

# Crime in Boston

## Problem statement

While we all aspire to minimize crime, it is necessary to first understand the severity of the issue and some of the most contributing factors. It may come as a surprise, but crime tends to be ubiquitous in all areas of the United States, including Boston and Cambridge. Pinpointing the exact causes of crime is impossible, as it is a highly nuanced and complex issue. However, factors such as gross income, economic disparity, and government infrastructure/support are often strong indicators. For example, it is widely believed that there's an increase in crime in regions that have a large variance in citizens' income levels. You are tasked with inspecting factors that may be correlated and/or contributing to occurrences of Boston crimes and the types thereof (e.g., robbery, vandalism, etc).

**Primary project goal:** to analyze and model crime in the greater Boston area using the Boston Crime Incidence Reports (along with at least one other geographic location: Cambridge, New York City, etc.) and other data resources helpful to predict crime and/or understand crime's effect on society

## Data Resources

1. **Crime Incidence Reports (feel free to use other locations as well)**  
[Boston](#)  
[Cambridge](#)  
[New York City](#)
2. **A few selected Boston OpenData resources**  
[Boston Street Light Locations](#)  
[Boston Property Assessments](#)  
[Boston Neighborhood Demographics](#)

## High-level project goals

1. Explore, Investigate, and Visualize various factors of the Crime data: minimally, geographic differences and time trends.
2. Describe and incorporate additional data sources that you will use to help you understand or use the Crime data.
3. Train and evaluate models using the Crime data (either as predictors or as the primary response in some fashion) and your own data sources.
4. Use and interpret your models to discuss the causes and correlate of or effects due to crime in the Boston/Cambridge area.

## References

1. "The Geography of Violence, Alcohol Outlets, and Drug Arrests in Boston"
2. "Exploring the Social Construction of Crime by Neighborhood: News Coverage of Crime in Boston"
3. Do crime hot spots affect housing prices?
4. "Crime and Property Values in the 1990s"
5. Can Street Lighting Reduce Crime?