



Contents

2	Police Department Profile
3	Message from the Chief
4	About Public Safety Analysis
5	2003 Crime & Incident Statistics
7	2003 Summary & Highlights
11	Analysis of Selected Crime & Disorder Incidents
26	Police Services & Contact Information

Danvers Police Department

2003 Annual Crime Report

Presented by the Office of Public Safety Analysis

Christopher W. Bruce
Public Safety Analyst

Lt. David Woytovich
Services Division Commander

Stuart M. Chase
Chief of Police

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

<http://www.danverspolice.com>



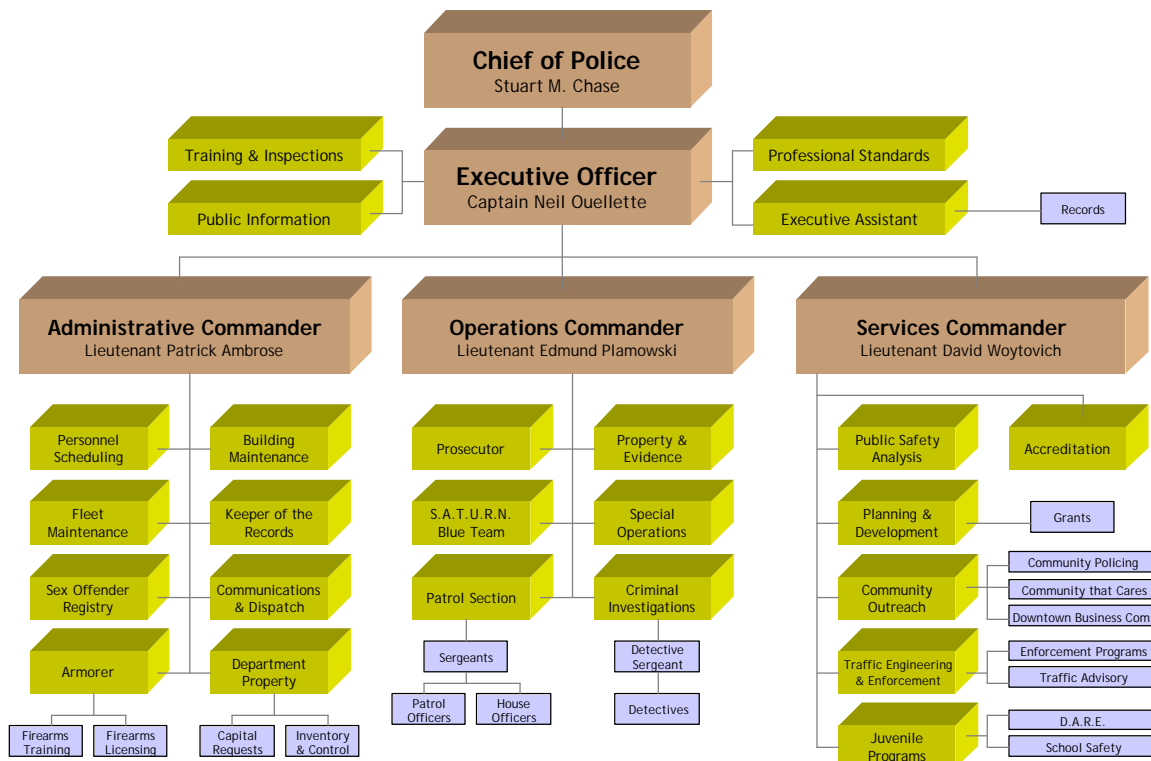
Danvers Police Department at a Glance

Organized: 1752
Population Served: 25,212
Sworn Officers: 47
Civilian Personnel: 13
Chief: Stuart M. Chase
Headquarters: 120 Ash Street
Budget (FY03): \$4,256,823
Rank Structure: Chief
 Captain
 Lieutenants (3)
 Sergeants (8)
 Officers (32) / Detectives (2)
Patrol Vehicles: 17
2003 Calls for Service: 19,537



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).

Danvers Police Department Organization Chart



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" that can aid in the capture of offenders and the prevention of crime. Planning—from daily patrols to major events—is augmented by this analysis capability.

This Annual Report is a product of our public safety analyst's efforts. We believe in providing quality information and analysis to the citizens we serve. This philosophy is reflected in our web site—

<http://www.danverspolice.com>—which provides regular pattern updates, periodic alerts, and traffic advisories, among other features. And we publish reports like this, so that those who live, work, travel, shop, or 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 have risen over the past few years. Over one thousand people were taken into custody on a variety of charges in 2003. A strong commercial base and a network of highways and state roads draws thousands of people to our community on a daily basis. Our resources are often challenged as we cope with increased calls for service. 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 and quality of life issues that are offered in this report.

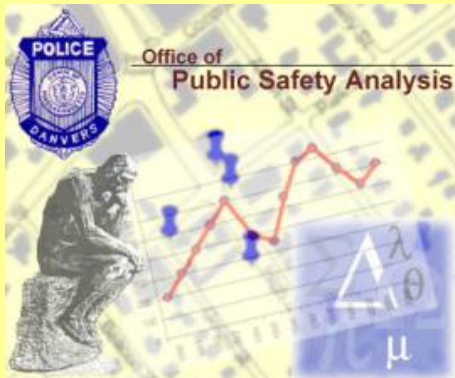
Thank you for your interest. An informed community is a safer community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Stuart M. Chase". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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 David Woytovich

Services Division Commander
Danvers Police Department
978-774-1213 ext. 126
dwoytovich@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	1999*	2000*	2001*	2002*	Avg. 99-02	2003	2003 Change fm. Avg.	2003 Change fm. 2002
Murder	0	0	1	0	.25	0	-100%	None
Rape	0	2	4	3	2.25	6	+167%	+100%
Robbery	6	8	14	11	9.75	20	+105%	+82%
Aggravated Assault	22	37	53	38	37.5	26	-31%	-32%
Violent Crime Index	28	47	72	52	49.75	52	+5%	None
Burglary	79	60	81	69	72.25	70	-3%	+1%
Commercial	40	27	46	30	35.75	33	-8%	+10%
Residential	39	33	35	39	36.5	37	+1%	-5%
Larceny/Theft	723	719	779	887	777	732	-17%	-6%
from Motor Vehicles	226	223	292	347	272	239	-12%	-31%
from Building	160	111	121	118	127.5	103	-19%	-13%
from Person	18	24	37	39	29.5	39	+32%	None
from Residence	31	51	64	66	53	60	+13%	-9%
of Bicycle	41	22	27	20	27.5	23	-16%	+15%
of Services	18	27	23	29	24.25	24	-1%	-17%
Shoplifting	209	242	194	246	222.75	214	-4%	-13%
Other	20	19	21	22	20.5	30	+46%	+36%
Auto Theft	73	75	68	80	74	60	-19%	-25%
Arson	0	1	2	9	3	4	+33%	-56%
Property Crime Index	875	855	930	1045	926.25	866	-7%	-17%
Total Crime Index	903	902	1002	1097	976	918	-6%	-16%

*Past incidents are periodically re-coded during quality control reviews, and as new information about past crimes becomes available. Numbers may not precisely match those reported in previous years. Statistics from the most recent report are always the most accurate.

Other Crimes

Incident Type	1999	2000	2001	2002	Avg.	2003	Change fm. Avg.	Change fm. 2002
Indecent Assault	6	8	12	7	8.25	10	+21%	+43%
Simple Assault	105	148	192	166	152.75	167	+9%	+1%
Kidnapping/Abduction	0	0	1	0	.25	3	+1100%	NC
Threats/Intimidation	111	120	138	100	117.25	115	-2%	+15%
Bomb Threats	6	6	6	4	5.5	3	-45%	-25%
Violation of RO	68	49	40	59	54	42	-22%	-29%
Fraud/Forgery	60	82	97	118	89.25	136	+52%	+15%
Embezzlement	14	26	25	25	22.5	35	+56%	+40%
Extortion/Blackmail	0	0	0	1	.25	0	-100%	-100%
Stolen Property Offenses	9	12	16	22	14.75	16	+8%	-27%
Trespassing	34	30	38	40	35.5	42	+18%	+5%
Vandalism	362	329	347	337	343.75	370	+8%	+10%
Drug Offenses	47	64	95	74	70	79	+13%	+7%
Liquor Law Violations	37	24	30	41	33	57	+73%	+39%
Operating Under the Influence	39	44	55	46	46	80	+74%	+74%
Indecent Exposure	9	4	5	10	7	9	+29%	-10%
Weapon Violations	11	10	18	56	23.75	19	-20%	-66%

Other Incidents & Activity

Incident Type	1999	2000	2001	2002	Avg.	2003	Change fm. Avg.	Change fm. 2002
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1298	1404	1379	1365	1361.5	1468	+8%	+8%
Disputes	520	572	579	591	565.5	602	+6%	+2%
Noise Complaints	487	486	448	529	487.5	422	-13%	-20%
Fireworks	29	36	52	38	38.75	38	-2%	None
Drunkenness	175	174	177	179	176.25	203	+15%	+13%
Suspicious Activity	753	752	762	858	781.25	876	+12%	+2%
Harassing Phone Calls	94	104	124	121	110.75	106	-4%	-12%
Disabled MV	806	768	727	630	732.75	695	-5%	+10%
Recovered Stolen Car	31	43	33	44	37.75	33	-13%	-25%
Alarms	2346	2424	2355	2175	2325	2193	-6%	+1%
Animal-Related Calls	676	587	487	428	544.5	382	-30%	-11%
Fire Assists	102	113	108	113	109	90	-17%	-20%
Medical Aid	1383	1605	1615	1653	1564	1436	-8%	-13%
Missing Persons	105	143	143	120	127.75	82	-36%	-32%

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

Total	16438	17194	16522	16672	16707	17262	+3%	+4%
--------------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-----	-----

Total Calls for Service

Total	17339	18292	17519	18745	17974	19537	+9%	+4%
--------------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-----	-----

Total Arrests:

Total	680	841	770	812	776	1059	+36%	+30%
--------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------	------	------

2003 Summary & Highlights

The Public Safety Dynamic

The town of Danvers is a unique jurisdiction, and poses unique problems for policing. Unlike most Massachusetts towns of around 25,000 residents, Danvers is in no way a “bedroom community”—it has a vibrant, busy commercial population that provides an interesting contrast to the town’s fairly quiet residential population. This commercial population effectively triples the number of individuals that require police services during any given day.

In addition to the large commercial population, we find within Danvers’s borders a number of features non-existent in most other small towns. These include:

- A major shopping mall
- Several industrial parks
- Two major U.S. highways (U.S. Route 1 and U.S. Route 95) and four heavily trafficked state routes (128, 114, 35, and 62).
- A harbor and several marinas
- 10 hotels and motels
- Part of an airport
- Three high schools—two public and one private
- More than 70 restaurants, pubs, and fast food establishments

In short, Danvers has the population of a town but the activity of a city. The combination of people living, shopping, working, playing, and traveling in Danvers creates a complex dynamic that both directly and indirectly affects our crime and disorder rates. There are dozens of factors—population shifts, business openings and closings, economic changes, town policies, weather and climate, environmental design, police technology and procedures, and similar changes in surrounding towns—that can cause significant increases or decreases in crime and disorder. Some examples in 2003 include:

- **Auto theft** reached its lowest level in more than 20 years. We credit better vehicle security, the statewide reduction in “chop shops,” and police technology that allows near-instant identification of stolen cars for this trend.
- **Robbery**, usually in the single digits, increased to 20 in 2003. Causal factors seem to include an increasing number of available targets (caused by continued commercial development) and a weakened statewide economy.
- A group home for troubled youths on Liberty Street closed its doors in April. The facility had a unlocked-door policy and consequently reported 63 **missing persons** (most of them later returned to the facility) in 2002. The closing of the facility led to a 36% drop in missing persons in 2003.



The Liberty Tree Mall and its surrounding stores is one of many features that distinguishes Danvers from the typical “small town.”

Already in 2004, business closings such as the King’s Grant Inn on Route 128, new business such as the Stop & Shop and the planned Home Depot on Independence Way, new residential housing, an improving economy, colder winter weather, and the re-engineering of some intersections are having an inexorable affect on crime, disorder, safety, and demand for police services. Some of these trends are positive, some negative. The Danvers Police Department is dedicated to tracking these trends, determining their causes, and interceding in negative trends while simultaneously encouraging positive ones.

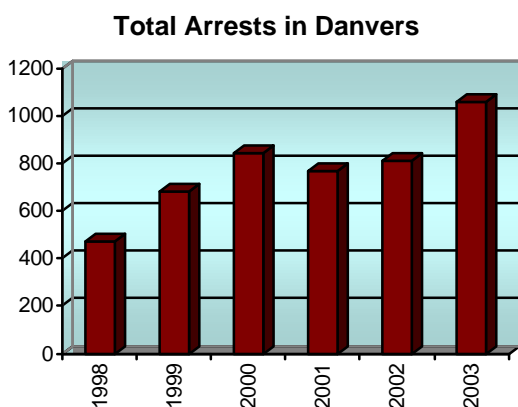
Highlights of 2003

In 2003, the overall crime index decreased 16% from 2002 and 6% from the average. This was the first such decrease since 2000, and the first significant decrease since 1999. Total *calls for service*, on the other hand, reached their highest levels in at least six years, as did total arrests. Serious crimes (with some exceptions) were down, but other disorder problems, quality of life issues, and traffic problems went up.

Among the more notable trends experienced in 2003:

↑ **Robbery** shot up to its highest total since 1989. These were mostly commercial hold-ups as opposed to street muggings. Though most of the increase occurred during the first four months of the year, differing suspect descriptions, weapons, and other features make it unlikely that they were committed by the same person.

↑ **Rape:** Our 2003 total of six is the highest we've ever reported since at least 1980, but it's important to caution against misinterpretation of this figure. All of the 2003 rapes were committed by acquaintances against acquaintances; it has been more than six years since we last had a "stranger" rape in Danvers. We say this not to minimize the seriousness of these acquaintance rapes, but to quell the fears of citizens towards random violence or street attacks.

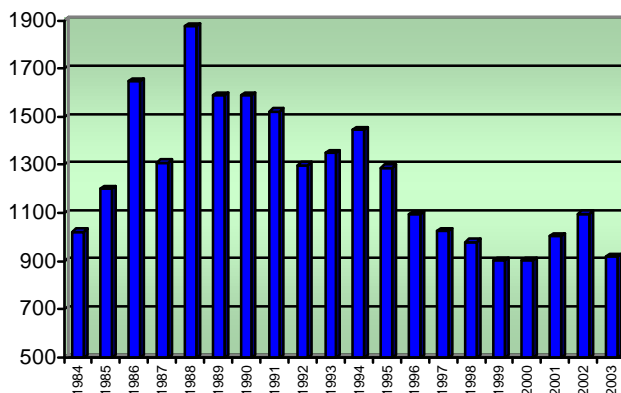


a tough economy, and the features of the Information Age make them easier to commit.

↑ **Embezzlement**, another economically-driven crime, also continues to increase. The 2003 total was 56% higher than the average. Most of these offenses are not "white collar" crimes, but committed by low-income retail workers.

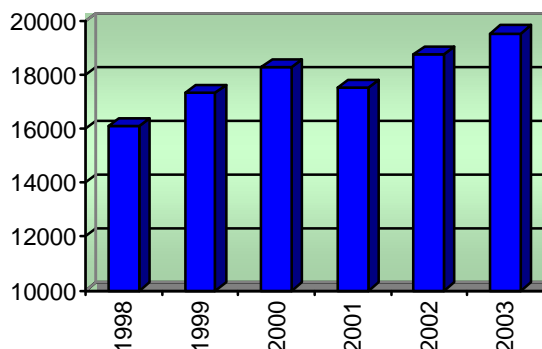
↑ Both **operating under the influence** arrests and **liquor law violations** shot up dramatically in 2003. **Drunkenness** complaints had a less severe but still significant increase. The increase seems to

Total Index Crimes in Danvers



↑ **Fraud & Forgery** continue to increase in Danvers, in Massachusetts, and across the nation. In 2003, it was up 52% from the average and 15% from 2002. The biggest increases are in the categories of credit card fraud, check forgery, and identity theft. These crimes are always favorites in

Total Calls for Service in Danvers



involve a combination of more pro-active police activity and more actual alcohol abuse.

- ↑ After decreasing for two years, **motor vehicle accidents** spiked to the highest levels since at least 1998. **Traffic and parking complaints** reached similar highs. Both point to increased traffic congestion in Danvers.
- ↓ **Aggravated assault** dropped 31% from the average, to its lowest since the early 1980s. The drop was felt most keenly in the **domestic violence** category, which is welcome news.
- ↓ **Larcenies from motor vehicles** plummeted 31% after reaching a peak in 2002. Despite the decline, we continued to experience multiple patterns in commercial parking lots and auto dealerships. The reason behind the decline is uncertain; we hope it has something to do with aggressive directed patrols.
- ↓ **Auto theft** reached its lowest total in more than 20 years, with a 60% drop from the average. **Recovered stolen cars** followed suit.
- ↓ Officers who aggressively enforced **weapons violations** at the Liberty Tree Mall in 2002 (most violations involved spiked armbands) report that the prevalence of these weapons declined significantly in 2003, as word got out that police were enforcing this law. The result was a 66% decrease from 2002.
- ↓ **Animal-related calls** declined for the sixth straight year. Calls for domestic animals, such as cats and dogs, actually increased, while calls for “wild” animals, like raccoons and skunks, are the ones that have gone down. One suspects that continued development has reduced the actual number of “wild” animals in town.
- ↓ Many police responses to **medical calls** are unnecessary and take away from pro-active patrol time. In 2003, the Danvers Police implemented new Emergency Medical Dispatch protocols that assign a police response only to certain types of emergencies. These new standards helped effect a 13% drop from 2002.

Ongoing & Emerging Trends

Throughout 2003, Danvers Police observed several new trends as well as continued activity from a number of pre-existing crime problems. Listed below (in no specific order) are eight of the most notable trends and problems in the past year. In 2004, as we continue to monitor these issues, the Danvers Police will work with the business and residential communities to come up with effective solutions.

1. **Fraud & Forgery on the Rise.** The incident category that the Danvers Police Department labels “Fraud & Forgery” includes such crimes as unlawful use of credit and ATM cards, forged checks, counterfeiting, con games, and identity theft. National figures for this crime are hard to come by, but reports from federal agencies and non-profit organizations such as the National White Collar Crime Center indicate that incidents are rising rapidly. Fraud is one of the first crimes to show signs of increasing during a bad economy, and the Information Age has made it easier than ever to commit.
2. **Drunk Driving Skyrockets.** In 2003, Danvers Police made 80 arrests or summonses for drunk driving, a 74% increase from the average of 46. Some of these additional arrests can be attributed to increased pro-active officer activity, but such a large increase suggests that there are, in fact, more drunk drivers on the roads.
3. **Thefts from Auto Dealerships.** With 15 auto dealerships in its borders, Danvers is an attractive target to thieves looking to steal stereos, tires, and other parts. Series of such thefts waxed and ebbed all year. We had 54 thefts at dealerships in 2003, up from 41 in 2002 and 35 in 2001.

4. **Thefts from Health Clubs.** One breed of thief preys on the property of gym patrons. Many of these thefts occur from lockers (whether locked or unlocked). In response, many gym-goers have started leaving their wallets and purses in their cars. The result? Increased thefts from cars in gym parking lots. Between lockers and cars, we had 31 thefts from health clubs in 2003, up from 24 in 2002.
5. **Shoplifting.** Like fraud & forgery, shoplifting is an economically-driven crime. Thieves find it easy to commit, difficult to get caught, and unlikely to result in severe punishment. Danvers's strong commercial base means that it's going to be hit hard with shoplifting—and a few select stores favored by thieves get hit worse than everyone else. Though reported incidents of shoplifting declined in 2003, it remains a serious problem—and one that's near-impossible to measure.
6. **Robbery on the Rise.** After several years of small fluctuations, robbery shot to 20 in 2003, from an average of less than 10. Most of this inexplicable increase occurred during the first six months of the year. The cause is uncertain—it's not the same group of offenders, nor a single "hot spot," nor a common *modus operandi*. The differences exhibited in these crimes makes it more challenging for police to investigate and prevent.
7. **Youth Crime & Disorder.** Some of the most common complaints in Danvers involve disorder among local youths, and for the fourth straight year, more than half of the "top 20" individuals involved in the most crimes in Danvers are teenagers.
8. **The Liberty Tree Mall.** Things are getting better at the mall. The number one incident generator in Danvers generated 7% fewer incidents in 2003 than in 2002, including a 29% reduction in assaults. Throughout this report, readers will see multiple references to the mall as the top hot spot for everything from car thefts to car accidents. It's important to understand that the mall is a hot spot simply because it's a mall, with more shoppers, gathering youths, and traffic than just about any other place in Danvers.



This April bank robbery, committed by a Maine man, was one of 20 robberies in 2003.

Analysis of Crime & Disorder

Murder

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

0 in 2002 • 0 in 2003

As in most cities and towns of Danvers's size, murder is a very rare phenomenon. There were no murders in Danvers in 2003; the most recent occurred on October 19, 2001 when a Danvers postman was bludgeoned to death in his apartment by an acquaintance.

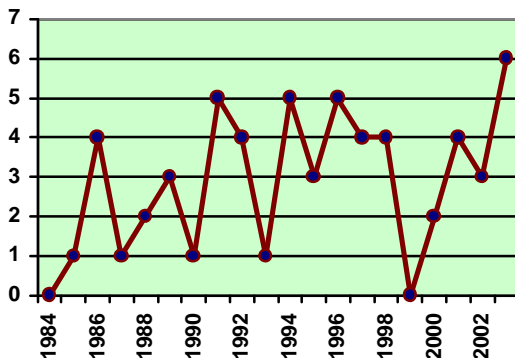
Until the 2001 killing, Danvers had not experienced a murder since 1992. (A highly-publicized 1996 mob-related incident in which body parts turned up in a Danvers car wash actually occurred in another jurisdiction.)

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.*

3 in 2002 • 6 in 2003 • 100% Increase

Rape, 1984–2003



Though rapes in 2003 were unusually high, it's important to understand that almost all rapes that occur in Danvers are "acquaintance rapes," in which the victim knows his or her attacker. Such was the case in all the rapes in 2003. All six incidents were cleared by Danvers Police detectives.

There are three trends evident among the 15 rapes or attempted rapes in Danvers over the past five years:

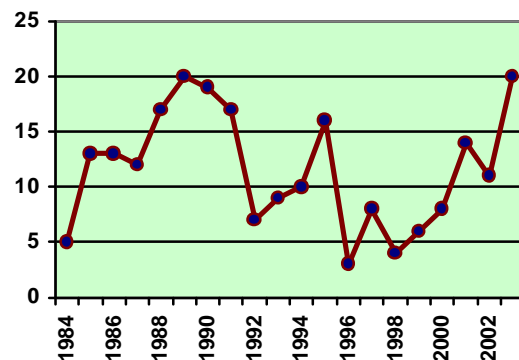
- 1) In five of the cases—or 33% of total cases—the victim has been a teenaged girl. Their assailants are invariably boyfriends or would-be boyfriends.
- 2) Four of the 15 incidents have occurred at local budget motels.
- 3) In seven of the 15 incidents, alcohol was a factor. In seven of these cases, the offender had been drinking, and in five of them, the victim was intoxicated.

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.*

11 in 2002 • 20 in 2003 • 82% Increase

Robbery, 1984–2003



Over the past five years, robbery has incrementally increased from the historic lows of 1996 and 1998. This year's total of 20 was the highest since 1989. This increase is one of the most disturbing trends to emerge during the past five years.

In this increase, Danvers is not alone. Figures are not available for 2003, but statewide robbery increased 11% between 2000 and 2001, and another 11% between 2001 and 2002. Among our neighbors, Peabody was up 38% in 2002 and Lynn was up 12% (Salem, though, decreased by 4%).

What's frustrating about the 2003 increase is that the robberies—80% of which occurred in the first six months of the year—exhibited no particular pattern. This makes future incidents difficult to anticipate and prevent.

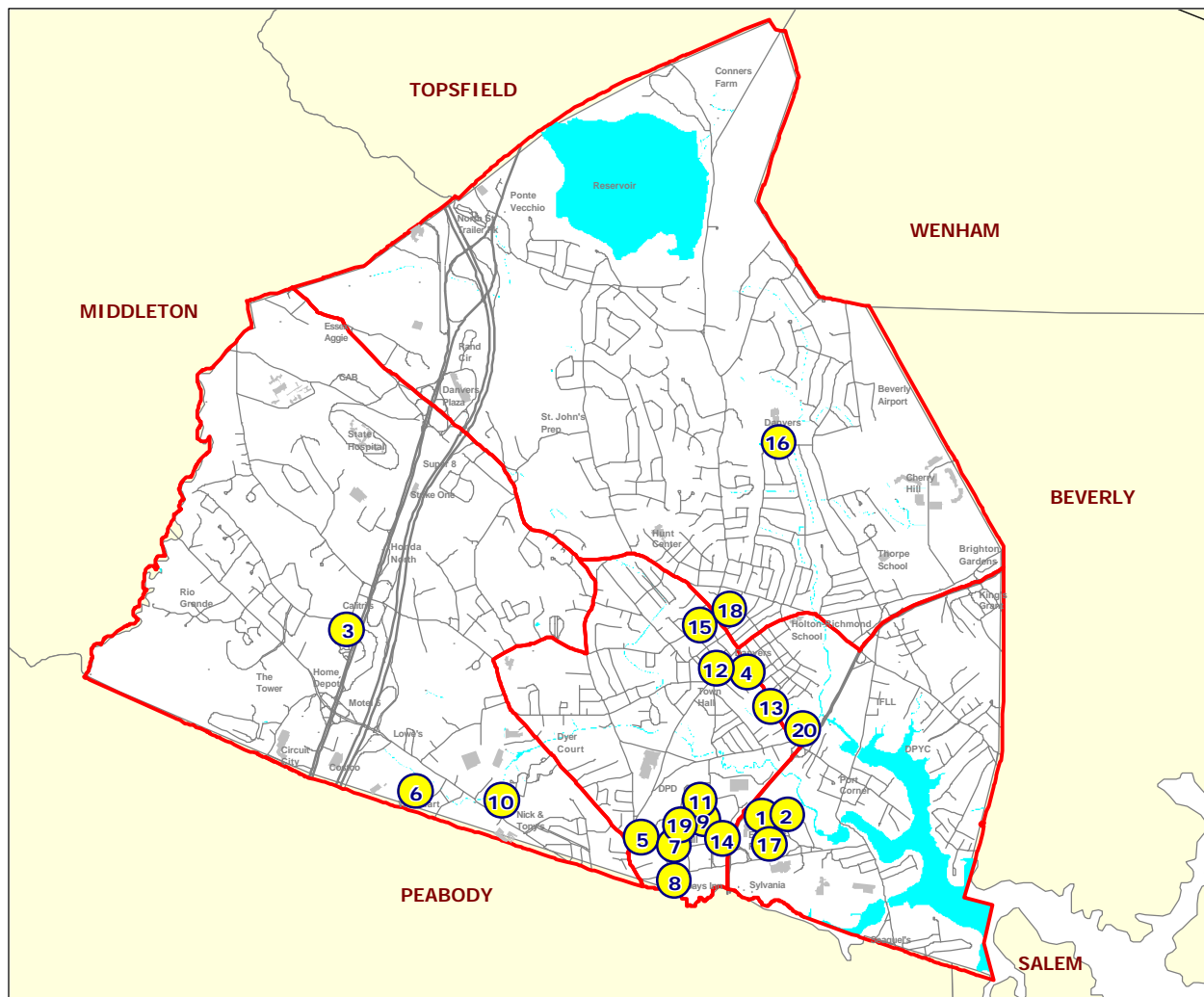
Individual robberies can be further sub-categorized into *acquaintance robberies*, *domestic robberies*, *muggings*, *purse snatchings*, *carjackings*, *home invasion robberies*, and *juvenile robberies*.

- Five of the robberies occurred at the Liberty Tree Mall. Though two of them involved teenagers strong-arming younger kids, the incidents were not related.
- The two purse snatchings on February 22—one at Wal-Mart and one at the Liberty Tree

- The gas station robberies on April 12 and October 31 may be related. In both cases the suspect was described as a white male in his late teens or early 20s, and both incidents occurred on High Street late at night. This series has continued into 2004, with robberies at the same gas station on January 27 and February 1. Peabody and Lynn have also reported robberies in this series.

- The map shows some obvious geographic clusters around the mall, Endicott Plaza, and Danvers Square. These areas are likely “hot spots” simply because they are centers for activity and commerce, and supply a large number of potential targets.

Robberies in Danvers, 2003



Map #	Category	Date & Time	Location	Weapon Used	Property Stolen	Notes
1	Individual—Mugging	01/03/03 22:03	Stella's Billiards 139 Endicott St	Handgun	Cash Marijuana	Drug-related. DPD eventually charged three men.
2	Individual—Mugging	01/17/03 21:40	BJ's Wholesale 6 Hutchinson Dr	Handgun	Cash	Victim was approached in parking lot by muggers in a Ford Escort.
3	Commercial—Hotel	02/06/03 21:27	Extended Stay 102 Newbury St	Gun (implied)	Cash	Suspect is a white male in his 30s with scarf over his face.
4	Commercial—Conv. Store	02/13/03 19:49	Village Food Store 37 High St	Knife	Cash Lottery Tkts.	Suspect vaulted the counter and grabbed items from lottery drawer
5	Individual—Other	02/19/03 20:29	Eastern Bank 4 Federal St	None	None	Drunk man got into victim's car, demanded money.
6	Individual—Purse Snatch	02/22/03 15:59	Wal-Mart 55 Brooksby Vlg.	None	Purse	Victim was loading bags into her car. Related to #7. Arrests made.
7	Individual—Purse Snatch	02/22/03 16:50	Kohl's 50 Independ. Way	None	Purse	Victim was in car in parking lot. Arrests were made later.
8	Individual—Mugging	03/12/03 00:05	Wendy's 188 Endicott St	Knife	Cash	Victims were in drive-thru when suspect wrenched open their door
9	Individual—Juvenile	03/21/03 21:39	Liberty Tree Mall 100 Indep. Way	None	Cash	Two teenagers strong-armed some younger kids. Arrests made.
10	Commercial—Other Retail	03/24/03 16:16	Joker's Wild 85 Andover St	Handgun	Cash	Male robber working with female who called store to distract emps.
11	Commercial—Fast Food	04/08/03 21:45	Orange Julius 100 Indep. Way	Handguns	Cash	Two gunmen entered through rear door while employee was closing.
12	Commercial—Bank	04/10/03 10:55	Fleet Bank 81 Elm St	Gun (implied)	Cash	Part of regional pattern. Maine man later arrested.
13	Commercial—Gas Station	04/12/03 21:44	Shell 79 High St	Handgun	Cash	Suspect handed clerk a \$1 bill, asked for change, pulled a gun.
14	Individual—Purse Snatch	04/21/03 16:25	Liberty Tree Mall 100 Indep. Way	None	Purse	Four suspects blocked victim in pkg. lot. Suspects later charged.
15	Commercial—Restaurant	04/26/03 21:58	Eighty-Eight 17 Hobart St	Handgun	None	Employees fled lobby when suspect demanded cash.
16	Individual—Juvenile	06/17/03 16:19	Danvers High 60 Cabot Rd	None	Watch	One teen jumped and robbed another while walking home.
17	Individual—Purse Snatch	07/17/03 16:03	Market Basket 139 Endicott St	None	Purse	Two susps. pulled 82-y.o. woman to the ground as she was entering
18	Individual—Carjacking	07/28/03 16:49	100 Maple St	Knife	2000 BMW	Woman asked victim for a ride, pulled knife, stole car. Arrested.
19	Individual—Juvenile	09/03/03 20:00	Liberty Tree Mall 100 Indep. Way	Knife	None	Two teens demanded a bb cap from some younger kids. Arrested.
20	Commercial—Gas Station	10/31/03 00:45	Exxon 100 High St	Knife	Cash	Suspect asked for cigarettes, pulled knife

Aggravated Assault

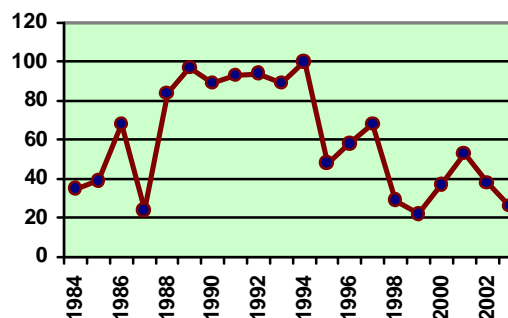
Aggravated Assault: *The unlawful attack by one person upon another wherein the offender uses a weapon or displays it in a threatening manner, or the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated injury involving apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injury, severe laceration, or loss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

38 in 2002 • 26 in 2003 • 32% Decrease

Statistics vary wildly for aggravated assault (from Over 100 in 1994 to only 22 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. We hope that the strong decreases of the past

two years have been real decreases, and do not represent victims who are reluctant to file reports.

Aggravated Assault, 1984–2003



Usually, we itemize the “random” aggravated assaults—ones committed against unsuspecting victims by complete strangers, for no apparent reason.

We had five of these “random” assaults in 2002. We are pleased to report that there were no such “random” aggravated assaults in 2003.

This year, 34% of all aggravated assaults were domestic, committed by and against spouses, boyfriends & girlfriends, parents, children, siblings, and other family relations. There were only nine such assaults in 2003, compared to 16 in 2002 and 2001.

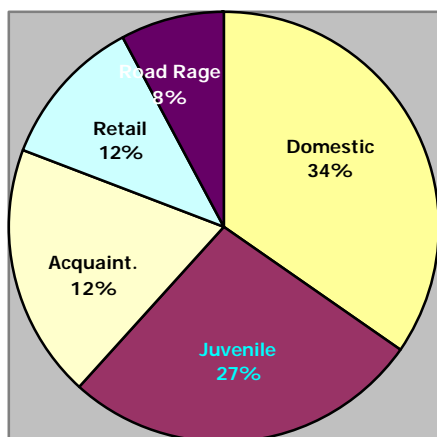
Aggravated Assaults by Category

Category	2000	2001	2002	2003
Domestic	9	17	16	9
Juvenile	2	9	2	7
Acquaintance	1	9	7	5
Bar Fight	1	4	2	0
Road Rage	2	4	3	2
Random/Stranger	4	6	5	0
Retail/Patron	3	1	1	3
Workplace	0	1	1	0
Other/Unknown	2	1	1	0

The only category to gain from the average was juvenile assaults. Within this category, the only trend involved two different cases of youthful house parties gone bad when uninvited guests arrived.

It is worth noting that both of the “road rage” assaults in 2003 involved handguns. Though no one was injured in either assault, the potential for deadly violence was there.

2003 Aggravated Assaults by Category



Only three of the 26 aggravated assaults this year resulted in serious injury to the victims:

- On September 15, a 17-year-old Danvers youth was shot in the arm on Dayton Street. The youth originally blamed a Lawrence man, but investigation revealed that the “victim” deliberately had one of his friends shoot him so he could blame it on the Lawrence man and get him in trouble. The

“victim” was later charged for filing a false report.

- On October 12, a 26-year-old High Street man strangled his wife unconscious during an argument. She later recovered at the hospital. The man was arrested.
- On November 1, a 26-year-old Lindall Street woman stabbed her boyfriend several times in the shoulder. The girlfriend was arrested.

Simple Assault

In contrast to aggravated assaults, “simple assaults” describe attacks involve neither dangerous weapons nor serious injury to the victims. Examples include a slap in the face, a kick to the shin, or a shoving match.

Though aggravated assaults decreased in 2003, simple assaults increased 9% from the average and 1% from 2002.

Simple Assaults by Category

Category	2000	2001	2002	2003
Domestic	53	59	59	73
Juvenile	21	34	31	36
Acquaintance	31	39	27	19
Bar Fight	3	8	4	4
Road Rage	7	15	7	5
Random/Stranger	8	11	9	2
Retail/Patron	10	4	8	6
Workplace	6	5	15	6
On Police Officer	2	11	3	6
Other/Unknown	7	6	3	10
TOTAL	148	192	166	167

Though decreasing in most categories, domestic simple assaults went up in 2003. A closer look shows that this increase is spread across all relationship categories, including intimate partners, spouses, parents, and children. See the later section on “domestic incidents” for more information and analysis.

Juvenile simple assaults, though not increased greatly from previous years, is still at its highest level in several years. Hot spots for these fistfights include the Liberty Tree Mall (11 incidents), Plains Park (5 incidents), and Danvers High School (4 incidents reported to DPD; probably others unreported).

There were 103 arrests for assaults of all types in 2003. 85 were men and 18 were women. Most (54) were from Danvers, 13 were from Peabody, and 10 were from Lynn. 33 of those arrested were teenagers.

Burglary

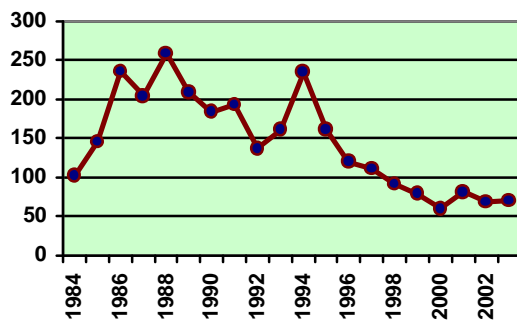
Burglary: *The unlawful entry into a building or other structure with the intent to commit a felony or a theft. Burglaries are also known as "Breaking and Entering."*

69 in 2002 • 70 in 2003 • 1% Increase

Burglary hasn't budged much since it hit a rock-bottom low of 60 in 2000. For most of the 1980s and early 1990s, Danvers's burglary total hovered around 200, but the crime began a precipitous drop in 1994.

The 2002 total includes 33 burglaries to businesses and 37 burglaries to residences. Both are close to the average for the past few years.

Burglary, 1984–2003



The map on the following page shows housebreaks clustering around Port Corner and around Danvers Square. Despite these geographic clusters, however, there does not appear to be a relationship between the incidents. Indeed, many of them were committed by a relative or neighbor of the victims.

Housebreaks are probably clustered in these locations because of 1) the high concentration of multi-family housing, which is usually more attractive to thieves; 2) the proximity of commercial areas—burglars hanging around these areas aren't as "suspicious" as they would be in an all-residential neighborhood; and 3) the proximity to major roads in and out of town.

There were a couple of housebreak patterns in 2003:

- On April 22, Danvers Police arrested a 31-year-old Lynn man—a career criminal with a long history—for a Cabot Road burglary, which the resident had interrupted in progress. The burglar admitted to a previous break on Lupine Road and another one in Marblehead.
- Three burglaries at the same apartment on Charter Street were traced to the niece of the residents. She was arrested in the apartment on August 7.

- A general increase in housebreaks in August and September included two on Mohawk Street and North Street that seemed to be related. Danvers Police suspected a 25-year-old Peabody man; the suspect was arrested for a series of Peabody burglaries.

The hot spot for commercial burglaries was Route 1 (Newbury Street) and the neighboring sections of Route 114 (Andover Street) and Route 62 (Maple Street). Targeted in this area were businesses, motels, stores, construction trailers, and all other manner of establishments. Like with housebreaks, the existence of this hot spot would seem to have more to do with the proximity of major highways and a high concentration of commercial establishments than with any pattern. No patterns or series were identified in this area in 2003.

Another "hot spot," near Danvers Square, actually represents four burglaries at the same location: Eaton Apothecary at 47 Elm Street. The burglaries occurred at intervals between March and November, but all of them featured the same *modus operandi* and were probably the work of the same person. A fifth burglary occurred early in 2004; Danvers Police are investigating.

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.

Of items stolen in housebreaks, cash was the most popular (13 incidents), followed by jewelry (5), and drugs (5). In 14 of the 37 incidents, the burglar was someone known to the victim. None of the housebreaks resulted in any harm to the victim.

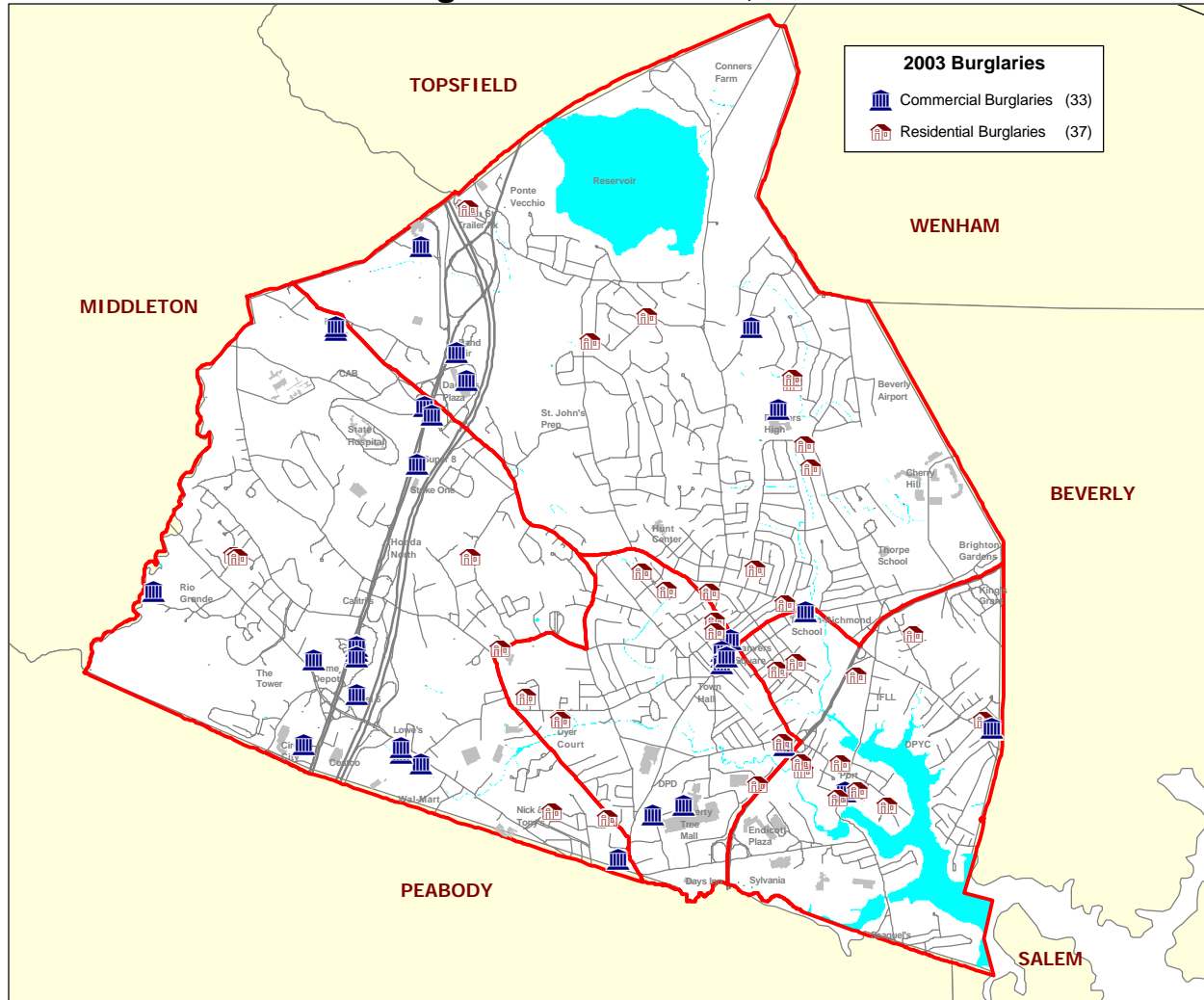
18 of 37 housebreaks—almost half—were made through an unlocked or unsecured door or window. 12 were made by forcing a door, and 4 by breaking or forcing a window.

In most commercial burglaries (22), entry was made or attempted by prying or forcing a door.

It's worth noting that in both housebreaks and commercial breaks, when entry was attempted but not gained, it was usually because the door lock held or because a window was locked. Strong deadbolt locks and window stops are your best defenses against burglary.

A review of the 178 individuals arrested or suspected of burglary since 1998 shows that they are most likely to be males (83%), under the age of 30 (72%), from Danvers (40%), Beverly (13%), Peabody (11%), or Lynn (9%).

Burglaries in Danvers, 2003



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.

347 in 2002 • 239 in 2003 • 31% Decrease

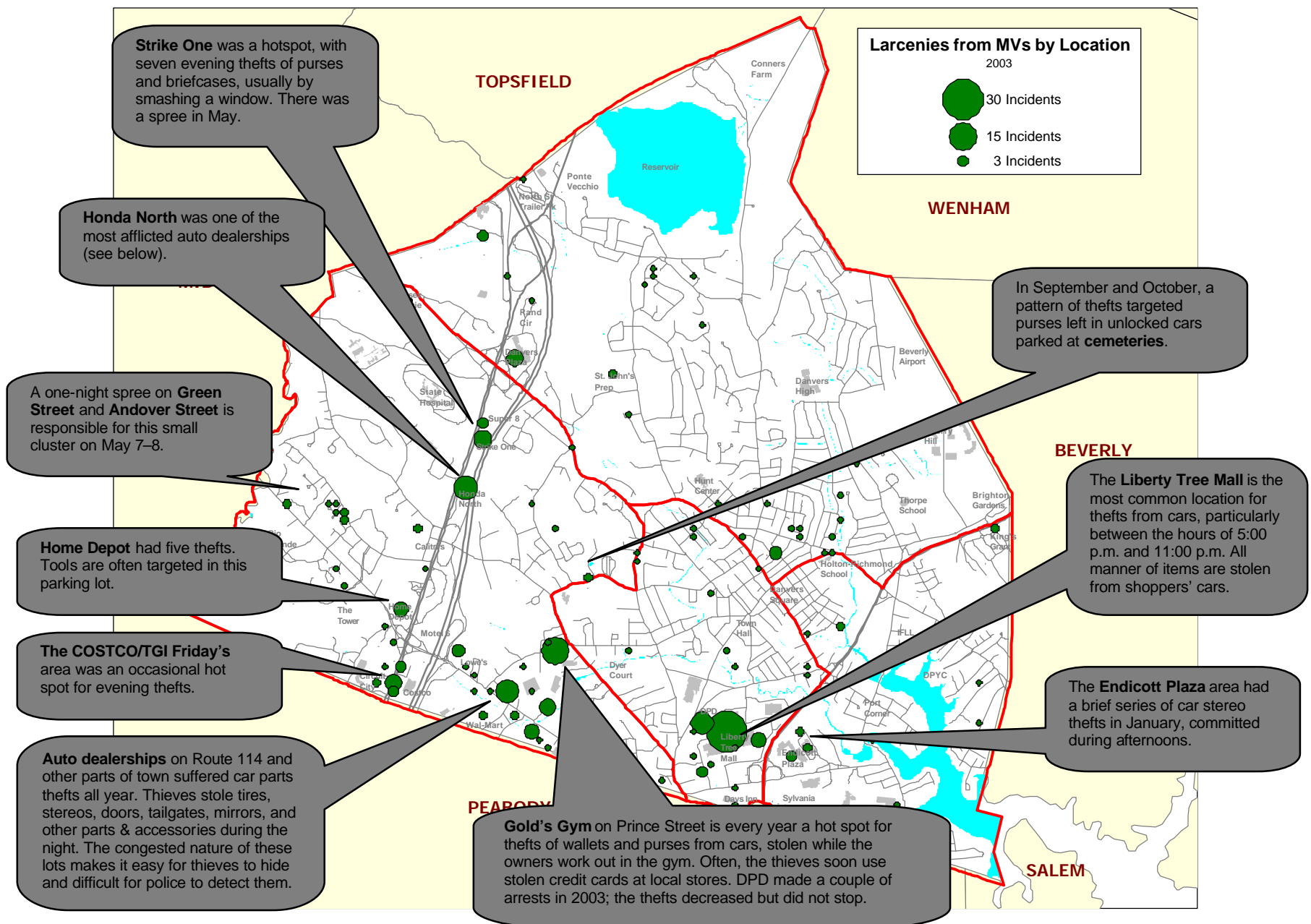
Several years of increases in this crime led to a peak in 2002 and then a sharp drop in 2003. It still remains one of the most common crimes in Danvers, and it is the most frequent crime to display patterns and series. As most larcenies from motor vehicles occur in commercial parking lots, this crime 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 128 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 (27%), Peabody (18%), or Lynn (12%).

Shoplifting

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

246 in 2002 • 214 in 2003 • 13% Decrease

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 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.

Locations with the Most 2003 Shoplifting Reports

Wal-Mart	55 Brooksby Village	50
Home Depot	92 Newbury St	39
Marshalls	100 Independence Way	16
Costco	11 Newbury St	12
Kohl's	50 Independence Way	11
Galyan's	96 Commonwealth Ave	8
CompUSA	35 Independence Way	7
Target	230 Independence Way	6
Stop & Shop	301 Newbury ST	6
Boater's World	100 Independence Way	5
Best Buy	230 Independence Way	5

As an example, Wal-Mart on Route 114 reported 16 shopliftings in 2001, 11 in 2002, and 50 in 2003. It is unlikely that Wal-Mart actually experienced more *shopliftings* in 2003; instead, the company credits a more active security director and staff for an increased number of *captures*. A similar reason is probably responsible for an increase in shoplifting at Home Depot on Route 1, which went from 17 reports in 2002 to 39 in 2003.

At the same time, captures at the Liberty Tree Mall stores have dropped dramatically. In 2002, 50% of all shoplifting incidents occurred at the mall; in 2003, that figure was only 19%. Best Buy went from 17 arrests to five; Marshalls from 34 to 16; and Sports Authority from 20 to two. Again, it is probably store policy and security activity that is responsible for these changes, not actual shoplifting incidents.

A review of the 1,306 individuals arrested or suspected of shoplifting since 1998 shows that they are most likely to be males (65%), under the age of 25 (66%), from Lynn (26%), Peabody (9%), Danvers (8%), or Salem (7%). 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.*

118 in 2002 • 103 in 2003 • 13% Decrease

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** (33 incidents in 2003). Employees' purses, coats, wallets, and other property disappears from back rooms and under front counters. Store property (including signs, plants, and decorations) disappears from the curtilage of the store.
2. **Restaurants** (11 incidents). Thieves prey on purses, briefcases, and bags left unattended while their owners dance, order a drink, or use the restroom. A pattern of these incidents hit Route 1 restaurants in November and resulted in the arrest of a New Hampshire couple.
3. **Health Clubs** (10 incidents). Gym-goers often find their property stolen from lockers. Credit cards are a favorite target; they are soon used at area stores.
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** (8 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; or from the exterior of such a residence.*

66 in 2002 • 60 in 2003 • 9% 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.*

39 in 2002 • 39 in 2003 • No Change

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. We saw several small patterns of this type of theft in 2003, at Stop & Shop, Market Basket, and other stores. Several arrests were made.



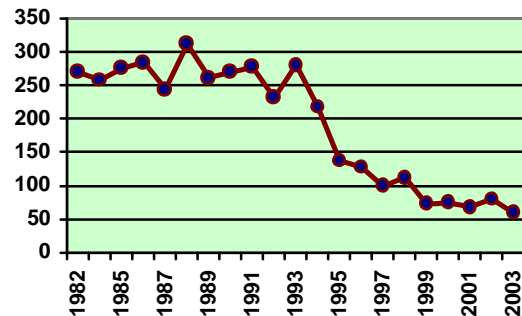
Auto Theft

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

80 in 2002 • 60 in 2003 • 25% Decrease

The continued decline in auto theft represents one of the best pieces of news in this report. The 2003 total was the lowest in more than 30 years. 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



33% of the cars stolen in 2003 were taken from the Liberty Tree Mall parking lot. The rest were scattered about town. There were four thefts on Route 114 and four on Route 1. No other street had more than a couple of thefts.

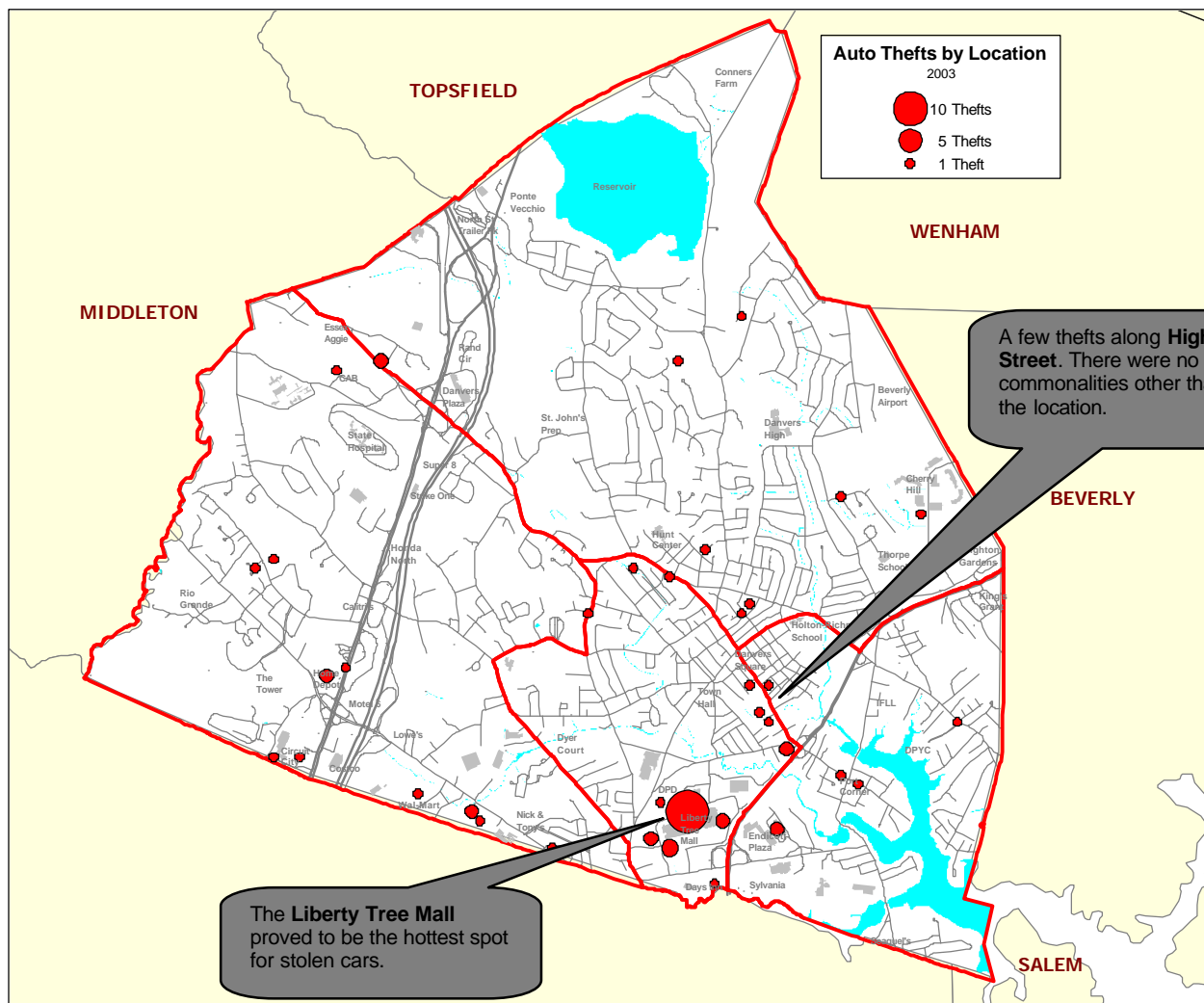
Like thefts *from* cars, thefts of cars are most likely in the evening hours between 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

In 2003, the Honda Civic was the most stolen car, with six thefts. No other make and model had more than two thefts. Over the past three years, the most common models are: the Honda Civic (19), the Honda Accord (11), the Mitsubishi Eclipse (7), the Toyota Camry (7), and the Jeep Cherokee (5).

66% of the cars stolen in Danvers in 2002 have since been recovered. This figure is lower than previous years, when more than 80% were recovered. The cities and towns supplying the most recoveries are:

Peabody	8
Boston	5
Danvers	5
Lynn	4
Lawrence	3
Lowell	3

Danvers Police recovered 33 stolen cars in 2002, only five 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.



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.

9 in 2002 • 4 in 2003 • 56% Decrease

Arson is a crime rarely reported in Danvers. For most of the 1990s, there were only a couple of incidents per year. That changed in 2002, when a 31-year-old Danvers man set at least seven fires around the town, including the one that destroyed the Danvers Butchery on August 12. He was arrested and charged.

Incidents in 2003 returned to fairly low levels, with only four. These were:

March 9: a mentally disturbed woman set fire to her sister's house by igniting a linen closet. It was quickly extinguished.

September 15: Two youths were reported trying to set a fence ablaze on Riverside Avenue.

September 20: A house under renovation on Liberty Street was set ablaze by a neighbor who thought it was an "eyesore." The neighbor was originally hailed as a hero for reporting the fire and trying to extinguish it. He was arrested.

November 10: Someone set a resident's Jeep on fire on Dimock Street. The owner put it out with a hose.

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.

337 in 2002 • 370 in 2003 • 10% Increase

Vandalism rose to uncomfortably high levels in 2003. The total of 370 is more than we've had in at least the past six years. In 2003, this high number was bolstered by a number of series and spree throughout the town, many involving juveniles. These included:

- During the summer, we took multiple reports of flowers, flower boxes, and plants damaged in Danvers Square by an unknown vandal dubbed "The Defoliator." The incidents occurred late at night.
- In July, windows at the Holten-Richmond School and the Thorpe School were smashed four times with rocks. Groups of youths were reported as suspects.
- A single residence on Popes Lane was vandalized more than a dozen times in January and February. The vandal broke windows of the house and car, threw eggs, and otherwise made a mess. A pair of suspects were eventually identified, but there was no evidence to charge them.
- In March and April, the windows of half a dozen Danvers businesses—most near Danvers Square—were damaged in overnight BB gun vandalism. No suspects were seen or described.
- On the night of August 17, a group of youths drove all around town, smashing residential mailboxes with a baseball bat. Six residents called to report damage, and there were probably half a dozen others that never filed a police report. Officers stopped and arrested three 15-year-old Everett boys for the crime.

Vandalisms in 2003 included 197 incidents of damage to automobiles, 81 incidents of damage to residences, 54 to businesses, and 22 to public buildings. The most common situational types were:

- Windows smashed on automobiles (usually in commercial parking lots): 69 incidents
- Tires slashed on automobiles (32 incidents)
- Automobiles scratched or keyed (29)
- Automobiles dented (22)
- Windows smashed at residences (21)
- Windows smashed at businesses (20)

A review of 533 individuals arrested or suspected in vandalism incidents over the past six years shows that they are overwhelmingly male (83%), and teenagers (72%), and from Danvers (50%) or a surrounding town (28%). 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.

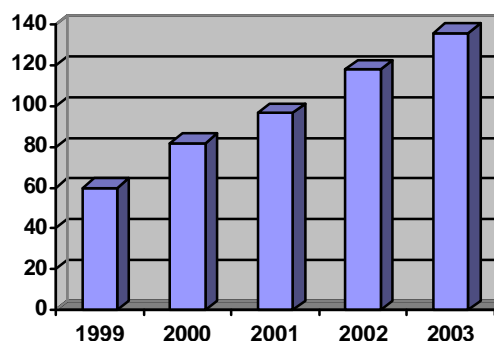
Fraud & Forgery

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.

118 in 2002 • 136 in 2003 • 15% 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	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Bad Checks	9	10	5	6	7
Forged Checks	5	6	7	17	27
Credit/ATM	18	21	44	43	50
Con Games	11	1	11	18	16
Counterfeiting	5	5	21	16	13
Identity Theft	3	8	8	17	18

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. In many other cases, the forged checks are stolen (along with purses) from cars.



Credit Card and ATM Card Fraud has increased steadily. Usually this involves credit cards stolen in other jurisdictions, used at Danvers stores. In the past two years, Best Buy, 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.

Many of these crimes could be prevented through better store security policies that require clerks to ask for a photo ID before accepting the credit card.

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 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.

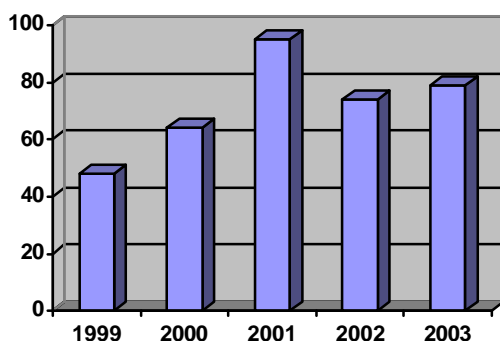
Drug Offenses

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.*

74 in 2002 • 79 in 2003 • 7% Increase

Drug offenses have dropped slightly after peaking in 2001. As the graph below shows, incidents climbed quickly between 1999 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.

2003 Drug Incidents by Drug & Activity

Drug	Posess.	Mnfctr.	Sale	Total
Marijuana/Hashish	48	1	0	49
Cocaine/Crack	9	0	1	10
Heroin/Opium	8	0	0	8
Prescription Drugs	9	0	1	7

All but three drug offenses in Danvers in 2003 involved simple possession.

There were three drug incidents reported at schools last year, both of which involved possession of marijuana by students. This is down from nine incidents in 2002.

Another eight 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.

23 incidents were the result of traffic stops for other reasons, in which drugs were discovered in the car.

A review of the 542 individuals arrested or suspected of in drug incidents since 1998 shows that they are most likely to be males (79%), under the age of 25 (75%--more than half are teenagers), from Danvers (32%), Lynn (15%), or Peabody (13%).

Drunk Driving

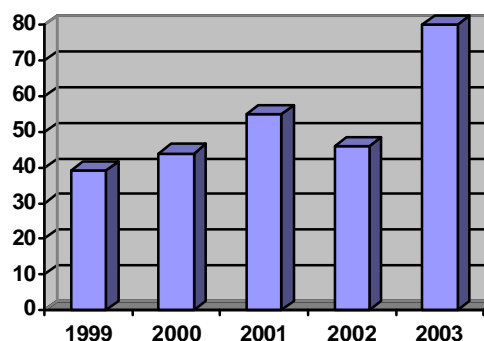
46 in 2002 • 80 in 2003 • 74% Increase

Arrests for Operating Under the Influence, or drunk driving, shot up by 74% in 2003, both from the average and from 2002. The 2003 total is the highest we've reported in at least six years.

The cause of the increase seems to be twofold:

- 1) More pro-active officer activity. On example: a single officer, who joined the Danvers Police Department early in 2003, was responsible for 30% of the arrests.
- 2) More drunk driving. Given that incidents of drunkenness and liquor law violations are also up, it's possible that more alcohol abuse is occurring in 2003 than in previous years.

Drunk Driving in Danvers



A few Danvers incidents from 2003 highlight the seriousness of this trend:

- On April 26, an officer stopped a 55-year-old man on Hobart Street. A liquor store clerk had reported the man drunk. The officer arrested him for drunk driving and found that he had 21 prior OUI arrests and 16 prior convictions. His license had been revoked since 1997.

- In March, a 22-year-old Rowley woman was killed in a motor vehicle accident in Saugus. Her blood alcohol level was .202—two-and-a-half times the legal limit—at the time of the accident. The woman had been drinking at Jumbalaya in Danvers before the accident. Jumbalaya later received a 30-day liquor license suspension for overserving the woman.
- In January, a 24-year-old Haverhill man drove up the wrong way on the exit ramp from Route 128 and ran into a truck head-on. He suffered serious injury and was hospitalized.

At least 28 motor vehicle accidents in Danvers in 2003 were caused by drunk drivers. Fortunately, none of them were fatal for the participants, but if this trend continues, our good luck won't last.

Noise Complaints

529 in 2002 • 422 in 2003 • 20% Decrease

In 2003, noise complaints dropped to their lowest level in at least six years, which is surprising given the increased construction and traffic in town that usually gives rise to such complaints. It's worth noting a few hot spots, however:

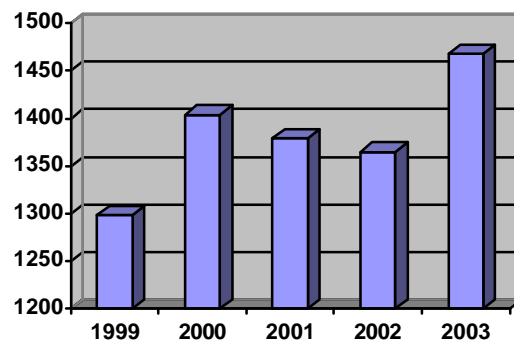
- A couple who moved into a trailer at 96 Newbury Street early in the year were a constant nuisance to their neighbors for more than six months. Danvers Police took 15 reports for blaring music at the trailer before the couple was finally evicted in the fall.
- Both Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse on Route 114 and Home Depot on Route 1 produce an identical problem: late-night deliveries and work bothering neighbors who live nearby. There were 11 calls to Lowe's and 10 calls to Home Depot in 2003, all for loud vehicles, clanging loading dock equipment, loud forklifts, and other work-related noise issues. Both stores had far fewer complaints than in 2002, however.
- A similar problem has taken root at the DiLuigi Sausage Company on Popes Lane. At night, workers load fresh sausages into refrigerated trucks, which must be kept running for the refrigeration units to stay on. These trucks have been too loud for some area residents, and 10 noise complaints were called in between March and September. There were no complaints during the last three months of the year, suggesting that the company found a way to solve the problem.
- Several Danvers motels had multiple noise complaints throughout the year, with groups renting rooms and holding liquor parties. The motel with the most complaints was the Marriott Towne Place on Route 114.
- There were a number of apartments that had multiple complaints regarding a resident playing a stereo or television too loud. In such cases, it's hard to tell whether the problem is: a) a resident who is actually playing a television or stereo too loud; or b) an overly-sensitive neighbor who calls to complain about every noise, however slight. Police try to strike a balance between the rights of individuals to not have their peace disturbed by loud noise, and the rights of the alleged "disturbers" to engage in normal activity.

Motor Vehicle Accidents

1365 in 2002 • 1468 in 2003 • 8% Increase

After two years of slight decreases, car accidents increased 8% in 2003, to the highest level in more than six years. This distressing trend is a consequence of both increased vehicular traffic in town and a winter with more snow and ice than usual.

Motor Vehicle Accidents in Danvers



Collisions account for 8% of all calls for service—the third most common call taken by the Danvers Police. At least 14% of collisions involve some injury to a person. Even more distressing, after a year of no fatalities in 2002, there were three accident-related deaths in 2003.

Most of the concern about traffic collisions involves pedestrian or bicycle collisions, of which there were, combined, 61 incidents in 2002. This is up from 39 in 2003. Danvers suffered its first pedestrian fatality in more than five years when a 72-year-old man was struck on the afternoon of December 23 on Sylvan Street. He later died in the hospital.

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.

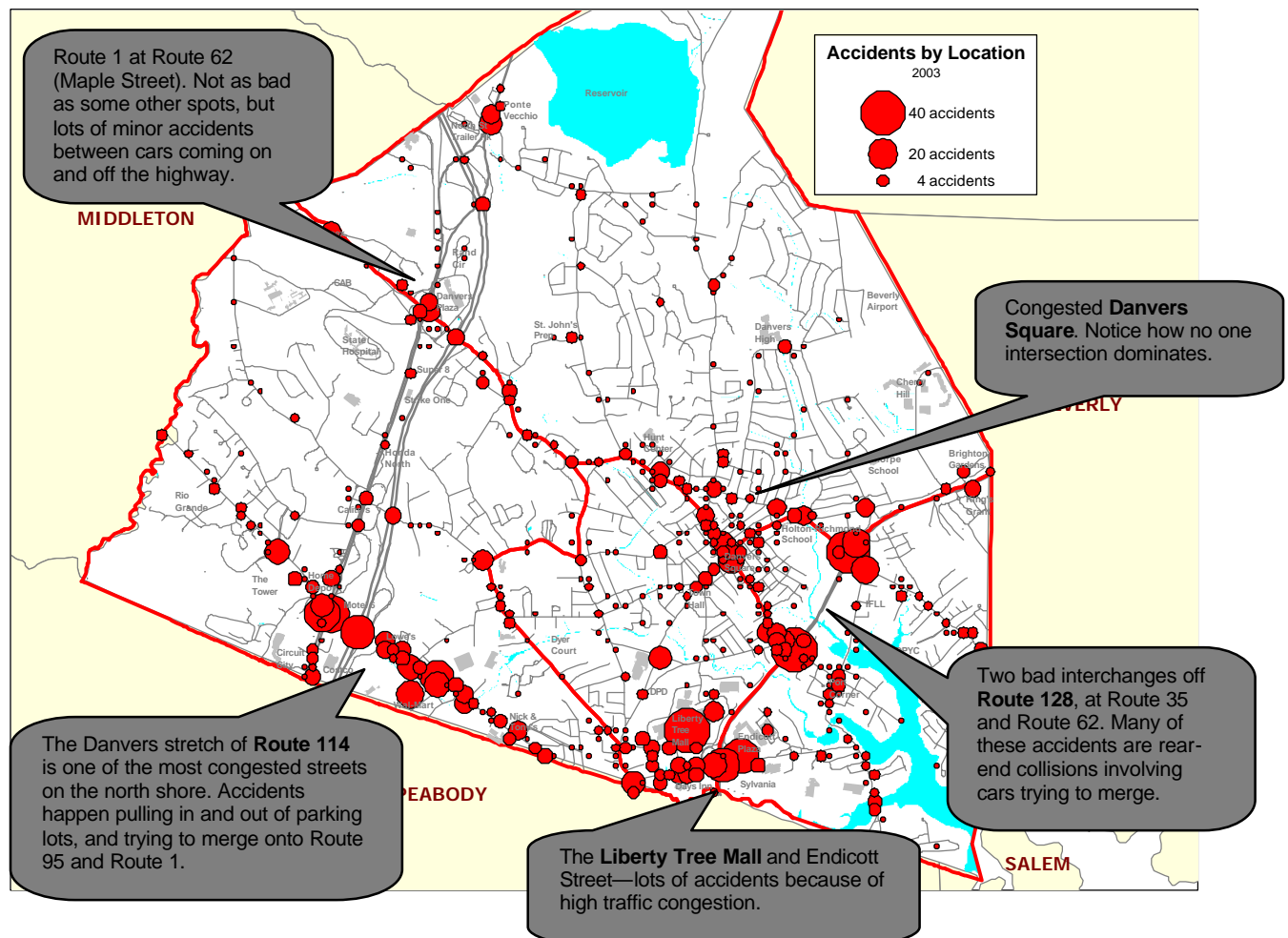
1998–2000 data from the Registry of Motor Vehicles, analyzed by the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau, shows that Danvers ranks seventh among Massachusetts cities in towns in its collision rate. Most of the communities in the top 10 share common characteristics: 1) one or more major highways traversing 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.
3. **Violations.** A small number of locations are hot spots because of chronic traffic law violations. This is rare because it is usually individuals, not streets, that “cause” traffic violations. Some locations, however, are more conducive to breaking the law than others. Drivers are more likely to speed on highways, for instance, than on residential streets. Some residential streets that unwittingly serve as connectors between one major route and another (Centre and Collins Streets are an example) may be more conducive to speeding drivers impatient to get where they're going. It is the mission of the police department to identify and enforce laws at these locations.



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 Edmund Plamowski, handles most of the traditional activities of a police department: patrol, investigations, prosecution, property & evidence, and special operations.

Lieutenant David Woytovich commands the **Services Division**, which oversees special community services, traffic enforcement, planning, grant administration, accreditation, juvenile programs, and public safety analysis.

The **Administration Division**, headed by Lieutenant Patrick Ambrose, deals with the physical and logistical operation of the department—personnel, scheduling, fleet maintenance, inventory, the armory, building maintenance, and records. Lieutenant Ambrose is also in charge of communications and dispatch.

The **Executive Officer**, Captain Neil Ouellette, 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.

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
- 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.html>**.

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. 118** 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 **dwoytovich@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. David Woytovich at **978-774-1213 ext. 126** or **dwoytovich@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. Woytovich 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
Cpt. Neil Ouellette Executive Officer	978-774-1213 ext. 129	nouellette@mail.danvers-ma.org
Lt. David Woytovich Services Division	978-774-1213 ext. 126	dwoytovich@mail.danvers-ma.org
Lt. Edmund Plamowski Operations Division	978-774-1213 ext. 128	eplamowski@mail.danvers-ma.org
Lt. Patrick Ambrose Administration Division	978-774-1213 ext. 121	pambrose@mail.danvers-ma.org
Sgt. Robert Bettencourt Court Prosecutor	978-774-1213 ext. 134	rbettencourt@mail.danvers-ma.org
Detective Division	978-774-1388 Fax: 978-777-0268	cgermano@mail.danvers-ma.org
D.A.R.E./Juvenile Officers	978-774-1213 ext. 130	djoyce@mail.danvers-ma.org
Public Safety Analysis	978-774-1213 ext. 119 Fax: 978-777-2376	cbruce@mail.danvers-ma.org
Records Section	978-774-1213 ext. 118	lhorn@mail.danvers-ma.org
On Duty Patrol Supervisor	978-774-1213 ext. 116	
Communications/Dispatch	978-774-1212	
Front Desk	978-774-1213 ext. 113	
Webmaster	978-774-1213 ext. 124	rlevasseur@mail.danvers-ma.org