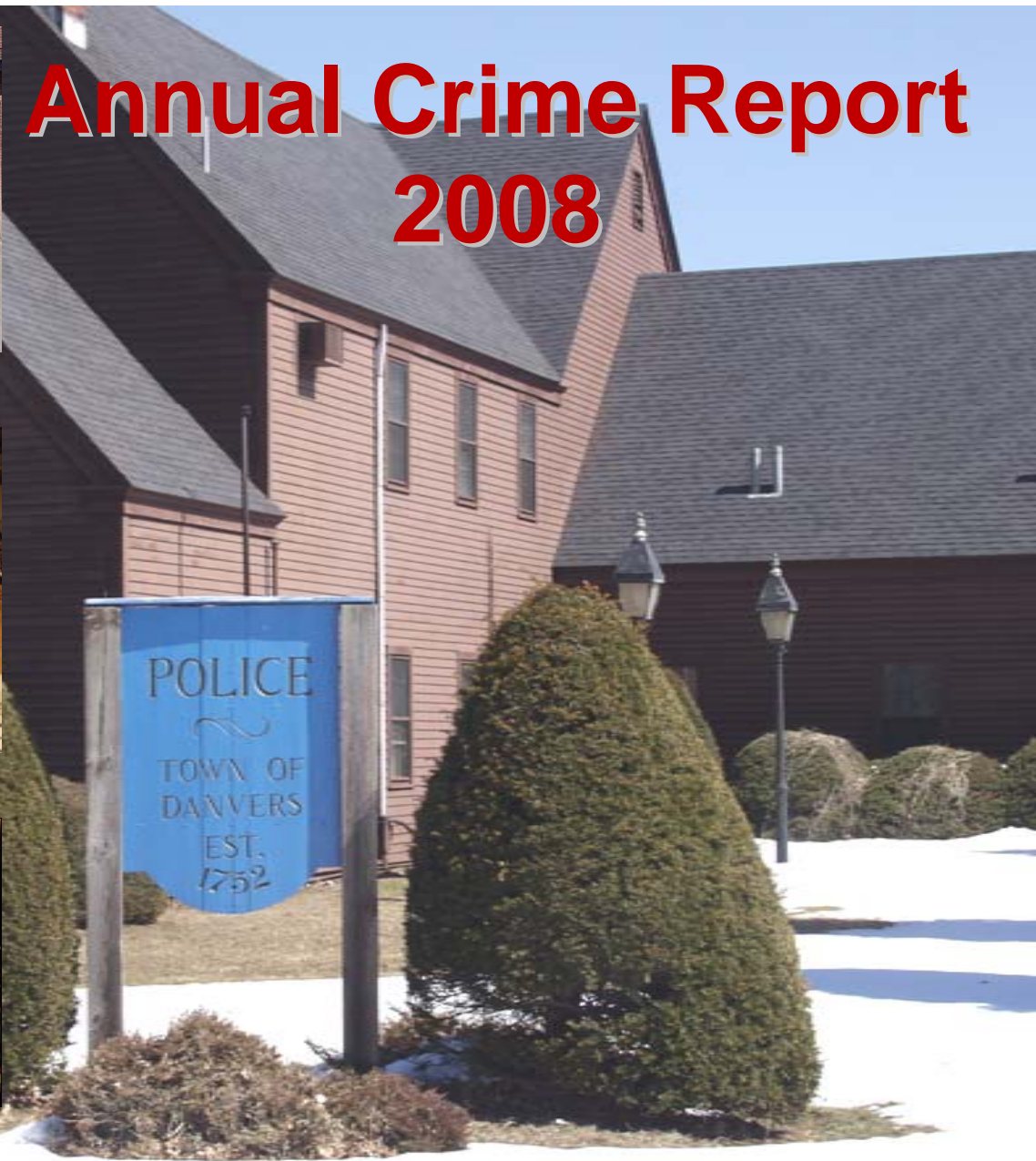




DANVERS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Annual Crime Report 2008



*A nationally accredited law enforcement agency
Presented by the Danvers Police Office of Public Safety Analysis*

Neil F. Ouellette • Chief of Police
Wayne P. Marquis • Town Manager

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Danvers Police Department 2008 Annual Crime Report

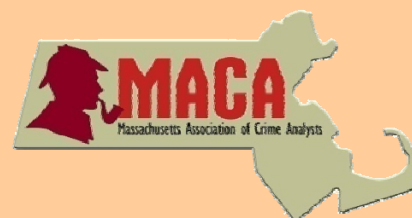


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A proud member of:



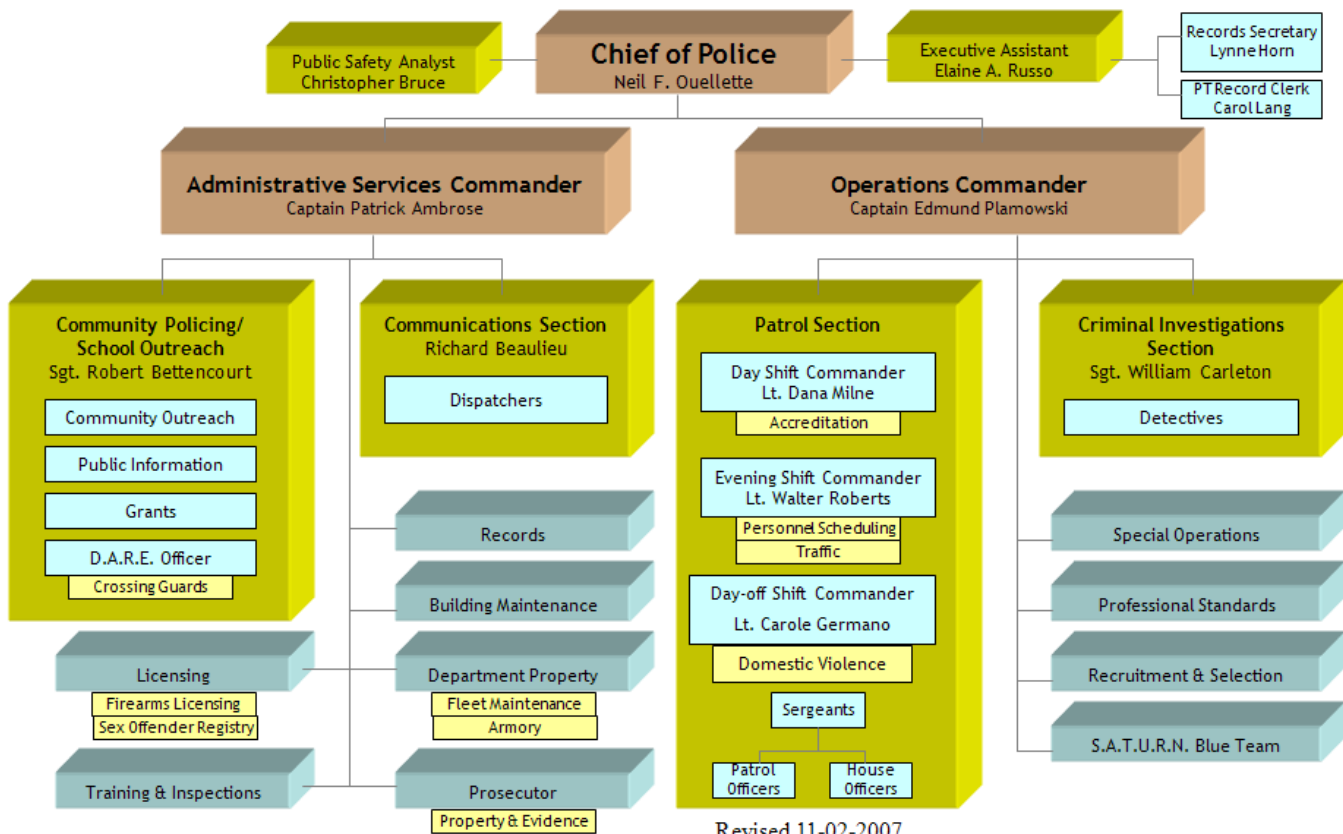
www.macrimeanalysts.com

DANVERS POLICE DEPARTMENT PROFILE

Organized: 1752
Population Served: 25,212
Sworn Officers: 48
Civilian Personnel: 13
Chief: Neil F. Ouellette
Headquarters: 120 Ash Street
Budget (FY09): \$5,300,797
Rank Structure: Chief
Captains (2)
Lieutenants (3)
Sergeants (8)
Officers (30) / Detectives (4)
Patrol Vehicles: 18
2008 Calls for Service: 16,139



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 municipal agency in Massachusetts to achieve accreditation (in 1986).



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



In a difficult economy, police departments everywhere are being asked to do more with less. In Danvers, the “more” is caused by our continuing growth; Danvers is an expanding town. Our increasing residential population was evident in a number of 2008 call-for-service categories, including psychiatric disorders (+20%), harassment (+12%), annoying phone calls (+11%), traffic and parking complaints (+3%), 911 hang-ups (+30%), complaints of noise (+6%), and medical aids (+10%). Many of these calls are coming from large apartment complexes, which is a policing challenge we have not faced before.

Although decreases in funding from all levels has put personnel, training, and equipment limitations on the Danvers Police, we still remain committed to continuous improvement of our services. Technology, in particular, allows us to work smarter rather than harder (or more expensively). These are some of the technological advancements we are actively incorporating into our operations:

- By supporting and contributing to the Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC) information portal, we help make it possible for communities to work on regional patterns and trends, identify offenders, and stop more crime before it starts.
- We used community policing funds to obtain electronic citation software and hardware from

Advanced Public Safety, Inc. of Deerfield Beach, Florida. This system will allow more efficient citation writing and eliminate much of the duplication of effort inherent in citation reporting.

- Internally, we have developed a low-cost Microsoft Sharepoint-based intranet, with which we can inform all members of the department about recent crimes, patterns, and trends, active warrants, missing persons, and other important matters that used to require inefficient paper or oral dissemination.
- We have been leaders in the development of a Regional Communications Center for our area. A \$6.8 million state grant was announced earlier this year for construction of this facility, which will combine dispatch and communications for multiple towns and provide a common records management system for all of them.

Technology can only get us so far. Real crime reduction, public safety, and problem-solving can only occur through solid partnerships between the police and the residential and business communities of Danvers. Our collaborations with liquor license holders, community service groups, the Liberty Tree Mall, and neighborhood watch groups have continually produced reductions in crime and disorder. This year, we will begin working more closely with hotel and motel managers and owners of businesses with problem parking lots. Time after time, such partnerships have shown that when it comes to effective policing, the citizens of Danvers are our most valuable asset.

A foundation of these partnerships is the open sharing of information. Whether they have a formal partnership between the Danvers Police or not, residents, businesses, organizations, associations, and groups can use this report to their advantage. It provides information on the latest crime and safety trends, problems, and methods of prevention. Please read it and provide your feedback to us; an informed community is a safer community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Neil F. Ouellette". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Neil F. Ouellette
Chief of Police

2008 CRIME AND INCIDENT STATISTICS

The following table summarizes crime and other incidents in 2008 compared to previous years. The notes provide a few words of explanation or point to other sections of this report that elaborate. The ↑ and ↓ symbols indicate incidents that are unusually high or low (based on the usual range).

Incident Type	Average	Usual Range	2007	2008	Change from Avg.	Notes
VIOLENT/PERSONAL CRIME						
Murder	0.4	0–1	0	0	None	No murders since 2006.
Rape	5.0	2–8	7	2	-60%	Down again after high 2007. No patterns. See page 34.
↑Indecent Assault	8.5	6–10	11	11	+30%	High for second year in a row, but no patterns and incidents unrelated.
Aggravated Assault	33.8	27–40	33	30	-11%	Decrease at the same time simple assault went up. See page 37.
↑Simple Assault	155.3	132–178	173	186	+20%	Assaults of all categories were very high in the fall. See page 38.
Robbery	10.6	7–15	11	9	-15%	Very low until sudden spate of them in Fall. See page 35.
Kidnapping	1.0	0–1	0	1	None	One incident involving an adult at a local motel; first since 2004.
Threats/Intimidation	95.8	76–116	96	82	-14%	Oddly low at the same time assaults were up.
Bomb Threats	5.4	3–7	5	7	+31%	Four were pranks scrawled on school walls.
Violation of a Restraining Order	38.3	28–49	30	46	+20%	Along with domestic assault, up in 2008 for first time in a while.
PROPERTY CRIME						
Residential Burglary	40.3	32–49	35	36	-11%	Fairly low most of the year. See page 38.
↓Commercial Burglary	33.7	25–42	25	24	-29%	Lowest in at least 11 years. Scrap metal thefts mostly gone. See 38.
↑Theft from a Vehicle	245.7	198–293	268	349	+42%	Several patterns propelled this to highest level on record. See 40.
↓Theft from a Building	106.1	95–118	89	82	-23%	Decreases in health club thefts and scrap metal thefts.
Theft from a Person	27.4	20–25	19	24	-12%	Nominal. A few incidents of pocket-picking.
Theft from a Residence	57.2	50–64	61	60	+5%	Normal volume and activity.
Theft of a Bicycle	22.5	17–28	18	26	+15%	Fairly high with one summer pattern in Danvers Square.
Theft of Services	22.1	16–28	23	16	-28%	Very low despite high gas prices in summer.
Shoplifting	264.6	220–309	305	273	+3%	Normal volume and normal types of activity.
↓Auto Theft	56.4	41–72	38	33	-41%	Lowest in decades; almost gone. See page 43.
Arson	2.9	1–5	1	1	-66%	One stolen car set ablaze on Route 114 in October. Otherwise nothing.
Fraud & Forgery	121.8	98–145	147	109	-11%	Odd decrease in a crime with a record of steady increases over last 20 years. See page 44.
Employee Theft	22.7	15–30	25	22	-3%	Normal volume and patterns.
↓Trespassing	39.2	26–52	16	16	-59%	Plummeted with destruction, renovation of State Hospital.
Vandalism	297.8	250–345	256	254	-15%	Low for second year in a row; few patterns. See page 46.

Incident Type	Average	Usual Range	2007	2008	Change from Avg.	Notes
SOCIETAL/VICE CRIME						
Drug Offenses	92.4	72–113	108	84	-9%	Back down after fairly high 2007.
↓ Liquor Law Violations	49.3	36–63	41	29	-41%	Absolutely plummeted. Hardly any house parties or youth drinking.
Drunk Driving	90.8	60–122	89	83	-9%	Normal. Some evidence that past enforcement is having an effect.
Prostitution	3.0	1–5	5	5	+69%	Growing problems at local budget motels. See page 27.
Indecent Exposure	8.4	6–11	6	11	+31%	A bit higher than normal. Odd collection of lewd incidents.
Weapon Violations	22.0	11–33	20	25	+14%	Higher than average with enforcement of new knife bylaw.
Dumping/Littering	26.1	22–31	29	25	-4%	Normal. Occasional problem behind vacant buildings on 1 and 114.
Child Neglect	16.1	11–22	14	20	+24%	Increasing cases of children left alone at homes or in cars.
DISORDER/QUALITY-OF-LIFE						
Disorderly Conduct	148.4	122–175	158	153	+3%	Normal. No particular patterns or hot spots observed.
Disputes	583.1	558–608	608	571	-2%	Normal despite growing trend of neighbor feuds (see page 24).
Noise Complaints	415.3	345–485	365	440	+6%	Mostly normal. Some developing trends at apartment buildings.
↑ Fireworks	41.7	35–48	36	52	+25%	Weird increase with incidents continuing throughout the fall.
↓ Drunkenness	167.2	148–186	140	110	-34%	Record low, with some past problem restaurants/bars cleaning up acts.
Vagrancy	16.7	9–25	8	11	-4%	Never much of a problem in town. A few sleeping-in-ATMs issues.
Youth Disorder	198.7	134–263	176	198	-0%	Exactly average. No new patterns or trends observed.
↓ Skateboard, Bike, & Scooter Complaints	117.1	79–156	79	68	-42%	Record low despite good weather. Reflecting inactivity among kids?
Suspicious Activity	891.4	812–971	926	909	+2%	Normal. No patterns or trends observed.
Psychiatric Disorder	113.5	83–144	142	136	+20%	Has been elevated for several years. See page 31.
Harassing & Annoying	48.3	41–56	51	54	+12%	Slightly high. Mostly acquaintance-related.
Annoying/Obscene Phone Calls	102.8	87–118	115	114	+11%	High for second year, reflecting increasing reports of text messaging.
TRAFFIC ISSUES						
↓ Motor Vehicle Accidents	1344.0	1279–1409	1286	1187	-12%	Lowest in a decade, reflecting benefits of enforcement and high gas prices over the summer. See 47.
Traffic & Parking Complaints	572.9	533–613	667	590	+3%	Normal volume with no new trends.
Criminal Motor Vehicle Offenses	592.1	358–826	385	377	-36%	Continues to be low for uncertain reasons.
↓ Disabled Motor Vehicles	639.7	566–714	535	443	-31%	Lowest in at least a decade, but for unknown reasons.
↓ Abandoned Motor Vehicles	53.2	40–66	37	33	-38%	Lowest in more than a decade, but for unknown reasons.
↓ Recovered Stolen Vehicles	27.1	17–37	18	11	-59%	Record low consistent with decrease in auto theft. See page 43.
↓ Dangerous Road Conditions	243.4	222–265	249	196	-19%	Usually caused by bad weather and weather was good until December.

Incident Type	Average	Usual Range	2007	2008	Change from Avg.	Notes
GENERAL SERVICE INCIDENTS						
↑911 Errors	277.9	239–317	305	361	+30%	Record high may be due to sensitivity of new 911 equipment.
↓False Alarms	2028.5	1807–2250	1777	1785	-12%	Low for second year but still highest call for service category.
Animal-Related Incidents	424.8	331–519	443	374	-12%	Moderate-to-low. No patterns like with coyotes and raccoons in 2007.
Check Well-Being	809.7	689–931	934	834	+3%	Normal.
↑Unattended Death	23.1	19–27	25	32	+38%	Record high in natural deaths may simply reflect growing population.
Fire Assists	85.0	67–103	77	68	-20%	Fairly low, but includes January fire that killed two residents on Lawrence Street.
↓Lost Property	160.4	136–185	160	92	-43%	Sudden plummeting in lost cell phone reports may reflect changing policies at cell phone companies.
↑Medical Aid	1504.8	1382–1628	1682	1653	+10%	Very high for second year, reflecting increasing population.
Missing Persons	67.8	26–109	44	35	-48%	Has decreased steadily every year since 2002.
Suicide or Attempt	16.1	11–21	13	21	+30%	On the high end, perhaps reflecting desperate times. All but one was unsuccessful.
Town/Utility Problem	246.1	183–310	315	290	+18%	High. Lots of downed wires and water breaks.
POLICE-DIRECTED ACTIVITY						
↑Traffic Enforcement	1134.0	810–2349	3423	3656	+222%	All-time high, due to new programs implemented in late 2005.
Warrant Arrests or Service	295.0	246–344	271	267	-9%	Nominal volume. Generally tied to overall crime rate.
↑Service of Legal Papers	362.3	273–451	534	662	+83%	Big increase reflects changing departmental policies.
Prisoner Transport*	259.5	218–301	273	277	+7%	Normal.
OVERALL TOTALS						
Total Calls for Service ¹	16314.8	15781–16848	16484	16139	-1%	Almost exactly normal. Increases and decreases cancel each other out.
Total Reported Crimes	2178.1	2075–2280	2166	2120	-3%	Also normal. Decreases in most categories balance increases in assault and thefts from vehicles.
Total Arrests	997.3	815–1179	890	835	-16%	Very low, reflecting primarily decreases in arrestable motor vehicle offenses.

¹ The Danvers Police Department changed the way in which it recorded directed patrols in 2005, and the way it assigns selective enforcement in 2006. Consequently, this total does not include directed patrols and selective enforcement. Past Annual Reports did, so these totals are not directly comparable to past reports.

DANVERS CRIME AND SAFETY PROFILE

In this age, when most people want to find out about a new subject or place, they fire up their Internet browsers and visit Wikipedia. Everything, from Ancient Egypt to molecular genetics to Darth Vader has a Wikipedia page. Danvers's page can be found at:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danvers, MA](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danvers,_MA)

From the page, we learn that Danvers was originally Naumkeag tribe territory, was then part of Salem Village, had a role in the witch hysteria of 1692, was incorporated in 1757 "the King Unwilling," and is famous for its onion and half-long carrot. The page lists our schools and notes our population at 25,212 in the 2000 census. Only a paragraph about the 2006 Danversport explosion suggests that Danvers is anything more than a quaint bedroom community on Boston's north shore.

Ask residents of Revere, Salem, Lynn, Malden, or other area towns about Danvers, and they'll tell you a different story. To them, "Danvers" is Route 1, Route 114, and Endicott Street. It is the home of one of two big malls to visit around Christmas time, a stretch of auto dealerships, and a place to get a cheap hotel room. For many north shore residents, it is the closest Home Depot, Stop & Shop, TGI Friday's, CVS, and Dunkin' Donuts.

From the 1960s, when the first asphalt was poured on Endicott Street and major commercial development began in earnest along Route 1 north of Boston, Danvers has been two places. To the residents, it is the Town of Danvers, characterized by its racially homogeneous middle- and upper-middle-class population, its single-family homes, grand historical buildings like Glen Magna and the Peabody Institute Library, and local recreation at Endicott Park and the Yacht Club. To others, it is the City of Danvers, characterized by a number of features that belie its "small town" demographics:

- A major shopping mall
- Six strip malls and shopping plazas
- Several industrial parks
- Two major U.S. highways (U.S. Route 1 and U.S. Route 95) and four high-traffic state routes (128, 114, 35, and 62).
- A harbor and several marinas
- Seven assisted living facilities
- 10 hotels and motels
- Part of an airport
- Three high schools—two public and one private
- Fifteen department stores
- Eight pharmacies
- More than 70 restaurants, pubs, and fast food establishments



"Danvers #1": tree-lined streets with single-family homes, stately historic sites, and community events



"Danvers #2": shopping, dining, lodging, entertainment, and industry

For years, policing in Danvers has been a process of straddling these two very different communities. A police officer might arbitrate dispute between neighbors over a tree, then race to the scene of a shooting at a budget motel. A detective might spend the first half of his shift staking out a small residential street, hoping to catch the guy that always parks in front of the fire hydrant, and then spend the second half of his shift making a major heroin bust in a 114 parking lot.

The problems experienced by the residential community are typical of many communities like it. There is sporadic domestic violence among specific families. Drug abuse and its related crime have taken hold among many teenagers, even from "good" families. Houses, though owner-occupied and usually single-family, are close together, leading to expected neighbor disputes and noise complaints. But none of these types of problems are unusually high in Danvers. Conversely, Danvers has very little "street" crime. "Muggings" are a rarity, occurring only once every one or two years. Sexual assaults committed by strangers are fewer than five per decade. Housebreaks are average for a community of our size.

In sharp contrast are the commercial and transitional populations. With the exception of Danvers Square, which is well-integrated into the local community, the residential and commercial areas attract more out-of-town patrons than local ones. The number of people (both potential offenders and targets) drawn to these areas creates a unique dynamic for the police. Our four major commercial zones—Route 1, Route 114, the Mall, and Danvers Square—account for 41% of all calls for police service and 56% of all crimes.

Crimes in the commercial areas of Danvers include copious thefts from vehicles in restaurant, hotel, and store parking lots; hundreds of shopliftings each year at retail stores; regular thefts of car parts from auto dealers; juvenile disorder and fights at the Mall; prostitution at budget motels; drug exchanges in business parking lots; and traffic issues of all kinds on our congested highways and state roads.

The types of crimes experienced in our residential and commercial zones have rarely overlapped. To take two examples:

- There were 86 thefts from cars at the Liberty Tree Mall between 2007 and 2008, but Ash Street and Abington Road—the two residential streets that abut the Liberty Tree Mall—had no thefts from cars.
- There were 124 crimes along the commercial section of Endicott Street in 2008 (between Sylvan Street and Needham Road). There was one crime along the residential section of Endicott Street (between Needham Road and Water Street).

Because residential and commercial areas of Danvers do not “share” crimes, there is a distinct contrast between the two communities that Danvers police must serve and protect. Any analysis of crime and safety in Danvers must keep this distinction in mind.

To this longstanding residential/commercial dynamic, a new element has been introduced in the past few years: the large apartment complex. Apartments have always existed in Danvers, including some moderately-sized ones like the buildings on Dyer Court. But only in the past few years have we spawned entire “apartment communities” such as Avalon Danvers at the old State Hospital site, Endicott Green on Route 1, Avalon at Cranebrook on Route 114, and the 240 Conant Street apartments. These buildings have collectively added over a thousand new residences to the Town of Danvers. More important, they have created new challenges for policing that are covered in the “Trends and Problems” section of this report.

In summary, Danvers is not simply a small, static suburban New England community: it is the economic, entertainment, and transportation crossroads of the North Shore. Parts of it are static and timeless, part parts are undergoing constant development and change—which, in turn, create constant change in the dynamic of crime and public safety. We will keep monitoring these changes and reporting on them in our *Annual Crime Reports*.



The Town of Danvers (rough outline) with major landmarks

HIGHLIGHTS AND NOTABLE INCIDENTS OF 2008

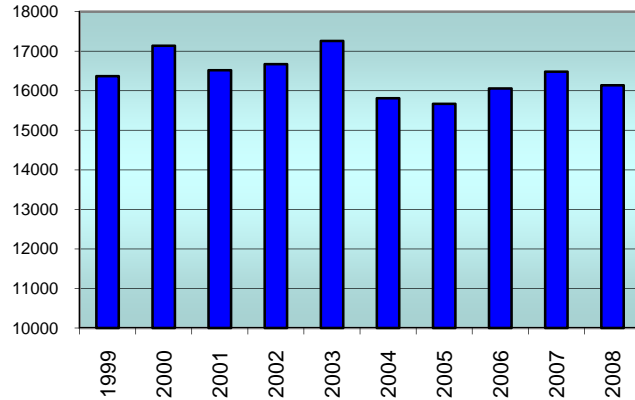
Highlights

Index crimes in Danvers have followed essentially the same trend as the rest of the United States: an increase in the 1980s, leading to a peak at the end of the decade; steady decreases throughout the 1990s; and fairly low numbers, with minor fluctuations, for the past nine years. Crime has been difficult to forecast since 2000: for three years it looked like it was going back up again, but then it bottomed out at 832 in 2005 only to climb immediately back up to the 900s in 2006–2008.

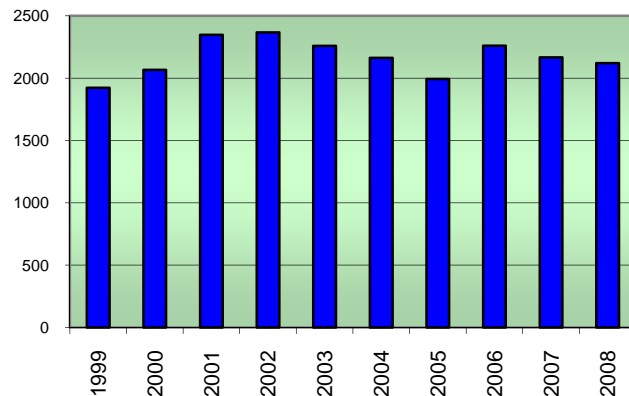
Index crimes aren't the only phenomenon to baffle us a bit. Overall calls for service peaked in 2003, then fell to an eight-year low in 2005 at the same time the town was experiencing significant residential and commercial growth. They still haven't risen very much. Given the number of calls to the new apartment complexes, in particular, one would think that we'd see a significant increase, but lower call volume in other parts of town have balanced that out.

Fueled by a new crop of energetic, pro-active officers, arrests hit an all-time high in 2004 and remained high in 2005, but the volume really wasn't sustainable. They returned to average from 2006–2008. Most of the lost arrest volume has been in the form of motor vehicle offenses, drunk driving, and liquor law violations. The decrease in motor vehicle offense arrests is partly due to police practice and technology issues, but the decrease in drunk driving and liquor-related arrests is, we think, a consequence of several years of intensive enforcement. Officers say that drunk drivers are harder to find, and parking lots where teens used to gather and drink are empty.

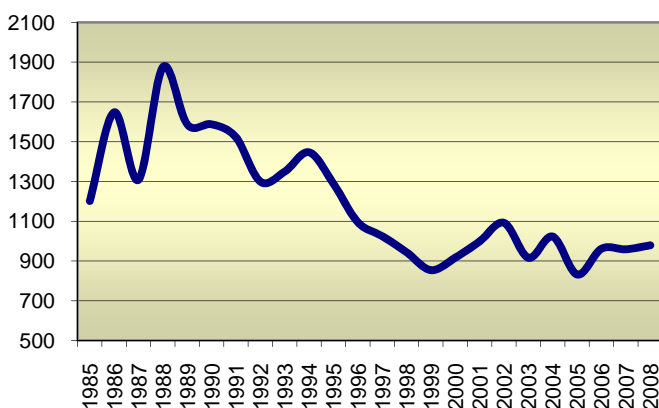
Total Calls for Service in Danvers



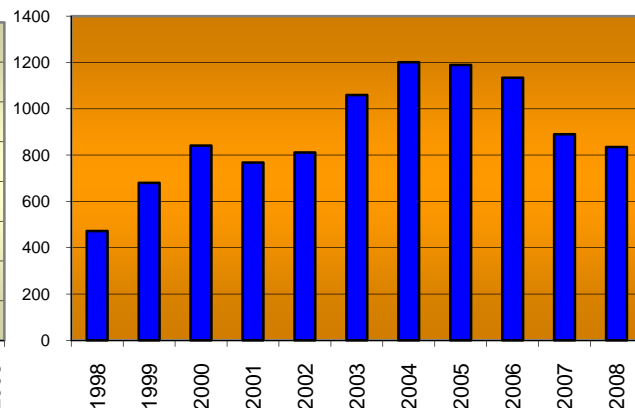
Total Crimes in Danvers



Total Index Crimes in Danvers



Total Arrests in Danvers



Notable Incidents and Events by Month

This section highlights the notable incidents, events, patterns, and trends that occurred in Danvers in 2008. A review of this section should give the reader a good sense of the types of crimes and disorder that Danvers experiences in a typical year.

January

January 1, 2008

Typical New Year's. It wouldn't be New Year's Eve in Danvers if a drunk driver didn't wrap his car around a utility pole, and this year doesn't disappoint: a 68-year-old Danvers man is taken to



the hospital and charged after a 9:45 P.M. accident on High Street. That, thankfully, is the only drunk driving accident of the night, but the rest of the evening will bring a stolen car at a detox center; a drunken domestic assault that results in the arrest of a 35-year-old Beverly man; a loud party in a Route 1 motel; an intoxicated 38-year-old Middleton woman harassing the night shift workers at McDonald's; and an altercation at a house party on Dayton Street. In total, we have 43 calls for service this night, almost identical to 2007 (40) and 2006 (45).

January 6, 2008

Route 1 Motel Chaos. In an incident that will portend a 2008 trend, officers respond to the Knights Inn on Route 1 at 3:30 P.M. for a report of two men wielding metal clubs and wearing bandanas who smashed their way into a guest's room. They seem to have gotten the wrong room, because they looked surprised when they saw the occupant and they fled. During the investigation, detectives arrest five motel occupants for prostitution warrants, possession of crack cocaine and heroin, and motor vehicle offenses.

January 16, 2008

Lawrence Street Tragedy. On the afternoon of January 16, an electrical fire engulfs a residence on

Lawrence Street, killing a 52-year-old woman and her 53-year-old husband. It was the first fatal fire in Danvers in over 10 years.

February

February 2, 2008

Store Robbery. In the first robbery of the year, a white male in his 20s or 30s, wearing a knit cap, brazenly tries to walk out of CVS on Route 1 with a basketful of DVDs. When an employee tries to block him, he pulls out a box cutter, orders her away, and flees in a green four-door Toyota Tercel.

February 18, 2008

Motel Party. Officers respond to a fire alarm at the Days Inn on Endicott Street and find two teenage girls from Salem hosting a party for a couple dozen friends, complete with alcohol and marijuana. The girls were both arrested, along with a Lynn man.

Domestic "Shooting". In the only "shooting" of the year, a 24-year-old Pickering Street man pulls a handgun on his girlfriend during an argument about money and fires it into the wall of his house. She fled and called the Danvers Police, who surrounded the house, got the man to surrender, and arrested him. A subsequent search warrant turned up a firearm, ammunition, and crack cocaine.



March

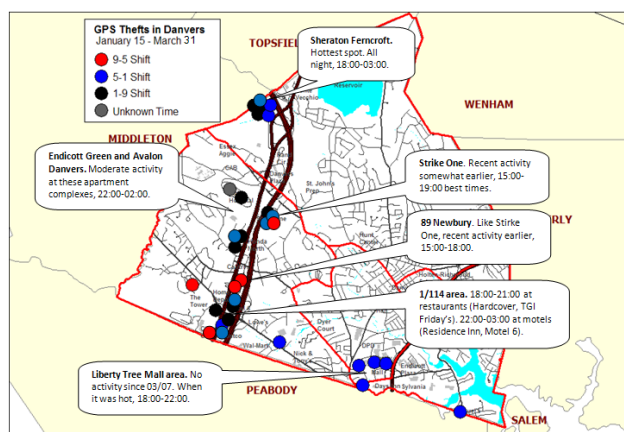
March 11, 2008

Arrest in Planet Fitness Thefts. A pattern of six thefts from lockers and cars at Planet Fitness on Route 1 is diminished by the arrests in Cambridge of a 24-year-old Somerville man and a 21-year-old Medford woman. We believe the two were responsible for six thefts at Planet Fitness since December 2007. The incidents were concentrated in the evenings on Mondays and Tuesdays. The thieves would steal wallets with credit cards and use them in Saugus and other points south. There were similar patterns at the same location in 2006 and 2007.

April

April 1, 2008

GPS Thefts Rampant. We are in the midst of a major GPS theft pattern, with 34 thefts since January 15. The overwhelming concentration is on Route 1, with multiple thefts in hotel, restaurant, and apartment parking lots. The thieves are striking in the evening and overnight hours, leaving shattered windows behind. Although intensive directed patrols will eventually drive the current pattern away later in the spring, Route 1 will continue to be a hot spots for thefts from vehicles all year.



April 12, 2008

Juvenile Drinking Party. In one of the only drinking parties at a house this year, officers find some 40 teenagers hiding in a Greenleaf Drive resident with a cooler of liquor. The 18-year-old resident throwing the party was charged.

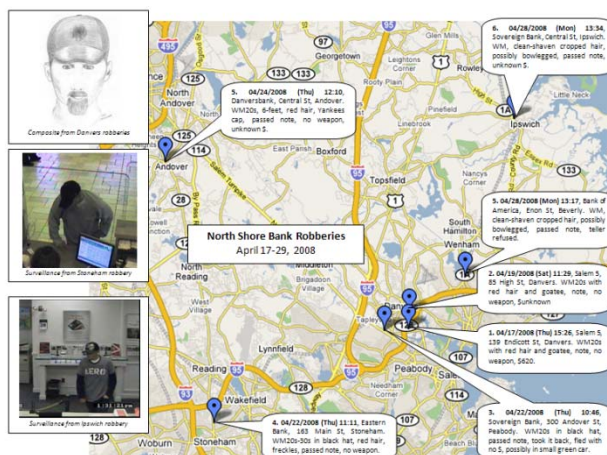
April 17, 2008

Problem Resident Arrested. For the last few years, Danvers Police have been wrestling with problems associated with mental illness, including delusions and paranoia. Often, the same person is responsible for dozens of police responses. This year, our most prolific individual is a 51-year-old woman living at an apartment complex who calls police more than one hundred times between December 2007 and August 2008 with various hallucinations and complaints. On this date, she threatens to kill herself. When officers and EMS personnel respond to her apartment to check on her, she climbs out on her balcony, threatens to jump, but is eventually convinced to return inside. She ultimately moves out of Danvers during the summer.

April 19, 2008

Bank Robbery Series. On April 17 and April 19, Danvers experiences two robberies in a north shore series, ultimately totaling eight incidents before the

suspects—a 28-year-old Peabody man and a 28-year-old Saugus man—are arrested in Nashua, New Hampshire in May. The robbers passed notes to tellers but never showed a weapon. The Danvers incidents are at the Salem Fives on Endicott Street and High Street. They are our only bank robberies of the year.



April 26, 2008

Prostitution at Days Inn. In an incident indicative of a growing trend, officers note a steady stream of men coming and going from a Days Inn room rented by a 27-year-old Lynn woman. They stop one and he admits to having responded to a “massage services” advertisement on Craig’s List.

craigslist

May

May 8, 2008

Residential Thefts from Cars. On a single night, a 32-year-old Danvers man breaks into about a dozen vehicles in their driveways in the Pine Street area. Officers arrest him leaving the scene of one of his crimes, recovering nail guns, saws and blades, change, tools, and other small items he stolen. It is one of several one-night sprees to plague Danvers in 2008.

May 27, 2008

Circuit City Shoplifting. Three times this month, a man in his 20s brazenly enters Circuit City, hefts up a large-screen television, and carries it right out the front door. On his fourth visit, in the middle of an attempt to do the same thing with a surround-sound system, an employee scares him away. He is never identified.



Magazine Solicitors. Complaints of suspicious magazine solicitors are light this spring, with less than half a dozen calls, but Danvers Police are on extra high alert after one such solicitor is arrested for a sexual assault in a nearby town.

May 31, 2008

Fit at the Mall. In one of the more baffling incidents of the year, a 43-year-old Peabody woman shows up at GameStop in the Liberty Tree Mall intoxicated, at 4:30 in the afternoon, with her 8-year-old son in tow. She screams at the staff and throws games at the manager. Mall security responds, and she shoves a security officer to the ground, knocking him unconscious. Officers find her using a telephone in the food court, and she strikes an officer with the phone receiver. She is arrested and physically carried out of the Mall, screaming and struggling the entire time, while horrified patrons look on.

June

June 6, 2008

Why Movie Ticket Prices Are So High.

Between May 15 and June 6, a film building sets for *The Proposal*, an upcoming Sandra Bullock film, suffers five thefts from their Water Street location, including over \$10,000 in electrical cable, a 2006 Ford truck (never recovered), and six LCD televisions. Meanwhile, in Gloucester, a drunk driver strikes Bullock's SUV (she was uninjured). The north shore film industry doesn't have a good year.

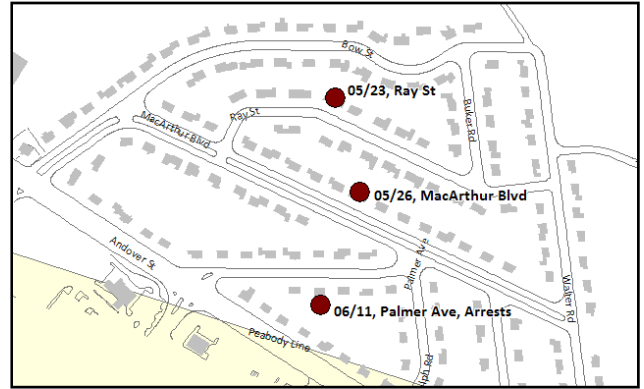


June 12, 2008

GPSes Stolen at TGI Friday's. In a daring one-evening spree, a thief smashes the window of four cars in the TGI Friday's parking lot on Route 1 and steals GPS units from each one, while the owners dine obliviously inside.

June 13, 2008

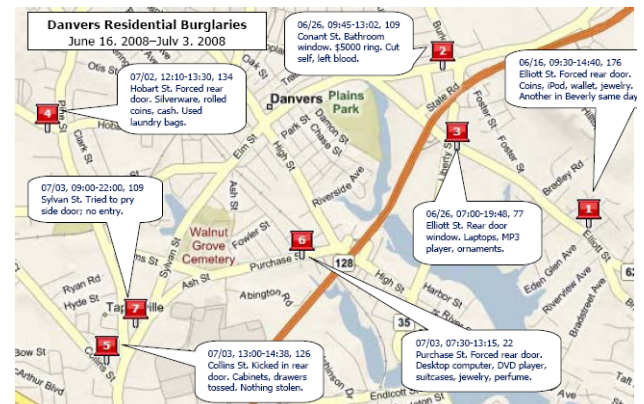
Utility Vehicles Targeted. Over the course of three weeks, we take reports of four thefts from vans, with tools and copper targeted. They occur in the early morning hours from residential driveways, with three of them near MacArthur Boulevard. They stop after an officer stops a suspicious vehicle and questions the occupants, a 21-year-old man from Saugus and a 22-year-old man from New Jersey.



July

July 3, 2008

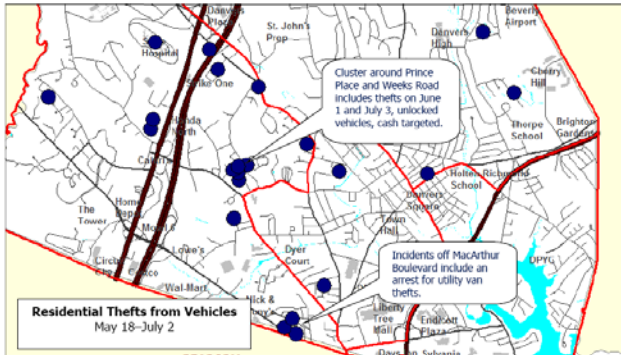
Three residential burglaries. During this day, three residential burglaries are reported in the Purchase/Ash Street area during the middle of the day. The burglar forced doors and took electronics and jewelry. These are believed to be the fourth, fifth, and sixth incidents in a series that started on June 16 on Elliott Street. Beverly Police produce a possible suspect lead, but ultimately the pattern ends without any arrest.



Typical Fireworks Festival. The annual Danvers Family Festival, capped with the July 3 fireworks show, goes off without major incident. There are nine arrests for motor vehicle offenses, drunk driving, and various types of disorderly conduct and drunkenness. Fortunately, there are no assaults as occurred in 2007, when a young teenager suffered a broken jaw, nor are there any arrests for drug violations. Overall arrests and incidents are comparable to previous years.



Thefts from Residential Driveways. Danvers is in the midst of a pattern of thefts from cars in residential driveways, with about two dozen over the past two months. Most of the cars are unlocked, and several have occurred in clusters of one-night sprees. The pattern eventually dwindles away with no arrests or suspects.



July 16, 2008

Rage against the Corporation. A 53-year-old Boxford man becomes enraged when Target refuses his return of two vacuum cleaners and tries to steal new ones. When a security guard follows him, he threatens to kill the guard and hurls one of the vacuums across the store, destroying it. Danvers Police officers arrest him on scene.

July 29, 2008

Stabbing Among Friends. In one of the more serious assaults of the year, a 22-year-old Danvers man stabs his 23-year-old friend in the back with a pair of scissors after the two get into an argument while walking down North Putnam Street. The victim also suffers cuts to his arm and hand. The assailant is arrested on scene.

July 30, 2008

Thefts from Cars at the Mall. As mid-summer nears, the Liberty Tree Mall is heating up again with thefts from cars, with seven this month. They are scattered along the Endicott Street side of the mall, from Target to Dick's Sporting Goods, with entry made by smashing a window. Stereo systems are the most commonly stolen item, followed by GPS devices. The pattern will continue through August, ending only with the August 26 arrest of a 37-year-old man and a 33-year-old woman, both from Lawrence, after an evening of three thefts.

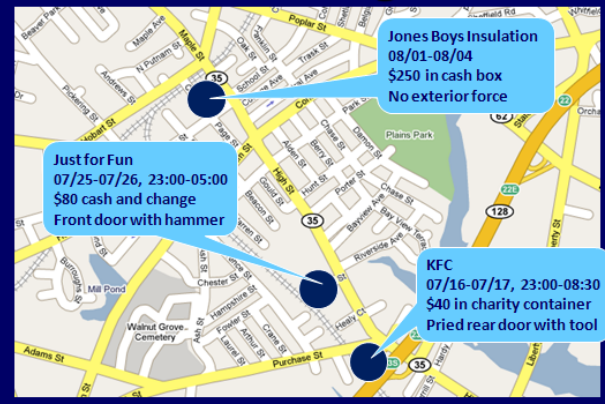
August

August 4, 2008

Commercial Burglary Pattern. A pattern of three commercial burglaries hits the High Street area between July 16 and August 4, with entry into

three businesses near the railroad tracks. The burglar targets cash and forces entry with a tool. The pattern ends with no arrests or suspects.

Commercial Burglaries



August 15, 2008

Road Ruckus. At about 9:00 P.M. this evening, an officer comes upon an intoxicated 30-year-old Lynn man pushing his truck, out of gas, down the street. In the middle of investigating the situation, the man jumps in his truck, manages to start it, and speeds off. He nearly strikes several cars in his flight, goes through a red light, and smashes into a van in Danvers Square, injuring the other vehicle's occupants. He gets out and tries to flee but is tackled by bystanders and held until the officer catches up. Heroin is found on him during booking. He is charged with 13 violations, including drunk driving, possession of heroin, leaving the scene of an accident, driving with a revoked license, and failure to stop for police.

September

September 2, 2008

Bicycle Theft Pattern. Danvers is in the middle of a spike in bicycle thefts, occurring primarily around Danvers Square, where seven have been stolen in the last 45 days. Other bicycles, stolen from nearby towns, have been recovered in the same area. Because of the nature of the pattern and one suspect description, we suspect a local teenager using the bicycles for short-term transportation. The pattern dwindles away during September.



September 3, 2008

Metal Thefts. Thefts of copper and other metals are fairly light this year (see the next section), but this night is one exception. Around 4:00 A.M., thieves let themselves into a construction site on Endicott Street and spend over an hour loading up with more than \$300,000 in tools, copper wire, and copper pipe. Video shows a white van entering the site, but it is our only clue and the case is never solved.



September 8, 2008

Suicide. In our only successful suicide of the year, a 25-year-old Lowell man, struggling with depression and substance abuse, hangs himself in his Motel 6 room.

September 12, 2008

Motel Party Broken Up. In what will be a rare occurrence in 2008, police are summoned to the Residence Inn on Route 1 for a noise complaint. They find between 25 and 30 teenage boys and girls in a single room, drinking alcohol. A 17-year-old Everett boy and a 19-year-old Saugus boy are arrested for disorderly conduct and the host of the party—a 17-year-old Saugus girl—is summoned to court. Parents are notified to come pick up the rest.

September 14, 2008

Assault by Sexual Predator. At 1:50 A.M., one of the more chilling incidents of the year occurs when a man in his 20s, driving an older-model Toyota or Honda, pulls up next to a 27-year-old woman riding her bike down Elliott Street. He offers her a ride, provided she'll sleep with him. As she declines, he bumps her bicycle with his car, causing her to run into a stone wall and suffer a fractured skull.

September 15, 2008

Juvenile Assault. Youths watching television and movie actors blithely punching each other often fail to realize the damage a single punch can do. Today, two 14-year-old Danvers High School students learn this the hard way when they get into a dispute after football practice. One punches the other in the face, breaking his eye socket and causing injuries that will only be repaired with multiple surgeries. The assailant is charged with assault and battery with serious bodily injury.

October

October 1, 2008

Peabody/Danvers Housebreak Pattern. The fifth residential burglary occurs in a pattern shared

by Danvers and Peabody. The incidents are happening close to Route 114, during the day, in the middle of the weeks, with jewelry stolen. In the two incidents in Danvers, the burglar—a tall white male in his 20s—is interrupted by the homeowner returning home. This perhaps scares him for a while, as there are no further burglaries in the pattern, although another one on December 10, resulting in the arrest of a 27-year-old Danvers man, fits the same basic mold.



Tire and Rim Thefts.

Multiple tires and rims are stolen from new cars at three different dealerships, three weeks in a row. Officers perform directed patrols in the lots, and the pattern dwindles away.



October 9, 2008

Truck Arson. In the only arson of the year, someone breaks into a Peabody business, steals a truck, drives it to Lowe's in Danvers, parks it in the rear lot, and sets it on fire. The investigation focuses on a disgruntled ex-employee.

October 14, 2009

Convenience Store Robbery. It has been four months without a robbery in Danvers. The streak ends tonight, when white male in his 20s or 30s enters the White Hen Pantry on Route 1 talking on his cell phone. He then suddenly shoves a female clerk over the cash register, brandishes a knife, forces her to open the register, and steals the cash inside. He flees in a gray BMW or Acura with a female driving.

October 18, 2009

Armored Car Robbery. Just four days after the last robbery, another one occurs at Endicott Plaza, when a tall, thin white male in his late teens or early 20s shoves an armored car driver carrying a bag of deposits, steals the bag, and runs away on foot.

October 22, 2008

Hefty Housebreak. In the highest dollar-value housebreak of the year, two white males in their 20s climb up onto the rear porch of a Locust Street residence and enter by breaking the window lock. They spend an hour inside the house, loading up on jewelry, televisions, and a safe with \$100,000 cash inside. A relative of the owner confronts the men when she comes home, and they intimidate her and take her cell phone away before fleeing. The investigation continues as of the publication of this report.

October 31, 2008

Quiet and Safe Halloween. Except for a single call involving residents taking photographs of children in their costumes, you wouldn't know it was Halloween from our records. There are no incidents of disorderly conduct, fight, suspicious activity, theft, vandalism, accidents, or injuries.



November

November 2, 2008

Street Robbery. The high fall robbery total continues. Two 17-year-old boys exiting the Country Store on Maple Street are confronted by a white male teen and a black male teen who ask for the time, then demand that they empty their pockets. The muggers make off with \$15. Two Danvers youths are arrested following an investigation; one is later exonerated.

November 20, 2008

Burglar Comes to Town. Sometime during the day, a burglar pries the doors to two nearby apartments in Avalon Danvers and steals copious property from each: wallets, checks, credit cards, medications, jewelry, watches, iPods, a laptop computer, digital cameras, and so on. Later in the day, the burglar uses the victims' credit cards numerous times in the Worcester area, and an arrest in West Boylston produces the suspect: a 41-year-old Roxbury man. Some of the property is recovered.

November 22, 2008

Pharmacy Burglars Make a Mistake. All year, Danvers Police have been receiving notices of burglaries at pharmacies in other New England towns. They have struck many times in nearby towns, but never in Danvers until tonight, when they pry the front door of the Walgreen's on High Street and steal more than 17,000 doses of narcotics.

Unfortunately for them, an off-duty lieutenant spies their getaway vehicle and traces it back to a Lynn business. A multi-agency investigation reveals the suspects as three Lynn men aged 29, 36, and 41. Their subsequent arrests allow numerous agencies to close the books on a wide-ranging crime series.

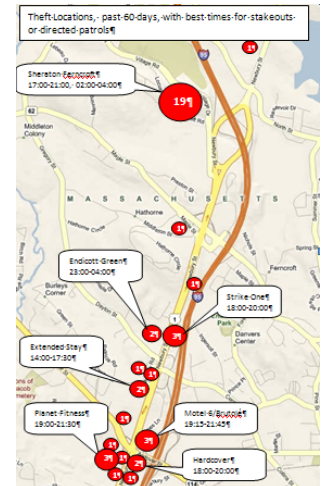
November 29, 2008

Too Bad They're on the "Naughty" List, Because They Could Really Use an X-Box. A couple of kids on Cabot Road, apparently bored, are throwing eggs, fruit, and vegetables at vehicles every single night. This night, an officer chases them and they flee down some railroad tracks. They remain unidentified, but the incidents stop.

December

December 22, 2008

Route 1 Thefts from Cars. Route 1 turns out to be one of our biggest theft-from-vehicle problems in 2008 (see the next section), but the fall is particularly bad, with 31 between mid-October and late December. Between Danvers and Middleton, 19 thefts occur at the Sheraton Ferncroft alone. The thieves prowl restaurant, hotel, and apartment parking lots at night, smash vehicle windows, and steal briefcases, GPS systems, and other electronics. On this night, a detective sergeant stops and identifies a suspicious vehicle and pinpoints the likely suspects: a 44-year-old Lynn man and a 30-year-old Londonderry, New Hampshire man. He lacks evidence to arrest them on this occasion, but after incidents continue into January, they are stopped again, and this time arrested with stolen property, on January 26, 2009.



December 25 & 31, 2008

Peace on Earth. Both Christmas and New Year's Eve show very low call volume. There is no family violence on Christmas and there are no drunk driving or disorderly incidents on New Year's Eve.

TRENDS AND PROBLEMS

Police across America are increasingly being asked to take the lead in problem-solving and crime prevention, which means investing time and resources into identifying and analyzing problems and trends. We present here some of the ongoing problems—in crime, disorder, and quality-of-life issues—reported in Danvers in 2008, and the most promising avenues towards solving them.

In the *2008 Annual Crime Report*, we look at:

- Thefts of GPS devices from cars
- Thefts from cars in Route 1 parking lots
- Thefts from cars in residential driveways
- Domestic violence
- Neighbor feuds
- Problems at large apartment buildings
- Crime and disorder at motels
- Drug trafficking in parking lots

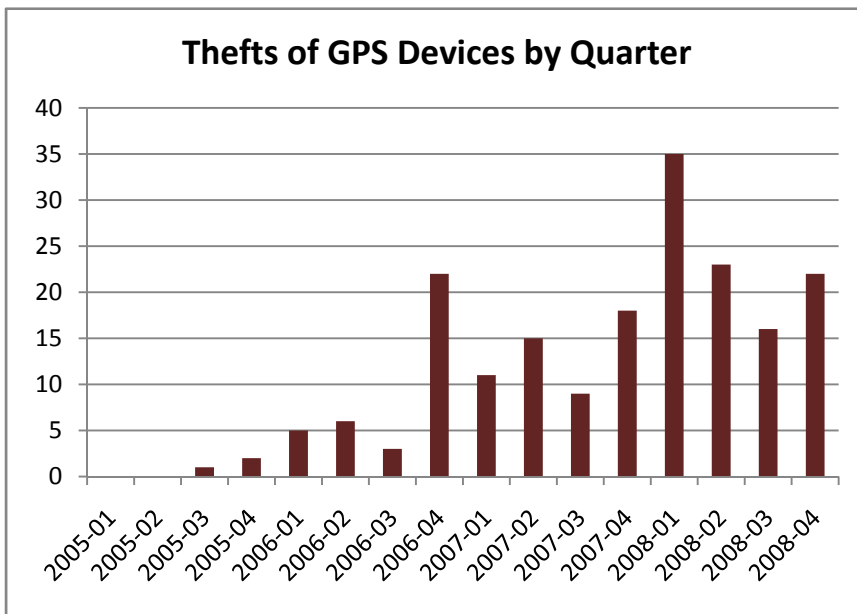
Solving crime and disorder problems requires thinking “outside the box” and pursuing strategies with more long-term effects than simply making more arrests or trying to effect change from within the criminal justice system. For assistance with such strategies, we are indebted to the resources at the Center for Problem-Oriented Policing (<http://www.popcenter.org>), and we hope that the United States government continues to fund this organization’s efforts.

Theft of GPS Devices from Cars

For the second year in a row, GPS devices are our lead story. We thought the thefts were very high in 2007, but we didn’t know what “high” was. 2008 brought almost twice the number of GPS thefts that we had in 2007.

We were not the only agency to have such a problem. Similar reports have come in from agencies all across the country. From Maine to California, the existence of unattended GPS devices led to increases of 10% to 50% in the theft from vehicle category. Danvers’s 42% increase in thefts from vehicles in 2008 is almost entirely explained by GPS devices.

Thefts of GPS Devices by Quarter



GPSES are popular for a simple reason: they are CRAVED. This acronym, invented by criminologist Ronald Clarke, stands for Concealable, Removable, Available, Valuable, Enjoyable, and Disposable.² Cash and credit cards, two of the most popular theft targets, meet almost all these criteria. Big-screen televisions, on the other hand, are rarely stolen despite their value and enjoyability because they are not very concealable or removable.

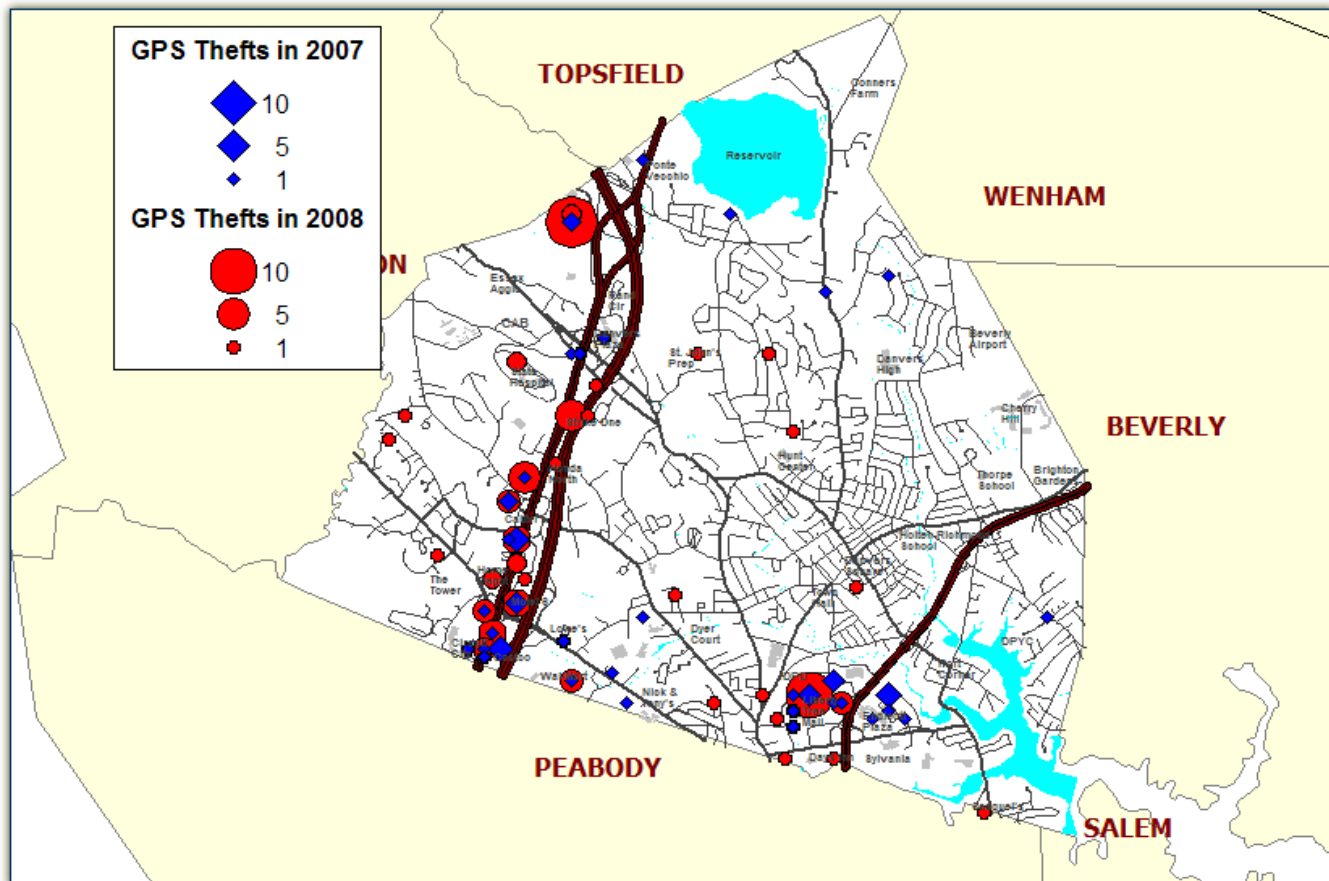
² Ronald Clarke, *Hot Products: Understanding, Anticipating, and Reducing the Demand for Stolen Goods* (London: Home Office, 1999).

Until about 2005, dashboard GPS devices met every criteria of the CRAVED model except “availability.” But within the last three years, they have proliferated as popular Christmas, birthday, and Valentine’s Day gifts for the perpetually lost. Criminals have responded predictably, and many towns in Massachusetts have reported spikes in GPS thefts since 2006.

GPS thefts began in Danvers in the third quarter (July-September) of 2005 and were occurring at a rate of about one every three weeks during the first nine months of 2006. Then, suddenly, they spiked during the fourth quarter of 2006 and increased in 2007 and 2008. There are some signs that the market for stolen GPS devices may be getting saturated, which means thefts may level off soon.

As the map below shows, GPS thefts are largely a Route 1 problem, except for one hot spot at the Liberty Tree Mall. The Sheraton Ferncroft was our top hot spot of the year, and it would be even larger if we included the reports taken by Middleton Police. In general, thieves are targeting:

- **Route 1 Hotels and Motels** overnight (9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.)
- **Route 1 Apartment Buildings**, also overnight
- **Route 1 Restaurants** during the dinner hours of 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- **The Liberty Tree Mall**, also usually in the evening but occasionally in the afternoon.
- **Route 1 and 114 Department Stores** during the afternoons (12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.)



In general, hot spots and times for theft of GPS devices tend not to be much different than hot spots and times for other types of thefts from vehicles. Entry is most often gained (as with other thefts from cars) by smashing a window. Garmin systems seem to be the most targeted, though that is probably just a function of ownership rates; Garmin is the most popular manufacturer.

We don't know what is happening to all the stolen devices. They don't appear on pawn slips, and we have only a few reports of characters trying to sell them directly to people on the street. Online sales outlets are a possibility. We've heard some evidence that cab drivers and flea markets buy them, but we have nothing concrete. Since several thousand of them were stolen in Massachusetts last year, the destinations of most of them remain a mystery.

Solving the Problem

The simple truth is that the GPS theft problem will not disappear until owners stop leaving them unattended in their cars. If owners removed or hid the devices when they park, it would eliminate the issue. Hence, a large-scale marketing campaign designed to convince owners to do just that is the only way to achieve long-term reductions.

The Danvers Police department can get the word to our own residents, but most of the thefts are occurring at hotels, restaurants, and stores, and most of the victims are therefore from outside Danvers. There are only a couple of ways to reach them:

- Work with state or even national agencies to mount a wide-ranging television, radio, or other media campaign with a simple message.
- Alert buyers of GPS devices at the point of sale. This would require the cooperation of retail stores that sell them, and it would also have to be wide in scope.
- Alert owners of GPS devices at specific hot spots. This requires the cooperation of the businesses in whose parking lots GPS systems are stolen.



The last option is probably easiest for a local agency to implement, and it might be most effective as it would reach GPS owners at the very moment in time when they were making the decision whether to take or leave their GPS on the dashboard. Unfortunately, businesses have shown varying levels of cooperation in this area. Some of the most significant hot spots simply refuse to offer warnings of any kind despite repeated urgings from the Danvers Police Department.

Since by nature most of the systems are stolen from cars, there are several crime prevention techniques that may reduce overall thefts from cars. The police can help facilitate these measures by working with management at problem locations.

- Better lighting in parking lots, where needed
- Extra security (either police or private) at target locations
- Surveillance cameras at "hot spots"



Finally, there are some steps that police can take to increase the chances of recovering stolen devices, disrupting markets, and identifying and charging offenders.

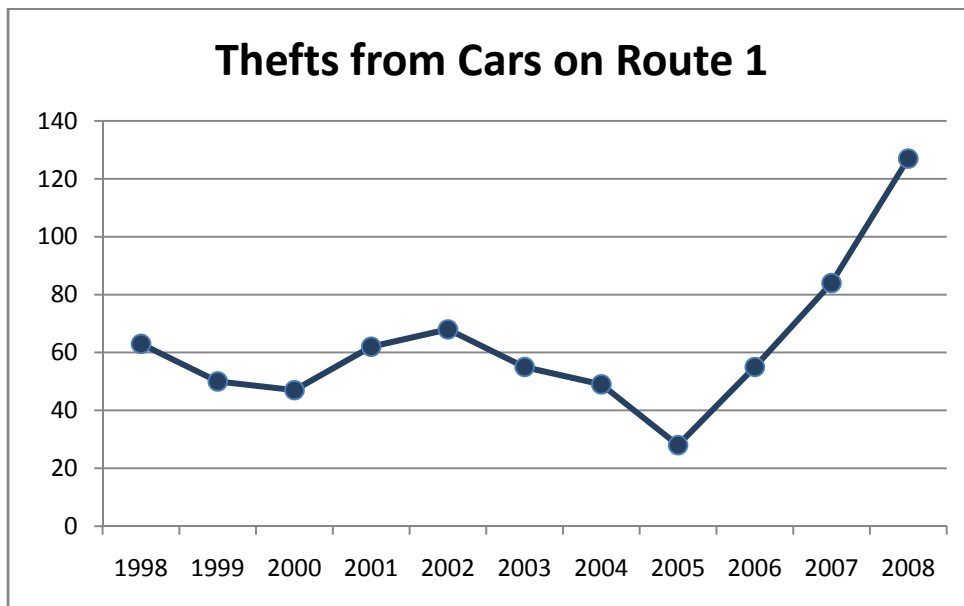
- Promote and support a centralized pawn registry that can be easily searched by property type and serial number
- Sharing data with other agencies to identify and track patterns as they develop
- Following up on all arrests for GPS theft by interviewing offenders on their methods and markets for the stolen devices

Data from Danvers, Burlington, Brookline, Saugus, Peabody, and a host of other agencies make it clear: GPS thefts are a national epidemic. But with the cooperation of local businesses and residents, we can make sure this national epidemic has a much less severe affect on Danvers.

Thefts from Cars in Route 1 Parking Lots

As we just saw, Route 1 was a hot spot for many of the GPS thefts in 2008. It was also a hot spot for other types of thefts from vehicles as well. Irrespective of the GPS problem, thefts on Route 1 have risen steadily since 2005, to a high of 127 in 2008. (These figures include parking lots on streets directly off Route 1, such as the Sheraton Fencroft on Ferncroft Road and the stores on Archmeadow Drive.)

Route 1 is an attractive location for thefts for several reasons. First, it has a large number of restaurants, apartment complexes, and hotels and motels, where thieves know cars will be unattended for a long time. Second, it provides easy access to escape routes; both Route 95 and Route 128 are only minutes away. Third, out-of-town thieves are more likely to be aware of Route 1 and its various businesses than any other location in Danvers except for perhaps the Liberty Tree Mall. In truth, the real mystery is that thefts haven't always been higher on Route 1.



Top Route 1 Parking Lots in 2008

Sheraton Fencroft 50 Ferncroft Rd	23
Danvers Crossing 10 Newbury St	19
Strike One 199 Newbury St	13
Motel 6/Brutol�� 65 Newbury St	10
Endicott Green 180 Newbury St	9
TGI Friday's 49 Newbury St	6
Comfort Inn 50 Dayton St	6
Extended Stay 102 Newbury St	5

Danvers Police have arrested or charged 15 individuals with thefts from vehicles on Route 1 in the past two years. Evidence suggests that most of the thieves are drug-addicted adults (30 or above) working in groups—often boyfriend/girlfriend teams—who come from cities and towns north of Boston. They have nothing against Danvers in particular and are equally as likely to strike Peabody, Saugus, and other towns with the same volume of commercial activity along their major arteries.

They favor wallets and purses from which they can glom credit cards, quickly using those cards at stores on their way back home (the Square One Mall in Saugus is a frequent location). When these aren't available, they happily steal anything portable and electronic, including GPS systems, laptop computers, iPods and MP3 players, cameras, and cell phones. Backpacks, bags, briefcases, and other containers that look like they might contain such items are also popular targets.

Thefts from Vehicles on Route 1 by Location and Time, 2007 and 2008

Type of Location	Daytime	Evening	Overnight	Total
Hotels/Motels	9	21	31	61
Restaurants	7	39	2	48
General Retail	15	11	3	29
Fitness Clubs	9	10	3	22
Games/Amusements	3	12		15
Residences		9	6	15
Business Offices	2			2
Total	45	102	47	

Thefts at completely unknown times are not included

The times of day they strike depend on the type of location. As the chart shows, the hottest locations are hotels during the evening and overnight hours, restaurants during the dinner hours, and retail locations during the day and evening. These patterns, of course, correspond to the times when patrons are most likely to be parked at the types of locations in question.

Solving the Problem

One sure way to mitigate the increase in Route 1 thefts is for the Danvers Police to respond quickly to series. Most of the thefts in 2008 were not isolated incidents, but parts of series of up to 20 incidents that would last anywhere from a couple weeks to several months. Each arrest of a serial offender has resulted in a temporary lull in further incidents. Directed patrols, stakeouts, and other tactics should therefore be swift and mandatory when a series appears.

But as with the GPS theft problem, we need the cooperation of local businesses to help reduce thefts from vehicles. Each Route 1 business has greater control over what happens in its parking lot than the police do. (On a typical shift, only one police car patrols an area that includes Route 1, Route 114, and hundreds of residential streets.) In late 2007, we created a poster that businesses could post, alerting patrons not to leave items of value in their cars. We tried to make the poster seem like it was coming *from* the business, and we tried to convey that the entire area—not just the specific business posting it—was suffering from the problem, but despite our efforts most businesses chose not to alert their customers.

Valued Customers

We have been informed by the Danvers, Peabody and Saugus Police Departments that numerous vehicles along the Route 1 corridor have suffered thefts of GPS devices, laptop computers, iPods, CDs, purses, and like items.

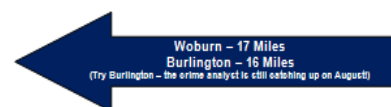
Please remove any visible items and secure them so you can enjoy your time at our business. If you observe any suspicious activities please advise us immediately or call 911. Thank you!



**Danvers/Peabody/Saugus
Route 1 Partnership**

*Businesses
and police
working together
to reduce crime.*

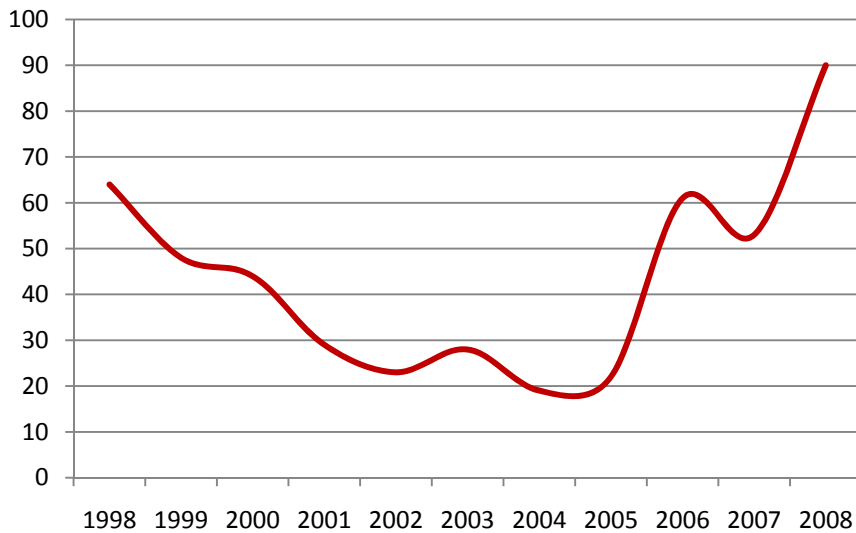
Offenders



Thefts from Cars in Residential Driveways

Third on our list of theft-from-vehicle problems is those that occur in residential driveways overnight. There were 90 of them in 2008, and in general the crime has increased dramatically since 2006 after falling for many years before that.

Thefts from Cars in Residential Driveways



Means of Entry (2008)

Unlocked	71
Broke Window	12
Stolen from Exterior	2
Unknown	5

Items Stolen

Cash	17
Cell phones	10
Glasses/Sunglasses	10
GPS devices	10
iPod/MP3 players	7
CDs	6
Purse	6
Car stereo	6
Tools	6
Keys	4
Wallet	3

Thefts from cars at houses are often subject to one-night sprees in which the same thief enters multiple cars. On March 14, 2008, we took reports from 19 different victims on Clark, Holten, and Wadsworth Streets. There were 10 other nights during the year in which at least four cars were entered.

Cars entered in residential driveways are overwhelmingly unlocked, and thieves go for small, simple items commonly left in cars, such as petty cash, cell phones, sunglasses, GPS devices, iPods, and CDs. When they have been caught, offenders are often young men from the area traveling on foot. Occasionally, however, we have arrested carloads of men from far-flung cities targeting Danvers as part of a multi-jurisdictional spree. Peak hours for these thefts are between 1:00 A.M. and 4:00 A.M.

Solving the Problem

This is an entirely preventable crime. Residents need to lock their cars and stop leaving valuables in them. Heck, we'd even be happy with one of the two. We can keep arresting offenders until doomsday, but as long as residents provide a smorgasbord of unlocked small valuables, thieves will keep coming. To solve this problem, the Danvers Police must take steps to alert all residents as to the nature and prevalence of this problem.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is an old and persistent problem. Violence is actually only one category of the various crimes that can occur between family members and intimate partners.

After years of decreases in the 1990s, domestic violence bottomed out in about 1998 and has been increasing slowly but steadily since then. The total of 120 incidents in 2006 was a 10-year high, and 2007 and 2008 have remained at the same level. Domestic simple assault in 2008 was at the highest level in a decade. Total domestic incidents also hit a high of 556 in 2008, with high totals in restraining order violations and vandalism.

Domestic Crimes and Incidents in Danvers

Incident Type	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Aggravated Assault	10	5	15	12	10
Simple Assault	60	66	76	83	85
Threats/Intimidation	24	22	23	20	16
Sexual Assault/Sex Offenses	2	4	6	3	2
Total Violence	96	97	120	118	113
Violation of Restraining Order	48	26	22	25	42
Auto Theft	0	2	0	0	1
Burglary	4	7	7	5	2
Fraud/Forgery	7	2	3	7	8
Other Theft	6	7	8	6	5
Vandalism	5	9	9	10	23
Disorderly/Drunkenness	24	27	24	29	21
Disputes (immediate)	217	231	226	233	231
Harassment	18	8	7	16	18
Harassing Phone Calls	23	15	20	20	31
Civil Disputes (no immediate incident)	9	13	17	20	16
Keep Peace/Stand By	14	17	17	14	23
Other	18	26	14	26	22
Total Incidents	489	487	494	530	556

The recent increases are probably a function of increasing population. In the past three years, we have seen several new, large, multi-unit apartment complexes open on Route 1, Route 114, and Conant Street, and many of the incidents are concentrated at these new buildings. Still, the increase is disturbing.

Solving the Problem

In contrast to some of the other problems listed in this section, domestic violence is not easily prevented. Because it occurs within individual families and relationships, there is no "townwide" solution that we can implement to address multiple problems at the same time. Instead, it's a matter of analyzing and addressing the unique characteristics of each situation.

Some preventative measures have already become part of the default Danvers Police response process. At each domestic call for service, we counsel the involved parties about the legal options available to them, offer them a number of resources, and suggest a restraining order if one party is in fear or danger. Mandatory arrest for domestic violence offenders, which has been proven effective in numerous studies throughout the country, has been a policy at the Danvers Police Department for over 12 years.

Situations that seem to be escalating towards violence, or that show repeat patterns of the same behavior, may require an extra dose of intervention. The Danvers Police Public Safety Analyst is currently reviewing domestic violence research to create an "alert system" that analyzes incident reports and calls for service and flags households that seem to be escalating towards violence. Our Domestic Violence Liaison is also investigating several strategies used by other agencies.

Domestic Violence by Relationship Type

Relationship	2007	2008
Intimate Partner	42	47
Parent/Child	26	16
Spouse	25	22
Ex-Intimate Partner	11	12
Sibling	7	5
Ex-Spouse	3	5
Other	4	6

Neighbor Feuds

They can start over anything. One resident complains about another's loud stereo. A woman yells at her neighbor's kids for drawing on her walkway with chalk. A man cuts down a tree that is (or is perceived to be) on someone else's property. Angry words follow, perhaps a veiled (or not-so-veiled) threat or two, a call to the police, and pretty soon the neighbors are at war. If all goes well, the police are able to mediate, the neighbors shake hands, and things return to normal. If not, the incidents escalate to vandalism, theft, increasingly ugly disputes, harassment, and perhaps even an assault.

During 2008, Danvers police took reports involving 14 ongoing feuds between neighbors. There were 170 total incidents of crime and disorder in which the participants were neighbors, up significantly from the 115 in 2008. In fact, it was the highest year on record. Most of the increase was in the "noise" category, and much of it was at new apartment complexes (see "Large Apartment Complexes" below).

In contrast to previous years, almost all of the feuds were new. To take some examples:

- Two families living side-by-side in Danversport apartments traded mutual complaints all year about noise.
- Multiple reports of blaring televisions and stereos in a new apartment complex on Route 1.
- One Danvers Square area resident repeatedly complaining about loud "laughing and talking" coming from her neighbor's apartment.
- Two men repeatedly dumping grass, tree trimmings, and snow on each others' properties. Each claims the other started it.

One ongoing dispute, in the Reservoir area, has racked up more than 40 incidents of threats, harassment, vandalism, theft, trespassing, and similar incidents since 2001. Some feuds are "about" something, as in the case of an ongoing parking feud between two Port-area residents, or a brief April 2008 conflict between Hathorne area residents over property lines. Others had an original cause but swiftly devolved into general animosity between the participants.

In the worst cases, home life becomes a nightmare. Instead of relaxing in their homes after a long day, participants never feel comfortable in their own houses. They obsess about what their neighbors are doing, stand transfixed and suspicious at the window whenever a neighbor is outside, wake up in the night at any noise or light, and can never feel safe leaving their homes to go on vacation or even to work. It's no way to live.



Incidents Between Neighbors (Selected Categories)			
Type	2006	2007	2008
Assault	3	3	8
Disputes	66	43	52
Disorderly/Drunkenness	7	6	5
Harassment	6	8	9
Theft	2	2	4
Noise Complaints ³	15	21	52
Threats	4	3	7
Traffic Complaints ³	3	3	2
Vandalism	2	5	7

³ These represent only the incidents in which the complainant was verified as a neighbor. There are many more incidents in which the complainant was anonymous or unknown.

Neighborhood feuds are particularly vexing to police for several reasons. First, while each participant undoubtedly feels that he or she is “in the right,” there’s usually blame to go around on both sides. (One neighbor may have been responsible for the first event, but the other’s chosen means of response makes him or her just as culpable for the ongoing feud.) Second, incidents rarely rise to the level of actual crimes, so instead of charging someone with an offense, police have to act as mediators. Officers have varying degrees of skill at this sort of thing. Third, neighborhood feuds are usually about subjective offenses. An officer may simply not agree that music is “too loud” or that the lights are “too bright” or that one resident “deliberately” aimed his snowblower into the other’s yard. Finally, involving the police often simply exacerbates the feud.

Solving the Problem

Solving neighborhood feuds is no harder than solving most personality conflicts between individuals living in close quarters and sharing resources...which means it’s pretty hard. Nonetheless, some strategies have shown success in other agencies:

- The department’s public safety analyst should scan for emerging neighborhood feuds just like any other pattern or series. He should alert the agency to any repeat or escalating problem so that the agency can intervene quickly.
- The police department could designate one individual, with the requisite personality skills, as a “neighborhood mediator.” With some training in dispute resolution, a single trained and skilled officer might have more success where individual officers have not. Alternately, the department might seek someone from another town agency to fill this role.
- The department should prepare some literature for residents reporting problems with their neighbors, with tips for dispute resolution and a guide for when to involve the police, other town agencies, or legal assistance.



Especially with the growth of large apartment complexes, residents need to understand the realities of living in close quarters. Expectations of absolute privacy, absolute integrity of property, and absolute silence are doomed to end in heartache—as are expectations that “I pay a lot for this apartment and should be able to play my stereo as loud as I want.” Somewhere between tolerance and consideration lies the solution to this problem.

Large Apartment Complexes

As we noted in the introduction to this report, Danvers is facing a phenomenon never seen before: very large apartment communities. For the first time, we have hundreds of residents living in complexes with multiple buildings, facilities, and staff. So many residents living in such close quarters creates a unique public safety dynamic.

Among the new apartment complexes are Endicott Green at 180 Newbury Street, Avalon Danvers at the old State Hospital site, 240 Conant Street, and the Danvers portion of Avalon at Crane Brook on Bay Drive (off Route 114). Together, these buildings reported 538 calls for service in 2008, or about three percent of our overall total. (The surprising thing is that these new residences have not appreciably increased our total number of calls for service each year. Calls at other locations have declined during the same period, leading to little net change.) Among these calls are:

- 54 noise complaints
- 42 medical aids
- 38 services of legal papers
- 29 disputes
- 23 “check well-being” calls
- 17 vandalisms
- 17 suspicious activity calls
- 13 911 hang-ups
- 13 thefts from vehicles
- 13 parking complaints
- 11 harassing phone call reports
- 11 assaults
- 10 psychiatric emergencies
- 113 calls for service from a single troubled resident



Avalon Danvers is the largest of the new apartment communities in Danvers

In some ways, these calls for service are no different than calls at any residence. We respond, assess the situation, and do our best to solve it. But some aspects are very different. We cannot “patrol” these buildings the way we patrol residential streets, meaning that much activity is hidden from us. Some of the buildings have their own security guards, meaning that some incidents may not be reported to us. There are occasional problems with access to the buildings by police officers. Because they are “communities” in and of themselves, and because many of the buildings are away from the residential and community centers of the town, residents may feel that they are *in* Danvers but not *part of* Danvers.

Solving the Problem

There’s no way to “solve” this one; it’s just a new dynamic that the Danvers Police have to adapt to. Two general strategies have worked for other cities and towns with other large apartment communities:

- Develop close relationships with the managers and staff of these buildings, keep them informed, and work with them to solve crime and safety issues.
- Encourage residents of the buildings to form their own neighborhood-watch-style groups. One recently started at 240 Conant Street. Calls for service dropped significantly after the first meeting, although this may have been for other reasons.

The Danvers Police will continue to fine-tune our strategies as the presence of these large complexes becomes a greater part of the crime and safety dynamic of the town.

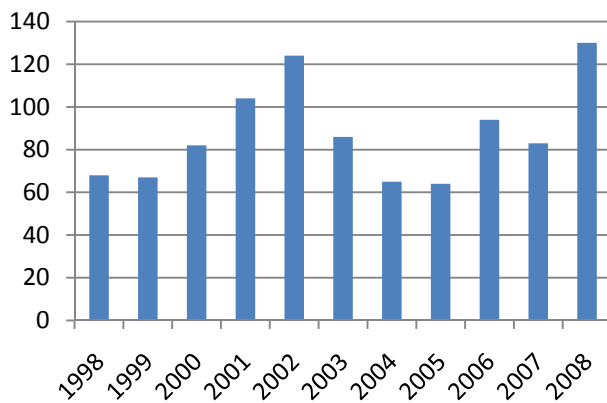
Crime and Disorder at Hotels and Motels

When the City of Peabody shut down the notorious Carriage House Motel on Route 1 in September last year, law enforcement agencies all over the north shore cheered. The seedy establishment was infamous as a site of drug dealing, a hideout for thieves, a den of prostitution, and a crash pad for criminals of all breeds. It wasn't in Danvers, but it affected our town in many ways.

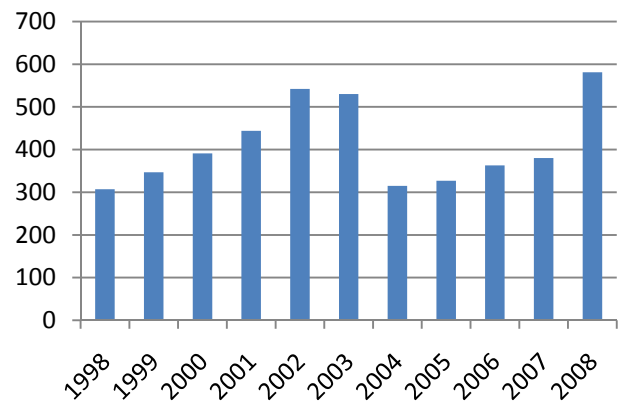
Unfortunately, among the champagne corks and confetti that accompanied its closure on code violations, we were forgetting one important word: *displacement*. Some place had to fill the void for cheap rooms, and two of those places were in Danvers: the Days Inn at 152 Endicott Street and the Motel 6 at 65 Newbury Street. During the last three months of 2008, calls for service at the Days Inn increased 216% from the average (from 17.7 to 56) and calls at the Motel 6 increased 123% (from 28.3 to 63). The Comfort Inn at 50 Dayton Street also had an 88% increase (from 10.1 to 19).

All told, Danvers had 581 calls for service at hotels and motels in 2008, the highest level on record and a 47% increase from the average. If we only look at actual crimes, of which there were 130, it's still an all-time high at 54% above the average.

Crimes at Hotels and Motels



Calls for Service at Hotels and Motels



Types of Crime & Disorder at Danvers Hotels & Motels

Type	Average	2008	Change
Disputes	39.6	49	+24%
Warrant Arrests	36.2	77	+113%
Suspicious Activity	28.1	35	+25%
Noise Complaints	18.9	13	-31%
Thefts from Vehicles	12.0	50	+315%
Other Thefts	11.0	12	+9%
Drunkenness	10.4	11	+6%
Drug Offenses	9.8	10	+2%
Assault	8.4	13	+55%
Disorderly Conduct	7.4	11	+48%
Psychiatric	6.5	10	+54%
Prostitution	2.2	4	+80%
Auto Theft	2.0	3	+50%
Sexual Assault	1.6	1	-38%

Incidents in 2008 by Establishment

Location	Calls	Crimes
Motel 6, 65 Newbury St	161	40
Days Inn, 152 Endicott St	140	19
Sheraton Ferncroft 50 Ferncroft Rd	73*	31*
Comfort Inn, 50 Dayton St	48	10
Extended StayAmerica 102 Newbury St	45	9
Marriott Residence Inn 51 Newbury St	38	8
Marriott TownePlace Suites 238 Andover St	34	8
Knights Inn, 225 Newbury St	26	4
Courtyard by Marriott 275 Independence Way	12	1

*Does not include incidents reported to Middleton Police

The overall “problem” of crime and disorder at hotels and motels is actually made up of several ingredients:

- People, often underage, who rent rooms to hold **liquor parties** or use drugs. These incidents were not particularly high in 2008.
- **Drug dealing** out of motel rooms. We charged five people with distribution or possession with intent to distribute drugs at motels in 2008, not much higher than average, but we have charged 11 people with drug offenses at motels so far in 2009 (as of the end of February)
- **Prostitution**, both of the traditional variety, with pimps “running” women out of various motel rooms, and of a new variety of “hookups” arranged on online sites like Craig’s List. This was one of the more serious issues identified in 2008, although it is not well-reflected in our statistics because very few actual prostitution incidents could be substantiated. Suffice to say that we encounter far more probable prostitutes and pimps at motels than our statistics suggest.
- Offenders with **active warrants** using motels as hide-outs. These seemed to increase significantly in 2008, but part of this increase can be credited to more pro-active officer examination of guest registries.
- **Burglaries** and **thefts** from rooms. There were 15 such incidents in 2008, eight at the Motel 6.
- **Disputes** between guests, often intoxicated, or between guests and employees.
- Drunken guests **trashing** motel rooms.
- **Thefts from cars** in the parking lots. As we already covered above, this was a major problem in 2008 at the Sheraton Ferncroft, but other hotels and motels also suffered.

boston craigslist > north shore > erotic services [email this posting to a friend](#)


[Please report suspected exploitation of minors to the appropriate authorities](#)

One day only for Erotic Delight 60 kisses!! - w4m - 30 (Danvers easy off 95/route 1)

Reply to: [\[redacted\]@craigslist.org](#) [Errors when replying to ads?]
Date: 2009-02-24, 11:48AM EST

Escape with me for awhile. Do you desire a woman who is the girl next door and really knows how to please? I am very real, don't upsell, and sensual. Real pic full body shot on post. Also doubles available with my girlfriend. Today only! 15min/60 HH/100 HR/150 Doubles 15min/100/ HH/150 HR/225 Please email which session and time you seek!

XOXOXO
Us



please [flag](#) with care:
[miscategorized](#)
[prohibited](#)
[spam/overpost](#)
[best of craigslist](#)

Typical Craig's List posting for a prostitute operating out of Danvers, probably at one of the Route 1 motels. These brazen solicitations include hourly pricing information in the posting.

Displaced residents from the Carriage House only exacerbated an existing problem, of course, but it was a problem that had lower than average for the past five years.

The unfortunate thing is that most of the guests at these motels are legitimate ones: families on their way to and from vacations; out-of-towners visiting local residents during holidays; non-criminals, including children, using the motels for transitional housing. And yet, there's a reasonable chance that when they step out to use the ice-machine at night, they'll encounter the reek of marijuana smoke, scantily-clad women, heroin addicts on the nod, or thieves returning to their rooms with bags of loot.

Solving the Problem

In years past, Danvers police have already spent a lot of time on this problem, visiting motels frequently during their shifts, comparing guest registers to lists of known offenders and felons with warrants, and working more closely with certain motel managers. These additional activities, we believe, are at least partially responsible for the reduction in crime at these locations from 2003–2007, but clearly things have gotten out of control since then.

Danvers hotel and motel managers, we must say, have been generally cooperative with our efforts, and have taken pains to enact or enforce existing policies about renting rooms to youths. They have also been very willing to report suspicious activity, parties, and anything else that police should investigate. This is all very important when approaching problem-solving strategies.

A guide from the U.S. Center for Problem-Oriented Policing suggests a number of strategies for combating crime at motels. Some of these have already been implemented in Danvers, including:

- All guests must present photo IDs at check-in
- Motels do not rent to individuals under 21
- Motels do not rent to obviously intoxicated guests
- Motels limit the number of guests per room

But there are still other strategies that we can consider if the trends warrant it (some of these might be in place at certain locations already):

- Distributing lists of known offenders to motels and suggesting that they implement “do not rent” lists based on these
- Prominently posting various notices and signs
- Encouraging motels to assign potential “problem guests” to rooms near the entrance
- Security guards
- Inspecting rooms of guests who refuse maid service
- Installing and monitoring security cameras
- Requiring a manager on property at all times
- Offering employee training programs through the police

As we noted before, Danvers residents are not much affected by crime and disorder at hotels and motels, but visitors to our city are. We are concerned with the plight of vacationing families, conventioners, migrant workers, and other visitors who have the misfortune to choose the “wrong” lodging. A careful monitoring of crime trends will help determine the intensity and direction of future responses.

Drug Trafficking in Parking Lots

Earlier, we called Danvers the “crossroads of the North Shore. But while its convenient location brings a lot of commercial, entertainment, and business traffic to town, it also brings some illegitimate traffic. We saw that in the discussion of crimes at hotels and motels, and we see it again in the world of drug trafficking. Located in the middle of Essex County, right off three highways, and boasting numerous parking lots, Danvers is an ideal place for sellers and buyers to meet and trade.

In 2008, Danvers detectives, working with local, state, and federal agencies, made 42 arrests for drug possession and distribution in Danvers parking lots, equal the total in 2008.

Between 2007 and 2008, there were 28 arrests on Route 1, 18 at the Liberty Tree Mall, and 8 at other Endicott Street facilities. Forty arrests were for marijuana, 18 for heroin, 14 for cocaine, and 11 for prescription drugs.

The towns of residence of the buyers and sellers include Peabody (15), Lynn (12), Salem (6), Saugus (4), and Beverly (4); Danvers is right in the middle of these towns and supports our hypothesis that the “problem” is due to Danvers’s centrality to these other cities.

Solving the Problem

Our solutions to the problem thus far have involved extra patrols of these lots, including frequent stakeouts by our detective unit. Indeed, it this pro-active enforcement that has led to the 84 arrests in the past two years.

We are also lucky to have good partnerships with other local agencies, which together form a drug task force. We will need to leverage such partnerships to keep this problem suppressed in the future.

Status of Problems Reported in the 2007 Annual Crime Report

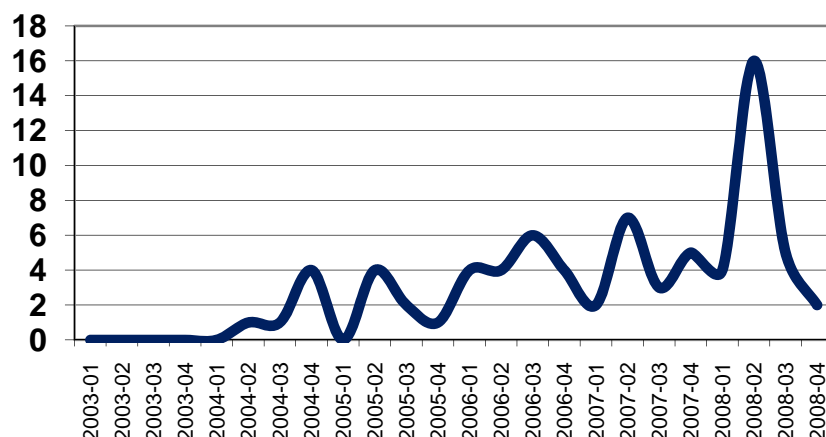
The *2007 Annual Crime Report* contained discussions of several problems not covered here. You can still find the report, and the discussions of these problems, on the Danvers Police Department web site. Their exclusion in this report indicates that either they didn’t change much, or they ceased to be problems in 2008. Following is a brief update of each.

Theft of Wire, Piping, and Scrap Metal

This international crime trend remained high in 2008. We actually had our worst quarter ever during the second quarter of 2008, when there were 16 thefts of various types, including two burglaries, four thefts from buildings, two thefts from cars, three thefts from houses, and five shopliftings—most involving thefts of copper wire or piping.

After that quarter, though, thefts of metal fell precipitously, and we only had seven during the rest of the year. There are signs that scrap metal prices, which peaked in 2006, might be on the decline. We will keep monitoring the trend, of course, and allocate resources as needed. One thing is certain: if prices paid for scrap copper and aluminum return to the levels of two–three years ago, incidents of theft will spike again.

Metal Thefts in Danvers by Quarter

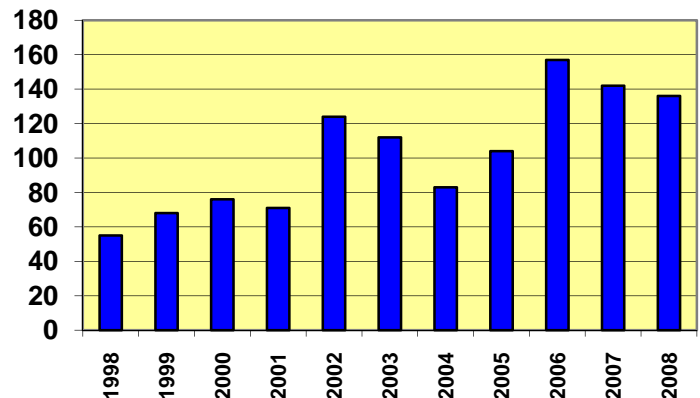


Mental Disorders

In the last two annual reports, we've reported extensively on increases in calls for service in which residents were suffering hallucinations, delusions, dementia, suicidal depression, or psychosis. As the chart shows, the problem got a little better in 2008, but it still remained high. There were a number of repeat residents, including one woman who called the Police Department almost every day during the first six months of the year, complaining of persecution by almost every agency and institution imaginable (she ultimately moved out of town), a man who sees "someone out to get him" in every driver he encounters or every person who walks past his house on the street, and a local motel resident who kept calling to complain about CNN until he was finally institutionalized.

Police are usually the first responders to such incidents, but we are not generally the best responders: the appearance of an armed, uniformed officer has exacerbated rather than calmed many situations. The solutions to mental illness are social and medical, and they lie outside police control. We only see the symptoms. But, as first responders, we can call attention to them, and we can improve our responses to them. We are right now working with a local medical agency to change how we respond to psychiatric disorders, but we don't have a firm commitment from the agency yet.

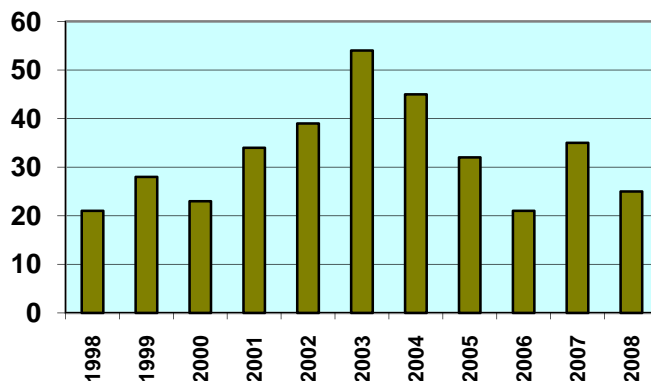
"Psychiatric" Incidents in Danvers



Thefts of Car Parts from Auto Dealerships

For a thief looking for cars or car parts, Danvers is a one-stop shopping center. With Ford, Infiniti, Dodge, Chevrolet, Lexus, Mitsubishi, Toyota, and several other dealers all within a two-mile stretch between the Liberty Tree Mall and Route 1 north, there are few models that thieves cannot find. And where targets and opportunity exist, thieves will appear.

Thefts from Car Dealers in Danvers



We left this problem off the 2006 list because it seemed to be going down (check the trend from 2003 to 2006), but we had a resurgence in 2007 and talked about it again last year. In 2008, we had another decrease, and there was only one notable pattern involving tires and rims stolen from a Mall-area dealership during the fall.

Essentially, we've run out of things to say about this problem. It will probably exist to some

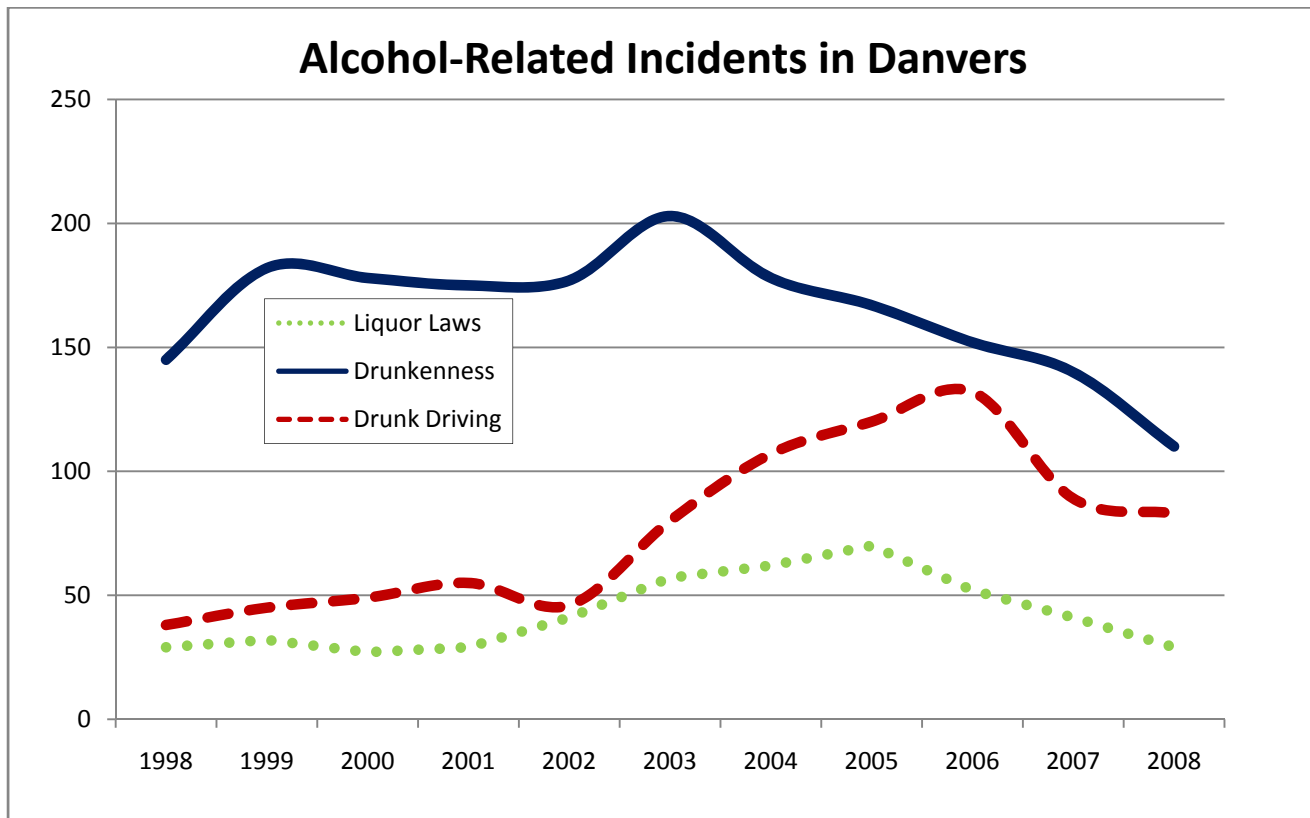
degree as long as auto dealerships exist within Danvers, and we have largely exhausted all attempts to work with area dealers to improve their crime prevention measures. We will continue to assign directed patrols to auto dealerships when patterns occur, and we will continue to seek intelligence about where car parts are being sold, but we need dealerships to enact better lighting, surveillance, and other security policies before we can see a true elimination of this problem.

Good Trends

We usually only cover increases and bad news in this section of the *Annual Crime Report*, but this year we thought it would be worth talking about some of the positive things that happened in Danvers in 2008.

Alcohol-Related Crime Plummets

In 2008, liquor law violations were down 41%, public drunkenness was down 34%, and drunk driving was down 9%. All three had been subject to various police strategies over the past five years. Extra school resource officers, education in schools, and partnerships with community organizations like DanversCares, along with a new juvenile alcohol policy, targeted underage drinking. Aggressive enforcement drove up drunk driving figures from 2004 to 2006, and repeated use of protective custody laws kept our cells full on weekends for years.

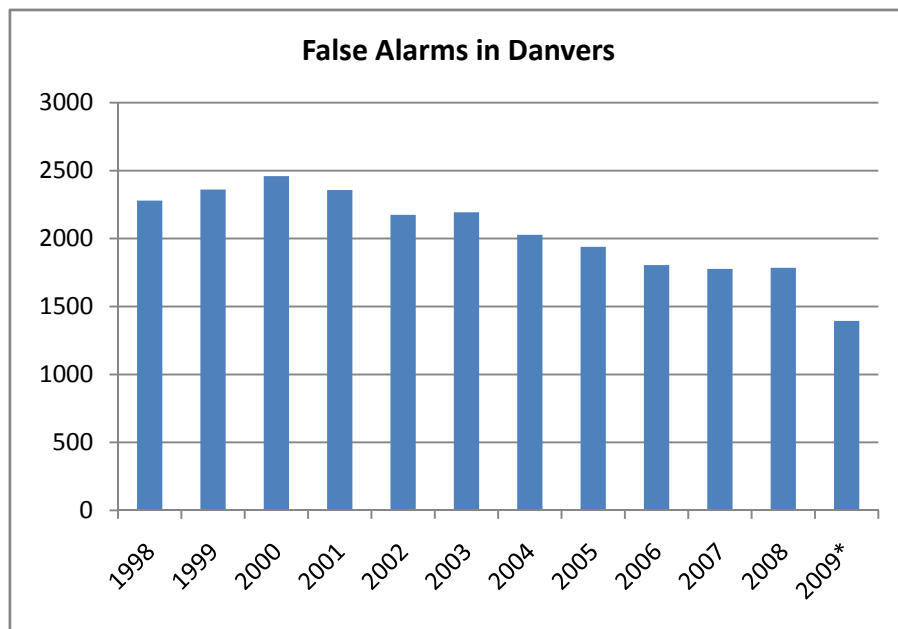


We believe the declines of recent years are a sign of success. Officers report that they can't find drunk drivers, nor can they find kids drinking alcohol in parking lots any more. Calls for juvenile drinking parties at houses went from nearly 20 in 2004, 2005, and 2006 to only one in 2008. Either our policies and strategies worked, or everyone got better at hiding their alcohol use.

False Alarms Take Less Officer Time

False alarms topped 2000 for every year between 1998 and 2004, but they began to fall in 2005. They hit the lowest level in a decade in 2007 and remained low in 2008 (12% below average).

Despite the decline, though, false alarms were still our top call for service type in 2008, as they were every year before. The decreases are nice, but even though they were low in 2008, they still cost us more than 900 hours of patrol time—time that could have been spent on traffic enforcement, or directed patrols at hot spots, or just about any other police strategy.



To help drive down false alarms even further, the Town of Danvers enacted a tough new bylaw in 2008 that greatly increased fines for false alarms starting in January 2009. In the two months since the bylaws took effect, false alarms have fallen by a third, and if trends continue, false alarms will land just below 1,400 for 2009, a 28% decrease from the average. It will no longer be our top call for service type, and we will save almost 400 patrol hours a year.

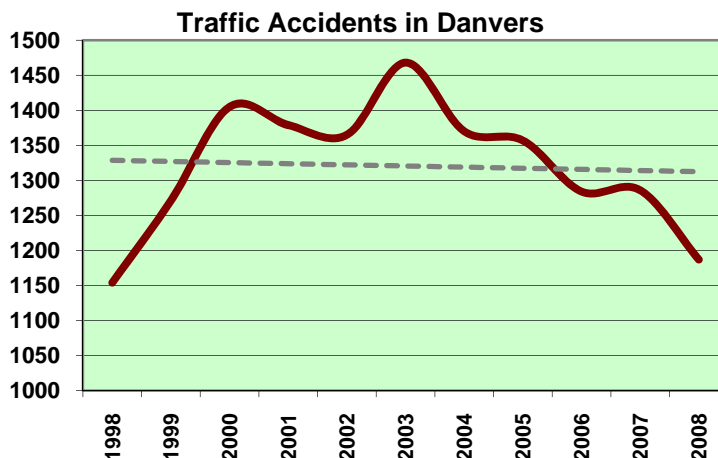
It's worth noting for this discussion that less than 1% of activated burglar alarms are caused by an actual burglary. In eleven years and over 23,000 alarms, Danvers Police have caught burglars at the scene of a burglary only six times.

Auto Theft Smashes Lowest Threshold

Check out the "auto theft" section below for more information, but auto theft fell 41% in 2008, to its lowest level in more than three decades. Better security measures on cars have made it a difficult crime to commit, and if current trends continue, it will for all intents cease to exist as a significant crime by 2014.

Traffic Accidents Plummet

Again, see our "traffic accidents" analysis below for more information, but it's worth noting here in the "trends" section that traffic accidents hit their lowest level in at least 10 years thanks to high gas prices during the summer and relentless enforcement by the Danvers Police all year. They have been decreasing steadily since their peak in 2003. It was after this peak that we enacted new selective enforcement policies and increased the number of assignments from 300 in 2003 to more than 3,500 in 2008.



ANALYSIS OF SELECTED CRIME AND DISORDER

Murder

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

Average of 0 • 0 in 2008

Murder is a very rare crime for most cities and towns of Danvers's size. They occur in Danvers at a rate of one every three years. There were none in 2008.

The most recent Danvers murder was on May 4, 2006. Keith Koster, a 20-year-old Boxford man, was working at a clothing store on Route 114 when he saw his SUV being stolen from the parking lot. The thief was 31-year-old Roy C. Dowds Jr., of Lawrence. Koster ran out of the store and jumped on the running board to intervene. Instead of stopping, Dowds sped down 114 and Koster was killed in an ensuing crash. Dowds fled the scene but was caught nearby. He was arrested for auto theft, drunk driving, driving after revocation, and murder. In 2007, Dowds was found guilty of first degree murder and sentenced to live in prison.



Dowds

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. Attempts are included.*

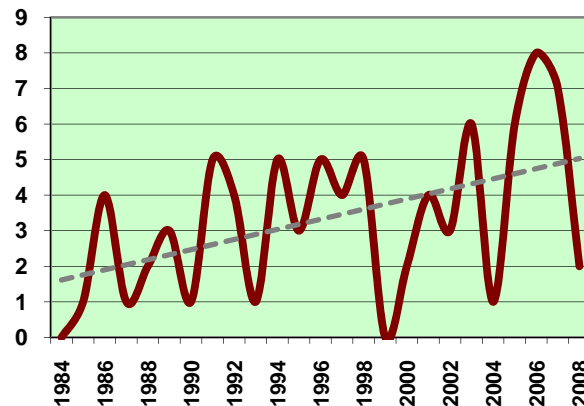
Average of 5 • 2 in 2008 60% Decrease

2006 and 2007 brought the highest rape totals in more than 25 years, so it was good to see it return to normal levels in 2008. As the chart shows, rape totals can be very erratic from one year to the next, and often rapes reported (and thus recorded) in one year actually occurred many years earlier. This was particularly notable in 2006, when only two of the

eight rapes reported that year actually occurred that year.

In both 2006 and 2007, we noted a trend in which young women under the age of 21 were reporting sexual assaults by acquaintances and schoolmates. One of the 2008 incidents continued this trend. The other was a spousal rape.

Rape, 1984–2008



Over the years, several repeat rape scenarios have emerged in Danvers:

1. Adult women visiting bars or parties in Danvers or other towns accompany man back to motel rooms in Danvers.
2. Young teenage girls dating men in their 20s are coerced or forced into sex against their will.
3. Teenage girls, often in pairs, are picked up by older, out-of-town boys, also often in pairs, in public places. What starts out as a "date" or flirtation becomes a sexual assault when the boys get the girls intoxicated and/or to a secluded place.

Stranger rapes are very rare in Danvers. In 10 years, there has only been one rape in which the offender was completely unknown to the victim.

Indecent assaults (including molestation) were also high in Danvers in 2007, and they remained high in 2008. All but one was among acquaintances and family members. In the one exception, a 12-year-old girl reported she was grabbed by a white male in his 40s-60s while walking in a crowd at the Liberty Tree Mall.

Preventing Rape

The best way to prevent rape is to stay away from, or escape from, the types of situations in which they are most likely to occur:

- Use police resources to escape abusive relationships.
- Do not go drinking alone with strangers, or people you don't know very well. Have friends with you, have a plan for getting home safely, and agree to go home together.
- Do not agree to go back to motel rooms or apartments with people you don't know well.
- Many rapes have occurred during teenage liquor parties. Know what your children are doing and what's going on in your house.
- Set strict rules on your daughters' relationships with older men. Talk to them about the dangers involved with such relationships and how to escape if things turn ugly.

Though extremely uncommon in Danvers, the "street" rape, the kind that most people fear, is still present in other areas. If you regularly find yourself walking down deserted streets, through parking lots and garages, or working alone in an empty office, particularly at night, it may be worth taking the following precautions:

- Be aware of your surroundings as you walk. Try not to become engaged in thoughts or phone conversations.
- Consider getting a license for pepper spray and carrying it in your purse.
- Consider taking a Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) class, offered at your local police department.
- If you see a suspicious person or vehicle, call the police for an escort.

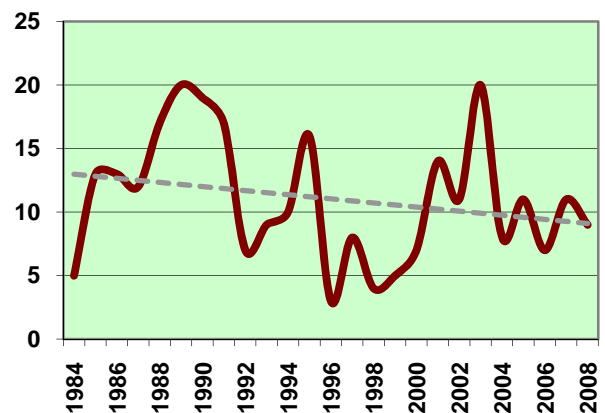
Robbery

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.*

**Average of 11 • 9 in 2008
15% Decrease**

For a while, robbery looked like it was heading for a 10-year low. By Columbus Day, we had only recorded four for the year. But suddenly we got hit with 5 all during the last two and a half month.

Robbery, 1984–2008



Robbery has two broad classifications: individual 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. In 2008, there were two individual robberies and seven commercial robberies.

There were a couple of mini-patterns in the 2008 incidents:

- The new CVS on Route 1 was robbed once in November 2007 and again in February 2008. The old location for the same CVS, about 100 yards away, was never robbed.
- Two Salem Five banks were robbed two days apart in April. The incidents were part of a series that affected most of the north shore. The robbers were arrested in Nashua, New Hampshire a few weeks after the Danvers incidents.

Between 2000 and 2005, there were frequent patterns of purse snatchings, usually occurring in grocery and department store parking lots on Endicott Street. These have not recurred since 2006.

Bank robberies are a repeating problem. We've had at least one every year since 2001, with the exception of 2004. Usually, the ones we have are part of regional series.

Four of the nine robberies resulted in the arrest of at least one participant, either in Danvers or another jurisdiction. Except for juvenile "bullying" robberies, robbery offenders are overwhelmingly drug-addicted men in their 20s or drug-addicted boyfriend/girlfriend pairs. Their need for immediate cash overwhelms simple common sense: robbery is one of the dumbest crimes to commit, offering high risk of capture and severe punishment for often very little reward.

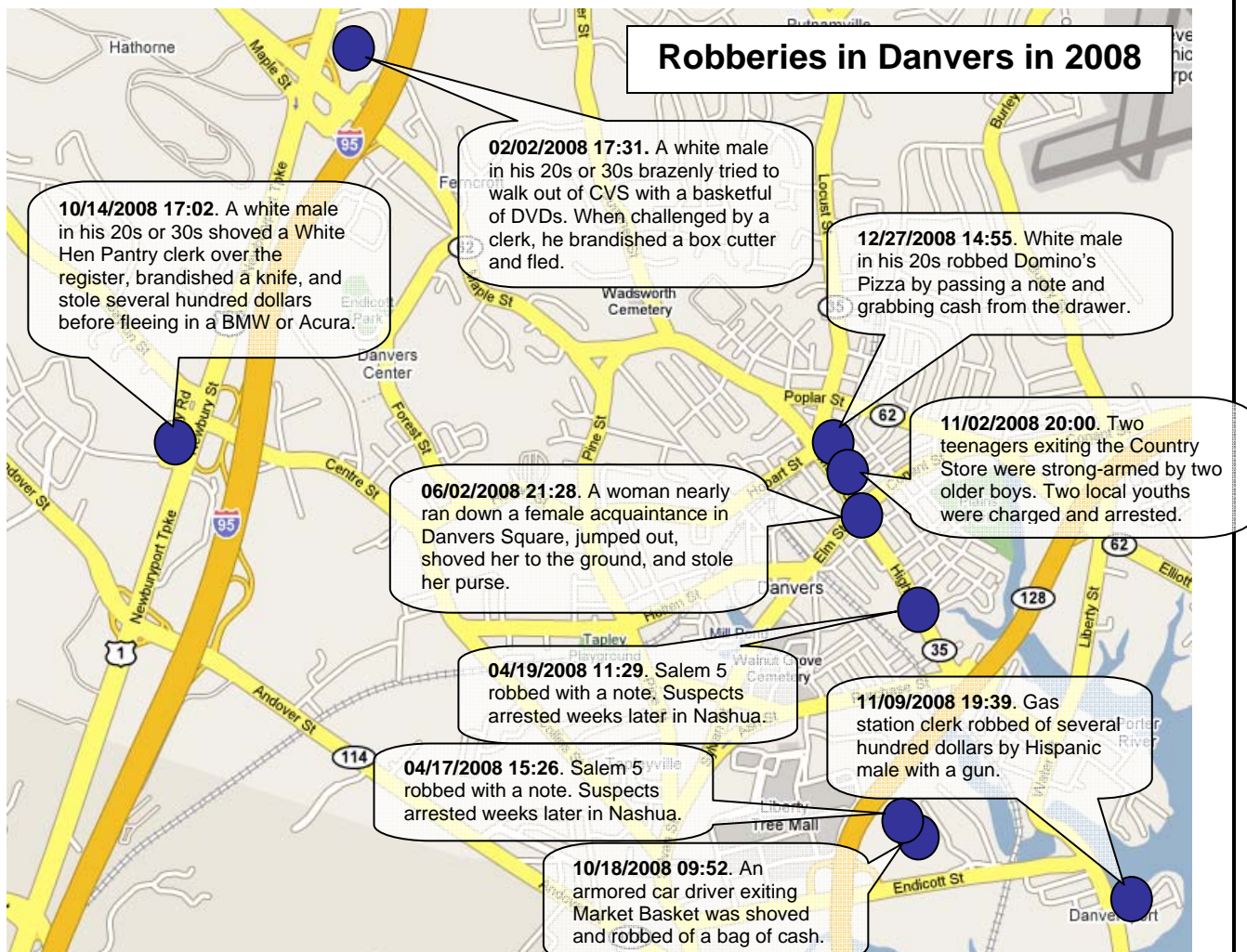
Preventing Robbery

Most **individual** robberies are committed against women for their purses. If you are a woman, be wary as you walk through parking lots. Keep your purse close to your body and watch for cars pulling up near you.

Most **commercial** robberies are committed at gas stations and convenience stores. Such robbers are best deterred by increasing visibility from the street, installing visible surveillance cameras, and using drop safes.

If you are a victim of a robbery of either type, do not try to resist the robber—many people have been injured doing so. Flee if you can do so without harm; otherwise, give him what he wants. Try to memorize the robber's description, vehicle description and license plate, and direction of flight.

Robberies in Danvers in 2008



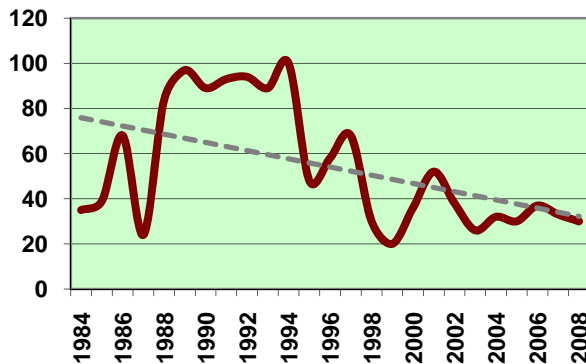
Aggravated Assault

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 broken bones, loss of teeth, internal injury, severe laceration, or loss of consciousness.*

**Average of 34 • 30 in 2008
11% Decrease**

Statistics vary wildly for aggravated assault (from over 100 in 1994 to only 22 in 1999) because victims' reporting practices vary. The 1988–1994 peak probably has less to do with any real increase, and more to do with the success of domestic violence advocacy projects during that period. Aggravated assaults have fallen since then and have maintained a relatively consistent level since 2002.

Aggravated Assault, 1984–2008



In 2008, there were five aggravated assaults that we categorized as “random,” meaning they were between strangers and unprovoked.

1. On May 31, an intoxicated woman grew angry with the employees at GameStop in the mall and threw video games at the manager. When confronted by security, she shoved an officer to the ground, causing him to strike his head and lose consciousness. She was arrested.
2. Only the night July 17, a carload of teens hurled plastic juice containers at two women walking down Sylvan Street, strike one in the hand and injuring her slightly.
3. In the early morning hours of July 20, two youths yelled at a beeping car on High Street. The driver stopped and got out with a crowbar and chased the youths down the street, swinging.
4. In the evening of July 20, a man walking down the street was shot in the neck with a BB from a

black SUV. There was a similar incident in Salem the same night.

5. In the early morning hours of September 14, a woman was riding her bicycle down Elliott Street when a white male in an older model Toyota pulled up and made lewd comments to her. In the process, he bumped her tire, causing her to run into a stone wall and suffer a skull fracture.

Aggravated Assaults by Category

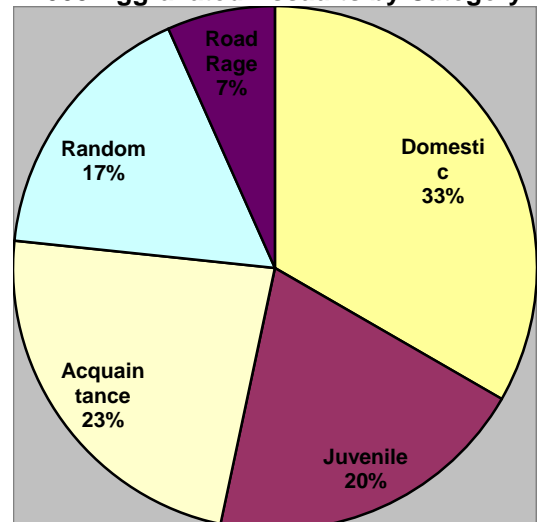
Category	2005	2006	2007	2008
Domestic	7	16	12	10
Juvenile	5	4	6	6
Acquaintance	8	9	6	7
Bar Fight	1	1	1	0
Road Rage	0	3	0	2
Random/Stranger	4	3	3	5
Retail/Patron	0	1	0	0
Workplace	1	0	1	0
On Police Officer	2	1	3	0
Other/Unknown	2	0	0	0

Domestic aggravated assaults had increased significantly in 2006 but have fallen since then, unlike simple assaults.

Only one incident in 2008 involved a gun—a domestic incident on Pickering Street in which a man fired into his wall to scare his ex-girlfriend.

Two assaults in 2008 resulted in serious injury to the victims. Both were in September, one day apart. The first was the aforementioned “random” assault at #5 above. In the second, one teenager punched another after football practice at Danvers High School, breaking his eye socket.

2008 Aggravated Assaults by Category



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.

In 2008, simple assaults increased 20% from the average, maintaining a series of steady increases that started in 2006.

Simple Assaults by Category

Category	2005	2006	2007	2008
Domestic	67	78	87	85
Juvenile	21	30	25	29
Acquaintance	13	28	30	36
Bar Fight	0	2	2	1
Road Rage	1	6	6	5
Random/Stranger	3	8	2	10
Retail/Patron	2	3	4	4
Workplace	5	3	5	6
On Police Officer	2	6	9	5
Other/Unknown	5	3	3	5
TOTAL	119	167	173	186

The chart shows the increase entirely in the "domestic" and "acquaintance" categories. There several ongoing feuds between former friends, neighbors, and other acquaintances that have produced multiple incidents. Domestic assaults are reviewed in the "Trends and Problems" section of this report, on Page 22.

Preventing Assault

As with rape, the key to preventing assault is to get out of, and stay away from, situations in which they are most likely to occur. This means:

- Using police and social service resources to escape abusive relationships
- Refusing to get drawn into escalating workplace, neighborhood, or traffic disputes
- Exercising caution around people who have been drinking
- Report assaults. Police intervention now may stop you or another person from future victimization by the same offender.

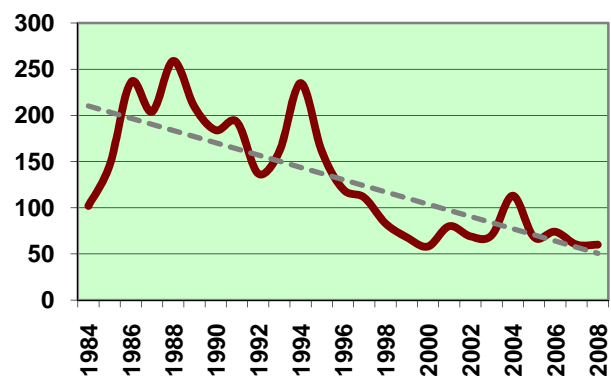
Burglary

Burglary: The unlawful entry into a building or other structure with the intent to commit a theft or other crime.

**Average of 74 • 60 in 2008
19% Decrease**

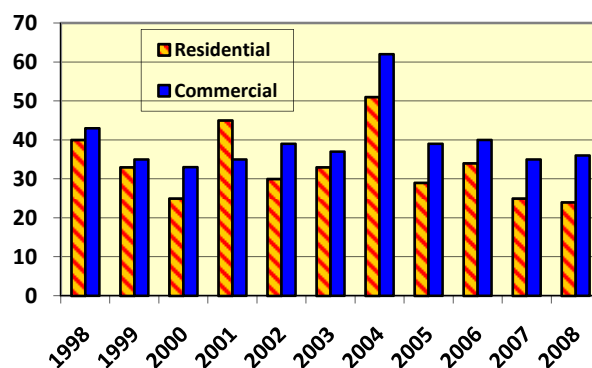
Expect for a small spike in 2004, burglaries have hovered at the same low level for the past decade, after extreme declines in the mid-1990s. 2007 and 2008 both brought eight-year lows of only 60.

Burglary, 1984–2008

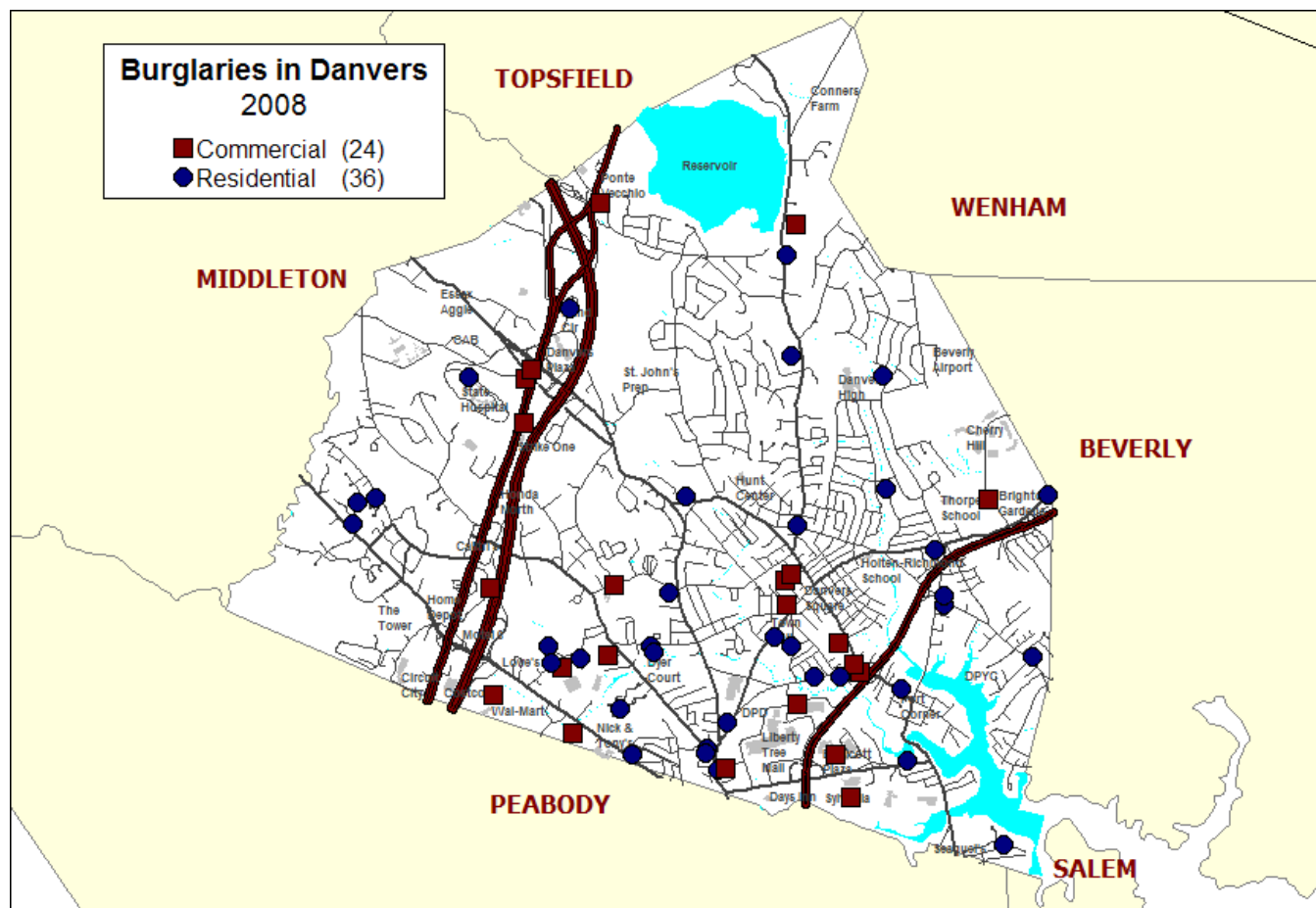


The 70 burglaries in 2008 comprised 36 housebreaks and 24 commercial breaks, almost the same numbers as 2007.

Burglaries in Danvers



There were a couple of small patterns during the year. A pattern of eight housebreaks struck the lower half of town in the summer, and Danvers and Peabody shared a 114-area residential burglary pattern in October. The one commercial burglary pattern of the year struck the downtown area in July and August. A burglar forced entry into three businesses and stole cash.



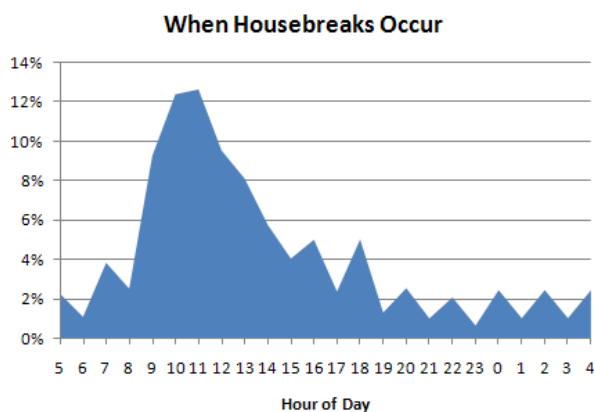
Housebreaks are usually a daytime phenomenon: over the past two years, 78% of housebreaks have occurred between 8:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.; 66% occur between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. Commercial breaks, for obvious reasons, almost always occur at night: 85% are between 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Those that don't occur at night invariably occur on weekends at closed businesses.

- Jewelry
- Cash
- Laptop computers
- Cameras
- iPods and MP3 players
- Video games and consoles
- Drugs and medication

Except cash, these items are often pawned in Salem and Lynn or sold at other types of secondhand shops throughout the area.

In 9 of the 36 housebreaks (27%), the victim knew the burglar. Many were the victim's acquaintances or ex-boyfriends. In none of the non-acquaintance burglaries did a victim come to harm, and in the three occasions in which the victim encountered the burglar, the burglar promptly fled.

Unfortunately, many Danvers residents routinely leave doors and windows unlocked: 13 burglaries occurred through an open door or window. Another 14 were committed by forcing a door, the standard door locks being insufficient to hold up to much force. In most commercial burglaries, entry was made or attempted by prying or forcing a door.



Items most commonly stolen in housebreaks are:

Preventing Burglary

Many burglaries are committed by someone that the victim knows.

- Change your locks and the hiding place of your valuables if you change roommates or if "bad blood" develops between you and someone with access to your house, or if a friend or family member develops a substance abuse problem.
- Don't let your children's friends find out where you keep your valuables.

To prevent or reduce all burglaries:

- Invest in strong deadbolt locks for all your doors. Also consider "window stops" for your first-floor windows.
- Make sure you lock your doors and windows at night and when you leave your house.
- Hide cash and jewelry in non-obvious places. Burglars search bedrooms first.

Thefts from Vehicles

Thefts from Vehicles: Theft of property from an automobile or truck, including items left within the vehicle and vehicle parts or accessories.

**Average of 246 • 349 in 2008
42% Increase**

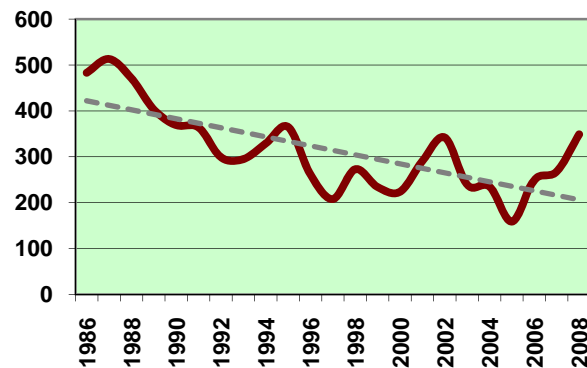
Thefts from cars reached a 20-year-low in 2005, following a precipitous decrease from a 2002 peak. Things were looking good. But the proliferation of GPS devices has single-handedly revived the crime.

2008 was marked by several significant patterns of thefts from cars, including:

- GPS thefts from Route 1 and Route 114 restaurants and motels throughout the year.
- Numerous hot spots on Route 1.
- Nighttime thefts from vehicles in residential driveways.
- Sporadic sprees at the Liberty Tree Mall all year.
- Thefts of tires and rims at auto dealerships.

The top three patterns were covered in detail on Pages 17 to 22.

Thefts from Cars, 1986–2008



Locking a car does little to deter thieves: most thefts are committed by simply smashing a window. The most common targets with figures from 2006–2008 are:

• GPS devices	185
• Cash	92
• Car stereos	90
• Auto parts	86
• Purses	71
• Mobile phones	70
• iPods and MP3 players	65
• Laptop computers	59
• Credit cards	55
• Tools	42
• Backpacks and duffel bags	34
• Clothing	34

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

Preventing Thefts from Cars

Preventing thefts from cars is easy: don't leave anything of value inside your car! This includes laptop computers, cell phones, wallets, purses, and dashboard GPS devices.

Don't make any exceptions—not your own driveway, not your friend's house, not "just running into the store for 5 minutes." No exceptions!

If you choose to ignore us, at least put your valuables out of sight. Some thieves don't bother to break into cars if they don't see anything worth stealing, so under the seat or in the trunk is better than nothing.

Thefts from Vehicles in Danvers

2008



Thefts at **Strike One** contributed to a major Route 1 increase in 2008.

Endicott Green was one of the few residential hot spots in 2008.

Motel 6 was among the hot spots of the year.

Lower Route 1, including **Danvers Crossing**, **Costco**, and **TGI Friday's**.

TOPSFIELD

The **Sheraton Ferncroft** emerged as a major hot spot for GPS and briefcase thefts. Note that this dot does not include incidents reported to Middleton.

WENHAM

Most of these single dots represent a 19-incident one-night residential spree in March.

BEVERLY

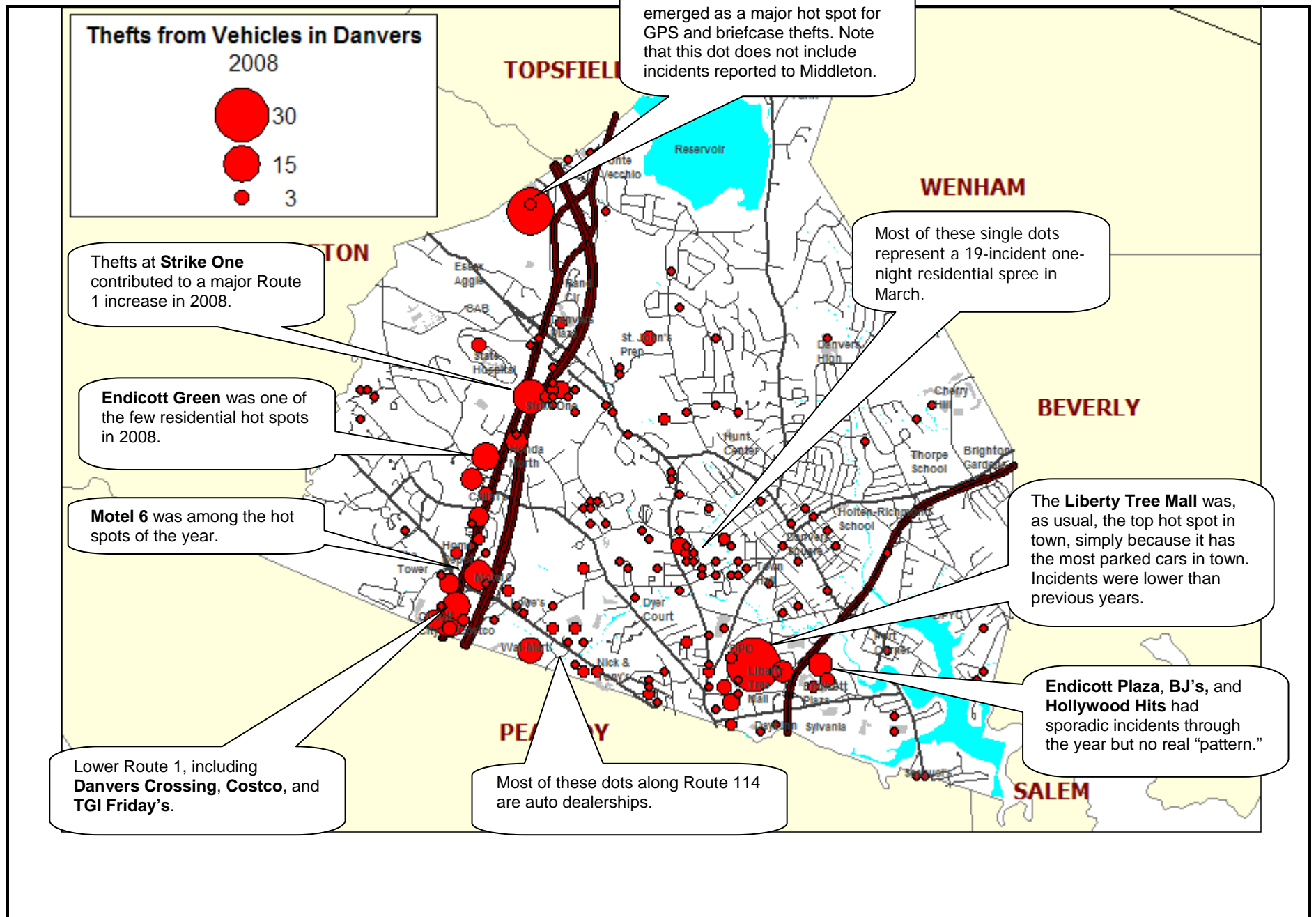
The **Liberty Tree Mall** was, as usual, the top hot spot in town, simply because it has the most parked cars in town. Incidents were lower than previous years.

Endicott Plaza, **BJ's**, and **Hollywood Hits** had sporadic incidents through the year but no real "pattern."

PEPPER HARBOR

Most of these dots along Route 114 are auto dealerships.

SALEM



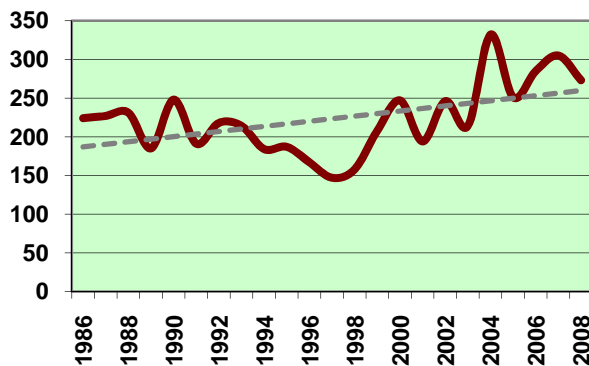
Shoplifting

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

Average of 265 • 273 in 2008
3% Increase

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.

Shoplifting, 1985–2008



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.

The list shows the variances security practices can make. It is unlikely that tiny Claire's Boutique has fewer shopliftings than the big box stores below it on the list (not to mention several stores, like Lowe's and the mall Home Depot, which reported one or no shopliftings). But shoplifters at Claire's are easier to catch, and the security policies there probably require a police presence.

Locations with the Most Shoplifting Reports

Store	Address	2007	2008
Kohl's	50 Independence Way	54	68
Wal-Mart	55 Brooksby Village Dr	61	52
Marshalls	100 Independence Way	26	13
Best Buy	230 Independence Way	17	19
Claire's Boutique	100 Independence Way	11	23
Stop & Shop	301 Newbury St	17	14
Stop & Shop	5 Independence Way	24	0
Target	240 Independence Way	15	7
Sports Authority	100 Independence Way	5	8
Circuit City	4 Newbury St	7	6
Costco	11 Newbury St	9	4
Home Depot	92 Newbury St	7	3
Market Basket	139 Endicott St	4	5
Boater's World	35 Independence Way	7	2
Ann & Hope	10 Newbury St	2	6
Famous Footwhs.	100 Independence Way	1	7

Year-to-year shoplifting totals reflect the ebb and flow of commercial development in town. The general increase since the late 1990s shows the effects of continued development at the Mall in particular. Shoplifting dropped slightly from 2007, primarily because of the loss of one of our hot spots, the Mall Stop & Shop. As yet, the Nordstrom's that took its place has yet to report a single shoplifting.

A review of the 1,652 people arrested or suspected of shoplifting since 2004 shows that they are 49% male and 51% female (women have a far greater share of shoplifting than most other crimes). 46% are under the age of 21 (peak ages are 14–18), but numbers remain high well into the 40s, and estimates of available data suggest that about 75% of adult shoplifters are drug dependant. Shoplifters are most likely to be from Lynn (16%), Peabody (13%), Danvers (9%), Salem (9%), Beverly (8%), and Gloucester (6%). Revere, Malden, and Saugus also contribute high totals. Shoplifting is one of the few crimes where most of the individuals suspected or arrested do not come from Danvers itself.

The types of property stolen depend on the locations. Stores like Kohl's, Target, and Marshalls lose mostly clothing, with juvenile female shoplifters stealing for personal use. Home improvement stores have fallen victim to tool and, lately, copper wire thefts; suspects here are most often men in their 20s or above. Wal-Mart and the grocery stores are more likely to cater to the drug-addled shoplifter, looking for DVDs, CDs, and other items easy to sell for cash. In general, the top property types are, in order: clothing, food, jewelry, DVDs, shoes, health and beauty aids, video games, and—oddly enough—televisions. We had a pattern this year in which shoplifters brazenly walked out of stores with TVs in their arms.

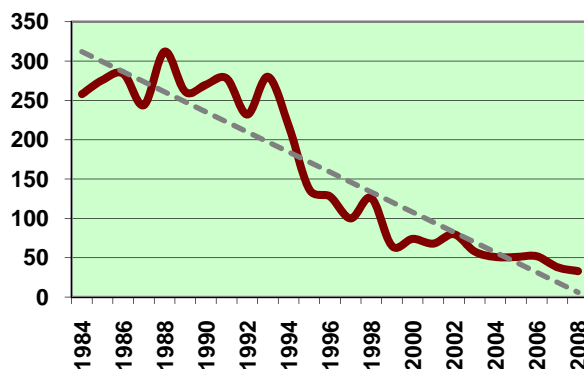
Auto Theft

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.*

**Average of 56 • 33 in 2008
41% Decrease**

Auto theft is a crime on its way out. The 2008 total of 33 was the lowest in at least 30 years and probably a lot longer (we don't have data prior to 1979). In the last couple years, it has become common for weeks to go by without a single theft.

Auto Theft, 1984–2008



Several technologies and strategies have converged to reduce auto theft. In the 1990s, city and State Police put an end to most of the “chop shops” that would buy stolen cars and strip them for parts. Electronic keys have made stealing a new car difficult, and many owners of older cars have turned to steering wheel locks. Mobile police computers allow officers to determine quickly if a vehicle has been reported stolen, and tracking systems can lead police to stolen cars. Consequently, much of the auto theft that remains is either (1) cars stolen with keys in the ignition or (2) cars stolen by friends or family members. And unlike the 1980s, when owners never saw their cars again, today stolen cars are usually recovered within a few days, with little damage.

Incidents were so low in 2008 that only two locations had more than one: the Liberty Tree Mall (always the top spot because of the large number of targets) with six, and the Endicott Green apartment complex on Route 1, with four.

One pattern from 2007 carried over into 2008. Between December 18, 2007 and January 1, 2008, there were three thefts of 1991 Honda Accords at the Liberty Tree Mall, with recoveries made in Saugus

and Malden. The thefts were concentrated between 5:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M. on weeknights. We also recovered two Honda Accords, stolen from Saugus and Salem, at the Mall. On January 5, State Police arrested a 19-year-old Lynn man driving a Honda Accord stolen from Saugus. He had a master key stolen from a dealership, and the thefts stopped after his arrest. There were no other patterns in 2008.

During the past four years, the Honda Civic has been the most stolen model, with 25 thefts. The next, in order, are the Acura Integra (9), the Honda Accord (8), the Pontiac Grand Am (8), and the Ford Explorer (6). Historically, the average model year stolen has been about six to eight years prior to the year of the theft, but this has been slipping in the last few years as newer models are harder to steal. The average model years stolen in 2008 was 1998.

81% of cars stolen since 2005 have been recovered. Our recovery rate in 2008 was 75%. Towns supplying the most recoveries since 2004 have been:

Danvers	22	Revere	10
Lynn	18	Chelsea	7
Peabody	14	Lawrence	7
Boston	10	Salem	7

Danvers Police recovered 11 stolen cars in Danvers in 2008, well below the average of 27. As we saw in the December series, recoveries often occur at the same time a theft is reported, and towns often “trade” thefts. For instance, a woman reports her car stolen from the Home Depot. An officer responds to take a report. A few spaces away, he discovers a car stolen the previous day from Lawrence. The next day, the Danvers woman’s car is found in Lawrence.

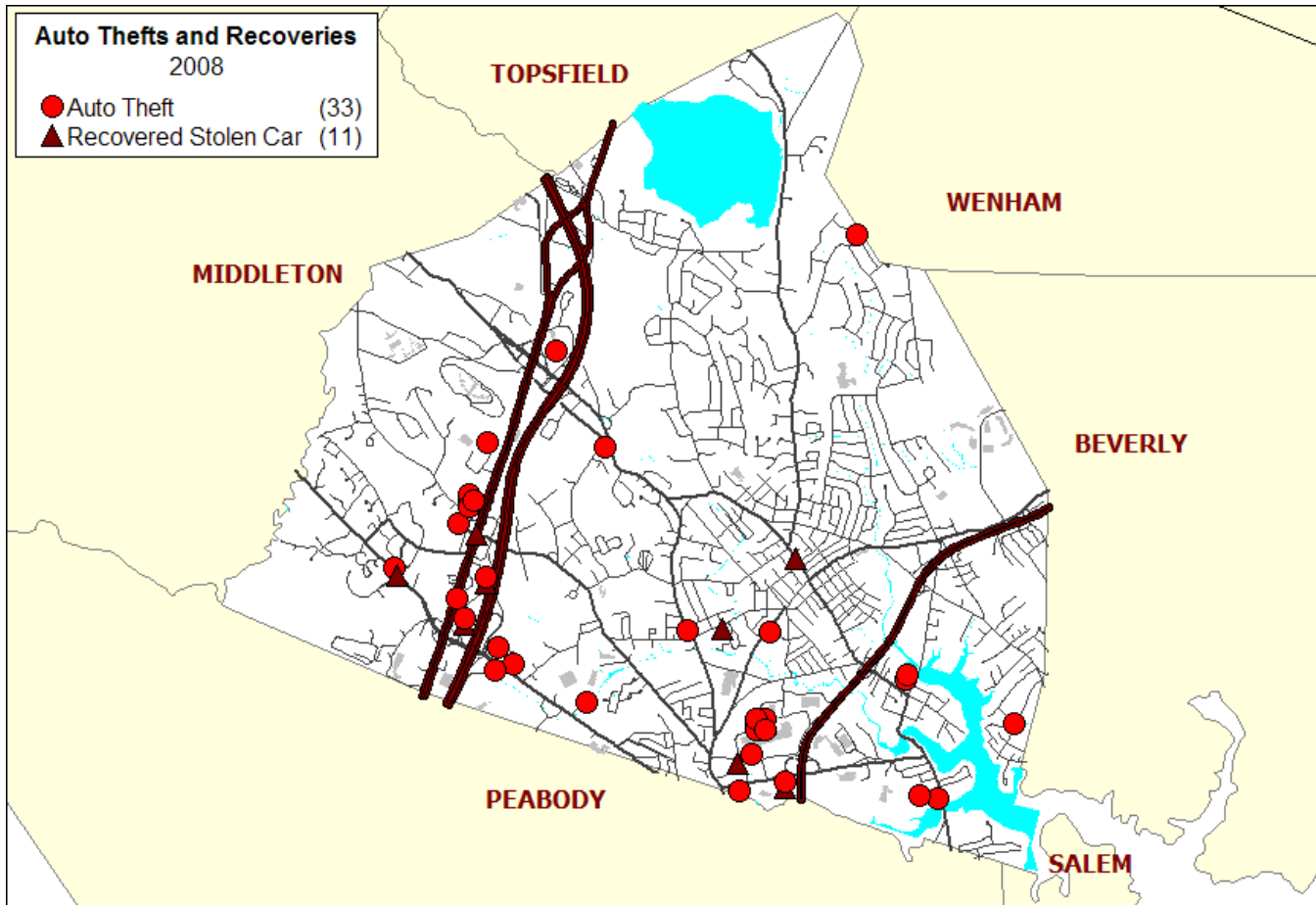
Preventing Auto Theft

About 25% of all cars stolen in Danvers, particularly newer models, have the keys in them at the time of the theft. Do not leave your car keys in your car.

Do not leave your car running, even to “run into” a gas station or coffee shop. Thieves watch for such behavior.

If you have an older car, without electronic security measures, consider a Club or similar device. These are very effective, though they sometimes displace thieves to the next car.

Be careful who you lend your car to. At least 7 “thefts” a year occur when a victim lends his car to someone he doesn’t know very well.



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.

**Average of 122 • 109 in 2008
11% Decrease**

The trend in fraud and forgery took an unexpected reversal in 2008, dropping 11% from the average, similar to what it did in 2005. Keep the corks in the champagne, though, because as of the end of February 2009, the crime is up 65%, suggesting that what happened in 2008 might be a one-year fluke.

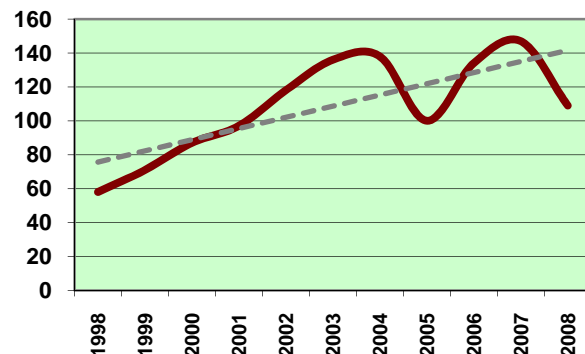
Fraud and forgery are vexing problems for local police for several reasons:

1) The means used to commit it transcend jurisdictional boundaries. Much is committed on the Internet, making it hard to determine which agency is responsible for investigating it.

2) No local agency has the resources to investigate multi-jurisdictional (often multi-state or multi-nation) offenses; yet state and federal agencies are usually uninterested unless the fraud reaches a high dollar value.

3) Credit card companies and retail chains have the power to eliminate many types of fraud but, for economic reasons that baffle us, choose not to.

Fraud & Forgery, 1998-2008



Fraud by Category

Category	2005	2006	2007	2008
Bad Checks	9	10	6	8
Con Games	18	31	12	11
Counterfeiting	8	15	35	14
Credit/ATM Card	35	57	57	41
Forged Check	12	8	14	7
Identity Theft	18	12	20	25
Other	0	1	2	3
TOTAL	100	134	147	109

Preventing Fraud & Forgery

Most fraud requires a willing victim. The best way to prevent fraud and forgery is to understand the situations in which it occurs. Read the different scenarios below and watch out for them in your business and personal life. Use these descriptions to educate your family—particularly elderly relatives.

Other important tips include:

- Carry only the credit cards and checks you need for regular use—not all the ones you possess
- Hide your credit cards and checks, and consider changing account numbers, if a family member develops a drug problem or if you're going through a contentious divorce or break-up.
- Check your credit report regularly.

Bad Checks include checks written on closed accounts or accounts with insufficient funds. This crime has become rarer as more stores check the accounts before processing payment, but it tends to increase in a bad economy, so watch out.

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

Credit Card and ATM Card Fraud usually this involves credit cards stolen in other jurisdictions, used at Danvers stores. In the past two years, Wal-Mart, Target, and Best



Buy have been the hottest spots for credit card forgery, though an increasing number are occurring over the Internet. **Credit card fraud could be virtually eliminated** if credit card companies required a PIN with all purchases, and/or if stores required photo identification with all purchases. Requiring users to enter a zip code is a half-measure that has had some success in several states, but since the victim's identification (with zip code) is often stolen along with the credit card, it doesn't prevent the crime in a lot of cases.

Con Games reel in 15–20 victims every year. Here are some of the repeat scenarios:

- **“Wire the Remainder”:** a victim is selling something on Craig's List or another online site. A “buyer” contacts the victim and closes the deal. When the payment, often in traveler's checks or a cashier's check, arrives, it is for thousands of dollars more than the agreed-upon price. When the victim inquires, the seller says that there's been a mistake, and asks the victim to cash the checks, keep the sales portion, and wire the remainder back to the seller. The victim does so, and finds out weeks later that the checks were counterfeit. **Almost any time anyone asks you to “wire” money to them, it's a scam.**
- **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 U.S. bank account. If the victim agrees to the initial proposal, he or she is 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 or “pay taxes up front.” This scam particularly targets elderly residents. Remember: if you have to send money to get money, it's a scam.
- **Online Sales Scams:** a growing problem that simply involves property purchased over eBay, Craig's List, or other online sites that never arrives even after payment is made. There isn't much victims can do about this except to work through the fraud departments of the online companies.

- **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." We had a pattern of such incidents around Endicott Street in the fall of 2004.
- **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. Danvers last saw this scam in 2002, though other towns with malls have experienced it as recently as February 2006. Our detectives arrested who we believe is the "ringleader" of the scam in 1999 and may have scared them out of Danvers.
- **Contractor Cons:** an old con in which a team of men offers to work for the victim (often repaving the driveway) for a low price, then either do the work with sub-standard materials, or just leave with the money. We had a series of driveway paving scams in Danvers in 2006 involving con men from the Haverhill area.

Counterfeiting remains a sporadic phenomenon, subject to occasional patterns. Counterfeit currency typically turns up in store registers with no indication of who passed it. In 2006, we started to see a pattern of traveler's check and gift check counterfeiting which elevated figures in 2006 and 2007. It stopped in 2008.

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 boundaries. The Danvers Police Department web site has links to resources for the prevention of identity theft.

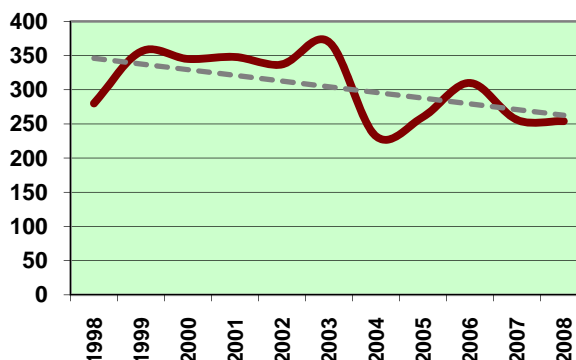
Vandalism

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. Types of destruction can include smashing, graffiti, and egging.

**Average of 298 • 254 in 2008
15% Decrease**

Vandalism has been on a bit of a roller-coaster for the past several years, going from a high of 370 in 2003 to a low of 232 in 2004, followed by two years of increases in 2005 and 2006 and then significant decreases in 2007 and 2008.

Vandalism, 1998-2008



The difference between a high-vandalism year and a low one usually amounts to how many patterns and sprees that we have. Such patterns in the past have included springtime school vandalism, summer damage to plants in Danvers Square, and winter holiday decoration destruction. In 2008, we had essentially no such patterns.

Vandalisms in 2008 included 149 incidents of damage to automobiles, 51 incidents of damage to residences, 22 to businesses, and 23 to public buildings or property. The most common situational types were:

- Windows smashed on automobiles (usually in commercial parking lots): 49 incidents
- Automobiles scratched or keyed (31)
- Automobile tires slashed (21)
- Houses egged (16)

Vandalisms are often the end result of petty feuds and squabbles between friends, ex-boyfriends and girlfriends, and neighbors.

Traffic Accidents

Traffic Accidents: The accidental collision of a motor vehicle with another motor vehicle, person, bicycle, or stationary object.

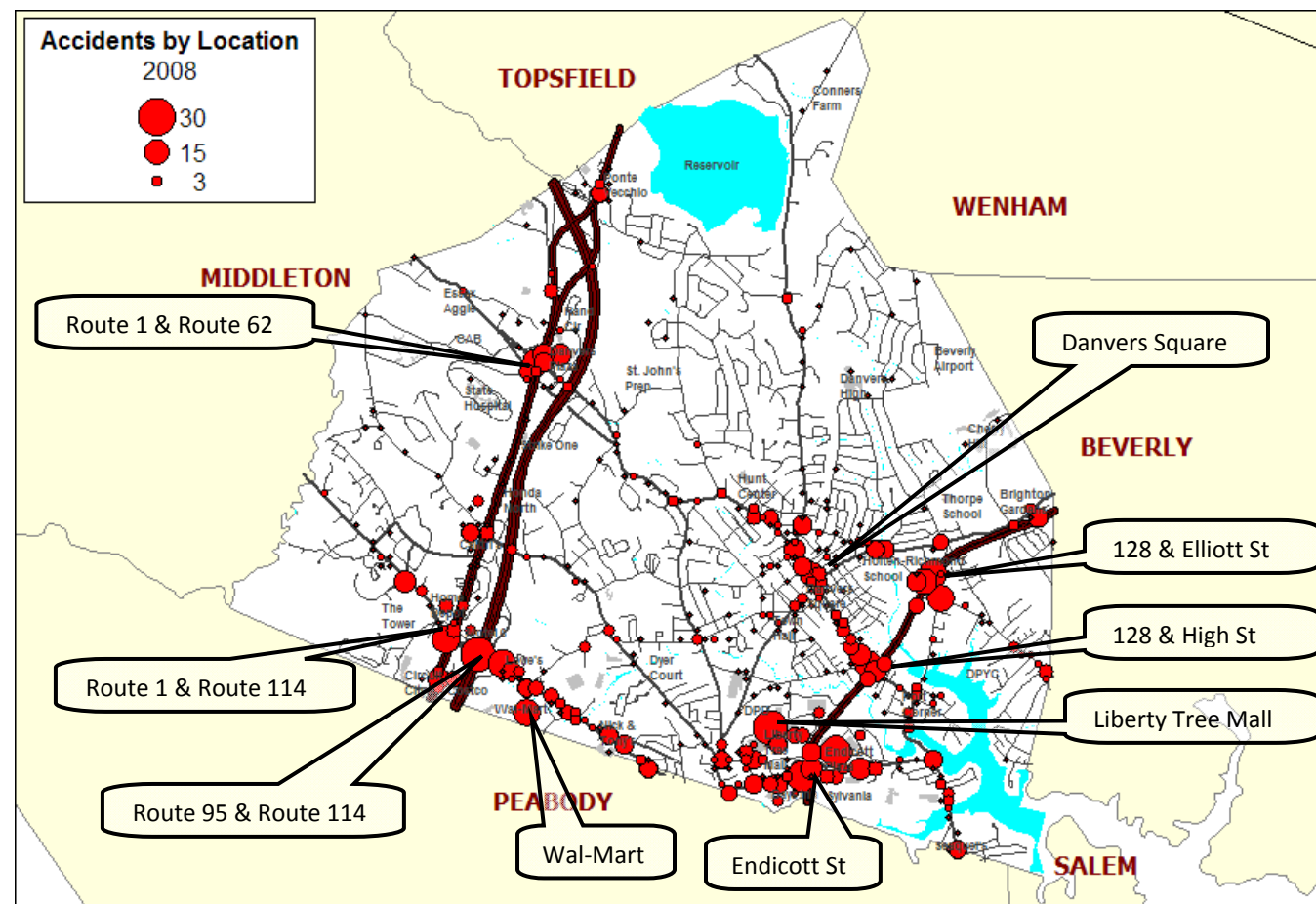
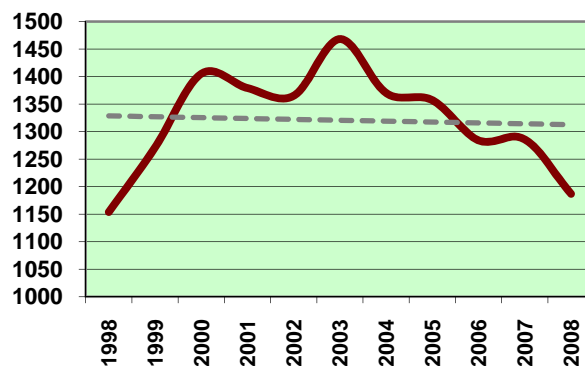
**Average of 1344 • 1187 in 2008
12% Decrease**

In 2008, traffic collisions reached their lowest levels since 1998. They have been falling rather steadily since 2003, when we implemented an aggressive new enforcement program, and the decrease was helped along in 2008 by high gasoline prices during the summer, which caused people to drive less.

Unfortunately, our ability to keep assisting accident decreases is fairly limited. We are already doing as many special enforcement assignments per day as our manpower allows, and the simple fact is, the majority of accidents (about 89%) are not caused by enforceable violations like speed, drunk driving, and running red lights. The vast majority are caused by

distractions, inattention, misjudgment, and simple congestion—none of which are things an officer can practically identify and cite ahead of time. But we will continue to keep up on hot spots and do what we can.

Traffic Collisions, 1998-2008



POLICE SERVICES AND CONTACTS

The New Danvers Police Department Web Site

<http://www.danverspolice.com>



On our web site, you can:

- Report a crime online
- Submit an anonymous tip
- Review recent crime alerts
- See a calendar of events
- Learn about the latest scams and confidence games
- See registered sex offenders
- View crime prevention tips
- Register for the next Citizen Police Academy
- Download collision & other forms
- Get information on policies & procedures
- Learn about town bylaws
- View current contact information
- Read the latest issue of our quarterly newsletter, *The Defender*.

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**, come to the Danvers Police station in person, or report it online at **http://www.danverspolice.com/DPD/contact/report_crime.cfm**. Note that some restrictions apply to online reporting.

Find Out About Crime & Safety Information in My Area?

Call or e-mail the Public Safety Analyst at **978-774-1213 ext. 119** or **cbruce@mail.danvers-ma.org**.

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, and we can provide more information about resources available to you. Call us at 978-774-1212 or come to the station at any time for assistance. 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 Sgt. Robert Bettencourt at **978-774-1213 ext. 134** or **rbettencourt@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 Public Safety Analyst 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 Sgt. Bettencourt at **978-774-1213 ext. 134** to set one up.

Obtain or Renew a Firearm License or Permit (including Pepper Spray Permit)?

The Danvers Police Department has a lengthy section on this process on its web site at **<http://www.danverspolice.com/DPD/firearms/firearms.cfm>**. If you do not have access to the Internet, call Detective Eric Clarizia at 978-774-1212.

Become a Danvers Police Officer?

To become a police officer in most Massachusetts jurisdictions, including Danvers, applicants must first apply at the Massachusetts Human Resources Division and take the standard Police Officer examination. The results of this exam produce an eligibility list, from which the Danvers Police Department appoints new officers. Eligibility is based on exam scores, Danvers residency, educational level, and veteran status.

Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED, must have a valid Massachusetts license and a good driving record, must not have been convicted of a felony at any time, must be a United States Citizen, and must be able to pass a psychological test, a physical examination, and an extensive background investigation. His or her vision must be correctable to 20/20. If the applicant has previous military service, he or she must have an honorable discharge. Selected recruits then attend a 16-18 police academy sponsored by the Municipal Police Training Committee, followed by eight weeks of field training at the police department.

Contact Information

Danvers Police Department • 120 Ash Street • Danvers, MA 02139

978-774-1213 • Fax: 978-777-8861

<http://www.danverspolice.com>

Neil F. Ouellette Chief of Police	978-774-1213 ext. 135	nouellette@mail.danvers-ma.org
Captain Patrick Ambrose Administrative Division Commander	978-774-1213 ext. 129	pambrose@mail.danvers-ma.org
Captain Edmund Plamowski Operations Division Commander	978-774-1213 ext. 128	eplamowski@mail.danvers-ma.org
Elaine A. Russo Executive Assistant	978-774-1213 ext. 122	erusso@mail.danvers-ma.org
Lt. Carole Germano Shift Commander Domestic Violence	978-774-1213 ext. 116	cgermano@mail.danvers-ma.org
Lt. Dana Milne Shift Commander Accreditation	978-774-1213 ext. 126	dmilne@mail.danvers-ma.org
Lt. Walter Roberts Shift Commander Traffic	978-774-1213 ext. 116	wroberts@mail.danvers-ma.org
Sgt. Robert Bettencourt Community Policing/School Outreach	978-774-1213 ext. 134	rbettencourt@mail.danvers-ma.org
Sgt. David Joyce Court Prosecutor	978-774-1213 ext. 126	djoyce@mail.danvers-ma.org
Sgt. William Carleton Investigative Division Commander	978-774-1213 ext. 127 Fax: 978-777-0268	wcarleton@mail.danvers-ma.org
Christopher W. Bruce Public Safety Analyst	978-774-1213 ext. 119	cbruce@mail.danvers-ma.org
D.A.R.E./Juvenile Officers	978-774-1213 ext. 130	rbettencourt@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 Officer	978-774-1213 ext. 113	
Webmaster	978-774-1213 ext. 119	cbruce@mail.danvers-ma.org

RESULTS OF THE 2008 COMMUNITY SURVEY

In the era of community policing—as police departments transition from a reactive, emergency-response model to a pro-active, problem solving model—more police agencies have made a periodic community survey part of their regular operations. Though circumstances often make it appear otherwise, a police department serves at the will and direction of its community. Thus, an assessment of the community's satisfaction with the police is the ultimate measure of the department's success or failure.

The Danvers Police Department conducts a survey of citizens every three years to answer several key questions:

- How do residents feel about the quality of police services?
- What are residents' views as to the competence, attitude, and behavior of Danvers Police officers?
- How safe do residents feel in Danvers? What crimes, behaviors, and areas concern them most?
- Do residents believe that Danvers Police show a bias to race, ethnicity, social status, or sex?
- How would residents like to receive information from the Danvers Police Department?

The Danvers Police Public Safety Analyst sampled 1,000 residents from the town's voting registry and mailed them each a survey during the summer of 2008. Our response rate was a fairly dismal 19.8%, with 198 of the surveys returned. In the fall, Danvers Police Crime Analysis Intern Michael Correia entered the results into a database, and the Public Safety Analyst analyzed them for this report.

Key Findings

- The Danvers police department continues to enjoy a high level of support from its residents. 85% had a "very favorable" or "favorable" opinion of the Danvers Police, and 82% were either "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with their most recent contact.
- Very little has changed over the last six years. Overall ratings, crime and safety concerns, satisfaction, fear of crime, confidence, and other factors are nearly identical among the 2002, 2005, and 2008 surveys.
- The few residents who were unsatisfied did not have consistent complaints, meaning there are few indications for policy improvements within the data.
- Residents overwhelmingly (95%) feel safe living in Danvers, believe the police provide strong protection in their neighborhoods (75%), and have confidence in the ability of the Danvers Police to prevent crime (87%).
- Residents' top crime and safety concerns generally align well with the policies and focus of the Danvers Police, as do their least important concerns.
- Despite the growth of the "information superhighway," most residents' opinions of crime and safety are heavily influenced by old-fashioned methods, including newspapers and personal observation. They want to continue to receive information from the police through these traditional media.

Who Responded?

Of the 198 people who responded to the 2008 survey, 19 declined to provide information about their ages, 13 declined to provide information about their races, 14 declined to provide information about their sex. The percentages below are based on those who did respond in each category.

Sex

Sex	% in Danvers	% Responding
Male	46.5%	37.5%
Female	53.5%	62.5%

Race

Race	% in Danvers	% Responding
White	97.7%	96.8%
Black	0.3%	0.0%
Asian	1.1%	1.0%
Other/Dual	0.6%	2.2%

Age

Range	% in Danvers (of adults)	% Responding
Under 60	71.7%	61.5%
60 or older	28.3%	38.5%

Question 1: What is your overall opinion of the Danvers Police Department, its employees, and its services?

Very Favorable	95	48%
Favorable	74	37%
Average	22	11%
Unfavorable	2	1%
Very Unfavorable	3	2%
No Response	2	1%

Question 2: How many times have you had contact with someone from the Danvers Police Department in the past two years?

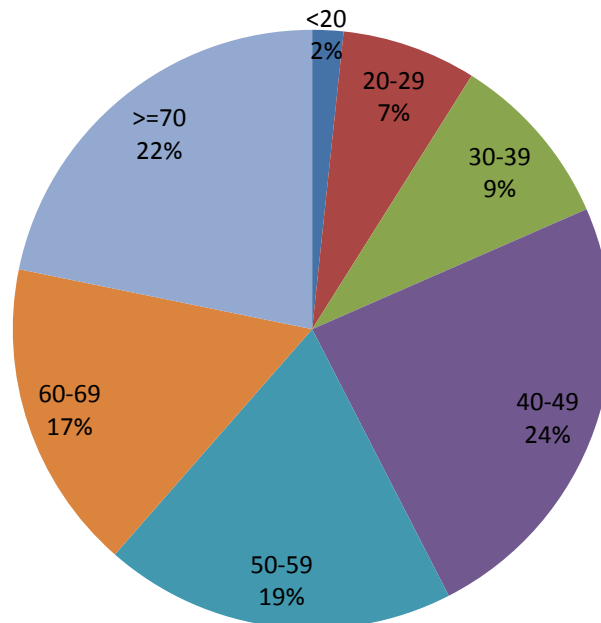
More than 5 Times	18	9%
Between 2 and 5	56	28%
Once	51	26%
Never	70	35%
No response	3	

Question 3: What was the nature of your most recent contact? (%s are of those who had any contact)

Reported an incident	46	37%
Crime victim	6	5%
Arrested	3	2%
Contacted by investigator	5	4%
Pulled over in car	6	5%
In auto accident	5	4%
Requested info.	14	11%
Ask officer on street for help	12	10%
Other	29	23%

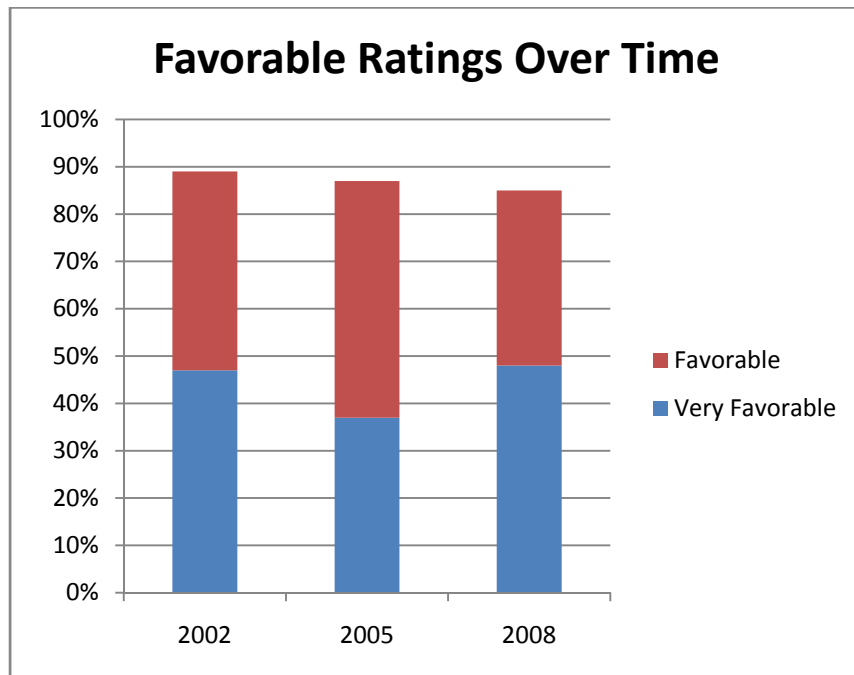
The racial breakdown roughly mirrors the population of Danvers. In terms of age and sex, though, the survey respondents were far more likely to be female than the residential population would suggest, and were slightly more likely to be over 60. When we look at age categories, we see that 82% of our respondents are above the age of 40; consequently, our results are going to be biased towards the needs and concerns of middle-aged and elderly residents. This is consistent with previous years.

Respondents by Age Range



Overall Opinions of the Danvers Police Department

The Danvers Police Department has a significantly high level of support from the members of our community. 85% of respondents said they had either “favorable” or “very favorable” opinions of the Danvers Police, and only 3% said their opinions were “unfavorable” or “very unfavorable.”



Our favorable rating has always been high, although it has dropped slightly (and not significantly, statistically) over the last three surveys. However, the percentage that rated us “very favorable” was the highest on record in 2008.

The low number of people (5) who feel bad about the Danvers Police makes it easier to give each one of them individual scrutiny. All had between 2 and 5 contacts with the Danvers Police in the past two years, and two of them had been arrested (the other three had reported a crime). From the comments, the two who had been arrested were very bitter about it and did not believe that the police had followed proper procedure. The others seemed to be upset with the results of their interactions with the police but did not provide specific comments.

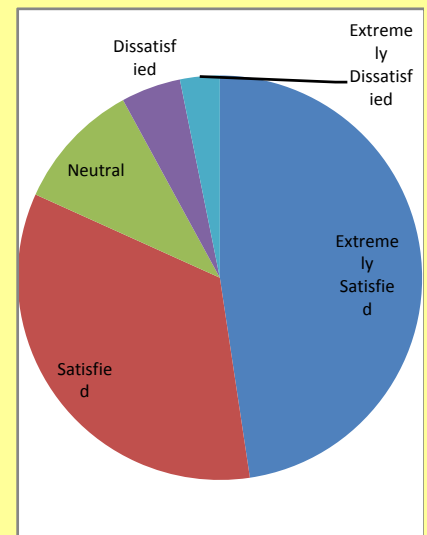
“Any officers I have come in contact with have been very approachable and helpful.”

Question 4: How or where was your most recent contact made?

In person, at DPD	20	16%
In person, at home	23	18%
In person, at work	1	1%
In person, elsewhere	36	28%
By telephone	40	31%
By e-mail	1	1%
Other	6	5%

Question 5: How would you rate your satisfaction with your most recent contact?

Extremely Satisfied	60	48%
Satisfied	43	34%
Neutral	13	10%
Dissatisfied	6	5%
Extremely Dissatisfied	4	3%



Question 7: Based on your most recent contact, how would you rate the Danvers Police Department in the following areas? (Where 5=Very Good and 1=Very Poor)

Area	Average
Response Time	4.50
Professional Conduct	4.47
Appearance	4.42
Helpfulness	4.47
Fairness	4.41
Problem-Solving Skills	4.44
Quality of Follow-Up	4.15

Question 8: Overall, how safe do you feel in your neighborhood?

Very Safe	123	66%
Somewhat Safe	54	29%
Neutral	8	4%
Unsafe	0	0%
Very Unsafe	0	0%

13 respondents didn't answer

Question 9: Have you considered moving in the past year because of crime and safety concerns?

Yes	5	3%
No	193	97%

Question 10: Have you limited or changed your activities in the past few years because of fear of crime?

Yes	17	9%
No	181	91%

Question 11: How often do you see a Danvers Police officer in your neighborhood?

Once or more a day	48	26%
Every few days	42	22%
Once a week	17	9%
Once every few wks.	31	16%
Rarely	50	27%

10 respondents didn't answer

Question 12: How well do you think the Danvers Police Department provides protection in your neighborhood?

Very well	76	41%
Well	63	34%
Neutral	43	23%
Poorly	3	2%
Very Poorly	2	1%

11 respondents didn't answer

Question 13: How much confidence do you have in the ability of the Danvers Police to prevent crime?

Much Confidence	100	53%
Some Confidence	65	34%
Neutral	20	11%
Little Confidence	3	2%
No Confidence	1	1%

9 respondents didn't answer

Danvers Police ranked high (between “good” and “very good” in each of the categories in which residents were asked to assess their most recent contacts. Our lowest ranking was in “quality of follow-up” (4.15) and our highest was in “response time” (4.5). A couple of respondents wrote notes in which they said there was no follow-up.

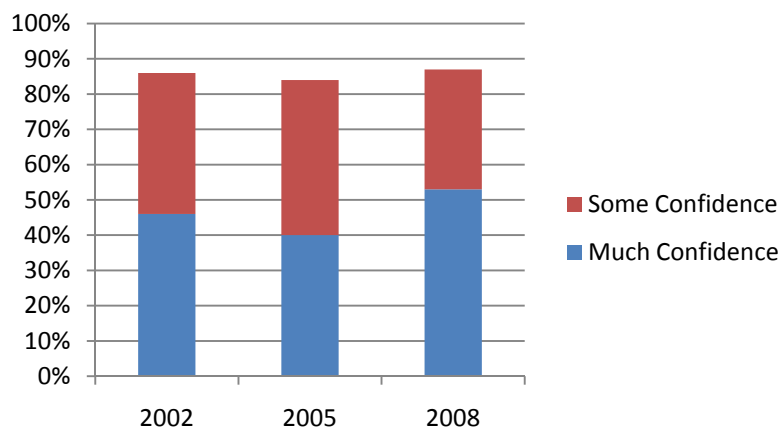
Of the people who were dissatisfied in some way with their most recent contact with the police, they gave the following reasons:

- Officer did not respond effectively to traffic complaint
- Officer violated laws in execution of arrest
- Officer made an arrest for a traffic violation that did not occur
- Respondent doesn't like being called at home to give money to police
- Officer “yessed [respondent to death]”
- Respondent did not believe officers should make arrests at juvenile drinking parties; that it should be handled by the parents

Crime and Safety

For the first time since we've been administering this survey, no respondent felt “unsafe” or “very unsafe.” In fact, only eight respondents felt “neutral.” Everyone else felt “safe” or “very safe,” with the top category accounting for two-thirds of the responses.

Five residents said they had considered moving because of crime and safety concern, and 17 said they had limited or changed their activities because of crime. When asked how they had changed their activities, respondents gave basic common-sense crime prevention strategies, such as locking doors and windows and exercising caution when walking down dark streets at night.

Confidence Over Time

When asked to rank different crime and safety issues, the following issues were residents' top concerns (based on a combination of the average score and the number of "crisis" rankings):

- Car Break-Ins
- School Bullying
- Underage drinking
- Drug use/sale
- House break-ins
- Bad driving
- Road rage

Whereas the following issues ranked comparatively low:

- Public drunkenness
- Vagrancy
- Prostitution
- Muggings/hold-ups
- Random street assaults

These results correspond well with the Danvers Police Department's focus over the last few years. We have identified car break-ins as a top crime concern and we are performing regular directed patrols at hot spots. We have tasked extra school resource officers to deal, in part, with school bullying problems, and several policies and community partnerships have targeted underage drinking. We expanded the size of our detective unit in part to target drug dealing. And a huge investment in traffic enforcement over the last three years has produced decreases in motor vehicle accidents; whether it has also reduced "bad driving" and "road rage" is something we have not studied.

Crime statistics agree with respondents' lowest concerns, too. Only two rankings don't match well: house break-ins, which most respondents ranked as a significant problem, have been very low over the past few years; and we are noting an increasing problem with prostitution at area motels, but of course this does not affect the residential community.

As in previous surveys, respondents rely heavily on newspapers to inform them about crime and safety issues. Very few specifically seek information from the Danvers Police.

Eight respondents indicated they had been victims of crime that they did not report to the police. The types of crimes included a car break-in, three vandalisms, a theft, and a domestic assault. As in previous years, the number is too small to have large scale policy implications, but perhaps repetition of our message that "we want to be bothered," plus greater advertisement of our online crime reporting service, is warranted.

Question 15: To what extent do you feel the following issues are crime, safety, or quality of life problems in Danvers? (1=No Problem, 5=Crisis)

Issue	Avg. Score	# of 5s
Rape/Sex Assaults	3.34	2
Domestic Violence	3.62	7
Random Street Assaults	2.67	4
Gangs	2.57	5
Road Rage	3.02	13
Muggings/Hold-Ups	2.67	4
House Break-Ins	3.28	16
Car Break-Ins	3.34	19
Auto Theft	3.26	9
Drug Use/Sale	3.48	16
Vandalism/Graffiti	3.03	5
Youth Disorder	2.94	6
Public Drunkenness	2.68	1
School Bullying	4.64	14
Prostitution	3.47	1
Auto Accidents	3.09	7
Noise	2.71	8
Litter	2.82	7
Parking Violations	3.09	5
Bad Driving	3.26	14
Drunk Driving	3.47	7
Vagrancy	3.02	0
Underage Drinking	3.83	16

Question 16: On what basis have you formed your opinions about crime and safety problems in Danvers?

Newspaper Articles	146
Personal Observation	118
Stories from Friends/Neighbors	84
Television News	51
Stories from Family	38
Crime Information from Danvers Police	28
Victimization of Someone I know	20
Personal Victimization	18
Other	5

Question 17: Have you been the victim of a crime in Danvers that you did not report to the police within the past two years?

Yes	8	4%
No	190	96%

Specific Concerns

115 respondents took the time to tell us of specific locations, times, and types of activity that concern them. 36 talked about traffic issues, 22 about youth disorder, 10 about thefts from cars, and eight each about residential burglary and noise complaints.

For traffic issues, the most complained-about road was Route 62, although “everywhere” had a high number of responses, too. Respondents who felt youth disorder was an issue mostly cited the downtown area, although the Liberty Tree Mall received a few votes, too. Those who noted the problem with thefts from vehicles mostly talked about the Mall as well, although some seemed to be concerned about their own neighborhoods. Residential burglary and noise concerns were tied to residents’ specific streets.

Getting Information to the Public

All across the world, police agencies are exploring new technologies to get information out to citizens. Almost every police department has a web site, and many have started e-mail groups. Many in Massachusetts have invested in “Reverse 911” systems which can be used to automatically dial residences and deliver important information.

But residents surveyed didn’t really seem to want high-tech means of notification. 104 of the respondents—more than half—wanted to get their information through the newspaper. Another 88 preferred mail, and 71 wanted us to deliver information on community access television. The Danvers Police web site ranked fourth, and e-mail was fifth. Almost no one wanted to be called on the phone. Moreover, these rankings have not changed appreciably over the years even as the prevalence of computers and e-mail has grown.

Question 14: How do you want the police to give you information?

Newspapers	104
Mail	88
Community Access Television	71
Police Web Page	64
E-Mail	49
Fliers in Public Places	43
Telephone Calls	36
Brochures at the Police Dept.	30
Other	1

Bias-Based Policing

It is important to the Danvers Police Department that residents regard our activities as impartial and fair. We asked two questions about bias-based policing to assess that perception.

15 respondents, or 8%, believe that the Danvers Police Department does make enforcement decisions based on an improper consideration of race, ethnicity, social status, or sex. This is identical with the percentage in the 2005 survey. This year, six respondents (3%) felt that they, personally, had been victims of bias-based policing, up from 1% in 2005.

Unfortunately, most of the people who “agreed” this year did not offer any comments. Only two did. One said that the police had “victimized [him] for hanging out with people who are not white.” The other said, “I have an adopted son who is not Caucasian and has received discriminating treatment from DPD.” These are very troubling, but unfortunately the respondents did not provide contact information so we could follow-up.

Question 21: Danvers Police base their enforcement actions on an improper consideration of a citizen's race, ethnicity, social status, or sex.

Strongly Agree	5
Agree	10
Neutral	74
Disagree	44
Strongly Disagree	51

14 respondents did not answer

Question 22: I believe the Danvers Police Department has taken action against me based on an improper consideration of my race, ethnicity, social status, or sex.

Strongly Agree	0
Agree	6
Neutral	34
Disagree	14
Strongly Disagree	110

34 respondents did not answer

Recommendations for Police Action

Based on what the residents of Danvers told the Danvers Police Department in the 2008 Community Survey, here are some things that the police department can do to improve services.

1. Continue our commitment to problem-oriented policing solutions to the theft-from-vehicle problem. Not only do statistics show that the problem is at its highest level on record, but residents ranked it as their top concern.
2. Share the results and specific comments on “school bullying” with the School Resource Officers and direct them to continue their efforts in this area.
3. Continue pursuing community partnerships and following effective policies to reduce underage drinking.
4. Direct the lieutenant in charge of traffic enforcement to study the comments on traffic-related issues and schedule assignments accordingly.
5. Most residents still want to receive their crime-related information the old-fashioned way: from the newspaper. Ensure that provide thorough and informative information about emerging patterns and trends to local reporters.
6. Have the captain in charge of Operations carefully review the comments on bias-based policing as well as the more general complaints for policy-related follow-up.
7. Re-advertise our online reporting capabilities to residents to try to reduce the underreporting rate.
8. Explore new methods for conducting the next community survey to increase the response rate. Stratify the sampling to ensure at least some responses from different segments of the community. Consider outsourcing the community survey to an impartial third party, such as a local college or university.

The Danvers Police Department will next conduct its community survey in 2011.