



Cambridge Police Department

BridgeStat

December 2021

Produced by the Crime Analysis Unit

**Preliminary 2021 Year-to-Date numbers are subject to change as data is finalized in the coming weeks.*



Part I Total Crime

An analysis of preliminary end-of-the-year serious crime statistics for Cambridge in 2021 reveals a moderate increase of 7% in the Part One index total reported to the FBI when compared with the same time period in 2020. In 2021, there were 2,599 serious crimes recorded in the City. Through December 31st in 2020, the combined total for Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny & Auto theft was 2,440 incidents, 159 fewer than this year. When measured against the five-year average, a slightly higher escalation of 9% in the crime index was recorded.

Further analysis of the unofficial crime totals between January 1st and December 31st of 2021 indicates that violent crimes registered a 10% uptick when compared with last year, and property crimes crept upward 6% with 130 additional crimes reported when compared with the end of the year totals for 2020.

The 50% escalation upward in larcenies from motor vehicles and the 41% hike in larcenies of bicycles when compared with the 5-year average were the key trend indicators fueling the temperate crime rise in 2021. These two categories of larceny accounted for 41% of the total crime index this year.

When reviewing the serious crime totals of December of 2021 versus the previous month of November, there was a measurable decline of 14% in the number of index incidents, with 30 fewer crimes reported.

	<u>4 Week Snapshot</u>			Change	2020	<u>2021</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>		<u>Five Year</u>	
	11/6/21 - 12/3/21	12/4/21 - 12/31/21	Change				Change	Change	Avg	Change
Total Violent Crime	25	25	0%		286	315	10%		295	7%
Total Property Crime	182	152	-16%		2154	2284	6%		2082	10%
Total Part I Crime	207	177	-14%		2440	2599	7%		2378	9%



Part I Property Crime

The preliminary end-of-the-year property crime figures for 2021 indicate a 6% increase when measured against the 2020 totals and a 10% jump above the five-year average, with 130 additional incidents above the total through December 31st of last year and 202 additional crimes above the 2,082 forecasted for this time period.

Multiple property crime categories recorded significant increases in 2021 when measured against 2020, most notably a 27% jump in larceny from motor vehicles, fueled by a regional pattern of the thefts of catalytic converters, and a 41% hike in bike thefts above the 5-year average, which has been a persistent problem throughout the Covid period.

	4 Week Snapshot			Change	Year to Date		Five Year	
	11/6/21 - 12/3/21	12/4/21 - 12/31/21	2020		2021	Change	Avg	Change
Burglary	19	10	-47%	186	202	9%	208	-3%
Commercial Break	3	2	-33%	57	74	30%	49	51%
Housebreak	16	8	-50%	129	128	-1%	159	-19%
Larceny	155	130	-16%	1884	1953	4%	1776	10%
Larceny (Misc)	6	4	-33%	41	60	46%	41	46%
Larceny from Building	17	12	-29%	124	140	13%	210	-33%
Larceny from MV	33	34	3%	351	446	27%	297	50%
Larceny from Person	15	10	-33%	99	106	7%	144	-26%
Larceny from Residence	19	29	53%	387	353	-9%	289	22%
Larceny of Bicycle	39	26	-33%	602	621	3%	441	41%
Larceny of Plate	4	1	-75%	9	27	200%	18	50%
Larceny of Services	0	2	IN-CALC	5	7	40%	16	-56%
Shoplifting	22	12	-45%	266	193	-27%	320	-40%
Auto Theft	8	12	50%	84	129	54%	99	30%
Total Property Crime	182	152	-16%	2154	2284	6%	2082	10%



Part I Violent Crime

Unofficial numbers for 2021 indicate that there were 315 violent crimes recorded in Cambridge, 29 incidents (+10%) above last year's total of 286 and 20 incidents (+7%) above the 5-year average through December 31st of this year.

There were 72 robberies reported in Cambridge during 2021. Eleven of these incidents have been categorized as commercial and 61 classified as street incidents, to register a 7% increase when compared with 2020. A preliminary total of 34 rapes have been reported in 2021, seven more than were counted for this time period last year. There have been 208 aggravated assaults recorded over the course of 2021, 17 above the number reported in 2020. The 2021 total also currently represents a 12% jump above the 185 assaults forecasted for this time period.

On Saturday 3/27, there was a fatal shooting that occurred at approximately 12:40 a.m. on Pemberton Street. The victim was reportedly located unconscious outside his vehicle by a passerby who called 911. The victim was transported to Mount Auburn Hospital where he later died. The victim has been identified as Xavier Louis-Jacques, 19, of Cambridge. The investigation is ongoing.

	4 Week Snapshot			Change	2020	2021	Year to Date		Five Year	
	11/6/21 - 12/3/21	12/4/21 - 12/31/21					Change	Avg	Change	
Homicide	0	0	IN-CALC	1	1	1	0%	1	0%	
Rape	4	7	75%	27	34	34	26%	28	21%	
Robbery	7	3	-57%	67	72	72	7%	81	-11%	
Commercial Robbery	0	0	IN-CALC	14	11	11	-21%	22	-50%	
Street Robbery	7	3	-57%	53	61	61	15%	59	3%	
Aggravated Assault	14	15	7%	191	208	208	9%	185	12%	
Total Violent Crime	25	25	0%	286	315	315	10%	295	7%	



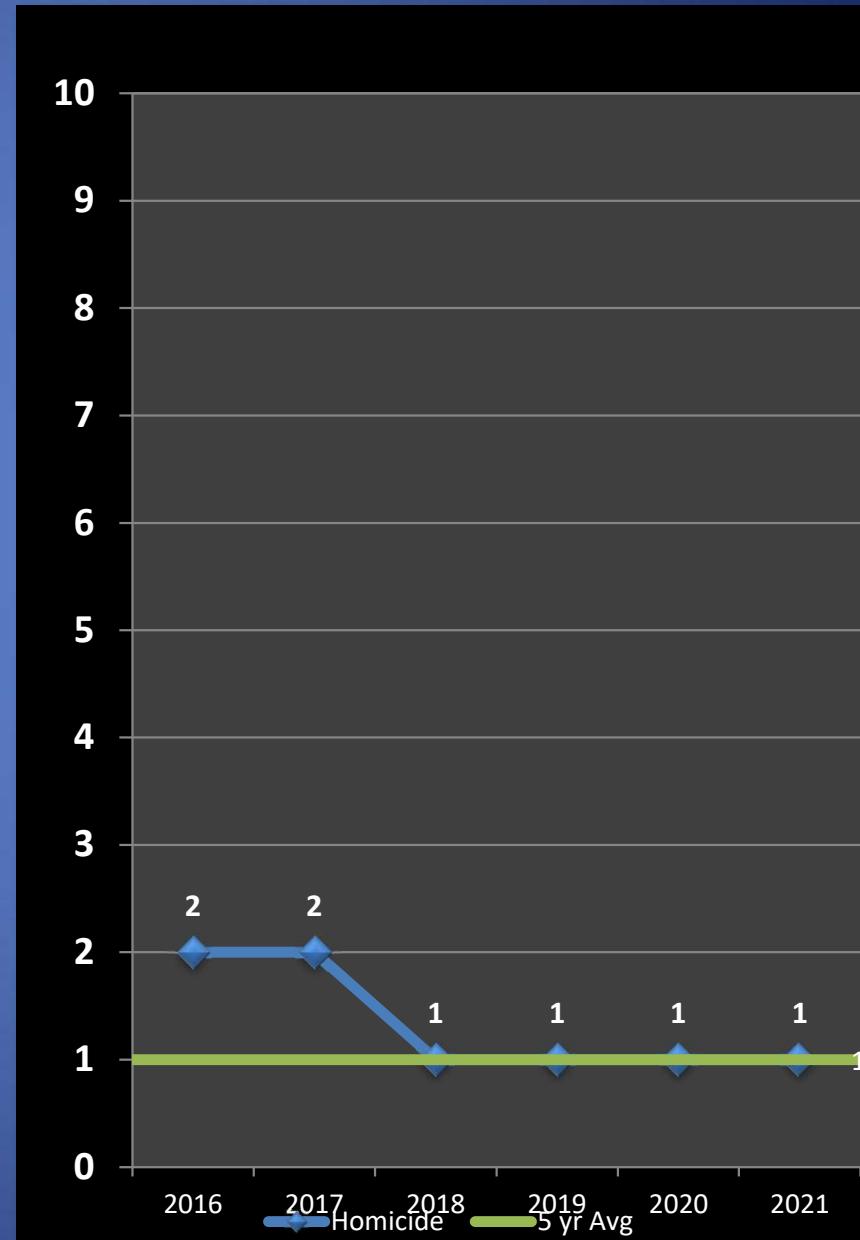
MURDER

No Patterns

- On Saturday 3/27, there was a fatal shooting that occurred at approximately 12:40 a.m. on Pemberton Street. The victim was reportedly located unconscious outside his vehicle by a passerby who called 911. The victim was transported to Mount Auburn Hospital where he later died. The victim has been identified as Xavier Louis-Jacques, 19, of Cambridge. The investigation is ongoing.
- On April 23, 2020, Jose Bermudez was arrested for the fatal daylight stabbing of 33-year-old Danilo Perez in Central Square on April 14. Bermudez and Perez were both part of the homeless community and were known to each other. Bermudez is being held without bail. This was the first homicide reported in Cambridge since January of 2019 and it ended up being the only homicide recorded in 2020.
- There was one murder in Cambridge in 2019. The Middlesex DA's Office and the Cambridge Police are asking for public assistance regarding the ongoing investigation into the fatal incident that occurred in the New Street area of Danehy Park around 6:30PM on the night of January 2nd, 2019. This incident is being investigated as a homicide. The preliminary investigation suggests that the victim, 60-year-old Paul Wilson, died as a result of blunt force trauma and that robbery does not appear to have been the motive.
- On July 22, 2018, 15-year-old Richelle Robinson of Cambridge died following an assault in which she was shoved to the ground on Cambridge Street. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner later ruled the cause of death to be blunt force trauma. On July 30, 2019, following an investigation, Isaias Plaza (4/7/00, homeless) was arraigned on charges of manslaughter and assault and battery causing serious bodily injury in connection with Robinson's death. Plaza plead guilty to manslaughter on March 26, 2021 and was sentenced to 2.5 years.

Percent Change*		
Last 4 Weeks	Previous Year	5-Year Average
In-Calc	0%	0%

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





Characteristics of Murder in Cambridge

For the 30-year period between 1960 and 1989, the City of Cambridge averaged slightly less than five murders per year. The annual average since 1990 has fallen to approximately two per year. Trend analysis over recent years points to two recurring murder scenarios in Cambridge: domestic murder, in which one family member is brutally killed by another in a homicidal rage, and the murder of young males by a handgun or knife in acts of retaliatory street violence.

Cambridge Murder Statistics, 1990-2021

- 64 people murdered in 59 incidents (in 4 of the incidents, 2 or more people were killed)
- 44 victims were male
- 20 victims were female
- Most common weapons: handguns (30 incidents) and knives (14 incidents)
- 20 of the 59 cases are still under investigation or remain unsolved
- 27 of the 38 cases since 2000 have been cleared by arrest or by the death of the suspect.



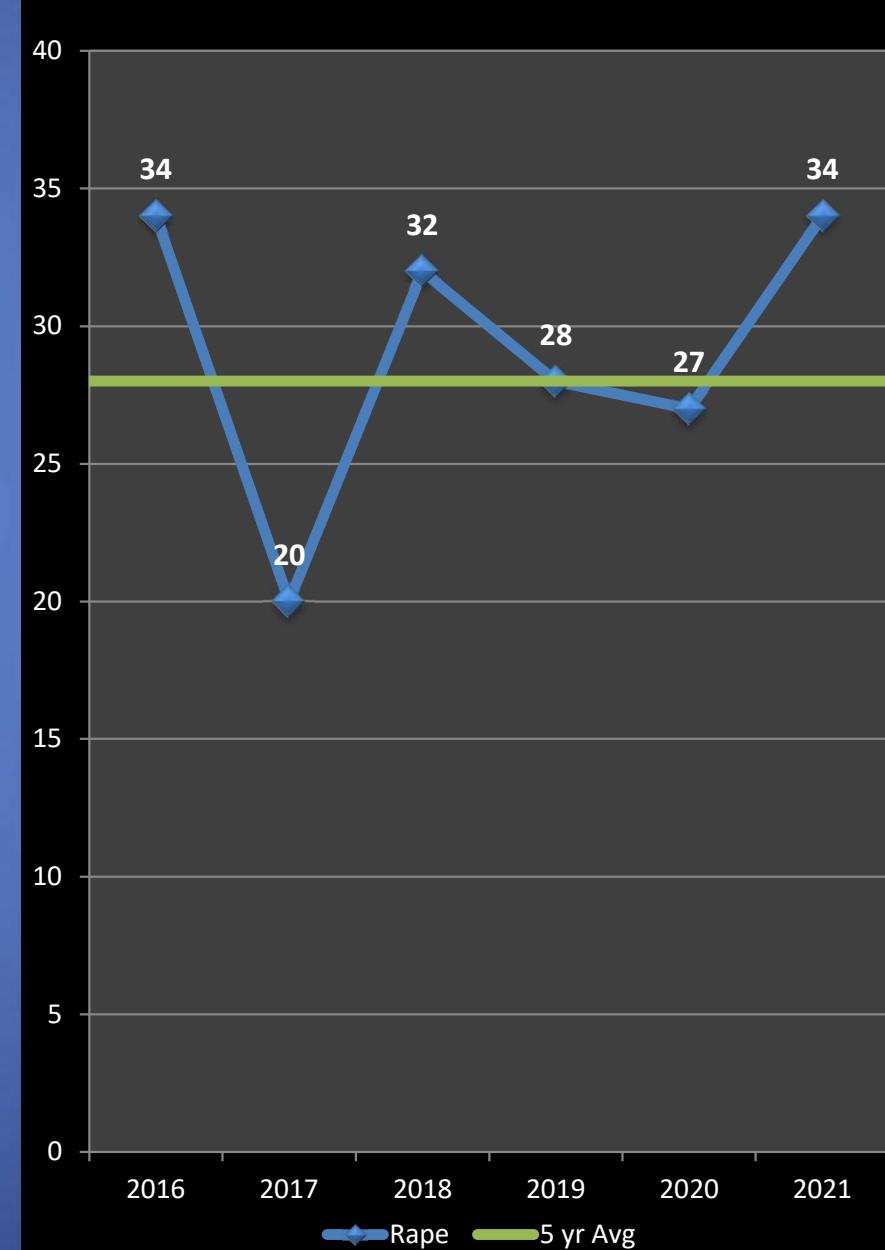
RAPE

No Patterns

- Preliminary counts indicate that there were 34 rapes reported in 2021, seven more than were reported during the same time frame last year. The current total is also six incidents above the five-year average of 28 crimes.
- There were seven rapes recorded in Cambridge during December of 2021. Five of these incidents were acquaintance scenarios. The remaining two were characterized as blitz incidents, one in Central Square and the other in Kendall Square; both remain under investigation at this time.
- The sexual assaults so far in 2021 have been classified as eight domestic situations, 18 involving acquaintances as the predator, five contact incidents, and three blitz scenarios that remain under investigation.
- There were 27 rapes reported in 2020, one less than in 2019. The five-year average for 2020 projected to 28 rapes being recorded in Cambridge, which was one above the final total.
- The 27 rapes in Cambridge in 2020 were categorized in the following manner: nine incidents were chronicled as domestic situations, nine were classified as acquaintance assaults, five were contact incidents, and four were blitz scenarios, one of which was an incident in the Alewife section of the City that remains under investigation.
- The total number of reported rapes tends to fluctuate from year to year, but the number of stranger-to-stranger rapes reported each year in Cambridge—between one and five—remains extremely low.



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

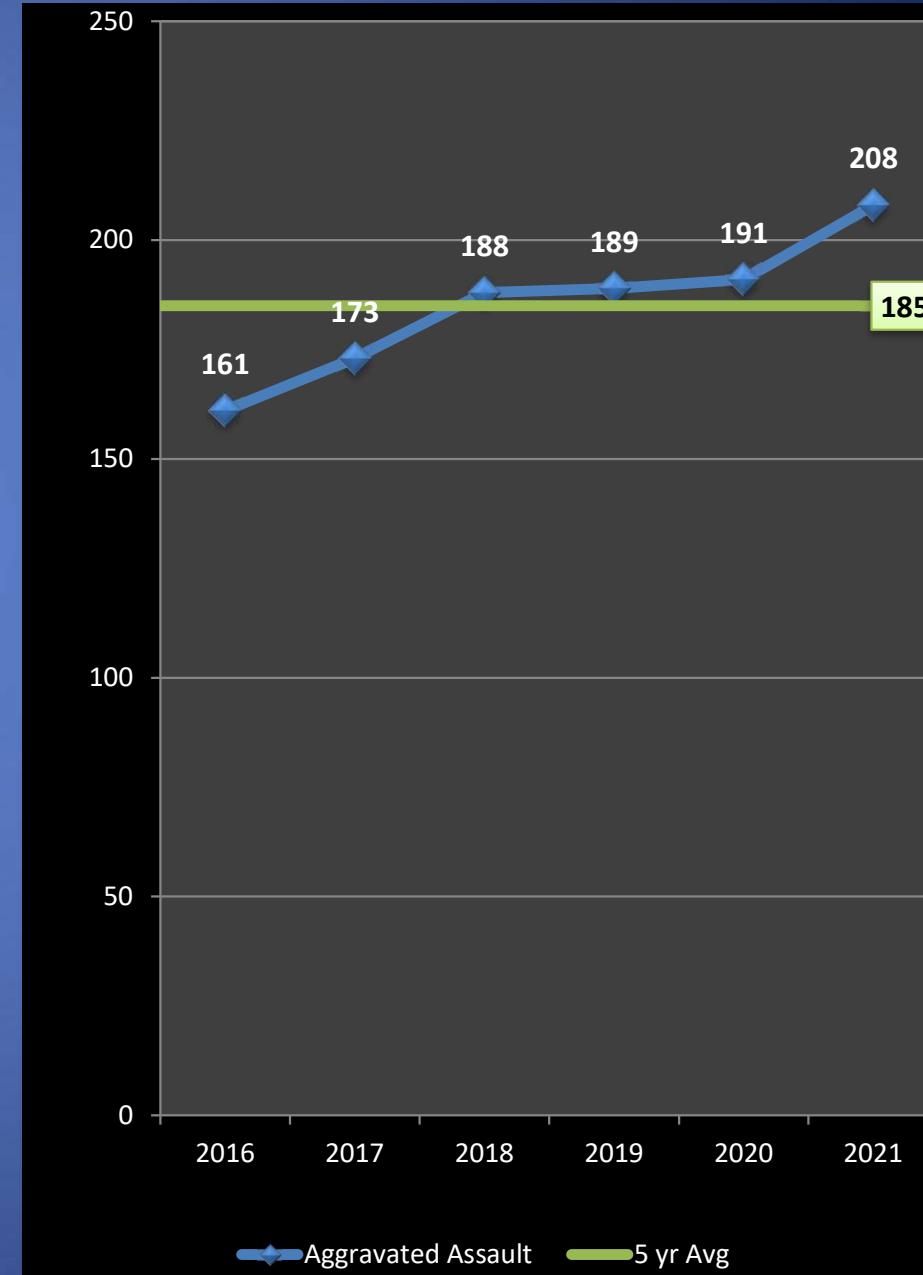




AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

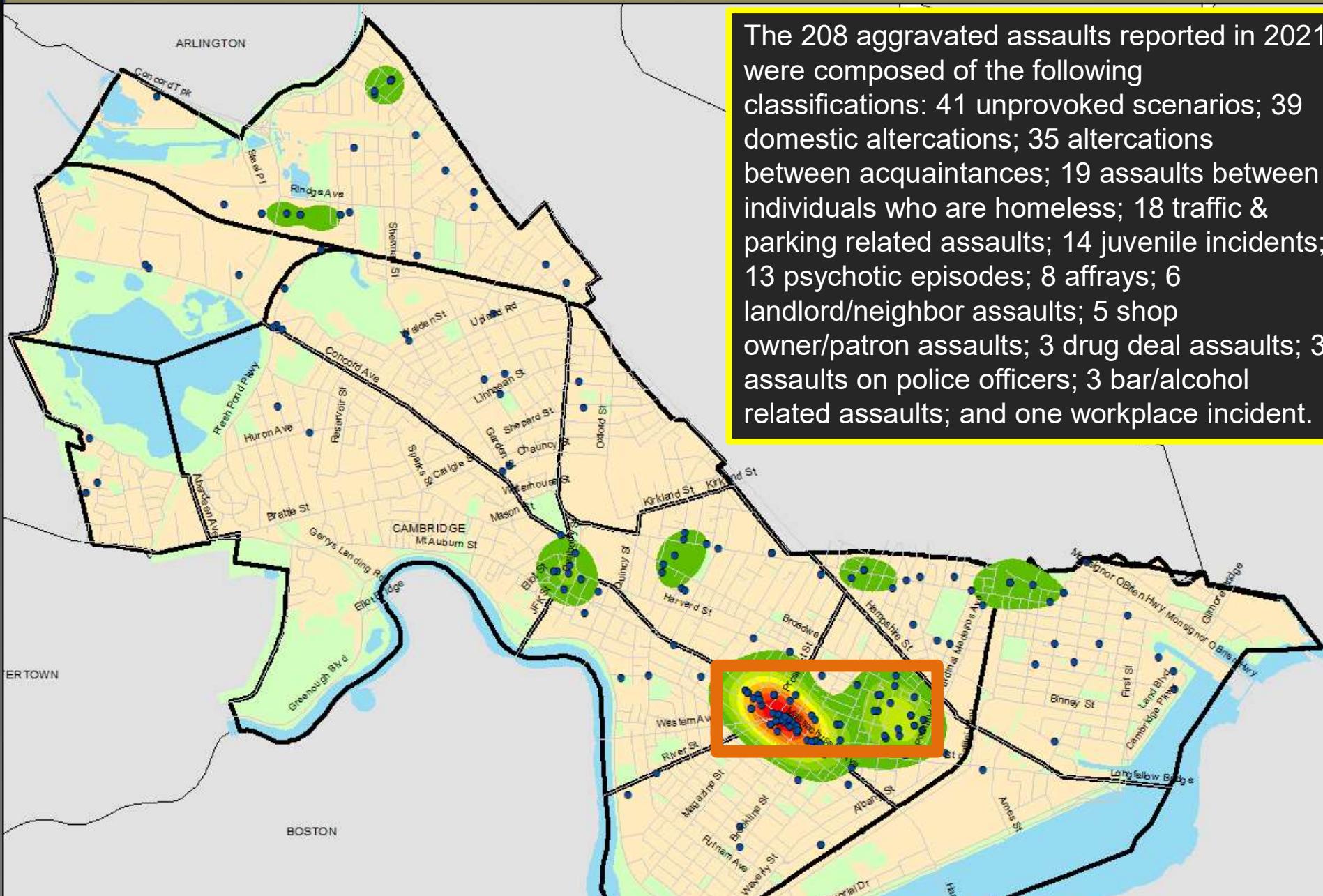
No Patterns

- The preliminary total of 208 aggravated assaults reported in 2021 was 17 crimes (+9%) above last year's total and 23 incidents (12%) above the forecast for the five-year average of 185 crimes.
- The 208 aggravated assaults reported in 2021 were composed of the following classifications: 41 unprovoked scenarios; 39 domestic altercations; 35 altercations between acquaintances; 19 assaults between individuals who are homeless; 18 traffic & parking related assaults; 14 juvenile incidents; 13 psychotic episodes; 8 affrays; 6 landlord/neighbor assaults; 5 shop owner/patron assaults; 3 drug deal assaults; 3 assaults on police officers; 3 bar/alcohol related assaults; and one workplace incident.
- There were 14 reports of shots fired citywide in 2021, seven of which resulted in gunshot wounds (including the fatal shooting on 3/27/21 in North Cambridge). The last shots fired incident of 2021 in Cambridge was on December 18 in The Port; no injuries were reported. See maps on slides 10 – 11 for more info on each of the shootings this year.
- In 2020, there were seven total reports of shots fired, none of which resulted in any injuries.





Geographic Breakdown of Aggravated Assault: 1.1.21 – 12.31.21

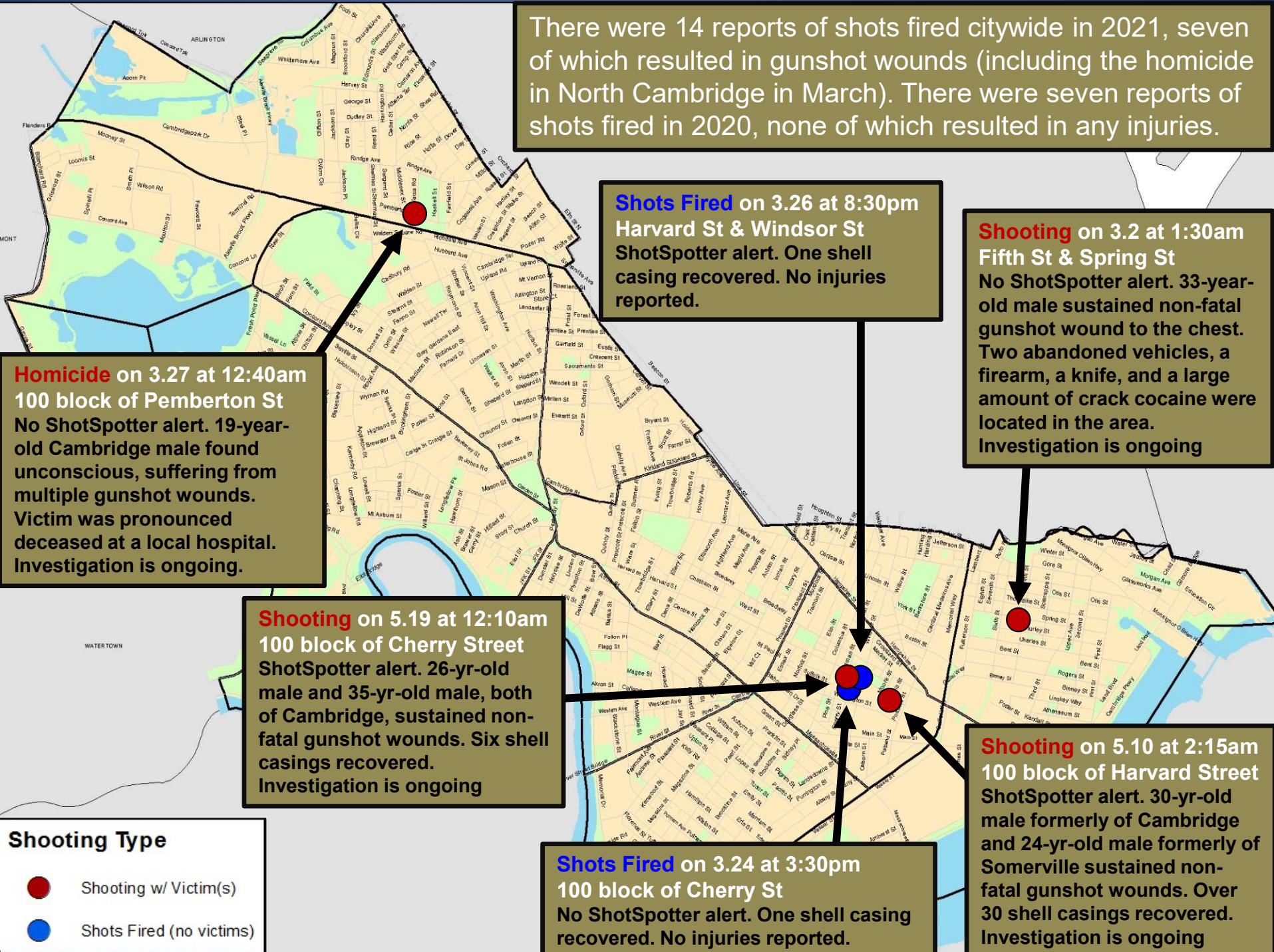


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Citywide analysis reveals that 91 of the 208 aggravated assaults during 2021 were in and around the Central Square Business area, which encompasses the Square and the Port neighborhood. The majority of these incidents were categorized as homeless, domestic or incidents among acquaintances.

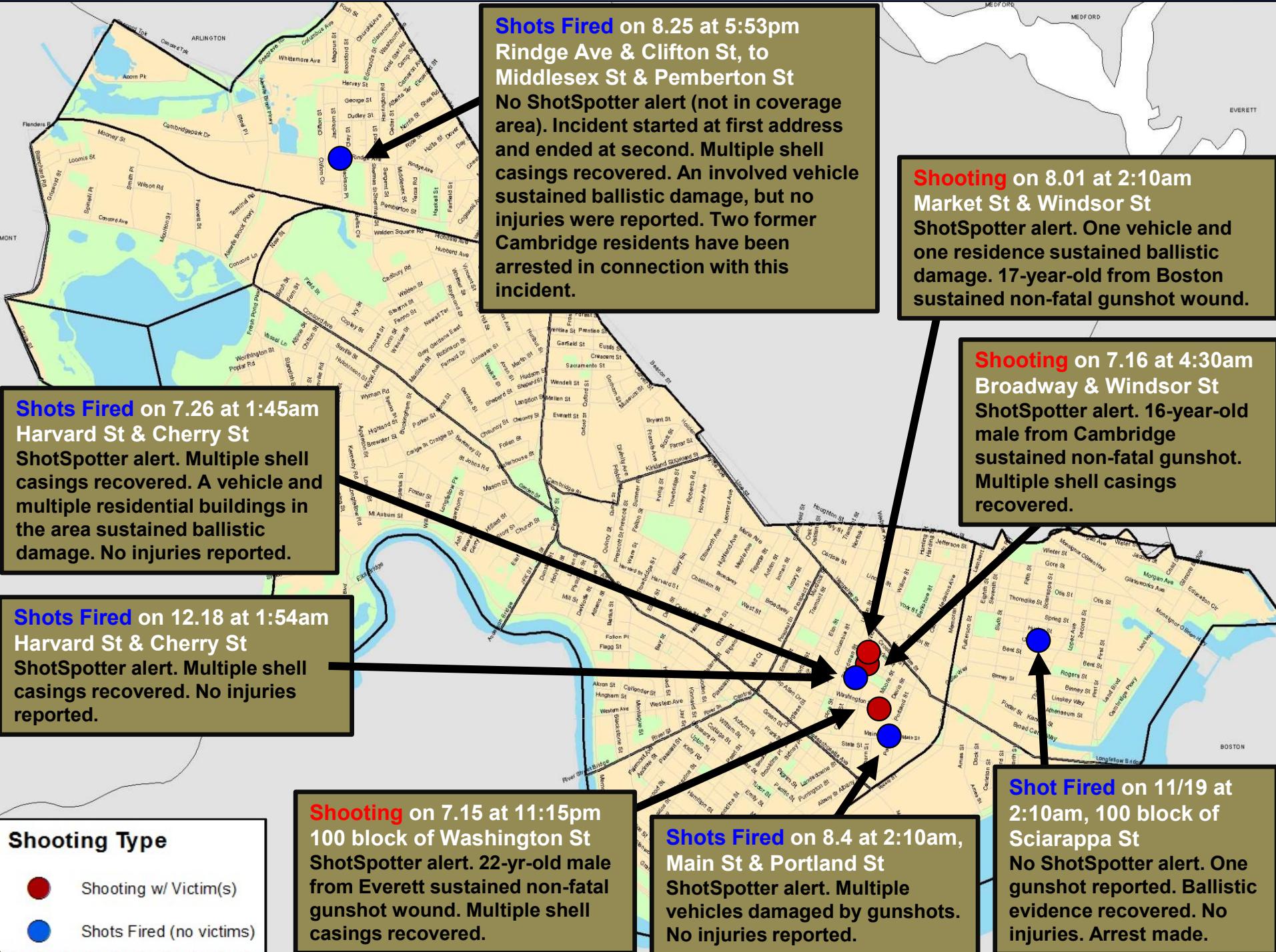


Shootings & Shots Fired in Cambridge: 1.1.21 – 6.30.21 (First Half of 2021)





Shootings & Shots Fired in Cambridge: 7.1.21 – 12.31.21 (Second Half of 2021)

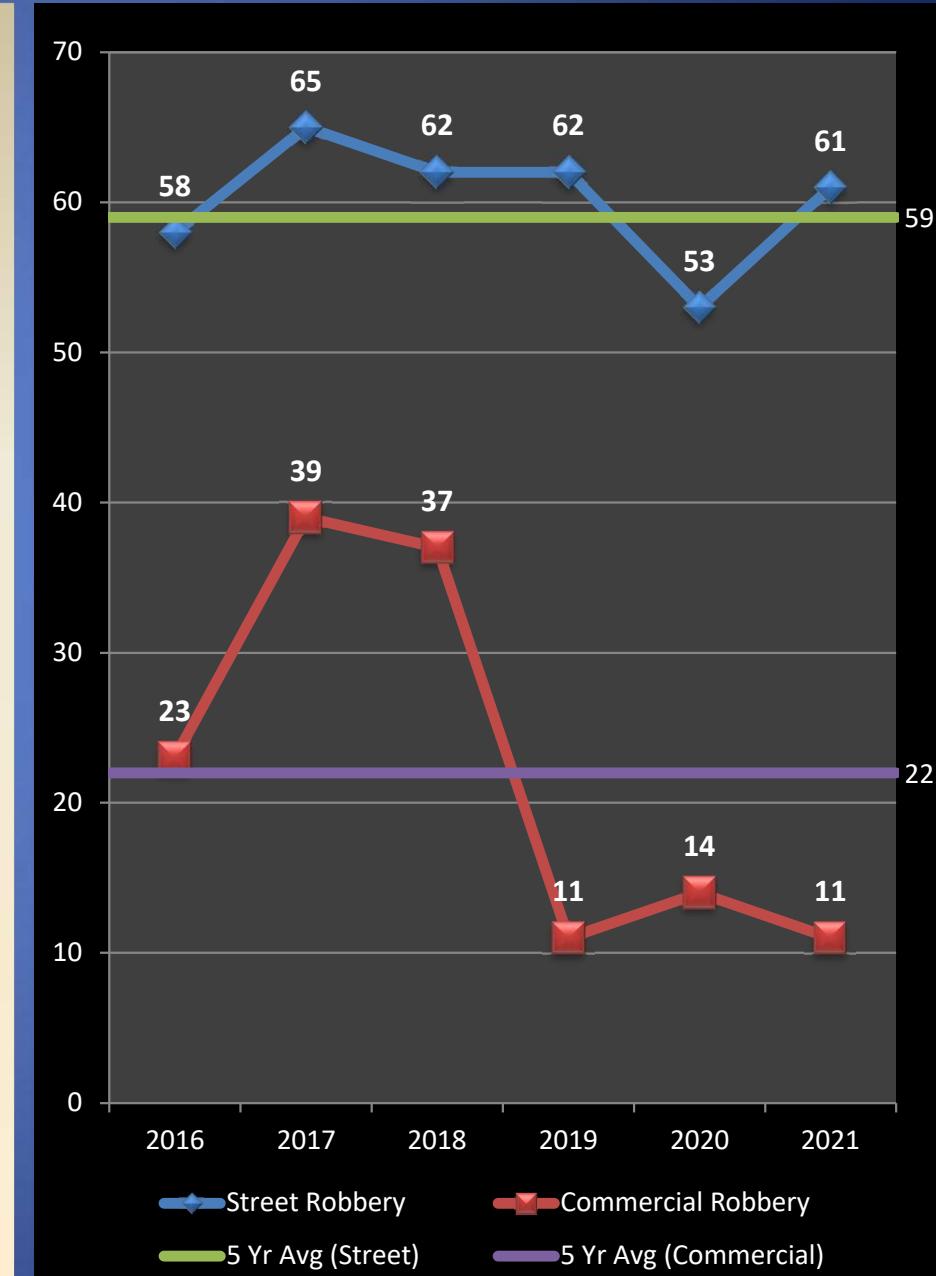




Robbery

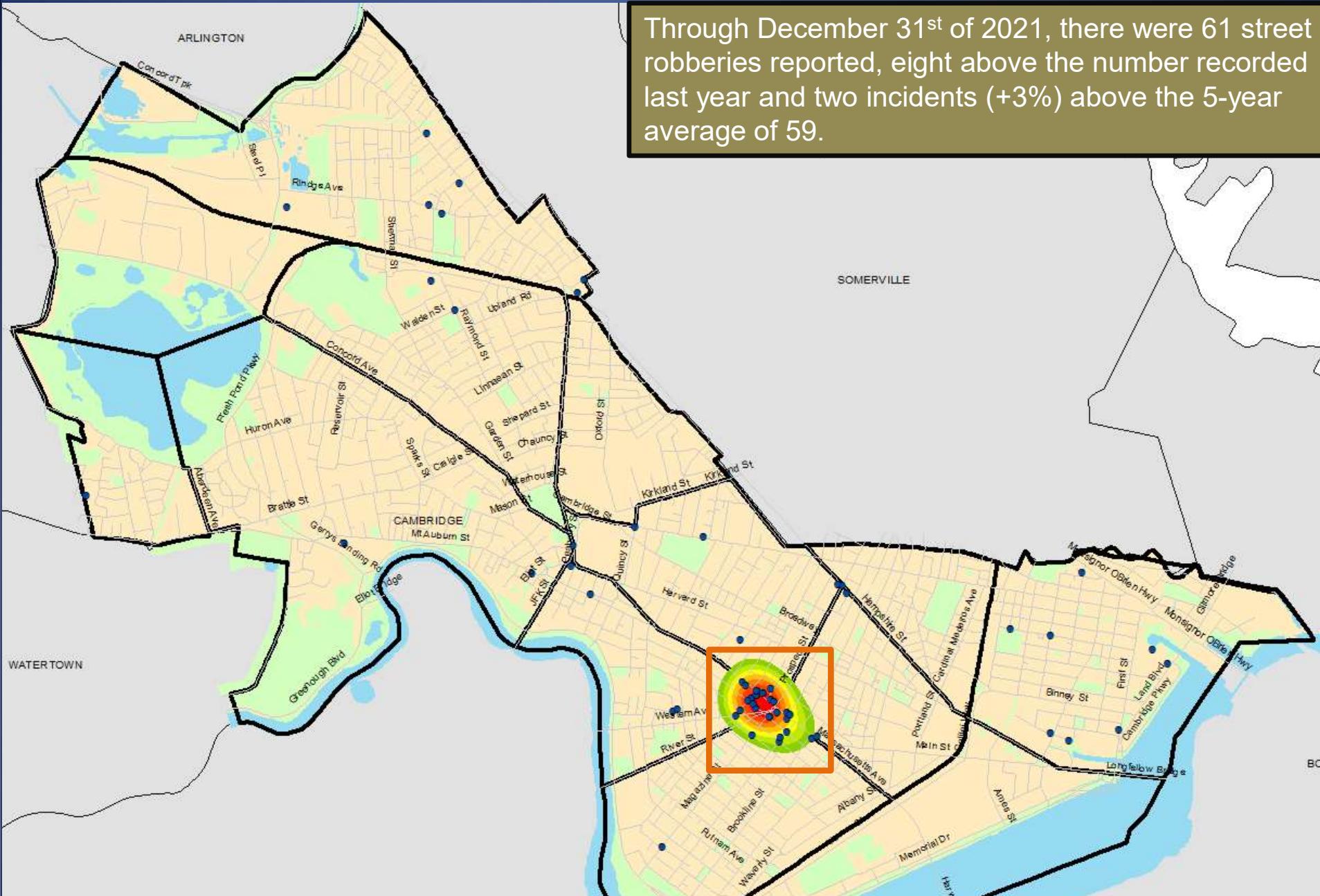
No Patterns

- Unofficial statistics for 2021 indicate that through December 31st, the 72 robberies that were recorded pointed to a 7% increase (five incidents) above the 67 robberies counted in 2020. The five-year average for overall robbery in Cambridge for 2021 is 81 incidents, which is nine incidents (11%) above the number actually reported during that time period.
- There were 11 commercial robberies recorded in Cambridge during 2021, three less than were counted during 2020 and 50% below the five-year average of 22. There were only four commercial robberies reported since the end of May.
- Through December 31st of 2021, there were 61 street robberies reported, eight above the number recorded last year and two incidents (+3%) above the 5-year average of 59.
- Seven of the 11 street robberies over the final two months of 2021 were committed late at night in and around the periphery of Central Square and involved individuals who were homeless. There were also two were unrelated home invasions in East Cambridge, both of which resulted in arrests.





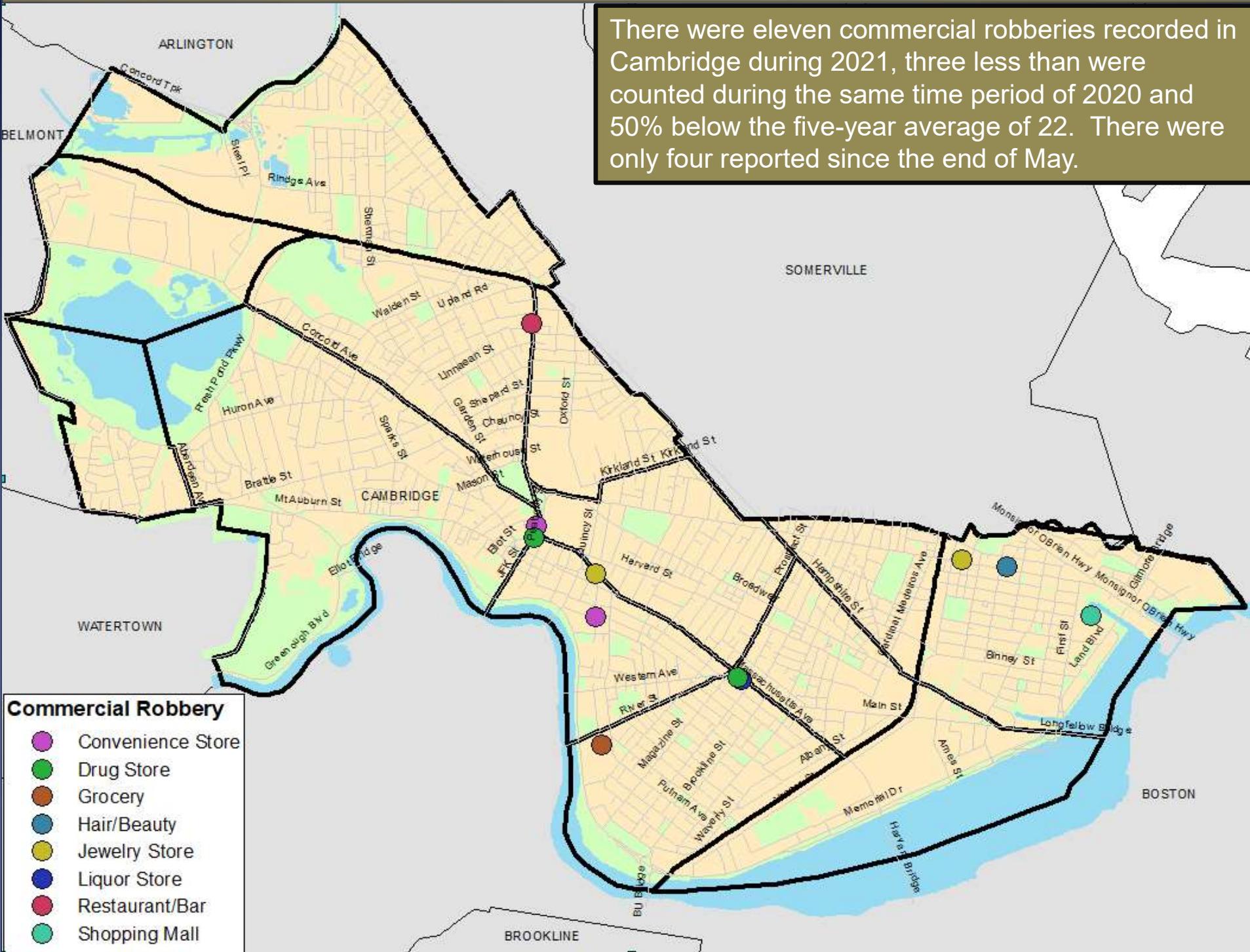
Geographic Breakdown of Street Robbery: 1.1.21 – 12.31.21



27 of the street robberies in 2021 have been in—or on adjacent side streets near—Central Sq. These incidents include: Twelve robberies in the 500-800 block of Mass, 14 robberies in the Pearl/Green/Franklin/Pleasant St area, and one robbery on Temple St.



Geographic Breakdown of Commercial Robbery: 1.1.21 – 12.31.21

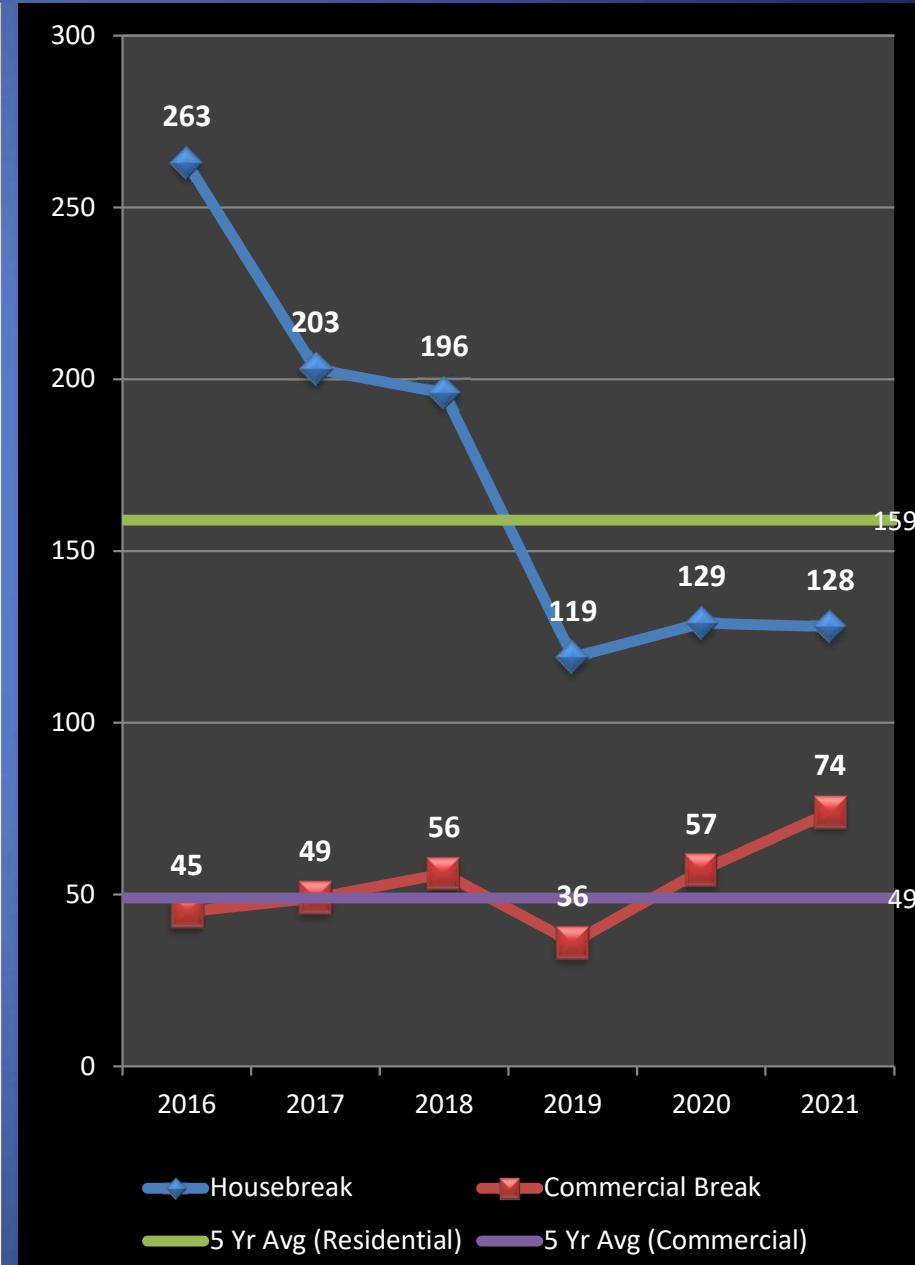




Burglary

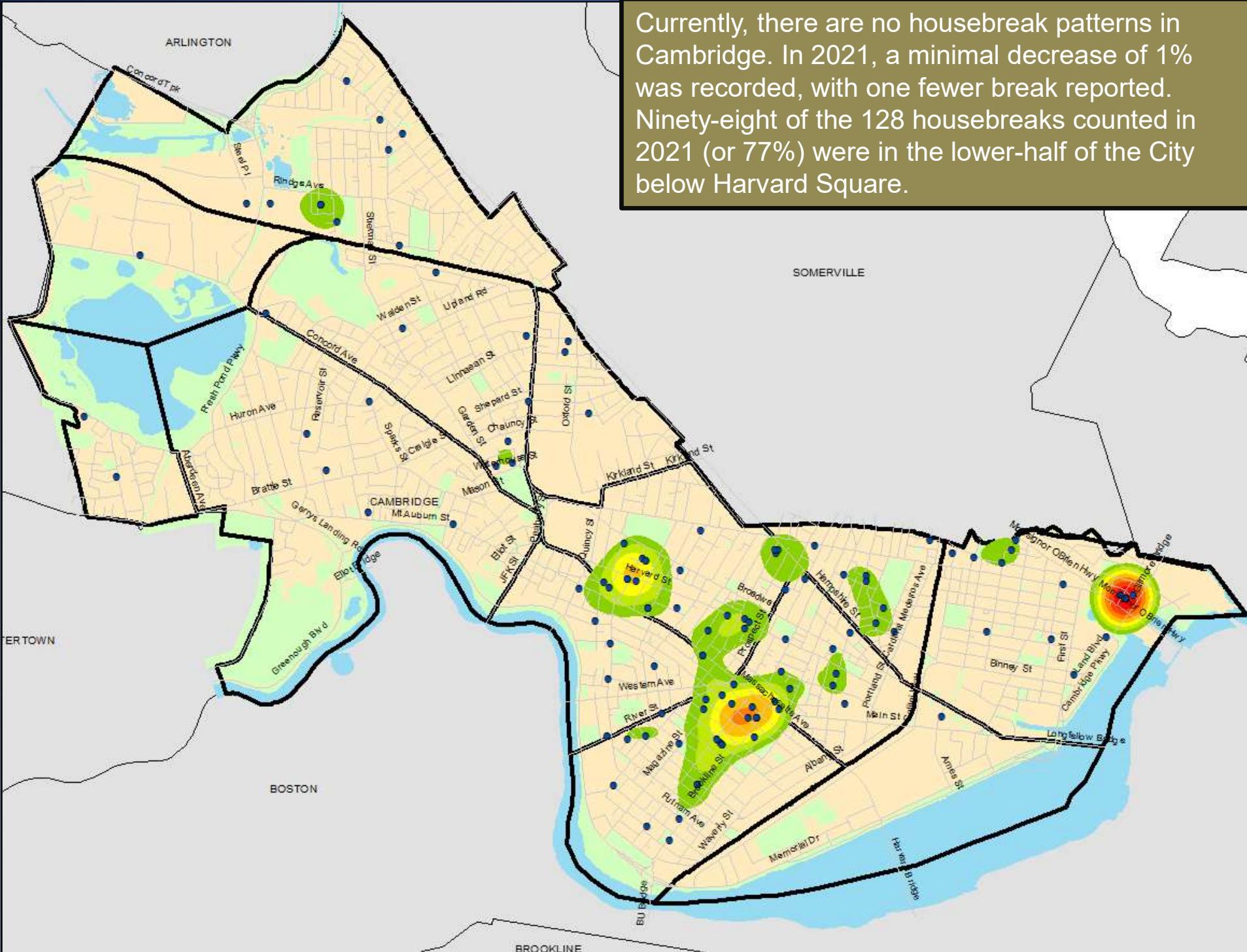
No Patterns

- Preliminary end-of-the-year statistics for the property index crime of burglary, the combination of residential and commercial breaks, reveal that an increase of 9% was recorded in 2021 when compared with 2020. When measured versus the five-year average of 208 burglaries, the total of 202 incidents in 2021 indicates a minor decline of six incidents (-3%).
- Since the start of the COVID-19 period, the crime of commercial burglary has been on the rise. Commercial breaks in 2021 increased by 30% when compared with 2020 and have surged upward 51% over the forecasted number for 2021. A prolific, habitual offender was arrested and linked to multiple commercial breaks throughout the lower half of the City in July; this arrest helped propel a downward surge with only 18 breaks reported in the past five months.
- A breakdown of commercial breaks through December 31st of 2021 by business area: Bay Square – 14 (9 over the Summer); Central Square – 14; Harvard Square – 9; Galleria/East – 7; Inman Square – 7; Alewife/West Cambridge – 7; 1500 to 1900 Mass Ave – 5; Kendall/MIT – 5; Cambridgeport/Riverside – 3; and Porter Square - 3.
- Currently, there are no housebreak patterns in Cambridge. In 2021, a minimal decline of 1% was recorded, with one fewer break reported. Ninety-eight of the 128 housebreaks counted in 2021 (or 77%) have been in the lower-half of the City below Harvard Square.



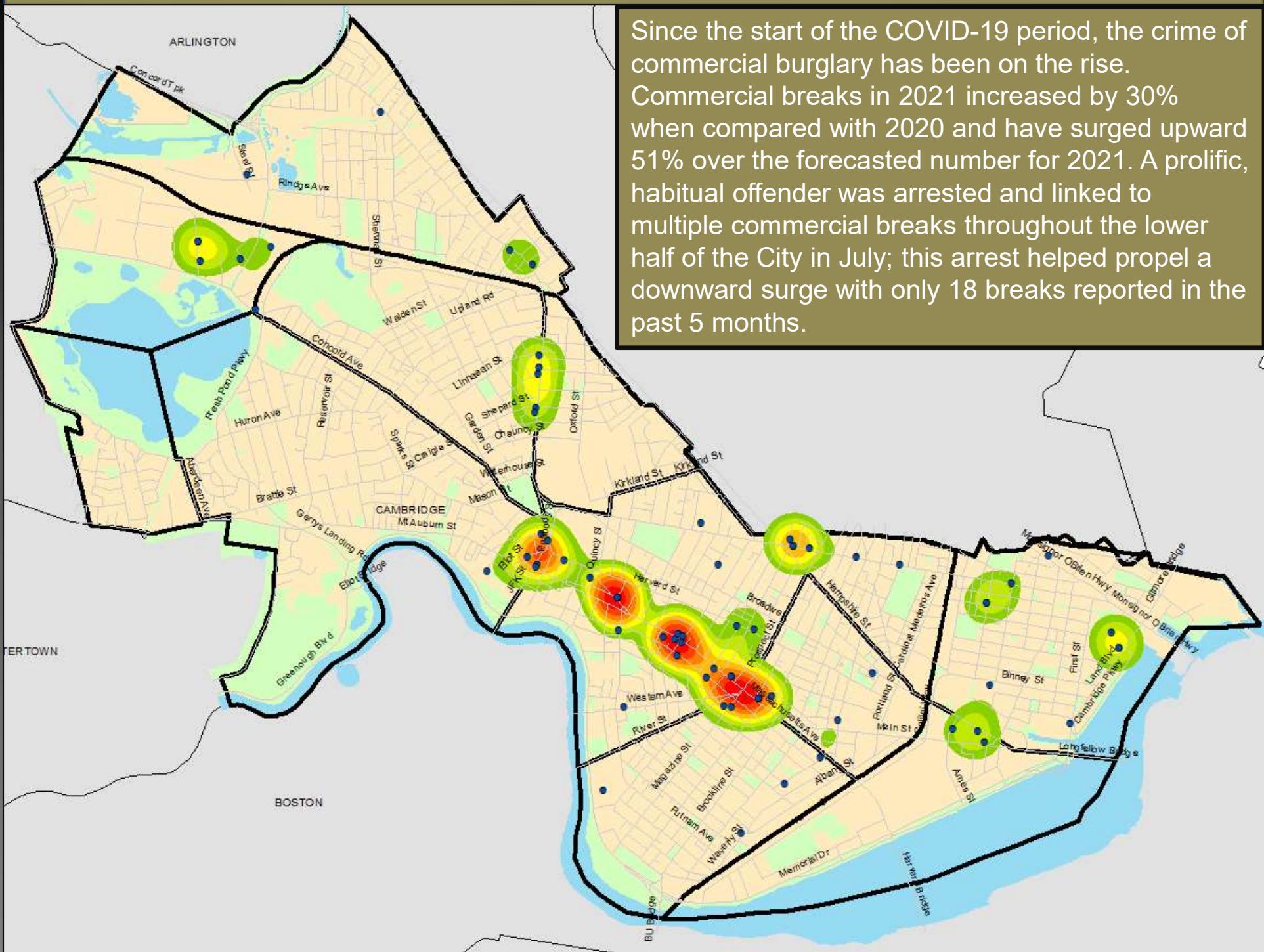


Geographic Breakdown of Housebreaks: 1.1.21 – 12.31.21





Geographic Breakdown of Commercial Breaks: 1.1.21 – 12.31.21





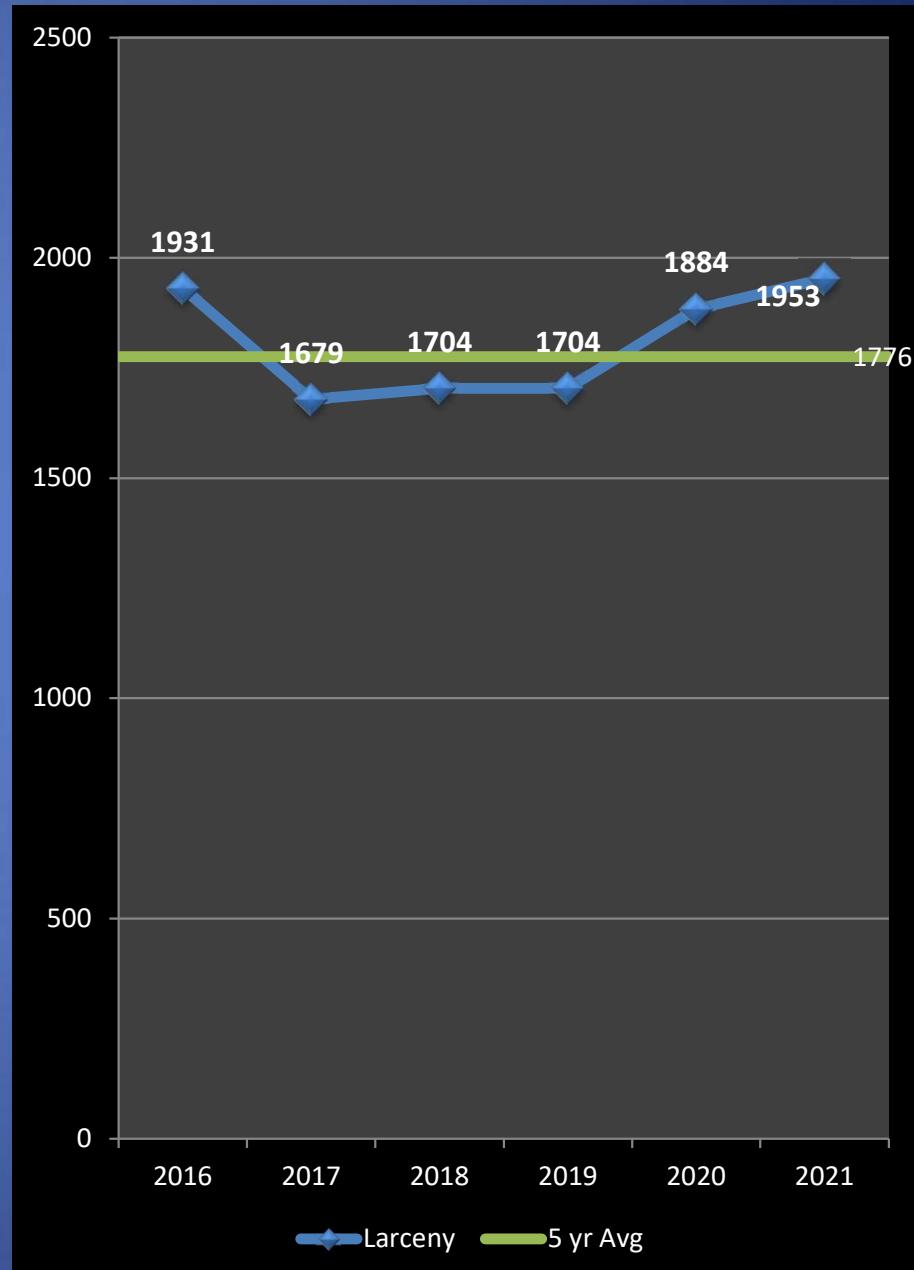
LARCENY

Sporadic Pattern

- Preliminary stats indicate that overall larceny in 2021 registered at **1,953 incidents, 4% above the same time frame in 2020**. The total of 1,953 larcenies reported year-to-date in 2021 is also 10% above the 5-year average of 1,776 incidents.
- The larceny from motor vehicles total for 2021 is **446 incidents, 27% above the total for 2020**. The 446 thefts reported also indicate an increase of 149 incidents (+50%) above the number forecasted for 2021. Much of this upsurge can be attributed to the large number of catalytic converter thefts that occurred in January, February and August, and a smaller concentration in November and December.
- Through December 31, 2021, there were **106 larcenies from the person reported in Cambridge, up seven incidents (7%) when compared to the same time period in 2020**. The 2021 total is down 26% from the 5-year average of 144, likely due to the pandemic. Central Square has seen the most activity this year with 62 incidents.
- There were **140 larcenies from buildings reported in 2021**. This total is 16 incidents (13%) above the same time frame in 2020 and 70 incidents (33%) below the 5-year average. With gyms and public buildings closed or at limited capacity for a good portion of both 2020 and 2021, it is no surprise that this crime category has decreased when compared to the five-year average.
- Larcenies from residences are down **34 incidents (9%) in 2021 when compared with 2020**. Package thefts made up the majority of this crime type in recent years and registered even higher than average in 2020 and 2021, likely due to the increased volume of deliveries during the pandemic. Package thefts have accounted for 235 (or 67%) of the 353 larcenies from residences in 2021.
- Larceny of bicycles continues to be one of the major property crimes seen in 2021, with **19 more bike thefts reported in 2021 than during the same time frame in 2020 (+3%)**. Bike thefts are also up 41% (180 thefts) over the five-year average. Cambridgeport and North Cambridge saw the most bike thefts in 2021; combined they account for 33% of the citywide total.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks	Previous Year	5-Year Average
-16%	+4%	+10%

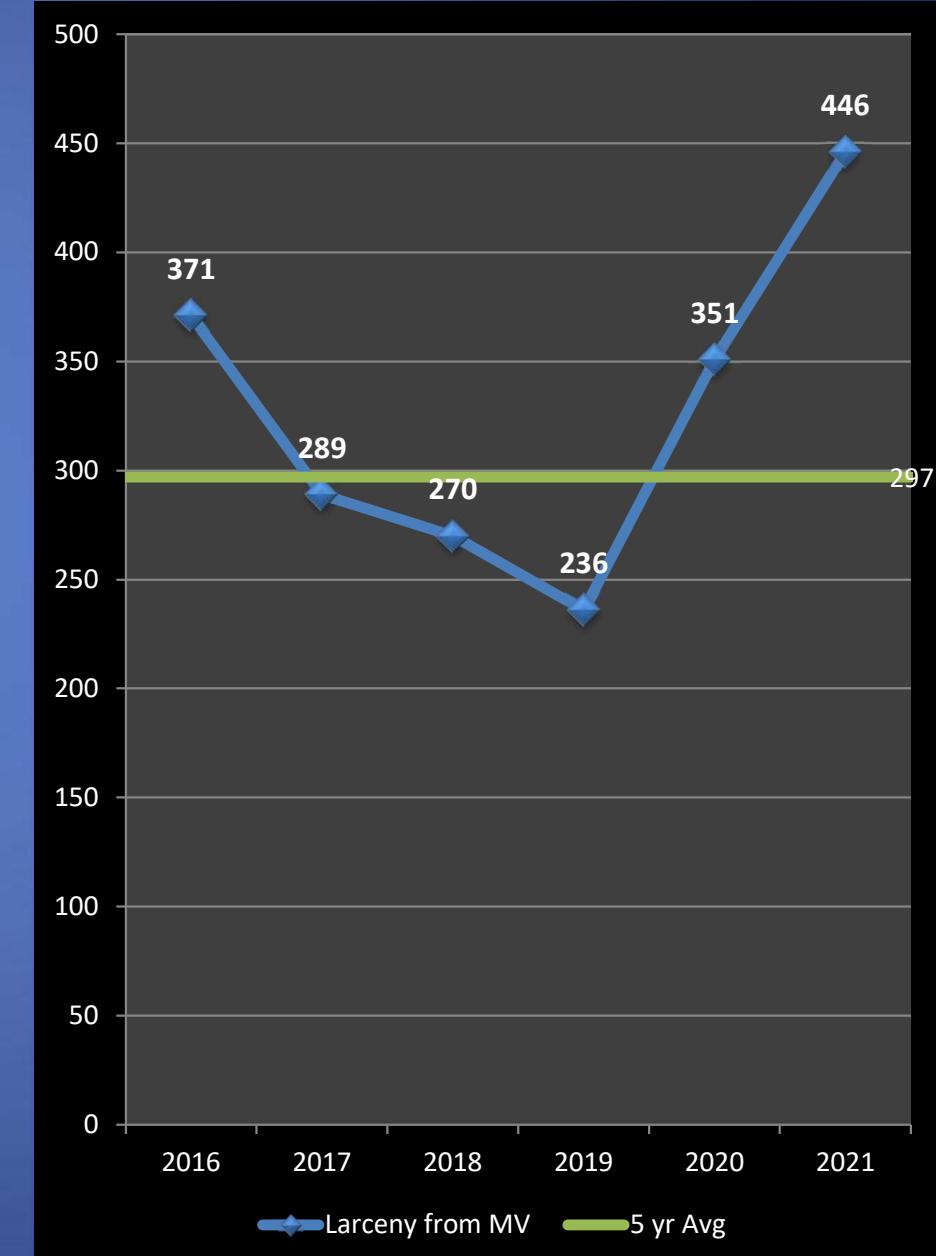




LARCENY From MV

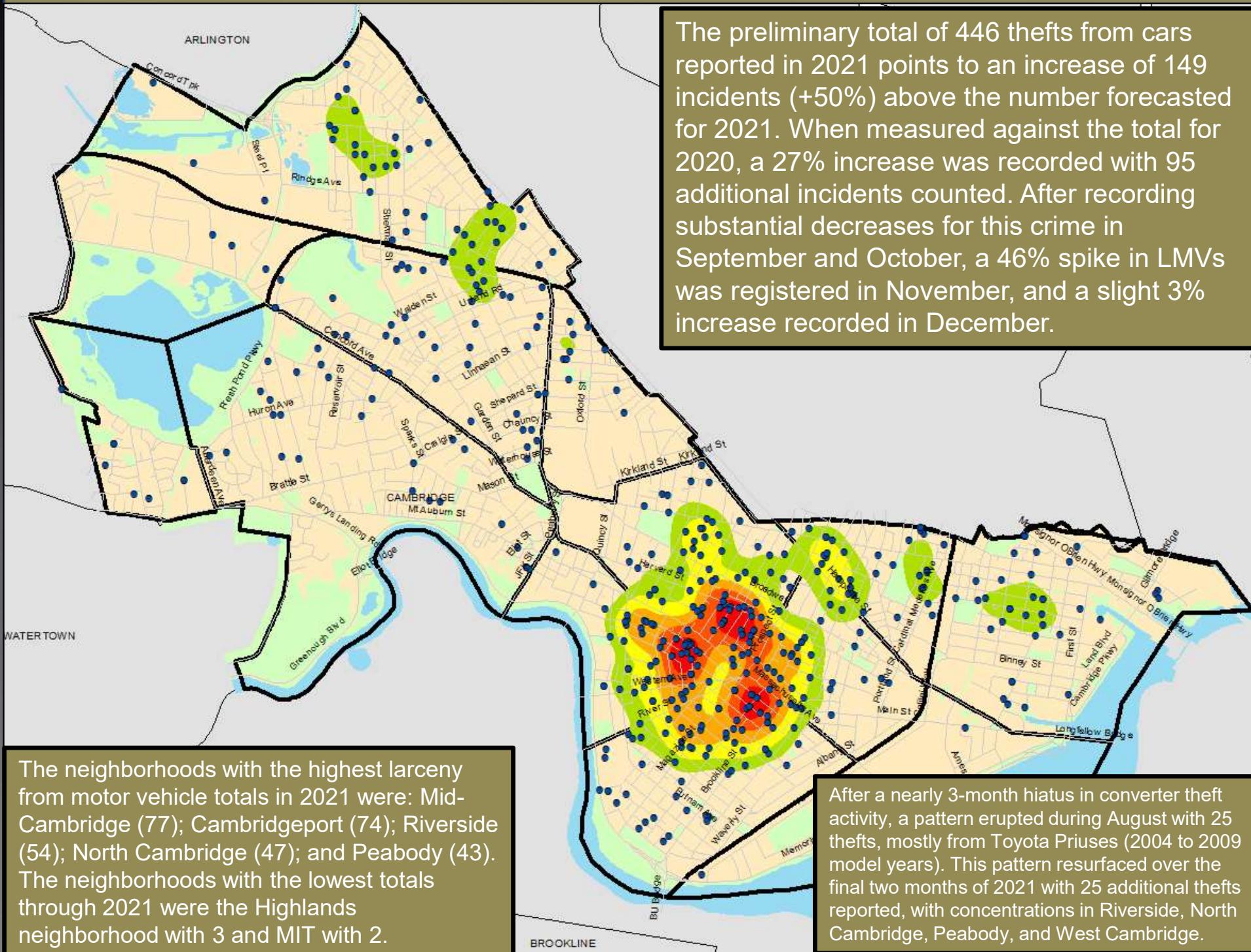
Sporadic Pattern

- The preliminary total of 446 thefts from cars reported in 2021 points to an increase of 149 incidents (+50%) above the number forecasted for 2021. When measured against the total for 2020, a 27% increase was recorded with 95 additional incidents counted. After recording substantial decreases for this crime in September and October, a 46% spike in LMVs was registered in November, and a slight 3% increase recorded in December.
- The neighborhoods with the highest larceny from motor vehicle totals in 2021 were: Mid-Cambridge (77); Cambridgeport (74); Riverside (54); North Cambridge (47); and Peabody (43). The neighborhoods with the lowest totals in 2021 were the Highlands neighborhood with 3 and MIT with 2.
- Catalytic converter thefts had been a regional issue with Cambridge not experiencing any in recent years until a series of thefts were reported primarily in the Cambridgeport neighborhood on January 17-18, 2021. Another surge of thefts occurred in the Inman-Harrington and East Cambridge neighborhoods over the first two weeks of February. After a nearly 3-month hiatus in converter theft activity, a pattern erupted during August with 25 thefts, mostly from Toyota Priuses (2004 to 2009 model years). This pattern resurfaced over the final two months of 2021 with 25 additional thefts reported, with concentrations in Riverside, North Cambridge, Peabody, and West Cambridge.





Geographic Breakdown of Larceny from Motor Vehicles: 1.1.21 – 12.31.21

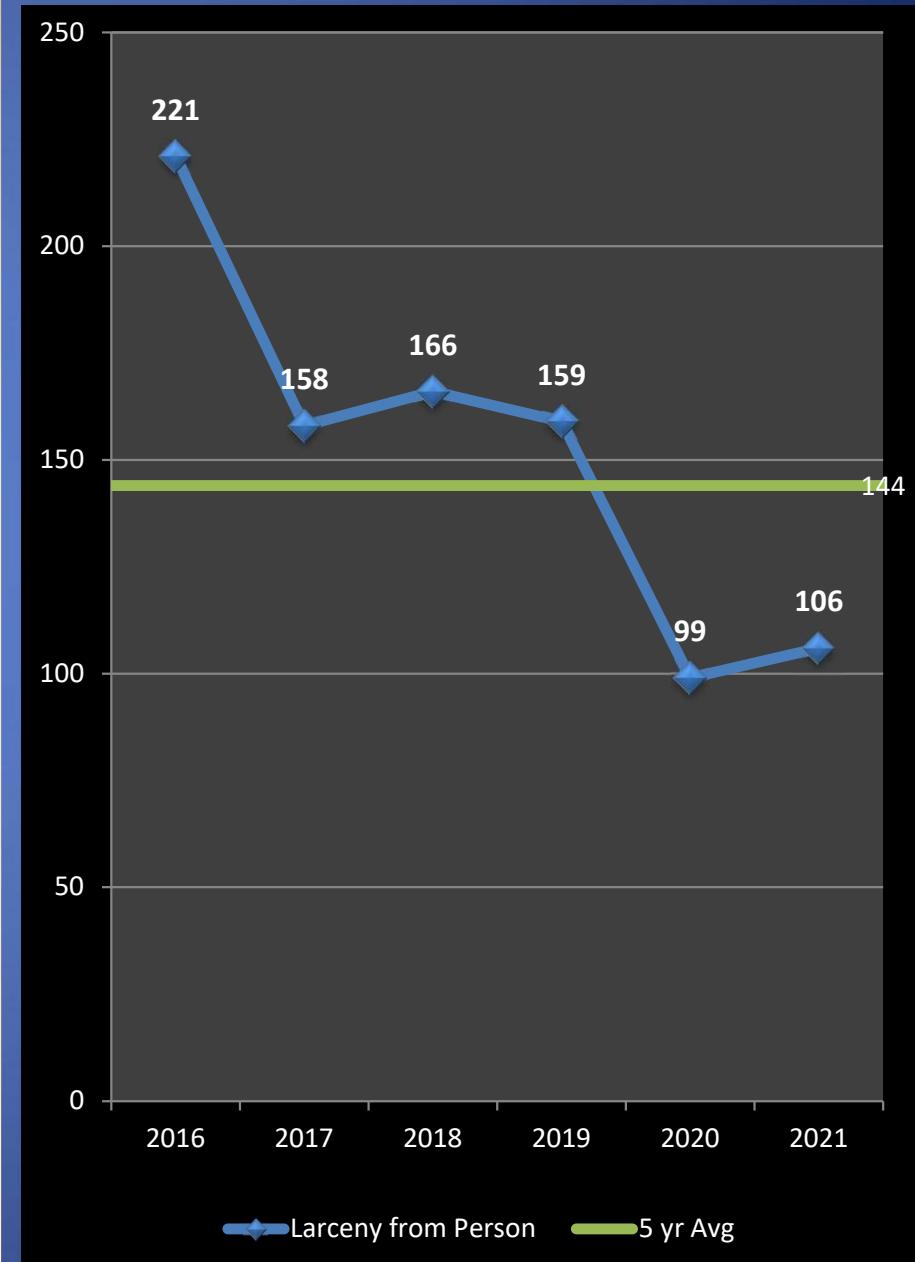




LARCENY from Person

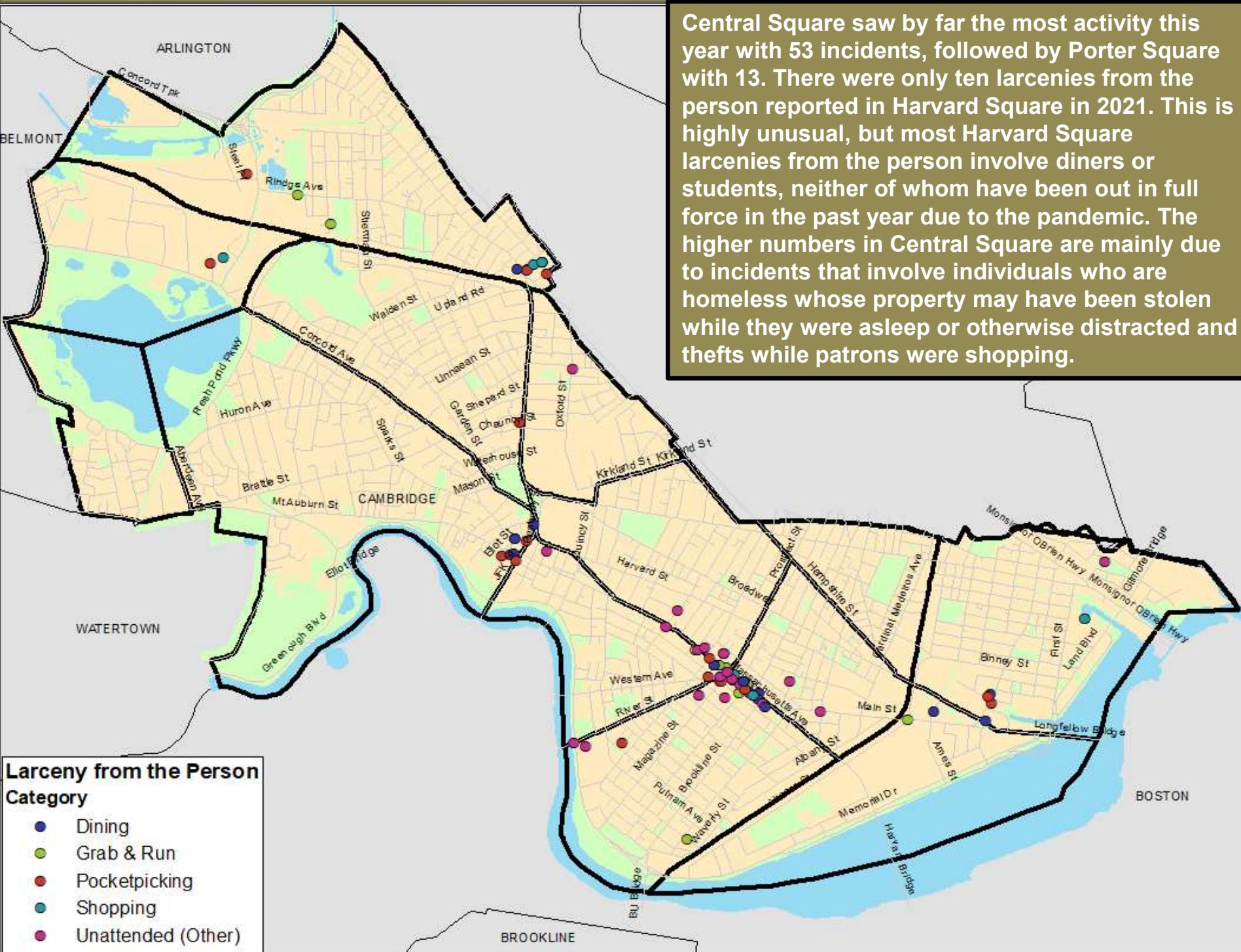
No Patterns

- Through December 31, 2021, there have been 106 larcenies from the person reported in Cambridge, up by seven incidents (7%) when compared to 2020. When compared to the 5-year average, there has been a decrease of 38 incidents (-26%). The sizeable decrease below the five-year average is mostly due to the lack of patronage at restaurants and stores in the city because of the pandemic.
- Central Square saw by far the most activity this year with 62 incidents, followed by Porter Square with 14. There were only ten larcenies from the person reported in Harvard Square in 2021. This is highly unusual, but most Harvard Square larcenies from the person involve diners or students, neither of whom have been out in full force in the past year. The numbers citywide are considerably lower than we would expect because of the numerous COVID-related closures of and restrictions at restaurants and shops across the city, where we typically see the majority of this crime type occur. The higher numbers in Central Square are mainly due to grab-and-run situations or incidents that involve individuals who are homeless whose property may have been stolen while they were asleep or otherwise distracted.
- The most common situations in which property was stolen in 2021 were thefts of nearby but unattended property (32) and thefts while shopping (25).
- There were seven suspects developed for this crime in 2021. Often when it comes to larcenies involving victims or perpetrators who are unhoused, the suspect is sometimes known but parties are not always cooperative or accessible for follow-up.





Geographic Breakdown of Larceny from Person : 1.1.21 – 12.31.21





LARCENY of Bicycle

No Patterns

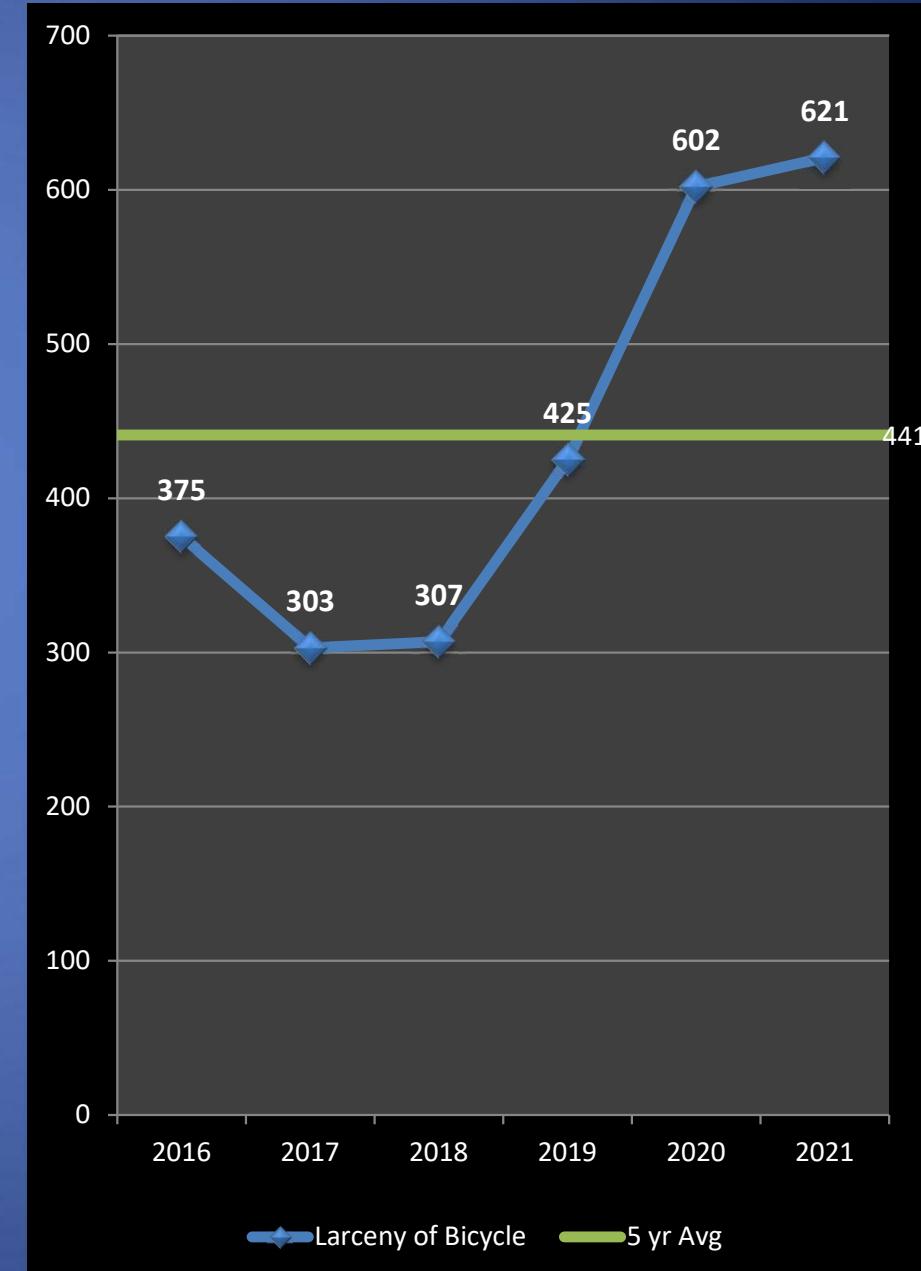
- Bicycle thefts were one of the major property crimes seen in 2021, incurring a 3% increase in 2021 over 2020 and a 41% rise (+180 thefts) above the 5-year average.
- Almost two-thirds of the bike thefts this year (or 64%) took place in the lower half of the city, with 400 of the 621 reported south/east of Harvard Square. However, there were hot spots in North Cambridge and the Highlands that accounted for a large number of the thefts in the northern part of the City.
- Although the majority of bicycles tend to be stolen from streets, sidewalks, and yards, similar to last year we continued to see an increase in thefts from personal garages, parking garages, and building storage areas in 2021.
- Of the 621 bike thefts recorded preliminarily in 2021, 482 (78%) were reportedly locked at the time of the theft.
- A few individuals who are homeless have been found in possession of bikes that were reported stolen this year.

Top Neighborhoods for Bike Thefts in 2021

Neighborhood	YTD Total	% Citywide
Cambridgeport	103	17%
North Cambridge	101	16%
Mid Cambridge	75	12%
Riverside	68	11%
East Cambridge	66	11%
Peabody	46	7%

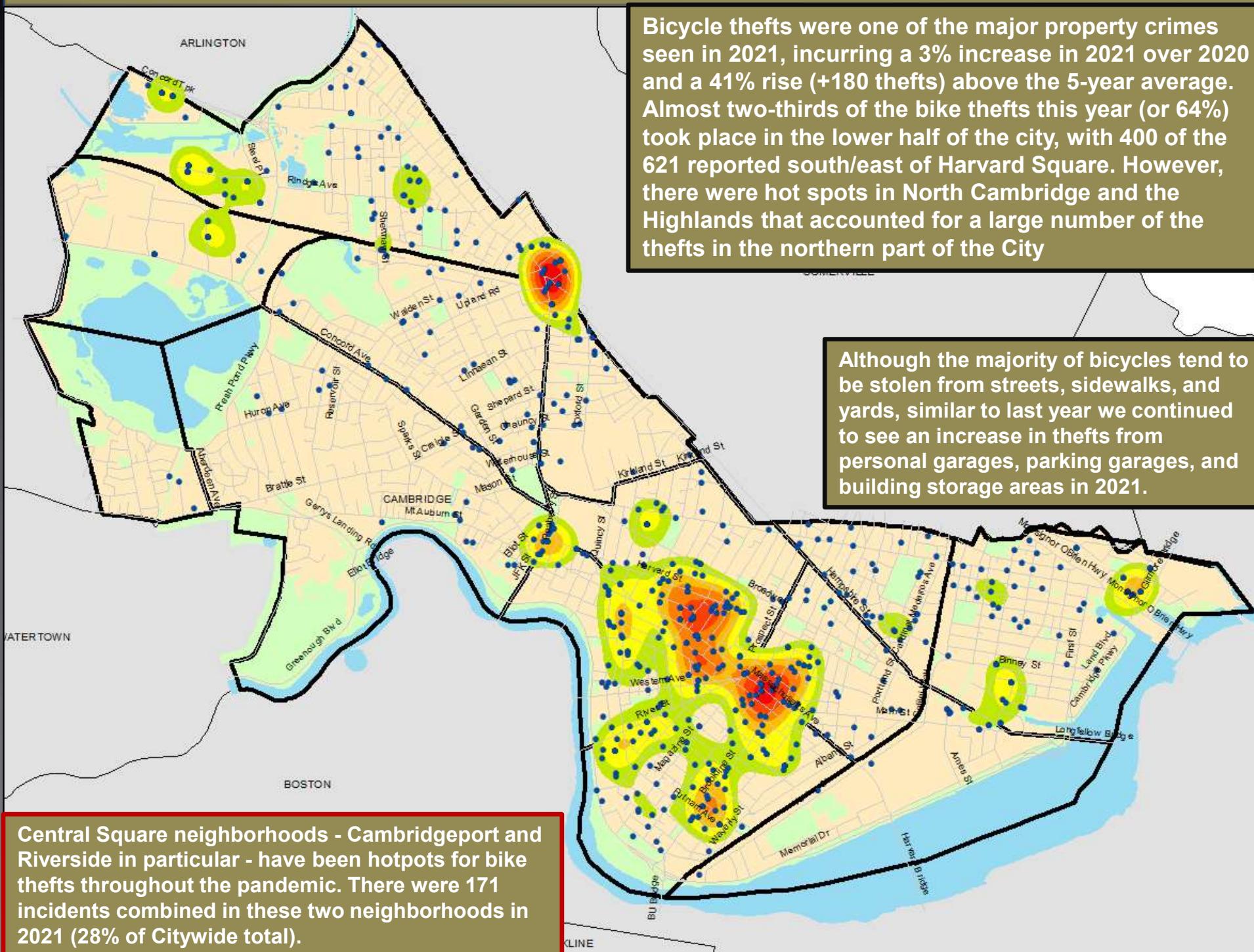
Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks	Previous Year	5-Year Average
-33%	+3%	+41%



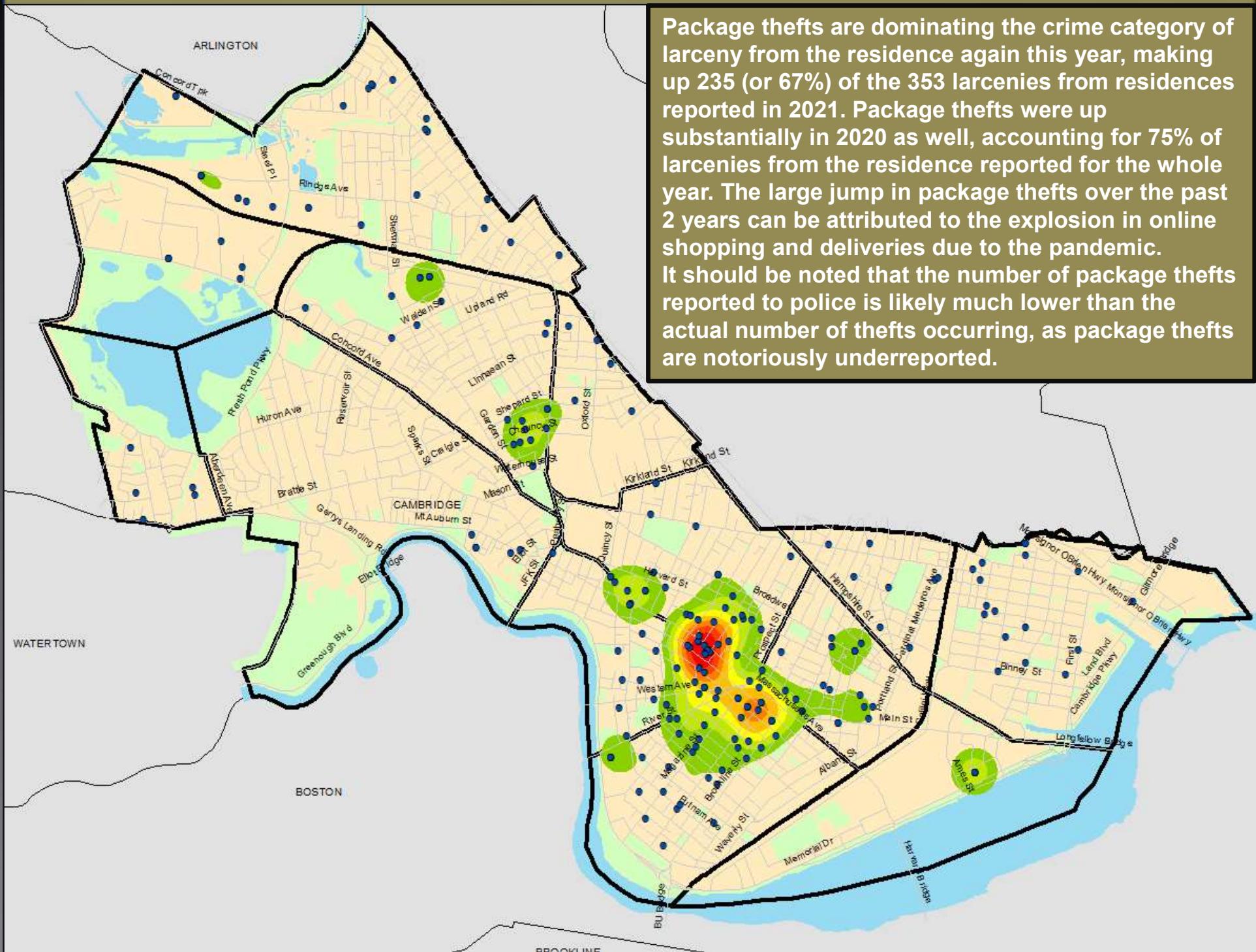


Geographic Breakdown of Larceny of Bicycles: 1.1.21 – 12.31.21



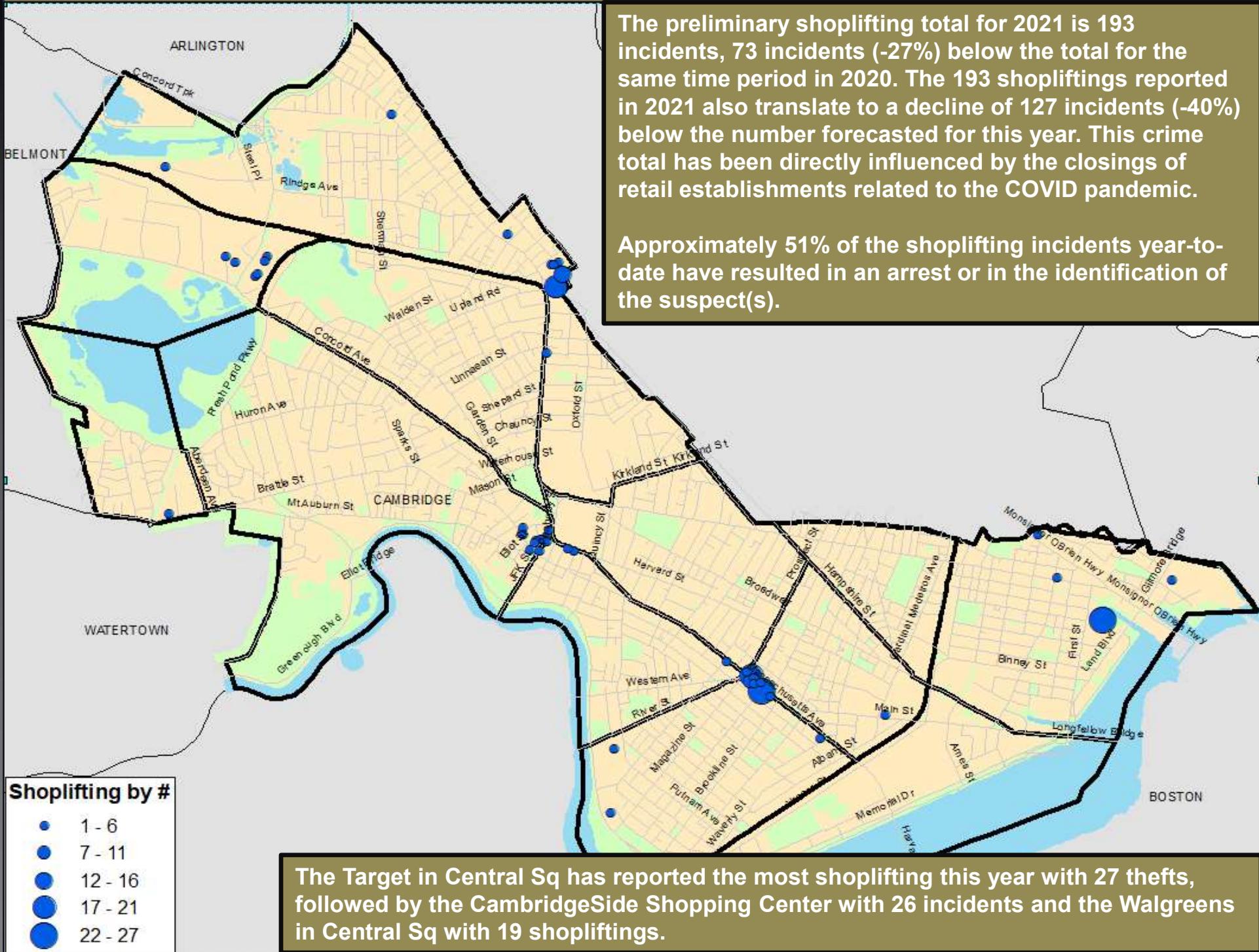


Geographic Breakdown of Package Thefts: 1.1.21 – 12.31.21





Geographic Breakdown of Shoplifting: 1.1.21 – 12.31.21

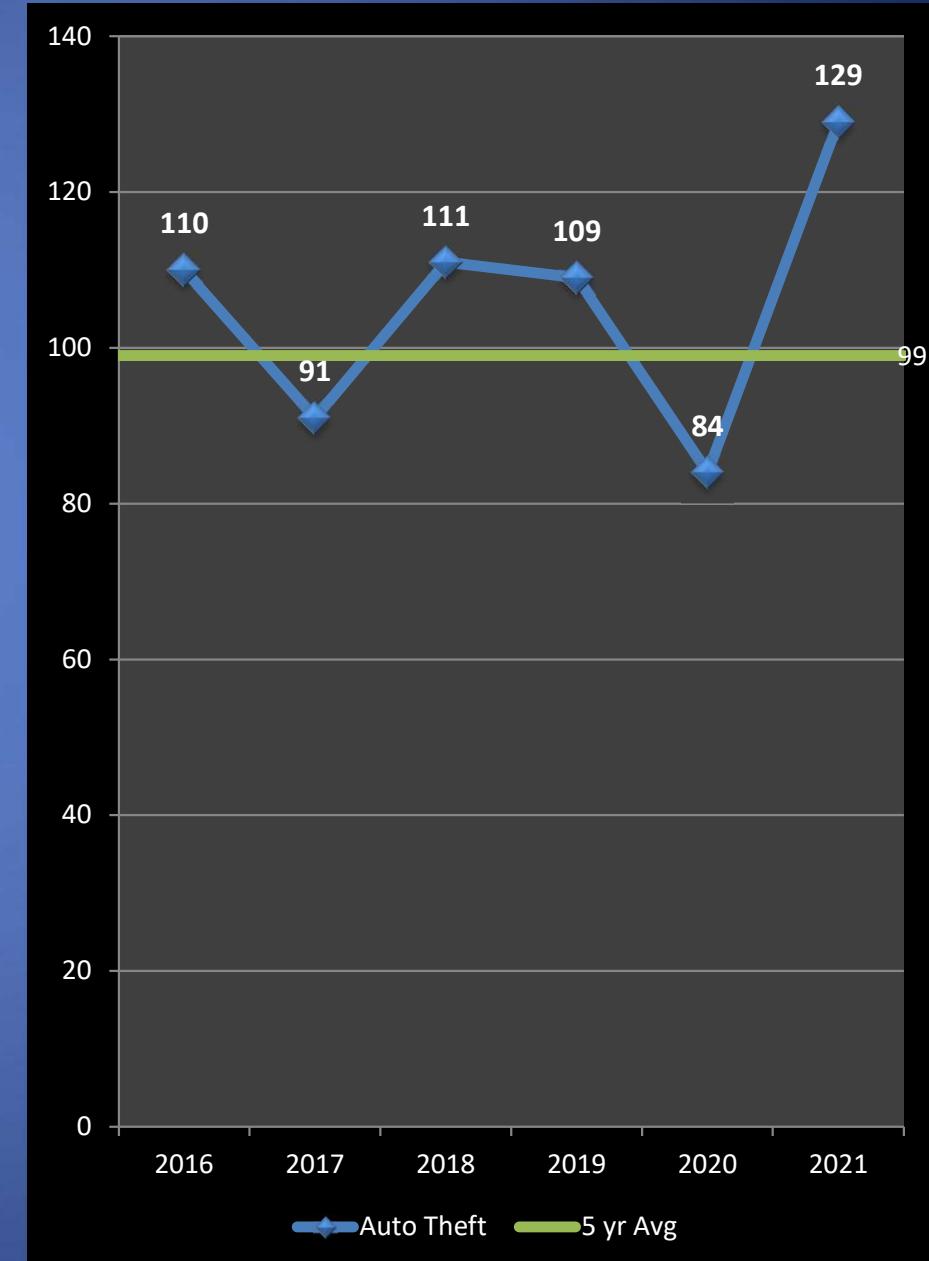




AUTO THEFT

No Patterns

- The projected 5-year weighted average for auto thefts in 2021 is 99, and with 129 reported in 2021, we experienced an increase of 30% over the expected total this year. Auto thefts in 2021 are also up 54% over last year, with 45 additional incidents.
- When comparing the most recent four weeks (December) to the previous four weeks (November), there was an increase from 8 incidents to 12, or +50%.
- There had been a large increase from May to June due to an increase in scooter, moped, and motorcycle thefts, as is common with the warmer temperatures, but this trend dropped off in July. The resurgence of two-wheeled-vehicle thefts in August attributed to a 300% rise over July. However, this trend dropped off with the cooler weather.
- Twelve of the 129 thefts this year were reported by auto rental businesses when their vehicles were not returned on time.
- The neighborhoods breakdown for auto theft totals is as follows: Riverside – 27, Cambridgeport - 18, North Cambridge – 17, East Cambridge – 14, West Cambridge – 13, Mid-Cambridge – 10, Peabody – 8, The Port – 7, Agassiz – 5, Inman/Harrington and the Highlands – 4 each, and MIT and Strawberry Hill each with 1.
- There have been 43 auto theft recoveries recorded so far in 2021 (33% of the total stolen).





Help Prevent Crime

And keep yourself informed!

To receive information from the CPD:

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

To Share Information with the CPD:

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