



2021 ANNUAL CRIME REPORT

# CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT



The leaders that have protected and served Cambridge over the past 50 years



**About the front cover:**

**The Police Chiefs and Commissioners that have protected and served  
Cambridge over the past 50 years**

**Top picture:**

Commissioner Christine Elow, first female to lead the Cambridge Police Department, became Acting Commissioner in August 2021 and permanent Commissioner in January 2022

**Bottom pictures, left to right:**

Chief Leo F. Davenport, 1977 to 1981

Chief Anthony G. Paolillo, 1981 to 1991

Commissioner Perry L. Anderson, 1991 to 1995

Commissioner Ronnie Watson, 1996 to 2007

Commissioner Robert C. Haas, 2007 to 2016

Commissioner Branville Bard, 2017 to 2021

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Cambridge Police Department  
2021 Annual Crime Report



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Check out our detailed monthly report:  
[www.CambridgePolice.org/BridgeStat](http://www.CambridgePolice.org/BridgeStat)

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Product 2012, International Association of  
Crime Analysts



# Cambridge at a Glance

## Cambridge Police Department

<b>Organized:</b>	1859
<b>Sworn Officers:</b>	288
<b>Civilian Personnel:</b>	41
<b>Commissioner:</b>	Christine Elow
<b>Budget (FY 2022):</b>	\$68,731,130
<b>Marked Patrol Vehicles:</b>	42
<b>Unmarked Patrol Vehicles:</b>	40 (plus 8 narcotics vehicles)
<b>Motorcycles:</b>	14
<b>Fleet Bicycles:</b>	22
<b>Special Vehicles:</b>	10 Tactical vehicles, 3 Tactical ATVs, 6 Trailers
<b>2021 Calls for Service:</b>	112,607
<b>2021 Total Index Crimes:</b>	2,598

## City of Cambridge Top Employers

1. Harvard University	11,867
2. MIT	8,777
3. City of Cambridge	3,564
4. Takeda Pharmaceuticals	3,368
5. Biogen Idec	2,317
6. Novartis	2,239
7. Broad Institute	2,092
8. Google	2,000
9. Phillips North America	2,000
10. Cambridge Innovation Center	1,956

# 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 2021 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 commercial breaks increase by 58% from 2020 to 2021, there’s no way to tell from that figure whether 2020 was unusually low or 2021 was unusually low. But comparing 2021 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 (2016 in this report) is weighted once and the most recent year in the average (2020) 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 (2021), and to thus determine how unusual 2021’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 2020, Cambridge had 191 aggravated assaults, 59% more than Malden, which reported 120. 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 159 assaults per 100,000 residents, while Malden had 199 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.

# 2021 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	2018	2019	2020	2021	2020-2021 Change	5-Year Wtd. Avg.	Avg.-2021 Change
<b>Murder</b>	1	1	1	1	0%	1	0%
<b>Rape</b>	29	28	27	36	33%	27	33%
Stranger	2	2	5	7	40%	3	133%
Non-Stranger	27	26	22	29	32%	24	21%
<b>Robbery</b>	99	73	67	68	1%	81	-16%
Commercial	37	11	14	11	-21%	22	-50%
Street	62	62	53	57	8%	59	-3%
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	188	189	191	209	9%	185	13%
<b>Total Violent Crime</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Burglary</b>	252	155	186	197	6%	208	-5%
Commercial	56	36	57	72	26%	49	47%
Residential	196	119	129	125	-3%	159	-21%
<b>Larceny</b>	1,704	1,704	1,884	1,958	4%	1,776	10%
from Building	272	217	124	146	18%	210	-30%
from Vehicle	270	236	351	446	27%	297	50%
From Person	166	159	99	106	7%	144	-26%
from Residence	256	248	387	350	-10%	289	21%
of Bicycle	307	425	602	623	3%	441	41%
of License Plate	23	18	9	27	200%	18	50%
of Services	26	15	5	6	20%	16	-63%
Miscellaneous	46	39	41	62	51%	41	51%
Shoplifting	338	347	266	192	-28%	320	-40%
<b>Auto Theft</b>	111	109	84	129	54%	99	30%
<b>Total Property Crime</b>	<b>2,067</b>	<b>1,968</b>	<b>2,154</b>	<b>2,284</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>2,082</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Crime Index Total</b>	<b>2,384</b>	<b>2,259</b>	<b>2,440</b>	<b>2,598</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>2,377</b>	<b>9%</b>

# Cambridge Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics, 2002-2021\*

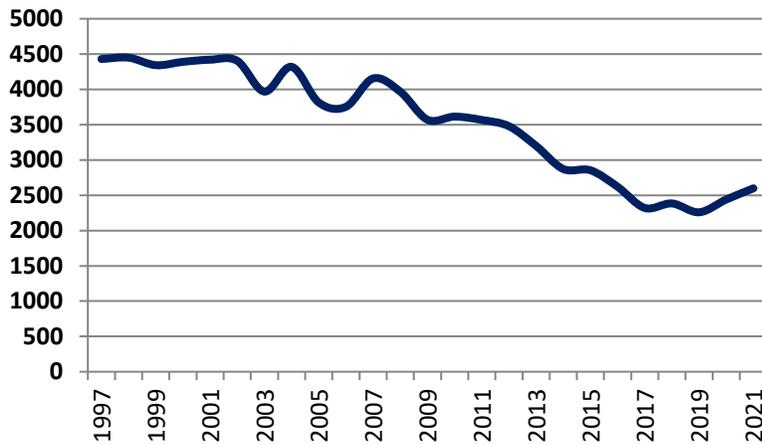
Crime	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Avg. 2002-2011	Avg. 2012-2021	Avg. 2002-2021	Change 2020-2021**	Change 2002-2021**
Murder	6	3	0	3	2	0	1	2	0	5	1	3	2	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	0%	-83%
Rape	10	7	10	14	11	16	17	20	23	23	23	17	24	25	27	19	29	28	27	36	15	26	20	33%	260%
Robbery	195	229	245	239	208	161	177	172	163	147	128	118	81	77	81	104	99	73	67	68	194	90	142	1%	-65%
Aggravated Assault	284	271	248	244	237	243	274	256	251	258	262	189	184	186	161	173	188	189	191	209	257	193	225	9%	-26%
Burglary	720	651	724	623	685	653	467	429	453	520	499	390	286	438	308	252	252	155	186	197	593	296	444	6%	-73%
Larceny	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	1,884	1,958	2,572	1,984	2,278	4%	-29%
Auto Theft	425	419	438	295	233	244	244	196	169	159	117	106	136	125	110	91	111	109	84	129	282	112	197	54%	-70%
Total Violent	495	510	503	500	458	420	469	450	437	433	414	327	291	291	271	298	317	291	286	314	468	310	389	10%	-37%
Total Property	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	2,154	2,284	3,446	2,392	2,919	6%	-42%
Total	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	2,384	2,259	2,440	2,598	3,914	2,702	3,308	6%	-41%

\*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.

# 25-Year Statistical Trends

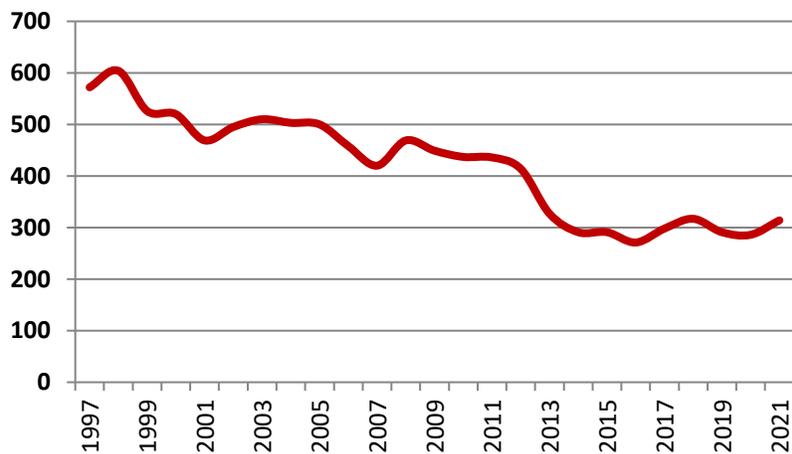
**Total Part I (Index Crimes)**



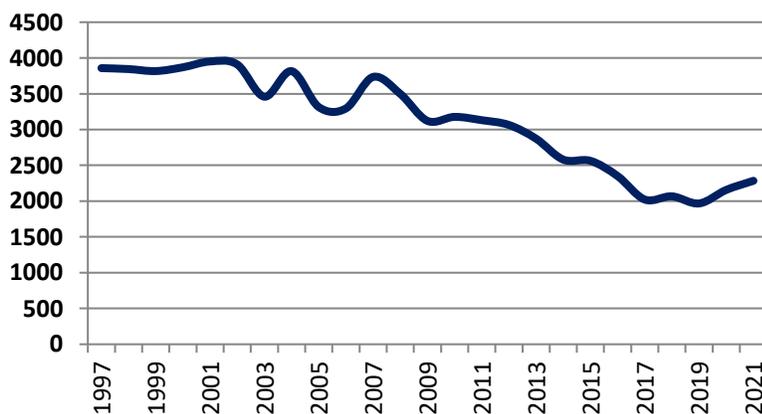
Despite some bumps in the early 1980s, early 1990s, and early 2000s, crime has decreased steadily since it peaked in 1974 at more than 10,000 Part I crimes. The last big decrease was between 1990 and 1998. Crime fluctuated around the 3,700 mark for about a decade before dropping below 3,000 for the first time in 2014 and below 2,500 for the first time in 2017. Despite increases in both 2020 and 2021, the crime index continues to register well below 3,000 incidents. The final number in 2021 was 2,598 crimes, the largest recorded total since 2016.

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 early 2000s. The 2016 violent crime total of 271 incidents was the lowest number recorded since the late 1960s. In 2021, there was a total of 314 violent crimes reported, which is 16% above the low seen in 2016 but is well below the 25-year high of 604 shown on the chart in 1998.

**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. Numbers have been on the rise since then, with 2,154 crimes reported in 2020 and 2,284 in 2021. These increases over the past two years have mostly been due to upsurges in commercial burglaries, bicycle thefts, larcenies from motor vehicles, and package thefts.

# 2021 Executive Summary

As pandemic-related shutdowns and social distancing continued through parts of 2021, the City of Cambridge experienced another increase in total Part 1 Crimes this year. Despite increases in both 2020 and 2021, the crime index total continues to register well below 3,000 incidents in Cambridge.

Further analysis of the crime breakdown indicates that there were 130 additional property crimes reported in 2021 to record a 6% incline when compared with last year and a 10% rise above the five-year weighted average of 2,082. Meanwhile, there were 314 violent crimes reported in the City in 2020, 28 more incidents than in 2020, which translates to an increase of 10% above 2020 and 7% above the five-year average of 294. Overall, the total of 2,598 serious crimes reported in 2021 was 6% above the 2020 total of 2,440 incidents and 9% above the five-year weighted average of 2,377 incidents.

## Murder

- On March 27, 2021, 19-year-old Xavier Louis-Jacques of Cambridge was found unconscious outside his vehicle on Pemberton Street. Louis-Jacques was transported to a nearby hospital, where he was later pronounced deceased as a result of multiple gunshot wounds. No suspects have been identified and the incident remains under investigation. This was the only homicide recorded in Cambridge in 2021.
- On April 14, 2020, 35-year-old Danilo Gonzalez (aka Danilo Perez) was allegedly stabbed multiple times by 55-year-old Jose Bermudez after a verbal altercation between the two escalated into violence in the area of Green Street and Sidney Place. Gonzalez was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced deceased. Bermudez fled the area after the incident but was arrested in Allston on April 23, 2020. This was the only homicide recorded in Cambridge in 2020.
- 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 20 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 21 of the 38 murders in Cambridge since 2000. Seven have involved knives.
- Twenty-seven of the 38 murders in Cambridge since 2000 (71%) have been cleared by an arrest/suicide of the perpetrator. For comparison, the 2020 clearance rate for murder was approximately 50% nationally.

## Rape

- The total number of reported rapes in Cambridge rose from 27 in 2020 to 36 in 2021.
- Seventeen of the rapes in 2021 involved acquaintances, eleven were domestic, five were classified as contact situations, and three were classified as blitz assaults.
- The number of stranger-to-stranger rapes each year—usually between one and five—remains extremely low. Patterns of reported rape are very rare in Cambridge.

### Robbery

- In 2021, there were 68 total robberies reported, translating to a 1% increase over the 2020 total. When measured against the five-year weighted average of 81 incidents, a 16% decline was recorded.
- Street robberies rose slightly from 53 incidents in 2020 to 57 in 2021. The 2021 street robbery total was also two incidents (3%) below the five-year average of 59 incidents. No established street robbery patterns emerged anywhere in Cambridge in 2021.
- A 21% decrease in commercial robberies was reported in 2021. Incidents dropped from 14 robberies in 2020 to 11 this year. Commercial robberies in 2020 were also 50% below the five-year weighted average of 22. For the second time in three years, not a single bank robbery was reported anywhere in Cambridge in 2021. This is down from the four bank robberies reported in 2020.

### Aggravated Assault

- The total of 209 aggravated assaults reported in Cambridge in 2021 is 9% above the 2020 total of 191 incidents and 13% above the five-year average of 185 assaults.
- Domestic assaults, which typically constitute 30-40% of the assault total each year, dropped from 49 incidents in 2020 to 40 in 2021, making up only 19% of the assault total this year. Aggravated assaults between individuals who are unhoused also dropped from 30 in 2020 to 18 in 2021, while psychotic episodes that resulted in aggravated assaults rose from four in 2020 to 13 in 2021.
- Thirteen of the aggravated assaults in 2021 (6%) resulted in serious or life-threatening injuries.
- The most common weapons used in aggravated assaults in 2020 were knives (24%), followed by shod feet in 13% of the incidents, and a handgun in 10%. There were 21 aggravated assaults that involved the use of a firearm in 2021, up seven from the previous year.
- A little over 23% of aggravated assaults resulted in an arrest in 2021 (down 17% from 2020), compared to 21% of simple assaults.

### Burglary

- Total burglary, the combination of residential and commercial breaks, registered a 6% incline in 2021 when compared to the 2020 total of 186 and a 5% drop when measured against the five-year weighted average of 208 for this crime. The citywide total for 2021 was 197 incidents.
- There was a notable increase in commercial burglaries in Cambridge for the second year in a row in 2021, rising 26% from 57 incidents in 2020 to 72 in 2021. This total was also 47% above the five-year weighted average of 49. A Cambridge male was arrested or summonsed in connection with a series of at least ten commercial burglaries between April and July. Incidents dropped off considerably after his final arrest in July.
- Housebreaks saw a decrease of 3% from 129 in 2020 to 125 in 2021. This crime type also dropped 21% below the five-year weighted average of 159. Aside from the suspect in the commercial break series also being connected to a few housebreaks in the area, no other discernable housebreak patterns emerged in 2021.

## Larceny

- In 2021, the property crime of larceny rose 4% (or 74 incidents) when measured against the 2020 total of 1,884 incidents and increased 10% when compared to the five-year weighted average of 1,776. There were 1,958 total larcenies reported this year.
- Larceny is always the most prevalent of the Part One crimes in Cambridge. In 2021, it accounted for 75% of the total Part I crime and 86% of the total property crime.
- Larcenies from motor vehicles (LMVs) this year were up 27% from the 2020 figures, mostly due to the emerging trend of catalytic converter thefts across the city. The 2021 total of 446 LMVs was also up 50% when compared with the five-year weighted average of 297.
- Larceny from the person increased by 7% in 2021, up seven incidents above the 99 reported in 2020. Meanwhile, the 2021 total of 106 incidents was 26% below the five-year weighted average of 144.
- Larceny of bicycles increased again in 2021, though not as drastically as in 2020, rising 3% from 602 incidents in 2020 to 623 in 2021. This property crime was also 41% above the five-year weighted average of 441.
- Larceny from residences saw a decline in 2021, dropping 10% from 387 incidents in 2020 to 350 this year. 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. Due to the continuation of an understandably large increase in pandemic-related online shopping when compared with pre-pandemic levels, the 236 package thefts reported in 2021 and the 284 in 2020 were both up considerably from the 149 package thefts reported in 2019. This scenario accounted for 67% of the larcenies from residences in 2021.

## Auto Theft

- In 2021, auto thefts in Cambridge increased by 54%, up 45 incidents from the 2020 total of 84 thefts. The total of 129 incidents reported in 2021 was also 30% above the five-year average of 99. Despite the increase this year, these totals are still 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 2021 with 27 incidents reported, due to an increase in reports from an auto rental company in the area where numerous customers did not return vehicles. No defined patterns were reported anywhere in the city in 2021.
- Approximately 28% of the auto thefts reported in 2021 involved the theft of a motorcycle, scooter, or moped.
- Roughly 40% of the cars reported stolen in Cambridge in 2021 have been recovered to date. Just under half (or 49%) of the recovered cars in 2021 were located in Cambridge.

# Regional Crime Comparison

The following table compares Cambridge to other selected Massachusetts cities and towns across the region. The data is from 2020, 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.

## 2020 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
Arlington	45,582	0	2	4	53	59	53	215	31	298	358
Belmont	26,136	0	8	11	42	61	329	348	19	696	758
Boston	697,323	8	26	132	458	624	244	1,439	184	1,866	2,491
Brockton	99,171	4	61	119	575	758	204	1,082	387	1,673	2,431
Brookline	59,057	2	2	24	80	107	59	1,048	30	1,138	1,245
Everett	46,765	0	56	36	295	387	160	1,108	173	1,441	1,828
Fall River	89,136	2	71	102	699	874	385	525	205	1,115	1,989
Framingham	74,680	3	17	27	307	354	147	837	170	1,154	1,508
Haverhill	64,015	3	17	30	425	475	225	642	130	997	1,472
Lawrence	79,997	6	18	66	358	448	56	579	174	809	1,256
Lowell	110,876	5	16	60	232	314	203	1,064	202	1,469	1,783
Lynn	94,223	6	25	57	354	444	152	671	143	966	1,409
Malden	60,231	3	10	56	199	269	163	920	164	1,247	1,516
Medford	57,137	0	4	30	93	126	63	812	65	940	1,066
Methuen	50,810	0	10	8	104	122	108	644	116	868	990
New Bedford	94,886	4	54	112	458	628	300	1,289	185	1,775	2,403
Newton	88,281	0	5	9	41	54	58	476	17	551	605
Peabody	52,975	0	26	11	177	215	70	664	64	798	1,014
Plymouth	64,199	0	55	17	217	288	114	961	39	1,114	1,402
Quincy	94,519	1	30	39	251	321	209	911	92	1,212	1,533
Revere	52,930	2	26	68	274	370	102	958	181	1,241	1,612
Somerville	81,552	1	17	21	148	188	145	929	110	1,185	1,372
Springfield	153,084	12	46	229	681	967	404	1,709	324	2,437	3,403
Taunton	57,338	2	47	24	340	413	94	328	58	480	893
Waltham	62,339	2	16	5	114	136	82	497	38	618	754
Watertown	36,201	0	14	14	58	86	102	572	25	699	785
Weymouth	58,090	3	17	21	182	224	62	635	62	759	983
Worcester	184,850	5	22	114	492	632	361	1,396	242	1,999	2,631
<b>Average*</b>	<b>97,728</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>1,044</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>1,411</b>	<b>1,882</b>
<b>Cambridge</b>	<b>119,908</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>1,571</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>1,796</b>	<b>2,034</b>

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

The statistics for these selected cities above show that Cambridge had less per-capita crime in six categories (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, and auto theft) in 2020, while conversely registering well above the average in larcenies, which also affected the property crime total. The rate for the overall crime total in 2020 in Cambridge was also consequently above the average for these selected jurisdictions across 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.

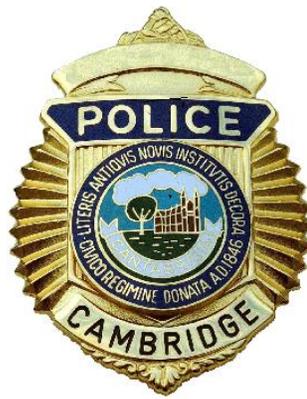
# National Crime Comparison

The table on this page compares Cambridge to other cities across the nation with a comparable population (and because the populations *are* comparable, we use the actual figures for crimes, not rates). Again, the data is from the most recent year available: 2020.

City	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Total
Abilene, TX	3	117	63	331	435	2,013	201	3,163
Amherst Town, NY	0	18	39	96	171	1,597	97	2,018
Ann Arbor, MI	1	49	38	206	153	1,358	81	1,886
Arvada, CO	6	25	75	174	484	2,839	568	4,171
Beaumont, TX	20	79	300	1,032	955	2,546	362	5,294
Berkeley, CA	6	47	274	210	797	3,933	805	6,072
Carlsbad, CA	3	24	35	162	256	1,428	157	2,065
Clearwater, FL	0	92	87	281	249	1,850	133	2,692
Clovis, CA	1	40	39	160	306	1,826	202	2,574
College Station, TX	2	55	27	133	321	1,768	210	2,516
Columbia, MO	13	89	58	392	404	2,478	444	3,878
El Monte, CA	9	40	122	177	340	980	455	2,123
Evansville, IN	10	77	115	983	626	3,188	438	5,437
Fairfield, CA	6	59	169	308	435	1,920	635	3,532
Hartford, CT	23	31	280	874	430	2,708	649	4,995
Independence, MO	11	139	125	516	581	3,782	975	6,129
Lansing, MI	16	121	195	1,367	1,002	1,993	570	5,264
Meridian, ID	1	51	7	131	160	788	58	1,196
Murrieta, CA	0	22	29	44	181	774	250	1,300
North Charleston, SC	38	90	318	899	651	4,667	680	7,343
Palm Bay, FL	3	59	39	227	241	1,380	149	2,098
Richardson, TX	6	21	52	79	374	1,747	303	2,582
Rochester, MN	5	74	44	177	332	1,828	154	2,614
Simi Valley, CA	3	29	27	108	170	1,033	115	1,485
Sugar Land, TX	4	8	20	36	111	1,077	89	1,345
Temecula, CA	0	12	67	69	368	1,537	357	2,410
Vallejo, CA	27	134	345	736	1,811	1,200	1,067	5,320
Victorville, CA	19	55	200	810	475	889	594	3,042
West Jordan, UT	4	43	44	200	308	2,353	318	3,270
Wilmington, NC	22	66	143	560	595	2,410	199	3,995
<b>Average*</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>1,996</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>3,394</b>
<b>Cambridge</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>1,884</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2,440</b>

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





## Section II

# Part I Crimes

Murder  
Rape  
Robbery  
Aggravated Assault  
Burglary  
Larceny  
Auto Theft

# Murder

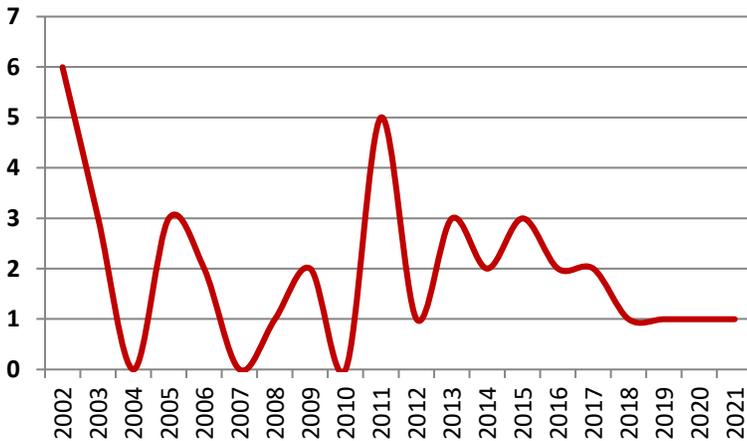
## Definition

*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.*

## Statistics

Five-Year Average	1
2020	1
2021	1
Change from 2020	0%
Change from Average	0%

## Murders reported in Cambridge\*



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

On March 27, 2021, 19-year-old Xavier Louis-Jacques of Cambridge was found unconscious outside his vehicle on Pemberton Street. Louis-Jacques was transported to a nearby hospital, where he was later pronounced deceased as a result of multiple gunshot wounds. No suspects have been identified and the incident remains under investigation. This was the only homicide recorded in Cambridge in 2021.

Similarly, only one homicide was reported in 2020. On April 14, 2020, 35-year-old Danilo Gonzalez (aka

Danilo Perez) was allegedly stabbed multiple times by 55-year-old Jose Bermudez after a verbal altercation between the two escalated into violence in the area of Green Street and Sidney Place. Gonzalez was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced deceased. Bermudez fled the area after the incident but was arrested in Allston on April 23, 2020. Gonzalez and Bermudez were both part of the unhoused community in Cambridge.

## Cambridge murder statistics, 1990-2021

- 64 people murdered in 59 incidents (in four of the incidents, two or more people were killed)
- 44 victims were male (average age of 34)
- 20 victims were female (average age of 39)
- Most common weapons: handguns (30 incidents) and knives (14 incidents)
- 20 of the 59 cases are still under investigation or remain unsolved.
- 27 of the 38 cases since 2000 have been cleared by arrest or by the death of the suspect.

## Murder in Cambridge, 2010–2021

(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/Harrington)	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 1 <sup>st</sup> 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 pled guilty to 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison w/ possibility of parole after 15 yrs

## Part I Crimes: Murder

Date & Time	Location	Victim(s)	Offender(s)	Story	Status
9/12/2015 01:40	750 Mass Ave (Riverside)	Tywann Jones, 35, of Roxbury	Antwan Gonsalves, 33, of Cambridge	Jones was stabbed while standing outside the 7-Eleven in Central Square. He later died at MGH. Gonsalves was arrested on September 24 on a warrant for Jones's murder.	Gonsalves was found guilty of 1 <sup>st</sup> 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 pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter and were sentenced to 11 to 13 years in prison.
7/22/18 18:43	Cambridge St & Warren St (Inman)	Richelle Robinson, 15, of Cambridge	Isaias Plaza, 18, unhoused	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 pled guilty to manslaughter and was sentenced to 2.5 years in the House of Corrections.
1/2/19 18:48	Danehy Park, New St side (North Cambridge)	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.
4/14/20 17:18	Green Street & Sidney Place (Cambridgeport)	Danilo Gonzalez (aka Danilo Perez), 35, unhoused	Jose Bermudez, 55, unhoused	A verbal altercation between Gonzalez and Bermudez escalated and Bermudez allegedly stabbed Perez multiple times. Perez was pronounced deceased at a local hospital, and Bermudez was arrested on 4/23/20 in Allston.	Bermudez is awaiting trial.
3/27/21 00:36	144 Pemberton St (North Cambridge)	Xavier Louis- Jacques, 19, of Cambridge	Unknown	Louis-Jacques was located with apparent gunshot wounds outside his vehicle on Pemberton St. He was pronounced deceased at a local hospital.	Ongoing investigation.

### Murder across the state and nation in 2020\*

In 2020, the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports recorded an estimated 21,570 murders nationwide, which is nearly 30% higher than the 16,669 murders reported in 2019. With population taken into consideration, 6.5 murders per 100,000 people were recorded in 2020.

The murder rate in Massachusetts is well below that for the nation as a whole. In 2020, Massachusetts reported 2.3 murders per 100,000 residents, while the national rate in 2020 was 6.5 per 100,000. Boston experiences the majority of the state's homicides, as it did in 2020 with 56 homicides. Of the five towns surrounding Cambridge (Arlington, Belmont, Brookline, Somerville, and Watertown), only Brookline and Somerville reported homicides (one each) in 2020. Only a few Massachusetts cities and towns reported more than two murders in 2020. Those reporting four or more were Boston (56), Springfield (18), Worcester (10), Holyoke (8), Lowell (6), Lynn (6), Lawrence (5), Brockton (4), and New Bedford (4).

\*The source of this data is the FBI's Crime Data Explorer (CDE) and Summary Reporting System (SRS) for 2020. Statistics for 2021 are not yet available.

# Rape

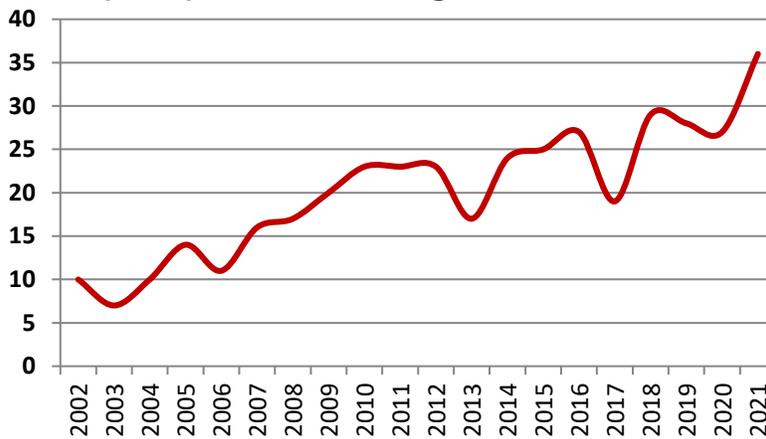
## Definition

*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	27
2020	27
2021	36
Change from 2020	+33%
Change from Average	+33%

Rapes reported in Cambridge



There were 36 rapes reported in Cambridge in 2021, up nine crimes from the 27 incidents reported in 2020, which indicates a 33% increase. When the 2021 total is measured against the five-year average for rapes annually in the city, a 33% increase was also recorded.

Seventeen of the rapes in 2021 involved acquaintances, eleven were domestic, five were classified as contact rapes, and three 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—usually 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 36 incidents in 2021 were perpetrated by acquaintances.

Rapes by Category

Year	Acquaintance	Contact	Blitz	Domestic	Total
2019	17	0	2	9	28
2020	9	5	4	9	27
2021	17	5	3	11	36

- **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 three blitz rapes recorded in Cambridge in 2021.
- **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 five rapes in Cambridge in 2021 that fit into this category.
- **Domestic Rapes** involve rapes between spouses, romantic partners, or family members. Eleven domestic rapes were reported in 2021.

## Part I Crimes: Rape

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In 2013, the FBI UCR Program began collecting rape data under a revised definition within the Summary Reporting System. Previously, offense data for forcible rape were collected under the legacy UCR definition: the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Beginning with the 2013 data year, the term “forcible” was removed from the offense title and the definition was changed. The revised UCR definition of rape is: penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim. Attempts or assaults to commit rape are also included in the statistics presented here.

### Rape across the nation in 2020\*

The FBI’s Uniform Crime Report for 2020 reports that:

- There were an estimated 126,430 rapes (revised definition) reported to law enforcement in 2020. This estimate was 11.7 percent lower than the 2019 estimate and 4.5 percent lower than the 2016 estimate.
- The rate of rapes (revised definition) nationally in 2020 was estimated at 38 per 100,000 inhabitants.

\*Statistics for 2021 are not yet available.

# 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	81
2020	67
2021	68
Change from 2020	1%
Change from Average	-16%

## 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

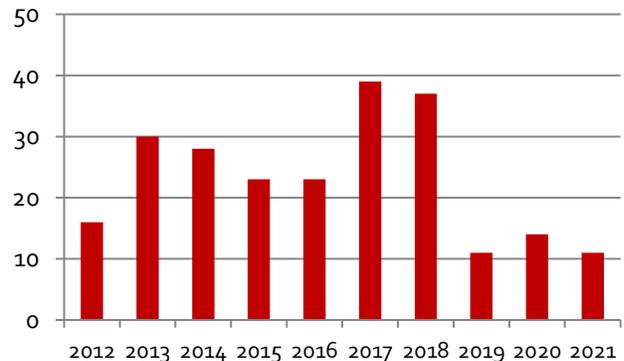
Category	2020	2021	Change
Commercial Robbery	14	11	-21%
Street Robbery	53	57	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>1%</b>

## 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. These low numbers continued in 2020 and 2021, due to the pandemic and subsequent closure of many businesses. There was a slight increase of three incidents in 2020 over 2019, but commercial robberies dropped

## Commercial robbery, 2012-2021



## Part I Crimes: Robbery

back down three incidents to 11 again in 2021. The business district that experienced the most commercial robberies in 2021 was Harvard Square with four incidents, followed by the CambridgeSide/East Cambridge area with three incidents.

### Commercial robberies by location type

Type	2019	2020	2021	Change * 2020- 2021
Convenience/Grocery	4	6	4	-33%
Misc. Retail	3	1	3	200%
Drug Store	2	2	2	0%
Café/Restaurant	0	0	1	N/A
Other	0	0	1	N/A
Bank/Armored Car	0	4	0	-100%
Electronics/Computer	0	1	0	-100%
Gas Station	2	0	0	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-21%</b>

\*N/A = % change cannot be calculated when the 2020 total is zero.

In 2021, five different location types experienced robberies. Convenience/grocery/liquor stores were the most common establishments to experience commercial robberies with four reported incidents, followed by miscellaneous retail establishments with three incidents, and drug stores with two.

After 11 bank robberies were reported in 2017, only four occurred in 2018 and not a single bank robbery was reported in 2019, which was the first time in at least 20 years that no bank robberies were reported for an entire year in Cambridge. Bank robberies then rebounded in 2020 with four reported incidents, followed by another year with zero bank robberies in 2021.

In total, two of the 11 commercial robberies in 2020 resulted in charges against named suspects, while possible suspects were developed in another two incidents.

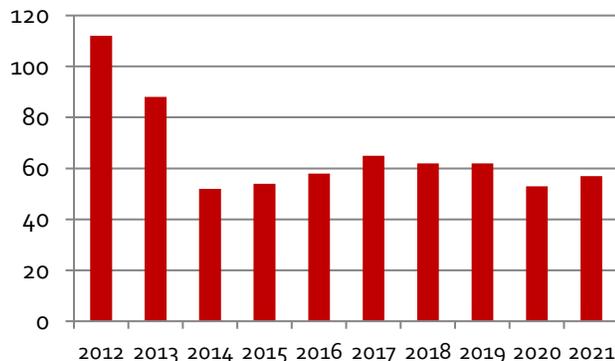
## Street robbery

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 this year increased by four incidents (or 8%), from 53 in 2020 to 57 in 2021.

Despite the name, a “street” robbery does not necessarily have to occur on the street, although the majority of them do. In 2021, 80% of all street robberies occurred on a street, alleyway, parking lot, or sidewalk. The remaining premise types in 2021 included residences, ATMs, retail establishments, a hotel, and convenience/grocery stores (where the targets were not the stores or establishments themselves).

In 2021, 28 (49%) 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 29 robberies (51%) involved the use or threat of a weapon. Knives were used in eight incidents, as were shod feet (feet with shoes). A firearm was used in four incidents and implied in another two. Other weapons that were reported to have been used in at least one incident included scissors, brass knuckles, and a rope/whip. The weapon was unknown in four incidents and no weapon was used in seven incidents.

Street robbery, 2012-2021



Street robberies by neighborhood

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2020	2021	Change from Avg.
East Cambridge	4	4	8	100%
MIT	1	1	0	-100%
Inman/Harrington	1	1	1	0%
The Port	10	10	4	-60%
Cambridgeport	13	13	8	-38%
Mid-Cambridge	7	8	6	-14%
Riverside	8	6	16	100%
Baldwin	0	1	1	N/A
Peabody	3	2	2	-33%
West Cambridge	5	3	3	-40%
North Cambridge	4	2	7	75%
Cambridge Highlands	2	2	0	-100%
Strawberry Hill	1	0	1	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>-3%</b>

\*N/A = % change cannot be calculated when the 2020 total is zero.

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 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 2021 was Riverside. Riverside saw an increase of 10 robberies in 2021, up 167% from 2020, which can partly be attributed to an increase in activity in Central Square, accounting for 12 of the 16 street robberies.

In a year when people were not out in public as often, the emergence of an established street robbery pattern never took place. In total, arrests were made in only nine of the 57 robberies in 2021 at the time of the incident. However, upon follow-up investigation, more individuals were linked to their crimes, as possible suspects were developed in an additional 12 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 (2):** Related to domestic robbery and unhoused 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 (3):** 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.
- **Bikejacking (1):** Juvenile robberies where the primary property targets are bicycles.
- **Bully Boys (1):** 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 (1):** 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 (1):** In these situations, suspects usually brandish a knife or gun to rob a delivery person.
- **Domestic (4):** 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.

## Part I Crimes: Robbery

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- **Drug Deal** (2): Typically drug deals gone awry.
- **Home Invasion** (4): 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.
- **Robberies Involving Unhoused Individuals** (9): These are incidents of people who are unhoused 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** (3): 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** (22): 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** (4): 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

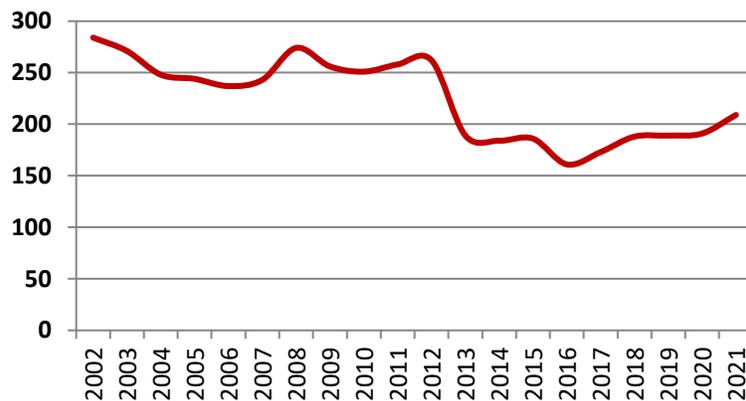
## Definition

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	185
2020	191
2021	209
Change from 2020	9%
Change from Average	13%

## Aggravated assaults reported in Cambridge



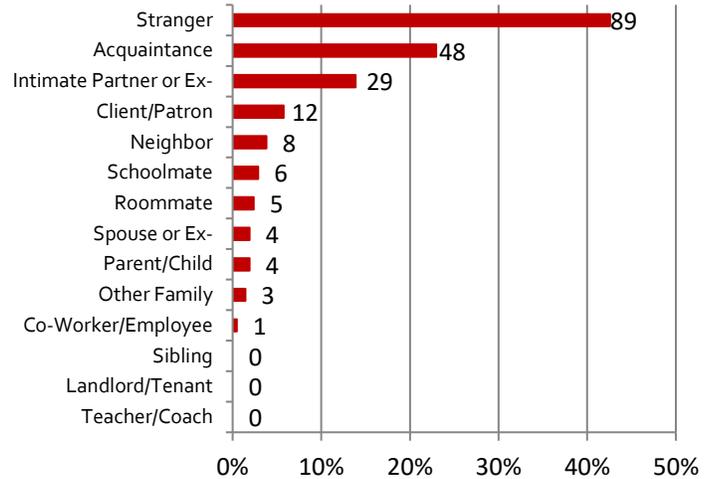
Aggravated assaults rise from the “heat of the moment,” and unlike robberies, rarely involve personal gain (assaults that do involve thefts are coded in the “Robbery” section). Although a serious and dangerous crime, the average citizen has little to fear from a random aggravated assault: typically, 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

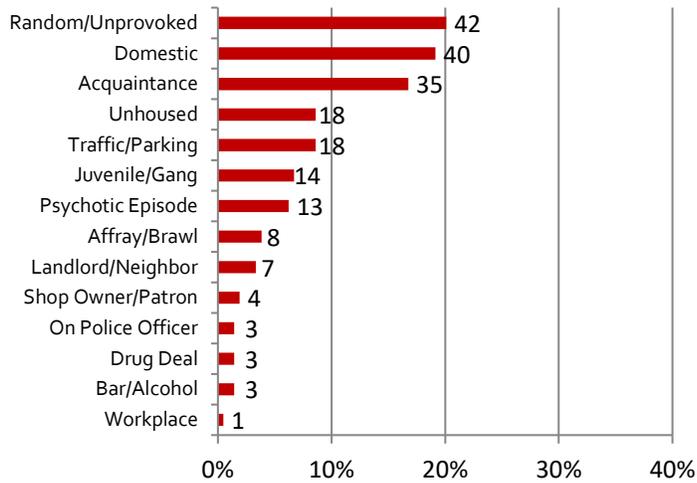
Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2020	2021	Change from Avg.	% of Total (2021)
East Cambridge	16	10	19	19%	9%
M.I.T.	4	3	1	-75%	0%
Inman/Harrington	14	13	14	0%	7%
The Port	21	22	41	95%	20%
Cambridgeport	35	34	29	-17%	14%
Mid-Cambridge	18	20	28	56%	13%
Riverside	22	26	24	9%	11%
Baldwin	1	0	3	200%	1%
Peabody	9	11	12	33%	6%
West Cambridge	17	15	7	-59%	3%
North Cambridge	18	24	23	28%	11%
Cambridge Highlands	5	7	5	0%	2%
Strawberry Hill	4	6	3	-25%	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>13%</b>	

### Aggravated assault by relationship

Although making up only 43% 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 outweighed “strangers” by about three-to-two in 2021. 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.



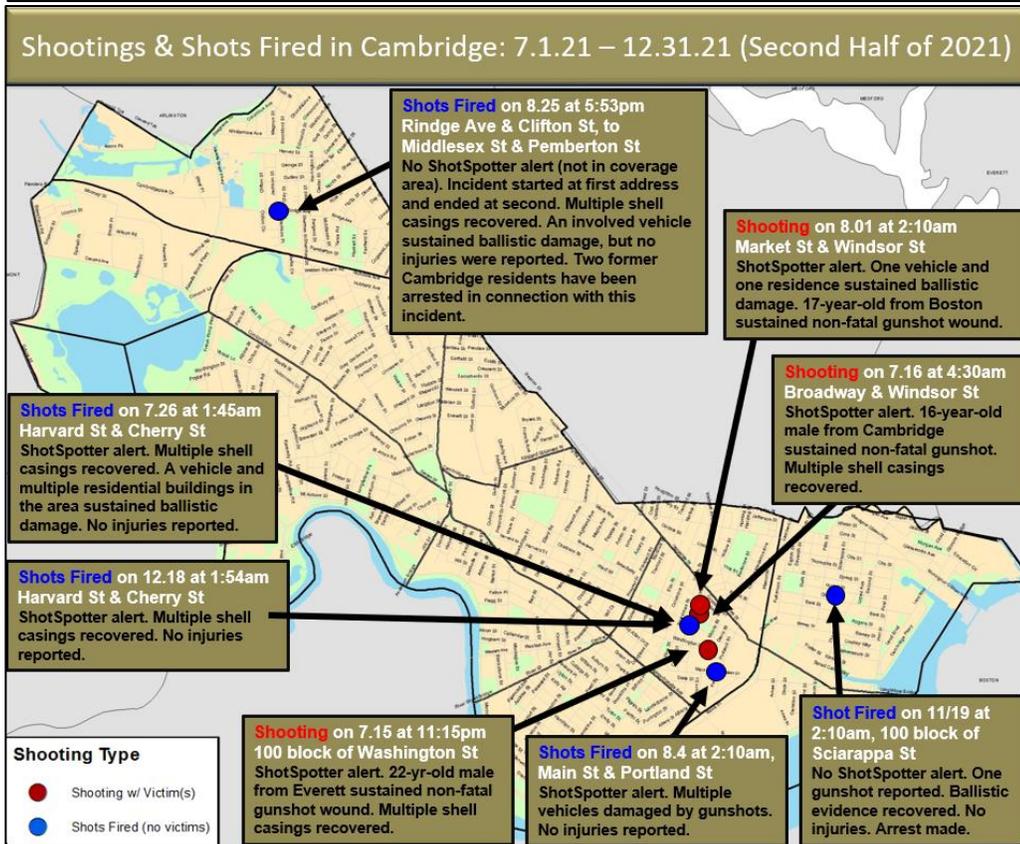
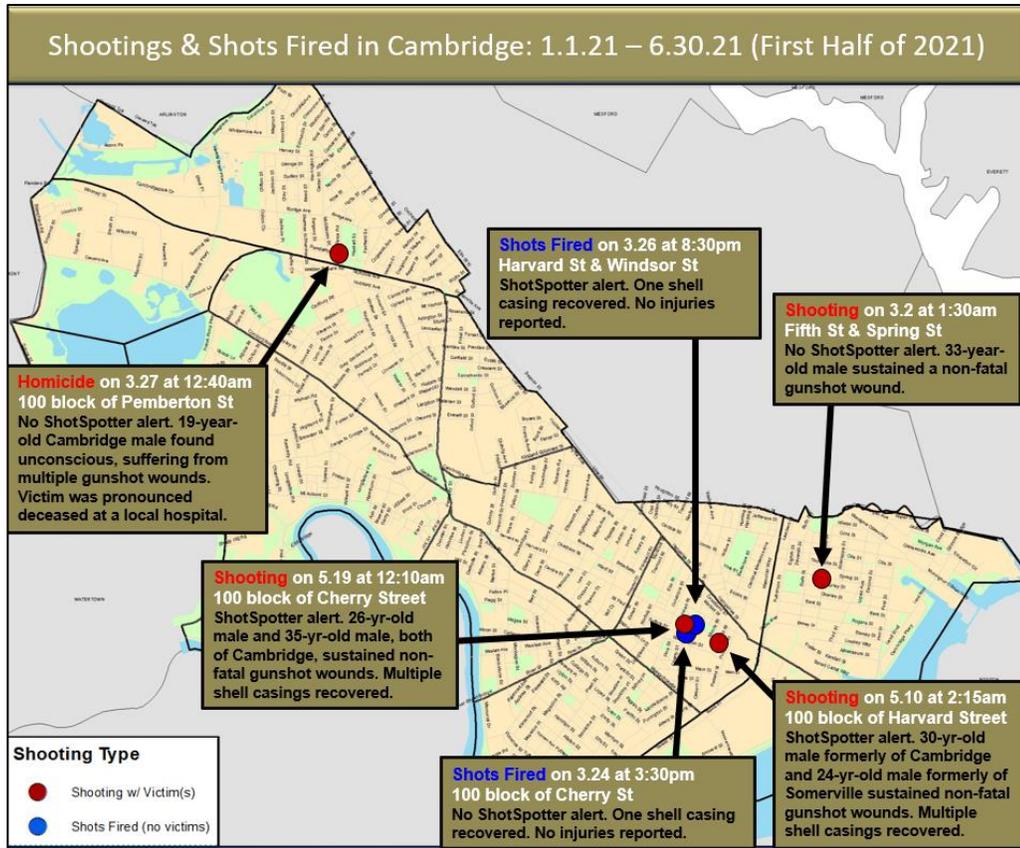
### Aggravated assault by categorization



In any year, domestic assaults typically make up 30-40% of the total. However, in 2021, this category dropped to 19% of the aggravated assault total. Domestic incidents involve a variety of relationships, but as the chart above shows, some of the most common are among intimate/ex-intimate partners, spouses/ex-spouses, and parents/children. These unique circumstances are covered in the “Domestic Incidents” 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 assaults between unhoused individuals (12 incidents below 2020), psychotic episodes (9 incidents above 2020), and juvenile/gang assaults (7 incidents above 2020).

### Notable findings on aggravated assault in 2021

- Thirteen of the aggravated assaults in 2020 (6%) resulted in serious or life-threatening injuries.
- There were 14 shots fired incidents in 2021; one was a homicide and six others resulted in non-fatal wounds. This was an increase of 100% from the seven shots fired incidents reported in 2020, none of which resulted in any injuries. See the maps on the next page for more information.
- The most common weapons used in aggravated assaults in 2020 were knives (24%), followed by shod feet (feet with shoes) in 13% of the incidents, and a handgun in 10%. There were 21 aggravated assaults that involved the use of a firearm in 2021, up seven from the previous year.
- A little over 23% of aggravated assaults resulted in an arrest in 2021 (down 17% from 2020), compared to 21% of simple assaults.



### Simple assault

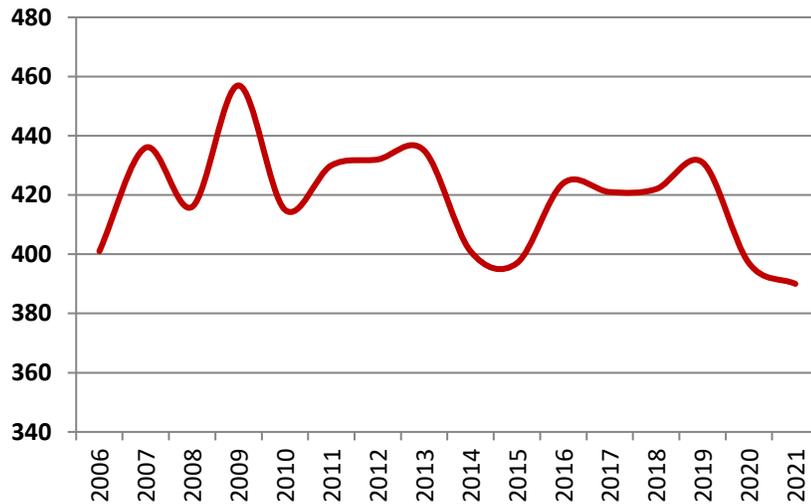
When analyzing aggravated assault, it is important to keep tabs on simple assault as well. (The difference between the two is often a matter of luck rather than intent.) Because simple assaults do not result in serious injury and do not involve the use of a deadly weapon, the underreporting rate is likely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

Simple assaults have changed very little in recent years, fluctuating between 390 and

460 incidents since 2006. In 2021, seven fewer simple assaults were reported when compared to 2020 (390 in 2021 versus 397 in 2020). Simple assaults tend to mirror aggravated assaults in categories and relationships.

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Simple assaults reported in Cambridge



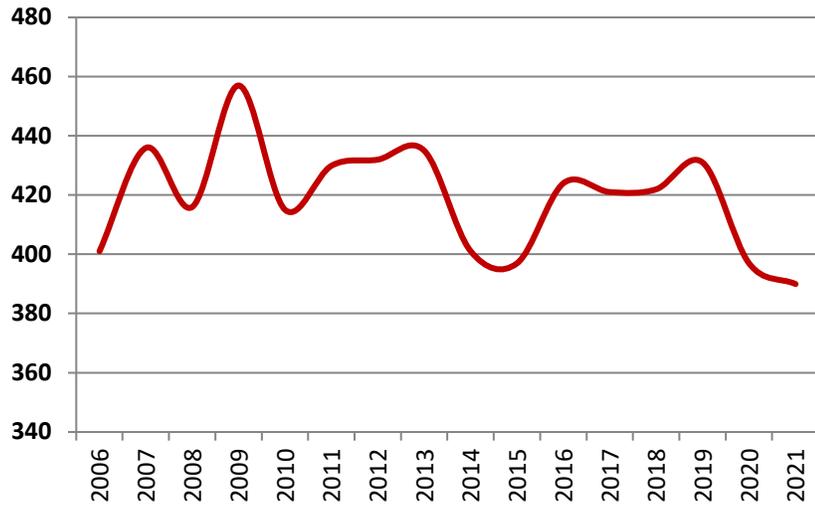
### Simple assault

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.) Unlike aggravated assaults, simple assaults do not result in serious injury and do not involve the use of a deadly weapon, so the underreporting rate is likely even higher than for aggravated assault.

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Simple assaults reported in Cambridge



# Burglary

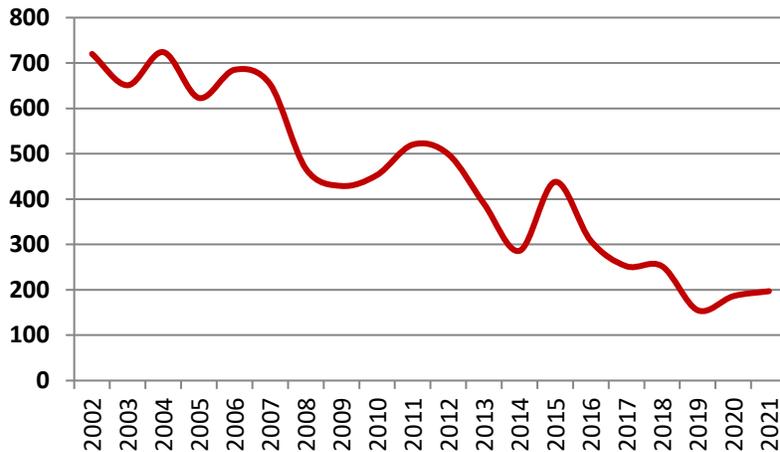
## Definition

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	208
2020	186
2021	197
Change from 2020	6%
Change from Average	-5%

## Burglaries reported in Cambridge



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 by category

Category	2020	2021	Change
Commercial Burglary	57	72	26%
Residential Burglary	129	125	-3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>6%</b>

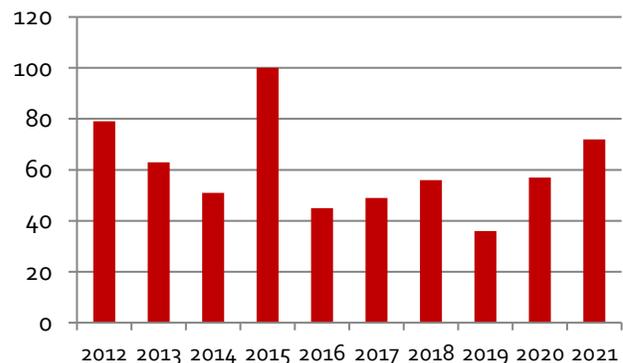
### Top items targeted in 2021

Rank	Residential	Commercial
1	Computers	Cash/Credit Cards
2	Cash/Credit Cards	Misc. Electronics
3	Misc. Electronics	Computers
4	Wallets/Backpacks/Purses	Tools
5	Jewelry	Clothing

## 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 2020 to 2021, there was a 26% increase in commercial breaks in Cambridge. The 2021 total was also up 47% over the five-year average of 49 incidents.

### Commercial burglary, 2012-2021



## Part I Crimes: Burglary

### Commercial burglaries by business district

Business District	5-Yr. Avg.	2020	2021	Change from Avg.	% of Total (2021)
CambridgeSide/East Cambridge	5	5	7	40%	10%
Kendall/M.I.T.	2	2	5	150%	7%
Inman Square	4	7	7	75%	10%
Central Square	9	5	14	56%	19%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	1	1	2	100%	3%
Bay Square/Upper Broadway	5	10	14	180%	19%
Harvard Square	10	13	9	-10%	13%
1500-1900 Massachusetts Avenue	3	4	5	67%	7%
Porter Square/North Cambridge	3	1	3	0%	4%
Alewife/West Cambridge	7	9	6	-14%	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>47%</b>	

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 individuals who are unhoused 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	2020	2021
Bar/restaurant/social	11	22
Business offices	4	19
Hotel/Shelter	0	7
Retail establishments	7	5
Industrial/construction	7	3
Church	6	3
School/youth center	5	3
Convenience/gas	7	2
Government building	0	1
Other	10	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>72</b>

### Commercial burglary patterns

In 2021, commercial breaks rose by 15 incidents (26%) over 2020, resulting in a total of 72 burglaries. The 2021 total is the largest number reported in Cambridge since 2015, due at least in part to the actions of one individual. This male suspect was arrested or summonsed for 18 crimes from April through early July, including 10 commercial breaks. It is likely that he was also responsible for additional incidents where evidence was not recovered. The majority of this male's activity was focused in Mid-Cambridge, where he would force doors or windows to gain entry to buildings and target electronics. His crimes took place in the early morning hours and were often caught on surveillance video. The male was finally sentenced in October of 2021 to two-and-a-half years in the House of Corrections. The months that the above suspect was most active (June and July) accounted for 36% of all commercial breaks in 2021. Incidents dropped off considerable after his final arrest in July.

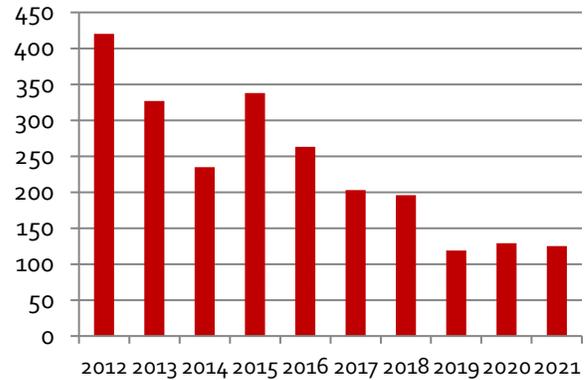
Four of the commercial breaks (6%) in 2021 were attempts in which no entry was gained, and three incidents (4%) were considered an “inside job” in which an employee or known associate was believed to be responsible. Overall, nine incidents resulted in an arrest and suspects were developed or summonsed in an additional 21.

### Residential burglary

In the last few years, residential burglaries, also known as housebreaks, dropped to levels not seen in over 30 years in Cambridge. In 2021, the total decreased slightly to 125 thefts, which was four incidents (3%) below the 129 reported in 2020 and 34 incidents (21%) below the five-year average of 159.

Part of the reason housebreak numbers have been so low the past few years is because of the lack of any prolific or long-lasting patterns of this crime type. The suspect mentioned in the commercial burglary section above was also summonsed for two housebreaks and may have been responsible for more. However, there were no other discernable housebreak patterns in 2021.

Residential burglary, 2012-2021



Relation of Offender to Victim in Residential Burglaries

Type	2020	2021
Stranger/Unknown	113	107
Domestic (family member, romantic partner, etc.)	9	8
Acquaintance (friend, landlord, etc.)	7	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>125</b>

Point/Method of Entry into Homes

Category	2019	2020	2021
<b>Door Entry</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>86</b>
Pried/forced/broken	25	30	25
Unlocked/open	30	33	31
Other/unknown	18	26	30
<b>Window Entry</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>24</b>
Pried/forced/broken	11	6	6
Cut/removed screens	12	5	11
Unlocked/open	10	8	6
Other/unknown	4	0	1
<b>Other/Unknown entry</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>125</b>

Residential burglaries by neighborhood

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2020	2021	Change from Avg.	Population (2020)	2021 Rate/10,000
East Cambridge	15	13	20	33%	13,246	15
M.I.T.	1	0	1	0%	6,238	2
Inman/Harrington	14	10	8	-43%	6,718	12
The Port	17	17	11	-35%	7,280	15
Cambridgeport	28	24	23	-18%	13,083	18
Mid-Cambridge	20	15	22	10%	13,974	16
Riverside	15	10	8	-47%	12,114	7
Baldwin	6	2	3	-50%	5,146	6
Peabody	13	9	9	-31%	12,471	7
West Cambridge	10	8	5	-50%	8,450	6
North Cambridge	16	17	11	-31%	15,372	7
Cambridge Highlands	1	0	2	100%	1,646	12
Strawberry Hill	4	4	2	-50%	2,665	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>-21%</b>	<b>118,403</b>	

# Larceny

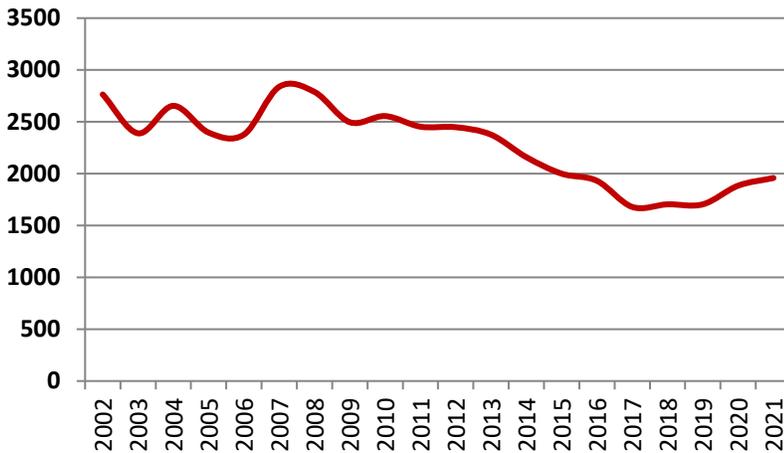
## Definition

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	1,776
2020	1,884
2021	1,958
Change from 2020	4%
Change from Average	10%

## 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 86% 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. Larceny categories were very much affected by the pandemic in 2020. More than half of the larceny categories experienced substantial reductions from 2019 to 2020, mostly because of the lack of people venturing out in the city for work, dining, shopping, and recreation. As buildings, restaurants, etc. slowly began to reopen in 2021, we saw a moderate rebound in the some of the affected larceny types, although the most heavily affected larceny categories—from buildings, from persons, of services, and shopliftings—still remain well below average, as can be seen below.

## Larcenies by type

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2020	2021	Change from Avg.	% of Total (2021)
Larcenies from buildings	210	124	146	-30%	7%
Larcenies from motor vehicles	297	351	446	50%	23%
Larcenies from persons	144	99	106	-26%	5%
Larcenies from residences	289	387	350	21%	18%
Larcenies of bicycles	441	602	623	41%	32%
Larcenies of license plates	18	9	27	50%	1%
Larcenies of services	16	5	6	-63%	0%
Shoplifting	320	266	192	-40%	10%
Other (unclassifiable) larcenies	41	41	62	51%	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,776</b>	<b>1,884</b>	<b>1,958</b>	<b>10%</b>	

## 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.

There were 146 larcenies from buildings reported in 2021. This total represents an increase of 22 incidents (18%) over 2020 and a 30% drop below the five-year average of 210.

**Larcenies from buildings by business district**

Business District	2020	2021	Change
CambridgeSide/East Cambridge	17	18	6%
Kendall/M.I.T.	7	10	43%
Inman Square	12	6	-50%
Central Square	28	30	7%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	1	10	900%
Bay Sq./Upper Broadway	9	7	-22%
Harvard Square	12	13	8%
1500-1900 Mass. Ave.	9	17	89%
Porter Sq./N. Cambridge	10	14	40%
Alewife/West Cambridge	19	21	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>18%</b>

## Larceny from building scenarios

The following are the most common larceny from building scenarios in Cambridge in 2021:

1. Thefts of property intentionally left unattended for a short time: **39 incidents**
2. Thefts of property accidentally left behind at a location: **20 incidents**
3. Thefts from a health club: **19 incidents**
4. Thefts of property left unattended on a store counter: **14 incidents**
5. Thefts of employee property from the “back room” of a commercial establishment: **12 incidents**
6. Thefts of company property by an employee (“inside job”): **11 incidents**
7. Thefts of personal/company property from an office building during business hours: **10 incidents**
8. Thefts from a construction site: **7 incidents**
9. Thefts from the area immediately surrounding a building: **5 incidents**
10. Thefts from a hotel room: **4 incidents**
11. Thefts from a school: **3 incidents**

## Larcenies from persons

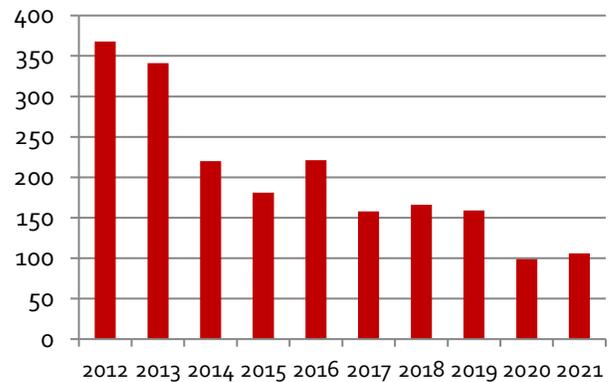
Larceny from the person describes pocket-picking or any theft that occurs within the victim’s area of control. The thefts are non-confrontational, and often the victim is not aware of the theft until after it has occurred. If any physical confrontation between offender and victim takes place, the crime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

Due to the numerous pandemic-related closures of and restrictions at restaurants and shops across the city that began in 2020 and continued into 2021, larcenies from persons dropped considerably in 2020 and remained low this year. The total of 106 thefts in 2021 came in at seven incidents (+7%) above the 2020 total, but was 26% below the five-year weighted average of 144. No larcenies from the person in 2021 resulted in an arrest at the time of the incident, but a suspect was developed in 12 incidents. See the scenarios below for more on larcenies from the person in 2021.

**Larcenies from persons by business district**

Business District	2020	2021	Change
CambridgeSide/ East Cambridge	6	3	-50%
Kendall/M.I.T.	2	6	200%
Inman Square	7	0	-100%
Central Square	49	63	29%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	3	4	33%
Bay Sq./Upper Broadway	3	3	0%
Harvard Square	14	10	-29%
1500-1900 Mass. Ave.	1	2	100%
Porter Sq./N. Cambridge	9	14	56%
Alewife/West Cambridge	5	1	-80%
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>7%</b>

**Larcenies from persons, 2012-2021**



The following represents a few of the recurring larceny from person scenarios in Cambridge:

1. The most common larceny from person scenario in Cambridge in 2021 involved the theft of items after they were left unattended by their owners. This scenario accounted for approximately 30% of the larcenies from persons in 2021. In a typical year, this would include thefts of purses, wallets, and other belongings left briefly unattended in bars, restaurants, churches, schools, bus stops, parks, etc. However, due to the continued reduction in overall gatherings around the city this year, the most typical scenario in 2021 involved the theft of property from unhoused individuals while they were asleep or away from their property, particularly in the Central Square area.
2. The second most common larceny from person scenario in Cambridge in 2021 involved the theft of items from victims as they shopped in local commercial establishments. In this situation, a shopper might leave a purse or bag in a cart while looking at items on a shelf; upon returning to the cart, the belongings are gone. This category accounted for 23% of the larcenies from persons in 2021. Similar to the thefts of unattended items, shopping incidents were also most common in Central Square this year, where multiple incidents were reported at *The Goodwill Store*, *H-Mart*, and *CVS*.
3. Another frequent larceny scenario in Cambridge this year involved pocket-picking, in which items are stolen from a victim’s pocket, purse, or backpack without his or her knowledge. This scenario accounted for 20% of the larcenies from persons in 2021. Again, pocket-picking incidents were most common in Central Square this year, which makes sense given that over 58% of larcenies from the person were reported in Central Square in 2021.

## Part I Crimes: Larceny

Note: One of the larceny from person scenarios that we typically see frequently in Cambridge—thefts from diners in the Squares—was noticeably reduced in both 2020 and 2021 because of pandemic closures. Only 18 dining incidents were reported citywide in 2021, which is up slightly from the 12 incidents reported in 2020, but is still down noticeably from 38 dining thefts reported 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 350 larcenies from residences reported in Cambridge in 2021, a 10% drop below 2020. Despite the decrease this year, the thefts of packages from the front steps or vestibules of residences continued to dominate this crime category in 2021, with 236 incidents reported. Due to the continuation of an understandably large increase in pandemic-related online shopping when compared with pre-pandemic levels, the 236 package thefts reported in 2021 and the 284 in 2020 were both up considerably from the 149 package thefts reported in 2019. It should also be noted that even with the larger numbers in 2020 and 2021, these incidents are believed to be vastly underreported, so the actual number of packages stolen is likely even greater.

#### The most common larceny from residence scenarios are:

- Thefts of mail/packages delivered by a parcel service: **67%**
- Thefts from a yard, porch, or other area surrounding a residence: **9%**
- Thefts committed by visitors or guests of a residence: **7%**
- Thefts from a common area of an apartment building: **5%**
- Thefts committed by someone working in the residence, such as a painter, plumber, contractor, or maintenance worker: **4%**
- Thefts committed by a family member, spouse, or romantic partner (i.e., “domestic thefts”): **3%**
- Thefts committed while victims are in the process of moving: **3%**
- Thefts from a storage area of an apartment building or complex: **1%**

#### Larcenies from residences by neighborhood

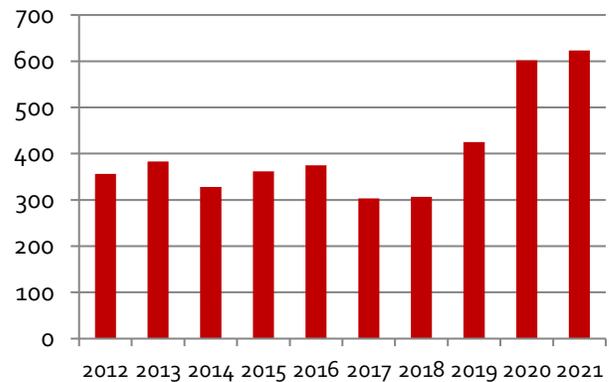
Neighborhood	2020	2021	Change
East Cambridge	28	29	4%
MIT	1	8	700%
Inman/Harrington	29	14	-52%
The Port	38	28	-26%
Cambridgeport	54	74	37%
Mid-Cambridge	63	44	-30%
Riverside	47	46	-2%
Baldwin	12	7	-42%
Peabody	44	31	-30%
West Cambridge	16	10	-38%
North Cambridge	41	45	10%
Cambridge Highlands	6	6	0%
Strawberry Hill	8	8	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>-10%</b>

## Larcenies of bicycles\*

Larcenies of bicycles by neighborhood

Neighborhood	2020	2021	Change
East Cambridge	78	67	-14%
M.I.T.	11	13	18%
Inman/Harrington	19	33	74%
The Port	58	42	-28%
Cambridgeport	122	103	-16%
Mid-Cambridge	64	75	17%
Riverside	58	68	17%
Baldwin	11	25	127%
Peabody	52	47	-10%
West Cambridge	40	26	-35%
North Cambridge	71	101	42%
Cambridge Highlands	15	20	33%
Strawberry Hill	3	3	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>3%</b>

Larcenies of bicycles, 2012-2021



There were 623 reported thefts of bicycles in 2021, an increase of 21 incidents (3%) over 2020 and a substantial 41% rise over the five-year weighted average of 441 thefts. Unlike in past years when the largest numbers of bicycle thefts occurred during the warmer months and then dropped off with the arrival of colder weather, bike thefts in 2021 fluctuated throughout the year, with higher-than-normal totals in the winter and totals that registered below expectations in the summer.

Larcenies of bicycles by month in 2021

Month	Number of thefts
January	38
February	24
March	38
April	51
May	78
June	61
July	60
August	53
September	78
October	60
November	52
December	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>623</b>

Locks present little difficulty to bicycle thieves, who often bring bolt cutters or pry bars with them. Approximately 54% of all reported bicycle thefts this year involved locked and unattended bicycles on a street, sidewalk, or rack. Another 24% of thefts involved locked bicycles on private property, such as in private back yards or in apartment building hallways. Nearly 17% of the larcenies involved bicycles that were left unlocked and unprotected. Unlocked bicycles that were on private property followed, making up the remaining 5% of reported incidents.

Similar to recent years, one of the hardest hit areas for bicycle thefts in 2021 was Central Square, with 101 incidents. Another up-and-coming area that has seen an increase over the past few years is the Alewife/West Cambridge business district, where bike thefts have risen from 29 in 2018 to 64 in 2019, 70 in 2020, and 80 in 2021. This increase is due to a continuing trend of thefts from parking garages and storage areas around the city. In the Alewife area alone, there were over 40 bicycles reported stolen from the parking garages and bicycle storage areas of buildings along Cambridgepark Drive, Concord Avenue, and Fawcett Street. Citywide, thefts from parking garages and storage areas have increased over the past four years, rising steadily from 28 thefts in 2018 to 152 in 2021.

Three bicycle thefts in 2021 resulted in an arrest at the time of the incident, and a suspect was developed in at least 22 additional incidents.

\* 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

Mostly due to the pandemic-related closures of many stores across Cambridge in 2020 and 2021, shoplifting decreased by 23% in 2020 and by another 28% in 2021, dropping a total of 155 incidents from 2019 to this year. In a typical year, the CambridgeSide/East Cambridge area would usually experience the majority of the shopliftings in the city. However, over the past two years, shopliftings in this business district have dropped a staggering 79%, from 146 incidents in 2019 to only 31 in 2021. This decrease can be attributed to both the pandemic-related closures and also the construction and redevelopment currently taking place at the CambridgeSide Shopping Center.

Shoplifting by business district

Business District	2020	2021	Change
CambridgeSide/ East Cambridge	59	31	-47%
Kendall/MIT	1	3	200%
Inman Square	4	0	-100%
Central Square	63	69	10%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	6	4	-33%
Bay Sq./Upper Broadway	2	0	-100%
Harvard Square	22	25	14%
1500-1900 Mass. Ave.	2	1	-50%
Porter Sq./N. Cambridge	80	38	-53%
Alewife/West Cambridge	27	21	-22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>-28%</b>

It is important to note that because shoplifting incidents are often only reported when an arrest is made, underreporting can be a serious problem. However, 80% of the reported incidents in 2021 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.

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. **Unhoused 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 only six of these crimes reported in 2021, which is up 20% from the five reported in 2020. “Dining and ditching” incidents were reported most often this year (three incidents), followed by two incidents of taxicab fare evasion and one incident of failure to pay for auto repair services.

## Miscellaneous larceny

This category includes all other unclassifiable larcenies. Miscellaneous larcenies in 2021 rose by 51% from 41 in 2020 to 62 in 2021. There were no notable patterns of any miscellaneous types of larceny this year.

# Auto Theft

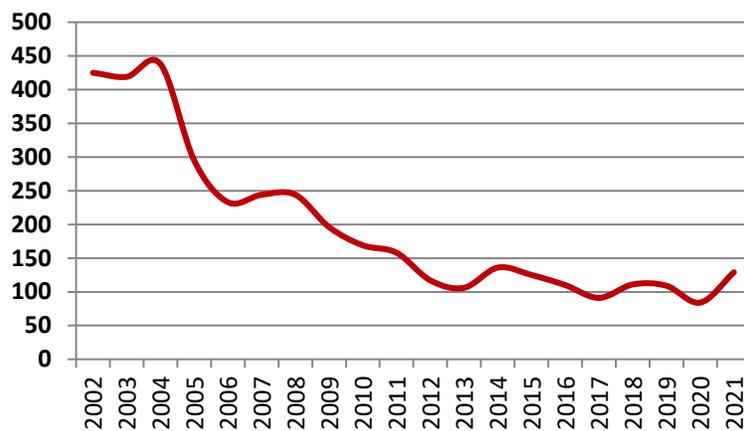
## Definition

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.

## Statistics

Five-Year Average	99
2020	84
2021	129
Change from 2020	54%
Change from Average	30%

## 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.

In 2020, auto thefts dropped to a record low of 84 incidents. The dramatic decrease in 2020 may have, at least in part, been due to the pandemic, as significantly fewer people were traveling about, eliminating some of the opportunity for auto thefts. This trend reversed in 2021, with auto thefts rising 54% (45 incidents) over 2020 to 129 incidents, which was the second largest auto theft total recorded in Cambridge in ten years. The 2021 total was also 30% higher than the five-year weighted average of 99 incidents.

Almost all the neighborhoods in Cambridge saw at least slight increases in auto thefts in 2021, with the most notable occurring in Riverside. This neighborhood has seen its share of ups and downs in this crime in recent years. In 2019, there was a 162% increase in auto thefts in Riverside due to a summertime pattern in the area, followed by a 48% decrease the following year during the pandemic. Then in 2021, there was yet another drastic increase of 145% in this neighborhood, partly due to a rise in reports from a local auto rental company where customers were not returning the vehicles.

## Auto thefts by neighborhood

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2020	2021	Change from Avg.	% of Total (2021)
East Cambridge	13	11	13	0%	10%
MIT	4	1	1	-75%	1%
Inman/Harrington	8	3	4	-50%	3%
The Port	11	10	7	-36%	5%
Cambridgeport	14	16	18	29%	14%
Mid-Cambridge	6	4	11	83%	9%
Riverside	12	11	27	125%	21%
Baldwin	3	0	5	67%	4%
Peabody	6	7	8	33%	6%
West Cambridge	11	10	13	18%	10%
North Cambridge	10	10	17	70%	13%
Cambridge Highlands	1	1	4	300%	3%
Strawberry Hill	0	0	1	N/A	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>30%</b>	

## Part I Crimes: Auto Theft

A trend that started to affect auto theft numbers in 2021 was a rise in incidents targeting delivery drivers that left their cars running while they grabbed orders from local restaurants.

### Makes and models

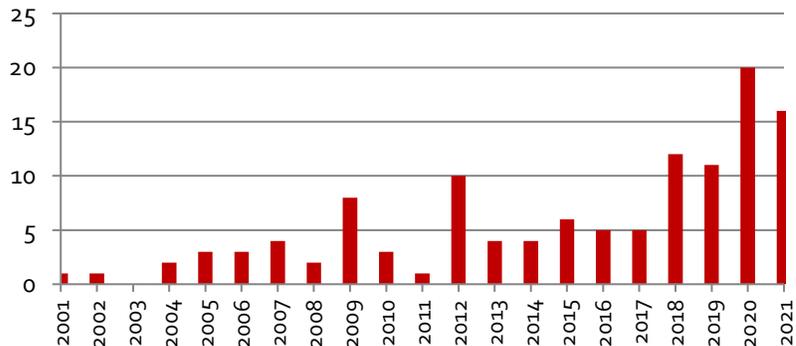
In 2021, Honda was the most stolen automobile make in Cambridge, with 25 total. Honda accounted for 19% of all auto theft reports this year. Toyota came in second with 11 thefts, followed by Nissan and Chevy with 10 and 7, respectively. This information, while typically consistent with historical and national trends, can change from year to year with different targeted models rising in the ranks. Honda Civics had been the most commonly stolen vehicles in Cambridge (either alone or tied with another model) since 2002. This changed in 2019 when, for the first time in nearly 20 years, Civics dropped out of first place. Since then, Honda Civics have not made it onto the list of top stolen car models at all. 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 makes/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.

**Top 4 stolen makes and models in Cambridge in 2021**

Makes		Models	
Honda	25	Honda Accord	9
Toyota	11	Honda CRV	6
Nissan	10	Subaru Outback	4 each
Chevy	7	Toyota Corolla Nissan Rouge	

Thefts of motorcycles, scooters, and mopeds have also become more common throughout the city and region over the past few years. In 2021, this vehicle type accounted for 28% of all auto thefts in Cambridge. Previously in 2020, 36% of all auto thefts were of the two-wheeled variety.

**Auto thefts in 2021 by model year**



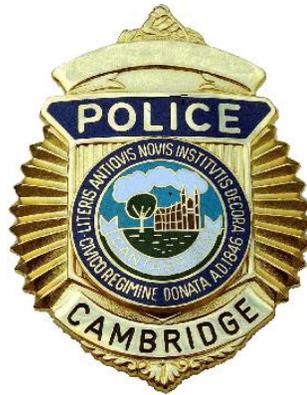
The table to the right shows the incidence of auto theft by model year (six vehicles did not report the model year, as a lot of scooter and moped owners are not aware of this information, and two thefts involved a model year prior to 2001). Analysis of the age of stolen vehicles shows that the highest demand is typically for cars less than 10 years old.

### Auto theft recoveries by location

Cambridge Recoveries	25
Riverside	6
North Cambridge	5
The Port	4
Cambridgeport	2
Highlands	2
Mid-Cambridge	1
Baldwin	1
West Cambridge	1
Peabody	1
Unknown Cambridge	2

Recoveries in Other Cities/Towns	26
Boston	15
Somerville	1
Belmont	1
Dedham	1
Lowell	1
Out of State	1
Lynn	1
Malden	1
Medford	1
Revere	1
Watertown	1
Westwood	1

Approximately 40% of the cars reported stolen in 2021 have been reported as recovered to date. About half of the recovered cars this year were found within Cambridge. Riverside, the neighborhood with the highest number of cars stolen, also reported the most recoveries in 2021 with six.



### Section III

# 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	64
2020	50
2021	43
Change from 2020	-14%
Change from Average	-33%

To the right is a geographic breakdown of drug incidents across the 13 neighborhoods in Cambridge. Riverside accounted for the most drug activity in the city in 2021, with 16 incidents.

In total, 43 drug incidents were reported in 2021 and 25 people were arrested in 21 of these incidents.

### Drug incidents by neighborhood

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2020	2021	% of Total (2021)*
East Cambridge	6	6	0	0%
MIT	1	1	4	9%
Inman/Harrington	4	6	1	2%
The Port	10	6	6	14%
Cambridgeport	15	5	3	7%
Mid-Cambridge	6	7	6	14%
Riverside	10	9	16	37%
Baldwin	0	0	0	0%
Peabody	2	1	0	0%
West Cambridge	4	4	1	2%
North Cambridge	3	4	4	9%
Cambridge Highlands	2	1	2	5%
Strawberry Hill	0	0	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>43</b>	

## Drug offense scenarios

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

1. A police officer on patrol observes suspicious street activity and upon further investigation discovers narcotics: **24 cases in 2021**
2. During a routine motor vehicle stop, a police officer observes narcotics inside the vehicle: **8 cases in 2021**
3. During an arrest for another crime, the arresting officer or booking officer finds narcotics on the arrested person: **4 cases in 2021**
4. A citizen witnesses a person or persons using drugs and notifies the police: **6 cases in 2021**
5. A Cambridge school official or court officer observes drug use: **1 case in 2021**

### Type of drug involved in incidents

Category	2021
Heroin/Opioids	10
Cocaine or crack cocaine	11
Prescription drugs	1
Methamphetamine	14
Marijuana	2
Hallucinogens	1
Other (inhalants, etc.)	4

### Drug-related activities for which persons are arrested

Category	2021
Possession	35
Possession with intent to distribute*	4
Drug sale (observed)	0
Trafficking**	4

\*Carrying a significant amount of drugs not for personal use, or any amount indicative of distribution

\*\*Selling, possessing, or transporting an amount of drugs in excess of the amount established by statute, which carries enhanced penalties

# 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.

## Statistics

Five-Year Average	75
2020	67
2021	66
Change from 2020	-1%
Change from Average	-12%

Sex offenses by type

Category	5-Yr. Avg.	2020	2021	Change from Avg.
Indecent assault	31	24	28	-10%
Indecent exposure	22	26	26	18%
Peeping & Spying	7	7	2	-71%
Annoying & accosting	10	10	9	-10%
Obscene phone calls	2	0	1	-50%
Prostitution & solicitation	2	0	0	-100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>-12%</b>

## 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 2021, the offender was a stranger to the victim in 21% of the reported assaults. Eight of the incidents in 2021 resulted in an arrest at the time of the incident and a suspect was identified in 14 others. No patterns of this crime type emerged anywhere in Cambridge.

## 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. Thirteen (50%) of the 26 indecent exposure incidents in 2021 involved suspects masturbating or engaging in sexual acts in public, 11 individuals (42%) were seen urinating/defecating in public, and two crimes (8%) were flashing incidents. Arrests were made in six incidents and suspects were identified in an additional 15.

## Peeping and Spying

Both instances of peeping and spying incidents reported in Cambridge in 2021 involved offenders peering through windows of houses or apartments; one was at night and one was mid-morning.

## 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, following, or otherwise harassing a woman. It happens most often on the street. There were nine incidents in 2021 with three (33%) done by an acquaintance, 1 (11%) by a client/patron, one (11%) by a roommate, and four (44%) by a stranger. None of the incidents resulted in an arrest at the time, but suspects were 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. There was one incident of this nature in 2021 and the suspect was a stranger.

### **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. However, no prostitution incidents were reported in 2021.

# 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	837
2020	1,376
2021	628
Change from 2020	-54%
Change from Average	-25%

Across the nation, police departments are seeing fraud become an increasingly popular crime. In 2021, this crime type in Cambridge dropped 54% from the previous year due to the large decrease in fraudulent unemployment claims (identity theft) that had been filed during the heart of the pandemic in 2020.

## 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. 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. Victims may also report fraudulent activity while they are still in possession of their card. For the first time in three years, there was an increase in this type of fraud in 2021, which rose by 13 incidents, or 15%. Under-reporting can be an issue with ATM/credit card fraud due to 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.

## Fraud by type

Category	2020	2021	Change from 2021*
Counterfeiting	8	10	25%
Forgery/Uttering	1,149	406	-65%
Identity theft	985	265	-73%
Credit/ATM cards	88	101	15%
Forged check	54	30	-44%
Bad check	16	8	-50%
Prescription	0	0	N/A
Application	5	0	-100%
Other/miscellaneous	1	2	100%
Con Games	217	210	-3%
Internet-related	93	110	18%
Housing Scam	28	31	11%
Government	46	33	-28%
Extortion/Kidnap	9	2	-78%
Housework/Utilities	12	14	17%
Travel	3	4	33%
Lottery	5	4	-20%
Charity	1	4	300%
Big Carrot	1	2	100%
Cash shuffle	1	1	0%
Pigeon Drop	2	0	-100%
Miscellaneous	16	5	-69%
Embezzlement	2	2	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,376</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>-54%</b>

\*N/A = % change cannot be calculated when the 2020 total is zero.

### 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, and even filing tax returns. In 2021, there was a staggering decrease of 73%, or 720 incidents, in this category due to a large drop in reported false unemployment claims, which had skyrocketed in 2020 during the pandemic.

### 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. The two incidents reported in 2021 took place at a medical center and at a store within the CambridgeSide Shopping Center.

### "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 scams affecting residents and businesses in the area.

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. Another variant is the victim receives a call from someone posing as a court official and states a relative has been arrested and needs bail money. ("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 access to personal information. ("Internet" scam category)
- Someone approaches a victim on the street stating they need money for gas. ("Travel" scam category)

The following tips can help 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 gift 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 gift card.
- 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	327
2020	326
2021	363
Change from 2020	11%
Change from Average	11%

### Vandalism by neighborhood

Neighborhood	2020	2021	% of Total (2021)
East Cambridge	38	51	14%
M.I.T.	5	3	1%
Inman/Harrington	20	30	8%
The Port	41	50	14%
Cambridgeport	33	31	9%
Mid-Cambridge	30	30	8%
Riverside	32	24	7%
Baldwin	3	9	2%
Peabody	24	18	5%
West Cambridge	32	21	6%
North Cambridge	49	77	21%
Cambridge Highlands	10	9	2%
Strawberry Hill	9	10	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>363</b>	

### Vandalism by category

Category	2020	2021	Change from 2020
<b>Total auto damage</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>16%</b>
Dents/damage to car	55	57	-2%
Car window broken	34	53	56%
Scratches, "pinstripes"	36	23	-36%
Tires slashed or punctured	27	41	52%
Attempted theft	12	19	58%
<b>Total residence damage</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>67%</b>
Misc. damage to residences	20	25	25%
Residence window broken	4	15	275%
<b>Total business damage</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>13%</b>
Misc. damage to businesses	31	32	3%
Business window broken	31	38	23%
<b>Graffiti</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>-4%</b>
<b>Miscellaneous damage</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>-41%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>11%</b>

# 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	941
2020	788
2021	970
Change from 2020	23%
Change from Average	3%

Category	2020	2021	Change from 2020
Hit & Run Crashes	371	531	43%
Threats	228	234	3%
Trespassing	51	57	12%
Drinking in Public	30	9	-70%
Disorderly Conduct	25	19	-24%
Traffic Arrests	24	24	0%
Weapons Violations	24	31	29%
OUI	19	30	58%
Extortion/Blackmail	14	32	129%
Liquor Violations	2	3	50%
Kidnapping	0	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>23%</b>



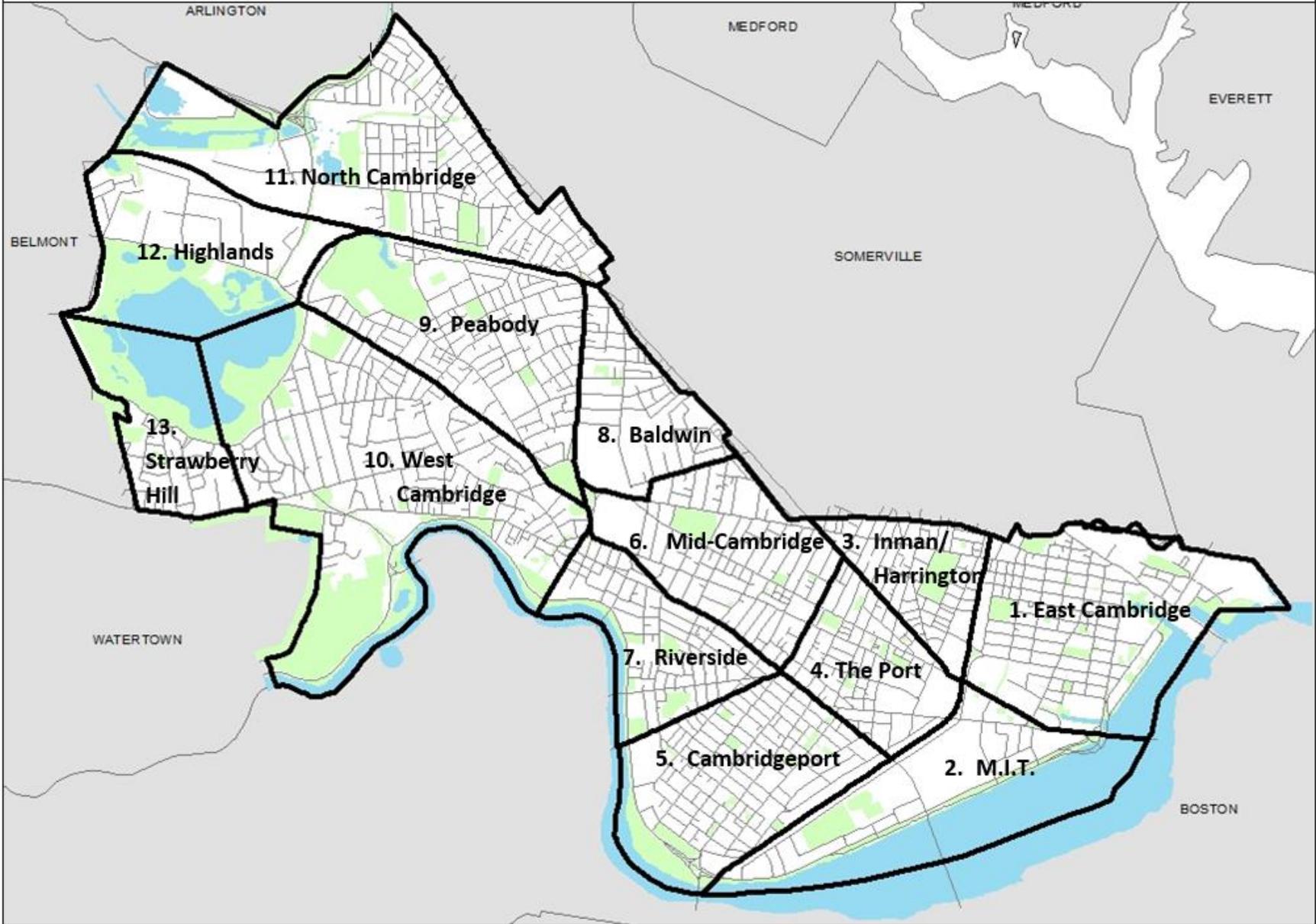


## Section IV

# Neighborhood Profiles

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

# City of Cambridge Neighborhoods

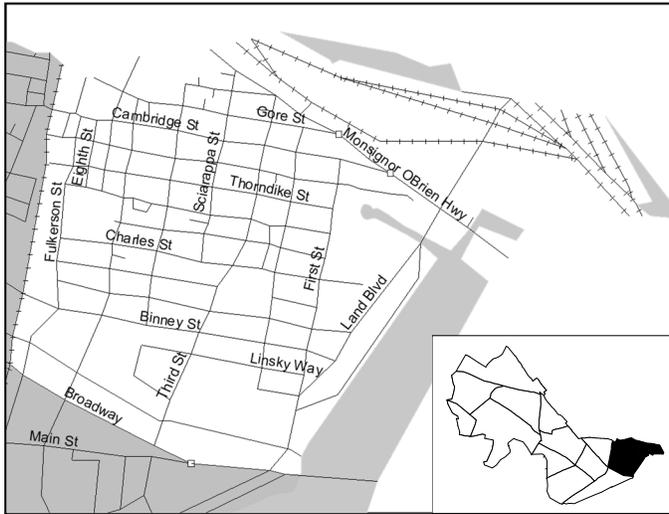


## Neighborhood breakdown of index crimes in 2021

Crime	East Camb	M.I.T.	Inman/Harr.	The Port	Camb Port	Mid-Camb	River-side	Bald-win	Pea-body	W. Camb	N. Camb	Camb H'lands	Strw. Hill	Total
Aggravated Assault	19	1	14	41	29	28	24	3	12	7	23	5	3	209
Auto Theft	13	1	4	7	18	11	27	5	8	13	17	4	1	129
Commercial Break	9	3	6	6	5	13	12	0	6	4	4	4	0	72
Commercial Robbery	3	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	11
Drugs	0	4	1	6	3	6	16	0	0	1	4	2	0	43
Flim Flam	37	2	12	19	33	18	15	2	19	12	26	6	9	210
Forgery	54	11	23	26	59	36	38	11	32	23	71	10	12	406
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Housebreak	20	1	8	11	23	22	8	3	9	5	11	2	2	125
Indecent Assault	2	1	2	4	5	4	2	1	3	1	2	0	1	28
Indecent Exposure	2	0	3	2	6	4	3	0	2	0	4	0	0	26
Larceny from Building	24	7	3	9	16	12	18	15	2	12	16	12	0	146
Larceny from MV	35	2	32	33	74	77	54	10	43	28	47	3	8	446
Larceny from Person	7	2	0	14	38	9	11	1	1	8	15	0	0	106
Larceny from Residence	29	8	14	28	74	44	46	7	31	10	45	6	8	350
Larceny of Bicycle	67	13	33	42	103	75	68	25	47	26	101	20	3	623
Mal. Dest. Property	51	3	30	50	31	30	24	9	18	21	77	9	10	363
Shoplifting	31	0	0	29	44	0	12	1	0	16	39	14	6	192
Simple Assault	56	7	20	44	65	48	37	9	19	19	54	6	6	390
Street Robbery	8	0	1	4	8	6	16	1	2	3	7	0	1	57

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 2020 Census data. The estimated median incomes are from the 2006-2010 American Community Survey data set, as analyzed by the Cambridge Community Development Department.

# East Cambridge



**Boundaries:** Bordered by the Charles River, Main Street, Broadway, the B&A Railroad, and the Somerville border.

**Population as of 2020:**

13,246 residents  
7,471 households

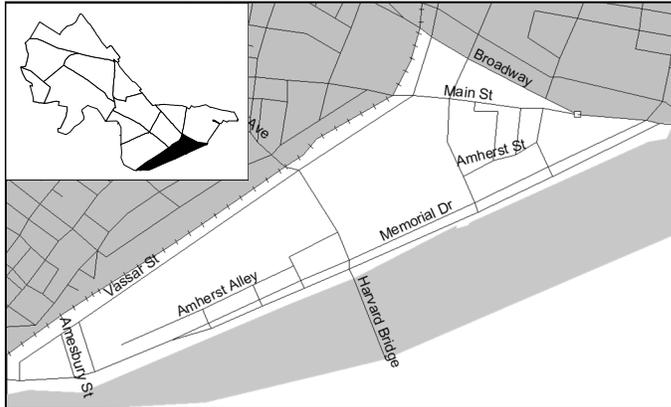
**Median Household Income (2013-2017)**

\$89,818

The East Cambridge Neighborhood 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, 2017-2021					
Crime	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Housebreaks	16	12	20	13	20
Street Robbery	7	2	5	4	8
Auto Theft	16	13	13	11	13
Larceny from MVs	29	22	22	41	35
Malicious Destruction	33	43	51	38	51
Drug Incidents	2	6	4	6	0

Annual Average for East Cambridge Target Crimes by Decade					
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Housebreaks	38	36	37	22	20
Street Robbery	10	19	16	7	8
Auto Theft	156	86	34	15	13
Larceny from MVs	121	106	101	40	35
Malicious Destruction	118	110	93	48	51



**Boundaries:** Bounded by Main Street, Broadway, the B&A Railroad, and the Charles River.

**Population as of 2020:**  
6,238 residents  
1,046 households

**Median Household Income (2013-2017)**  
\$104,101

The MIT Neighborhood 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.

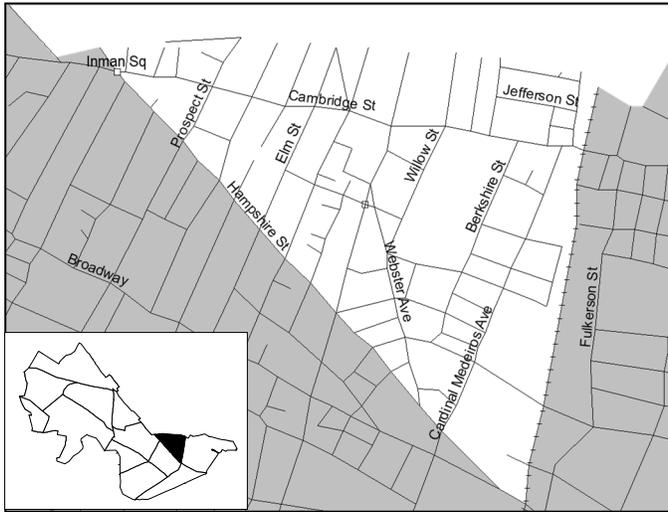
## COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2017-2021

Crime	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Housebreaks	0	0	2	0	1
Street Robbery	1	0	2	1	0
Auto Theft	2	4	9	1	1
Larceny from MVs	3	2	0	3	2
Malicious Destruction	7	8	3	5	3
Drug Incidents	0	0	2	1	4

## Annual Average for M.I.T. Area Target Crimes by Decade

Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Housebreaks	19	4	1	0	1
Street Robbery	11	5	3	1	0
Auto Theft	102	55	8	3	1
Larceny from MVs	56	49	24	6	2
Malicious Destruction	47	28	8	7	3

# Inman/Harrington



**Boundaries:** Bounded by the CSX Railroad, Hampshire Street, and the Somerville line.

**Population as of 2020:**

6,718 residents  
3,131 households

**Median Household Income (2013-2017)**

\$78,490

The Inman/Harrington Neighborhood 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, 2017-2021

Crime	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Housebreaks	27	18	5	10	8
Street Robbery	4	0	1	1	1
Auto Theft	9	15	7	3	4
Larceny from MVs	9	16	19	14	32
Malicious Destruction	24	16	23	20	30
Drug Incidents	1	3	2	6	1

## Annual Average for Inman/Harrington Target Crimes by Decade

Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Housebreaks	57	38	46	24	8
Street Robbery	14	15	11	4	1
Auto Theft	89	48	30	9	4
Larceny from MVs	66	45	45	23	32
Malicious Destruction	94	79	67	36	30

# The Port



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

**Population as of 2020:**  
7,280 residents  
3,267 households

**Median Household Income (2013-2017)**  
\$83,700

The Port Neighborhood 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.

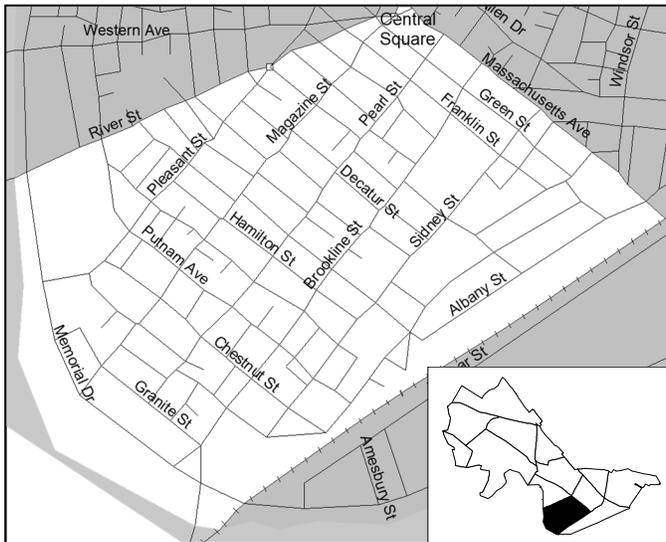
## COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2017-2021

Crime	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Housebreaks	12	20	9	17	11
Street Robbery	7	14	7	10	4
Auto Theft	7	13	13	10	7
Larceny from MVs	19	7	15	49	33
Malicious Destruction	40	43	32	41	50
Drug Incidents	16	15	11	6	6

## Annual Average for The Port Target Crimes by Decade

Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Housebreaks	101	62	53	28	11
Street Robbery	75	47	28	11	4
Auto Theft	147	78	39	13	7
Larceny from MVs	134	77	78	37	33
Malicious Destruction	131	109	80	52	50

# Cambridgeport



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

**Population as of 2020:**  
13,083 residents  
5,688 households

**Median Household Income (2013-2017)**  
\$99,377

The Cambridgeport Neighborhood 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.

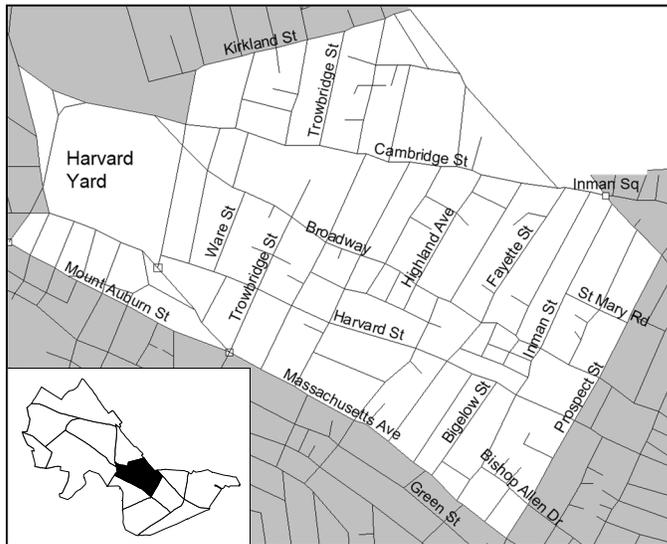
## COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2017-2021

Crime	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Housebreaks	40	37	16	24	23
Street Robbery	16	11	12	13	8
Auto Theft	9	17	10	16	18
Larceny from MVs	38	35	35	42	74
Malicious Destruction	47	47	36	33	31
Drug Incidents	22	15	21	5	3

## Annual Average for Cambridgeport Target Crimes by Decade

Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Housebreaks	156	66	57	45	23
Street Robbery	57	31	26	15	8
Auto Theft	165	85	44	18	18
Larceny from MVs	126	92	103	62	74
Malicious Destruction	106	106	99	53	31

# Mid-Cambridge



**Boundaries:** Bounded by Massachusetts Avenue, Prospect Street, Hampshire Street, the Somerville border, Kirkland Street, Quincy Street, and Cambridge Street.

**Population as of 2020:**  
13,974 residents  
6,863 households

**Estimated median income (2013-2017)**  
\$86,585

The Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood 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.

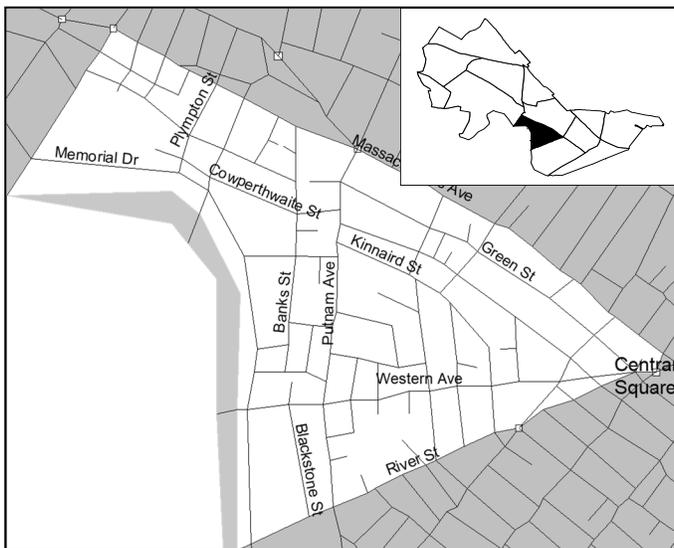
## COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2017-2021

Crime	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Housebreaks	34	22	14	15	22
Street Robbery	4	6	9	8	6
Auto Theft	10	6	4	4	11
Larceny from MVs	30	16	13	47	77
Malicious Destruction	31	23	37	30	30
Drug Incidents	6	4	8	7	6

## Annual Average for Mid-Cambridge Target Crimes by Decade

Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Housebreaks	226	103	77	38	22
Street Robbery	49	18	15	7	6
Auto Theft	147	69	31	12	11
Larceny from MVs	198	103	104	50	77
Malicious Destruction	149	102	71	33	30

# Riverside



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

**Population as of 2020:**

12,114 residents  
4,364 households

**Median Household Income (2013-2017)**

\$67,700

The Riverside Neighborhood 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.

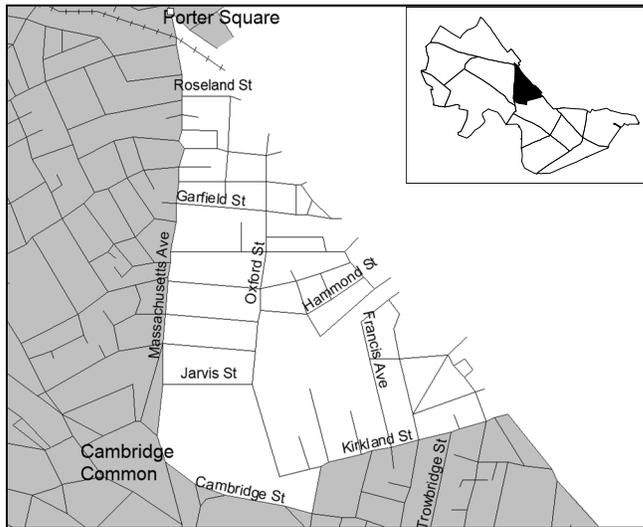
## COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2017-2021

Crime	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Housebreaks	25	22	8	10	8
Street Robbery	4	15	9	6	16
Auto Theft	5	8	21	11	27
Larceny from MVs	20	33	19	33	54
Malicious Destruction	30	28	35	32	24
Drug Incidents	9	10	12	9	16

## Annual Average for Riverside Target Crimes by Decade

Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Housebreaks	83	43	37	25	8
Street Robbery	34	17	14	9	16
Auto Theft	92	41	21	10	27
Larceny from MVs	87	47	49	39	54
Malicious Destruction	78	75	64	39	24

# Baldwin (formerly Agassiz)



**Boundaries:** Bounded by Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge Street, Quincy Street, Kirkland Street, and the Somerville border

**Population as of 2020:**  
5,146 residents  
1,987 households

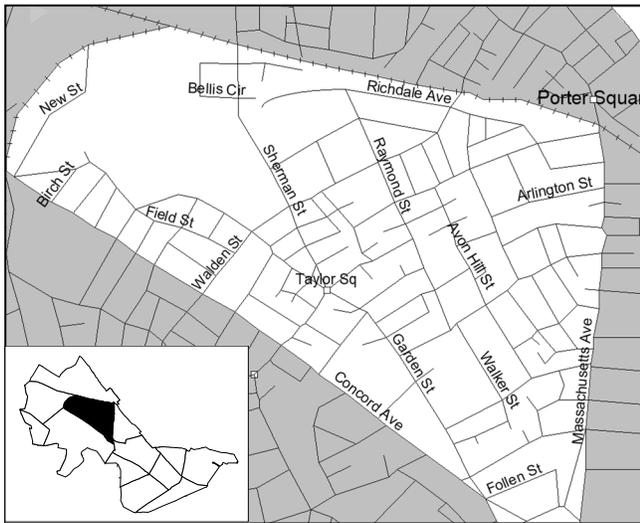
**Median Household Income (2013-2017)**  
\$96,858

The Baldwin Neighborhood 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, 2017-2021					
Crime	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Housebreaks	10	8	4	2	3
Street Robbery	0	0	0	1	1
Auto Theft	1	4	5	0	5
Larceny from MVs	9	7	6	9	10
Malicious Destruction	8	5	4	3	9
Drug Incidents	0	0	1	0	0

Annual Average for Baldwin Target Crimes by Decade					
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Housebreaks	67	26	25	11	3
Street Robbery	11	7	4	0	1
Auto Theft	45	19	11	4	5
Larceny from MVs	47	30	49	17	10
Malicious Destruction	45	28	18	8	9

# Neighborhood Nine/Peabody



**Boundaries:** Bounded by the MBTA Fitchburg commuter railway, Concord Avenue, Garden Street, and Massachusetts Avenue.

**Population as of 2020:**

12,471 residents  
6,123 households

**Median Household Income (2013-2017)**

\$86,013

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

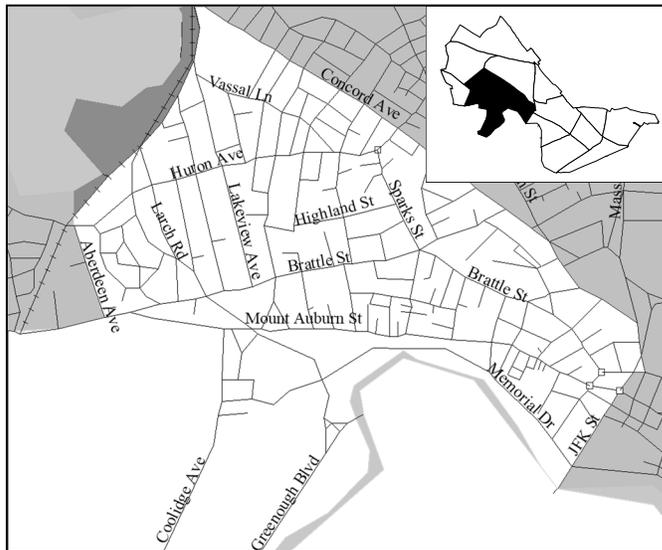
## COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2017-2021

Crime	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Housebreaks	6	26	12	9	9
Street Robbery	4	1	4	2	2
Auto Theft	9	6	2	7	8
Larceny from MVs	28	29	24	24	43
Malicious Destruction	55	15	17	24	18
Drug Incidents	2	1	3	1	0

## Annual Average for Peabody Target Crimes by Decade

Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Housebreaks	150	53	49	23	9
Street Robbery	21	14	10	3	2
Auto Theft	94	42	30	8	8
Larceny from MVs	74	60	80	42	43
Malicious Destruction	135	72	74	28	18

# 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 2020:**  
8,450 residents  
4,251 households

**Median Household Income (2013-2017)**  
\$108,695

The West Cambridge Neighborhood 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.

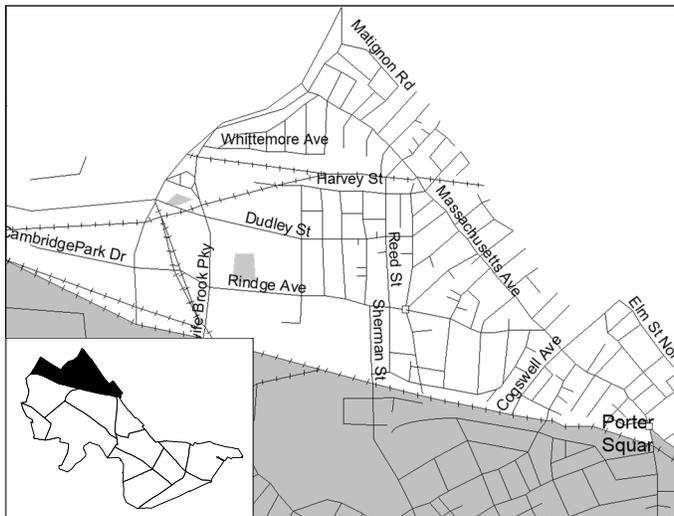
## COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2017-2021

Crime	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Housebreaks	13	15	5	8	5
Street Robbery	9	8	5	3	3
Auto Theft	13	13	12	10	13
Larceny from MVs	43	34	35	27	28
Malicious Destruction	32	28	40	32	21
Drug Incidents	3	3	7	4	1

## Annual Average for West Cambridge Target Crimes by Decade

Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Housebreaks	105	38	37	24	5
Street Robbery	18	11	9	7	3
Auto Theft	105	41	25	11	13
Larceny from MVs	134	72	81	57	28
Malicious Destruction	92	76	58	36	21

# North Cambridge



**Boundaries:** Bounded by the Belmont line, the Arlington Line, the Somerville Line, Porter Square, and the B&M Railroad.

**Population as of 2020:**

15,372 residents  
7,544 households

**Median Household Income (2013-2017)**

\$87,882

The North Cambridge Neighborhood 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.

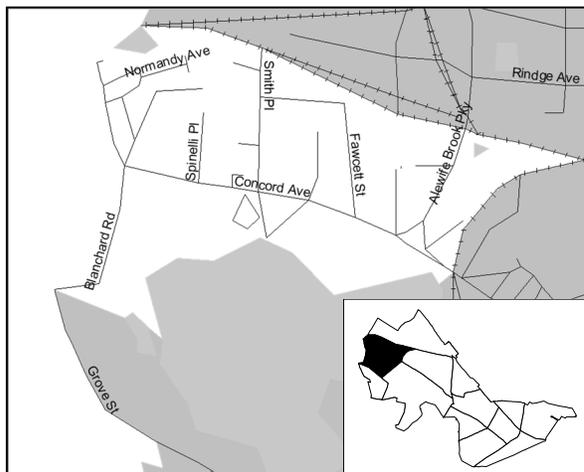
## COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2017-2021

Crime	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Housebreaks	17	12	16	17	11
Street Robbery	7	4	3	2	7
Auto Theft	8	11	11	10	17
Larceny from MVs	53	52	35	40	47
Malicious Destruction	41	27	31	49	77
Drug Incidents	2	2	3	5	4

## Annual Average for North Cambridge Target Crimes by Decade

Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Housebreaks	100	64	49	21	11
Street Robbery	30	21	16	6	7
Auto Theft	130	68	32	11	17
Larceny from MVs	105	62	71	48	47
Malicious Destruction	125	112	89	43	77

# Cambridge Highlands



**Boundaries:** Bounded by the B&M Railroad, the Belmont line, and Fresh Pond.

**Population as of 2020:**

1,646 residents

950 households

**Median Household Income (2013-2017)**

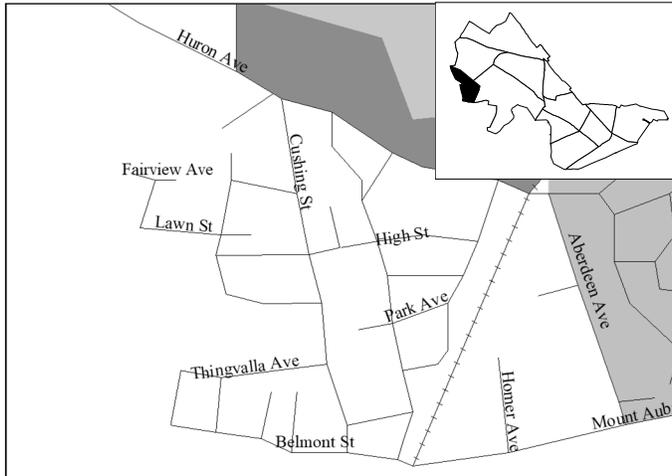
\$82,364

The Cambridge Highlands Neighborhood 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, 2017-2021					
Crime	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Housebreaks	1	1	2	0	2
Street Robbery	2	1	3	2	0
Auto Theft	1	1	2	1	4
Larceny from MVs	5	11	5	9	3
Malicious Destruction	7	3	8	10	9
Drug Incidents	1	2	6	1	2

Annual Average for Cambridge Highlands Target Crimes by Decade					
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Housebreaks	6	2	2	1	2
Street Robbery	8	2	2	1	0
Auto Theft	54	16	5	1	4
Larceny from MVs	38	23	16	7	3
Malicious Destruction	28	26	19	9	9

# Strawberry Hill



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

**Population as of 2020:**

2,665 residents  
1,222 households

**Median Household Income (2013-2017)**

\$71,065

The Strawberry Hill Neighborhood 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, 2017-2021

Crime	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Housebreaks	2	3	6	4	2
Street Robbery	0	0	2	0	1
Auto Theft	1	0	0	0	1
Larceny from MVs	3	6	8	13	8
Malicious Destruction	3	14	5	9	10
Drug Incidents	0	1	0	0	0

## Annual Average for Strawberry Hill Target Crimes by Decade

Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Housebreaks	17	10	9	4	2
Street Robbery	4	3	2	1	1
Auto Theft	17	8	7	1	1
Larceny from MVs	22	12	18	10	8
Malicious Destruction	25	23	21	9	10



Section V

# Traffic Analysis

# Traffic Analysis

## TRAFFIC SAFETY & THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

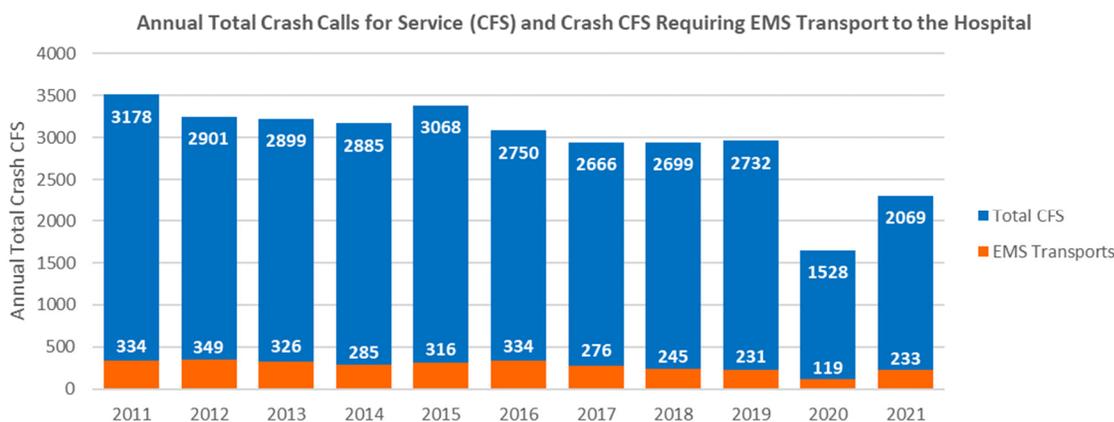
The COVID-19 pandemic radically affected the lives of those living and working in the City of Cambridge. These changes were particularly pronounced in traffic patterns in 2020. Workers, students, and residents were forced to perform many tasks remotely that were once done in person. These wide-ranging changes in behavior resulted in sharp decreases in crashes citywide that year. Conversely, in 2021, as people started to re-emerge from their homes, crash numbers began to rise again. Although crashes have not fully returned to pre-pandemic levels, the 2021 crash totals are closer to what one would expect in a typical year. The number of crashes reported in Cambridge in recent years is summarized in the table below.

Categories of Motor Vehicle Crashes	10-Year Average	2019 Total	2020 Total	2021 Total	% Change from 2020
Crash Calls for Service (CFS)	2,731	2,732	1,528	<b>2,069</b>	35%
Crash CFS with EMS Transport	282	231	119	<b>233</b>	96%
Total Crash Reports*	1,479	1,450	833	<b>1,172</b>	41%
Auto Crash Reports	1,228	1,207	732	<b>1,038</b>	42%
Bicycle Crash Reports	155	142	66	<b>76</b>	15%
Pedestrian Crash Reports	95	101	35	<b>58</b>	66%

**\*NOTE:** Police crash reports are only required for crashes involving at least one motor vehicle (and either resulting in an injury and/or at least \$1000 in property damage or involving a crime such as Leaving the Scene of Property Damage, regardless of injury or damage). If a crash does not involve a vehicle—such as those involving a bicycle versus a pedestrian—a crash report is not required, although the crash may be covered by a police incident report. Because of this, crashes not involving at least one vehicle are not included in the crash numbers analyzed in this section of the Annual Report. Over the past 20 years, between one and five non-vehicle crashes per year have been documented via a police crash report, the majority involving either a bicycle versus another bicycle or a bicycle versus a pedestrian.

## CALLS FOR SERVICE

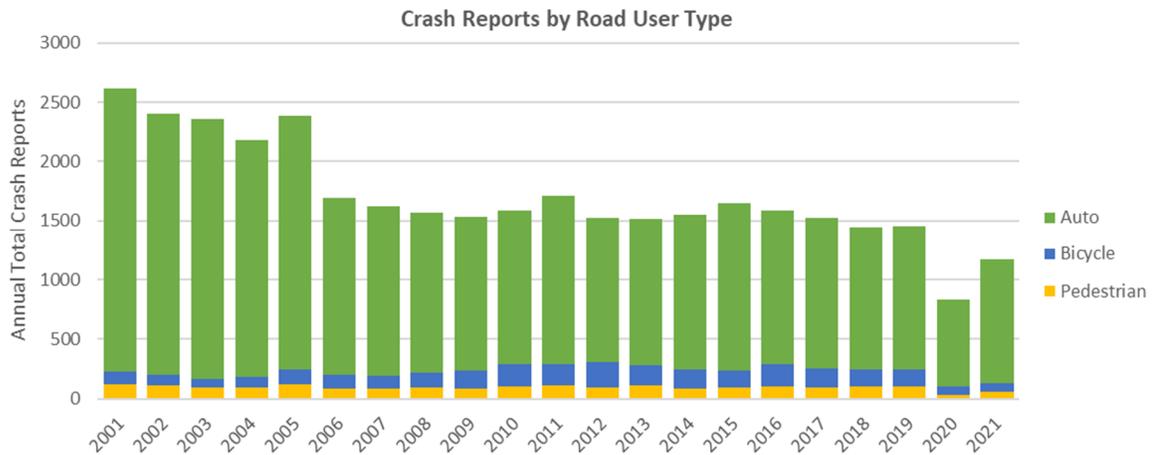
A Crash Call for Service is any instance in which a person in Cambridge calls to request police assistance for a traffic collision. The Police Department responded to 2,069 calls for service (CFS) relating to traffic crashes in 2021, which is up 35% when compared with the 1,528 calls recorded during the anomaly year of 2020. However, compared to both 2019 and the ten-year average, the 2021 CFS total registered a decrease of 24%. A useful metric for understanding crash severity is whether an involved party required transport to the hospital by Emergency Medical Services (EMS Transport). There were 233 CFS involving EMS transport in 2021, representing an incline of 96% over 2020, but showing a decline of 17% when compared to the ten-year average.



## CRASH REPORTS

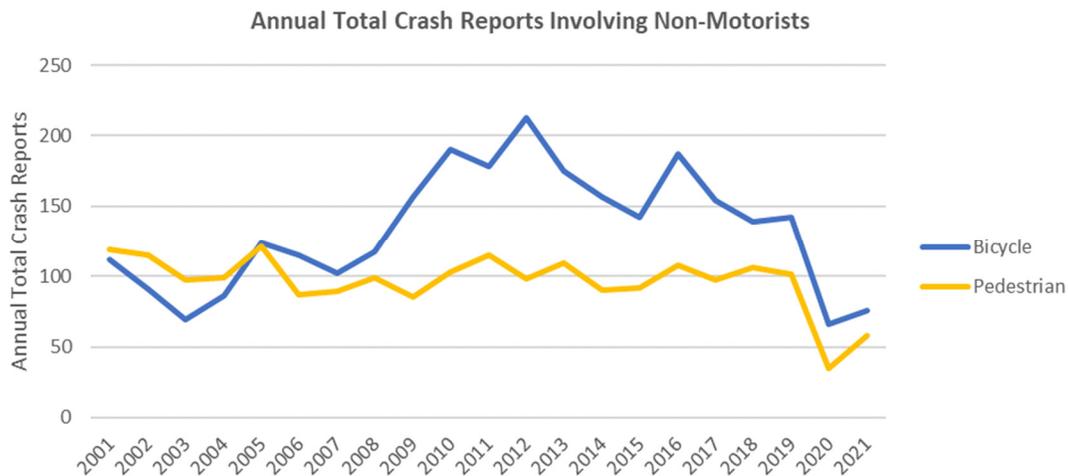
### CRASH REPORTS BY ROAD USER TYPE

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, or a crash in which another person unlawfully left the scene. On average, approximately half of crash calls for service result in the filing of a police crash report. In 2021, there were 1,172 crashes reported, up 41% over the pandemic year of 2020, but down 21% when compared to the ten-year average of 1,479 crash reports.



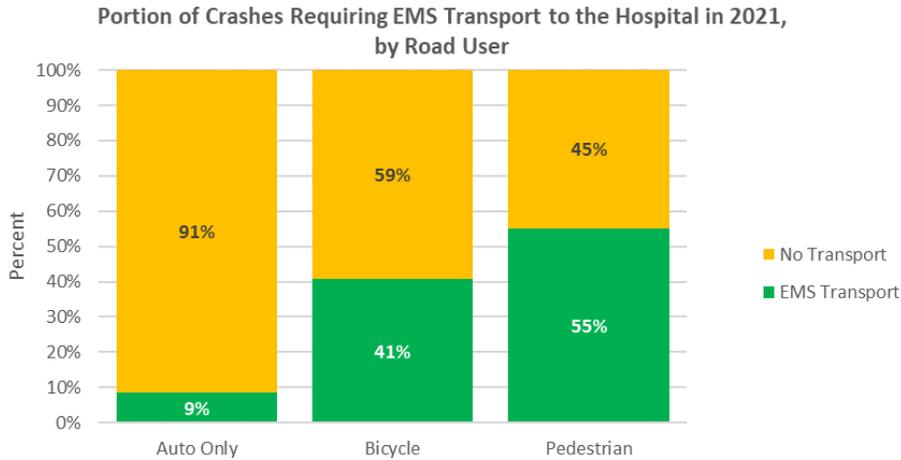
Annual Total Police Crash Reports by Type of Road User Involved. Bicycle and Pedestrian Crashes involve one or more motor vehicles and a cyclist or pedestrian, while Auto Only crashes involve only motor vehicles.

When a crash report is filed, the responding officer records detailed information about the circumstances of the crash, including crash location and the type of road users involved. Of the 1,172 crash reports in 2021, 11% (134 crashes) involved a non-motorist. This represents an increase of nearly 33% compared to the 101 non-motorist crashes in 2020, and a decline of 46% compared to the 10-year average (250 non-motorist crashes). Motor-vehicle-only crashes accounted for 89% of crashes in 2021, followed by vehicle-versus-cyclist crashes at 6%, and vehicle-versus-pedestrian crashes at 5%.



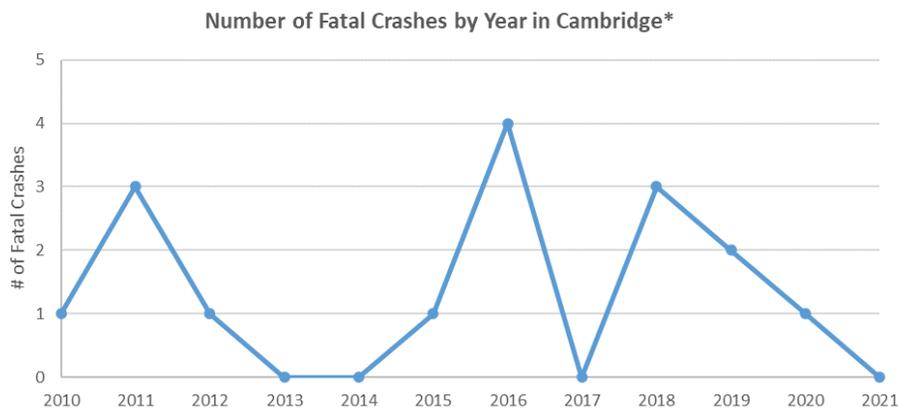
**EMS TRANSPORTS BY ROAD USER TYPE**

Non-motorists are the road users most vulnerable to injury. Pedestrian-involved crashes had the highest percentage of EMS transports at 55% in 2021, which is up from 46% in 2020. Cyclist-involved crashes had the next highest percentage of EMS transports at 41% in 2021, up from 26% in 2020. Motor-vehicle-only crashes experienced the lowest proportion of EMS transports at 9%, which was a 3% increase over the previous year.



**VISION ZERO & TRAFFIC FATALITIES**

The City continued its Vision Zero efforts throughout 2021, working to reduce the number of crash-related fatalities and serious injuries to zero. Vision Zero actions have included infrastructure improvements, enforcement strategies, and education efforts. Although the pandemic and its effects on traffic have made it more difficult to see what impact these efforts have had on traffic safety in Cambridge over the past two years, it is always encouraging to see a reduction in fatal crashes, as noted in the chart below. While these metrics for traffic safety experience variability from year to year, the City continues to work hard to keep crashes and crash-related injuries trending downward.

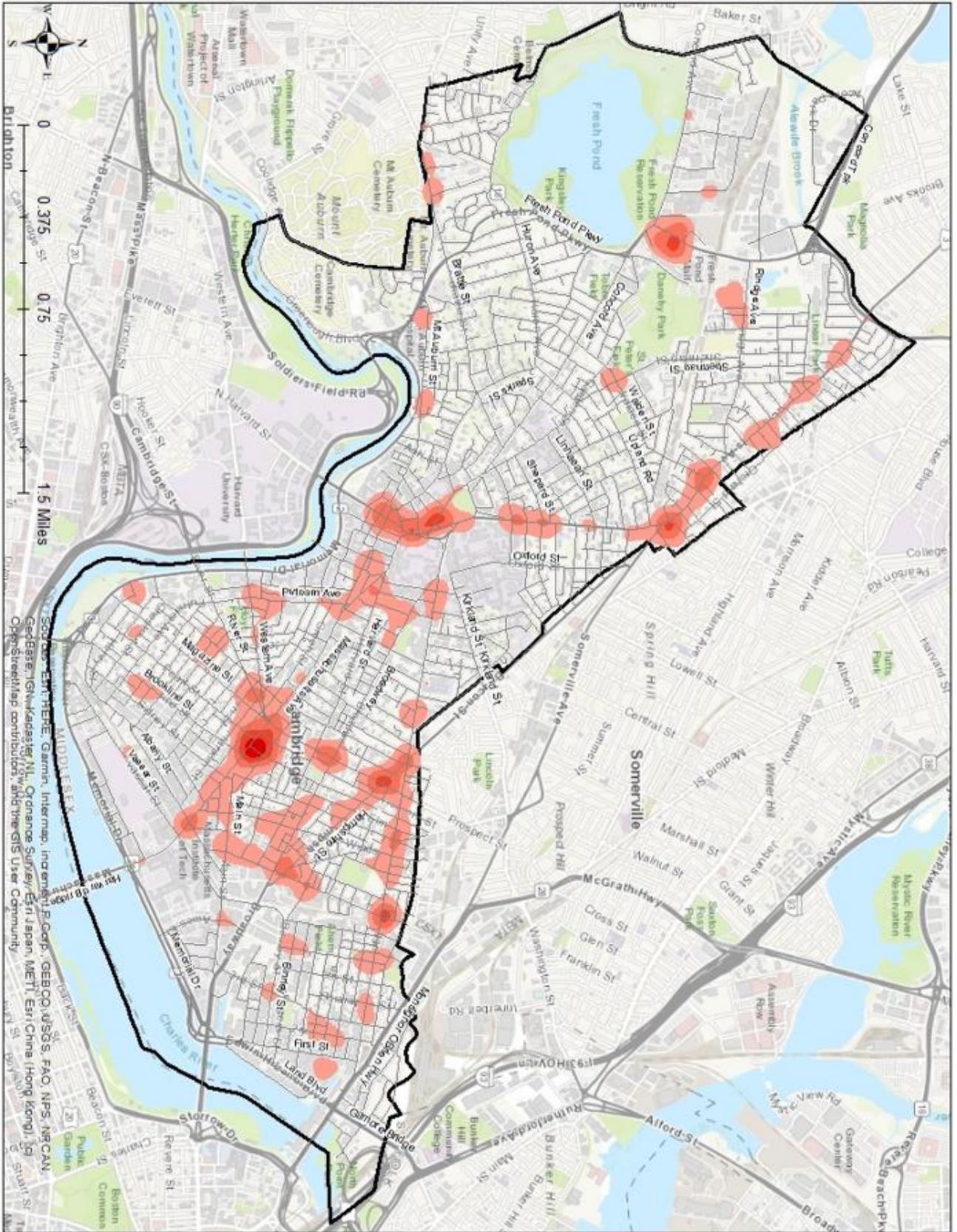


\*NOTE: Not all roads in Cambridge fall under City jurisdiction. Some of the larger roadways, including Memorial Drive, Fresh Pond Parkway, and Alewife Brook Parkway, are monitored and maintained by the State. Traffic crashes and fatalities that occur on roadways under State jurisdiction are investigated by the Massachusetts State Police and are not counted in the crash numbers for Cambridge.

### 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 map on the following page depicts the locations of Crash Reports with all road user types in the year 2021.**

Crash Density – All Crashes in 2021





Section VI

# Special Reports

Domestic Incidents

Hate Crimes

Drug Overdoses

# Domestic Incidents

Domestic incidents 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 incidents (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 the past few years, domestic incident reports have been declining, and 2021 was no exception, with 90 fewer incidents (or 11%) reported below 2020. 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.”

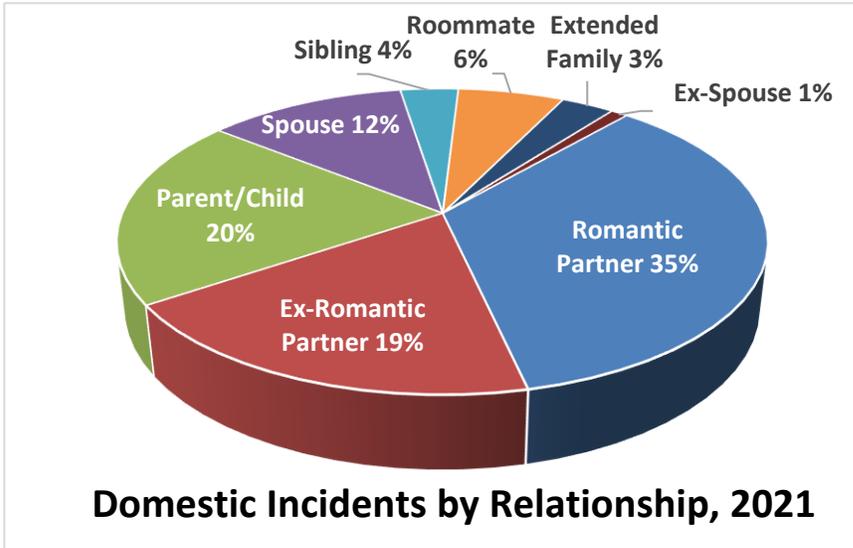
In 2021, these calls made up 57% of all domestic incident reports. While not technically a crime, these domestic disturbances can still be a form of abuse, and they may escalate into more serious offenses if they go unaddressed.

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 19% of all domestic incidents in 2021. Aggravated assault made up an additional 6% and was the 3rd largest domestic category. For the last five years, aggravated assaults have accounted for 5-7% of the overall domestic crime totals reported.

Categorical Breakdown of Domestic Incidents*	2019 Total	2020 Total	2021 Total	% change from 2020*
Dispute/Disturbance - No Physical Abuse	443	397	397	0%
Simple Assault	166	164	130	-21%
Aggravated Assault	41	50	42	-16%
Threats to Commit a Crime	26	49	29	-41%
Violation of a Restraining Order/HPO	42	44	27	-39%
Harassment	21	16	13	-19%
Larceny	18	13	13	0%
Rape/Attempted Rape	10	9	11	22%
Other Miscellaneous	15	12	10	-17%
Malicious Destruction of Property	10	11	7	-36%
Housebreak	5	9	7	-22%
Auto Theft	0	3	4	33%
Street Robbery	2	1	4	300%
Indecent Assault	4	3	3	0%
Harassing or Obscene Telephone Calls	3	3	2	-33%
Forgery	2	5	1	-80%
Disorderly	0	1	1	0%
Stalking	1	1	1	0%
Peeping & Spying	0	1	0	-100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>-11%</b>

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

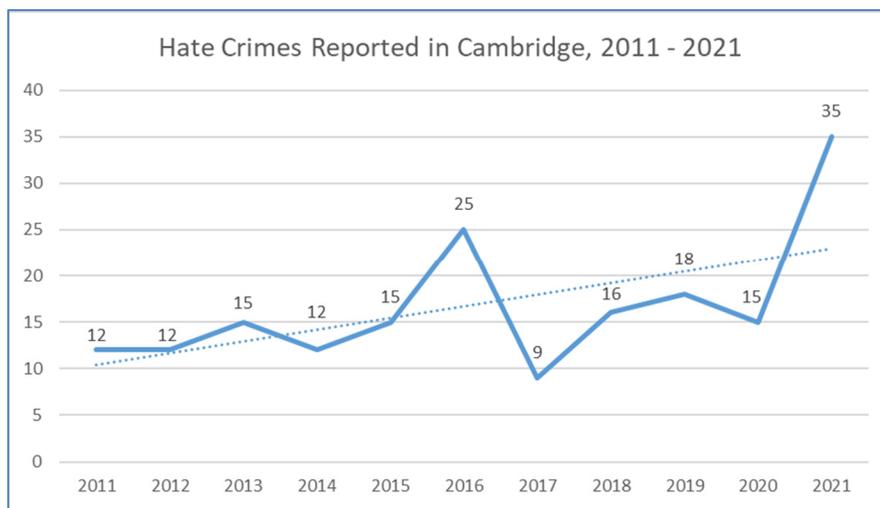


When looking at the relationship breakdown in domestic incidents, there is no surprise that the highest percentage is between parties that spend the most time together. Although the percentages vary from year to year, the top four relationships typically remain consistent: romantic partner, ex-romantic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

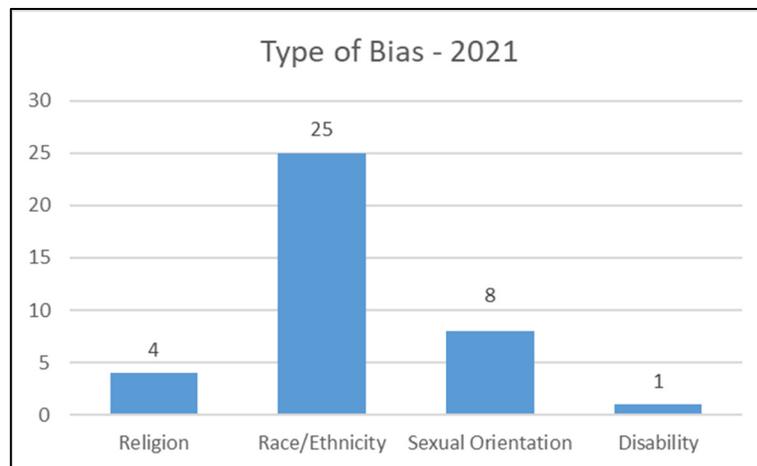
# Hate Crimes

The Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990 (28 U.S.C. § 534) was enacted by Congress on April 23rd, 1990, and amendments added in 2009, requiring the Attorney General to collect data “about crimes that manifest evidence of prejudice based on race, gender and gender identity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or ethnicity.” “Hate Crime” is the common term for federal and state Civil Rights Violations. Hate crimes include any crimes principally or partially motivated by bias toward the victim’s actual or perceived race, gender or gender identity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, or ethnicity. 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.

The total of 35 hate crime incidents reported in 2021 is 133% above both the 15 reported in 2020 and the 10-year average of 15 (from 2011 – 2020). In recent years, we have ranged from a low of 12 in 2011 to the previous high of 25 in 2016. Despite the marked increase in 2021, no distinct hate crime patterns emerged anywhere in the city this year. Almost all of the incidents were unrelated.

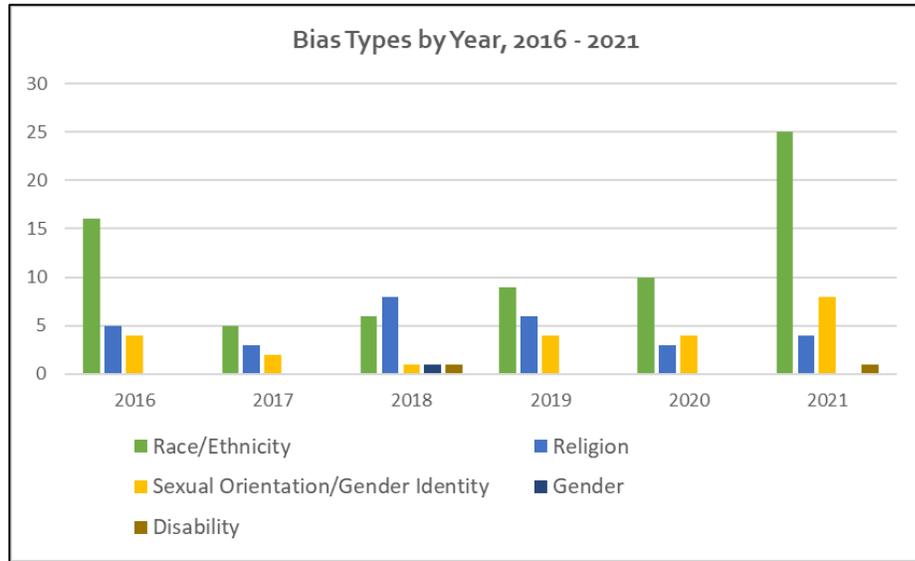


The bar graph below features the breakdown of each hate crime in 2021 by bias type. The graph actually features 38 types of bias because three incidents this year involved more than one bias type, so both categories were counted for each. The 35 incidents (with 38 bias types) in 2021 break down into the following categories: religious biases (11%), racial/ethnic biases (66%), biases based on sexual orientation (21%), and disability biases (2%).

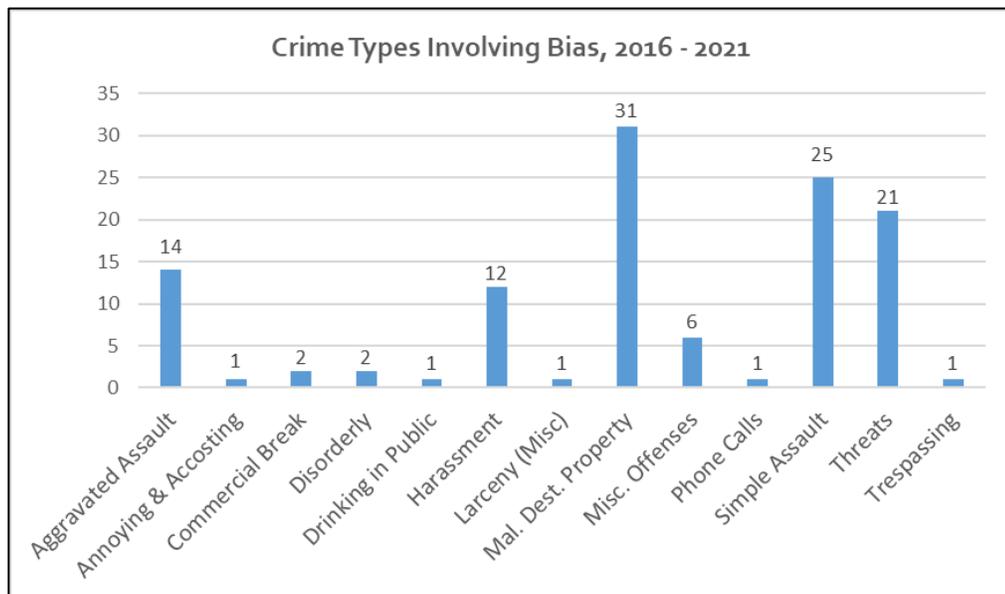


## Special Reports: Hate Crimes

The next chart provides a breakdown of bias type by year for 2021 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.



What types of crime are typically involved when hate crimes are reported? During 2021 and the previous five years, as many as 13 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 118 hate crimes reported since 2016, 103 (or 87%) involved one of these five crime types. And 2021 was no different. The main crime types involving bias this year were malicious destruction of property (8), simple assault (8), threats (7), aggravated assault (6), and harassment (5) (2).



### The following is a breakdown of hate crimes that were reported in 2021:

1. In January, a victim reported that someone defaced their car with an anti-religious message.
2. In January, a victim was threatened with a needle while the suspect made an anti-religious comment.
3. In February, a victim reported that they were called a homophobic slur and threatened with bodily harm over text messages.
4. In February, a victim reported that someone defaced their car with an anti-religious message.
5. In March, a victim was assaulted while the suspect made a derogatory comment about the victim's race.
6. In March, a painting on a city-owned electrical box was defaced with a racially charged message.
7. In March, a business owner reported that someone threw a brick specifically through a window in which an LGBTQ pride flag was hanging.
8. In April, a victim was assaulted and called a racial slur in a drug store.
9. In May, a victim was assaulted at work by a customer who made a reference to their race.
10. In May, two victims reported they were threatened by their roommate because of their race.
11. In June, two victims reported they had been harassed and called anti-homosexual slurs on several occasions by their neighbor.
12. In June, an unknown suspect left a racially threatening item near the work area of two victims at a construction site.
13. In June, multiple parties acting in concert interrupted a virtual meeting hosted by the City by calling a meeting participant a racial slur, making disparaging remarks, and taking control of the meeting screen.
14. In July, a victim was assaulted and called racial and homophobic slurs by a neighbor.
15. In July, a brick wall abutting a playground was defaced with a racial slur.
16. In July, a victim was called a racial slur and threatened.
17. In July, a victim was assaulted and called a racial slur.
18. In July, a victim was threatened with a knife and called a racial slur.
19. In July, a victim was pepper-sprayed and called a racial slur following a road rage incident.
20. In August, a victim repeatedly encountered an unknown party on the street who harassed and called them a slur related to their gender identity.
21. In August, a victim was refused entry to a business due to a perceived medical condition.
22. In August, a suspect spat on a victim's vehicle and called them a racial slur.
23. In August, a victim reported being harassed and called racial and anti-homosexual slurs over a period of years by a neighbor.
24. In August, a victim was threatened and called racial slurs by a suspect who attempted to instigate a fight.
25. In September, a victim was called a homophobic slur and threatened with assault by another resident of their building.
26. In September, a victim reported being harassed repeatedly by a neighbor on the basis of their sexual orientation.
27. In September, a victim was assaulted after the suspect made a reference to their race.
28. In November, a victim was called a racial slur after the suspect intentionally bumped their car during a road rage incident.
29. In November, a victim was assaulted and called a racial slur.
30. In November, a victim reported that their building was defaced with racist language.
31. In November, a victim was called a racial slur and threatened.
32. In November, a business received a threat related to a religious group patronizing their business.
33. In November, two victims were assaulted during a protest because of their ethnicity.
34. In December, a victim was assaulted and called a racial slur during a fight.
35. In December, a victim was assaulted and called a racial slur by a customer.

# Drug Overdoses

## 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 2021, 351 total overdose incidents of *all types* (with 35 fatalities) were reported to the Cambridge Police, which is up 38% from the 255 overdoses (with 11 fatalities) reported to the police in 2020. **The number of reported overdose incidents of all types (351), the number of reported opioid overdoses (228), and the number of reported fatal opioid overdoses (34), are all the highest reported in Cambridge in at least a decade. It is unknown at this time whether the on-going pandemic played a part in this increase.**

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 - 2021.\* Following that is a breakdown of the fatal overdoses from the past six years.

\*Most of this data comes strictly from 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	2020	2021
Opioids (including but not limited to heroin, fentanyl, and any opioid used in combination with other drugs)	199	151	141	181	157	228
Prescription/OTC Meds	56	61	55	34	54	47
Cocaine	1	4	5	10	3	5
Marijuana/THC/Cannabis/K2	5	10	33	12	7	16
Crystal Meth	1	1	9	9	6	6
Other (Designer Drugs, Hallucinogens, and any combination of drugs not involving opioids)	14	6	20	36	10	18
Unknown	19	18	15	14	18	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>351</b>

In 2021, there were 35 fatal overdoses:

- 34 confirmed overdoses involving fentanyl, heroin, or another opioid, either alone or in combination with one or more additional drugs, such as cocaine, meth, alcohol, or pills (poly-drug overdoses)
- 1 confirmed overdose by way of a combination of cocaine, pills, and alcohol

In 2020, there were 11 fatal overdoses:

- 10 confirmed overdoses involving fentanyl, heroin, or another opioid, either alone or in combination with one or more additional drugs, such as cocaine, meth, alcohol, or pills (poly-drug overdoses)
- 1 confirmed overdose by way of a combination of pills and alcohol

In 2019, there were 19 fatal overdoses:

- 16 confirmed overdoses involving fentanyl, heroin, or another opioid, either alone or in combination with one or more additional drugs, such as cocaine, meth, or pills (poly-drug overdoses)
- 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

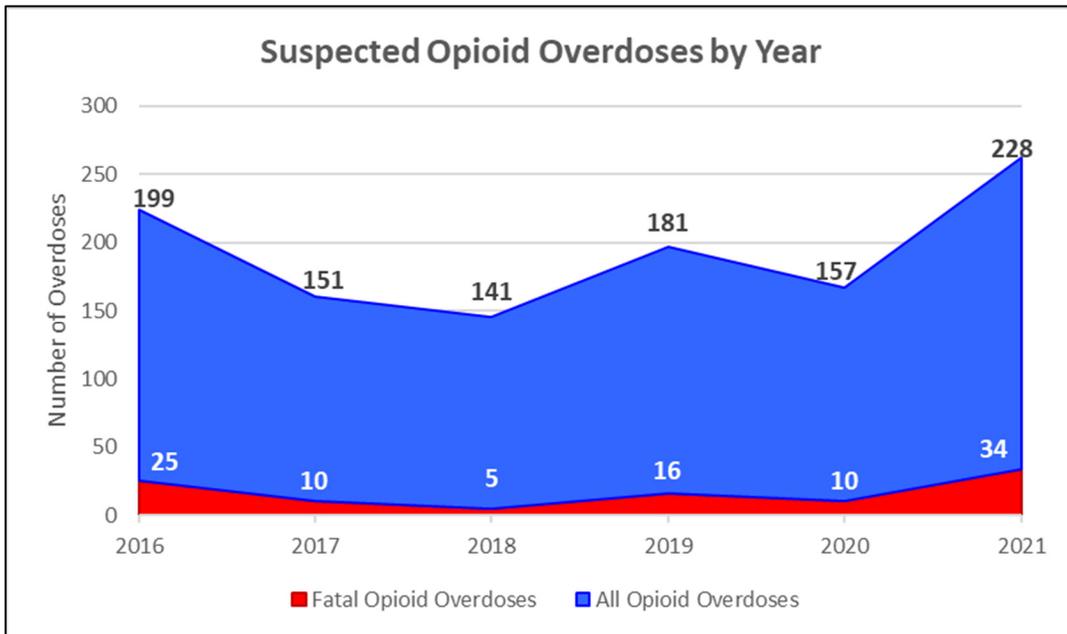
- 5 likely/confirmed overdoses involving fentanyl, heroin, or another opioid
- 1 confirmed overdose involving cocaine
- 5 possible overdoses with unknown involved drug types

In 2017, there were 15 fatal overdoses:

- 10 likely/confirmed overdoses involving fentanyl, heroin, or another opioid
- 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:

- 25 likely/confirmed overdoses involving fentanyl, heroin, or another opioid
- 1 prescription medication overdose
- 3 possible overdoses with unknown involved drug types



# Cambridge Police Directory

## EXECUTIVE OFFICES

Office of the Commissioner ..... (617) 349-3377

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

## KEY INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

Criminal Investigations Section (617) 349-3370

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

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

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

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

125 Sixth St.  
Cambridge, MA 02142  
(617) 349-3300 – 24 hours a day  
[www.cambridgepolice.org](http://www.cambridgepolice.org)

### 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

Submit crime tips or suspicious behavior by accessing [www.cambridgepolice.org/Tips](http://www.cambridgepolice.org/Tips).

### MyPD Smartphone App

Download the free MyPD smartphone app to send anonymous crime tips.