1966

1976

1986

CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT
2016 ANNUAL CRIME REPORT

55 Years of Crime in Cambridge
Part I Index Crimes Reported to the Police Annually

Crime peaked in **1974** with 10,715 total incidents reported.

1990 was the most violent year in Cambridge, with 1,077 incidents reported.

Crime reached a 55-year low in 2016 with 2,621 serious crimes reported.

Property Crime

Violent Crime
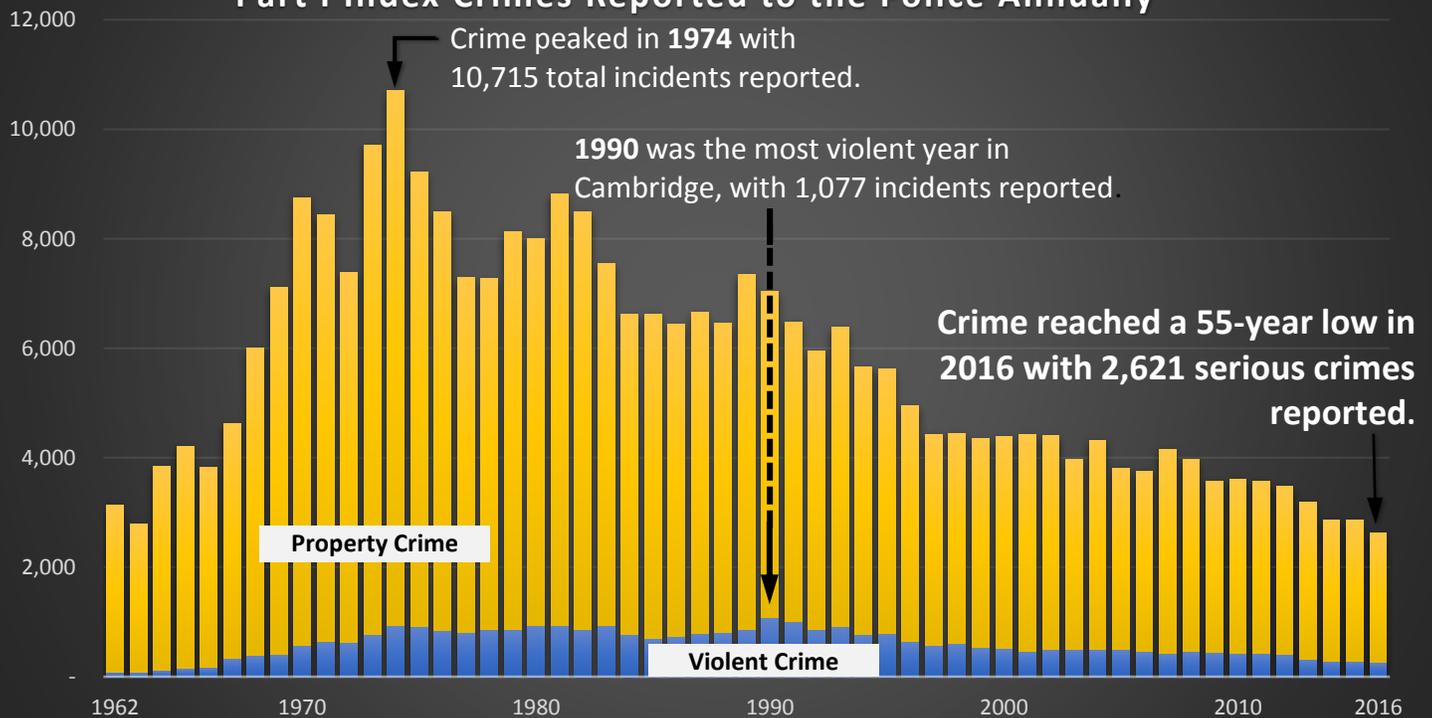
Crime Analysis Unit • 125 Sixth Street, Cambridge, MA 02142
www.cambridgepolice.org • 617-349-3390
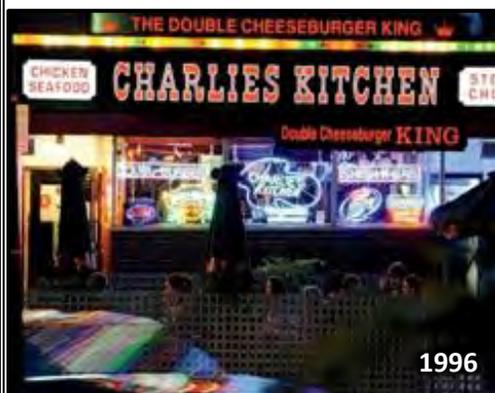
1996

2006

2016

Six Decades in Cambridge
Front Cover Photo Descriptions:
1966 – A gathering on Cambridge Common
1976 – Lampoon Parade with Gilda Radner & Dan Aykroyd
1986 – Summer in Central Square
1996 – Charlie's Kitchen, a fixture throughout the decades
2006 – Kendall Square awakens
2016/2017 – City Hall, photo by Andrew Cate (February 2017)

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Cambridge Police Department
2016 Annual Crime Report
Including Neighborhood and
Business District Profiles

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Check out our detailed monthly report:
www.CambridgePolice.org/BridgeStat

Winner, Best Statistical Report & Analytical
Product 2012, International Association of
Crime Analysts

Cambridge at a Glance

Cambridge Police Department

Organized:	1859
Sworn Officers:	278
Civilian Personnel:	41
Acting Commissioner:	Christopher J. Burke (resigned January 6, 2017)
Interim Commissioner:	Brent B. Larrabee
Budget (FY 2017):	$51,145,765
Marked Patrol Vehicles:	37
Unmarked Patrol Vehicles:	36 (plus 8 narcotics vehicles)
Motorcycles:	14
Fleet Bicycles:	22
Special Vehicles:	9 Tactical vehicles, 3 Tactical ATV's, 6 Trailers
2016 Calls for Service:	98,261
2016 Total Index Crimes:	2,621

City of Cambridge Top Employers

1. Harvard University	12,304
2. MIT	8,996
3. City of Cambridge	2,982
4. Biogen Idec	2,700
5. Novartis	2,365
6. Mt. Auburn Hospital	2,292
7. Cambridge Health Alliance	1,835
8. Cambridge Innovation Center	1,704
9. Akamai Technologies	1,658
10. Sanofi / Genzyme	1,500

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 30 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 2016 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, forcible 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 burglary decreases 30% from 2015 to 2016, there's no way to tell from that figure whether 2015 was unusually high or 2016 was unusually low. But comparing 2016 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 (2011 in this report) is weighted once and the most recent year in the average (2015) 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 (2016), and to thus determine how unusual 2016'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 2015 (regional numbers are not yet available for 2016), Cambridge had 77 robberies, about 40% more than Malden, which reported 55. However, Cambridge also has about 81% more residents than Malden. When we look at it on the basis of rates, Cambridge had 69 robberies per 100,000 residents, and Malden had 90 robberies per 100,000 residents, which means that a Malden resident's *risk* of robbery 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.

2016 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	2013	2014	2015	2016	2015-2016 Change	5-Year Wtd. Avg.	Avg.-2016 Change
Murder	3	2	3	**2**	-33%	3	-33%
Rape	17	24	25	**27**	8%	23	17%
Stranger	1	2	1	**2**	100%	1	100%
Non-Stranger	16	22	24	**25**	4%	21	19%
Robbery	118	81	77	**81**	5%	98	-17%
Commercial	30	28	23	**23**	0%	26	-12%
Street	88	53	54	**58**	7%	72	-19%
Aggravated Assault	189	184	186	**161**	-13%	201	-20%
Total Violent Crime	327	291	**291**	**271**	-7%	324	-16%
Burglary	390	286	438	**308**	-30%	401	-23%
Commercial	63	51	100	**45**	-55%	76	-41%
Residential	327	235	338	**263**	-22%	326	-19%
Larceny	2,376	2,159	2,000	**1,932**	-3%	2,208	-13%
from Building	392	385	345	**297**	-14%	375	-21%
from Vehicle	615	515	404	**372**	-8%	529	-30%
From Person	341	220	181	**221**	22%	258	-14%
of Bicycle	383	328	362	**375**	4%	357	5%
Shoplifting	393	391	333	**326**	-2%	363	-10%
from Residence	187	226	289	**270**	-7%	240	13%
of License Plate	20	28	25	**22**	-12%	28	-21%
of Services	22	17	16	**17**	6%	18	-6%
Miscellaneous	23	49	45	**32**	-29%	40	-20%
Auto Theft	106	136	125	**110**	-12%	125	-12%
Total Property Crime	2,872	2,581	2,563	**2,350**	-8%	2,735	-14%
Crime Index Total	3,199	2,872	2,854	**2,621**	-8%	3,059	-14%

Cambridge Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics, 1997-2016*

Crime	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Avg. 1997-2006	Avg. 2007-2016	Avg. 1997-2016	Change 2015-2016**	Change 1997-2016**
Murder	2	2	2	1	1	6	3	0	3	2	0	1	2	0	5	1	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	-33%	0%
Rape	24	25	15	11	15	10	7	10	14	11	16	17	20	23	23	23	17	24	25	27	14	22	18	8%	13%
Robbery	176	208	165	186	181	195	229	245	239	208	161	177	172	163	147	128	118	81	77	81	203	131	167	5%	-54%
Aggravated Assault	370	369	348	322	272	284	271	248	244	237	243	274	256	251	258	262	189	184	186	161	297	226	261	-13%	-56%
Burglary	596	695	567	552	688	720	651	724	623	685	653	467	429	453	520	499	390	286	438	308	650	444	547	-30%	-48%
Larceny	2,779	2,753	2,819	2,820	2,740	2,764	2,389	2,654	2,396	2,377	2,838	2,788	2,497	2,555	2,458	2,448	2,376	2,159	2,000	1,932	2,649	2,405	2,527	-3%	-30%
Auto Theft	483	397	431	498	523	425	419	438	295	233	244	244	196	169	159	117	106	136	125	110	414	161	287	-12%	-77%
Total Violent	572	604	530	520	469	495	510	503	500	458	420	469	450	437	433	414	327	291	291	271	516	380	448	-7%	-53%
Total Property	3,858	3,845	3,817	3,870	3,951	3,909	3,459	3,816	3,314	3,295	3,735	3,499	3,122	3,177	3,137	3,064	2,872	2,581	2,563	2,350	3,713	3,010	3,362	-8%	-39%
Total	4,430	4,449	4,347	4,390	4,420	4,404	3,969	4,319	3,814	3,753	4,155	3,968	3,572	3,614	3,570	3,478	3,199	2,872	2,854	2,621	4,230	3,390	3,810	-8%	-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)

The 2,621 Part I crimes reported in Cambridge in 2016 represent the lowest level in the crime index since 1963. Over the past six years, there has been a consistent drop in recorded crimes. Despite some bumps in the early 1980s and early 1990s, crime has decreased steadily since it peaked in 1974 at more than 10,000 Part I crimes. The last big decrease was between 1990 and 1998. Crime fluctuated around the 3,700 mark for about a decade before dropping below 3,000 for the first time in 2014 and remaining there.

Violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) hit their peak in 1990, amidst a nationwide gang and drug epidemic, but then fell dramatically in the following decade and remained around 450-500 per year throughout the 2000s. The 2016 figure is the lowest since the late 1960s. In the two previous years, 2014 and 2015, the violent crime number was 291, which was still a considerable decline from prior years. All violent crimes in 2016 experienced a double digit decline when compared to the five-year average.

Total Part I Violent Crimes
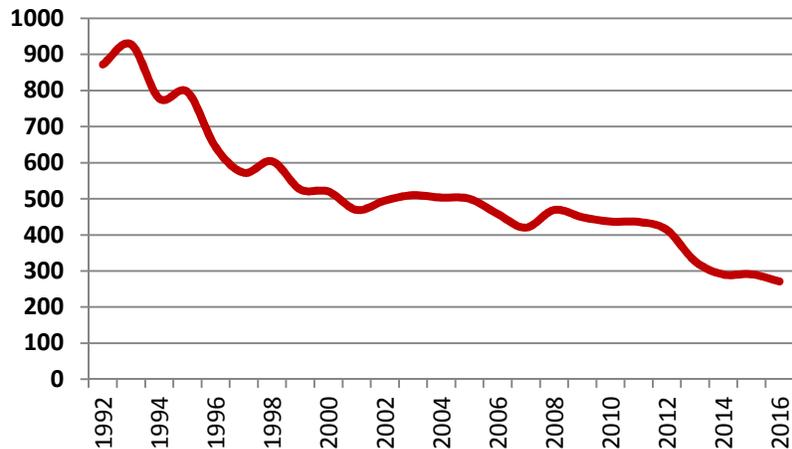
Total Part I Property Crimes
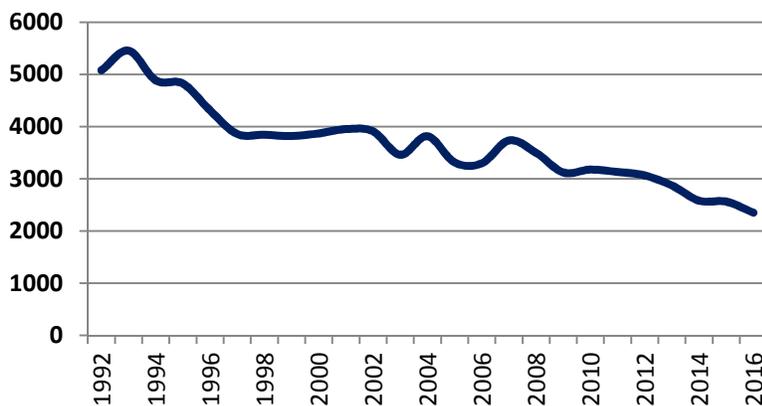
Property crime (burglary, larceny, and auto theft) makes up about 90% of the total Part I crime index, and its graph therefore looks almost identical to the total crime graph. The 50-year low for property crimes in 2016 is due to reductions in almost all categories. One category that has seen a consistent decline since its peak in 2007 is larcenies from motor vehicles, which has dropped 70% since then. Meanwhile, burglary reversed directions from a 53% increase in 2015 to a 30% decrease in 2016, further contributing to the overall decrease in property crime this year.

2016 Executive Summary

Crime continued its downward slide in 2016, once again dropping to unprecedented levels. For the sixth consecutive year, a decrease in crime was recorded in the City of Cambridge. In 2016, serious crime in the City declined by 8% to 2,621 crimes, down from the previous low of 2,854 crimes recorded in 2015. The number reported in 2016 represents the lowest total of index crimes reported to the FBI since Congress enacted the Omnibus Crime Control Act in 1968. Looking closer at the crime breakdown, there was an 8% drop in property crime when compared with 2015 and a 14% reduction below the five-year weighted average. There were also 271 violent crimes reported in 2016, 20 incidents below 2015. Compared to the five-year weighted average for violent crime in Cambridge, these types of incidents dropped 16%.

Murder

- Two murders were reported in Cambridge in 2016, both of which remain under investigation at this time. Armando Hernandez, Jr., 30, of Belmont, was killed by gunfire while walking on Mount Auburn Street on the evening of March 22. In the second homicide of the year, Anthony Clay, 49, of Cambridge, was shot and killed while standing outside of 140 Harvard Street early on June 25.

- The two homicides in Cambridge in 2016 represent a 33% decrease from the three murders recorded in 2015. On April 4, 2015, Jonathan Camilien was allegedly killed by an acquaintance, Carlos Colina, and his remains were found in a duffel bag on a walkway nearby. On August 12, 2015, Rasaun Nichols was shot and killed while in the Newtowne Court area; Roosselin Altidor was arrested a few days later. In the third homicide of 2015, Tywann Jones was fatally stabbed while standing in front of the 7-Eleven on Massachusetts Avenue on September 12. Antwan Gonsalves was arrested and charged with Jones's murder on September 24.

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

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

- Twenty-four of the 32 murders in Cambridge since 2000 (75%) have been cleared by an arrest/suicide of the perpetrator, including all three murders in both 2013 and 2015, and one of the two in 2014. For comparison, the 2010 clearance rate for murder was 65% nationally and 50% in New England.

- Handguns have been used in 18 of the 32 murders in Cambridge since 2000. Six have involved knives.

Rape

- The total number of rapes in Cambridge rose in 2016 to 27 incidents, after having registered at 25 incidents the previous year.

- Thirteen of the rapes in 2016 involved acquaintances, eight involved a contact scenario with the offender being someone the victim had met in a public place, four were domestic situations, and two were blitz rapes, both of which were stranger-to-stranger rapes.

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

Robbery

- In 2016, there were 81 total robberies reported, translating to a 5% increase over the 2015 total. When measured against the five-year weighted average of 98 incidents, a 17% decline is reported.

- Street robbery rose by 7% in 2016, up four incidents from 54 in 2015 to 58 this year. Although 2016 saw an increase, the total was still 19% below the five-year average of 72 incidents. Aside from a brief series across lower Cambridge in April and a general increase citywide in July, no major street robbery patterns emerged anywhere in Cambridge in 2016.

- Commercial robbery remained the same in 2016, with 23 incidents reported both this year and in 2015. The 2016 total is 12% below the five-year weighted average of 26. Convenience/grocery stores and banks were the most common locations of commercial robberies in 2016. Six of the seven bank robberies ultimately resulted in arrests or named suspects this year.

Aggravated Assault

- The total of 161 aggravated assaults reported in Cambridge in 2016 is 13% below the 2015 total of 186 incidents and 20% below the five-year average of 201 assaults.

- Domestic assaults, which typically constitute 30-40% of the assault total each year, dropped from 54 incidents in 2015 to 49 in 2016. Similarly, aggravated assaults between acquaintances dropped from 37 in 2015 to 30 in 2016.

- Seven of the aggravated assaults in 2016 (4%) resulted in serious injury, including three shooting incidents that resulted in four victims (all non-fatal; the fatal shootings are in the Murder section).

- The most common weapons used in aggravated assaults in 2016 were shod feet (21%), followed by knives (18%). Hands or feet (without shoes) were used in 9%. There were seven aggravated assaults in both 2015 and 2016 that involved the use of a firearm, compared to zero in 2014.

Burglary

- Total burglary, the combination of residential and commercial breaks, registered a 23% decline when compared with the five-year weighted average for this crime and is down 30% when compared with the 2015 total.

- Housebreaks saw a notable decrease of 22% from 338 in 2015 to 263 in 2016. This crime type also dropped 19% below the five-year weighted average of 326. The effects of housebreak patterns were felt mainly in the lower half of Cambridge this year.

- There was a dramatic drop in commercial burglaries in Cambridge in 2016, falling 55% from 100 incidents in 2015 to only 45 in 2016. This total was also 41% below the five-year weighted average of 76. Unlike in 2015, no notable patterns emerged anywhere in Cambridge in 2016.

Larceny

- In 2016, the property crime of larceny fell 3% when measured against the 2015 total and 13% when compared to the five-year weighted average.

- Larceny is always the most prevalent of the Part One crimes in Cambridge. In 2016, it accounted for 74% of the total Part I crime and 82% of the total property crime. Three categories of larceny that

produce some of the highest numbers each year (larceny from motor vehicles, buildings, and persons) are often fueled by advances in technology.

- Larcenies from motor vehicles (LMVs) this year were down 8% from the 2015 figures. The 2016 total of 372 LMVs was also down 30% when compared with the five-year weighted average. The most common method of entry in recent years has been through unlocked car doors.

- Larceny from the person was one of the few crimes to register an increase in 2016. This crime type rose by 22% in 2016, although it still recorded a 14% decline when measured against the five-year weighted average.

- Larceny of bicycles also saw a slight increase this year, rising 4% from 362 incidents in 2015 to 375 in 2016. This property crime was also 5% above the five-year weighted average of 357.

- Larceny from residences decreased by 7% in 2016. By far the most prevalent scenario for this crime type in recent years has involved the theft of packages from the front steps or vestibules of residences. This scenario dropped off slightly from 158 thefts in 2015 to 144 in 2016.

Auto Theft

- In 2016, auto thefts in Cambridge slipped 12% below the number reported in 2015. The 110 reported incidents in 2016 and the five-year average of 125 thefts are remarkably low totals for a city that used to see staggering auto theft numbers—in 1974, there were 5,203 cars reported stolen.

- Cambridgeport recorded the largest number of auto thefts for the fourth year in a row with 21 vehicles reported stolen, followed by The Port with 17 and Mid-Cambridge with 15.

- Very few auto theft patterns have been identified over the past decade. An unusual trend of motorcycle and scooter thefts emerged in 2012 and continued through 2015 but largely disappeared in 2016.

- Approximately 64% of the cars reported stolen in Cambridge this year have been recovered to date, which is slightly above the percent recovered in 2015 (60%) and 2014 (52%) but represents a decline from the average of around 70% seen in previous years. The majority of the recovered cars were located throughout Cambridge.

Regional Crime Comparison

The following table compares Cambridge to other Massachusetts cities and towns with populations greater than 50,000 residents. The data is from 2015, 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.

2015 Rates per 100,000 residents for selected Massachusetts Cities and Towns

City	Population	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Violent Total	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Property Total	Total
Brockton	95,049	6	70	155	760	991	436	1,551	274	2,260	3,251
Brookline	59,520	0	3	32	240	276	228	1,085	37	1,351	1,626
Chicopee	55,926	0	63	104	316	483	749	1,566	225	2,541	3,024
Fall River	88,711	2	68	197	874	1,141	496	1,294	202	1,992	3,133
Framingham*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Haverhill	62,895	0	40	79	423	542	499	1,313	167	1,979	2,522
Lawrence	78,649	6	33	267	572	879	425	1,152	824	2,401	3,279
Lowell	110,819	0	29	127	279	435	441	1,520	180	2,142	2,577
Lynn	92,584	2	40	193	541	777	469	1,546	352	2,366	3,143
Malden	61,211	2	16	90	279	387	229	1,122	167	1,518	1,905
Medford	57,742	0	17	43	125	185	197	975	145	1,318	1,503
New Bedford*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Newton	89,053	0	13	15	55	83	122	685	21	829	912
Peabody	52,650	4	11	19	262	296	61	707	40	807	1,104
Plymouth	58,705	0	14	19	179	211	118	566	20	704	915
Quincy	93,671	1	29	54	317	401	402	1,109	88	1,599	2,001
Revere	54,769	5	69	108	351	533	263	1,623	236	2,122	2,655
Somerville	79,734	0	10	48	184	242	381	1,501	167	2,049	2,291
Springfield	154,090	12	62	331	669	1,073	846	2,116	392	3,354	4,427
Taunton	56,731	2	14	62	287	365	404	606	81	1,091	1,456
Waltham	63,590	0	19	24	132	175	223	829	69	1,121	1,296
Weymouth	56,137	2	32	25	257	315	175	1,062	68	1,304	1,619
Worcester	183,377	4	14	222	647	887	662	2,053	216	2,931	3,818
Average**	**81,220**	3	33	130	418	584	425	1,359	210	1,994	2,577
Cambridge	110,953	3	23	69	168	262	395	1,803	113	2,310	2,572

*Framingham and New Bedford crime statistics were not available for 2015.
** Cambridge figures are not included in the average so as to allow a better comparison between Cambridge and the average.

Statistics from the rest of the state shows that Cambridge had less per-capita crime in five categories (rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, and auto theft), while conversely registering more larcenies than the average, which also affected the property crime total. The rate for the overall crime total in 2015 in Cambridge was very similar to the average for the region.

The high larceny figure for Cambridge is consistent with past data. Cambridge's high entertainment, 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: 2015.

City	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Total
Antioch, CA	7	53	280	431	862	2,026	1,024	**5,039**
Arvada, CO	2	34	31	89	313	2,342	286	**2,829**
Billings, MT	9	65	67	343	600	3,824	752	**5,352**
Boulder, CO	2	47	25	148	474	2,214	137	**3,019**
Burbank, CA	1	10	50	98	297	2,136	223	**2,576**
Carlsbad, CA	0	33	38	101	366	1,627	141	**1,935**
Centennial, CO	1	46	26	64	224	977	103	**1,440**
Clearwater, FL	7	82	181	409	638	3,420	298	**4,924**
Daly City, CA	0	26	89	119	320	1,200	258	**1,879**
Davenport, IA	6	111	174	439	945	3,296	368	**4,826**
Edison Township, NJ	0	1	50	53	234	890	91	**1,203**
El Cajon, CA	2	50	107	201	387	1,517	363	**2,579**
Elgin, IL	3	37	68	153	256	1,161	71	**2,218**
Erie, PA	9	56	122	243	665	1,719	115	**3,046**
Fargo, ND	3	79	52	280	666	2,594	262	**3,452**
Fairfield, CA	8	46	167	265	456	2,406	567	**4,392**
Green Bay, WI	2	62	58	334	375	1,780	91	**2,830**
High Point, NC	8	37	196	379	724	2,782	216	**4,368**
Lansing, MI	9	118	265	935	959	2,140	351	**4,848**
Lowell, MA	0	32	141	309	489	1,685	200	**3,390**
Manchester, NH	5	86	221	430	669	3,192	209	**4,692**
Norwalk, CA	9	33	131	227	395	1,087	428	**2,317**
Odessa, TX	10	72	161	985	862	3,192	487	**5,285**
Palm Bay, FL	4	51	62	391	441	1,483	136	**2,826**
Pueblo, CO	12	170	186	618	2,060	4,318	896	**7,963**
Richardson, TX	1	22	70	74	370	1,706	149	**2,584**
Round Rock, TX	1	39	34	79	205	1,979	46	**2,329**
South Bend, IN	17	88	350	265	1,430	3,612	368	**5,435**
Temecula, CA	1	8	47	58	459	2,116	342	**2,635**
Ventura, CA	2	53	124	195	598	3,042	260	**4,143**
Waterbury, CT	4	32	257	174	522	3,193	809	**4,999**
West Palm Beach, FL	22	50	277	575	780	3,670	643	**5,637**
Westminster, CO	1	50	57	169	407	2,838	536	**3,507**
Wichita Falls, TX	1	85	109	211	899	2,751	171	**4,684**
Wilmington, NC	14	62	274	530	1,405	3,471	294	**5,938**
Average*	**5**	**55**	**130**	**296**	**621**	**2,382**	**334**	**3,746**
Cambridge	**3**	**25**	**77**	**186**	**438**	**2,000**	**125**	**2,854**

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

Part I Crimes

Murder
Rape
Robbery
Aggravated Assault
Burglary
Larceny
Auto Theft

Murder

Definition

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

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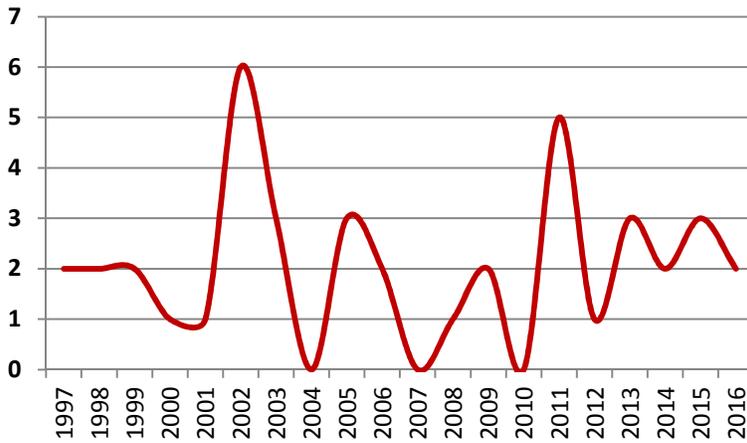
*Murders are counted by victim rather than incidents; one incident can have multiple victims.

Two murders were reported in Cambridge in 2016, both of which remain under investigation at this time. Armando Hernandez, Jr., 30, of Belmont, was killed by gunfire while walking on Mount Auburn Street just before 10:00 p.m. on March 22. A second victim was hospitalized with a leg wound.

In the second homicide of the year, Anthony Clay, 49, of Cambridge, was shot while standing outside of 140 Harvard Street shortly after midnight on June 25. He was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

The two homicides in Cambridge in 2016 represent a 33% decrease from the three murders recorded in 2015. On April 4, 2015, 26-year-old Jonathan Camilien of Somerville was allegedly killed by an acquaintance, 32-year-old Carlos Colina, inside of Colina's Sixth Street residence and his remains were found in a duffel bag on a walkway nearby. On August 12, 2015, 31-year-old Rasaun Nichols of Cambridge was shot and killed while in the Newtowne Court area; Roosselin Altidor, 25, of Medford was arrested a few days later. In the third homicide of 2015, 35-year-old Tywann Jones of Roxbury was fatally stabbed while standing in front of the 7-Eleven on Massachusetts Avenue on September 12. Antwan Gonsalves, 33, of Cambridge was arrested and charged with Jones's murder on September 24.

Characteristics of murder in Cambridge

For the 30-year period between 1960 and 1989, the City of Cambridge averaged slightly less than five murders per year. The annual average since 1990 has fallen to approximately two per year. Trend analysis over recent years points to two recurring murder scenarios in Cambridge: domestic murder, in which one family member is brutally killed by another in a homicidal rage, and the murder of young males by a handgun or knife in acts of retaliatory street violence.

Cambridge murder statistics, 1990-2016

- 58 people murdered in 53 incidents (in four of the incidents, two or more people were killed)
- 39 victims were male (average age of 34)
- 19 victims were female (average age of 41)
- Most common weapons: handguns (27 incidents) and knives (13 incidents)
- 17 of the 53 cases are still under investigation or remain unsolved.
- 24 of the 32 cases since 2000 have been cleared by arrest or by the death of the suspect, including all three murders in both 2013 and 2015, and one of the two murders in 2014.

Murder in Cambridge, 2005–2016
(See 2010 Annual Report for information on murders committed during the 1990s and early 2000s.)

Date & Time	Location	Victim(s)	Offender(s)	Story	Status
2/24/2005 14:15	152 Berkshire St. (Inman/ Harrington)	Andrea Harvey, 27, of Cambridge	Damion Linton, of Cambridge	Linton was charged with strangling his wife of one year. Her body was found by her parents in her apartment in Inman Square.	Linton was sentenced to life in prison without parole.
8/6/2005 12:14	17 Warren St. (Inman/ Harrington)	Regina Antoine, 8, & Benita Antoine, 76, both of Cambridge	Kevin Robinson, of Cambridge	Robinson was charged with murder and arson after using gasoline to light a building on fire, causing the deaths of a grandmother and her young granddaughter.	Robinson was found guilty of two counts of 2nd degree murder.
3/18/2006 23:53	144 Hamilton St. (Cambridgeport)	Corey Davis, 19, of Cambridge	Ahmad Bright, 17, of Dorchester, Sherrod Bright, 22, of Dorchester, and Remele Ahart, 21, of Chelsea	Davis and his cousin were walking down Hamilton St. when a car drove past and someone opened fire on them, striking and killing Davis. Ahart and Ahmad Bright were arrested in connection with this shooting in June 2006. Sherrod Bright was arrested in Nov. 2008.	Ahart was found guilty of 1st degree murder. A. Bright was found guilty of 2nd degree murder. S. Bright pled guilty to manslaughter.
3/28/2006 01:13	512 Mass Ave (Cambridgeport)	Doowensky Nazaire, 22, of Somerville	Elysee Bresilla, 28, of Roslindale	Nazaire died from two gunshot wounds to the upper torso after Bresilla allegedly shot him while he was standing in front of the *Phoenix Landing*.	Bresilla was found guilty of 1st degree murder and sentenced to life in prison w/o parole.
6/26/2008 22:49	211 Elm St E. (Inman/Harrington)	Steven Raftery, 42, of Cambridge	James Foley, 39, of Cambridge	Foley allegedly stabbed Raftery two times in the chest during an argument in the basement at this address. Raftery was pronounced dead at the scene and Foley was arrested the next day.	Foley was found guilty of 2nd degree murder and sentenced to life in prison.
1/28/2009 10:15	26 Smith Pl. (Highlands)	Maurice Ricketts, 33, of Malden	Clyde Howard, 65, of Brookline	Howard and Ricketts were in a verbal dispute when Howard pulled out a handgun and shot Ricketts in the head. Ricketts was transported to the hospital and pronounced dead shortly thereafter.	Howard was found guilty of 1st degree murder.
5/18/2009 16:45	Dunster St & Mt. Auburn St (**HARVARD UNIV. CRIME**)	Justin Cosby, 21, of Cambridge	Jabrai Jordan Copney, 20, Blayn Jiggetts, 19, and Jason Aquino, 23, all from New York	Cosby was shot and killed inside Kirkland House (a Harvard University dormitory) during a drug-related robbery perpetrated by Copney, Jiggetts, and Aquino. Copney was the alleged shooter.	Copney was found guilty of 1st degree murder. Jiggetts and Aquino both pled guilty to manslaughter.
6/16/2009 03:05	341 Rindge Ave (North Cambridge)	Jason Ellcock, 33, formerly of Cambridge	Unknown	Ellcock was found with multiple gunshot wounds in front of the driveway to 362/364 Rindge Ave. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Incident remains under investigation.	Ongoing investigation.

Date & Time	Location	Victim(s)	Offender(s)	Story	Status
3/12/2011 00:15	Watson St & Brookline St (Cambridgeport)	James Lauture, 30, of Cambridge	Unknown	Lauture was shot and killed while sitting in the driver's seat of a vehicle parked at Watson & Brookline St.	Ongoing investigation.
11/20/2011 10:30	77 Elm St (The Port)	Guy Verna, 62, of Cambridge	Gylene Verna, 29, of Cambridge	Gylene Verna allegedly strangled and killed her father, Guy Verna, during a verbal altercation at her apartment.	Verna was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter and sentenced to 8-10 years in prison.
12/9/2011 18:35	161 Grove St (Strawberry Hill)	Mary Pizzuto, 91, of Cambridge, Patrick Pizzuto, 63, of Lexington, & Robert Pizzuto, 52, of Arlington	John Brosnahan, 68, of Cambridge	Brosnahan, a retired Bedford police officer, allegedly shot and killed his mother-in-law and two of his brothers-in-law during a disagreement at his residence. Brosnahan fled the scene and was found later that evening in Brighton where he died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.	John Brosnahan committed suicide.
6/3/2012 20:00	34 Willow St (Inman/Harringt on)	Charlene Holmes, 16, of Cambridge	Unknown	Holmes was shot while standing outside a residence on Willow Street. She was transported to the hospital with gunshot wounds where she succumbed to her injuries.	Ongoing investigation.
1/16/2013	34 Ash St (West Cambridge)	Rehma Sabir, 1, of Cambridge	Aisling Brady McCarthy, 34, of Quincy	On April 12, 2013, nanny Aisling Brady McCarthy, of Quincy, was charged with murder in the death of 1-year-old Rehma Sabir of Cambridge, who died on January 16, 2013, from injuries sustained on January 14, 2013.	Charges were dropped against Aisling McCarthy in August 2015 after the medical examiner amended the manner of death to "undetermined."
4/18/2013 22:30	Vassar St & Main St (M.I.T.)	Sean Collier, 27, of Somerville	Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, 19, of Cambridge	M.I.T. Officer Sean Collier was found shot in his vehicle on the M.I.T. campus. He was transported to Mass General Hospital and pronounced deceased. The Middlesex Attorney's Office obtained a default warrant against Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev for this incident on 10/7/13.	Tsarnaev was found guilty of Officer Collier's murder on 4/8/15.
11/25/2013 23:50	243 Broadway (The Port)	Jesse Maxwell Jr, 73, of Cambridge	Harold Antoine Maxwell, 33, of Cambridge	The body of Jesse Maxwell was found in his apartment at 243 Broadway, where he died as a result of injuries to the head and neck. The victim's nephew, Harold Maxwell, was arrested and charged with his uncle's murder.	Harold Maxwell is awaiting trial.
2/2/2014 06:00	396 Putnam Ave (Cambridgeport)	Dana Robinson, 46, of Brockton	Malia Gomez, 40, of Cambridge	Gomez admitted to stabbing Robinson, an acquaintance, in her apartment building following an argument. Robinson later died at Beth Israel Hospital.	Gomez is awaiting trial.
7/3/2014 21:57	119 Windsor St (The Port)	Kensley David, 22, of Roxbury	Unknown	David suffered a single fatal gunshot wound to the head during a shooting on Windsor Street. The incident is not believed to be random.	Ongoing investigation.
4/4/2015 07:53	157 Sixth St (East Cambridge)	Jonathan Camilien, 26, of Somerville	Carlos Colina, 32, of Cambridge	Camilien's dismembered body was found inside a duffel bag on a walkway off of Binney Street. A crime scene was later located inside Colina's apartment on Sixth Street and he was arrested. The two were acquaintances.	Colina is awaiting trial.
8/12/2015 20:40	Washington St & Windsor St (The Port)	Rasaun Nichols, 31, of Cambridge	Roosselin Altidor, 25, of Medford	Nichols was struck by gunshots while in a vehicle that was departing Newtowne Court. Altidor was arrested 9 days later. Nichols and Altidor were known to each other.	Altidor is awaiting trial.
9/12/2015 01:40	750 Mass Ave (Riverside)	Tywann Jones, 35, of Roxbury	Antwan Gonsalves, 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 1st degree murder and sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Date & Time	Location	Victim(s)	Offender(s)	Story	Status
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.

Breakdown of Unsolved Murders in Cambridge, 2000–2015

(Anyone with information about these crimes is asked to contact the Cambridge Police at 617-349-3370.)

On April 5, 2002, Ian Gray, 19, of Mattapan, was in an argument outside of the Rhythm & Spice restaurant that spilled out onto Massachusetts Avenue. A suspect that had left the scene retuned with a group of people and a fight ensued. A knife was produced during the altercation and four gunshots were fired, fatally wounding Gray.

On June 17, 2002, Ricardo Williams, 27, of Malden, was found in the driver's seat of a motor vehicle suffering from a gunshot wound to his face. Williams was taken to CCH where he was pronounced dead.

Jason Ellcock, 33, of Malden, formerly of Cambridge, was found with multiple gunshot wounds in front of the driveway to 364 Rindge Avenue on the night of June 16, 2009. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

James Lauture, 30, of Cambridge, was sitting in a vehicle near Brookline and Watson Streets just after midnight on Saturday, March 12, 2011, when an unknown gunman opened fire. The occupants in the car were able to drive to Central Square. Lauture died from multiple gunshot wounds. The other man in the vehicle survived.

On June 3, 2012, Charlene Holmes, 16, of Cambridge was shot while sitting on a porch on Willow Street. She later succumbed to her wounds at the hospital. The investigation into this incident remains active, but no arrests have been made to date.

On July 3, 2014, at 10:00 PM, Kensley David, 22, of Boston but formerly of Cambridge, suffered a single gunshot wound to the head while on Windsor Street. Investigators believe that the incident was not random.

Murder across the state and nation in 2015*

In 2015, the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports recorded an estimated 15,696 murders nationwide, representing an increase of 10.8% from the 14,164 homicides reported in 2014. When population is taken into account, the murder rate experienced an increase of 10.0% from the previous year, rising to 4.9 murders per 100,000 people. Over the past 10 years (from 2006 to 2015), the national murder rate has fallen 15.5%.

The murder rate in Massachusetts is well below that for the nation as a whole. In 2015, Massachusetts reported 1.9 murders per 100,000 residents, while the national rate in 2015 was 4.9 per 100,000. Boston experiences the majority of the state's homicides, as it did in 2015 with 38 homicides, which is 28% below the 53 homicides reported to the FBI in 2014. None of the other towns surrounding Cambridge (Arlington, Belmont, Brookline, Somerville, and Watertown) reported homicides in 2015. Only a few Massachusetts cities and towns reported more than two murders in 2015. Those reporting four or more were Boston (38), Springfield (18), Worcester (8), Brockton (6), Lawrence (5), and Pittsfield (4).

*This source of this data is the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports. Statistics for 2016 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.

Rapes reported in Cambridge
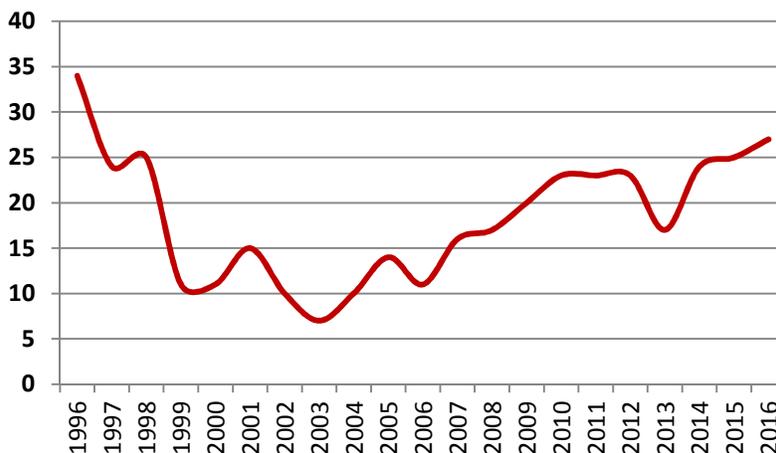
There were 27 rapes reported in Cambridge in 2016, up from the 25 incidents reported in 2015, which indicates an 8% increase. When the 2016 total is measured against the five-year average for rapes annually in the city, a 17% rise was registered.

Thirteen of the rapes in 2016 involved acquaintances, eight were categorized as contact scenarios with the offender being someone the victim had met in a public place, four were domestic, and two were blitz incidents, with both classified as a stranger-to-stranger rape.

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—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, including "date rapes." Thirteen of the 27 incidents in 2016 were perpetrated by acquaintances.

Rapes by Category

Year	Acquaintance	Contact	Blitz	Domestic	Total
2014	10	7	2	5	24
2015	11	9	2	3	25
2016	13	8	2	4	27

- **Blitz Rapes** are rapes in which the suspect "comes out of nowhere." Usually, the attacker is a stranger but this is not necessarily the case. Among all of the categorizations of rape, the blitz rape, or "street rape," tends to invoke the most fear in the average citizen. There were two blitz rapes recorded in Cambridge in 2016, both of which were classified as stranger-to-stranger crimes.

- **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 eight incidents in Cambridge in 2016 that fit into this category.

- **Domestic Rapes** involve rapes between spouses, romantic partners, or family members. Four domestic rapes were reported in 2016.

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; however, statutory rape and incest are excluded.

Rape across the nation in 2015*

The FBI's Uniform Crime Report for 2015 reports that:

- There were an estimated 90,185 forcible rapes reported to law enforcement nationally in 2015. This estimate was 6.3% higher than the 2014 estimate, 7.1% higher than the 2011 estimate, and 4.5% lower than the 2006 estimate.

- The rate of forcible rapes in 2015 was estimated at 28.1 per 100,000 inhabitants.

*Statistics for 2016 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.

Robberies reported in Cambridge

Over a four-year span from 2001 to 2004, robberies in the City slowly increased. This trend ended in 2005, and robberies continued to decrease until 2007, when robberies reached a 20-year low. After a single-year spike in 2008, robberies steadily decreased again. In 2016, after coming off of a 30-year low in 2015, there was a slight increase of four incidents, or 5%, when compared with last year.

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. Not only is robbery on the minds of local citizens but 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 between the suspect and victim, and often result in no harm to the victim, especially when they comply with the suspect's demands.

Robberies by category

Category	2015	2016	Change
Commercial Robbery	23	23	0%
Street Robbery	54	58	7%
Total	77	81	5%

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.

From 1970 to 1990, Cambridge averaged 100 commercial robberies annually. Throughout the 1990s, the number of robberies decreased dramatically to an average of 45 a year (with a high in 1990 of 102 and a low in 1999 of 18). From 2000 to 2005, the number of commercial robberies slowly

Commercial robbery, 2007-2016
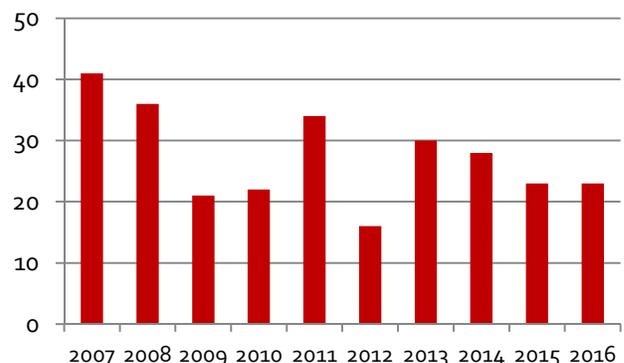
increased until 2006 when a decrease of nearly 50% was reported. Commercial robberies have remained low ever since, ranging from a high of 41 in 2007 to a 20-year low of 16 in 2012.

Commercial robberies in 2016 stayed the same as the previous year with 23 recorded crimes. The business district that experienced the most commercial robberies this year was Central Square with seven incidents, followed by Harvard Square and Cambridgeport/Riverside, each with four incidents. These three districts accounted for 65% of all commercial robberies that occurred in 2016.

In 2016, convenience/grocery stores and banks were the most common locations of commercial robberies, with nine and seven incidents, respectively. Together these two premise types accounted for nearly 70% of all commercial robbery locations in 2016. Oddly enough, six of the seven bank robberies took place on a Monday or Tuesday with the remaining one on a Friday. All but one of the bank robberies resulted in an arrest or the development of a solid suspect. Two different, unconnected suspects are believed to be responsible for four of the bank robberies. Of the nine convenience/grocery store robberies, only two

Commercial robberies by location type

Type	2014	2015	2016	Change
Convenience/Grocery	5	6	9	50%
Bank/Armored Car	3	9	7	-22%
Misc. Retail	11	3	4	33%
Gas Station	1	0	2	n/a
Café/Restaurant	2	2	1	-50%
Other	0	2	0	-100%
Electronics/Computer	3	1	0	-100%
Drug Store	3	0	0	0%
Total	**28**	**23**	**23**	**0%**

*N/A = % change cannot be calculated when the 2015 total is zero.

took place from 11:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m., while the others were all during the afternoon or early evening. No location was targeted more than once and arrests were made in three of the incidents with a suspect developed in a fourth. Retail robberies accounted for four of the commercial robberies in 2016, all of which occurred in different business districts across the city.

Street robbery

Street robbery involves all robberies committed against individuals, as opposed to commercial establishments. Despite the name, a "street" robbery does not necessarily have to occur on the street, although the majority of them do. Examples of street robberies are "muggings," "carjackings," and "purse snatchings." The number of street robberies reported in 2016 increased by four incidents over 2015, translating to a 7% rise.

Street robbery, 2007-2016
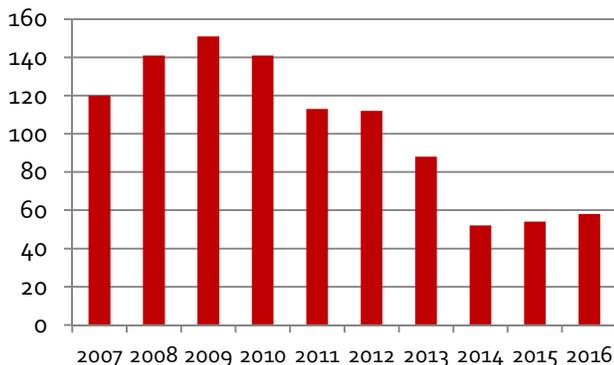
Street robberies historically take place during the evening hours, particularly after drinking establishments close, and in dark areas. The number of street robberies across each neighborhood varies widely, which is a reflection of the residential and commercial mixture in each area. For example, Cambridgeport, 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. Individuals can become targets when they are walking alone late at night, distracted or intoxicated. The neighborhood that experienced the most robberies in 2016 was Cambridgeport with 20 incidents. This one neighborhood accounted for just over one-third of all street robberies reported in 2016. Inman-Harrington saw the most notable decrease in activity in 2016 with three fewer street robberies throughout the year when compared with 2015.

Street robberies by neighborhood

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2015	2016	Change from Avg.
East Cambridge	6	3	7	17%
MIT	1	0	2	100%
Inman/Harrington	5	4	1	-80%
The Port	12	11	9	-25%
Cambridgeport	15	16	20	33%
Mid-Cambridge	5	2	5	0%
Riverside	8	6	5	-38%
Agassiz	0	0	0	n/a
Peabody	3	2	1	-67%
West Cambridge	8	3	2	-75%
North Cambridge	7	6	5	-29%
Cambridge Highlands	1	1	1	0%
Strawberry Hill	1	0	0	-100%
Total	**72**	**54**	**58**	**-19%**

In 2016, 34 (59%) 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 24 robberies (41%) involved the use or threat of a weapon. Knives were used in nine incidents, implied threat of a firearm was used in four and shod feet (feet with shoes) and handguns were each used in three incidents.

When looking at a breakdown of 2016 street robberies, the warmer weather months accounted for a larger number, with 35 (60%) reported from April through September. Arrests were made in nine of the 58 robberies at the time of the incident, although upon follow-up investigation more parties may have been linked to the crimes.

In April, there was a series of robberies (five incidents in six days) in The Port and Cambridgeport neighborhoods, specifically outside of Central Square on either side of Massachusetts Avenue. All six robberies took place between midnight and 2:30 a.m. and were committed by unknown males on bikes, some of whom threatened violence. Aside from this series and a general increase in street robbery activity across the City in July in which six robberies were reported in a three-week span, no other street robbery patterns emerged in 2016.

Five historical street robbery hot spots

1. **Central Square**, specifically the area of Massachusetts Avenue between Washington and Franklin Streets, and down Pearl Street is a prime location for homeless-on-homeless robberies. These are mostly predatory, but also purse snatchings can be concentrated here in the late afternoon/evening.

2. **CambridgeSide Galleria**, including the Lechmere MBTA Station area. These usually involve juveniles robbing each other between 3:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

3. **Harvard Square**, around Church Street, Brattle Street and Harvard Yard. Predatory robberies in the late evening mixed with early evening pack robberies.

4. **Russell Field and the Alewife MBTA Station**. The 300-400 blocks of Rindge Avenue hold the major concentration for these incidents. Pack robberies target people leaving the station and "bullyboy" robberies target schoolmates crossing through the field.

5. **Upper Cambridgeport**, specifically the area surrounded by Franklin and Erie Streets, between Brookline and Pleasant Streets. These incidents are predatory in nature and are concentrated during the late night and predawn hours of the weekend.

As stated, street robberies can take place in many different locations, including shopping malls, MBTA stations, and parking lots. Still, 72% of all street robberies in 2016 occurred on a street or sidewalk. As for the other notable premise types, nine took place in buildings such as residences, malls, hotels, and cafés. About 53% of the street robberies throughout the city in 2016 occurred between 7:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. This is a common timeframe for robberies to occur because people are walking home after work or are out when the bars close. Our Crime Analysis Unit breaks down street robbery incidents into categorizations of similar types for more accurate analysis. Approximately 50% of the street robberies were "predatory," where the victim was

approached by one or two suspects, threatened, and robbed. The second most common type of street robberies were pack robberies involving three or more suspects, which accounted for 26% of the total.

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

- **ATM Robberies** (1): In this type of robbery, the suspect may approach the victim immediately after the victim withdraws money from an ATM and demand that he or she hand over the cash, or the suspect may wait behind the victim as they make a transaction, then take the money directly from the ATM and run. An ATM robbery can also occur when suspects approach a victim on the street, threaten the victim by displaying or implying a weapon, and demand the victim go to an ATM and withdraw money for them.

- **Bikejackers** (0): Juvenile robberies where the primary property targets are bicycles.

- **Bully Boys** (0): 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, MP3 players, or lunch money.

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

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

- **Domestic** (0): A scenario in which someone close to the victim, like a family member, romantic partner, or roommate, takes money or property from them by the use or threat of violence.

- **Drug Deal** (0): Typically drug deals gone awry.

- **Home Invasion** (2): One of the most serious robbery types. Home invasions involve robbers entering their victims' homes, subduing the residents, and robbing the home. Fortunately this type of robbery is rare in Cambridge, and when it occurs, the victim generally knows the perpetrator.

- **Homeless Robberies** (3): These are incidents of homeless people robbing each other. The majority of these robberies occur in the vicinity of Central and Harvard Squares, or at various shelters. The victim is usually acquainted with the perpetrator, and in many cases, both are intoxicated. Property stolen ranges from a bottle of wine to a blanket or a pair of shoes to prescription drugs.

- **Pack Robberies** (15): 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** (29): 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.

2016 Street Robbery Hotspot Map

After dropping to historic levels in 2014, street robberies rose over the last two years, climbing 9% (five incidents) above 2014's total. The 2016 total of 58 street robberies was still 19% below the five-year average of 72, however.
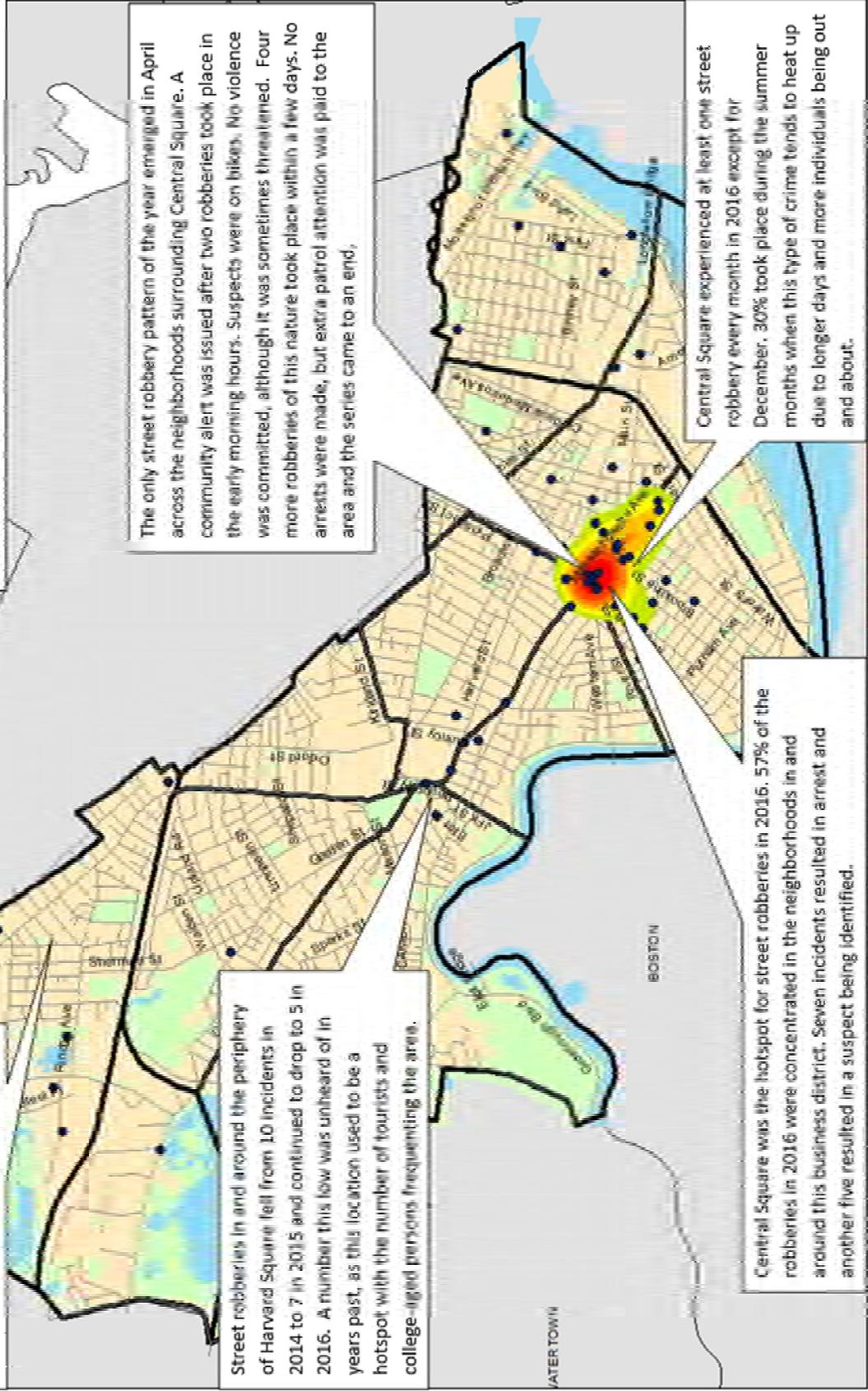
The only street robbery pattern of the year emerged in April across the neighborhoods surrounding Central Square. A community alert was issued after two robberies took place in the early morning hours. Suspects were on bikes. No violence was committed, although it was sometimes threatened. Four more robberies of this nature took place within a few days. No arrests were made, but extra patrol attention was paid to the area and the series came to an end.

Central Square experienced at least one street robbery every month in 2016 except for December. 30% took place during the summer months when this type of crime tends to heat up due to longer days and more individuals being out and about.

Only five street robberies took place in North Cambridge in 2016, a neighborhood that experienced 18 street robberies a year a decade ago.

Street robberies in and around the periphery of Harvard Square fell from 10 incidents in 2014 to 7 in 2015 and continued to drop to 5 in 2016. A number this low was unheard of in years past, as this location used to be a hotspot with the number of tourists and college-aged persons frequenting the area.

Central Square was the hotspot for street robberies in 2016. 57% of the robberies in 2016 were concentrated in the neighborhoods in and around this business district. Seven incidents resulted in arrest and another five resulted in a suspect being identified.

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	**201**
2015	**186**
2016	**161**
Change from 2015	**-13%**
Change from Average	**-20%**

Aggravated assaults reported in Cambridge
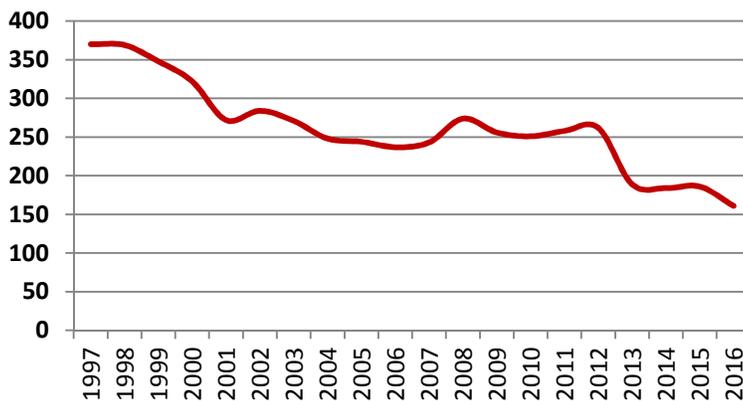
Aggravated assaults rise from the "heat of the moment," and unlike robberies, rarely involve personal gain (assaults that do involve thefts are coded in the "Robbery" section). Although a serious and dangerous crime, the average citizen has little to fear from a random aggravated assault: two-thirds 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.	2015	2016	Change from Avg.	% of Total (2016)
East Cambridge	19	15	19	0%	12%
M.I.T.	4	3	0	-100%	0%
Inman/Harrington	22	23	13	-41%	8%
The Port	29	29	24	-17%	15%
Cambridgeport	40	42	23	-43%	14%
Mid-Cambridge	16	12	14	-13%	9%
Riverside	20	18	16	-20%	10%
Agassiz	1	0	2	100%	1%
Peabody	9	9	11	22%	7%
West Cambridge	15	15	16	7%	10%
North Cambridge	19	18	15	-21%	9%
Cambridge Highlands	3	2	6	100%	4%
Strawberry Hill	2	0	2	0%	1%
Total	**201**	**186**	**161**	**-20%**	

Aggravated assaults in Cambridge peaked in the early 1990s at a time when violent crime was very high throughout the country and fell significantly between 1993 and 2001. For the next decade, it remained static with some small year-to-year fluctuations but no overall significant increase or decrease, until 2013 when aggravated assaults decreased by 28%. Following the large drop in 2013, the number of aggravated assaults in Cambridge leveled off and remained in the 180s for the following two years. Another large decline was seen in 2016 with only 161 aggravated assaults reported, 20% below the five-year average of 201.

The large drop in aggravated assaults from 2012 to 2013 was at least in part because fewer domestic-related incidents were reported. Domestic assaults dropped most significantly in 2013 from 87 in 2012 to 62 in 2013. Since then domestic aggravated assault saw a slight increase in 2014 but then dropped again in 2015 and 2016 with only 49 domestic incidents reported this year, accounting for 30% of the total. However, when considering assault statistics, one must keep in mind that this crime exhibits variable reporting rates. Many assault victims, particularly if they are not seriously injured, are reluctant to report the crimes.

Aggravated assault by relationship

Although making up only 39% of all assaults, "stranger" is the largest single category, comprised of most of the cases in the "random," "traffic/parking," "bar/alcohol," and "on police officer" categories. But the other categories combined outweigh "strangers" by almost two-to-one. For the majority of aggravated assault victims, violence comes from a familiar place: intimate partners, spouses, parents, children, friends, customers, co-workers, and other relationships. Simple assaults, disputes, and other incidents between the offender and victim often precede an aggravated assault.

Relationship	Count
Stranger	63
Acquaintance	30
Intimate Partner or Ex-	27
Spouse or Ex-	7
Client/Patron	5
Parent/Child	5
Neighbor	5
Co-Worker/Employee	4
Sibling	4
Roommate	4
Other Family	3
Schoolmate	3
Landlord/Tenant	1
Teacher/Coach	0
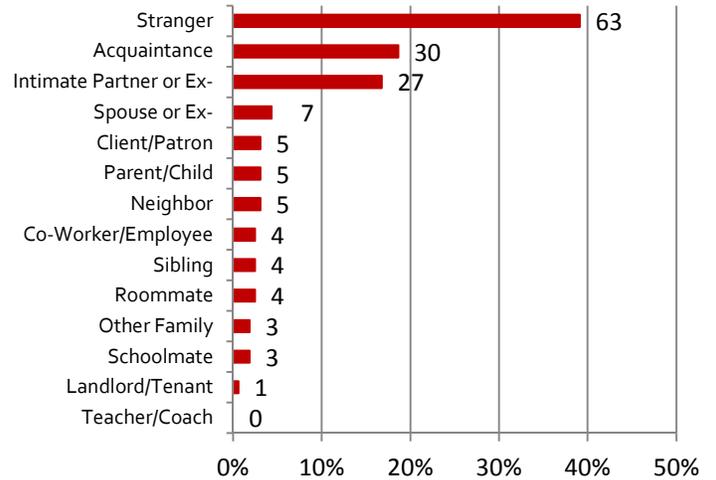
Aggravated assault by categorization

Category	Count
Domestic	49
Random/Unprovoked	20
Acquaintance	17
Homeless	14
Bar/Alcohol	14
Traffic/Parking	10
Affray/Brawl	8
Workplace	7
On Police Officer	6
Juvenile/Gang	6
Psychotic Episode	4
Landlord/Neighbor	3
Shop Owner/Patron	2
Drug Deal	1
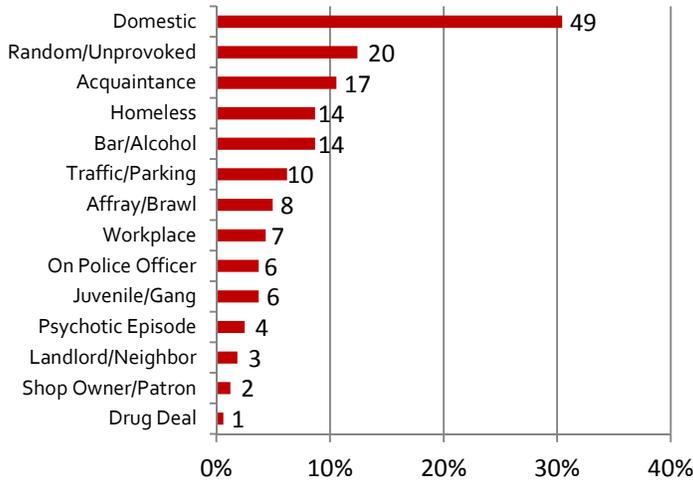
In any year, domestic assaults typically make up 30-40% of the total. These involve a number of relationships, but as the chart above shows, most common are among intimate partners/ex-intimate partners, spouses/ex-spouses, and parents/children. Bar and alcohol assaults saw a sizable increase of 12 incidents over last year. Traffic and parking assaults are usually the result of road rage incidents, which tend to be high in Cambridge since vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians share the road. Homeless is another category that typically accounts for a large portion of assaults, due to the sizeable homeless population and numerous shelters in Central and Harvard Squares.

Notable findings on aggravated assault in 2016

- Seven of the aggravated assaults in 2016 (4%) resulted in serious injury (not all from a firearm).

- There were four victims of gunfire in 2016 from three separate incidents. The first took place in February during which a victim was hit in the upper leg by gunfire near Putnam and Magee Streets. The second was in April and resulted in two victims being shot while sitting in a vehicle on Cherry Street. The third

and final shooting took place in June outside a nightclub on Massachusetts Avenue in Central Square, during which a female was shot in the foot while fleeing from the area after gunshots erupted.

- Weekends, specifically Friday through Sunday, accounted for 50% of the reported aggravated assaults.

- The most common weapons used in aggravated assaults in 2016 were shod feet (21%), followed by knives (18%). Hands and/or feet (without shoes) were used in 9%. There were seven aggravated assaults in both 2015 and 2016 that involved the use of a firearm, compared to zero in 2014.

- 32% of aggravated assaults resulted in an arrest in 2016, compared to 26% 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 probably even higher than for aggravated assault.

Looking back at the past 15 years, simple assaults peaked in the early 2000s, dropped off in the mid-2000s, and have remained essentially flat since. This is

Simple assaults reported in Cambridge

somewhat different from aggravated assault, which experienced a peak and subsequent decline about a decade earlier than simple assault. Simple assaults have changed very little in recent years, fluctuating between 400 and 460 incidents since 2006. In 2016, simple assaults saw a slight increase of 27 incidents compared to 2015. Simple assaults do mirror aggravated assaults in categories and relationships.

2016 Citywide Aggravated Assault Map

Number of Assaults
- 1
- 2-3
- 4-5

ARLINGTON

MEDFORD

MEDFORD

MEDFORD

SOMERVILLE

WATERTOWN

CAMBRIDGE

The northern half of the city recorded 52 reports of aggravated assaults in 2016, which accounted for only 32% of the citywide total. There is a large apartment complex in Peabody that experienced five aggravated assaults throughout the year. West Cambridge has maintained a consistent number of assaults over the last two years (15-16 each year), with a large concentration around Harvard Square falling into the categories of bar/alcohol assaults and homeless-on-homeless assaults.

This hotspot is the Cambridge Hospital located at 1493 Cambridge Street, where three aggravated assaults took place this year.

In The Port and Inman, domestic assaults (15 between the two) accounted for 41% of the aggravated assaults in these two areas in 2016. The hotspot in The Port was a residential building that experienced four assaults throughout the year between neighbors/acquaintances.

The Highlands reported an increase of four incidents over 2015, with two domestic incidents reported at the same apartment building.

The Central Square business district saw the largest percentage of aggravated assaults in 2016, accounting for 29% of the citywide total. In 2015, Cambridgeport was the highest ranking neighborhood by far with 42 incidents, but in 2016 there was a substantial decline of 43% (19 incidents) in this area. One restaurant/nightclub on Massachusetts Avenue reported four separate incidents of aggravated assault, one of which was a shooting outside of the establishment in June where a female was shot in the foot. Central Square also houses a large portion of Cambridge's homeless population, with the shelter on Albany Street reporting four aggravated assaults in 2016.

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.

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

Burglaries reported in Cambridge

Burglaries by category

Category	2015	2016	Change
Commercial Burglary	100	45	-55%
Residential Burglary	338	263	-22%
Total	438	308	-30%

Top items targeted in 2016

Rank	Residential	Commercial
1	Computers	Cash
2	Jewelry	Computers
3	Cash	Cameras/Camcorders
4	Backpacks/Purses	Clothing
5	Cell Phones	Cigarettes

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 2015 to 2016, there was a 55% decrease in commercial breaks in Cambridge.

Approximately 11% of the breaks in 2016 were attempts in which no entry was gained, and four incidents (9%) were considered an "inside job" in which an employee or known associate was believed to be responsible.

Commercial burglary, 2007-2016
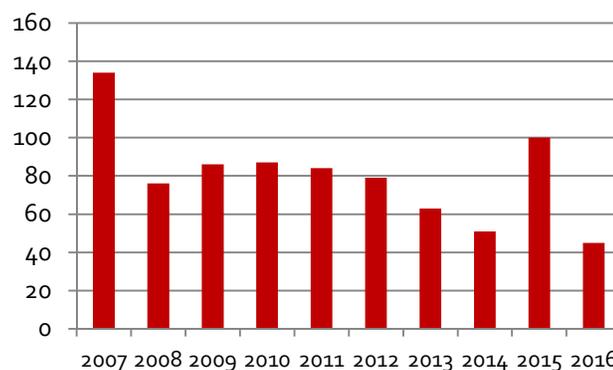
All but one of the business districts in Cambridge experienced a decrease in commercial break activity from 2015 to 2016. Only the Galleria/East Cambridge district reported an increase over 2015, with three additional breaks reported.

Commercial burglaries by business district

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2015	2016	Change from Avg.	% of Total (2016)
Galleria/East Cambridge	6	2	5	-17%	11%
Kendall/M.I.T.	2	2	0	-100%	0%
Inman Square	6	8	2	-67%	4%
Central Square	11	13	12	9%	27%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	3	5	1	-67%	2%
Bay Square/Upper Broadway	8	14	3	-63%	7%
Harvard Square	11	17	7	-36%	16%
1500-1900 Massachusetts Avenue	7	8	3	-57%	7%
Porter Square/North Cambridge	11	16	6	-45%	13%
Alewife/West Cambridge	10	15	6	-40%	13%
Total	**76**	**100**	**45**	**-41%**	

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

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

Commercial burglaries by location type

Type	2015	2016
Bar/restaurant/social	11	8
Retail establishments	12	7
Business offices	27	5
Convenience/gas	14	4
Industrial/construction	13	4
School/youth center	4	3
Government building	7	2
Church	5	1
Other	7	11
Total	**100**	**45**

Commercial burglary patterns

Unlike in 2015 when a number of patterns emerged across the city leading to a substantial increase in commercial break activity, no notable patterns arose anywhere in Cambridge in 2016. This lack in discernable patterns was the main cause for the 55% decrease in commercial burglaries this year. However, a few businesses did experience more than one incident during the year. In March and again in July, the office space shared by a

law firm and a travel agency in a Bennett Street office building in Harvard Square was broken into. In April and again in June, the *Broadway Market* was broken into via smashed windows both times; the June incident resulted in the arrest of a homeless male from Cambridge. In April and again in September, the *Rite Way Cleaners* in the Peabody neighborhood was broken into, although both were believed to involve former employees. In late November, two separate kiosks within the Galleria Mall were broken into on separate nights and cash was stolen from the registers.

Residential burglary

After a substantial increase of 44% in residential burglaries was seen in 2015, this crime type reversed directions in 2016 and registered a 22% decrease citywide. The 2016 total of 263 housebreaks was 75 incidents above the 338 reported in 2015 and 63 incidents (19%) below the five-year average of 326.

Housebreaks most commonly occur during the daytime or early evening while victims are not home, or while the homeowners are away on vacation. Suspects are often long gone by the time the victim returns home and calls police. Housebreak activity also tends to be concentrated in a few specific areas each year. See the next page for a hotspot map containing information on the housebreak concentrations and pattern areas in 2016.

Residential burglary, 2007-2016
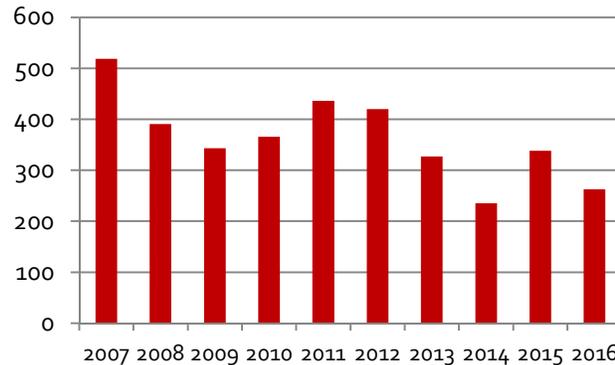
Relation of Offender to Victim in Residential Burglaries

Type	2015	2016
Stranger/Unknown	322	245
Domestic (family member, romantic partner, etc.)	6	13
Acquaintance (friend, landlord, etc.)	10	5
Total	**338**	**263**

Point/Method of Entry into Homes

Category	2015	2016
Door Entry	176	128
Pried/forced/broken	79	60
Unlocked/open	57	40
Other/unknown	40	28
Window Entry	107	108
Pried/forced/broken	25	20
Cut/removed screens	32	26
Unlocked/open	38	47
Other/unknown	12	15
Other/Unknown entry	55	27
Total	**338**	**263**

Residential burglaries by neighborhood

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2015	2016	Change from Avg.	Population (2010)	2016 Rate/10,000
East Cambridge	26	34	19	-27%	9,234	21
M.I.T.	0	0	0	0%	5,057	0
Inman/Harrington	30	34	30	0%	6,516	46
The Port	32	32	43	34%	6,792	63
Cambridgeport	56	70	50	-11%	12,220	41
Mid-Cambridge	49	49	33	-33%	12,991	25
Riverside	30	34	22	-27%	12,695	17
Agassiz	12	12	16	33%	4,977	32
Peabody	28	14	17	-39%	11,399	15
West Cambridge	32	26	16	-50%	8,023	20
North Cambridge	24	27	15	-38%	11,908	13
Cambridge Highlands	1	2	0	-100%	832	0
Strawberry Hill	5	4	2	-60%	2,518	8
Total	**326**	**338**	**263**	**-19%**	**105,162**	

2016 Housebreak Hotspot Map

Upper Cambridge: Despite a slight uptick in housebreak activity on the border of Peabody in November, only 19% of the housebreaks citywide occurred in the neighborhoods north/west of Harvard Square (Peabody, North Cambridge, West Cambridge, Strawberry Hill, and the Highlands). This area typically accounts for 30-35% of this crime type annually.

Agassiz/Peabody: A series of nighttime housebreaks were committed during the end of October and early November along the Agassiz/Peabody border. Extra patrols and arrests linked through crime scene evidence eradicated this problem.

Lower Cambridge: (Pattern area represented by black dashed oval). During the last week of August and continuing through September and October, CAU monitored a series of nighttime breaks across Inman/Harrington and the neighborhoods of Central Square (The Port, Cambridgeport, Mid-Cambridge, and Riverside). Breaks originally emerged in the Inman/Port border area but appeared in other neighborhoods as the pattern continued. Incidents were mainly weekend breaks between 6:00 and 11:00 p.m. involving entry through windows and unlocked doors and targeting electronics. A Malden resident was connected to a number of these breaks through fingerprint matches and was arrested in late October, ceasing the pattern.

East Cambridge/Inman: Majority of incidents in this area were daytime housebreaks in early spring between Fifth & Eighth Streets. Two arrests in April stopped the series.

The Port: Series of weekend night breaks (6:00-10:00 p.m.) emerged around the 200 block of Harvard Street, Windsor, and Essex Streets during the 1st quarter. Entry was through windows and pried front doors with electronics & jewelry the targets. Extra patrols were deployed, eradicating the problem with almost no activity reported in April & May.

West Cambridge/Cambridgeport: Beginning in early November, a sporadic pattern of early morning housebreaks (all 4:00 - 6:00 a.m.) emerged involving smashed-window entry and stolen laptops. Incidents were focused mainly in two separate neighborhoods: West Cambridge and Cambridgeport. Incidents picked up in intensity in late December and continued until a suspect was arrested in West Cambridge in mid-January 2017, abruptly ending the pattern.

Cambridgeport/Riverside: A series of nighttime breaks emerged along the border of Cambridgeport & Riverside in late August; activity dropped off by mid-September.

Cambridgeport: Multiple afternoon/night breaks were reported in lower Cambridgeport in January; incidents cooled with extra patrols in the area. Another increase was seen in March, with weekday daytime activity clustered again in lower Cambridgeport, involving pried front doors and stolen electronics. Extra patrols and arrests reduced activity considerably.

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	2,208
2015	2,000
2016	1,932
Change from 2015	-3%
Change from Average	-13%

Larcenies reported in Cambridge
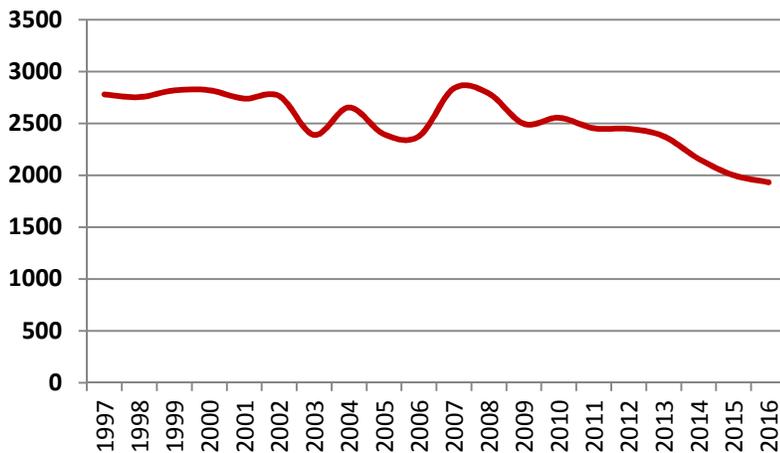
Larceny is always the most common of the Part I crimes in Cambridge. This year it accounted for 74% of the total Part I crime and 82% of the total property crime. Larceny often produces the most patterns. Three categories that produce some of the highest numbers—larcenies from motor vehicles, buildings, and persons—are often 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. The larceny categories that experienced the most substantial reductions from 2015 to 2016 were larcenies from buildings (-14%), larcenies from motor vehicles (-8%), and larcenies from residences (-7%). Meanwhile, the larceny types that experienced notable increases in 2016 over 2015 were larcenies from persons (+22%), larcenies of bicycles (+4%), and larcenies of services (+6%).

Larcenies by type

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2015	2016	Change from Avg.	% of Total (2016)
Larcenies from buildings	375	345	297	-21%	15%
Larcenies from motor vehicles	529	404	372	-30%	19%
Larcenies from persons	258	181	221	-14%	11%
Larcenies from residences	240	289	270	13%	14%
Larcenies of bicycles	357	362	375	5%	19%
Larcenies of license plates	28	25	22	-21%	1%
Larcenies of services	18	16	17	-6%	1%
Shoplifting	363	333	326	-10%	17%
Other (unclassifiable) larcenies	40	45	32	-20%	2%
Total	**2,208**	**2,000**	**1,932**	**-13%**	

Larcenies from buildings

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

Larcenies from buildings by business district

Business District	2015	2016	Change
Galleria/East Cambridge	58	40	-31%
Kendall/M.I.T.	26	17	-35%
Inman Square	22	10	-55%
Central Square	74	71	-4%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	19	18	-5%
Bay Sq./Upper Broadway	25	24	-4%
Harvard Square	55	56	2%
1500-1900 Mass. Ave.	12	9	-25%
Porter Sq./N. Cambridge	26	17	-35%
Alewife/West Cambridge	28	35	25%
Total	**345**	**297**	**-14%**

There were 297 larcenies from buildings reported in 2016. This total represents a decrease of 14% from 2015 and 21% from the five-year average of 375.

Larceny from building scenarios
The following are the most common larceny from building scenarios in Cambridge in 2016:

1. Thefts of property intentionally left unattended for a short time:
   75 incidents
2. Thefts of property accidentally left behind at a location:
   56 incidents
3. Thefts of property left unattended on a store counter:
4. **33 incidents**
5. Thefts of personal/company property from an office building during business hours:
   30 incidents
6. Thefts from a locker or classroom at a school:
   15 incidents
7. Thefts of employee property from the "back room" of a commercial establishment:
   14 incidents
8. Thefts from a locker at a health club:
   14 incidents

Top hot spots of 2016

1. **CambridgeSide Galleria**
   100 CambridgeSide Place
   31 incidents

2. **Hyatt Regency Hotel**
   575 Memorial Drive
   10 incidents

3. **Mount Auburn Hospital**
   330 Mount Auburn Street
   8 incidents

4. **Cambridge Rindge & Latin High School**
   459 Broadway
   6 incidents

5. **YMCA**
   820 Massachusetts Avenue
   5 incidents

6. **Hong Kong Restaurant**
   1238 Massachusetts Avenue
   5 incidents

7. **Marriott Hotel**
   50 Broadway
   5 incidents

Larcenies from motor vehicles

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

Larcenies from motor vehicles have consistently averaged between 16-26% of the total serious crime index in Cambridge for over 20 years. However, LMVs in 2015 and 2016 accounted for only 14% of the Crime Index Total each year.

This crime type hit its peak in 2007—when GPS units became a hot target—and has been steadily decreasing by 8-18% each year since then, with only one slight increase in 2012. The total of 372 car breaks reported in 2016 was 8% below the 2015 total of 404 and 30% below the five-year weighted average of 529.

In 2016, the main target in LMVs were bags, purses, and wallets, followed by cash and loose change. These items were often stolen from unlocked vehicles, which has been the most common method of entry for the past four years. Prior to 2013, the top method of entry typically involved breaking windows.

Larcenies from motor vehicles, 2007-2016

Top stolen items of 2016	Top methods of entry
1. Backpacks/Bags/ Purses/Wallets 108	1. Entry through unlocked door or open window, accounting for 37% in 2016.
2. Cash/Coins 84	
3. Laptops/ Computers 60	
4. Clothing 37	
5. Credit/ATM cards 33	2. In 31% of cases, means of entry were unknown, with no signs of force.
6. Cellular phones 27	
7. Glasses/ Sunglasses 22	
8. Auto parts 18	
9. Keys (house/car) 14	3. Breaking a window, this accounted for 24% of larcenies in 2016.
10. Medications 13	

Larcenies from vehicles by neighborhood

Neighborhood	2015	2016	Change
East Cambridge	19	36	89%
M.I.T.	1	7	600%
Inman/Harrington	18	19	6%
The Port	42	41	-2%
Cambridgeport	70	60	-14%
Mid-Cambridge	44	33	-25%
Riverside	27	34	26%
Agassiz	11	11	0%
Peabody	58	32	-45%
West Cambridge	47	50	6%
North Cambridge	49	37	-24%
Cambridge Highlands	3	1	-67%
Strawberry Hill	15	11	-27%
Total	**404**	**372**	**-8%**

LMV activity tends to be concentrated in a few specific areas each year. See the next page for a hotspot map containing more information on these focus areas in 2016.

2016 Larceny from Motor Vehicle (LMV) Hotspot Map

A series of late night car breaks in The Port and Cambridgeport neighborhoods emerged during the 1st Quarter and peaked in April before cooling off in May. Incidents were mostly on weekend nights and involved smashed windows.

Over the final six months of 2016, the neighborhoods of Central Square (The Port, Cambridgeport, Mid-Cambridge, and Riverside) were the areas of highest concentrations of LMVs citywide. The majority of the incidents were during the overnight hours and involved unlocked vehicles.

Scattered incidents were seen in May – August in East Cambridge with unrelated thefts reported in North Point and on residential side streets near the Galleria, usually after midnight.

A series of late night breaks into cars in private garages in Central & Kendall Squares was seen during the first week of January.

A series of car breaks emerged north of Porter Square in August and resulted in the arrest of a known offender.

Increased weekend night activity was seen along the Agassiz/Peabody border during November. Incidents dissipated in December.

One-night spree of LMVs took place on 1/26/16 around the Tobin School on Standish, Chilton, Granville, and Waterman Streets. The majority of the breaks were into unlocked cars.

Overnight on 2/20/16, seven cars were broken into in the Holworthy Street / Fountain Terrace area of Strawberry Hill.

An increase in LMVs was detected on the periphery of Harvard Square during May & June, which dropped off in July & August. Most breaks were into unlocked cars in the early morning hours.

Activity reheated in September and continued through November along Mt Auburn, Willard and Foster Streets and in the Hawthorne Park area. The majority took place on weekend nights between 1:00 and 7:00 a.m., and all affected vehicles were on the street or in driveways. Activity cooled in December, and a possible suspect was arrested in January 2017.

A concentration of LMVs emerged along the Cambridgeport/Riverside border around Western Avenue, River Street, and Pleasant Street during the summer months. Extra patrol attention was paid to the area, especially on weekend nights.

Larcenies from persons

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

After three years of declines, including a drop to the lowest total seen in at least 20 years in 2015, larcenies from the person saw an increase of 40 incidents in 2016. Arrests for this crime type were also up this year, rising from one arrest in 2015 to three in 2016. See the scenarios below for more on larcenies from the person in 2016.

Larcenies from persons by business district

Business District	2015	2016	Change
Galleria/East Cambridge	30	28	-7%
Kendall/M.I.T.	2	6	200%
Inman Square	10	7	-30%
Central Square	51	64	25%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	6	4	-33%
Bay Sq./Upper Broadway	3	7	133%
Harvard Square	52	77	48%
1500-1900 Mass. Ave.	5	5	0%
Porter Sq./N. Cambridge	12	13	8%
Alewife/West Cambridge	10	10	0%
Total	**181**	**221**	**22%**

Larcenies from persons, 2007-2016
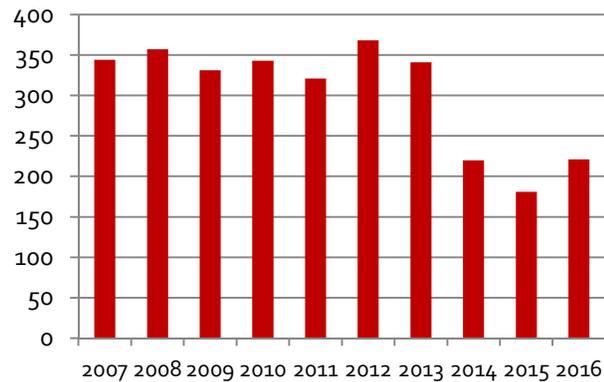
The following represents a few of the recurring larceny from person scenarios in Cambridge:

1. The most common larceny from person scenario in Cambridge in 2016 involved the theft of items from patrons of local restaurants and bars in the city. An example is when a diner hangs a purse over the back of a chair and someone takes valuables from within. This scenario, also known as dipper activity, accounted for 32% of the larcenies from persons in 2016. Harvard and Central Squares are almost always the city hotspots for this type of activity. In 2016, 36 incidents were reported in Harvard Square and 16 were seen in Central Square, with eight establishments in Harvard Square and three in Central Square reporting multiple incidents.

2. One of the other most common larceny from person scenarios in Cambridge is when items are stolen after they are left unattended by their owners. This scenario accounted for approximately 30% of the larcenies from persons in 2016. This includes purses and wallets left briefly unattended in bars, restaurants, churches, schools, bus stops, parks, etc. In one typical scenario of this type, a student leaves his or her cell phone in a backpack near a basketball court and returns to find that the phone is missing. Another repeat scenario is the theft of belongings from residents of local homeless shelters while those residents are asleep.

3. Yet another popular scenario is pocket-picking. While a victim is walking through a public place, a pickpocket stealthily reaches into the victim's coat, purse, or backpack and removes valuables. This scenario accounted for about 17% of the larceny from person reports in 2016. Harvard Square and Central Square reported the highest pocket-picking numbers in 2016 with 15 and 11 incidents, respectively.

4. Another typical scenario is the theft of items from victims as they shop 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 9% of the larcenies from persons in 2016.

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, these thefts are committed by someone known to the victim or by people who have a right to be on the property.

There were 270 of these larcenies reported in Cambridge in 2016, a 7% decrease from 2015. The most prevalent scenario for this crime type in 2016 was the theft of packages from the front steps or vestibules of residences, although this scenario did drop off slightly in 2016, dipping 9% from 158 thefts in 2015 to 144 in 2016.

The most common larceny from residence scenarios are:

- Thefts of mail/packages delivered by a parcel service: 53%
- Thefts committed by visitors or guests of a residence: 10%
- Thefts committed by someone working in the residence, such as a painter, plumber, contractor, or maintenance worker: 11%
- Thefts from a yard, porch, or other area surrounding a residence: 7%
- Thefts committed by a family member, spouse, or romantic partner (i.e., "domestic thefts"): 7%
- Thefts from a common area of an apartment building: 4%
- Thefts committed while victims are in the process of moving: 3%
- Thefts from a storage area of an apartment building or complex: 3%

Larcenies from residences by neighborhood

Neighborhood	2015	2016	Change
East Cambridge	18	31	72%
MIT	0	1	Inc.
Inman/Harrington	14	21	50%
The Port	24	30	25%
Cambridgeport	39	36	-8%
Mid-Cambridge	53	38	-28%
Riverside	20	26	30%
Agassiz	17	3	-82%
Peabody	38	36	-5%
West Cambridge	18	10	-44%
North Cambridge	40	30	-25%
Cambridge Highlands	4	2	-50%
Strawberry Hill	4	6	50%
Total	**289**	**270**	**-7%**

2016 Package Theft Hotspot Map

This hotspot in 2016 is similar to the one seen around Chauncy Street during the holiday season in 2015.

Side streets near Donnelly Field were most active in late September to mid-October, while The Port saw the most activity citywide in December with incidents on Suffolk, Columbia, and Pine Streets, and in Newtowne Court.

The typical hotspots along Harvard Street and Trowbridge Street in Mid-Cambridge did not materialize to the same degree in 2016 as in past years, but the Franklin Street area of Riverside experienced multiple incidents during the second half of 2016. This was the hotspot area for package thefts this year.

Most of the package theft activity in Cambridgeport during the holiday season took place on Fairmont, Pilgrim, Chestnut, and Magazine Streets. A female suspect was seen on video in the Chestnut Street theft in November.

Larcenies of bicycles*

Larcenies of bicycles by neighborhood

Neighborhood	2015	2016	Change
East Cambridge	49	47	-4%
M.I.T.	7	8	14%
Inman/Harrington	22	19	-14%
The Port	35	33	-6%
Cambridgeport	46	60	30%
Mid-Cambridge	46	63	37%
Riverside	39	40	3%
Agassiz	12	7	-42%
Peabody	23	23	0%
West Cambridge	35	36	3%
North Cambridge	32	31	-3%
Cambridge Highlands	13	7	-46%
Strawberry Hill	3	1	-67%
Total	**362**	**375**	**4%**

Larcenies of bicycles, 2007-2016
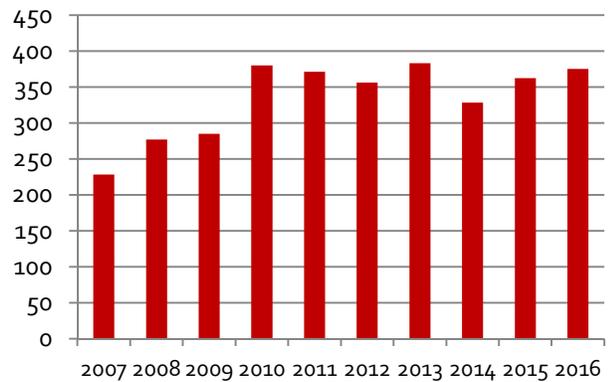
This year saw 375 incidents of stolen bicycles, an increase of 4% over 2015 and 5% over the weighted average. Not surprisingly, the largest numbers of bicycle thefts in 2016 occurred in the late spring and summer months of May, June, July, and August (48, 57, 47, and 46 incidents, respectively), when bicycles typically pack the streets and sidewalks because of warmer weather. The business district with the most incidents in 2016 was Central Square (77), followed by Bay Square (51) and Inman Square (41), while fewer than usual were reported for the second year in a row in Harvard Square (32).

Locks present little difficulty to bicycle thieves, who often bring bolt cutters or pry bars with them. Approximately 53% of all reported bicycle thefts this year involved locked and unattended bicycles on a street, sidewalk, or rack. Roughly 14% of thefts involved locked bicycles on private property, such as in private back yards or in apartment building hallways. Another 17% percent of the larcenies involved bicycles that were left unlocked and unprotected. Unlocked bicycles that were on private property followed, making up the remaining 16% of reported incidents.

See the next page for a hotspot map containing information on the larceny of bicycle concentrations in 2016.

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

2016 Larceny of Bicycle Hotspot Map

From July – October, there were at least six bicycle thefts reported from a locked bike cage in a parking garage on Cambridgepark Drive.

This is a typical bicycle theft hotspot around the MBTA Station in Porter Square. No clear temporal or spatial patterns were observed this year.

In June and July, we began to monitor an emerging trend of bike thefts from apartment basement storage areas, mainly in the Mid-Cambridge neighborhood. This trend continued throughout much of the summer and fall. Other bikes in this residential neighborhood were reported stolen from porches, yards, garages, and sidewalks.

In late May, multiple incidents of either bike thefts of bike parts were reported at an apartment building in the 1200 block of Cambridge Street.

East Cambridge was the numerical hotspot for bike thefts during the first half of 2016, with 26 incidents during that time. The activity was focused on streets near the Galleria Mall and around Broadway & Main Street. Most were locked to bike racks or poles.

There were 32 bike thefts reported in the Harvard Square area throughout 2016. This is just a few incidents below the 35 incidents reported in this area in 2015. The vast majority this year involved bicycles that were locked at the time of the thefts. Aside from a few late night incidents on and around Church Street during the second quarter, no defined patterns emerged in this area in 2016.

The Cambridgeport/Riverside area saw 27% (100) of the 375 bike thefts citywide in 2016. Of those 100, 73 were locked at the time of the thefts. After a slow start, a sharp increase in activity was seen in this area in June & July, with late night thefts along Western, River, and Pleasant Streets. In August – October, incidents shifted to Massachusetts Avenue and to sidewalks and yards in Riverside and Cambridgeport. A high percentage of these later thefts were on weekday afternoons.

Shoplifting

Shoplifting decreased by 2% in 2016, dropping from 333 incidents in 2015 to 326 this year. As is typical, the CambridgeSide Galleria / East Cambridge area experienced the majority of the shopliftings this year with 33% of the incidents. Harvard Square, Central Square, and Porter Square reported the next highest amounts. It is important to note that since shoplifting incidents are often only reported when an arrest is made, underreporting can be a serious problem. The actual shoplifting total may be six to ten times greater than the statistic given. However, 74% of the reported incidents in 2016 did not result in an arrest, which may indicate an increase in the tendency to report incidents regardless of whether an arrest was made. Some stores may also choose to trespass the shoplifter instead of pressing charges.

Shoplifting by business district

Business District	2015	2016	Change
Galleria/East Cambridge	116	107	-8%
Kendall/MIT	2	3	50%
Inman Square	3	9	200%
Central Square	48	55	15%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	10	7	-30%
Bay Sq./Upper Broadway	3	3	0%
Harvard Square	65	72	11%
1500-1900 Mass. Ave.	6	2	-67%
Porter Sq./N. Cambridge	29	37	28%
Alewife/West Cambridge	51	31	-39%
Total	**333**	**326**	**-2%**

Shoplifters usually fall into one of five categories:

Top city/town of residence for arrested shoplifters

City/Town	2016
Boston	40
Cambridge	24
Revere	4
Somerville	4
Dedham	3
Brockton	2
Mansfield	2
Springfield	2

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 sudden lack of money.
3. **Alcoholics, vagrants, and drug addicts**, who steal erratically and clumsily. When caught, this type of shoplifter is more likely than others to get violent (see "Shop Owner/Patron" assaults in the Assault section).
4. **Kleptomaniacs**, 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 17 of these crimes reported in 2016. Taxi fare evasion incidents were reported most often this year (seven incidents), followed by "dining and ditching" (six incidents), failure to pay for auto repair or tow services (three incidents), and one incident in which a guest failed to pay for a rented hotel room. There were no gasoline thefts in 2016.

Miscellaneous larceny

This category includes all other unclassifiable larcenies. Miscellaneous larcenies in 2016 decreased by 29% from 2015 and dropped 20% below the five-year weighted average. There were no notable patterns of any miscellaneous types of larceny this year.

Auto Theft

Definition

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

Statistics

Five-Year Average	125
2015	125
2016	110
Change from 2015	-12%
Change from Average	-12%

Auto thefts reported in Cambridge
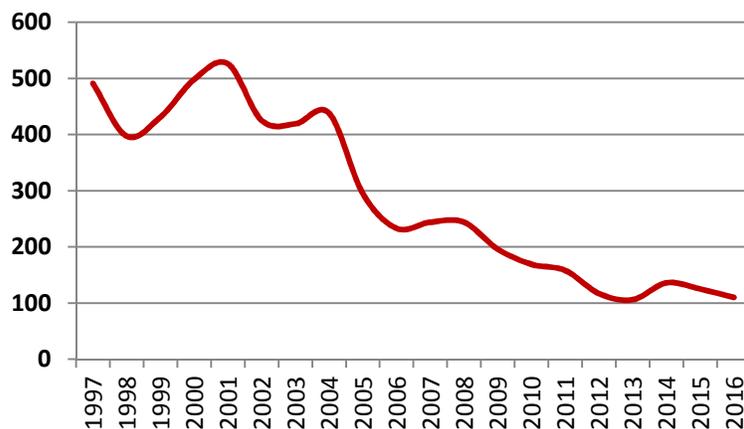
Forty years ago, there were nearly 3,000 cars reported stolen yearly in Cambridge. These figures declined to less than 1,000 thefts yearly in the 1990's and today's figures represent one of the most dramatic reported decreases in a single crime type. In 2013, Cambridge reported a 50-year low in auto thefts with 106. However, in 2014, auto thefts turned out to be one of the few Part I crimes to show an increase, up 28% from 2013. As is evident from the chart though, the slight blip in 2014 was still low in comparison to years past, and auto theft has been back on a downward trend over the past two years, with 110 reported in 2016. The overall major decline can be attributed to the virtual elimination of "chop shops" and interstate auto theft rings, crackdowns on insurance fraud, advances in automobile security, and new technology that enables patrol officers to quickly check a vehicle's registry listing and determine if it is stolen.

Although auto thefts tend to stay relatively consistent in each neighborhood, the most notable drop in 2016 was in North Cambridge, where auto thefts decreased by nine incidents from 2015 and registered at 33% below the five-year average of 12. The rest of the neighborhoods in Cambridge recorded auto theft numbers in 2016 that were relatively consistent with those seen in 2015, with minor fluctuations above or below last year's numbers. Seven of the 13 neighborhoods saw reductions in auto thefts in 2016, leading to the overall decrease of 15 incidents this year compared to 2015. The majority of auto thefts this year (65%) took place during the warmer months of April through September, with April recording the highest total of the year with 18.

Auto thefts by neighborhood

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2015	2016	Change from Avg.	% of Total (2016)
East Cambridge	16	15	12	-25%	11%
MIT	3	3	1	-67%	1%
Inman/Harrington	10	13	7	-30%	6%
The Port	14	13	17	21%	15%
Cambridgeport	20	18	21	5%	19%
Mid-Cambridge	15	12	15	0%	14%
Riverside	9	6	6	-33%	5%
Agassiz	5	6	4	-20%	4%
Peabody	8	7	10	25%	9%
West Cambridge	11	12	7	-36%	6%
North Cambridge	12	17	8	-33%	7%
Cambridge Highlands	2	3	0	-100%	0%
Strawberry Hill	0	0	2	n/a	2%
Total	**125**	**125**	**110**	**-12%**	

Makes and models

Hondas continue to be the most commonly stolen automobiles in Cambridge, constituting 19% of all reports in 2016, or 21 incidents. They are also typically the most commonly stolen vehicles nationwide and continued to be this year. Toyota and Ford stayed in second and third place again in 2016 with 13 and 11 thefts reported, respectively, also the same number that both makes reported in 2015. In 2015 there was a 7-way tie for 4th place, while in 2016 there was a 4-way tie for 4th place between Nissan, Chevy, Subaru,

Top 5 stolen makes and models in 2016			
Makes		**Models**	
Honda	21	Honda Civic*+	7
Toyota	13	VW Jetta	4
Ford	11	Toyota Corolla*+	4
4-way tie	5	Honda Accord*+	3
		Toyota Prius	3

*Also in the national top 10 (for 2015)
+Also in the Massachusetts top 10 (for 2015)
(2016 national/MA top 10 data not yet available)

and Volkswagen, all of which recorded five thefts. This information, while typically consistent with historical and national trends, had changed drastically over the past few years with makes such as Subaru, Volkswagen, and a number of scooter brands (Genuine and Vespa, in particular) ranking in the top five. It appears that the 2016 statistics are more stable with the national trends. As is shown in the table, three of the top five vehicle model types stolen in Cambridge in 2016 also made the national and statewide top listings.

In 2016, Cambridge kept in line with the state and national trends that report that Hondas and Toyotas are most heavily targeted. The most targeted model for the 5th year in a row in Cambridge was the Honda Civic. Typically, Hondas and Toyotas are stolen more than others due to the following factors. First, these cars are some of the most commonly owned models in the nation, making them more widely available. Statistical probability alone would place them near the top of the theft list. Second, car thieves tend to look for average-cost, commonly owned, inconspicuous cars. High-priced luxury cars are not stolen very often because they are too easy for someone to spot and are more likely to be equipped with expensive alarm systems.

Thefts of motorcycles and other brands of scooters have been common throughout the city over the past few years. This has been an emerging trend and accounted for 19% of all auto thefts in Cambridge in 2016, which is actually a reduction from the past three years. Only one auto theft resulted in an arrest in 2016, when a defendant stole an ambulance from the Cambridge City Hospital and was quickly apprehended. There were no known patterns that emerged anywhere in Cambridge in 2016, due to the declining number of auto thefts reported throughout the city.

The table to the left shows the incidence of auto theft by model year (four vehicles did not report the model year, as a lot of scooter and moped owners are not aware of this information). Four models were from prior to 1995 and did not fit on the graph. Therefore, there are 8 model years of cars stolen in 2016 that are not depicted in the graph. Analysis of the age of stolen vehicles shows that the highest demand is typically for cars less than 10 years old. The years with the most targeted vehicles were 2010 and 2014, which accounted for 19% of all known motor vehicle years stolen in 2016. Thieves that target newer models are often

Auto thefts in 2016 by model year

"joyriders" who steal vehicles to increase their sense of status, or they intend to sell the entire car for profit. Another scenario that seems to be emerging involves people who rent cars, often newer models, and fail to return them in a timely manner, resulting in the rental company reporting them stolen. This could account for
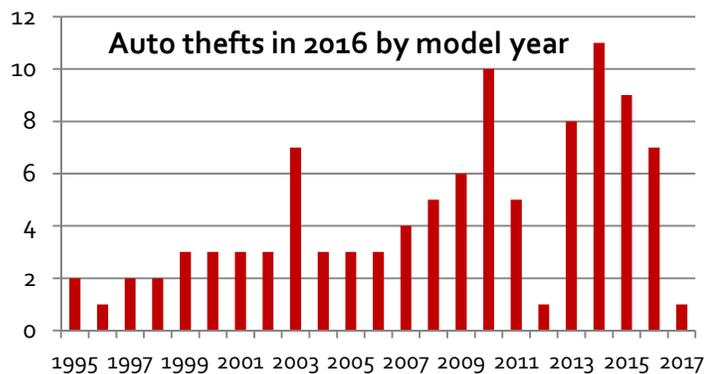
part of the spike in 2014-2016 models reported stolen this year. Thieves that are looking for transportation steal cars 5-10 years old because they are inconspicuous. Thieves looking to make a profit target the older model year vehicles because parts for these cars are in higher demand.

Auto theft recoveries by location

Cambridge	27
Cambridgeport	7
North Cambridge	4
Agassiz	3
West Cambridge	3
East Cambridge	2
Mid-Cambridge	2
MIT	2
Inman/Harrington	1
Peabody	1
Riverside	1
Strawberry Hill	1

Boston	21
Boston (general)	13
Dorchester	2
Hyde Park	1
Mattapan	1
Roxbury	4

Other cities/towns	22
Somerville	11
Other states	1
Arlington	1
Braintree	1
Brockton	1
Brookline	1
Chelsea	2
Lawrence	1
Lowell	1
Medford	1
Milton	1

Approximately 64% of the cars reported stolen in 2016 have been reported as recovered to date. The majority of recovered cars in 2016 were located throughout Cambridge, with the rest found in surrounding cities and towns. In 2016, the number of vehicles recovered within Cambridge, 27, was slightly lower than the average of 34 recorded over the past three years. Cambridgeport was the leading recovery neighborhood in Cambridge in 2016 with seven.

2016 Citywide Auto Theft Map

Auto thefts in North Cambridge in 2015 were up 183% over 2014. Conversely, the total of eight thefts reported in 2016 was a 33% decrease from 2015.

Peabody reported numbers slightly above the 5-year average of eight thefts, with ten incidents in 2016.

The lone auto theft arrest took place in Mid-Cambridge after an individual stole an ambulance from the Cambridge Hospital in October.

The Port saw an increase over both last year and the 5-year average with 17 reported thefts in 2016. Surprisingly, not a single stolen car was recovered in this neighborhood this year. Four of the auto thefts in this area were the result of vehicles not being returned in a timely manner to a rental company.

East Cambridge saw a slight drop of three incidents from 2015. Activity in this area is typically concentrated around the Galleria Mall and Lechmere MBTA station on Cambridge Streeet.

For the first time in four years, Strawberry Hill recorded two auto thefts. In the previous three years, none were reported.

Cambridgeport reported the largest number of auto thefts for the third year in a row with 21. However, this is up from both 2015 and the 5-year average. The majority of the activity in this area is around Massachusetts Avenue in Central Square, where there are numerous parking lots and garages. Since it reported the highest number of stolen autos, it is no surprise that Cambridgeport was also the leading neighborhood for auto theft recoveries.

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	76
2015	58
2016	61
Change from 2015	+5%
Change from Average	-20%

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

To the right is a geographic breakdown of drug incidents across the 13 neighborhoods in Cambridge. Cambridgeport and Riverside accounted for the most drug activity in the City in 2016, registering 20 and 15 incidents, respectively.

In total, 61 drug incidents were reported in 2016 and 48 people were arrested in 33 of these incidents.

Drug incidents by neighborhood

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2015	2016	% of Total (2016)*
East Cambridge	10	5	5	8%
MIT	1	1	0	0%
Inman/Harrington	5	4	5	8%
The Port	12	10	4	7%
Cambridgeport	14	13	20	33%
Mid-Cambridge	9	6	3	5%
Riverside	7	6	15	25%
Agassiz	0	0	0	0%
Peabody	5	2	2	3%
West Cambridge	7	6	4	7%
North Cambridge	4	3	2	3%
Cambridge Highlands	1	1	0	0%
Strawberry Hill	1	1	1	2%
Total	**76**	**58**	**61**	**100%**

Drug offense scenarios

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

1. The Cambridge Police Department's Special Investigation Unit initiates an investigation or conducts surveillance resulting in an arrest. Many of these investigations are due to information supplied by confidential sources: 25 cases in 2016

2. A police officer on patrol observes suspicious street activity and upon further investigation discovers narcotics: 16 cases in 2016

3. A Cambridge school official or court officer observes drug use: 2 cases in 2016

4. During a routine motor vehicle stop, a police officer observes narcotics inside the vehicle: 5 cases in 2016

5. A citizen witnesses a person or persons using drugs and notifies the police: 9 cases in 2016

6. During an arrest for another crime, the arresting officer or booking officer finds narcotics on the arrested person: 4 case in 2016

7. Pharmacists discover patrons attempting to fill fake prescriptions: 0 cases in 2016

**Type of drug
found in incidents**

Category	2016
Heroin/Opioids	17
Marijuana	16
Cocaine or crack cocaine	13
Prescription drugs	12
Methamphetamine	2
Hallucinogens	1

Drug related activities for which persons are arrested

Category	2016
Possession	32
Possession with intent to distribute*	14
Drug sale (observed)	11
Trafficking**	4

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

Summary of overdose incidents

Although overdose incidents are generally medical in nature, police often respond to assist Fire and EMS agencies. In 2016, 295 overdose incidents (with 29 fatalities) were reported to the Cambridge Police, which is up 57% over the 188 overdoses (with 16 fatalities) reported to the police in 2015. Much of the increase in 2016 was a result of the surge in reports of opioid/heroin overdoses across the city, particularly involving overdoses that were fatal. This trend has also been seen statewide and across the nation, beginning in 2014. A public health emergency was declared in March 2014 in Massachusetts due to the growing number of opioid overdoses and deaths, and the concern has continued throughout 2015 and 2016.

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 provides a breakdown of the suspected drug type involved in each overdose report for 2015 and 2016.*

The following provides a breakdown of the fatal overdoses for the past two years:

In 2015, there were 16 fatal overdoses:
- 11 likely/confirmed heroin overdoses
- 2 possible heroin overdoses (or other opioids)
- 2 possible overdoses by way of pills (prescription or otherwise)
- 1 overdose involving alcohol and an unknown drug

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

Suspected drug ingested

Drug	2015	2016
Heroin	95	149
Other Opioids	10	50
Prescription OTC Meds	53	56
Alcohol (often w/ other drug)	3	4
Cocaine	1	1
Marijuana	0	3
Other (Designer Drugs, Hallucinogens, etc.)	12	13
Unknown	14	19
Total	**188**	**295**

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

In response to the increasing numbers of opioid overdoses across Cambridge, detectives in the Special Investigations Unit have changed their approach to the problem. They now respond along with patrol and emergency medical services to calls involving drug overdoses. They provide educational materials to the individuals and their families and conduct follow-ups to listen to and assess their needs. They also work closely with a social worker employed by the department, who provides assistance to the individuals with after-care placement, treatment options, and coaching services. Additionally, they work to identify people who are at high risk of overdose and provide them with safety assessments, treatment options, and coordination of care.

Sex Offenses

Definition

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

Sex offenses by type

Category	5-Yr. Avg.	2015	2016	Change from Avg.
Indecent assault	40	39	39	-3%
Indecent exposure	28	32	19	-32%
Annoying & accosting	6	5	11	83%
Peeping & Spying	6	9	6	0%
Prostitution & solicitation	2	3	6	200%
Obscene phone calls	5	5	5	0%
Total	**87**	**93**	**86**	**-1%**

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 2016, the offender was a stranger to the victim in 44% of the incidents reported. Seven of the incidents in 2016 resulted in arrests at the time of the incident.

In 2015, there was a series of evening indecent assaults in Harvard Square that started at the end of July and continued throughout August. No similar patterns emerged anywhere in Cambridge in 2016.

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 (68%) of the 19 indecent exposure incidents in 2016 involved suspects masturbating or engaging in sexual acts in public, three individuals (16%) were seen urinating/defecating in public, and three (16%) incidents were flashing incidents. Arrests were made in six incidents and suspects were identified in an additional eight.

Annoying & Accosting

Annoying and accosting a member of the opposite sex is a form of criminal harassment. (Note: Incidents involving phone call harassment are not considered annoying and accosting. Phone calls are a separate category.) Often, annoying and accosting involves a man repeatedly following, shouting, making off-color suggestions, hooting, repeatedly asking for a date, or otherwise harassing a woman. It happens most often on the street and in the workplace. Nine of 11 incidents in 2016 were perpetrated by strangers and none resulted in arrests, although three suspects were potentially identified. The other incidents involved client/patron interactions that were unwanted and sexual in nature.

Peeping and Spying

Peeping and spying occurs most often in Cambridge when offenders peer through windows of houses or apartments, generally at night. Two of the six incidents reported in Cambridge in 2016 involved this situation. The other four incidents reported this year involved the videotaping and/or photographing of unsuspecting victims during situations in which privacy is expected. Three suspects were identified in relation to these incidents, all of which were related to unauthorized filming.

Obscene Telephone Calls

Obscene telephone calls are unwanted phone calls of an offensive or repulsive nature. Often the caller uses sexual or vulgar language to cause discomfort and possibly fear to the victim receiving the calls. The caller was unknown to the victim in four of the five incidents in 2016. The other involved a former friend.

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. The last undercover sting set up to combat this problem was in November 2009 after complaints of prostitution resurfaced, particularly in and around Cambridge hotels. The undercover sting resulted in seven arrests for prostitution-related charges.

More recently, there were six reported incidents of prostitution in Cambridge in 2016. Three of these occurred at hotels and three involved massage parlors. Two incidents resulted in arrests and suspects were identified in three others.

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.

Across the nation, police departments are seeing fraud become an increasingly popular crime. In 2016, this crime type increased by 4% in Cambridge over the previous year.

Counterfeiting

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

Bad Check

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

Forged Check

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

ATM/Credit Card Fraud

One of the most common types of fraud reported in Cambridge typically involves the use of credit and ATM cards. Major commercial areas such as Harvard/Central Squares and the Galleria Mall are typical hotspots for this activity, although Harvard Square was relatively quiet for this activity in 2016 with only 10 incidents, compared to the East Cambridge/Galleria area, which had 25. There are two main ways that victims become aware of this type of crime; either victims are informed by their credit card companies of unusual activity on their charge or debit cards, or a victim finds unauthorized charges on his or her credit card account after the card is lost/stolen/skimmed. Increasingly, victims are also reporting fraudulent activity while they are still in possession of their card. Credit card fraud is the main type of forgery that is expected to consistently increase, as many criminal enterprises have taken to electronic methods due to the complexity of solving such cases.

Fraud by type

Category	2015	2016	Change from 2015
Counterfeiting	27	16	-41%
Forgery/Uttering	369	360	-2%
Identity theft	128	143	12%
Credit/ATM cards	163	123	-25%
Bad check	31	44	42%
Forged check	38	40	5%
Other/miscellaneous	3	6	100%
Prescription	5	2	-60%
Application	1	2	100%
Con Games	165	208	26%
Internet-related	40	63	58%
Government	29	37	28%
Housing Scam	31	34	10%
Miscellaneous	18	23	28%
Extortion/Kidnap	17	16	-6%
Housework/Utilities	13	15	15%
Big Carrot	7	8	14%
Cash shuffle	4	5	25%
Charity	2	5	150%
Psychic	0	2	n/a
Travel	3	0	-100%
Pigeon Drop	1	0	-100%
Embezzlement	17	19	12%
Total	**578**	**603**	**4%**

*N/A = % change cannot be calculated when the 2015 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, or even filing tax returns.

Embezzlement

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

"Con" Games

Internet-related incidents continue to account for a high number of con games. In recent years, there has also been a large increase in new scam scenarios, contributing to our need to create new categories in our data collection process. These new categories include "Housing Scam", "Government," and "Extortion/Kidnap." These categories were previously listed as miscellaneous con games when they were less prevalent or non-existent prior to 2014. The Housing Scam category refers to online rental scams in which a victim sends money and later discovers there is no apartment to rent. The call-out box below details some of the more prevalent phone scams reported in Cambridge recently.

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

The following is a list of some of the recent scams:
- A caller claims to be from the IRS and says that the victim has been audited and owes money. This scam was prevalent throughout tax season.
- A caller claims to work for the government and states that there is a warrant out for the victim's arrest unless s/he pays a fee to clear it up. ("Government" scam category)
- A caller claims to be from a utility company and demands payment on an outstanding bill.
- A caller claims to have either kidnapped or been in an accident with a victim's relative and states that the relative is being held for ransom. ("Extortion/Kidnap" scam category)
- A caller claims to be offering computer services/anti-virus software and needs access to a victim's computer where they are able to remotely gain personal information.

The following tips can help you avoid falling victim to one of these scams:
- Be suspicious of callers who demand immediate payment for any reason, and never give out personal or financial information to anyone who emails or calls you unsolicited.
- Never wire money or provide debit or credit card numbers or Green Dot MoneyPak card numbers to someone you do not know. Also, keep in mind that utility companies and government agencies will NOT contact you demanding immediate payment by MoneyPak.
- If you 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	444
2015	422
2016	364
Change from 2015	-14%
Change from Average	-18%

Vandalism by neighborhood

Neighborhood	2015	2016	% of Total (2016)
East Cambridge	49	44	12%
M.I.T.	8	7	2%
Inman/Harrington	40	34	9%
The Port	65	40	11%
Cambridgeport	54	58	16%
Mid-Cambridge	34	31	9%
Riverside	37	33	9%
Agassiz	7	7	2%
Peabody	33	22	6%
West Cambridge	36	31	9%
North Cambridge	40	35	10%
Cambridge Highlands	11	13	4%
Strawberry Hill	8	9	2%
Total	**422**	**364**	

Vandalism by category

Category	2015	2016	Change from 2015
Total auto damage	**267**	**185**	**-31%**
Dents/damage to car	115	65	-43%
Car window broken	51	64	25%
Scratches, "pinstripes"	41	35	-15%
Tires slashed or punctured	51	15	-71%
Attempted theft	9	6	-33%
Total residence damage	**26**	**47**	**81%**
Misc. damage to residences	19	29	53%
Residence window broken	7	18	157%
Total business damage	**61**	**66**	**8%**
Misc. damage to businesses	34	39	15%
Business window broken	27	27	0%
Graffiti	**57**	**52**	**-9%**
Miscellaneous damage	**11**	**14**	**27%**
Total	**422**	**364**	**-14%**

Other Part II Crimes

Definition

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

Statistics

Five-Year Average	1,065
2015	1,073
2016	966
Change from 2015	-10%
Change from Average	-9%

Category	2015	2016	Change from 2015
Hit & run accidents	681	606	-11%
Threats	193	191	-1%
Trespassing	46	35	-24%
Traffic arrests	44	29	-34%
OUI	42	35	-17%
Disorderly Conduct	25	33	32%
Weapons violations	24	20	-17%
Drinking in Public	9	6	-33%
Liquor Violations	8	6	-25%
Kidnapping	1	3	200%
Extortion/Blackmail	0	2	n/a
Total	**1,073**	**966**	**-10%**

Neighborhood Profiles

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

City of Cambridge Neighborhoods

11. North Cambridge

12. Highlands

9. Peabody

13. Strawberry Hill

10. West Cambridge

8. Agassiz

6. Mid-Cambridge

3. Inman/Harrington

1. East Cambridge

7. Riverside

4. The Port

5. Cambridgeport

2. M.I.T.
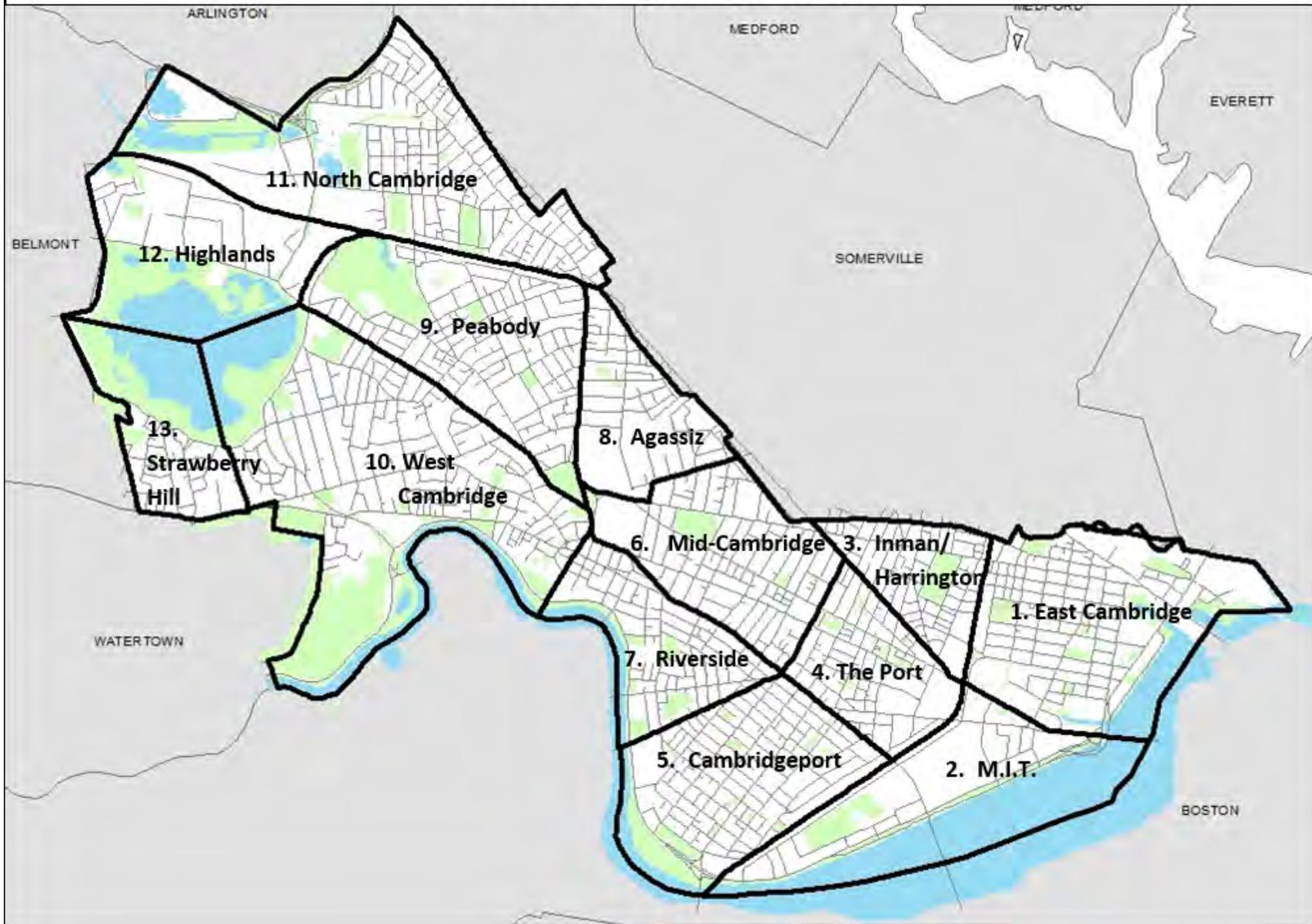
Neighborhood breakdown of index crimes in 2016

Crime	East Camb	M.I.T.	Inman/ Harr.	The Port	Camb Port	Mid- Camb	River- side	Agassiz	Pea- body	W. Camb	N. Camb	Camb H'lands	Strw. Hill	Total
Aggravated Assault	19	0	13	24	23	14	16	2	11	16	15	6	2	161
Auto Theft	12	1	7	17	21	15	6	4	10	7	8	0	2	110
Commercial Break	5	0	2	7	5	2	3	0	5	8	8	0	0	45
Commercial Robbery	3	0	2	3	6	1	4	1	0	2	1	0	0	23
Drugs	5	0	5	4	20	3	15	0	2	4	2	0	1	61
Flim Flam	36	2	13	18	24	18	19	9	20	20	16	8	5	208
Forgery	51	5	24	35	42	36	25	14	31	38	44	6	9	360
Homicide	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Housebreak	19	0	30	43	50	33	22	16	17	16	15	0	2	263
Indecent Assault	7	1	5	4	6	4	2	2	2	2	3	0	1	39
Indecent Exposure	2	0	1	0	3	1	2	1	2	4	3	0	0	19
Larceny from Building	41	22	10	29	31	29	46	4	7	45	21	7	5	297
Larceny from MV	36	7	19	41	60	33	34	11	32	50	37	1	11	372
Larceny from Person	29	4	5	20	41	15	35	2	7	45	14	4	0	221
Larceny from Residence	31	1	21	30	36	38	26	3	36	10	30	2	6	270
Larceny of Bicycle	47	8	19	33	60	63	40	7	23	36	31	7	1	375
Mal. Dest. Property	44	7	34	40	58	31	33	7	22	31	35	13	9	364
Shoplifting	107	3	6	16	32	6	36	0	2	53	37	21	7	326
Simple Assault	48	4	40	53	92	45	36	11	16	34	31	5	9	424
Street Robbery	7	2	1	9	20	5	5	0	1	2	5	1	0	58

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

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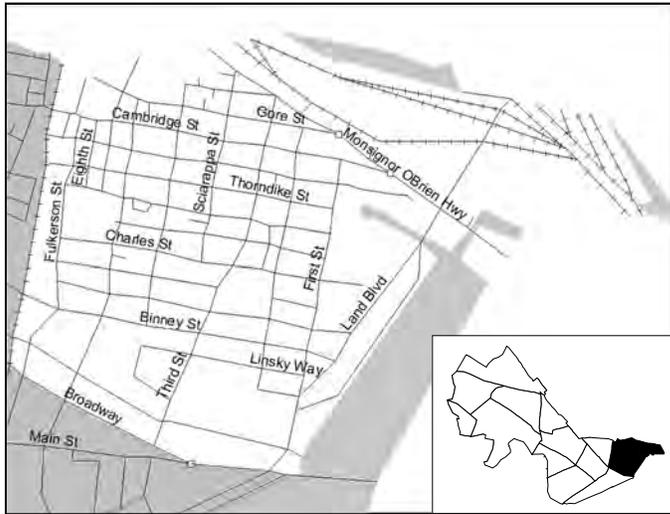
Boundaries: Bordered by the Charles River, Main Street, Broadway, the B&A Railroad, and the Somerville border.

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

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

Neighborhood 1 lies within the patrol boundaries of Car 1 (2 officers) and Car 1R (1 officer). Also included are walking routes 1A, 1B, and 1C.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2012-2016					
Crime	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Housebreaks	35	15	16	34	19
Street Robbery	10	10	3	3	7
Auto Theft	12	16	17	15	12
Larceny from MVs	51	40	49	19	36
Malicious Destruction	45	49	56	49	44
Drug Incidents	14	19	5	5	5

Annual Average for East Cambridge Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2016
Housebreaks	38	36	37	27
Street Robbery	10	19	16	9
Auto Theft	156	86	34	16
Larceny from MVs	121	106	101	48
Malicious Destruction	118	110	93	53

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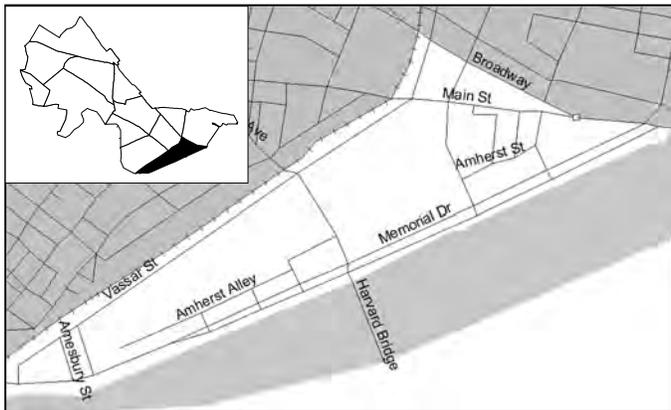
Boundaries: Bounded by Main Street, Broadway, the B&A Railroad, and the Charles River.

Population as of 2010:
    5,057 residents
    322 households

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

Neighborhood #2 is encompassed within the patrol boundaries of Car 1 and Car 3 (2 officer cars). M.I.T. has its own police force that patrols this area.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2012-2016					
Crime	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Housebreaks	0	0	0	0	0
Street Robbery	1	1	1	0	2
Auto Theft	2	4	3	3	1
Larceny from MVs	12	5	13	1	7
Malicious Destruction	8	6	5	8	7
Drug Incidents	1	1	1	1	0

Annual Average for M.I.T. Area Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2016
Housebreaks	19	4	1	0
Street Robbery	11	5	3	1
Auto Theft	102	55	8	3
Larceny from MVs	56	49	24	8
Malicious Destruction	47	28	8	8

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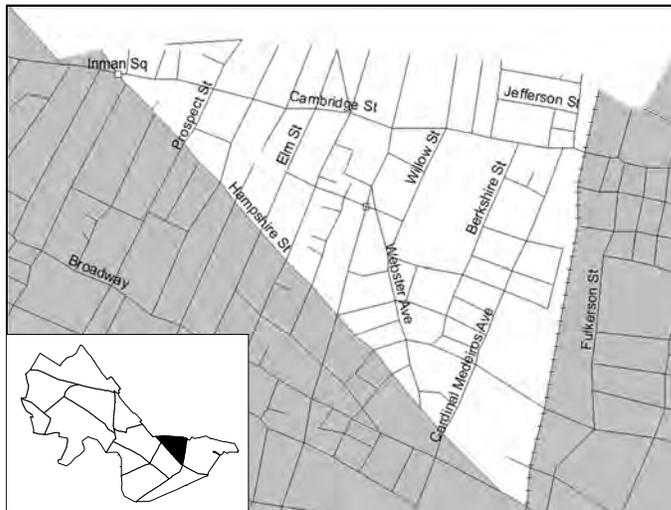
Boundaries: Bounded by the B&A Railroad, Hampshire Street, and the Somerville line.

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

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

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

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2012-2016					
Crime	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Housebreaks	35	32	20	34	30
Street Robbery	9	4	2	4	1
Auto Theft	8	3	12	13	7
Larceny from MVs	30	24	32	18	19
Malicious Destruction	59	49	45	40	34
Drug Incidents	13	3	2	4	5

Annual Average for Inman/Harrington Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2016
Housebreaks	57	38	46	30
Street Robbery	14	15	11	6
Auto Theft	89	48	30	10
Larceny from MVs	66	45	45	28
Malicious Destruction	94	79	67	46

Neighborhood 4: The Port (formerly known as Area 4)
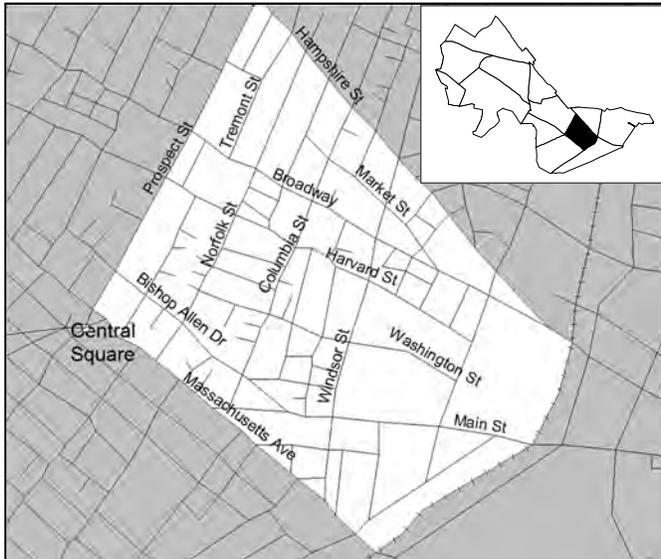
Boundaries: Bounded by the B&A Railroad, Massachusetts Avenue, Prospect Street, and Hampshire Street.

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

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

Neighborhood #4 is encompassed in the patrol boundaries of Car 2 (2 officers), and Car 4R (1 officer). Also included are walking routes 4A, 4B, and 4C, and Central 10.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2012-2016					
Crime	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Housebreaks	40	30	24	32	43
Street Robbery	24	12	6	11	9
Auto Theft	17	3	21	13	17
Larceny from MVs	56	58	33	42	41
Malicious Destruction	76	66	54	65	40
Drug Incidents	23	14	7	10	4

Annual Average for The Port Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2016
Housebreaks	101	62	53	37
Street Robbery	75	47	28	12
Auto Theft	147	78	39	14
Larceny from MVs	134	77	78	47
Malicious Destruction	131	109	80	60

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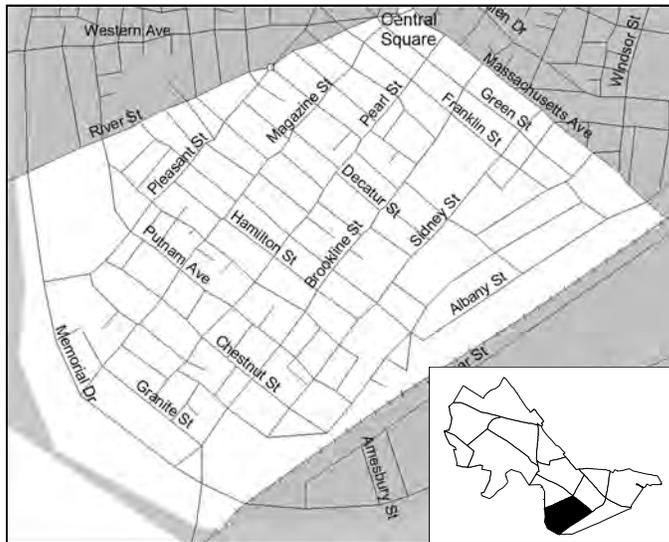
Boundaries: Bounded by Massachusetts Avenue, the B&A railroad, the Charles River, and River Street.

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

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

Neighborhood #5 is encompassed by the patrol boundaries of Car 3 (2 officers) and Car 5R (1 officer). Also included are walking routes 5A, 5B, and Central 12.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2012-2016					
Crime	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Housebreaks	62	40	46	70	50
Street Robbery	14	21	10	16	20
Auto Theft	14	22	23	18	21
Larceny from MVs	86	118	61	70	60
Malicious Destruction	61	54	47	54	58
Drug Incidents	18	19	9	13	20

Annual Average for Cambridgeport Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2016
Housebreaks	156	66	57	56
Street Robbery	57	31	26	17
Auto Theft	165	85	44	21
Larceny from MVs	126	92	103	79
Malicious Destruction	106	106	99	61

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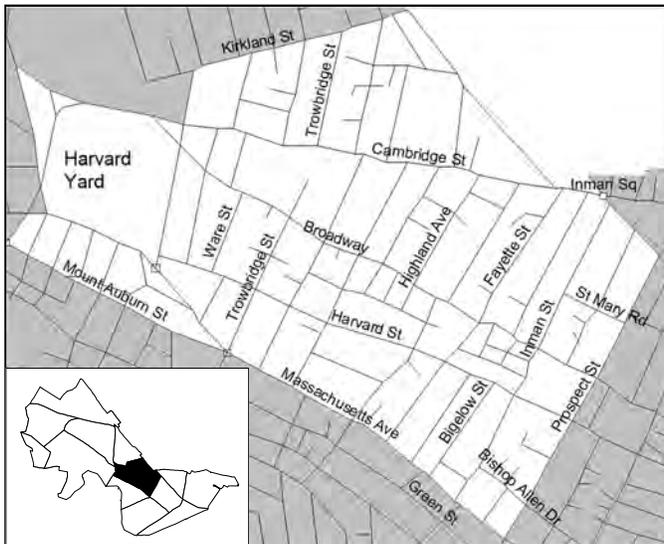
Boundaries: Bounded by Massachusetts Avenue, Prospect Street, Hampshire Street, the Somerville border, Kirkland Street, Quincy Street, and Cambridge Street.

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

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

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

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2012-2016					
Crime	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Housebreaks	59	56	34	49	33
Street Robbery	11	6	2	2	5
Auto Theft	18	19	14	12	15
Larceny from MVs	78	101	68	44	33
Malicious Destruction	37	32	31	34	31
Drug Incidents	17	7	8	6	3

Annual Average for Mid-Cambridge Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2016
Housebreaks	226	103	77	50
Street Robbery	49	18	15	7
Auto Theft	147	69	31	17
Larceny from MVs	198	103	104	66
Malicious Destruction	149	102	71	34

Neighborhood 7: Riverside
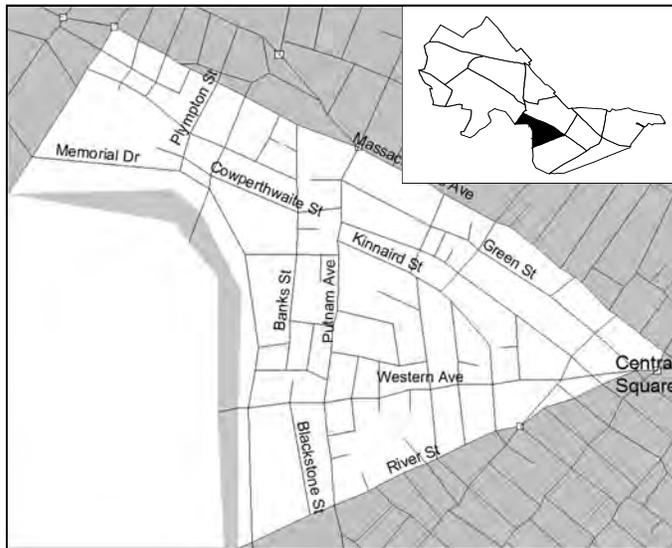
Boundaries: Bounded by Massachusetts Avenue, River Street, the Charles River, and JFK Street.

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

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

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

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2012-2016					
Crime	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Housebreaks	32	32	21	34	22
Street Robbery	10	8	10	6	5
Auto Theft	12	11	10	6	6
Larceny from MVs	63	62	34	27	34
Malicious Destruction	51	52	41	37	33
Drug Incidents	15	4	6	6	15

Annual Average for Riverside Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2016
Housebreaks	83	43	37	30
Street Robbery	34	17	14	9
Auto Theft	92	41	21	9
Larceny from MVs	87	47	49	47
Malicious Destruction	78	75	64	44

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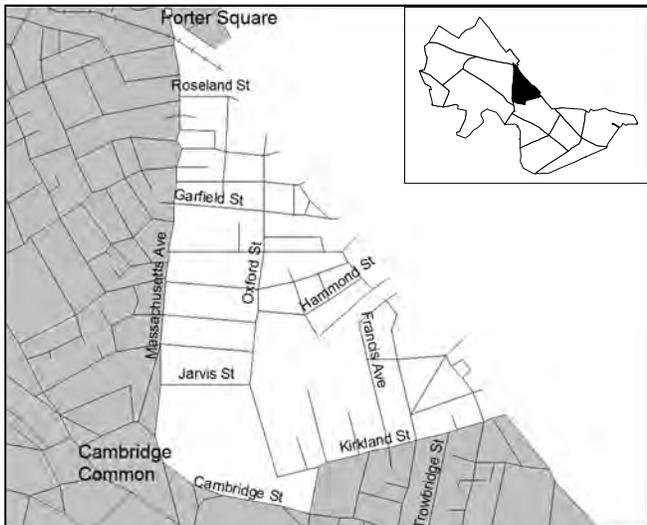
Boundaries: Bounded by Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge Street, Quincy Street, Kirkland Street, and the Somerville border

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

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

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

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2012-2016					
Crime	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Housebreaks	14	14	9	12	16
Street Robbery	0	1	0	0	0
Auto Theft	0	5	6	6	4
Larceny from MVs	30	31	22	11	11
Malicious Destruction	12	11	6	7	7
Drug Incidents	0	1	1	0	0

Annual Average for Agassiz Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2016
Housebreaks	67	26	25	14
Street Robbery	11	7	4	1
Auto Theft	45	19	11	4
Larceny from MVs	47	30	49	23
Malicious Destruction	45	28	18	10

Neighborhood 9: Peabody
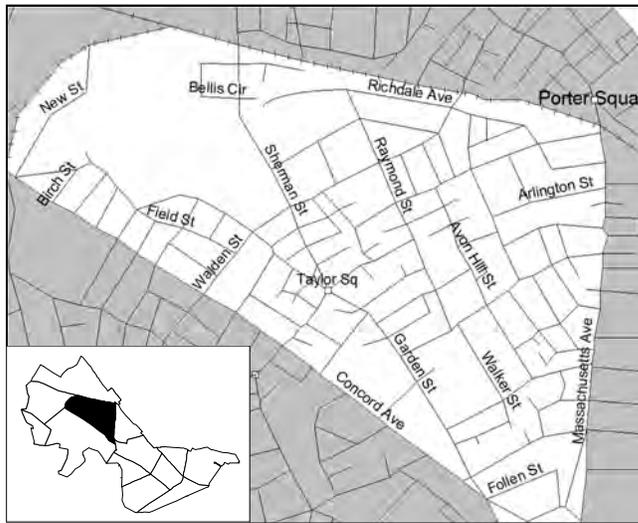
Boundaries: Bounded by the B&M Railroad, Concord Avenue, Garden Street, and Massachusetts Avenue.

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

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

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

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2012-2016					
Crime	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Housebreaks	46	53	16	14	17
Street Robbery	10	3	1	2	1
Auto Theft	17	2	10	7	10
Larceny from MVs	74	33	60	58	32
Malicious Destruction	27	30	30	33	22
Drug Incidents	12	7	3	2	2

Annual Average for Peabody Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2016
Housebreaks	150	53	49	30
Street Robbery	21	14	10	3
Auto Theft	94	42	30	9
Larceny from MVs	74	60	80	53
Malicious Destruction	135	72	74	28

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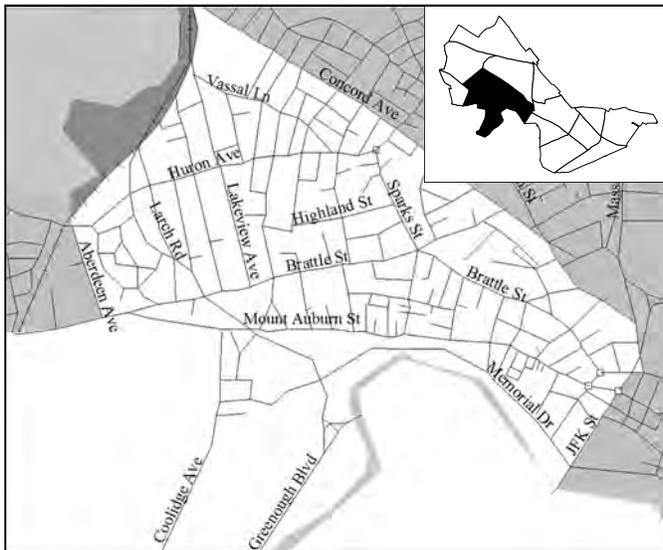
Boundaries: Bounded by the Charles River, JFK Street, Garden Street, Concord Avenue, Fresh Pond, Aberdeen Avenue, and the Watertown line.

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

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

Neighborhood #10 is encompassed by the patrol boundaries of Car 4 (2 officers) and Cars 10R and 13R (1-officer cars). It also includes walking routes 10A, 10B, 10C, and Harvard 16.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2012-2016					
Crime	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Housebreaks	62	28	26	26	16
Street Robbery	13	9	10	3	2
Auto Theft	3	9	13	12	7
Larceny from MVs	114	73	80	47	50
Malicious Destruction	49	27	39	36	31
Drug Incidents	11	9	6	6	4

Annual Average for West Cambridge Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2016
Housebreaks	105	38	37	34
Street Robbery	18	11	9	8
Auto Theft	105	41	25	10
Larceny from MVs	134	72	81	71
Malicious Destruction	92	76	58	38

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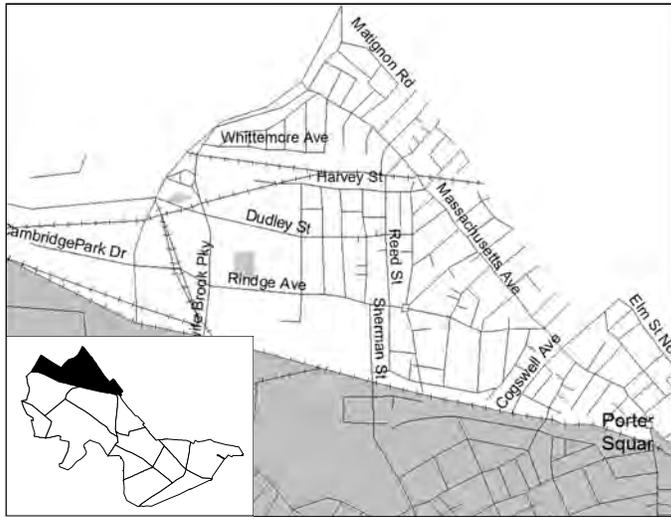
Boundaries: Bounded by the Belmont line, the Arlington Line, the Somerville Line, Porter Square, and the B&M Railroad.

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

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

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

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2012-2016					
Crime	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Housebreaks	27	22	18	27	15
Street Robbery	9	9	7	6	5
Auto Theft	13	10	6	17	8
Larceny from MVs	79	34	53	49	37
Malicious Destruction	61	45	48	40	35
Drug Incidents	4	3	5	3	2

Annual Average for North Cambridge Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2016
Housebreaks	100	64	49	24
Street Robbery	30	21	16	7
Auto Theft	130	68	32	11
Larceny from MVs	105	62	71	50
Malicious Destruction	125	112	89	47

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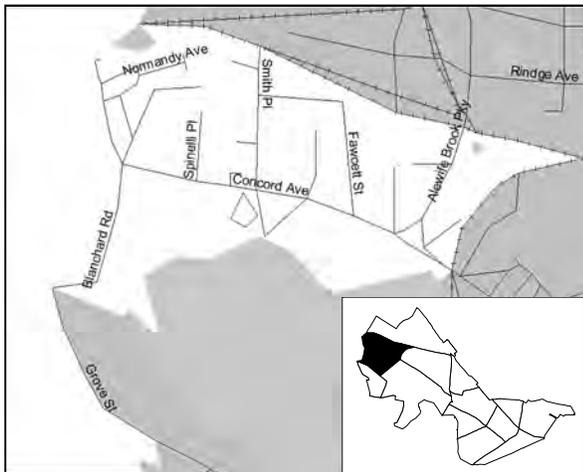
Boundaries: Bounded by the B&M Railroad, the Belmont line, and Fresh Pond.

Population as of 2010:
    832 residents
   371 households

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

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

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2012-2016					
Crime	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Housebreaks	1	0	1	2	0
Street Robbery	1	1	0	1	1
Auto Theft	0	2	1	3	0
Larceny from MVs	10	7	4	3	1
Malicious Destruction	6	11	6	11	13
Drug Incidents	2	0	0	1	0

Annual Average for Cambridge Highlands Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2016
Housebreaks	6	2	2	1
Street Robbery	8	2	2	1
Auto Theft	54	16	5	1
Larceny from MVs	38	23	16	6
Malicious Destruction	28	26	19	10

Neighborhood 13: Strawberry Hill
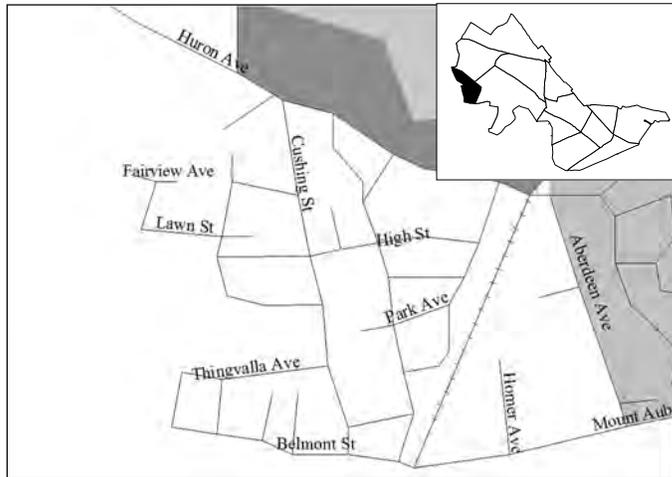
Boundaries: Bounded by Fresh Pond, Aberdeen Avenue, the Watertown line, and the Belmont line.

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

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

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

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2012-2016					
Crime	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Housebreaks	7	5	4	4	2
Street Robbery	0	3	0	0	0
Auto Theft	1	0	0	0	2
Larceny from MVs	3	29	5	15	11
Malicious Destruction	15	6	12	8	9
Drug Incidents	3	2	1	1	1

Annual Average for Strawberry Hill Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2016
Housebreaks	17	10	9	5
Street Robbery	4	3	2	1
Auto Theft	17	8	7	1
Larceny from MVs	22	12	18	12
Malicious Destruction	25	23	21	11
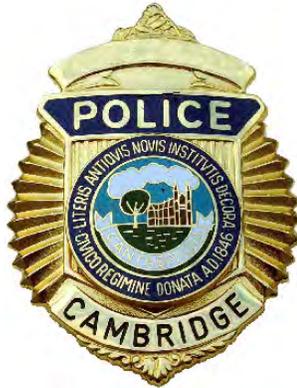
Section VI

Special Reports

Domestic Crimes
Hate Crimes

Domestic Crimes

Domestic crimes include all offenses committed against family members, spouses and ex-spouses, roommates, and romantic partners and ex-romantic partners. Underreporting is a serious problem when it comes to domestic crimes (domestic violence experts estimate that the police department receives a report for only a third of domestic crimes), so the reliability of these figures is uncertain.

In 2016, there were a total of 842 incidents between individuals in a domestic relationship, up 10% from last year but closely aligned with the 839 reported in 2014. As stated earlier, domestic crime is often 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. Victims of abuse often seek assistance from a local domestic violence agency, a court, a hospital, 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 2016, these calls made up 56% of all domestic incident reports. Domestic disputes in 2016 were up 13% from 2015 and, while not technically a crime, these domestic disturbances can still be a form of abuse, and they may escalate into more serious offenses if they go unaddressed.

| Categorical Breakdown of Domestic Incidents*	2015 Total*	2016 Total*	% change from 2015
Dispute/Disturbance - No Physical Abuse	420	474	13%
Simple Assault	134	156	16%
Aggravated Assault	55	49	-11%
Threats to Commit a Crime	34	35	3%
Violation of a Restraining Order	36	31	-14%
Larceny	29	24	-17%
Harassment	16	17	6%
Housebreak	7	13	86%
Forgery	1	10	900%
Malicious Destruction of Property	8	8	0%
Harassing or Obscene Telephone Calls	5	5	0%
Rape/Attempted Rape	3	5	67%
Auto Theft	0	4	N/A
Other Misc.	6	4	-33%
Indecent Assault	1	3	200%
Street Robbery	2	2	0%
Gun Violations	2	1	-50%
Trespassing	1	1	0%
Total	**762**	**842**	10%

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

**N/A = % change cannot be calculated when the 2015 total is zero.

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 2016 (up 16% from last year). Aggravated assaults made up an additional 6% and accounted for the third largest domestic category. This was down 11% from 2015. Despite the overall increase in domestic crimes in 2016, the five-year average for domestic crime in Cambridge is approximately 866 incidents, so the increase this year puts the 2016 total more in line with the average.

Domestic Crime by Relationship, 2016

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

Hate Crimes

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

There were 25 hate crimes reported in Cambridge in 2016, which skyrocketed up ten incidents from the 15 reported in 2015 and is the largest number recorded in the past decade. There have been fluctuations in recent years, ranging from a low of seven in 2010 to the high of 25 this year, with the average across the past ten years being 13. The 25 reported incidents in 2016 break down into the following categories: racially motivated (56%), religiously motivated (20%), sexually motivated (16%), and ethnically motivated (8%). Although there is no clear explanation for the large increase in hate crimes in 2016, it could be speculated that part of it may have stemmed from the many differing political opinions and overall emphasis on inequalities that emerged throughout the country over the course of the year. With the ever-expanding world of technology, people also now have more outlets to voice such hate speech through social media network sites.

Hate Crimes Reported in Cambridge
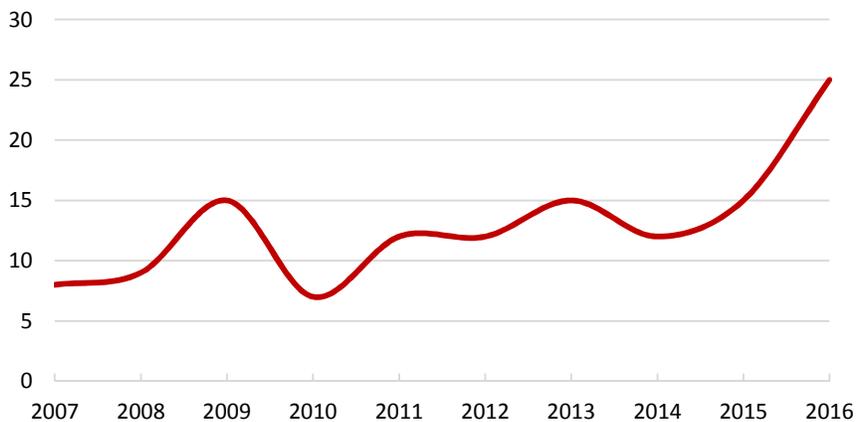
Type of Bias in 2016
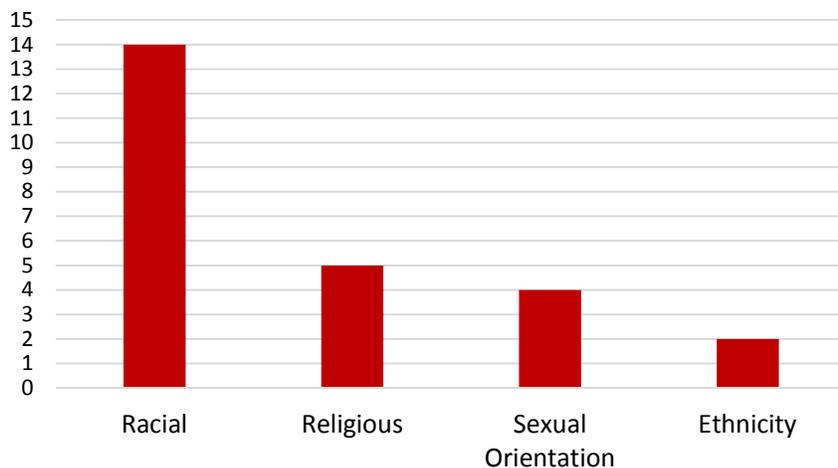
Cambridge Police Directory

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

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

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

KEY OPERATIONAL SERVICES:

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

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

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

Focused Deterrence Unit......... (617) 349-9352

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

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

Community Services Unit........ (617) 349-3236

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

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

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

KEY INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

Narcotics Unit..........................(617) 349-3360

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

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

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

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

Investigations Section............. (617) 349-3370

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

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.

MyPD Smartphone App

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