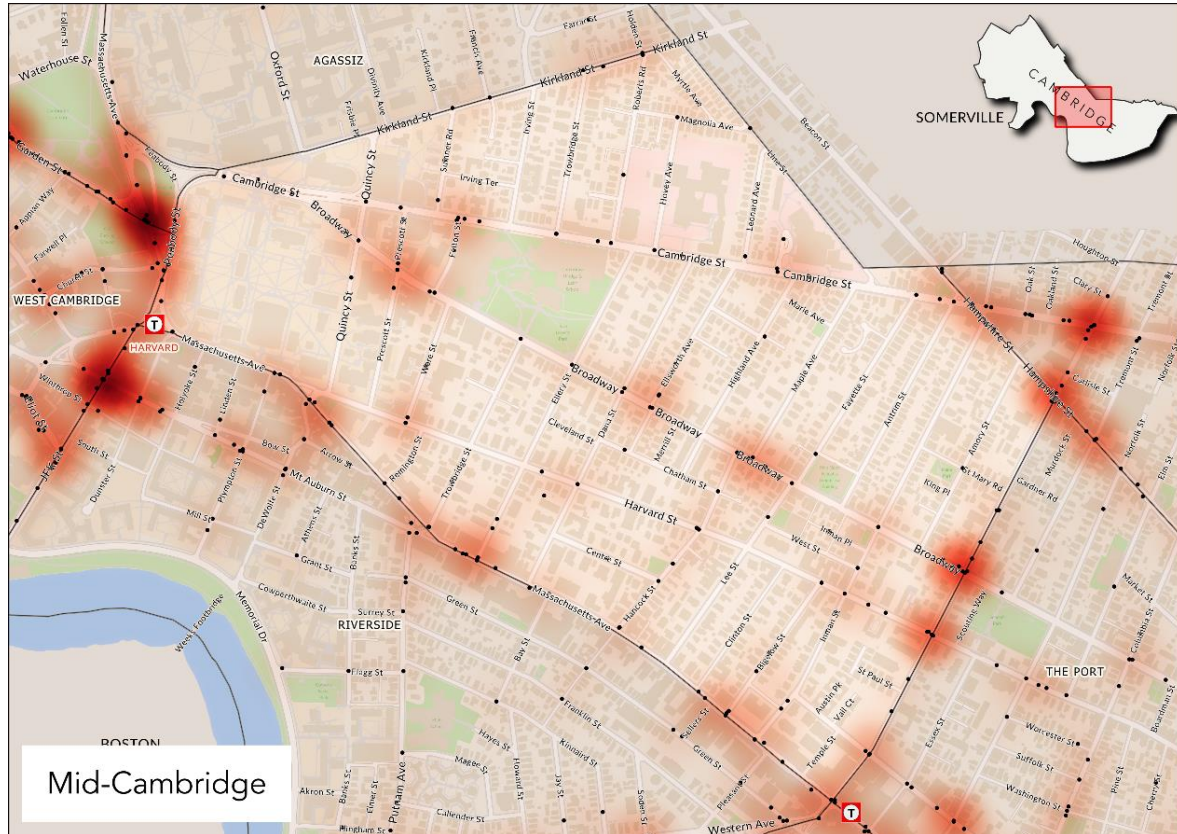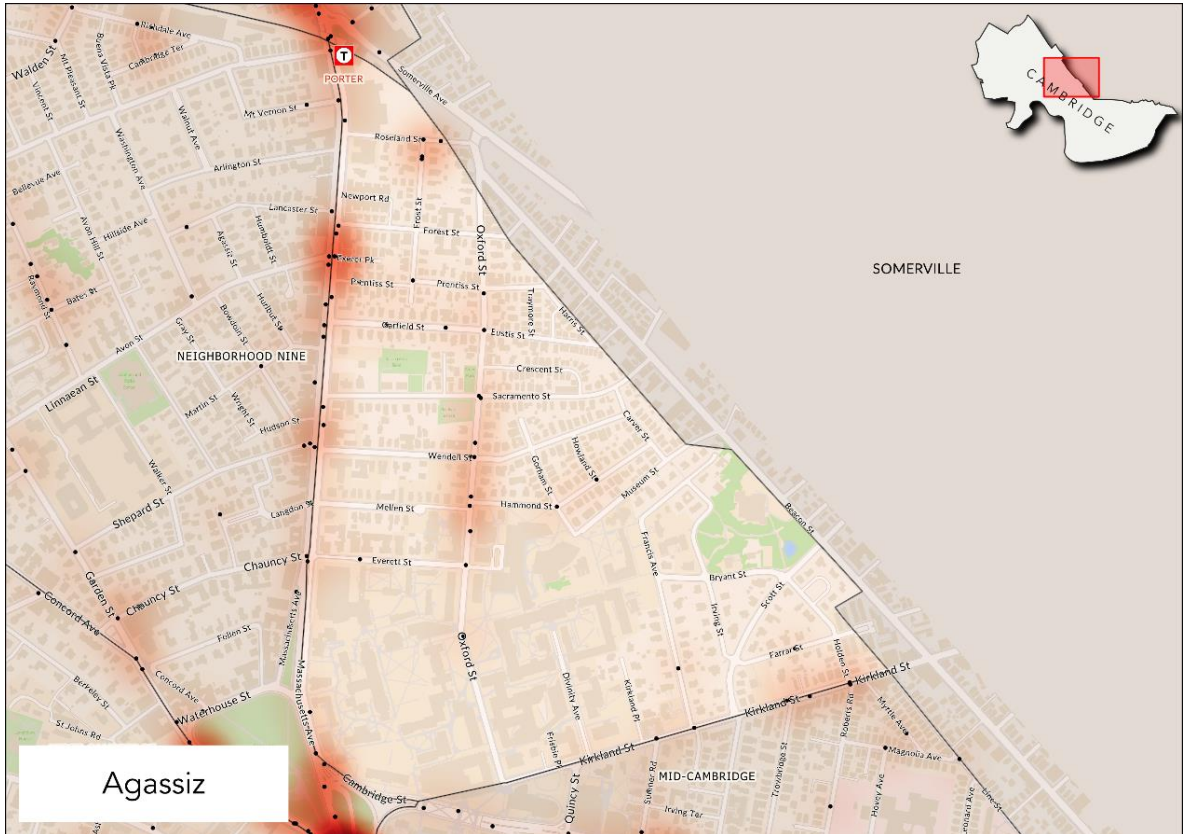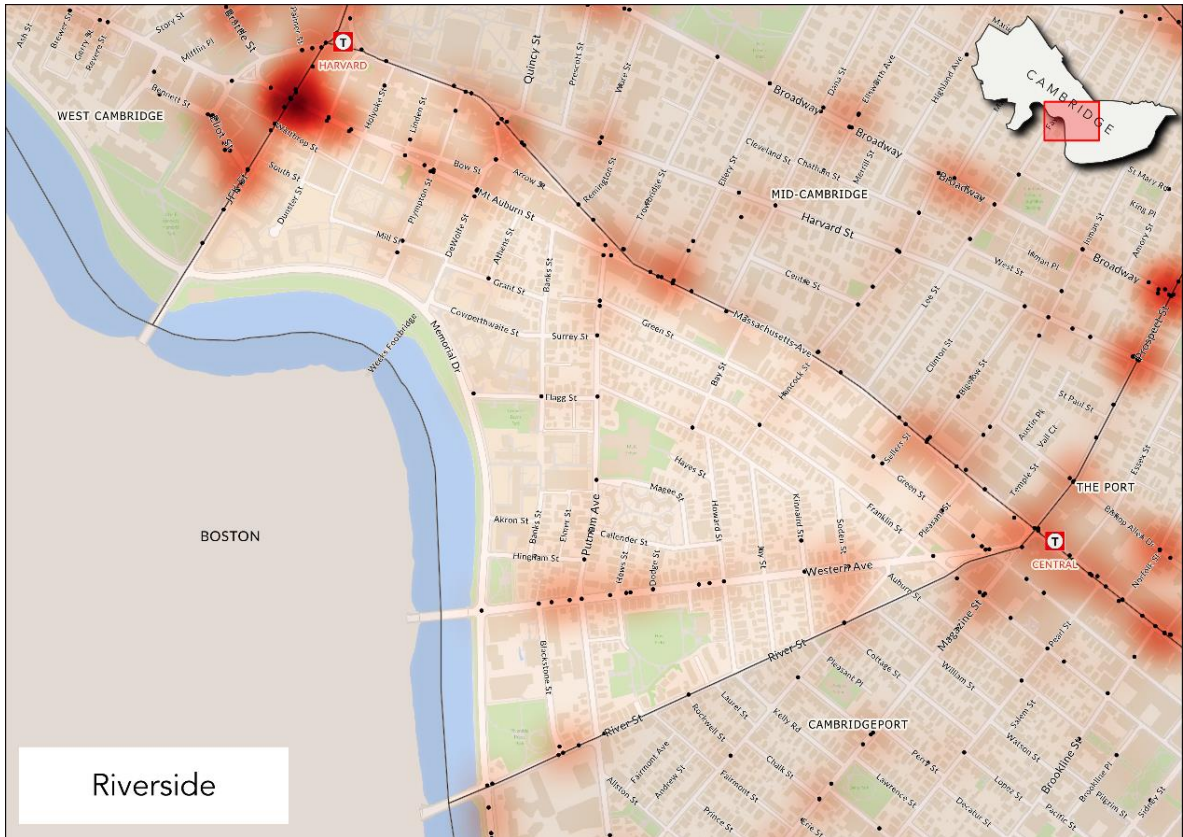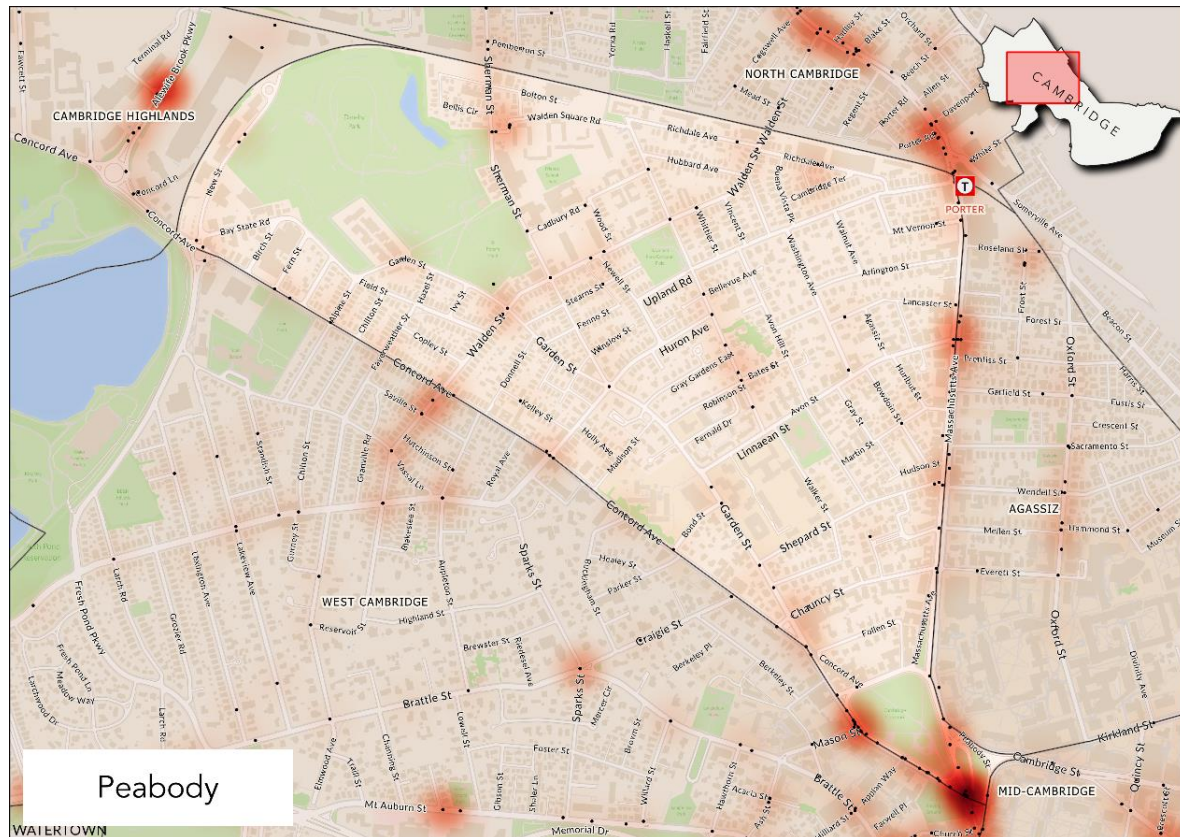
Section VI

Special Reports

Domestic Crimes
Hate Crimes

Domestic Crimes

Domestic crimes include all offenses committed against family members, spouses and ex-spouses, romantic partners and ex-romantic partners, and roommates. Underreporting is a serious problem when it comes to domestic crimes (domestic violence experts estimate that the police department receives a report for only a third of domestic crimes), so the actual figures are likely quite a bit greater than what is reported to police.

In 2019, there were a total of 810 incidents between individuals in a domestic relationship, down 6% from 2018. Often domestic crime is underreported. One of the most common reasons is that the police are not always the first to be called in domestic cases, as is typically the case with other crime types. Individuals who survive abuse often seek assistance from a local domestic violence agency, a court, a hospital, a family member, or a friend before calling the police.

The majority of domestic calls that Cambridge officers do respond to involve loud arguments, classified as "domestic disputes."

Categorical Breakdown of Domestic Incidents*	2018 Total	2019 Total	% change from 2018**
Dispute/Disturbance - No Physical Abuse	481	443	-8%
Simple Assault	162	166	2%
Violation of a Restraining Order/HPO	58	42	-28%
Aggravated Assault	62	41	-34%
Threats to Commit a Crime	31	26	-16%
Harassment	9	21	133%
Larceny	15	18	20%
Other Miscellaneous	4	15	275%
Malicious Destruction of Property	12	10	-17%
Rape/Attempted Rape	10	10	0%
Housebreak	7	5	-29%
Indecent Assault	2	4	100%
Harassing or Obscene Telephone Calls	4	3	-25%
Forgery	3	2	-33%
Street Robbery	0	2	N/A
Stalking	0	1	N/A
Kidnapping	0	1	N/A
Auto Theft	2	0	-100%
Trespassing	2	0	-100%
Annoying & Accosting	1	0	-100%
Total	**865**	**810**	**-6%**

*Due to classification changes and submission of NIBRS data to the FBI, the totals for index crimes and domestic crimes may vary slightly.

**N/A = % change cannot be calculated when the 2018 total is zero.

In 2019, these calls made up 55% of all domestic incident reports. Domestic disputes in 2019 were down 8% from 2018 and, while not technically a crime, these domestic disturbances can still be a form of abuse, and they may escalate into more serious offenses if they go unaddressed.

Domestic violence is the most serious type of domestic crime. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, these crimes take many shapes and "…may include emotional abuse, economic abuse, sexual abuse, using children, threats, using male privilege, intimidation, isolation, and a variety of other behaviors used to maintain fear, intimidation and power" (http://www.ncadv.org/problem/what.htm). While domestic violence is commonly thought of as violence against women, men and children also commonly fall victim. Domestic violence crosses all socio-economic, racial, ethnic, religious, sexual orientation, and age boundaries. What analysis has identified, however, is that the police respond to more calls in communities where individuals live in close quarters, and where neighbors contact the police for assistance.

The most common type of violent domestic incidents reported in Cambridge involves simple assaults—assaults without a weapon and with no serious injuries. This category accounted for 20% of all domestic incidents in 2019. Aggravated assaults made up an additional 5% and fell one spot in 2019 to the fourth largest domestic category behind violations of restraining orders. For the last four years, aggravated assaults have accounted for 5-7% of the overall domestic crime totals reported.
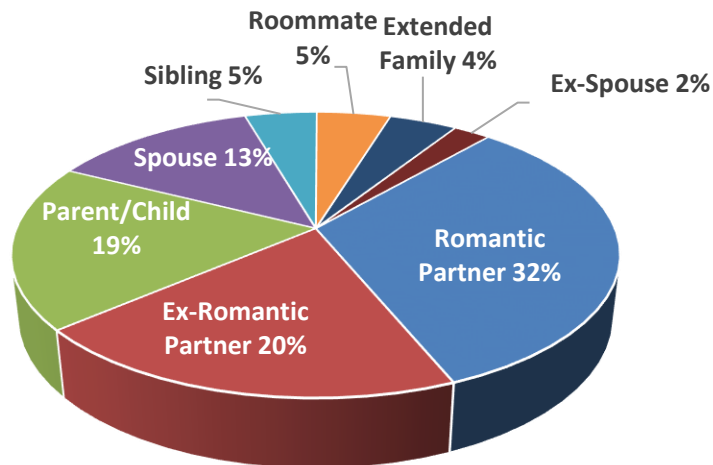
Domestic Crime by Relationship, 2019

When looking at the relationship breakdown in domestic crime, there is no surprise that the highest percentage is between parties that spend the most time together. Although the precentages vary from year to year, the top four relationships typically remain consistent: romantic partner, ex-romantic partner, parent/child, and spouse.
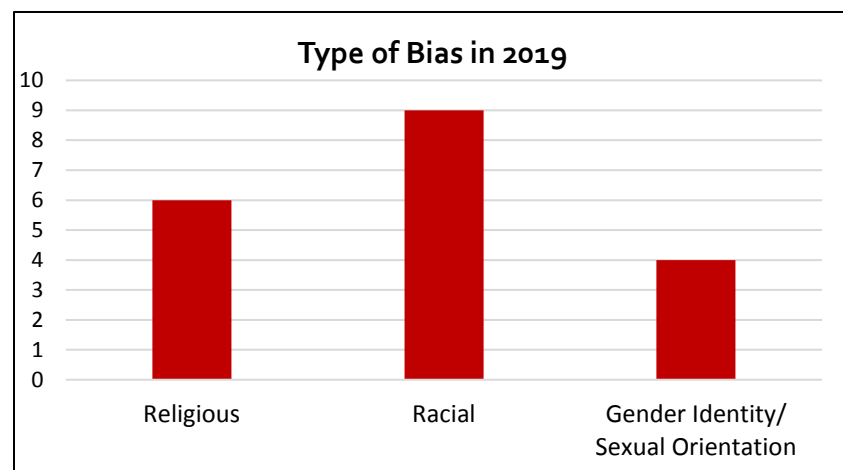
Hate Crimes

The Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990 was enacted on April 23rd, 1990, requiring the Attorney General to collect data on crimes exhibiting racial, ethnic, religious, or sexual prejudice. "Hate Crime" is the common term for federal and state Civil Rights Violations. Hate crimes include any crimes principally motivated by hatred of another because of race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, handicap status, or gender. All hate crimes would still be crimes even if the bias motivation were absent; therefore, each hate crime listed below is also tallied elsewhere in this report.

There were 18 hate crime incidents reported in Cambridge in 2019, which is a 13% increase over both the 16 reported in 2018 and the 10-year average of 16 (from 2009 – 2018). We tend to fall in the low to mid-teens when it comes to yearly hate crime numbers, with occasional fluctuations above or below the average. In recent years, we have ranged from a low of seven in 2010 to a high of 25 in 2016. Spikes like the one seen in 2016 logically tend to raise questions about possible causes. Although there was no clear explanation for the large increase in hate crimes in 2016, it could be speculated that part of the increase stemmed from the many differing political opinions and overall emphasis on inequality that emerged throughout the country over the course of the presidential election year.
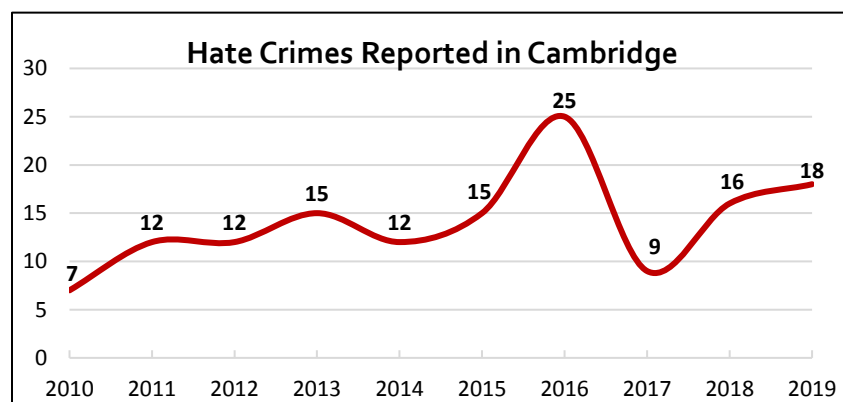

The bar graph below features the breakdown of each hate crime in 2019 by bias type. The graph actually features 19 types of bias because one incident this year involved graffiti with both racially and religiously biased images, so both categories were counted. The 18 incidents (with 19 bias types) in 2019 break down into the following categories: religiously motivated (32%), racially motivated (47%), and four incidents (21%) based on gender identity or sexual orientation. No incidents motivated by nationality, gender, or disability were reported in 2019.

The next chart provides a breakdown of bias type by year for 2019 and the five years prior. Race, religion, and sexual orientation/gender identity (not necessarily in that order) are consistently the bias types that tend to be most prevalent in Cambridge.

Bias Types by Year, 2014 - 2019
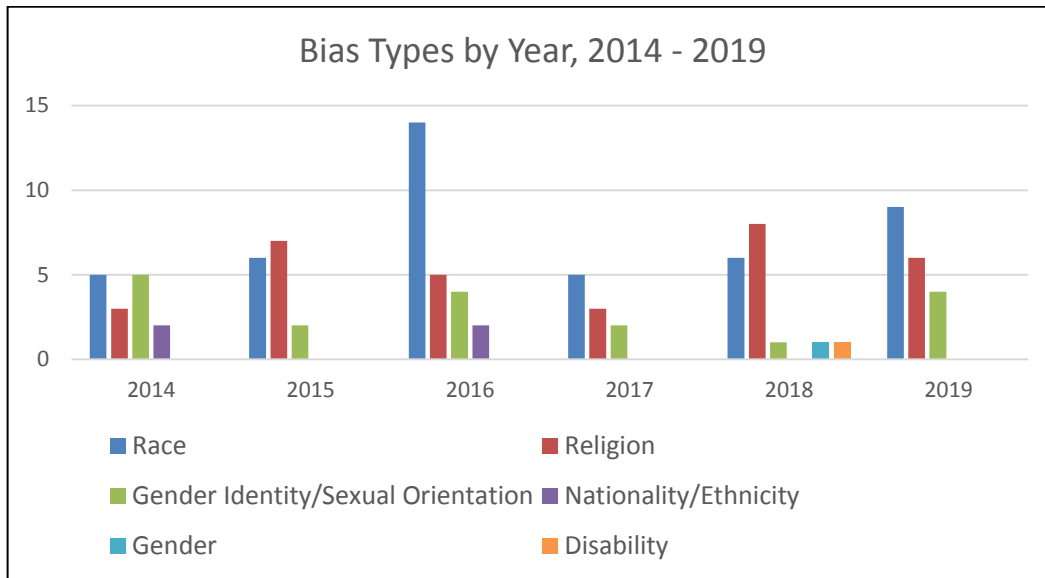
What types of crime are typically involved when hate crimes are reported? During 2019 and the previous five years, as many as 15 different crime types were reported to involve a bias of some sort. But there are some crimes that lend themselves much more to motivated biases. Those crimes include assaults (both aggravated and simple), malicious destruction of property, threats, and harassment. Of the 95 hate crimes reported since 2014, 78 (or 82%) involved one of these five crime types. And 2019 was no different. The main crime types involving bias this year were simple assaults (6), malicious destruction of property (3), aggravated assaults (2), and threats (2).

Crime Types Involving Bias, 2014 - 2019
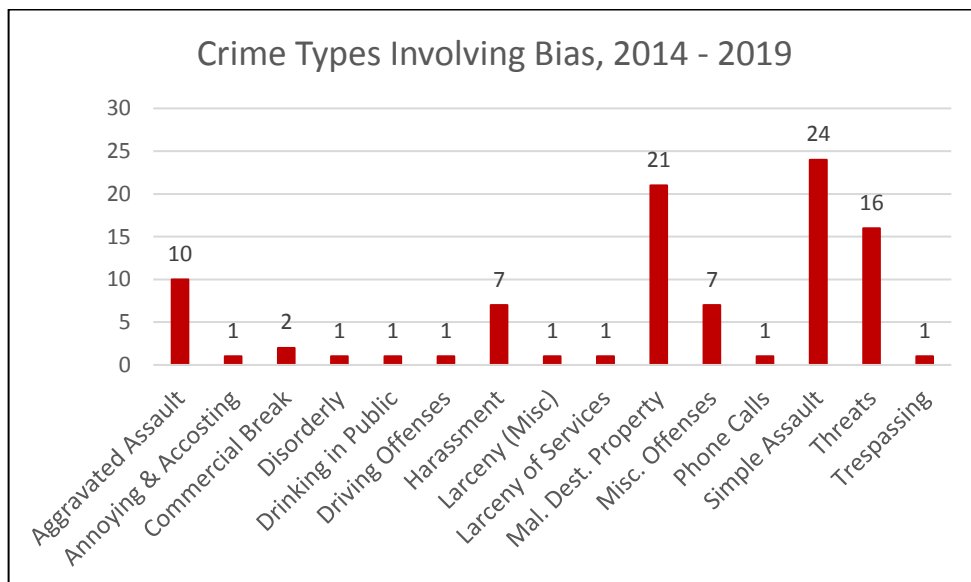
The following is a breakdown of the 2019 hate crime incidents:

1. In January, a female was assaulted and called a derogatory term based on her religion.
2. Also in January, a homeless man was arrested after making threats to shoot up a shelter in Harvard Square while espousing extreme religious beliefs.
3. In February, an inflammatory word was found written on the outside of a Muslim non-profit organization.
4. In March, a swastika was found drawn on a city parking meter with permanent marker.
5. In May, an MIT professor received an email containing racially inappropriate comments.
6. Also in May, obscene, racist phone calls were received by an arts & crafts store in the city.
7. In late May, a homeless woman was arrested after yelling racial slurs at victims in Central Square and trying to incite a physical altercation.
8. In June, a gun was fired during an altercation inside a Harvard Square restaurant and the victim believed the incident may have stemmed from his sexual orientation. No injuries were reported.
9. In early July, racial slurs were found written on a parking lot booth in Central Square and a window was also smashed.
10. Later in July, a victim was punched in the face by a suspect who yelled slurs at her because of her sexual orientation and gender identity. The suspect was identified and summonsed to court.
11. In August, a male drove multiple times by a family walking in East Cambridge and made racially charged statements to the parents before spitting on one of them. The suspect has been identified.
12. In September, a victim was walking in Central Square when an unknown female approached, called the victim a racial slur, and punched her in the face.
13. Also in September, two swastikas were found written in dust on a window ledge at Cambridge Rindge & Latin high school.
14. In early October, two swastikas and a racist symbol were found written in marker on the wall of a gender-neutral bathroom at Cambridge Rindge & Latin.
15. In late October, a victim was walking in Harvard Square when a male approached, made an inappropriate comment about her sexual orientation, and then slapped her.
16. In November, a female was spit on by a male and called a racial slur while walking through the Cambridge Common.
17. In early December, a racial slur was found written in a bathroom at the Graham & Parks School.
18. In late December, a resident of a shelter in Harvard Square was berated with slurs about their sexual orientation and gender orientation and then was spit on by another resident.

Cambridge Police Directory

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

Office of the Commissioner .....(617) 349-9397

Professional Standards .... (617) 349-3384

KEY OPERATIONAL SERVICES:

Personnel Department.............(617) 349-3374

Traffic Department .... (617) 349-4365

Crime Analysis Unit..................(617) 349-3390

Public Information Office ....(617) 349-3237

Records Unit ....(617) 349-3336

Family & Social Justice Section (formerly the Community Services Unit) ....(617) 349-3236

Clinical Support Unit .... (617) 349-9320

Crime Scene Services Unit ....(617) 349-3347

Police Academy ....(617) 349-3343

Property Office ....(617) 349-3380

Cambridge Police Department
125 Sixth St.
Cambridge, MA 02142
(617) 349-3300 – 24 hours a day
www.cambridgepolice.org

KEY INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

Special Investigations Unit
(Narcotics, Human Trafficking, etc.)
 ....(617) 349-3360

Drug Tip Hotline .... (617) 349-3359

Criminal Investigations Section (617) 349-3370

Domestic Violence Unit .... (617) 349-3371

Sexual Assault Hotline .... (617) 349-3381

Accident Investigations............(617) 349-3307

MISCELLANEOUS:

License Commission .... (617) 349-6140

Criminal History Board............(617) 660-4600

Medical Examiner's Office ....(617) 267-6767

Sex Offender Registry............ (978) 740-6400

Dispute Settlement Center ......(617) 876-5376

**Cambridge Police Department
"Alert Network"
Text-A-Tip Function**
To send an anonymous tip via text message to the Cambridge Police Department, text the keyword Tip650 and your tip to 847411 (TIP411).

**Cambridge Police Anonymous
Crime Tip E-Mail**
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