Cambridge Police Department

Annual Crime Report 2023

Table of Contents

Cambridge Police Department
2023 Annual Crime Report

Cambridge at a Glance

Cambridge Police Department

Organized:	1859
Sworn Officers:	288
Civilian Personnel:	43
Commissioner:	Christine Elow
Budget (FY 2024):	$78,367,440
2023 Calls for Service:	106,414
2023 Total Index Crimes:	3,232

City of Cambridge Top Employers

1. Harvard University	13,229
2. MIT	9,043
3. Cambridge Innovation Center	3,883
4. City of Cambridge	3,594
5. Takeda Pharmaceuticals	3,504
6. Sanofi	2,433
7. Novartis	2,188
8. Google	2,100
9. Broad Institute	1,936
10. Hubspot	1,771

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 2023 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's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program and National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS), 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 robberies increase by 89% from 2022 to 2023, there's no way to tell from that figure alone whether 2022 was unusually low or 2023 was unusually high. But comparing 2023 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 (2018 in this report) is weighted once and the most recent year in the average (2022) 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 (2023), and to thus determine how unusual 2023'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 2022, Cambridge had 258 aggravated assaults, 108% more than Everett, which reported 124. However, Cambridge has more than double the number of residents that Everett has. When we look at it on the basis of rates, Cambridge had 220 assaults per 100,000 residents, while Everett had 257 assaults per 100,000 residents, which means that an Everett 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.

2023 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	2020	2021	2022	2023	2022-2023 Change	5-Year Wtd. Avg.	Avg.-2023 Change
Murder	1	1	0	1	n/a	1	0%
Rape	27	36	42	44	5%	35	26%
Stranger	5	7	7	9	29%	6	50%
Non-Stranger	22	29	35	35	0%	29	21%
Robbery	67	68	96	128	33%	80	60%
Commercial	14	11	18	34	89%	16	113%
Street	53	57	78	94	21%	64	47%
Aggravated Assault	191	209	258	315	22%	218	44%
Total Violent Crime	**286**	**314**	**396**	**488**	**23%**	**333**	**47%**
Burglary	186	196	258	272	5%	213	28%
Commercial	57	72	53	78	47%	57	37%
Residential	129	124	205	194	-5%	156	24%
Larceny	1,884	1,958	2,088	2,332	12%	1,936	20%
from Building	124	146	216	200	-7%	183	9%
from Vehicle	351	446	465	319	-31%	394	-19%
From Person	99	106	122	96	-21%	121	-21%
from Residence	387	350	381	414	9%	348	19%
of Bicycle	602	623	481	579	20%	524	10%
of License Plate	9	27	23	39	70%	21	86%
of Services	5	6	15	26	73%	11	136%
Miscellaneous	41	62	87	82	-6%	62	32%
Shoplifting	266	192	298	577	94%	273	111%
Auto Theft	84	129	152	140	-8%	124	13%
Total Property Crime	**2,154**	**2,283**	**2,498**	**2,744**	**10%**	**2,272**	**21%**
Crime Index Total	**2,440**	**2,597**	**2,894**	**3,232**	**12%**	**2,605**	**24%**

Cambridge Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics, 2004-2023

Crime	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Avg. 2004-2013	Avg. 2014-2023	Avg. 2004-2023	Change 2022-2023**	Change 2004-2023**
Murder	0	3	2	0	1	2	0	5	1	3	2	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	1	2	N/A	N/A
Rape	10	14	11	16	17	20	23	23	23	17	24	25	27	19	29	28	27	36	42	44	17	30	24	5%	340%
Robbery	245	239	208	161	177	172	163	147	128	118	81	77	81	104	99	73	67	68	96	128	176	87	132	33%	-48%
Aggravated Assault	248	244	237	243	274	256	251	258	262	189	184	186	161	173	188	189	191	209	258	315	246	205	226	22%	27%
Burglary	724	623	685	653	467	429	453	520	499	390	286	438	308	252	252	155	186	196	258	272	544	260	402	5%	-62%
Larceny	2,654	2,396	2,377	2,838	2,788	2,497	2,555	2,458	2,448	2,376	2,159	2,000	1,931	1,679	1,704	1,704	1,884	1,958	2,088	2,332	2,539	1,944	2,241	12%	-12%
Auto Theft	438	295	233	244	244	196	169	159	117	106	136	125	110	91	111	109	84	129	152	140	220	119	169	-8%	-68%
Total Violent	503	500	458	420	469	450	437	433	414	327	291	291	271	298	317	291	286	314	396	488	441	324	383	23%	-3%
Total Property	3,816	3,314	3,295	3,735	3,499	3,122	3,177	3,137	3,064	2,872	2,581	2,563	2,349	2,022	2,067	1,968	2,154	2,283	2,498	2,744	3,303	2,323	2,813	10%	-28%
Total	4,319	3,814	3,753	4,155	3,968	3,572	3,614	3,570	3,478	3,199	2,872	2,854	2,620	2,320	2,384	2,259	2,440	2,597	2,894	3,232	3,744	2,647	3,196	12%	-25%

**Percent changes are rounded to the nearest whole number.
N/A = % change cannot be calculated when the 2004 or 2022 total is zero.

25-Year Statistical Trends
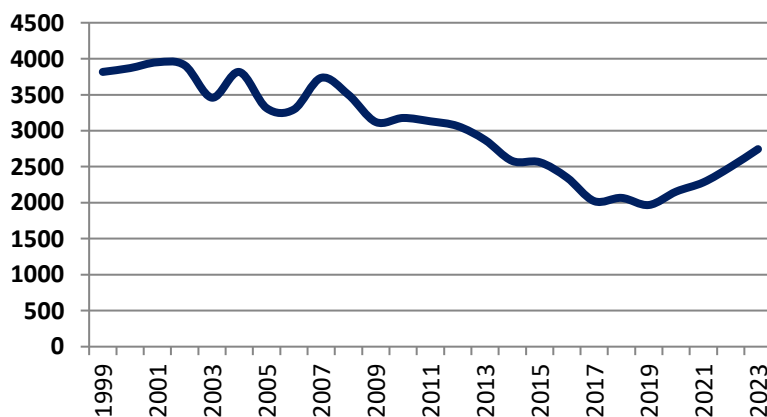
Total Part I (Index Crimes)
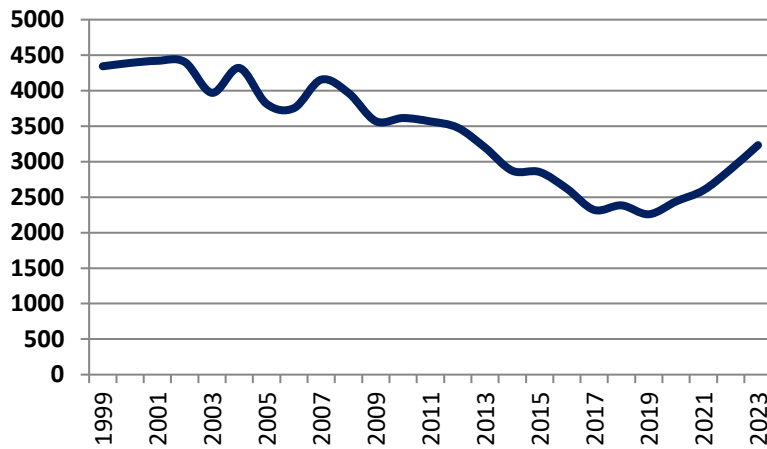
Despite some bumps in the early 1980s, 1990s, and early 2000s, crime had been decreasing steadily since it peaked in 1974 at more than 10,000 Part I crimes. Crime fluctuated around the 3,700 mark for about a decade before dropping below 3,000 for the first time in 2014 and below 2,500 for the first time in 2017. After reaching a record low of 2,259 in 2019, the crime index reversed direction and has been climbing each year since, registering back above the 3,000 mark for the first time in a decade in 2023 with 3,232 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 early 2000s. The 2016 violent crime total of 271 incidents was the lowest number recorded since the late 1960s. In 2023, there was a total of 488 violent crimes reported, which was the highest recorded violent crime total since 2005 but still below the 25-year high of 526 shown on the chart in 1999.

Total Part I Violent Crimes
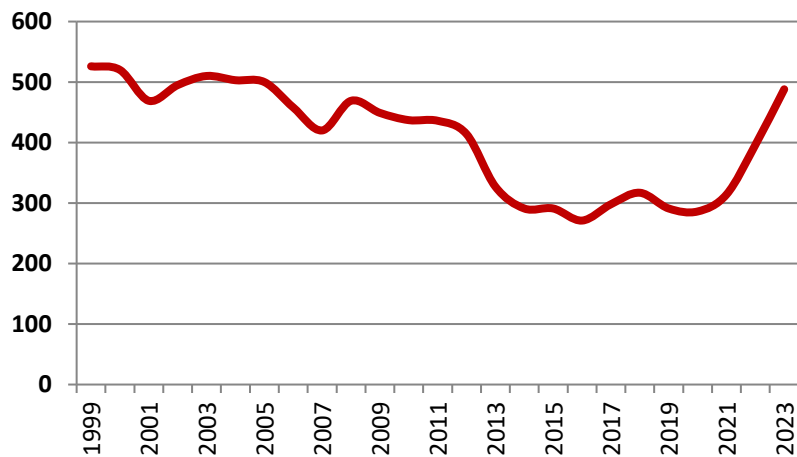
Total Part I Property Crimes

Property crime (burglary, larceny, and auto theft) makes up about 85-90% of the total Part I crime index each year, and its graph therefore looks almost identical to the total crime graph above. The 50-year low for property crime was recorded in 2019 with 1,968 incidents. Numbers have been on the rise since then, with 2,744 reported in 2023, the highest recorded total since 2013. These increases over the past three years have mostly been due to upsurges in bicycle thefts, commercial burglaries, package thefts, and shopliftings.

2023 Executive Summary

With the pandemic-related shutdowns and social distancing effectively in the rearview in 2023, the City of Cambridge experienced another increase in total Part 1 Crimes this year. For the first time in ten years, the crime index total registered back above 3,000 incidents in Cambridge.

Further analysis of the crime breakdown indicates that there were 2,744 property crimes recorded in 2023, 246 more than the number reported in 2022, equaling an increase of 10%. Meanwhile, there were 488 violent crimes reported in 2023, 92 more than in 2022, which translates to a rise of 23%. Overall, the total of 3,232 serious crimes reported in 2023 was 12% above the 2022 total of 2,894 incidents and 24% above the five-year weighted average of 2,605 incidents.

Murder

- On November 23, 2023, officers responded to the area of 10 Magazine Street in Central Square. Two individuals with gunshot wounds were located and transported to a Boston hospital. One victim, 27-year-old Danasia Greene of Cambridge, was pronounced deceased at the hospital. The second victim, a 26-year-old male from Boston, was treated for non - life threatening injuries. This was the only homicide reported in the City in 2023. It remains under active investigation at this

- There were no murders reported anywhere in Cambridge in 2022.

- 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 30 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 individuals by a handgun or knife typically in acts of retaliatory street violence.

- Handguns have been used in 22 of the 39 murders in Cambridge since 2000. Seven have involved knives.

- Twenty-seven of the 39 murders in Cambridge since 2000 (69%) have been cleared by an arrest/suicide of the perpetrator. For comparison, the 2020 clearance rate for murder was approximately 50% nationally.

Rape

- The total number of reported rapes in Cambridge rose from 42 in 2022 to 44 in 2023.

- Twenty of the rapes in 2023 involved acquaintances, ten were domestic, ten were classified as contact rapes, and four were classified as blitz assaults.

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

Robbery

- In 2023, there were 128 total robberies reported, translating to a 33% increase over the 2022 total. When measured against the five-year weighted average of 80 incidents, a 60% incline was recorded.

- Street robberies rose from 78 incidents in 2022 to 94 in 2023. The 2023 street robbery total was also 30 incidents (47%) above the five-year average of 64 incidents. No established street robbery patterns emerged anywhere in Cambridge in 2023. The Central Square area saw the most activity citywide with 46 incidents (or 49% of the citywide total) this year.

- An 89% increase in commercial robberies was reported in 2023. Incidents rose from 18 robberies in 2022 to 34 this year. Commercial robberies in 2023 were also 113% above the five-year weighted average of 16. The sharp incline this year can be attributed to an increase in shoplifting incidents citywide that escalated to robberies when suspects used force to flee with their stolen merchandise.

- After seeing a spike in bank robberies in 2022 with five reported, this location type saw only one incident in 2023.

Aggravated Assault

- The total of 315 aggravated assaults reported in Cambridge in 2023 was 22% above the 2022 total of 258 incidents and 44% above the five-year average of 218 assaults.

- Domestic assaults, which typically constitute 30-40% of the assault total each year, rose from 53 incidents in 2022 to 65 in 2023, but still only made up 21% of the assault total this year. Unprovoked assaults also rose from 55 incidents in 2022 to 69 in 2023, as did road rage assaults (up 14 over 2022) and assaults involving a psychotic episode (up 13 over 2022).

- Only four of the aggravated assaults in 2023 (1%) resulted in serious or life-threatening injuries.

- The most common weapons used in aggravated assaults in 2023 were knives (17%), followed by shod feet (feet with shoes) in 15% of the incidents, and an automobile in 7%. There were 16 aggravated assaults that involved the use of a firearm in 2023, up five from the previous year.

- Approximately 27% of aggravated assaults resulted in an arrest in 2023 (up 7% from 2022), compared to only 18% of simple assaults.

Burglary

- Total burglary, the combination of residential and commercial breaks, registered a 5% incline in 2023 when compared to the 2022 total of 258 and a 28% rise above the five-year weighted average of 213 for this crime. The citywide total for 2023 was 272 incidents.

- After a 26% reduction in commercial burglaries was registered in Cambridge in 2022, this crime type reversed direction and rose 47% from 53 incidents in 2022 to 78 in 2023. This total was also 37% above the five-year weighted average of 57. Only one brief pattern was reported this year: A series of breaks into restaurants and convenience stores in Harvard Square and North Cambridge in June that resulted in an arrest.

- Housebreaks saw a slight decline of 5% this year, dropping from 205 in 2022 to 194 in 2023. Despite the decline, this crime type was still up by 24% over the five-year weighted average of 156. In June, two suspects were connected to an increase in housebreaks at one apartment building in The Port, and during the 4th quarter of the year, there was an increase in housebreak activity along the Somerville border that continued into the new year.

Larceny

- In 2023, the property crime of larceny rose 12% (or 244 incidents) when measured against the 2022 total of 2,088 incidents and increased 20% when compared to the five-year weighted average of 1,936. There were 2,332 total larcenies reported this year.

- Larceny is always the most prevalent of the Part One crimes in Cambridge. In 2022, it accounted for 72% of the total Part I crime and 85% of the total property crime.

- Larcenies from motor vehicles (LMVs) this year were down 31% from the 2022 figures, mostly due to a sizeable reduction in catalytic converter thefts across the city this year. The 2023 total of 319 LMVs was also down 19% when compared with the five-year weighted average of 394.

- Larceny from the person dropped by 21% in 2023, down 26 incidents (21%) from the 122 reported in 2022 and down 25 incidents (also 21%) from the five-year weighted average of 121.

- Larceny of bicycles experienced a noteworthy increase in 2023, rising 20% from 481 incidents in 2022 to 579 in 2023. This property crime was also 10% above the five-year weighted average of 524.

- Larceny from residences saw an increase in 2023, rising 9% from 381 incidents in 2022 to 414 this year. By far the most prevalent scenario for this crime type in recent years has involved the theft of packages from the front steps or vestibules of residences. Due to the continuation of an understandably large increase in pandemic-related online shopping when compared with pre-pandemic levels, the 293, 248, 232, and 284 package thefts reported in 2023, 2022, 2021, and 2020, respectively, were all up considerably from the 149 package thefts reported in 2019. This scenario accounted for 71% of the larcenies from residences in 2023.

- Shoplifting saw the largest increase of any crime type in 2023, rising 279 incidents (or 94%) from 298 crimes in 2022 to 577 in 2023. This total was also 111% above the five-year weighted average of 273. Central Square saw the most drastic rise in incidents with a 204% increase from 100 shopliftings in 2022 to 304 this year.

Auto Theft

- In 2023, auto thefts in Cambridge decreased by 8%, down 12 incidents from the 2022 total of 152 thefts. Conversely, the total of 140 incidents reported in 2023 was 13% above the five-year average of 124. Despite the increase over the average, these totals are still remarkably low for a city that used to see staggering auto theft numbers—in 1974, there were 5,203 cars reported stolen.

- Cambridgeport and North Cambridge recorded the largest number of auto thefts in 2023 with 20 reported incidents each. A notable trend that emerged in 2023 was an increase in thefts of older model Hyundais and Kias citywide, which stemmed from a Tik Tok trend targeting these vehicles.

- Approximately 27% of the auto thefts reported in 2023 involved the theft of a motorcycle, scooter, or moped.

- Roughly 54% of the cars reported stolen in Cambridge in 2023 have been recovered to date. Just over half (or 53%) of the recovered cars in 2023 were located in Cambridge.

Regional Crime Comparison

The following table compares Cambridge to other selected Massachusetts cities and towns across the region. The data is from 2022, as this is the most recent year for which data is available from the FBI NIBRS 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.

2022 Rates per 100,000 residents for selected Massachusetts Cities and Towns

City	Population	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Violent Total	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Property Total	Total
Arlington	45,238	0	4	4	51	60	102	451	42	595	654
Belmont	26,557	0	0	4	53	56	173	474	38	685	742
Boston	638,925	7	28	121	464	619	190	1,427	185	1,802	2,421
Brockton	110,084	7	71	59	510	647	263	1,018	449	1,730	2,376
Brookline	62,825	0	6	18	81	105	70	772	54	896	1,001
Everett	48,340	4	50	39	257	350	194	956	203	1,353	1,703
Fall River	94,339	3	53	109	826	991	406	624	201	1,232	2,223
Framingham	70,716	1	24	6	253	284	503	776	120	1,400	1,684
Haverhill	67,359	0	4	22	552	579	92	644	61	797	1,376
Lawrence	88,422	5	32	55	411	502	85	710	109	904	1,406
Lowell	113,277	5	17	64	316	402	217	1,356	174	1,747	2,149
Lynn	101,056	7	37	90	521	655	155	866	169	1,190	1,846
Malden	64,356	0	5	37	191	233	106	943	199	1,248	1,481
Medford	64,122	2	22	12	139	175	89	741	114	944	1,118
Methuen	52,853	4	4	17	119	144	151	596	62	810	954
New Bedford	101,402	4	48	109	464	626	195	1,180	184	1,560	2,186
Newton	86,710	1	9	9	45	65	69	573	13	655	720
Plymouth	65,779	0	46	8	295	348	91	702	43	836	1,184
Quincy	101,434	2	34	32	330	397	195	804	91	1,090	1,488
Revere	56,961	2	40	33	263	339	116	925	181	1,222	1,561
Somerville	79,178	1	16	53	182	253	167	1,085	131	1,383	1,636
Springfield	155,046	9	53	171	629	862	373	1,670	326	2,370	3,232
Taunton	60,062	2	37	28	418	484	110	676	128	914	1,399
Waltham	63,525	0	22	5	123	150	87	423	39	549	699
Watertown	35,088	0	11	11	114	137	100	883	40	1,023	1,160
Weymouth	58,231	0	22	10	232	264	96	582	48	726	991
Worcester	206,575	5	20	80	497	603	337	1,166	165	1,667	2,270
Average*	**100,684**	**4**	**29**	**71**	**384**	**488**	**199**	**1,037**	**161**	**1,397**	**1,885**
Cambridge	**117,044**	**0**	**36**	**82**	**220**	**338**	**220**	**1,784**	**130**	**2,134**	**2,473**

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

The statistics for these selected cities above show that Cambridge had less per-capita crime in three categories (murder, aggravated assault, and auto theft) in 2022, while conversely registering above the average in rapes, robberies, burglaries, and larcenies. The rate for the overall crime total in 2022 in Cambridge was also consequently above the average for these selected jurisdictions across the region.

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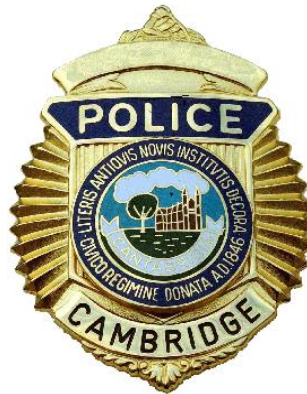
Section II

Part I Crimes

Murder
Rape
Robbery
Aggravated Assault
Burglary
Larceny
Auto Theft

Murder

Definition

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

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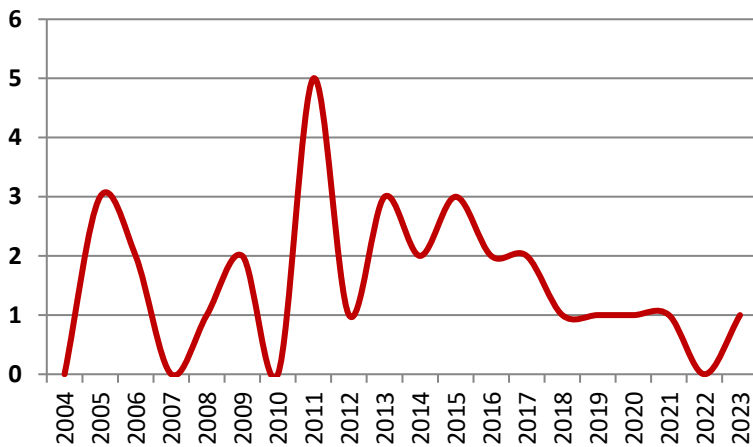
*Murders are counted by victim rather than incidents; one incident can have multiple victims.

Shortly after midnight on November 23, 2023, officers responded to the area of 10 Magazine Street in Central Square. Two individuals with gunshot wounds were located and transported to a Boston hospital. One victim, 27-year-old Danasia Greene of Cambridge, was pronounced deceased at the hospital. The second victim, a 26-year-old male from Boston, was treated for non - life threatening injuries. This incident marked the first homicide reported in Cambridge in over two years and was the only homicide reported in the City in 2023. It remains under active investigation at this time.

There were no murders reported anywhere in Cambridge in 2022. This was the first time in over a decade that Cambridge did not record a single homicide in a year and is only the fourth time in the past 20 years that this occurred—the other years being 2004, 2007, and 2010.

In the last reported homicide in Cambridge before 2023, 19-year-old Xavier Louis-Jacques of Cambridge was found unconscious outside his vehicle on Pemberton Street on March 27, 2021. Louis-Jacques was transported to a nearby hospital, where he was later pronounced deceased as a result of multiple gunshot wounds. No suspects have been identified and the incident remains under investigation.

Cambridge murder statistics, 1990-2023

- 65 people murdered in 60 incidents (in four of the incidents, two or more people were killed)
- 44 victims were male (average age of 34)
- 21 victims were female (average age of 39)
- Most common weapons: handguns (31 incidents) and knives (14 incidents)
- 21 of the 60 cases are still under investigation or remain unsolved.
- 27 of the 39 cases since 2000 have been cleared by arrest or by the death of the suspect.

Murder in Cambridge, 2010–2023

(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, 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 1st degree murder and sentenced to life in prison w/o parole.
8/12/2015 20:40	Washington St & Windsor St (The Port)	Rasaun Nichols, 31, of Cambridge	Roosselin Altidor, 25, of Medford	Nichols was struck by gunshots while in a vehicle that was departing Newtowne Court. Altidor was arrested 9 days later. Nichols and Altidor were known to each other.	Altidor pled guilty to 2nd degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison w/ possibility of parole after 15 yrs

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 1st degree murder and sentenced to life in prison w/o parole.
3/22/16 21:57	321 Mount Auburn St (West Cambridge)	Armando Hernandez, 30, of Belmont	Unknown	Hernandez was shot and killed while walking on Mount Auburn St. A second male was non-fatally shot in the leg.	Ongoing Investigation.
6/25/16 00:18	140 Harvard St (The Port)	Anthony Clay, 49, of Cambridge	Unknown	Clay was shot while standing outside of 140 Harvard St. He was pronounced deceased at Mass General Hospital.	Ongoing Investigation.
10/14/17 03:40	Windsor St & Evereteze Way (Inman)	Ednilson DaCosta, 28, of Dorchester	Unknown	DaCosta was shot while sitting in a vehicle at Windsor St & Evereteze Way. He was pronounced deceased at Cambridge City Hospital.	Ongoing investigation.
11/16/17 19:30	Tremont St & Hampshire St (The Port)	Malachi Mims, 28, of Cambridge	Kevin Reddick, 17, and Osiris Chambers, 16, both of Cambridge	Mims was shot outside a vehicle in the area of Tremont & Hampshire St. He was pronounced deceased at Cambridge City Hospital. On December 31, 2017, Reddick was arrested in Boston in connection with this homicide. On November 29, 2018, Chambers was also arraigned in connection with Mims' death.	Reddick and Chambers pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter and were sentenced to 11 to 13 years in prison.
7/22/18 18:43	Cambridge St & Warren St (Inman)	Richelle Robinson, 15, of Cambridge	Isaias Plaza, 18, unhoused	Robinson died following an assault in which she was shoved to the ground on Cambridge Street. Cause of death was determined to be blunt force trauma. Plaza was arraigned in July 2019 on charges of manslaughter and A&B causing serious bodily injury in connection with Robinson's death.	Plaza pled guilty to manslaughter and was sentenced to 2.5 years in the House of Corrections.
1/2/19 18:48	Danehy Park, New St side (North Cambridge)	Paul Wilson, 60, of Cambridge	Unknown	Wilson was assaulted and sustained fatal blunt force injuries to the head while walking through Danehy Park.	Ongoing Investigation.
4/14/20 17:18	Green Street & Sidney Place (Cambridgeport)	Danilo Gonzalez (aka Danilo Perez), 35, unhoused	Jose Bermudez, 55, unhoused	A verbal altercation between Gonzalez and Bermudez escalated and Bermudez allegedly stabbed Perez multiple times. Perez was pronounced deceased at a local hospital, and Bermudez was arrested on 4/23/20 in Allston.	Bermudez is awaiting trial.
3/27/21 00:36	144 Pemberton St (North Cambridge)	Xavier Louis-Jacques, 19, of Cambridge	Unknown	Louis-Jacques was located with apparent gunshot wounds outside his vehicle on Pemberton St. He was pronounced deceased at a local hospital.	Ongoing investigation.
11/23/23 00:31	10 Magazine St (Cambridgeport)	Danasia Greene, 27, of Cambridge	Unknown	Greene and a male victim were located with gunshot wounds on Magazine St. Both were transported to local hospitals where Greene was pronounced deceased and the male was treated and released.	Ongoing investigation.

Murder across the state and nation in 2022*

In 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recorded 24,849 murders nationwide. With population taken into consideration, 7.5 murders per 100,000 people were recorded in 2022. The murder rate in Massachusetts is well below that for the nation as a whole. In 2022, Massachusetts reported approximately 2.5 murders per 100,000 residents, while the national rate in 2022 was approximately 7.5 per 100,000. There were 171 homicides reported in Massachusetts in 2022. Boston experiences the majority of the state's homicides, as it did in 2022 with 44 homicides. Of the five towns surrounding Cambridge (Arlington, Belmont, Brookline, Somerville, and Watertown), only Somerville (1) reported a homicide in 2022.

*The source of this data is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) National Center for Health Statistics and the FBI's Crime Data Explorer (CDE). Statistics for 2023 are not yet available.
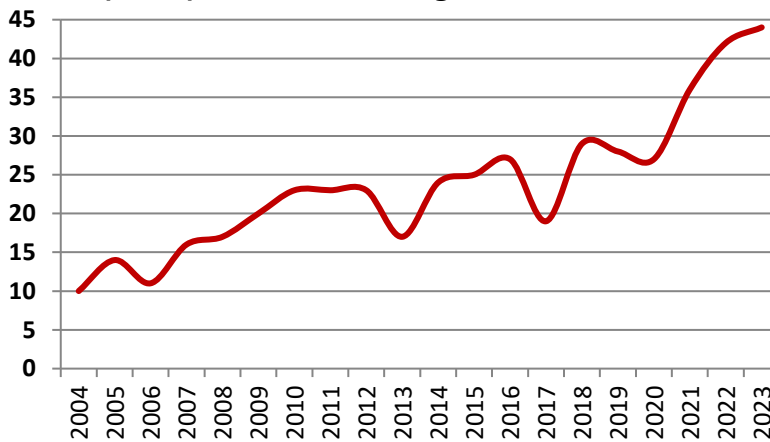
Rape

Definition

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

Rapes reported in Cambridge

There were 44 rapes reported in Cambridge in 2023, up two crimes from the 42 incidents reported in 2022, which indicates a 5% increase. When the 2023 total is measured against the five-year average for rapes annually in the city, a 26% increase was also recorded.

Twenty of the rapes in 2023 involved acquaintances, ten were domestic, ten 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—usually between one and ten—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. Twenty of the 44 incidents in 2023 were perpetrated by acquaintances.

Rapes by Category

Year	Acquaintance	Contact	Blitz	Domestic	Total
2021	17	5	3	11	36
2022	22	4	6	10	42
2023	20	10	4	10	44

- **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 2023.

- **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 ten rapes in Cambridge in 2023 that fit into this category.

- **Domestic Rapes** involve rapes between spouses, romantic partners, or family members. Ten domestic rapes were reported in 2023.
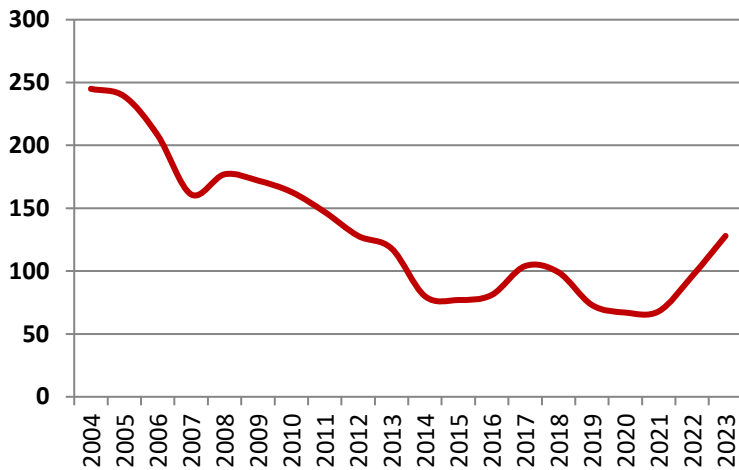
Robbery

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	80
2022	96
2023	128
Change from 2022	33%
Change from Average	60%

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	2022	2023	Change
Commercial Robbery	18	34	89%
Street Robbery	78	94	21%
Total	**96**	**128**	**33%**

Commercial robbery

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

Commercial robberies dropped an incredible 70% from 37 robberies in 2018 to just 11 in 2019. These low numbers continued in 2020 and 2021, due to the pandemic and subsequent closure of many businesses. There was a slight increase in incidents in 2022 compared to the previous three years, followed by

Commercial robbery, 2014-2023
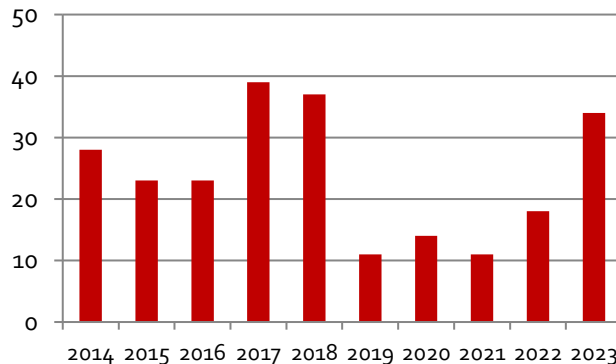
a significant increase in 2023. The 2023 total was 89% higher than 2022 and was the 3rd highest total in the past ten years. The sharp incline in commercial robberies this year was due to a large increase in situations that began as shopliftings but escalated to robberies when suspects were confronted by store employees and proceeded to use force or threats towards those employees in order to flee with the stolen merchandise. The business district that experienced the most commercial robberies in 2023 was Central Square with ten incidents, followed by Porter Square with seven incidents and Harvard Square with six incidents.

Commercial robberies by location type

Type	2021	2022	2023	Change* 2022-2023
Convenience/Grocery	4	3	8	167%
Misc. Retail	3	3	8	167%
Drug Store	2	1	7	600%
Café/Restaurant	1	1	3	200%
Liquor Store	0	2	3	50%
Bank/Armored Car	0	5	1	-80%
Eyeglass/Optician	0	0	1	N/A
Gas Station	0	2	1	-50%
Hair/Beauty	0	0	1	N/A
Other	1	0	1	N/A
Electronics/Computer	0	1	0	-100%
Total	**11**	**18**	**34**	**89%**

*N/A = % change cannot be calculated when the 2022 total is zero.

In 2023, multiple different types of locations experienced robberies. The most common establishments to experience commercial robberies were those that sell a variety of goods such as grocery items, household items and alcohol. Meanwhile bank robberies, which experienced a spike in 2022, dropped back down to only one reported incident in 2023.

One notable regional commercial robbery pattern that affected Cambridge emerged in February of 2023. Over the course of two months, ten similar armed robberies were reported at convenience stores, cell phone stores, and a credit union across Cambridge and Boston involving the same male suspect armed with a firearm. After coordination between numerous local and federal law enforcement partners, the suspect—who was living in Cambridge at the time—was arrested in late March.

In total, 16 of the 34 commercial robberies in 2023 resulted in the identification of and/or charges against named suspects.

Street robbery

Street robbery involves all robberies committed against individuals, as opposed to commercial establishments. Examples of street robberies are "muggings," "carjackings," and "purse snatchings." The number of street robberies this year increased by 16 incidents (or 21%), from 78 in 2022 to 94 in 2023.

Despite the name, a "street" robbery does not necessarily have to occur on the street, although the majority of them do. In 2023, 86% of all street robberies occurred on a street, alleyway, park, parking lot, bus stop or sidewalk. The remaining premise types in 2023 included residences, retail establishments, automobiles, and a restaurant (where the targets were not the stores or establishments themselves).

Street robbery, 2014-2023
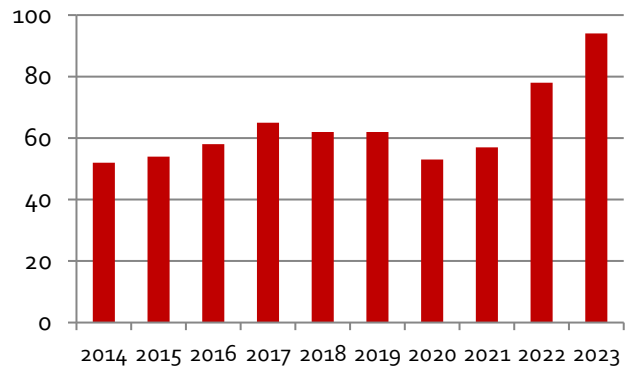
In 2023, 56 (60%) of the street robberies were unarmed, involving either no weapon at all or just the use of hands and/or feet without shoes. The remaining 38 robberies (40%) involved the use or threat of a weapon. Knives were used in 11 incidents, while a firearm was used in three incidents and implied in another six. Shod feet (feet with shoes) were reportedly used in six incidents, and the following weapons were each reported in one incident: brass knuckles, a canine, chemical spray, crowbar, keys, stone/rock, and wall/floor. The remaining five were classified as unknown as the victim stated a weapon was used but was unable to articulate what it was.

Street robberies by neighborhood

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2022	2023	Change from Avg.
East Cambridge	5	3	6	20%
MIT	1	1	0	-100%
Inman/Harrington	2	4	2	0%
The Port	9	12	17	89%
Cambridgeport	14	21	28	100%
Mid-Cambridge	7	8	11	57%
Riverside	13	17	8	-38%
Baldwin	0	0	1	N/A
Peabody	2	2	2	0%
West Cambridge	3	2	12	300%
North Cambridge	5	5	7	40%
Cambridge Highlands	2	2	0	-100%
Strawberry Hill	1	1	0	-100%
Total	**64**	**78**	**94**	**47%**

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 and The Port are more densely populated than many 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 2023 was Cambridgeport with 28 incidents. In fact, Cambridgeport and The Port together accounted for 48% of the citywide street robberies this year. This can be attributed to a trend of increased robbery activity in Central Square (an area that includes sections of both Cambridgeport and The Port) that began in 2022 and continued throughout 2023. The full Central Square business area accounted for

In 2020 and 2021, people were more cautious about going out in public, but as the pandemic came to an end in 2022, street robbery numbers surged that year with the highest total reported since 2013. However, 2023 surpassed even 2022's total with an additional 16 incidents reported. Despite the large increase, the emergence of an established street robbery pattern never took place this year. In total, arrests were made in only 11 of the 94 robberies in 2023 at the time of the incident. However, upon follow-up investigation, more individuals were linked to their crimes, as possible suspects were developed in an additional 34 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** (5): Related to domestic robbery and unhoused robbery, acquaintance robberies are committed by someone the victim knows. Common scenarios include drinking buddies robbing each other after a night at the bar, friends turning on each other, and robberies between co-workers.

- **ATM Robberies** (2): 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** (7): Juvenile robberies where the primary property targets are bicycles.

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

- **Carjacking** (3): In this scenario, a predator confronts a victim entering or exiting his or her car, or when stopped at a traffic light. The robber orders the victim out of the car and demands the keys.

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

- **Domestic** (7): A scenario in which someone close to the victim, like a family member, romantic partner, or roommate, takes money or property from them by the use or threat of violence.

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

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

- **Robberies Involving Unhoused Individuals** (12): These are incidents of people who are unhoused robbing each other. The majority of these robberies occur in the vicinity of Central and Harvard Squares, or at various shelters. The victim is usually acquainted with the perpetrator, and in many cases, both are intoxicated. Property stolen ranges from a blanket or a pair of shoes to a cell phone to prescription drugs.

- **Pack Robberies** (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** (35): 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** (9): 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	218
2022	258
2023	315
Change from 2022	22%
Change from Average	44%

Aggravated assaults reported in Cambridge
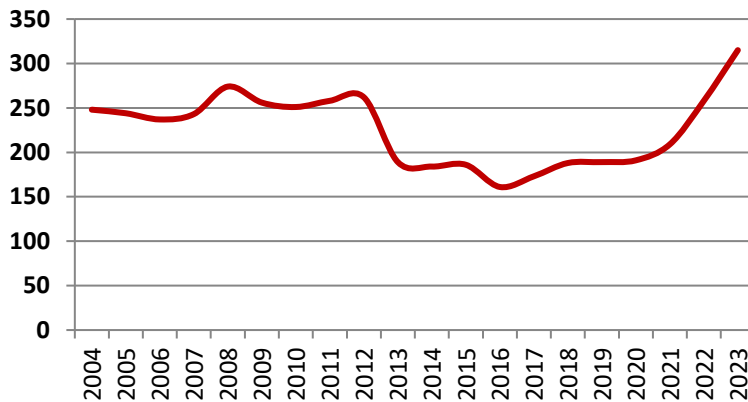
Aggravated assaults rise from the "heat of the moment," and unlike robberies, rarely involve personal gain (assaults that do involve thefts are coded in the "Robbery" section). Although a serious and dangerous crime, the average citizen has little to fear from a random aggravated assault: typically, 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.	2022	2023	Change from Avg.	% of Total (2023)
East Cambridge	18	22	33	83%	10%
M.I.T.	3	3	2	-33%	1%
Inman/Harrington	15	17	20	33%	6%
The Port	33	39	46	39%	15%
Cambridgeport	38	47	52	37%	17%
Mid-Cambridge	26	32	35	35%	11%
Riverside	26	29	40	54%	13%
Baldwin	4	7	3	-25%	1%
Peabody	9	6	15	67%	5%
West Cambridge	14	16	24	71%	8%
North Cambridge	23	26	29	26%	9%
Cambridge Highlands	7	11	9	29%	3%
Strawberry Hill	4	3	7	75%	2%
Total	**218**	**258**	**315**	**44%**	

Aggravated assault by relationship

Typically, the single largest relationship category in aggravated assault is "stranger," which made up 47% of all aggravated assaults in 2023. This comprises most of the cases in the "random," "traffic/parking," "bar/alcohol," and "on police officer" categories below. However, for many 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.

Stranger: 149
Acquaintance: 49
Intimate Partner or Ex-: 38
Client/Patron: 24
Parent/Child: 12
Schoolmate: 9
Sibling: 8
Neighbor: 8
Spouse or Ex-: 6
Roommate: 5
Co-Worker/Employee: 4
Other Family: 1
Landlord/Tenant: 1
Teacher/Coach: 1
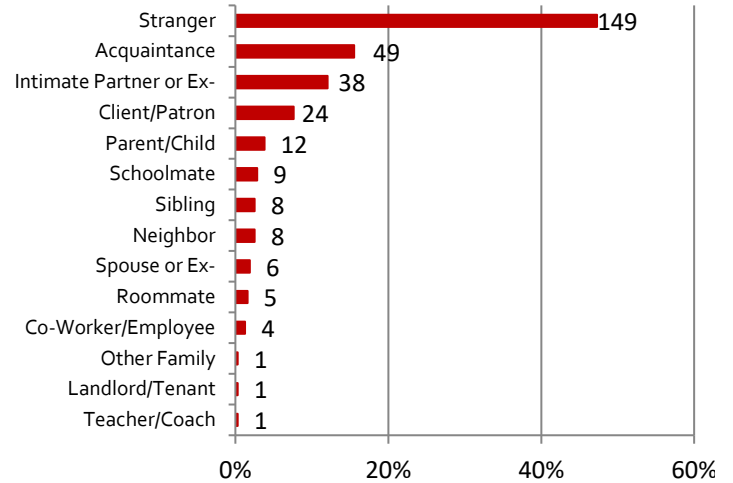
Aggravated assault by categorization

Random/Unprovoked: 69
Domestic: 65
Traffic/Parking: 38
Acquaintance: 33
Psychotic Episode: 26
Juvenile/Gang: 25
Unhoused: 14
Shop Owner/Patron: 14
Affray/Brawl: 11
On Police Officer: 7
Landlord/Neighbor: 5
Workplace: 5
Drug Deal: 3
Bar/Alcohol: 0
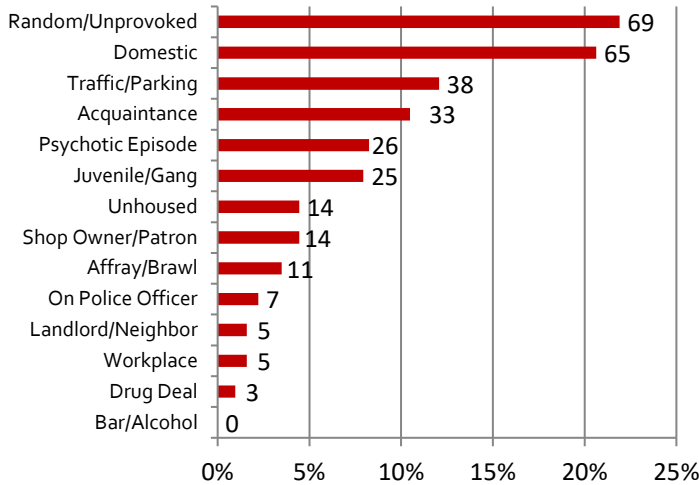
In most years, domestic assaults typically make up 30-40% of the total. However, in 2022 and again in 2023, this category registered slightly lower at 21% of the aggravated assault total. Domestic incidents involve a variety of relationships, but as the chart above shows, some of the most common are among intimate / ex-intimate partners, and parents / children. These unique circumstances are covered in the "Domestic Incidents" section of this report, as aggravated assault is only one of many crimes that may be the result of an abusive relationship. Other categories that saw notable changes this year were unprovoked incidents and traffic & parking incidents (each up 14 above 2022) and psychotic episodes (up 13 above 2022).

Notable findings on aggravated assault in 2023

- Only four of the aggravated assaults (1%) in 2023 resulted in serious or life-threatening injuries.

- There were six confirmed shots fired incidents in 2023, three of which resulted in four total victims with non-fatal injuries. There was also one fatal shooting in November, which is not considered an aggravated assault, but instead a murder (see Murder section earlier in this report for more details). In comparison, in 2022, there were 14 shots fired incidents, two of which resulted in three victims with non-fatal injuries. There were no fatal shootings in 2022. See the map on the next page for more information on the shooting incidents reported in 2023.

- The most common weapons used in aggravated assaults in 2022 were knives (17%), followed by shod feet (feet with shoes) in 15% of the incidents, and an automobile in 7%. There were 16 aggravated assaults that involved the use of a firearm in 2023, up five incidents from the previous year.

Confirmed Shots Fired and Shootings in Cambridge: 1.1.23 – 12.31.23

There were six confirmed shots fired incidents in Cambridge in 2023.* Three of these incidents resulted in the non-fatal shootings of four total victims, while the most recent incident on November 23 near Central Square resulted in both the non-fatal shooting of one victim and the fatal-shooting of a second victim. This incident marked the first homicide in Cambridge in over two years and the only homicide in the City in 2023.

In comparison, in 2022 there were 14 shots fired incidents, two of which resulted in the non-fatal shootings of three victims.

Shots Fired on 5/7 at 11:23pm
Green Rose Heritage Park area (Harvard St)
ShotSpotter alert. Shell casings recovered. No injuries reported.

Shooting on 7.16 at 2:20pm
Market St (location unconfirmed)
No ShotSpotter alert. 24-year-old male from Cambridge walked into CCH w/ non-fatal gunshot wound. Exact location of shooting unknown.

Shots Fired on 7/2 at 1:00am
100 block of Harvard St
ShotSpotter alert. Shell casings recovered and ballistic damage discovered on multiple vehicles. No injuries reported.

Shooting on 1.09 at 8:20pm
100 block of Washington St
ShotSpotter alert. 19-year-old male from Boston and 20-year-old female from Cambridge non-fatally shot.

Homicide on 11.23 at 12:30am
0 block of Magazine St
No ShotSpotter alert. 27-year-old female from Cambridge fatally shot and 26-year-old male from Boston non-fatally shot.

Shooting on 7.16 at 3:50am
Harvard St at Davis St
ShotSpotter alert. 25-year-old male from Cambridge non-fatally shot. Numerous shell casings recovered.

Shooting Type
- 🔴 Shooting w/ Victim(s)
- 🔵 Shots Fired (no victims)

*Please note: This figure/map excludes the fatal Cambridge Police officer-involved shooting of Sayed Faisal on January 4, 2023.

Simple assault

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

Simple assaults changed very little for many years, fluctuating between 390 and 460 incidents from 2006 to 2022. In 2021, the lowest number in 15 years was reported with 390 incidents, a drop that was likely due to the pandemic. The numbers then

Simple assaults reported in Cambridge

reversed direction with an 18% increase to 461 assaults in 2022 and another 25% increase to 576 assaults in 2023. Assaults tend to mirror aggravated assaults in categories and relationships, although aggravated assaults did not experience the decrease in 2020 and 2021 that simple assaults did.
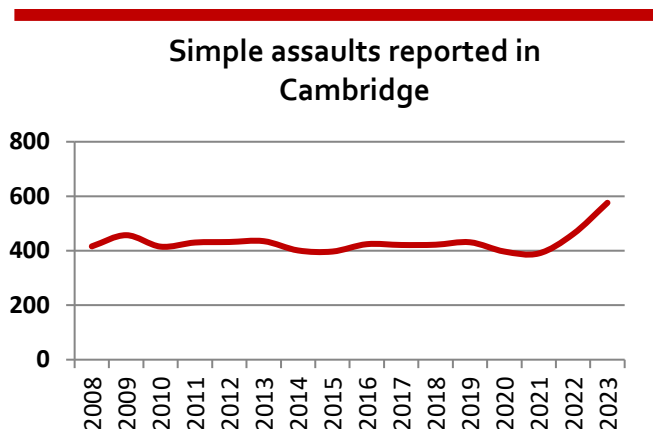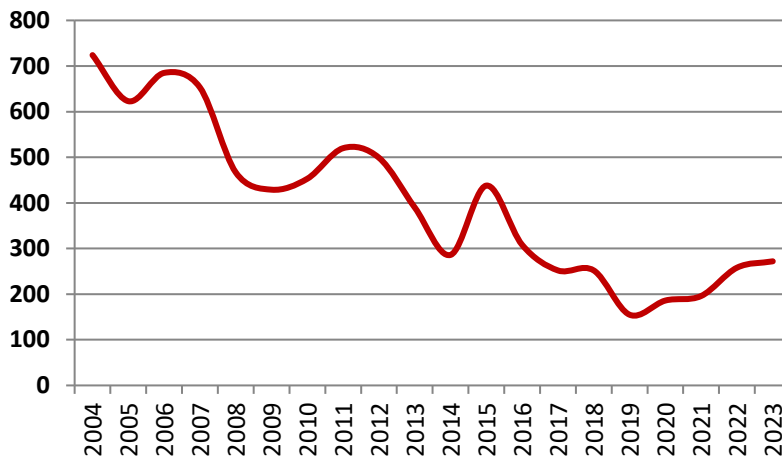
Burglary

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	213
2022	258
2023	272
Change from 2022	5%
Change from Average	28%

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	2022	2023	Change
Commercial Burglary	53	78	47%
Residential Burglary	205	194	-5%
Total	**258**	**272**	**5%**

Top items targeted in 2023

Rank	Residential	Commercial
1	Cash/Credit Cards	Cash/Credit Cards
2	Computers	Tools
3	Bicycles	Misc. Electronics
4	Misc. Electronics	Alcohol
5	Wallets/Purses	Bicycles/Medical Equip

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 2022 to 2023, there was a 47% increase in commercial breaks in Cambridge. The 2023 total of 78 incidents was also up 37% over the five-year average of 57 incidents.

Commercial burglary, 2013-2023
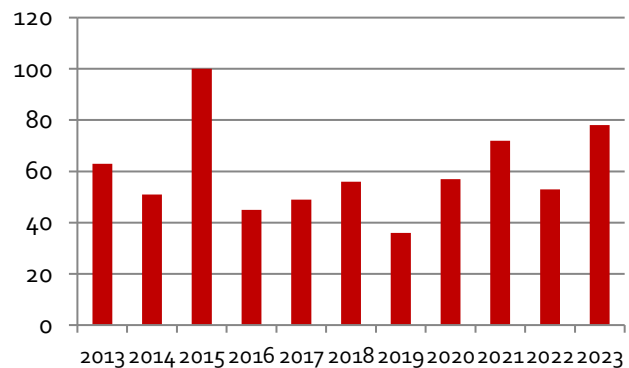
Commercial burglaries by business district

Business District	5-Yr. Avg.	2022	2023	Change from Avg.	% of Total (2023)
CambridgeSide/East Cambridge	7	9	9	29%	12%
Kendall/M.I.T.	3	3	2	-33%	3%
Inman Square	4	2	4	0%	5%
Central Square	10	8	12	20%	15%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	2	3	4	100%	5%
Bay Square/Upper Broadway	7	3	2	-71%	3%
Harvard Square	11	12	13	18%	17%
1500-1900 Massachusetts Avenue	3	2	3	0%	4%
Porter Square/North Cambridge	3	3	15	400%	19%
Alewife/West Cambridge	7	8	14	100%	18%
Total	**57**	**53**	**78**	**37%**	

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

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

Commercial burglaries by location type

Type	2022	2023
Bar/restaurant/social	9	16
Retail establishments	5	10
Convenience/gas	3	8
Government/Medical building	2	8
Industrial/construction	3	6
School/youth center	2	5
Business offices	15	3
Parking Structure	4	2
Church	2	2
Hotel/Shelter	1	2
Other	7	16
Total	53	78

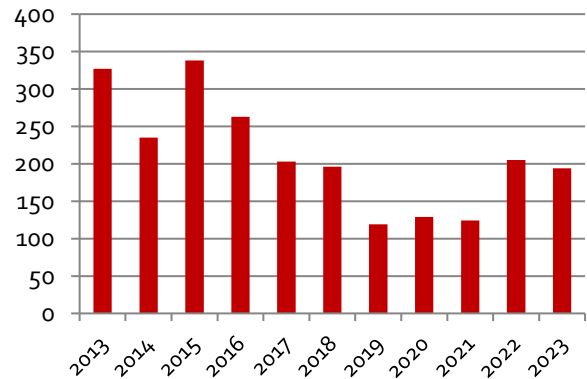## Commercial burglary patterns

The 2023 total of 78 commercial breaks was the largest number reported in Cambridge since 2015. Eight locations experienced more than one break in 2023, with one office building on Concord Ave seeing four. Eight of the commercial breaks (10%) in 2023 were attempts in which no entry was gained, and one incident was considered an "inside job". Overall, four incidents this year resulted in an arrest and suspects were developed or summonsed in an additional 15. Only one brief pattern of commercial burglaries emerged in Cambridge in 2023. In late June, five similar early-morning breaks into restaurants and convenience stores were reported in Harvard Square and North Cambridge. The pattern quickly came to an end when an observant officer stopped and identified a male matching the suspect's description in the area and he was arrested a few days later.

Residential burglary

From 2019 - 2021, residential burglaries, also known as housebreaks, dropped to levels not seen in over 30 years in Cambridge. In 2022, that trend reversed directions and incidents rose by 81, returning to pre-2019 levels. The total seen in 2023 was similar, with just 11 fewer incidents reported. Despite the slight drop in 2023, the total of 194 breaks was still 38 incidents (24%) above the five-year average of 156.

Despite the return to higher numbers in 2022 and 2023, very few discernable patterns emerged. In June of 2023, two suspects were connected to an apartment building in The Port that experienced the most housebreaks at one location citywide in 2023. And during the 4th quarter of this year, housebreak activity increased along the Somerville border, with multiple reports of breaks involving entry by way of unlocked doors/windows and targeting electronics, jewelry, handbags, and cash. This series continued into 2024.

Residential burglary, 2013-2023

Relation of Offender to Victim in Residential Burglaries

Type	2022	2023
Stranger/Unknown	177	174
Domestic (family member, romantic partner, etc.)	15	6
Acquaintance (friend, landlord, etc.)	13	14
Total	**205**	**194**

Point/Method of Entry into Homes

Category	2021	2022	2023
Door Entry	**86**	**149**	**139**
Pried/forced/broken	25	58	44
Other/unknown	30	50	45
Unlocked/open	31	41	50
Window Entry	**24**	**35**	**39**
Unlocked/open	6	15	15
Pried/forced/broken	6	10	9
Cut/removed screens	11	8	10
Other/unknown	1	2	5
Other/Unknown entry	**14**	**21**	**16**
Total	**124**	**205**	**194**

Residential burglaries by neighborhood

| Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2022	2023	Change from Avg.	Population (2020)	2023 Rate/10,000
East Cambridge	16	15	21	31%	13,246	16
M.I.T.	1	0	2	100%	6,238	3
Inman/Harrington	9	10	13	44%	6,718	19
The Port	14	15	32	129%	7,280	44
Cambridgeport	26	30	30	15%	13,083	23
Mid-Cambridge	22	29	25	14%	13,974	18
Riverside	13	19	19	46%	12,114	16
Baldwin	5	7	9	80%	5,146	17
Peabody	16	24	10	-38%	12,471	8
West Cambridge	9	13	5	-44%	8,450	6
North Cambridge	19	30	26	37%	15,372	17
Cambridge Highlands	4	9	1	-75%	1,646	6
Strawberry Hill	4	4	1	-75%	2,665	4
Total	**156**	**205**	**194**	**24%**	**118,403**	

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	1,936
2022	2,088
2023	2,332
Change from 2022	12%
Change from Average	20%

Larcenies reported in Cambridge
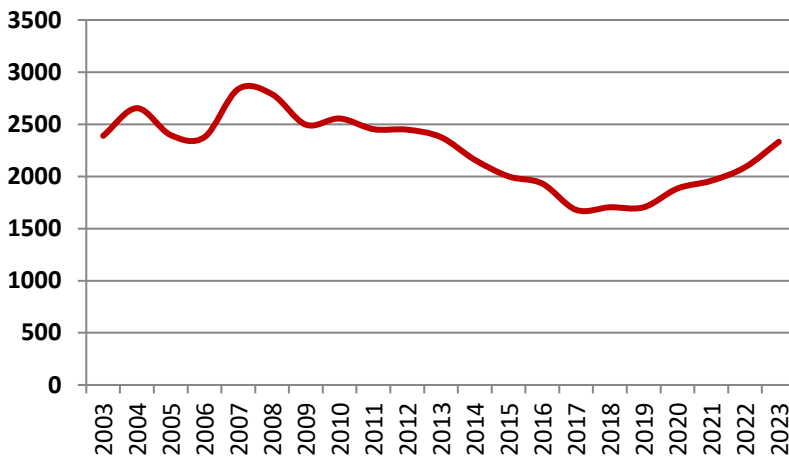
Larceny is always the most common of the Part I crimes in Cambridge. This year it accounted for 72% of the total Part I crime and 85% of the total property crime. Larceny often produces the most patterns. Many of the categories can be fueled by changes in technology. As electronics such as laptops, cell phones, and portable music players become more popular and evolve, they become easier targets, easier to conceal, and ultimately easier to sell.

Larceny is broken down into the nine categories listed in the table below. Larceny categories were very much affected by the pandemic in 2020. More than half of the larceny categories experienced substantial reductions from 2019 to 2020, mostly because of the lack of people venturing out in the city for work, dining, shopping, and recreation. As businesses and restaurants slowly began to reopen in 2021, there was a moderate rebound in the some of the affected larceny types, but it was not until 2022 and 2023 that larcenies fully returned to their pre-pandemic levels—and beyond.

Larcenies by Type	5-Yr. Avg.	2022	2023	Change from Avg.	% of Total (2023)
Larcenies from buildings	183	216	200	9%	9%
Larcenies from motor vehicles	394	465	319	-19%	14%
Larcenies from persons	121	122	96	-21%	4%
Larcenies from residences	348	381	414	19%	18%
Larcenies of bicycles	524	481	579	10%	25%
Larcenies of license plates	21	23	39	86%	2%
Larcenies of services	11	15	26	136%	1%
Shoplifting	273	298	577	111%	25%
Other (unclassifiable) larcenies	62	87	82	32%	4%
Total	**1,936**	**2,088**	**2,332**	**20%**	

Larcenies from buildings

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

There were 200 larcenies from buildings reported in 2023. This total represents a decrease of 16 incidents (-7%) below 2022 and a 9% rise over the five-year average of 183.

Larcenies from buildings by business district

Business District	2022	2023	Change
CambridgeSide/East Cambridge	28	15	-46%
Kendall/M.I.T.	15	11	-27%
Inman Square	10	9	-10%
Central Square	41	72	76%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	9	8	-11%
Bay Sq./Upper Broadway	10	10	0%
Harvard Square	29	19	-34%
1500-1900 Mass. Ave.	48	28	-42%
Porter Sq./N. Cambridge	9	9	0%
Alewife/West Cambridge	17	19	12%
Total	**216**	**200**	**-7%**

Larceny from building scenarios
The following are the most common larceny from building scenarios in Cambridge in 2023:

1. Thefts of property intentionally left unattended for a short time: **57 incidents**
2. Thefts from a health club: **42 incidents**
3. Thefts of property left unattended on a store counter: **20 incidents**
4. Thefts of property accidentally left behind at a location: **19 incidents**
5. Thefts of company property by an employee ("inside job"): **12 incidents**
6. Thefts of personal/company property from an office building during business hours: **12 incidents**
7. Thefts from a safe/depository: **10 incidents**
8. Thefts from a school: **9 incidents**
9. Thefts of employee property from the "back room" of a commercial establishment: **7 incidents**
10. Thefts from a construction site: **5 incidents**
11. Thefts from the area immediately surrounding a building: **4 incidents**
12. Thefts from a hotel room: **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 had been steadily decreasing almost every year until a period of increases was reported from 2020 through 2022. However, a decrease was again reported in 2023. The total of 319 car breaks reported in 2023 was 31% below the 2022 total of 465 and 19% below the five-year weighted average of 394.

The rise in 2021 and 2022 was attributed to a new hot target in Cambridge: the catalytic converter. Catalytic converters are part of the exhaust systems of motor vehicles and are stolen because of the expensive metals they contain. In 2021 and again in 2022, catalytic converter thefts were reported throughout the city. These thefts accounted for at least 128 (or 28%) of the 465 LMVs reported in Cambridge in 2022 alone. However, thanks to a regional catalytic converter theft task force run by the State Police that resulted in multiple arrests during the first quarter of 2023, not a single theft of this type was reported after March in Cambridge. The drop from 128 catalytic converter thefts in 2022 to only 21 in 2023 was a significant factor in the 31% decrease in total larcenies from motor vehicles in 2023.

Larcenies from motor vehicles, 2013-2023
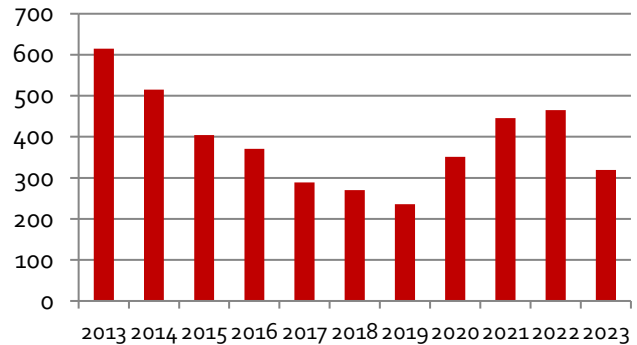
Larcenies from vehicles by neighborhood

Neighborhood	2022	2023	Change
East Cambridge	37	20	-46%
M.I.T.	4	1	-75%
Inman/Harrington	15	16	7%
The Port	39	14	-64%
Cambridgeport	63	43	-32%
Mid-Cambridge	62	25	-60%
Riverside	48	37	-23%
Baldwin	20	15	-25%
Peabody	55	42	-24%
West Cambridge	48	32	-33%
North Cambridge	61	62	2%
Cambridge Highlands	8	11	38%
Strawberry Hill	5	1	-80%
Total	**465**	**319**	**-31%**

Top stolen items of 2023
1. Backpacks/Bags/ Purses/Wallets 73
2. Cash/Coins 72
3. Misc. Electronics (Phones, MP3 Players, GPS Units, etc.) 45
4. Glasses/Sunglasses 37
5. Auto Parts 36
6. Clothing/Coats/ Shoes 28
7. Laptops 22
8. Miscellaneous 18
9. Credit/ATM Card 16
10. Identification 11

Top methods of entry
1. In 39% of the incidents in 2023, entry was gained through unlocked doors or open windows.

2. In 31% of cases, means of entry were unknown, with no signs of force.

3. Entry through broken windows accounted for 14% of the 2023 total.
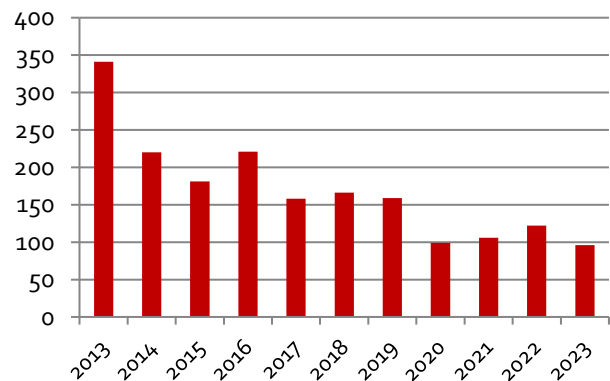
Larcenies from persons

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

Due to the numerous pandemic-related closures of and restrictions at restaurants and shops across the city that began in 2020 and continued into 2021, larcenies from the person dropped considerably during these two years. This crime type experienced a slight increase 2022 but dropped again in 2023. The total of 96 thefts in 2023 was 26 incidents (-21%) below the 2022 total and 21% below the five-year weighted average of 121. Four larcenies from the person in 2023 resulted in an arrest at the time of the incident, and a suspect was developed in an additional 14 incidents. See the scenarios below for more on larcenies from the person in 2023.

Larcenies from persons by business district

Business District	2022	2023	Change
CambridgeSide/ East Cambridge	5	9	80%
Kendall/M.I.T.	3	2	-33%
Inman Square	3	2	-33%
Central Square	64	42	-34%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	4	3	-25%
Bay Sq./Upper Broadway	2	2	0%
Harvard Square	20	27	35%
1500-1900 Mass. Ave.	3	0	-100%
Porter Sq./N. Cambridge	11	6	-45%
Alewife/West Cambridge	7	3	-57%
Total	**122**	**96**	**-21%**

Larcenies from persons, 2013-2023

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 2023 involved the theft of items after they were left unattended by their owners. This scenario accounted for approximately 31% of the larcenies from persons in 2023. In the years prior to 2020, this would include thefts of purses, wallets, and other belongings left briefly unattended in bars, restaurants, churches, schools, bus stops, parks, etc. There is still some of this activity reported, but the most typical scenario over the past three years has involved the theft of property from unhoused individuals while they were asleep or away from their property, particularly in the Central Square area.

2. Another frequent larceny scenario in Cambridge this year involved pocket-picking, in which items are stolen from a victim's pocket, purse, or backpack without his or her knowledge. This scenario accounted for 28% of the larcenies from persons in 2023. Again, pocket-picking incidents were most common in Central Square this year, which makes sense given that 44% of larcenies from the person were reported in Central Square in 2023.

3. The third most frequent scenario in 2023 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, but during the trade, the suspect manages to escape with both the property and the money. Grab-and-run incidents accounted for 20% of the larceny from person reports citywide in 2023.

4. The fourth most common larceny from person scenario in Cambridge in 2023 involved the theft of items from victims as they dined in local establishments. This is one scenario that we used to see very frequently in Cambridge, particularly in Central and Harvard Squares, but it was noticeably reduced in both 2020 and 2021 because of pandemic closures. Despite the reopening of most restaurants by 2022, there were still only 12 dining incidents reported citywide in 2022 and only 14 in 2023, which is still down noticeably from the 38 dining thefts reported citywide in 2019 prior to Covid.

5. The most infrequent larceny from person scenario in Cambridge in 2023 involved the theft of items from victims as they shopped in local commercial establishments. In this situation, a shopper might leave a purse or bag in a cart while looking at items on a shelf; upon returning to the cart, the belongings are gone. This category accounted for only 6% of the larcenies from persons in 2023.

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 414 larcenies from residences reported in Cambridge in 2023, a 9% increase over 2022. Similar to recent years, the thefts of packages from the front steps or vestibules of residences continued to dominate this crime category in 2023, with 293 incidents reported. Due to the continuation of a large increase in online shopping that began during the pandemic, the 293 package thefts reported in 2023, the 248 package thefts reported in 2022, the 232 reported in 2021, and the 284 in 2020 were all up considerably from the 149 package thefts reported in 2019. It should also be noted that even with the larger numbers in 2020 - 2023, 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: **71%**
- Thefts committed by visitors or guests of a residence: **7%**
- Thefts from a common area of an apartment building: **7%**
- Thefts committed by a family member, spouse, or romantic partner (i.e., "domestic thefts"): **5%**
- Thefts from a yard, porch, or other area surrounding a residence: **4%**
- Thefts committed by someone working in the residence, such as a painter, plumber, contractor, or maintenance worker: **4%**
- Thefts from a mailbox of an apartment or house: **2%**
- Thefts from a storage area of an apartment building or complex: **1%**
- Thefts committed while victims are in the process of moving: **less than 1%**

Larcenies from residences by neighborhood

Neighborhood	2022	2023	Change
East Cambridge	28	37	32%
MIT	6	1	-83%
Inman/Harrington	26	28	8%
The Port	55	35	-36%
Cambridgeport	53	64	21%
Mid-Cambridge	54	74	37%
Riverside	36	49	36%
Baldwin	11	20	82%
Peabody	37	25	-32%
West Cambridge	16	9	-44%
North Cambridge	44	53	20%
Cambridge Highlands	10	14	40%
Strawberry Hill	5	5	0%
Total	**381**	**414**	**9%**

Larcenies of bicycles*

Larcenies of bicycles by neighborhood

Neighborhood	2022	2023	Change
East Cambridge	40	61	53%
M.I.T.	11	14	27%
Inman/Harrington	20	31	55%
The Port	65	57	-12%
Cambridgeport	76	97	28%
Mid-Cambridge	51	83	63%
Riverside	47	53	13%
Baldwin	18	16	-11%
Peabody	58	29	-50%
West Cambridge	20	38	90%
North Cambridge	63	87	38%
Cambridge Highlands	9	11	22%
Strawberry Hill	3	2	-33%
Total	**481**	**579**	**20%**

Larcenies of bicycles, 2013-2023
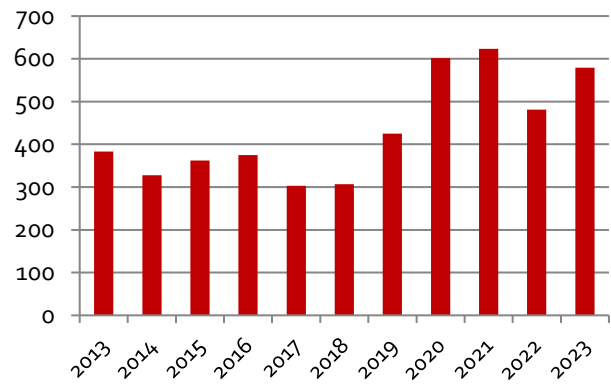
There were 579 reported thefts of bicycles in 2023, an increase of 98 incidents (-20%) above 2022 and a 10% rise over the five-year weighted average of 524 thefts. Unlike in past years when the largest numbers of bicycle thefts occurred during the warmer summer months and then dropped off with the arrival of colder weather, bike thefts numbers in 2023 began to rise earlier in the spring and stayed at a relatively high level all the way through the fall.

Locks present little difficulty to bicycle thieves, who often bring bolt cutters or pry bars with them. A little over 55% of all reported bicycle thefts this year involved locked and unattended bicycles on a street, sidewalk, or rack. Approximately 17% of thefts involved locked bicycles on private property, such as in private back yards or in apartment building hallways. Another 20% of the larcenies involved bicycles that were left unlocked and unprotected. Unlocked bicycles that were on private property followed, making up the remaining 7% of reported incidents.

Larcenies of bicycles by month in 2023

Month	Number of thefts
January	19
February	23
March	30
April	52
May	75
June	65
July	45
August	60
September	66
October	68
November	48
December	28
Total	**579**

Similar to recent years, one of the hardest hit areas for bicycle thefts in 2023 was Central Square, with 119 incidents, the majority of which involved thefts of bicycles from streets and sidewalks in the Square and peripheral side streets. Another area that has seen an increase over the past few years is the Bay Square business district, where bike thefts rose from 46 incidents in 2022 to 72 in 2023. Of the 72 bike thefts in Bay Square in 2023, 60% occurred on streets and sidewalks in the area.

One bicycle theft in 2023 resulted in an arrest at the time of the incident, and a suspect was developed in at least 20 additional incidents.

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

Shoplifting

Mostly due to the pandemic-related closures of many stores across Cambridge in 2020 and 2021, shoplifting decreased by 23% in 2020 and 28% in 2021, dropping a total of 155 incidents from 2019 to 2021. However, this trend reversed directions in 2022 with a 55% increase over the previous year, and that increase was even more dramatic in 2023 with a surge of 94% over 2022. The total of 577 incidents reported in 2023 was also 111% above the five-year weighted average of 273 incidents, far surpassing pre-pandemic levels.

One characteristic of this crime in Cambridge that will likely not return to levels seen prior to 2020 is the hotspot in the CambridgeSide/East Cambridge area, where much of the shoplifting in the city used to take place. Over the past five years, shoplifting in this business district has dropped a staggering 84%, from 146 incidents in 2019 to only 23 in 2023. This decrease can be attributed to both permanent pandemic-related store closures and the construction and redevelopment currently taking place at the CambridgeSide Shopping Center.

It is important to note that because shoplifting incidents are sometimes only reported when an arrest is made, underreporting can be a serious problem. However, 93% of the reported incidents in 2023 did *not* result in an arrest at the time of the incident, which indicates an increase in the tendency to report incidents regardless of whether an arrest was made. Some stores may also choose to trespass the shoplifter instead of pressing charges.

Shoplifters usually fall into one of five categories:

1. **Juvenile shoplifters**, who steal on a dare to impress their peers, to get an "adrenaline rush," or to compensate for lack of money.
2. **Impulse shoplifters**, who seize a sudden chance, such as an unattended dressing room or a blind aisle. Sometimes, the "impulse" is a long line or lack of money.
3. **Unhoused persons and/or individuals with substance abuse disorders**, who steal items for personal use due to a lack of money or who shoplift in order to resell stolen items for the cash.
4. Shoplifters who steal to **satisfy a psychological need**.
5. **Professionals**, who steal expensive items and resell them to fences or "flea markets."

Shoplifting by business district

Business District	2022	2023	Change
CambridgeSide/ East Cambridge	28	23	-18%
Kendall/MIT	2	8	300%
Inman Square	5	1	-80%
Central Square	100	304	204%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	20	56	180%
Bay Sq./Upper Broadway	4	3	-25%
Harvard Square	53	53	0%
1500-1900 Mass. Ave.	3	2	-33%
Porter Sq./N. Cambridge	33	94	185%
Alewife/West Cambridge	50	33	-34%
Total	**298**	**577**	**94%**

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 26 of these crimes reported in 2023, which is up 73% over the 15 reported in 2022. "Dining and ditching" incidents were reported most often this year (14 incidents), followed by five incidents of evading taxi fare, four incidents of failure to pay for auto repair services, two incidents of failure to pay for hotel accommodations, and one incident of gasoline theft.

Miscellaneous larceny

This category includes all other unclassifiable larcenies. Miscellaneous larcenies in 2023 declined by 6% from 87 in 2022 to 82 in 2023. There were no notable patterns of any miscellaneous types of larceny this year.
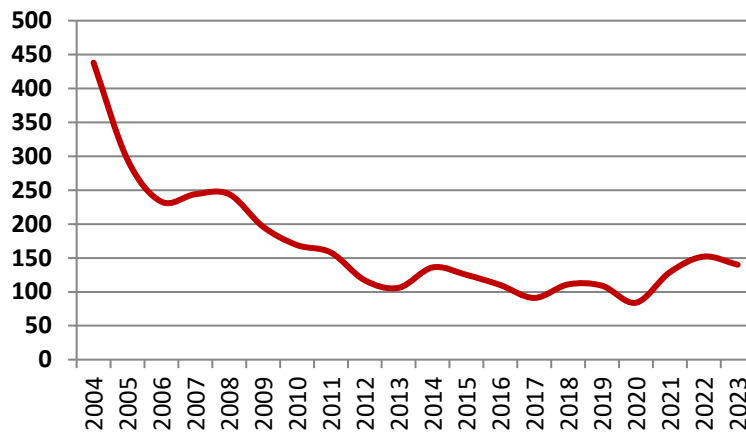
Auto Theft

Definition

Auto theft is the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. The offense category includes theft of automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, motor scooters, and snowmobiles.

Statistics

Five-Year Average	124
2022	152
2023	140
Change from 2022	-8%
Change from Average	13%

Auto thefts reported in Cambridge

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

In 2020, auto thefts dropped to a record low of 84 incidents. The dramatic decrease in 2020 may have, at least in part, been due to the pandemic, as significantly fewer people were traveling about, eliminating some of the opportunity for auto thefts. In 2022, Cambridge recorded the largest auto theft total in at least ten years with 152 thefts. In 2023, auto theft dropped by 12 incidents (8%) below 2022, with 140 reported.

In 2023, Cambridge neighborhoods saw more decreases than increases in auto thefts when compared to 2022. The most notable rise occurred in The Highlands, where thefts rose by 10 incidents in a neighborhood that normally sees numbers in the range of only 0-3. The most notable decrease took place in Peabody, where thefts dropped by 10 to only four incidents, making it the third lowest neighborhood total in 2023.

A notable trend that emerged in 2023 was an increase in thefts of older model Hyundais and Kias citywide, which stemmed from a Tik Tok trend targeting these vehicles.

Auto thefts by neighborhood

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2022	2023	Change from Avg.	% of Total (2023)
East Cambridge	14	18	17	21%	12%
MIT	3	3	0	-100%	0%
Inman/Harrington	6	8	12	100%	9%
The Port	13	20	14	8%	10%
Cambridgeport	17	21	20	18%	14%
Mid-Cambridge	8	10	9	13%	6%
Riverside	20	21	13	-35%	9%
Baldwin	3	3	6	100%	4%
Peabody	9	14	4	-56%	3%
West Cambridge	13	15	12	-8%	9%
North Cambridge	15	18	20	33%	14%
Cambridge Highlands	2	0	10	400%	7%
Strawberry Hill	1	1	3	200%	2%
Total	**124**	**152**	**140**	**23%**	

Another trend that picked up in 2021 and has continued through 2023 is a rise in incidents targeting delivery drivers that leave their cars unlocked and sometimes running while they deliver packages or food.

Makes and models

Similar to 2022, Toyota was the most stolen automobile make in Cambridge in 2023 with 22 thefts, or 16% of the citywide total. Once again, Honda dropped into second with 10 thefts. Coming in 3rd and 4th were Hyundai and Ford, with nine and eight thefts, respectively. This information, while typically consistent with historical and national trends, can change from year to year with different targeted models rising in the ranks. 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 GPS and alarm systems.

Top stolen makes and models in Cambridge in 2023

Makes		Models	
Toyota	22	Honda Accord	10
Honda	10	Honda Civic	7
Hyundai	9	Hyundai Elantra	4
Ford	8		

Thefts of motorcycles, scooters, and mopeds have also become more common throughout the region over the past few years. In 2023, this vehicle type accounted for 27% of all auto thefts in Cambridge, which is down 9% from 2022.

The table to the right shows the incidence of auto thefts by model year (eight vehicles did not report the model year, as a lot of scooter and moped owners are not aware of this information, and six thefts involved a model year prior to 2003). Analysis of the age of stolen vehicles shows that the highest demand is typically for cars less than 10 years old.

Auto thefts in 2023 by model year
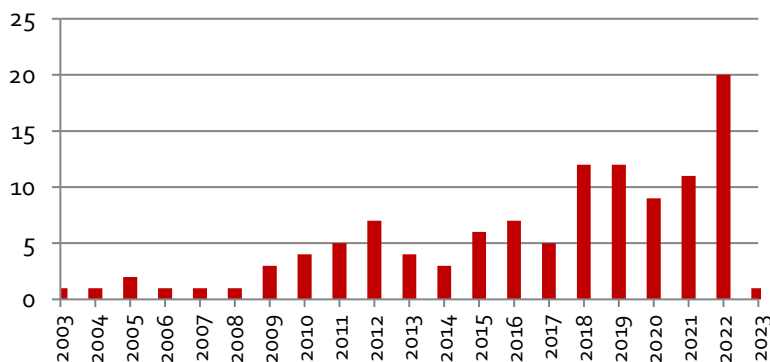
Auto theft recoveries by location

Cambridge Recoveries	40
Cambridgeport	9
North Cambridge	7
Mid-Cambridge	6
East Cambridge	4
The Port	4
Inman	3
Riverside	2
West Cambridge	2
Baldwin	1
Unknown Cambridge	2

Approximately 54% of the cars reported stolen in 2023 have been recovered to date. A little over half of the recovered cars this year were located within Cambridge. Cambridgport and North Cambridge were two of the neighborhoods with the largest numbers of cars stolen this year and also reported the most recoveries in 2023.

Recoveries in Other Cities/Towns	35
Boston	12
Somerville	4
Malden	3
Quincy	3
Peabody	2
Out of State	2
Burlington	1
Everett	1
Fall River	1
Haverhill	1
Lawrence	1
Medford	1
Middleboro	1
Needham	1
Saugus	1
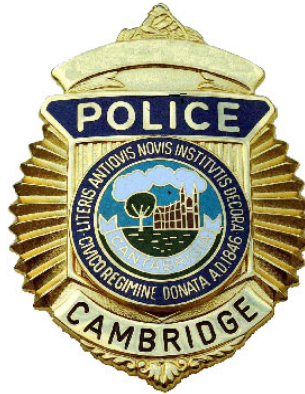
Section III

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	47
2022	30
2023	34
Change from 2022	13%
Change from Average	-28%

To the right is a geographic breakdown of drug incidents across the 13 neighborhoods in Cambridge. Cambridgeport accounted for the most drug activity in the city in 2023, with 13 incidents.

In total, 34 drug incidents were reported in 2023 and 25 people were arrested in 23 of these incidents.

Drug offense scenarios

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

1. A police officer on patrol observes suspicious street activity and upon further investigation discovers narcotics: **16 cases in 2023**

Drug incidents by neighborhood

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2022	2023	% of Total (2023)
East Cambridge	2	0	3	9%
MIT	2	1	0	0%
Inman/Harrington	3	2	0	0%
The Port	6	2	3	9%
Cambridgeport	8	7	13	38%
Mid-Cambridge	7	7	1	3%
Riverside	10	4	7	21%
Baldwin	0	0	0	0%
Peabody	1	1	2	6%
West Cambridge	3	2	1	3%
North Cambridge	3	2	3	9%
Cambridge Highlands	2	2	1	3%
Strawberry Hill	0	0	0	0%
Total	47	30	34	

2. During a routine motor vehicle stop, a police officer observes narcotics inside the vehicle: **6 cases in 2023**

3. During an arrest for another crime, the arresting officer or booking officer finds narcotics on the arrested person: **7 cases in 2023**

4. A citizen witnesses a person or persons using drugs and notifies the police: **2 cases in 2023**

5. A Cambridge school official or court officer observes drug use: **3 cases in 2023**

Type of drug involved in incidents

Category	2023
Heroin/Opioids	13
Cocaine or crack cocaine	11
Prescription drugs	3
Methamphetamine	2
Marijuana	4
Hallucinogens	0
Other (inhalants, etc.)	1

Drug-related activities for which persons are arrested

Category	2023
Possession	18
Possession with intent to distribute*	9
Drug sale (observed)	1
Trafficking**	6

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

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

Sex Offenses

Definition

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

Sex offenses by type

Category	5-Yr. Avg.	2022	2023	Change from Avg.
Indecent assault	35	45	35	0%
Indecent exposure	26	29	29	12%
Peeping & Spying	5	4	7	40%
Annoying & accosting	9	8	11	22%
Obscene phone calls	2	3	1	-50%
Prostitution & solicitation	1	1	30	2900%
Total	77	90	113	47%

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 2023, the offender was a stranger to the victim in 31% of the reported assaults. Five of the incidents in 2023 resulted in an arrest at the time of the incident and a suspect was identified in 21 others. The Mid-Cambridge neighborhood experienced the most indecent assaults this year with nine incidents, or 26% of the citywide total.

Indecent Exposure

Indecent exposure is the offensive, often suggestive display of one's body (usually the genitals) in public. The main offenders are typically unhoused or inebriated individuals. Thirteen individuals (45%) were seen urinating/defecating in public, nine incidents (31%) involved suspects masturbating or engaging in sexual acts in public, and flashing accounted for seven (24%) of the 29 indecent exposure incidents in 2023. Arrests were made in eight incidents and suspects were identified in an additional 14.

Peeping and Spying

Two of the seven instances of peeping and spying reported in Cambridge in 2023 involved offenders peering through windows of houses or apartments; one was at night and one was during the mid-morning hours. The other five peeping and spying incidents in 2023 involved offenders using a cell phone or camera to record unsuspecting victims.

Annoying & Accosting

Annoying and accosting is a form of criminal harassment. (Note: Incidents involving phone call harassment are not considered annoying and accosting. Phone calls are a separate category.) Often, annoying and accosting involves a man repeatedly following, shouting, making off-color suggestions, hooting, repeatedly asking for a date, following, or otherwise harassing a woman. It happens most often on the street. There were 11 incidents in 2023, with one (9%) committed by a co-worker, one (9%) by an acquaintance, one (9%) by a patron of a restaurant towards an employee, and eight (73%) by a stranger. None of the incidents resulted in an arrest, and suspects were developed in five of the incidents.

Obscene Telephone Calls

Obscene telephone calls are unwanted phone calls or electronic communications of an offensive or repulsive nature. Often the caller uses sexual or vulgar language to cause discomfort and possibly fear to the victim receiving the calls. There was one incident of this nature in 2023, and the suspect was a stranger to the victim.

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. In 2023, the Cambridge Police, in collaboration with Homeland Security Investigations and the United States Attorney's Office, investigated a high-end brothel network with a location in Cambridge, which led to the prosecution of 28 cases of prostitution and the arrest of three individuals in charge of the brothel.

There were also two separate and unrelated incidents of prostitution reported in Cambridge in 2023.

Fraud

Definition

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

Across the nation, police departments are seeing fraud become an increasingly popular crime. In 2023, this crime rose 24% in Cambridge from 600 incidents in 2022 to 744 in 2023.

Counterfeiting

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

Bad Check

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

Forged Check

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

ATM/Credit Card Fraud

One of the most common types of fraud reported in Cambridge typically involves the use of credit and ATM cards. There are two main ways that victims become aware of this type of crime; either victims are informed by their credit card companies of unusual activity on their charge or debit cards, or a victim finds unauthorized charges on his or her credit card account after the card is lost/stolen/skimmed. Victims may also report fraudulent activity while they are still in possession of their card. This type of fraud increased by 16% in 2023 with 15 more incidents reported than in 2022. Under-reporting can be an issue with ATM/credit card fraud due to the tendency for fewer victims to report fraudulent charges on their credit or debit cards when their credit card companies take care of the charges without requiring a police report.

Fraud by type

Category	2022	2023	Change from 2022*
Counterfeiting	17	11	-35%
Forgery/Uttering	382	506	32%
Identity theft	237	346	46%
Credit/ATM cards	92	107	16%
Forged check	39	32	-18%
Bad check	9	10	11%
Prescription	1	3	200%
Application	2	3	50%
Other/miscellaneous	2	5	150%
Con Games	194	222	**14%**
Internet-related	100	94	-6%
Housing Scam	30	31	3%
Government	37	38	3%
Extortion/Kidnap	0	3	N/A
Housework/Utilities	7	32	357%
Travel	3	3	0%
Lottery	4	4	0%
Charity	3	8	167%
Big Carrot	0	3	N/A
Cash shuffle	0	1	N/A
Miscellaneous	10	5	-50%
Embezzlement	7	5	**-29%**
Total	600	744	24%

*N/A = % change cannot be calculated when the 2022 total is zero.

Identity Theft

This scenario is when a known or unknown person opens accounts in the victim's name with his or her social security number. This can include utilities, credit cards, and even filing tax returns. Reported false unemployment claims skyrocketed in 2020 during the pandemic (with 807 reported incidents) followed by a large drop in 2021 (down to 76 incidents) and 2022 (only 40 incidents). False unemployment claims grew in popularity again in 2023 with 120 incidents, contributing to the overall 46% increase in identity fraud reports in 2023.

Embezzlement

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

"Con" Games

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

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

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

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

Malicious Destruction

Definition

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

Statistics

Five-Year Average	337
2022	335
2023	383
Change from 2022	14%
Change from Average	14%

Vandalism by neighborhood

Neighborhood	2022	2023	% of Total (2023)
East Cambridge	36	38	10%
M.I.T.	4	2	1%
Inman/Harrington	31	31	8%
The Port	45	42	11%
Cambridgeport	27	52	14%
Mid-Cambridge	30	44	11%
Riverside	31	41	11%
Baldwin	6	5	1%
Peabody	22	23	6%
West Cambridge	25	36	9%
North Cambridge	66	50	13%
Cambridge Highlands	6	9	2%
Strawberry Hill	6	10	3%
Total	**335**	**383**	

Vandalism by category

Category	2022	2023	Change from 2022
Total auto damage	**153**	**167**	**9%**
Dents/damage to car	55	49	-11%
Car window broken	31	47	52%
Scratches, "pinstripes"	26	25	-4%
Tires slashed or punctured	20	17	-15%
Attempted theft	21	29	38%
Total residence damage	**54**	**59**	**9%**
Misc. damage to residences	35	45	29%
Residence window broken	19	14	-26%
Total business damage	**67**	**83**	**24%**
Misc. damage to businesses	45	42	-7%
Business window broken	22	41	86%
Graffiti	**37**	**43**	**16%**
Miscellaneous damage	**24**	**31**	**29%**
Total	**335**	**383**	**14%**

Other Part II Crimes

Definition

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

Statistics

Five-Year Average	960
2022	1,007
2023	1,176
Change from 2022	17%
Change from Average	23%

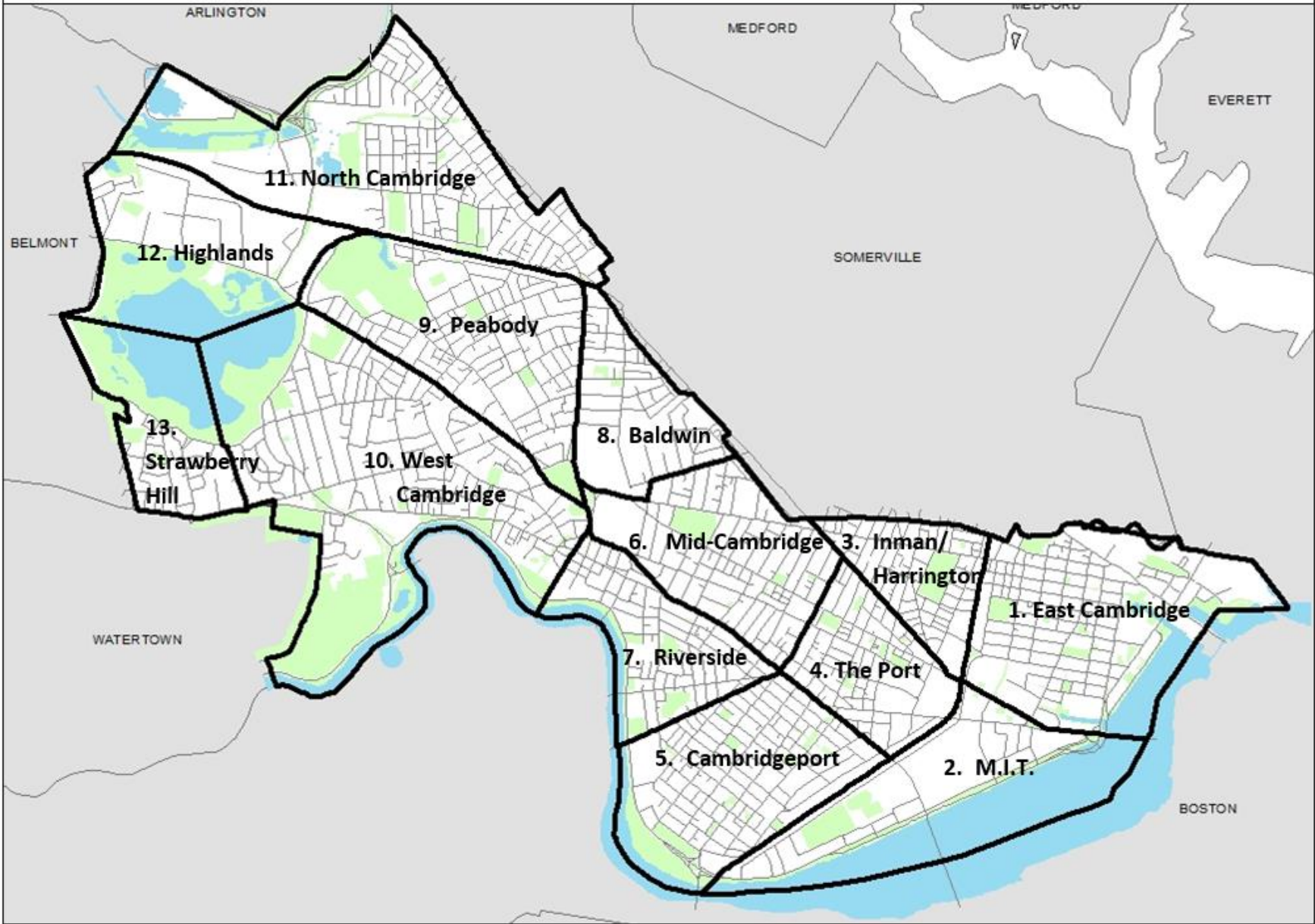| Category	2022	2023	Change from 2022
Hit & Run Crashes	569	698	23%
Threats	242	272	12%
Trespassing	45	69	53%
Drinking in Public	8	4	-50%
Disorderly Conduct	24	21	-13%
Traffic Arrests	17	21	24%
Weapons Violations	34	24	-29%
OUI	37	23	-38%
Extortion/Blackmail	28	36	29%
Liquor Violations	2	3	50%
Kidnapping	1	5	400%
Total	**1,007**	**1,176**	**17%**

Neighborhood Profiles

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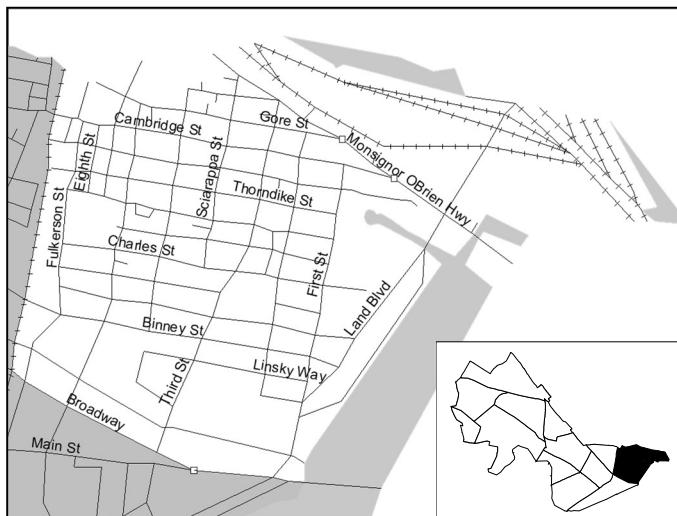
City of Cambridge Neighborhoods

11. North Cambridge

12. Highlands

9. Peabody

13. Strawberry Hill

10. West Cambridge

8. Baldwin

6. Mid-Cambridge

3. Inman/ Harrington

1. East Cambridge

7. Riverside

4. The Port

5. Cambridgeport

2. M.I.T.

ARLINGTON

MEDFORD

MEDFORD

EVERETT

BELMONT

SOMERVILLE

WATERTOWN

BOSTON

Neighborhood breakdown of index crimes in 2023

Crime	East Camb.	M.I.T.	Inman/ Harr.	The Port	Camb. Port	Mid- Camb.	River- side	Bald- win	Pea- body	W. Camb.	N. Camb.	Camb. H'lands	Strw. Hill	Total
Aggravated Assault	33	2	20	46	52	35	40	3	15	24	29	9	7	315
Auto Theft	17	0	12	14	20	9	13	6	4	12	20	10	3	140
Commercial Break	9	0	3	10	5	4	5	2	1	10	19	10	0	78
Commercial Robbery	2	0	0	3	5	3	5	0	2	2	7	5	0	34
Drugs	3	0	0	3	13	1	7	0	2	1	3	1	0	34
Flim Flam	31	6	12	16	19	24	16	11	29	19	29	5	5	222
Forgery	78	8	35	59	64	53	29	12	44	34	69	13	8	506
Homicide	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Housebreak	21	2	13	32	30	25	19	9	10	5	26	1	1	194
Indecent Assault	7	0	4	4	2	9	3	0	0	2	3	1	0	35
Indecent Exposure	4	0	1	4	6	3	1	0	0	4	3	0	3	29
Larceny from Building	19	4	6	30	36	20	19	23	6	15	12	9	1	200
Larceny from MV	20	1	16	14	43	25	37	15	42	32	62	11	1	319
Larceny from Person	10	1	1	6	22	8	24	0	1	14	6	3	0	96
Larceny from Residence	37	1	28	35	64	74	49	20	25	9	53	14	5	414
Larceny of Bicycle	61	14	31	57	97	83	53	16	29	38	87	11	2	579
Mal. Dest. Property	38	2	31	42	52	44	41	5	23	36	50	9	10	383
Shoplifting	23	7	1	35	319	2	26	0	2	35	94	32	1	577
Simple Assault	53	10	24	62	118	62	70	11	21	50	64	23	8	576
Street Robbery	6	0	2	17	28	11	8	1	2	12	7	0	0	94

The following neighborhood slides contain census data pertaining to population and estimated median incomes by neighborhood. The population data (number of residents & households) was provided by the Cambridge Community Development Department and is based on 2020 Census data. The estimated median incomes are from the 2006-2010 American Community Survey data set, as analyzed by the Cambridge Community Development Department.

East Cambridge

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

Population as of 2020:
13,246 residents
7,471 households

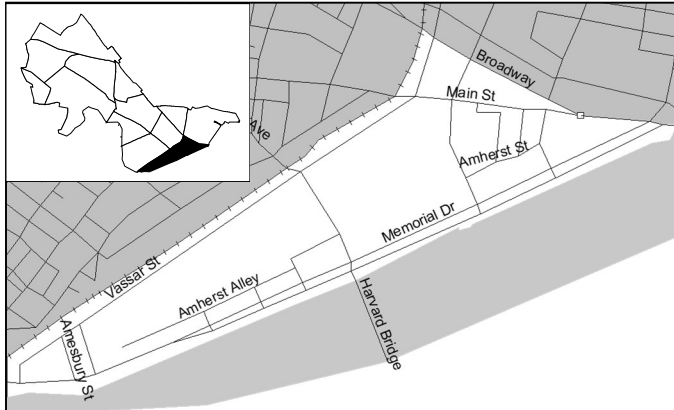**Median Household Income (2013-2017)**
$89,818

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

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2019-2023					
Crime	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Housebreaks	20	13	20	15	21
Street Robbery	5	4	8	3	6
Auto Theft	13	11	13	18	17
Larceny from MVs	22	41	35	37	20
Package Thefts	10	19	16	15	26
Larceny of Bicycle	58	78	67	40	61
Malicious Destruction	51	38	51	36	38

Annual Average for East Cambridge Target Crimes by Decade					
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Housebreaks	38	36	37	22	19
Street Robbery	10	19	16	7	6
Auto Theft	156	86	34	15	16
Larceny from MVs	121	106	101	40	31
Malicious Destruction	118	110	93	48	42

M.I.T.

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

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

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

The MIT Neighborhood is encompassed within the patrol boundaries of Car 1 and Car 3 (2 officer cars). M.I.T. has its own police force that patrols this area as well. The Cambridge Police Department's crime statistics do not include incidents that are reported to the M.I.T. Police Department.
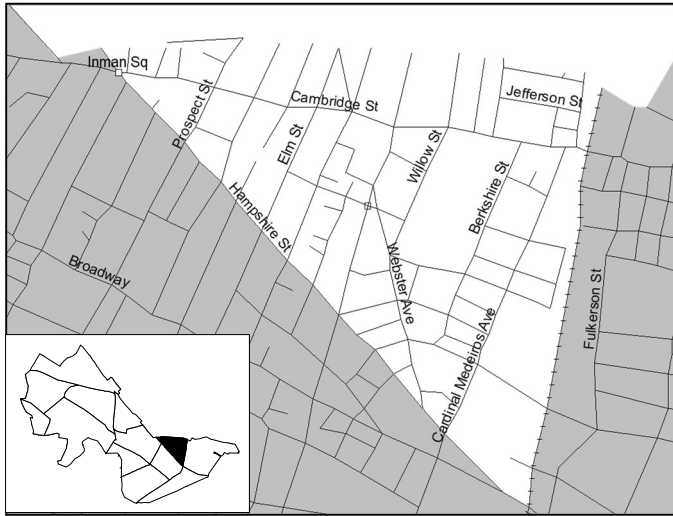
COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2019-2023					
Crime	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Housebreaks	2	0	1	0	2
Street Robbery	2	1	0	1	0
Auto Theft	9	1	1	3	0
Larceny from MVs	0	3	2	4	1
Package Thefts	2	0	8	4	1
Larceny of Bicycle	14	11	13	11	14
Malicious Destruction	3	5	2	4	2

Annual Average for M.I.T. Area Target Crimes by Decade					
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Housebreaks	19	4	1	0	1
Street Robbery	11	5	3	1	1
Auto Theft	102	55	8	3	1
Larceny from MVs	56	49	24	6	2
Malicious Destruction	47	28	8	7	3

Inman/Harrington

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

Population as of 2020:
6,718 residents
3,131 households

Median Household Income (2013-2017)
$78,490

The Inman/Harrington Neighborhood is encompassed in the patrol boundaries of Car 1 (2 officers) and Car 3R (1 officer). Also included within this area are walking routes 3A, 3B, and 3C.
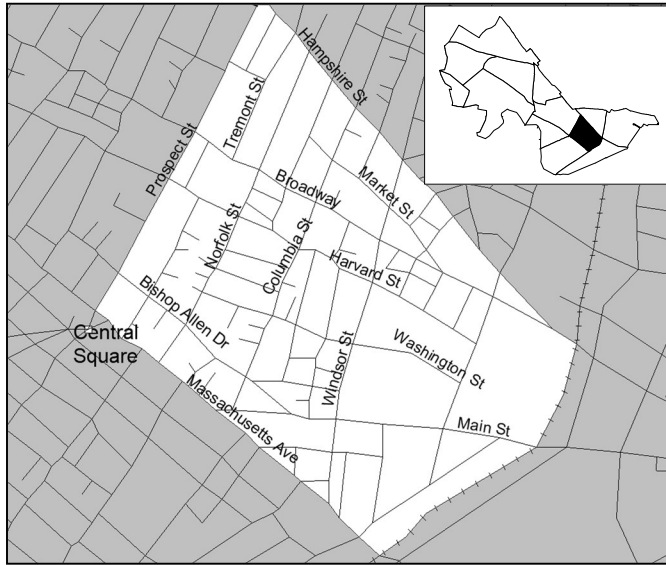
COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2019-2023					
Crime	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Housebreaks	5	10	8	10	13
Street Robbery	1	1	1	4	2
Auto Theft	7	3	4	8	12
Larceny from MVs	19	14	31	15	16
Package Thefts	23	21	8	18	22
Larceny of Bicycle	19	19	33	20	31
Malicious Destruction	23	20	30	30	31

Annual Average for Inman/Harrington Target Crimes by Decade					
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Housebreaks	57	38	46	24	10
Street Robbery	14	15	11	4	2
Auto Theft	89	48	30	9	8
Larceny from MVs	66	45	45	23	21
Malicious Destruction	94	79	67	36	30

The Port

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

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

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

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

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2019-2023					
Crime	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Housebreaks	9	17	11	15	32
Street Robbery	7	10	3	12	17
Auto Theft	13	10	7	20	14
Larceny from MVs	15	49	33	39	14
Package Thefts	18	29	19	42	24
Larceny of Bicycle	37	57	42	65	57
Malicious Destruction	32	41	50	45	42

Annual Average for The Port Target Crimes by Decade					
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Housebreaks	101	62	53	28	19
Street Robbery	75	47	28	11	11
Auto Theft	147	78	39	13	14
Larceny from MVs	134	77	78	37	29
Malicious Destruction	131	109	80	52	46

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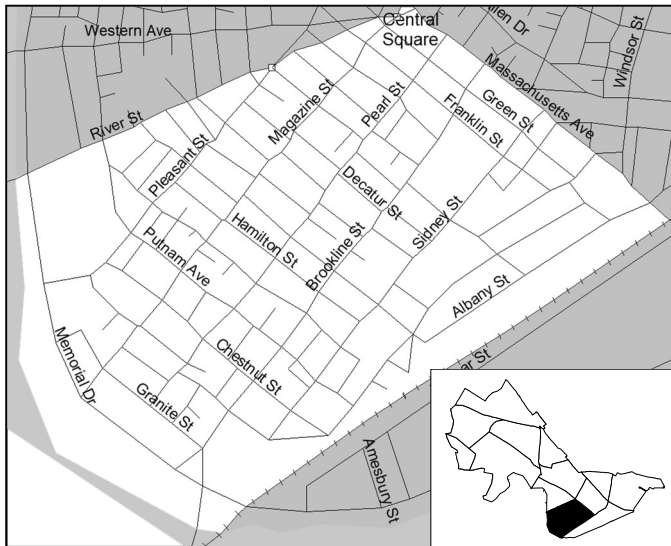
Boundaries: Bounded by Massachusetts Avenue, the B&A railroad, the Charles River, and River Street.

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

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

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

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2019-2023					
Crime	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Housebreaks	16	24	23	30	30
Street Robbery	12	13	8	21	28
Auto Theft	10	16	18	21	20
Larceny from MVs	35	42	74	63	43
Package Thefts	16	45	46	38	47
Larceny of Bicycle	56	122	103	76	97
Malicious Destruction	36	32	31	27	52

Annual Average for Cambridgeport Target Crimes by Decade					
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Housebreaks	156	66	57	45	28
Street Robbery	57	31	26	15	19
Auto Theft	165	85	44	18	20
Larceny from MVs	126	92	103	62	60
Malicious Destruction	106	106	99	53	37

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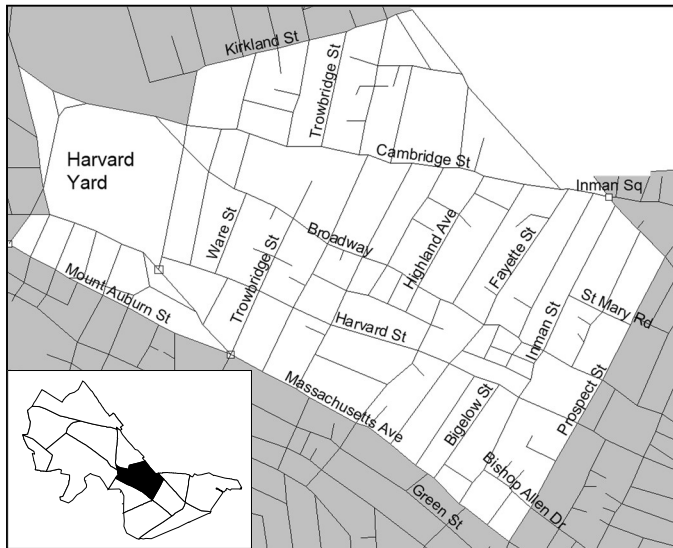
Boundaries: Bounded by Massachusetts Avenue, Prospect Street, Hampshire Street, the Somerville border, Kirkland Street, Quincy Street, and Cambridge Street.

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

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

The Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood is encompassed in the patrol boundaries of Car 2 (2 officers) and 6R (1 officer). It also includes walking routes 6A, 6B, 6C, and Harvard 15.
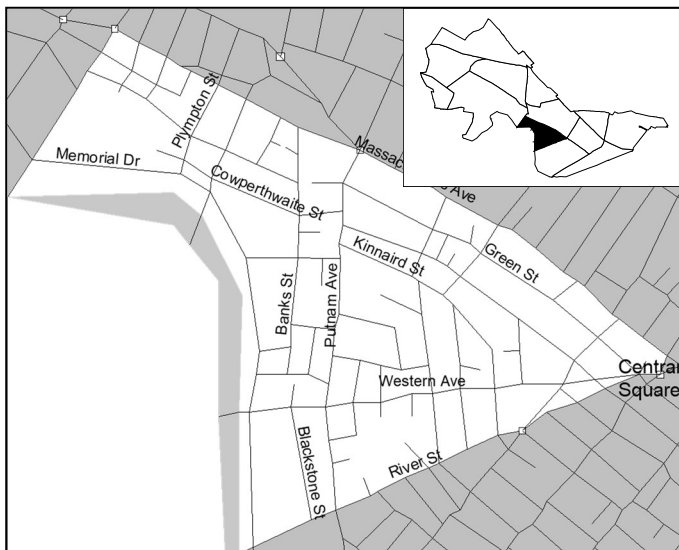
COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2019-2023					
Crime	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Housebreaks	14	15	21	29	25
Street Robbery	9	8	6	8	11
Auto Theft	4	4	11	10	9
Larceny from MVs	13	46	77	62	25
Package Thefts	26	52	29	40	59
Larceny of Bicycle	47	64	75	51	83
Malicious Destruction	37	30	31	30	44

Annual Average for Mid-Cambridge Target Crimes by Decade					
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Housebreaks	226	103	77	38	25
Street Robbery	49	18	15	7	8
Auto Theft	147	69	31	12	10
Larceny from MVs	198	103	104	50	55
Malicious Destruction	149	102	71	33	35

Riverside

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

Population as of 2020:
    12,114 residents
    4,364 households

Median Household Income (2013-2017)
    $67,700

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

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2019-2023					
Crime	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Housebreaks	8	10	8	19	19
Street Robbery	9	6	16	16	8
Auto Theft	21	11	27	21	13
Larceny from MVs	19	33	54	47	37
Package Thefts	19	38	36	21	31
Larceny of Bicycle	35	58	68	48	53
Malicious Destruction	35	32	24	31	41

Annual Average for Riverside Target Crimes by Decade					
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Housebreaks	83	43	37	25	15
Street Robbery	34	17	14	9	13
Auto Theft	92	41	21	10	20
Larceny from MVs	87	47	49	39	46
Malicious Destruction	78	75	64	39	32

Baldwin (formerly Agassiz)
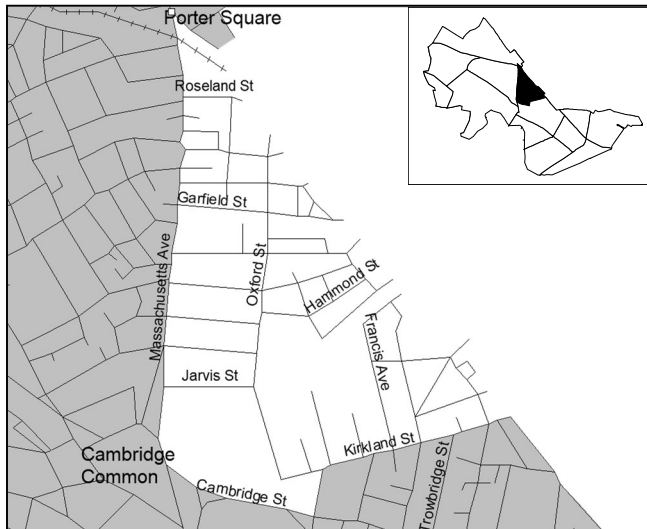
Boundaries: Bounded by Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge Street, Quincy Street, Kirkland Street, and the Somerville border

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

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

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

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2019-2023					
Crime	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Housebreaks	4	2	3	7	9
Street Robbery	0	1	1	0	1
Auto Theft	5	0	5	3	6
Larceny from MVs	6	9	10	20	15
Package Thefts	3	8	4	6	12
Larceny of Bicycle	8	11	25	18	16
Malicious Destruction	4	3	9	6	5

Annual Average for Baldwin Target Crimes by Decade					
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Housebreaks	67	26	25	11	6
Street Robbery	11	7	4	0	1
Auto Theft	45	19	11	4	4
Larceny from MVs	47	30	49	17	15
Malicious Destruction	45	28	18	8	7

Neighborhood Nine/Peabody

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

Population as of 2020:
   12,471 residents
   6,123 households

Median Household Income (2013-2017)
   $86,013

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

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2019-2023					
Crime	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Housebreaks	12	9	9	24	10
Street Robbery	4	2	2	2	2
Auto Theft	2	7	8	14	4
Larceny from MVs	24	24	43	55	42
Package Thefts	11	35	25	22	17
Larceny of Bicycle	18	52	47	58	29
Malicious Destruction	17	24	18	22	23

Annual Average for Peabody Target Crimes by Decade					
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Housebreaks	150	53	49	23	14
Street Robbery	21	14	10	3	2
Auto Theft	94	42	30	8	9
Larceny from MVs	74	60	80	42	47
Malicious Destruction	135	72	74	28	21

West Cambridge

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

Population as of 2020:
8,450 residents
4,251 households

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

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

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2019-2023					
Crime	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Housebreaks	5	8	5	13	5
Street Robbery	5	3	3	2	12
Auto Theft	12	10	13	15	12
Larceny from MVs	35	27	28	48	32
Package Thefts	6	12	5	12	3
Larceny of Bicycle	52	40	26	20	38
Malicious Destruction	40	32	21	25	36

Annual Average for West Cambridge Target Crimes by Decade					
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Housebreaks	105	38	37	24	8
Street Robbery	18	11	9	7	6
Auto Theft	105	41	25	11	13
Larceny from MVs	134	72	81	57	36
Malicious Destruction	92	76	58	36	27

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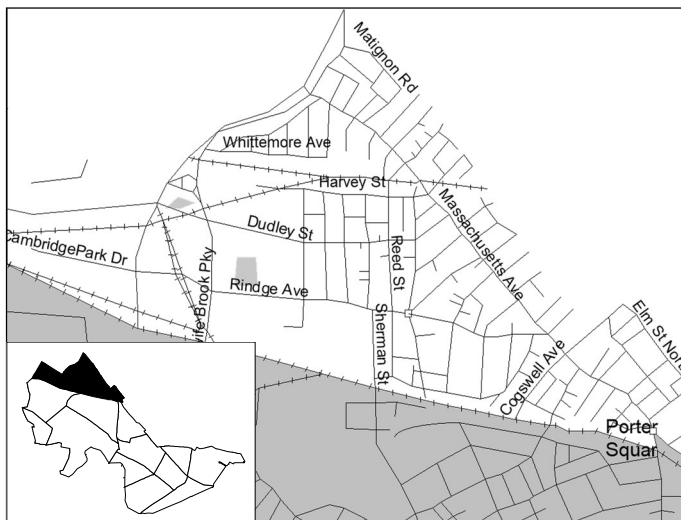
Boundaries: Bounded by the Belmont line, the Arlington Line, the Somerville Line, Porter Square, and the B&M Railroad.

Population as of 2020:
    15,372 residents
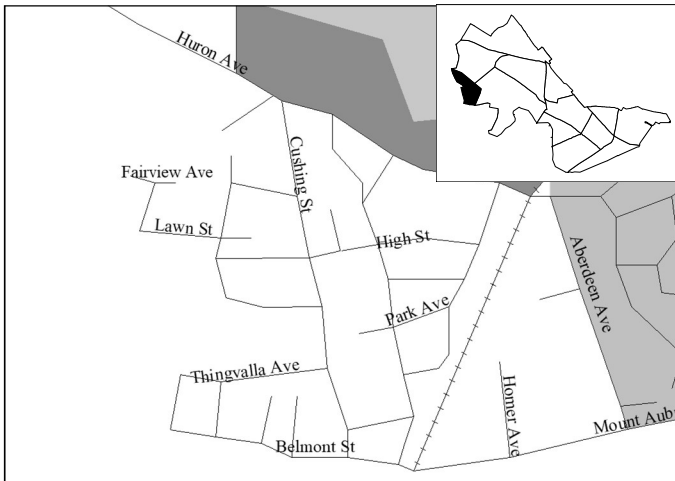   7,544 households

Median Household Income (2013-2017)
    $87,882

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

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2019-2023					
Crime	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Housebreaks	16	17	11	30	26
Street Robbery	3	2	7	5	7
Auto Theft	11	10	17	18	20
Larceny from MVs	35	40	47	60	62
Package Thefts	12	17	25	24	36
Larceny of Bicycle	76	71	101	63	87
Malicious Destruction	31	49	77	66	50

Annual Average for North Cambridge Target Crimes by Decade					
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Housebreaks	100	64	49	21	22
Street Robbery	30	21	16	6	6
Auto Theft	130	68	32	11	18
Larceny from MVs	105	62	71	48	56
Malicious Destruction	125	112	89	43	64

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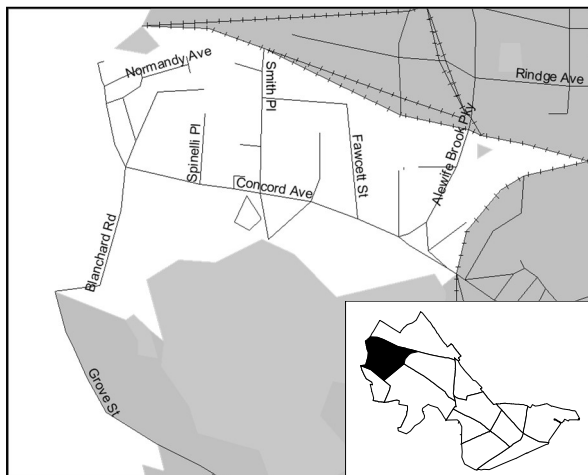
Boundaries: Bounded by the B&M Railroad, the Belmont line, and Fresh Pond.

Population as of 2020:
1,646 residents
950 households

Median Household Income (2013-2017)
$82,364

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

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2019-2023					
Crime	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Housebreaks	2	0	2	9	1
Street Robbery	3	2	0	2	0
Auto Theft	2	1	4	0	10
Larceny from MVs	5	9	3	8	11
Package Thefts	0	3	6	6	13
Larceny of Bicycle	5	15	20	9	11
Malicious Destruction	8	10	9	6	9

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

Strawberry Hill

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

Population as of 2020:
2,665 residents
1,222 households

Median Household Income (2013-2017)
$71,065

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

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2019-2023					
Crime	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Housebreaks	6	4	2	4	1
Street Robbery	2	0	1	1	0
Auto Theft	0	0	1	1	3
Larceny from MVs	8	13	8	5	1
Package Thefts	3	4	5	0	2
Larceny of Bicycle	0	3	3	3	2
Malicious Destruction	5	9	10	6	10

Annual Average for Strawberry Hill Target Crimes by Decade					
Crime	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Housebreaks	17	10	9	4	2
Street Robbery	4	3	2	1	1
Auto Theft	17	8	7	1	1
Larceny from MVs	22	12	18	10	5
Malicious Destruction	25	23	21	9	9
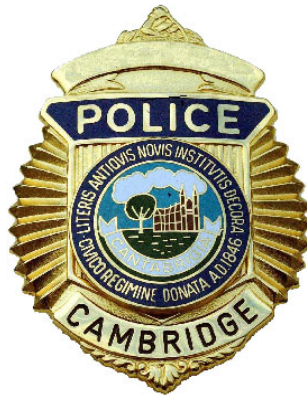
Section V

Traffic Analysis

TRAFFIC SAFETY & THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic radically affected the lives of those living and working in the City of Cambridge. These changes were particularly pronounced in traffic patterns in 2020. Workers, students, and residents were forced to perform many tasks remotely that were once done in person. These wide-ranging changes in behavior resulted in sharp decreases in crashes citywide that year. Conversely, in 2021, as people started to re-emerge from their homes, crash numbers began to rise again. This return to normalcy was even more pronounced in 2022 and 2023, when crash totals approached and then exceeded what one would see in a pre-pandemic year, The number of crashes reported in Cambridge in recent years is summarized in the table below.

Categories of Motor Vehicle Crashes	10-Year Average	2019 Total	2020 Total	2021 Total	2022 Total	2023 Total	% Change from 2022
Crash Calls for Service	2,566	2,732	1,528	2,069	2,360	**2,655**	13%
Crash CFS with EMS Transport	263	231	119	233	265	**247**	-7%
Total Crash Reports*	1,410	1,450	833	1,172	1,371	**1,626**	19%
Auto Crash Reports	1,185	1,207	732	1,038	1,152	**1,355**	17%
Bicycle Crash Reports	138	142	66	76	139	**175**	34%
Pedestrian Crash Reports	88	101	35	58	80	**96**	20%

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

CALLS FOR SERVICE

A Crash Call for Service is any instance in which a person in Cambridge calls to request police assistance for a traffic collision. The Police Department responded to 2,655 calls for service (CFS) relating to traffic crashes in 2023, which is up 13% when compared with the 2,360 calls recorded during the recovery year of 2022. However, compared to the pre-pandemic year of 2019, the 2023 CFS total is still registering a slight decrease of 3%.

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 247 CFS involving EMS transport in 2023, representing a decline of 7% below 2022 and 6% below the ten-year average of 263.

Annual Total Crash Calls for Service (CFS) and Crash CFS Requiring EMS Transport to the Hospital
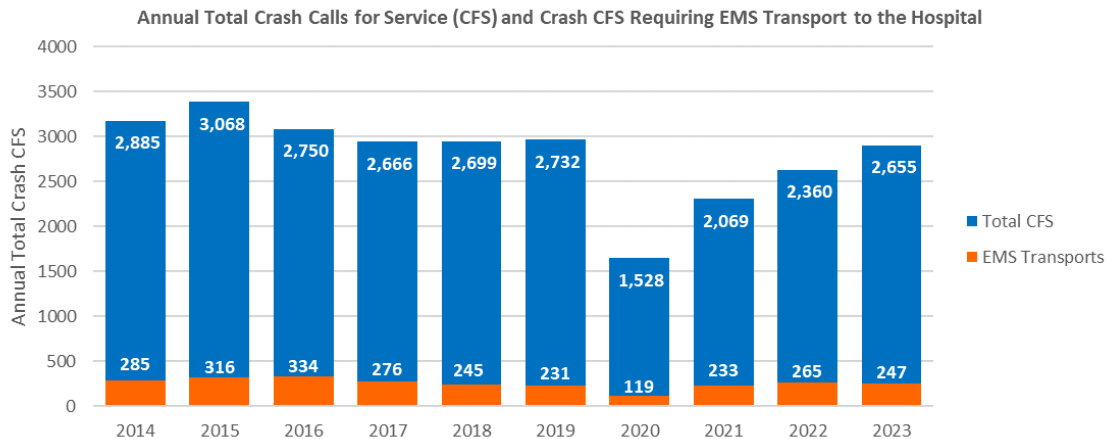
CRASH REPORTS
CRASH REPORTS BY ROAD USER TYPE

Massachusetts General Law requires that a police crash report be filed for any motor vehicle crash resulting in any degree of injury or at least $1,000 of property damage, or a crash in which another person unlawfully left the scene. On average, approximately half of crash calls for service result in the filing of a police crash report. In 2023, there were 1,626 crashes reported, up 19% over the 1,372 crashes reported in 2022 and up 15% over the ten-year average of 1,410 crash reports.
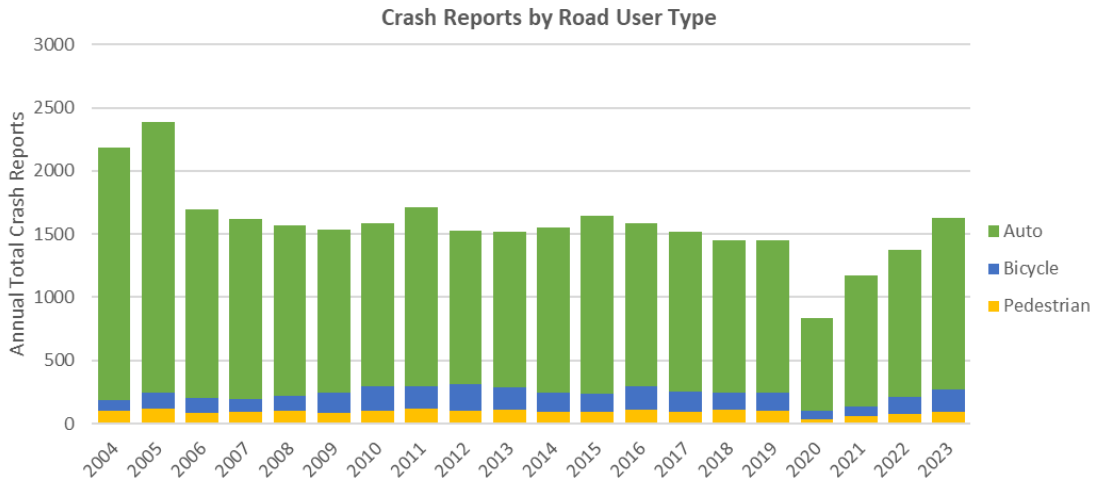
Annual Total Police Crash Reports by Type of Road User Involved. Bicycle and Pedestrian Crashes involve one or more motor vehicles and a cyclist or pedestrian, while Auto Only crashes involve only motor vehicles.

When a crash report is filed, the responding officer records detailed information about the circumstances of the crash, including crash location and the type of road users involved. Of the 1,626 crash reports in 2023, 17% (271 crashes) involved a non-motorist. This represents an increase of 28% compared to the 211 non-motorist crashes in 2022 and an increase of 20% compared to the 10-year average (226 non-motorist crashes). Motor-vehicle-only crashes accounted for 83% of crashes in 2023, followed by vehicle-versus-cyclist crashes at 11%, and vehicle-versus-pedestrian crashes at 6%.
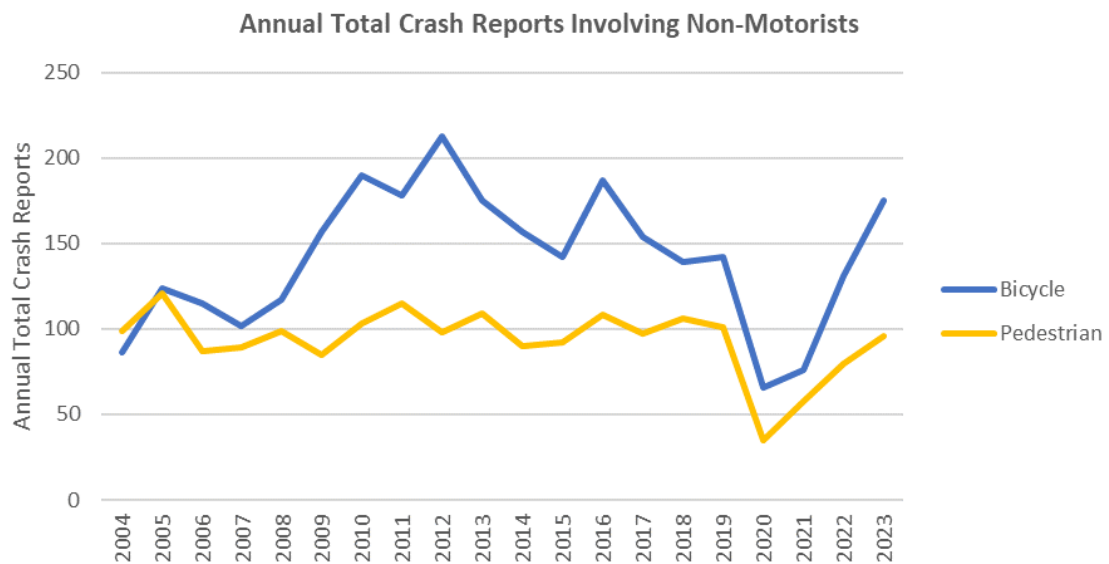
EMS TRANSPORTS BY ROAD USER TYPE

Non-motorists are the road users most vulnerable to injury. Pedestrian-involved crashes had the highest percentage of EMS transports at 52% in 2023, which is down from 69% in 2022. Cyclist-involved crashes had the next highest percentage of EMS transports at 29% in 2023, down from 38% in 2022. Motor-vehicle-only crashes experienced the lowest proportion of EMS transports at 7% in 2023, which was a 1% decrease below the previous year.

Portion of Crashes Requiring EMS Transport to the Hospital in 2023, by Road User
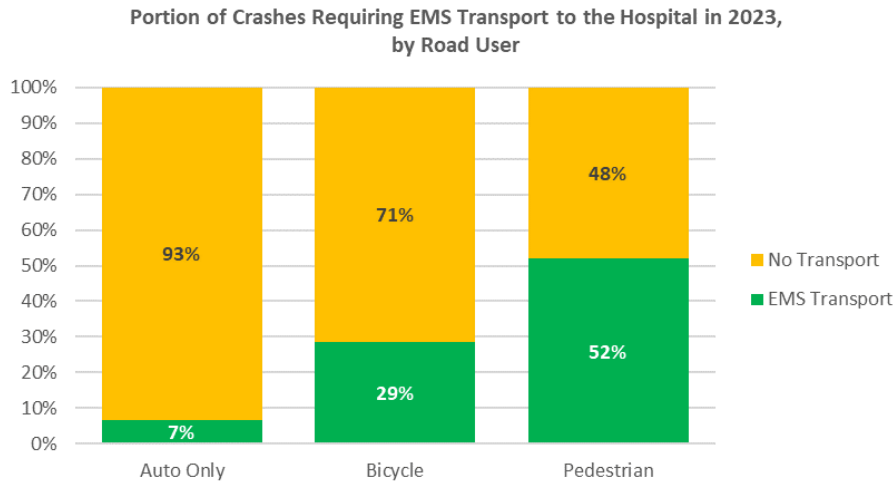
VISION ZERO & TRAFFIC FATALITIES

The City continued its Vision Zero efforts throughout 2023, working to reduce the number of crash-related fatalities and serious injuries to zero. Vision Zero actions have included infrastructure improvements, enforcement strategies, and education efforts. After seeing a drop in fatal crashes during the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021, two fatal incidents were reported in 2022, both involving a vehicle versus a pedestrian, and one was reported in 2023, involving a vehicle versus a motorcycle. While these metrics for traffic safety experience variability from year to year, the City continues to work hard to keep crashes and crash-related injuries trending downward.

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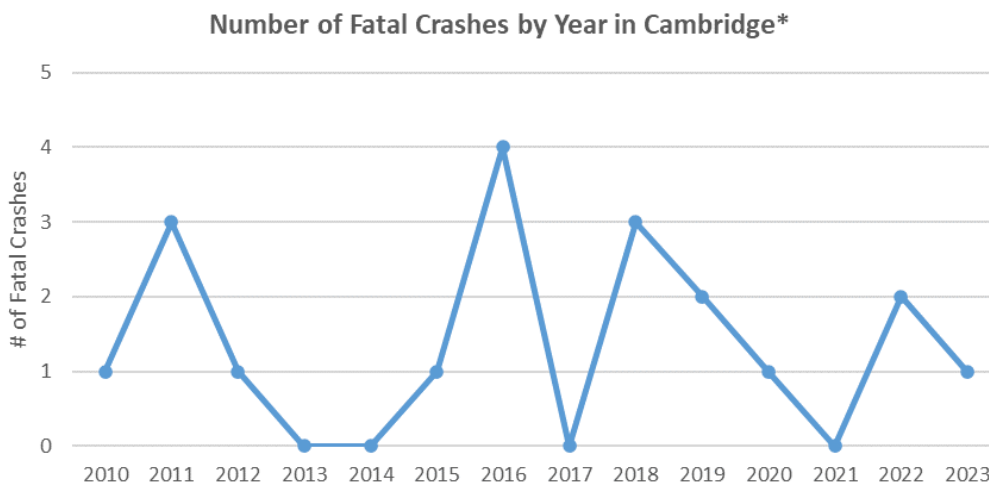
*NOTE: Not all roads in Cambridge fall under City jurisdiction. Some of the larger roadways, including Memorial Drive, Fresh Pond Parkway, and Alewife Brook Parkway, are monitored and maintained by the State. Traffic crashes and fatalities that occur on roadways under State jurisdiction are investigated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

CRASH LOCATIONS

In general, crashes in Cambridge occur most frequently along major corridors (Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge Street, Hampshire Street) and in the squares (Central Square, Inman Square, Porter Square, Harvard Square). Bicycle crashes are more tightly clustered along the Massachusetts Avenue, Hampshire Street, and Broadway corridors, while pedestrian crashes are more tightly clustered in Harvard Square and in pockets along lower Massachusetts Avenue between Central Square and Memorial Drive. **The maps below and on the following page depict the locations of crash reports involving 1) vehicles versus bicycles, 2) vehicles versus pedestrians, and 3) all road user types in the year 2023.**

2023 Crash Hotspots - All Crash Types
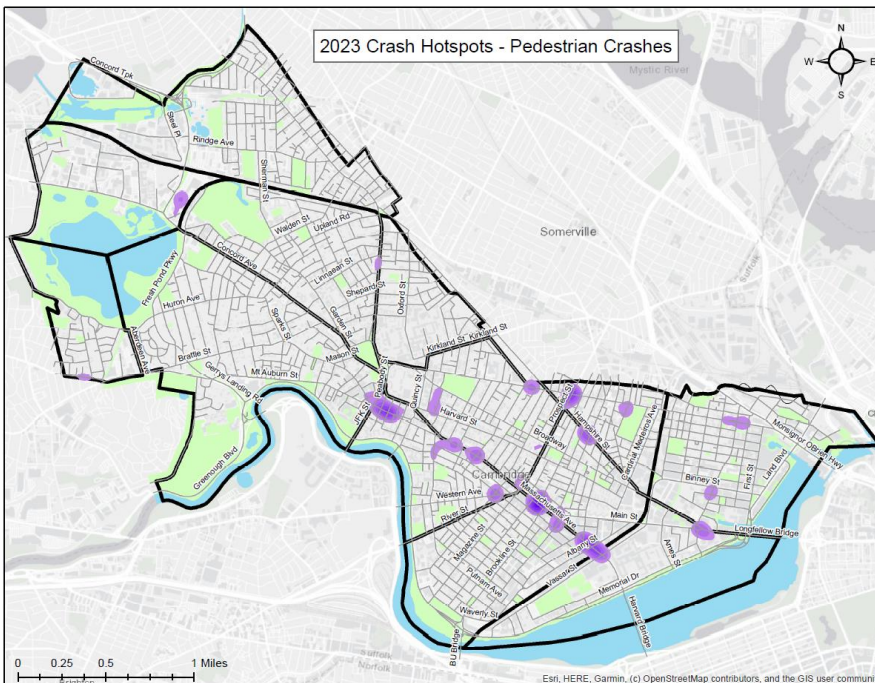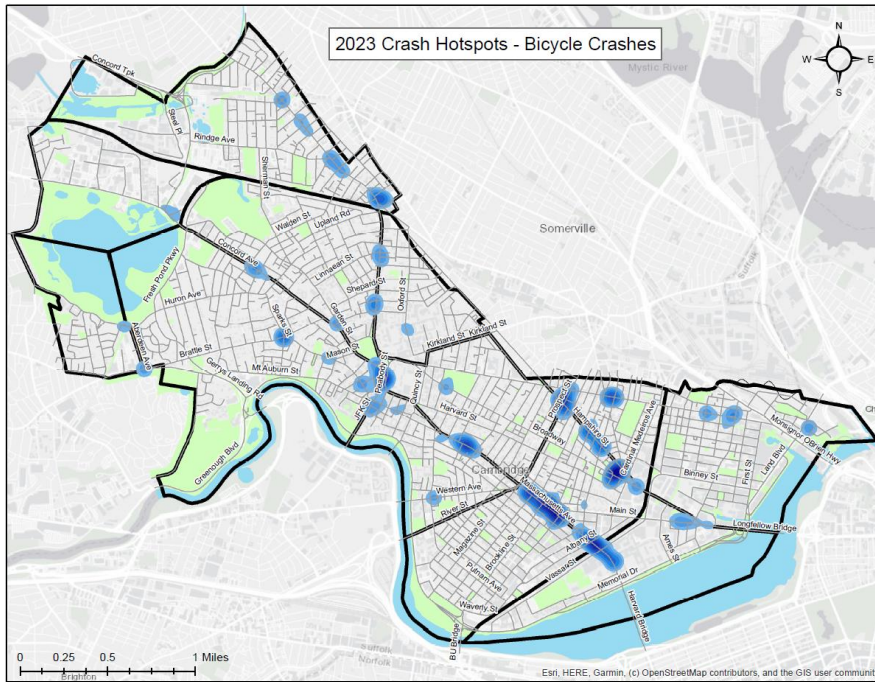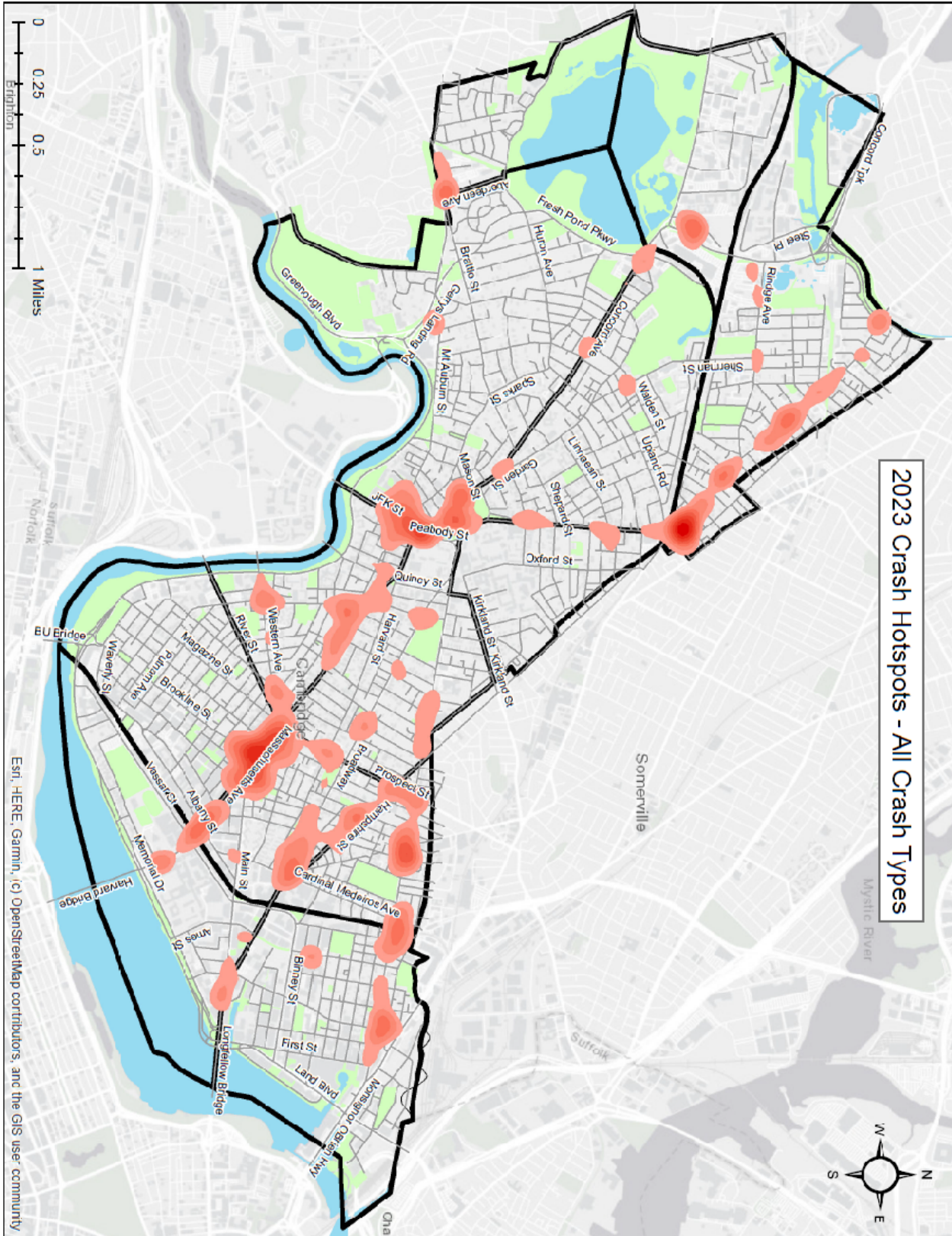
Section VI

Special Reports

Domestic Incidents
Hate Crimes

Domestic Incidents

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

Over the past two years, domestic incident reports have returned to pre-pandemic levels. In 2023, 875 domestic incidents were reported, which was 7% (or 55 incidents) more than in 2022. All four of the top categories saw an increase in 2023, leading to the overall rise this year. Incidents categorized as other or miscellaneous typically involved a dispute that occurred during or prior to an incident such as a missing person report, a mental health interaction, or a warrant arrest. In these cases, officers were not usually called specifically for a domestic situation, but upon investigating further, it was discovered that elements of a domestic dispute were present or had contributed to the main situation.

Categorical Breakdown of Domestic Incidents*	2021 Total	2022 Total	2023 Total	% change from 2022*
Dispute/Disturbance - No Physical Abuse	397	389	425	9%
Simple Assault	130	157	175	11%
Aggravated Assault	42	54	72	33%
Violation of a Restraining Order/HPO	27	46	55	20%
Other Miscellaneous	10	46	29	-37%
Threats to Commit a Crime	29	28	23	-18%
Larceny	13	25	22	-12%
Harassment	13	20	19	-5%
Malicious Destruction of Property	7	14	18	29%
Rape/Attempted Rape	11	10	10	0%
Street Robbery	4	2	7	250%
Housebreak	7	16	6	-63%
Forgery	1	3	4	33%
Kidnapping	0	1	4	300%
Auto Theft	4	2	3	50%
Indecent Assault	3	5	1	-80%
Stalking	1	1	1	0%
Peeping & Spying	0	0	1	n/a
Harassing or Obscene Telephone Calls	2	1	0	-100%
Disorderly	1	0	0	n/a
Total	**702**	**820**	**875**	**7%**

*N/A = % change cannot be calculated when the 2022 total is zero.

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 2023, these calls made up 49% of all domestic incident reports. While not technically a crime, these domestic disturbances can still be a form of abuse, and they may escalate into more serious offenses if they go unaddressed.

Domestic violence is the most serious type of domestic crime. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, these crimes take many shapes and may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or coercion, financial abuse, digital (technology-facilitated) abuse, reproductive coercion, stalking, spiritual abuse, and a variety of other behaviors used to maintain power and control over a partner. (www.thehotline.org). 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 incident reported in Cambridge involves simple assaults—assaults without a weapon and with no serious injuries. This category accounted for 20% of all domestic incidents in 2023. Aggravated assault made up an additional 8% and was the 3rd largest domestic category this year. For the last five years, aggravated assaults have accounted for 5-8% of the overall domestic crime totals reported.


Domestic Incidents by Relationship, 2023
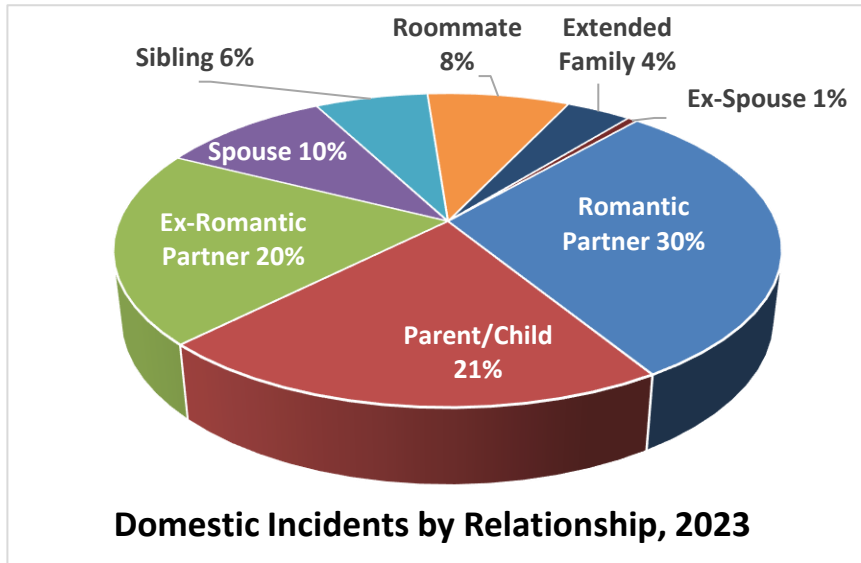
When looking at the relationship breakdown in domestic incidents, there is no surprise that the highest percentage is between parties that spend the most time together. Although the percentages vary from year to year, the top four relationships typically remain consistent: romantic partner, ex-romantic partner, parent/child, and spouse.
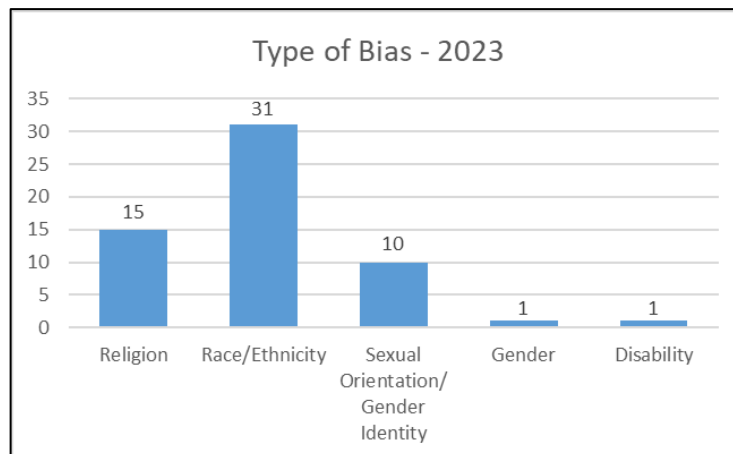
Hate Crimes

The Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990 (28 U.S.C. § 534) was enacted by Congress on April 23rd, 1990, and amendments added in 2009, requiring the Attorney General to collect data "about crimes that manifest evidence of prejudice based on race, gender and gender identity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or ethnicity." "Hate Crime" is the common term for federal and state Civil Rights Violations. Hate crimes include any crimes principally or partially motivated by bias toward the victim's actual or perceived race, gender or gender identity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, or ethnicity. All hate crimes would still be crimes even if the bias motivation were absent; therefore, each hate crime listed below is also tallied elsewhere in this report.

The total of 55 hate crime incidents reported in 2023 is 15% above the 48 reported in 2022 and 162% above the 10-year average of 21 (from 2013 – 2022). In recent years, we have ranged from a low of 9 in 2017 to the previous high of 48 in 2022. Despite the increase in 2023, no distinct hate crime patterns emerged anywhere in the city this year. Almost all of the incidents were unrelated.
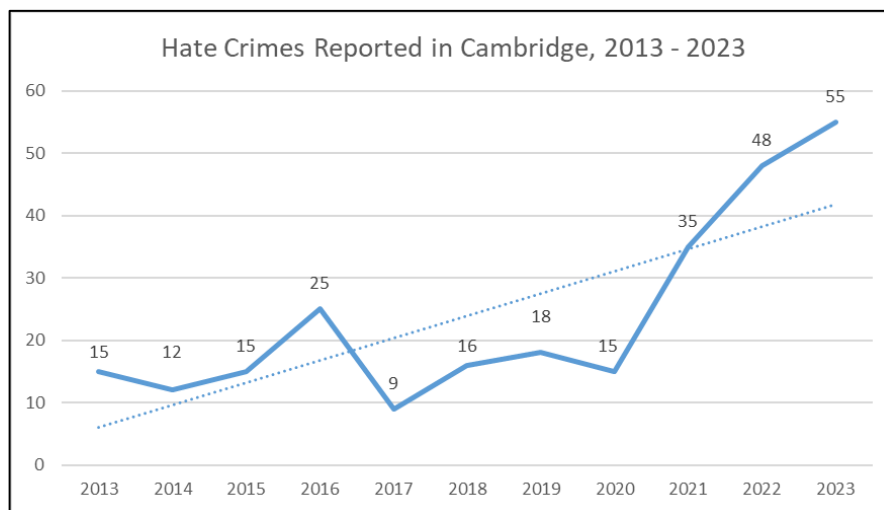

The bar graph below features the breakdown of each hate crime in 2023 by bias type. The graph actually features 58 types of bias because three incidents this year involved more than one bias type, so both categories were counted for each. The 55 incidents (with 58 bias types) in 2023 break down into the following categories: religious biases (26%), racial/ethnic biases (53%), biases based on sexual orientation/gender identity (17%), gender biases (2%), and disability biases (2%).

The next chart provides a breakdown of bias type by year for 2023 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.
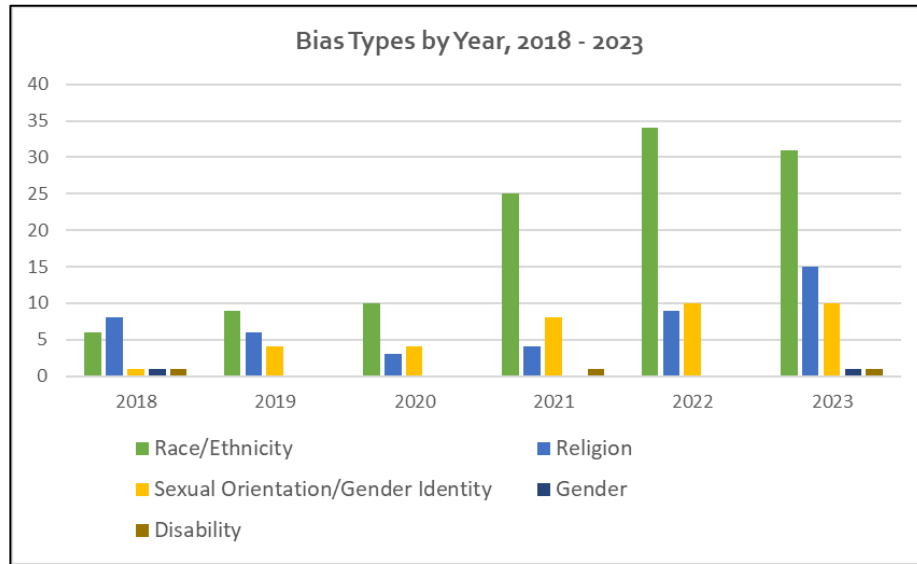
What types of crime are typically involved when hate crimes are reported? During 2023 and the previous five years, as many as 14 different crime types were reported to involve a bias of some sort. But there are some crimes that lend themselves much more to motivated biases. Those crimes include assaults (both aggravated and simple), malicious destruction of property, threats, and harassment. Of the 179 hate crimes reported since 2019, 166 (or 93%) involved one of these five crime types. And 2023 was no different. The main crime types involving bias this year were simple assaults (15), malicious destruction of property (11), aggravated assaults (10), and threats (10).
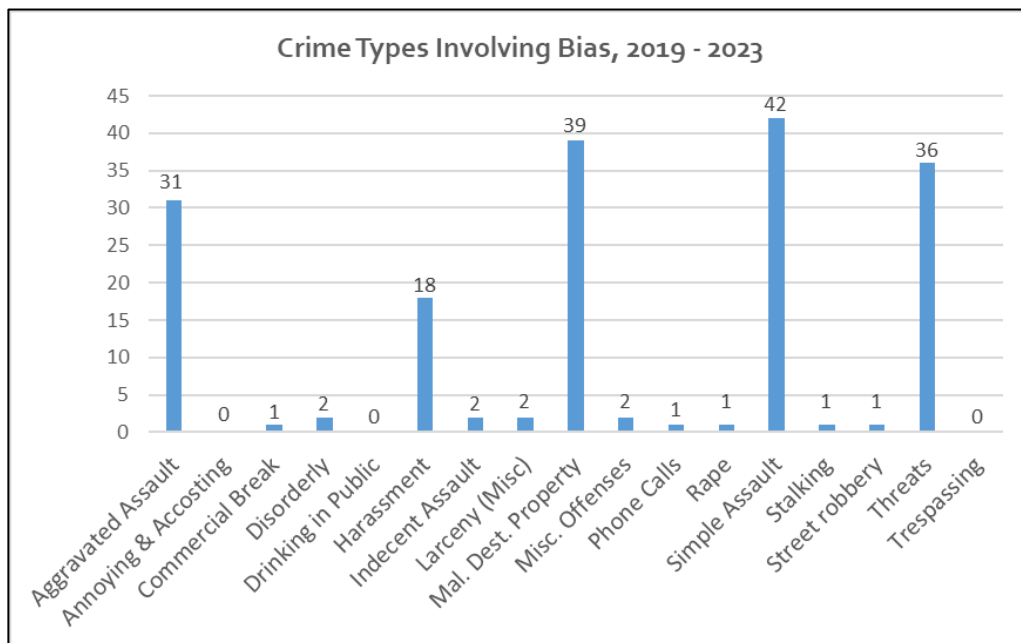
Cambridge Police Directory

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

Criminal Investigations Section (617) 349-3370

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

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

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

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

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

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

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

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

Cambridge Police Department

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

**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.