

Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

February 2015

Produced by the Crime Analysis Unit

2015



Part I Total Crime

A nine percent increase in serious crime has been registered over the first two months of 2015. From January 1st of 2015 to March 2nd of this year, there were 350 serious index crimes reported in Cambridge. For the same time period in 2014, the combined total for Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny & Auto theft was 321 incidents, 29 fewer than this year.

Further analysis of the crime totals for the first two months of 2015 indicates that while violent crimes registered a 11% decrease with five fewer incidents to start the year, property crimes rose 12% with 34 more crimes counted when compared with January and February of 2014.

The majority of this increase can be attributed to a climb from 48 thefts from cars for the first two months of 2014 to 70 in 2015. The rise in thefts from cars this year should be tempered by the fact the extremely cold weather of 2014 fueled the substantial reduction in larceny from motor vehicles (-48%) when compared with 2013. Larcenies from motor vehicles still remain down 13% when measured against the five-year average, even when factored against these two-month periods of statistical aberrations that are primarily weather driven.

	4 Week Snapshot			Year to Date			Five Year	
	1/6 - 2/2	2/3 - 3/2	Change	2014	2015	Change	Avg	Change
Total Violent Crime	19	18	-5%	44	39	-11%	50	-22%
Total Property Crime	162	113	-30%	277	311	12%	366	-15%
Total Part I Crime	181	131	-28%	321	350	9%	415	-16%

February 2015



Part I Property Crime

Analysis of property crime totals for the first two months of 2015 indicates a 12% increase when measured against the 2014 totals and a 15% ebb below the five-year average. The most noteworthy statistic for this time period was an 18% increase in the overall larceny category. However, when comparing the last four weeks to the previous four weeks, all property crime categories, with the exception of minimal additions in auto theft and larceny from the person, recorded substantial declines during the snowstorms of February.

	4 Week Snapshot			<u>Y</u>	ear to	Date	<u>Five</u>	Year
	1/6 - 2/2	2/3 - 3/2	Change	2014	2015	Change	Avg	Change
Burglary	23	11	-52%	42	38	-10%	59	-36%
Commercial Break	3	3	0%	7	6	-14%	9	-33%
Housebreak	20	8	-60%		32	-9%	50	-36%
Larceny	134	96	-28%		260	18%	293	-11%
Larceny (Misc)	4	3	-25%	2	9	350%	3	200%
Larceny from Building	27	27	0%	50	61	22%	63	-3%
Larceny from MV	34	23	-32%	48	70	46%	80	-13%
Larceny from Person	11	14	27%		26	-16%	43	-40%
Larceny from Residence	24	9	-63%	23	35	52%	30	17%
Larceny of Bicycle	7	1	-86%	F.1	9	50%	13	-31%
Larceny of Plate	1	0	-100%		2	-50%	4	-50%
Larceny of Services	1	0	-100%		1	0%	3	-67%
Shoplifting	25	19	-24%		47	-16%	55	-15%
Auto Theft	5	6	20%	14	13	-7%	13	0%
Total Property Crime	162	113	-30%	277	311	12%	366	-15%

2015



Part I Violent Crime

The projected 5-year weighted average for violent crime in Cambridge for the first two months of the year is 50 incidents. Through March 2nd of this year, there were 39 violent crimes recorded in the City, 5 crimes below last year (-11%) and 11 serious crimes under the total of 50 forecasted for this period (-22%).

The street robbery total of four incidents, down 43% when compared with last year and 64% below the five-year average, is exceptionally low (fewest for the first two months of the year in recent memory) and could be a byproduct of the below-average temperatures and snow cover curtailing pedestrian activity. The crimes of rape, commercial robbery, and aggravated assault remain relatively unchanged when compared with 2014.

	4 Week Snapshot			<u>Y</u>	ear to	Date	Five	Five Year	
	1/6 - 2/2	2/3 - 3/2	Change	2014	2015	Change	Avg	Change	
Homicide	0	0	IN-CALC	1	0	IN-CALC	1	-100%	
Rape	2	1	-50%	3	3	0%	5	-40%	
Robbery	4	5	25%	13	9	-31%	14	-36%	
Commercial Robbery	3	2	-33%	6	5	-17%	3	67%	
Street Robbery	1	3	200%	7	4	-43%	11	-64%	
Aggravated Assault	13	12	-8%	27	27	0%	31	-13%	
Total Violent Crime	19	18	-5%	44	39	-11%	50	-22%	



MURDER

No Patterns

- There have been no murders to date in 2015. The following two murders were recorded in Cambridge in 2014:
- The first murder of 2014 involved Malia Gomez, 40, of 396 Putnam Ave, who has been charged in the death of Dana Robinson. Gomez admitted to stabbing Robinson following an argument on February 2nd. Robinson died at Beth Israel Hospital and Gomez was charged with armed assault with the intent to murder, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon causing serious bodily injury. On April 1st, 2014, Malia Gomez was indicted on First Degree Murder.
- Kensley David, 22, suffered a single gunshot wound to the head after a shooting on Windsor Street in Cambridge around 10 p.m. on July 3rd. Investigators believe that the incident was not random. Cambridge Police, State Police, and the District Attorney's office urge anyone with information about the shooting to contact authorities.

Percent Change*

Last 4 Weeks

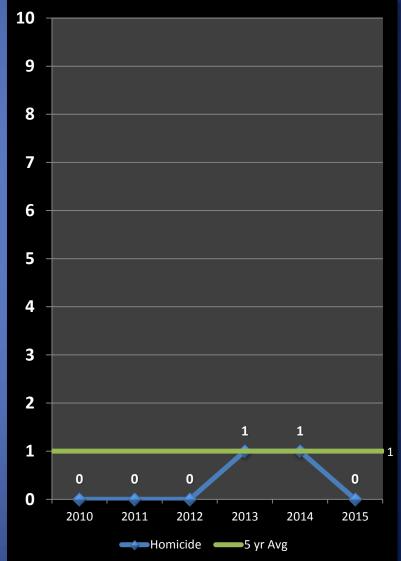
Previous Year

In-calc

In-calc

-100%

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





Unsolved Murders: 1999 to 2014

Colin Burton, 30, of Dorchester, was shot and killed outside of Hi - Fi Pizza on Mass Ave in Central Square on September 18th, 1999. Burton was talking with the occupants of a Ford Explorer when the subject in the passenger seat fired through the window. Two suspects fled the scene. The case remains under active investigation.



September 18, 1999, Mass Ave



lan Gray, 19, of Mattapan, was in an argument outside of the Rhythm & Spice restaurant that spilled out onto Mass Ave. A suspect that had left the scene returned with a group of people and a fight ensued. A knife was produced during the altercation and four gunshots were fired, fatally wounding Gray. This case remains open.

On June 17th, 2002 at 7:00PM, 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. This case remains open.





Unsolved Murders: 1999 to 2014

Jason Ellcock, 33, of Malden, formerly of Cambridge and father of three, was found with multiple gunshot wounds in front of the driveway to 364 Rindge Ave at 3:05 AM on the night of June 16th, 2009. He was pronounced dead at the scene. This incident remains under investigation.





March 12, 2011, Brookline

James Lauture, 30, of Cambridge, was sitting in a vehicle near Brookline and Watson Streets just after midnight on Saturday, March 12th, 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. This case remains open.

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





July 3, 2014, Windsor Street.

On July 3rd, 2014, at 10:00 PM, Kensley David, 22, suffered a single gunshot wound to the head while on Windsor Street. Investigators believe that the incident was not random. This case remains under investigation

Anyone with information about these crimes is asked to contact CPD at 617-349-3370.



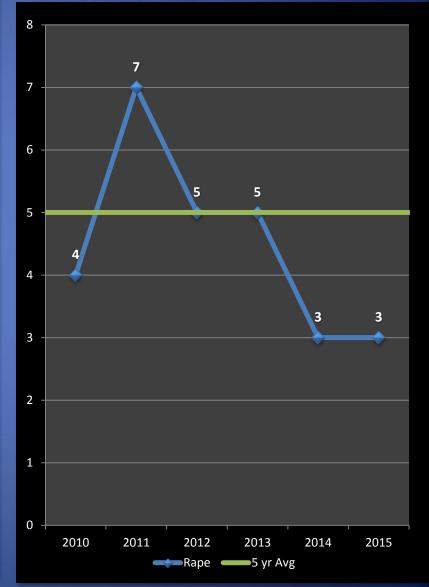
RAPE No Patterns

- There have been three rapes reported in Cambridge over the first two months of 2015, a number that remains unchanged from the same time period last year. Two of the incidents this year have been classified as acquaintance rapes and the other sexual assault is being investigated as a contact crime involving a date rape drug.
- The following is the final breakdown of the rape classifications in Cambridge for 2014: two stranger-to-stranger rapes, ten involving acquaintances, seven contact situations, and five domestic sexual assaults; a total of 24 incidents.
- The second stranger-to-stranger rape of 2014
 was reported in December, resulting in the
 arrest of Alejandro Done, 46, of Boston, who
 was charged with assault to rape, kidnapping,
 and assault and battery. Done, an Uber driver,
 continues to be held without bail after a hearing
 on Monday, March 2, at the Middlesex Superior
 Court. Done was due back in court on
 Thursday, March 5, for a pretrial conference
 hearing at the Middlesex Superior Court in
 Woburn.

Percent Change*



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







AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

No Patterns

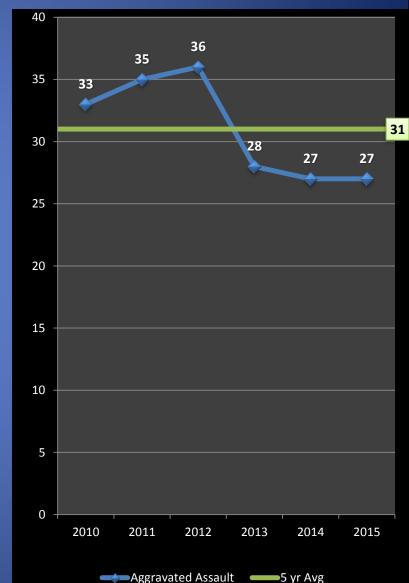
 When comparing the total of aggravated assaults for the first two months of 2015 with the same time frame last year, there has been no change in the number of incidents recorded with 27 crimes reported in January and February in each of the years. The total of 27 aggravated assaults was 4 incidents below the projected five-year average of 31 crimes for the first two months of the year.

Classification Breakdown of Categories:

Туре	Number
Domestic	11
Unprovoked	7
Acquaintance	3
Traffic / Parking	2
Shop owner /Patron	2
Workplace	1
Homeless	1

Percent Change

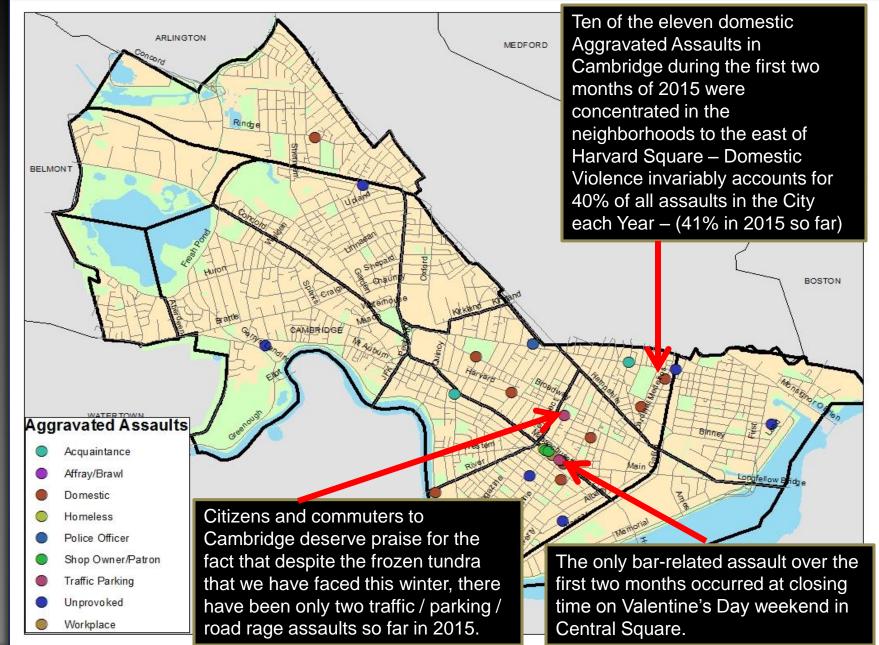








Aggravated Assault in Cambridge by Category: 1.1.15 to 3.2.15





ROBBERY

No Patterns

Last 4 Weeks Previous Year

5 Year Average

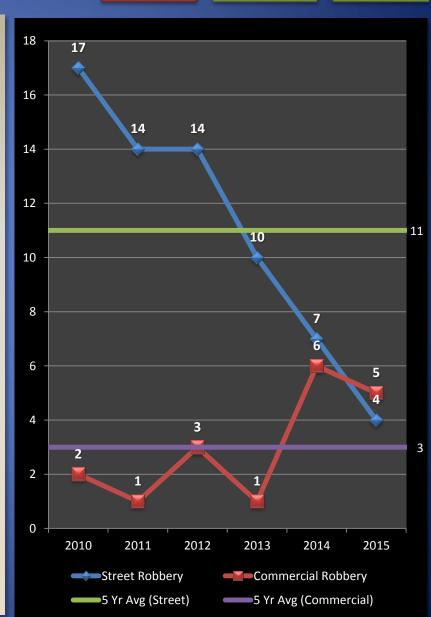
+25%

-31%

Percent Change

-36%

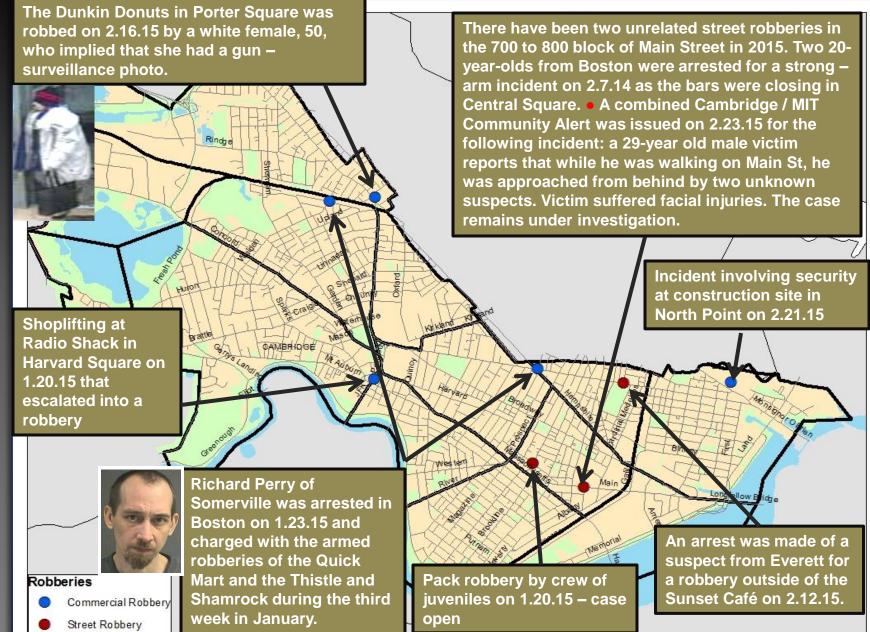
- The five-year average for overall robbery in Cambridge for the first two months of the year is 14 incidents. From January 1st to March 2nd, nine robberies were reported, which points to a 36% decline below the projected total and a 31% dip when compared with the same time period last year.
- Richard Perry of Somerville was arrested on Friday, 1/23/15, in Jamaica Plain. Perry had warrants out for his arrest and is believed to have committed two armed commercial robberies in Cambridge at the *Quick Mart* and the *Thistle & Shamrock*, and one in Boston at the *Tostado Store*. Perry was held without bail. These two incidents were the first commercial robberies of the year in Cambridge. There have been three unarmed commercial robberies in the City over the past six weeks.
- Street robberies have declined 43% when compared with the first two months of 2014 and an astonishing 64% when measured against the five-year average. There was only one street robbery reported in January and three unrelated incidents in February.
- Street robberies declined 21% in Cambridge in 2013 to the lowest total in 40 years and that unfaltering slide continued in 2014, with a remarkable decrease of 42% recorded when compared with the previous year.







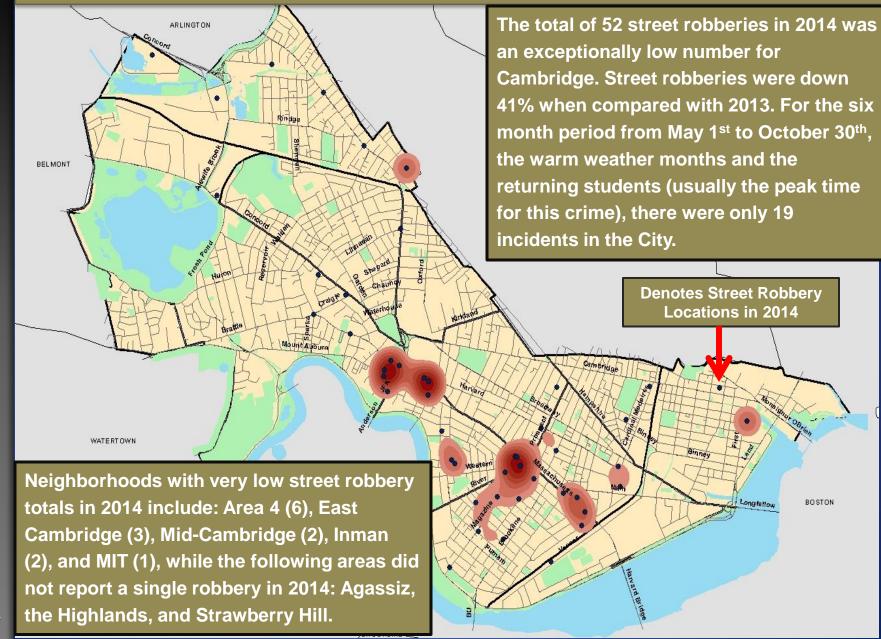
Geographic Breakdown of Robberies: 1.1.15 to 3.2.15



2015



Geographic Breakdown of Street Robberies in 2014







Burglary

No Patterns

 The property index crime of burglary, the combination of residential and commercial breaks, has slipped 36% in 2015 when compared to the five-year average, with 21 fewer incidents than the projected total of 59 breaks, and has dipped 10% when compared with last year's total for the first two months of the year, with four fewer burglaries recorded.

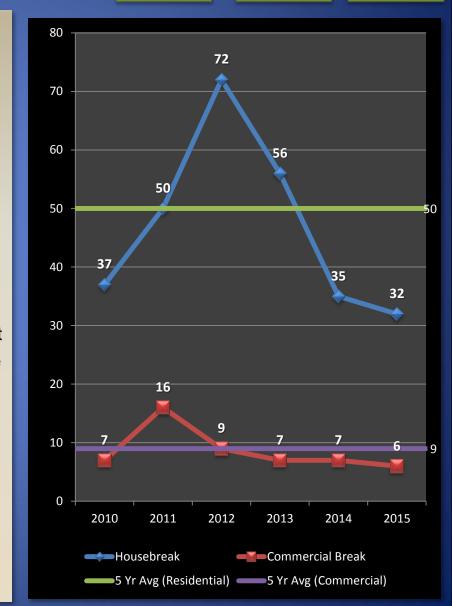
- A Citizen Alert was issued on 1.7.15 for an active housebreak pattern in Cambridgeport. This was the third alert related to this series. that emerged in late November 2014. An arrest was made in late January that appears to have brought an end to this series. There has not been a housebreak reported in Cambridgeport or Riverside in the past five weeks.
- Final Analysis of housebreak activity in Cambridge for 2014 indicates a significant 28% reduction (92 fewer breaks) than in 2013 and a 38% decline below the five-year projected average of 380 housebreaks.



Last 4 Weeks **Previous Year** 5 Year Average

-52%

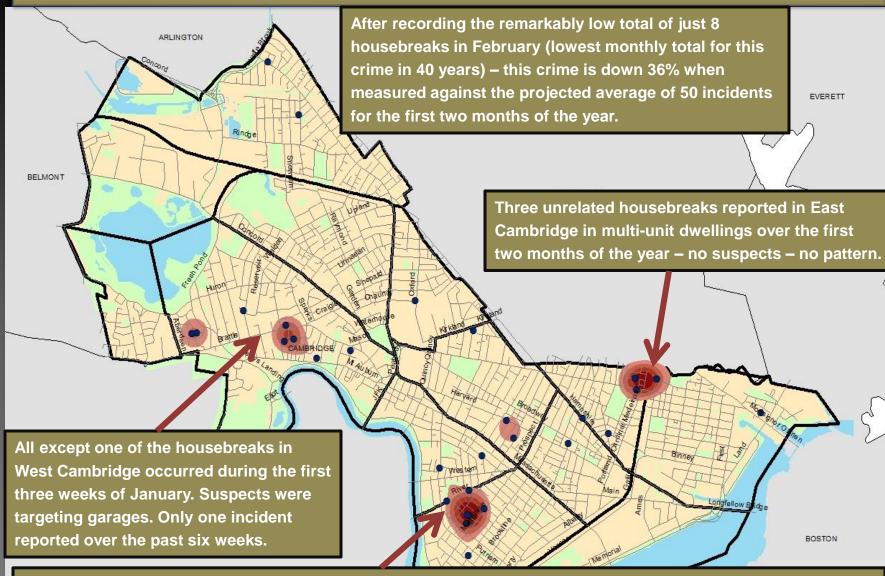
-10%







Geographic Breakdown of Housebreaks: 1.1.15 to 3.2.15



All of the breaks in this cluster were in the first two weeks of the year and were associated with an afternoon pattern of housebreaks in Cambridgeport that continued sporadically from November to the third week of January. An arrest of a neighborhood resident has brought a conclusion to this series. There has not been a break in this area in over five weeks.





Review of Housebreak Patterns in Cambridge in 2014

Mount Auburn

An alert was issued on 10.23.14 for a housebreak that occurred on Wendell Street at 1AM. Scattered incidents associated with college dorms late on weekend nights over the past 45 days. Extra patrols dissipated this series.

Cambridge recorded a 50-year low in Housebreaks in 2014. Despite that fact, sporadic patterns, series, and trends were constantly emerging in the City. Alerts were issued for three potential problems involving housebreaks in October. Two of the clusters were resolved, while the third is still experiencing sporadic incidents.

An arrest of a prolific housebreaker from Boston in December appears to have eradicated this emerging pattern in the Hampshire Street corridor.

A series of nighttime housebreaks in West Cambridge in early October appeared to have been eradicated with the identification of a suspect for an incident in the Larches. However, two new incidents over Thanksgiving weekend were reported.

Late afternoon pattern of housebreaks in Cambridgeport continued sporadically throughout the month of November. Three alerts have been issued. This series of entries via unlocked side windows is still considered active.



LARCENY

Possible Emerging Pattern

- Despite the record-breaking snowfall in the city in February, overall larceny year-to-date in 2015 is still up 18% (or 39 incidents) when compared with the same time frame in 2014. However, the total of 260 larcenies reported to date remains 11% below the five-year weighted average of 293 incidents.
- Larcenies from motor vehicles through Mar. 2, 2015 have increased by 22 crimes, or 46%, over the number reported during the same time frame in 2014. However, LMVs decreased by 11 incidents from January to February of this year, likely due at least in part to the weather.
- Larcenies from the person continue their downward momentum. Through the first two months of 2015, this crime type is down five incidents, or 16%, when compared with the same time frame last year. The total of 26 incidents reported thus far in 2015 is also 17 incidents below the five-year average of 43. Central Sq saw the most activity citywide in February with seven incidents, followed by Harvard Sq with five.
- There have been 61 larcenies from buildings reported through March 2, 2015. This is 22% above the 50 incidents reported in 2014 and 3% below the five-year average of 63. We are currently monitoring a series of thefts of tools and copper from construction sites in East Cambridge.
- Similar to last year, larcenies from residences continue to be on the rise, registering 52% higher in the first two months of 2015 than during the same time frame last year. Over 57% (20) of the 35 incidents to date have involved package thefts from residences. This is similar to the full year of 2014, in which package thefts accounted for 48% of all larcenies from residences. Thus far in 2015, North Cambridge has seen the most package thefts with six incidents, followed by Mid-Cambridge with four. However, there are no defined patterns at this time, especially due to the recent snowy weather.
- Through March 2, 2015, there have been nine bikes reported stolen in Cambridge. This is three incidents above the number reported during this time frame in 2014 and four incidents below the five-year average. The only bike theft reported in the past month was actually on March 1-2 in West Cambridge. Not a single theft was reported in February.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks Previous Year

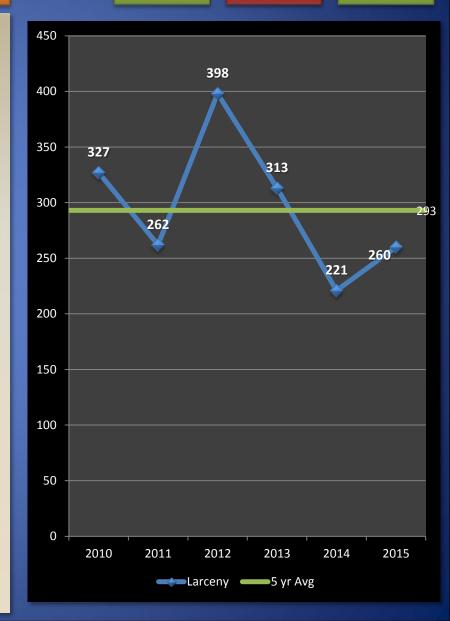
revious Year

5 Year Average

-28%

+18%

-11%





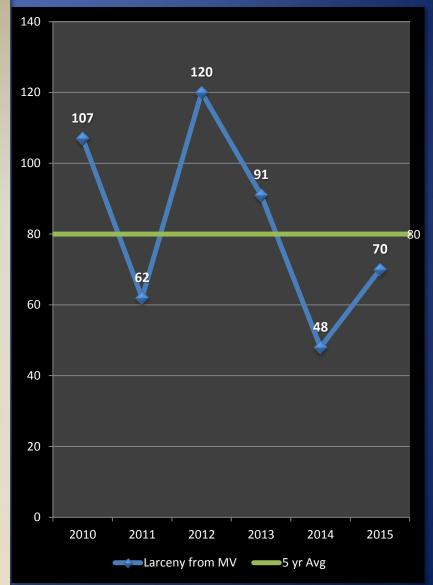
LARCENY: From MVs

No Patterns

- Larcenies from motor vehicles jumped from 48 thefts from cars for the first two months of 2014 to 70 in 2015. The rise in thefts from cars this year should be tempered by the fact that the extremely cold weather of 2014 fueled the substantial reduction in larceny from motor vehicles (-48%) when compared with 2013. Larcenies from motor vehicle still remain down 13% when measured against the five-year average.
- When comparing the last four weeks to the previous four weeks, this index crime fell by 32% with 11 fewer thefts reported.
- Over the second weekend of January, there was a string of seven known incidents in West Cambridge in which an unknown suspect(s) broke into garages and vehicles of various residences.
- On Saturday 2/7/15, five larcenies from MVs were reported in the area of Strawberry Hill; two occurred on Holworthy St, two on Vineyard St, and one on Aberdeen Ave. The MVs were broken into sometime during the night or early in the morning and the vehicles were all entered through unlocked doors. Only loose change was stolen from most of the incidents, with a GPS being taken in one of the breaks on Vineyard St. There were no further incidents over the past month and this series was labeled as a one-night spree.
- Larcenies from MVs declined 16% in 2014 when compared with the same time frame in 2013. There were 101 fewer thefts reported in 2014. This crime has also dropped 25% when measured against the five-year average, with 167 fewer incidents than the projected total of 681 thefts.

Percent Change

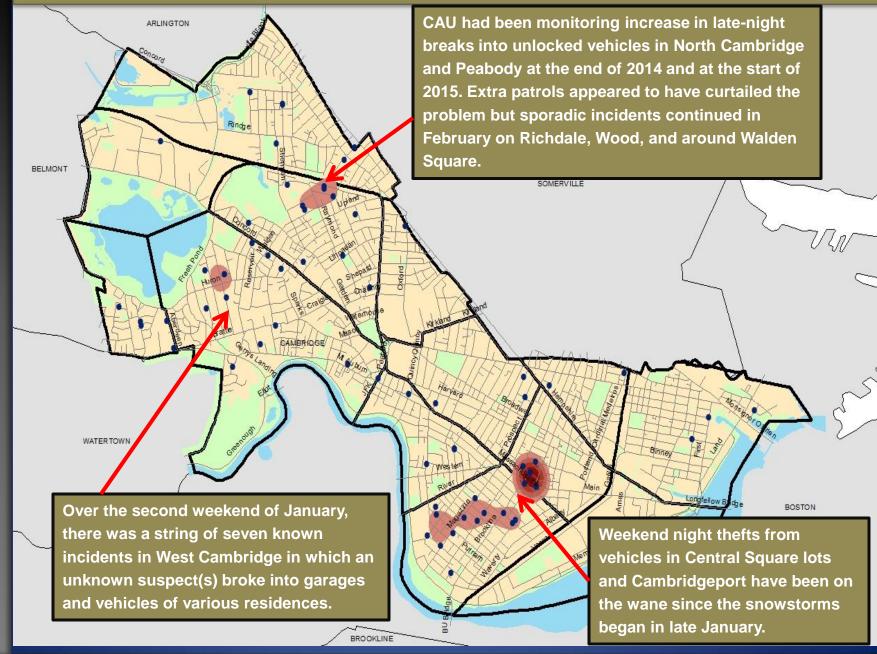
-32% Previous Year 5 Year Average -13%



2015



Larceny from MVs: 1.1.15 to 3.2.15





Larceny from Motor Vehicles

What can we do?

Police Response Strategy:

- Cambridge Police are focused on prevention of these crimes by increasing officer visibility in targeted areas.
- Citizens are encouraged to take the proper precautions to protect their vehicles and their belongings by doing everything possible to not make their vehicles easy targets.



Citizen Response Strategy:

- Citizens are asked to take the following precautions to protect themselves, their vehicles, and their belongings from theft:
 - Make sure all of your car doors are locked when you leave your vehicle.
 - •Take extra care when out doing your shopping.
 - •If you are approached by a suspicious person while you are in your vehicle, sound your horn to attract attention.
 - NEVER LEAVE VALUABLES EXPOSED IN YOUR CAR.
 - •If you must leave packages or valuables in your car, place them in the trunk or under a blanket to conceal them
 - Visit our website for more tips to keep your vehicles and belongings at www.CambridgePolice.org/SafetyTips



No Patterns

LARCENY: from Person

- Larcenies from the person are down five incidents through the first two months of 2015 when compared with the same time frame in 2014. The total of 26 incidents reported thus far in 2015 is also 17 incidents, or 40%, below the five-year average of 43.
- Very little pattern activity was seen in 2014, and this trend has continued into the first two months 2015. However, in past years, much of the larceny from person activity was reported at bars and restaurants in the Squares (known as "dipper" activity). In February, there were two dipper incidents reported citywide, both of which took place on February 19th at separate Harvard Sq cafes.
- Thefts from shoppers were seen at two repeat locations during February: the Galleria Mall and the Goodwill Store in Central Sq.
- Official totals for 2014 put the final number of larcenies from the person at 220 incidents for the year. This was 35% below the 341 incidents reported in 2013. Part of the explanation for the large reduction in this crime type over the past year may be that a number of the more prolific thieves, particularly ones that tend to target the Harvard Square area, are currently incarcerated.

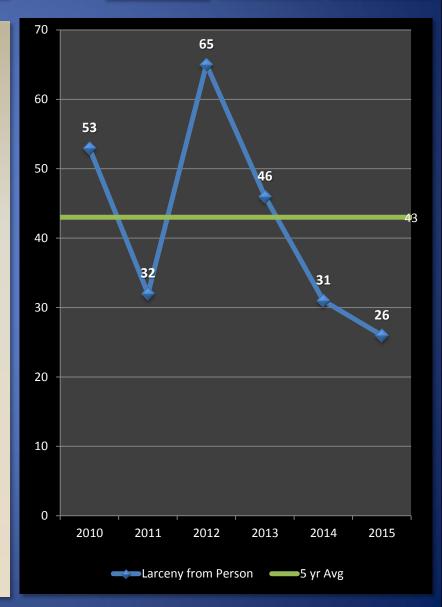
Percent Change

Previous Year Last 4 Weeks

+27%

-16%

5 Year Average





LARCENY: of Bicycle

No Patterns

Percent Change Last 4 Weeks

Previous Year

5 Year Average

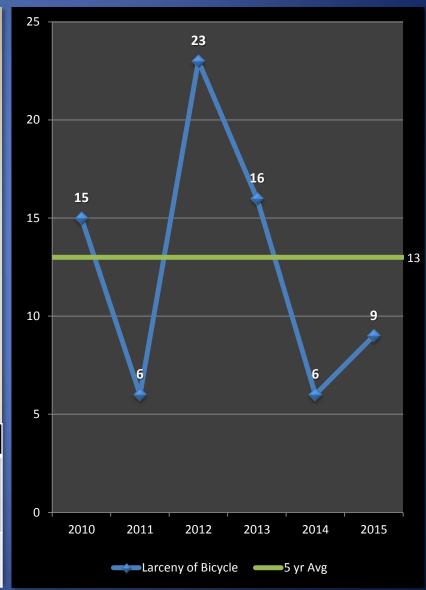
-86%

+50%

-31%

- Through March 2, 2015, only nine bicycles have been reported stolen citywide in Cambridge. This is three incidents above the number reported during this time frame in 2014 and four incidents below the five-year average.
- As would be expected, due to the low ridership during the cold winter months, far fewer opportunities exist for thieves to steal bikes than during warmer months. This is particularly true when large snowstorms make travel difficult for bicycles and vehicles alike, as was the situation throughout February. In fact, only one bike theft has been reported since the January Bridgestat, and that incident was on March 1-2 in West Cambridge. Not a single bike theft was reported in February.
- Five of the nine bicycles stolen thus far in 2015 were unlocked at the time of the thefts, all stolen from residential yards and porches.
- 2014 review: There were 328 bikes reported stolen in 2014, which was 14% below the 2013 total of 383 and 10% below the five-year average of 366.
- Breakdown by Neighborhood, year-to-date 2015:

Neighborhood	Total	% Citywide
Agassiz, Cambridgeport, West Cambridge	2 each	22% each
Area 4, N. Cambridge, Riverside	1 each	11% each





AUTO THEFT

No Patterns

- The projected five—year weighted average for auto thefts through the first two months of 2015 is 13. With 13 thefts reported year-todate, we are even with the average and 1 incident (-7%) below the 14 thefts reported in 2014.
- There were six auto thefts reported in the past four weeks, which is up one from the previous four weeks. However, due to the unusual number of snowstorms that dropped copious amounts of snow on the city in the past month, we did not expect to see many cars stolen.
- Since the beginning of the year, the following neighborhoods have reported auto thefts: West Cambridge (3), Cambridgeport (3), North Cambridge (2), Peabody (2), Area 4, East Cambridge, and Riverside.
- Of the 13 cars stolen thus far in 2015, 8 (62%) have been recovered.
- Final numbers for 2014 reported 136 auto thefts in the City of Cambridge with slightly over 50% having been recovered. This was 28%, or 30 incidents, more than the number reported in 2013.

Percent Change

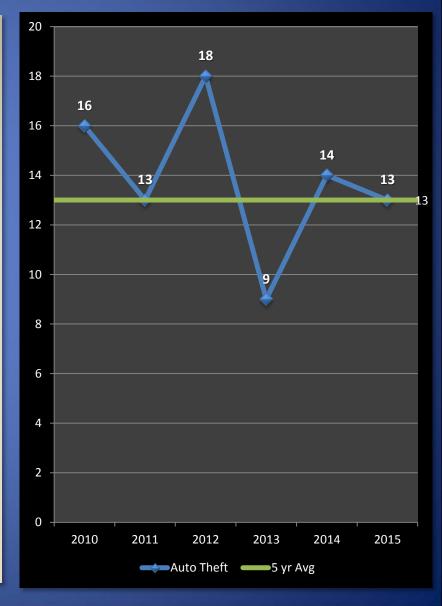
Last 4 Weeks Previous Year

-7%

0%

5 Year Average







Help Prevent Crime

And keep yourself informed!

To receive information from the CPD:

- Sign up with for the Cambridge Alert
 Network, to receive alerts about
 emerging crime patterns, neighborhood
 meetings, and crime prevention tips, by
 visiting
 - www.CambridgeMa.gov/AlertNetwork.
- "Like" the Cambridge Police Department on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CambridgePolice
- Follow @CambridgePolice on Twitter.
- Visit our website at <u>www.CambridgePolice.org</u> for valuable information and reports including the Daily Log and BridgeStat, which is published on the first Friday of every month.
- Download our new "MyPD" smartphone app at www.CambridgePolice.org/MyPD.

To Share Information with the CPD:

- Call our Non-Emergency Telephone Number at 617-349-3300.
 - Every call for service generates a police response, so help drive our resources by reporting things that seem suspicious or out of the ordinary.
- Send an Anonymous TEXT-A-TIP:
 - Send an ANONYMOUS text message to Tip411 (847411). Begin your message with Tip650 and then type your message. You will receive a response from the Cambridge Police with the option to continue communicating. Please remember that this is not a replacement for 9-1-1. If you witness an emergency situation, please call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Send an Anonymous Crime Tip E-Mail at www.CambridgePolice.org/Tips



Questions?

- In the coming weeks, a "2014 Crime Snapshot" will be released on our website.
- The complete 2013 Cambridge Police Annual Crime Report is available on our website at www.CambridgePolice.org. The 2014 Annual Crime Report will be released later this winter.
- We welcome all questions, comments, and suggestions.
- Please direct your feedback to: <u>BridgeStat@CambridgePolice.org</u>.
- To review previous editions of BridgeStat, visit our website at www.CambridgePolice.org/BridgeStat.