



Contents

- 2 Police Department Profile**
- 3 Message from the Chief**
- 4 About Public Safety Analysis**
- 5 2002 Crime & Incident Statistics**
- 7 National Crime Comparison**
- 8 Analysis of Selected Crime & Disorder Incidents**
- 20 Special Reports**
- 27 Police Services & Contact Information**

Danvers Police Department

2002 Annual Crime Report

Presented by the Office of Public Safety Analysis

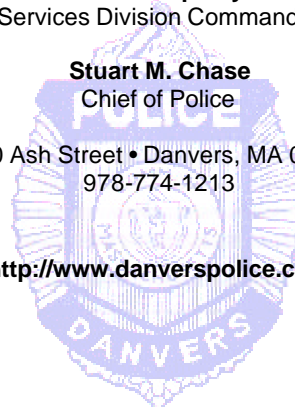
Christopher W. Bruce
Public Safety Analyst

Lt. Jon Tiplady
Services Division Commander

Stuart M. Chase
Chief of Police

120 Ash Street • Danvers, MA 01923
978-774-1213

<http://www.danverspolice.com>

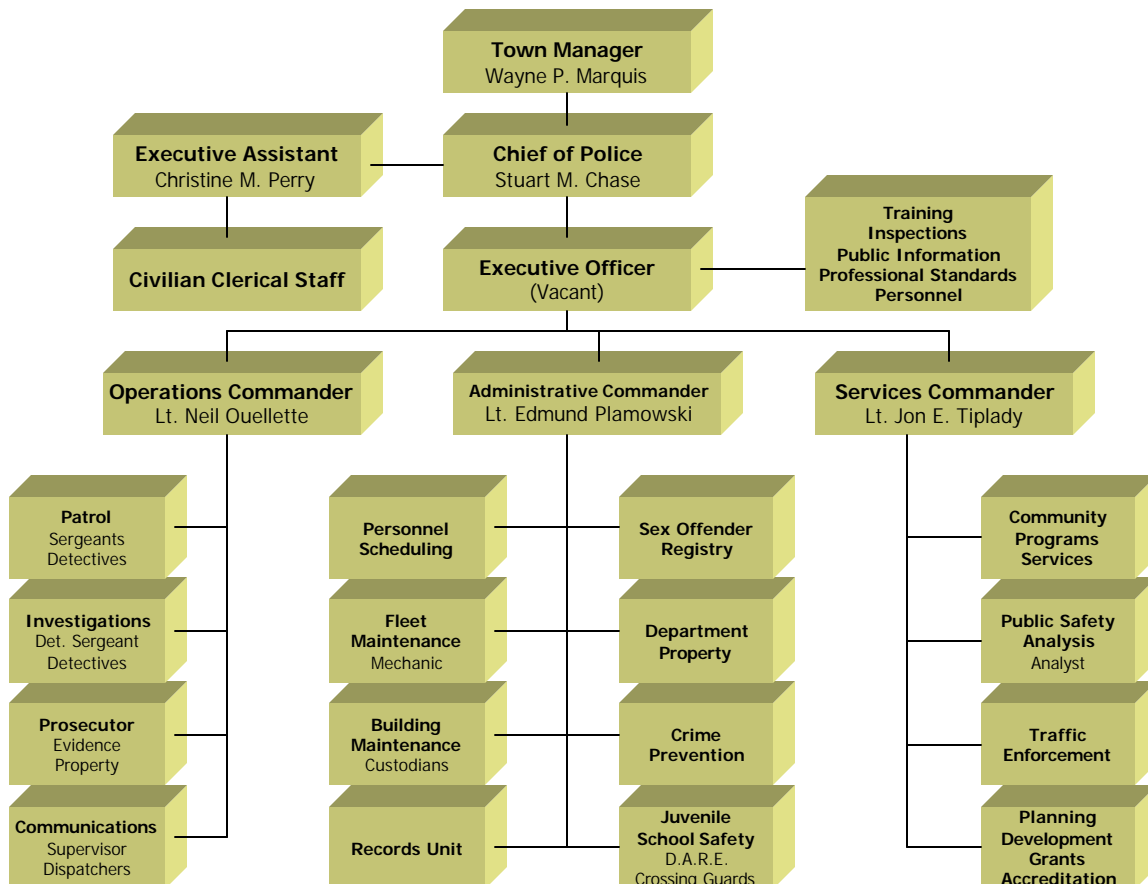


Danvers Police Department at a Glance

Organized: 1752
Population Served: 25,212
Sworn Officers: 47
Civilian Personnel: 13
Chief: Stuart M. Chase
Headquarters: 120 Ash Street
Budget (FY02): \$4,121,472
Rank Structure: Chief
 Captain
 Lieutenants (3)
 Sergeants (8)
 Officers (32) / Detectives (2)
Patrol Vehicles: 17
2002 Calls for Service: 18,745



The Danvers Police Department is one of less than 400 law enforcement agencies in the United States and Canada accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. Danvers became the first agency in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to achieve accreditation (in 1986).



A Message from the Chief

Your Police Department plays a vital role in the delivery of services, the resolution of conflict, and the enhancement of quality of life. Recognizing our responsibility to maintain order, while affording dignity and respect to each individual, our goals are to foster partnerships, to promote a safe and secure community, and to be responsive to the needs of our customers.

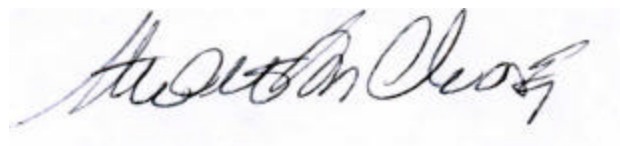
For many years, the Department has utilized data analysis for deployment of resources and the establishment of sector boundaries. A professional, full-time public safety analyst provides key information on crime and motor vehicle collision reports, arrests, and calls for service. To enhance analysis, a geographic information system displays patterns or “hot spots” which aid in the capture of offenders and the prevention of crime. Planning—from daily patrols to major events—is augmented by this analysis capability.

The Annual Report and Community Survey are products of our public safety analyst’s efforts. We believe in providing quality information and analysis to the citizens we serve. This philosophy is reflect in our web site—<http://www.danverspolice.com>—which provides weekly crime bulletins, periodic alerts, and traffic advisories, among dozens of other features. And we publish reports like this, so that those who live, work, travel, shop, and otherwise visit the Town of Danvers can make intelligent decisions that directly affect their safety and quality of life.

After years of decreases, many crimes rose in 2001 and 2002. The Department, in consort with citizens, businesses, human service advocates, and the resources of the criminal justice system, strives to intercede in these trends, many of which are complex social issues. We depend on you to help in this endeavor by educating yourself on the characteristics of crime and quality of life issues that are offered in this report.

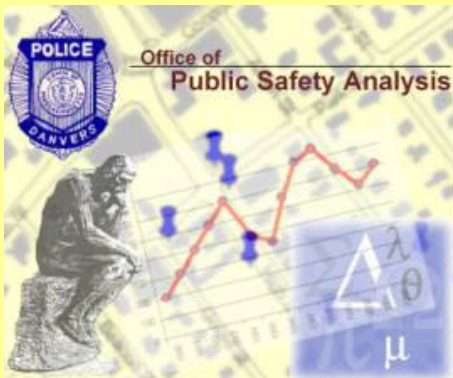
Further, we rely on your comments in the Community Survey to evaluate our performance and programs and to hear your recommendations for improvement. We are grateful for your thoughtful responses.

Thank you for your interest. An informed community is a safer community.



Stuart M. Chase
Chief of Police

About Public Safety Analysis



Christopher W. Bruce

Public Safety Analyst
Danvers Police Department
120 Ash Street
Danvers, MA 01923
978-774-1213 ext. 119
cbruce@mail.danvers-ma.org
<http://www.danverspolice.com/analysis.htm>

Lieutenant Jon E. Tiplady

Services Division Commander
Danvers Police Department
978-774-1213 ext. 126
jtiplady@mail.danvers-ma.org



<http://www.macrimeanalysts.com>



<http://www.iaca.net>

The Danvers Police Department's Office of Public Safety Analysis performs what, in many agencies, is simply called "Crime Analysis": the unit within a police agency responsible for collecting data and providing information that will help the agency prevent, reduce, and solve crime and disorder. The Danvers Police Department uses the term "public safety analysis" in recognition of the fact that our analyst analyzes more than just crime.

The Public Safety Analyst is responsible for collecting data from a wide variety of sources, including the department's records management system, news and alerts from other agencies, newspaper stories, public records, business listings, and geographic surveys. The analyst uses statistical techniques, data querying and aggregation methods, and crime mapping applications to turn this raw data into information that the police department can use. Such information might include reports on current crime patterns, trends, and hot spots; intelligence about individuals and organizations involved in criminal activity; crime forecasts and predictions; and reports on the workload of each police beat and shift.

The Danvers Police Department is one of only a few United States departments serving populations of less than 30,000 that has a strong commitment to information analysis. A Public Safety Analyst position has existed within the department since 1988. The current analyst is the President of the Massachusetts Association of Crime Analysts and the Vice President of the International Association of Crime Analysts.

The Office of Public Safety Analysis also exists to assist Danvers residents and prospective Danvers residents with their crime and safety concerns. Visit our web site at

<http://www.danverspolice.com/analysis.htm>

for information about current patterns and trends, and please feel free to call the Office of Public Safety Analysis if you have any questions about crime and safety issues in Danvers.

Crime Index

The crime statistics listed below are part of the **crime index**, developed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program to standardize the way in which law enforcement agencies report crime statistics. The crimes of murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, auto theft, and arson are counted in the crime index.

Crime	1998	1999	2000	2001	Avg. 98-01	2002	2002 Change fm. Avg.	2002 Change fm. 2001
Murder	0	0	0	1	0	0	None	-100%
Rape	4	0	2	4	3	3	None	-25%
Robbery	2	6	5	14	7	11	+57%	-21%
Aggravated Assault	27	18	37	51	33	38	+15%	-25%
Violent Crime Index	33	24	44	70	43	52	+21%	-26%
Burglary	94	75	59	79	77	69	-10%	-13%
Commercial	46	39	27	45	39	30	-23%	-33%
Residential	48	36	32	34	38	39	+3%	+15%
Larceny/Theft	693	696	695	767	713	887	+24%	+16%
from Motor Vehicles	263	216	225	295	250	347	+39%	+18%
from Building	163	175	103	117	140	118	-16%	+1%
from Person	7	11	19	35	18	39	+117%	+11%
from Residence	40	19	54	67	45	66	+47%	-3%
of Bicycle	33	38	19	23	28	20	-29%	-9%
of Services	29	18	32	23	26	29	+12%	+26%
Shoplifting	145	204	227	187	191	246	+29%	+32%
Other	13	14	16	20	16	22	+38%	+10%
Auto Theft	138	72	73	68	88	80	-9%	+18%
Arson	2	0	1	2	1	9	+800%	+350%
Property Crime Index	927	842	828	916	878	1045	+19%	+14%
Total Crime Index	960	866	872	986	921	1097	+19%	+11%

Other Crimes

Incident Type	1998	1999	2000	2001	Avg.	2002	Change fm. Avg.	Change fm. 2001
Indecent Assault	8	5	5	12	8	7	-13%	-42%
Simple Assault	66	71	126	174	109	167	+53%	-4%
Kidnapping	1	0	0	1	1	0	-100%	-100%
Threats/Intimidation	71	111	124	140	112	100	-11%	-29%
Bomb Threats	4	4	6	6	5	4	-20%	-33%
Violation of RO	99	79	48	44	68	59	-13%	+34%
Fraud/Forgery	49	55	77	96	69	118	+71%	+23%
Embezzlement	4	7	21	24	14	25	+79%	+4%
Extortion/Blackmail	0	0	0	0	0	1	N.C.	N.C.
Stolen Property Offenses	2	5	4	13	6	22	+267%	+69%
Trespassing	47	32	20	39	35	40	+14%	+3%
Vandalism	296	353	306	334	322	337	+5%	+1%
Drug Offenses	27	45	60	93	56	74	+32%	-20%
Liquor Law Violations	21	31	19	26	24	41	+71%	+58%
Operating Under the Influence	30	31	37	50	37	46	+24%	-8%
Indecent Exposure	10	7	3	4	6	10	+67%	+150%
Weapon Violations	13	10	11	16	13	56	+348%	+250%

Other Incidents & Activity

Incident Type	1998	1999	2000	2001	Avg.	2002	Change fm. Avg.	Change fm. 2001
MV Collisions	1160	1295	1386	1370	1303	1365	+5%	-0%
Town Ordinance Violations	32	52	26	29	35	72	+106%	+148%
Disputes	460	498	546	560	516	591	+15%	+6%
Civil Problems	16	31	29	25	25	30	+19%	+20%
Noise Complaints	496	448	427	429	450	545	+21%	+27%
Fireworks	30	24	32	51	34	38	+12%	-25%
Drunkenness	119	168	158	168	153	179	+17%	+7%
Suspicious Activity	863	785	785	789	806	858	+6%	+9%
Harassing Phone Calls	113	91	93	117	104	121	+16%	+3%
Disabled MV	552	801	767	718	710	630	-11%	-12%
Recovered Stolen Car	38	29	37	34	35	44	+26%	+29%
Alarms	2239	2328	2404	2324	2324	2175	-6%	-6%
Animal-Related Calls	862	679	584	484	652	430	-34%	-11%
Fire Assists	133	102	115	108	115	113	-2%	+5%
Medical Aid	1335	1388	1615	1631	1492	1653	+11%	+1%
Missing Persons	46	93	146	141	107	120	+12%	-15%

Total Calls for Service, Not Counting Police-Initiated Directed Patrols and Traffic Enforcement

Total	15118	16482	17227	16552	16345	16672	+2%	+1%
--------------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-----	-----

Total Calls for Service

Total	16098	17339	18292	17519	17312	18745	+8%	+7%
--------------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-----	-----

Total Arrests:

Total	472	678	841	768	690	811	+18%	+6%
--------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------	-----

National Crime Comparison

2001 Crimes for national cities and towns with populations between 24,800 and 26,100.¹

City/Town	Pop.	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Agg. Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Total
Aventura, FL	25,922	1	3	53	43	150	2279	143	2672
Paramus, NJ	25,951	0	2	42	54	127	1995	266	2486
Zanesville, OH	25,632	4	12	55	137	363	1761	93	2425
Slidell, LA	25,675	0	16	43	135	278	1470	151	2093
Fort Dodge, IA	25,109	0	17	23	125	415	1388	103	2071
Morristown, TN	25,188	2	7	27	161	242	1450	128	2017
Homewood, AL	25,140	0	10	54	41	205	1440	95	1845
Ocoee, FL	25,023	1	13	30	154	283	1201	142	1824
SeaTac, WA	25,902	0	20	57	79	255	881	512	1804
Columbus, MI	26,066	2	11	25	26	297	1331	89	1781
Corsicana, TX	25,041	1	17	33	35	388	1172	102	1748
Ottumwa, IA	24,971	0	10	17	136	245	1056	71	1535
Marshalltown, IA	25,981	1	7	4	207	223	963	69	1474
Ponca City, OK	25,990	0	7	6	19	93	438	65	1423
Aiken, SC	25,659	1	7	23	70	170	925	63	1259
Smyrna, TN	25,797	0	8	18	134	123	890	76	1249
Bristol, TN	25,042	1	9	10	102	147	863	79	1211
Maryland Hts., MO	25,915	0	4	8	32	126	971	60	1201
Marysville, WA	25,718	0	15	26	22	157	706	233	1159
New London, CT	25,818	1	10	43	131	196	642	129	1152
Whitehall, PA	24,908	1	4	18	31	59	874	59	1046
Big Spring, TX	25,806	1	15	3	40	300	610	35	1004
Danvers, MA	25,212	1	4	14	51	79	766	68	985
Delaware, OH	25,288	0	17	7	16	163	709	45	957
Oakley, CA	26,095	0	13	12	84	103	570	103	885
Huntersville, NC	25,385	1	3	18	34	206	583	31	876
Fremont, NE	25,203	0	1	2	9	79	739	39	869
Ridgecrest, CA	25,390	1	10	16	116	219	438	63	863
Sylvania, OH	25,629	0	0	11	6	78	669	34	798
Middletown, NY	25,435	0	13	28	41	108	542	33	765
Schererville, IN	24,991	1	2	5	12	42	540	82	684
Lemon Grove, CA	25,381	1	8	49	72	190	373	194	660
Salem, VI	25,129	2	4	10	12	51	543	31	653
Yarmouth, MA	24,925	0	2	4	53	143	406	27	635
Westport, CT	25,897	0	0	7	31	87	441	25	591
Lacey, NJ	25,557	1	0	3	17	84	456	7	568
Belmont, CA	25,590	0	3	7	58	153	248	48	517
Wall, NJ	25,471	0	1	8	23	109	328	10	479
East Windsor, NJ	25,127	0	2	9	21	58	349	36	475
Marina, CA	25,567	0	4	7	39	107	278	35	470
Mount Pleasant, MI	26,083	0	11	2	23	74	332	17	459
Upper Moreland, PA	25,005	0	3	7	14	69	322	43	458
Vernon, NJ	24,892	0	2	2	11	44	359	20	438
Bridgewater, MA	25,305	0	4	2	15	81	288	26	416
Upper Dublin, PA	25,891	0	3	5	5	43	288	18	362
East Fishkill, NY	25,636	0	0	1	5	48	275	9	338
Randolph, NJ	25,054	0	1	2	7	21	269	13	313
Ridgewood, NJ	25,144	0	0	6	7	69	184	14	280
Newtown, CT	25,174	0	4	4	4	54	152	14	232
Average	25,463	1	7	18	55	151	750	79	1072
Danvers	25,212	1	4	14	51	79	766	68	985

¹ Includes all cities and towns that reported to the UCR program in 2001. 2002 data was not yet available at the time of this report.

Analysis of Crime & Disorder

Murder

Murder: The willful, non-negligent, non-justified killing of one human being by another.

1 in 2001 • 0 in 2002

As in most cities and towns of Danvers's size, murder is a very rare phenomenon. There were no murders in Danvers in 2002; the most recent occurred on October 19, 2001 when a Danvers postman was bludgeoned to death in his apartment by an acquaintance.

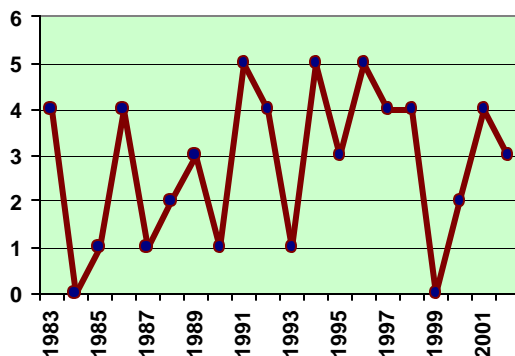
Until the 2001 killing, Danvers had not experienced a murder since 1992. (A highly publicized 1996 mob-related incident in which body parts turned up in a Danvers car wash actually occurred in another jurisdiction.)

Rape

Rape: The carnal knowledge of a person, forcibly and/or against that person's will, or not forcibly or against the person's will in cases where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

4 in 2001 • 3 in 2002 • 25% Decrease

Rape, 1982–2002



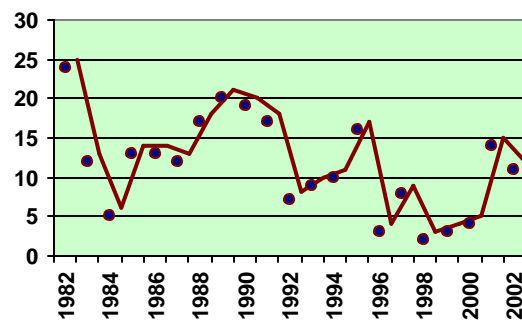
Almost all rapes that occur in Danvers are "acquaintance rapes," in which the victim knows his or her attacker. Such was the case in Danvers in 2002: of the three rapes reported, one offender was the victim's co-worker, one was the victim's spouse, and one was the victim's boyfriend's brother. Two of the 2002 incidents were attempts only.

Robbery

Robbery: The taking or attempting to take anything of value under confrontational circumstances from the control, custody, or care of another person by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear of harm.

14 in 2001 • 11 in 2002 • 21% Decrease

Robbery, 1982–2002



Robbery increased significantly between 2000 and 2001, then dropped slightly in 2002. It has remained high so far in 2003. This increase is one of the most disturbing trends to emerge during the past five years.

In this increase, Danvers is not alone. Statewide, robbery went up 11% in 2001, while across the nation it only increased 2%. Among our neighbors, Peabody was up 23% and Salem increased 15%.

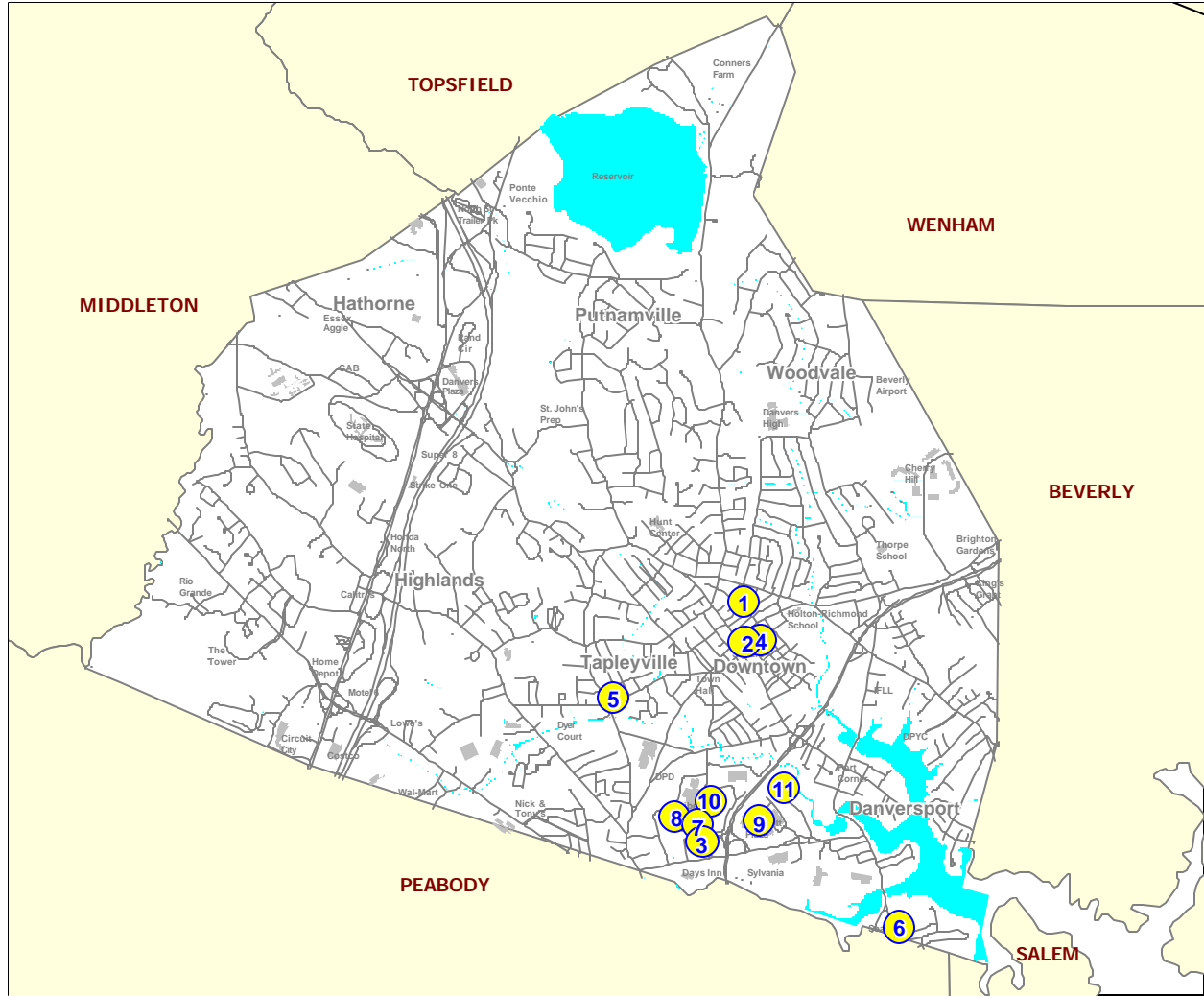
OxyContin-related robberies have been high around Danvers, but not in Danvers. Of the 11 robberies in 2002, in fact, only one occurred at a drug store, and no OxyContin was taken.

Robbery is categorized into two broad classifications: individual (or "street") robbery and commercial robbery. Individual robberies are committed against private individuals, usually on the street or in a public place. Commercial robberies are committed against institutions or businesses, such as banks, gas stations, and liquor stores.

Individual robberies can be further sub-categorized into *acquaintance robberies*, *domestic robberies*, *muggings*, *purse snatchings*, *carjackings*, *home invasion robberies*, and *juvenile robberies*. Fortunately, there were no carjackings or home invasions in Danvers in 2002.

The table and map below give a breakdown of robberies in Danvers in 2001:

Robberies in Danvers, 2002



Map #	Category	Date & Time	Location	Weapon Used	Property Stolen	Notes
1	Commercial—Conv. Store	01/20/02 11:09	School St. Variety 16 Franklin St	Handgun	None	Young male suspect fled on a bicycle when owner dialed 911
2	Commercial—Drug Store	01/21/02 20:51	CVS 17 Maple St	Handgun	Drugs	Man went behind counter and filled a sack with medication
3	Individual—Mugging	02/18/02 19:28	35 Independence Way	Knife	Cash	15-year-old stabbed in knee by three men he went to meet
4	Individual—Mugging	02/21/02 16:55	Danv. Svgs. Bank 1 Conant St	None	Deposit Bag with Cash	Victim making deposit at night deposit slot
5	Commercial—Gas Station	02/23/02 16:44	Mobil Station 89 Holten St	Knife	None	Man entered booth with knife, fled after a scuffle with the clerk
6	Individual—Juvenile	04/06/02 16:54	176 Water St	None	Goped	19-year-old tackled a 13-year-old and stole his Goped. Arrest made.
7	Individual—Mugging	04/25/02 17:30	Liberty Tree Mall 100 Indep. Way	None	None	Man in his car attacked by three men. Possibly drug-related.
8	Commercial—Bank	05/01/02 10:19	North Shore Bank 100 Indep. Way	Gun (implied)	Cash	Used hold-up note. Lynn man arrested.
9	Commercial—Grocery	11/09/02 19:47	Market Basket 139 Endicott St	Handgun	Cash	Cashier robbed; later determined cashier was in on it. Arrests made.
10	Individual—Juvenile	11/29/02 21:33	Liberty Tree Mall 100 Indep. Way	None	Cash	14-year-old girl robbed in the mall by a schoolmate
11	Commercial—Theater	12/30/02 21:46	Hollywood Hits 7 Hutchinson Dr	Handguns	Cash	Two men in ski masks charged in with guns, fled in a car afterwards

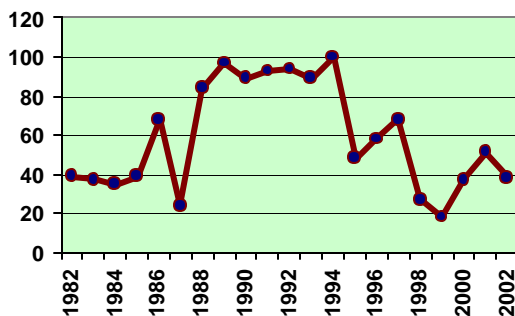
Aggravated Assault

Aggravated Assault: The unlawful attack by one person upon another wherein the offender uses a weapon or displays it in a threatening manner, or the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated injury involving apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injury, severe laceration, or loss of consciousness.

51 in 2001 • 38 in 2002 • 25% Decrease

Statistics vary wildly for aggravated assault (from Over 100 in 1994 to only 16 in 1999) because victims' reporting practices vary. The peak in aggravated assault between 1988 and 1994 probably has less to do with any real increase, and more to do with the success of domestic violence advocacy projects, which encouraged more domestic violence victims to report abuse.

Aggravated Assault, 1982–2002



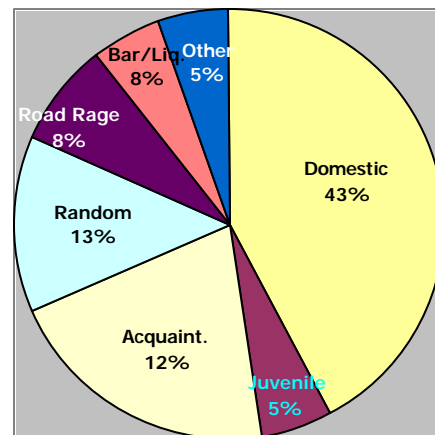
Only five incidents, or 13% of the total, were random, unprovoked stranger assaults. These include:

- **01/23/02, 22:45, Purchase Street & Ash Street:** A 37-year-old woman walking down the street was hit in the chest by an iceball thrown from a passing car. The assailant screamed a vulgarity as the car passed. Officer identified the suspects, via the car's registration, as two Danvers youths, 15 and 16. Charges were filed.
- **04/24/02, 21:25, 135 Andover St:** An unidentified juvenile slunk along next to the McDonald's drive-thru window, then hurled a plastic cup full of dirt and cigarette butts through the window, striking an employee in the face.
- **07/03/02, 23:15, Poplar Street & Elliott Street:** a 17-year-old youth reported that while he was walking on the street with a friend, three men jumped out of an Oldsmobile, yelled at them, and threatened them with a knife. This occurred after the fireworks festival.

- **07/13/02, 00:36, 188 Endicott Street:** In the parking lot of Wendy's, two groups in different cars exchanged angry words over an unknown dispute. The dispute turned into a brawl, with one combatant wielding a broken bottle. Several participants suffered injury. All parties fled before police arrival.
- **07/24/02, 22:07, 139 Endicott Street:** Some youths were hanging around in the parking lot of Stella's Billiards. A man in his late teens came out, asked each of them if they had any drugs or money, placed a knife to their faces or stomachs, and then left in a tan sedan.

This year, 43% of all aggravated assaults were domestic, committed by and against spouses, boyfriends & girlfriends, parents, children, siblings, and other family relations. Though the percentage is higher, the actual number of domestic assaults—16—did not change from 2001. The one category to experience a sharp decrease was juvenile assaults (committed by and against youths), who dropped from nine incidents in 2001 to two in 2002.

Aggravated Assault by Category



About 12% of aggravated assaults are committed by acquaintances. 8% are traffic and parking, or "road rage" related, and another 8% involve bar fights. The rest are a miscellany of offenses.

There was one aggravated assault committed against a police officer in 2002. A 25-year-old Gloucester woman, arrested for shoplifting, warrants, and drunkenness on November 16, attacked an officer with a concealed knife during the booking process. Fortunately, the woman was disarmed before she caused any injury.

Burglary

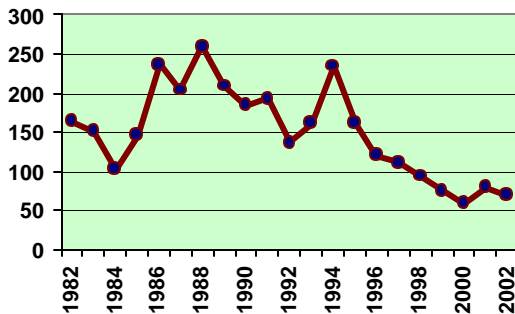
Burglary: *The unlawful entry into a building or other structure with the intent to commit a felony or a theft. Burglaries are also known as "Breaking and Entering."*

79 in 2001 • 69 in 2002 • 13% Decrease

The 2000 burglary total was the lowest in over 20 years. It increased a bit between 2000 and 2001, but dropped in 2002.

The 2002 total includes 30 burglaries to businesses and 39 burglaries to residences. The residential burglary (or "housebreak") total actually increased in 2002 by five incidents; commercial breaks, however, dropped by 15.

Burglary, 1982–2002



In 2002, housebreaks were scattered fairly liberally throughout the town, showing only a few concentrations. One such concentration is visible in the Woodvale neighborhood, including incidents on Old Burley Street, Dartmouth Street, Princeton Street, Colby Road, and Cedar Hill Drive. These incidents occurred between April and October and involved the theft of painkillers. Most of them were traced to a woman who lives in the area; she was charged with the crimes during the fall.

Commercial burglaries, which were uncommonly low this year, exhibited only a few patterns. The Route 1 corridor, the Liberty Tree Mall/Endicott Street area, and Danvers Square showed the only real clustering of incidents. Three office burglaries struck "the Tower" on Rosewood Drive in late July and early August; two Woburn men were eventually charged.

Housebreaks are usually a daytime phenomenon: over the past three years, 70% of housebreaks have occurred between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Commercial breaks, for obvious reasons, almost always occur at night: 81% are between 9:00 p.m. and

7:00 a.m. Those that don't occur at night invariably occur on weekends at closed businesses.

In housebreaks, nothing was stolen in 14 of the 39 incidents. Of items stolen, jewelry was the most popular, followed by tools (most of these incidents were at homes under construction or renovation), electronics, drugs, and cash. In nine of the 39 incidents, the burglar was someone known to the victim. In only one case—an acquaintance burglary—was a resident assaulted during a burglary.

18 of 39 housebreaks—almost half—were made through an unlocked or unsecured door or window. 14 were made by forcing or breaking a window, and five houses were entered by forcing a door.

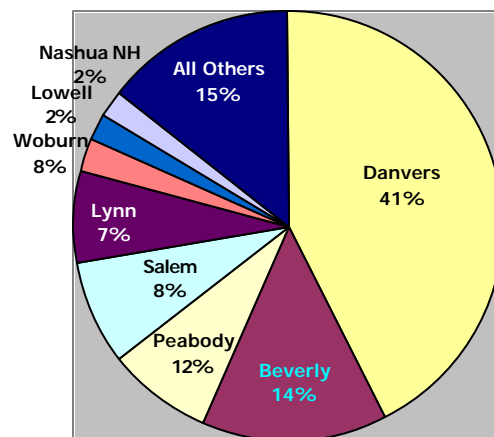
Commercial burglaries in 2002 broke down, by location type, as:

Retail Establishments	14
Business Offices	7
Schools	3
Construction Sites	2
Industrial/Manufacturing	2
Restaurants	2
Auto Sales/Service	1

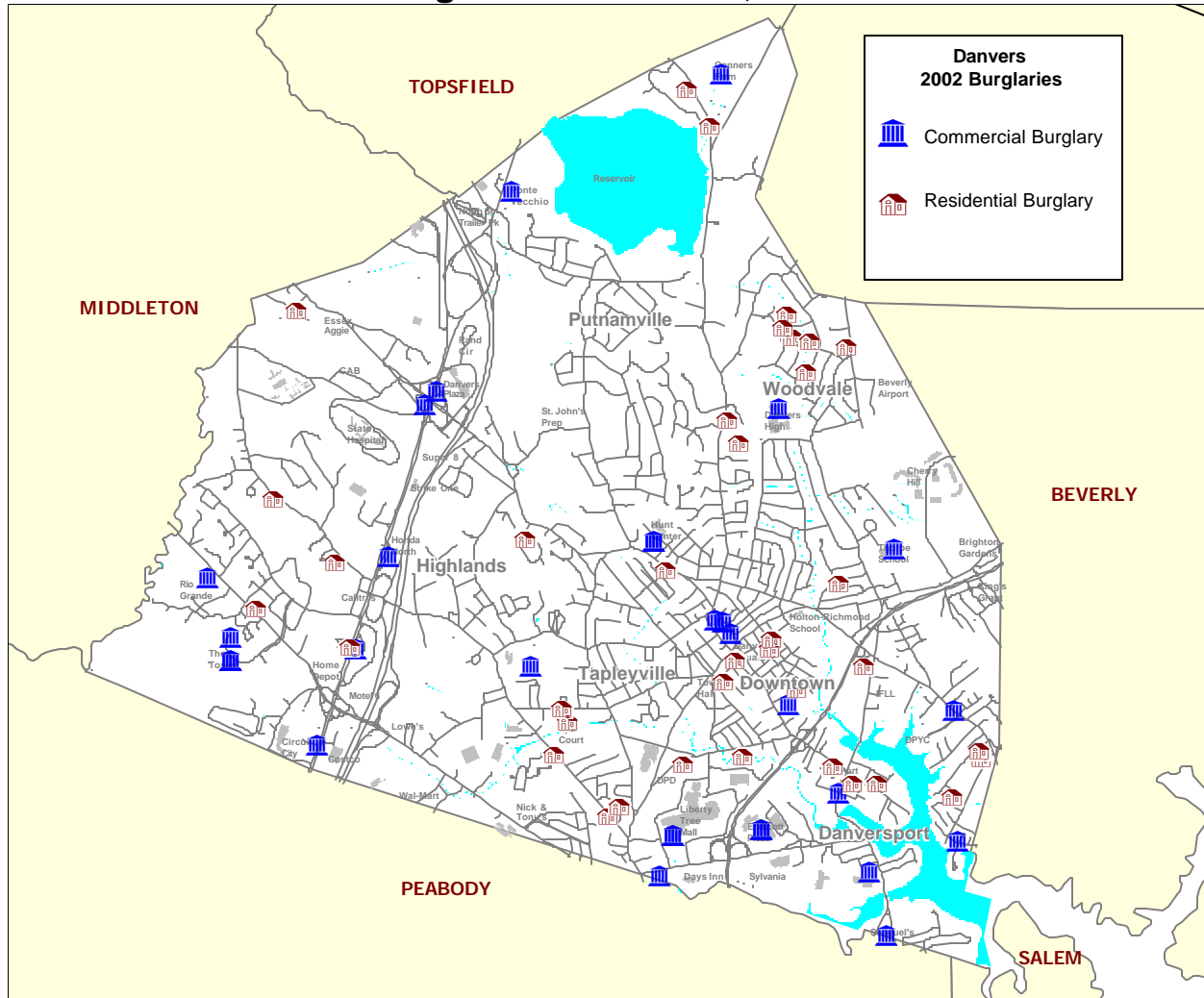
In most commercial burglaries (17), entry was made by prying or forcing a door. Nothing was stolen in 10 incidents; of items stolen, electronics, cash, and store merchandise were the most common targets.

A review of the 160 individuals arrested or suspected of burglary since 1998 shows that they are most likely to be males (85%), under the age of 30 (68%), from Danvers (42%), Beverly (14%), Peabody (8%), or Salem (8%).

Persons Arrested or Suspected in Danvers Burglaries, by Town of Residence 1998–2002



Burglaries in Danvers, 2001



Larcenies from Motor Vehicles

Larceny from Motor Vehicle: Theft of property from an automobile or truck. Sometimes the car is unlocked; sometimes the thief breaks into the car; sometimes the thief steals parts of the car (such as tires) on the exterior.

295 in 2001 • 347 in 2002 • 18% Increase

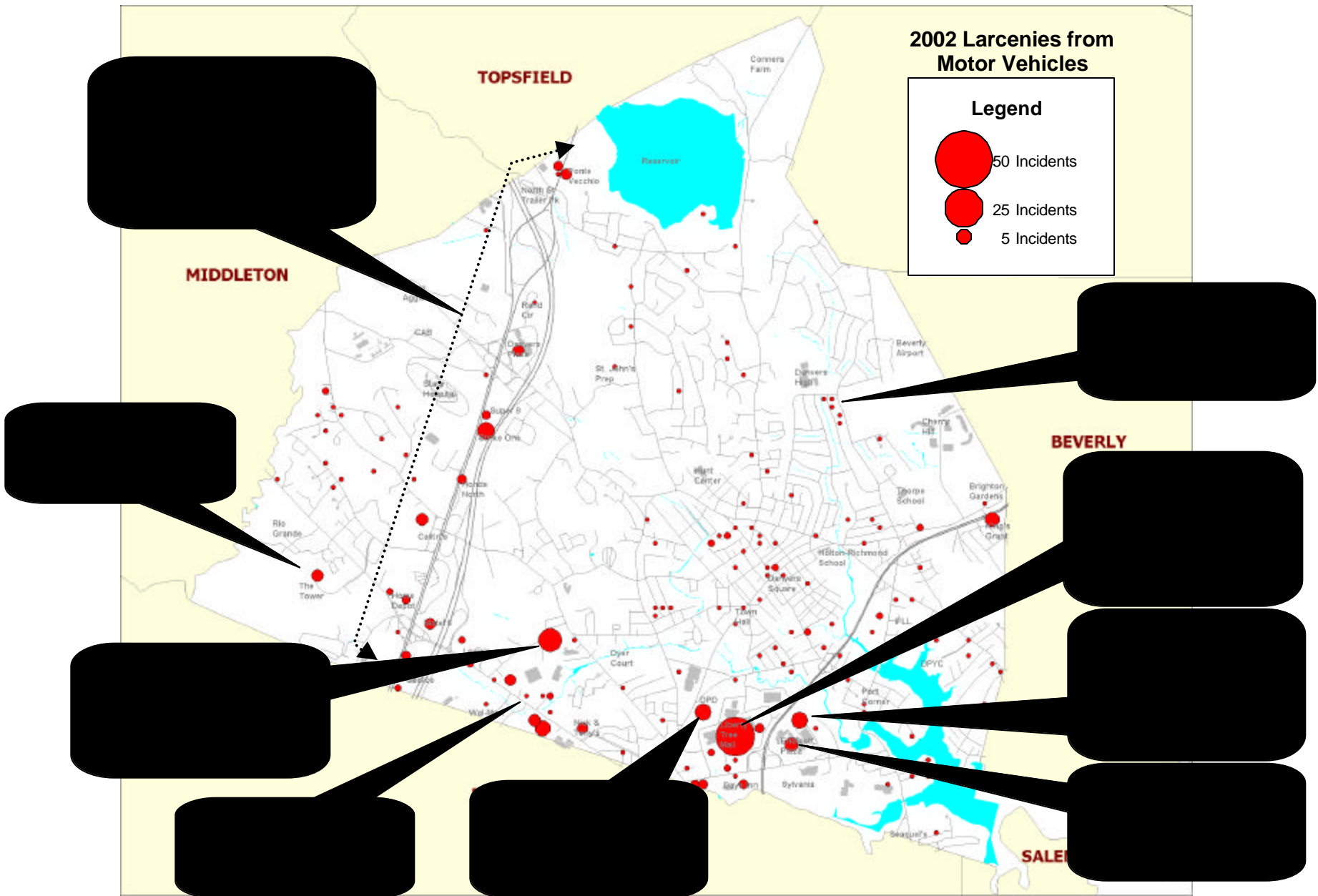
Larcenies from Motor Vehicles have risen considerably in Danvers over the past five years. Incidents have increased 18% since 2001, 54% since 2000, and 61% since 1999. As most larcenies from motor vehicles occur in commercial parking lots, this crime has paced the commercial growth of the town.

There are occasional patterns of nighttime thefts from cars parked in residential streets, but most incidents occur in the town's major commercial areas at the Liberty Tree Mall, on Route 114, and on Route 1. A

map on the next page identifies and explains several "hot spots." With a few exceptions, incidents are primarily concentrated in the evenings between 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m., when people are most likely to shop, go out to eat, and go to the movies.

Locking a car does little to deter thieves: most thefts are committed by simply smashing a window or prying a door lock. The only real deterrent to these thefts is to avoid leaving anything of value inside a car. Common targets include cellular telephones, purses and wallets, cash and credit cards, briefcases and backpacks, laptop computers, CDs, and car stereos. The last item poses a deterrence problem, as most car stereos cannot be easily removed from the vehicle by the owner. Many high-end stereo systems offer theft protection options, however, and owners are encouraged to avail themselves of these options.

Thefts of car parts—including tires, doors, panels, and airbags—is confined primarily to auto dealerships along Route 114 and Route 1.



A review of the 105 individuals arrested or suspected of larceny from a motor vehicle since 1998 shows that they are most likely to be males (87%), under the age of 25 (70%), and from Danvers (34%), Peabody (13%), or Lynn (8%). Five from 2002 were youths residing in a local group home for troubled teens.

Shoplifting

Shoplifting: *Theft of merchandise from a retail establishment by a customer.*

187 in 2001 • 246 in 2002 • 32% Increase

Like larcenies from motor vehicles, shoplifting has increased dramatically as a consequence of the commercial development of Danvers.

Any analysis of shoplifting must begin with the caveat that our statistics only reflect a small portion of what actually occurs. Unlike other larceny crimes, if no one sees or catches a shoplifter, the crime is likely to go undetected and unreported. The numbers given above are only incidents that we *know* about. A conservative estimate (based on studies conducted in other jurisdictions) is that the actual number of shopliftings is four or five times the number we record.

Because having a report of shoplifting usually depends on someone witnessing or catching the thief, stores with aggressive security forces—and policies that require them to prosecute shoplifters—report a high number of incidents. Some Danvers stores report no shoplifting incidents from year to year because store employees handle the incidents internally and don't involve the police. All in all, the lack of data makes shoplifting a difficult crime to analyze and address.

Half of the reported incidents of shoplifting in 2002 occurred at the Liberty Tree Mall stores, including Marshalls (clothing), Sports Authority (clothing & sneakers), Best Buy (electronics), and Target (clothing & electronics). Incidents were also high at the Stop & Shop at Danvers Plaza (food, cigarettes) and at Home Depot on Route 1 (tools). Again, however, these totals may be more a function of store security policies than of actual shoplifting incidents.

A review of the 1,084 individuals arrested or suspected of shoplifting since 1998 shows that they are most likely to be males (64%), under the age of 25 (64%), from Lynn (29%), Salem (8%), Danvers (8%), or Peabody (8%). Shoplifting is one of the few crimes where most of the individuals suspect or arrested do not come from Danvers itself.

Though it's hard to get exact numbers on the trend, we're seeing an increasing number of high-risk/high-reward incidents in which shoplifters fill a cart full of merchandise (totaling thousands of dollars) and brazenly wheel it out the door.

Larcenies from Buildings

Larceny from a Building: *A theft from a building which is either open to the general public or to which the offender has legal access.*

117 in 2001 • 118 in 2002 • 1% Increase

Larcenies from buildings encompass a wide range of incidents in which property is stolen from a commercial or business establishment. Sometimes the property belongs to the company; other times it belongs to its employees; and still other times it belongs to its patrons.

Larcenies from buildings are most common at:

1. **Retail Establishments** (21 incidents in 2002). Employees' purses, coats, wallets, and other property disappears from back rooms and under front counters.
2. **Hotels & Motels** (13 incidents in 2002). Mysterious disappearances from rooms, property left unattended in lobbies and common areas.
3. **Construction Sites** (13 incidents). Tools left unattended overnight and on weekends.
4. **Offices** (8 incidents). Thieves sneak in during working hours—sometimes disguised as patrons or deliverymen—and steal employee's purses, wallets, and electronics.
5. **Schools** (7 incidents). Personal property disappears from lockers and classrooms.

Larcenies from Residences

Larceny from a Residence: *Theft from a house, apartment, condominium, or group home by someone with lawful access to the property.*

67 in 2001 • 66 in 2002 • 3% Decrease

Larcenies from residences also encompass a wide range of thefts. Some are domestic (a son steals checks from his mother), some are acquaintance-related (a guest at a party makes off with some expensive china), some involve workers (painters, movers) allowed access to the house, and some involve items stolen from a house's driveway or front yard.

We've seen two larceny from residence trends in recent years:

1. Theft of cash, checks, and cars by family members, often drug-addicted.
2. Theft of lawn ornaments from front yards, particularly around the holiday season.

Larcenies from Persons

Larceny from a Person: Theft of property from another person's physical possession or area of control, usually by stealth and in a manner that the victim is not aware of the theft right away.

35 in 2001 • 39 in 2002 • 11% Increase

Larcenies from persons have increased steadily since 1998, when only seven were reported.

Two-thirds of all larcenies from persons are committed against shoppers in Danvers stores. In the typical scenario, the thief lifts a purse or wallet out of a shopping cart while the victim looks at merchandise.



A few incidents involve more skilled thieves who lift wallets from coats. Many victims are elderly.

Another 25% of incidents occur at area restaurants. Victims are usually women who hang their purses over the backs of their chairs, or place them under their chairs.

Larcenies of Services

Larceny of Services: Failure to pay for goods or services already obtained or consumed. Includes dine-and-ditch scams, gas drive-offs, and defrauding hotels ("lodge & dodge").

23 in 2001 • 29 in 2002 • 26% Increase

Most reports of larcenies of services (69%) are gas drive-offs, many from the same gas station on Route 114. This may be a side effect of recent increases in gasoline prices. Dine & ditch schemes account for one-quarter of larcenies of services, but there were no "hot spots" for this category in 2002.

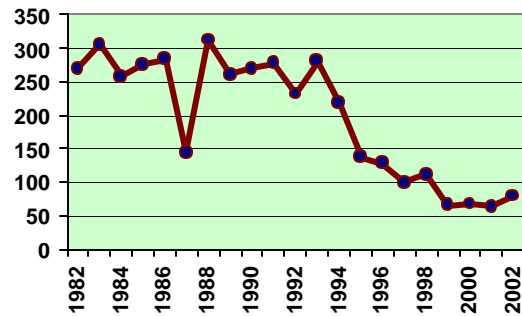
Auto Theft

Auto Theft: The theft of a self-propelled motor vehicle that runs on the surface of land and not on rails—includes automobiles, buses, recreational vehicles, trucks, motorcycles, and mopeds.

68 in 2001 • 80 in 2002 • 18% Increase

After a decade of steady, sharp decreases, auto theft went up in 2002 by a dozen incidents. Advances in automobile security and the systematic destruction of "chop shops" brought this crime to its knees during the first half of the 1990s—all over the United States, and particularly in the northeast.

Auto Theft, 1982–2002



A few major hot spots contribute to a high number of auto thefts. 39% of the cars stolen in 2002 were taken from the Liberty Tree Mall parking lot. Another 17 were stolen from Route 1 parking lots, including four each at Home Depot and Danvers Plaza. There are a few scattered along Route 114 and throughout the rest of the town.

Like thefts *from* cars, thefts of cars are most likely in the evening hours between 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

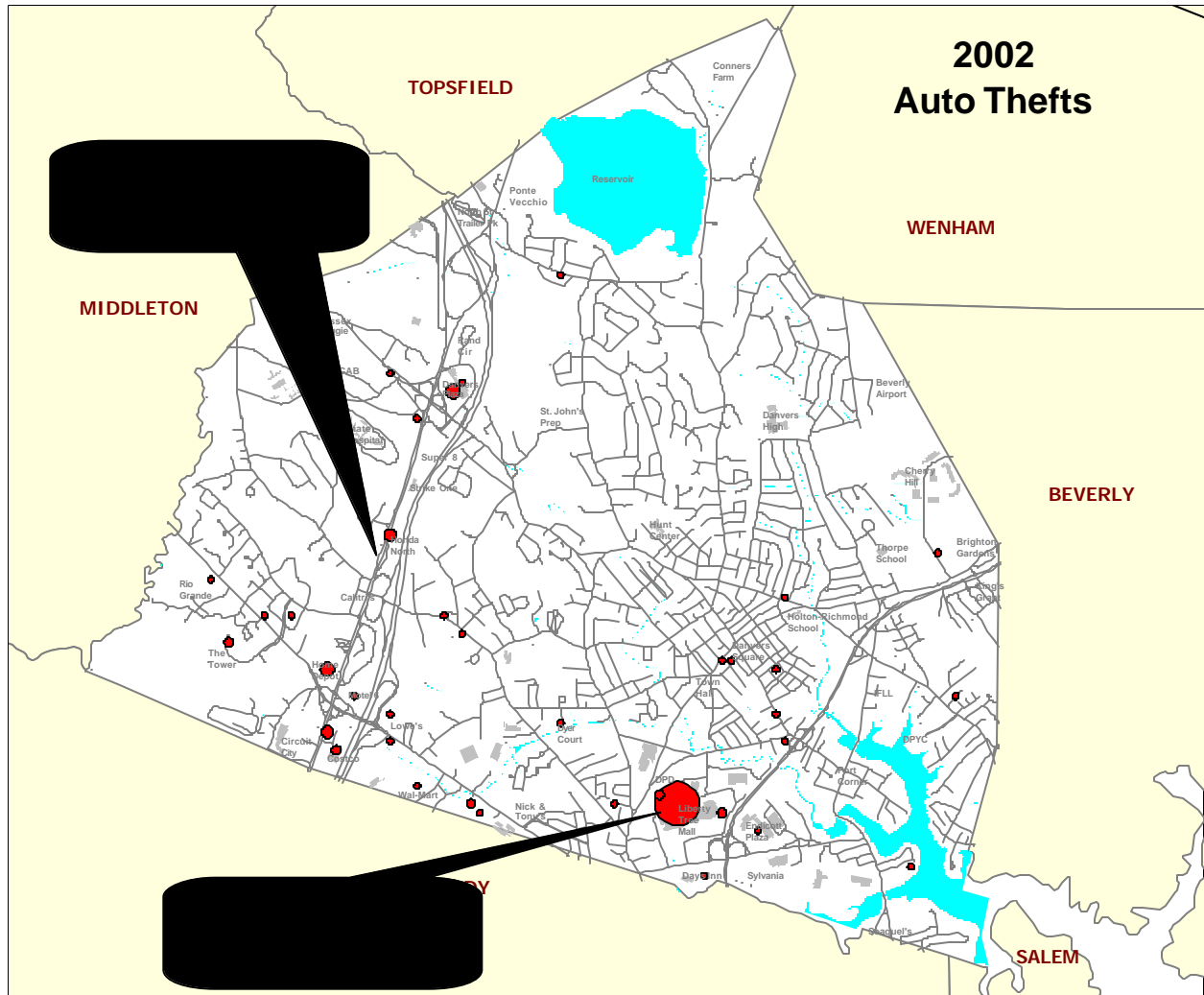
In 2002, Danvers joined most jurisdictions by making the Honda Civic (9 thefts), the Honda Accord (7 thefts) and the Toyota Camry (4 thefts) the most commonly stolen cars. In previous years, Danvers auto thieves had expressed no such preference in makes and models.

81% of the cars stolen in Danvers in 2002 have since been recovered, suggesting that most thefts are for short-term transportation or joyriding. The cities and towns supplying the most recoveries are:

Lynn	12
Danvers	9
Lawrence	5
Boston	4
Beverly	3
Middleton	3
Peabody	3
Salem	3

Danvers Police recovered 44 stolen cars in 2002, only nine of which had been stolen from Danvers itself. Recoveries often occur at the same time a theft is reported, and jurisdictions often "trade" thefts. For instance, a woman reports her car stolen from the Liberty Tree Mall. An officer responds and takes a report. A few spaces away, he discovers a car reported stolen the previous day from Lawrence. The next day, the Danvers woman's car is recovered in Lawrence.

Cars recovered in Danvers are often stolen from towns south of us, including Revere (4), Saugus (3), Lynn (3), Everett, Malden, and Chelsea. Beverly and Peabody each reported three cars stolen that were recovered in Danvers.



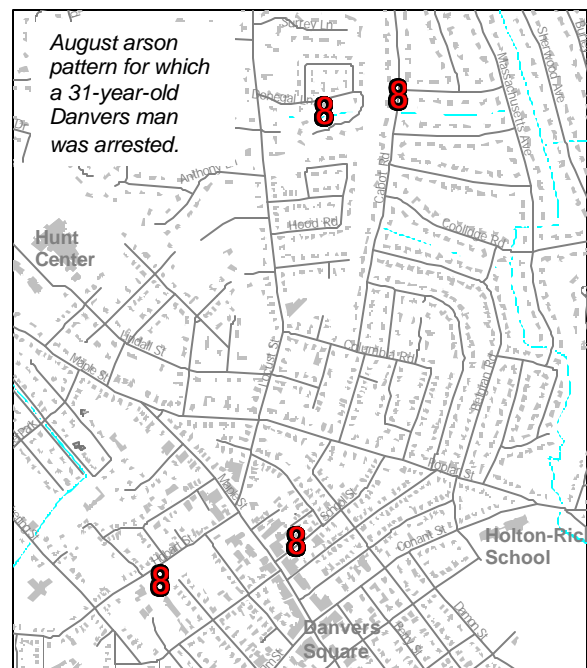
Arson

Arson: An action that damages or destroys property by fire or incendiary device. Motor vehicles, residences, businesses, public buildings, woods and fields, sheds and garages, dumpsters, mailboxes, and other personal property are all subject to arson.

2 in 2001 • 9 in 2002 • 350% Increase

Arson is so rare in Danvers that it normally wouldn't warrant attention in the *Annual Crime Report*. 2002, however, brought a very rare event: an arson series. In August, a 31-year-old Danvers man set at least seven fires around the town, including one that destroyed the Danvers Butchery on August 12. Most of the fires were set in the neighborhood around the suspect's house. The suspect has been charged with arson and is currently awaiting a court appearance; he was previously convicted of setting two fires in Melrose.

Four of the fires involved in this pattern can be seen on the map to the right.



Vandalism

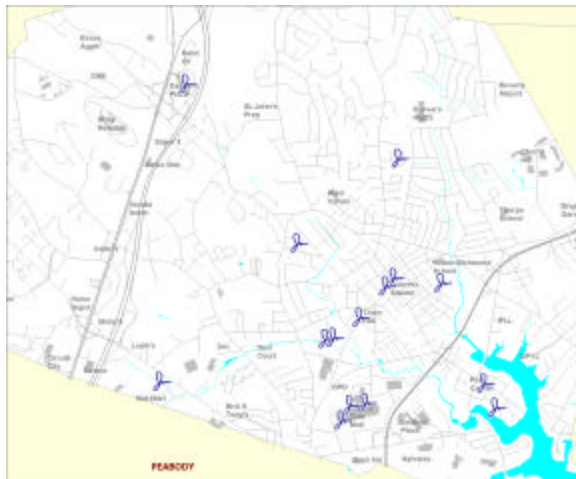
Vandalism: The intentional destruction or defacement of property. Such property might include houses, businesses, automobiles, public streets and signs, trees and flora, and personal property like cell phones and furniture. Types of destruction can include smashing, graffiti, egging, and disabling normal operation.

334 in 2001 • 337 in 2002 • 1% Increase

Incidents of vandalism have wavered between 300 and 350 during the past few years. Two-thirds of all vandalism incidents involve damage to cars, and most of these occur in commercial parking lots. Such vandalism includes broken windows, "keyed" doors, dented panels, and ripped canvas tops. A small but not insignificant percentage occur following parking space disputes. Another portion seems to be motivated by jealousy of luxury cars. But the majority are simply unexplained: the victim returns to his or her car to find a window broken or a scratch along the door, with no apparent motivation or explanation.

14% of vandalism incidents occur at businesses, ranging from graffiti to smashed windows to merchandise damage caused by angry shoppers. Another 14% occur at residences, ranging from property destroyed during domestic quarrels to juvenile pranks. An increasing number of incidents at both houses and businesses seem to involve paintball guns.

Graffiti is a concern in many jurisdictions, where it may signify gang activity. In Danvers, only 15 incidents of graffiti were reported last year, though we must assume that many property owners simply clean it off without reporting it to the police. A map of the 15 incidents (below) shows that graffiti in Danvers is concentrated in the areas that juveniles most often visit: Plains Park, Danvers Square, the Liberty Tree Mall, and areas in between.



Graffiti Incidents in Danvers in 2002.

A review of 322 individuals arrested or suspected in vandalism incidents over the past five years shows that they are overwhelmingly male (85%), and teenagers (70%), and from Danvers (55%) or a surrounding town (26%). Vandalism in Danvers is very much an issue involving local youths, usually in groups, with either a careless disregard for other people's property, or a willful desire to cause mischief.

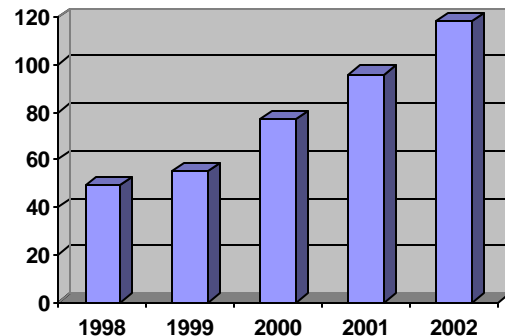
Fraud & Forgery

Fraud & Forgery: A category that describes thefts committed through duplicitous or fraudulent means. It includes unlawful use of a credit card, ATM card, or check; con games and swindles; counterfeiting; and identity theft.

96 in 2001 • 118 in 2002 • 23% Increase

Fraud has increased dramatically over the past five years, as shown by the chart below. Moreover, the increases have come in all categories, with the exception of bad checks.

Fraud & Forgery in Danvers



Type	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Bad Checks	6	11	13	5	6
Forged Checks	2	6	8	6	17
Credit/ATM	22	15	35	44	44
Con Games	2	11	4	12	18
Counterfeiting	12	5	4	21	16
Identity Theft	4	4	9	8	17

Bad Checks include checks written on closed accounts or accounts with insufficient funds. This crime is becoming rarer as more stores check the accounts before processing payment.

Forged Checks involve checks that are stolen and later forged at banks or stores. Very often, the offender is related to the victim: a disturbing trend of teenagers stealing checks from their parents and forging them (often to support a drug habit) is emerging.

Credit Card and ATM Card Fraud doubled between 1998 and 2001, though remained even during the past year. Usually this involves credit cards stolen in other jurisdictions, used at Danvers stores. In the past two years, Best Buy, K-Mart, Stop & Shop, Home Depot, CompUSA, Wal-Mart, and Lowe's have been the hottest spots for credit card forgery, though an increasing number are occurring over the Internet.



Con Games have also increased significantly over the past few years. Here are some of the repeat scenarios we've seen lately:

- **Solicitation Scams:** the victim receives a call or a home visit from someone collecting for a charity or police fund. The victim gives cash or a personal check that simply goes into the solicitor's pocket. *Defense:* insist on giving charitable donations only through the mail. Check up on charities that mail solicitations to you.
- **Nigerian Gold:** the victim receives a letter, fax, or e-mail from a government or corporate official in some African nation, usually Nigeria. The letter says that the sender has millions in gold or cash that he needs to "get out of the country." He offers the victim a percentage of the money if the victim will allow the sender to funnel the money to his or her bank account in the United States. If the victim agrees to the initial proposal, he or she is eventually asked to put up some money for "routing fees" or some other such nonsense. Some victims have lost tens of thousands in this scam.
- **Lottery Scams:** a classic "send money to get money" scenario. Victims are told they've won thousands or millions in some lottery (usually in a foreign country), but they need to send a "processing fee" to claim it. Remember: if you have to send money to get money, it's probably a scam.
- **Contractor Cons:** a very old con in which a team of men offer to do work on the victim's house (often re-paving the driveway) for a low price, then either do the work with sub-standard materials, or just take the money and leave.
- **Cash Shuffle:** a fast -talking swindler enters a retail store and looks for a young or inexperienced cashier. The con man asks for change for, say, a \$20 bill. By distracting the victim with a constant stream of chatter, "changing his mind" about the denominations he wants, handing bills back and forth, confusing the cashier about whose money is whose, and so on, the con artist manages to walk out of the store with two to five times the amount he entered with—leaving the slightly dumfounded cashier thinking he has only "made change."
- **Big Carrot:** An elaborate scam in which the con man contacts his victim's place of business and claims to have a brother or friend who works at a retail store (in Danvers, it's usually Best Buy) and can offer the victim a laptop computer or other expensive item at a great price. The victim meets the swindler at the retail store and hands over thousands in cash in exchange for a phony store receipt. The victim is then told to wait or to go to the receiving area to pick up the merchandise. The swindler disappears and is never seen by the victim again. We had two such scams in 2002 after a hiatus of three years. A group operating out of Somerville seems to be primarily responsible; they have pulled the scam all over New England.
- **Utility Impostors:** a group of con men show up at a victim's home and claim to be from the electric, gas, water, or cable company. They con their way into the victim's house, where one distracts the victim while another prowls the house for valuables.

Counterfeiting remains a sporadic phenomenon, subject to occasional patterns. They typically turn up in store registers with no indication of who passed them.

Identity Theft has become a national concern, particularly with the proliferation of personal information on the Internet. Local police agencies often do not receive reports of identity theft because incidents cross state and even national boundaries.

How does someone steal your identity? Usually, all it takes is your name, date of birth, and social security number, which the identity thief can glom from multiple sources: your driver's license, your loan, credit card, or mortgage applications; information you give over the Internet; even your garbage. Armed with this information, the thief assumes your identity and applies for credit cards, car loans, and mortgages; orders products you can't pay for; steals from your checking or savings account; obtains professional licenses, drivers' licenses, and other identifications in your name; submits fake medical bills to private insurers; and otherwise makes a mess of your life and finances. If he is an all-around criminal, he may use your identification in his criminal enterprises. Eventually, a warrant may be issued with *your* name on it.

The damage can range from minor (you have to cancel some credit cards) to moderate (your credit report is ruined and you spend months straightening out your finances) to extremely serious (you get pulled over for speeding and suddenly find yourself in jail on a warrant for dealing cocaine in Miami). Most reports made to the Danvers Police have thusfar been minor — usually involving credit card applications. *Defense:* be careful giving out personal information and check your credit report regularly.

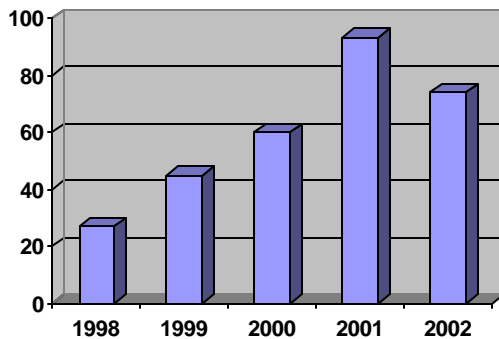
Drug Offenses

Drug Offenses: *Illegal possession, sale, manufacturing, or trafficking of illegal substances, including heroin, cocaine, hallucinogens, and marijuana. It also includes the illegal possession of prescription drugs. Most "incidents" categorized as "drugs" are arrests.*

93 in 2001 • 74 in 2002 • 20% Decrease

Drug offenses dropped 20% after peaking in 2001. As the graph below shows, incidents climbed quickly between 1998 and 2001.

Drug Offenses in Danvers



Almost all drug *incidents* in Danvers are *arrests*. Obviously, the actual number of incidents in which someone uses, possesses, sells, or manufactures an illegal drug is much higher than our statistics indicate: we only know about such incidents when we catch someone. Consequently, it's hard to know whether our "increase" represents a real increase in drug activity, or whether we're just catching more offenders.

2002 Drug Incidents by Drug & Activity

Drug	Posess.	Mnfctr.	Sale	Total
Marijuana/Hashish	50	1		51
Cocaine/Crack	8			8
Heroin/Opium	8		1	9
Prescription Drugs	5			5
Designer Drugs	1			1

All but two drug offenses in Danvers in 2002 involved simple possession. We had one incident in which a significant amount of marijuana was found growing at the end of a street, and one incident in which a 15-year-old girl sold opium to a 14-year-old boy on a school bus.

There were nine drug incidents reported at schools last year, eight of which involved possession of marijuana by students.

Another nine incidents occurred at Danvers hotels and motels, including four at Motel 6, two at the Days Inn, two at the Comfort Inn, and one at the Residence Inn. In most cases, officers found narcotics while serving warrants or responding to noise complaints.

13 incidents were the result of traffic stops for other reasons, in which drugs were discovered in the car. Another 11 incidents occurred during arrests for other crimes, which drugs were found on the offenders.

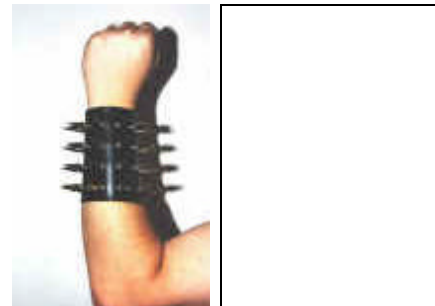
A review of the 384 individuals arrested or suspected of in drug incidents since 1998 shows that they are most likely to be males (78%), under the age of 25 77%—more than half are teenagers), from Danvers (35%), Lynn (13%), or Peabody (13%).

Weapons Violations

Weapons Violations: *Violation of laws concerning manufacture, sale, possession, transportation, carrying, concealment, or use of a firearm or other weapon.*

16 in 2001 • 56 in 2002 • 250% Increase

The 2002 increase in weapons violations seems startling, but it turns out to be an example of how crime statistics can change based on police activity. This year, officers working at the Liberty Tree Mall stepped up efforts to confiscate illegal spiked and studded armbands from youths. Such confiscations account for 44 of the 56 violations.



Spiked and studded arm and wrist bands are illegal.

Many youths and parents are unaware of the law making these armbands illegal. Consequently, Danvers police officers typically confiscate the weapon without arresting the owner.

Most of the rest of the incidents were miscellaneous knife, BB gun, and other small weapons violations, most involving juveniles. There were three violations involving firearms, including two guests staying at Motel 6 on separate occasions who were in illegal possession of handguns.

Special Reports

1. False Alarms

By definition, it would seem that *false* alarms aren't a public safety problem — *legitimate* alarms are. But look at the numbers: Danvers Police responded to 2,175 alarms at homes and businesses (most of them burglar alarms) in 2001. Less than a dozen of them (one-half of one percent) were tripped because of a legitimate burglary or robbery. False alarms are our most common call type, accounting for 13% of all calls in the past year. In any given year, more than 99% of all alarm calls are false alarms.



Here's how alarms work now: A residential or business alarm system is monitored by a local or national company. When the alarm is tripped, it sends an electronic message to the company's monitors. The monitors attempt to call the location to verify the alarm—the business or house owner must give a code to verify that the alarm was accidental. If the alarm monitor can't reach someone, or the person on the other end of the phone can't give the proper code, the alarm company calls the police.

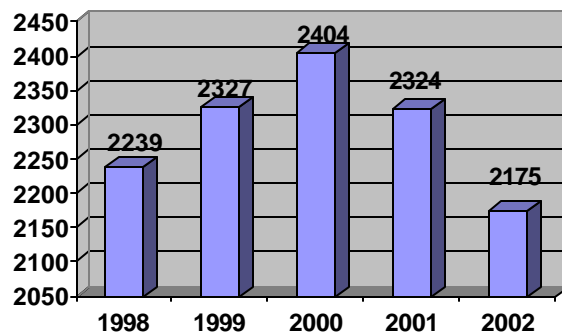
Between time dispatched and time cleared, the average time on scene for an alarm is 10 minutes. Our policy is to dispatch two cars to each call. That means that 725 patrol hours in 2002 were wasted on responding to alarms caused by wind, bad wiring, sensitive motion detectors, forgotten codes, employee errors, and pets. These hours would have been better

spent on community services, patrolling hot spots, investigating suspicious activity, and engaging in other core police duties. By taking an officer away from these duties, a higher false alarm rate can lead to a higher crime rate.

Despite these problems, and despite the escalation in false alarms all over the country in the past 20 years, most police agencies, including Danvers, still make alarms a high-priority call and give them a full response. This works great for alarm companies, who collect monthly fees from customers, monitor their systems, and call the police whenever one goes off. You may pay a service fee to your alarm company, but your taxes pay for the response.

Fortunately, the number of false alarms in Danvers has been going down. The 2002 total of 2,175 was the lowest in five years, down from a peak of 2,404 in 2000. Make no mistake, though: the number of calls is still unacceptably high.

Alarm Calls



What can be done about false alarms? On one extreme, the police could simply stop responding to them. (We're talking about burglar alarms here, and not hold-up alarms, panic alarms, medical alarms, or fire alarms.) Other agencies have done it. The problem got so bad in Salt Lake City in 2000 that police stopped responding to electronic burglar alarms entirely. There's no evidence that this policy led to increased burglary rates or high theft losses. The Los Angeles Police Department followed suit this year with a similar policy. Some agencies require the alarm company to respond to the alarm first, and verify a burglary, before calling the police.

There are intermediate solutions. We've already tried one: fines. Businesses get two free false alarms each calendar year; every alarm thereafter (to which police respond) costs them \$25.00. Every response after 12 costs \$50.00, and every response after 20 costs \$100.00. There was an initial dip in alarms when these fines were first assessed, but it was short-lived. False alarms were higher than ever in 2000, and there was only a slight dip in 2001. One company paid \$3,450 last year, but the occurrence of false alarms hasn't decreased at that location this year.

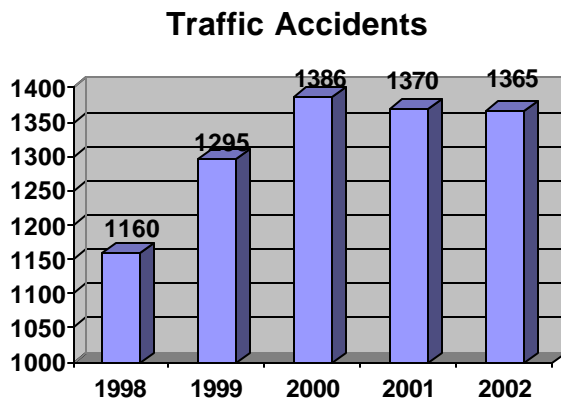
Solving this problem without resorting to extreme measures requires the cooperation of businesses, residents, and alarm companies. Specifically, it requires:

- ✓ **Businesses** must train all necessary employees, and **homeowners** train all family members, in proper use of the alarm. At least 20 percent of all false alarm calls are caused by employee or resident error —entering

the wrong code, forgetting the alarm is set, forgetting the code to give the alarm company to cancel response, not securing alarmed doors and windows, and so on.

- ✓ **Businesses and homeowners** must be willing to *not set the alarm* when something obvious is likely to set it off. Homeowners should leave the alarm turned off when pets are roaming around the house, for instance. Businesses with a rodent problem should solve the problem *first* before using their motion alarms.
- ✓ **Alarm companies** should make every effort to verify the legitimacy of the alarm *before* calling the police. The Danvers Police Department does not currently require companies to make a visual verification, but we can—like Salt Lake City did—if the problem gets worse.

2. Motor Vehicle Collisions



Danvers police responded to 1,365 automobile collisions in 2002—a slight decrease from the 1,370 in 2001, but five percent higher than the average of the past four years. Collisions account for 8% of all calls for service—the third most common call taken by the Danvers Police. At least 16% of collisions involve some injury to a person. Though five 2002 collisions resulted in serious or life-threatening injury, none, thankfully, resulted in any deaths.

Most of the concern about traffic collisions involves pedestrian or bicycle collisions, of which there were, combined, 39 incidents in 2001. In other words, collisions involving pedestrians and bicycles account for only 3% of all collisions—this is not particularly high. (Only one pedestrian collision in 2002 resulted in serious injury.) Collisions involving cars are a much greater problem. Even when no one is injured,

collisions tie up traffic, cause hundreds of thousands of dollars in property damage every year, eradicate thousands of more dollars in lost productivity, jack up insurance rates, and consume time that police officers could be using to prevent crime.

1998–2000 data from the Registry of Motor Vehicles, analyzed by the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau, shows that Danvers ranks seventh among Massachusetts cities in towns in its collision rate. Most of the communities in the top 10 share common characteristics: 1) one or more major highways traversing the city or town, and 2) a large educational or commercial population. Danvers features both of these collision factors: with Routes 128, 95, 1, 114, 62, and 35 all running through our town, we are truly at the crossroads of the North Shore. Our town is ringed with shopping malls, stores, restaurants, auto dealerships, and other commercial establishments that fill our streets with traffic every day.

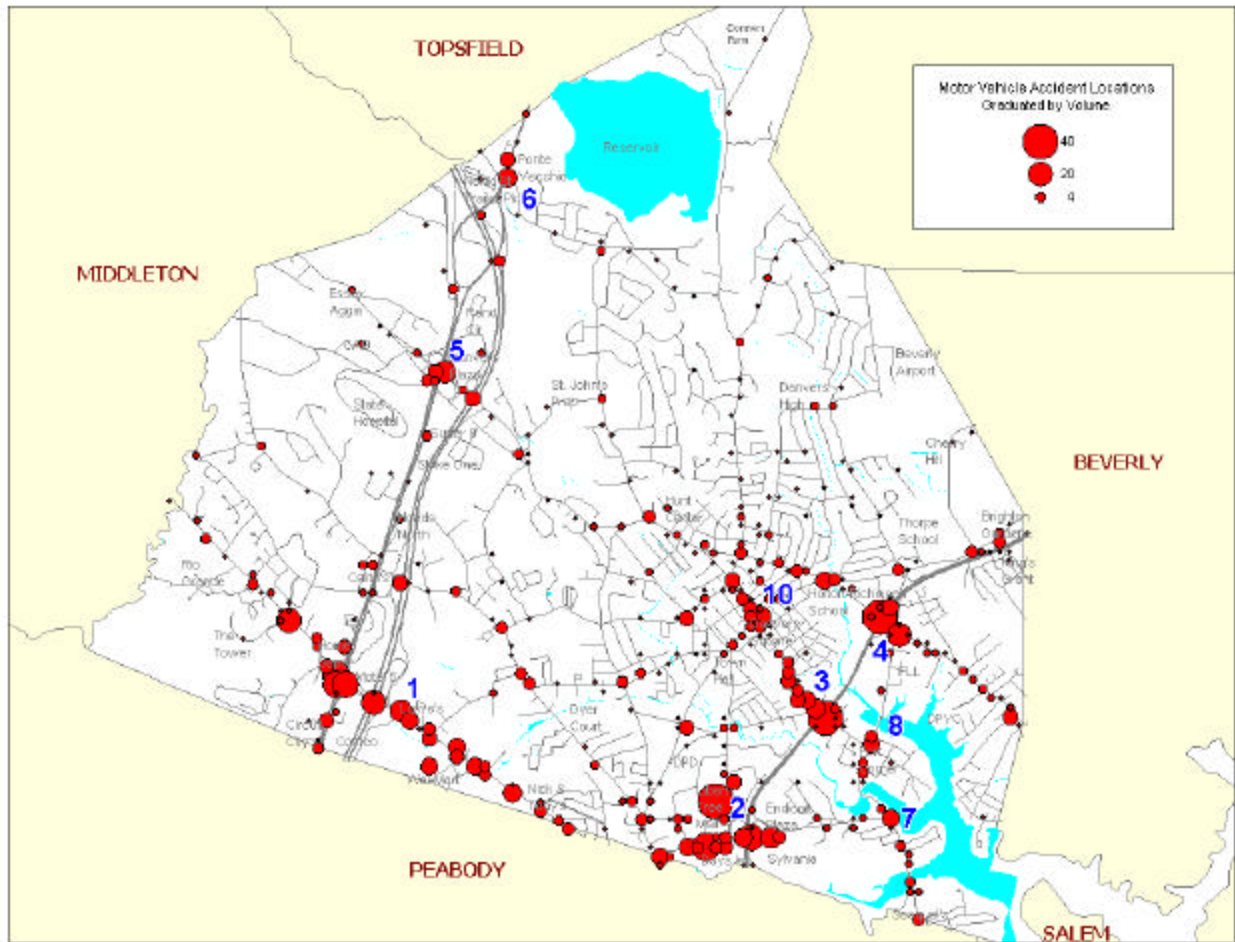
Collisions, more than most types of crime and safety issues, concentrate in defined geographic areas—usually a collection of “bad intersections” or congested parking lots scattered about town. The map on the following page shows those high-volume locations in Danvers and discusses the ten “hottest spots.” Collision hot spots are influenced by two primary factors:

1. **Physical Design & Geography.** Some intersections and stretches of road pile up a large number of collisions because they're poorly designed, or because they suffer from low visibility. In such cases, the town or the Commonwealth (depending on who owns the road) must re-engineer the location to make for safer driving.
2. **Volume.** Other locations become hot spots simply because a large number of automobiles drive through them from day to day. In these cases, towns can try to re-direct some of the traffic through other areas, or can aggressively enforce existing traffic laws within the hot zone.

**Accident Rate
Top 10 Commonwealth Communities
1998-2000**

City/Town	Accidents with Injury per 1000 people	Total Accidents per 1000 people
1. Hadley	143	257
2. Avon	118	193
3. Saugus	96	171
4. W. Bridgewater	85	167
5. Weston	65	186
6. Sturbridge	66	183
7. Danvers	74	173
8. Seekonk	70	165
9. Auburn	70	162
10. Burlington	66	160

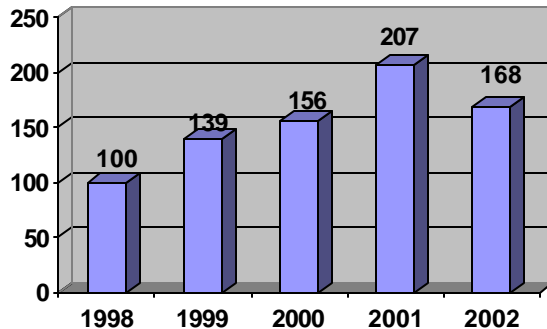
Source: Governor's Highway Safety Bureau/MassSAFE Report, December 2001



Map #	Location	Most Likely Days	Most Likely Hours	Analysis
1	Andover Street (Route 114), including Rte. 1 & Rte. 95 intersections	Thursday Friday Saturday	11:00–19:00	This “hot spot” covers multiple intersections and parking lots along Route 114, a very busy, heavily -trafficked commercial street. Multiple lights provide opportunities for rear-end collisions. This stretch of road is infamous for dangerous left turns in and out of business parking lots.
2	Liberty Tree Mall & Endicott Street	Friday Saturday Sunday	11:00–22:00	Heavy congestion in the mall parking lot and on Endicott Street is the primary cause of collisions here. They occur while backing into and out of parking spaces, and at traffic lights.
3	High Street (Route 35) near Route 128	Tuesday Friday	16:00–19:00	An evening commute hot spot. Merging onto 128 from High Street is notoriously difficult, many collisions occur on ramps.
4	Elliott Street (Route 62) at Route 128	Tuesday Wednesday	15:00–18:00	Another evening commute hot spot with difficult merging conditions onto the highway.
5	Maple Street (Route 62) at Newbury Street (Route 1)	Monday Friday	10:00–18:00	Numerous ramps on and off Route 1 and Route 95 provide locations for rear-end collisions.
6	Upper Newbury Street (Route 1)	Thursday Friday	13:00–16:00	Numerous collisions in tight, difficult commercial parking lot at Hathorne North Plaza.
7	Endicott Street at Water Street	Tuesday Wednesday	12:00–13:00	Small, uncomfortable intersection with heavy lunchtime traffic.
8	Port Corner (Liberty/River/Water/High)	Saturday	11:00–12:00 19:00–20:00	Another small, difficult intersection that sees a lot of traffic at lunchtime and in the evening.
9	Rosewood Drive	Monday Tuesday	08:00–10:00 15:00–18:00	Morning and evening commuting collisions are frequent while entering and exiting this large office building lot.
10	Danvers Square (& environs)	Tuesday Wednesday Saturday	11:00–12:00 15:00–16:00	No one intersection stands out in this area, but heavy lunchtime and afternoon shopping congestion has led to a proliferation of collisions throughout this area.

3. Youth Crime & Disorder

Arrests of Youths 18 and Under

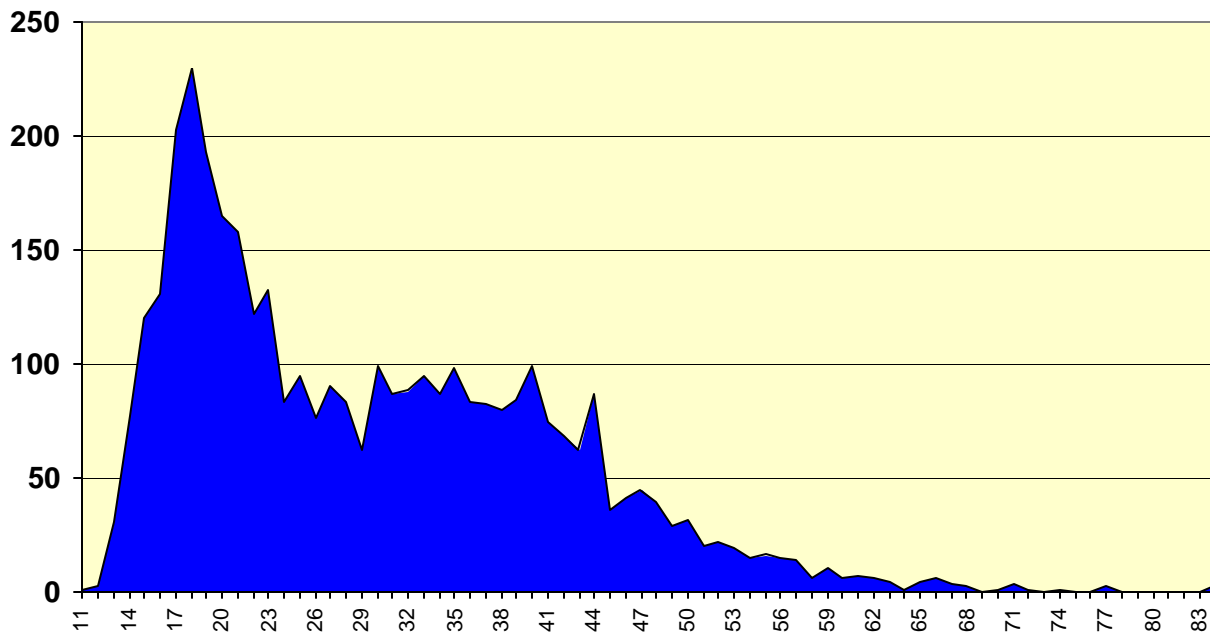


Danvers arrested 811 people in 2002. 168 of them — 21%—were youths aged 18 and under. The youngest was 13. Youths 13-18 make up only 6 to 8 percent of the overall population of Danvers.

Though high, this figure nonetheless represents a decrease from 2001, when 207 youths were arrested, representing 27% of total arrests. 2002 was the first year in five that the number of youth arrests decreased.

Despite this decrease, youth crime remains a serious concern. A November, 2002 internal police department report describing the “Top 20 suspects” of 2002—that is, the 20 people arrested or suspected in the highest number of crime—showed that 14 of the “top 20” were aged 18 or under.

**Age of Arrestees in Danvers
1998-2002**



The growing number of individuals in the “at risk” age range of 15-24 has so far not resulted in a national crime boom, though criminologists predicted that it would. Nevertheless, individuals in this age bracket are responsible for more criminal incidents than individuals in any other age range. The graph below above how high that spike is.

An analysis of crimes committed by juveniles shows several general patterns. Juvenile crime seems to be largely motivated by four factors: 1) the quest for thrills and adventure; 2) the need to establish power and respect; 3) the desire to impress one’s peers; 4) material desires. The first three factors are largely confined to the juvenile and post-juvenile population; these characteristics are rarely found in adults—or, at least, not in adult crime.

2002 Juvenile Crimes/Incidents

Incident Type	# Juvenile Arrests or Suspects	Total Arrests or Suspects	% Juveniles
General Youth Disorder	123	125	98%
Weapon Violations	40	52	77%
Trespassing	20	32	63%
Robbery	3	5	60%
Indecent Assault	3	6	50%
Larceny from MVs	17	35	49%
Shoplifting	114	237	48%
Disorderly Conduct	28	61	46%
Drug Offenses	46	102	45%
Threats	36	86	42%
Burglary	11	27	41%
Suspicious Activity	64	158	41%
Simple Assault	82	211	39%
Vandalism	29	75	39%
Stolen Property Offenses	8	22	36%
Liquor Law Violations	13	39	33%
Rape	1	3	33%
Larceny from Residences	7	31	23%
Disputes	63	298	21%
Larceny from Buildings	4	23	17%
Violation of Restraining Order	7	44	16%
Aggravated Assault	6	39	15%
Noise Complaints	15	103	15%
Arson	1	9	11%
Fraud/Forgery	5	45	11%
Drunkenness	11	129	9%
Embezzlement	2	23	9%
Traffic Offenses (Arrestable)	15	182	8%
Auto Theft	0	6	0%

Juveniles made up 21% of all arrests in 2001, but they accounted for 30% of all *suspects* in 2002 (which includes arrests). The table above shows the percentage of total suspects for certain crimes that were juveniles.

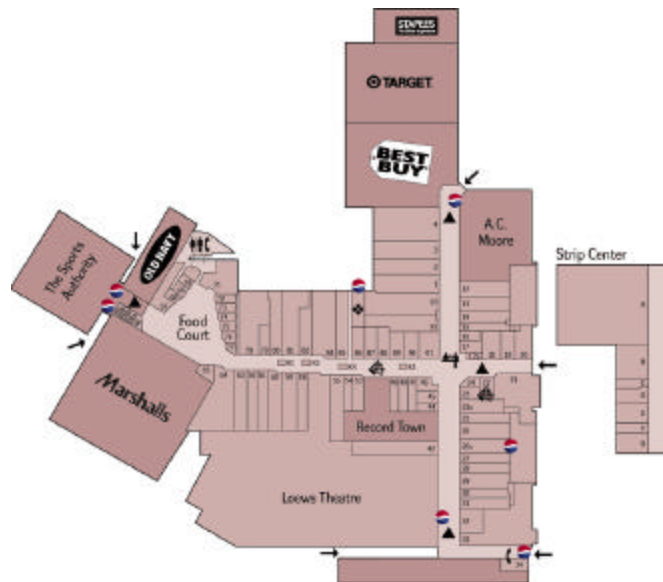
Hot spots for juvenile crime and disorder are, in order:

- **Liberty Tree Mall**, 100/230 Independence Way. 154 incidents in 2002. (Shoplifting, weapons violations, assaults and disorderly conduct)
- **Danvers High School/Dunn Middle School**, 60 Cabot Road. 33 incidents in 2002. (Drug offenses, youth assaults and threats)
- **CVS**, 17 Maple Street, 14 incidents in 2002. (Shoplifting, hanging out and bothering customers)
- **Holten-Richmond School/Plains Park**, 55-57 Conant Street, 13 incidents in 2002. (Miscellany of offenses)

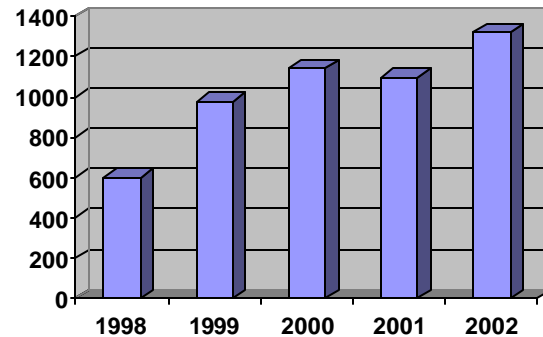
The adolescent mind is often rife with conflict. Though a juvenile may know the difference between right and wrong, he or she may not yet have developed the willpower necessary to apply that distinction to every situation, particularly when peer pressure is involved. Some high-profile tragedies in other parts of the country have highlighted the need to pay attention to juveniles' needs, and to offer constructive alternatives to hooliganism. Danvers has done a fair job in this regard, but—as is the case with almost every crime problem—more can always be done.

4. The Liberty Tree Mall

The Liberty Tree Mall is the number one call for service hot spot in Danvers. This statement isn't meant to malign the Liberty Tree Mall or its employees. Crime occurs where the people are, where the stores are, and where the cars are—and in Danvers more people, stores, and cars are at the Liberty Tree Mall than any other location. A high call for service rate is to be expected.



Calls to Liberty Tree Mall



There were 1,321 calls to the Liberty Tree Mall—including its external buildings and parking lot—in 2002. This number is up by 220 incidents from 2001

and can largely be explained by the extra traffic caused by the addition of Kohl's department store, Galyan's Sporting Goods, and the temporary occupation of the old Levitz Furniture building. Most of these developments occurred later in the year, and more are planned for 2003, so we're expecting even higher numbers this year.

A mall is like a miniature city, and any mall's crime problem is actually composed of any number of sub-problems. Among the sub-problems at the Liberty Tree Mall:

- **Shoplifting** The most common crime at the Liberty Tree Mall is the age-old shoplifting problem, most often committed by youthful offenders at Marshall's, Sports Authority, and Best Buy. There were 133 shoplifting incidents reported at the mall this year. Some professional shoplifters are becoming more and more brazen, attempting to wheel carts with thousands of dollars in merchandise out the front doors of Kohl's, Best Buy, and Target.
- **Suspicious Activity.** Danvers Police receive dozens of reports of suspicious activity, suspicious people, and suspicious vehicles in and around the Mall throughout the year.
- **Car Collisions** Congested parking lots are breeding grounds for fender-benders.
- **Thefts from Cars, Auto Theft, Vandalism to Cars.** Thieves and vandals go where the cars are. The Liberty Tree Mall offers the largest supply of parked cars in Danvers. Thefts are high between 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.
- **Youth Disorder.** Youths hanging out in the mall, attending the movies, and eating in the Food Court are often not as controlled as shoppers and store owners would like. They sometimes sport illegal weapons, such as studded armbands, which are confiscated by police officers. Teenagers account for 48% of the arrests at the Liberty Tree Mall, compared to 21% of arrests for the town at large.
- **Traffic Disputes & Complaints** "Parking rage" disputes spring up in the mall parking lot, particularly during the Holiday season. Customers parking in illegal spaces are occasionally a problem.
- **Thefts from Shoppers.** Pickpockets occasionally prowl the mall, looking to steal items out of shopping bags, purses, and coat pockets, and watching for valuables left unattended on store counters, shelves, benches, and tables.

How unique are the crime and disorder problems at the Liberty Tree Mall? Here is how the Liberty Tree Mall, with its 76 stores, compares to the nearby Northshore Mall in Peabody, with 128 stores, for some selected calls in 2002:

With significantly more stores, the North Shore Mall reports somewhat lower crime numbers for many incidents than the Liberty Tree Mall, suggesting that while a high volume of crimes and calls at the Liberty Tree Mall is to be

Incident	Liberty Tree	Northshore ²
Robbery	4	3
Assaults	32	8
Burglary	2	2
Shoplifting	133	187
Theft from Cars	53	28
Other Thefts	39	101
Auto Theft	31	30
Drug Incidents	9	16
Vandalism	42	40
Threats/Intimidation	11	4
Fraud/Forgery/Counterfeit	25	18
Disorderly/Drunk	41	10
Suspicious Activity	54	54
MV Collisions	61	63
Total Arrests	120	160
Juvenile Arrests	63	6

expected (as it is to be expected at all malls), we could take steps to reduce this volume. It is also clear from the final figure that the Northshore Mall is less of a juvenile “hangout” than the Liberty Tree.

Much is being done already to address the problems at the Liberty Tree Mall. Security officers at department stores have become adept at catching shoplifters, the Danvers Police Department has restructured its patrol routes to allow more officer time at the mall, the movie theater pays for extra police presence on Fridays and Saturdays, and Simon Properties—the owner of the Liberty Tree Mall—arranges for additional officers during busy times. The Peabody Police Department credits its Community Outreach Center at the Northshore Mall with some reduction in crime—a replication of this success may be an avenue worth pursuing.

Who’s Arrested at the Liberty Tree Mall?

Arrests at the Liberty Tree Mall between April 24, 2000 and April 23, 2002 break down as follows:

Characteristic	Mall Total	Mall %	Townwide %
Male	94	78%	82%
Female	26	22%	18%
Under 15	19	16%	3%
15-19	51	43%	22%
20-24	20	17%	19%
25-29	8	7%	11%
30-34	7	6%	11%
35-39	2	2%	10%
40-44	7	6%	9%
45-49	5	4%	7%
50 or more	1	1%	6%
From Lynn	30	25%	10%
From Peabody	19	16%	10%
From Salem	12	10%	7%
From Beverly	11	9%	7%
From Danvers	9	8%	34%
From Gloucester	5	4%	2%
From Revere	5	4%	2%
From Other Towns	29	24%	28%

The discrepancies between arrests made at the Liberty Tree Mall and arrests made in the rest of Danvers are clear from this table: Offenders at the Liberty Tree Mall are more likely to be under the age of 20, and more likely to be from towns surrounding Danvers (especially Lynn) than offenders arrested elsewhere.

They’re also more likely — though not very likely — to be females. Females have higher representation in shoplifting—which is high at the mall—than in other crimes.

Danvers residents contribute only 8% of arrests at the mall, compared to 34% of arrests townwide. The mall, while *in* Danvers, is not really *of* Danvers.

² Provided by the Peabody Police Department Crime Analysis Unit

Police Services

The Danvers Police Department is organized into three major divisions: operations, services, and administration. Each division is commanded by a lieutenant who answers to the Executive Officer, who answers to the Chief of Police.



The **Operations Division**, commanded by Lieutenant Neil Ouellette, handles most of the traditional activities of a police department: dispatch, patrol, investigations, and prosecution.

Lieutenant Jon Tiplady commands the **Services Division**, which oversees special community services, traffic enforcement, planning, grant administration, accreditation, and public safety analysis.

The **Administration Division**, headed by Acting Lieutenant Edmund Plamowski, deals with the physical and logistical operation of the department—personnel, scheduling, fleet maintenance, property, building maintenance, and records. Lieutenant Plamowski is also in charge of the department's juvenile officers and crossing guards.

The **Executive Officer**, a captain, handles the day-to-day details of running the police department, including supervising all three lieutenants. The Executive Officer also oversees training, inspections, professional standards, public information, and media relations. The position has been vacant since Stuart Chase was promoted from Captain to Chief of Police. The duties of the position are being performed by the Chief and the lieutenants until the position is filled.

Danvers Police Web Site

Get up-to-date crime and police information at:

<http://www.danverspolice.com>

On our web site, you can:

- Review recent crime bulletins and reports
- Join our e-mail news group
- See registered sex offenders
- Request traffic enforcement on your street
- View crime prevention tips
- Register for the next Citizen Police Academy
- Report suspicious activity
- Download collision & other forms
- Get information on policies & procedures
- View current contact information

How Do I...

Report a Crime in Progress or Other Emergency?

Dial 9-1-1 from the nearest telephone.

Report a Past Crime or Other Activity of Concern?

Call **978-774-1212** or come to the Danvers Police station in person.

Find Out About Crime & Safety Information in My Area?

Call or e-mail the Office of Public Safety Analysis at **978-774-1213 ext. 119** or **cbruce@mail.danvers-ma.org**. You may also view current crime bulletins and reports at **<http://www.danverspolice.com/analysis>**.

Get a Copy of a Crime or Collision Report?

The rules about who can obtain what types of crime reports can be complex. Call the Records Section at **978-774-1213, ext. 4** to discuss the situation with a Records Section employee. Collision reports should always be requested by your lawyer or insurance company.

Learn More About Restraining Orders or Obtain a Restraining Order?

You can get a restraining order against a spouse or ex-spouse, a relative, a current or ex-boyfriend or girlfriend, or someone living with you, if that person has abused you with violence or threats. Depending on your situation, the restraining order may order the abuser to stop abusing or hurting you, to stay away from you, your home, work, or school, or vacate a home that you share together. The Danvers Police Department can help you obtain a restraining order if you are in an abusive situation. For more information, call the Danvers Police at **978-774-1212**, come to the Police station in person, or e-mail **jtiplady@mail.danvers-ma.org**. Of course, call **9-1-1** to report any immediate violence or abuse.

Get a Police Officer to Come to a Community Event?

Call or e-mail Lt. Jon Tiplady at **978-774-1213 ext. 126** or **jtiplady@mail.danvers-ma.org**.

Get Tips on Protecting Myself and My Home?

Aside from the tips gleaned from this report, the Danvers Police Department offers crime prevention tips on our web site (**<http://www.danverspolice.com>**). We will be happy to mail or e-mail you this material if you contact the Office of Public Safety Analysis at **978-774-1213 ext. 119** or **cbruce@mail.danvers-ma.org**. We are also pleased to offer a Residential Security Survey program—a crime prevention officer will look over your house and recommend strategies to make it safer. Call Lt. Tiplady at **978-774-1213 ext. 126** to set one up.

Contact Information

Danvers Police Department • 120 Ash Street • Danvers, MA 02139
978-774-1213 • Fax: 978-777-8861
<http://www.danverspolice.com>

Stuart M. Chase Chief of Police	978-774-1213 ext. 135	schase@mail.danvers-ma.org
Christine Perry Executive Secretary	978-774-1213 ext. 122	cperry@mail.danvers-ma.org
Lt. Jon Tiplady Services Division	978-774-1213 ext. 126	jtiplady@mail.danvers-ma.org
Lt. Edmund Plamowski Administration Division	978-774-1213 ext. 127	eplamowski@mail.danvers-ma.org
Lt. Neil Ouellette Operations Division	978-774-1213 ext. 129	nouellette@mail.danvers-ma.org
Sgt. Dana Milne Court Prosecutor	978-774-1213 ext. 135	dmilne@mail.danvers-ma.org
Detective Division	978-774-1388 Fax: 978-777-0268	rlevasseur@mail.danvers-ma.org
D.A.R.E./Juvenile Officers	978-774-1213 ext. 120	
Public Safety Analysis	978-774-1213 ext. 119 Fax: 978-777-2376	cbruce@mail.danvers-ma.org
Records Section	978-774-1213 ext. 117	
On Duty Patrol Supervisor	978-774-1213 ext. 116	
Communications/Dispatch	978-774-1212	
Front Desk	978-774-1213 ext. 113	
Webmaster	978-774-1388	rlevasseur@mail.danvers-ma.org