

Police Data: Crime Reports

Background

The Somerville Police Department collects Crime data daily from the records management system. It's important to note that this data set doesn't cover every criminal incident, but offers a snapshot of categorized incidents at the time the data is uploaded. This information may not always reflect updates to individual incidents after it is uploaded. This is a data set of crime reports and thus, it shares the date the crime was reported, which is not always the date the crime occurred.

The original data source is subject to constant change, which can cause the information to vary from day to day as incident reports are updated. Various factors, including reclassification of offenses, can impact crime reports .

Each data point represents an incident, which may involve multiple offenses. For instance, if a suspect burglarizes a home and steals the resident's car, it's recorded as one burglary—the more severe offense of the two. In this data set, only the most severe offense type for each incident is provided. Crimes are ranked by severity in the [appendix](#), from most severe to least severe.

This complete version of the data set contains:

- Select criminal incidents since 2017.
- **Incidents deemed sensitive by enforcement agencies are included in the data set but are stripped of time or location information to protect the privacy of victims. For these incidents, only the year of the offense is provided.** The incidents deemed sensitive include incidents that are domestic in nature and sex crime related offenses. These incidents do not appear in the current calendar year's data and are uploaded for the entire year at the start of the next calendar year. For example, 2024 sensitive incidents will appear in the data set at the beginning of 2025. Therefore, current year's data is incomplete until the beginning of the next calendar year, not just due to missing months that have not yet occurred but also missing sensitive data throughout the year.
- Please note: some Motor Vehicle offenses will also appear in both the Crime Reports data set and the Motor Vehicle Citations data set.

This data set is refreshed daily with data appearing with a one-month delay (for example, crime reports from 1/1 will appear on 2/1). If a daily update does not refresh, please email data@somervillema.gov.

Incident Information

Incident Number

Data Type: Text

Description: Each incident report is assigned a unique identification number. In the context of crime reports, an incident is defined as one or more offenses committed by the same offender or a group of offenders acting together, occurring at the same time and location. The incident numbers in Crime Reports correspond to the incident numbers in Calls for Service because Crime Reports originate from the initial CAD (Computer-Aided Dispatch) call for service. Thus, the incident numbers will be identical in both datasets.

Day and Month Reported

Data Type: Text

Description: The month and day the incident was reported to the Somerville Police Department. The field will contain “NA” for those incidents deemed sensitive statutorily or by SPD. In order to protect the privacy of victims, only the year of offense is provided.

Year Reported

Data Type: Text

Description: The year the incident was reported to the Somerville Police Department.

Possible Values: 2017, 2018, to present year.

Police Shift

Data Type: Text

Description: The police work shift during which an incident occurred.

Possible Values: Day (8 a.m. - 3:59 p.m.); First Half (4 - 11:59 p.m.); Last Half (12 midnight - 7:59 a.m.)

Offense Code

Data Type: Text

Description: The three-digit data codes are used to identify the offenses for submission by law enforcement agencies to the FBI.

Possible Codes: See [appendix](#)

Offense Type

Data Type: Text

Description: Offense Types serve to classify and organize crimes occurring across the United States. Employing standardized definitions is crucial for maintaining uniform and

consistent data. This approach ensures that all criminal offenses, regardless of their various titles under state and local laws or United States statutes, are appropriately accounted for and counted.

Example: Some [Massachusetts General Laws](#) that fall within the Offense Type

“Destruction/Vandalism Property,” are:

- Malicious Damage to Motor Vehicle (c.266 § 28);
- Vandalize Building (c.266 § 94);
- Defacement Malicious Wanton Property (c.266 § 126A);
- Wanton Destruction of Property +\$1200 (c.266 § 127); and
- Deface Property (Tagging) (c.266 § 126B)

Possible Values: See [appendix](#)

Offense Definition

Data Type: Text

Description: The definition of each offense as defined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) and National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). These programs collect national crime data from law enforcement.

Example: Burglary is defined as the unlawful entry into a building or some other structure to commit a felony or a theft.

Possible Values: See [appendix](#)

Offense Sub-Category

Data Type: Text

Description: A sub-category that groups some similar offense types.

Example: The offense types Aggravated Assault, Simple Assault, and Intimidation are grouped into the offense sub-category “Assault Offenses.”

Possible Values: See [appendix](#)

Offense Category

Data Type: Text

Description: Most offenses belong in one of three categories:

- Crimes against Persons - Offenses whose victims are always individuals.
- Crimes against Property - Offenses are committed to obtain money, property or some other benefit.
- Crimes against Society - Offenses that represent society’s prohibition against engaging in certain types of activity.

Some less severe offenses are not categorized by the FBI. They are considered a second grouping of offenses that requires less information to be collected. These offenses will be designated as Uncategorized.

Possible Values: Crimes Against Persons, Crimes Against Property, Crimes Against Society, and Uncategorized

Examples: Crime against Persons (Murder, Rape, and Assault); Crimes against Property (Robbery, Bribery, and Burglary); Crimes against Society (Animal Cruelty, Drug Violations, Gambling, and Prostitution); and Uncategorized (Disorderly Conduct, Family Offenses Non-Violent, Trespass, All Other Offenses).

Block Code

Data Type: Text

Description:

Block codes indicate the census block in which each incident took place. Somerville has about 700 census blocks. Each census block is uniquely numbered with a four-digit code ranging from 0000 to 9999 within each census tract code, which is nested within state and county codes. These block codes are utilized to map incidents in the corresponding Tableau visualizations. They are automatically assigned based on the incident address, and a few incidents with insufficient address details may be mapped to a nearby block.

Example: For the [census geographic identifier](#) “250173507021008”, the 1008 represents the block code, which is nestled into the tract code (3507021008), which is nestled within the county code (0173507021008), which is nestled within the state code (250173507021008). This string of numbers represents a particular census block in West Somerville, MA.

Ward

Data Type: Text

Description: The Ward where the incident occurred.

Possible Values: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Appendix

Offense Code	Offense Type	Offense Definition	Offense Sub-Category	Offense Category
09A	Murder/Nonnegligent Manslaughter	The willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another.	Homicide Offenses	Crimes against Person
09B	Negligent Manslaughter	The killing of another person through gross negligence.	Homicide Offenses	Crimes against Person

09C	Justifiable Homicide	The killing of a perpetrator of a serious criminal offense by a law enforcement officer in the line of duty, or the killing, during the commission of a serious criminal offense, of the offender by a private individual.	Homicide Offenses	Crimes against Person
100	Kidnapping/Abduction	The unlawful seizure, transportation, and/or detention of a person against his/her will or of a minor without the consent of his/her custodial parent(s) or legal guardian.	Kidnapping/Abduction	Crimes against Person
11A - 11D, 36A, 36B	Sex Offenses	Any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent. Offenses include Rape, Sodomy, Sexual Assault with an Object, Fondling, Incest, Statutory Rape	Sex Offenses	Crimes against Person
120	Robbery	The taking of anything of value from the control, custody, or care of another person by force or threat of force and/or by putting the victim in fear of immediate harm.	Robbery	Crimes against Property

13A	Aggravated Assault	An unlawful attack by one person upon another wherein the offender uses a dangerous weapon or displays it in a threatening manner or the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury, or where there was a risk for serious injury/intent to seriously injure.	Assault Offenses	Crimes against Person
13B	Simple Assault	An unlawful physical attack by one person upon another where neither the offender displays a dangerous weapon, nor the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury involving apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injury, severe laceration, or loss of consciousness.	Assault Offenses	Crimes against Person
13C	Intimidation	To unlawfully place another person in reasonable fear of harm through the use of threatening words and/or other conduct without displaying a dangerous weapon or subjecting the victim to an actual physical attack.	Assault Offenses	Crimes against Person
200	Arson	To unlawfully and intentionally damage or attempt to damage any real or personal property of another person or entity by fire or incendiary device.	Arson	Crimes against Property

210	Extortion/Black mail	To unlawfully obtain money, property, or any other thing of value, either tangible or intangible, through the use or threat of force, misuse of authority, threat of criminal prosecution, threat of destruction of reputation or social standing, or through other coercive means.	Extortion/Blackmail	Crimes against Property
220	Burglary/Break ing And Entering	The unlawful entry into a building or some other structure to commit a felony or a theft.	Burglary/Breaking And Entering	Crimes against Property
23A	Pocket-Picking	The theft of articles from another person's physical possession by stealth where the victim is not immediately aware a theft occurred.	Larceny/Theft Offenses	Crimes against Property
23B	Purse-Snatchi ng	The grabbing or snatching of a purse, handbag, etc., from the physical possession of another person.	Larceny/Theft Offenses	Crimes against Property
23C	Shoplifting	The unlawful taking of goods or merchandise exposed for sale by a person (other than an employee).	Larceny/Theft Offenses	Crimes against Property
23D	Theft From Building	The unlawful taking of items from within a building which is either open to the general public or to which the offender has legal access.	Larceny/Theft Offenses	Crimes against Property

23E	Theft From Coin Op Mach/Device	The unlawful taking of items from a machine or device that is operated or activated by the use of coins.	Larceny/Theft Offenses	Crimes against Property
23F	Theft From Motor Vehicle	The unlawful taking of articles from a motor vehicle, locked or unlocked.	Theft From Motor Vehicle	Crimes against Property
23G	Theft Of M/V Parts/Accessories	The unlawful taking of any part or accessory affixed to the interior or exterior of a motor vehicle in a manner which would make the item an attachment of the vehicle or necessary for its operation.	Larceny/Theft Offenses	Crimes against Property
23H	All Other Larceny	All thefts which do not fit any of the Larceny/Theft or specific subcategories identified.	Larceny/Theft Offenses	Crimes against Property
240	Motor Vehicle Theft	A motor vehicle is a self-propelled vehicle that runs on the surface of land and not on rails that is not proceeds of another crime.	Motor Vehicle Theft	Crimes against Property
250	Counterfeiting/Forgery	The altering, copying, or imitating of something, without authority or right, with the intent to deceive or defraud by passing the copy or thing altered or imitated as that which is original or genuine, or the selling, buying, or possession of an altered, copied, or imitated thing	Counterfeiting/Forgery	Crimes against Property

		with the intent to deceive or defraud.		
26A	False Pretenses/Swindle/Game	The intentional misrepresentation of existing fact or condition or the use of some other deceptive scheme or device to obtain money, goods, or other things of value. Only includes fraud offenses that do not fit any of the definitions of the specific subcategories of fraud.	Fraud Offenses	Crimes against Property
26B	Credit Card/Atm Machine Fraud	The unlawful use of a credit/debit card, credit/debit card number, or automatic teller machine for fraudulent purposes.	Fraud Offenses	Crimes against Property
26C	Impersonation	Unlawfully representing one's position and acting in the character or position to deceive others and thereby gain a profit or advantage or enjoy some right or privilege.	Fraud Offenses	Crimes against Property
26D	Welfare Fraud	The use of deceitful statements, practices, or devices to unlawfully obtain welfare benefits.	Fraud Offenses	Crimes against Property
26E	Wire Fraud	The use of an electric or electronic communications facility to intentionally transmit a false and/or deceptive message in furtherance of a fraudulent activity.	Fraud Offenses	Crimes against Property

26F	Identity Theft	Wrongfully obtaining and/or using another person's personal data (e.g., name and date of birth, Social Security number, driver's license number).	Fraud Offenses	Crimes against Property
26G	Hacking/Computer Invasion	Gaining access to another person's or institution's computer software, hardware, or networks without authorized permissions.	Fraud Offenses	Crimes against Property
270	Embezzlement	The unlawful misappropriation by an offender to his/her own use or purpose of money, property, or some other thing of value entrusted to his/her care, custody, or control.	Embezzlement	Crimes against Property
280	Buying, Receiving, Selling Etc	Buying, receiving, possessing, selling, concealing, or transporting any property with the knowledge that it has been unlawfully taken, as by burglary, embezzlement, fraud, larceny, robbery, etc.	Buying, Receiving, Selling Etc	Crimes against Property
290	Destruction/Vandalism Property	To willfully or maliciously destroy, damage, deface, or otherwise injure any public or private property without the consent of the owner or the person having custody or control of it.	Destruction/Vandalism Property	Crimes against Property

35A	Drug/Narcotic Violations	The unlawful cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, use, possession, transportation, or importation of any controlled substance.	Drug/Narcotics Offenses	Crimes against Society
35B	Drug Equipment Violations	The unlawful manufacture, sale, purchase, possession, or transportation of equipment or devices utilized in preparing and/or using drugs or narcotics.	Drug/Narcotics Offenses	Crimes against Society
370	Pornography/Obscene Material	The violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, publishing (publication), distributing (distribution), sale, purchase, or possession of sexually explicit material deemed legally obscene.	Pornography/Obscene Material	Crimes against Society
40A - 40C	Prostitution Offenses	To unlawfully engage in or promote sexual activities for anything of value. Offenses include Prostitution, Assisting or Promoting Prostitution, Purchasing Prostitution.	Prostitution Offenses	Crimes against Society
510	Bribery	The offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting anything of value (e.g., a bribe, gratuity, or kickback) to sway the judgment or action of a person in a position of trust or influence.	Bribery	Crimes against Property

520	Weapon Law Violation	The violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, concealment, or use of firearms, cutting instruments, explosives, incendiary devices, or other deadly weapons.	Weapon Law Violation	Crimes against Society
64A - 64B	Human Trafficking	The inducement of a person to perform a commercial sex act, or labor, or services, through force, fraud, or coercion. Offense types include Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts and Human Trafficking, and Involuntary Servitude.	Human Trafficking Offenses	Crimes against Person
720	Animal Cruelty	Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly taking an action that mistreats or kills any animal without just cause, such as torturing, tormenting, mutilation, maiming, poisoning, or abandonment. Included are instances of duty to provide care, e.g., shelter, food, water, care if sick or injured; transporting or confining an animal to fight with another; inflicting excessive or repeated unnecessary pain or suffering, e.g., uses objects to beat or injure an animal. This definition does not include proper maintenance of animals for show or sport;	Animal Cruelty	Crimes against Society

		use of animals for food, lawful hunting, fishing, or trapping.		
90B	Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy Violations	The violation of a court order, regulation, ordinance, or law requiring the withdrawal of persons from the streets or other specified areas; prohibiting persons from remaining in an area or place in an idle or aimless manner; or prohibiting persons from going from place to place without a visible means of support.	Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy Violations	Uncategorized
90C	Disorderly Conduct	Any behavior that tends to disturb the public peace or decorum, scandalize the community, or shock the public sense of morality.	Disorderly Conduct	Uncategorized
90D	Driving Under The Influence	Driving or operating a motor vehicle or common carrier while mentally or physically impaired as the result of consuming an alcoholic beverage or using a drug or narcotic.	Driving Under The Influence	Uncategorized
90F	Family Offenses, Nonviolent	Unlawful, nonviolent acts by a family member (or legal guardian) that threaten the physical, mental, or economic well-being or morals of another family member and that are not classifiable as other	Family Offenses, Nonviolent	Uncategorized

		offenses such as assault, incest, and statutory rape.		
90G	Liquor Law Violations	The violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, or use of alcoholic beverages.	Liquor Law Violations	Uncategorized
90H	Peeping Tom	(2021 and earlier) To secretly look through a window, doorway, keyhole, or other aperture for the purpose of voyeurism.	Peeping Tom	Uncategorized
90J	Trespass Of Real Property	To unlawfully enter land, a dwelling, or other real property.	Trespass Of Real Property	Uncategorized
90Z	All Other Offenses	All crimes that are not included in one of the specifically named crime offenses nor the crimes that have been removed from this data set due to their sensitivity in nature. This category includes Offenses of General Applicability which are those prefixed by Accessory Before/After the Fact, Aiding and Abetting, Assault to Commit, Conspiracy to Commit, Enticement, Facilitation of, Solicitation to Commit, Threat to Commit, or any other prefix identifying it as other than the substantive offense.	All Other Offenses	Uncategorized

991, 998, 999	Other Criminal MV Offenses	Other Criminal MV Offenses represent select criminal motor vehicle offenses (with the exception of Driving Under the Influence, Hit and Run of a person, and Vehicular Manslaughter). Examples include: Unlicensed Operation of MV; Attaching Wrong MV Plates; Uninsured MV (Criminal); and Leave Scene of Property Damage.	Other Criminal MV Offenses	Uncategorized
------------------	-------------------------------	---	-------------------------------	---------------