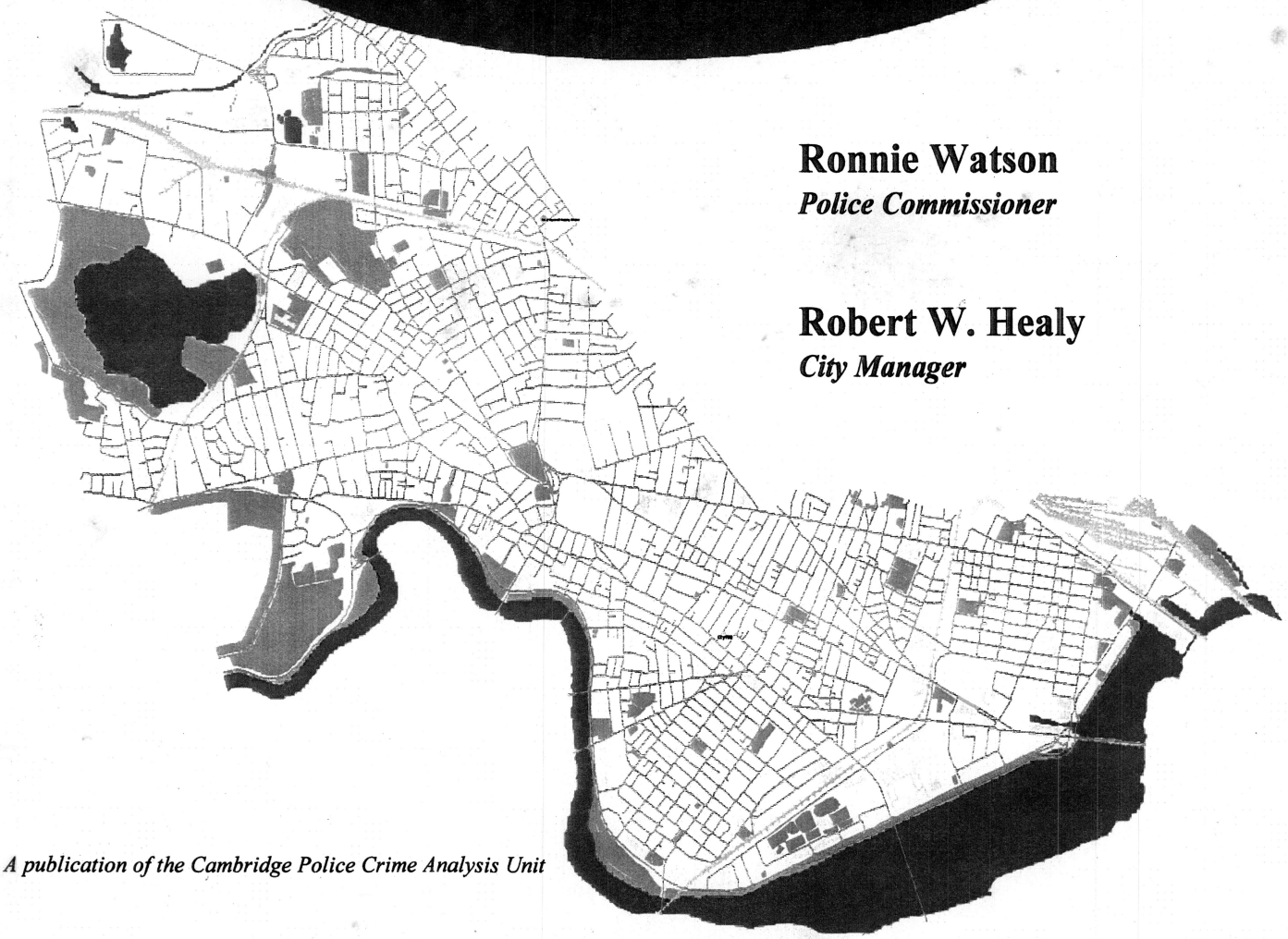
CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

1997 ANNUAL CRIME REPORT

Neighborhood and Business District Crime Profiles



Ronnie Watson
Police Commissioner

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

A publication of the Cambridge Police Crime Analysis Unit

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Cambridge Police Department
1997 Annual Crime Report
Including Neighborhood and Business District Profiles

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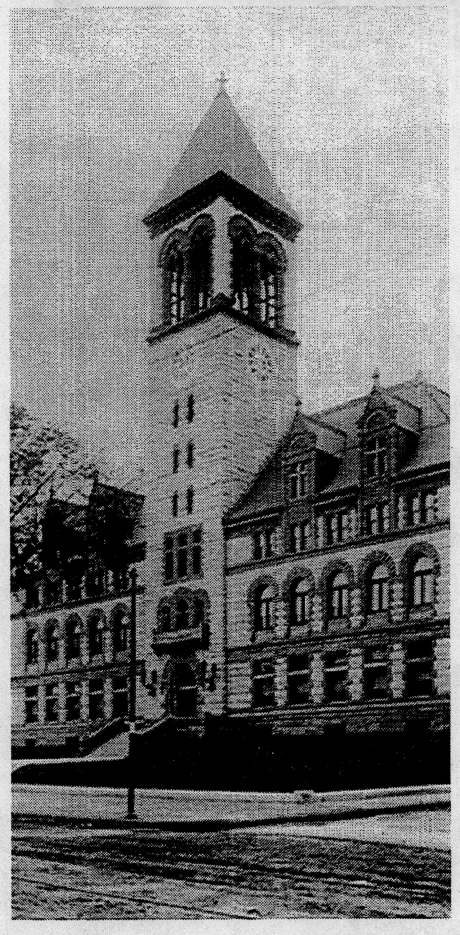
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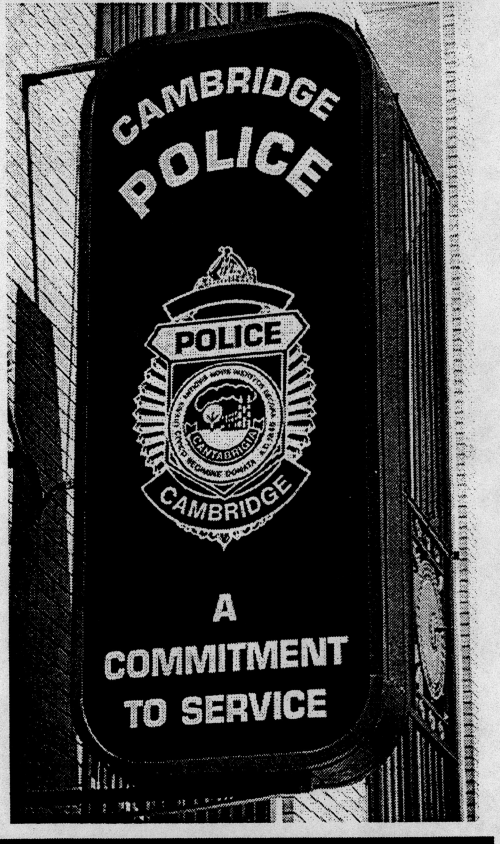
Cambridge at a Glance



Established:	1636 (town); 1846 (city)
Government:	Council-Manager
City Manager:	Robert W. Healy
City Budget:	$252,353,360 (FY 98)
City Funded Employees:	1,384 (excluding school)
Area:	7.13 square miles total 6.43 square miles land
Population:	95,802 (1990 census)
Police Officer/Population Ratio:	1:377
Population Density:	14,899 per square mile
Registered Voters:	39,293
Population by Race:	White 71.6% Black 12.7% Asian 8.3% Hispanic 6.8% Native American .2% Other .4%
Total Residential Housing Units:	41,979
Commercial Establishments:	3,607
Mean Household Income:	$33,140
Unemployment Rate:	5.2%
Average Owner-Occupied Home:	$263,800
Property Tax Rate per Thousand:	13.02 residential, 35.78 commercial
Colleges and Universities:	7
Hospitals:	5

Cambridge Police Department at a Glance

Organized:	1859
Sworn Officers:	254
Civilian Personnel:	32
Commissioner:	Ronnie Watson
Headquarters:	5 Western Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139
Budget (FY 98):	$23,340,565
Rank Structure:	Commissioner Superintendent Deputy Superintendent Captain Lieutenant Sergeant Patrol Officer
Marked Patrol Vehicles:	26
Unmarked Patrol Vehicles:	27
Motorcycles:	10
Bicycles:	5
Special Vehicles	8
1997 Total Calls for Service :	75,970
1997 Total Index Crimes:	4430
1997 Total Crimes:	8325



A Message from the Commissioner

This is the second Annual Report produced during my tenure as Commissioner of the Cambridge Police Department, and, for the second year, crime in Cambridge has reached its lowest level since we started measuring it over 35 years ago.

Police departments across the country have been criticized for assuming too much credit when crime goes down. We have no illusions of the Cambridge Police as the primary controller of the crime rate. We are simply pleased to be one of many factors that has brought the 1997 index crime total to its remarkable low.

Criminologists attribute the country-wide decrease in crime to the low number of people in the "crime-prone" ages of 15 to 24. Also responsible for the low crime rate is the decline of the "professional" criminal, the disappearance of fencing operations and "chop shops," and the decline of organized crime. Additionally, community groups have taken the initiative, forming Crime Watches and other programs to combat crime. Innovations in private security—especially in commercial areas and housing developments—have also contributed.

For our part, we credit our successful "Park & Walk" program, our problem-oriented outlook, and our new community meetings for some of the decline in the crime rate. Finally, we hope our thorough Annual and Quarterly Crime Reports provide the police and the community the information they need to effectively avoid and prevent crime in Cambridge.

This report, which details crime by category, by neighborhood, and by business district, continues this department's effort of graphically detailing the true nature of past crimes, so that fear can be dispelled and intelligent problem solving approaches can be developed that address these crimes. It is our belief that a well informed public will be better able to work with the Cambridge Police Department in planning for the twenty-first century.

Sincerely yours,

Ronnie Watson

Ronnie Watson
Police Commissioner

1997

CRIME INDEX

"Crime Index": *The Crime Index is composed of selected offenses used to gauge fluctuations in the overall volume and rate of crime reported to law enforcement. The offenses included are the violent crimes of murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and the property crimes of burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft.*

Crime	1995	1996	1997	% Change 1995-1997	% Change 1996-1997
Murder	3	1	**2**	-33.3%	**+100.0%**
Rape	35	34	**24**	-31.4%	**-29.4%**
Robbery	295	227	**176**	-40.3%	**-22.5%**
Assault	463	381	**370**	-20.1%	**-2.9%**
Burglary	953	791	**596**	-37.5%	**-24.7%**
Larceny	3313	2973	**2779**	-16.1%	**-6.5%**
Auto Theft	558	544	**483**	-13.4%	**-11.2%**
Total Violent	796	643	**572**	-28.1%	**-11.0%**
Total Property	4824	4308	**3858**	-20.0%	**-10.4%**
Total	5620	4951	**4430**	-21.2%	**-10.5%**

In 1997, all index crimes except for murder showed a decrease; some slight, some enormous. Murder, the sole exception, increased from a single incident to two.

- The **rape** total in 1997 was the lowest reported in Cambridge in 25 years.
- The **robbery** total in 1997 was the lowest reported in Cambridge in about 35 years.
- The **assault** total in 1997 was the lowest reported in Cambridge since 1989.
- The **burglary** total in 1997 was the lowest reported in Cambridge in about 35 years.
- The **larceny** total in 1997 was the lowest reported in Cambridge since 1979.

- The **violent crime** total in 1997 was the lowest recorded in Cambridge in 30 years.
- The **property crime** total in 1997 was the lowest recorded in Cambridge in 30 years.

CRIME FACTORS

Throughout the Annual Report, the Department tries to place statistics in context—to explain *why* crime occurs in a particular area, instead of just where and in how many numbers. It is quite impossible, however, to analyze for every crime factor within the pages of this report. As a general rule, readers should consider the following factors when gauging the relative safety of any city, neighborhood, or business district. Most of these are provided by the FBI in its *Uniform Crime Reports*:

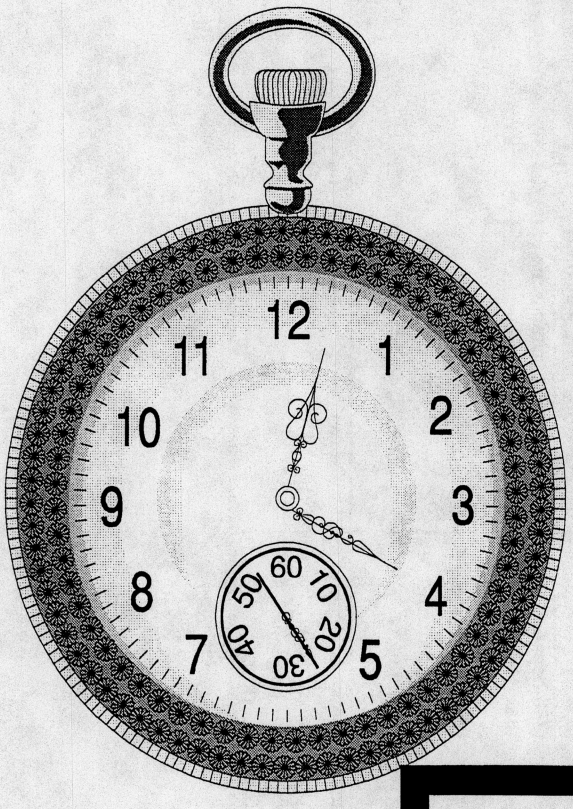
Factor	General Effect	Status in Cambridge	Effects in Cambridge
Residential Population & Population Density	High population leads to higher residential crime rate (residential burglaries, larcenies from motor vehicles, domestic assaults, auto theft). High population density also leads to a higher residential crime rate.	Population of about 100,000; Very high density (about 15,000 per square mile)	Higher residential crime rate than cities of fewer than 100,000 Higher residential crime rate in densely populated neighborhoods of Mid-Cambridge, North Cambridge, Cambridgeport Low residential crime rate in sparsely populated areas of Cambridge Highlands, Strawberry Hill, Agassiz
Commerical & Educational Population, number & type of commercial establishments and educational institutions	High commercial population leads to more "business" crimes (commercial burglaries, shoplifting, larcenies from buildings, forgery) and to more crimes against the person often committed in commercial areas (larcenies from the person, larcenies from motor vehicles, larcenies of bicycles, street robbery, auto theft)	Very high commercial population (many large businesses, shopping areas in Cambridge) and very high educational population (M.I.T. and Harvard).	High overall larceny rate High larceny rate in highly-populated commercial areas of East Cambridge, Harvard Square, Central Square, Porter Square, Fresh Pond Mall High auto theft rate in East Cambridge, MIT Area Low larceny, auto theft rate in Agassiz, Strawberry Hill, West Cambridge
Age composition of population	A higher population in the "at risk" age of 15–24 leads to a higher crime rate.	22 percent of the citizens of Cambridge are in the "at risk" population. However, this number is doubtlessly influenced by the high student population.	Agassiz, MIT, and Riverside have the largest percentage of people in the "at risk" ages, but most of them are college students, which somewhat decreases their chances of involvement in criminal activity. Consequently, Agassiz, MIT, and Riverside do not have higher than average crime rates. However, neighborhoods with the lowest numbers of "at risk" ages—West Cambridge, Cambridge Highlands, and Srawberry Hill—*do* experience smaller amounts of crime.
Stability of Population	Stable, close-knit populations have a lower overall crime rate than transient populations. Neighborhoods with more houses (generally signifiying a more stable population) have a lower crime rate than neighborhoods with mostly apartments (generally a more transient population).	Historically, stabler population west of Harvard Square, more transient population east of Harvard Square. This is changing rapidly.	Lower comparative crime rate in neighborhoods of West Cambridge, Highlands, Peabody, Agassiz, Strawberry Hill. Higher comparative crime rate in Mid-Cambridge, Area 4, Cambridgeport. This, however, is changing with the stabilization and gentrification of housing in these areas. Witness the large drops in crime this year in Mid-Cambridge and Area 4.
Street Layout	Areas with major streets offering fast getaways and mass transportation show more crime clusters than neighborhoods with primarily residential streets.	A mix of major and minor streets	Higher auto theft rates in MIT, East Cambridge, Cambridgeport, where thieves can make a quick jump over the bridge to Boston Higher commercial burglary rate in North Cambridge, with multiple avenues of escape into nearby towns

Proximity to Public Transportation	Criminals are often indigent and cannot afford cars or other expensive forms of transportation. Areas near public transportation, and particularly subways, witness a higher crime rate—particularly robbery and larceny—than more inaccessable areas	Major public transportation system offering high-speed rapid transit throughout most of the city	Contributes to clusters of crime around Central Square, Harvard Square, Porter Square, and Alewife, though not much around Lechmere and Kendall Square. Neighborhoods distant from rapid transit—West Cambridge, Highlands, and Strawberry Hill—show lower crime rate with few clusters.
Economic conditions, including poverty level and unemployment rate	Again, criminals are often indigent. Areas afflicted by poverty show higher burglary, robbery, and larceny rates than Middle-class or wealthy neighborhoods.	Little abject poverty in Cambridge. This factor probably contributes little to the picture of crime in Cambridge.	Possibly some effect on Area 4—the neighborhood with the lowest mean income—though Strawberry Hill, which has the second lowest mean income, also has one of the lowest crime rates in the city. Other factors on this list probably have a much greater role than economic conditions.
Family conditions with respect to divorce and family cohesiveness	Larry J. Siegel, author of *Criminology*, says: "Family relationships have for some time been considered a major determinant of behavior. Youths who grow up in a household characterized by conflict and tension, where parents are absent or separated, or where there is a lack of familial love and support, will be susceptible to the crime-promoting forces in the environment."	According to census data, about one third of the families in Cambridge with children are single-parent families. In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a whole, this percentage is slightly less—about one quarter.	The neighborhoods with the highest percentage of single-parent families are Area 4, Cambridgeport, Riverside, and North Cambridge. With the exception of Riverside, these neighborhoods also have a higher than mean crime rate. However, there are a far greater number of factors influencing "conflict and tension" and "familial love and support" than just the number of parents in the household. In the end, no conclusions can be drawn without more data.
Climate	Warmer climates and seasons tend to report a higher rate of larceny, auto theft, and juvenile-related crime, while cold seasons and climates report more robberies and murder.	As with the rest of the northeast, a varied climate	High overall larceny, auto theft rate in the Summer Higher overall robbery rate in the winter Burglary rate less tied to climate than to specific weather conditions. Rain and snow produce fewer burglaries
Operational and investigative emphasis of the police department	Problem-oriented, informed police departments have more success controlling certain aspects of crime than other departments.	A problem-oriented department with an emphasis on directed patrol and investigation, and on crime analysis, including quick identification of crime patterns and rapid intervention to curtail them	Lower overall crime rate across the city than would be expected for a city from our size and characteristics
Attitude of the citizenry toward crime, including its reporting practices	Populations that have "given up" on crime and the police experience an exacerbation of the crime problem	A population that works closely with the police, creates numerous neighborhood crime watches, and is likely to report crimes	Lower overall crime rate across the city than would be expected for a city from our size and characteristics

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

"CRIME CLOCK"

1997



One
MURDER
Every half-year

One
RAPE
Every 15 days

One
ROBBERY
Every 2 days

One
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT
Every day

One
VIOLENT CRIME
Every 15 hours

One
CRIME INDEX OFFENSE
Every 2 hours

One
PROPERTY CRIME
Every 136 minutes

One
BURGLARY
Every 15 hours

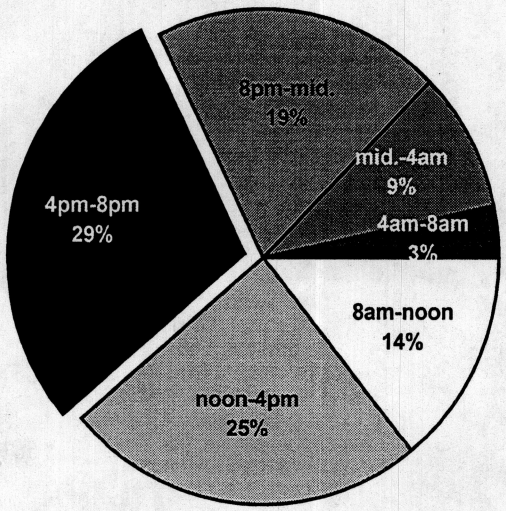
One
LARCENY
Every 3 hours

One
AUTO THEFT
Every 18 hours

The Crime Clock should be viewed with care. Being the most aggregate representation of Cambridge crime data, it is designed to convey the annual reported crime experience by showing the relative frequency of occurrence of the index offenses. This mode of display should not be taken to imply a regularity in the commission of crimes; rather, it represents the annual ratio of crime.

Index Crimes Committed in Cambridge by Time Period*

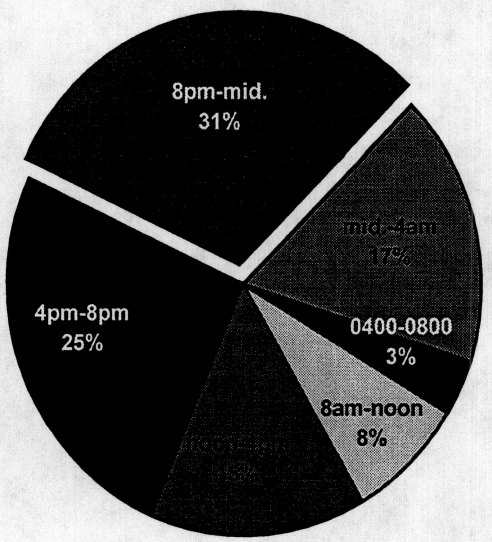
Total Crime



Includes all Index Crimes:

Murder
Rape
Robbery
Assault
Burglary
Larceny
Auto Theft

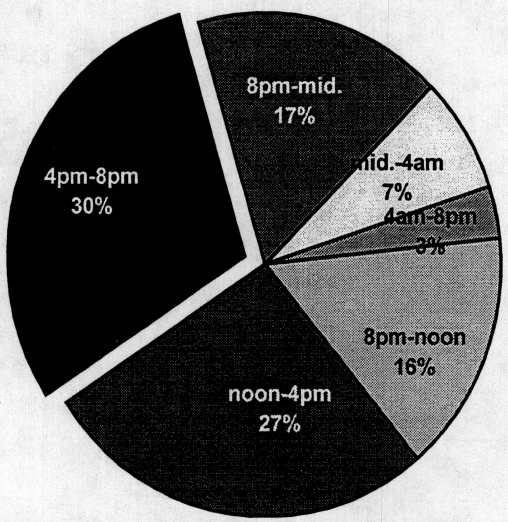
Violent Crime



Includes the Index Crimes of:

Murder
Rape
Robbery
Assault

Property Crime

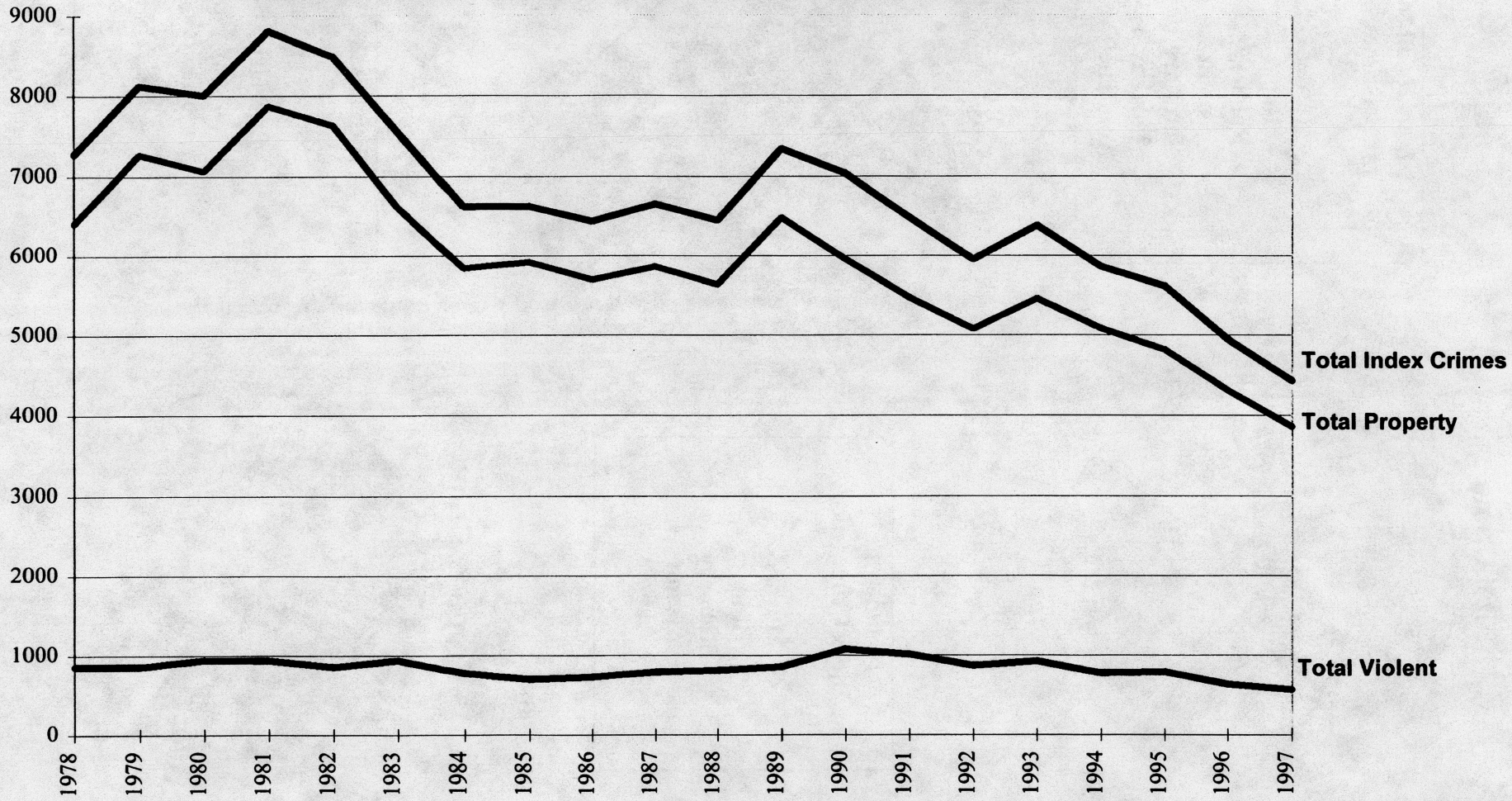


Includes the Index Crimes of:

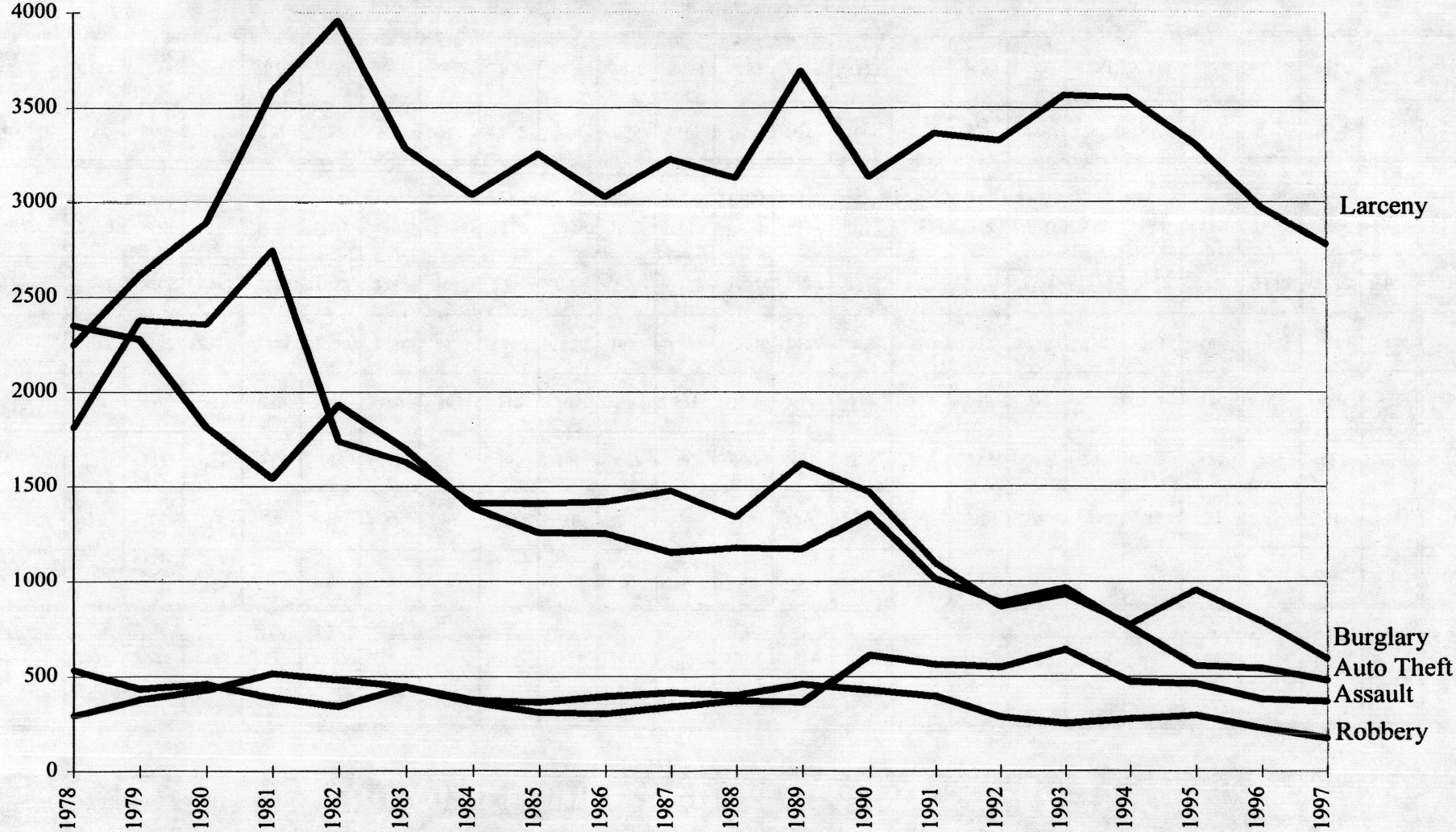
Burglary
Larceny
Auto Theft

*Statistics exclude crimes of unknown time and day

Index Crimes in Cambridge, 1978-1997



Selected Index Crimes in Cambridge, 1977-1996



Uniform Crime Report Statistics 1978-1997

Crime	*1978*	*1979*	*1980*	*1981*	*1982*	*1983*	*1984*	*1985*	*1986*	*1987*	*1988*	*1989*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*Average 78-87*	*Average 88-97*	*Total Average*	*% change 96-97*	*% change 88-97*
Murder	1	2	2	3	4	7	6	0	4	2	7	7	3	5	2	2	1	3	1	2	3	3	3	100%	-71%
Rape	32	46	51	28	30	37	31	27	31	36	30	25	29	38	33	30	28	35	34	24	35	31	33	-29%	-20%
Robbery	294	378	431	517	484	448	377	365	395	417	402	460	431	399	286	253	276	295	227	176	411	321	366	-22%	-56%
Aggravated Assault	535	436	461	389	344	445	365	312	304	340	371	365	614	567	551	643	473	463	381	370	393	480	436	-3%	0%
Burglary	1810	2377	2357	2745	1740	1630	1415	1410	1420	1477	1337	1621	1470	1098	866	929	774	953	791	596	1838	1044	1441	-25%	-55%
Larceny	2245	2613	2893	3586	3959	3287	3038	3256	3029	3229	3127	3692	3136	3363	3326	3563	3551	3313	2973	2779	3114	3282	3198	-7%	-11%
Auto Theft	2350	2278	1814	1545	1931	1699	1388	1257	1250	1152	1175	1170	1353	1012	887	964	761	558	544	483	1666	891	1279	-11%	-59%
Total Violent	862	862	945	937	862	937	779	704	734	795	810	857	1077	1009	872	928	778	796	643	572	842	834	838	-11%	-29%
Total Property	6405	7268	7064	7876	7630	6616	5841	5923	5699	5858	5639	6483	5959	5473	5079	5456	5086	4824	4308	3858	6618	5217	5917	-10%	-32%
Total	7267	8130	8009	8813	8492	7553	6620	6627	6433	6653	6449	7340	7036	6482	5951	6384	5864	5620	4951	4430	7460	6051	6755	-11%	-31%

1997 Annual Report Highlights

Important Facts about the 1997 Index Total:

- The 1997 crime index total was the lowest recorded by the city in over 35 years.
- For eight out of the past 10 years, serious crime has declined in Cambridge.
- In 1997, every index crime except murder registered a decrease.
- Over the past 15 years, property crime has steadily decreased
- Since it peaked in 1990, violent crime has dropped sharply.
- The 1997 "crime clock" shows an index crime every two hours, a violent crime every 15 hours, and a property crime every 136 minutes.
- 57 percent of all property crimes occur between the hours of noon and 8:00 P.M.
- 56 percent of all violent crimes occur between the hours of 4:00 P.M. and midnight; 31 percent occur between 8:00 P.M. and midnight.

Murder:

- Cambridge averaged 4.5 murders per year between 1960 and 1989.
- Since 1990, that number has decreased to 2.4 per year.
- Murders in Cambridge usually fall into three situational types: domestic, drug or gang related, and homeless against homeless.
- Nationally, cities of 100,000 people average 10 murders per year.
- The two murders in 1997 involved a homeless woman killed by an acquaintance and a young man caught in a crossfire during a shooting in Hoyt Field.

Rape:

- Over the past 30 years, Cambridge has averaged 33 rapes per year. In 1997, there were 24 rapes and attempted rapes reported in the city.
- In an average year, the investigative unit clears 70 to 80 percent of all reported rapes. This year, our clearance rate was slightly lower, about 63 percent.
- Of the four to seven stranger to stranger rapes each year, two to four are usually street abductions or "blitz" rapes, one or two are usually home invasions (though none in 1997), and the remainder are "contact" rapes. There were 6 "blitz" rapes and three "contact" rapes in 1997.
- Since 1980, there has only been one stranger-to-stranger "street" rape pattern in Cambridge: the "Rainy Day Rapist" who struck the Fresh Pond area in 1981.

Robbery:

- Both street robbery and commercial robbery are at the lowest levels in over 30 years. The crime fell 22 percent in 1997, with commercial robbery dropping eight percent and street robbery dropping 24 percent.
- Historically, street robbery is heavily concentrated around Central Square (Area 4 and Cambridgeport), but Area 4's street robbery total fell 53 percent in 1997 and Cambridgeport's decreased 45 percent.
- About 45 percent of all street robberies are "predatory robberies" or "muggings," in which one or two offenders approach someone with a weapon or threat of a weapon and demand money.
- From 1970 to 1990, Cambridge averaged 100 commercial robberies per year. Since 1991, that average has plummeted to 33 per year.

Burglary:

- The 1997 burglary total was the lowest in over 30 years, having decreased 25 percent from 1996.
- In 1997, only one neighborhood (Agassiz) reported an increase in residential burglary.
- The neighborhoods historically most afflicted experienced the greatest declines: Mid-Cambridge's burglaries fell 48 percent; Area 4's plummeted 53 percent; Cambridgeport's dropped 19 percent; and North Cambridge had 23 percent fewer residential burglaries.
- A pattern of business breaks along Massachusetts Avenue in North Cambridge dominated the commercial burglary scene.
- For the third straight year, there was no traditional Summer residential burglary pattern.

Larceny:

- The crime of larceny accounts for 60 percent of the total crime index.
- In 1997, the larceny statistic was the lowest since 1979.
- Shoplifting was the only major larceny category to increase this year. Most shoplifting incidents come from the CambridgeSide Galleria and the Harvard Coop.
- Larcenies from buildings have targeted laptop computers, particularly in Kendall Square.
- Larcenies from persons are concentrated around commercial areas, with Harvard Square producing the greatest totals.
- Larcenies from motor vehicles have dropped significantly over the past two years. Over 25 percent of larcenies from motor vehicles involve the theft of cellular telephones.
- Bicycle theft, though decreased slightly, remains a serious problem. Cambridge has one of the highest per capita bicycle theft rates in the country.

Auto Theft:

- Auto theft continues to decline in Cambridge. This year's number represents the lowest total in 40 years.
- Toyotas and Hondas are stolen more than any other cars. The Honda Accord and the Toyota Camry are the two most targeted models.
- A major pattern was observed in the fall of 1997 covering the lower part of Cambridgeport and the area of MIT near the Hyatt Regency.
- Cambridgeport and East Cambridge reported the highest auto theft totals.

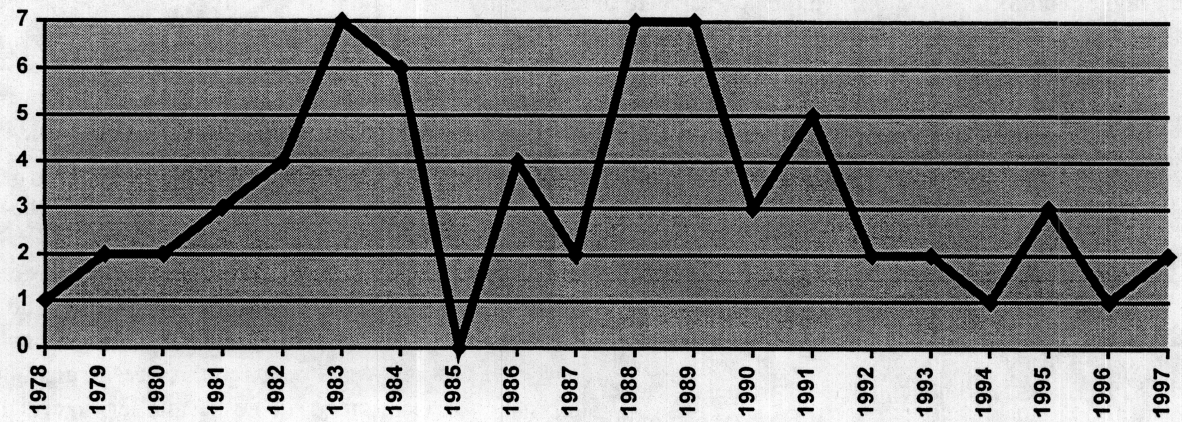
PART I CRIMES

Violent Crime	Property Crime
• Murder	• Burglary
• Rape	• Larceny
• Robbery	• Auto Theft
• Assault	

MURDER

Murder *and* Non-negligent Manslaughter, *as defined in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, is 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, coronor, jury, or other judicial body. Not inlcuded 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 scored as aggravated assaults.*

Murder in Cambridge, 1978-1997



Two Murders Reported in Cambridge in 1997

Runaway murdered in East Cambridge

March 26, 1997

In the early morning hours of Wednesday, March 26, 1997, Cambridge and Boston firefighters responded to a trailer fire in an industrial yard off East Street in East Cambridge. While extinguishing the flames, the firefighters encountered a gruesome sight: a charred body inside the trailer. Examination determined that the body belonged to a female who had died from a blow to the head with a blunt instrument.

Investigation revealed that the victim was 19-year-old Helena Gardner of Lawrence, who had been living on the streets for several years. In early April, Cambridge detectives arrested one of the victim's acquaintances, another 19-year-old female who apparently tortured and murdered the victim in order to settle an ongoing dispute. The killer then doused the victim and ignited the trailer. Two homeless men who watched the grisly scene have also been charged with murder.

Cambridge man shot in Hoyt Field

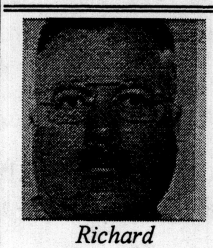
August 19, 1997

On Tuesday, August 19, 1997, at 8:55 P.M., 19-year-old Benny Rosa of Jackson Circle was shot to death in Hoyt Field as players from a basketball game were dispersing. Two other people with Rosa—his girlfriend and a friend—were also wounded.

Investigation immediately centered on two men from Boston: Anthony Cole and Craig "Sticky" Joseph, who had apparently been shooting at each other, catching the victim in the crossfire. Cole was arrested the same week and is currently awaiting trial; Joseph remains at large and is on the Cambridge Police Department's "Ten Most Wanted" list.



Craig Joseph

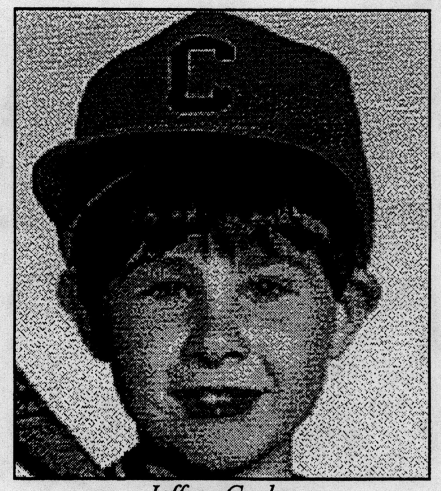


Richard Kachadorian

In December 1997, Cambridge Police arrested Richard Kachadorian, formerly of River Street, for the city's only 1996 homicide: the knife murder of a 50-year-old homeless man in front of 1033 Massachusetts Avenue on November 22, 1996. Kachadorian and the victim reportedly got into an argument which escalated into a physical fight. According to witnesses, Kachadorian pulled a knife, stabbed the victim in the chest, and slashed his throat. After the murder, Kachadorian was reported to have fled the state. A Middlesex grand jury indicted him in February 1997. Members of the Cambridge Police Department's Homicide Unit arrested him in Swampscott on December 16, 1997 after receiving a tip.

Cambridge Boy Murdered in October in Newton

We are obliged here to note the murder of 10-year-old Jeffrey Curley on October 1, 1997. The murder techically occurred in Newton, so it is not included in our crime index, but Jeffrey Curley lived in Cambridge, and his murderers took him from near his home on Hampshire Street. Charles Jaynes, 22, of Brockton and Salvatore Sicari, 21, of Cambridge have been arrested and charged with the homicide. The men were apparently acquainted with Curley. After luring the boy into their 1983 Cadillac, the men reportedly drove him to Newton, where Jaynes smothered him with a gasoline-soaked rag. Later, Jaynes and Sicari drove to Maine and dumped Curley's body in a river, where it was recovered by divers about a week later. Jaynes and Sicari were arrested the next day and they currently await trial.



Jeffrey Curley

Murder Across the State & Nation

In 1996*, the United States of America reported 19,645 murders, representing a decrease of 9.8% from the 21,606 homicides recorded in 1995. The 1996 total was the lowest since 1985. The nation's cities reported the largest decrease (10% on average).

Across the nation, murder victims are 18% female and 82% male; Cambridge has a much higher percentage of female murders (probably because of our relatively low number of gang-related homicides, in which the victims are usually male). The nation's murder victims' ages mirror those of Cambridge, with the average male age in the mid-20s and the average female age around 40.

Massachusetts seemed to do better than the national averge, with a statewide decrease of 28% (from 217 to 157). Boston's murder rate dropped 39% (96 to 59). Of the other towns surrounding Cambridge (Watertown, Belmont, Arlington, and Somerville), only Somerville reported any murders in 1996, registering two.

*Statistics for 1997 are not yet available for other cities and towns.

Characteristics of Murder in Cambridge

For the 30-year period between 1960 and 1989, the City of Cambridge averaged four and a half murders per year. The annual average in the 1990s has fallen to two and a half per year. Nationally, cities of 100,000 residents average 10 murders each year. Trend analysis over the past few years points to three recurring murder scenarios in Cambridge: domestic murder, in which an elderly female is brutally killed by her husband in a homicidal rage; arguments among the homeless that, often fueled by drugs or alcohol, escalate into deadly violence; and the murder of young males by a handgun or knife in street robberies or drug deals gone awry.

Since 1990, there have been 19 murders in the city of Cambridge. Of these 19 homicides, ten of the victims were male (average age of 23) and nine were female (average age of 44). A handgun was the murder weapon in five of the incidents, and a knife was used in eight of the other 13 homicides. Seven of the 19 murders reported since 1990 are still under investigation. A map showing all of the murder dates and locations since 1991 can be found on the following page.

Three Unsolved Murders Since 1991

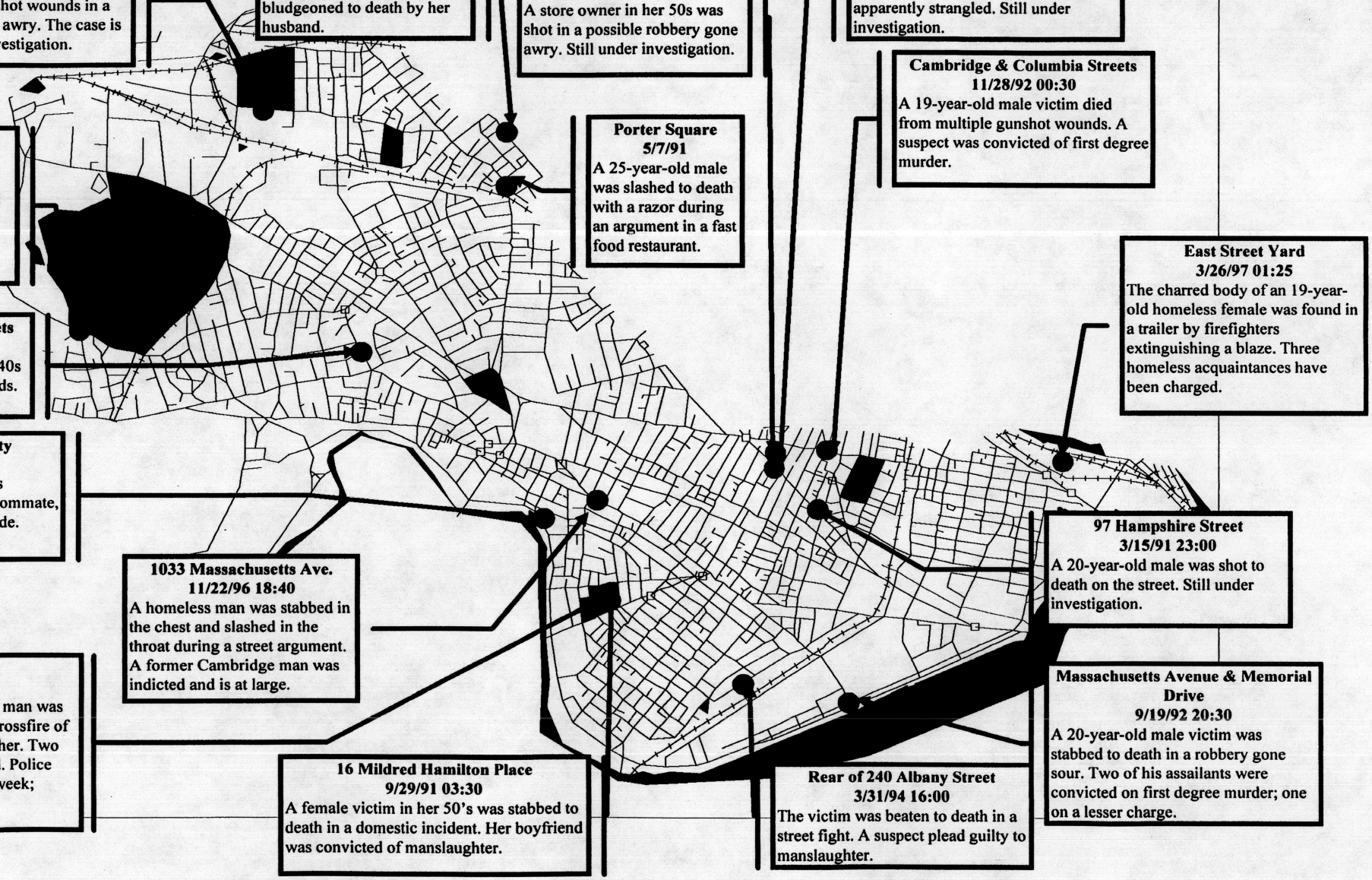
Please contact Detective Sergeant Patrick Nagle at 617-349-3370 if you have any information.

1. **August 9, 1995 at 304 Prospect Street.** At 3:30 P.M. on this date, Azores Market owner Lilia Fagundes was shot in her store in a possible robbery gone awry. Witnesses reported seeing a Black male, 5'8" tall, about 15-16 years old, with dark skin, short hair, and a thin build.

2. **September 22, 1993 at 324 Rindge Avenue.** At 9:30 P.M., 23-year-old Michael Garner was walking home when, as witnesses report, three young Black males confronted him and tried to rob him of his gold chains. The robbery went astray, and Garner was shot twice and killed.

3. **April 4, 1991 at Sparks & Brewster Streets.** At 8:58 P.M., law professor Mary Jo Frug, 49 years old, was stabbed multiple times for no apparent reason. A witness saw a White male suspect in his 20s, wearing a black leather jacket, running down Brewster Street.

MURDER IN CAMBRIDGE, 1991–1997



324 Rindge Avenue
9/22/93 21:30
A 23-year-old male suffered multiple gunshot wounds in a robbery gone awry. The case is still under investigation.

160 Elm Street
9/25/93 19:30
A female in her early 60s was bludgeoned to death by her husband.

304 Prospect St.
8/9/95 15:30
A store owner in her 50s was shot in a possible robbery gone awry. Still under investigation.

162 Hampshire Street
12/5/91 15:00
A female victim in her early 50s was apparently strangled. Still under investigation.

Cambridge & Columbia Streets
11/28/92 00:30
A 19-year-old male victim died from multiple gunshot wounds. A suspect was convicted of first degree murder.

700 Huron Avenue
1/24/95
A female victim in her early 60s was bludgeoned to death by her husband, who was convicted of manslaughter.

Porter Square
5/7/91
A 25-year-old male was slashed to death with a razor during an argument in a fast food restaurant.

East Street Yard
3/26/97 01:25
The charred body of an 19-year-old homeless female was found in a trailer by firefighters extinguishing a blaze. Three homeless acquaintances have been charged.

Sparks & Brewster Streets
4/4/91 20:58
A female victim in her mid-40s suffered multiple stab wounds. Still under investigation.

Harvard University
5/30/95 08:00
A 22-year-old student was stabbed to death by her roommate, who then committed suicide.

1033 Massachusetts Ave.
11/22/96 18:40
A homeless man was stabbed in the chest and slashed in the throat during a street argument. A former Cambridge man was indicted and is at large.

97 Hampshire Street
3/15/91 23:00
A 20-year-old male was shot to death on the street. Still under investigation.

Hoyt Field
8/19/97 20:55
A 19-year-old Cambridge man was apparently caught in the crossfire of two men shooting each other. Two other victims were injured. Police arrested one suspect that week; another is at large.

Massachusetts Avenue & Memorial Drive
9/19/92 20:30
A 20-year-old male victim was stabbed to death in a robbery gone sour. Two of his assailants were convicted on first degree murder; one on a lesser charge.

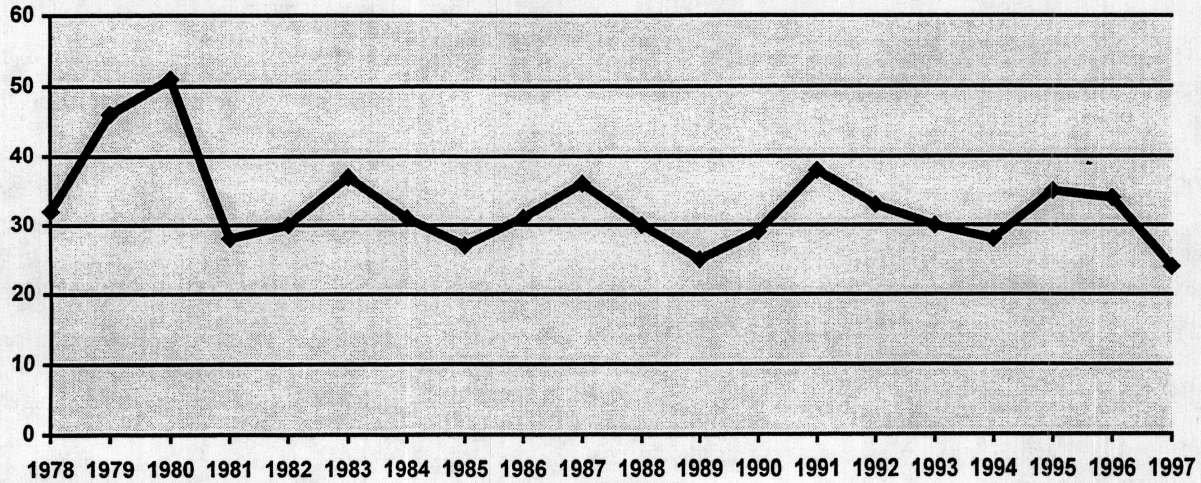
16 Mildred Hamilton Place
9/29/91 03:30
A female victim in her 50's was stabbed to death in a domestic incident. Her boyfriend was convicted of manslaughter.

Rear of 240 Albany Street
3/31/94 16:00
The victim was beaten to death in a street fight. A suspect plead guilty to manslaughter.

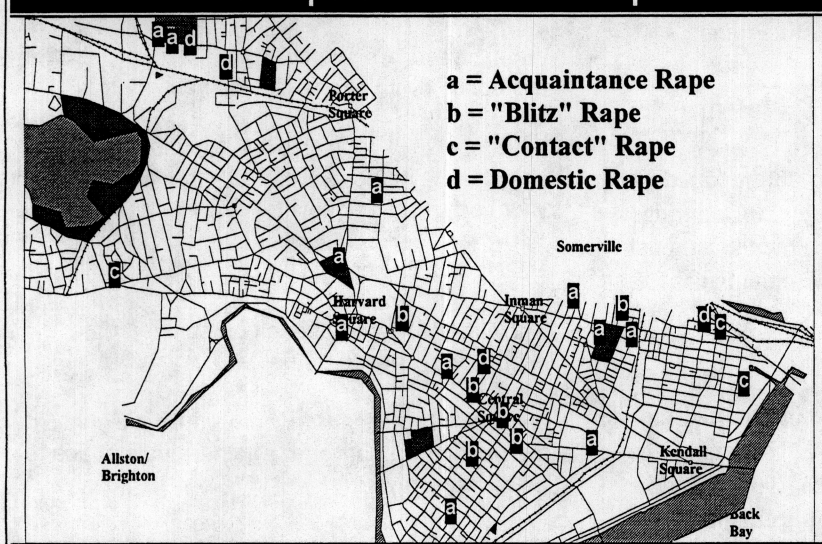
RAPE

Forcible Rape, *as defined by the Uniform Crime Reporting Program is the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Attempts to commit rape by force or threat of force, and assaults with the intent to commit rape, are also included; however, statutory rape (without force) and other sex offenses are excluded.*

Rape in Cambridge, 1978-1997



34 reported in 1996 • 24 reported in 1997 • Down 29.4%



Rape in 1997

The Cambridge Police Department's Sexual Assault Unit reports that 16 rapes and eight attempted rapes were reported in Cambridge in 1997. This represents a 29 percent decrease from 1996. In 15 of the 24 incidents (11 rapes, 4 attempts), the victim knew her assailant; the other nine (5 rapes, 4 attempts) involved strangers. The Sexual Assault Unit reports that 15 of the cases have been cleared by arrest or indictment.

Acquaintance Rapes are non-domestic rapes committed by someone who knows the victim. They include rapes of co-workers, schoolmates, friends, and other acquaintances, including "date rapes."

Blitz Rapes are stranger rapes in which the rapist assaults the victim on the street with no prior contact. Generally, the suspect "comes out of nowhere."

	Acq.	Blitz	Cont.	Dom.	Total
Complete	7	3	2	4	16
Attempt	4	3	1	0	8
Total	11	6	3	4	**24**

Contact Rapes are stranger rapes in which the suspect contacts the victim and tries to gain her confidence before assaulting her. Contact rapists pick up their victims in bars, lure them into their cars or houses, or otherwise try to coerce the victim into a situation in which they can begin their assault.

Domestic Rapes involve rapes between spouses, romantic partners, and family members.

A fifth rape categorization, the **Home Invasion Rape**, did not cover any of the reported rapes in 1997.

The 1997 rape total of 24 was the lowest number recorded by this department since at least 1973 (we have no information on rapes prior to 1973). We hesitate to call this a trend, however, given the tendency of rape statistics to fluctuate greatly from year to year (see the graph on the previous page). The number of rapes that go unreported each year is uncertain; experts estimate that as high as 50 percent of domestic and acquaintance rapes are not reported by the victim.

Of the four categorizations reported in 1997, the Blitz rape, or "street rape," is the classification that probably provokes the most fear in the average citizen. Six of these—three rapes and three attempts—were reported in 1997. The pinmap of Blitz Rapes in 1997 shows a cluster of four around Central Square. Though the investigations for three of the Central Square incidents are ongoing, the Sexual Assault Unit has ruled out the possibility that a single suspect has committed more than one Blitz Rape.

Analysis of the Blitz Rapes reported in Cambridge over the past several years shows a trend of early morning (12:00 A.M. to 4:00 A.M.) weekend occurrences. In past years, as in 1997, clusters of these stranger rapes have appeared around Central Square, despite extra patrol allocation. The Cambridge Police Department is developing strategies to address this persisting trend.

Rape around the Region & Nation

In 1996*, cities between 90,000 and 105,000 reported an average of 37 rapes per 100,000 residents. Cambridge reported 35 per 100,000 residents, just below the national average. The highest reporting city was Wichita Falls, TX, with 80 rapes per 100,000 people; the city with the lowest rate was Greece Town, NY with 12 .

The FBI reported a 1.7 percent decrease in reported rape across the nation between 1995 and 1996. Nationally, the crime has gone down 15.7 percent since 1992. Like the Cambridge Police Department, the FBI cautions that a significant portion of rapes go unrecorded, making the validity of the statistics uncertain.

Locally, cities with populations that approximate Cambridge reported an average of 36 rapes per 100,000 residents, just slightly above Cambridge's total. These cities include Brockton (43 per 1,000), Fall River (32), Lowell (44), Lynn (29), New Bedford (72), Newton (7), and Quincy (29). Towns surrounding Cambridge reported a combined total of 11 rapes.

**National and Regional Statistics for 1997 are not yet available*

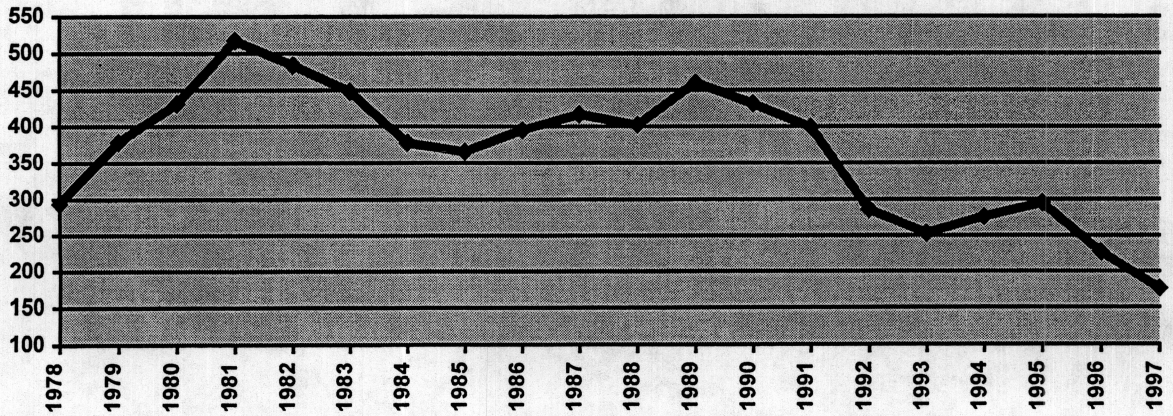
Preventing Rape

- The Cambridge Police Department offers a *Rape Aggression Defense* (R.A.D.) course for women seeking to learn how to physically protect themselves against rape and other forms of violence. The course is free and is taught by a certified R.A.D. instructor. For more information, call the Cambridge Police Department's Community Relations Department at 617-349-6009.
- Be aware of your surroundings when walking down the street. Walk briskly and confidently.
- At night, try to avoid walking alone, particularly after 9:00 P.M. Stick to main streets with as much car and foot traffic as possible. Avoid public parks, areas with excessive trees and bushes, dark streets and alleys, and other "shortcuts."
- Keep an arm's length away from strangers. If you think someone suspicious is approaching you or following you, cross to the other side of the street and head for the nearest public place.
- Know which stores and other public places are open along your route. Whether walking home, to work, or jogging, try to vary your route frequently.
- When streets are sparsely populated, make brief eye contact with people as you pass them.
- When parking at night, try to park in well-lit spots. Lock your car door and, when returning to your car, have your keys ready.
- Never hitchhike or pick up hitchhikers.
- Know the full name of each person you date, his occupation, and where he lives.
- Never invite a person whom you have met on the street, in a bar, or in another public place to be alone with you.
- If you are a victim of rape, report the crime. Counseling, shelters, and other services are available for you, and you may prevent another person from being victimized.
- The Cambridge Rape Crisis Center is available 492-7273. The Rape Crisis Center supports a 24-hour hotline, support groups, one-on-one counseling, and community education programs. All its services are free.

ROBBERY

Robbery *is the taking or attempted taking of anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear. This crime includes muggings, purse snatchings, and bank hold-ups.*

Robbery in Cambridge, 1978-1997



227 reported in 1996 • 176 reported in 1997 • Down 22.5%

Robbery is theft in which the offender confronts the victim and steals the victim's property through force or threat of force. It includes "muggings" and "hold-ups," though the offender does not need to display a weapon (and about half of them do not) for the crime to be categorized as a robbery.

Robbery is usually committed on the street, in the dark, by an offender or offenders who the victim does not know. The confrontational, threatening nature of the crime has a strong influence on the behavior of the public. Robbery is one of the crimes most often considered by a citizen when he or she gauges the general "safety" of an area.

	1996	1997	% Change
Commercial Robbery	24	22	-8.3%
Street Robbery	203	154	-24.1%
Total	227	176	-22.5%

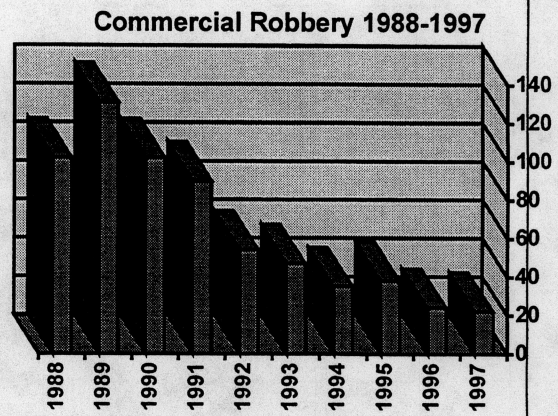
For the purposes of analysis, the crime of Robbery is divided into two categories: Commercial Robbery and Street Robbery. Commercial Robbery makes up less than 12 percent of the robbery total in Cambridge. Unlike assault, robbery statistics are fairly sound; robbery victims are extremely likely to report the crime.

At the end of 1997, Robbery was at its lowest level in Cambridge since we began measuring crime over 30 years ago. Commercial robbery is down *79 percent* since 1990, and Street Robbery has dropped *53 percent* in the same time period. The reasons behind this dramatic decline can be seen in the following sections.

COMMERCIAL ROBBERY

Commercial Robbery describes the taking or attempted taking of anything of value from the care or custody of a commercial or financial establishment. Examples of this crime include the bank heist, the cab stick-up, and the convenience store hold-up.

From 1970 to 1990, Cambridge averaged 100 commercial robberies annually. Since then, the number has plunged to 22% of that average. Nationally, commercial robbery accounts for 24 percent of total robberies; in Cambridge, commercial robberies made up only 13 percent of the 1997 robbery total. Clearly, our city is enjoying a respite from this type of crime—a respite that began between 1991 and 1992 when commercial robberies dwindled from 90 to 54.



Bank and armored car robberies consistently numbered between 7 and 10 incidents a year until 1997, when only three robberies were reported. Convenience store robberies have shown a general decline since 1991, though they showed a three-incident increase this past year. Cab robberies remain low for a city of our size; Boston traditionally reports over 100 each year. Other types of establishments have shown a consistent decline in commercial robbery.

PREVENTING
Commercial Robbery

- Keep cash to a minimum with frequent, irregular deposits or a "drop safe." Use visible stickers or signs to advertise your cash control policy.
- Install visible closed circuit television cameras near cash registers.
- Keep your establishment well-lit at night. Clear any obstructions that prevent someone on the street from seeing what is happening inside the store.
- Designate a small bundle of cash "bait money." Record the serial numbers of these bills and make sure you give this cash to robbers.
- During a robbery, remember that a robber is a bundle of nerves and, therefore, is very dangerous. Instruct your employees to obey a robber's instructions calmly and politely.
- Have employees memorize a signal or "code" to alert each other to potential or actual robbers.
- If robbed, try to memorize as much as possible about the robber's description, including his vehicle and his direction of flight.
- After a robbery, immediately lock the door to the establishment, call the police, and write down what you can remember about the robbery.

Commercial Robberies by Location Type

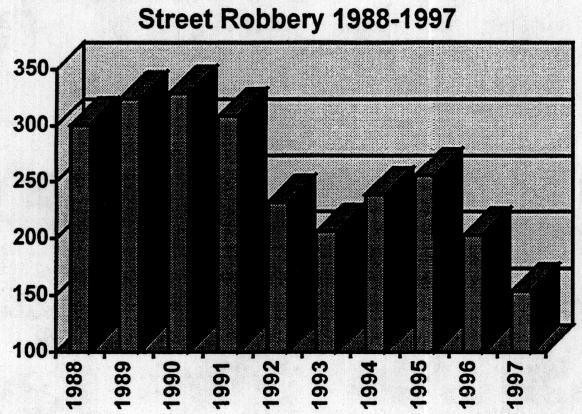
Type	1994	1995	1996	1997
Bank/Armored Car	10	9	7	3
Bar/Restaurant	1	6	3	3
Cab	4	1	3	3
Convenience/Gas	7	12	5	8
Liquor Store	2	2	0	0
Miscellaneous Retail	11	8	6	5
Total	**35**	**38**	**24**	**22**

Cambridge statistics reflect the national decline in commercial robberies since the 1980s. A number of factors account for this trend, including increased security measures at gas stations (plexi-glass booths), convenience stores (drop-safes, silent alarms), and banks (dye packs, better surveillance cameras); the Cambridge Police Department's Park & Walk program, which increases police visibility in vulnerable areas; and the disappearance of the particular breed of criminal who commits commercial hold-ups.

Geographic Breakdown of Commercial Robberies

AREA	1995	1996	1997
East Cambridge/Galleria	7	1	2
Kendall Square/M.I.T.	1	2	1
Inman Square/Harrington	5	0	1
Central Square	7	2	3
Cambridgeport/Riverside	1	1	3
Bay Square	2	1	1
Harvard Square	6	6	3
Mass. Ave. 1500-1900	0	4	1
Porter Square/North Cambridge	4	4	5
Alewife/West Cambridge	5	3	2

STREET ROBBERY



"Street Robbery" describes all robberies committed against individuals. A "street" robbery does not necessarily have to occur on the street, though more than 75 percent of them do. Examples of street robberies are "muggings," "carjackings," and "purse snatchings."

As with commercial robbery, Cambridge's 1997 street robbery total was the lowest recorded in the city in over 30 years. The crime has been on a general decline since it peaked at 329 incidents in 1990.

A long-term trend analysis of street robberies in Cambridge reveals a number of frequently recurring scenarios:

Acquaintance Robberies: Related to the Domestic Robbery and the Homeless Robbery (see below), 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, drug disputes, and robberies between co-workers.

ATM Robberies: An offshoot of Predatory Robberies (see below), ATM robberies are generally committed late at night, just after the victim has withdrawn money from an automatic teller machine. The predator, who has observed the transaction, stops the victim as he or she emerges from the ATM vestibule and demands the cash.

Bikejackings: In this scenario, any number of attackers will approach a young (10–15 years old) male victim on a bicycle and, through force of numbers, knives, or other weapons, will demand the victim's bike. Often, the attacker simply shoves the victim off of his bicycle and takes it. In a good portion of bikejackings, the victim knows his attacker.

Street Robberies by Type in 1997

Acquaintance	9
ATM Robbery	3
Bikejackings	9
Bully Boys	11
Carjackings	4
Domestic	4
Home Invasion	3
Homeless	7
Pack Robbery	23
Predatory	71
Purse Snatch	10

Bully Boys: 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, and skating rinks. Two to four juvenile males usually strong-arm their victim, stealing such things as his jacket, hat, or lunch money.

Carjackings: In this scenario, a lone predator will approach a victim entering or exiting his or her car, or when stopped at a traffic light. In no uncertain terms, the robber will order the victim out of the vehicle and demand the keys.

Domestic Robberies: The domestic robbery is a relatively new scenario which has emerged over the past several years. In these incidents, the perpetrator is usually an ex-boyfriend, who uses force in street confrontations to take back jewelry or cash. Family robberies are also on the rise: husbands robbing their wives, brothers robbing their sisters, and estranged children robbing their parents or grandparents. Many of these robberies involve past debts.

Home Invasions: One of the most serious robbery types, home invasions involve robbers entering their victim's homes, usually at night, subduing the residents (sometimes by tying them), and robbing the home. Fortunately, this type of robbery is rare in Cambridge.

Homeless Robberies: The homeless robbery is a sad scenario reflecting urban life in the 1990s: homeless people robbing each other. The majority of these robberies occur in the vicinity of Central and Harvard Squares, or at various shelters. The victim is usually acquainted with the perpetrator, and in many cases, both are intoxicated. Property stolen ranges from a bottle of wine to a blanket to a pair of shoes. Like domestic robberies, homeless robberies are sometimes precipitated by past debts, real or imaginary.

Pack Robberies: In this situation, a group of three to eight young males will stalk victims around shopping malls, MBTA stations, streets, and recreational areas. The majority of these robberies occur on Friday or Saturday nights, when the "pack" is returning from a dance or party. The robberies are not always premeditated, but the victim—typically a male between the ages of 15 and 25, walking alone—simply ends up on the wrong place at the wrong time. Weapons are seldom used, but strong-arm tactics are applied. Usually, the victim is knocked to the ground or ordered to lie down.

Predatory Robberies: 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 knife or gun and demand cash. The danger of serious injury is ever present. In recent years, predatory robbers have become cruder and less controlled, pushing and kicking their victims. Cambridge typically experiences more two-person predatory robberies than any other type.

Purse Snatch: The purse snatcher is generally unarmed, and has little intent to cause injury. After "casing" a victim—a female carrying a purse, bag, or wallet—this robber approaches quick from behind—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.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF STREET ROBBERIES

AREA	1995	1996	1997	CHANGE 96–97	% OF TOTAL
East Cambridge	25	22	14	-36.4%	9.1%
M.I.T. Area	6	7	2	-71.4%	1.3%
Inman/Harrington	16	15	9	-40.0%	5.8%
Area 4	54	45	21	-53.3%	13.6%
Cambridgeport	31	31	17	-45.2%	11.0%
Mid-Cambridge	22	24	20	-16.7%	13.0%
Riverside	28	12	16	+33.3%	10.4%
Agassiz	7	11	9	-18.2%	5.8%
Peabody	20	11	16	+45.5%	10.4%
West Cambridge	13	5	14	+180.0	9.1%
North Cambridge	34	17	13	-23.5%	8.4%
Cambridge Highlands	0	0	1	+100.0%	0.6%
Strawberry Hill	0	0	2	+200.0%	1.3%

DECREASES

1997 witnessed a displacement of street robberies away from traditional "hot spots" to neighborhoods which normally have a fairly low robbery rate. This effect was particularly noticeable this Summer.

Area 4 has probably never seen a lower street robbery total than the 21 incidents reported in 1997. Extra patrols, multiple Park & Walks, priority investigations, neighborhood redevelopment, and a plethora of other factors led to this impressive decline. The neighboring areas of **Inman/Harrington** and **Cambridgeport** also benefited, with drops of 40 and 45 percent, respectively.

North Cambridge saw street robbery fall greatly in the first nine months of the year, with a 64 percent decline at the end of September, but a late fall pattern that hit the Alewife MBTA Station and surrounding areas of Cambridge, and Arlington brought the neighborhood's decrease to a more modest 24 percent.

The **MIT Area**'s two robberies (excepting those that occurred on MIT property and were reported to the MIT Police) involved a dispute between a cab driver and passenger in Kendall Square and the theft of a student's backpack on Ames Street.

East Cambridge, whose robbery problem traditionally consists of juvenile robberies around the Galleria, was showing an increase until this Summer. There were only four robberies reported in this neighborhood in the second half of the year.

Mid-Cambridge street robberies leveled off this Summer after a pattern of pack and predatory robberies struck the western half of the neighborhood in the Spring. Two different arrests of groups of juveniles ended the pattern, and the neighborhood reported only five additional robberies throughout the Summer and Fall.

A pattern of December pack robberies hit the **Agassiz** neighborhood this year, but it could not equal last year's January/February pattern.

INCREASES

A general increase in robberies around Harvard Square and Quincy Square affected the **West Cambridge** and **Riverside** neighborhoods heavily, with respective increases of 180 and 33 percent. Clusters are evident along Brattle, Mount Auburn, and Church Streets, and are generally predatory in nature. Analysis shows that both of these neighborhoods reported unusual lows in 1996.

In addition to the Harvard and Quincy Square area increases, Riverside also suffered a pattern in and around Hoyt Field. Extra police attention given to this

area following the murder of a Cambridge man on August 19 has driven away this pattern.

Peabody was the only other neighborhood to show a significant increase in street robberies, with the majority of incidents centered around the intersection of Richdale Avenue and Upland Road. With absolutely no robberies committed on the North Cambridge side of Porter Square, a traditional "hot spot," the city may be witnessing a displacement effect.

On a final note, **Strawberry Hill** and **Cambridge Highlands**, neither of which reported any robberies in over two years, both experienced a single street robbery during the Summer of 1997. Strawberry Hill's robbery occurred on September 17, when a man on the golf course was assaulted by someone trying to steal his cellular phone; the Highland's robbery was a domestic robbery at a business place on Wheeler Street.

PREVENTING Street Robbery

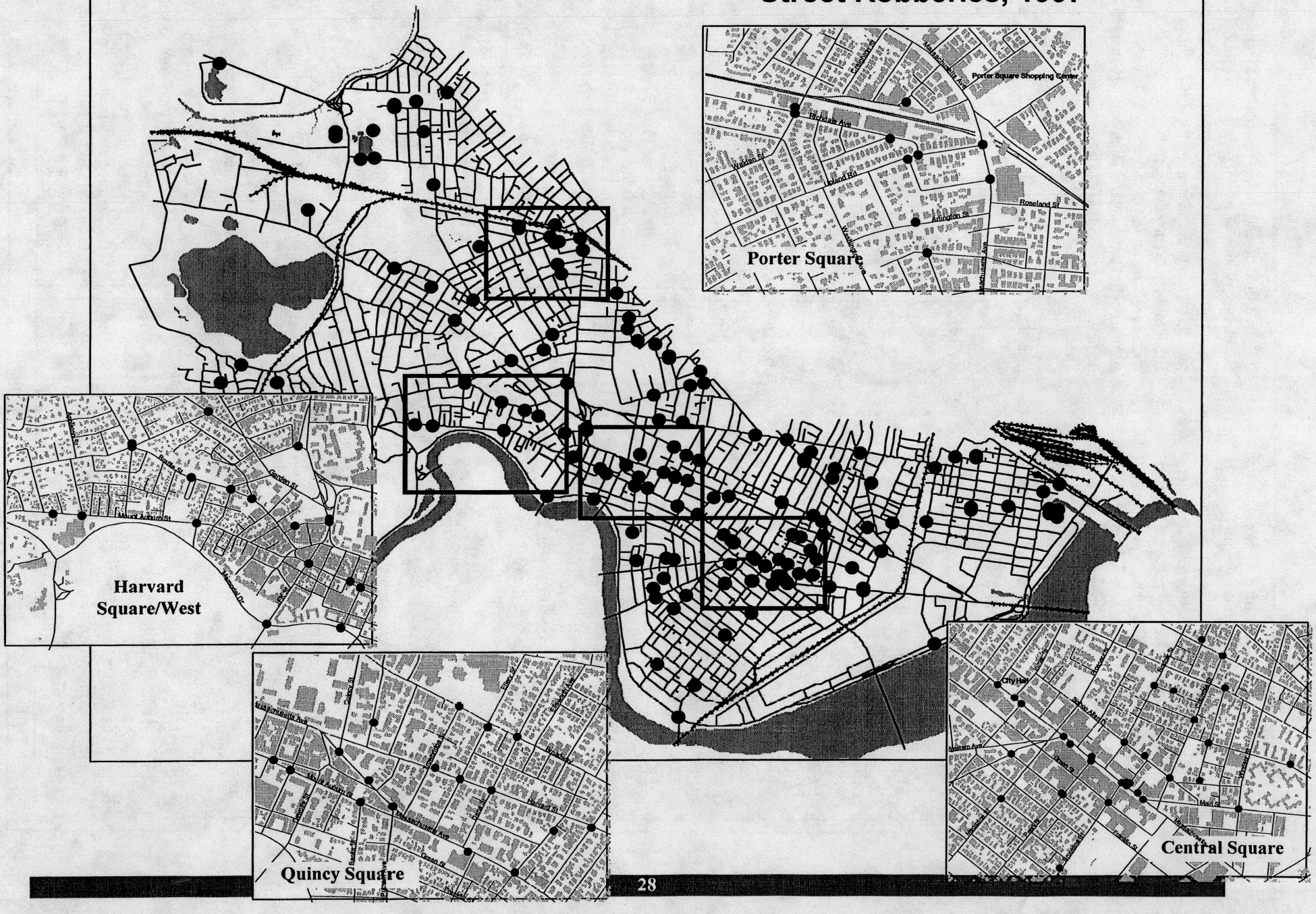
- Try to avoid walking alone on the street after 9:00 P.M. If you must walk alone at night, use well-lit roads, with as much car traffic as possible, and walk near the curb.
- When streets are relatively empty, make eye contact with everyone you pass, and keep yourself an arm's length away from them. Walk briskly and confidently.
- At night, avoid public parks, vacant lots, and areas with excessive trees and bushes.
- When waiting for a bus or subway, if the station is deserted, keep your back against a wall in a well-lit section.
- When walking to your car at night, have your keys in your hand and be ready to open the door.
- Try to avoid using ATMs late at night. If you must, try to pick an ATM in an attended location, such as a supermarket or mall. At the very least, make sure the ATM is well lit, and be aware of any people "loitering" in the area. Try to avoid going by yourself.
- At home, before answering the door, check the peephole or side window to make sure you know your visitor.
- Keep your doors locked when driving your car. If someone approaches your car while stopped, be prepared to step on the gas.
- Don't carry your purse loosely around your shoulder. Clutch it tightly under your arm or, better yet, avoid carrying a purse and keep a wallet in your pocket instead.
- If you *are* robbed, obey the robber's instructions. Keeping your cash in a separate money clip or pouch will allow you to hand it over without sacrificing your credit cards, identification, and personal papers.
- Try to memorize your robber's physical features, clothing, motor vehicle, and direction of flight. Call the police from the nearest available telephone.

Six Street Robbery "Hot Spots"

based on data over the last three years

1. CENTRAL SQUARE, specifically the area of Massachusetts Avenue between Main Street and Inman Street, extending one block on either side (Bishop Allen Drive to the north, Green Street to the south). Though street robbery has declined dramatically in this area this year, it remains a "hot spot.." Mostly predatory and homeless robberies, with the target time frame between 7:30 P.M. and midnight.
2. CAMBRIDGESIDE GALLERIA, particularly the First Street entrance, including the Lechmere MBTA Station area. These are usually juveniles robbing each other between 3:30 P.M. and 6:00 P.M.
3. HARVARD SQUARE, around Church Street and Brattle Street. Predatory robberies in the late evening mixed with early evening purse snatchings.
4. RUSSELL FIELD AND THE ALEWIFE MBTA STATION. Late evening robberies here. Predatory and pack robbers target people leaving the station and crossing through the field.
5. HOYT FIELD and surrounding streets. Generally a late night (10:00 P.M. to 2:00 A.M.) problem involving predators and older packs.
6. WESTERN AGASSIZ, including Kirkland Street, Irving Street, Bryant Street, Francis Avenue, and Museum Street. We experience at least one pack or predatory pattern per year in this area, which is otherwise quiet. Target time is between 7:00 P.M. and 10:00 P.M.

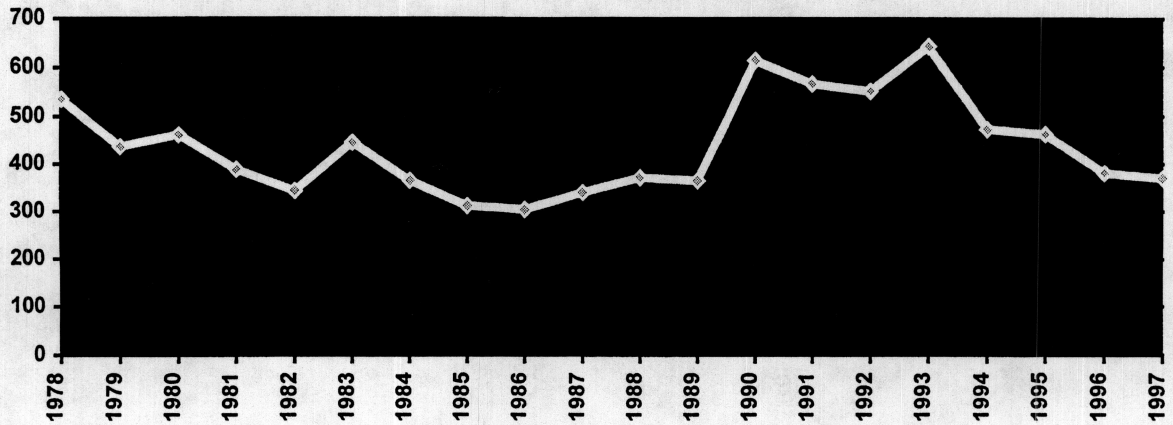
Street Robberies, 1997



ASSAULT

Aggravated Assault *describes an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault is usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Attempts are included since it is not necessary that injury result when a gun, knife, or other weapon is used which could and probably would result in serious personal injury if the crime were successfully completed.*

Aggravated Assault in Cambridge, 1978-1997



381 reported in 1996 • 370 reported in 1997 • Down 2.9%

Unlike murder, robbery, and other violent crime, assault is born in the heat of the moment. The motivation behind an assault is rarely personal gain, and the offender often later regrets the incident. Perhaps the most preventable violent crime, many assaults in the making are probably curtailed through the careful use of control and restraint.

However, assault is a very serious crime because of the great risk of critical injury to the victim. Very often, blind luck or quick medical attention is all that separates an aggravated assault from a homicide.

Assault has been on a general increase over the last 20 years. Between 1984 and 1989, it registered about 350 incidents per year; in 1990, it suddenly jumped 41 percent to an unprecedented 614 reports. It peaked at 643 in 1993; since then, it has declined each year. 1997's statistic is the lowest since 1989.

A good portion of these fluctuations can be attributed to the frequency of which the crime is reported rather than the frequency of its actual occurrence. As domestic violence awareness has increased over the last decade, so has the willingness of domestic violence victims to report abuse to the police.

We reported increases in aggravated assault, in the first, second, and third quarters. In the first three months of the year, the crime rose by 21 percent. By the end of June, it was up only 12 percent, and at the end of the third quarter, it had scaled back to five percent. Three months later, after a quiet autumn, the crime is down three percent for the entire year.

Assaults with the Intent to Murder

On June 2, 1997, a group of five or six juveniles were involved in a gang fight around Columbia Street and Market Street After the police cleared the fight, two of the juveniles were found huddling in an alley with knife wounds: one in the chest, one in the neck.

What stopped these juveniles from becoming mortally wounded from their assailants? Blind luck, probably. Eight people have died from knife attacks since 1990—several of them in situations like this one—and nothing but luck prevented the attack above from becoming Cambridge's third and fourth homicides of the year.

Most assaults are committed in fits of rage, passion, or intoxication with little or no specific intent to kill or maim the victim. When the circumstances of an assault show that the offender probably intended to kill his victim, the crime is classified as an "assault with the intent to murder," sometimes called an "attempted murder." These include almost all gun assaults, most knife assaults, chokings, and prolonged beatings. Other than murder, assaults with the intent to murder are some of the most grievous crimes reported in Cambridge each year.

Statistics for assaults with intent to murder have fluctuated wildly since 1990, from a low of 15 (1992) to a high of 30 (1991 and 1994). In 1997, 17 were recorded, compared to 20 in 1996. These numbers *are* counted within the total "aggravated assault" statistic for the year.

As to the circumstances, they tend to follow the normal aggravated assault classifications, with around 30 percent domestic related, and 15 to 20 percent juvenile and gang crimes, and the others a mix of traffic, acquaintance, and other assaults.

Despite advances made by domestic violence victim advocates in recent years, experts estimate that between 60 and 80 percent of domestic assaults are never reported to the police. Very likely, apathy, fear of police contact, embarrassment, and other factors also lead to underreporting of alcohol related fights, assaults between acquaintances, gang fights, and conflicts among the homeless. The result is that assault statistics must be viewed with extreme care.

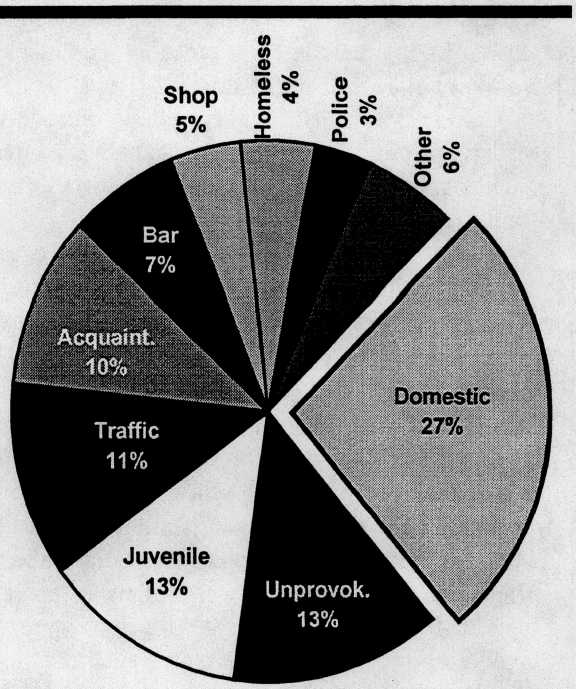
GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS

AREA	1995	1996	1997	CHANGE 96–97	% OF TOTAL
East Cambridge	44	50	37	-26.0%	10.0%
M.I.T. Area	17	7	7	NC	1.9%
Inman/Harrington	55	34	33	-2.9%	8.9%
Area 4	70	68	69	+1.5%	18.6%
Cambridgeport	61	55	59	+7.3%	15.9%
Mid-Cambridge	43	34	22	-35.3%	5.9%
Riverside	40	36	44	+22.2%	11.9%
Agassiz	8	8	7	-12.5%	1.9%
Peabody	20	18	18	NC	4.9%
West Cambridge	40	18	14	-22.2%	3.8%
North Cambridge	55	43	48	+11.6%	13.0%
Cambridge Highlands	5	7	2	-71.4%	0.5%
Strawberry Hill	5	3	10	+233.3%	2.7%
Total	**463**	**381**	**370**	**-2.9%**	

Since domestic assaults and assaults among acquaintances dominate the percentages, the crime naturally registers high in areas that have a high residential population. These neighborhoods include Cambridgeport, Riverside, and North Cambridge. The total for Cambridgeport is boosted by drunken assaults in or near the neighborhood bars, and the statistic for East Cambridge includes a number of juvenile fights near the mall. The unusually high number of assaults in Strawberry Hill have no relation to each other.

ASSAULT CLASSIFICATIONS

TYPE	1997	% of Total
Domestic	99	26.8%
Unprovoked	48	13.0%
Juvenile/Gang	47	12.7%
Traffic/Parking	43	11.6%
Acquaintance	39	10.5%
Bar/Liquor	25	6.8%
Shop Owner/Patron	18	4.9%
Homeless	15	4.1%
On Police Officer	14	3.8%
Landlord/Neighbor	7	1.9%
Psychotic Episode	4	1.1%
Workplace	4	1.1%
Other	7	1.9%



As always, domestic assaults account for the largest portion. Domestic assaults and other domestic crimes are reviewed in the *Domestic Crimes* section of this report. Percentages changed only very little from the 1996 Annual Report.

Simple Assault

Simple Assaults, unlike aggravated assaults, are not scored among the Part I Crimes (Index Crimes). Simple assaults do not involve the use of a dangerous weapon (including shoes) and are not intended to cause serious injury. Examples of simple assault include a shove, a punch in the stomach, or a slap in the face. We receive between 575 and 625 reports for simple assault each year.

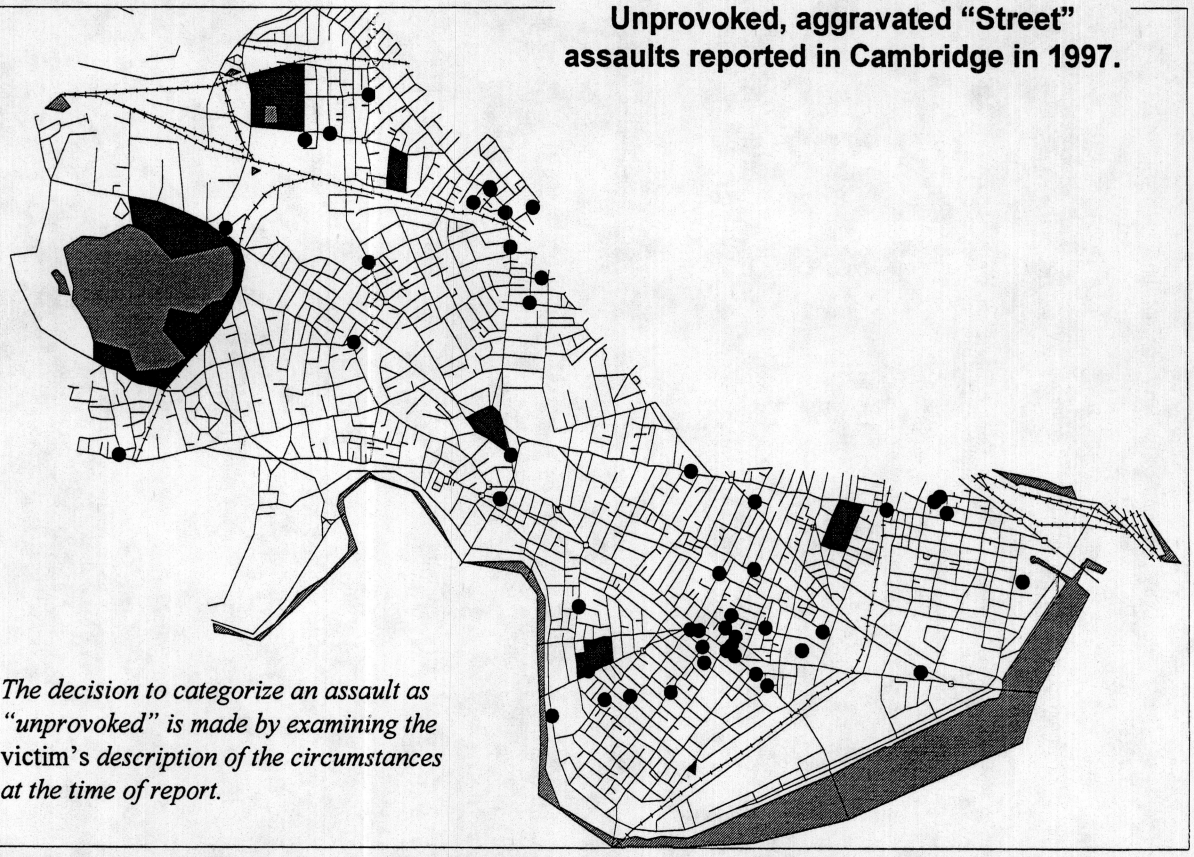
606 simple assaults were reported in 1997, showing a four percent increase over the 584 reported in 1996 and a two percent increase over the 594 reported in 1995. If lack of reporting is a problem for aggravated assaults, it is probably doubly so for simple assaults, since they do not by definition result in serious injury.

Simple assaults show significant differences in categorization from aggravated assaults. A high 42 percent of simple assaults are domestic in nature, compared to 27 percent of aggravated assaults. The next highest categorization, unprovoked assaults, weighed in at nine percent or 53 incidents. Juvenile assaults and traffic and parking assaults each accounted for eight percent of simple assaults. Acquaintance assaults totaled 43, or seven percent. The remaining categorizations amount to between one and five percent each.

• Preventing Assault

- Check out the tips for preventing rape and street robbery to prevent unprovoked, "street" assaults.
- If you have been abused by, or are in fear of, your domestic partner or spouse, get help. The problem usually becomes worse if it is not addressed. The "domestic crimes" section of this report lists telephone numbers that you or your partner can call to seek assistance.
- Report assault when it happens, even if you do not believe it to be "serious." Assaults that are not reported cannot be considered by police administrators when they make decisions about how to allocate manpower and funds; if there is a problem with a bar, a household, a school, or any other place where assaults are likely to happen, *the police need to know about it.*
- Do *not* allow yourself to be drawn into arguments about traffic or parking incidents. Keep calm when behind the wheel of your car. If another driver commits a violation or threatens you, take down his registration information and report it to the police. Hundreds of people are killed each year because of "road rage."
- Unless they have security forces for that purpose, shop managers and clerks should not attempt to physically detain shoplifters. Most of the "Shop Owner/Patron" assaults began as shoplifting incidents. Instead, get a full description of the shoplifter and call the police. If he refuses to stay, let him go.

Unprovoked, aggravated "Street" assaults reported in Cambridge in 1997.

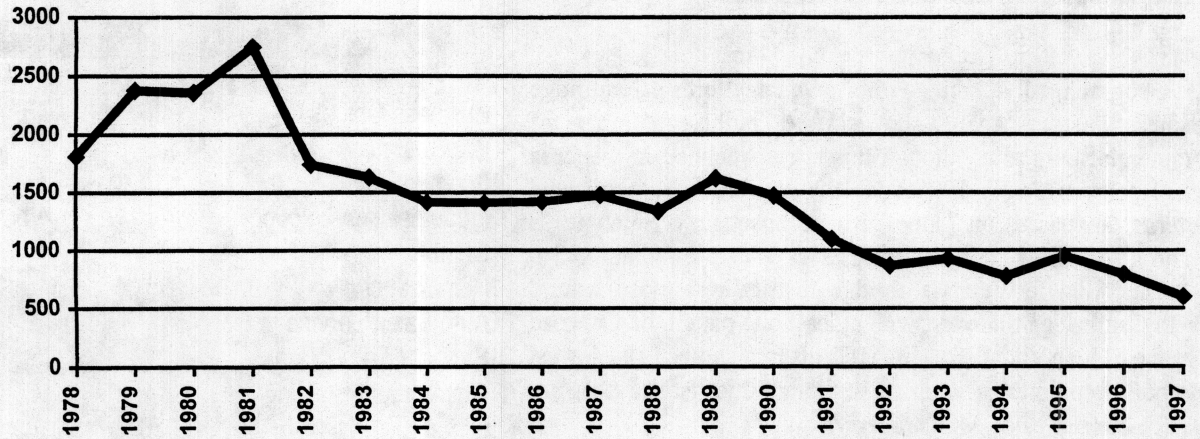


The decision to categorize an assault as "unprovoked" is made by examining the victim's *description of the circumstances at the time of report.*

BURGLARY

Burglary *describes the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. The use of force to gain entry is not required to classify an offense as burglary. Burglary attempts are included in the total.*

Buglary in Cambridge, 1978-1997



791 reported in 1996 • 596 reported in 1997 • Down 24.7%

Burglary is considered a much graver crime than larceny, since it usually involves breaking into someone's home or business. Great diversity exists within the ranks of burglars: a great many are "crude," unrefined thieves who, with little finesse, will smash a window and enter an unoccupied house or building. Because long-term success at burglary involves innovation, risk, and proficiency, the crime is often associated with "professional," master thieves who disable alarm systems and steal oil paintings and oriental rugs.

	1996	1997	% Change
Commercial Burglary	221	190	-14.0%
Residential Burglary	570	406	-28.8%
Total	791	596	-24.7%

The latter type of burglar—the professional thief who used to commit 200 to 300 housebreaks per year, many in wealthy residential locations—has become a dinosaur. He has been put out of business by priority prosecution programs, patrol and investigative strategies, and early detection of patterns. The demise of this "one-man crime wave" has caused burglary to plunge *75 percent* since 1980 and *59 percent* since 1990. It fell 25 percent in the last year alone. The 1997 total is the lowest burglary statistic the Cambridge Police Department has reported since we started measuring crime in the 1960s.

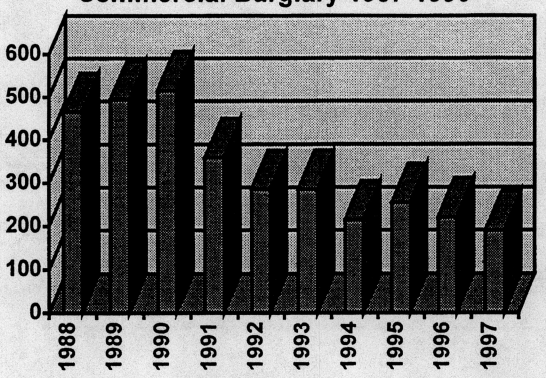
Burglaries in Cambridge are evenly spread throughout the day, with more business breaks occurring at night and on weekends, and more residential breaks occurring during the workday. Seldom does a resident or business owner encounter a burglar, and only very rarely (except in the case of domestic burglaries) does a resident come to harm during a burglary.

For the purpose of analysis, the crime of burglary is divided into two categories: Commercial Burglary and Residential Burglary ("housebreaks").

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

Commercial burglaries have decreased 14 percent from 1996 and 25 percent from 1995. Twenty-six percent of the 190 commercial burglaries reported in 1997 occurred at retail establishments such as clothing stores, convenience stores, electronics shops, supermarkets, and drug stores. Retail establishments were clearly the biggest benefactors of the drop in commercial burglaries from 1996 to 1997, with a 29 percent decrease. Retail still made up the biggest target category, however.

Commercial Burglary 1987-1996



Geographically, the Porter Square/North Cambridge business district again showed the highest number of commercial burglaries, though this crime declined in this area by 22 percent. As in 1995 and 1996, several well-publicized patterns appeared on upper Massachusetts Avenue; these patterns will likely continue into 1998.

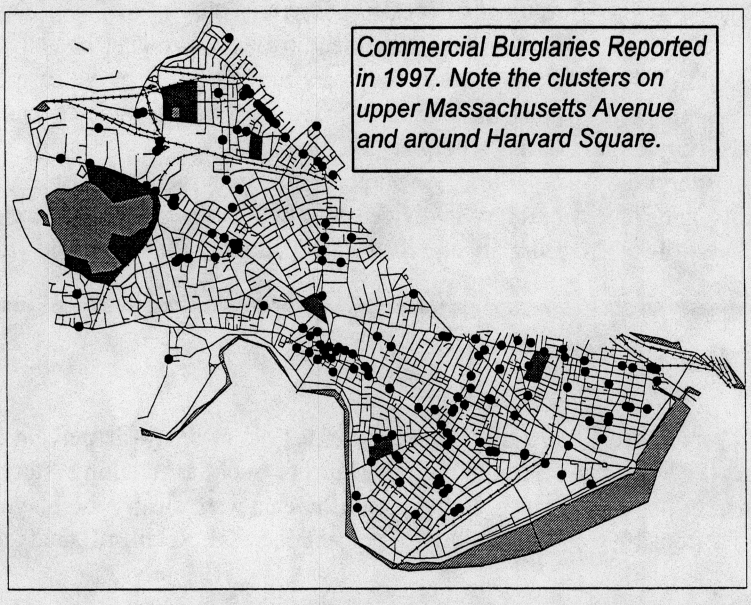
The Alewife/West Cambridge district was close behind North Cambridge this year, with at least one pattern on Concord Avenue. The Kendall Square/MIT district showed the lowest number of commercial burglaries, though this statistic does not include burglaries on MIT property.

Another 24 percent of 1997's commercial burglaries occurred at business offices such as research centers, architectural firms, real estate offices, accounting firms, and corporation headquarters. The thieves targeted laptop computers, fax machines, and other expensive office equipment. Burglars hit bars and restaurants in numbers similar to last year, hoping for a share of the day's profits. Schools across the city reported 15 burglaries, and churches showed 10. Construction sites weighed in at 14 burglaries.

TYPE	1996	1997
Retail Establishments	70	50
Business Offices	38	45
Bar/Restaurant	27	24
School	11	15
Industrial/Construction	10	14
Church	17	10
Hair/Beauty	9	10
Auto Sales/Service	7	6
Storage/Warehouse	9	5
Government Building	7	4
Other	16	7

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF COMMERCIAL BURGLARIES

AREA	1995	1996	1997	CHANGE 96–97	% OF TOTAL
East Cambridge/Galleria	22	27	19	-29.6%	10.0%
Kendall Square/M.I.T.	17	13	6	-53.8%	3.2%
Inman Square/Harrington	28	12	19	+58.3%	10.0%
Central Square	28	22	15	-31.8%	7.9%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	35	28	20	-28.6%	10.5%
Bay Square/Upper Broadway	11	7	7	NC	3.7%
Harvard Square	27	21	23	+9.5%	12.1%
Massachusetts Avenue 1500–1900	14	14	10	-28.6%	5.3%
Porter Square/North Cambridge	37	46	36	-21.7%	18.9%
Alewife/West Cambridge	36	31	35	+12.9%	18.4%



Commercial Burglaries Reported in 1997. Note the clusters on upper Massachusetts Avenue and around Harvard Square.

Preventing Commercial Burglary

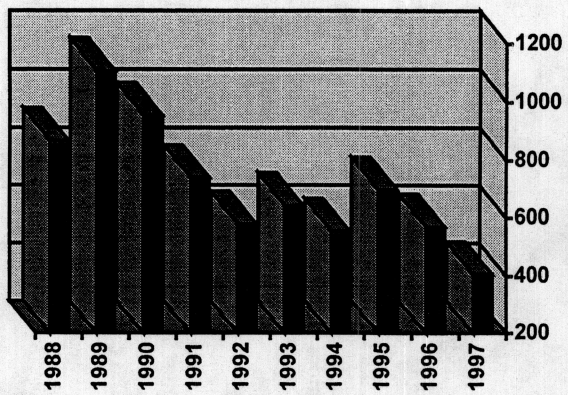
- Light all entrances, include alleys, with vandal-proof fixtures. Leave lights on inside the establishment overnight and on weekends.
- Glass doors should be made from burglar-resistant glass and should be well-lit.
- Keep weeds, shrubbery, and debris away from doors and windows. Lock up tools and ladders that could invite a break or make a burglar's job easier.
- Install an alarm system, check it regularly, and investigate reasons behind any false alarms. Post a conspicuous notice that you have an alarm system.
- Leave empty cash drawers open after hours. Use a burglar-resistant safe; don't trust a fire safe to keep burglars out.

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

Residential burglaries, or "housebreaks," have declined 29 percent in the past year and 42 percent since 1995. The crime has never been lower in Cambridge. The traditional summertime burglary pattern, which was once responsible for 200 to 300 breaks a year, has completely disappeared.

Housebreaks are evenly spread throughout the months of the year, and are concentrated in densely packed residential neighborhoods. Generally, the exact time of a residential burglary is unknown; the resident comes home from work or wakes up in the morning to find evidence of the burglary. Of the breaks in which the time of commission could be narrowed down to within eight hours, 60 percent occurred between 8:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.; with the highest concentration between 8:00 A.M.. and noon. Wednesdays and Thursdays were the most concentrated days of the week.

Residential Burglary, 1988-1997



GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

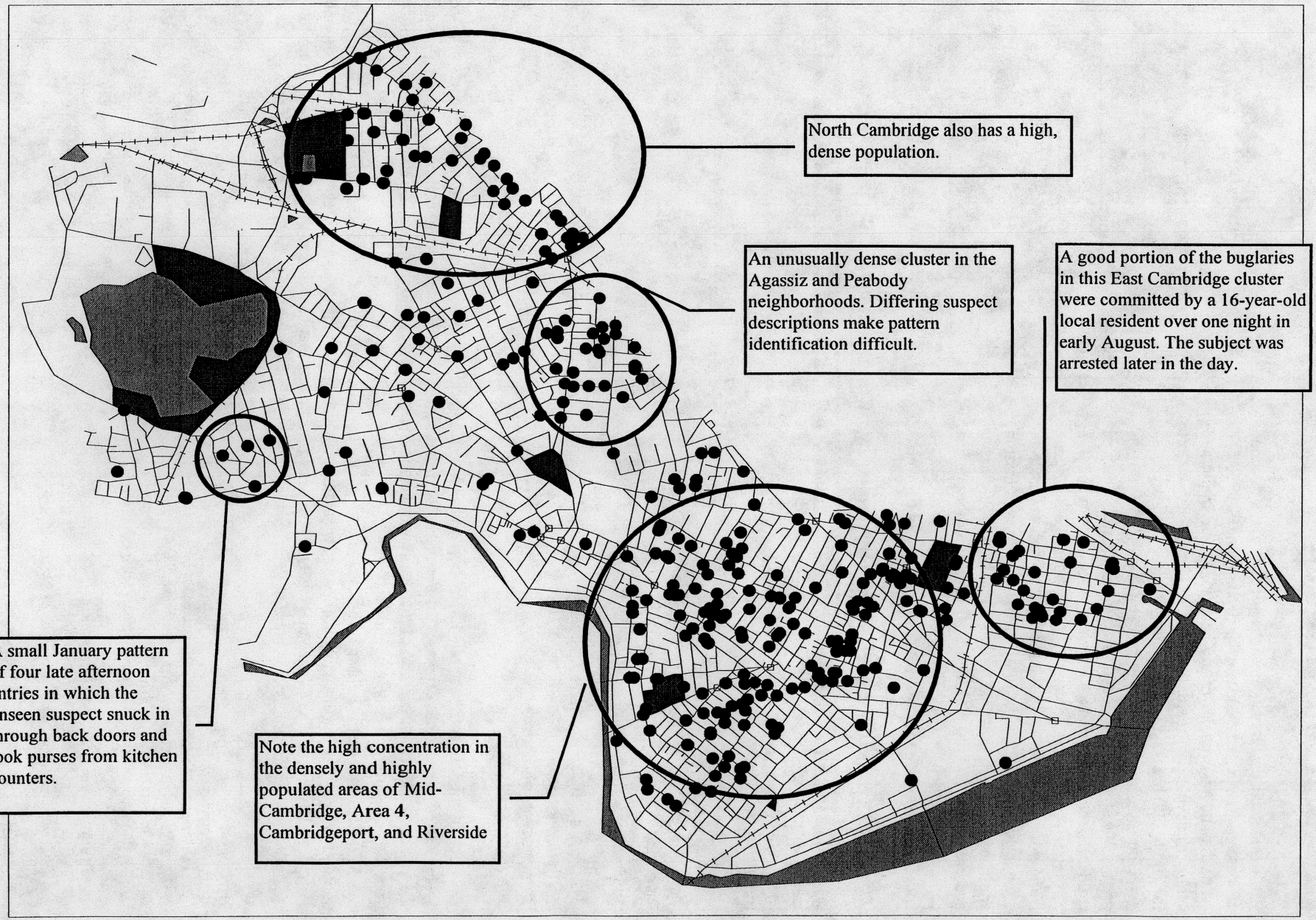
AREA	1995	1996	1997	CHANGE 96–97	% OF TOTAL
East Cambridge	47	39	34	-12.8%	8.4%
M.I.T. Area	5	2	2	NC	0.5%
Inman/Harrington	54	36	27	-25.0%	6.7%
Area 4	106	78	37	-52.6%	9.1%
Cambridgeport	69	68	55	-19.1%	13.5%
Mid-Cambridge	162	126	65	-48.4%	16.0%
Riverside	55	52	35	-32.7%	8.6%
Agassiz	29	25	30	+20.0%	7.4%
Peabody	51	36	35	-2.8%	8.6%
West Cambridge	33	30	24	-20.0%	5.9%
North Cambridge	74	71	55	-22.5%	13.5%
Cambridge Highlands	3	0	0	NC	0.0%
Strawberry Hill	10	9	7	-22.2%	1.7%

Each of the four most saturated neighborhoods—Mid-Cambridge, North Cambridge, Cambridgeport, and Area 4—registered significant decreases in residential burglary in 1997. All other neighborhoods, except Agassiz, showed decreases or, in the case of the two lowest neighborhoods, showed no change. The entire city is benefiting from the large drop in residential burglary.

Mid-Cambridge still held the highest number of residential burglaries—due to its high population and high population density—but the neighborhood saw its total cut nearly in half. Adjacent Area 4's burglaries dropped *more* than 50 percent. The Crime Analysis Unit identifies four factors that have led to these incredible all-time lows: the extinction of the professional burglar, gentrification, and the judicious use of police preventive patrols.

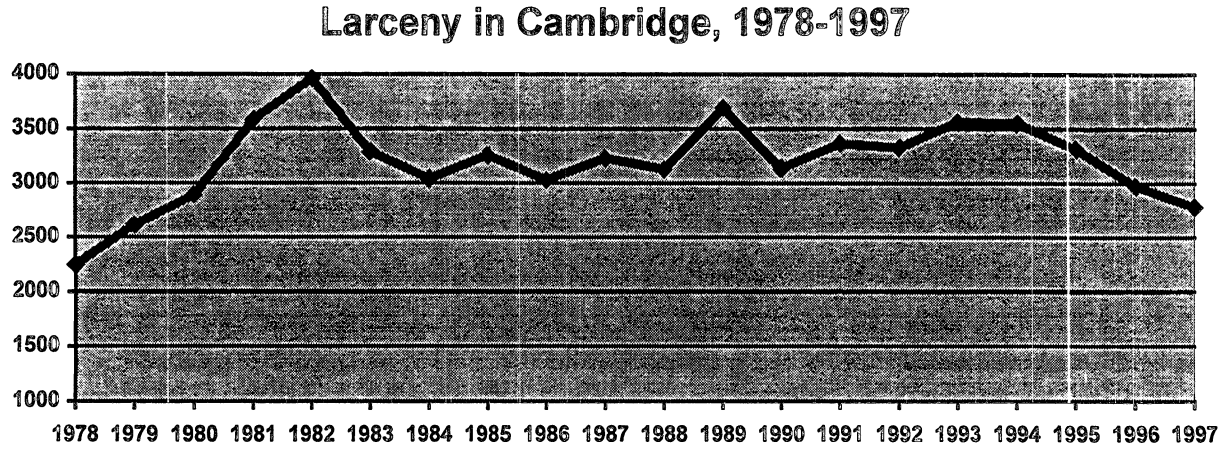
Preventing Housebreaks

- Try "casing" your own home, at night and during the day. Attempt to gain access to your home when the doors and windows are locked and "secure." Make sure you have some identification on you in case your neighbors call the police.
- Doors should be made from strong wood or metal and should be locked with a deadbolt. Install guards on windows that prevent them from being raised more than a few inches.
- If you live in an apartment building that has a main entryway, make sure that security is enforced at the main door. Never prop open the door or let someone in behind you. Report residents who do this to your landlord.
- When you go away, even for the evening, leave a light or two on (perhaps on a timer) as well as the television or radio.
- Keep a small amount of cash on a table near your main door. If the money is gone when you come home, you will know immediately that someone has been in your residence.


North Cambridge also has a high, dense population.
An unusually dense cluster in the Agassiz and Peabody neighborhoods. Differing suspect descriptions make pattern identification difficult.
A good portion of the buglaries in this East Cambridge cluster were committed by a 16-year-old local resident over one night in early August. The subject was arrested later in the day.
A small January pattern of four late afternoon entries in which the unseen suspect snuck in through back doors and took purses from kitchen counters.
Note the high concentration in the densely and highly populated areas of Mid-Cambridge, Area 4, Cambridgeport, and Riverside

LARCENY

Larceny *is the unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession of another. It includes crimes such as shoplifting, pocket-picking, thefts from motor vehicles, thefts of auto parts and accessories, horse thefts, and bicycle thefts, in which no use of force, violence, fraud, or trespass occurs. In the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, this crime category does not include embezzlement, "con" games, forgery, and worthless checks. Motor vehicle theft is also excluded from this category, as it is a separate crime index offense.*



2973 reported in 1996 • 2779 reported in 1997 • Down 6.5%

Larceny is the most common "Index" or "Part I" crime, accounting for just over 60 percent of the serious crime total. Larceny is one of the few Index Crimes to show no clear long-term trend. Perhaps as many of 50 percent of all larcenies committed are never reported to the police, making analysis of this crime difficult.

Categorization*	1996	1997	% Change
Larcenies from Buildings	613	555	-9.5%
Larcenies from MV	698	619	-11.3%
Larcenies of Bicycles	470	449	-4.5%
Larcenies from Persons	375	281	-25.1%
Shoplifting	338	419	+24.0%
Larcenies of Services	26	31	+19.2%
Larcenies from Residences	249	231	-7.2%
Larcenies of License Plates	194	172	-11.3%
Other (Unclassifiable) Larcenies	10	22	+120.0%

**In previous years, Larcenies from Residences were counted with Larcenies from Buildings (and some were categorized as Other Larcenies. Larcenies of License Plates and Larcenies of Services were both categorized as Other Larcenies. Readers with copies of the 1996 Annual Report will note a discrepancy in the larceny figures above (and in the Business District section), as the 1996 data was re-classified, for this report, to follow the new categorization scheme. The 1996 larceny total (2973), of course, was not affected by the new categorization scheme.*

Six of the nine categories of larceny registered decreases when compared to 1996. Shoplifting, which rose by 81 incidents (24 percent) was the only major larceny category to show an increase.

LARCENY 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.

The 556 larcenies from buildings reported in 1997 equal about 60 percent of the totals reported at the beginning of the decade.

The following are the most common Larceny from Buildings scenarios:

1. Someone walks into an office building at opening, closing, or lunch time, when people are moving around and strangers are less conspicuous. Often, the suspect poses as a maintenance, repair, or delivery person. The offender grabs some office property and walks out of the building, usually with no one seeing him. Laptop computers are a favorite target of these thieves. This scenario accounts for 25–30 percent of larceny from building reports.

2. A thief pries open a locker or other depository, usually at a fitness club or school. This accounts for 15 to 20 percent of the larceny from building total.

3. An employee of a commercial establishment leaves his or her personal property in a "back room," behind a counter, or in a desk, where he or she thinks it is safe. Later, the property is missing. This accounts for 10 to 15 percent of larceny from building reports.

4. A diner momentarily leaves his or her coat, bag, wallet, cellular phone, or other property unattended. The property is stolen during the diner's absence. This accounts for five to 10 percent of the larceny from building total, but keep in mind that if the property is stolen while the diner is present, the theft is categorized as a Larceny from a Person.

5. Five to 10 percent of larceny from building reports involve "forgotten" property. Someone leaves a wallet on a store counter, a purse in the restroom, a bag in a classroom, or a jacket in a bar. Generally, the victim notices his or her error within an hour, returns, and finds the property gone.

6. Other scenarios, making up less than seven percent, involve tools stolen from construction sites, unattended property stolen while shopping or during recreation, and thefts of a day's deposits committed by store employees (but not embezzlement, which is categorized under "Fraud")

Preventing Larcenies from Buildings

- Office buildings should develop a comprehensive security policy involving all employees. The policy should include a prohibition against leaving expensive equipment—particularly laptop computers—unattended. Employees should be encouraged to question suspicious or unfamiliar people, or to report them to the security department.
- Don't leave expensive personal property in health club lockers. A better solution is a "fanny pack" or other strap-on carrier that you can keep with you at all times.
- Retail establishments should provide individual lockers, with locks, for employee property. Leaving it behind the counter or in a "back room" is an invitation for theft.
- Take extreme care of your personal property while shopping and dining. Keep it in sight, and never leave it unattended, not even for a minute.
- Report all thefts, no matter how minor, to the police department. Greater reporting will allow us to identify and attack patterns and series of crime.

Historically, larceny from buildings has been the major crime in Kendall Square and Harvard Square, but it has declined about 50 percent in each district since the early 1990s. Increased security and employee awareness have had a major impact in curtailing this type of theft. The current "hot spots" are in East Cambridge. At the Galleria, the theft of shoppers' items at the Food Court, theft of employee property from "back rooms" of stores, and theft committed by store employees is becoming a serious problem. In the rest of the neighborhood, laptop computers and other expensive office equipment are disappearing at an alarming rate, and theft of personal property from health club lockers is becoming a more serious problem.

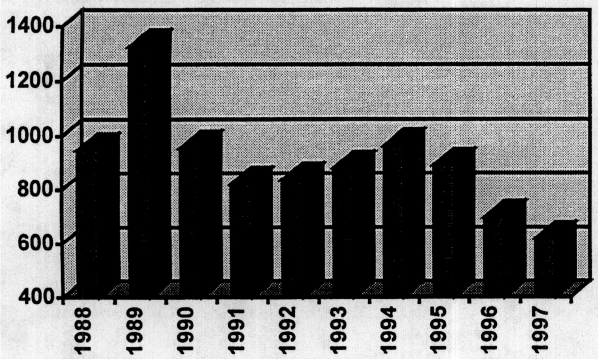
GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF LARCENIES FROM BUILDINGS

AREA	1996	1997	CHANGE
Galleria/East Cambridge	107	119	+11.2%
Kendall Square/MIT	69	45	-34.8%
Inman Square	39	24	-38.5%
Central Square	73	64	-12.3%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	52	38	-26.9%
Bay Square/Upper Broadway	36	32	-11.1%
Harvard Square	89	104	+16.9%
1500–1900 Mass. Ave.	20	17	-15.0%
Porter Square	58	54	-6.9%
Alewife/West Cambridge	70	58	-17.1

LARCENY FROM MOTOR VEHICLES

Larcenies from Motor Vehicles involve an offender either breaking into a car and stealing valuables within or stealing an exterior accessory (such as tires and hubcaps) from an automobile.

Larceny from Motor Vehicles, 1988-1997



In 1997, thirty percent of all larcenies from motor vehicles involved car accessories, such as hubcaps, tires, car stereos, mirrors, and seat backs. The other 70 percent were thefts of non-accessories such as gym bags, wallets, cash, personal papers, eyeglasses, and cellular telephones. Seventy percent of the stolen "accessories" were car radios and stereos ripped from the dashboard. Of the "non-accessories," the most stolen items were cellular telephones. One hundred and fifty-eight cellular phones were stolen from cars in 1997, accounting for 36 percent of the "non-accessory" thefts and 26 percent of the total thefts.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF LARCENIES FROM MOTOR VEHICLES

NEIGHBORHOOD	1996	1997	CHANGE
East Cambridge	101	120	+18.8%
MIT	34	21	-38.2%
Inman/Harrington	45	31	-31.1%
Area 4	49	64	+30.6%
Cambridgeport	60	84	+40.0%
Mid-Cambridge	134	52	-61.2%
Riverside	32	35	+9.4%
Agassiz	42	20	-52.4%
Peabody	54	40	-25.9%
West Cambridge	71	60	-15.5%
North Cambridge	53	63	+18.9%
Cambridge Highlands	13	19	+46.2%
Strawberry Hill	10	9	-10.0%

About 80 percent of larcenies from motor vehicles are accomplished by breaking into the car—usually by smashing a window or by prying a lock.

Throughout 1996, the Cambridge Police Department assigned a high priority to the early interdiction of larceny from motor vehicles patterns. The result was a 22 percent drop in larcenies from motor vehicles citywide, particularly heavy in saturated areas of Kendall Square and MIT.

In 1997, the Cambridge Police Department took its focus away from these two neighborhoods and concentrated on the high-theft blocks of Harvard Street and Broadway in Mid-Cambridge. This interdiction apparently paid off, with a decline of 61 percent in this neighborhood.

This year, East Cambridge and Cambridgeport reported the highest number of thefts. Both neighborhoods increased from last year. East Cambridge has remained a "hot spot"—reporting between 100 and 150 theft each year—since the neighborhood experienced rapid commercial growth at the beginning of the decade. Each commercial parking lot and garage in the neighborhood reports dozens of thefts each year, including two patterns in 1997. The overriding factor in Cambridgeport, like Mid-Cambridge before 1997, is a high residential population whose cars, parked overnight on the street, provide tempting targets. The Crime Analysis Unit tracked at least two patterns through this neighborhood in 1997.

Larcenies of License Plates

A crime related to Larcenies from Motor Vehicles is the self-explanatory Larcenies of License Plates, which decreased 11 percent between 1996 and 1997. Stolen plates are often used to replace license plates on stolen automobiles of the same make and model, or to give a plate to an unregistered motor vehicle. Since the theft of a license plate is often unnoticed and unreported for several weeks, the thief's stolen or unregistered car is somewhat protected from detection during that time.

Preventing Larcenies from Motor Vehicles

The best and really only way to prevent larcenies from motor vehicles is never to leave valuables in your car unattended—particularly electronic goods such as cellular telephones and laptop computers. Preventing the theft of car radios is more difficult; some car stereo manufacturers make detachable face plates or stereos that pull easily from the dashboard, allowing you to take it with you or lock it in the trunk.

Parking your car in a driveway or lot rather than on the street provides some minimal deterrent.

LARCENY OF BICYCLES

For the third consecutive year, larceny of bicycles declined in Cambridge; the five percent decline for 1997 follows a eight percent decline in 1996 and a 13 percent drop in 1995. Hopefully, this trend will continue. Between 1989 and 1994, bicycle theft exhibited a sharp ascent, soaring from an average of 270 per year in the 1980s to 575 in 1993. The recent declines reflect, perhaps, the increased publicity given to this crime, the greater availability of bicycle racks, and a crime-prevention conscious public. (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.)

The higher average numbers in the 1990s bespeak the increasing "professionalization" of bicycle theft. The Cambridge Police Department has, on several occasions, arrested teams of thieves working out of vans, stealing four to eight bicycles a night. Like automobile parts, bicycle parts have proven profitable for fencing. Consequently, bicycle "chop shops" operate out of home garages the way automobile "chop shops" operated out of repair and service garages in the 1970s and 1980s.

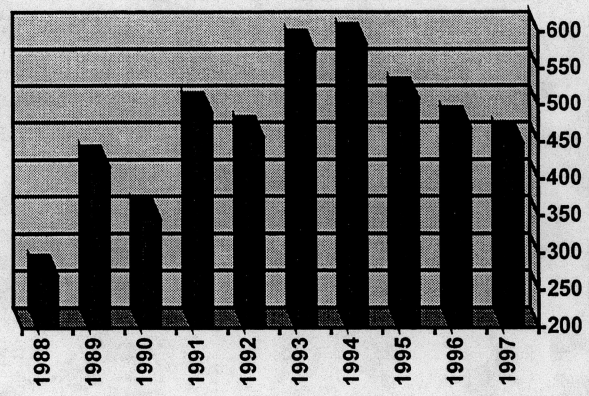
GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF BICYCLE THEFT

AREA	1997
Galleria/East Cambridge	27
Kendall Square/MIT	18
Inman Square/Harrington	42
Central Square	39
Cambridgeport/Riverside	47
Bay Square/Upper Broadway	60
Harvard Square	72
1500–1900 Mass. Ave.	40
Porter Square/North Cambridge	68
Alewife/West Cambridge	36

About 80 percent of bicycle thefts fall between May and September, when bicycles pack the streets and sidewalks. August traditionally holds the most thefts. They occur most often between 2:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. The police arrest suspects in a scant two or three percent of the incidents; generally, the thief goes unseen. Locks present little difficulty to bicycle thieves, who often bring bolt cutters or pry bars with them; over half of all stolen bicycles had locks on them at the time of theft.

Bicycle theft remains densest in the Harvard Square area, including Brattle, Eliot, Winthrop, Church, Dunster, JFK, and Bennett Streets, where pedestrians often find it difficult not to trip over the masses of bicycles parked there during the summer. By far, this area holds the highest concentration. Other significant clusters appear around the CambridgeSide Galleria, MIT, Porter Square, Central Square, Cambridge Rindge & Latin High School, and Kendall Square, along lower Massachusetts Avenue, and around the other various schools in the city.

Bicycle Larceny, 1988-1997



One trend that the Crime Analysis Unit will continue to monitor is the increase in the theft of bicycles from porches, yards, hallways, and garages in residential areas all over the city.

The Cambridge Police Department recovers an average of around 75 bicycles each year. Of the recovered bicycles, the department can trace only three to five percent back to their original owners via serial number. The department sponsors an annual program which disposes of the remainder by giving them to school children.

Preventing Bicycle Theft

The facts are grim: *no* lock will stop a determined bicycle thief. However, using a lock is better than not using a lock, and you can maximize the protection a lock provides by:

- Using a steel "U" lock rather than a cable lock
- Locking the *frame* of the bicycle rather than the tire
- Locking your bike at a bicycle rack

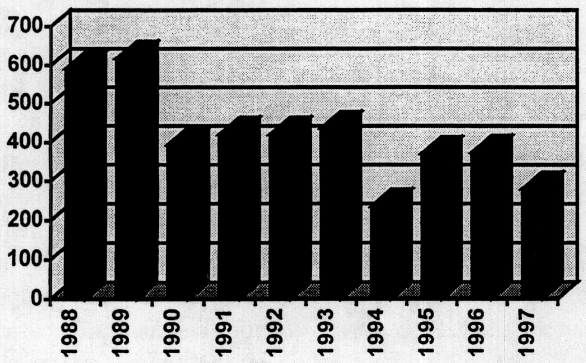
Register your bicycle with the Cambridge Police Department. If your bike is stolen and recovered, it will be easier to find you and return your bicycle. Registration cards are available at the Cambridge Police Department and at bicycle shops across the city. Call 349-3236 for more information.

Removing an essential part of the bicycle, such as the seat or one of the wheels, and taking it with you provides some protection against theft.

Don't assume your bicycle is safe because it is in your yard, on your porch, or in your apartment hallway. Bikes should be locked in a secured area, such as a garage or shed.

LARCENY FROM THE PERSON

Larceny from the Person, 1988-1997



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 usually the victim is not aware of the theft until after it has occurred. If any confrontation between offender and victim takes place, the crime is recorded as a Robbery.

Larceny from the person fell 25 percent in 1997, continuing a trend of decline that started in 1990.

Most larcenies from the person fall into one of three main scenarios:

1. A diner places his or her jacket over the back of a chair, or places her purse under her chair. Someone sitting behind the victim goes through the coat or purse, taking the valuables within, or takes the coat or purse entirely. This accounts for 40 percent of larcenies from the person. "Hot spots" for this crime include the CambridgeSide Galleria Food Court and the various bars and restaurants around Harvard Square.

2. While the victim is walking through a public place, a pickpocket stealthily reaches into the victim's coat, purse, or backpack and removes valuables. This scenario accounted for about 30 percent of the larceny from the person reports in 1997, but this percentage is ever decreasing. Pocket-picking requires a particular skill that modern criminals are increasingly failing to develop. Harvard Square and Central Square report the highest pocket-picking numbers, with concentrations between noon and 4:00 P.M.

3. A shopper, usually in a supermarket, keeps her purse in her shopping cart. While she is distracted selecting merchandise, someone pilfers the purse from the cart. This accounts for about 10 percent of reported thefts. This type of theft is not localized in any particular area of the city.

SHOPLIFTING

Shoplifting incidents increased 24 percent from 1996. The majority of this rise can be attributed to increased security and arrests at the CambridgeSide Galleria and in Harvard Square (most of them at the Harvard Coop). Arrests in these two business districts make up 73 percent of the shoplifting total. With the loss of Lechmere and its prolific security force, we may expect shoplifting incidents to decline in 1998 at the Galleria.

Shoplifters usually fall into one of four 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 sudden lack of money.

3. **Alcoholics, vagrants, and drug addicts**, who steal erratically and clumsily. When caught, this type of shoplifter is more likely than others to get violent (see "Shop Owner/Patron" assaults in the Assault section).

4. **Kleptomaniacs** who steal to satisfy a psychological need.

5. **Professionals**, who steal expensive items and resell them to fences or "flea markets."

Preventing Shoplifting

- Greet and serve customers promptly. Shoplifters do not want your attention.
- If you suspect someone has "pocketed" merchandise, engage them in conversation for a few minutes. They may "ditch" the merchandise as soon as you leave them alone.
- Sales personnel should have a full view of the sales floor area. Rearrange displays, shelving, and lighting to eliminate blind spots.
- Keep displays neat and tidy.
- Be aware of people wearing loose, baggy clothing, carrying shopping bags or large handbags, or customers under the influence of drugs and alcohol.
- Request a commercial survey from one of the Cambridge Police Department's certified Crime Prevention Officers at 617-349-6009.

Since shoplifting incidents are generally only reported when an arrest is made, an increase in shoplifting may be viewed positively: more thieves are being caught. On the other hand, since the vast majority of shoplifting incidents are unseen and go unknown until the store checks its inventory, underreporting of shoplifting is a serious problem. The actual shoplifting number may be six to ten times the statistic given in this report.

LARCENY FROM RESIDENCES

This year marks the first that the Cambridge Police Department has analyzed Larcenies from Residences—non-burglary thefts from apartments, hallways, garages, and yards. "Non-burglary" means that no force or trespass was involved in the theft: the thefts are committed by people who have the right to be on the property. They include thefts committed by guests, roommates, family members, workers, and home health care providers. They also include thefts committed from common areas of apartment buildings, and thefts committed from property surrounding a house, such as the front yard, walkway, or tool shed. Since larcenies from residences are usually committed by someone who knows the victim, pattern identification and intervention by the police department is difficult. This crime decreased seven percent from 1996.

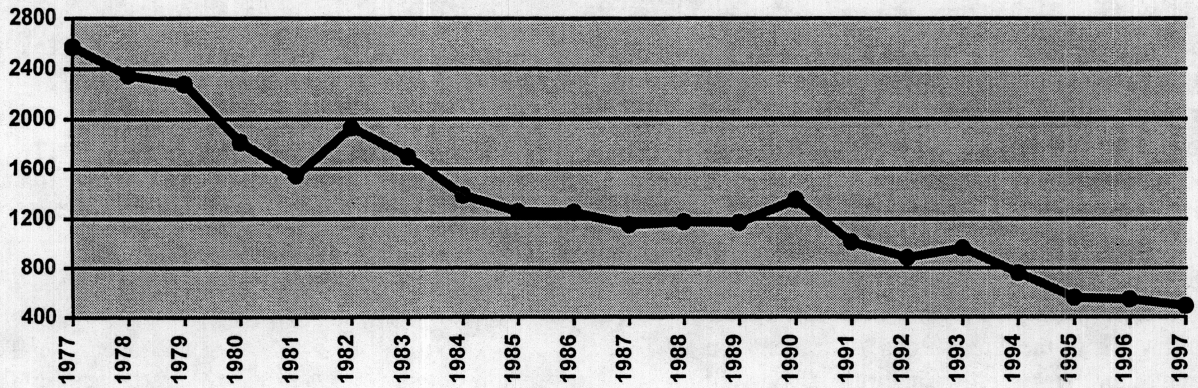
LARCENY OF SERVICES

This crime includes taxi cab 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 1996 and 31 reported in 1997. The majority of these incidents involved cab fare, parking lot, and restaurant check evasions. Larceny of gasoline was also a problem during the summer. The total for this crime is rounded out by a handful of incidents in which owners stole their own automobiles from service garages to avoid paying their repair bills.

AUTO THEFT

Defined as the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle, this offense category includes the theft of automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, motor scooters, and snowmobiles. This definition excludes the taking of a motor vehicle for temporary use by persons having lawful access.

Auto Theft in Cambridge, 1978 to 1997



544 reported in 1996 • 483 reported in 1997 • Down 11.2%

Considered the most serious common larceny, auto theft has been on a steady decline in Cambridge since the mid-1970s. Statistics for auto theft are considered highly reliable because almost all of the thefts are reported.

In 1997, Cambridge experienced 483 incidents of auto theft—443 thefts and 40 attempted thefts. This represents an 11 percent decline from 1996's total. The 1997 auto theft index is the lowest in over 35 years—less than a tenth of what it was in 1974, when we had over 5,000 thefts. Each year, we expect that it has reached the lowest point possible, and each year it surprises us by decreasing even further.

The Governor's Auto Theft Task Force and the Cambridge Police Department's own preventive patrol efforts can be partially credited for this dramatic decrease. Crackdowns on "chop shops" and insurance fraud are also significant factors, as are recent advances in automobile security

.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF AUTO THEFT

AREA	1995	1996	1997	CHANGE 96–97	% OF TOTAL
East Cambridge	73	76	86	+13.2%	17.8%
M.I.T. Area	40	24	43	+79.2%	8.9%
Inman/Harrington	45	47	16	-66.0%	3.3%
Area 4	63	54	47	-13.0%	9.7%
Cambridgeport	104	78	92	+17.9%	19.0%
Mid-Cambridge	55	70	29	-58.6%	6.0%
Riverside	35	24	24	NC	5.0%
Agassiz	12	24	8	-66.7%	1.7%
Peabody	19	43	31	-27.9%	6.4%
West Cambridge	23	26	24	-7.7%	5.0%
North Cambridge	69	62	61	-1.6%	12.6%
Cambridge Highlands	15	11	16	+45.4%	3.3%
Strawberry Hill	5	5	6	+20.0%	1.2%

East Cambridge and Cambridgeport traditionally report the highest number of auto thefts. Both experienced increases in 1997, with several patterns identified in each neighborhood. East Cambridge's auto theft problem stems from its high commercial and business traffic—both at the CambridgeSide Galleria and at Cambridge Center. The parking lots around these areas fill during the day and make attractive targets for auto thieves. Consequently, most of the thefts occur between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

Cambridgeport's high auto theft rate can be attributed both to its high residential population and to its proximity to the MIT Area. In 1997, MIT Area auto thefts rose almost 80 percent, with almost all of them concentrated on lower Vassar Street—right on the Cambridgeport border. This Vassar Street "hot spot" crossed the Cambridgeport/MIT border and hit streets such as Waverly Street and Sidney Street. Definite patterns emerged in the Spring and Fall. The Cambridge Police Department saturated this area with patrol in October, leading to a decline in the final two months of the year. The area remains a "hot spot," with thieves targeting cars parked overnight and on weekends.

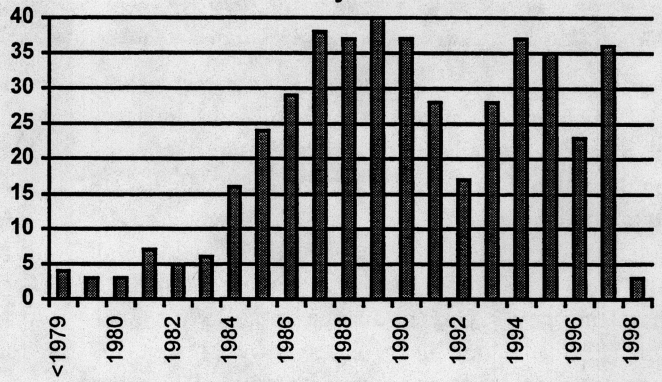
Other "hot spots" appear, quite logically, where large numbers of automobiles are parked for a long period of time. These include the parking lot at the Fresh Pond Apartments on Rindge Avenue (North Cambridge), Harvard Square, Central Square, Porter Square, and the Fresh Pond Mall (Cambridge Highlands).

Top Ten Makes & Models Stolen

Makes		Models	
Toyota	89	Honda Accord*+	56
Honda	79	Toyota Camry*+	26
Ford	33	Toyota Corolla*+	24
Chevrolet	30	Honda Civic*+	13
Dodge	22	Jeep Cherokee	11
Jeep	21	Toyota Celica+	10
Volkswagen	20	Nissan Sentra	9
Nissan	17	VW Jetta+	7
Acura	17	Acura Integra+	7
Buick	13	Ford Escort	6

*Also in the National Top Ten
+Also in the Massachusetts Top Ten

Cars Stolen by Model Year



The makes and models of automobiles stolen have remained fairly consistent over the past several years: Toyotas and Hondas account for about 35 percent of the total number of vehicles stolen. The Honda Accord was the most targeted model, followed by the Toyota Camry, the Toyota Corolla, and the Honda Civic. For the past several years, these models have always been in the top four. The fact that these particular models are stolen more than any other is a function of several factors. First, these cars are some of the most commonly *owned* models in the nation, making them more widely available. Statistical probability would place them at the top of the theft list. Second, car thieves tend to look for average-cost, commonly-owned, inconspicuous cars. High-priced luxury cars are not stolen very often because they are too easy for someone to spot.

Analysis of theft by model year works the same way. Highest in demand are cars that are eight to nine years old. Thieves looking for transportation steal these cars because they are inconspicuous. Thieves looking to make a profit target these years because parts for these cars are in higher demand. The second peak, with 1994–1997 cars, represents "joyriders," looking for newer models to increase their sense of status, and thieves intending to sell the entire car for profit.

Auto Theft Across the Nation & Region

According to FBI data, about 1.4 million cars were stolen in 1996*, down 5 percent from 1995 and 17 percent from 1992. The FBI reports that, nationally, 68 percent of stolen motor vehicles were recovered in 1996. Cambridge averages an 80 percent recovery rate.

Over the past year, the FBI and the National Insurance Crime Bureau tracked a new trend in auto theft: newer model cars stolen and shipped to Europe or the Far East, where American made cars sell quickly and expensively. Rings of thieves belonging to these worldwide organizations were reported in California and Florida. The problem does not seem to have reached the northeast.

When ranked against per capita auto theft in cities across the nation between 90,000 and 105,000 residents, Cambridge falls exactly in the middle. Miami Beach, Florida reports the highest number of thefts (2,152 per 100,000 residents in 1996) and Fort Collins, Colorado reports the lowest (153 per 100,000 residents in 1996).

Among Massachusetts cities between 50,000 and 100,000 residents, when looking at per capita auto theft statistics in 1996, Cambridge falls just below the median. Cambridge showed 568 thefts per 100,000 residents, and the average was 745 per 100,000. Towns with the highest rate were Lawrence (2,781), Lynn (1,612), Brockton (1,249), and Lowell (1,001). Towns in this population range reporting the lowest number of per capita thefts were Chicopee (47), Framingham (123), Newton (185), and Waltham (219).

**1997 statistics are not yet available for the nation.*

Auto Theft Recoveries

As of this report, 385, or 87 percent, of the 443 automobiles stolen in 1997 have been recovered. Sixty-six percent of the recoveries were made within a day of the original theft; 83 percent were made within four days of the theft. Boston contributed the most (208) recoveries, followed by Cambridge and Somerville.

Most recovered vehicles show damage to one of the doors and to the ignition or steering column. About half of the recovered vehicles have items missing, such as the stereo, a car phone, or other items left in the car. About 15 percent are completely stripped and are often burned.

Arrests were made during only six percent of the recoveries of cars stolen from Cambridge, in all cities and towns. The Cambridge Police Department made 17 arrests for "Receiving a Stolen Motor Vehicle" in 1997; most of these cars were stolen in other cities and towns. In total, the Cambridge Police Department recovered 192 cars in 1997: 90 stolen in Cambridge and 102 stolen in other towns.

The table below shows the number of vehicles stolen in Cambridge and recovered in each city or town that reported at least three recoveries. For Cambridge and its neighborhoods, the number in parentheses shows how many *total* vehicles were recovered, including those originally stolen in a city or town other than Cambridge.

Boston	**208**
East Boston	1
Charlestown	3
Downtown/Beacon Hill	9
Allston/Brighton	17
Back Bay/Fenway	5
South Boston	5
Roxbury	38
Dorchester	79
Mattapan	18
West Roxbury/Jamaica Plain	17
Hyde Park	6
Unknown	10
Cambridge	**90 (192)**
East Cambridge	6 (38)
MIT Area	8 (22)
Inman/Harrington	3 (6)
Area 4	14 (16)
Cambridgeport	15 (19)
Mid-Cambridge	3 (4)
Riverside	8 (10)
Agassiz	1 (3)
Peabody	5 (5)
West Cambridge	6 (13)
North Cambridge	10 (17)
Cambridge Highlands	5 (31)
Strawberry Hill	2 (3)
Unknown	4 (5)
Chelsea	5
Lowell	3
Malden	3
Revere	3
Somerville	16

15 recoveries were made out of state, including six in New York.

Preventing Auto Theft

Door locks and ignition keys are called "first layer" anti-theft devices. Of couse, every vehicle has them. They offer no deterrent to a determined thief: 78 percent of automobiles stolen in Cambridge are locked at the time of the theft, and 91 percent do not have a key in the ignition. Learning how to pop a door lock and force an ignition is part of "Auto Theft 101."

"Second layer" anti-theft devices provide the most protection for your dollar. These include:

- Steering wheel locks: metal bars designed to prevent the steering wheel from turning. They do their job, and provide an excellent visual deterrent. According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, steering wheel locks decrease the chances of theft by a factor of four.
- Steering column collars: steel collars that fit around the steering wheel and prevent a thief from cracking open the ignition. They offer the same benefits as a steering wheel lock.
- Audible alarms: triggered by motion or impact sensors. Thieves aren't likely to stick around when they go off.
- Theft deterrent decals: an inexpensive way to bluff a thief into thinking that your vehicle is protected by an alarm or another device.

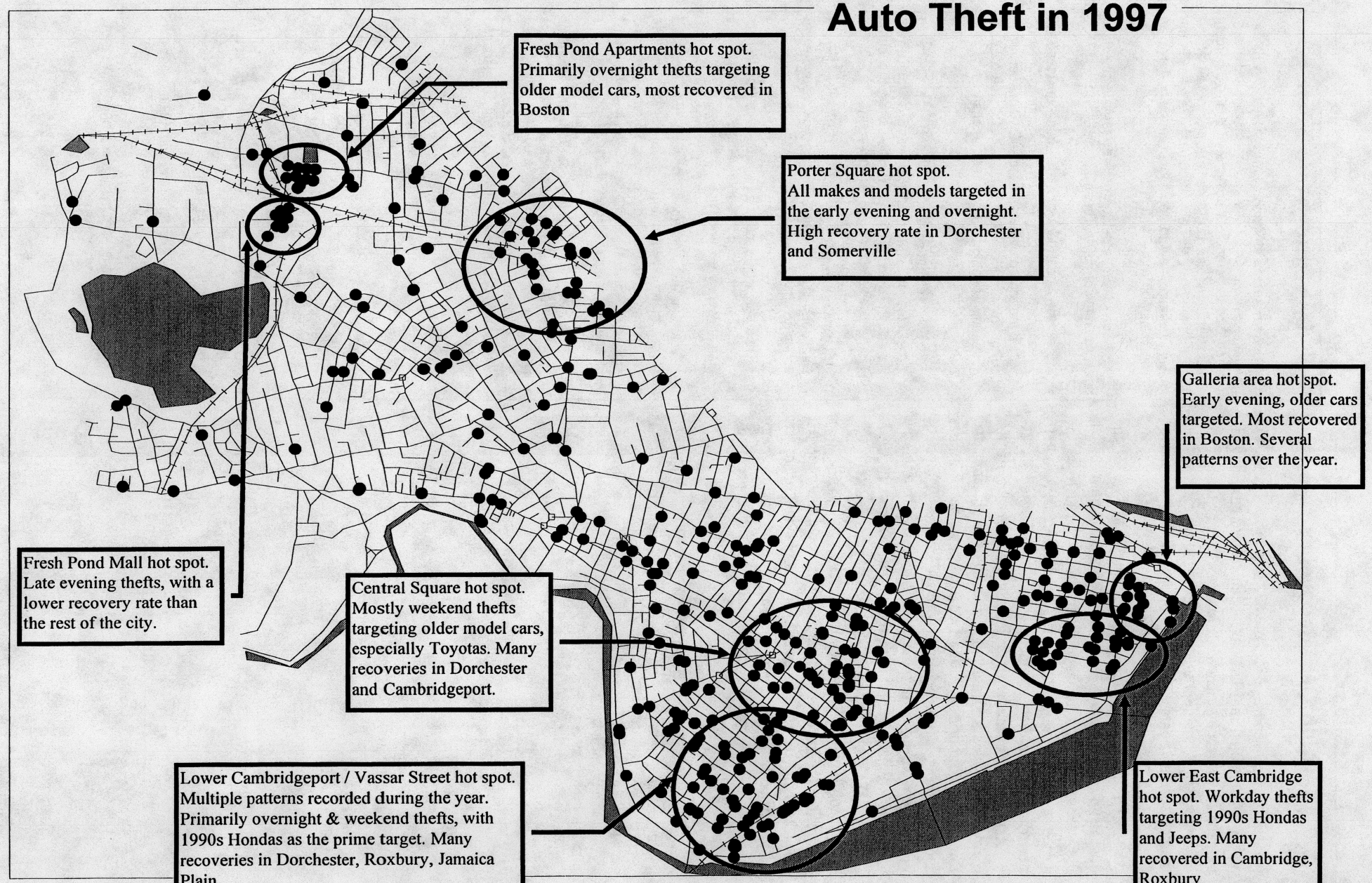
"Third layer" anti-theft devices include "kill switches" that prevent the flow of electricity to the engine unless a special, hidden switch is activated; and "smart keys," which are computer-coded keys that must be inserted before the vehicle will start.

Finally, "fourth layer" theft devices are electronic transmitters that allow police to track a vehicle after it is stolen. While not very effective in preventing the original theft, these devices increase chance of recovery. By the time the car is recovered, of course, it may be stripped or burned.

Other than theft devices, there are several precautions that can be taken to decrease the chances that you will become a victim of auto theft.

- Engrave the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) of your car on the car's front and rear windshields (on an edge), and on key engine parts. This will make it difficult for a thief to resell the vehicle or its parts.
- Parking in a driveway or parking garage offers some deterrent to theft. If you have a garage at home, parking your car in the garage and locking it greatly decreases your chances of overnight theft.
- If you must park on the street at night, try to park under a street light or otherwise in a well-lit area.
- When parking at shopping malls or motels, try to park near the entrance.

Auto Theft in 1997



PART II CRIMES

- Narcotics Arrests
- Fraud
- Malicious Destruction

NARCOTICS

Narcotics *includes all incidents in which the police made an arrest, complaint, or warrant for the possession or distribution of illegal narcotics. Narcotics statistics* do not *include all instances of narcotics use or distribution; they only reflect those cases that are known to the police.*

The Cambridge Police Department's Special Investigations Unit is continually initiating investigations involving drugs and vice activity within the City of Cambridge. They have adopted strategic planning methods to help alleviate the pressures bestowed upon society by the culture of drug abuse and addiction. The goal of the unit is to target street level dealers to get to the suppliers, and to fight the problem at its root level: in the street, where the public is most exposed and affected.

Concerns of residents in Area 4 and Riverside dominated the drug scene in 1997. Multiple reports of outdoor drug dealing along Washington Street in Area 4 and Western Avenue and River Street in Riverside led to greatly increased police patrol in theses areas, including targeted (and ongoing) investigations by the Special Investigations Unit. Area 4's total drug arrests remained high, and arrests in Riverside increased two-fold.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF DRUG ARRESTS

AREA	1996	1997	CHANGE	% OF TOTAL
East Cambridge	9	15	+66.7%	8.6%
M.I.T. Area	1	5	+400.0%	2.9%
Inman/Harrington	23	9	-60.9%	5.1%
Area 4	76	49	-35.5%	28.0%
Cambridgeport	21	25	+19.0%	14.3%
Mid-Cambridge	14	16	+14.3%	9.1%
Riverside	15	32	+113.3%	18.3%
Agassiz	1	2	+100.0%	1.1%
Peabody	5	5	NC	2.9%
West Cambridge	6	4	-33.3%	2.3%
North Cambridge	17	13	-23.5%	7.4%
Cambridge Highlands	2	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Strawberry Hill	1	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Total	**191**	**175**	**-8.4%**	

When evaluating statistics for drug arrests, it is important to keep in mind that the numbers reflect only arrests or complaints, and do not include all incidents of drug use in a particular area. It is relatively impossible to discern how many times an individual uses or possesses narcotics during any given time period. The Cambridge Police Department can only report incidents that are know to the police—incidents in which a Cambridge police officer makes an arrest. Therefore, an increase in the number of drug arrests in a particular area should not necessarily be viewed negatively.

DRUG ARREST SCENARIOS

There are several means by which a drug arrest develops. Eight different scenarios played a role in drug arrests during 1997:

1. The Cambridge Police Special Investigations Unit initiates an investigation, resulting in an arrest, based on information from an informant or from the observations of Unit members: **73 cases**

2. An arrest for another crime, such as disorderly conduct, becomes a drug arrest when the arresting or booking officer finds narcotics on the arrested person: **27 cases** (since this scenario sometimes occurs at the Cambridge

Police station itself, it can inflate the statistic for Riverside, the neighborhood in which the Cambridge Police Department lies, by about five reports a year)

3. A motor vehicle stop becomes a drug arrest when the officer notices narcotics in the car: **22 cases**

4. A police officer witnesses suspicious activity on the street, conducts an inquiry resulting in a drug arrest: **21 cases**

5. A citizen witnesses a person or persons using drugs and complains to the police; police are able to verify the claim through their own observation: **12 cases**

6. A Cambridge school official seeks a complaint based on evidence found in a school locker or on a student: **10 cases**

7. Someone tries to pass a forged prescription at a pharmacy: **6 case**

8. An individual entering a courthouse is found by the court officers to have narcotics in his or her possession: **4 cases.**



The Special Investigations Unit is in charge of investigating narcotics crime in the city, but the Community Relations Section is in charge of trying to prevent narcotics use in the most at-risk population in the city: children entering adolescence.

Two D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) officers teach a 17-week D.A.R.E. curriculum to all sixth-grade students across the city. The program conveys to these children the information needed to make the decisions necessary to make their lives free of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and violence. The D.A.R.E. program emphasizes the development of self-esteem and the consequences of poor choices.

By re-enforcing the lessons learned in the D.A.R.E. program, parents can work with the police to keep their children's lives free of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and violence. For more information, call the Community Relations Section at 349-3236.

CATEGORICAL BREAKDOWN OF DRUG ARRESTS

TYPE	1996	1997	CHANGE
Sale of Heroin	3	2	-33.3%
Sale of Cocaine	63	30	-52.3%
Sale of Marijuana	15	7	-53.3%
Sale of Other Narcotics	6	2	-66.7%
Possession of Heroin	9	13	+44.4%
Possession of Cocaine	34	44	+29.4%
Possession of Marijuana	53	65	+22.6%
Possession of Other Narcotics	1	3	+200.0%
Possession of a Hypodermic Needle	1	3	+200.0%
Forged Prescriptions	6	6	NC

Drug Tip Hotline

The Special Investigations Unit employs an anonymous Drug Tip Hotline to gain intelligence information from the community. The Unit can be reached by calling 349-3359. Generally, you will be greeted by a taped message instructing you to leave very detailed information. Vital information will include location of incident, any vehicle description, and a description of the person(s) involved. You do not have to provide any personal information and all information is held in the strictest of confidence.

FRAUD

273 reported in 1996 • 308 reported in 1997 • Up 12.8%

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting System does not include fraud, false pretenses, forgery, embezzlement, and confidence games among larceny. 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 qualms with deceiving his victims face-to-face, expects that his victim's embarrassment will deter him or her from reporting the crime to the police.

In 1997, 308 incidents of fraud and forgery were reported to the Cambridge Police, ranging from simple check forgery to elaborate confidence swindles:

CHECK FORGERY (108 incidents). One of two relatively simple scenarios: 1) someone writes a check on a closed account or insufficient funds; 2) a forger manages to acquire some of the victim's checks, generally through purse theft or by intercepting them in the mail. The thief cashes the checks or uses them to buy merchandise. Often, the victim does not learn of the theft until he or she receives his or her next balance statement—by this time, the thief may have depleted the account of thousands of dollars.

CREDIT CARD AND ATM CARD FRAUD (124 incidents): Another simple scenario: a thief steals a credit card or ATM card (or copies the card number) from his victim, then uses it to purchase expensive items or deplete the owner's account. Again, the victim sometimes does not discover the theft until he or she receives a balance statement.

COUNTERFEITING (7 incidents): Counterfeiting is one of the more devious types of fraud. True counterfeiters invest thousands of dollars for counterfeiting equipment to produce near copies of genuine dollar bills. Because of the cost, counterfeited bills are usually of high denomination. The seven incidents this year in Cambridge involved $20, $50, and $100 bills. Very likely, more counterfeit bills were passed that went undetected. The preferred tactic of counterfeiters is to buy a low-

Preventing Fraud

- Banks are swiftly replacing standard ATM Cards with "Check Cards"—credit cards that deduct directly from your checking account. These check cards, while convenient, present a security problem. Thieves no longer need your Personal Identification Number (PIN) to use the card; if a thief uses it like a credit card, he can drain your entire account by just forging your signature on credit card slips. If your ATM Card has a credit card logo (such as Visa or MasterCard) on it, it can be used like a credit card. If you do not want this feature, notify your bank and have them send you an ATM-only card.
- Keep your credit card numbers, and the telephone numbers of your credit card companies, at home and work. If your cards are stolen, call these numbers immediately and report the theft.
- Try to avoid carrying more credit cards than you need at one time.
- Never write your ATM card PIN number on the card or on a slip of paper in your wallet or purse.
- Protect your cards against theft in the first place; see the prevention tips under the "Larceny" section.
- Merchants should implement and enforce a policy of requiring a photographic identification when using a check or credit card.

Learn to recognize potential fraud scenarios. Any of the following activities almost certainly involves a scam:

- Someone approaches you on the street claiming to have found money.
- Any circumstance in which you have to pay money in order to get money.
- Someone comes to your door, without notification, claiming to work for the gas company, electric company, water company, or cable company. Always ask for official identification and call the utility company to make sure the identification is valid. Do not let "utility impostors" into your home.
- You receive an unsolicited telephone call from someone offering a great deal on some piece of merchandise.
- You're notified in the mail that you've won a prize, but you have to pay money in order to claim it.

value item, use the forged bill, and receive genuine change. The crime of counterfeiting is a federal crime and generally falls under the jurisdiction of the United States Secret Service, though the Cambridge Police Department often takes the initial report.

EMBEZZLEMENT (25 incidents): The employee of a company takes advantage of his position for his own financial gain, diverting company funds to himself. The means by which the offender accomplishes the embezzlement varies, depending on the business, from store clerks "skimming" the register to shady company accountants falsifying corporate records.

SCAMS AND CONFIDENCE GAMES (38 incidents): The worst breed of fraud offenders employ "flim-flams" or "con games," which exploit their victims' good will, gullibility, or greed and bilk them for thousands of dollars. We are warned from childhood to beware of offers that are "too good to be true," but our defenses are often overcome by the belief that an offer is "too good to pass up." Three of the major types of scams are listed below.

- ***"The Big Carrot"***: Nine swindles of this type occurred in 1996; five occurred in January and February of 1997, and all of them probably involved the same suspect or group of suspects. The *modus operandi* was virtually identical from incident to incident: the suspect phoned his victim at work, claiming to be the victim's UPS driver, named "Joe" or "Jim." "Joe" made a too-good-to-pass-up offer: his brother or friend worked at Lechmere in Cambridge and could offer the victim a television, computer, or CD-ROM drive at a fantastically low price. Once the victim agreed, the suspect met him at his place of employment and drove with him to the Cambridgeside Galleria. Outside Lechmere, the suspect received the cash from the victim, returned a phony Lechmere receipt, and instructed the victim to wait at the receiving area for the merchandise. The suspect was never seen again. Each victim of this crime was taken for hundreds or thousands of dollars in cash. Their places of employment (where they were contacted by "Joe") ranged from Salem to Harwich. A Somerville resident was arrested for this pattern on February 1, 1997, but several other subjects are presumed to be involved.

- ***The Utility Impostor***: These con-artists visit their victims at home, impersonating employees of the electric company, gas company, or water department. While one perpetrator distracts the victim, the other roams the house and collects valuables; he looks primarily for cash, purses, jewelry, or other items that the owner might not notice missing right away. A pattern that has occurred in Cambridge and Somerville over the last several years involves two middle-aged men claming to be employees of the Water Department. They wear clothing similar to a uniform and sometimes carry false identification and a walkie-talkie. They tell the resident that they need to read a water meter (or check a valve in the basement) and steal valuables as described above. In a often employed variation, the perpetrators will first tell the victim that he or she is due a $20 refund. They ask if he or she has change for a $100 bill, and thereby discover where the victim keeps his or her cash. These scam artists often target elderly women living alone. Utility impostors committed 11 scams in 1997.

- ***"The Pigeon Drop"***: One of the oldest scams in the proverbial book, the pigeon drop is the tool of a fast-talking group of con-artists who prey on the greed and naiveté of their victims. Pigeon drop artists swindled seven Cantabrigians in 1997

  There are several variations of the pigeon drop. In general, the victim is approached on the street by one or two perpetrators and told a story about finding a large sum of money or a winning lottery ticket. The victim is offered a share of the money if they are willing to give the perpetrators a deposit (the swindlers often request money to show the victim's "good faith"). The perpetrators tell a variety of stories about the money and how the victim will get his or her share. After the victim puts up his or her portion of the cash, the hustlers secretly exchange it for worthless paper or steal it outright.

  In one version of this scam, the con-artist claims to have a winning lottery ticket for thousands of dollars. The perpetrator claims to be an illegal immigrant—he or she therefore cannot claim his or her winnings on the ticket. The perpetrator offers the victim half of the winnings if the victim will cash in the ticket—but the victim will have to give the swindler some money in advance as a "security deposit." The victim goes to the nearest convenience store, tries to cash in the ticket, discovers that it is worthless, and then finds that the perpetrator has run off with the victim's money. Other variations involve "found" wallets with no address. Sometimes, the swindlers pretend to seek the advice of a lawyer or a bank before offering to share the money with the victim. Usually, two hustlers will work together, but will pretend to have just met.

  The perpetrators are generally described as being well dressed, and driving newer vehicles. They tend to be older than thirty and appear to be polite and friendly and usually choose victims of their own race.

MISCELLANEOUS FRAUD (Six incidents): The final six fraud reports taken in 1997 involved loan applications, lottery tickets, and intentional mis-billing.

MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION

830 reported in 1996 • 873 reported in 1997 • Up 5.2%

Malicious Destruction includes tire-slashing, window-smashing, spray-painting, and myriad other crimes in which someone's property is willfully and maliciously damaged or destroyed. It is the most commonly reported crime in Cambridge, accounting for just over 10 percent of the crime total.

Forty to fifty percent of all malicious destruction incidents involve destruction to automobiles; most of these occur overnight to cars parked on the street. Gangs of juveniles are often responsible for a score of such crimes on a single evening. Often, malicious destruction is simply an auto theft or larceny from a motor vehicle that was never carried to its conclusion, leaving a window smashed or a door lock popped. Other common malicious destruction crimes involve graffiti, bricks thrown through windows, and damage to household items during domestic disputes. Likely, a large percentage of all malicious destruction incidents are never reported to the police.

Geographically, malicious destruction reaches its greatest totals in neighborhoods with large numbers of residents and, consequently, cars and houses: Mid-Cambridge, East Cambridge, North Cambridge, and Cambridgeport.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION

AREA	1996	1997	CHANGE	% OF TOTAL
East Cambridge	115	110	-4.3%	12.6%
M.I.T. Area	17	16	-5.9%	1.8%
Inman/Harrington	80	75	-6.3%	8.6%
Area 4	99	104	+5.1%	11.9%
Cambridgeport	109	108	-0.9%	12.4%
Mid-Cambridge	93	83	-10.8%	9.5%
Riverside	50	62	+24.0%	7.1%
Agassiz	19	34	+78.9%	3.9%
Peabody	68	57	-16.2%	6.5%
West Cambridge	67	68	+1.5%	7.8%
North Cambridge	82	108	+31.7%	12.4%
Cambridge Highlands	13	25	+92.3%	2.9%
Strawberry Hill	18	23	+27.8%	2.6%
Total	**830**	**873**	**+5.2%**	

Patterns of malicious destruction during 1997, included window smashing to businesses in the western half of the city, reported over one night in February; graffiti sprayed on cars in **Area 4**, reported over one evening in March; rocks thrown through windows **in North Cambridge** and **Peabody**, reported in May and June; vandalism to cars parked in the Fresh Pond Apartments lot in **North Cambridge** in May; tires slashed on automobiles in the **Inman/Harrington** neighborhood in June; graffiti on the rear doors of Harvard Square (**West Cambridge**) businesses reported over the Summer; and repeated vandalism to cars parked on Mooney Street and Smith Place in the **Cambridge Highlands**.

Incidents of graffiti account for seven percent of the malicious destruction total. A high percentage of these defacings of property are not reported to the police. Area 4, North Cambridge and Cambridgeport are the sections of the City with long histories of this type of incident.

Graffiti

Graffiti is a city-wide issue that affects public, private, and institutional property owners. Both graffiti prevention and removal are time consuming and expensive, and they require continuous intervention. Perpetrators of graffiti include gang members, bored juveniles, and self-styled "artists" who regard other people's property as their canvas.

The City of Cambridge plays a central role in the eradication of graffiti by coordinating prevention and enforcement efforts, acting as a clearinghouse for graffiti identification and removal, and setting an example by providing good maintenance of its own property. Citizens, community groups, businesses and residential property owners, and other public agencies and institutions are strongly encouraged to work together with the City to effectively combat graffiti.

You Can Help

- Use the Graffiti Hotline (349-INFO) to report addresses of vandalized sites.
- Organize community clean-up days.
- Remove graffiti promptly from your property.
- Educate your children about the costs and impact of graffiti.

349-INFO • How the Graffiti Hotline Works

Call the Graffiti Hotline

- To report locations where graffiti exists. The information will be forwarded to the appropriate agency or property owner for removal and to the Police Department for investigation.
- To provide information to help apprehend "taggers." Your information will be kept confidential.
- For information on removal supplies and techniques if you have graffiti on your property.
- For resources to help organize community clean-up days.

Other Graffiti Removal Telephone Numbers

You can also call these agencies directly to report graffiti on their property.

If you witness someone "tagging" property	**Call 9-1-1**
Cambridge Housing Authority property	864-3020
ComElectric (*Electric Poles, Transformers*)	1-800-642-7070
Water Department (*Fire Hydrants, Fresh Pond Area*)	349-4781
Harvard Real Estate Office (*Harvard Property*)	495-2234
Postal Service (*Mail Boxes*)	876-0620
MBTA Complaint Line	222-5215
MDC Bridges, Pools, Facilities	727-5114 Ext. 530
MIT Real Estate Office (*MIT Property*)	253-1483
Middlesex County Courthouse, Registry, Other Facilities	494-4100
Electrical Department (*Pay Phones, Fire Boxes*)	349-4925
School Department Property	349-6854
Traffic Department (*Traffic Signs, Meters, Signals*)	349-4700

OTHER PART II CRIMES

Under the Uniform Crime Reporting System, any actual crime not recorded as a Part I Crime is a Part II Crime. The relative infrequency of patterns among these crimes discourages detailed analysis.

ANNOYING & ACCOSTING

39 reported in 1996 • 25 reported in 1997 • Down 35.9%

"Annoying and Accosting a Member of the Opposite Sex" is a form of criminal harassment. Generally, it involves a man repeatedly following, shouting, making off-color suggestions, hooting, repeatedly asking for a date, or otherwise harassing a woman. It happens most often on the street and in the workplace. Each report involves an individual situation; the crime is not subject to geographic patterns.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

89 reported in 1996 • 80 reported in 1997 • Down 10.1%

Most of these incidents occur on Friday and Saturday nights. Examples include bar and restaurant altercations, domestic disputes, arguments between the homeless, and conflicts with police officers that escalate into shouting, profanity, and threats.

Specific examples include:

- At 1:30 A.M. on Sunday, an intoxicated man started pounding on the hood of a police cruiser parked in traffic, demanding the definition of the word "respect."
- In a pizza parlor one early weekend morning, two female friends became involved in a loud fight and started throwing food at each other.
- On one Sunday afternoon, an ex-employee entered a bagel shop and began screaming and demanding his "papers," scaring away the customers.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF DISORDERLY CONDUCT ARRESTS IN 1997	
East Cambridge	5
MIT	3
Inman/Harrington	2
Area 4	15
Cambridgeport	15
Mid-Cambridge	7
Riverside	11
Agassiz	1
Peabody	2
West Cambridge	9
North Cambridge	6
Cambridge Highlands	2
Strawberry Hill	2

Police make arrests for this crime when a subject disrupts the peace enough to pose a danger. Many disorderly person situations are assaults in the making, halted through the quick intervention of a police officer.

EXTORTION & BLACKMAIL

1 reported in 1996 • 3 reported in 1997 • Up 200.0%

A rare crime in Cambridge, extortion or blackmail involves an offender taking money from a victim by threatening to do something other than use force. The three incidents reported in 1997 involved a psychiatrist threatening to reveal his client's secrets, a supervisor threatening to smear the name of an employee, and a car thief attempting to extort money in exchange for the return of a stolen car.

HARASSING OR OBSCENE TELEPHONE CALLS

296 reported in 1996 • 268 reported in 1997 • Down 9.5%

One of the more bothersome problems in any police jurisdiction is telephone being used as a weapon of terror. Complaints of individuals being threatened with criminal activity against themselves or their property skyrocketed in the early 1990s (over 900 were reported in 1992), but have abated since the invention of electronic devices such as Caller ID and new services from the telephone company that allow subscribers to track such calls. Still, the problem persists. Intimidation over the telephone runs the gamut from threats to burn, bomb, maim, and kill to constant hang-up calls at 3:00 in the morning. The relationships of the disputants is a microcosm of all society. Jilted lovers, disgruntled employees, dissatisfied customers, slumlords, ill-mannered tenants, loansharks, obsessed stalkers, perverted thrill-seekers, grade-happy students, and steroid-swigging musclemen are all reaching out to touch someone in a most unkind manner.

Recipients of repeated obscene or harassing telephone calls should contact the police or their telephone company. Technologies that allow customers to learn the identity of callers have advanced greatly over the last several years.

HIT AND RUN

679 reported in 1996 • 611 reported in 1997 • Down 10.0%

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF HIT AND RUN IN 1997	
East Cambridge	58
MIT	15
Inman/Harrington	55
Area 4	65
Cambridgeport	77
Mid-Cambridge	74
Riverside	43
Agassiz	20
Peabody	45
West Cambridge	56
North Cambridge	82
Cambridge Highlands	13
Strawberry Hill	8

A hit and run crime occurs when a driver strikes a person, another car, or someone else's property, causing damage, and leaves without identifying himself to the victim. In 1997, it was the third most often reported crime in Cambridge (behind malicious destruction of property and larceny from motor vehicles), accounting for just over seven percent of our crime total. Five or six percent of all hit and run crimes involve personal injury. The vast majority of the remainder involve damage to motor vehicles; most of these occur overnight at a time undetermined by the victim.

As to the geography of hit and run, it seems to be purely a function of the amount of residential and commercial traffic. There are, naturally, no patterns of hit and run; they are crimes that begin by accident. (If a driver intentionally strikes a motor vehicle, person, or property, it is coded as an assault or a malicious destruction.)

INDECENT ASSAULT

17 reported in 1996 • 24 reported in 1997 • Up 41.2%

Indecent assault involves the unwanted touching of one person by another, generally in a private area or with sexual overtones. In about 60 percent of indecent assault incidents, the victim and offender know each other. Incidents that show that the offender attempted or intended to rape the victim are coded as attempted rapes, *not* as indecent assaults. In addition, any force or injury would change the type of crime to an aggravated assault rather than an indecent assault.

INDECENT EXPOSURE

28 reported in 1996 • 34 reported in 1997 • Up 21.4%

Indecent exposure crimes generally fall into three classifications: "flashers," who deliberately expose themselves to unsuspecting passers-by, homeless or "street" people who urinate in front of others, and people who simply show too little discretion in front of an open window or while sunbathing. The first two categorizations each account for about 40 percent of indecent exposure reports, while the last categorization accounts for just under 10 percent.

In 1997, we received five reports of a teenager exposing himself to people on the street as he rode by on his bicycle. There may have been more than one suspect involved, as the reports were divided between the Cambridgeport and Inman Square neighborhoods.

Just over 60 percent of all indecent exposure incidents occur within a half-mile radius of Central Square.

KIDNAPPING & ATTEMPTED KIDNAPPING

10 reported in 1996 • 4 reported in 1997 • Down 60.0%

Seventy-five percent of kidnapping incidents involve "parental" kidnappings. Generally, the kidnapping follows an argument between ex-spouses or ex-romantic partners, and the child is returned within a day or two. Parental kidnappings accounted for three of the four kidnapping and attempted kidnapping reports taken in 1997.

The other 25 percent of incidents can occur under frightening or even tragic circumstances. This was the case with the other report in 1997: the kidnapping of 10-year-old Jeffrey Curley from Hampshire Street on October 1, 1997. The two men who kidnapped Curley later murdered him in Newton (see the Murder section). They currently await trial.

LIQUOR VIOLATIONS

24 reported in 1996 • 28 reported in 1997 • Up 16.7%

Liquor violations generally involve drinking in public, though it can also include the sale of liquor to a minor, or the possession of liquor by a minor. As with disorderly conduct, most liquor violations arrests occur on weekends. Hot spots appear around Central Square and at various parks in the city.

In 1997, the Cambridge Police Department, in partnership with the Cambridge License Commission, began a "Cops in Shops" program which targeted establishments selling liquor to minors and minors buying alcohol with false identification. On the weekend the program was initiated (November 21), the Cambridge Police Department made multiple arrests in three different locations for minors buying alcohol.

OPERATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

70 reported in 1996 • 67 reported in 1997 • Down 4.3%

Attacks on all fronts have reduced this crime nationwide, but every incident still poses a deadly danger. Well over half of all O.U.I. arrests occur between midnight and 4:00 A.M., as people drive home from bars. The majority of the incidents are concentrated on the weekend.

PEEPING & SPYING

13 reported in 1996 • 17 reported in 1997 • Up 30.8%

Peeping and spying offenders peer through the windows of houses or apartments. Mid-Cambridge, with six incidents, and Peabody, with five, reported the highest concentrations. A brief pattern was seen on one block in Mid-Cambridge over a week in the Summer. The majority of these offenses occur between 8:00 P.M. and midnight.

PROSTITUTION & SOLICITING SEX FOR A FEE

14 reported in 1996 • 23 reported in 1997 • Up 64.3%

Like narcotics offenses, the crime of prostitution is investigated by the Special Investigations Unit, which sets up seasonal "stings" that target both "streetwalkers" and "johns," as well as establishments that act as fronts for prostitution rings. On the night of June 21, 1997, an undercover detective posing as a prostitute effected the arrests of 13 solicitors (57 percent of the 1997 prostitution arrest total) in front of 211 Massachusetts Avenue. Also busted by the Special Investigations Unit this year were several "escort" services and professional prostitutes operating out of local hotels. Five of the arrests were for common "streetwalking." There were no geographic concentrations.

THREATS TO COMMIT A CRIME

447 reported in 1996 • 361 reported in 1997 • Down 19.2%

A self-explanatory crime that often arises in domestic disputes, arguments between acquaintances and co-workers, school fights, and in other environments.

TRAFFIC ARRESTS

380 reported in 1996 • 252 reported in 1997 • Down 33.7%

The average traffic stop for speeding, running a red light, and related offenses, results in only a warning or citation. A number of traffic offenses, however, are arrestable crimes: driving to endanger, driving after suspension or revocation, possession of a counterfeit inspection sticker, and attaching false or counterfeit license plates are all examples. Such arrests are often made during routine traffic stops, after the police officer learns of the driver's suspension, revocation, or other circumstances.

TRESPASSING

97 reported in 1996 • 80 reported in 1997 • Down 17.5%

Arrests for trespassing are generally made at commercial establishments where the offender has been previously warned not to tread. Often, the same offender is arrested multiple times. Thirty-four percent of trespassing arrests in 1997 were made on Massachusetts Institute of Technology property.

WEAPONS VIOLATIONS

20 reported in 1996 • 7 reported in 1997 • Down 65.0%

Weapons violations involve the illegal possession or use of a dangerous weapon. To be classified as a "weapons violation," the use of the weapon cannot be directed at a person or property; otherwise, the incident would be recorded as an assault or a malicious destruction. In 1997, four weapons violations involved guns and three involve other weapons. In 1996, there were ten of each. Gun violations sometimes include shots fired into the air, but weapons violations generally result from motor vehicle stops or from arrests for lesser crimes (such as disorderly person or trespassing), during which the illegal weapon is discovered by a police officer.

In 1997, the four gun violations included a juvenile who carried a concealed gun in the CambridgeSide Galleria; a handgun and ammunition found during a motor vehicle stop; shots fired near a towing company; and, on the night of August 16, a report of shots fired near Hoyt Field. This final report preceded, by three days, the fatal shooting of 19-year-old Benny Rosa in Hoyt Field. The two incidents may have been related.

Special Reports

- Domestic Crimes
- Hate Crime
- Pattern Review
- National & Regional Crime Comparison

DOMESTIC CRIMES

Domestic crimes include all offenses committed against family members, spouses and ex-spouses, roommates, and romantic partners and ex-romantic partners. The Cambridge Police Department generally responds to between 1,500 and 2,000 domestic calls for service each year, resulting in 700 to 1,000 incident reports and 250 to 350 arrests.

In 1997, the Cambridge Police Department took 907 reports for domestic incidents. Underreporting is a serious problem when it comes to domestic crimes (domestic violence experts estimate that the police department receives a report for only 33 percent of domestic crimes), so the reliability of these figures is uncertain.

Categorical Breakdown of Domestic Incidents

Most Serious Offense	Total Reports 1997	% of Total Domestic Reports	% of this Crime that are Domestic
Dispute/Disturbance with No Physical Abuse	258	28.4%	100.0%
Simple Assault	254	28.0%	41.9%
Aggravated Assault	99	10.9%	26.8%
Violation of a Restraining Order	96	10.6%	100.0%
Threats to Commit a Crime	66	7.3%	18.3%
Malicious Destruction of Property	37	4.1%	4.5%
Burglary	24	2.6%	4.0%
Harassing or Obscene Telephone Calls	23	2.5%	8.6%
Larceny	23	2.5%	0.8%
Attempted Murder	7	0.8%	4.2%
Robbery	4	0.4%	2.3%
Auto Theft	3	0.3%	0.6%
Disorderly Conduct	3	0.3%	3.8%
Trespassing	3	0.3%	3.8%
Kidnapping	3	0.3%	60.0%
Peeping & Spying	1	0.1%	5.9%
Check Forgery	1	0.1%	0.4%
Indecent Assault	1	0.1%	4.2%
Stalking	1	0.1%	14.3%
Total	**907**		

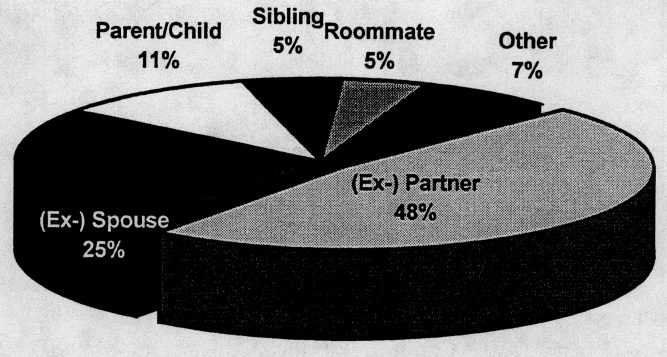
An increasing number of calls to which officers respond involve no crime—simply a loud argument, classified as a "domestic dispute." In 1997, these calls made up 28 percent of all domestic reports. While not technically a crime, these domestic disturbances can still be a form of abuse, and they may escalate into more serious offenses if they go unaddressed.

The second most common domestic incident, also accounting for 28 percent of the total, is "simple assault" (assault without a weapon and with no serious injury). Aggravated assaults make up another 11 percent.

Domestic incidents occurred most often between romantic partners or ex-romantic partners (48 percent), and between spouses or ex-spouses (25 percent). A woman was victimized in 75 percent of domestic incidents.

In 33 percent of the domestic *crimes* reported (excluding "domestic disturbances"), the Cambridge Police arrested a subject at the scene. When aggravated or simple assault was the primary crime, police made on-scene arrests 51 percent of the time. (In the 49 percent of domestic assaults in which police did not make on scene arrests, it was because the offender had fled the scene. Cambridge Police have adopted a "zero-tolerance" policy on domestic violence and do make on-scene arrests for all domestic crimes in which the offender can be located.)

Offender-Victim Relationship	1997	% of Total
(Ex-) Partner	434	47.9%
(Ex-) Spouse	225	24.8%
Parent/Child	97	10.7%
Sibling	48	5.3%
Roommate	41	4.5%
Other Relationship	62	6.8%



While the police are often first to be called for assistance in many crimes, in domestic violence this is not always the case. Victims of abuse often seek assistance from a local battered women's shelter, a court, a hospital, or a friend before calling the police. Through the initiative of making Cambridge a "Domestic Violence Free Zone," advocates of battered women and the police are increasing the awareness and education of domestic violence in our community. Domestic violence crosses all socio-economic, racial, ethnic, religious, sexual-orientation, and age boundaries. What Crime Analysis has identified, however, is that we respond to more calls in communities where individuals live in close quarters, and where neighbors contact the police for assistance. This community responsibility is what not only the "Domestic Violence Free Zone" but also Community Policing strives to attain: when we as a community are concerned about our neighbors' safety as well as our own, we will have a safer community.

If You Are a Victim of Domestic Violence

You are not alone, but please understand that domestic abuse generally gets worse and occurs more frequently when victims do not seek help. There is help available, either through the Cambridge Police Department's Domestic Violence Unit or through a local battered women's shelter. At the very least, seek help from a family member or friend, and create a safety plan for you and your children.

Important Telephone Numbers:

Cambridge Police Department's Domestic Violence Unit	349-3371
Transition House (*shelter in Cambridge*)	661-7203
Renewal House (*shelter in Boston*)	566-6881
Respond (*shelter in Somerville*)	623-5900
Dating Violence Intervention Project (*teen dating violence*)	868-8328
Cambridge/Somerville Legal Services	494-1800
Community Legal Services Center	661-1010

Remember, domestic abuse also includes emotional abuse, which can include insults, threats, bad treatment in front of others, assigning false blame, and attempts to control where you go, what you do, and who you see. This type of behavior can be a warning sign for physical abuse down the road, if it hasn't already occurred.

If You Are an Abuser

Learn to recognize your behavior for what it is. If you assault your spouse, romantic partner, children, or other family members, you need to seek help.

Likewise, if you insult, threaten, blame, feel you need to control your spouse or romantic partner, or destroy things during arguments, you should seek assistance. Your behavior may escalate into violence.

There is Help for Men Who Abuse:

Emerge	547-9879
Common Purpose	597-7230

Both of these services provide counseling and treatment for abusers.

Remember:

- You are responsible for what you say or do.
- Your spouse or partner did not make you hit her or him.
- You can change the way you act.
- There is no excuse for abuse.

HATE CRIMES

"Hate Crime" is the common term for federal and state Civil Rights Violations. Hate crimes include any crimes principally motivated by hatred of another because of race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, handicap status, or gender. *All hate crimes would still be crimes even if the bias motivation were absent*; therefore, each hate crime listed below is tallied elsewhere in this report, under assault, threats, and other headings.

In 1997, eight crimes were reported in Cambridge that could be classified as a "hate crimes" under the definition above:

1. On March 7 at 8:50 P.M., an MIT student was walking down Charles Street when four males, hurling racial epithets, piled out of a hatchback, threw the victim to the ground, and began punching and kicking him. This crime was classified as an unprovoked aggravated assault.

2. On April 23 at 3:30 P.M., a Chelsea woman was exiting the Lechmere MBTA station when a man in his 30s grabbed her arms, shouted obscene comments and racial slurs, and pushed her down the street. This crime was coded as an unprovoked simple assault.

3. On May 13 at 3:55 P.M., a Norwell teenager was walking down Massachusetts Avenue between Central and Harvard Squares when he was approached by a group of five older teenagers who uttered slurs against his perceived sexual orientation and punched him several times in the face. This incident was coded as an unprovoked simple assault.

4. On September 21, an unseen person forced entry into an Inman Street apartment, trashed the interior, stole a computer and a stereo, overturned furniture, and wrote anti-gay epithets on the walls. This crime was classified as a residential burglary.

5. On October 7 at around 8:30 P.M., an unseen person scratched racial epithets into the front door of the office at Corcoran Park. This incident was coded as a malicious destruction of property.

6. On October 15 at 9:00 A.M., a Mount Auburn Street resident found a note tacked to some lumber with which he planned to build a Jewish *succoth.* The note threatened to "get" the *succoth*, denoting violence and arson. This crime was categorized as a threat to commit a crime.

7. On November 4 at 5:47 P.M., an intoxicated man entered the food kitchen of a church on Church Street, yelled a racial epithet at one of the workers there, and threatened to stab him. This incident was coded as a threat to commit a crime.

8. On December 1 at 11:45 P.M., two women walking through Central Square were suddenly subjected to screaming, anti-gay remarks, threatening, and shoving by a Woburn man. Bystanders intervened and the suspect went away. The crime was categorized as an unprovoked simple assault.

The Police Department's Major Crimes Unit is currently investigating these crimes.

In 1996, the ten reported hate crimes included four aggravated assaults, two malicious destruction incidents, two threats to commit crimes, one episode of verbal harassment, and one robbery. Seven were motivated by race or national origin, two by religion, and one by sexual orientation.

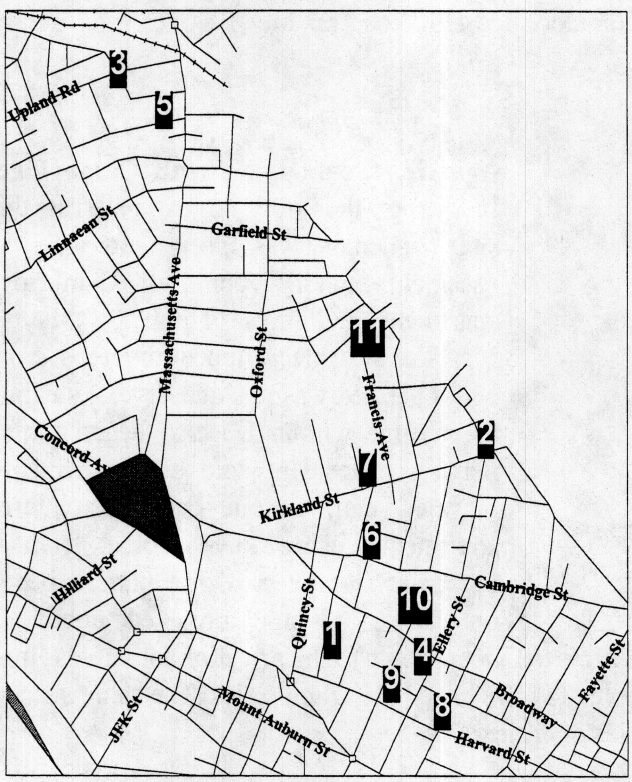
1997 PATTERN REVIEW

Identifying and reporting patterns is the core activity of the Cambridge Police Department's Crime Analysis Unit. Crime Analysis Unit members carefully review reports taken by officers, in order to detect, as early as possible, any developing crime patterns in the city. Once a pattern is identified, the Crime Analysis Unit makes the officers and detectives aware of it—usually by publishing it in our Daily Crime Bulletin.

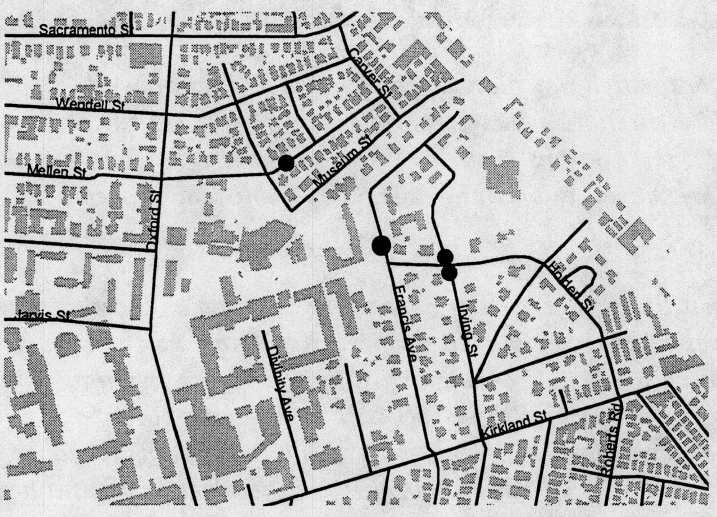
A "pattern" describes any two or more crimes that exhibit similar characteristics such as location, time of day, day of week, weapon used, suspect description, victim type, property taken, and so on. A pattern may suggest that a single suspect or group of suspects is committing a number of crimes, or it may simply indicate a general trend. For instance, if we receive three reports of robberies with a knife in a particular part of the city, all involving three young males with long coats, this is a "pattern," because it seems fairly certain that the same suspects committed all three robberies. On the other hand, if a new shopping center opens in the city, and we immediately start receiving reports of auto thefts from the shopping center's parking lot, this is also a "pattern," even though more than one person may be committing the thefts. Identification of a pattern may result in increased patrol, priority investigation, public notification, or more than one of these.

The following is a recapitulation of the major patterns identified in Cambridge from January 1, 1997 to December 31, 1997:

STREET ROBBERY



Mid-Cambridge / Agassiz / Peabody: In the second quarter of 1997, the western part of the Mid-Cambridge neighborhood emerged as a street robbery "hot spot." Several patterns were involved in the trend, the most noticeable of which was a series of pack robberies committed by a mixed-race group of males in their 20s. In total, 11 robberies were reported in the area between April 27 and June 29. Prime time was between 11:30 P.M. and 2:30 A.M. Several juveniles were arrested for robbery in this area in early July, ending the pattern.

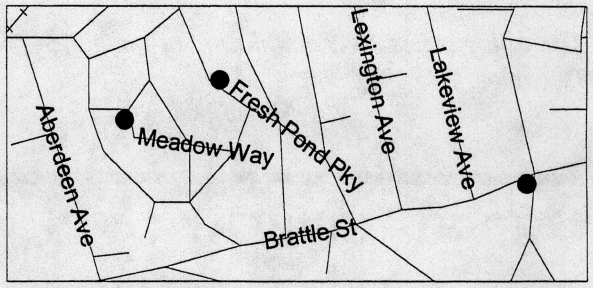


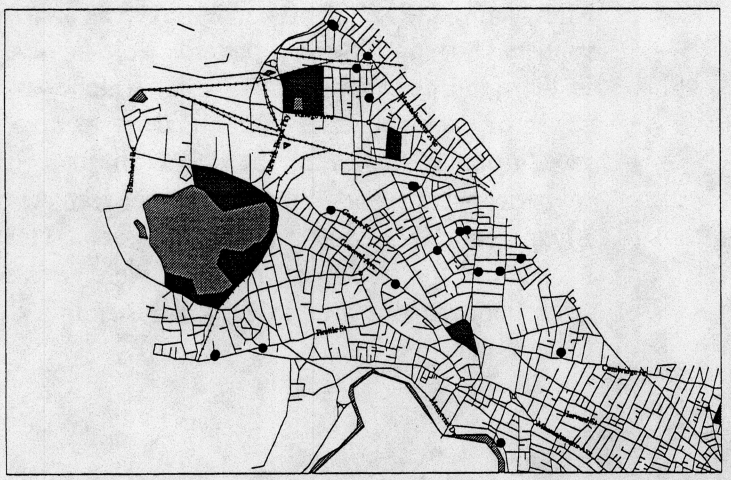
Agassiz: Between December 8 and December 22, four street robberies were reported in the Agassiz neighborhood—three of them near the intersection of Bryant Street and Irving Street. Related were robberies that occurred on December 8 at the intersection of Sparks and Brattle Streets in West Cambridge; and on December 18 on Avon Street.

Somerville Police reported a robbery outside the Star Market on Beacon Street on December 6 that seemed to match the Cambridge pattern.

BURGLARY

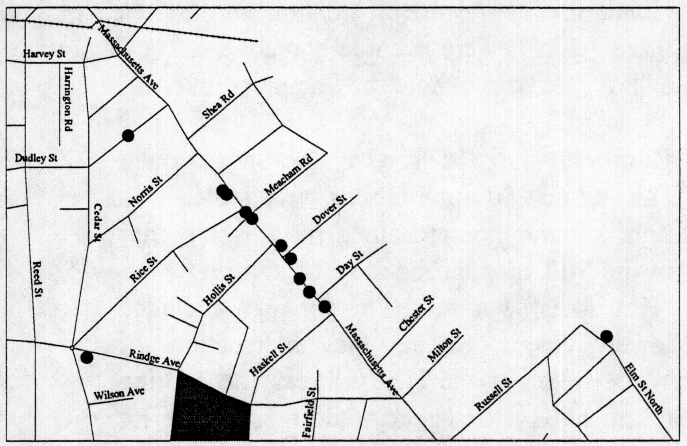
West Cambridge: In the mid-evening of Monday, January 20, an unseen person crept into three unlocked West Cambridge houses and removed wallets or purses from kitchen counters. The wallets were recovered in nearby yards with only cash missing. The incidents occurred between 6:15 P.M. and 7:30 P.M. on Meadow Way, Fresh Pond Parkway, and Brattle Street. Interestingly, a burglary involving the same circumstances was committed on Coolidge Hill Road on July 1—over five months after the original pattern.





Agassiz / Peabody / North Cambridge: In one of the most cogent patterns this year, a man was seen entering the basement laundry rooms of Cambridge apartment buildings. Dubbed "Maytag Man," the suspect ripped the tops from coin operated washers and dryers, stealing the change within. He also began taking items from resident storage compartments, bicycles, and, on one occasion, entered apartments using keys stolen from a basement storage box. The pattern began on January 3 and involved about 20 incidents in Cambridge (similar incidents were also reported in Arlington). The arrest of a homeless man on February 12 during a break on Wendell Street seems to have ended the crime series. The same suspect was arrested in Waltham in April after a similar series of crimes.

North Cambridge: The 2200–2400 blocks of Massachusetts Avenue, above Porter Square, and adjoining streets have been hit hard with commercial burglaries since late January. This area has traditionally been a "hot spot" for commercial breaks. As many as twelve incidents were involved in a highly publicized Winter-Spring pattern, which began on January 29 with a burglary at a restaurant. Striking in the early morning hours, and particularly on weekends, the burglar entered small, first-floor commercial establishments by smashing through the front door. All types of property were stolen, including stereos, computers, FAX machines, cash registers, checks, and cash. Several businesses were burglarized more than once. The pattern lay dormant through the month of March but resurfaced in April with three more breaks. The final burglary in the pattern occurred on April 13. By that time, the crime series had been published in the *Cambridge Chronicle* and the *Harvard Crimson*, and the Department was saturating the area with Park & Walk patrols. Somerville began reporting an increased number of burglaries in the Davis Square area just as the Cambridge pattern ended. A few more incidents were reported on this section of road in July and August, but they may not be related to the earlier patterns. There was another brief resurgence on Thanksgiving morning, however, and there are signs of another developing pattern at the time of this report.



Assuming that the same burglar is responsible for the majority of these burglaries, he is nothing if not predictable. He generally strikes in the early morning, between 02:00 and 05:00, and he often returns to the same place (many addresses have reported multiple burglaries).

Riverside: In January and April, eight distinctive housebreaks were reported in Riverside, concentrated near Hoyt Field. The incidents were notable because in all cases, the residences were thoroughly ransacked. Houses and apartments on Banks Street, Howard Street, Massachusetts Avenue, Elmer Street, Western Avenue, Putnam Avenue, and Kinnaird Street all reported breaks. The arrest of a Dorchester man during a Franklin Street burglary on May 9 halted the pattern. Riverside did not report a burglary for a month. Then, in June, activity increased between 850 and 950 Massachusetts Avenue, including nearby streets in Riverside and Mid-Cambridge. The burglar or burglars in the second series strike by day and have targeted jewelry and computers. This second pattern also affected adjoining areas of **Mid-Cambridge**, particularly in the 800-block of Massachusetts Avenue.

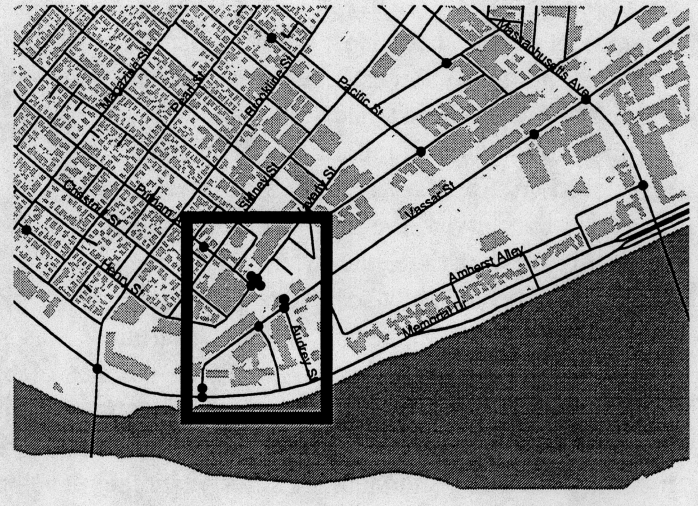
Alewife/West Cambridge: A commercial break at an oriental rug store on Concord Avenue on October 29 may have been related to a Middlesex County pattern. A few weeks later, another oriental rug store in Belmont was ransacked. The victim in the Cambridge break reported seeing two men leaving the store with between 150 and 200 rugs.

Alewife/West Cambridge: Between October 22 and October 29, four nighttime commercial burglaries were reported on Concord Avenue near Fresh Pond. On the night between Tuesday, October 21 and Wednesday, October 22, two attempted breaks were reported at 545 Concord Avenue, next to the 99 Restaurant and the Best Western. The unseen suspect tried to enter two offices by forcing the front door, but was unsuccessful. On the same night, someone broke into the supply room of the armory at 450 Concord Avenue and took several items.

AUTO THEFT

Area 4: Over one weekend in late April, three vehicles—a Subaru Imprezza, a Honda Accord, and a Honda Prelude—were all stolen from the same parking lot at Bishop Allen Drive and Norfolk Street. All three vehicles were eventually recovered, in Cambridge, Boston, and Newark. The parking lot remained a "hot spot" throughout the Summer and Fall.

Cambridgeport/MIT: Over the Summer and Fall, almost 50 automobiles were stolen in a tight geographic area along the lower border of the MIT neighborhood and Cambridgeport. "Hot spots" within the target area included lower Vassar Street, the intersection of Waverly Street and Henry Street, the parking lot at the Hyatt Regency, and the parking lot at 130 Waverly Street. The pattern was most active in September, when about 15 cars were stolen in the area shown on the map. A high percentage of the stolen cars were Honda Accords. Stolen overnight, they turned up in Roxbury and Dorchester, partially stripped, within a few days.



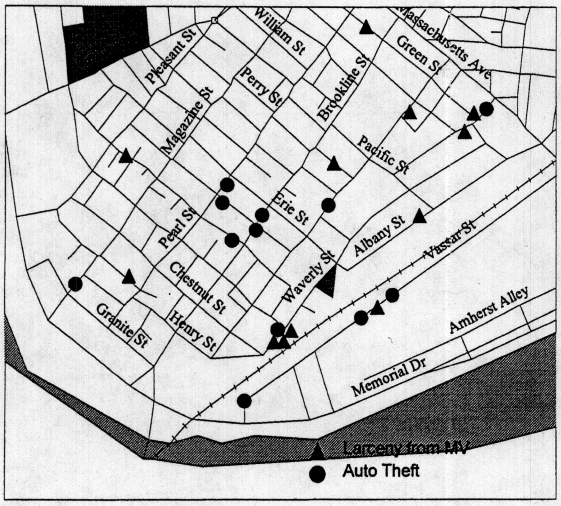
LARCENY FROM BUILDINGS

East Cambridge / Kendall Square: In an ongoing and seemingly perpetual pattern, one or more thieves stole dozens of laptop computers from businesses in the Kendall Square area. After conducting an inventory, one company reported eight thefts over a three-week period. In total, about 30 laptops were stolen from this area between December 1996 and February 1997. Like all larcenies from buildings, these thefts generally occurred around opening and closing times during the week.

East Cambridge: Thefts of jackets, cellular phones, and bags left unattended at the CambridgeSide Galleria Food Court remained frequent all year, but particularly heated up in September. No arrests were made.

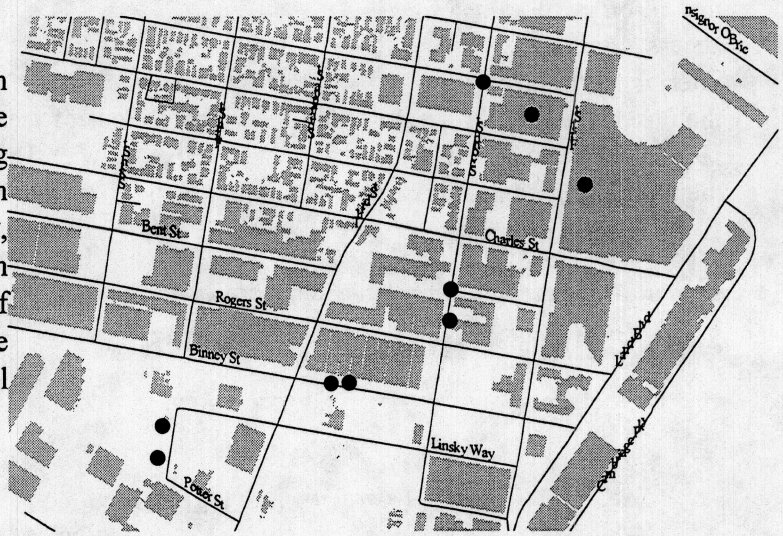
LARCENY FROM MOTOR VEHICLES

East Cambridge: A sporadic pattern of larcenies from motor vehicles emerged at the Cambridgeside Galleria garage between April and June, with a dozen incidents reported in a three month period. Saturday afternoons between 4:00 P.M. and 8:00 P.M. proved a "hot time" for these thefts. Teenage males were described in several incidents. The thieves targeted car phones, shopping bags, and clothing.



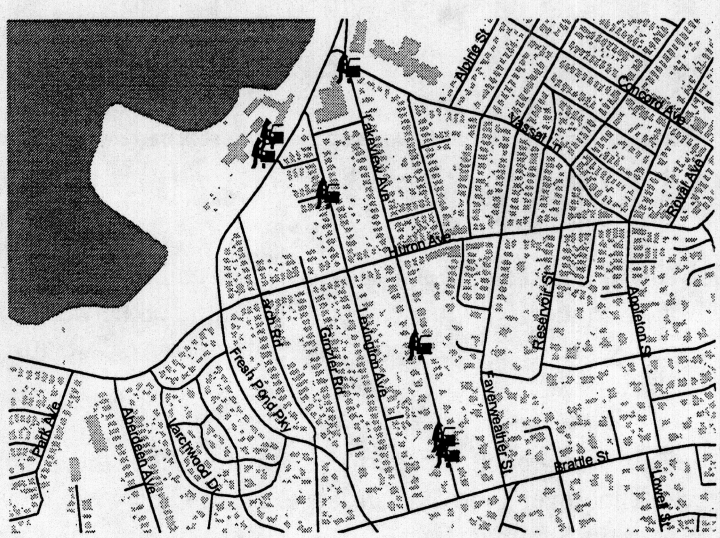
Cambridgeport: On Thursday, January 30, an unseen suspect smashed his way into four vehicles on Waverly Street, between 6:30 P.M. and 11:00 P.M. Several items were taken from each car. An analysis revealed an increased number of larcenies from motor vehicles all through Cambridgeport, particularly in the area bordered by Pearl, Memorial, Vassar, and Green Streets. At the same time, auto theft began picking up as well.

East Cambridge: Over one week in December, nine automobiles were burglarized in East Cambridge parking lots. Seven of them were hit between Wednesday, December 10 and Thursday, December 11. The "hot time" was between 3:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. All manner of items were stolen from the targets. The locations of the thefts were "hot spots" all year.

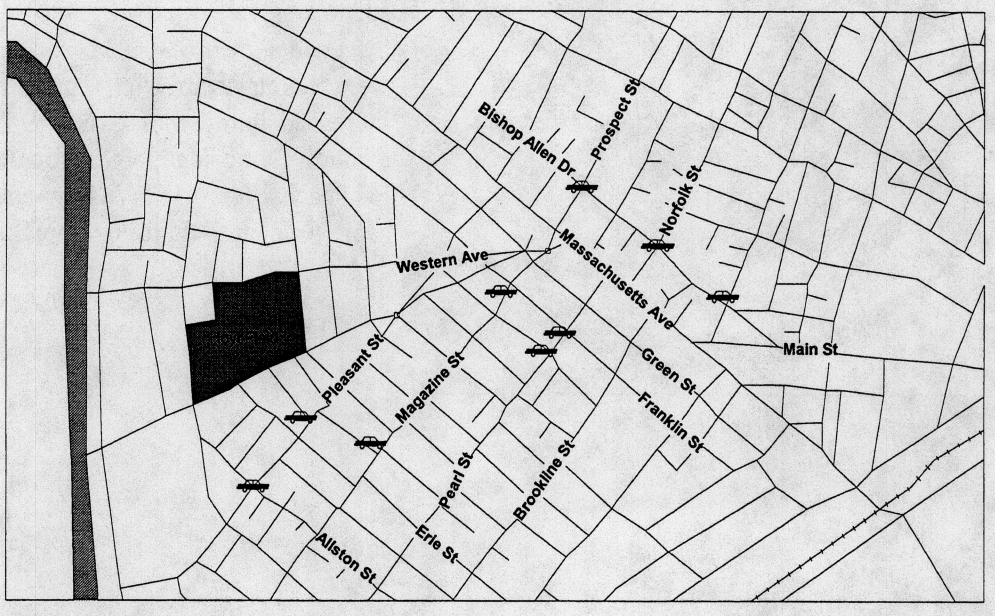


North Cambridge: Between May 5 and June 6, parking areas on Regent Street were subjected to seven larcenies from motor vehicles and three auto thefts between 8:00 P.M. and 2:00 A.M. Multiple Park & Walks were assigned to the area to address the problem, which immediately ceased.

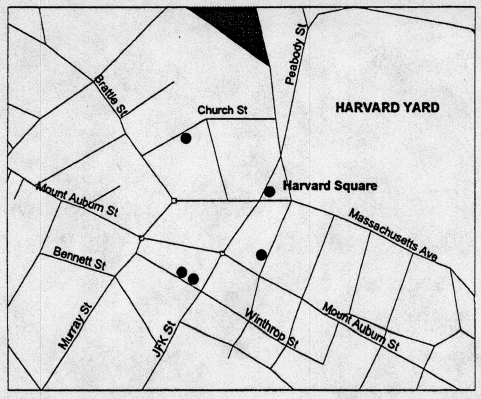
West Cambridge: From November 7 to November 26, seven larcenies from motor vehicles were reported in the area of Lakeview Avenue, Lexington Avenue, and Fresh Pond Parkway. The unseen suspect struck between 8:00 P.M. and 10:00 P.M., entered the vehicle without damaging the lock or window, and took any property in sight, usually ransacking the glove box. This crime is unusual in this area.



Central Square: During October, there were over a dozen larcenies from motor vehicles in the Central Square area. The time frame for this pattern was overnight between 7:00 P.M. and 8:00 A.M. The target items were car radios. It appeared that in order to gain access into the interior of the car the unseen suspect broke the rear side window. Four of the cars that were broken into were mid to late 1980's Honda Accords. During a break on Bishop Allen Drive, in which a car stereo was removed, two men were spotted and described to police.



LARCENY FROM THE PERSON



Harvard Square: An unseen pickpocket struck between 5:00 P.M. and 8:00 P.M. on Saturday, February 1, relieving five female victims of their wallets or purses. Four of the incidents took place within area restaurants.

LARCENY OF BICYCLES

North Cambridge: An unprecedented number of bicycles were stolen from the Porter Square area over the Summer, with the temporal concentration between 4:00 P.M. and 8:00 P.M. Though Porter Square has always been a "hot spot," thefts increased substantially this year, even eclipsing, in some months, Harvard Square.

Cambridgeport: A pattern of six thefts rocked the Central Square area between Pearl Street and Western Avenue over four days in late August. Otherwise, bicycle theft remained quite low in Central Square over the Summer.

Mid-Cambridge: A pattern of residential bicycle thefts developed in the area of Inman Street, Broadway, Prospect Street, and St. Mary's Road in the Fall. Thefts were reported from garages, cellars, and porches at about 2:00 P.M.



MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY

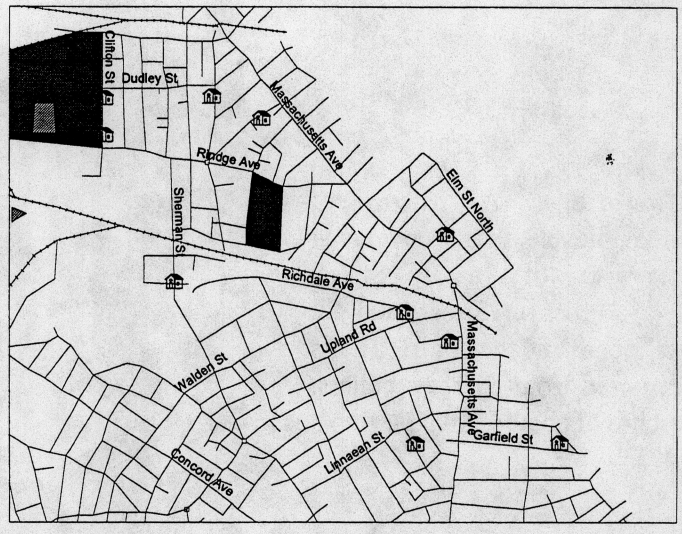


1500-1900 Massachusetts Avenue / Alewife: In the early morning hours of Saturday, February 22, a group of young males followed a trail from Mellen Street, up Massachusetts Avenue to Rindge Avenue, down Rindge Avenue to Alewife Brook Parkway, and along Concord Avenue into Belmont. The suspects left the windows of six businesses smashed in their wake.

Area 4: Between 4:00 A.M. and 6:00 A.M. on Monday, March 3, an unseen suspect or suspects spray-painted eight vehicles on Washington Street with arcane words such as "SALLS," "SAKS," and "SMAIK." Residents suspected area drug dealers responding to recent citizen complaints.

Inman/Harrington: Over the Summer, the Cambridge Police Department received several reports of vandalism to construction vehicles in the rear of the Harrington School. Around the same time, several car windows were broken on nearby streets. A Park & Walk was assigned to the area to handle the problem, and incidents of the crime abated.

Peabody / North Cambridge: Between mid-May and mid-August, the windows of at least 15 residences were smashed with rocks or bricks. Incidents occurred primarily during the weekend, in the hours after midnight. A group of about ten youths was seen after one incident at Bellis Circle. Three Cambridge teens were arrested after an incident on Sherman Street on August 13, ending the pattern.



OTHER CRIMES

Mid-Cambridge: On two consecutive nights of a late June weekend, **peeping & spying** incidents were reported in the area of Marie Avenue and Maple Avenue. Both occurred around midnight. Residents saw a shadowy figure outside their bedroom windows. Both victims yelled at the suspect, causing him to flee. Last Summer, peeping & spying incidents were reported on nearby Inman and Ellery Streets.

National and Regional Crime Comparison

1996 Crimes Per 100,000 Residents in Cities of 95,000–105,000 People, Nationwide*

City	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Total
Daly City, CA	0	15	178	151	290	1,877	567	3,078
Livonia, MI	2	22	64	148	500	2,239	399	3,373
Greece Town, NY	0	12	47	19	333	2,725	292	3,427
Edison Township, NJ	1	12	105	200	538	2,009	609	3,475
Provo, UT	1	48	22	108	574	2,806	220	3,780
Arvada, CO	1	17	55	132	613	2,774	211	3,804
Carrollton, TX	1	15	66	274	673	2,477	355	3,862
Woodbridge Tshp, NJ	1	16	101	194	546	2,405	621	3,884
South Gate, CA	8	18	513	343	722	1,150	1,295	4,049
Ventura, CA	6	27	152	232	975	2,412	407	4,210
Norwalk, CA	14	25	322	790	695	1,484	965	4,295
Green Bay, WI	3	37	65	269	560	3,338	215	4,487
Santa Clara, CA	0	20	80	351	579	3,269	372	4,671
West Covina, CA	6	23	261	253	769	2,567	864	4,742
New Bedford, MA	2	72	224	756	1,198	1,679	855	4,786
Carson, CA	21	41	319	872	877	1,749	943	4,821
Lowell, MA	5	44	148	854	842	1,982	1,001	4,877
Fall River, MA	3	32	103	567	1,012	2,484	722	4,924
Midland, TX	4	58	80	235	1,029	3,270	286	4,962
Palmdale, CA	6	36	248	798	1,174	2,141	661	5,063
Corona, CA	4	19	210	413	1,227	2,403	835	5,111
Cambridge, MA	1	35	237	398	826	3,103	568	5,168
Manchester, NH	1	56	138	45	845	3,664	429	5,179
Fort Collins, CO	3	68	44	290	801	3,906	153	5,265
Costa Mesa, CA	1	22	158	194	894	3,537	616	5,422
Compton, CA	74	40	845	751	1,311	1,381	1,235	5,636
El Cajon, CA	5	35	223	669	1,105	2,762	896	5,696
San Angelo, TX	2	40	42	406	800	4,248	173	5,712
Roanoke, VI	15	43	277	251	948	4,465	316	6,314
Wichita Falls, TX	9	80	149	625	1,002	4,359	364	6,588
Odessa, TX	14	35	130	941	1,215	4,193	313	6,842
Clearwater, FL	2	60	209	850	1,313	4,623	297	7,354
Waterbury, CT	13	38	237	348	1,865	4,248	936	7,684
Albany, NY	10	44	468	557	1,989	4,151	530	7,749
Athens-Clarke, GA	13	62	206	495	1,186	5,751	509	8,222
Lafayette, LA	8	73	239	499	1,333	5,419	654	8,225
Davenport, IA	4	56	277	1,156	1,408	5,151	488	8,540
Berkeley, CA	8	32	486	548	1,483	6,600	1,048	10,205
McAllen, TX	5	23	149	373	1,487	7,793	954	10,785
Miami Beach, FL	10	44	699	951	2,601	11,644	2,152	18,101
Average	7	37	214	458	1,003	3,506	633	5,859
Cambridge	***1***	***35***	***237***	***398***	***826***	***3,103***	***568***	***5,168***

**The numbers given here are not the* actual *number of crimes but the* ratio *of crime per 100,000 people. For instance, in 1996, Cambridge reported 4,951 total Index Crimes. Our population is 95,802, so the ratio of Index Crimes to population is 4,951:95,802. This calculates to 5,168 crimes per 100,000 people.*

A comparison of Cambridge's 1996 Index Crimes to crime totals nationwide shows that Cambridge ranked below the nationwide *average* for all index crimes except robbery. However, when ranked in order of total crimes, Cambridge ranked just above the *median* (the nationwide average is distorted by the three cities with the highest crime rate: Miami Beach, FL, McAllen, TX, and Berkeley, CA.

How Cambridge Compares Nationally:

- **Murder**: Very low compared to the national average. Cambridge murders range from one to three per year in the average 1990s year, while most cities of our size report between seven and 12 per year.
- **Rape**: Traditionally just at the National average; in 1996, slightly below.
- **Robbery**: Slightly higher than the national average. We note that few of the other cities on the list are situated right next door to major metropolises, which doubtless accounts for a high percentage of our "street crimes."
- **Assault**: Significantly below the national average, but statistics are shaky, influenced by reporting practices.
- **Burglary**: Significantly below the national average, as the professional burglar disappears in the northeast.
- **Larceny**: Lower than the national average. In the northeast, because of climate, Larceny is less of a factor between three and six months of the year. Cities with a high larceny rate are almost all in warm climates.
- **Auto theft**: Lower than the national average.

Reported Crimes in Massachusetts Cities and Towns Between 50,000 and 150,000 Residents

		Crimes per 100,000 Residents*							
City	Pop.	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Total
Lawrence	63,648	3	27	457	1,472	1,950	2,035	2,781	8,725
Lynn	78,972	8	29	296	1,209	1,216	2,408	1,612	6,778
Brockton	88,148	9	43	254	868	1,331	2,398	1,249	6,152
Lowell	96,863	5	44	148	854	842	1,982	1,001	4,877
Somerville	69,521	3	9	155	544	621	1,788	895	4,015
New Bedford	95,420	2	72	224	756	1,198	1,679	855	4,786
Haverhill	53,408	0	66	92	524	1,646	2,309	811	5,447
Fall River	90,179	3	32	103	567	1,012	2,484	722	4,924
Malden	52,239	2	23	107	712	760	1,164	614	3,383
Cambridge	95,802	1	35	237	398	826	3,103	568	5,168
Taunton	52,058	4	10	90	388	676	1,804	496	3,467
Quincy	84,748	4	29	59	225	720	1,932	450	3,418
Brookline	56,533	0	12	74	304	485	2,174	405	3,455
Medford	56,139	4	9	41	550	534	1,666	378	3,181
Waltham	55,253	2	9	36	228	387	1,647	219	2,528
Newton	86,078	0	7	15	116	359	1,143	185	1,825
Framingham	67,580	1	36	70	377	678	1,663	123	2,948
Chicopee	55,487	0	4	16	119	96	377	47	658
Average		3	28	138	567	852	1,875	745	4,207
Cambridge		*1*	*35*	*237*	*398*	*826*	*3,103*	*568*	*5,168*

**The numbers given here are not the* actual *number of crimes but the* ratio *of crime per 100,000 people. For instance, in 1996, Cambridge reported 4,951 total Index Crimes. Our population is 95,802, so the ratio of Index Crimes to population is 4,951:95,802. This calculates to 5,168 crimes per 100,000 people.*

How Cambridge Compares Locally:

- **Murder**: Lower than average for 1996, but probably about average in the average year.
- **Rape**: Higher than the average.
- **Robbery**: Significantly higher than the average, probably due to our proximity to a major metropolis.
- **Burglary**: Slightly lower than average.
- **Larceny**: Much higher than the local average.
- **Auto Theft**: significantly lower than the local average.

We are obliged to note that the majority of these cities empty during the day; Cambridge fills. Our daytime population is estimated at 250,000 people. This is reflected in the higher rates of burglary in the other cities (more likely with fewer people around) and the higher rates of robbery and larceny in Cambridge (more likely with more people around).

Neighborhood Profiles

North Cambridge

Agassiz Area

East Cambridge

Peabody /Area 9

Inman / Harrington

Area 4

MIT Area

Mid -Cambridge

Highlands

Cambridgeport

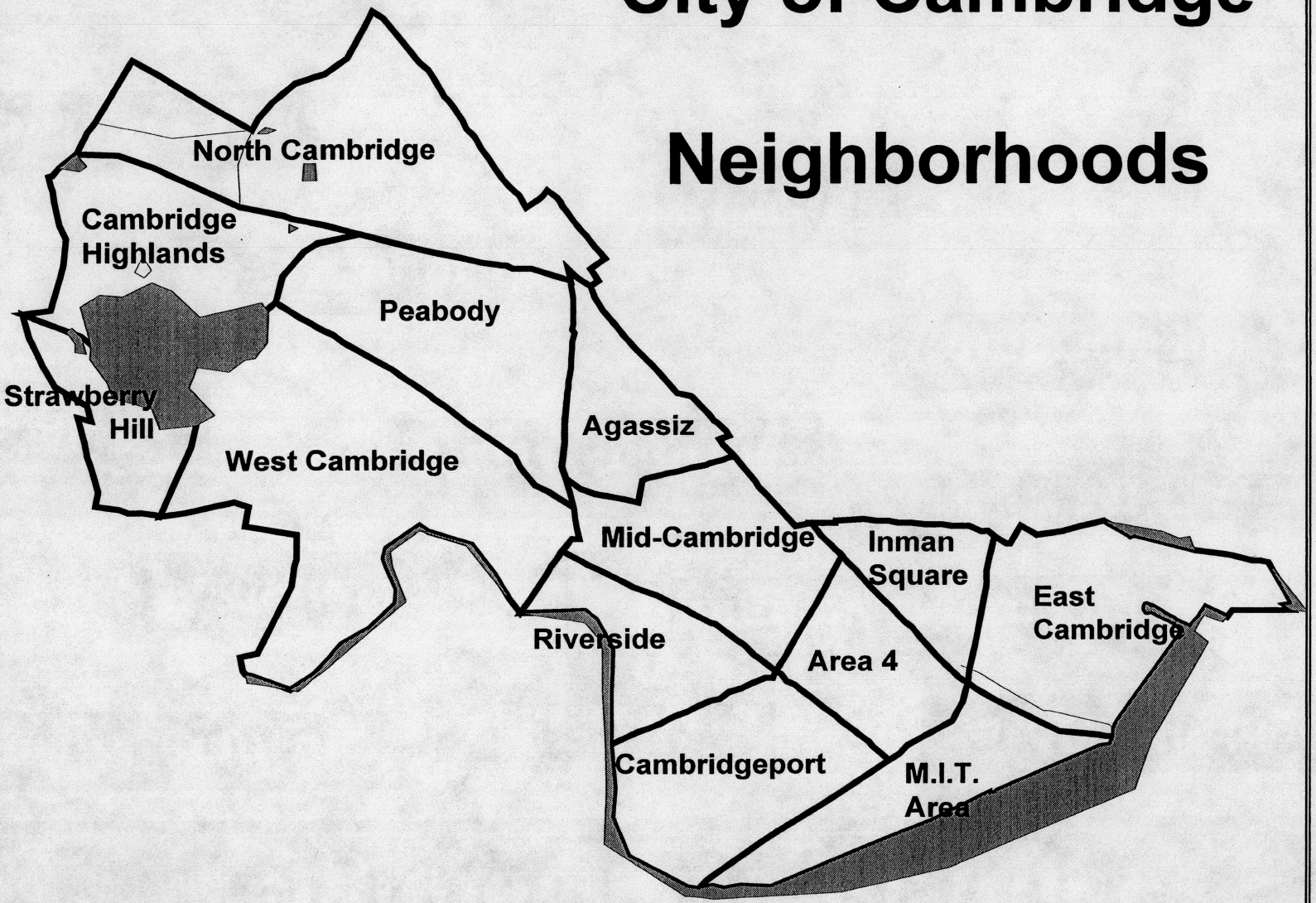
West Cambridge

Riverside

Strawberry Hill

City of Cambridge

Neighborhoods



Geographic Breakdown of "Residential" Crimes in 1997

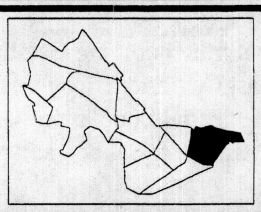
Crime	Total	East Camb.	MIT	Inman	Area 4	Camb. Port	Mid-Camb.	River-side	Agassiz	Peabod.	West Camb.	North Camb.	Camb. High.	Straw. Hill	Unk.
Aggravated Assault[1]	370	37	7	33	69	59	22	44	7	18	13	48	2	10	1
Annoying & Accosting[2]	25	6	0	1	2	4	2	2	1	0	0	6	0	1	0
Auto Theft[1]	483	86	43	16	47	92	29	24	8	31	24	61	16	6	0
Domestic Disturbance[3]	260	18	0	39	45	34	24	32	5	16	11	28	1	7	0
Driving Offenses[2]	252	23	10	23	43	37	32	22	5	15	19	22	1	0	0
Drugs[2]	175	15	5	9	49	25	16	32	2	5	4	13	0	0	0
Extortion/ Blackmail[2]	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Flim Flam[2]	39	9	0	3	5	4	3	3	0	3	7	2	0	0	0
Hit and Run[2]	611	58	15	55	65	77	74	43	20	45	56	82	13	8	0
Homicide[1]	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Housebreaks[1]	406	34	2	27	37	55	65	35	30	35	24	55	0	7	0
Indecent Assault[2]	24	3	0	2	5	2	1	5	1	0	2	3	0	0	0
Indecent Exposure[2]	34	3	1	3	4	7	1	7	1	1	4	2	0	0	0
Kidnapping[2]	4	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Larceny (Misc)[1]	22	1	3	1	0	4	3	3	1	3	1	1	1	0	0
Larceny from Automobile[1]	619	120	21	31	64	84	52	35	20	40	60	63	19	9	1
Larceny from Residence[1]	231	13	3	12	23	36	32	13	9	36	24	25	1	3	1
Larceny of Bicycle[1]	449	30	10	25	28	47	74	49	22	29	63	63	7	2	0

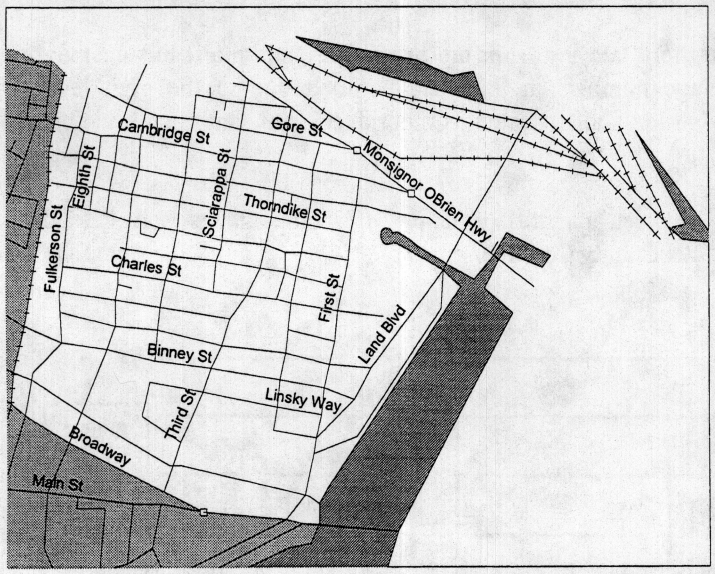
Geographic Breakdown of "Residential" Crimes in 1997 (cont.)

Crime	Total	East Camb.	MIT	Inman	Area 4	Camb. Port	Mid-Camb.	River-side	Agassiz	Peabod.	West Camb.	North Camb.	Camb. High.	Straw. Hill	Unk.
Larceny of License Plate[1]	172	23	5	14	23	12	18	15	5	13	11	20	5	3	5
Malicious Destruction[2]	873	110	16	75	104	108	83	62	34	57	68	108	25	23	0
OUI[2]	67	2	4	3	11	7	10	10	2	6	5	6	1	0	0
Peeping and Spying[2]	17	0	0	0	0	1	6	2	1	5	1	1	0	0	0
Phone Calls[2]	268	28	4	15	36	33	23	22	10	35	23	32	5	2	0
Prostitution[2]	23	3	1	2	13	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape[1]	24	3	0	4	2	3	4	0	1	1	1	4	0	0	1
Simple Assault[1]	606	66	13	55	94	86	52	78	14	33	36	63	11	5	0
Stalking[2]	7	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	0
Street Robbery[1]	154	14	2	9	21	17	20	16	9	16	14	13	1	2	0
Threats[2]	361	57	2	18	40	51	35	27	9	28	22	42	18	12	0
Violation of R.O.[3]	97	17	0	10	17	11	9	4	2	8	2	14	3	0	0
Weapon Violations[2]	7	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0

1 covered under Part I Crimes section
2 Covered under Part II Crimes section
3 Covered in Special Reports: Domestic Crimes section

NEIGHBORHOOD 1
EAST CAMBRIDGE





BOUNDARIES: bordered by the Charles River, Main Street, Broadway, the B&A Railroad, and the Somerville border

POPULATION: 5,783 residents
2,726 households

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME: $30,281

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

ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR EAST CAMBRIDGE TARGET CRIMES

Crime	*1981–1990*	*1991–1997*	*Rank 81–90**	*Rank 91–97**
Housebreaks	38	38	10	9
Street Robbery	10	21	11	4
Auto Theft	156	95	2	2
Larcenies from MVs	121	110	5	2
Malicious Destruction	118	112	5	2

*Ranks are out of 13 neighborhoods, with 1 indicating the highest crime rate and 13 the lowest

1997 YEAR END REVIEW

There were three unrelated predatory robberies in East Cambridge during the fourth quarter. Over the last six months of the year, only four street robberies (including the three predatory robberies) were registered in this neighborhood, resulting in a 37% reduction in this crime in 1997. Directed patrols in the vicinity of the Galleria Mall have been effective in curtailing the sporadic pack robberies that have plagued the area since 1994. • The 66% rise in drug arrests can be traced to the Special Investigations Unit response to citizens complaints of street level dealing with the majority of the arrests occuring during the summer. • There were 20 additional incidents of both auto theft and larceny from motor vehicles producing 13% and 18% increases respectively. Cellular phones from vehicles in private lots between First and Third and Thorndike and Charles on weekday afternoons are the primary targets of these thieves. • There were six housebreaks scattered throughout the neighborhood between October and December. East Cambridge has consistently averaged between 35 and 40 breaks annually over the past 20 years, one of the lower neighborhood rates in the City. The major housebreak pattern of the year in this area was a weekend crime spree in August by a local teen who was subsequently arrested.

COMPARISON OF TAR GET CRIME STATISTICS, 1996 & 1997

CRIME	1996	1997	% CHANGE
Housebreaks	39	34	-12.8%
Street Robbery	22	14	-36.4%
Auto Theft	76	86	+13.2%
Larceny from MVs	101	120	+18.8%
Malicious Destruction	115	110	-4.3%
Drug Arrests	9	15	+66.7%

See Reverse Side for Neighborhood's Historical Synopsis and 1991-1996 Crime Data

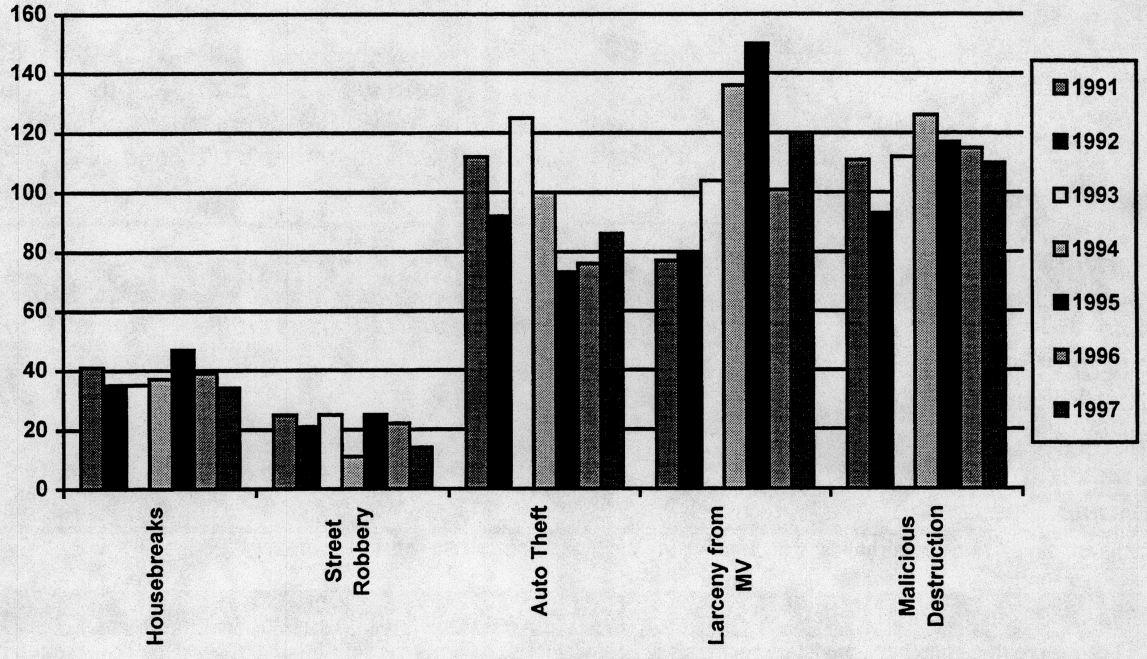
Neighborhood Profile and Historical Synopsis

With the booming Cambridgeside Galleria and the fringe of Cambridge Center as its most prominent features, East Cambridge may be the most heavily trafficked commercial region in the city. It has a smaller than average residential population. Other features of the neighborhood include the Lechmere MBTA station, the Kennedy Elementery School, and the Middlesex County Courthouse.

- **Street robberies** ballooned with the opening of the Cambridgeside Galleria in 1991. Most of these are pack or bully boy robberies committed by and against juveniles. Other robbery patterns—predatory in nature—sometimes appear on Cambridge Street near the B&A Railroad.

- The motor vehicle related crimes of **auto theft, larceny from motor vehicles**, and **malicious destruction of property** occur at higher than average numbers in this neighborhood due to the high level of commercial parking around the Cambridgeside Galleria, along Cambridge Street, and in the vicinity of Cambridge Center.

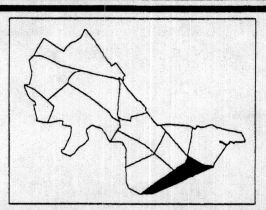
- **Assaults, threats**, and related crimes between plaintiffs, victims, or complainants and defendants sometimes occur in the area of the Middlesex County Courthouse.

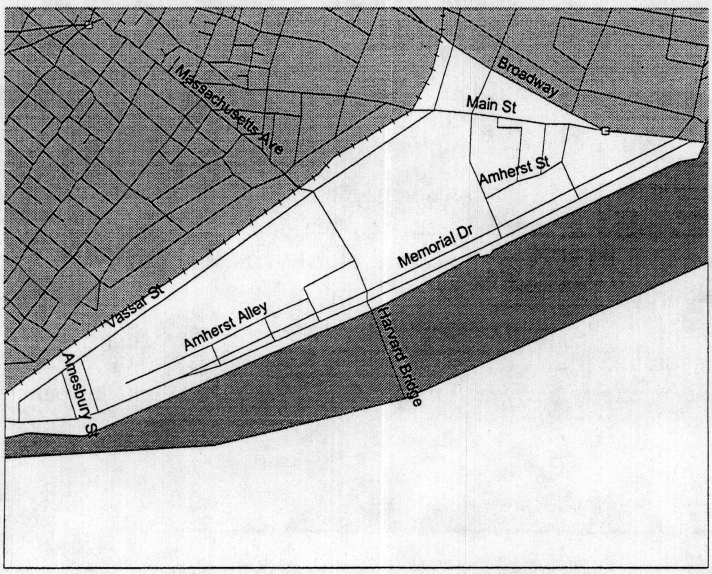


1996 Year End Review

For the first time this decade, larceny from motor vehicles decreased in East Cambridge. The neighborhood, however, still ranked second citywide. The parking lots and garages around the mall remain "hot spots," and other patterns emerged on Bent and Rogers Streets. • Street robbery dropped 12 percent after a sharp 127 percent increase last year. As in past years, most East Cambridge street robberies were situated around the Cambridgeside Galleria and involved packs of juveniles robbing other youths. • The 17 percent decline in housebreaks—credited to the disappearance of the traditional summertime burglary pattern—brought the neighborhood back to its decade average. • Malicious destruction was reduced two percent despite a series of 17 incidents of vandalism to cars that swept East Cambridge over a single night in February.

NEIGHBORHOOD 2
M.I.T. AREA





BOUNDARIES: bounded by Main Street, Broadway, the B&A Railroad, and the Charles River

POPULATION: 5,196 residents
794 households

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME: $26,397

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

ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR M.I.T. AREA TARGET CRIMES

Crime	*1981–1990*	*1991–1997*	*Rank 81–90**	*Rank 91–97**
Housebreaks	19	4	11	12
Street Robbery	11	7	10	11
Auto Theft	102	67	7	6
Larcenies from MVs	56	59	10	8
Malicious Destruction	47	34	10	10

*Ranks are out of 13 neighborhoods, with 1 indicating the highest crime rate and 13 the lowest

1997 YEAR END REVIEW

A predatory robbery on Ames Street in October was the sole incident of this type in the MIT Area during the fourth quarter. With only two street robberies recorded in this neighborhood for all of 1997, a 71% reduction for the crime type was registered. Part of this decline should be attributed to the success of combined patrols of the CPD and MIT Departments between the hours of 5PM and 7PM in areas of high pedestrian activity. • Increased directed patrol along Vassar Street deterred an ongoing auto theft pattern on Vassar Street in the Fall. There were only six auto thefts in the entire neighborhood over the past three months of 1997. One of the hottest auto theft patterns of the year citywide involved the thefts of Honda Accords from the 300 to 400 blocks of Vassar between June and September. The majority of these vehicles were partially stripped and recovered in Boston. • The target crimes of housebreaks, malicious destruction, and drug activity remain significantly lower in number here than other neighborhoods. • As previously mentioned in the Third Quarter Report, alcohol and traffic related assaults along Massachusetts Avenue between Vassar and Main Streets are waning.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 1996 & 1997

CRIME	1996	1997	% CHANGE
Housebreaks	2	2	NC
Street Robbery	7	2	-71.4%
Auto Theft	24	43	+79.2%
Larceny from MVs	34	21	-38.2%
Malicious Destruction	17	16	-5.9%
Drug Arrests	1	4	+300.0%

See Reverse Side for Neighborhood's Historical Synopsis and 1991-1996 Crime Data

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE AND HISTORICAL SYNOPSIS

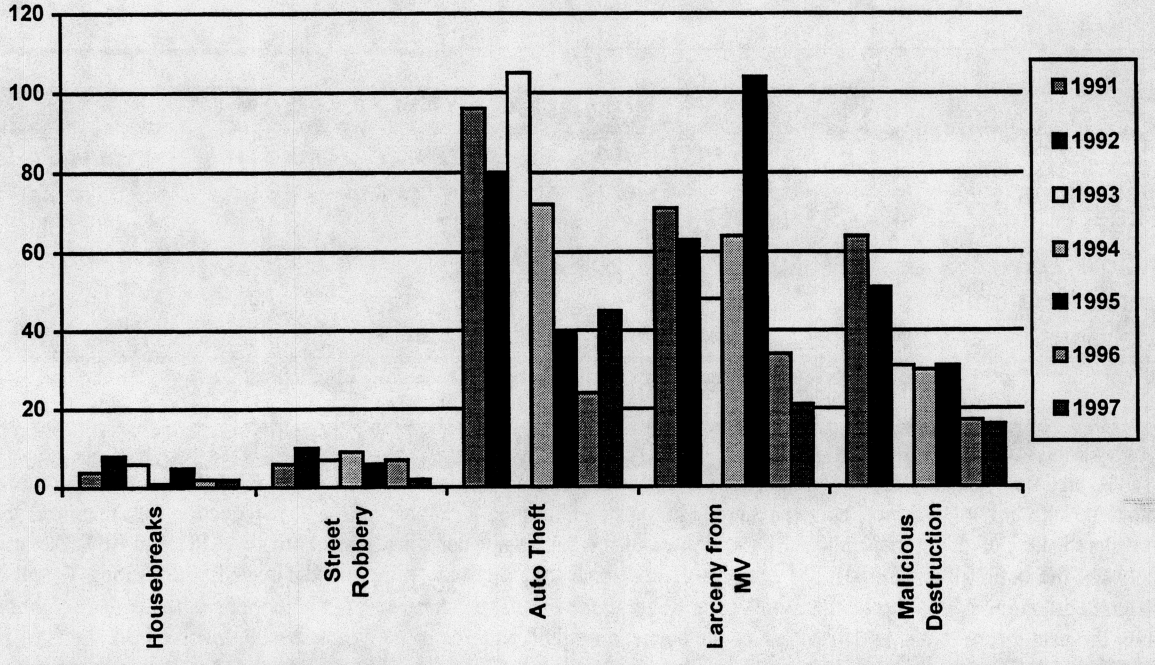
The M.I.T. Area is dominated, of course, by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. M.I.T. property envelops most of the neighborhood. Its large student population—many of whom are foreign—is alluring to local criminals, who often consider students unsuspecting prey.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has its own police force which reports its own crime statistics to the Uniform Crime Reporting system. Statistics contained in this profile—and in the rest of the report—do not include crimes on M.I.T. property except for most arrests and incidents in which Cambridge Police Officers participated in the investigation.

- The large number of automobiles parked each day on Vassar Street, Ames Street, Amherst Street, and at the Hyatt Regency Hotel have traditionally accounted for high numbers of **auto theft**, and **larcenies from motor vehicles**.

- **Street robbery** patterns have sometimes emerged at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Vassar Street, and outside the BankBoston ATM on Main Street. These are often predatory, targeting college students that are walking in the areas late at night. Over the course of 20 years, however, M.I.T. has maintained a street robbery level well below the other neighborhoods.

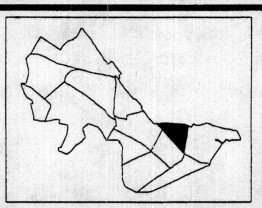
- Bicycles parked at racks on sidewalks all around M.I.T. have been targeted by thieves in large numbers. M.I.T. and Cambridge Police make several arrests per year for **larcenies of bicycles**, but the patterns continue.

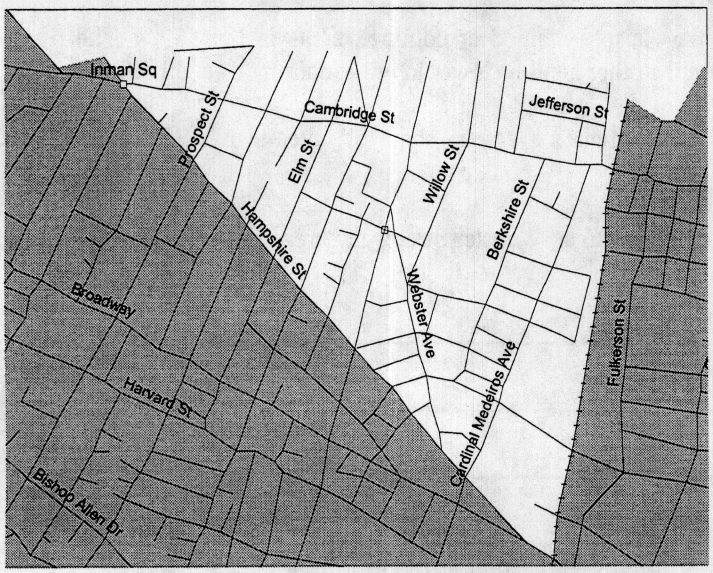


1996 YEAR END REVIEW

Auto theft, malicious destruction, and larcenies from motor vehicles—traditionally high in the M.I.T. Area—decreased drastically in 1996. Preventive patrol efforts by the Cambridge and M.I.T. Police reduced patterns that have historically appeared at the parking lots on Vassar, Amherst, and Ames Streets. • Larceny of Bicycles on and around the campus remained a serious problem in 1996, though it did not increase significantly. • Massachusetts Avenue between Main Street and Vassar Street became a "hot spot" for alcohol and traffic assaults. • The neighborhood's street robberies—about average for this decade—were concentrated on Massachusetts Avenue and Memorial Drive and included two predatory knife robberies, a bikejacking, a wallet snatch, and an acquaintance robbery.

NEIGHBORHOOD 3
INMAN/HARRINGTON





BOUNDARIES: bounded by the B&A Railroad, Hampshire Street, and the Somerville line.

POPULATION: 7,210 residents
2,734 households

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME: $30,231

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

ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR INMAN/HARRINGTON TARGET CRIMES

Crime	*1981–1990*	*1991–1997*	*Rank 81–90**	*Rank 91–97**
Housebreaks	57	45	9	6
Street Robbery	14	14	8	8
Auto Theft	89	53	10	7
Larcenies from MVs	66	50	9	9
Malicious Destruction	94	86	7	6

*Ranks are out of 13 neighborhoods, with 1 indicating the highest crime rate and 13 the lowest

1997 YEAR END REVIEW

All six target crimes registered declines in Neighborhood #3 in 1997. Further analysis reveals that the crimes of Housebreaks (-25%), street robbery (-40%), and larceny from motor vehicles (-31%) all recorded significant decreases this year. • The three street robberies in this area in the fourth quarter all categorized as juvenile/strong arm incidents with the victims being other youths. One partial reason for the 40% decline in street robberies in this neighborhood can be traced to the abatement of female juvenile revenge robberies during the summer months. • The Special Investigations Unit targeted and arrested a Cambridge Street drug dealer for trafficking in cocaine in October. The other drug arrest in this neighborhood during the fourth quarter involved the possession of marijuana by a student at school. Drug activity in this area was dealt a severe blow when SIU targeted street level dealers on Windsor, Willow and Webster during the fourth quarter of 1996, accounting for the unusually high number last year. • There were only four unrelated housebreaks between October and December in this neighborhood. Housebreaks have been on a spiraling decline over the past three years in the Harrington area. • All news and analysis of target crimes for the Inman/Harrington neighborhod is overshadowed by the atrocious abduction and murder of Jeffery Curley in October.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 1996 & 1997

CRIME	1996	1997	% CHANGE
Housebreaks	36	27	-25.0%
Street Robbery	15	9	-40.0%
Auto Theft	47	16	-66.0%
Larceny from MVs	45	31	-31.1%
Malicious Destruction	80	75	-6.3%
Drug Arrests	23	9	-60.1%

See Reverse Side for Neighborhood's Historical Synopsis and 1991-1996 Crime Data

Neighborhood Profile and Historical Synopsis

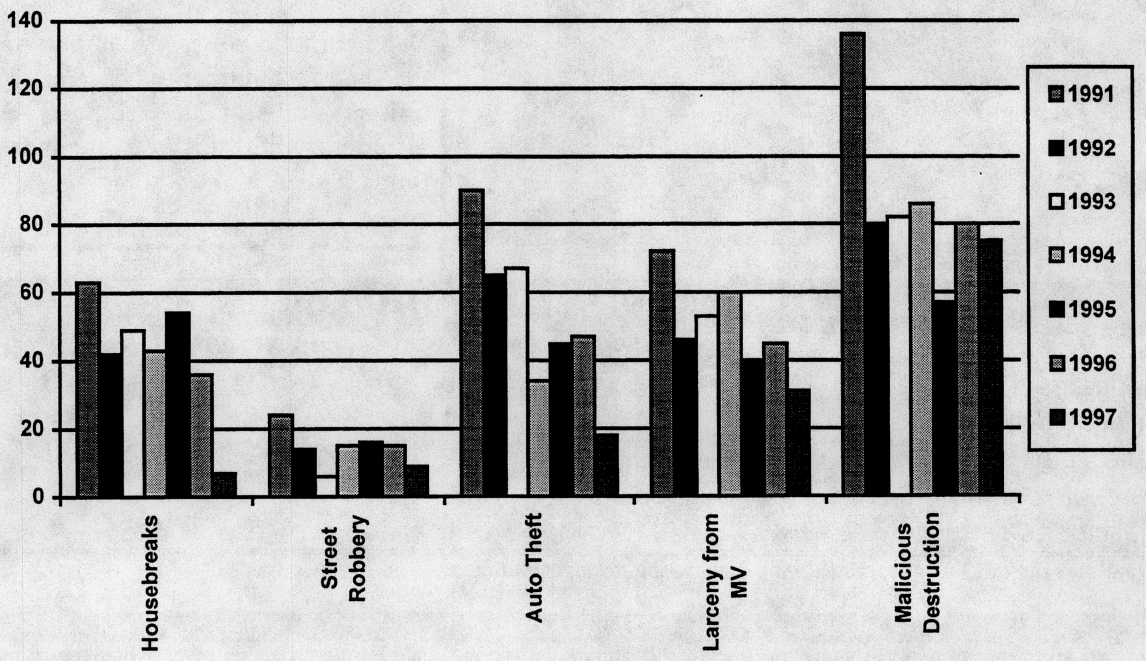
The Inman Square/Harrington neighborhood's population ranks at the median for the city; consequently, so does many of its crimes. Inman/Harrington is also marked by a number of commercial establishments along Cambridge Street, in Inman Square, and in Kendall Square.

- Inman/Harrington has an average number of **housebreaks**, given its population. Cambridge Street, Hampshire Street, Elm Street, Columbia Street, and Willow Street have been "hot spots" for this crime. The density of housebreaks increases in the lower half of the neighborhood.

- **Auto theft** and **malicious destruction** have also remained at nominal levels in the 1990s. The related crime of **larceny from motor vehicles**, on the other hand, is lower in only four other neighborhoods.

- The Harrington School and Donnelly Field guarantee a certain share of juvenile related crime, such as vandalism, gang fights, and petty larcenies.

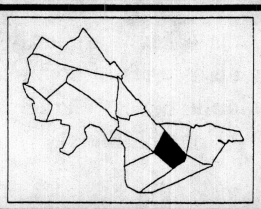
- Drug sales are sometimes a problem on Windsor Street, Webster Street, and areas around Donnelly Field.

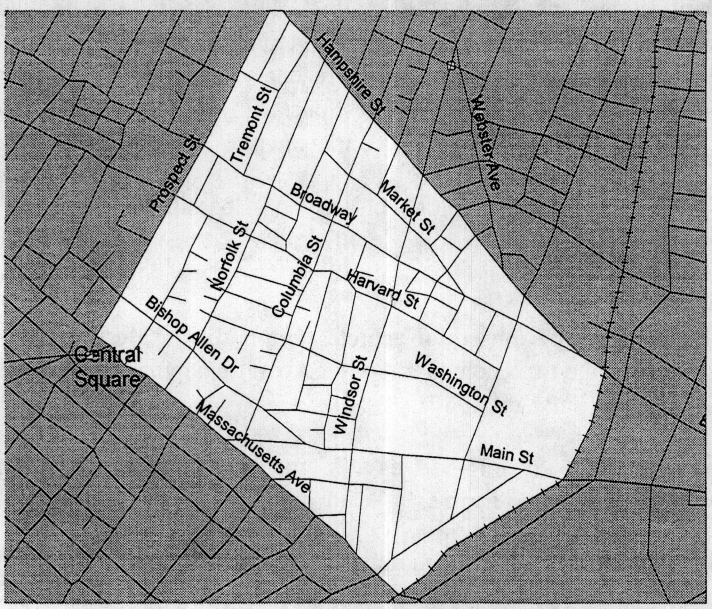


1996 Year End Review

The arrest of a career criminal who was responsible for about 30 Inman/Harrington housebreaks in 1995 precluded a reappearance of the pattern in 1996; hence, the 33 percent decline in housebreaks. • Street robbery remained nominal, with incidents along Cambridge Street, Windsor Street, and in Inman Square. Two juvenile patterns were identified. • The 40 percent increase in malicious destruction is certainly a cause for concern. The majority of these incidents occurred on side streets such as Harding, Oak, Willow, and Warren, bordering Somerville. They involved the slashing of tires and the smashing of windshields. • The Cambridge Police Vice/Narcotics Unit targeted cocaine sales along Willow, Webster, and Windsor Streets in 1996, which is represented in the 77 percent increase in drug arrests.

NEIGHBORHOOD 4
AREA 4





BOUNDARIES: bounded the B&A Railroad, Massachusetts Avenue, Prospect Street, and Hampshire Street

POPULATION: 6,560 residents
2,523 households

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME: $24,665

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

ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR AREA 4 TARGET CRIMES

Crime	*1981–1990*	*1991–1997*	*Rank 81–90**	*Rank 91–97**
Housebreaks	101	69	5	4
Street Robbery	75	52	1	1
Auto Theft	147	80	3	5
Larcenies from MVs	134	69	2	5
Malicious Destruction	131	110	3	5

*Ranks are out of 13 neighborhoods, with 1 indicating the highest crime rate and 13 the lowest

1997 YEAR END REVIEW

Two of the more prominent target crimes are street robbery and housebreaks. The Crime Analysis Unit prioritizes this type incident for early pattern identification and series interdiction. Together, they have the potential to strangle the lifeblood from a neighborhood. The continued downward spiral of these crimes in Area 4 (street robbery -53%, Housebreaks -52%), is one of the more positive analytically identified trends in the City. • Housebreaks, which consistently averaged over 100 in Area 4 throughout the decade of the 1980s, hit a 30 year low when 37 were recorded in 1997. Street robbery also registered its lowest total since the 1960s in this neighborhood. Street robberies have declined over 60% in Area 4 since the start of the decade.. Area 4 is serviced with the highest percentage of Park & Walks of any neighborhood in the city. This increased police presence aimed at addressing resident concerns over street level drug dealing has possibly served the double purpose of dispersing other potential robbers and thieves. • Larceny from motor vehicles increased during the second half of 1997 when over forty incidents were reported. Hot spots in 1997 for this crime type were along Bishop Allen Drive, 100 to 200 Norfolk Street and lower Harvard Street. Weekend nights between the hours of 11PM to 3AM is the best time frame for these thefts from vehicles.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 1996 & 1997

CRIME	1996	1997	% CHANGE
Housebreaks	78	37	-52.6%
Street Robbery	45	21	-53.3%
Auto Theft	54	48	-11.1%
Larceny from MVs	49	64	+30.6%
Malicious Destruction	99	104	+5.1%
Drug Arrests	76	49	-35.5%

See Reverse Side for Neighborhood's Historical Synopsis and 1991-1996 Crime Data

Neighborhood Profile and Historical Synopsis

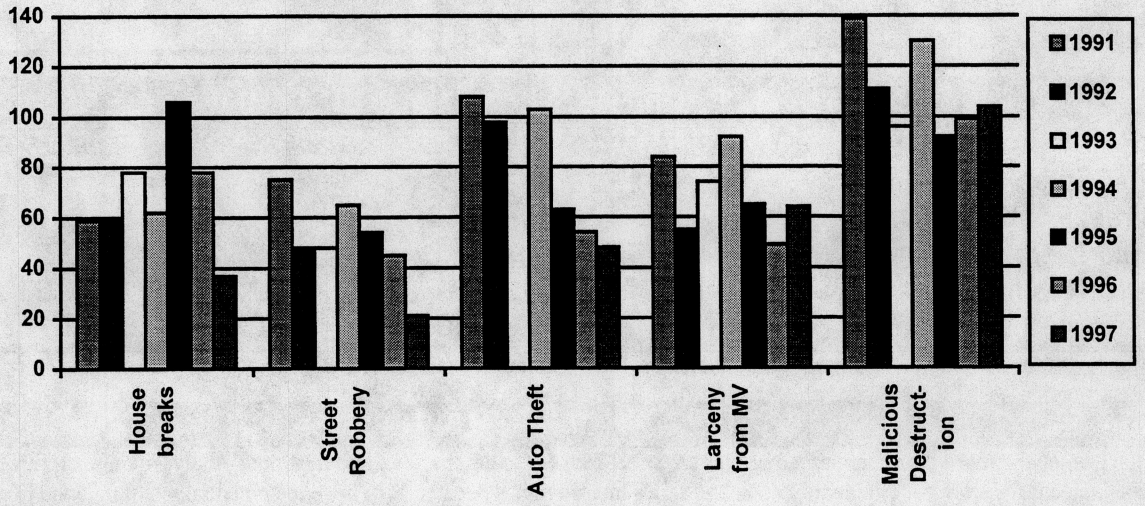
Area 4 has a primarily residential population (slightly less than average for the city's neighborhoods) along with a series of commercial establishments along Massachusetts Avenue. It is characterized by two and three family houses, large apartment buildings, and two public housing developments (Newtowne Court and Washington Elms).

- Area 4 has historically been plagued by the highest levels of **street robbery** and **drug arrests**. Street robbery generally occurs after 9:00 P.M. on weekends. Many of these incidents are located in or near Central Square—a "hot spot" because of its high pedestrian traffic, its MBTA subway stop, and its proximity to the Cambridgeport bars. Other hot spots for both crimes include Bishop Allen Drive, Washington Street, Harvard Street, Windsor Street, and Broadway. In recent years, community crime watches, the Cambridge Housing Authority, and the Cambridge Police Special Investigations Unit have succeeded in dispersing many of the drug incidents away from the residential areas.

- **Housebreaks** are higher than average in Area 4. The neighborhood is a target because of its densely packed residential population. The Crime Analysis Unit generally identifies two or three patterns a year that sweep both Mid-Cambridge and Area 4.

- Automobile related crimes such as **auto theft**, **larceny from motor vehicles**, and **malicious destruction of property** are average to slightly higher than average for a neighborhood of Area 4's population. All three crimes, however, have registered general decreases since the 1980s.

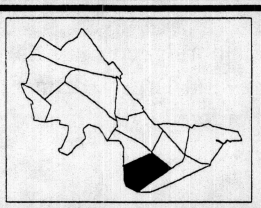
- Sennott Park, at night, has experienced problems with drug use, assault, and bicycle theft. Cambridge Police "Park and Walks" in the area have helped abate these crimes.

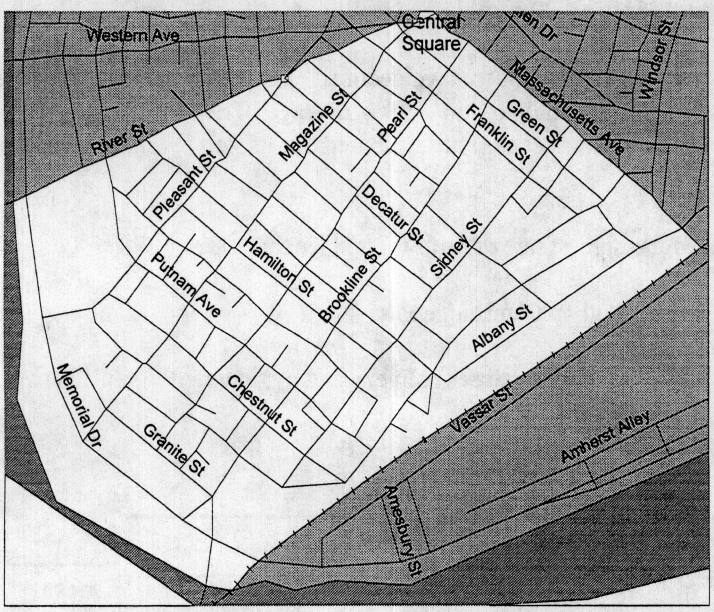


1996 Year End Review

With the exception of Malicious Destruction, all target crimes showed moderate to high decreases in Area 4. The arrest of two Somerville residents in November of 1995 ended an Area 4 housebreak pattern and produced a 26 percent decrease in 1996. The crime still remained unusually high in the neighborhood, with concentrations on Washington, Suffolk, Norfolk, Union, and Columbia Streets. • Street robbery, though 17 percent lower, remained highest in Area 4—particularly in Central Square, along Massachusetts Avenue, on Bishop Allen Drive, on Washington Street, and around the Washington Elms/Newtowne Court housing developments. Many of Area 4's robberies are drug related; numerous local teenagers have been arrested. • Drug arrests continued to saturate the neighborhood, though the total—over triple the number of the next closest neighborhood—decreased 8 percent. • Auto theft, concentrated in the lower half of the neighborhood, declined 14 percent. • The high malicious destruction total can be partially attributed to disputes—particularly in the winter—over the limited number of residential parking spaces.

NEIGHBORHOOD 5
CAMBRIDGEPORT





BOUNDARIES: bordered by Massachusetts Avenue, the B&A railroad, the Charles River, and River Street

POPULATION: 9,100 residents
4,203 households

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME: $28,466

Neighborhood #5 is encompassed by the patrol boundaries of Car 3 (2 officers) and Car 4R (1 officer). Also included are walking routes 5A, 5B, and Central 12.

ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR CAMBRIDGEPORT TARGET CRIMES

Crime	*1981–1990*	*1991–1997*	*Rank 81–90**	*Rank 91–97**
Housebreaks	156	75	2	3
Street Robbery	57	36	2	2
Auto Theft	165	97	1	1
Larcenies from MVs	126	93	4	3
Malicious Destruction	106	115	6	2

*Ranks are out of 13 neighborhoods, with 1 indicating the highest crime rate and 13 the lowest

1997 YEAR END REVIEW

Street robbery declined 45% in Cambridgeport in 1997 with only five recorded over the final six months of the year. A geographical clustering of robberies in an area bordered by Western Ave., Massachusetts Ave., Brookline Street and Franklin Street was eradicated with arrests in early March. • The majority of drug arrests (+19%) in Neighborhood #5 were made during the first six months of the year. The Special Investigations Unit responded to citizens complaints of drug dealing by targeting street level purveyors of marijuana and crack cocaine. • Weekend night incidents of malicious destruction in Upper Cambridgeport between Pleasant and Magazine and in the lower section of the neighborhood on Chestnut, Tufts and Granite remain a community concern.. A number of these incidents are related to neighborhood domestic and juvenile disputes. The end result of these altercations is a smashed windshield, spray-painted porch or slashed tires. • Daytime auto theft patterns continue to a major problem for Cambridgeport. These incidents are clustered in an area bordered by Henry Street, Pearl Street, Allston Street and Sidney. Late model foreign vehicles are targeted by thieves between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 1996 & 1997

CRIME	1996	1997	% CHANGE
Housebreaks	68	55	-19.1%
Street Robbery	31	17	-45.2%
Auto Theft	78	91	+16.7%
Larceny from MVs	60	84	+40.0%
Malicious Destruction	109	108	-0.9%
Drug Arrests	21	25	+19.0%

See Reverse Side for Neighborhood's Historical Synopsis and 1991-1996 Crime Data

Neighborhood Profile and Historical Synopsis

Cambridgeport has the fifth highest residential population of the city's neighborhoods. It is characterized by several large apartment buildings as well as many one, two, and three family houses. The neighborhood is bordered by a string of retail stores, hotels, and restaurants on Memorial Drive, River Street, and Massachusetts Avenue.

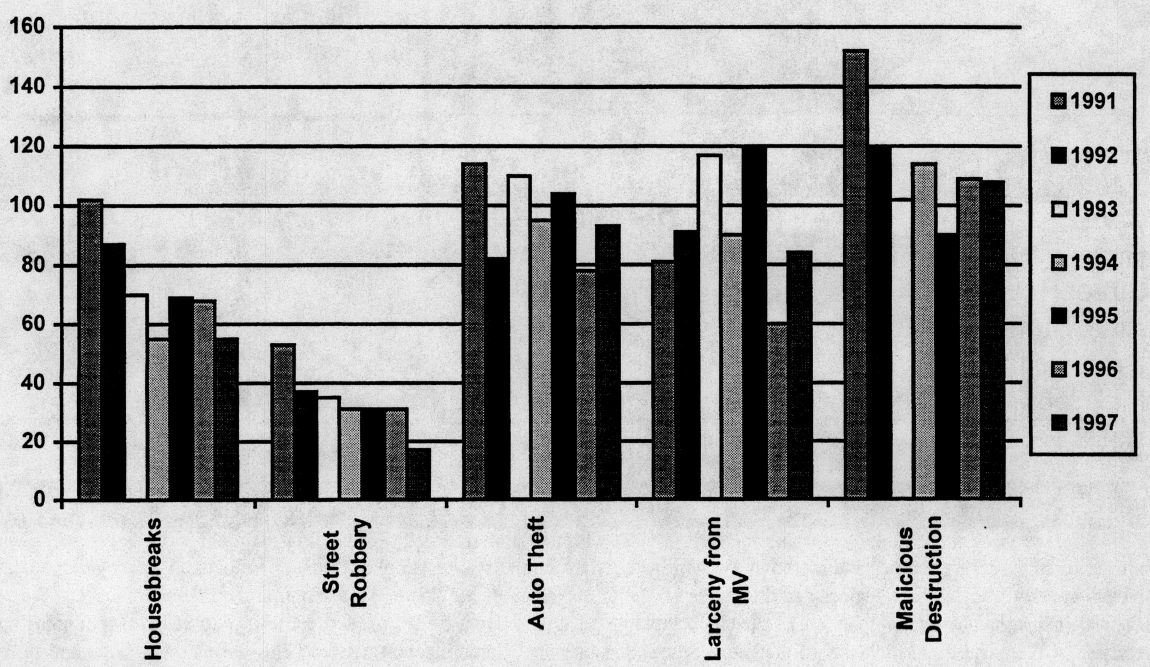
- **Street robberies** have long been the most serious crime problem in Cambridgeport. As with Area 4, Cambridgeport's street robberies tend to concentrate near Massachusetts Avenue and Central Square. They are often predatory, and are usually committed after 9:00 at night on weekends.

- **Housebreaks**, usually higher than average in Cambridgeport, have declined significantly since the 1980s. The average number of housebreaks since 1991 is half of the 1980s average. They have declined 30 percent since 1991. Cambridgeport's housebreak rate can be attributed to its large, densely packed residential population.

- Cambridgeport has continually experienced the highest rate of **auto theft** since the 1980s.

- **Larceny from motor vehicles** usually registers high in Cambridgeport.

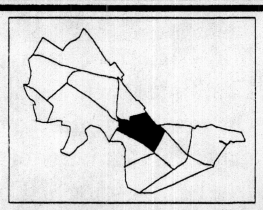
- The homeless shelter on Albany Street is often a scene for **street robbery** and **aggravated assault** between its patrons.

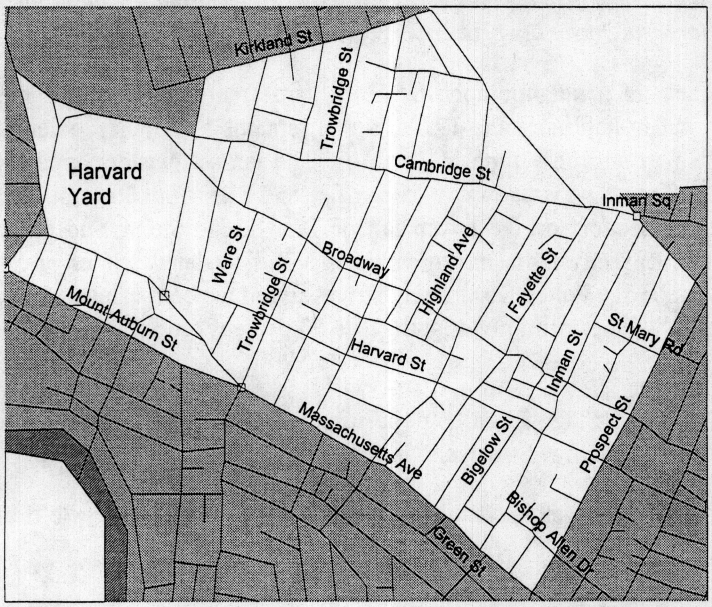


1996 Year End Review

The 25 percent drop in auto theft and the 50 percent decline in larceny from motor vehicles are both pleasantly astounding. Auto theft still saturated the neighborhood, however, and the 1996 total was higher than any other area. • Street robbery remained at 31 incidents for the third year in a row, with the largest concentration on Massachusetts Avenue near Central Square. Street robbery was poised for a decrease until a pattern of 12 predatory knife robberies swept Cambridgeport and Riverside in November. Other patterns appeared on Magazine, Franklin, Green, and Pearl Streets. • Housebreaks, after jumping in the first quarter because of a pattern that hit the neighborhood between 4:00 P.M. and 8:00 P.M. on Thursdays, ended with a single incident decline. • Drug arrests remained roughly the same, with most incidents within three blocks of Central Square.

NEIGHBORHOOD 6
MID-CAMBRIDGE





BOUNDARIES: bordered by Massachusetts Avenue, Prospect Street, Hampshire Street, the Somerville border, Kirkland Street, Quincy Street, and Cambridge Street

POPULATION: 13,006 residents
5,989 households

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME: $37,075

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

ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR MID-CAMBRIDGE TARGET CRIMES

Crime	*1981–1990*	*1991–1997*	*Rank 81–90**	*Rank 91–97**
Housebreaks	226	121	1	1
Street Robbery	49	20	3	5
Auto Theft	147	85	4	3
Larcenies from MVs	198	112	1	1
Malicious Destruction	149	112	1	4

*Ranks are out of 13 neighborhoods, with 1 indicating the highest crime rate and 13 the lowest

1997 YEAR END REVIEW

Housebreaks continued on a downward spiral for the second consecutive year in Mid-Cambridge. During the decade of the 1980s, Neighborhood #6 averaged over 225 housebreaks per year. After recording a 48% decrease in 1997, the 65 housebreaks recorded here this year represent the lowest housebreak total for Mid-Cambridge in forty years. • There were ten street robberies between April and June in this neighborhood. Seven of the ten robberies were related to a pattern that emerged in late April concentrated in the western section of Mid-Cambridge. This series of pack robberies victimizing males walking alone was eradicated with extra patrol, community alerts and two arrests. Over the final six months of the year only five additional robberies were committed in Neighborhood #6 resulting in a 16% decline when compared to the 1996 figures. • The target crimes of larceny from motor vehicles and auto theft plunged 61% and 58% respectively. The historical hot spots in the 300 to 400 block corridors of Harvard and Broadway were saturated with directed patrols during identified prime time hours of criminal activity. The patrol strategy was apparently successful.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 1996 & 1997

CRIME	1996	1997	% CHANGE
Housebreaks	126	65	-48.4%
Street Robbery	24	20	-16.7%
Auto Theft	70	29	-58.6%
Larceny from MVs	134	52	-61.2%
Malicious Destruction	93	83	-10.8%
Drug Arrests	14	16	+14.3%

See Reverse Side for Neighborhood's Historical Synopsis and 1991-1996 Crime Data

Neighborhood Profile and Historical Synopsis

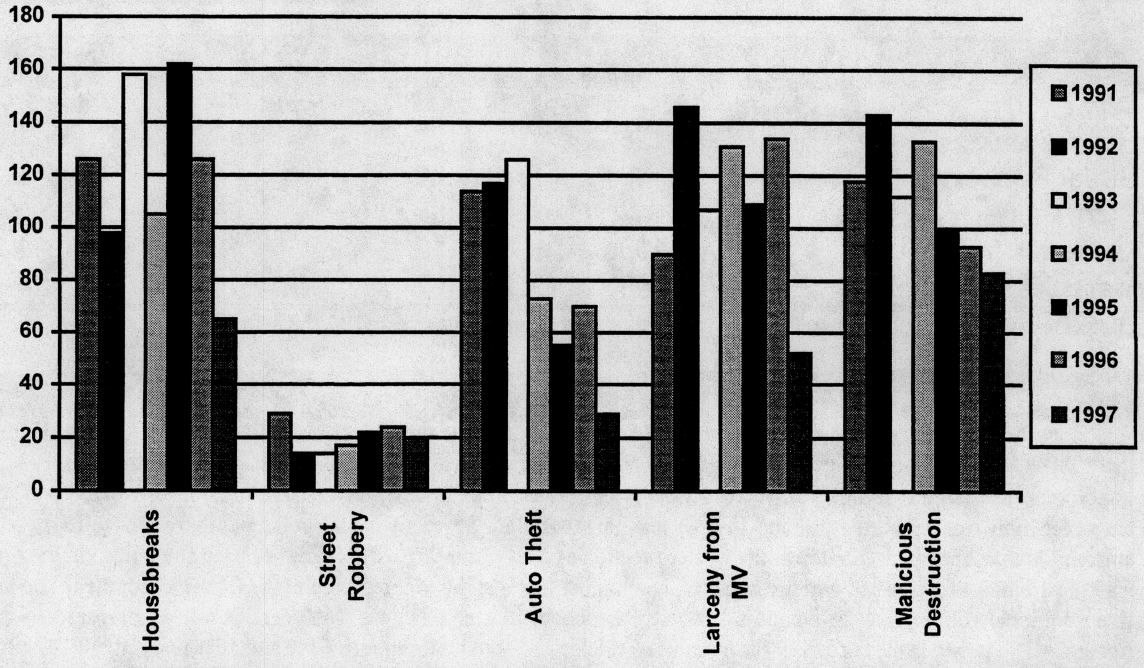
Mid-Cambridge is a busy neighborhood. In addition to the highest population of any neighborhood in Cambridge, Mid-Cambridge also has the city's largest high school (Cambridge Rindge & Latin), the Jackson Gardens residential complex, a good portion of Harvard University, and our own City Hall. It is bordered by the major throughways of Massachusetts Avenue, Prospect Street, and Cambridge Street, and three of the city's five busiest squares (Central, Harvard, and Inman) occupy its corners.

Because of the enormous number of people living, working, shopping, and going to school within its borders, Mid-Cambridge tends to have a higher than average rate for several crimes. *Harvard University, which has its own police department, patrols Harvard property in the western part of the neighborhood. Our statistics do not reflect most incidents that occur on Harvard University property.*

- **Residential Burglary** is naturally highest in a neighborhood with the largest number of residences. Though the rate of this crime has been cut in half since the 1980s, it still remains a serious problem. In 1992, burglaries fell below 100 for the first and only time in 30 years. The largest clusters appear on Harvard Street between Prospect and Lee Streets, on Broadway between Lee and Ellery Streets, around the Massachusetts Avenue/Hancock Street intersection, on the lower half of Trowbridge Street, and on Lee Street. Mid-Cambridge also ranks high in **Larceny from motor vehicles** and the related crimes of **auto theft** and **malicious destruction**. The Cambridge Police Department strives to reduce both crimes through preventive patrol efforts, "Park and Walks," and priority investigation. Its 50 percent drop since the 1980s bespeaks some success.

- **Street robbery** is surprisingly low in Mid-Cambridge given its population. Most of the incidents that do occur happen on Massachusetts Avenue, on Cambridge Street, and in Inman Square.

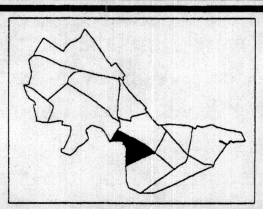
- The high amount of pedestrian traffic on Massachusetts Avenue leads to a large number of **bicycle thefts** each year, particularly in or near Harvard Square.

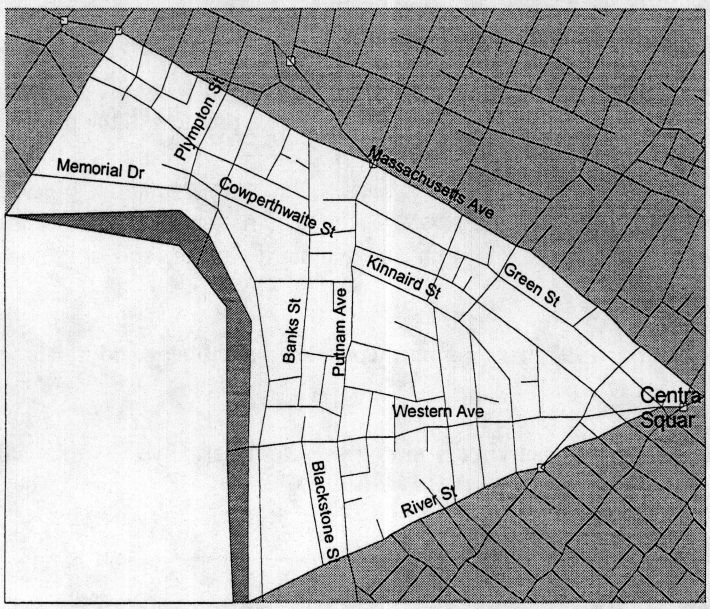


1996 Year End Review

Housebreaks fell 22 percent from 1995 thanks to the arrests of two career criminals responsible for 30 to 60 of the 1995 burglaries. Burglary still remained extremely high. Patterns occurred during the working day and usually involved the theft of electronics or jewelry. An unusual nighttime pattern began in late July and culminated with the arrest of two suspects. • Larcenies from motor vehicles, traditionally highest in Mid-Cambridge, rose 23 percent. Much of this increase sprang from an August and September pattern that struck the eastern half of the neighborhood and resulted in the arrests of juveniles from Somerville and Revere. Such thieves typically pry car doors between 10:00 P.M. and 2:00 A.M. • A set of bully boy street robberies in the 300 to 400 blocks of Harvard and Broadway generated a 40 percent increase in robberies for the first three quarters, but a quiet fourth quarter brought the total increase down to 9 percent. • Drug arrests fell by 42 percent as the Vice/Narcotics Unit ended an investigation that targeted Inman Square area prescription forgers.

NEIGHBORHOOD 7
RIVERSIDE





BOUNDARIES: bordered by Massachusetts Avenue, River Street, the Charles River, and JFK Street

POPULATION: 10,432 residents
3,341 households

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME: $27,415

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

ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR RIVERSIDE TARGET CRIMES

Crime	*1981–1990*	*1991–1997*	*Rank 81–90**	*Rank 91–97**
Housebreaks	83	45	7	7
Street Robbery	34	16	4	6
Auto Theft	92	46	9	10
Larcenies from MVs	87	48	7	10
Malicious Destruction	78	72	9	9

*Ranks are out of 13 neighborhoods, with 1 indicating the highest crime rate and 13 the lowest

1997 YEAR END REVIEW

The Special Investigations Unit's response to Neighborhood street level drug dealing produced five additional drug arrests in Riverside during the fourth quarter resulting in an 113% increase for this crime in 1997. Geographically, nearly fifty percent of the arrest were clustered between 250 to 280 Western Ave. and adjacent side streets. Twelve arrests were on the fringes of Harvard Square. There were five arrests during booking procedures at Police Headquarters which slightly inflate drug statistics for Riverside. Fifteen of the drug arrests in Riverside were marijuana related, another eleven were for the possession of cocaine. There were three additional arrests for the possession of heroin. • There was only one street robbery reported in Neighborhood #7 during the final three months of the year. However, an unrelated series of predatory street robberies on the outskirts of Harvard Square over the summer propelled this crime to a 33% increase in 1997. • Housebreaks declined 32% in Riverside with the only discernible pattern of the year a series of daytime breaks between 800 and 1000 Mass Ave. • A series of vandalism to motor vehicle windshields along Western, Jay, and Franklin Streets during the fourth quarter pushed malicious destruction to a 24% increase in 1997.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 1996 & 1997

CRIME	1996	1997	% CHANGE
Housebreaks	52	35	-32.7%
Street Robbery	12	16	+33.3%
Auto Theft	24	24	NC
Larceny from MVs	32	35	+9.4%
Malicious Destruction	50	62	+24.0%
Drug Arrests	15	32	+113.3%

See Reverse Side for Neighborhood's Historical Synopsis and 1991-1996 Crime Data

Neighborhood Profile and Historical Synopsis

Riverside has the fourth highest population in the city, but it ranks well below the average for almost all index crimes. Along with its 10 thousand residents, Riverside has two housing developments (Putnam Gardens and the River-Howard homes), two major parks (Hoyt Field and Riverside Press Park), and many commercial establishments along Massachusetts Avenue, River Street, and Western Avenue. Several Harvard University dormitories and other properties occupy the northwestern quarter. Riverside's borders also encompass the United States Post Office and the Cambridge Police Department headquarters.

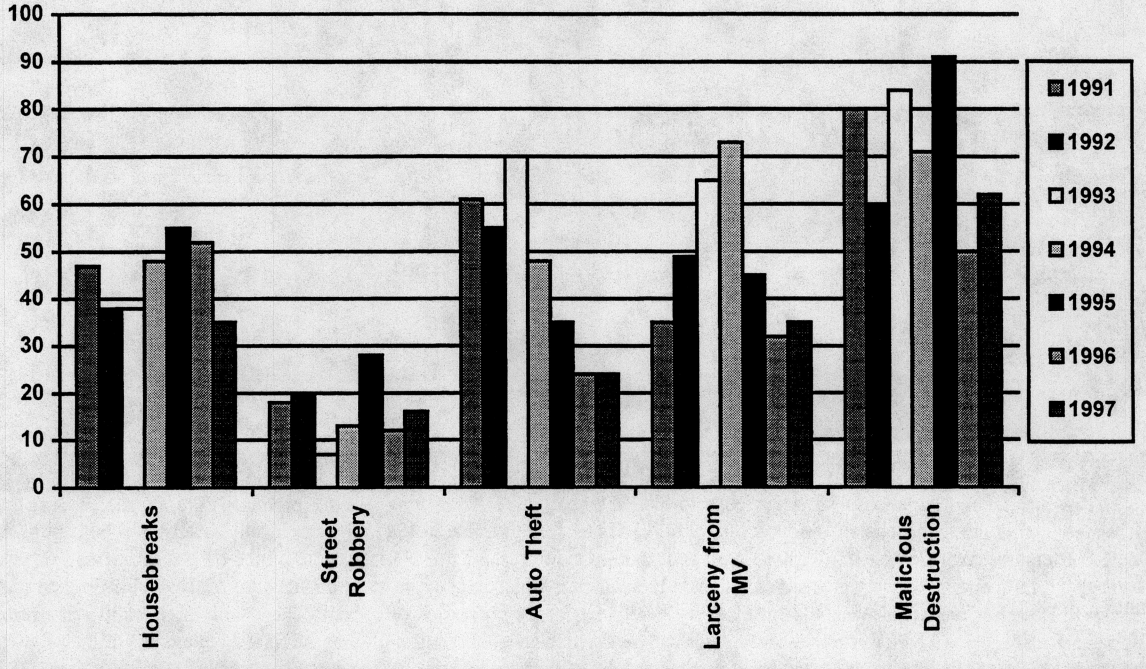
Harvard University, which has its own police department, patrols Harvard property in the northwestern part of the neighborhood. Our statistics do not reflect most incidents that occur on university property.

- **Malicious destruction** is the only crime that has not shown a significant average decline in Riverside since the 1980s, though it is low compared to the rest of the city. Most of this vandalism occurs to motor vehicles. Occasional patterns of this crime over long holiday weekends have been a problem in the past.

- **Street robberies** are low for a neighborhood of Riverside's population, but they remain a pressing problem. Most of these incidents are concentrated on Western Avenue. Riverside has an exceptionally low **housebreak** rate for its size; a few clusters appear on Franklin and Kinnaird Streets, and at Putnam Gardens.

- Hoyt Field, the site of a murder in the Summer of 1997, has long been considered a **robbery** and **narcotics** hot spot.

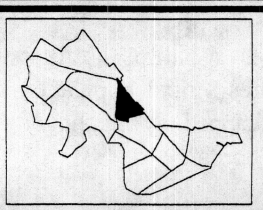
- The only neighborhoods with lower **auto theft** and **larceny from motor vehicles** totals have less than half of Riverside's population.

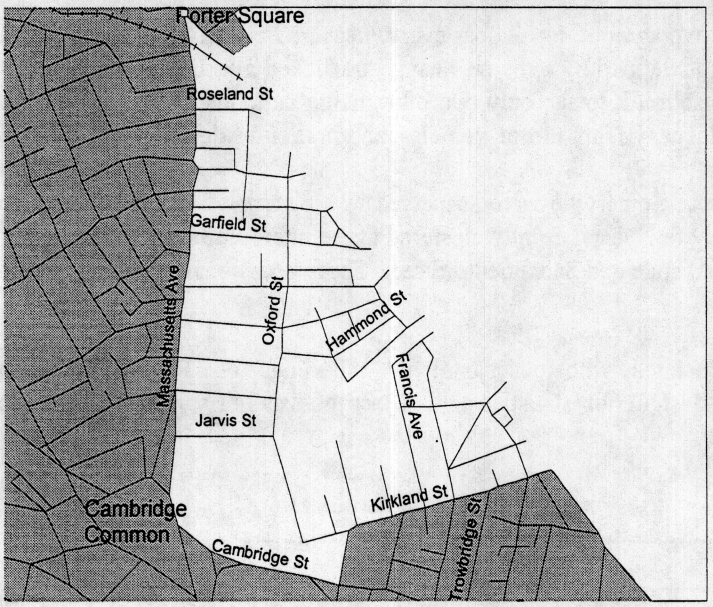


1996 Year End Review

In 1996, Riverside was one of only two neighborhoods to show decreases—significant ones—in all crimes. • Street robbery returned to its average level after patterns of summer muggings around Harvard Square and Hoyt Field caused the number to spike in 1995. Cambridge Police "Park and Walk" initiatives have contributed to the disappearance of Hoyt Field robberies; the remaining incidents were almost all on Massachusetts Avenue. Three of these were part of a November knife robbery pattern that stretched from Riverside to Cambridgeport. • Increased preventive patrol on walking routes 7A and 7B contributed to the significant declines in auto theft, larcenies from motor vehicles, and malicious destruction that often beset the Western Avenue/River Street triangle. • The 15 drug arrests this year showed two clusters: on lower Western Avenue and around Harvard Square. • A pattern of daytime burglaries in January kept the housebreak total from falling more than 5 percent.

NEIGHBORHOOD 8
AGASSIZ





BOUNDARIES: bounded by Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge Street, Quincy Street, Kirkland Street, and the Somerville border

POPULATION: 5,158 residents
1,891 households

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME: $36,853

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

ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR AGASSIZ TARGET CRIMES

Crime	*1981–1990*	*1991–1997*	*Rank 81–90**	*Rank 91–97**
Housebreaks	67	26	8	10
Street Robbery	11	7	9	10
Auto Theft	45	25	12	11
Larcenies from MVs	47	32	11	11
Malicious Destruction	45	31	11	11

*Ranks are out of 13 neighborhoods, with 1 indicating the highest crime rate and 13 the lowest

1997 YEAR END REVIEW

The majority of the 78% increase in Malicious Destruction for the Agassiz Neighborhood can traced to a series of vandalism to vehicles on Sacramento, Frost and Garfield Streets during the first six months of the year. An additional reason for the increase in this crime type can be attributed to a marauding group of vandals who smashed business and motor vehicle windows in the 1800 block of Mass Ave. in February. • Auto theft and larceny from motor vehicles declined 66% and 52% respectively. The combined total of auto theft and larceny from motor vehicles in this area was under thirty incidents. At the start of this decade there were nearly 100 reports of these crime types in Agassiz. • The twenty percent increase in housebreaks can be attributed to the "Maytag Man" burglary pattern in February. • Street robbery declined 18% here in 1997. However, there were four predatory robberies during the fourth quarter. Varying description and modus operandi of the perpetrators points to an unrelated crime series.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 1996 & 1997

CRIME	1996	1997	% CHANGE
Housebreaks	25	30	+20.0%
Street Robbery	11	9	-18.2%
Auto Theft	24	8	-66.7%
Larceny from MVs	42	20	-52.3%
Malicious Destruction	19	34	+78.9%
Drug Arrests	1	2	+100.0%

See Reverse Side for Neighborhood's Historical Synopsis and 1991-1996 Crime Data

Neighborhood Profile and Historical Synopsis

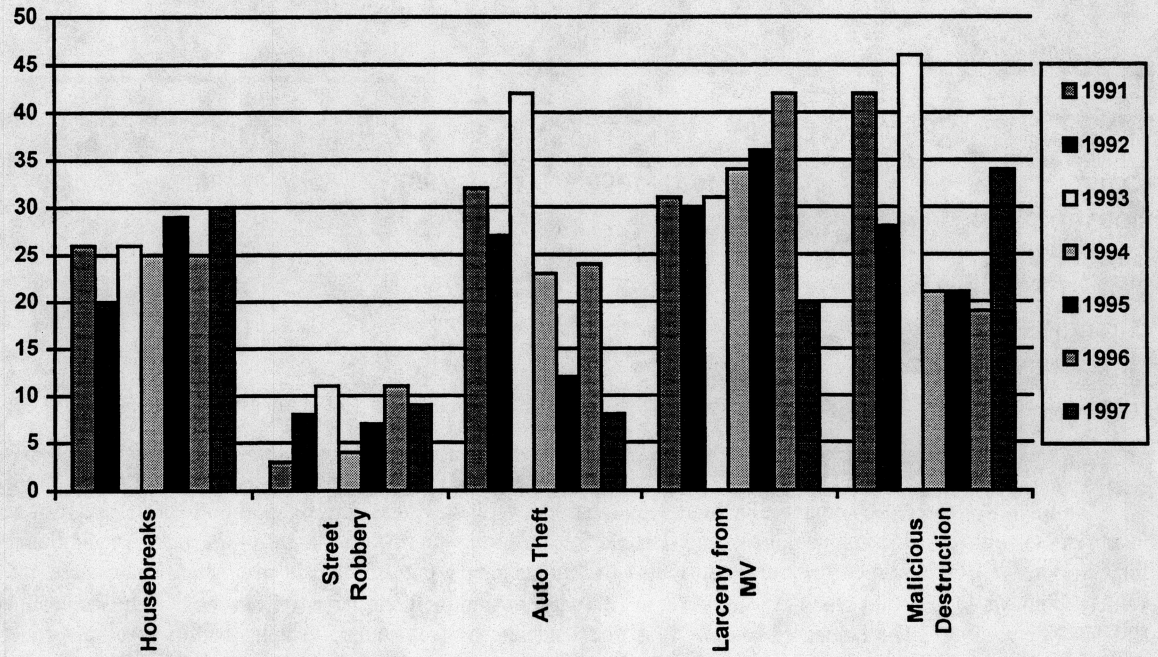
Over half of the Agassiz neighborhood is occupied by Harvard University and Lesley College. The rest of the residential population is concentrated primarily in a triangle in the northern section of the neighborhood, capped by bustling Porter Square. A number of businesses line Massachusetts Avenue on Agassiz's west border.

Harvard University, which has its own police department, patrols Harvard property in the southern part of the neighborhood. Our statistics do not reflect most incidents that occur on Harvard University property.

- Agassiz has a significantly lower than average rate for almost every measured crime. Unlike some other neighborhoods, only one of its borders is defined by a major, heavily trafficked avenue. Only three other neighborhoods have lower average **housebreak** totals; only two other neighborhoods have lower average totals for **street robberies, auto theft, larceny from motor vehicles**, and **malicious destruction**.

- Juveniles entering the neighborhood from Somerville were suspected in a pattern of **street robberies** in 1996 and 1997; such patterns arise every few years, usually clustered at the intersections of Massachusetts Avenue and Wendell Street or Oxford Avenue and Sacramento Street. These occasional patterns generally occur in the late night on weekends.

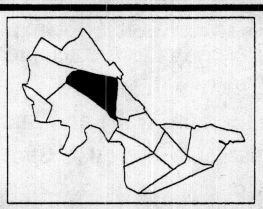
- Somerville juveniles have been associated with occasional tire slashings on Forest Street and Massachusetts Avenue. The **malicious destruction** statistics also reflect incidents of spray-painting at the Agassiz School.

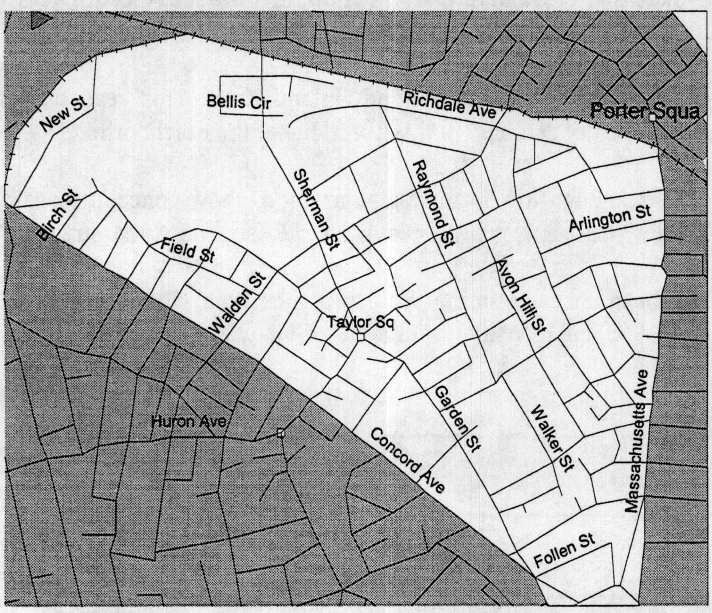


1996 Year End Review

The major crime stories in Agassiz in 1996 were the 57 percent increase in street robbery and the 100 percent increase in auto theft. • The street robbery leap was caused by a January pattern that struck the area of Hammond and Irving Streets. This pattern accounted for five of the 11 robberies in 1996. In the summer, there were three additional late night/weekend robberies on Massachusetts Avenue. There were only two robberies in Agassiz during the final sixth months of the year. • The auto theft increase is the result of unusually low numbers in 1995. • Increased patrols in Mid-Cambridge dispersed larceny from motor vehicles in that neighborhood to the north, accounting for Agassiz's 17 percent increase. • Housebreaks and malicious destruction remain considerably low.

NEIGHBORHOOD 9
PEABODY





BOUNDARIES: bordered by the B&M Railroad, Concord Avenue, Garden Street, and Massachusetts Avenue

POPULATION: 11,169 residents
5,208 households

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME: $36,608

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

ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR PEABODY TARGET CRIMES

Crime	*1981–1990*	*1991–1997*	*Rank 81–90**	*Rank 91–97**
Housebreaks	150	52	3	5
Street Robbery	21	16	6	7
Auto Theft	94	47	8	9
Larcenies from MVs	74	62	8	7
Malicious Destruction	135	75	2	8

*Ranks are out of 13 neighborhoods, with 1 indicating the highest crime rate and 13 the lowest

1997 YEAR END REVIEW

There were two additional street robberies in the Peabody neighborhood between October and December resulting in a 45% increase in 1997. Further analysis reveals that this increase should be tempered by the fact that this crime decreased 45% in 1996. There were 16 street robberies in Area 9 this year. Six of the robberies were categorized as predatory in nature, four were of the bully boy variety, two were classified as pack robberies, and the others involved bikejackers. The pack robberies in June were linked to the only discernible pattern identified in this area. • Housebreaks decreased a slight two percent, but the total of 35 represents the fewest incidents of this crime type in the Peabody Area in thirty years. • Four of the five drug arrests in this neighborhood were for the possession of marijuana. The arrests were clustered in the Mass Ave. corridor between the Cambridge Common and Upland Road. • Judicious use of directed patrols led to significant decreases for the target crimes of larceny from MVs, auto theft and malicious destruction.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 1996 -1997

CRIME	1996	1997	% CHANGE
Housebreaks	36	35	-2.8%
Street Robbery	11	16	+45.5%
Auto Theft	43	31	-27.9%
Larceny from MVs	54	40	-25.9%
Malicious Destruction	68	57	-16.2%
Drug Arrests	5	5	NC

See Reverse Side for Neighborhood's Historical Synopsis and 1991-1996 Crime Data

Neighborhood Profile and Historical Synopsis

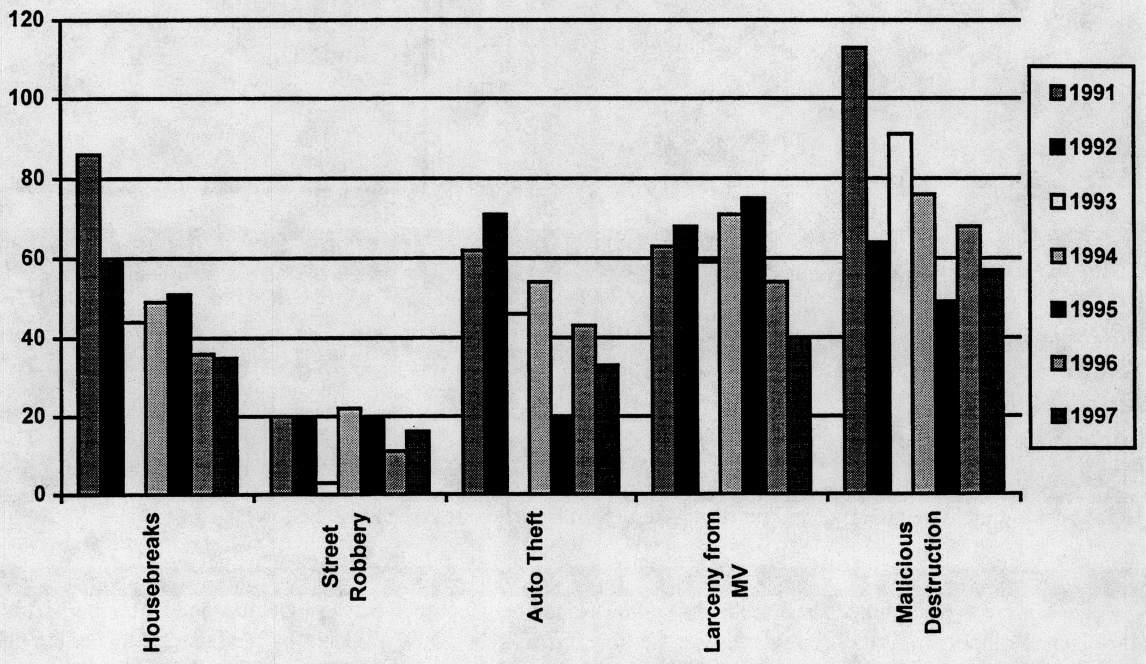
Peabody has the second highest population in the city, yet most of its crimes are at or below the city's average. The neighborhood's residents include several large apartment complexes, a public housing development (Lincoln Way) and hundreds of single and double family houses. Peabody boasts two of the biggest public parks in the city: Cambridge Common and Danehy Park. Also contained within its borders are Radcliffe College. Large commercial establishments mark Massachusetts Avenue and Walden Square Road.

- Cambridge Common has traditionally experienced after-dark crimes ranging from **public drinking** and **drug use** to **robbery** to **sexual assault**. Increased preventive patrol has diminished such occurrences in recent years. A robbery pattern that occurred last year near the Common did not resurface in 1996.

- Summer **housebreak** patterns sometimes plague Richdale Avenue and Upland Road. This year, clusters returned to that region, though the crime has radically declined in other sections of the neighborhood.

- **Auto theft** and **larceny from motor vehicles**, though low in this neighborhood, show concentrations on Richdale Avenue and in the triangle formed by Massachusetts Avenue, Upland Road, and Avon Street.

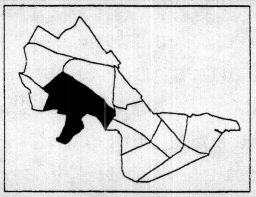
- Drug activity and juvenile crime have long been concerns in the Walden Square area. The Narcotics and Juvenile Units began targeting these areas in 1993 and have almost eliminated the patterns.

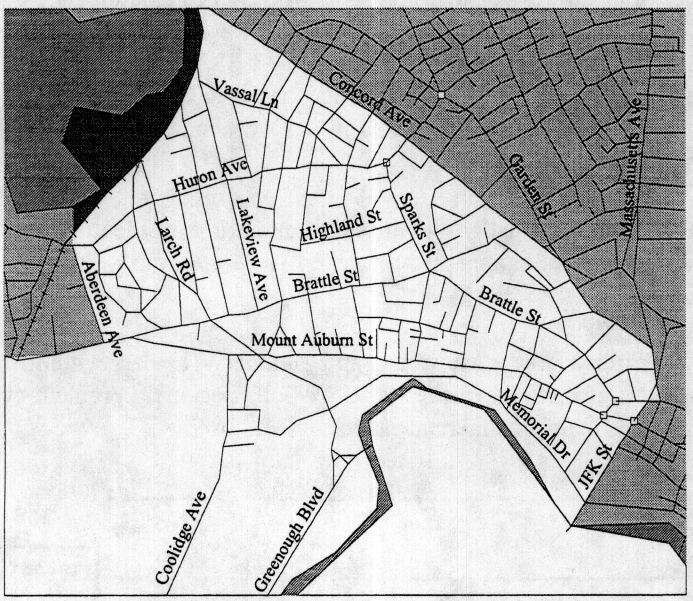


1996 Year End Review

The 126 percent increase in auto theft looks staggering, but is skewed by last year's unusually low total. 1996's 43 auto thefts actually represents a decrease from the decade average. • Street robbery, already at low levels, plummeted another 45 percent. Lower Massachusetts Avenue and Porter Square were "hot spots" for the few incidents that did occur; increased patrols on the Common have eradicated last year's patterns there. • The 39 percent malicious destruction increase reflects, again, an abnormally low total in 1995. A few motor vehicle vandalism patterns occurred on weekends. • The 1996 housebreak total is the lowest in over 30 years. A juvenile from Lincoln Way was linked to a brief summer pattern.

NEIGHBORHOOD 10
WEST CAMBRIDGE





BOUNDARIES: bounded by the Charles River, JFK Street, Garden Street, Concord Avenue, Fresh Pond, Abderdeen Avenue, and the Watertown line

POPULATION: 8,266 residents
3,887 households

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME: $54,656

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

ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR WEST CAMBRIDGE TARGET CRIMES

Crime	*1981–1990*	*1991–1997*	*Rank 81–90**	*Rank 91–97**
Housebreaks	105	41	4	8
Street Robbery	18	14	7	9
Auto Theft	105	49	6	8
Larcenies from MVs	134	77	3	4
Malicious Destruction	92	79	8	7

*Ranks are out of 13 neighborhoods, with 1 indicating the highest crime rate and 13 the lowest

1997 YEAR END REVIEW

Housebreaks decreased for the seventh consecutive year in West Cambridge. The total of twenty four breaks in 1997 represents over a 75% decline when compared with the previous decade's average number of incidents. • Bicycle theft remains a problem in Harvard Square during the warm weather months. The prime time frame for these thefts is on Friday and Saturday afternoons between 1PM and 5PM. • The major drug arrest in West Cambridge involved the smashing of a heroin distribution ring operating out of Harvard Square in April.• With one additional incident during the fourth quarter, the major crime story to emerge in West Cambridge in 1997 is the 180% increase in street robberies. Eleven of the fourteen robberies have been geographically clustered in an area bordered by Brattle, Sparks, Mt. Auburn and Ash Streets. Further analysis of this crime series reveals a variety of suspect descriptions and modus operandi. The only trend to be identified is the temporal concentration of incidents between 11PM and 1AM on weekend nights.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 1996 & 1997

CRIME	1996	1997	% CHANGE
Housebreaks	28	24	-14.3%
Street Robbery	5	14	+180.0%
Auto Theft	26	24	-7.7%
Larceny from MVs	71	60	-12.7%
Malicious Destruction	67	68	+1.5%
Drug Arrests	6	4	-33.3%

See Reverse Side for Neighborhood's Historical Synopsis and 1991-1996 Crime Data

Neighborhood Profile and Historical Synopsis

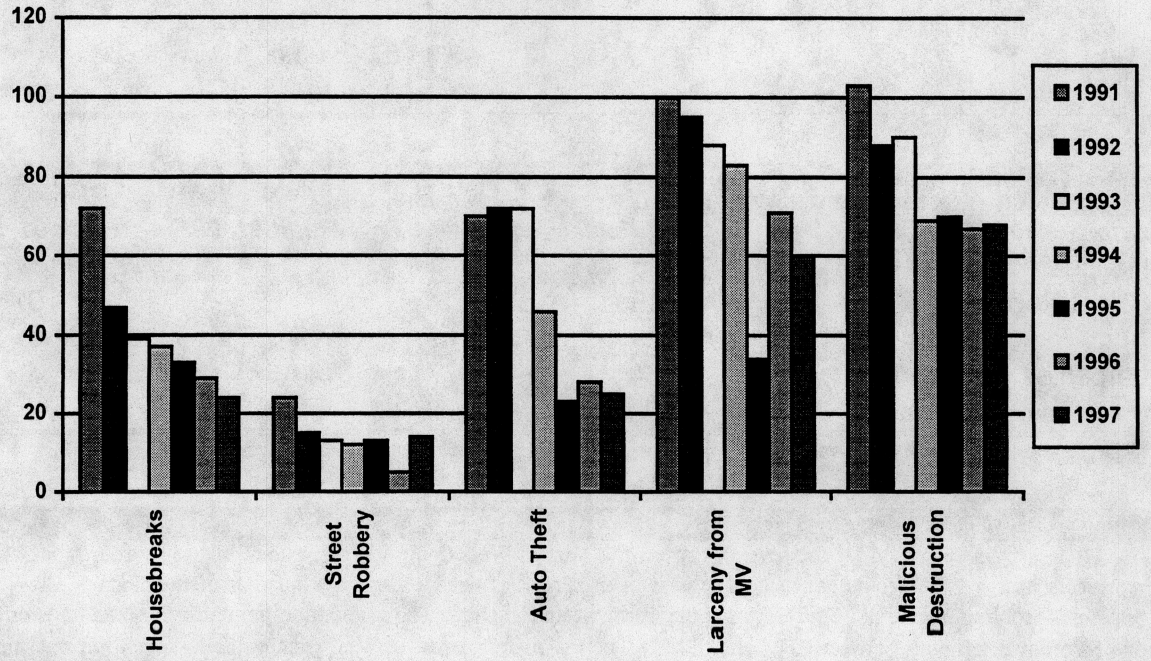
West Cambridge is, geographically, the largest neighborhood in the city. Its east end contains a good portion of Harvard Square, bustling with commercial traffic; its western border is marked by Fresh Pond and Kingsley Park. In between are the beautiful homes of Brattle Street, the expansive Cambridge Cemetery, Mount Auburn Hospital, and half a dozen elementary schools. *Harvard University, which has its own police department, patrols Harvard property in the eastern part of the neighborhood. Our statistics do not reflect most incidents that occur on Harvard University property.*

- Almost all of West Cambridge's target crimes are lower than average, while its population is slightly higher than average.

- **Larceny from motor vehicles**, the biggest problem this decade, is concentrated in the area bordered by Sparks, Brattle, and Mount Auburn Street. The incidents occur primarily on weekends, late at night. The related crime of **malicious destruction** registers at average levels.

- **Housebreaks**, once a pressing problem, have been virtually eliminated. Summertime residential burglary patterns, once the scourge of West Cambridge, have not appeared for years. The 1996 total was the lowest in three decades.

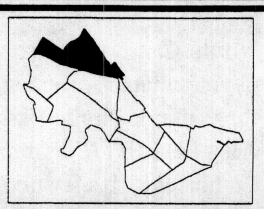
- **Bicycle theft** patterns strike the Harvard Square area each spring and summer. The large number of bicycles parked in the area lead to high levels of theft. **Larcenies from Persons** become a problem every spring and summer around the Square and in its many commercial establishments.

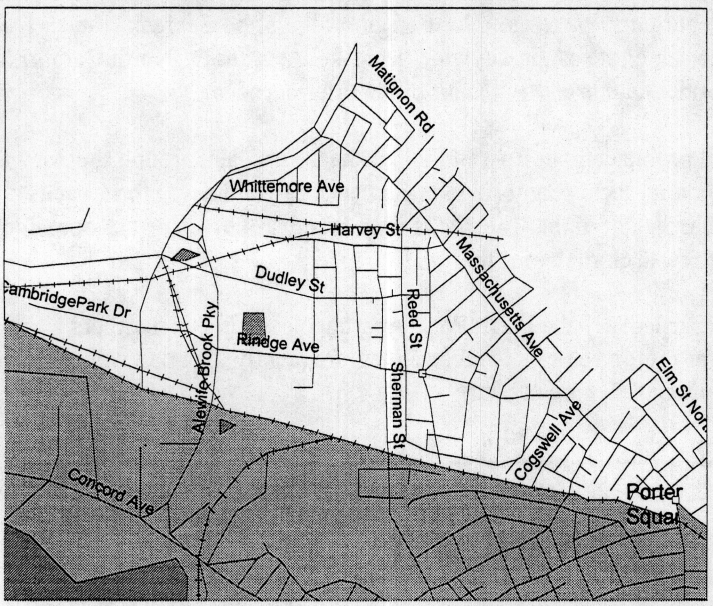


1996 Year End Review

After showing a dramatic decrease in 1995, larceny from motor vehicles increased 109 percent in 1996, although the 71-incident total is still lower than the decade average and about half tha of the average in the 1980s. A significant pattern of larcenies from motor vehicles emerged in the summer, and was concentrated between 300 and 400 Mt. Auburn Street and on associated side streets such as Foster, Sparks, and Craigie Streets. As in past years, this pattern occurred primarily on weekend nights between 10:00 P.M. and 2:00 A.M. • Four of the neighborhoods six drug arrests were around Harvard Square; most involved possession of marijuana. • The 62 percent decrease in street robbery can be attributed to the virtual disappearance of Harvard Square area robberies. Three of this year's five street robberies were within the rectangle formed by Murray, Ash, and Mt. Auburn Streets; the other two occurred along Concord Avenue. • Housebreaks decreased for the sixth straight year; summer housebreak patterns failed to appear for the third year in a row. • Bicycle theft swept the Harvard Square area again in the summer, occurring largely in the late afternoon on Thursdays and Saturday.

NEIGHBORHOOD 11
NORTH CAMBRIDGE





BOUNDARIES: bordered by the Belmont line, the Arlington Line, the Somerville Line, Porter Square, and the B&M Railroad

POPULATION: 10,642 residents
4,699 households

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME: $31,516

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

ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR NORTH CAMBRIDGE TARGET CRIMES

Crime	*1981–1990*	*1991–1997*	*Rank 81–90**	*Rank 91–97**
Housebreaks	100	75	6	2
Street Robbery	30	25	5	3
Auto Theft	130	82	5	4
Larcenies from MVs	105	69	6	6
Malicious Destruction	125	116	4	1

*Ranks are out of 13 neighborhoods, with 1 indicating the highest crime rate and 13 the lowest

1997 YEAR END REVIEW

Malicious Destruction accounted for over 35% of the target crime total in North Cambridge in 1997. This crime also increased 31% when compared with the 1996 figures for Neighborhood #11. Over sixty percent of the malicious destruction in this neighborhood are clustered along Rindge Avenue. The majority of these incidents involve the unprovoked smashing of motor vehicle windows and slashing of tires. Incident of graffiti are seldom reported • Street robbery fell 23% in 1997. This decrease comes on the heels of 50% reduction for this crime type in this area for 1996. Directed patrols in the vicinity of Russell Field and Linnear Park are deterring potential robbers. Only two predatory robberies were reported at these historical hot spots this year. • Housebreaks ended the year registering a 22% reduction. The only discernible housebreak pattern in 1997 was linked to the laundry room basement burglar who was arrested in February. • Three of the more serious assaults in North Cambridge this year involved a robbery victim struck with a hammer and two domestic assaults, a strangulation, and a stabbing. • Drug activity in Neighborhood #11 was clustered around Porter Square and Rindge Ave. The majority of the incidents in Porter Square involve the sale of prescription drugs. Marijuana and cocaine possession are associated with Rindge Ave.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 1996 & 1997

CRIME	1996	1997	% CHANGE
Housebreaks	71	55	-22.5%
Street Robbery	17	13	-23.5%
Auto Theft	62	61	-1.6%
Larceny from MVs	53	63	+18.9%
Malicious Destruction	82	108	+31.7%
Drug Arrests	17	13	-23.5%

See Reverse Side for Neighborhood's Historical Synopsis and 1991-1996 Crime Data

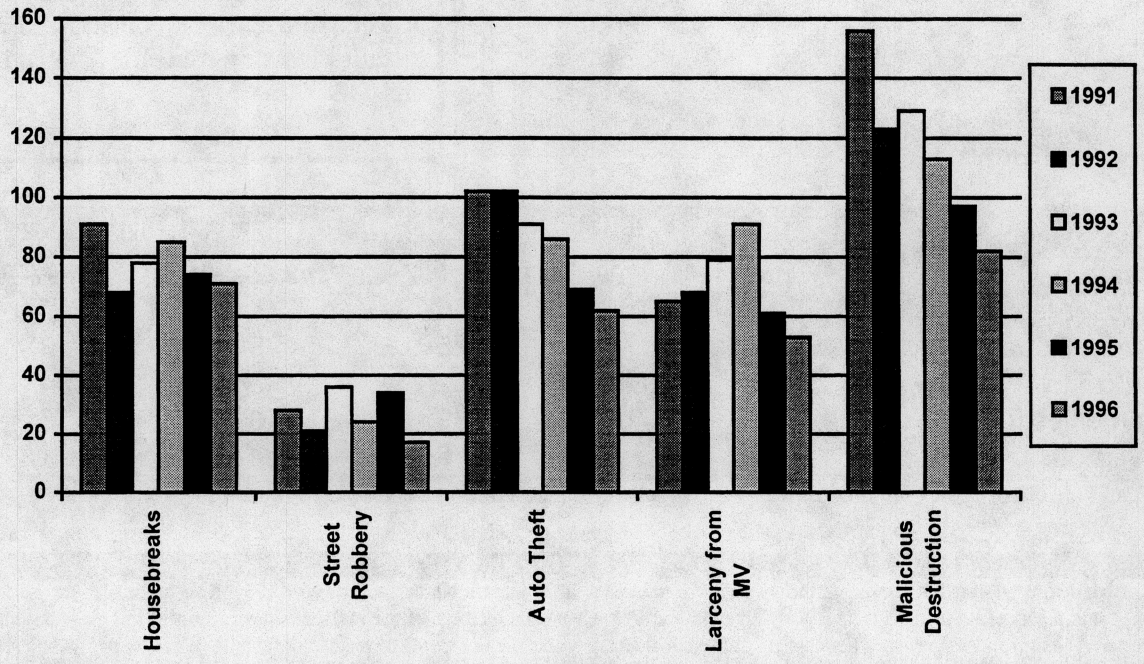
Neighborhood Profile and Historical Synopsis

North Cambridge has the third highest population in the city. Its residences include a public housing development (Jefferson Park/Jackson Place) and the towering Fresh Pond Apartments. Within its confines are three major public parks (Rindge Field, Russell Field, and Linear Park), the bustling Porter Square, and the Alewife MBTA Station. Dozens of commercial establishments line Massachusetts Avenue. As with Mid-Cambridge, its elevated crime rate reflects its high residential and commercial population.

- **Housebreak** patterns tend to occur during the summer months. Incidents are scattered quite liberally throughout the neighborhood's residential population. Each year, the Crime Analysis Unit identifies several North Cambridge residential burglary patterns. North Cambridge's housebreak totals have decreased since the 1980s, but not at the same rate as the citywide decrease. As a result, North Cambridge has a larger share of the city's annual residential burglaries than it did in prior decades.

- **Street robberies** have traditionally been problematic in Russell Field, Linear Park, and around the Alewife MBTA Station. In the most common scenario, local (Cambridge or Somerville) youths will form packs and strong-arm victims walking in these areas late at night. The packs may brandish knives or the occasional handgun. Fortunately, there were only a few such robberies this year.

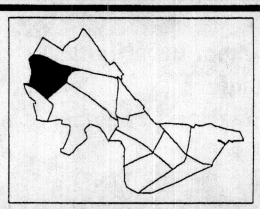
- **Auto theft** strikes Rindge Avenue (and particularly the Fresh Pond Apartments) in heavy numbers all year round. The related crime of **larceny from motor vehicles** is reported less frequently than one would expect for an area in which a large number of automobiles are parked.

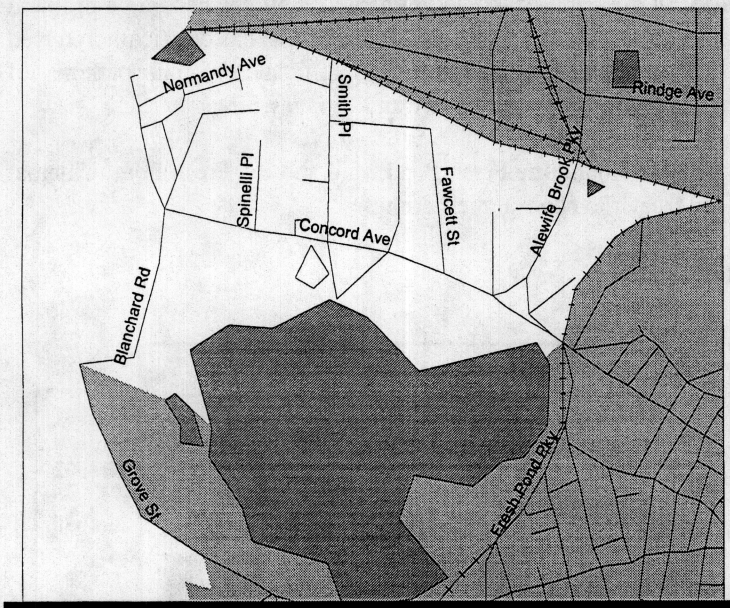


1996 Year End Review

In 1996, North Cambridge was one of only two neighborhoods to register decreases in all measured crimes. Street robbery fell drastically following the arrest of three North Cambridge teens who had precipitated a major Russell Field street robbery pattern in 1995. Park and Walks severely curtailed Russell Field robberies in 1996. • The arrest of a career burglar ended a blossoming 20-incident nighttime housebreak pattern that caused a 250 percent increase in the first quarter; the final result was a 4 percent decrease. • Though the total fell 10 percent, auto theft continues to be a major problem on Rindge Avenue—particularly at the Fresh Pond Apartments. • Drug arrests were scattered, with a small cluster on Rindge Avenue (sale and possession of marijuana and cocaine). • Malicious destruction fell for the third straight year.

NEIGHBORHOOD 12
HIGHLANDS





BOUNDARIES: bordered by the B&M Railroad, the Belmont line, and Fresh Pond.

POPULATION: 582 residents
281 households

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME: $37,125

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

ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR HIGHLANDS TARGET CRIMES

Crime	*1981–1990*	*1991–1997*	*Rank 81–90**	*Rank 91–97**
Housebreaks	6	3	13	13
Street Robbery	8	3	12	13
Auto Theft	54	19	11	12
Larcenies from MVs	38	26	12	12
Malicious Destruction	28	27	12	12

*Ranks are out of 13 neighborhoods, with 1 indicating the highest crime rate and 13 the lowest

1997 YEAR END REVIEW

For the second consecutive year, there was not a report of a housebreak in the Highlands neighborhood. • After a 33 month hiatus, a street robbery occurred in Neighborhood #12. The incident was in September and involved a domestic argument over a past debt. • There were only two aggravated assaults in this area in 1997. Both of the incidents were at the Fresh Pond Mall:; one being a domestic argument that escalated, the other an altercation between a shopowner and shoplifter. • A series of graffiti incidents along Mooney Street and Concord Avenue during the Spring triggered the 92% increase in malicious destruction for the Highland neighborhood. • The target crimes of auto theft and larceny from motor vehicles increased by five and six incidents respectively. For both of these crimes, the majority of incidents are sporadic in nature and confined to the parking lot at the Fresh Pond Mall. • The Highlands continues to average between fifty and sixty target crimes per year and is considered one of the safer neighborhoods in the City.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 1996 & 1997

CRIME	1996	1997	% CHANGE
Housebreaks	0	0	NC
Street Robbery	0	1	+100.0%
Auto Theft	11	16	+45.5%
Larceny from MVs	13	19	+46.2%
Malicious Destruction	13	25	+92.3%
Drug Arrests	2	0	-100.0%

See Reverse Side for Neighborhood's Historical Synopsis and 1991-1996 Crime Data

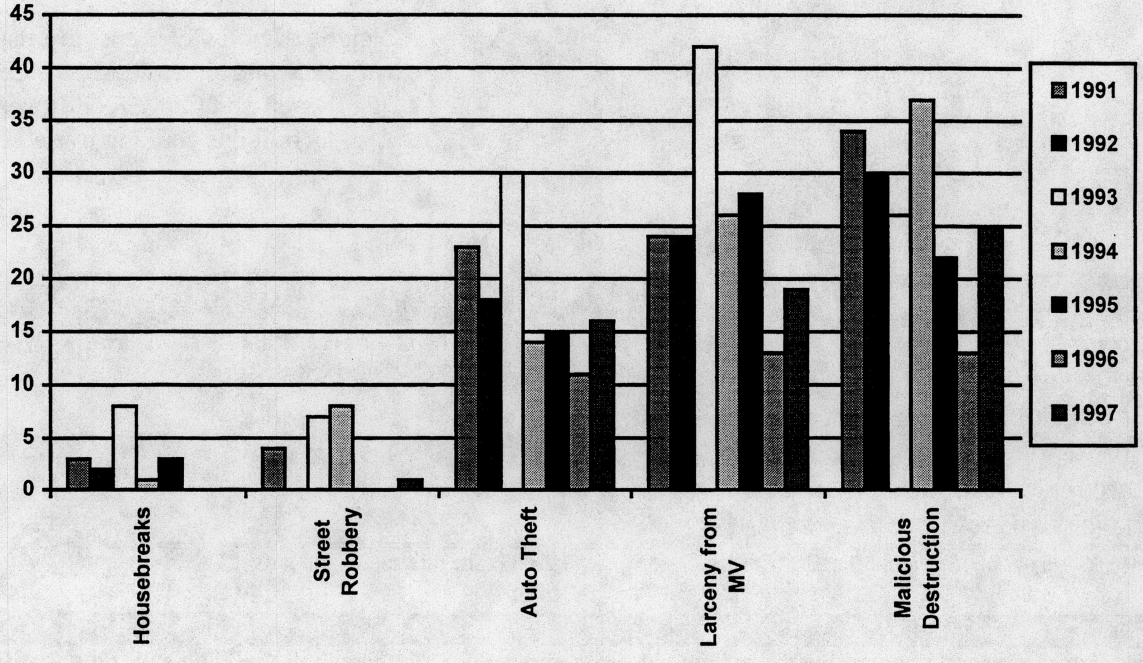
Neighborhood Profile and Historical Synopsis

Cambridge Highlands' minuscule population makes for very little crime activity in the neighborhood. In addition to 281 households, the Highlands' border encompasses the Fresh Pond Mall, the northern part of Fresh Pond, and a number of warehouses.

- Cambridge Highlands vies with Strawberry Hill for the lowest index crime totals in the city. For all index crimes this decade, it has ranked twelfth or thirteenth out of 13 neighborhoods.

- **Auto theft, larceny from motor vehicles,** and **malicious destruction** have sometimes become a problem in the Fresh Pond Mall and Fresh Pond Cinema parking lot. Mall security, however, has drastically reduced such incidents in recent years—almost to the point of statistical insignificance. Small patterns of automobile related crimes have been known to emerge on Smith Place and Mooney Street.

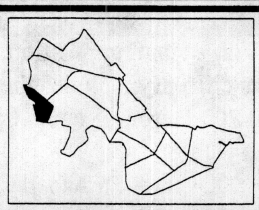
- **Larcenies from Persons** exhibits some patterns around the Fresh Pond Mall and the Fresh Pond Cinema, where pocketpickers use the darkness of the theater to conceal their crimes.

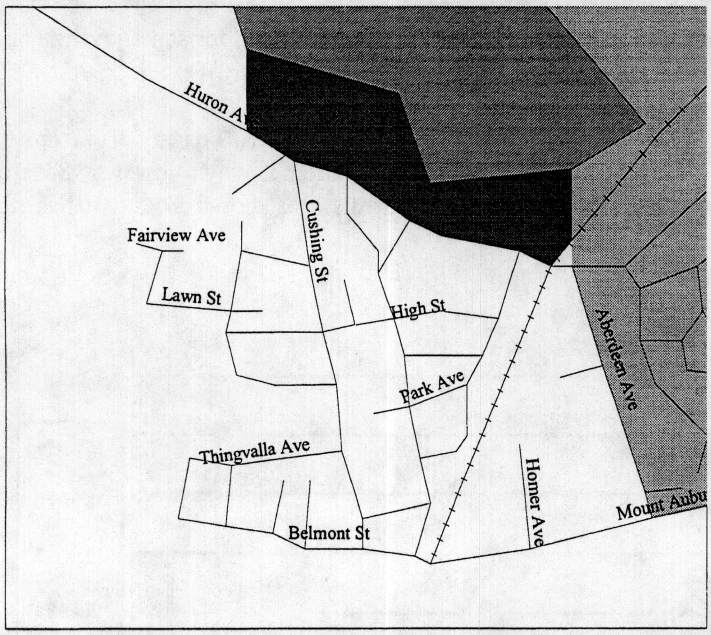


1996 Year End Review

Cambridge Highlands continues to rank low for all index crimes. • Street robbery remained at a zero level for the second year in a row; housebreaks dwindled to zero occurrences this year. • Most incidents of auto theft, larceny from motor vehicles, and malicious destruction of property—all of which declined significantly—took place at the Fresh Pond Mall parking lot. Mall security can be credited for the continuing decreases in these crimes. Another larceny from motor vehicles pattern that began on Mooney Street in the first quarter was quickly eradicated by "Park and Walks." • The two drug arrests were both for attempting to pass a forged prescription; both occurred at Brooks Pharmacy on Alewife Brook Parkway.

NEIGHBORHOOD 13
STRAWBERRY HILL





BOUNDARIES: bordered by Fresh Pond, Aberdeen Avenue, the Watertown line, and the Belmont line.

POPULATION: 2,698 residents
1,061 households

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME: $26,368

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

ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR STRAWBERRY HILL TARGET CRIMES

Crime	*1981–1990*	*1991–1997*	*Rank 81–90**	*Rank 91–97**
Housebreaks	17	12	12	11
Street Robbery	4	4	13	12
Auto Theft	17	10	13	13
Larcenies from MVs	22	13	13	13
Malicious Destruction	25	23	13	13

*Ranks are out of 13 neighborhoods, with 1 indicating the highest crime rate and 13 the lowest

1997 YEAR END REVIEW

As previously related in the third quarter report, the 27% increase for the crime of malicious destruction in Strawberry Hill can be attributed to vandalism to vehicles at 700 Huron Ave, Corcoran Park, and on Homer Ave. Further analysis reveals that these crimes are related to parking disputes and juvenile angst. • After a thirty month hiatus, there were two street robberies registered for Neighborhood 13 in 1997. A golfer at Fresh Pond was robbed of his cellular phone in September. In October, a juvenile was the victim of a strong -arm robbery by two other youths on Cushing Street. • There were ten aggravated assaults reported in Strawberry Hills during 1997. Five of the incidents were categorized as domestic in nature, three were classified as juveniles motivated by revenge, the remaining crimes were landlord/tenant disputes that escalated into violence. • Four of the seven housebreaks in this neighborhood were related to a pattern of laundry room thefts on Homer Ave in February.

COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 1996 & 1997

CRIME	1996	1997	% CHANGE
Housebreaks	9	7	-22.2%
Street Robbery	0	2	+200.0%
Auto Theft	5	6	+20.0%
Larceny from MVs	10	9	-10.0%
Malicious Destruction	18	23	+27.8%
Drug Arrests	1	0	-100.0%

See Reverse Side for Neighborhood's Historical Synopsis and 1991-1996 Crime Data

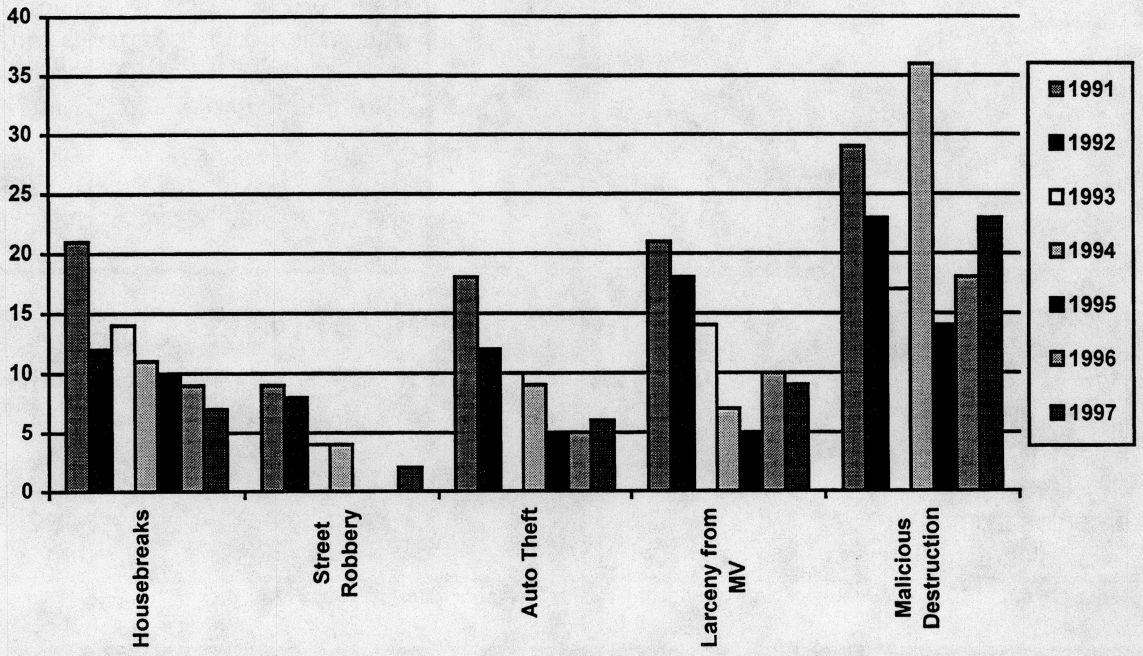
Neighborhood Profile and Historical Synopsis

With a small population, Strawberry Hill challenges Cambridge Highlands for the lowest crime rates in the city. Its citizenry includes the residents of the Corcoran Park housing development and the large apartment building at 700 Huron Avenue. Its primary commercial establishment is Star Market.

- Overall, Strawberry Hill must be considered one of the safest areas in the city. In 1995 and 1996, here were no street robberies reported, and there were only two in 1997. For auto theft, larceny from motor vehicles, and malicious destruction, Strawberry Hill continually ranks lowest in the city.

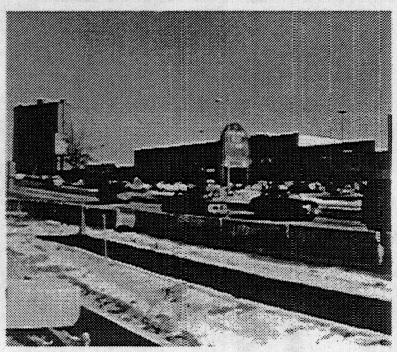
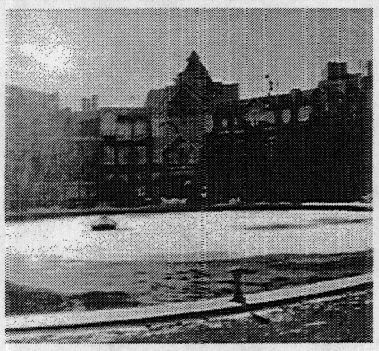
- Corcoran Park has historically been a "hot spot" for the occasional **housebreak**, and for some juvenile and gang crime. Frequent "Park and Walks" address these problems.

- Cars parked at the Star Market parking lot are sometimes targeted for **auto theft, larceny from motor vehicles**, and **malicious destruction**. Totals for this crime are usually extremely low, however. Several years ago, we received a number of reports of pocketpicking from this area, but this pattern has not resurfaced.

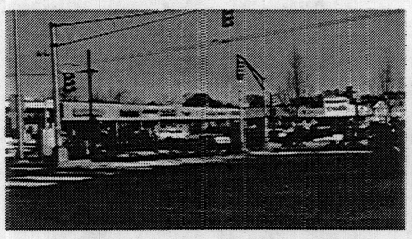
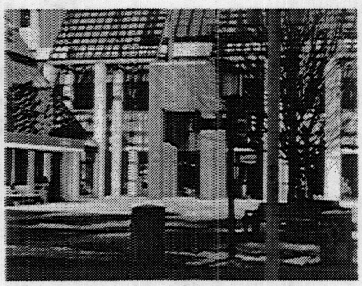
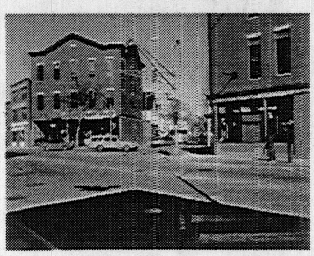
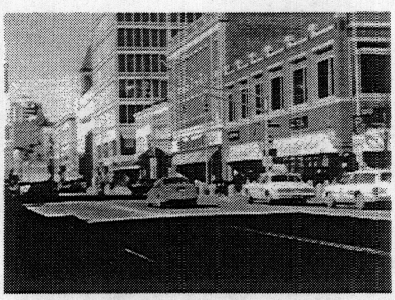
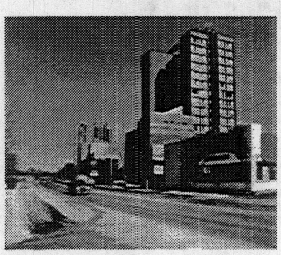


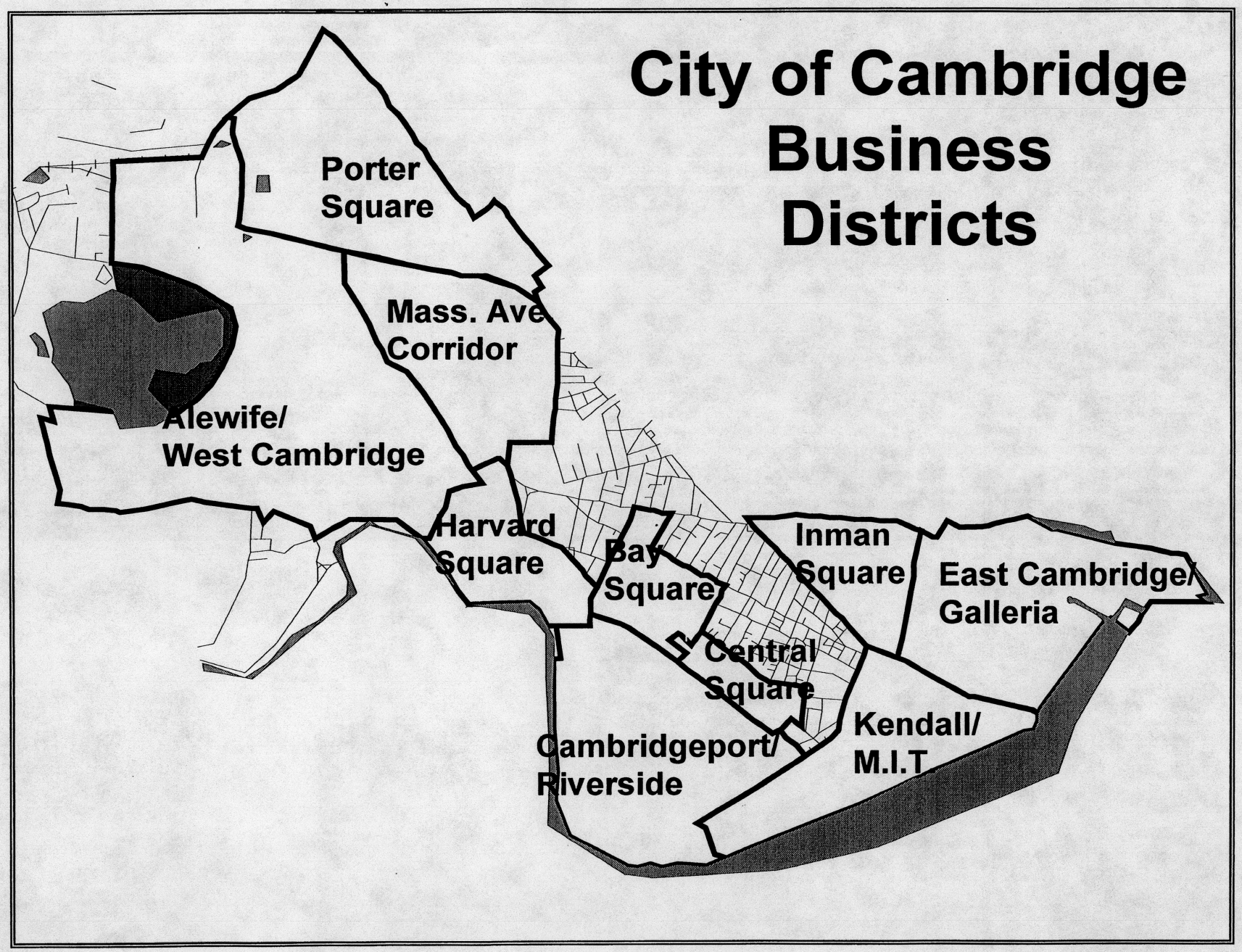
1996 Year End Review

Again, Strawberry Hill registered as one of the quietest areas of the city. • Almost all of its nine housebreaks were located at Corcoran Park or in its vicinity, and the incidents appear to be unrelated. • Over the summer, the automobile related crimes of larceny from motor vehicles and malicious destruction increased at 700 Huron Avenue and around Star Market. • The single drug arrest—possession of cocaine—was made by the Vice/Narcotics Unit on Lawn Street. This arrest was the result of several citizen complaints.


BUSINESS DISTRICT PROFILES



City of Cambridge
Business
Districts
Porter
Square
Mass. Ave
Corridor
Alewife/
West Cambridge
Harvard
Square
Bay
Square
Inman
Square
East Cambridge/
Galleria
Central
Square
Kendall/
M.I.T
Cambridgeport/
Riverside

Geographic Breakdown of "Commercial" Crimes in 1997

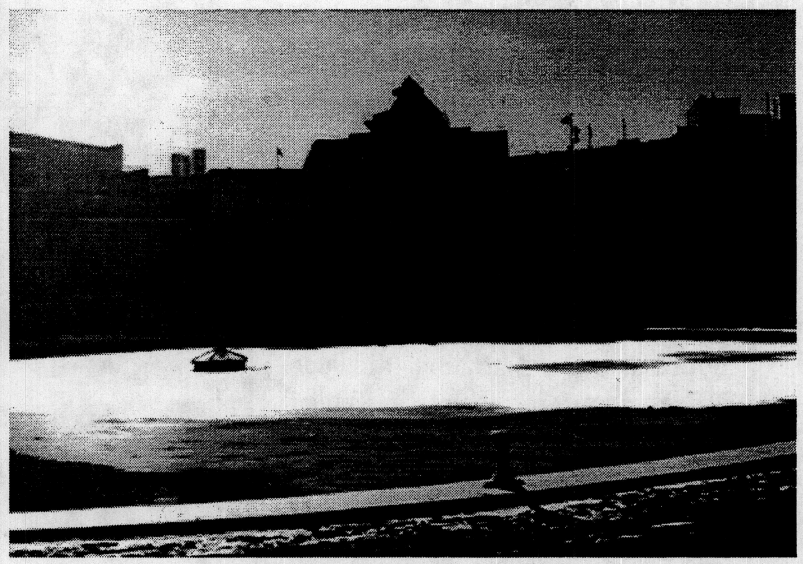
Crime	Total	Galleria/ East	Kendall/ MIT	Inman Square	Central Square	C.Port/ River.	Bay Square	Harvard Square	Upper Mass.	Porter Square	Alewife/ West	Unk.
Commercial Break[1]	190	19	6	19	15	20	7	23	10	36	35	0
Commercial Robbery[1]	22	2	1	1	3	3	1	3	1	5	2	0
Counterfeiting[2]	7	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0
Disorderly[2]	80	5	4	9	30	2	1	14	2	6	7	0
Forgery[2]	240	71	10	14	20	16	14	48	9	15	14	9
Larcenous Scheme[2]	25	9	0	0	8	1	0	2	0	3	2	0
Larceny from Building[1]	555	119	45	24	64	38	32	104	17	54	58	0
Larceny from Person[1]	281	32	15	6	53	9	8	105	8	20	24	1
Larceny of Services[1]	31	5	1	2	5	7	0	3	3	1	4	0
Liquor Violations[2]	28	2	0	3	9	2	2	6	2	2	0	0
Shoplifting[1]	419	178	2	4	38	17	9	126	6	11	28	0
Trespassing[2]	80	0	27	5	7	14	3	11	3	5	5	0

1 covered under Part I Crimes section
2 Covered under Part II Crimes section
3 Covered in Special Reports: Domestic Crimes section

Business Area # 1:
East Cambridge/Galleria

Boundaries: bordered by Somerville, the Charles River, and the B&A Railroad

Major areas of Business/Retail/ Industrial Concentration include: The Galleria, Restaurants and retail shops on First Street, restaurants and retail shops on Cambridge Street between #1 and #700, industrial and retail establishments on Bent, Binney, Hurley, and Thorndike Streets.



Cambridgeside Galleria

Between 1992 and 1997, the 200 to 700 blocks of Cambridge Street and large retailers on First Street were plagued with "smash and grab" burglaries. Utilizing target hardening techniques and coordinated patrol strategies to attack this long term trend has paid dividends. There were only three such incidents in areas designated as hot spots during 1997. Commercial burglary in East Cambridge/Galleria has declined from an annual average of 45 to 50 at the start of this decade to ten reported crimes this year. ● Over the past two years there have been only three commercial robberies in this business area. There were eight such incidents in 1995. A dry cleaners was robbed in March when the culprit strong armed the owner and rifled the register. The second incident involved youths robbing a pizza delivery person. These crimes remain far removed from the armored car holdups and bank robberies of past years in this business district. ● Larceny from the building increased 11% this year in East Cambridge/Galleria. Further analysis reveals that thefts of this type are waning dramatically when compared with the 1994 total of 202 incidents. Thirty percent of larceny from buildings in East Cambridge are committed at the Galleria Mall. Larceny from the building falls into three distinct scenarios in this business district: the theft of employee's property from the rear of stores at the Mall, larcenies from lockers at health spas, and the pilfering of laptop computers from offices. ● The forty five percent decline in larceny from persons can be attributed to the vigilance of mall security in deterring pickpockets from the Food Court area. Past patterns of thieves working this area on weekend nights did not surface over the final six months of 1997. ● All but three of the 178 shoplifting arrest for this business district were at the Mall. Shoplifting at the Galleria falls into two distinct temporal patterns. Weekday lightfingers work between the hours of 2PM and 4PM. While weekend thieves prefer the early evening hours. ● There were two separate incidents of counterfeiting in this area and both involved the passing of phony fifty dollar bills.

CRIME	1996	1997	%CHANGE
Larceny from Building	107	119	+11.2%
Larceny from Person	59	32	-45.8%
Commercial Burglary	27	10	-63.0%
Commercial Robbery	1	2	+100%
Shoplifting	156	178	+14.1%
Fraud/Flim Flam/Counterfeiting	74	91	+23.0%

Business Area # 2: MIT/Kendall Square/Lower Broadway

Boundaries: bordered by Main Street, Broadway, Portland Street, the B&A Railroad, Audrey Street.

Major areas of Business/Retail/ Industrial Concentration include: Offices, shops, restaurants in Kendall Square, #1-#5 Cambridge Center, Offices and shops on Broadway between #1 and #200, and Tech Square



Kendall Square

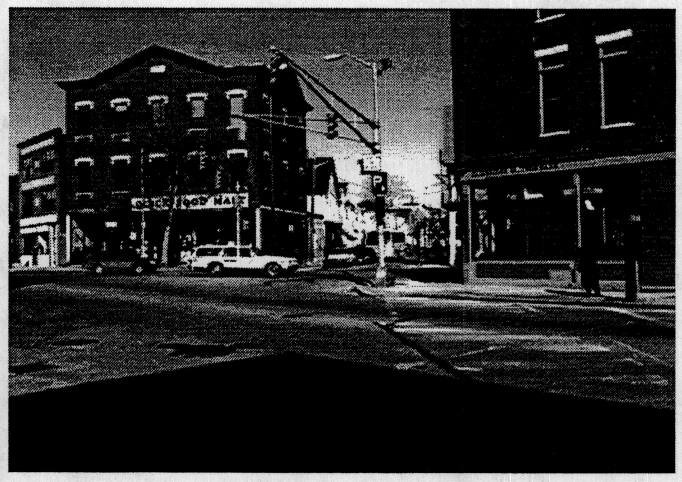
All six business related target crimes recorded significant decreases in Kendal Square in 1997. The Kendal Square/MIT Area was the first commercial section of the City to accomplish this crime fighting feat in a number of years. ● Historically, larceny from the building has been the major crime problem for this business district. At the beginning of this decade Kendal Square averaged over 250 larcenies from the building annually. The numbers are now on a downward spiral. For the past three years this type theft has been below 100 incidents. That trend continues with a 34% reduction in the books for 1997. Increased internal security and employee awareness has been a key component in curtailing larcenies from the building. Despite the dramatic declines in thefts, the modus operandi of the office thief remains unchanged. Offices at 1 Cambridge Center, 575 Technology Square and One Kendall Square, were victimized by career criminals posing as delivery persons to steal laptop computers this year. Laptop lifters are still a great concern to the law enforcement community in Greater Boston. ● The only commercial robbery in this business district in 1997 was a cab robbery at knifepoint in February on the outskirts of Tech Square. For the first time in three years, Kendal Square banks were unscathed by note-passing bandits. ● Commercial breaks into office buildings have been on the decline (-54%) since a major arrest of personal computer bandits in 1996. ● Larceny from the person are concentrated in coffee shops and restaurants and do not constitute a significant problem in Kendal Square. Shoplifting is almost non-existent. ● The rising tide of the fraudulent use of credit cards in the district ebbed when a 31% decrease was recorded this year.

CRIME	1996	1997	%CHANGE
Larceny from Building	69	45	-34.8%
Larceny from Person	31	15	-51.6%
Commercial Burglary	13	6	-53.8%
Commercial Robbery	2	1	-50.0%
Shoplifting	5	2	-60.0%
Fraud/Flim Flam/Counterfeiting	16	11	-31.3%

Business Area # 3:
Inman Square/Harrington

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

Major areas of Business/Retail/Industrial Concentration include: the offices, shops, restaurants of Inman Square, all business establishments between 700 and 1400 Cambridge Street, offices, industries and restaurants on Hampshire Street and between 100 to 380 Prospect Street and 100 to 300 Broadway.



Inman Square

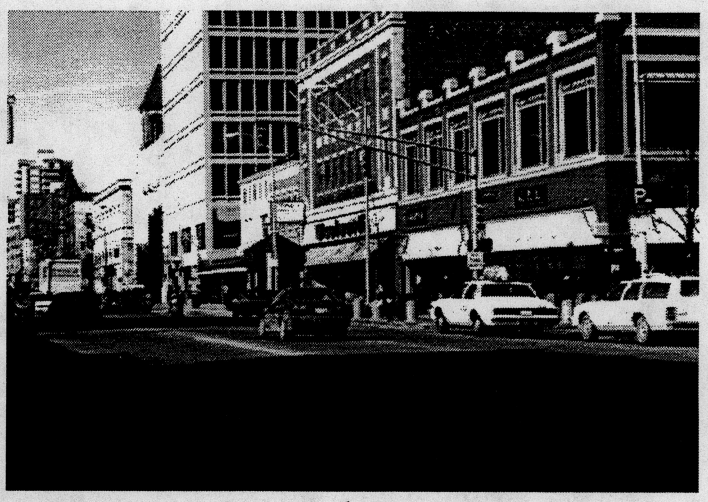
Commercial Burglary rose 58% in the Inman Square business district in 1997. This increase comes on the heels of a 57% decrease for this crime type last year. The decline of commercial breaks in 1996 was attributed to the eradication of weekend night, "smash and grab," patterns in the 700 to 800 and 1200 to 1300 blocks of Cambridge Street. Between February and April of this year that pattern materialized once again. The arrest of a career criminal for a clothing store break on April 27th appears to have remedied this problem. Only seven, unrelated commercial breaks were reported in this business district over the final eight months of the year. Breaks into local churches by a homeless person were interdicted with an arrest in May. ● A gas station robbery on Cambridge Street in September was the only incidence of commercial robbery for the Inman Square business district in 1997. This was the first commercial robbery in the 25 months since the tragic shooting of a business woman who operated the Azores Market. The incident still dominates the crime agenda for this area. Heightened community fear continues to be addressed with increased directed patrols. ● Larceny from the building, which was concentrated at Cambridge Hospital and other public buildings in the district, fell 38% when compared with the 1996 figures. ● Larceny from the person and shoplifting are very infrequent in this area. There has been no discernible geographic or temporal trend identified with these crimes. ● A fraudulent airline ticket scam involving a local travel agency and recent emigres has been an ongoing flim flam scenario in this area.

CRIME	1996	1997	%CHANGE
Larceny from Building	39	24	-38.5%
Larceny from Person	15	6	-60.0%
Commercial Burglary	12	19	+58.3%
Commercial Robbery	0	1	+100.0%
Shoplifting	4	4	NC
Fraud/Flim Flam/Counterfeiting	12	21	+75.0%

Business Area #4:
Central Square

Boundaries: Sellers Street, Massachusetts Avenue, Inman Street, Bishop Allen Drive, Main Street, Windsor Street, Massachusetts Avenue and Landsdowne Street

Major areas of Business/Retail/Industrial Concentration include: shops, offices, restaurants between 200 and 830 Massachusetts Avenue, offices on Bishop Allen Drive, restaurants on Green Street, and establishments between 770 and 910 Main Street



Central Square

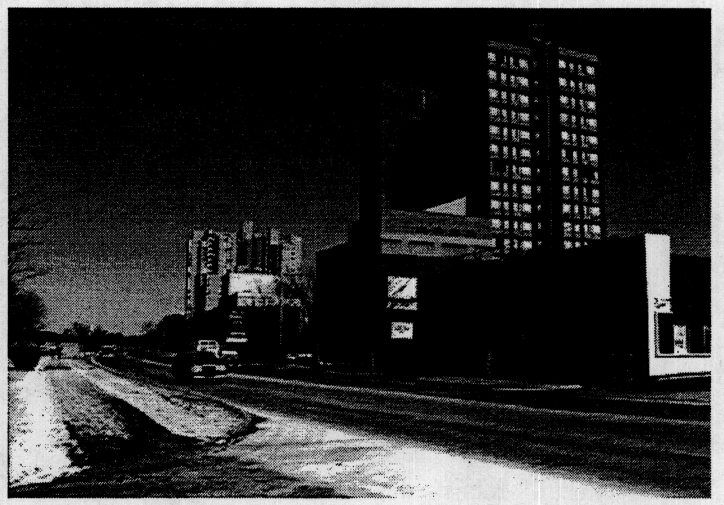
After eight consecutive quarters with all six business related target crimes declining in Central Square, commercial robbery, shoplifting and fraud registered increases over the final six months of 1997. All three of the increases are tempered by reviewing historical data associated with theses crimes. ● The 1996 total of 31 shoplifting arrests was the lowest total for Central Square since the 1970s. In July, The Crime Analysis Unit projected there would be fewer than 25 shoplifting arrests in this area. However, a marked increase in arrests for the theft of food from local outlets between September and December and the 1996 total was eclipsed by seven incidents. ● Throughout the decade of the 1980s, Central Square averaged 25 commercial robberies annually. Only five commercial robberies have been reported in this business district since October of 1995. Three of these incidents occurred in 1997. In April, a suspect was quickly arrested after trying to rob Burger King with a gun. There were two additional incidents during July. Both of these robberies were unsuccessful attempts, one of a convenience store, the other by a disgruntled cab patron. ● The majority of the increase in fraud/flim flam can be traced to a rise in check kiting and the use of stolen credit cards. In a typical year there will five to seven "pigeon drop" flim flams In Central Square. In 1997 there were only two of these get-rich-quick schemes enticing immigrants to remove money from their bank accounts. ● The pickpocket, the archetypal crime figure responsible for 125 to 150 incidents per year in Central Square, has moved to new hunting grounds. For the sixth time in the last seven years larceny from the person declined (-10%) in this business district. The public should be aware that purses and packages left unguarded in bars, restaurants, and coffee houses are the targets of these thieves.

CRIME	1996	1997	%CHANGE
Larceny from Building	73	64	-12.3%
Larceny from Person	59	53	-10.2%
Commercial Burglary	22	15	-31.8%
Commercial Robbery	2	3	+50.0%
Shoplifting	31	38	+22.6%
Fraud/Flim Flam/Counterfeiting	25	31	+24.0%

Business Area #5: Cambridgeport/Riverside

Boundaries: bordered by Franklin Street, Cross Street, the B&A Railroad right of way, the Charles River, Flagg Street and Putnam Avenue

Major areas of Business/Retail/Industrial Concentration include: all businesses between 550 and 900 Memorial Drive, all industrial, retail and restaurants on Brookline, Pearl, Magazine, River and Western to the south of Franklin Street.



Memorial Drive/Lower Cambridgeport

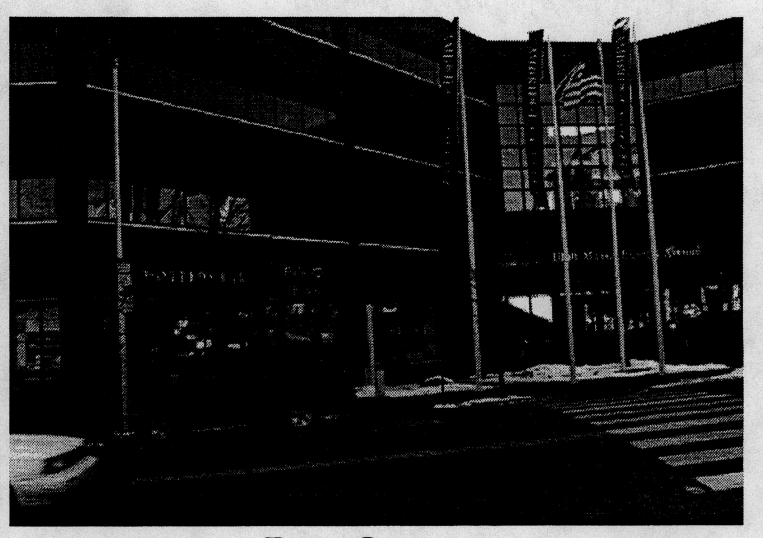
There were three commercial robberies in Cambridgeport/Riverside in 1997 compared to just one recorded in 1996. All three proved to be exercises in futility. An intoxicated suspect attempted to rob a bar of its Keno money and was laughed at and left empty handed. Two other suspects attempted to rob a Cambridgeport office in March and discovered there was no cash on the premises. And in November another drunken perpetrator was arrested shortly after a botched attempt at robbing a Magazine Street gas station. ● The only commercial burglary trend to be identified in this business district were a series of unprofessional breaks into auto repair/parts establishments in Cambridgeport on weekend nights. Construction site thefts are on the wane. ● Increased internal security and employee awareness is responsible for the dramatic decrease in the theft of computer in offices along Memorial Drive. As suggested in the Kendall Square section of this report, the laptop thieves that preyed on this area in the past have been dispersed across the river to Boston and Brookline. ● Strawberries continues to experience the highest percentage of shoplifting incidents in this business district. Check kiting and fraudulent use of credit cards are increasing at Memorial Drive retail outlets.

CRIME	1996	1997	%CHANGE
Larceny from Building	52	38	-26.9%
Larceny from Person	12	9	-25.0%
Commercial Burglary	28	20	-28.6%
Commercial Robbery	1	3	+200.0%
Shoplifting	14	17	+21.4%
Fraud/Flim Flam/Counterfeiting	14	21	+50.0%

Business Area # 6:
Bay Square/Upper Broadway

Boundaries: bordered by Franklin Street, Putnam Avenue, Trowbridge Street. Cambridge Street, Dana Street, Broadway, Inman Street, Massachusetts Avenue and Sellers Street.

Major area of Business/Retail/Industrial concentration include: all offices, restaurants and establishments between 830 and 1050 Massachusetts Avenue, all retail industrial and offices on Cambridge between Dana Street and Trowbridge Street and on Harvard Street and Broadway between Inman and Trowbridge.



Bay Square

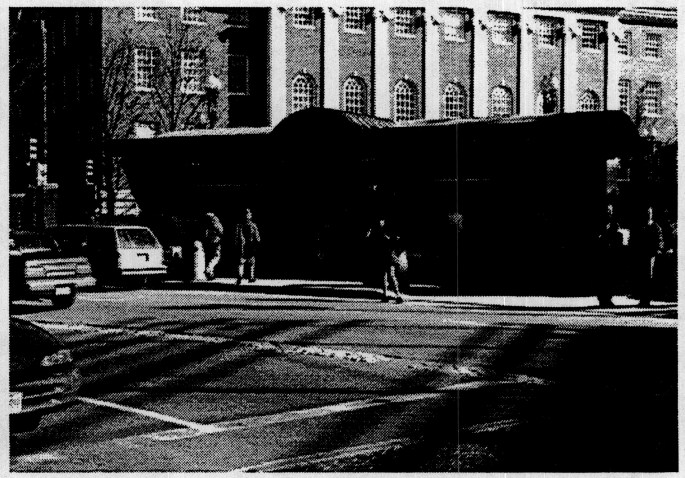
Commercial burglary rates remained static in the Bay Square business district in 1997. There were only two breaks in the 900 to 1100 blocks of Mass Ave. and 1400 to 1800 blocks of Cambridge Street. Both of these areas were once considered hot spots for smash and grab breaks. • Between 1990 and 1995, the Bay Square business area averaged 65 larcenies from buildings over year. Larceny from buildings decreased another 11% this year after recording the lowest total of the decade with 36 reported thefts last year. The majority of this decrease can be attributed to tightened internal security in offices in the Mass Ave. corridor preventing the theft of laptops by suspects posing as delivery persons. • The only commercial robbery recorded in the Bay Square area this year involved a group of youths arrested for a cab robbery in June. • The target crimes of larceny from the person and shoplifting occur infrequently in this area with no identifiable geographic or temporal trends. • Check kiting and the use of fraudulent credit cards is increasing at local supermarkets and retail stores.

CRIME	1996	1997	%CHANGE
Larceny from Building	36	32	-11.1%
Larceny from Person	17	8	-52.9%
Commercial Burglary	7	7	NC
Commercial Robbery	1	1	NC
Shoplifting	6	9	+50.0%
Fraud/Flim Flam/Counterfeiting	14	18	+28.6%

Business Area #7: Harvard Square

Boundaries: bordered by Waterhouse Street, Garden Street, Mason Street, Ash Street, the Charles River, Flagg Street, Putnam Avenue, and Massachusetts Avenue

Major areas of Business/Retail/Industrial concentration include: establishments and business offices on Massachusetts Avenue between 1050 and 1540, Mt. Auburn Street between 1 and 168, and the numerous restaurants, shops, and offices on Holyoke, Dunster, and Winthrop Streets, as well as, the Charles Square and University Place complexes.



Harvard Square

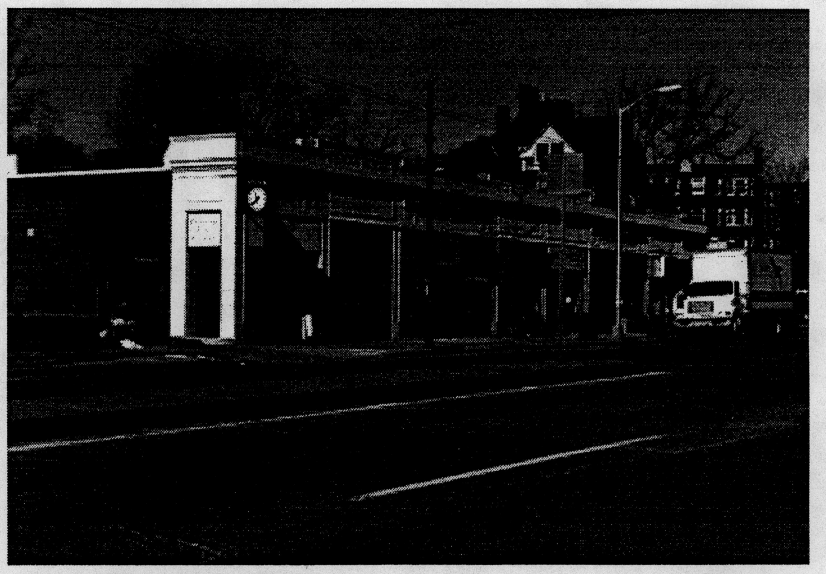
Commercial robberies in Harvard Square have plummeted from 20 per year during the decade of the 1980s to a 30 year low of three incidents in 1997. The three robberies this year which represent a 50% reduction from 1996 were an ecletic grouping. In January, two suspects entered Christy's market, punched and kicked the clerk, then rifled the register. On March 7th, a jewelry store was robbed via strong arm tactics at closing time. The final commercial robbery of the year in this business area took place in July when a comic book store was robbed at gun point. Harvard Square, which usually has a disproportionate number of the citywide bank robberies, remains unscathed since 1995. ● The professional pickpocket remains a concern in Harvard Square with over 100 incidents reported. But after registering a 75% increase in 1995, this type of theft has fallen over 40% in the past two years. Pickpockets use public transportation and historically Harvard Square has been their favorite stop. The dippers favorite target is someone who is preoccupied. The mark is the person browsing in a bookstore, watching a street performer, or the tourist overloaded with packages. Time frame for this type of crime is on weekdays between 3PM and 5PM and weekends between 5PM and 9PM. ● Shoplifting increased 37 percent with record and clothing stores the target of predominantly juvenile suspects. ● Larceny from the building recorded a 16% increase this year after falling 60% from over 200 incidents in 1994. Past modus operandi of this type of thief is to prey on employees wallets and personal property from the rear of retail establishments. The professional laptop lifter is on the decline in this business area as well due to increased internal security in office buildings. ● There were two more commercial burglaries reported in Harvard Square this year than last. For the third year in a row, the smash and grab burglary patterns that plagued this area at the beginning of the decade failed to materialize.

CRIME	1996	1997	%CHANGE
Larceny from Building	89	104	+16.9%
Larceny from Person	130	105	-19.2%
Commercial Burglary	21	23	+9.5%
Commercial Robbery	6	3	-50.0%
Shoplifting	92	126	+37.0%
Fraud/Flim Flam/Counterfeiting	30	59	+96.7%

Business Area #8: Massachusetts Avenue Corridor

Boundaries: bordered by Waterhouse Street, Garden Street, Sherman Street, B&M Railroad, Oxford Street, Everett Street, Massachusetts Avenue.

Major areas of Business, Retail, and Industrial concentration include: retail shops, restaurants and offices between 1540 to 1880 Massachusetts Avenue, businesses and offices on Garden, Sherman and Oxford Streets.



1500-1900 Massachusetts Avenue

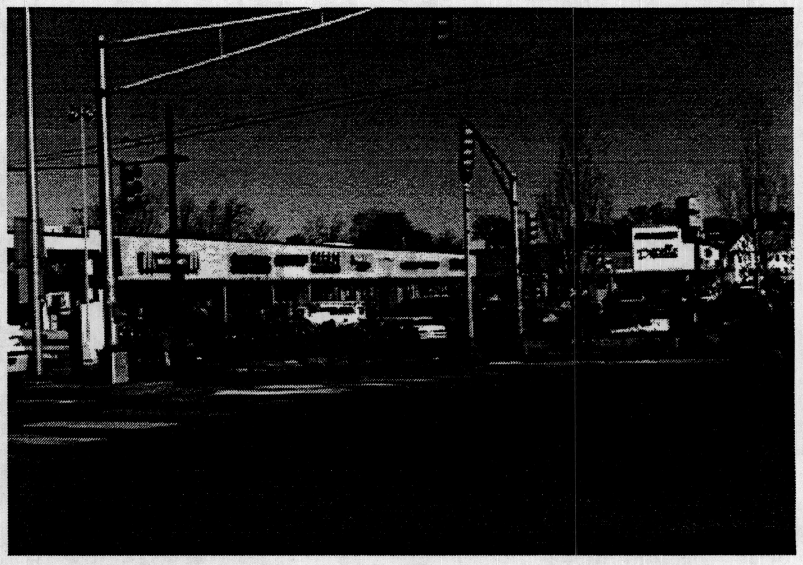
Commercial burglary in the Mass Ave. corridor shot up 350% over the first six months of 1997. The majority of that increase was attributed by dispersal to this area of a North Cambridge pattern. Between January and April, these brigands targeted restaurants and variety stores on weekends employing crude methods of entry to rifle registers. Over the past eight months of the year, directed patrols curtailed this pattern with only one additional break reported and commercial burglary ended with a 28 percent reduction for 1997. ● Commercial robbery fell from four incidents in 1996 to a solitary crime this year. The robbery was at a gas station in January and was linked to a suspect who was involved in two additional gas station robberies in North Cambridge. ● Shoplifting, never a major problem in this area, rose four incidents with laptops from a computer store the target. Larceny from the person was confined to a few isolated incidents of wallets being stolen from backpacks. ● Larceny from the building declined slightly in the Mass Ave. corridor but the theft of wallets from health club lockers remains a concern. ● Credit card con artists and check kiters use phony plastic and paper between 10 to 15 times a year in this area. This type of activity is not as frequent here as in other business areas.

CRIME	1996	1997	%CHANGE
Larceny from Building	20	17	-15.0%
Larceny from Person	7	8	+14.3%
Commercial Burglary	14	10	-28.6%
Commercial Robbery	4	1	-75.0%
Shoplifting	2	6	+200.0%
Fraud/Flim Flam/Counterfeiting	12	10	-16.7%

Business Area # 9: Porter Square/ North Cambridge

Boundaries: bordered by the Somerville line, the Arlington Line, the Alewife Brook Parkway and the Boston & Maine Railroad

Major areas of Business/Retail/ Industrial concentrations include: all retail and commercial establishments between 1840 Massachusetts Avenue and the Arlington line, including Porter Square Mall. All commercial properties along Rindge and Sherman to the border of the RR tracks



Porter Square

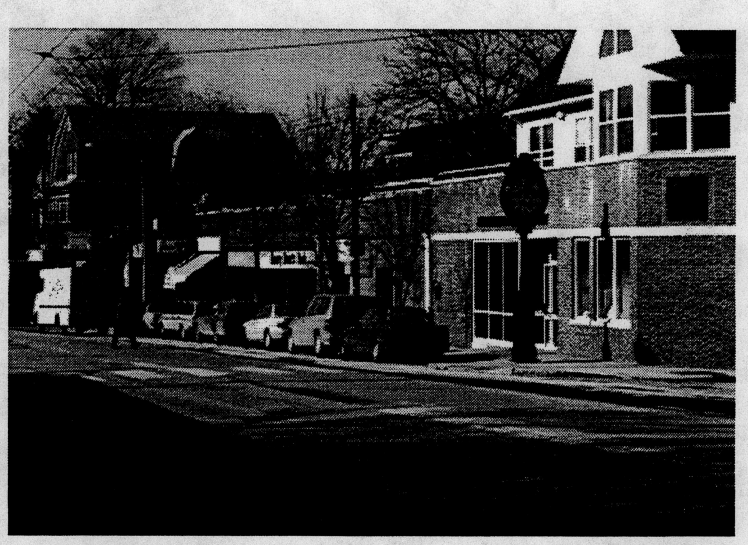
Commercial burglary decreased 21% in the Porter Square/North Cambridge business district during 1997. Despite this decline, the forced entry and theft from retailers in the 2100 to 2400 blocks of Mass Ave. continues to dominate the business related crime story for this area. This pattern refuses to die. First identified in late 1994, arrests, directed patrol strategies, and crime prevention techniques have failed to deter its reincarnations. The temporal breakdown of this series of crimes continues to be the hours of 3AM to 5AM. A shift from weekends to Wednesday and Thursday nights was detected in 1997. There were twenty seven commercial breaks reported between 1900 to 2380 Mass Ave. this year. After a short hiatus during the warm weather months, this series returned with a fury with eight incidents occurring over the final six weeks of the year. An eclectic grouping of establishments have been burglarized. Churches, offices, bakeries, flag, clothing, video, record, beauty salons, offices, bars and restaurants have all been victimized. ● Commercial robbery rose 25% in Porter Square in 1997 with five crimes reported. A Mass Ave. gas station was robbed twice by dissimilar suspect in February. A convenience store was robbed at gun point by two suspects with stockings over their faces in May. The final two robberies of the year were in October and December when note passers hit local banks. ● Larceny from building fell nearly 7% with thefts from health club lockers dominating the percentage of these incidents. ● Construction around the Porter Square Mall may be responsible for declines in larceny from the person and shoplifting in this area.

CRIME	1996	1997	%CHANGE
Larceny from Building	58	54	-6.9%
Larceny from Person	21	20	-4.8%
Commercial Burglary	46	36	-21.7%
Commercial Robbery	4	5	+25.0%
Shoplifting	19	11	-42.1%
Fraud/Flim Flam/Counterfeiting	16	21	+31.3%

Business Area #10:
West Cambridge/Alewife

Boundaries: Mason Street, Ash Street, the Charles River, the Watertown line, the Belmont line, the Arlington line, Alewife Brook Parkway, the B&M Railroad right of way, Sherman Street, Garden Street.

Major areas of Business/Retail/ Industrial concentration include: businesses and offices on Mt. Auburn Street between 180 and 700 including the Star Market, the Fresh Pond Mall, industrial and research complexes on Smith, Fawcett, Mooney and Cambridge Park Drive, the Huron Village area, shops and restaurants on Concord and Garden Street.



Huron Avenue/West Cambridge

Commercial robbery declined by one incident for Alewife/West Cambridge business district in 1997 when just two were recorded. A gas station attendant was the victim of a strong arm robbery in March. On February 8th, a local bank was robbed by a note passer. Both cases remain under investigation. ● Commercial burglary remains a problem for this business district. A thirteen percent increase was recorded in 1997. Statistics for commercial burglary have been on a roller coaster ride for Alewife/West Cambridge since 1994. However, since the sharp escalation of 100% in 1995, this type theft lingers in the much too high range of 30 to 40 incidents per year. There have been two main spatial trends identified with this increase. Breaks into a variety of business types between 300 to 700 Concord Ave. on weekday nights between the hours of 2AM and 4AM accounts for 40% of the thefts in this area. The second hot spot, which accounts for 35% of the breaks in this area, revolves around forced entry into businesses between 140 to 380 Huron Ave. on Sunday and Monday nights. ● Laptop lifters are on the wane in this area. Increased internal security at consulting firms and offices has deterred this professional thief. Larceny from the building dropped 17% but the theft of employees property at hospitals and the Mall remains a concern. ● Shoplifting skyrocketted at the Fresh Pond Mall during this past holiday season and a 211% rise was noted for this business district. ● A counterfeit twenty dollar bill was passed at the Mall in August. Reflecting the citywide trend, the use of fraudulent credit cards is on the incline in this business district as well

CRIME	1996	1997	%CHANGE
Larceny from Building	70	58	-17.1%
Larceny from Person	24	24	NC
Commercial Burglary	31	35	+12.9%
Commercial Robbery	3	2	-33.3%
Shoplifting	9	28	+211.1%
Fraud/Flim Flam/Counterfeiting	14	19	+35.7%

In packets 3/2/98

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

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FAX. 349-4307

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

February 27, 1998

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached for your information the 1997 Annual Crime Report.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Enclosure

03

Cambridge Police Department
1997 Annual Crime Report
Neighborhood and Business
District Crime Profiles.

In City Council March 2, 1998