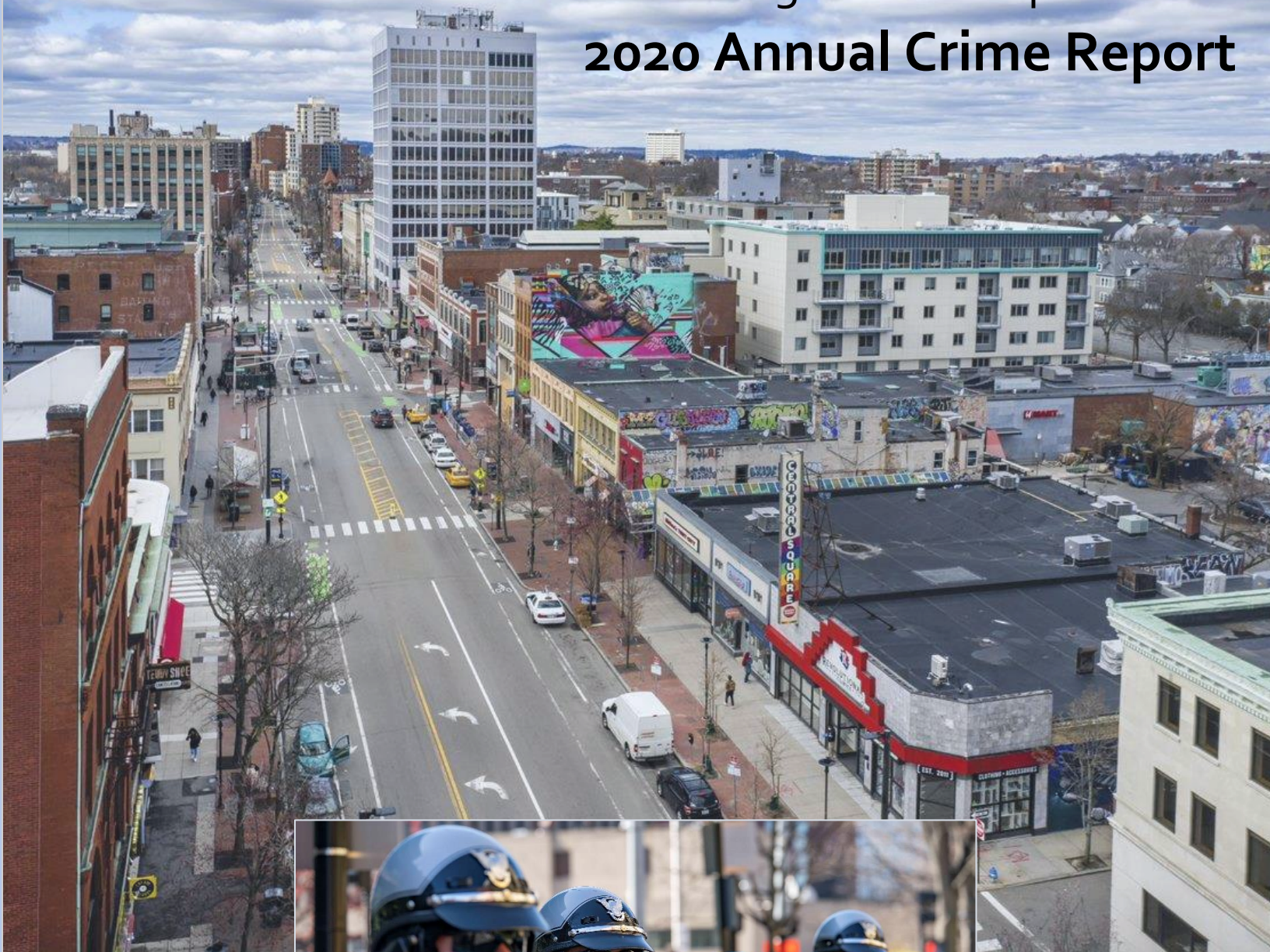


Cambridge Police Department 2020 Annual Crime Report



Crime Analysis Unit

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Cambridge Police Department
2020 Annual Crime Report



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Check out our detailed monthly report:
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Cambridge at a Glance

Cambridge Police Department

Organized:	1859
Sworn Officers:	288
Civilian Personnel:	41
Commissioner:	Branville G. Bard, Jr.
Budget (FY 2020):	\$65,925,945
Marked Patrol Vehicles:	37
Unmarked Patrol Vehicles:	40 (plus 8 narcotics vehicles)
Motorcycles:	14
Fleet Bicycles:	22
Special Vehicles:	10 Tactical vehicles, 3 Tactical ATVs, 6 Trailers
2020 Calls for Service:	106,628
2020 Total Index Crimes:	2,443

City of Cambridge Top Employers

1. Harvard University	12,858
2. MIT	9,322
3. Takeda Pharmaceuticals	3,484
4. City of Cambridge	3,472
5. Novartis	2,330
6. Biogen Idec	2,318
7. Hubspot	1,950
8. Broad Institute	1,880
9. Cambridge Health Alliance	1,809
10. Google	1,800

Crime Analysis Foreword

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

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

The Cambridge Police Department's 2020 Annual Crime Report is an attempt to provide detailed information so that citizens can make informed decisions about crime and safety in their neighborhoods.

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

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

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

Conventions Used in this Report

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

Part I and Part II Crimes

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

The Hierarchy Rule

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

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

Best Data at the Time

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

between current and past reports. In all cases, the more recent data is the more correct data.

Weighted Averages

Because crime can fluctuate significantly from year to year, the Crime Analysis Unit makes most of its comparisons based on averages rather than individual years. If commercial breaks increase by 58% from 2019 to 2020, there’s no way to tell from that figure whether 2019 was unusually low or 2020 was unusually low. But comparing 2020 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 (2015 in this report) is weighted once and the most recent year in the average (2019) 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 (2020), and to thus determine how unusual 2020’s deviation is from that average. We also provide graphs for most crimes to help assess long-term trends.

Rates

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

2020 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	2017	2018	2019	2020	2019-2020 Change	5-Year Wtd. Avg.	Avg.-2020 Change
Murder	2	1	1	1	0%	1	0%
Rape	19	29	28	27	-4%	26	4%
Stranger	0	2	2	5	150%	2	150%
Non-Stranger	19	27	26	22	-15%	25	-12%
Robbery	104	99	73	67	-8%	87	-23%
Commercial	39	37	11	14	27%	26	-46%
Street	65	62	62	53	-15%	62	-15%
Aggravated Assault	173	188	189	191	1%	182	5%
Total Violent Crime	298	317	291	286	-2%	297	-4%
Burglary	252	252	155	186	20%	240	-23%
Commercial	49	56	36	57	58%	49	16%
Residential	203	196	119	129	8%	190	-32%
Larceny	1,679	1,704	1,704	1,887	11%	1,749	8%
from Building	273	272	217	127	-41%	262	-52%
from Vehicle	289	270	236	351	49%	285	23%
From Person	158	166	159	99	-38%	170	-42%
from Residence	187	256	248	387	56%	244	59%
of Bicycle	303	307	425	602	42%	358	68%
of License Plate	28	23	18	9	-50%	22	-59%
of Services	31	26	15	5	-67%	21	-76%
Miscellaneous	40	46	39	41	5%	41	0%
Shoplifting	370	338	347	266	-23%	345	-23%
Auto Theft	91	111	109	84	-23%	107	-21%
Total Property Crime	2,022	2,067	1,968	2,157	10%	2,096	3%
Crime Index Total	2,320	2,384	2,259	2,443	8%	2,392	2%

Cambridge Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics, 2001-2020*

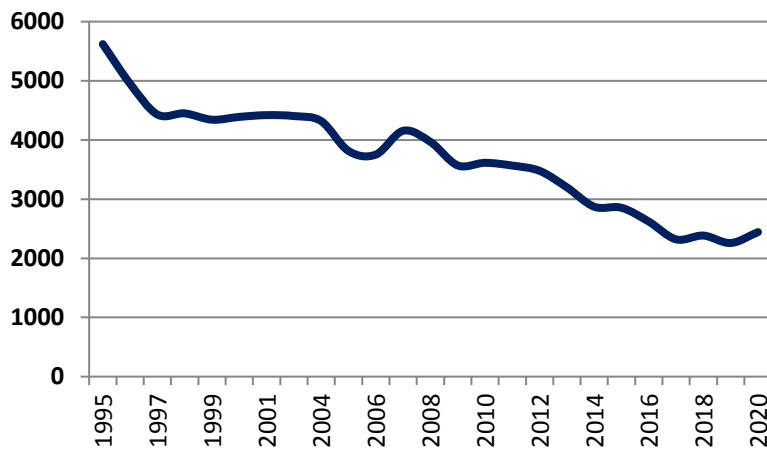
Crime	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Avg. 2001-2010	Avg. 2011-2020	Avg. 2001-2020	Change 2019-2020**	Change 2001-2020**
Murder	1	6	3	0	3	2	0	1	2	0	5	1	3	2	3	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	0%	0%
Rape	15	10	7	10	14	11	16	17	20	23	23	23	17	24	25	27	19	29	28	27	14	24	19	-4%	+80%
Robbery	181	195	229	245	239	208	161	177	172	163	147	128	118	81	77	81	104	99	73	67	197	98	147	-8%	-63%
Aggravated Assault	272	284	271	248	244	237	243	274	256	251	258	262	189	184	186	161	173	188	189	191	258	198	228	1%	-30%
Burglary	688	720	651	724	623	685	653	467	429	453	520	499	390	286	438	308	252	252	155	186	609	329	469	20%	-73%
Larceny	2,740	2,764	2,389	2,654	2,396	2,377	2,838	2,788	2,497	2,555	2,458	2,448	2,376	2,159	2,000	1,931	1,679	1,704	1,704	1,887	2,600	2,035	2,317	11%	-31%
Auto Theft	523	425	419	438	295	233	244	244	196	169	159	117	106	136	125	110	91	111	109	84	319	115	217	-23%	-84%
Total Violent	469	495	510	503	500	458	420	469	450	437	433	414	327	291	291	271	298	317	291	286	471	322	397	-2%	-39%
Total Property	3,951	3,909	3,459	3,816	3,314	3,295	3,735	3,499	3,122	3,177	3,137	3,064	2,872	2,581	2,563	2,349	2,022	2,067	1,968	2,157	3,528	2,478	3,003	10%	-45%
Total	4,420	4,404	3,969	4,319	3,814	3,753	4,155	3,968	3,572	3,614	3,570	3,478	3,199	2,872	2,854	2,620	2,320	2,385	2,259	2,443	3,999	2,800	3,399	8%	-45%

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

**Percent changes are rounded to the nearest whole number. A 0% change indicates there was less than a 0.5% increase or decrease.

25-Year Statistical Trends

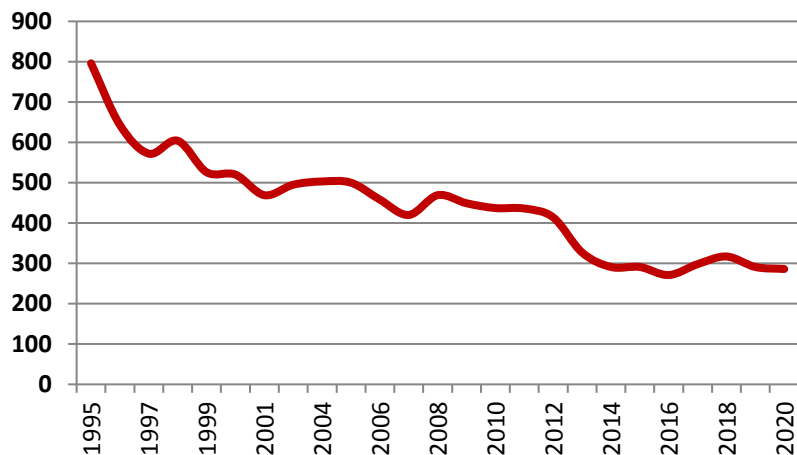
Total Part I (Index Crimes)



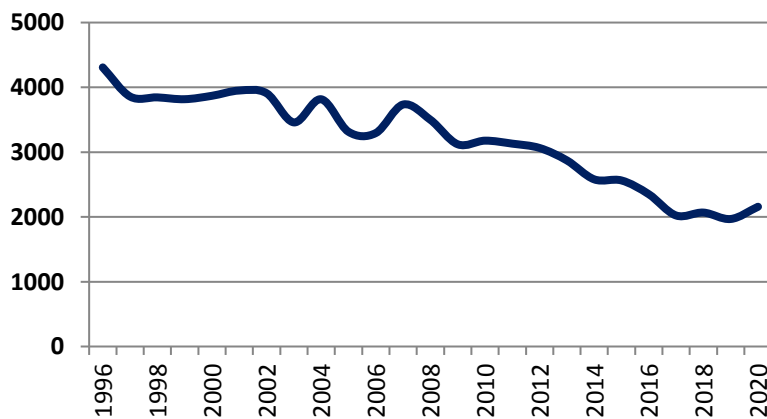
Despite some bumps in the early 1980s and early 1990s, crime has decreased steadily since it peaked in 1974 at more than 10,000 Part I crimes. The last big decrease was between 1990 and 1998. Crime fluctuated around the 3,700 mark for about a decade before dropping below 3,000 for the first time in 2014 and below 2,500 for the first time in 2017, where it has remained since. The lowest Part I crime index since 1963 was recorded in 2019 at 2,259 incidents. This total increased in 2020 by 184 incidents to 2,443 crimes.

Violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) hit their peak in 1990, amidst a nationwide gang and drug epidemic, but then fell dramatically in the following decade and remained around 450-500 per year throughout the 2000s. The 2016 violent crime total of 271 incidents was the lowest number recorded since the late 1960s. In 2020, there was a total of 286 violent crimes reported, which is 6% above the low seen in 2016 but is well below the 25-year high of 796 shown on the chart in 1995.

Total Part I Violent Crimes



Total Part I Property Crimes



Property crime (burglary, larceny, and auto theft) makes up about 85-90% of the total Part I crime index each year, and its graph therefore looks almost identical to the total crime graph above. The 50-year low for property crime was recorded in 2019 with 1,968 incidents. In 2020, there was a moderate uptick of 189 incidents, mostly attributable to an upsurge in bicycle thefts, as well as pandemic-related rises in package thefts (a sub-category of larcenies from the residence) and larcenies from motor vehicles.

2020 Executive Summary

During an unprecedented year of economic shutdowns and social distancing in 2020, the City of Cambridge experienced an 8% increase in total Part 1 Crimes this year. This increase in crime came on the heels of a record-breaking year in 2019, during which crime in Cambridge reached its lowest level since Congress enacted the Omnibus Crime Control Act in 1968. Despite the increase in 2020, this year was still only the fourth time in more than 50 years that the crime index total dropped below 2,500 incidents in Cambridge.

Further analysis of the crime breakdown indicates that there were 189 additional property crimes reported in 2020 to record a 10% incline when compared with last year and a 3% rise above the five-year weighted average of 2,096. Meanwhile, there were 286 violent crimes reported in the City in 2020, five fewer incidents than in 2019, which translates to a decrease of 2% below 2019 and 4% below the five-year average of 297. Overall, the total of 2,443 serious crimes reported in 2020 was 8% above the 2019 total of 2,259 incidents and 2% above the five-year weighted average of 2,392 incidents.

Murder

- On April 14, 2020, 35-year-old Danilo Gonzalez (aka Danilo Perez) was allegedly stabbed multiple times by 55-year-old Jose Bermudez after a verbal altercation between the two escalated into violence in the area of Green Street and Sidney Place. Gonzalez was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced deceased. Bermudez fled the area after the incident but was arrested in Allston on April 23, 2020. Gonzalez and Bermudez were both part of the homeless community in Cambridge. This was the only homicide recorded in Cambridge in 2020.
- On January 2, 2019, 60-year-old Paul Wilson of Cambridge was assaulted while walking in the New Street area of Danehy Park. Wilson was taken to a nearby hospital where he was later pronounced deceased as a result of blunt force trauma to the head. No suspects have been identified and the incident remains under investigation. This was the only homicide recorded in Cambridge in 2019.
- Since 1990, Cambridge has averaged two murders per year, which is a decrease from the 30-year period between 1960 and 1989 when the average was slightly less than five per year.
- Trend analysis for the past twenty years points to two recurring murder scenarios in Cambridge: a domestic murder in which one family member is killed by another, and the murder of young males by a handgun or knife typically in acts of retaliatory street violence.
- Handguns have been used in 20 of the 37 murders in Cambridge since 2000. Seven have involved knives.
- Twenty-seven of the 37 murders in Cambridge since 2000 (73%) have been cleared by an arrest/suicide of the perpetrator. For comparison, the 2019 clearance rate for murder was 61.4% nationally and 54.4% in New England.

Rape

- The total number of reported rapes in Cambridge dropped one incident from 28 in 2019 to 27 in 2020.
- Nine of the rapes in 2020 involved acquaintances, nine were domestic, five were classified as contact situations, and four were classified as blitz assaults.
- 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 2020, there were 67 total robberies reported, translating to an 8% decrease below the 2019 total. When measured against the five-year weighted average of 87 incidents, a 23% decline was recorded.
- Street robberies dropped from 62 incidents in 2019 to 53 in 2020. The 2020 street robbery total was also nine incidents (15%) below the five-year average of 62 incidents. The only related cluster of incidents that occurred in 2020 involved three robberies of delivery drivers in February and March. Two males who were homeless in their early 20s and known to squat in basements in the area, were identified as the suspects.
- A 27% increase in commercial robberies was reported in 2020. Incidents rose from 11 robberies in 2019 to 14 this year. Commercial robberies in 2020 were 46% below the five-year weighted average of 26. After not a single bank robbery was reported anywhere in Cambridge in 2019, four bank robberies occurred in 2020, all during the fourth quarter.

Aggravated Assault

- The total of 191 aggravated assaults reported in Cambridge in 2020 is 1% above the 2019 total of 189 incidents and 5% above the five-year average of 182 assaults.
- Domestic assaults, which typically constitute 30-40% of the assault total each year, rose from 41 incidents in 2019 to 49 in 2020. Despite the increase, domestic assaults still only made up 26% of the assault total this year. Meanwhile, aggravated assaults between individuals who are homeless rose from 19 in 2019 to 30 in 2020.
- Seven of the aggravated assaults in 2020 (4%) resulted in serious or life-threatening injuries, including one from a knife.
- The most common weapons used in aggravated assaults in 2020 were knives (28%), followed by shod feet in 14% of the incidents, and a club/stick was used in 8%. There were 14 aggravated assaults that involved the use of a firearm in 2020, up three from the previous year.
- A little over 40% of aggravated assaults resulted in an arrest in 2020, compared to 26% of simple assaults.

Burglary

- Total burglary, the combination of residential and commercial breaks, registered a 20% incline in 2020 when compared with the 2019 total of 155 and a 23% drop when measured against the five-year weighted average of 240 for this crime.
- Housebreaks saw an increase of 8% from 119 in 2019 to 129 in 2020. Meanwhile this crime type dropped 32% below the five-year weighted average of 190. Only one discernable housebreak pattern emerged in 2020 when a series of overnight housebreaks and larcenies targeting bicycles surfaced in the lower half of Cambridge in January. The pattern came to an end after arrests were made in February.
- Similar to residential burglaries, there was a notable increase in commercial burglaries in Cambridge this year as well, rising 58% from 36 incidents in 2019 to 57 in 2020. This total was also 16% above the five-year weighted average of 49. Cambridge was part of a regional pattern of smash and grab incidents targeting ATMs in gas stations and convenience stores in February. This pattern was eradicated with the arrest of a Malden resident and two Cambridge residents at the end of February.

Larceny

- In 2020, the property crime of larceny rose 11% (or 183 incidents) when measured against the 2019 total and increased 8% when compared to the five-year weighted average of 1,749. There were 1,887 total larcenies reported this year.
- Larceny is always the most prevalent of the Part One crimes in Cambridge. In 2020, it accounted for 77% of the total Part I crime and 87% of the total property crime.
- Larcenies from motor vehicles (LMVs) this year were up 49% from the 2019 figures. The 2020 total of 351 LMVs was also up 23% when compared with the five-year weighted average of 285. The most common method of entry in recent years has been through unlocked car doors.
- Larceny from the person decreased by 38% in 2020, down 60 incidents below the 159 reported in 2019. The 2020 total of 99 incidents was also 42% below the five-year weighted average of 170.
- Larceny of bicycles increased drastically in 2020, rising 42% from 425 incidents in 2019 to 602 in 2020. This property crime was also 68% above the five-year weighted average of 358.
- Larceny from residences saw a sizeable incline in 2020, jumping 56% from 248 incidents in 2019 to 387 this year. By far the most prevalent scenario for this crime type in recent years has involved the theft of packages from the front steps or vestibules of residences. Thanks to a large increase in pandemic-related online shopping this year, package thefts soared from 149 in 2019 to 284 in 2020. This scenario accounted for 75% of the larcenies from residences in 2020.

Auto Theft

- In 2020, auto thefts in Cambridge declined by 23%, dropping 25 incidents below the 2019 total of 109 thefts. The total of 84 incidents reported in 2020 was also 21% below the five-year average of 107. These totals are remarkably low for a city that used to see staggering auto theft numbers—in 1974, there were 5,203 cars reported stolen.
- Cambridgeport recorded the largest number of auto thefts in 2020 with 16 incidents reported. No patterns were reported anywhere in the city in 2020. Most neighborhoods were at or below their expected auto theft totals this year.
- Approximately 36% of the auto thefts reported in 2020 involved the theft of a motorcycle, scooter, or moped.
- Roughly 37% of the cars reported stolen in Cambridge in 2020 have been recovered to date. Slightly less than half (or 48%) of the recovered cars in 2020 were located in Cambridge.

Regional Crime Comparison

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

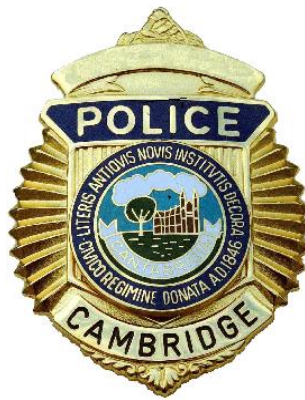
2019 Rates per 100,000 residents for selected Massachusetts Cities and Towns

City	Population	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Violent Total	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Property Total	Total
Brockton	95,287	5	66	155	594	821	260	1,382	302	1,945	2,765
Brookline	58,928	2	3	24	68	97	75	769	10	854	950
Chicopee	55,293	4	63	103	445	615	443	1,756	188	2,387	3,002
Fall River	89,066	6	57	127	678	868	463	560	183	1,206	2,074
Framingham	73,127	1	27	40	338	406	216	833	45	1,094	1,500
Haverhill	63,935	2	23	23	475	524	280	892	139	1,311	1,835
Lawrence	80,243	4	40	108	522	674	141	844	204	1,189	1,863
Lowell	111,423	4	18	90	252	363	262	1,068	153	1,483	1,846
Lynn	94,449	8	35	109	340	492	320	961	145	1,426	1,918
Malden	60,746	2	15	43	207	267	170	858	156	1,184	1,450
Medford	57,484	0	12	30	160	202	89	769	57	915	1,117
Methuen	59,727	2	2	22	162	187	114	879	95	1,088	1,275
New Bedford	94,613	3	70	186	405	664	491	1,599	157	2,248	2,912
Newton	88,658	0	5	11	39	55	85	478	12	575	631
Peabody	53,104	0	40	15	177	232	104	659	56	819	1,051
Plymouth	60,870	0	62	18	246	327	120	805	51	976	1,303
Quincy	94,113	1	33	65	300	398	230	930	58	1,218	1,616
Revere	53,654	4	21	71	227	322	127	977	114	1,217	1,539
Somerville	81,668	0	20	47	137	203	171	975	109	1,255	1,458
Springfield	154,306	13	52	232	608	905	483	1,793	319	2,595	3,501
Taunton	57,028	4	26	30	321	381	151	417	37	605	985
Waltham	62,737	0	21	11	131	163	112	669	35	816	979
Weymouth	57,776	0	36	16	242	294	76	668	55	800	1,094
Worcester	184,945	7	22	124	477	630	425	1,426	200	2,050	2,680
Average*	80,591	4	33	87	361	490	260	1,035	139	1,434	1,924
Cambridge	119,908	1	23	61	158	243	129	1,421	91	1,641	1,884

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

Statistics from the rest of the state shows that Cambridge had less per-capita crime in six categories (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, and auto theft), while conversely registering more larcenies than the average, which also affected the property crime total. The rate for the overall crime total in 2019 in Cambridge was slightly below the average for the region.

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



Section II

Part I Crimes

Murder
Rape
Robbery
Aggravated Assault
Burglary
Larceny
Auto Theft

Murder

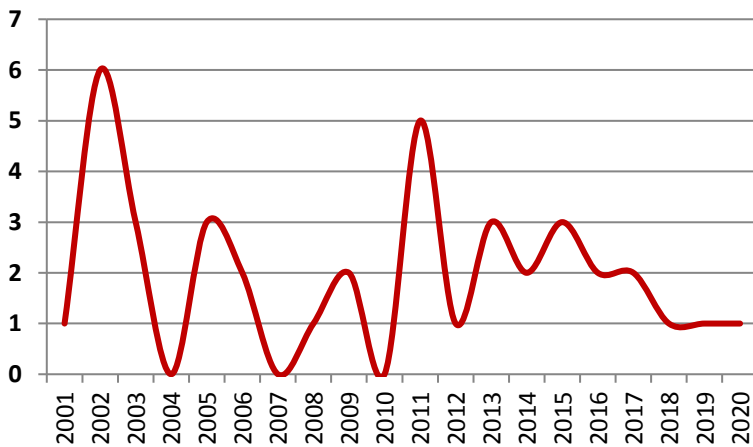
Definition

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

Statistics

Five-Year Average	1
2019	1
2020	1
Change from 2019	0%
Change from Average	0%

Murders reported in Cambridge*



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

On April 14, 2020, 35-year-old Danilo Gonzalez (aka Danilo Perez) was allegedly stabbed multiple times by 55-year-old Jose Bermudez after a verbal altercation between the two escalated into violence in the area of Green Street and Sidney Place. Gonzalez was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced deceased. Bermudez fled the area after the incident but was arrested in Allston on April 23, 2020. Gonzalez and Bermudez were both part of the homeless community in Cambridge. This was the only homicide recorded in Cambridge in 2020.

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

Cambridge murder statistics, 1990-2020

- 63 people murdered in 58 incidents (in four of the incidents, two or more people were killed)
- 43 victims were male (average age of 35)
- 20 victims were female (average age of 39)
- Most common weapons: handguns (29 incidents) and knives (14 incidents)
- 19 of the 58 cases are still under investigation or remain unsolved.
- 27 of the 37 cases since 2000 have been cleared by arrest or by the death of the suspect.

Murder in Cambridge, 2010–2020

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

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

Part I Crimes: Murder

Date & Time	Location	Victim(s)	Offender(s)	Story	Status
9/12/2015 01:40	750 Mass Ave (Riverside)	Tywann Jones, 35, of Roxbury	Antwan Gonsalves, 33, of Cambridge	Jones was stabbed while standing outside the 7-Eleven in Central Square. He later died at MGH. Gonsalves was arrested on September 24 on a warrant for Jones's murder.	Gonsalves was found guilty of 1 st degree murder and sentenced to life in prison w/o parole.
3/22/16 21:57	321 Mount Auburn St (West Cambridge)	Armando Hernandez, 30, of Belmont	Unknown	Hernandez was shot and killed while walking on Mount Auburn St. A second male was non-fatally shot in the leg.	Ongoing Investigation.
6/25/16 00:18	140 Harvard St (The Port)	Anthony Clay, 49, of Cambridge	Unknown	Clay was shot while standing outside of 140 Harvard St. He was pronounced deceased at Mass General Hospital.	Ongoing Investigation.
10/14/17 03:40	Windsor St & Evereteze Way (Inman)	Ednilson DaCosta, 28, of Dorchester	Unknown	DaCosta was shot while sitting in a vehicle at Windsor St & Evereteze Way. He was pronounced deceased at Cambridge City Hospital.	Ongoing investigation.
11/16/17 19:30	Tremont St & Hampshire St (The Port)	Malachi Mims, 28, of Cambridge	Kevin Reddick, 17, and Osiris Chambers, 16, both of Cambridge	Mims was shot outside a vehicle in the area of Tremont & Hampshire St. He was pronounced deceased at Cambridge City Hospital. On December 31, 2017, Reddick was arrested in Boston in connection with this homicide. On November 29, 2018, Chambers was also arraigned in connection with Mims' death.	Reddick and Chambers pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter and were sentenced to 11 to 13 years in prison.
7/22/18 18:43	Cambridge St & Warren St (Inman)	Richelle Robinson, 15, of Cambridge	Isaias Plaza, 18, homeless	Robinson died following an assault in which she was shoved to the ground on Cambridge Street. Cause of death was determined to be blunt force trauma. Plaza was arraigned in July 2019 on charges of manslaughter and A&B causing serious bodily injury in connection with Robinson's death.	Plaza pled guilty to manslaughter and was sentenced to 2.5 years in prison.
1/2/19 18:48	Danehy Park, New St side (North Cambridge)	Paul Wilson, 60, of Cambridge	Unknown	Wilson was assaulted and sustained fatal blunt force injuries to the head while walking through Danehy Park.	Ongoing Investigation.
4/14/20 17:18	Green Street & Sidney Place (Cambridgeport)	Danilo Gonzalez (aka Danilo Perez), 35, homeless	Jose Bermudez, 55, homeless	A verbal altercation between Gonzalez and Bermudez escalated and Bermudez allegedly stabbed Perez multiple times. Perez was pronounced deceased at a local hospital, and Bermudez was arrested on 4/23/20 in Allston.	Bermudez is awaiting trial.

Murder across the state and nation in 2019*

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

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

*The source of this data is the FBI's 2019 Uniform Crime Report. Statistics for 2020 are not yet available.

Rape

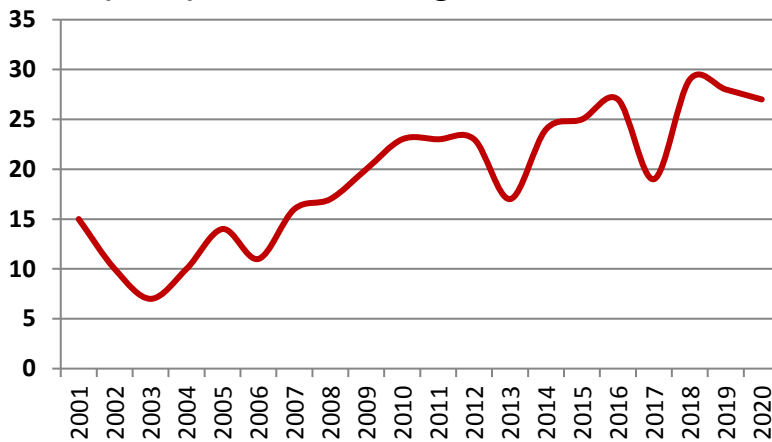
Definition

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

Statistics

Five-Year Average	26
2019	28
2020	27
Change from 2019	-4%
Change from Average	4%

Rapes reported in Cambridge



There were 27 rapes reported in Cambridge in 2020, down one crime from the 28 incidents reported in 2019, which points to a 4% decrease. When the 2020 total is measured against the five-year average for rapes annually in the city, a 4% uptick was recorded.

Nine of the rapes in 2020 involved acquaintances, nine were domestic, five were classified as contact rapes, and four were classified as blitz assaults (see below for definitions).

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

Categories of rape

- **Acquaintance Rapes** are non-domestic rapes committed by someone who knows the victim. They include rapes of co-workers, schoolmates, friends, and other acquaintances. Nine of the 27 incidents in 2020 were perpetrated by acquaintances.

Rapes by Category

Year	Acquaintance	Contact	Blitz	Domestic	Total
2018	14	3	2	10	29
2019	17	0	2	9	28
2020	9	5	4	9	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 four blitz rapes recorded in Cambridge in 2020.
- **Contact Rapes** are rapes in which the suspect contacts the victim and tries to gain his/her confidence before assaulting him/her. Contact rapists typically pick up their victims in bars and lure them into their cars or houses, or otherwise try to coerce the victim into a situation in which they can begin their assault. There were five rapes in Cambridge in 2020 that fit into this category.
- **Domestic Rapes** involve rapes between spouses, romantic partners, or family members. Nine domestic rapes were reported in 2020. Incest and statutory rapes are excluded, per the FBI UCR definition of rape, which was revised in 2013.

Part I Crimes: Rape

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 2019*

The FBI’s Uniform Crime Report for 2019 reports that:

- There were an estimated 139,815 rapes (revised definition) reported to law enforcement in 2019. This estimate was 2.7 percent lower than the 2018 estimate and 10.8 percent higher than the 2015 estimate.
- The rate of rapes (revised definition) nationally in 2019 was estimated at 42 per 100,000 inhabitants.

*Statistics for 2020 are not yet available.

Robbery

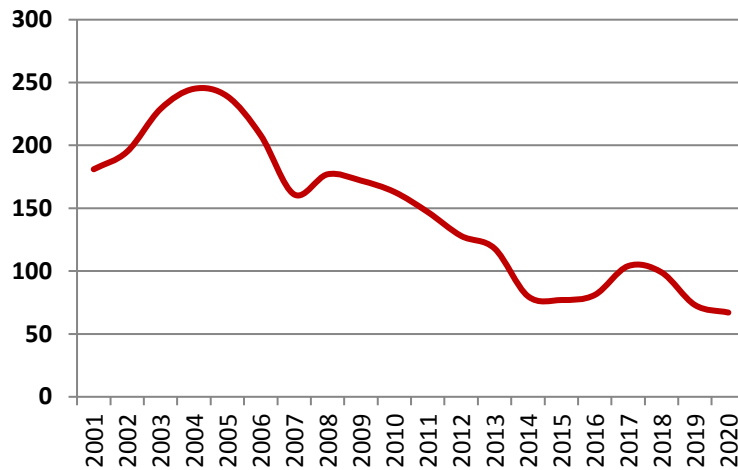
Definition

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

Statistics

Five-Year Average	87
2019	73
2020	67
Change from 2019	-8%
Change from Average	-23%

Robberies reported in Cambridge



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

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

Robberies by category

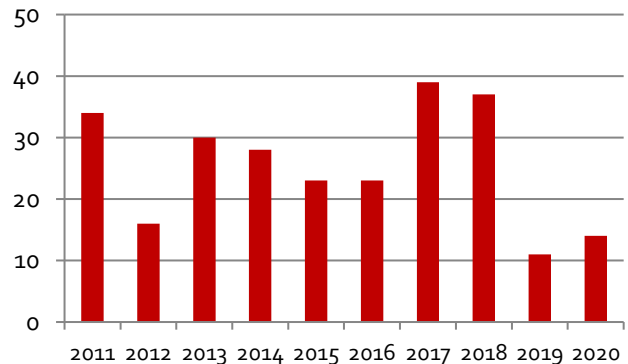
Category	2019	2020	Change
Commercial Robbery	11	14	27%
Street Robbery	62	53	-15%
Total	73	67	-8%

Commercial robbery

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

Commercial robberies dropped an incredible 70% from 37 robberies in 2018 to just 11 in 2019. There was a slight increase in 2020 of three incidents, or 27%. The business district that experienced the

Commercial robbery, 2011-2020



Part I Crimes: Robbery

most commercial robberies in 2020 was Central Square with five incidents, followed by Inman Square with three incidents.

Commercial robberies by location type

Type	2018	2019	2020	Change 2019-2020
Convenience/Grocery	12	4	6	50%
Bank/Armored Car	4	0	4	400%
Drug Store	7	2	2	0%
Electronics/Computer	0	0	1	100%
Misc. Retail	7	3	1	-67%
Gas Station	5	2	0	N/a
Café/Restaurant	1	0	0	0%
Other	1	0	0	0%
Total	37	11	14	27%

In 2020, only five different location types experienced robberies. Convenience/grocery/liquor stores were the most common establishments to experience commercial robberies, with six reported incidents. Although the last two years have both seen notable declines in commercial robberies when compared to the average, the cause in 2020 can at least partly be attributed to the long-term closures of many businesses citywide due to the COVID-19 pandemic this year.

In 2019, the most notable decrease in robberies at a specific location type involved bank robberies. After 11 bank robberies were reported in 2017, only four occurred in 2018 and not a single bank robbery was reported anywhere in Cambridge in 2019, which was the first time in at least 20 years that no bank robberies were reported in an entire year in Cambridge. However, 2020 saw a comeback in bank robberies, with four reported once again. All four incidents took place in November and December, with the two in November occurring just two days apart. The first bank robbery on November 23rd resulted in the eventual arrest of an individual believed to have committed a number of regional bank robberies around that time. It is thought that he may also be the suspect in the robbery that took place two days later in Cambridge on the 25th, but this has not been confirmed. The bank robbery on December 1st in Harvard Square remains unsolved. Meanwhile, the fourth and final bank robbery in 2020 on December 9th resulted in the recovery of clothing from a stolen car that was used as a getaway vehicle. In February of 2021, a DNA profile obtained from that clothing came back with a match, resulting in charges against the suspect who was already in custody on an unrelated charge.

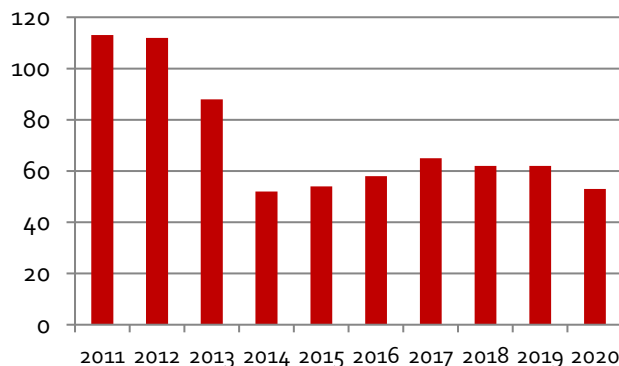
In total, three of the 14 commercial robberies in 2020 resulted in charges against named suspects, while possible suspects were developed in another two incidents.

Street robbery

Street robbery involves all robberies committed against individuals, as opposed to commercial establishments. Examples of street robberies are “muggings,” “carjackings,” and “purse snatchings.” The number of street robberies this year dropped by nine incidents, from 62 in 2019 to 53 in 2020.

Despite the name, a “street” robbery does not necessarily have to occur on the street, although the majority of them do. In 2020, 89% of all street robberies occurred on a street, alleyway, parking lot, or sidewalk. The remaining premise types in 2020 included a residence, a gas station, an ATM, a school, a hotel, and a park.

Street robbery, 2011-2020



In 2020, 30 (57%) 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 23 robberies (43%) involved the use or threat of a weapon. Knives were used in 13 incidents, a firearm was used in one incident, a baseball bat was used in two incidents, and shod feet (feet with shoes) were also used in two incidents. Other weapons that were reported to have been used in at least one incident included a wall or floor, a hammer, and chemical spray.

Street robberies by neighborhood

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2019	2020	Change from Avg.
East Cambridge	5	5	4	-20%
MIT	1	2	1	0%
Inman/Harrington	2	1	1	-50%
The Port	9	7	10	11%
Cambridgeport	14	12	13	-7%
Mid-Cambridge	6	9	8	33%
Riverside	9	9	6	-33%
Agassiz	0	0	1	N/A
Peabody	3	4	2	-33%
West Cambridge	6	5	3	-50%
North Cambridge	5	3	2	-60%
Cambridge Highlands	2	3	2	0%
Strawberry Hill	1	2	0	-100%
Total	62	62	53	-15%

*N/A = % change cannot be calculated when the 2019 total is zero.

The number of street robberies across each neighborhood varies widely, which is a reflection of the residential and commercial mixture in each area. For example, Cambridgeport, East Cambridge, and The Port are more densely populated than other neighborhoods and are closer to train stations and drinking establishments. These are factors that contribute to higher numbers of potential targets for street robbers, as individuals can become targets when they are walking alone late at night, distracted or intoxicated. The neighborhood that experienced the most robberies in 2020 was Cambridgeport.

In a year where people were not out in public as often, the emergence of a true street robbery pattern never took place. The only related cluster of incidents that occurred

in 2020 involved three robberies of delivery drivers in February and March. Two males who were homeless, in their early 20s, and known to squat in basements in the area, were identified as the suspects. The pandemic began shortly after and it was 32 days before another street robbery was reported.

In total, arrests were made in only eight of the 53 robberies in 2020 at the time of the incident. However, upon follow-up investigation, more individuals were linked to their crimes, as possible suspects were also listed in 13 additional incidents.

Frequently occurring street robbery scenarios

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

- **Acquaintance Robberies (6):** Related to domestic robbery and homeless robbery, acquaintance robberies are committed by someone the victim knows. Common scenarios include drinking buddies robbing each other after a night at the bar, friends turning on each other, and robberies between co-workers.
- **ATM Robberies (0):** In this type of robbery, the suspect may approach the victim immediately after the victim withdraws money from an ATM and demand that he or she hand over the cash, or the suspect may wait behind the victim as they make a transaction, then take the money directly from the ATM and run. An ATM robbery can also occur when suspects approach a victim on the street, threaten the victim by displaying or implying a weapon, and demand the victim go to an ATM and withdraw money for them.
- **Bikejackers (1):** Juvenile robberies where the primary property targets are bicycles.

Part I Crimes: Robbery

- **Bully Boys** (2): Juvenile robberies of intimidation. In most occurrences, the victim knows the perpetrators. Committed by and against school-aged youths, they occur on the way home from school, or at playgrounds, malls, parks, or skating rinks. They usually involve two to four juveniles strong-arming their victims, stealing such things as cell phones, other electronics, or lunch money.
- **Carjacking** (1): In this scenario, a predator confronts a victim entering or exiting his or her car, or when stopped at a traffic light. The robber orders the victim out of the car and demands the keys.
- **Dial-A-Victim** (2): In these situations, suspects usually brandish a knife or gun to rob a delivery person.
- **Domestic** (1): 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** (2): Typically drug deals gone awry.
- **Home Invasion** (1): One of the most serious robbery types. Home invasions involve robbers entering their victims' homes, subduing the residents, and robbing the home. Fortunately, this type of robbery is rare in Cambridge, and when it occurs, the victim generally knows the perpetrator.
- **Robberies Involving Individuals That are Homeless** (7): These are incidents of people who are unhoused and robbing each other. The majority of these robberies occur in the vicinity of Central and Harvard Squares, or at various shelters. The victim is usually acquainted with the perpetrator, and in many cases, both are intoxicated. Property stolen ranges from a blanket or a pair of shoes to a cell phone to prescription drugs.
- **Pack Robberies** (7): In this situation, a group of three or more individuals will target victims around shopping malls, MBTA stations, streets, or recreational areas. The robberies are not always premeditated and the typical victim is often a male between the ages of 15-25, walking alone.
- **Predatory Robberies** (20): 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** (3): The purse-snatcher is generally unarmed and has little intent to cause injury. After "casing" a victim—usually a female carrying a purse or bag—this robber approaches quickly on foot or on a bicycle and snatches the item out of the victim's hands or off her shoulder before she has a chance to react, often effecting a "body check" in the process.

Aggravated Assault

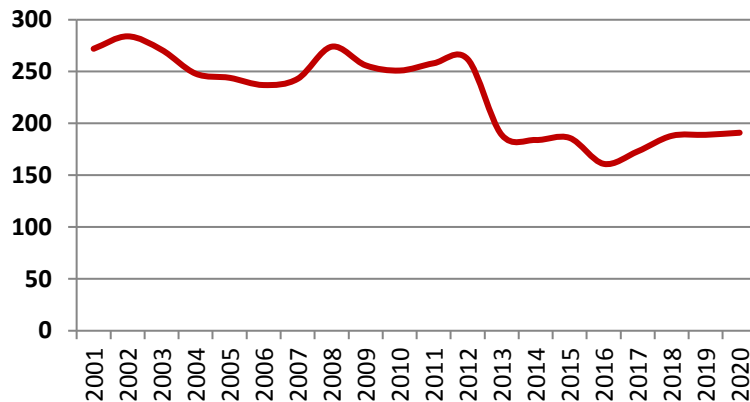
Definition

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

Statistics

Five-Year Average	182
2019	189
2020	191
Change from 2019	1%
Change from Average	5%

Aggravated assaults reported in Cambridge



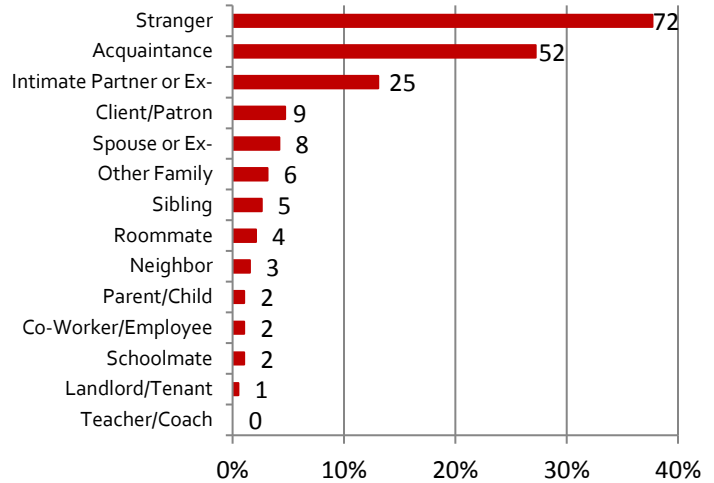
Aggravated assaults rise from the “heat of the moment,” and unlike robberies, rarely involve personal gain (assaults that do involve thefts are coded in the “Robbery” section). Although a serious and dangerous crime, the average citizen has little to fear from a random aggravated assault: typically,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

Aggravated assaults by neighborhood

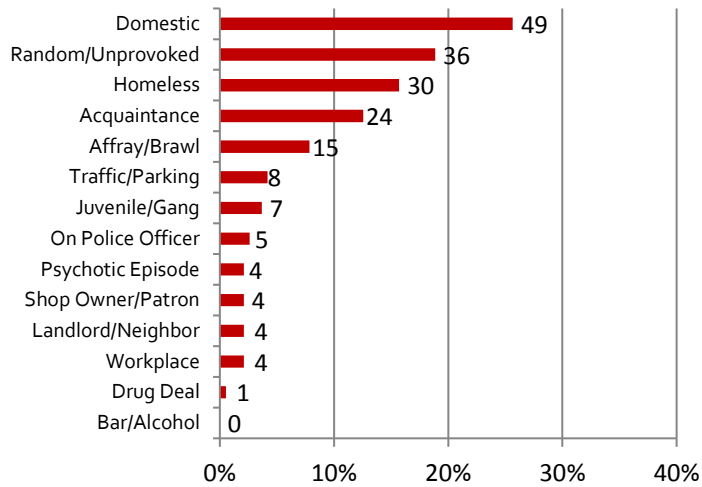
Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2019	2020	Change from Avg.	% of Total (2020)
East Cambridge	20	10	10	-50%	5%
M.I.T.	4	4	3	-25%	2%
Inman/Harrington	14	16	13	-7%	7%
The Port	22	20	22	0%	12%
Cambridgeport	35	42	34	-3%	18%
Mid-Cambridge	17	19	20	18%	10%
Riverside	20	24	26	30%	14%
Agassiz	2	2	0	-100%	0%
Peabody	8	7	11	38%	6%
West Cambridge	18	22	15	-17%	8%
North Cambridge	16	16	24	50%	13%
Cambridge Highlands	4	5	7	75%	4%
Strawberry Hill	3	2	6	100%	3%
Total	182	189	191	5%	

Aggravated assault by relationship

Although making up only 38% of all assaults, “stranger” is the largest single category, comprised of most of the cases in the “random,” “traffic/parking,” “bar/alcohol,” and “on police officer” categories. But the other categories combined outweigh “strangers” by about two-to-one. For the majority of aggravated assault victims, violence comes from a familiar place: intimate partners, spouses, parents, children, friends, customers, co-workers, and other relationships. Simple assaults, disputes, and other incidents between the offender and victim often precede an aggravated assault.



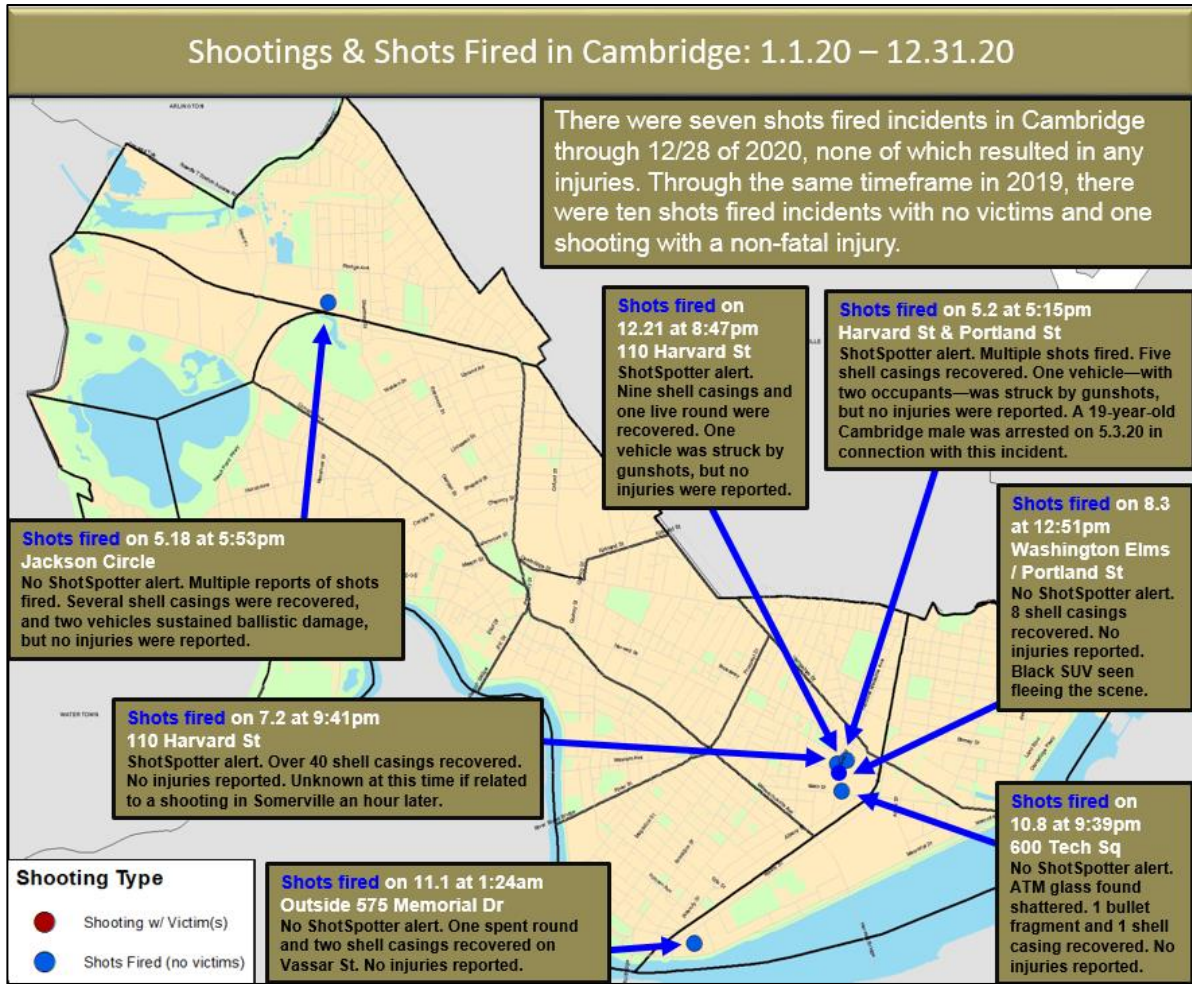
Aggravated assault by categorization



In any year, domestic assaults typically make up 30-40% of the total. However, in 2019, this category dropped to just 26% of the aggravated assault total. These incidents involve a variety of relationships, but as the chart above shows, most common are among intimate partners/ex-intimate partners, spouses/ex-spouses, and parents/children. These unique circumstances are covered in the “Domestic Crimes” section of this report, as aggravated assault is only one of many crimes that may be the result of an abusive relationship. Other categories that saw some of the most notable changes this year were homeless assaults (11 incidents above 2019), psychotic episodes (5 incidents below 2019), and bar/alcohol and shop owner/patron (each 4 incidents below 2019).

Notable findings on aggravated assault in 2020

- Seven of the aggravated assaults in 2020 (4%) resulted in serious or life-threatening injuries (including one from a knife).
- There were 7 shots fired incidents in 2020, none of which resulted in any injury. See the map on the next page for more information.
- The most common weapons used in aggravated assaults in 2020 were knives (28%), followed by shod feet in 14% of the incidents, and a club/stick was used in 8%. There were 14 aggravated assaults that involved the use of a firearm in 2020, up three from the previous year.
- A little over 40% of aggravated assaults resulted in an arrest in 2020, compared to 26% of simple assaults.

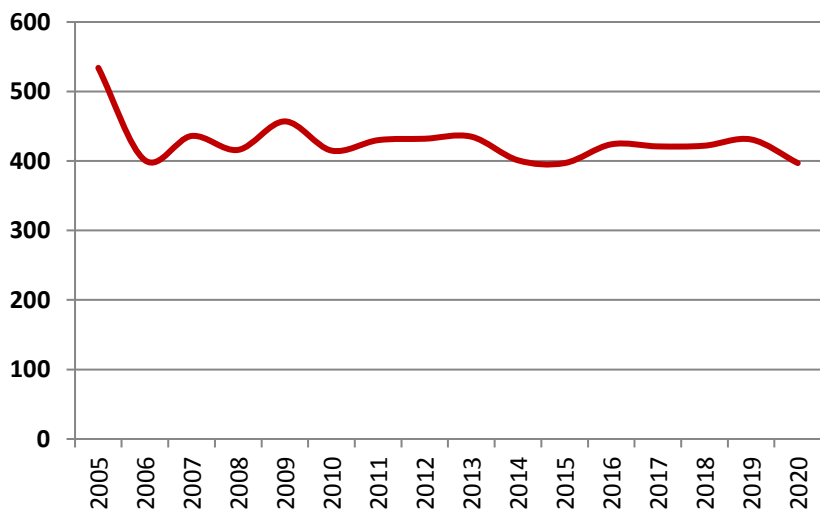


Simple assault

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 likely even higher than for aggravated assault.

Simple assaults have changed very little in recent years, fluctuating between 400 and 460 incidents since 2006. In 2020, 34 fewer simple assaults were reported when compared with 2019 (397 in 2020 versus 431 in 2019). Simple assaults tend to mirror aggravated assaults in categories and relationships.

Simple assaults reported in Cambridge



Burglary

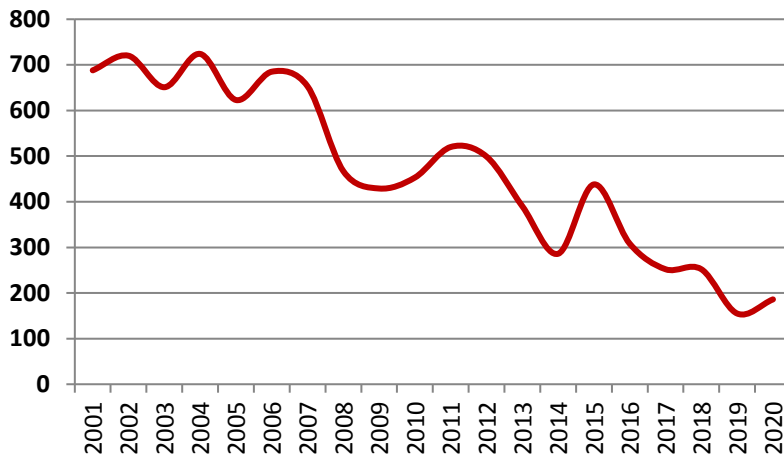
Definition

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

Statistics

Five-Year Average	240
2019	155
2020	186
Change from 2019	20%
Change from Average	-23%

Burglaries reported in Cambridge



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

Burglaries by category

Category	2019	2020	Change
Commercial Burglary	36	57	58%
Residential Burglary	119	129	8%
Total	155	186	20%

Top items targeted in 2020

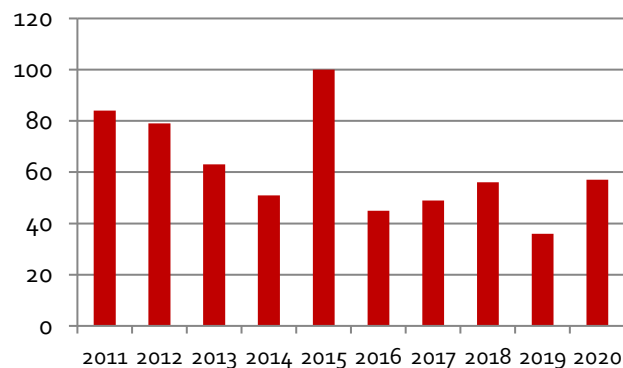
Rank	Residential	Commercial
1	Computers	Cash
2	Bicycles	Computers
3	Cash	Lottery Tickets
4	Jewelry	Cigarettes
5	Wallets/Purses/Bags	Clothing

Commercial burglary

A commercial burglary, more commonly referred to as a *commercial break*, is the unlawful entry into a commercial establishment, including business, government, religious, or retail establishments. From 2019 to 2020, there was a 58% increase in commercial breaks in Cambridge.

Approximately 11% of the breaks in 2020 were attempts in which no entry was gained, and two incidents (4%) were considered an “inside job” in which an employee or known associate was believed to be responsible.

Commercial burglary, 2011-2020



Commercial burglaries by business district

Business District	5-Yr. Avg.	2019	2020	Change from Avg.	% of Total (2020)
CambridgeSide/East Cambridge	5	7	5	0%	9%
Kendall/M.I.T.	2	3	2	0%	4%
Inman Square	3	1	7	133%	12%
Central Square	11	10	5	-55%	9%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	1	0	1	0%	2%
Bay Square/Upper Broadway	3	0	10	233%	18%
Harvard Square	9	7	13	44%	23%
1500-1900 Massachusetts Avenue	3	2	4	33%	7%
Porter Square/North Cambridge	6	2	1	-83%	2%
Alewife/West Cambridge	7	4	9	29%	16%
Total	49	36	57	16%	

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

- **Smash & grab** burglaries involve quick entry and exit through windows/glass doors of businesses, often at convenience stores or gas stations. The entire endeavor may take less than a minute.
- **Retail burglars** usually force their way into stores or other locations with the intent to steal merchandise or money from cash registers.
- **Restaurant/bar** burglars often cross multiple jurisdictions, breaking into similar franchises looking for safes or easily fenced items.
- **Business burglars** enter real-estate/law offices, technology companies, etc., looking for laptop computers and other expensive equipment.
- **Construction site/industrial area** thieves are a special breed of burglars who know how to select, steal, and sell expensive power tools, building supplies, heavy equipment, and precious metals.
- **Church burglars** are historically individuals who are homeless and have substance abuse disorders. 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	2019	2020
Bar/restaurant/social	5	11
Business offices	5	4
Industrial/construction	5	7
Retail establishments	4	7
Convenience/gas	4	7
Government building	2	0
School/youth center	1	5
Church	1	6
Other	9	10
Total	36	57

Commercial burglary patterns

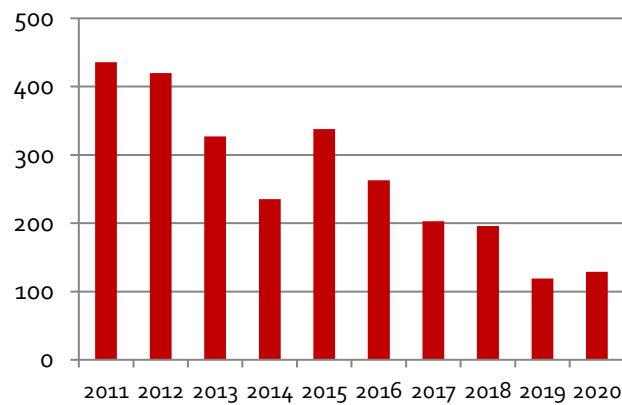
After experiencing zero commercial breaks in January of 2020, Cambridge was part of a regional pattern of smash and grab incidents targeting gas stations and convenience stores in February. This pattern took place in the early morning hours, from 1:00 a.m. to about 4:30 a.m., and included four breaks into Cambridge businesses, targeting the ATM machines and lottery tickets located inside each location. This pattern was eradicated with the arrest of a Malden resident and two Cambridge residents at the end of February. The pandemic then hit the area shortly after this pattern concluded, and commercial breaks in the city began to rise. Although no established patterns emerged, the Harvard Square area in particular saw an increase in burglaries with restaurants as the prime targets.

Residential burglary

In the last two years, residential burglaries, also known as housebreaks, dropped to levels not seen in over 30 years in Cambridge. There were 119 housebreaks reported in 2019, and in 2020, the number rose slightly to 129 thefts, which was 10 incidents (8%) above the 119 reported in 2019 and 61 incidents (-32%) below the five-year average of 190.

Part of the reason housebreak numbers were so low in 2019 and 2020 was the lack of any prolific or long-lasting patterns of this crime type. Only one discernable housebreak pattern emerged in 2020. In the first three weeks of January, a series of housebreaks and larcenies surfaced in the lower half of Cambridge. Most of the incidents occurred overnight and involved unlocked homes and sheds, with bicycles the main targets of a group of suspects who are homeless. Related arrests were made for receiving stolen property and the pattern came to an end in February.

Residential burglary, 2011-2020



Relation of Offender to Victim in Residential Burglaries

Type	2019	2020
Stranger/Unknown	107	113
Domestic (family member, romantic partner, etc.)	5	9
Acquaintance (friend, landlord, etc.)	7	7
Total	119	129

Point/Method of Entry into Homes

Category	2018	2019	2020
Door Entry	131	73	89
Pried/forced/broken	45	25	30
Unlocked/open	65	30	33
Other/unknown	21	18	26
Window Entry	53	37	19
Pried/forced/broken	15	11	6
Cut/removed screens	16	12	5
Unlocked/open	18	10	8
Other/unknown	4	4	0
Other/Unknown entry	12	9	21
Total	196	119	129

Residential burglaries by neighborhood

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2019	2020	Change from Avg.	Population (2010)	2020 Rate/10,000
East Cambridge	18	20	13	-28%	9,234	14
M.I.T.	1	2	0	-100%	5,057	0
Inman/Harrington	18	5	10	-44%	6,516	15
The Port	19	9	17	-11%	6,792	25
Cambridgeport	35	16	24	-31%	12,220	20
Mid-Cambridge	25	14	15	-40%	12,991	12
Riverside	19	8	10	-47%	12,695	8
Agassiz	8	4	2	-75%	4,977	4
Peabody	15	12	9	-40%	11,399	8
West Cambridge	12	5	8	-33%	8,023	10
North Cambridge	16	16	17	6%	11,908	14
Cambridge Highlands	1	2	0	-100%	832	0
Strawberry Hill	4	6	4	0%	2,518	16
Total	190	119	129	-32%	105,162	

Larceny

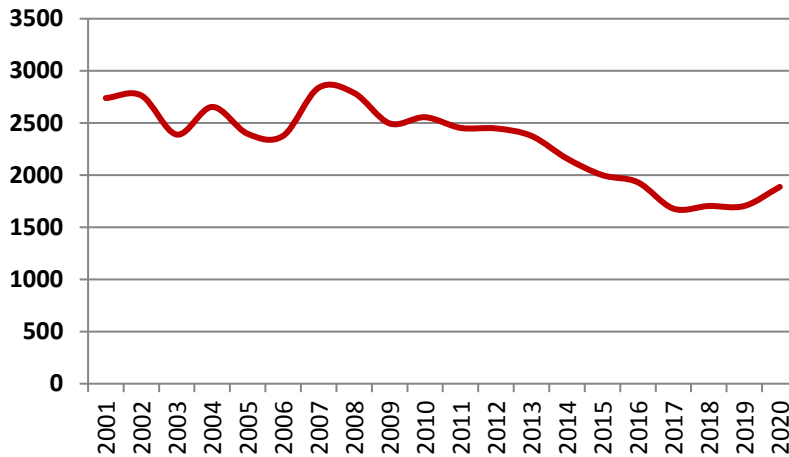
Definition

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

Statistics

Five-Year Average	1,749
2019	1,887
2020	1,704
Change from 2019	11%
Change from Average	8%

Larcenies reported in Cambridge



Larceny is always the most common of the Part I crimes in Cambridge. This year it accounted for 77% of the total Part I crime and 87% of the total property crime. Larceny often produces the most patterns. Many of the categories can be fueled by changes in technology. As electronics such as laptops, cell phones, and portable music players become more popular and evolve, they become easier targets, easier to conceal, and ultimately easier to sell.

Larceny is broken down into the nine categories listed in the table below. Larceny categories were very much affected by the pandemic in 2020. More than half of the larceny categories experienced substantial reductions from 2019 to 2020, mostly because of the lack of people venturing out in the city for work, dining, shopping, and recreation. Those reduced categories were as follows: larcenies from buildings (-41%), larcenies from the person (-38%), shopliftings (-23%), larcenies of plates (-50%), and larcenies of services (-67%). Meanwhile, the larceny types that experienced increases in 2020 over 2019 were larcenies of bicycles (+42%), larcenies from residences (+56%), larcenies from motor vehicles (+49%), and miscellaneous larcenies (+5%).

Larceny is broken down into the nine categories listed in the table below.

Larcenies by type

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2019	2020	Change from Avg.	% of Total (2020)
Larcenies from buildings	262	217	127	-52%	7%
Larcenies from motor vehicles	285	236	351	23%	19%
Larcenies from persons	170	159	99	-42%	5%
Larcenies from residences	244	248	387	59%	21%
Larcenies of bicycles	358	425	602	68%	32%
Larcenies of license plates	22	18	9	-59%	0%
Larcenies of services	21	15	5	-76%	0%
Shoplifting	345	347	266	-23%	14%
Other (unclassifiable) larcenies	41	39	41	0%	2%
Total	1,749	1,704	1,887	8%	

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	2019	2020	Change
CambridgeSide/East Cambridge	23	19	-17%
Kendall/M.I.T.	12	8	-33%
Inman Square	10	12	20%
Central Square	51	28	-45%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	8	1	-88%
Bay Sq./Upper Broadway	10	9	-10%
Harvard Square	49	12	-76%
1500-1900 Mass. Ave.	21	9	-57%
Porter Sq./N. Cambridge	6	10	67%
Alewife/West Cambridge	27	19	-30%
Total	217	127	-41%

There were 127 larcenies from buildings reported in 2020. This total represents a decrease of 90 incidents (-41%) from 2019 and a 52% drop below the five-year average of 262.

Larceny from building scenarios

The following are the most common larceny from building scenarios in Cambridge in 2020:

1. Thefts of property intentionally left unattended for a short time: **24 incidents**
2. Thefts of property accidentally left behind at a location: **22 incidents**
3. Thefts of property left unattended on a store counter: **16 incidents**
4. Thefts from a health club: **14 incidents**
5. Thefts from a construction site: **10 incidents**
6. Thefts of company property by an employee (“inside job”): **9 incidents**
7. Thefts from a safe/depository: **9 incidents**
8. Thefts of personal/company property from an office building during business hours: **7 incidents**
9. Thefts of employee property from the “back room” of a commercial establishment: **6 incidents**
10. Thefts from a hotel room: **3 incidents**
11. Thefts from a school: **3 incidents**

Top hot spots of 2020

1. **CambridgeSide Shopping Center**
100 CambridgeSide Place
9 incidents
2. **Planet Fitness**
1815 Massachusetts Avenue
7 incidents
3. **Mount Auburn Hospital**
330 Mount Auburn Street
3 incidents
5. **Panera Bread**
5 White Street
3 incidents
6. **Chipotle**
598 Massachusetts Ave
3 incidents

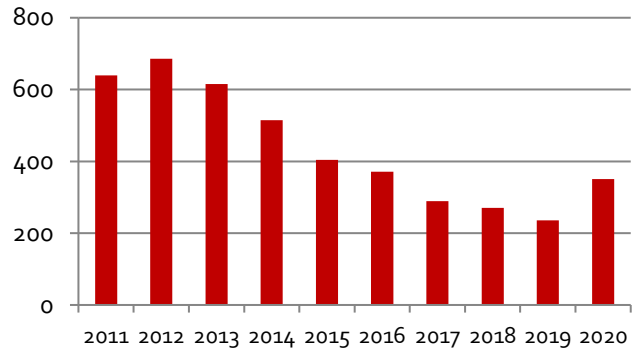
Larcenies from motor vehicles

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

This crime type hit its peak in 2007—when GPS units became a hot target—and has been steadily decreasing each year since then, with only one slight increase in 2012 and a more substantial rise this year. The total of 351 car breaks reported in 2020 was 49% above the 2019 total of 236 and 23% above the five-year weighted average of 285.

LMV activity tends to be concentrated in a few specific areas each year. Very few established patterns of this crime emerged in 2020, however. Most notably, two separate overnight sprees occurred during the year: in mid-May in East Cambridge with at least 13 thefts reported, and in late June in The Port with at least 21 thefts reported.

Larcenies from motor vehicles, 2011-2020



Larcenies from vehicles by neighborhood

Neighborhood	2019	2020	Change
East Cambridge	22	41	86%
M.I.T.	0	3	N/A
Inman/Harrington	19	14	-26%
The Port	15	49	227%
Cambridgeport	35	42	20%
Mid-Cambridge	13	47	262%
Riverside	19	33	74%
Agassiz	6	9	50%
Peabody	24	24	0%
West Cambridge	35	27	-23%
North Cambridge	35	40	14%
Cambridge Highlands	5	9	80%
Strawberry Hill	8	13	63%
Total	236	351	49%

Top stolen items of 2020

1. Cash/Coins 102
2. Backpacks/Bags/
Purses/Wallets 41
3. Misc. Electronics
(Phones, MP3 Players,
GPS Units, etc.) 34
4. Glasses/Sunglasses 25
5. Auto Registration 19
6. Credit/ATM cards 17
7. Laptops 13
8. Auto Parts 12
9. Clothing/Coats/Shoes 10
10. Identification 7

Top methods of entry

1. Entry through unlocked door or open window, accounted for 43% in 2020.
2. In 38% of cases, means of entry were unknown, with no signs of force.
3. Breaking a window; this accounted for only 11% of larcenies in 2020.

Larcenies from persons

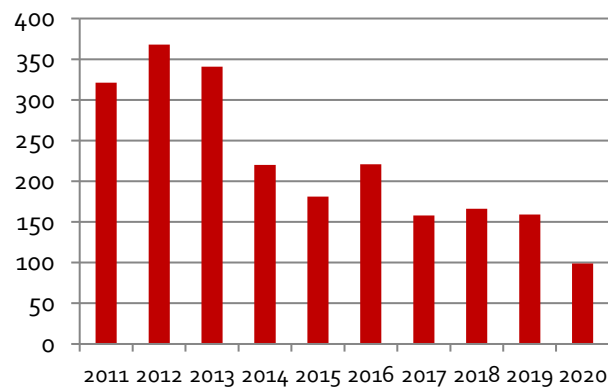
Larceny from the person describes pocket-picking or any theft that occurs within the victim’s area of control. The thefts are non-confrontational, and often the victim is not aware of the theft until after it has occurred. If any physical confrontation between offender and victim takes place, the crime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

Due to the numerous pandemic-related closures of and restrictions at restaurants and shops across the city in 2020, larcenies from persons dropped considerably this year, down from 159 incidents in 2019 to 99 in 2020. The total of 99 thefts this year is the lowest total seen in Cambridge in more than 20 years. Only one larceny from the person in 2020 resulted in an arrest at the time of the incident, while a suspect was developed in an additional 15 incidents. See the scenarios below for more on larcenies from the person in 2020.

Larcenies from persons by business district

Business District	2019	2020	Change
CambridgeSide/ East Cambridge	20	6	-70%
Kendall/M.I.T.	4	2	-50%
Inman Square	1	7	600%
Central Square	63	49	-22%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	8	3	-63%
Bay Sq./Upper Broadway	4	3	-25%
Harvard Square	38	14	-63%
1500-1900 Mass. Ave.	6	1	-83%
Porter Sq./N. Cambridge	8	9	13%
Alewife/West Cambridge	7	5	-29%
Total	159	99	-38%

Larcenies from persons, 2011-2020



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 2020 involved the theft of items after they were left unattended by their owners. This scenario accounted for approximately 42% of the larcenies from persons in 2020. In a typical year, this would include thefts of purses, wallets, and other belongings left briefly unattended in bars, restaurants, churches, schools, bus stops, parks, etc. However, due to the reduction in overall gatherings around the city this year, the most typical scenario in 2020 involved the theft of property from individuals who are homeless while they were asleep or away from their property, particularly in the Central Square area.

2. The second most common larceny from person scenario in Cambridge in 2020 involved pocket-picking, in which items are stolen from a victim’s pocket, purse, or backpack without his or her knowledge. This scenario accounted for 19% of the larcenies from persons in 2020. Similar to the thefts of unattended items, pocket-picking incidents were also most common in Central Square this year.

3. The third most frequent scenario in 2020 was the grab-and-run incident. An example of this scenario is when a commuter is sitting at a bus stop with his backpack on the bench next to him and someone takes the backpack and flees. Another scenario involves when two people meet in person to make an exchange for property that was arranged online; during the trade, the suspect manages to escape with both the property and the money. Grab-and-run incidents accounted for 17% of the larceny from person reports citywide in 2019.

Note: the scenarios that we typically see most often in Cambridge—thefts from diners and shoppers in the Squares—were noticeably reduced in 2020 because of pandemic closures. Only 12 dining incidents and nine shopping incidents were reported all year, down from 38 and 28, respectively, in 2019.

Larcenies from residences

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

There were 387 larcenies from residences reported in Cambridge in 2020, a 56% rise over 2019. The thefts of packages from the front steps or vestibules of residences continued to dominate this crime category this year, with 284 incidents reported. Thanks to an understandably large increase in pandemic-related online shopping, this number is up drastically from the 149 package thefts reported in 2019. It should also be noted that even with the large increase in 2020, these incidents are believed to be vastly underreported, so the actual number of packages stolen is likely even greater.

The most common larceny from residence scenarios are:

- Thefts of mail/packages delivered by a parcel service: **75%**
- Thefts from a yard, porch, or other area surrounding a residence: **6%**
- Thefts committed by visitors or guests of a residence: **5%**
- Thefts committed by someone working in the residence, such as a painter, plumber, contractor, or maintenance worker: **5%**
- Thefts from a common area of an apartment building: **4%**
- Thefts committed by a family member, spouse, or romantic partner (i.e., “domestic thefts”): **3%**
- Thefts from a storage area of an apartment building or complex: **2%**
- Thefts committed while victims are in the process of moving: **less than 1% (only one incident)**

Larcenies from residences by neighborhood

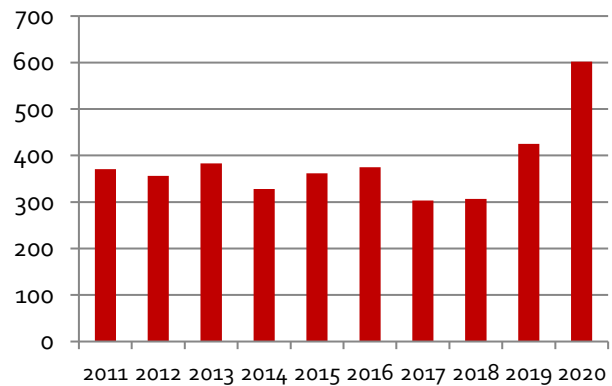
Neighborhood	2019	2020	Change
East Cambridge	21	28	33%
MIT	3	1	-67%
Inman/Harrington	28	29	4%
The Port	25	38	52%
Cambridgeport	29	54	86%
Mid-Cambridge	41	63	54%
Riverside	27	47	74%
Agassiz	10	12	20%
Peabody	24	44	83%
West Cambridge	9	16	78%
North Cambridge	23	41	78%
Cambridge Highlands	3	6	100%
Strawberry Hill	5	8	60%
Total	248	387	56%

Larcenies of bicycles*

Larcenies of bicycles by neighborhood

Neighborhood	2019	2020	Change
East Cambridge	58	78	34%
M.I.T.	14	11	-21%
Inman/Harrington	19	19	0%
The Port	37	58	57%
Cambridgeport	56	122	118%
Mid-Cambridge	47	64	36%
Riverside	35	58	66%
Agassiz	8	11	38%
Peabody	18	52	189%
West Cambridge	52	40	-23%
North Cambridge	76	71	-7%
Cambridge Highlands	5	15	200%
Strawberry Hill	0	3	N/A
Total	425	602	42%

Larcenies of bicycles, 2011-2020



Larcenies of bicycles by month in 2020

Month	Number of thefts
January	20
February	13
March	22
April	39
May	41
June	57
July	83
August	92
September	83
October	75
November	52
December	25
Total	602

There were 602 reported incidents of stolen bicycles in 2020, an increase of 177 incidents (42%) over 2019 and a staggering 68% rise over the five-year weighted average of 358 thefts. Consistent with expectations, the largest numbers of bicycle thefts occurred during the late spring, summer, and early fall, when bicycles were most prevalent along the city’s streets and sidewalks because of the warmer weather. However, going against expectations, these incidents did not drop off as markedly as they normally do with the arrival of colder weather in November and December.

Locks present little difficulty to bicycle thieves, who often bring bolt cutters or pry bars with them. Approximately 51% of all reported bicycle thefts this year involved locked and unattended bicycles on a street, sidewalk, or rack. Another 23% of thefts involved locked bicycles on private property, such as in private back yards or in apartment building hallways. Nearly 18% of the larcenies involved bicycles that were left unlocked and unprotected. Unlocked bicycles that were on private property followed, making up the remaining 8% of reported incidents.

Similar to recent years, one of the hardest hit areas for bicycle thefts in 2020 was Central Square, with 133 incidents. Another up-and-coming area that has seen an increase in thefts in 2019 and again in 2020 is the Alewife/West Cambridge business district, where bike thefts have risen from from 29 in 2018 to 64 in 2019 and 70 in 2020. This increase is due to an emerging trend of thefts from parking garages and storage areas around the city. In the Alewife area alone, there were nearly 30 bicycles reported stolen from the parking garages and bicycle storage areas of buildings along Cambridgepark Drive, Concord Avenue, and Fawcett Street. Citywide, thefts from parking garages and storage areas increased from 28 in 2018 to 89 in 2019 to 147 in 2020.

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

Shoplifting

Due to the pandemic-related closures of many stores across Cambridge in 2020, shoplifting decreased by 23% in 2020, dropping from 347 incidents in 2019 to 266 this year. In a typical year, the CambridgeSide/East Cambridge area would usually experience the majority of the shopliftings in the city. However, in 2020, shopliftings dropped 60% to 59 incidents in the East Cambridge area and rose 122% to 80 incidents in Porter Square. Other business areas with notable shoplifting numbers in 2020 were Central Square (63 thefts), the Alewife/West Cambridge area (27 thefts), and Harvard Square (22 thefts). It is important to note that since shoplifting incidents are often only reported when an arrest is made, underreporting can be a serious problem. However, 86% of the reported incidents in 2020 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	2019	2020	Change
CambridgeSide/ East Cambridge	146	59	-60%
Kendall/MIT	1	1	0%
Inman Square	5	4	-20%
Central Square	76	63	-17%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	9	6	-33%
Bay Sq./Upper Broadway	2	2	0%
Harvard Square	45	22	-51%
1500-1900 Mass. Ave.	4	2	-50%
Porter Sq./N. Cambridge	36	80	122%
Alewife/West Cambridge	23	27	17%
Total	347	266	-23%

Shoplifters usually fall into one of five categories:

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

Larcenies of services

This crime includes taxicab fare evasion, “dining and ditching,” “gassing and going,” and other failures to pay for services already rendered. There were only five of these crimes reported in 2020, which is down 67% from the 15 reported in 2019. “Dining and ditching” incidents were reported most often this year (three incidents), followed by one incident each of a failure to pay for parking and a failure to pay for auto repair services.

Miscellaneous larceny

This category includes all other unclassifiable larcenies. Miscellaneous larcenies in 2020 rose slightly by 5% from 39 in 2019 to 41 in 2020. There were no notable patterns of any miscellaneous types of larceny this year.

Auto Theft

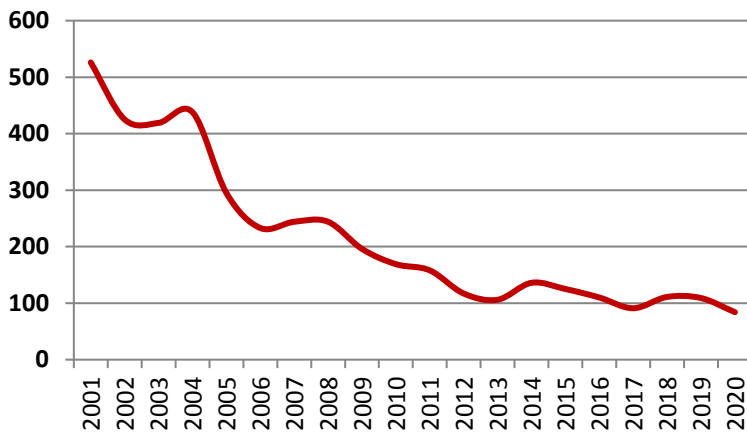
Definition

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	107
2019	109
2020	84
Change from 2019	-23%
Change from Average	-21%

Auto thefts reported in Cambridge



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

The 91 auto thefts reported in 2017 marked the lowest auto theft total ever recorded in Cambridge and was the first time this figure dropped below 100 thefts. This total rose back over 100 for the next two years and then declined below 100 again in 2020, dropping to a new record low of only 84 incidents. This decrease may be due, at least in part, to the pandemic in 2020, as significantly fewer people were traveling about, eliminating some of the opportunity for auto thefts.

Auto thefts tend to stay relatively consistent from year to year in each neighborhood. The notable increase seen in Riverside in 2019, which had resulted from a summertime pattern of auto thefts in that area, returned to a more typical level in 2020 that mirrored the five-year average. The MIT area also experienced a higher-than-average auto theft total in 2019 when a number of rental vehicles were stolen from parking garages for the purpose of joy-riding; this increase, too, was eliminated in 2020. In fact, most neighborhoods were at or below their expected auto theft totals this year.

Auto thefts by neighborhood

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2019	2020	Change from Avg.	% of Total (2020)
East Cambridge	14	13	11	-21%	13%
MIT	5	9	1	-80%	1%
Inman/Harrington	10	7	3	-70%	4%
The Port	12	13	10	-17%	12%
Cambridgeport	14	10	16	14%	19%
Mid-Cambridge	8	4	4	-50%	5%
Riverside	11	21	11	0%	13%
Agassiz	4	5	0	-100%	0%
Peabody	6	2	7	17%	8%
West Cambridge	12	12	10	-17%	12%
North Cambridge	10	11	10	0%	12%
Cambridge Highlands	1	2	1	0%	1%
Strawberry Hill	0	0	0	0%	0%
Total	107	109	84	-21%	

Makes and models

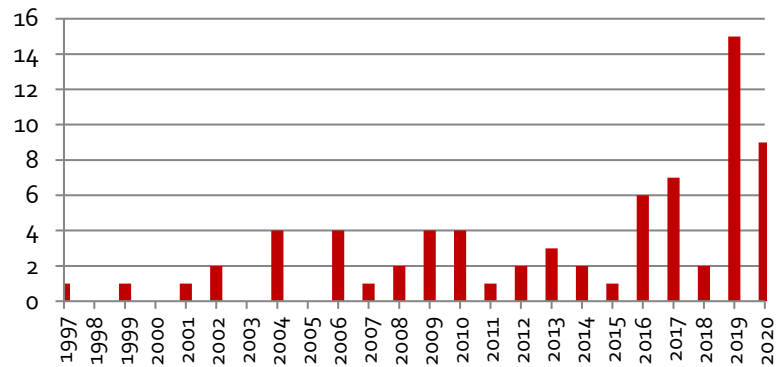
In 2020, Toyota and Honda tied for the most stolen automobile makes in Cambridge, with 13 each. Together they constituted 31% of all auto theft reports this year. Tao Tao, which is the make of a scooter, came in third with 6% of the auto thefts, followed by Infiniti, Subaru and Hyundai with 5% each. This information, while typically consistent with historical and national trends, can change from year to year with different targeted models rising in the ranks. Honda Civics had been the most commonly stolen vehicles in Cambridge (either alone or tied with another model) since 2002. But this changed in 2019 when, for the first time in nearly 20 years, Toyota Corollas were reported stolen more often than Honda Civics in Cambridge. However, Civics still made it onto the list. Meanwhile, thefts of Honda Civics dropped off even further in 2020 when they no longer made it onto the list of top stolen car models at all. Typically, Toyotas and Hondas are stolen more than other cars due to the following factors. First, these cars are some of the most commonly owned makes/models in the nation, making them more widely available. Statistical probability alone would place them near the top of the theft list. Second, car thieves tend to look for average-cost, commonly owned, inconspicuous cars. High-priced luxury cars are not stolen very often because they are too easy for police to spot and are more likely to be equipped with expensive alarm systems.

Top 4 stolen makes and models in Cambridge in 2020

Makes		Models	
Toyota	13	Toyota Camry	5
Honda	13	Honda Accord	4
Tao Tao	5	Hyundai Elantra	4
Infiniti / Subaru / Hyundai	each 4	Toyota Rav 4	4

Thefts of motorcycles, scooters, and mopeds have also become more common throughout the city and region over the past few years. In 2020, this vehicle type accounted for 36% of all auto thefts in Cambridge. Previously in 2019, 25% of all auto thefts were of the two-wheeled variety, which was down slightly from 30% in 2018.

Auto thefts in 2020 by model year



The table to the right shows the incidence of auto theft by model year (11 vehicles did not report the model year, as a lot of scooter and moped owners are not aware of this information, and one theft involved a model year prior to 1997). Analysis of the age of stolen vehicles shows that the highest demand is typically for cars less than 10 years old.

Auto theft recoveries by location

Approximately 37% of the cars reported stolen in 2020 have been reported as recovered to date. Slightly less than half (or 48%) of the recovered cars this year were found within Cambridge.

Cambridge Recoveries	15
North Cambridge	4
The Port	3
Cambridgeport	2
East Cambridge	2
Riverside	2
West Cambridge	1
Mid-Cambridge	1

Recoveries in Other Cities/Towns	16
Boston	4
Somerville	3
Burlington	1
Chelmsford	1
Everett	1
Out of State	1
Framingham	1
Haverhill	1
Quincy	1
Randolph	1
Watertown	1



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	69
2019	80
2020	48
Change from 2019	-40%
Change from Average	-30%

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. Unfortunately, far fewer investigations than normal were conducted during 2020 due to the pandemic, leading to the large drop in numbers in 2020.

To the right is a geographic breakdown of drug incidents across the 13 neighborhoods in Cambridge. Riverside accounted for the most drug activity in the City in 2020, with nine incidents.

In total, 48 drug incidents were reported in 2020 and 34 people were arrested in 27 of these incidents.

Drug offense scenarios

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

1. A police officer on patrol observes suspicious street activity and upon further investigation discovers narcotics: 15 cases in 2020
2. During a routine motor vehicle stop, a police officer observes narcotics inside the vehicle: 15 cases in 2020
3. During an arrest for another crime, the arresting officer or booking officer finds narcotics on the arrested person: 8 cases in 2020
4. A citizen witnesses a person or persons using drugs and notifies the police: 5 cases in 2020
5. 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: 4 cases in 2020
6. A Cambridge school official or court officer observes drug use: 1 case in 2020

Drug incidents by neighborhood

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2019	2020	% of Total (2020)*
East Cambridge	5	4	6	13%
MIT	1	2	1	2%
Inman/Harrington	3	2	6	13%
The Port	12	11	5	10%
Cambridgeport	19	21	5	10%
Mid-Cambridge	6	8	7	15%
Riverside	11	12	9	19%
Agassiz	0	1	0	0%
Peabody	2	3	1	2%
West Cambridge	5	7	4	8%
North Cambridge	2	3	3	6%
Cambridge Highlands	3	6	1	2%
Strawberry Hill	0	0	0	0%
Total	69	80	48	

Part II Crimes: Drug Offenses

Type of drug involved in incidents

Category	2020
Heroin/Opioids	15
Cocaine or crack cocaine	11
Prescription drugs	8
Methamphetamine	7
Marijuana	6
Hallucinogens	1
Other (inhalants, etc.)	0

Drug related activities for which persons are arrested

Category	2020
Possession	26
Possession with intent to distribute*	21
Drug sale (observed)	0
Trafficking**	1

*Carrying a significant amount of drugs not for personal use

**Selling, possessing, or transporting of copious amounts of drugs

Summary of overdose incidents

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

Although overdose incidents are generally medical in nature, police often respond to assist Fire and EMS agencies. In 2020, 255 total overdose incidents *of all types* (with 11 fatalities) were reported to the Cambridge Police, which is down 14% from the 296 overdoses (with 19 fatalities) reported to the police in 2019.

When a victim cannot or will not report what substance was involved in an overdose, officers must often rely on witness statements, medical personnel evaluations, and/or evidence at the scene to make a determination. The chart below provides a breakdown of the suspected drug type involved in each overdose report for 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020.* Following that is a breakdown of the fatal overdoses from the past five years.

*Most of this data comes strictly from police reports. Additional overdoses are reported to EMS/Fire agencies in Cambridge, but police are not always alerted to respond as the call is often considered medical, not criminal in nature.

Suspected drug ingested

Drug	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Opioids (including but not limited to heroin, fentanyl, and any opioid used in combination with other drugs)	199	151	141	181	157
Prescription/OTC Meds	56	61	55	34	54
Cocaine	1	4	5	10	3
Marijuana/THC	3	9	31	12	7
Crystal Meth	1	1	9	9	6
K2	2	1	2	0	0
Other (Designer Drugs, Hallucinogens, and any combination of drugs not involving opioids)	14	6	20	36	10
Unknown	19	18	15	14	18
Total	295	251	278	296	255

In 2020, there were 11 fatal overdoses:

- 7 confirmed overdoses involving fentanyl, heroin, or another opioid in combination with one or more additional drugs, such as cocaine, meth, alcohol, or pills (poly-drug overdoses)
- 3 confirmed fentanyl overdoses (not combined with any other drug)
- 1 confirmed overdose by way of a combination of pills and alcohol

In 2019, there were 19 fatal overdoses:

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

In 2018, there were 11 fatal overdoses:

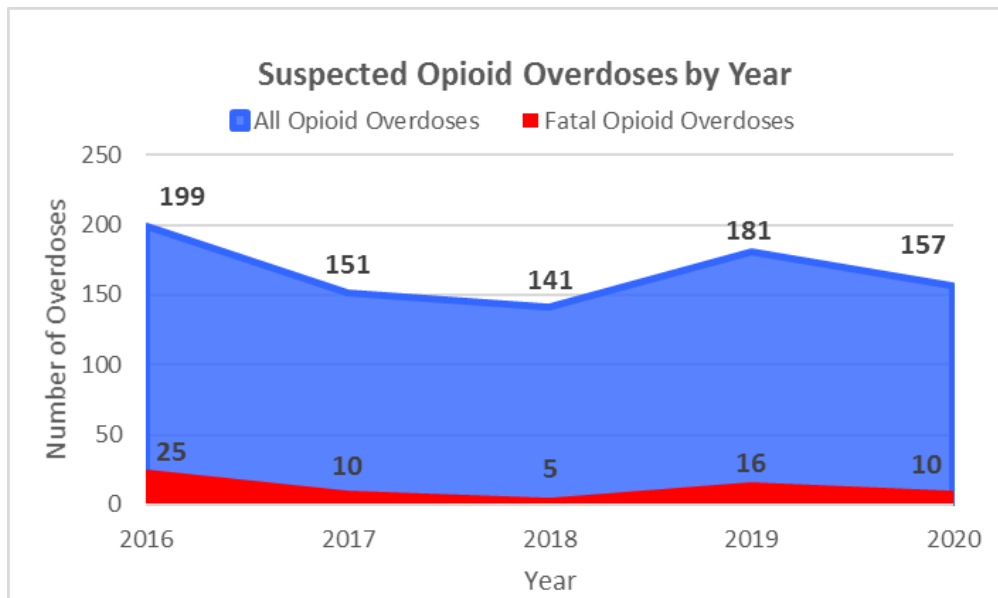
- 3 likely/confirmed heroin overdoses
- 1 confirmed fentanyl overdose
- 1 overdose involving an unspecified opioid
- 1 confirmed overdose involving cocaine
- 5 possible overdoses with unknown involved drug types

In 2017, there were 15 fatal overdoses:

- 6 likely/confirmed heroin overdoses
- 1 likely/confirmed fentanyl overdose
- 3 overdoses involving unspecified opioids
- 1 overdose from a suspected mix of cocaine and prescription pills
- 4 possible overdoses with unknown involved drug types

In 2016, there were 29 fatal overdoses:

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



Sex Offenses

Definition

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

Statistics

Five-Year Average	80
2019	88
2020	67
Change from 2019	-24%
Change from Average	-16%

Sex offenses by type

Category	5-Yr. Avg.	2019	2020	Change from Avg.
Indecent assault	34	46	24	-29%
Indecent exposure	21	18	26	24%
Peeping & Spying	7	9	7	0%
Annoying & accosting	9	12	10	11%
Obscene phone calls	4	2	0	-100%
Prostitution & solicitation	4	1	0	-100%
Total	80	88	67	-16%

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 2020, the offender was a stranger to the victim in 33% of the reported assaults. Four of the incidents in 2020 resulted in an arrest at the time of the incident and a suspect was identified in 16 others. No patterns of this crime type emerged anywhere in Cambridge this year.

Indecent Exposure

Indecent exposure is the offensive, often suggestive display of one's body (usually the genitals) in public. The main offenders are typically vagrants or inebriated individuals. Six (23%) of the 26 indecent exposure incidents in 2020 involved suspects masturbating or engaging in sexual acts in public, 15 individuals (58%) were seen urinating/defecating in public, and five crimes (19%) were flashing incidents. Arrests were made in four incidents and suspects were identified in an additional 14.

Peeping and Spying

Five of the seven peeping and spying incidents reported in Cambridge in 2020 involved offenders peering through windows of houses or apartments, generally at night. The other two incidents involved the videotaping and/or photographing of unsuspecting victims during situations in which privacy was expected. One arrest was made at the time of the incident and suspects were later identified in two of the window-peeping incidents and two of the incidents involving unauthorized filming.

Annoying & Accosting

Annoying and accosting a member of the opposite sex is a form of criminal harassment. (Note: Incidents involving phone call harassment are not considered annoying and accosting. Phone calls are a separate category.) Often, annoying and accosting involves a man repeatedly following, shouting, making off-color suggestions, hooting, repeatedly asking for a date, following or otherwise harassing a woman. It happens most often on the street. All ten of the incidents in 2020 were perpetrated by strangers. None of the incidents resulted in arrests at the time of their occurrence, but suspects were later developed in five incidents.

Obscene Telephone Calls

Obscene telephone calls are unwanted phone calls of an offensive or repulsive nature. Often the caller uses sexual or vulgar language to cause discomfort and possibly fear to the victim receiving the calls. There were no incidents of this nature to report in 2020.

Prostitution and Soliciting Sex for a Fee

Prostitution is commonly associated with “streetwalking,” (prostitutes working the streets) but also includes escort services, where a “john” (client) will call and a prostitute will be sent to the “john’s” location. In the 1990’s, the Cambridge Police Special Investigations Unit (SIU) had proactively fought the visible “streetwalking” problem, nearly eradicating it in Cambridge. In recent years, the problem has re-emerged in Cambridge in a less public fashion, particularly through internet advertisements. No prostitution incidents were recorded in 2020.

Fraud

Definition

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

Statistics

Five-Year Average	569
2019	585
2020	1,375
Change from 2019	135%
Change from Average	142%

Across the nation, police departments are seeing fraud become an increasingly popular crime. In 2020, this crime type in Cambridge increased by 135% from the previous year.

Counterfeiting

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

Bad Check

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

Forged Check

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

ATM/Credit Card Fraud

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

Fraud by type

Category	2019	2020	Change from 2019*
Counterfeiting	21	8	-62%
Forgery/Uttering	293	1,149	292%
Identity theft	150	985	557%
Credit/ATM cards	92	88	-4%
Forged check	38	54	42%
Bad check	9	16	78%
Prescription	1	0	-100%
Application	1	5	400%
Other/miscellaneous	2	1	-50%
Con Games	271	217	-20%
Internet-related	85	93	9%
Housing Scam	54	28	-48%
Government	86	46	-47%
Extortion/Kidnap	15	9	-40%
Housework/Utilities	11	12	9%
Travel	1	3	200%
Lottery	3	5	67%
Charity	1	1	0%
Big Carrot	1	1	0%
Cash shuffle	0	1	n/a
Pigeon Drop	0	2	n/a
Miscellaneous	14	16	14%
Embezzlement	0	2	n/a
Total	585	1,376	135%

*N/A = % change cannot be calculated when the 2019 total is zero.

the main types of forgery that was expected to increase consistently in the coming years, as many criminal enterprises have taken to electronic methods due to the complexity of solving such cases. However, this type of fraud has actually dropped over the last three years, declining 32 incidents in 2018, another five incidents in 2019, and four additional incidents in 2020. The cause for the decreases is unknown but one possible explanation could

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

Identity Theft

This scenario is when a known or unknown person opens accounts in the victim's name with his or her social security number. This can include utilities, credit cards, or even filing tax returns. In 2020, there was a staggering increase of 557%, or 835 incidents, due to individuals taking advantage of the pandemic and filing false unemployment claims.

Embezzlement

This occurs when employees take advantage of their position for financial gain, often diverting company funds to their own account. Historically, retail stores in Harvard/Central Squares and CambridgeSide are most affected by this crime. Often, incidents of this type involve employees stealing several thousand dollars from the companies for which they work. The two incidents reported in 2020 took place at businesses in Harvard Square and Porter Square.

"Con" Games

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

The Cambridge Police issued several alerts in recent years about on-going phone scams affecting residents and businesses in the area.

The following is a list of some of the recent scams:

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

The following tips can help falling victim to one of these scams:

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

Malicious Destruction

Definition

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

Statistics

Five-Year Average	336
2019	322
2020	325
Change from 2019	1%
Change from Average	4%

Vandalism by neighborhood

Neighborhood	2019	2020	% of Total (2020)
East Cambridge	51	38	12%
M.I.T.	3	5	2%
Inman/Harrington	23	20	6%
The Port	32	41	13%
Cambridgeport	36	32	10%
Mid-Cambridge	37	30	9%
Riverside	35	32	10%
Agassiz	4	3	1%
Peabody	17	24	7%
West Cambridge	40	32	10%
North Cambridge	31	49	15%
Cambridge Highlands	8	10	3%
Strawberry Hill	5	9	3%
Total	322	325	

Vandalism by category

Category	2019	2020	Change from 2019
Total auto damage	161	166	3%
Dents/damage to car	70	57	-19%
Car window broken	40	34	-15%
Scratches, "pinstripes"	30	36	20%
Tires slashed or punctured	15	27	80%
Attempted theft	6	12	100%
Total residence damage	38	24	-37%
Misc. damage to residences	29	20	-31%
Residence window broken	9	4	-56%
Total business damage	73	62	-15%
Misc. damage to businesses	40	31	-23%
Business window broken	33	31	-6%
Graffiti	33	46	39%
Miscellaneous damage	17	27	59%
Total	322	325	1%

Other Part II Crimes

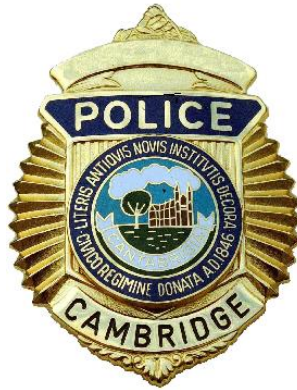
Definition

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	1,017
2019	1,043
2020	788
Change from 2019	-24%
Change from Average	-23%

Category	2019	2020	Change from 2019
Hit & Run Crashes	621	371	-40%
Threats	197	228	16%
Trespassing	52	51	-2%
Drinking in Public	58	30	-48%
Disorderly Conduct	18	25	39%
Traffic Arrests	25	24	-4%
Weapons Violations	22	24	9%
OUI	36	19	-47%
Extortion/Blackmail	6	14	133%
Liquor Violations	3	2	-33%
Kidnapping	5	0	-100%
Total	1,043	788	-24%

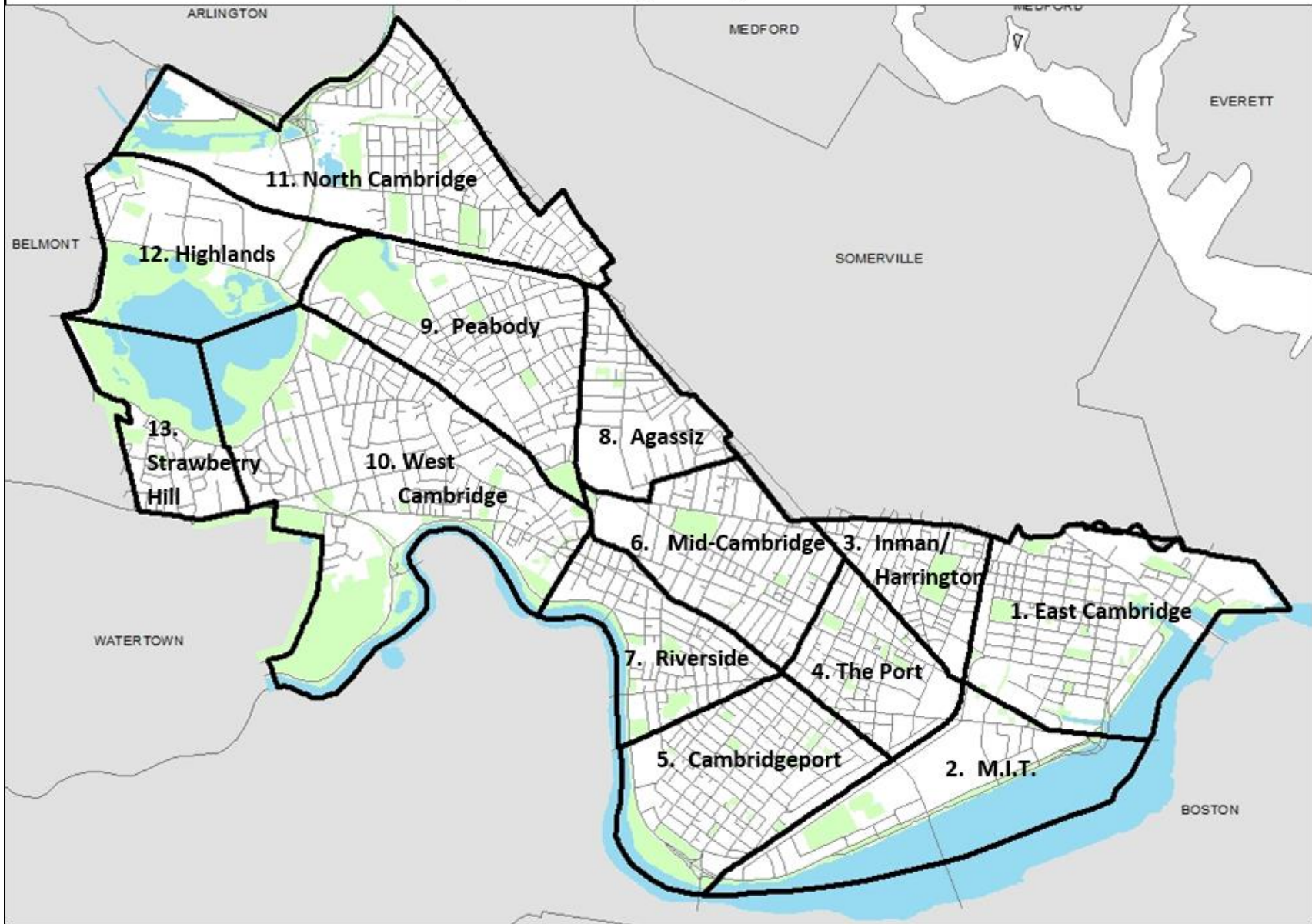


Section IV

Neighborhood Profiles

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

City of Cambridge Neighborhoods

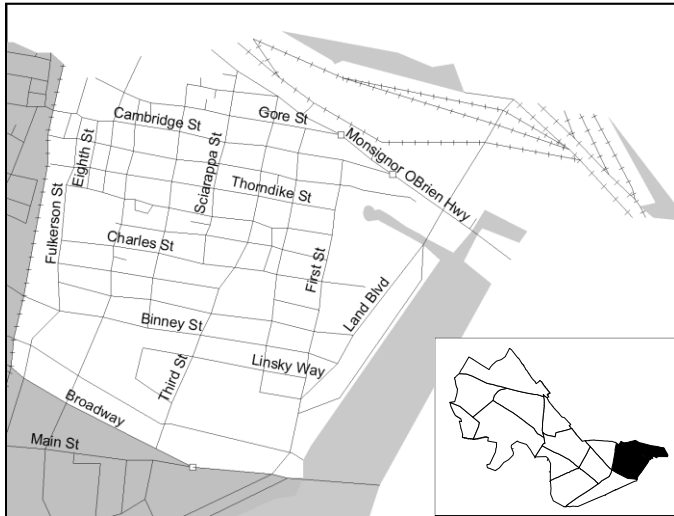


Neighborhood breakdown of index crimes in 2020

Crime	East Camb	M.I.T.	Inman/Harr.	The Port	Camb Port	Mid-Camb	River-side	Agassiz	Pea-body	W. Camb	N. Camb	Camb H'lands	Strw. Hill	Total
Aggravated Assault	10	3	13	22	34	20	26	0	11	15	24	7	6	191
Auto Theft	11	1	3	10	16	4	11	0	7	10	10	1	0	84
Commercial Break	6	1	4	4	4	7	5	3	1	16	2	3	1	57
Commercial Robbery	0	0	2	1	5	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	14
Drugs	6	1	6	6	5	7	9	0	1	4	5	1	0	51
Flim Flam	37	5	12	19	29	17	15	9	23	19	22	4	6	217
Forgery	166	6	50	61	125	140	83	39	127	123	166	17	46	1,149
Homicide	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Housebreak	13	0	10	17	24	15	10	2	9	8	17	0	4	129
Indecent Assault	4	1	2	0	2	3	4	2	1	1	3	0	1	24
Indecent Exposure	2	0	2	9	4	3	1	0	1	3	0	1	0	26
Larceny from Building	19	7	4	12	8	17	18	7	5	10	12	5	3	127
Larceny from MV	41	3	14	49	42	47	33	9	24	27	40	9	13	351
Larceny from Person	7	1	5	14	23	9	21	1	3	4	10	1	0	99
Larceny from Residence	28	1	29	38	54	63	47	12	44	16	41	6	8	387
Larceny of Bicycle	78	11	19	58	122	64	58	11	52	40	71	15	3	602
Mal. Dest. Property	38	5	20	41	33	30	32	3	24	32	49	10	9	326
Shoplifting	60	0	3	30	38	3	16	1	1	7	80	24	3	266
Simple Assault	33	3	26	51	73	48	48	5	16	39	37	12	6	397
Street Robbery	4	1	1	10	13	8	6	1	2	3	2	2	0	53

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)

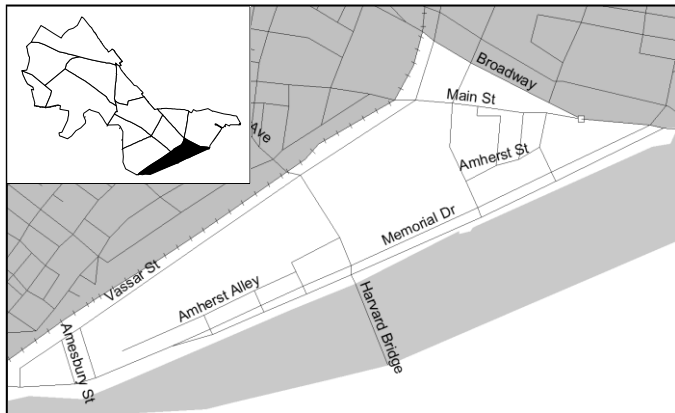
\$63,915

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, 2016-2020					
Crime	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Housebreaks	19	16	12	20	13
Street Robbery	7	7	2	5	4
Auto Theft	12	16	13	13	11
Larceny from MVs	36	29	22	22	41
Malicious Destruction	44	33	43	51	38
Drug Incidents	5	2	6	4	6

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

Neighborhood 2: M.I.T. Area



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

Population as of 2010:

5,057 residents
322 households

Estimated median income (2006-2010)

\$56,713

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

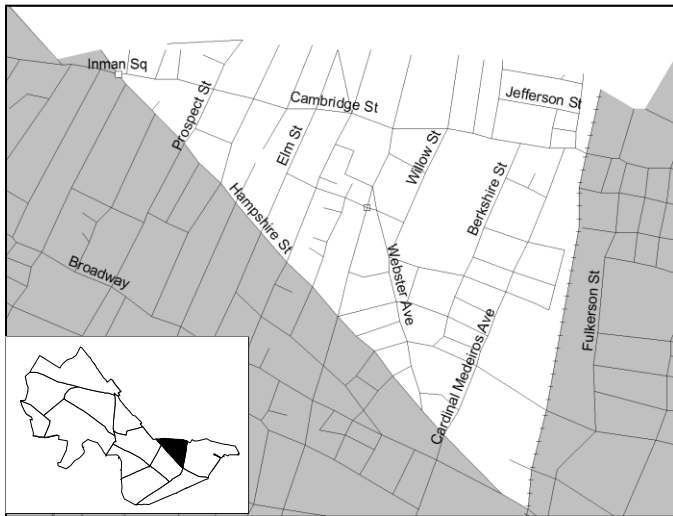
COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2016-2020

Crime	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Housebreaks	0	0	0	2	0
Street Robbery	2	1	0	2	1
Auto Theft	1	2	4	9	1
Larceny from MVs	7	3	2	0	3
Malicious Destruction	7	7	8	3	5
Drug Incidents	0	0	0	2	1

Annual Average for M.I.T. Area Target Crimes

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

Neighborhood 3: Inman/Harrington



Boundaries: Bounded by the B&A Railroad, Hampshire Street, and the Somerville line.

Population as of 2010:

6,516 residents
2,882 households

Estimated median income (2006-2010)

\$48,470

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

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2016-2020

Crime	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Housebreaks	30	27	18	5	10
Street Robbery	1	4	0	1	1
Auto Theft	7	9	15	7	3
Larceny from MVs	19	9	16	19	14
Malicious Destruction	34	24	16	23	20
Drug Incidents	5	1	3	2	6

Annual Average for Inman/Harrington Target Crimes

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

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, 2016-2020

Crime	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Housebreaks	43	12	20	9	17
Street Robbery	9	7	14	7	10
Auto Theft	17	7	13	13	10
Larceny from MVs	41	19	7	15	49
Malicious Destruction	40	40	43	32	41
Drug Incidents	4	16	15	11	6

Annual Average for The Port Target Crimes

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

Neighborhood 5: Cambridgeport



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

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

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

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

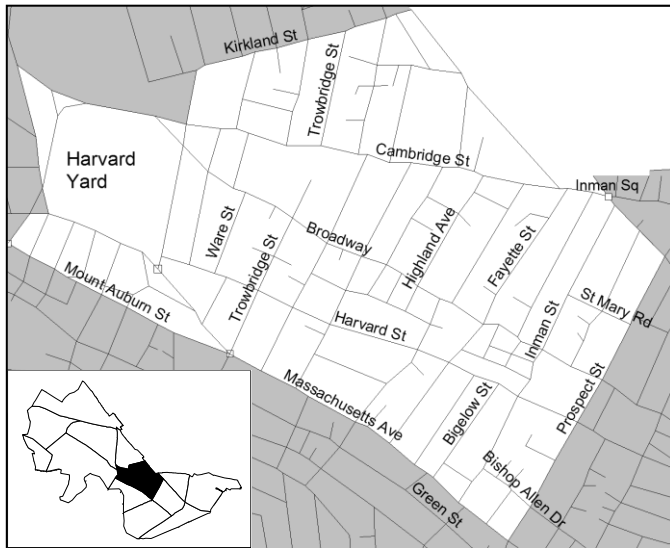
COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2016-2020

Crime	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Housebreaks	50	40	37	16	24
Street Robbery	20	16	11	12	13
Auto Theft	21	9	17	10	16
Larceny from MVs	60	38	35	35	42
Malicious Destruction	58	47	47	36	33
Drug Incidents	20	22	15	21	5

Annual Average for Cambridgeport Target Crimes

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

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, 2016-2020

Crime	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Housebreaks	33	34	22	14	15
Street Robbery	5	4	6	9	8
Auto Theft	15	10	6	4	4
Larceny from MVs	33	30	16	13	47
Malicious Destruction	31	31	23	37	30
Drug Incidents	3	6	4	8	7

Annual Average for Mid-Cambridge Target Crimes

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

Neighborhood 7: Riverside



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

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

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

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

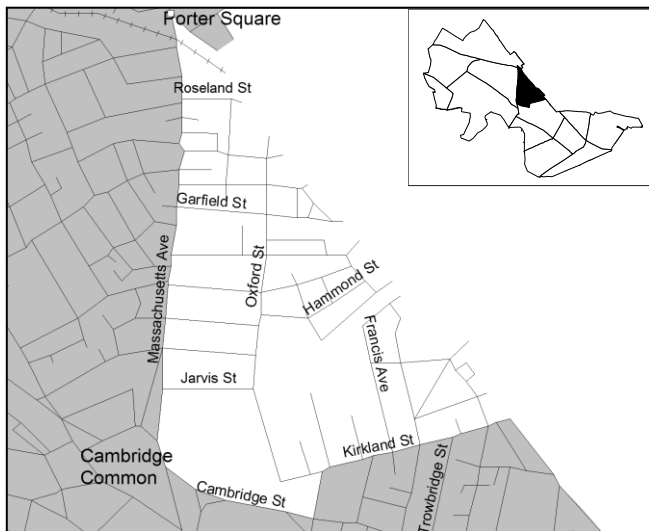
COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2016-2020

Crime	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Housebreaks	22	25	22	8	10
Street Robbery	5	4	15	9	6
Auto Theft	6	5	8	21	11
Larceny from MVs	34	20	33	19	33
Malicious Destruction	33	30	28	35	32
Drug Incidents	15	9	10	12	9

Annual Average for Riverside Target Crimes

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

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, 2016-2020

Crime	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Housebreaks	16	10	8	4	2
Street Robbery	0	0	0	0	1
Auto Theft	4	1	4	5	0
Larceny from MVs	11	9	7	6	9
Malicious Destruction	7	8	5	4	3
Drug Incidents	0	0	0	1	0

Annual Average for Agassiz Target Crimes

Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020
Housebreaks	67	26	25	11
Street Robbery	11	7	4	0
Auto Theft	45	19	11	4
Larceny from MVs	47	30	49	17
Malicious Destruction	45	28	18	8

Neighborhood 9: Peabody



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

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

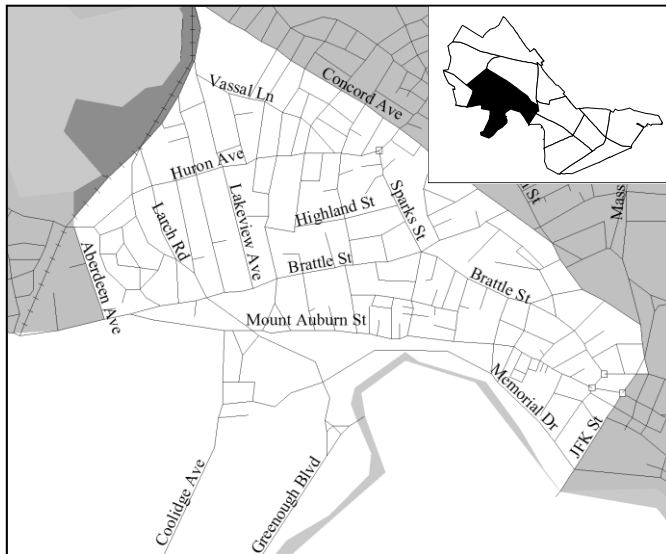
Estimated median income (2006-2010)
\$70,704

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

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2016-2020					
Crime	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Housebreaks	17	6	26	12	9
Street Robbery	1	4	1	4	2
Auto Theft	10	9	6	2	7
Larceny from MVs	32	28	29	24	24
Malicious Destruction	22	55	15	17	24
Drug Incidents	2	2	1	3	1

Annual Average for Peabody Target Crimes				
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020
Housebreaks	150	53	49	23
Street Robbery	21	14	10	3
Auto Theft	94	42	30	8
Larceny from MVs	74	60	80	42
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.

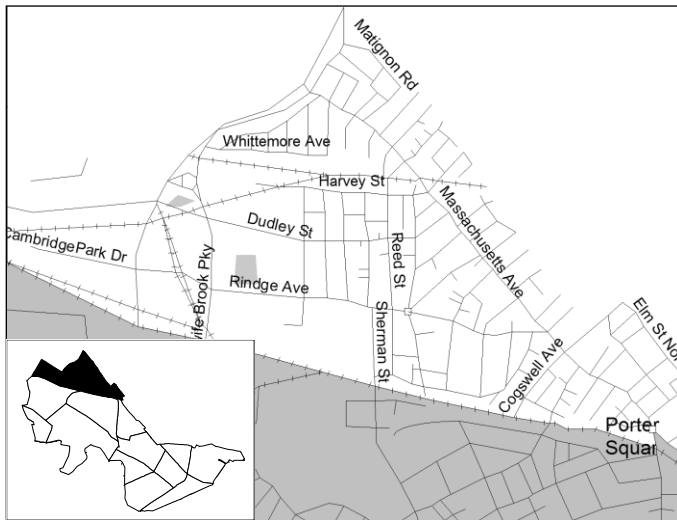
COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2016-2020

Crime	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Housebreaks	16	13	15	5	8
Street Robbery	2	9	8	5	3
Auto Theft	7	13	13	12	10
Larceny from MVs	50	43	34	35	27
Malicious Destruction	31	32	28	40	32
Drug Incidents	4	3	3	7	4

Annual Average for West Cambridge Target Crimes

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

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.

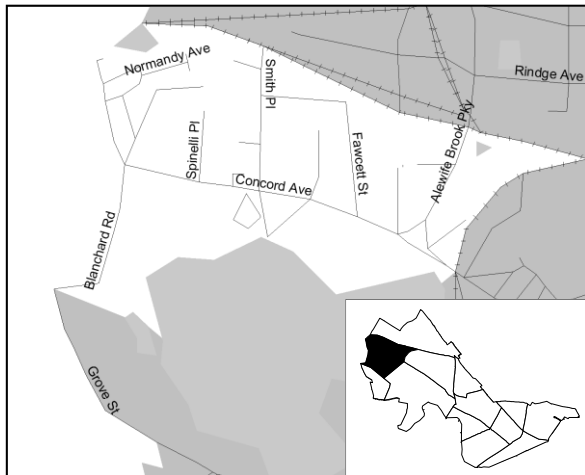
COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2016-2020

Crime	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Housebreaks	15	17	12	16	17
Street Robbery	5	7	4	3	2
Auto Theft	8	8	11	11	10
Larceny from MVs	37	53	52	35	40
Malicious Destruction	35	41	27	31	49
Drug Incidents	2	2	2	3	5

Annual Average for North Cambridge Target Crimes

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

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)

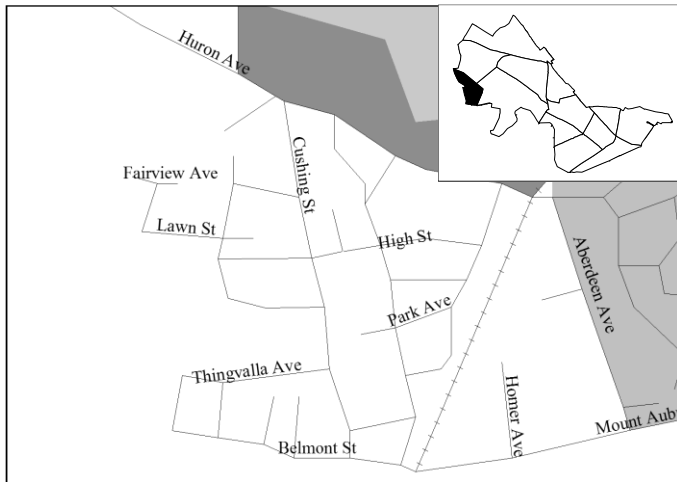
\$62,499

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, 2016-2020					
Crime	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Housebreaks	0	1	1	2	0
Street Robbery	1	2	1	3	2
Auto Theft	0	1	1	2	1
Larceny from MVs	1	5	11	5	9
Malicious Destruction	13	7	3	8	10
Drug Incidents	0	1	2	6	1

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

Neighborhood 13: Strawberry Hill



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

Population as of 2010:

2,518 residents
1,140 households

Estimated median income (2006-2010)

\$69,941

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

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2016-2020

Crime	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Housebreaks	2	2	3	6	4
Street Robbery	0	0	0	2	0
Auto Theft	2	1	0	0	0
Larceny from MVs	11	3	6	8	13
Malicious Destruction	9	3	14	5	9
Drug Incidents	1	0	1	0	0

Annual Average for Strawberry Hill Target Crimes

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



Section V

Traffic Analysis

TRAFFIC SAFETY & THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

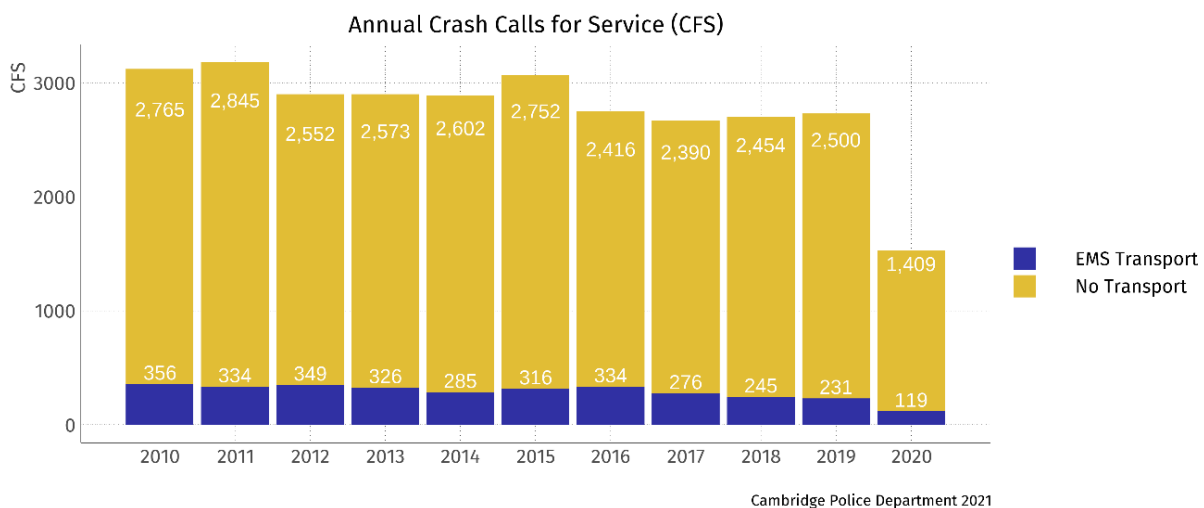
The COVID-19 pandemic has radically affected the lives of those living and working in the city of Cambridge. These changes are particularly pronounced in traffic patterns from March 2020 onward. Workers, students, and residents increasingly performed many tasks that were once done in person, remotely. These wide-ranging changes in behavior have resulted in sharp decreases in crashes citywide. All motor vehicle crash categories declined significantly in 2020. Notably, there were 65% fewer pedestrian crashes in 2020 when compared with 2019. The number of crashes reported in Cambridge in recent years is summarized in the table below.

Categories of Motor Vehicle Crashes	10-Year Average	2019 Total	2020 Total	% Change from 2019
Crash Calls for Service	2731	2732	1528	-44%
Crash CFS with EMS Transport	282	231	119	-48%
Total Crash Reports	1485	1454	836	-43%
Bicycle Crash Reports	158	146	68	-53%
Pedestrian Crash Reports	98	106	37	-65%

CALLS FOR SERVICE

A Crash Call for Service is any instance when a person in Cambridge calls to request police assistance for a traffic collision. The Police Department responded to 1,528 calls for service (CFS) relating to traffic crashes in 2020. This was the largest decrease year-to-year in over two decades. Total Crash CFS in 2020 decreased 44% when compared with the 2,732 calls in 2019 and is also down 44% when compared with the 10-year average of 2,731 calls.

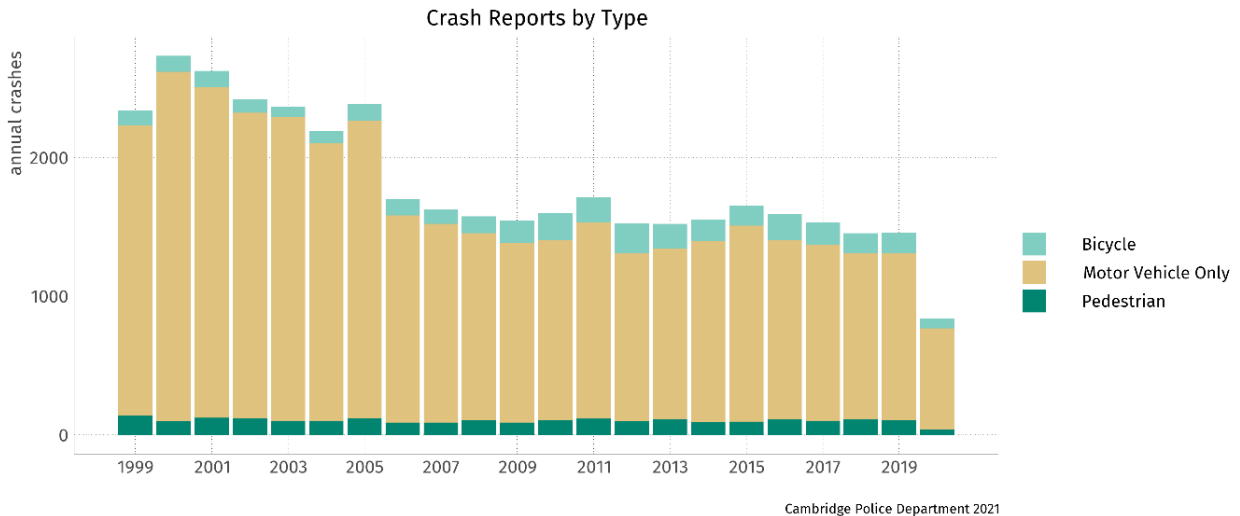
A useful metric for understanding crash severity is whether an involved party required transport to the hospital by Emergency Medical Services (EMS Transport). There were 119 CFS involving EMS transport in 2020, representing a decline of 48% when compared with 2019.



CRASH REPORTS

CRASH REPORTS BY ROAD USER TYPE

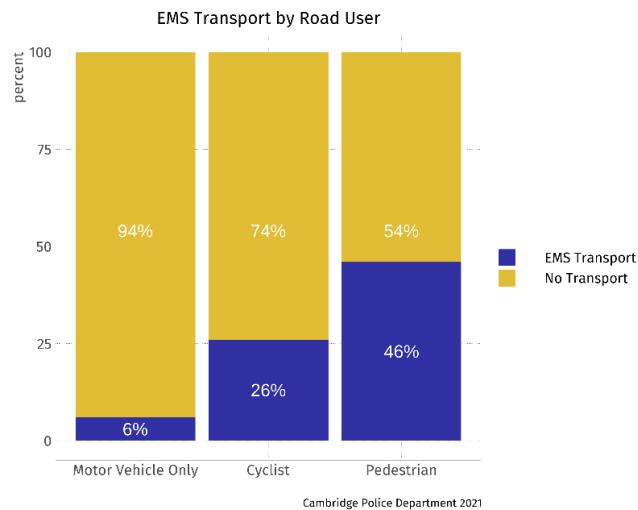
Massachusetts General Law requires that a police crash report be filed for any motor vehicle crash resulting in any degree of injury or at least \$1,000 of property damage. Motor-vehicle-only crashes were the most common crash type in 2020, accounting for 88% of crashes, followed by cyclist-involved crashes at 8%, and pedestrian-involved crashes at 4%.



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

EMS TRANSPORTS BY ROAD USER TYPE

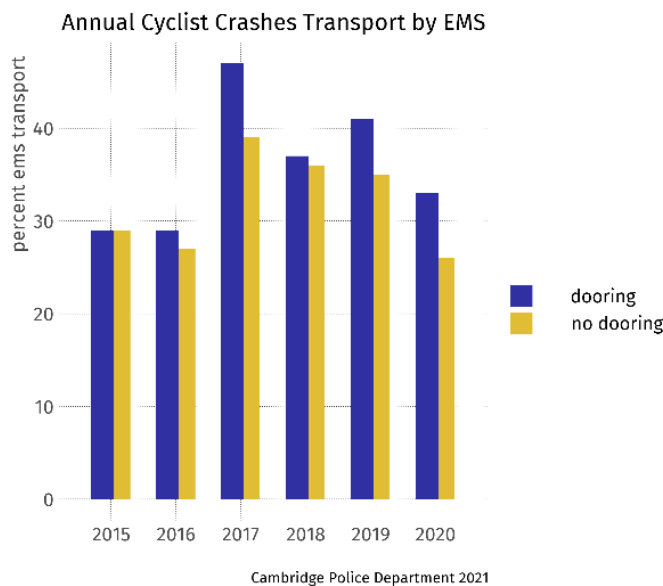
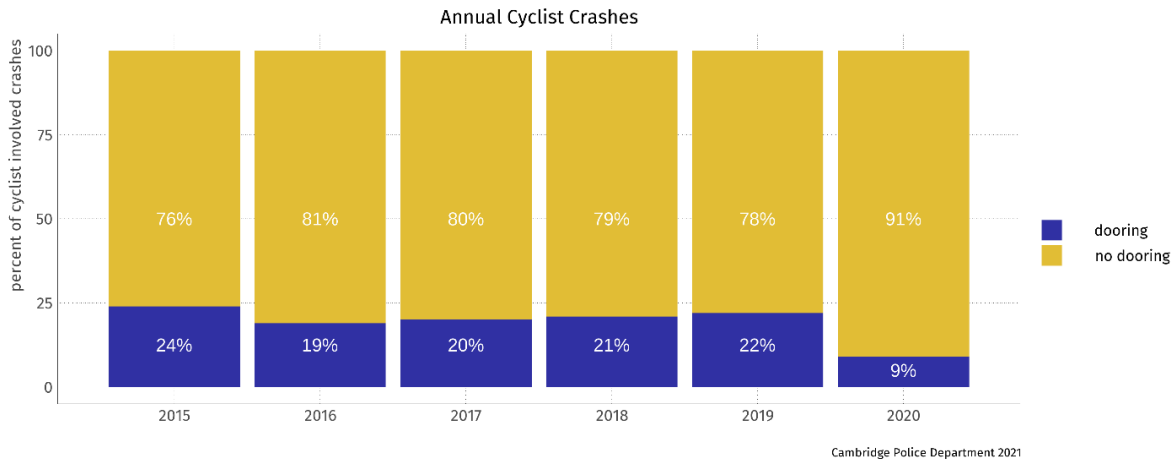
Non-motorists are the road users most vulnerable to injury. Pedestrian-involved crashes had the highest percentage of EMS transports at 46% in 2020, the same percentage as in 2019. Cyclist-involved crashes had the next highest percentage of EMS transports at 26%, a 10% reduction compared with 2019. Motor-vehicle-only crashes experienced the lowest proportion of EMS transports at 6%, a 1% reduction from the previous year.



Portion of Crashes of Each Type Requiring EMS Transport to the Hospital in 2020.

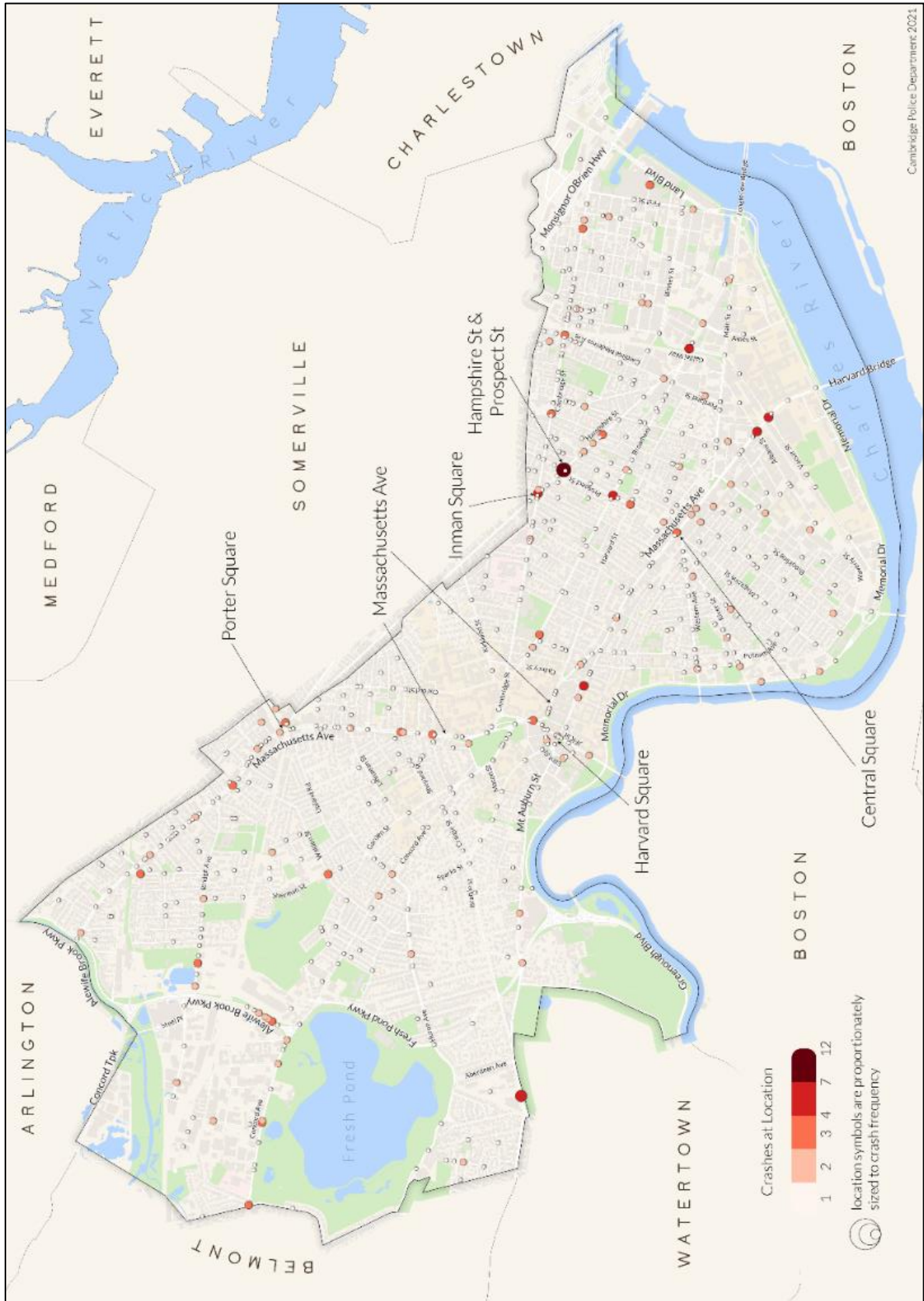
NON-MOTORIST CRASHES: DOORING

“Dooring” is a type of cyclist-involved crash caused by a vehicle door unexpectedly opening and striking a cyclist. In 2020, cyclist-involved crashes had the lowest proportion of dooring in five years. Dooring crashes tend to result in higher EMS transports than non-dooring cyclist crashes. Dooring crashes have consistently clustered along Massachusetts Ave, Broadway, Cambridge Street, and JFK Street.



CRASH LOCATIONS

In general, crashes in Cambridge occur most frequently along major corridors (Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge Street, Hampshire Street) and in the squares (Central Square, Inman Square, Porter Square, Harvard Square). Bicycle crashes are more tightly clustered along the Massachusetts Avenue, Hampshire Street, and Broadway corridors, while pedestrian crashes are more tightly clustered in Porter Square, Harvard Square, and in pockets along lower Massachusetts Avenue between Central Square and Memorial Drive. Crashes requiring EMS Transport are indicative of areas with higher risk of crash-related injury, including areas along Massachusetts Avenue and Cambridge Street, especially near Harvard Square, Central Square, MIT, and Inman Square. **The map on the following page depicts the locations of Crash Reports with all road user types in the year 2020.**





Section VI

Special Reports

Domestic Crimes
Hate Crimes

Domestic Crimes

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

In 2020, there were a total of 792 incidents between individuals in a domestic relationship, down 2% from 2019. Often domestic crime is underreported. One of the most common reasons is that the police are not always the first to be called in domestic cases, as is typically the case with other crime types. Individuals who survive abuse often seek assistance from a local domestic violence agency, a court, a hospital, a family member, or a friend before calling the police.

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

In 2020, these calls made up 50% of all domestic incident reports. Domestic disputes in 2020 were down 10% from 2019, and in 2019 they were down 8% from 2018. While not technically a crime, these domestic disturbances can still be a form of abuse, and they may escalate into more serious offenses if they go unaddressed.

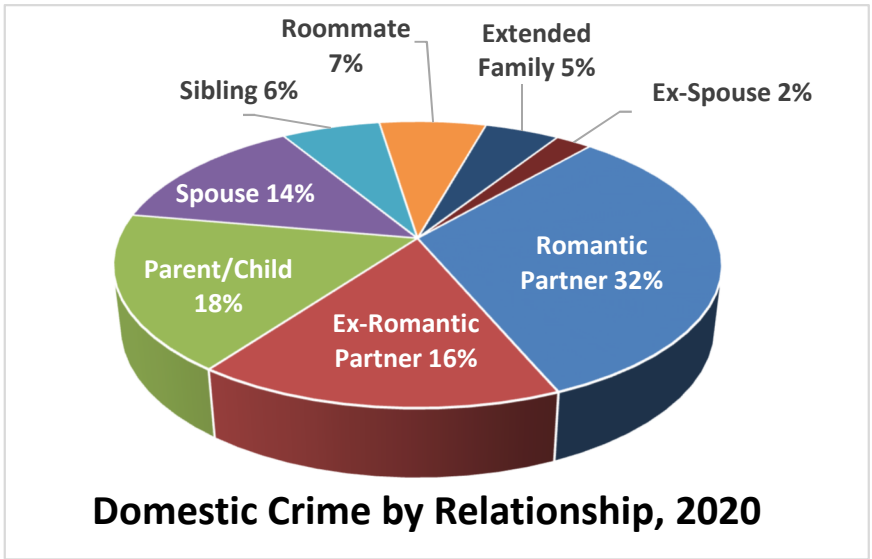
Domestic violence is the most serious type of domestic crime. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, these crimes take many shapes and “...may include emotional abuse, economic abuse, sexual abuse, using children, threats, using male privilege, intimidation, isolation, and a variety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

The most common type of violent domestic incidents reported in Cambridge involves simple assaults—assaults without a weapon and with no serious injuries. This category accounted for 21% of all domestic incidents in 2020. Aggravated assaults made up an additional 6% and was the 3rd largest domestic category. For the last five years, aggravated assaults have accounted for 5-7% of the overall domestic crime totals reported.

Categorical Breakdown of Domestic Incidents*	2019 Total	2020 Total	% change from 2019**
Dispute/Disturbance - No Physical Abuse	443	397	-10%
Simple Assault	166	164	-1%
Aggravated Assault	41	50	22%
Threats to Commit a Crime	26	49	88%
Violation of a Restraining Order/HPO	42	44	5%
Harassment	21	16	-24%
Larceny	18	13	-28%
Other Miscellaneous	15	12	-20%
Malicious Destruction of Property	10	11	10%
Rape/Attempted Rape	10	9	-10%
Housebreak	5	9	80%
Harassing or Obscene Telephone Calls	3	3	0%
Indecent Assault	4	3	-25%
Auto Theft	0	3	N/A
Forgery	2	5	150%
Disorderly	0	1	N/A
Peeping & Spying	0	1	N/A
Street Robbery	2	1	-50%
Stalking	1	1	0%
Kidnapping	1	0	-100%
Total	810	792	-2%

*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 2019 total is zero.

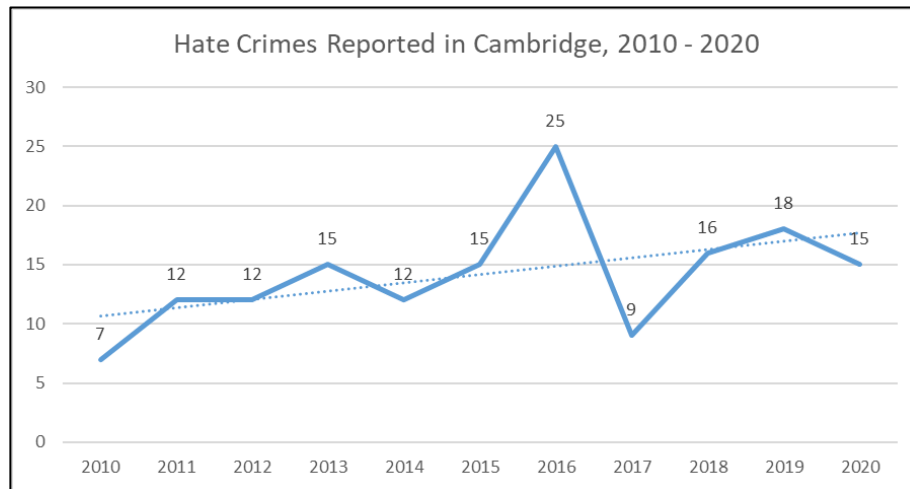


When looking at the relationship breakdown in domestic crime, there is no surprise that the highest percentage is between parties that spend the most time together. Although the percentages vary from year to year, the top four relationships typically remain consistent: romantic partner, ex-romantic partner,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

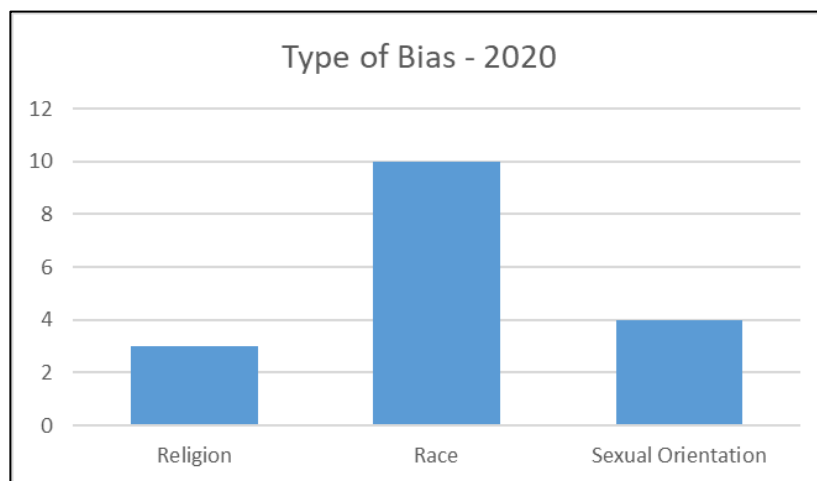
Hate Crimes

The Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990 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.

The total of 15 hate crime incidents reported in 2020 is 17% below the 18 reported in 2019 and 7% above the 10-year average of 14 (from 2010 – 2019). We tend to fall in the low to mid-teens when it comes to yearly hate crime numbers, with occasional fluctuations above or below the average. In recent years, we have ranged from a low of seven in 2010 to a high of 25 in 2016.

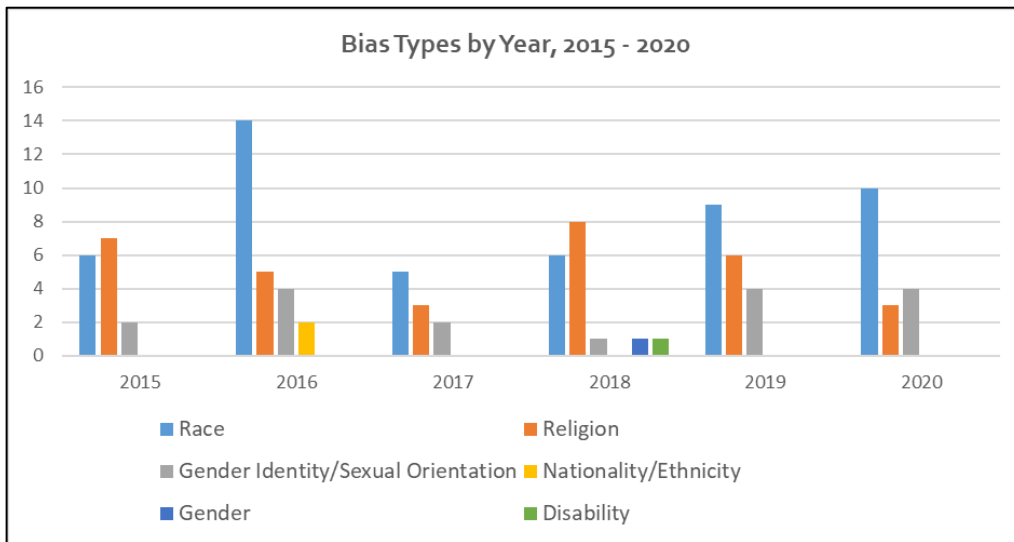


The bar graph below features the breakdown of each hate crime in 2020 by bias type. The graph actually features 17 types of bias because two incidents this year involved graffiti with both racial and religious connotations, so both categories were counted. The 15 incidents (with 17 bias types) in 2020 break down into the following categories: religiously motivated (18%), racially motivated (59%), and four incidents (24%) based on sexual orientation. No incidents motivated by nationality, gender, or disability were reported in 2020.

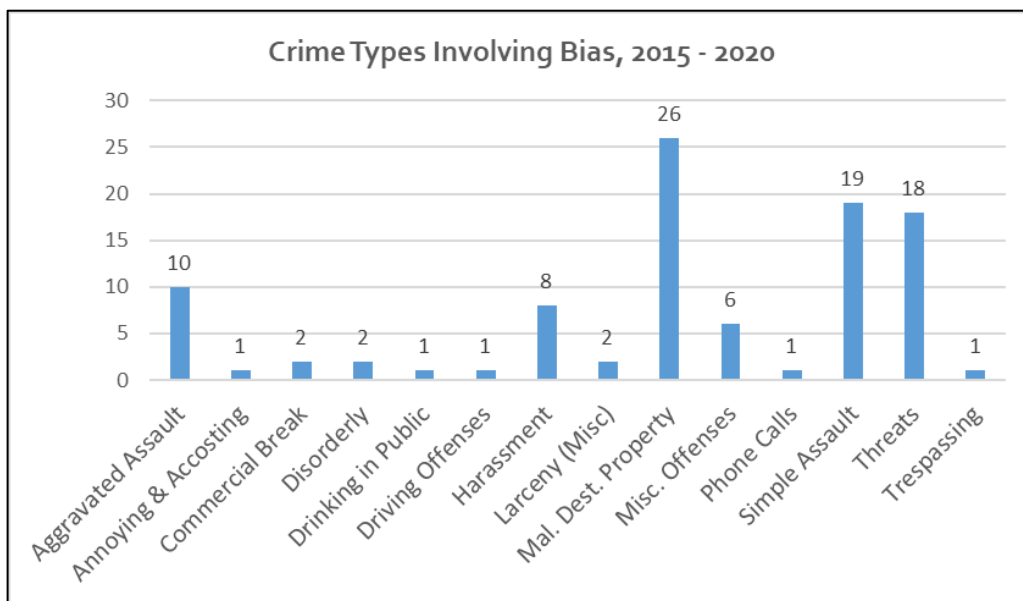


Special Reports: Hate Crimes

The next chart provides a breakdown of bias type by year for 2020 and the five years prior. Race, religion, and sexual orientation/gender identity (not necessarily in that order) are consistently the bias types that tend to be most prevalent in Cambridge.



What types of crime are typically involved when hate crimes are reported? During 2020 and the previous five years, as many as 14 different crime types were reported to involve a bias of some sort. But there are some crimes that lend themselves much more to motivated biases. Those crimes include assaults (both aggravated and simple), malicious destruction of property, threats, and harassment. Of the 98 hate crimes reported since 2015, 81 (or 83%) involved one of these five crime types. And 2020 was no different. The main crime types involving bias this year were malicious destruction of property (7), harassment (2), and threats (2). Somewhat unusual was that assaults involving biases were much less frequent this year, with only one aggravated assault and one simple assault reported in 2020.



The following is a breakdown of the 2020 hate crime incidents:

1. In January, a resident found a derogatory phrase referring to her sexual orientation written in marker on her car.
2. In March, residents reported that they were being harassed repeatedly by their neighbor because of their sexual orientation.
3. In mid-April, a victim was called a homophobic slur during a fight at a liquor store.
4. In late April, an Uber driver was assaulted and threatened on the basis of his religion during a disturbance caused by his passenger. The suspect has been summonsed to court.
5. In May, a male who was homeless was arrested for aggravated assault after he beat and seriously injured another male who was homeless because of his race.
6. In June, a male called a female a racial slur, causing a disturbance while waiting in line at a bank. He was formally trespassed from the property.
7. In early July, racially charged graffiti was discovered inside a railroad underpass.
8. In mid-July, a victim was involved in a road rage incident in which a motorcyclist repeatedly called her racial slurs and threatened to kill her.
9. In late July, a resident reported that her neighbor was continuously harassing her and calling her derogatory terms based on her race.
10. Also in late July, graffiti involving an inflammatory term of racial and religious significance was discovered on a walking path.
11. In August, a fence was defaced with slurs pertaining to the owners' sexual orientation. The victims suspect their neighbor.
12. In mid-September, a resident of a halfway house threatened his roommate on the basis of his race. The suspect was summonsed to court.
13. In late September, a racially offensive phrase was found carved into the wall of a portable bathroom at a construction site.
14. In early November, an inciting phrase with racial and religious connotations was spray painted in the middle of a road in Cambridge.
15. In mid-November, the mural of a black civil rights activist and politician was defaced with spray paint.

Cambridge Police Directory

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

Office of the Commissioner(617) 349-9397

Professional Standards (617) 349-3384

KEY OPERATIONAL SERVICES:

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

Traffic Department (617) 349-4365

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

Public Information Office (617) 349-3237

Records Unit(617) 349-3336

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

Clinical Support Unit (617) 349-9320

Crime Scene Services Unit (617) 349-3347

Police Academy(617) 349-3343

Property Office(617) 349-3380

KEY INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

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

Drug Tip Hotline (617) 349-3359

Criminal Investigations Section (617) 349-3370

Domestic Violence Unit (617) 349-3371

Sexual Assault Hotline (617) 349-3381

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

License Commission (617) 349-6140

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

Medical Examiner's Office (617) 267-6767

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

Dispute Settlement Center (617) 876-5376



Cambridge Police Department

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.

