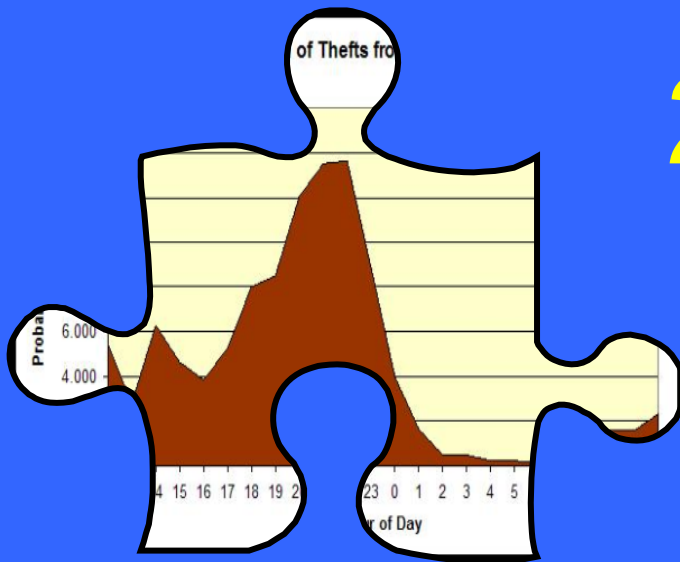




## DANVERS POLICE DEPARTMENT

# Annual Crime Report

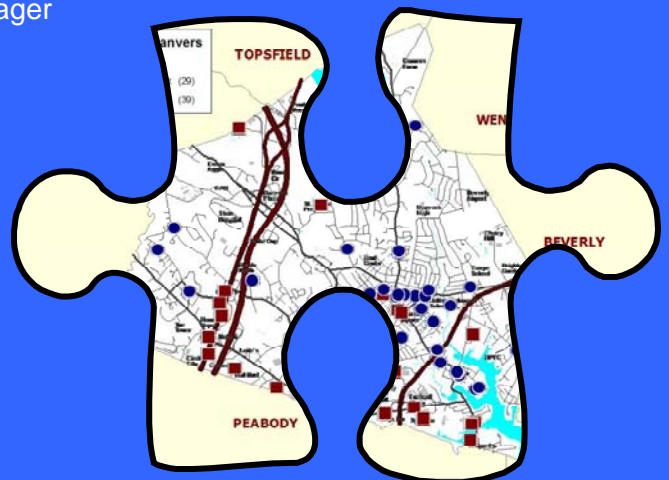
# 2009



Presented by the Danvers Police  
Office of Public Safety Analysis

**Neil F. Ouellette**  
Chief of Police

**Wayne P. Marquis**  
Town Manager



*A nationally-accredited law enforcement agency*

<http://www.danverspolice.com>

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## Danvers Police Department 2009 Annual Crime Report

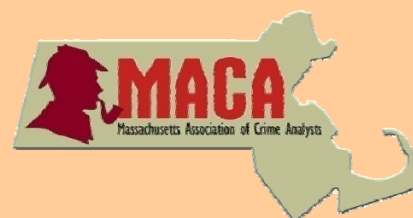


Presented by the  
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A proud member of:



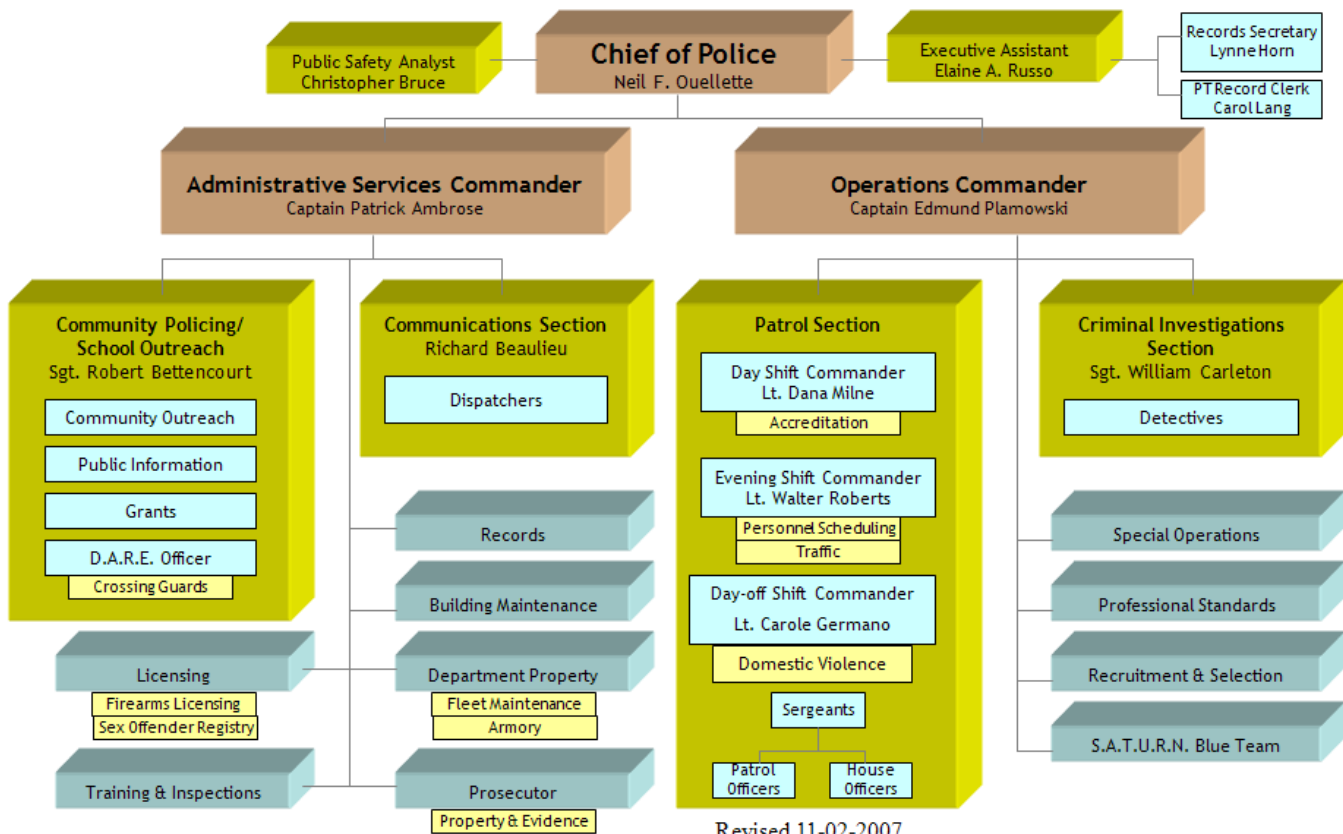
[www.macrimeanalysts.com](http://www.macrimeanalysts.com)

# DANVERS POLICE DEPARTMENT PROFILE

**Organized:** 1752  
**Population Served:** 26,736 (2007 Census)  
**Sworn Officers:** 46  
**Civilian Personnel:** 12  
**Chief:** Neil F. Ouellette  
**Headquarters:** 120 Ash Street  
**Budget (FY10):** \$5,412,051  
**Rank Structure:** Chief  
                             Captains (2)  
                             Lieutenants (3)  
                             Sergeants (8)  
                             Officers (29) / Detectives (3)  
**Patrol Vehicles:** 18  
**2009 Calls for Service:** 15,117



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



residents and visitors while maintaining several key programs within the community.

Unfortunately the Danvers Police Department's staffing was reduced from 48 sworn officers to 46 sworn officers due to the economy and budget reductions in fiscal year 2010. As a result of these cuts, the department had to reduce the Community Policing and School Outreach Section by one officer who was assigned to Danvers High School, and the Criminal Investigation Section lost one detective. Officer Olivia Silva continues to work as a School Resource Officer and D.A.R.E. Instructor, splitting her time between the Middle School and High School. Officer Jason Skane spent this school year assigned as a School Resource Officer at the Essex Agricultural and Technical High School through a cooperative approach which included the funding of one police officer. The Aggie has implemented a new disciplinary system that places personal accountability as the centerpiece for behavior so reported incidents of disorder have plummeted, thereby eliminating the need for the School Resource Officer in next year's budget.

An updated alarm bylaw was enacted during calendar year 2009. It increased the fines for recurring false alarms to both businesses and residences. I am happy to report an overall reduction in alarms by thirty percent, which is important since less than one percent of all alarm activations are for actual burglaries. The average alarm call requires two officers to respond and check the building or residence. The number of large "big box" stores within our community translates into labor intensive efforts, checking their doors and perimeters. We can redeploy these saved hours to positive prevention and enforcement efforts to serve our citizens.

The Danvers Police remain committed to engaging youths, schools and community to reduce underage drinking and substance abuse, while maintaining a high level of preventive education and aggressive enforcement protocols. The data continues to show an inverse correlation between the number and frequency of liquor compliance checks and failure rates. Data also suggests that since the department implemented a universal policy and procedure for underage drinking, in collaboration with our school department and DanversCARES, we have experienced a significant reduction in the number of underage parties that we respond to. Our most recent compliance check yielded only one violation which is down from an all-time high of eight a few years ago. The department will continue to work aggressively and cooperatively with business owners by providing educational

seminars to reduce the opportunities of underage procurement and eliminate over serving which will enhance the safety of our citizens.

Another area that concerns the department is instances where we are called to deal with emotionally disturbed persons. In 2009 we responded to 126 psychological disorder calls—a 7% increase from average. Many times these calls repeatedly involve the same persons who would benefit by specific in-patient or out-patient medical, psychological, substance abuse treatment. The department is currently working with Beverly Hospital to create a partnership for a jail diversion program thereby eliminating the need to take formal police action against persons who would be better served by a treatment model. The Evelyn Lilly Lutz Foundation has committed to funding our project with a \$20,000.00 grant.

I am happy to report that current crime statistics indicate that crime is down in most categories. Housebreaks, commercial breaks, and auto theft were very low in 2009. Most notably, auto theft was at its lowest level since the 1970s. We continue to see an increase in fraud and forgery offenses; simple assaults related to domestic violence have decreased this year. The department continues to see patterns of thefts from vehicles both in residential and commercial areas in spite of numerous media warnings by the department's Public Information Officer to remove valuables in plain sight from vehicles.

Through crime analysis the department continues to implement geographic information systems technology to identify crime patterns and trends within the community. Combining this information with regional intelligence and data on known offenders, probationers, and parolees within our community allows the department to respond more intelligently with the deployment of police resources to apprehend criminals or deter crime. Our monthly staff meetings have been structured on a COMSTAT format. This format consists of accurate, timely intelligence communicated to all, rapid deployment, which is synchronized and focused, using effective tactics, and relentless follow-up and assessment.

We look forward to further reductions in crime and disorder as a result of partnering with our community members. The continuation of our community based programs including the Citizen Police Academy, RAD classes, Juvenile Youth Academy, Downtown Business Committee, and Community Collaborative programs will keep the department in touch with stakeholders within the community. We continue to appreciate the support that the Town of Danvers and its residents provide to the Police Department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Neil F. Ouellette". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Neil F. Ouellette  
Chief of Police

## 2009 CRIME AND INCIDENT STATISTICS

The following table summarizes crime and other incidents in 2009 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	2008	2009	Change from Avg.	Notes
<b>VIOLENT/PERSONAL CRIME</b>						
Murder	0.3	0–1	0	<b>0</b>	<b>-100%</b>	No murders since 2006.
Rape	4.7	2–7	3	<b>4</b>	<b>-14%</b>	Normal volume. One stranger rape in TGI Friday's lot; others acquaintance
↓ Indecent Assault	8.9	7–11	11	<b>3</b>	<b>-66%</b>	Very low. All three incidents between guests at Route 1 motels.
Aggravated Assault	33.2	27–39	30	<b>33</b>	<b>-1%</b>	Almost exactly normal with usual proportions in each category.
Simple Assault	160.5	136–184	186	<b>146</b>	<b>-9%</b>	Back down after a very high 2008. Fewer domestic assaults in 2009.
Robbery	10.3	7–14	9	<b>8</b>	<b>-23%</b>	Concentrated in second half of year. Two incidents at Motel 6.
Kidnapping	0.8	0–2	1	<b>0</b>	<b>-100%</b>	No incidents in 2009. Only one in the past 5 years.
↓ Threats/Intimidation	93.5	75–112	82	<b>72</b>	<b>-23%</b>	Down like other violent crimes in 2009.
↓ Bomb Threats	5.6	4–8	7	<b>3</b>	<b>-47%</b>	Three pranks at schools in October and November; nothing rest of year.
↓ Violation of a Restraining Order	39.6	30–49	46	<b>28</b>	<b>-29%</b>	Very low all year in conjunction with other violent crimes.
<b>PROPERTY CRIME</b>						
↓ Residential Burglary	39.6	32–48	36	<b>31</b>	<b>-22%</b>	Picked up a little in the fall but not enough to overwhelm low Jan-Sep.
↓ Commercial Burglary	32.1	24–41	24	<b>19</b>	<b>-41%</b>	Dropped precipitously with copper and metal no longer hot targets.
Theft from a Vehicle	262.9	205–321	349	<b>226</b>	<b>-14%</b>	Back down after high 2008 as GPS market declined. Still lots of patterns.
↓ Theft from a Building	102.1	88–116	82	<b>64</b>	<b>-37%</b>	Decreases in health club thefts and scrap metal thefts.
Theft from a Person	26.8	20–34	24	<b>23</b>	<b>-14%</b>	One fall pattern along Endicott Street but volume otherwise normal.
↓ Theft from a Residence	57.8	51–65	61	<b>49</b>	<b>-15%</b>	Low with fewer domestic and yard thefts.
↓ Theft of a Bicycle	23.1	18–28	26	<b>16</b>	<b>-31%</b>	Plummeted. No recurrence of summer 2008 patterns.
Theft of Services	21.1	15–27	16	<b>20</b>	<b>-5%</b>	Normal level of dine-and-ditch scams and gas drive-offs.
↑ Shoplifting	266.0	225–307	273	<b>325</b>	<b>+22%</b>	Shot up particularly around holidays as retailers buffed security forces.
↓ Auto Theft	52.5	36–69	33	<b>23</b>	<b>-56%</b>	Lowest level in at least 30 years. No patterns in 2009.
Arson	2.6	0–5	1	<b>3</b>	<b>+15%</b>	Port-a-potty, car, and dumpster, all during the fall.
↑ Fraud & Forgery	119.6	98–141	109	<b>146</b>	<b>+22%</b>	Big increase with numerous incidents of credit card fraud and identity theft.
Employee Theft	22.5	16–29	22	<b>25</b>	<b>+11%</b>	Relatively normal levels. One mall kiosk reported three.
Trespassing	35.4	21–50	16	<b>37</b>	<b>+5%</b>	Mostly private incidents involving feud between neighbors.
Vandalism	290.4	244–337	254	<b>269</b>	<b>-7%</b>	Low to normal volume for third year in a row. Few patterns.

Incident Type	Average	Usual Range	2008	2009	Change from Avg.	Notes
<b>SOCIETAL/VICE CRIME</b>						
↓ Drug Offenses	91.0	72–110	84	<b>60</b>	<b>-34%</b>	Plummeted in response to marijuana decriminalization.
↓ Liquor Law Violations	45.9	31–60	29	<b>28</b>	<b>-39%</b>	Hardly any house parties or youth drinking.
↓ Drunk Driving	89.5	61–118	83	<b>38</b>	<b>-58%</b>	Lowest level since 1998 after six years of heightened enforcement.
↑ Prostitution	3.3	1–6	5	<b>8</b>	<b>+142%</b>	Growing problems at local budget motels.
↓ Indecent Exposure	8.8	6–11	11	<b>4</b>	<b>-55%</b>	Low after high 2008. No patterns or repeat individuals.
Weapon Violations	22.5	12–33	25	<b>17</b>	<b>-24%</b>	Normal. Most of the incidents involve violations of knife bylaw.
Dumping/Littering	25.9	22–30	25	<b>26</b>	<b>+0%</b>	Normal. Occasional problem behind vacant buildings on 1 and 114.
Child Neglect	16.7	11–22	20	<b>15</b>	<b>-10%</b>	Normal volume. Fewer children left alone in cars.
<b>DISORDER/QUALITY-OF-LIFE</b>						
↓ Disorderly Conduct	149.2	125–174	153	<b>121</b>	<b>-19%</b>	Low with decreased activity at the Mall.
Disputes	581.1	558–604	571	<b>575</b>	<b>-1%</b>	Very low during first half of year balanced out by highs in second half
Noise Complaints	419.6	355–484	441	<b>355</b>	<b>-15%</b>	Generally low all year with little activity at past hot spots.
Fireworks	43.4	36–50	52	<b>49</b>	<b>+13%</b>	A little high around Fourth of July; otherwise normal.
↓ Drunkenness	157.7	130–185	110	<b>124</b>	<b>-21%</b>	Low for second straight year with fewer problems at restaurants & bars
Vagrancy	15.8	8–24	11	<b>21</b>	<b>+33%</b>	On the high end with multiple reports of panhandling on 114.
Youth Disorder	198.6	140–257	198	<b>222</b>	<b>+12%</b>	Increased in the fall with complaints in Danvers Square.
↓ Skateboard, Bike, & Scooter Complaints	108.9	69–149	68	<b>52</b>	<b>-52%</b>	Lowest in 13 years with fewer complaints from area merchants.
Suspicious Activity	894.3	821–967	909	<b>930</b>	<b>+4%</b>	Normal. No patterns or trends observed.
Psychiatric Disorder	117.2	88–147	136	<b>126</b>	<b>+7%</b>	Normal. Several repeat residents with multiple calls.
Harassing & Annoying	49.2	42–56	54	<b>45</b>	<b>-9%</b>	Normal. A couple of repeat incidents between acquaintances.
Annoying/Obscene Phone Calls	104.7	90–119	114	<b>104</b>	<b>-1%</b>	Also normal. A couple of repeat incidents between acquaintances.
<b>TRAFFIC ISSUES</b>						
↓ Motor Vehicle Accidents	1317.9	1235–1401	1187	<b>1104</b>	<b>-16%</b>	Lowest in 13 years. Product of extra enforcement and sluggish economy.
Traffic & Parking Complaints	575.7	539–613	590	<b>585</b>	<b>+2%</b>	Normal volume with no new trends.
↓ Criminal Motor Vehicle Offenses	556.3	328–784	377	<b>285</b>	<b>-49%</b>	Lowest since 1998 partly reflecting technology problems with detection.
↓ Disabled Motor Vehicles	606.9	507–707	443	<b>445</b>	<b>-27%</b>	Low for second year probably reflecting decreased traffic in town.
↓ Abandoned Motor Vehicles	49.8	36–64	33	<b>27</b>	<b>-46%</b>	Lowest in more than a decade, but for unknown reasons.
↓ Recovered Stolen Vehicles	24.4	14–35	11	<b>15</b>	<b>-39%</b>	Very low, consistent with decrease in auto theft.
↓ Dangerous Road Conditions	235.5	209–262	196	<b>188</b>	<b>-20%</b>	Usually caused by bad weather and weather was good until December.

Incident Type	Average	Usual Range	2008	2009	Change from Avg.	Notes
<b>GENERAL SERVICE INCIDENTS</b>						
↑911 Errors	291.8	244–339	361	<b>347</b>	<b>+19%</b>	High may be due to sensitivity of new 911 equipment.
↓False Alarms	1987.9	1767–2209	1785	<b>1402</b>	<b>-29%</b>	Plummeted in response to new town bylaw with increased fines.
Animal-Related Incidents	416.3	328–504	374	<b>344</b>	<b>-17%</b>	Fairly low, partly reflecting new policy of nonresponse to dead animals.
Check Well-Being	813.8	703–925	834	<b>838</b>	<b>+3%</b>	Normal.
↑Unattended Death	24.8	20–30	32	<b>33</b>	<b>+33%</b>	Record high in natural deaths may simply reflect growing population.
↓Fire Assists	82.2	65–100	68	<b>56</b>	<b>-32%</b>	Fairly low.
↓Lost Property	149.0	115–183	92	<b>106</b>	<b>-29%</b>	Decrease in lost cell phone reports may reflect changing policies at cell phone companies.
↑Medical Aid	1529.4	1404–1655	1653	<b>1769</b>	<b>+16%</b>	Record high, reflecting increasing population and more assisted living.
Missing Persons	62.4	23–102	35	<b>42</b>	<b>-33%</b>	Has decreased steadily every year since 2002.
Suicide or Attempt	16.9	12–22	21	<b>16</b>	<b>-6%</b>	Normal volume. All but one was unsuccessful.
Town/Utility Problem	253.4	193–314	290	<b>293</b>	<b>+16%</b>	High. Lots of downed wires and water breaks.
Miscellaneous Public Service	441.6	365–518	522	<b>496</b>	<b>+12%</b>	Slight increase almost entirely due to one disabled resident.
<b>POLICE-DIRECTED ACTIVITY</b>						
↑Traffic Enforcement	1554.3	100–3008	3656	<b>3559</b>	<b>+129%</b>	High for fourth year, due to new programs implemented in late 2005.
↓Directed Patrols	1221.8	531–1912	864	<b>472</b>	<b>-61%</b>	Competes with traffic enforcement category for patrol resources.
Warrant Arrests or Service	290.3	244–336	267	<b>257</b>	<b>-11%</b>	Nominal volume. Generally tied to overall crime rate.
↑Service of Legal Papers	412.3	274–550	662	<b>613</b>	<b>+49%</b>	Big increase reflects changing departmental policies.
↓Prisoner Transport	262.4	224–301	277	<b>216</b>	<b>-18%</b>	Decrease reflecting decreased arrest total
<b>OVERALL TOTALS</b>						
↓Total Calls for Service <sup>1</sup>	16285.5	15794–16777	16139	<b>15117</b>	<b>-7%</b>	Very low thanks to decreases in alarms, traffic-related issues, and crime.
↓Total Reported Crimes	2168.9	2050–2287	2120	<b>1904</b>	<b>-12%</b>	Decreases in almost all categories of violent, property, and societal crimes.
↓Total Arrests	970.3	793–1147	835	<b>629</b>	<b>-35%</b>	Very low, reflecting primarily decreases in arrestable motor vehicle offenses, drunk driving, and drug offenses.

<sup>1</sup> This total does not include directed patrols or selective enforcement assignments



## 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 43% of all calls for police service and 57% 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:

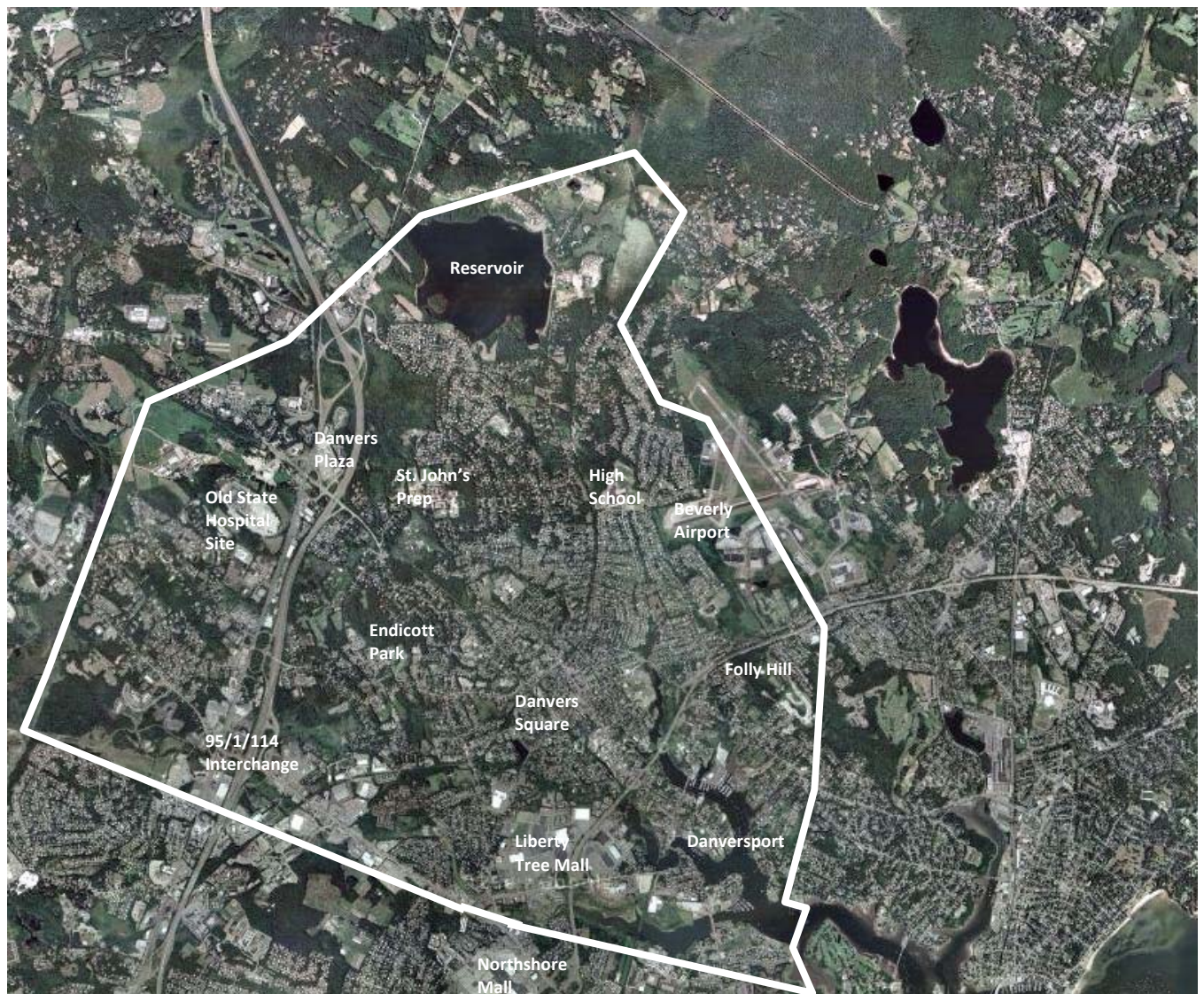
- There were 77 thefts from cars at the Liberty Tree Mall between 2008 and 2009, but Ash Street and Abington Road—the two residential streets that abut the Liberty Tree Mall—had no thefts from cars.
- There were 103 crimes along the commercial section of Endicott Street in 2009 (between Sylvan Street and Hutchinson Drive). There were but four crimes along the residential section of Endicott Street (between Needham Road and Water Street).



Because residential and commercial areas of Danvers do not “share” much crime, 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, but 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 2009

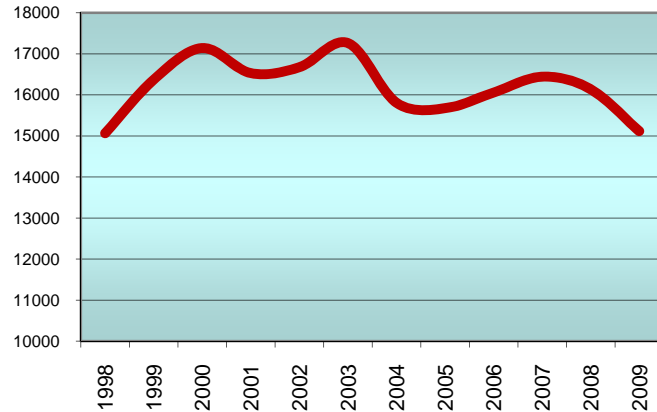
## Highlights

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 decade. 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. 2009, the year of the worst recession since at least the 1980s, was expected to bring significant increases in crime, but instead it dropped nearly 100 from the year before.

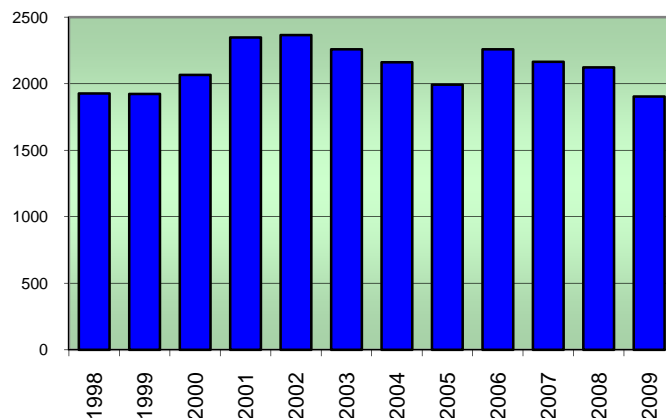
Index crimes aren't the only phenomenon to baffle us a bit. Overall calls for service peaked in 2003, then fell to an eight-year low in 2005 at the same time the town was experiencing significant residential and commercial growth. They crept back up from 2006–2008, consistent with new apartment buildings in town, but calls for service then hit their lowest totals in at least 15 years in 2009—a decrease fueled by drops in false alarms and traffic-related incidents.

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 and to the lowest level in 11 years in 2009. Most of the lost arrest volume has been in the form of motor vehicle offenses, drunk driving, drug offenses, and liquor law violations. Some of these decreases are due to changes in laws and policies; some are due to technology issues; others are due to changes in the practices of individual officers and supervisors.

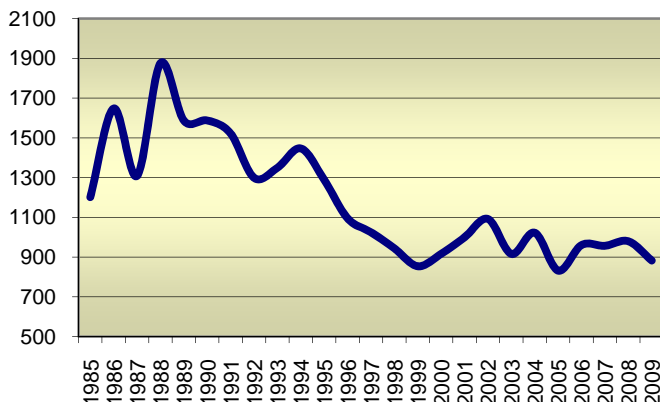
**Total Calls for Service in Danvers**



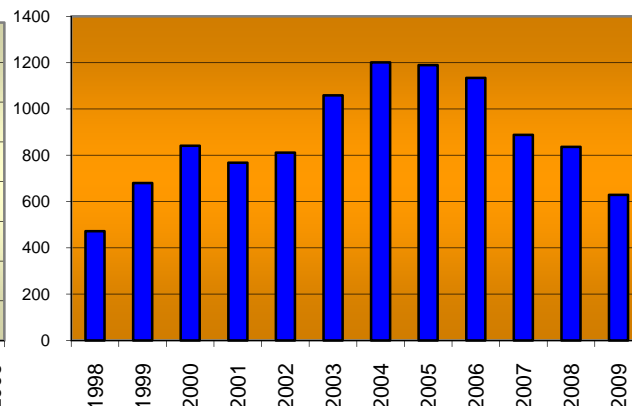
**Total Crimes in Danvers**



**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 2009. 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, 2009*



**New Year's Drunk Driving.** We rarely escape a New Year's Eve without at least one drunk driving incident. This year's is notable. At around 02:00, a 53-year-old Danvers man abandons his girlfriend at Tequila's restaurant and drives home intoxicated. He crashes into another car while trying to turn into his driveway and then passes out behind the wheel, with the car still in drive, resting against the other car. Officers find him in that position with an open bottle of vodka on the front seat next to him. It's still one of our lighter years: last year we had two drunk driving arrests, and in 2006, we had five.

*January 21, 2009*

**Route 1 Thefts from Cars Continue.** In 2008, parking lots on Route 1 flared to life as theft-from-vehicle hot spots, and this trend continues in 2009. Over a 10-day period in January, we have three thefts from vehicles at the Sheraton Ferncroft and one at Strike One. All involve smashed windows, with wallet,s briefcases, and laptops stolen. The thefts, like many of those in 2008, are ultimately traced to a Lynn man and his accomplices who have been striking all around eastern Massachusetts.

*January 29, 2009*

**Top Theft.** The most expensive theft of the year occurs early in 2009, when someone breaks into a storage locker behind a business on Industrial Drive and steals \$55,000 in engine parts, probably for the scrap metal value.

### February

*February 2, 2009*

**Thefts from Cars at the Mall.** The Liberty Tree Mall turns out not to be much of a hot spot for thefts from vehicles this year, but we do have a slow-moving pattern in January and February, with four thefts, four weeks in a row, all early in the week, all between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., all in the Best Buy/Target area, all involving smashed windows with electronics targeted. Extra patrols by Danvers Police and mall security eventually suppress the pattern but the thief is never identified.

*February 9, 2009*

**Noise from Idling Trucks.** In the type of repeat incident that occurs in Danvers every year, the same resident called and complained eight times between November 2008 and February 2009 about trucks idling at night in a parking lot on Route 114. Although the business disagreed that its trucks were loud or close enough for the complainant to truly be disturbed, they changed their practices and there were no more complaints.

*February 18, 2009*

**Acquaintance Vandalism Pattern.** Between October 2008 and February 2009, police take eight reports of vandalism related in an usual series: one man committing multiple acts of damage against his ex-girlfriend's friends and family members. The petty vandalism includes bottles smashed in driveways, slashed tires, and graffiti on cars. Lack of specific evidence makes it impossible to charge the hooligan, but he is eventually deterred.

*February 24, 2009*

**Car Tire Thefts.** For four weeks in a row, we take reports of thefts of **tires and rims** from vehicles at three auto dealerships in town, all on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights after 9:00 p.m. Extra patrols suppress the pattern.





## March

March 6, 2009

**Thefts from Cars at Health Clubs.** In another recurring problem, Danvers takes reports of five thefts from vehicles at Planet Fitness and Boston North Fitness between February 16 and March 5. They occur during both morning and evening hours, with car windows smashed and purses stolen. Victims' credit cards are used in Lynn and Malden. With the help of Saugus Police we obtain a surveillance photo of a possible suspect, but the pattern eventually ends on its own without an arrest.



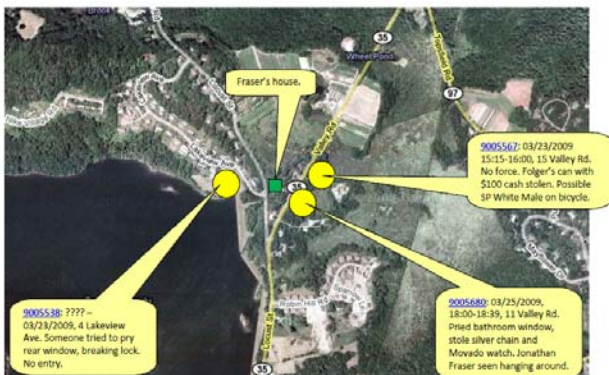
March 2, 2009

**Quietest Day.** Everyone stays inside on this snowy Monday, producing the lowest call-for-service total since the Danvers Police started tracking such statistics in 1997. There are only 16 police incidents all day long. The busiest day of the year, in contrast (September 26), had 79 incidents. 47 is the average.

## April

April 2, 2009

**Reservoir-Area Housebreaks.** In a pattern of stunning obviousness, the same burglar breaks into three houses around the intersection of Valley Road and Locust Street between March 23 and March 25. The suspect is identified by witnesses as a 21-year-old resident who lives literally in the middle of the pattern and whose fingerprint is found on one of the windows. He had been arrested only days prior for stealing from his own father. He is arrested for the series on March 31, the same day he is hospitalized for a heroin overdose. Two days later, he gets out of jail on bond and immediately tries to break into one of the previous victims' houses again. He is arrested on scene—his third arrest in two weeks.



April 28, 2009

**Route 1 Rape.** A woman leaving TGI Friday's at 10:45 p.m. on this Tuesday night is attacked by a white male in his 30s, dragged into a nearby wooded area, and raped. It is the first "street" rape to occur in Danvers in more than a decade. It remains unsolved as of the time of this report.

April 29, 2009

**Residential Theft-from-Vehicle Spree.** On a single Tuesday night, an offender enters five unlocked cars in driveways on Walter Road, MacArthur Boulevard, and Ray Street, stealing any items of even minor value, including cell phones, CDs, an iPod, a wallet, a baby car seat, and a pillow. Like most of these nighttime residential sprees, this one does not recur after tonight.

## May

May 18, 2009

**"Cash Shuffle" Con Artist Comes to Town.** A rare breed of con artist—the "cash shuffler"—makes an appearance in three reports between March and May, striking two CVS stores and a Dukin' Donuts. The fast-talking jive artist is a white male in his 40s with a ruddy complexion who arrives at his destinations in a cab. He purchases a small item, uses a large bill to pay for it, and through a fast stream of patter and verbal hypnosis, confuses the cashier into giving him far more change than he is due. Because of the nature of the con, many victims do not realize that they have been cheated.

May 20, 2009

**BB Gun Vandalism.** Over a one-month period, we see five reports of vandalism committed with BB guns in various parts of town, three of them involving damage to house windows in the Back Bay neighborhood.



May 29, 2009

**Four Theft-from-Vehicle Patterns.** The Danvers Police department is simultaneously investigating and trying to prevent three patterns of thefts from vehicles: thefts from unlocked cars at the Liberty Tree Mall in early evenings, thefts of car tires from auto dealerships overnight, thefts from various Route 1 parking lots during the day, and thefts of purses from the Planet Fitness parking lot in the morning.

## June

*June 23, 2009*

**Resident Loses It.** During a three-week period in June, the same 24-year-old man is implicated in an apartment rental scam, a series of forged checks, threatening phone calls, and impersonating a parole officer. He was finally picked up on warrants and ceased to be a problem when his parole was revoked.

*June 25, 2009*

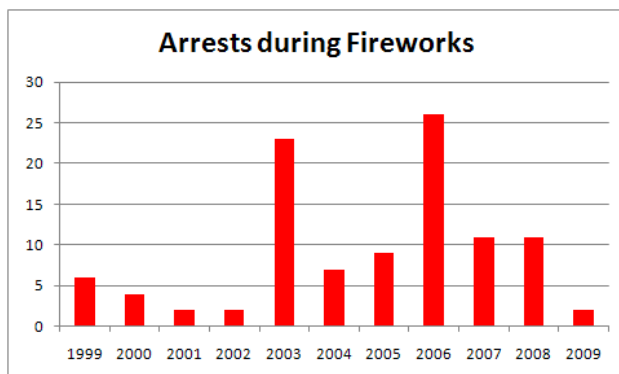
**Thefts from Vehicles on the Upswing.** Continuing the pattern from May, we are continuing to see a high number of thefts from vehicles on Route 1 and at the Liberty Tree Mall, with most entries made by smashing windows and with laptop computers, purses, and wallets targeted. Peabody is also reporting heavy volume. Planet Fitness, Strike One, and Motel 6 are hot spots.



## July

*July 5, 2009*

**Fireworks Mostly Quiet.** This year's annual fireworks festival is moved from July 3, a Friday, to July 5, a Sunday, because of rain. This might help explain the relative quiet. This year there are only two arrests, one for a domestic assault and one for drunkenness. This is down from 11 arrests in 2007 and 2008 and 26 arrests in 2006.



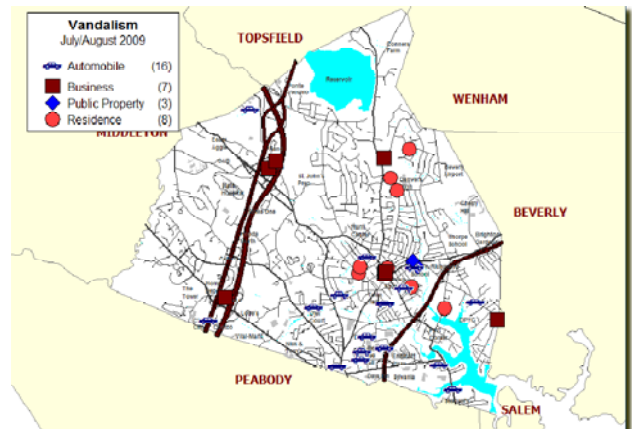
*July 29, 2009*

**Motel 6 Robberies.** The Motel 6 on Route 1 suffers two robberies in the summer of 2009, on June 4 and July 29. The incidents are unrelated but reflective of increased activity at the Motel throughout the year.

## August

*August 4, 2009*

**Nighttime Vandalism.** Danvers is suffering a spree of nighttime mischief, probably committed by juveniles, causing a 29% increase in vandalism over a four-week period. There are several sub-patterns evident in the increase, including someone moving residents' lawn decorations near Locus Street, window smashing at an autobody shop, businesses damaged in Danvers Square, and the same car keyed twice in the Liberty Tree Mall parking lot.



*August 21, 2009*

**Garbage Rage.** A 41-year-old Water Street man, enraged that town sanitation workers would not take all of his trash (as per town policy), he screamed at them, threatened to kill them, and chased them down the street in his minivan, nearly striking one of them. He was later arrested at his home.

*August 23, 2009*

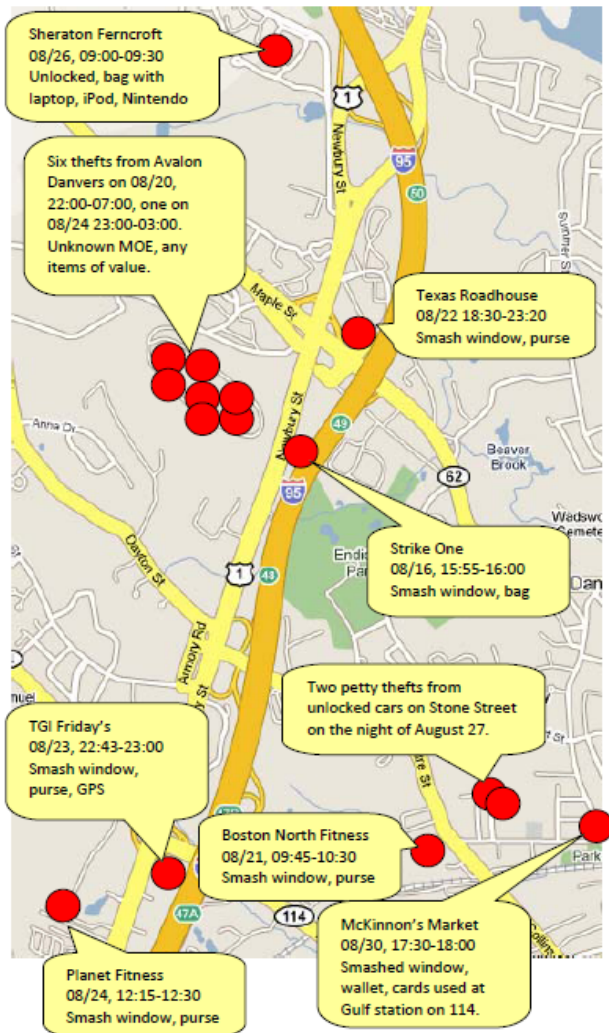
**Residential Stand-Off.** A domestic assault escalated into a stand-off when a 29-year-old Bradstreet Avenue man assaulted his wife and, before she fled the residence, said that he would have a shootout with the police if they were called. A nine-hour stand-off with the NEMLEC SWAT team ended with the discovery of the man hiding in a shed. He was arrested.

*August 26, 2009*

**Credit Card Fraud.** Throughout the month of August, Danvers sees an increase in credit card fraud, particularly involving cards that are still in the owners' possession, and particularly at CVS stores.

August 31, 2009

**Thefts from Vehicles High on Route 1.** Thefts from cars are up 20% due to a pattern on Route 1, particularly at the Avalon complex at the old State Hospital site, where there were six thefts on two different evenings. Surveillance video and witness descriptions suggest the offender is using a bicycle. A 29-year-old man is identified as a likely suspect but we did not have enough evidence to charge him.



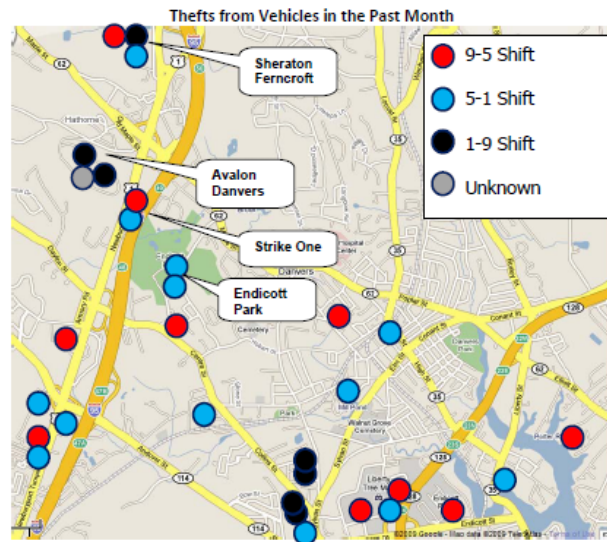
## September

September 5, 2009

**Chronic Shoplifter.** A drug-addicted, 24-year-old Danvers woman is caught shoplifting for the sixth time this year. She is horribly bad at it, in most cases simply running out of stores obviously carrying merchandise, occasionally leaving personal information behind.

September 30, 2009

**Thefts from Cars Still High.** Once again, Danvers has become a smorgasbord for thieves looking to steal wallets, purses, bags, and other items from cars. We have taken reports of 17 thefts in the last 10 days, including eight in a 24-hour period on September 28 and 29. The latest upsurge is notable for featuring more thefts in the middle of the day, and many thefts in residential areas adjacent to favored commercial locations.



## October

October 25, 2009

**Wallet Theft Pattern.** We have at least one, possibly two, patterns involving thieves prowling the Endicott Plaza and Danvers Plaza areas over the last week, stealing purses and wallets and using stolen credit cards in surrounding towns. The first suspects are a group of two white males in their 20s, at least one white female, and an Asian female identified as a 23-year-old Melrose woman. The second group of incidents has as a suspect a Black/Hispanic female in her 30s or 40s, tentatively identified as a 33-year-old Lynn woman.

## November

November 2, 2009

**Storage Burglaries.** The same min-storage location on Route 1 is burglarized twice, two weeks apart. In both cases, the front door window is smashed, setting off the alarm, and both are at almost the exact same time (04:43 and 04:47). The burglar steals cash in one case and nothing in the other.



*November 5, 2009*

**North Face Jacket Thefts.** Danvers and Peabody Police jointly arrest two Revere men for stealing "The North Face" goose down jackets at Dick's Sporting Goods. The pair is suspected of numerous thefts in Danvers and other communities, all involving the same types of expensive, popular jackets. These jackets continue to be a prime target through the beginning of 2010.



*November 15, 2009*

**Demon Rum.** From September through November, the same 41-year-old man is taken to the hospital six times for alcohol overdoses after passers-by found him drunk and unconscious on High and Maple Streets.

*November 16, 2009*

**Pumpkin Window Smashings.** Between October 25 and November 15, we take reports of three incidents of car windows smashed with pumpkins. Two of them are at adjacent residences on Adams Street. Concurrent with this are a number of eggings in the same area. The pattern ultimately ends on its own.

*November 27, 2009*

**Theft-from-Vehicle Success Story.** Strike One, the entertainment complex on Route 1, has been a theft-from-vehicle hot spot for over a decade, owing to its easy access from Route 1. We have three thefts there during the month of November, but then the management proactively erects a security camera in the parking lot.



On November 27, this camera records two suspects smashing a window and stealing a GPS device, and footage leads police to arrest at 26-year-old Revere man and a 26-year-old Lynn man; they are suspected in numerous thefts on Route 1 over the previous two months. As of the publication date of this report (May 2010), this is the last theft from a car in the Strike One parking lot. Cameras do deter thefts.

## December

*December 8, 2009*

**Youth Disorder in Danvers Square.** Between Halloween and Christmas, we see a significant increase in youth disorder in the downtown area,

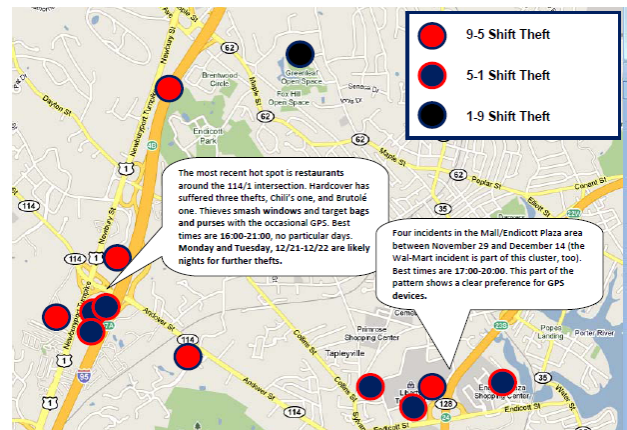
with multiple complaints of large groups loitering, throwing rocks, harassing business owners and customers, and causing petty vandalism. Fridays are the busiest days, with incidents starting at 3:00 p.m. and remaining high all the way through 10:30 p.m. Danvers Police step up directed patrols in this area to encourage youths to move along.

*December 9, 2009*

**Planet Fitness Locker Thefts.** Planet Fitness on Route 1 is experiencing a slow-moving pattern of thefts from lockers: four of them, four months in a row, always during the first half of the month, three of them on weekends, three of them unlocked. This pattern will continue through March of 2010 without producing any suspects.

*December 21, 2009*

**Thefts from Cars Down, but Show Pattern.** Thefts from vehicles are running 46% below normal this month and yet still manage to show a pattern: five thefts from business parking lots around Routes 1 and 114, probably committed by the same crew that has been striking this area for over a year. As usual, GPS devices are the top target stolen.



The Liberty Tree Mall, however, is about to enter its longest theft-from-vehicle dry spell since it opened. No thefts are reported between December 22, 2009 and April 8, 2010—107 days.

*December 25, 2009*

**Peace on Earth—or in Danvers, Anyway.** Aside from one shoplifting, no crimes are reported on December 24 or 25.

*December 31, 2009*

**New Year Starts off Right.** There are no drunk driving incidents on New Year's Eve for the first time in five years.



## 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 2009, and the most promising avenues towards solving them.

In the *2009 Annual Crime Report*, we look at:

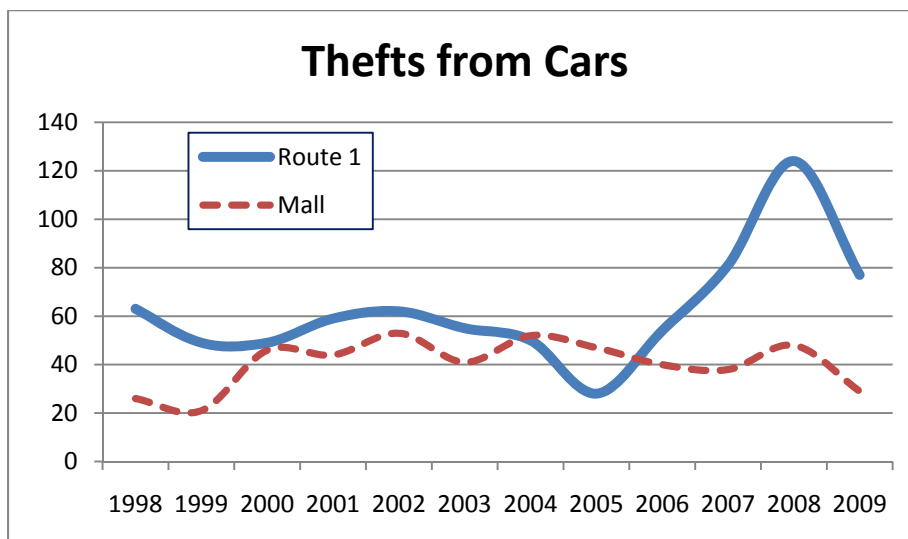
- Thefts from vehicles on Route 1
- Crime and disorder at motels
- Credit card fraud
- Thefts from health clubs
- Youth disorder in the downtown area
- Domestic crimes

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.

### Thefts from Cars in Route 1 Parking Lots

Route 1, with its many businesses, has long been a hot spot for thefts from cars, but it began to rise precipitously in 2006 and achieved record high levels in 2008. (These figures include parking lots on streets directly off Route 1, such as the Crowne Plaza on Ferncroft Road and the stores on Archmeadow Drive.) It has risen while thefts at other locations—notably the Liberty Tree Mall—have fallen.

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 and 2009

Danvers Crossing	
10 Newbury St	34
Crowne Plaza	
50 Ferncroft Rd	34
Strike One	
199 Newbury St	26
Motel 6/Brutol�	
65 Newbury St	13
Endicott Green	
180 Newbury St	12
TGI Friday's	
49 Newbury St	10
Hardcover	
15 Newbury St	8
Extended Stay	
102 Newbury St	7

Although there was a slight decrease in thefts in 2009, activity remained high. Much of the decrease occurred when the bottom fell out of the stolen GPS market; GPS thefts made up a majority of thefts on Route 1 in 2008.

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, 2008 and 2009**

Type of Location	Daytime	Evening	Overnight	Total
Hotels/Motels	13	23	24	60
Restaurants	6	36	2	44
Games/Amusements	11	17		28
Fitness Clubs	13	8	2	23
General Retail	9	10	2	21
Residences	1	5	6	12
Business Offices	3			3
<b>Total</b>	56	99	36	

*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 other business 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 and 2009 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 to solve the pattern in the long-term, 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.

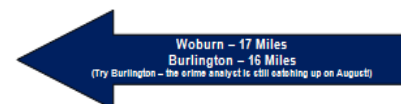
**Please remove any visible items** and secure them so you can enjoy your time at our business. If you observe any suspicious activities please advise us immediately or call 911. Thank you!



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

*Businesses  
and police  
working together  
to reduce crime.*

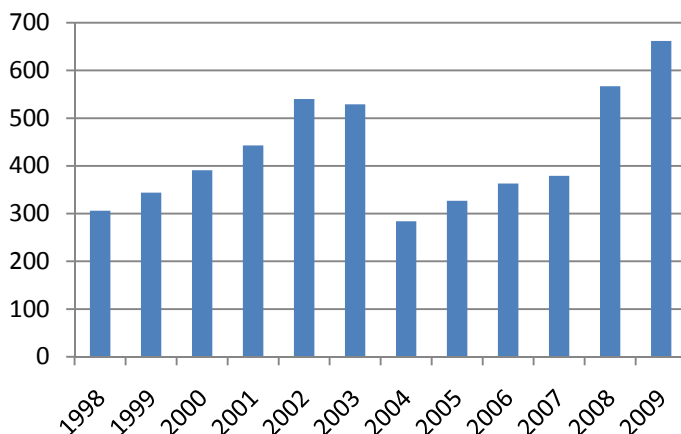
### Offenders



When a business does choose to act, however, the results can be striking: in the fall of 2009, Strike One, which had 26 thefts from cars in 2008 and 2009 combined, erected a security camera to monitor their small parking lot. On November 27, this camera caught the license plate of a group of thieves that had been striking up and down Route 1 all fall. Based on this evidence, Danvers Police arrested the thieves. Strike One has not suffered a theft from a vehicle since—almost six months as of the time of this report.

## Crime and Disorder at Hotels and Motels

**Calls for Service at Hotels and Motels**



In the fall of 2008, two major events conspired to create a perfect storm of activity at Danvers hotels and motels. The first was that homeless shelters reached their capacities, and the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance began placing more homeless families in Danvers motels, primarily at Motel 6, the Knights Inn, and the Days Inn. This practice continued throughout 2009 and the number of families peaked at 130 in October.

The second event was the closing of the notorious Carriage House Motel on Route 1 in Peabody in September 2008. The seedy establishment was infamous as a site of drug dealing, a hideout for thieves, a den of

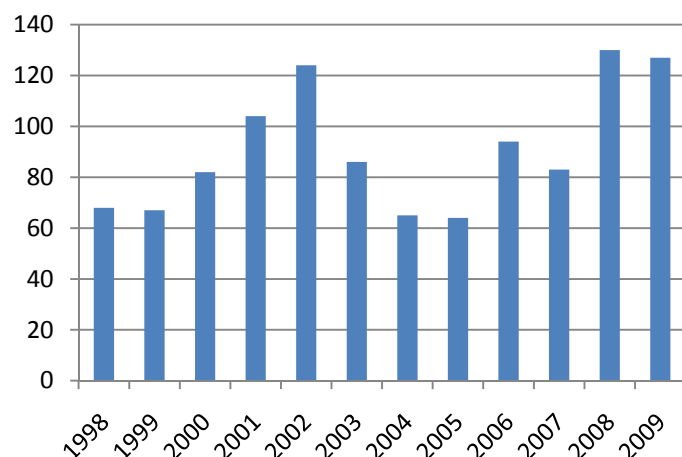
prostitution, and a crash pad for criminals of all breeds. Its closing displaced these groups to other motels in the area, including several in Danvers.

The consequence of both events was that many Danvers low-budget motels were operating at peak or near-peak capacity throughout 2009. The year showed the highest number of calls for service (662) and second-highest number of crimes (127) at hotels and motels in Danvers history.

Some of the more serious incidents show the effects of the motels' multiple populations (homeless families, regular guests, and unsavory characters) interacting and conflicting. For instance:

- On the morning of Thursday, June 4, an elderly couple from Williamsville, New York was getting ready to check out of their Motel 6 room. They had stopped at the motel for one night on their way to Maine. As they opened the door, a man with a bandana around his face shouldered in, grabbed the 75-year-old woman, and demanded money. The victims fought the suspect off, although he grabbed a bag of dirty laundry on the way out.

**Crimes at Hotels and Motels**



- On the afternoon of Wednesday, August 12, a 57-year-old guest with a long criminal history encountered in the lobby a 13-year-old girl—one of a homeless family staying there temporarily—and patted her on the buttocks. When confronted by the girl's mother, he said he thought the girl was an adult and that “all you people look the same” (the family was African-American).

#### Selected Incident Types at Danvers Hotels & Motels

Type	Average	2009	Change
Medical aids	45.0	91	+102%
Warrant Arrests	43.0	62	+44%
Service of legal papers	13.8	59	+328%
Disputes	41.1	55	+34%
Suspicious Activity	29.2	46	+58%
Check well-being	19.3	37	+92%
911 hang-ups	18.0	36	+100%
Motor vehicle offenses	18.2	29	+59%
Assaults	9.2	26	+183%
Thefts from vehicles	18.4	19	+3%
Noise complaints	17.9	18	+1%
Drunkenness	10.5	17	+62%
General public service	13.1	17	+30%
Drug offenses	9.8	14	+43%
Vandalism	8.5	13	+53%
Thefts	13.2	12	-9%
Disorderly conduct	8.0	11	+38%
Alarms	6.4	7	+9%
Prostitution	2.5	6	+140%
Sexual Assault	1.5	4	+167%
Auto theft	2.1	3	+43%
Fraud/Forgery	2.8	3	+7%
Robbery	0.5	2	+300%

#### Incidents in 2009 by Establishment

Location	Calls	Crimes
Motel 6 65 Newbury St	238	48
Days Inn 152 Endicott St	146	27
Extended StayAmerica 102 Newbury St	55	10
Knights Inn 225 Newbury St	45	2
Crowne Plaza 50 Ferncroft Rd	45*	19*
Comfort Inn 50 Dayton St	43	9
Marriott Residence Inn 51 Newbury St	38	4
Marriott TownePlace Suites 238 Andover St	28	5
Courtyard by Marriott 275 Independence Way	19	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:

- Domestic disputes and violence.** These became more common in 2009 with the number of families living in cramped quarters and difficult circumstances. There were 16 incidents of domestic violence and 22 domestic disputes reported at motels in 2009, up from 10 and 15 in 2008 and 5 and 7 in 2007.
- 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 and 2009, 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 and 2009, but part of this increase can be credited to more pro-active officer examination of guest registries.
- Thefts from cars** in the parking lots. There were 20 in 2009.
- Disputes** between guests, often intoxicated, or between guests and employees.



- People, often underage, who rent rooms to hold **liquor parties** or use drugs. These incidents were not particularly high in 2008 or 2009 but they have been high in the past.
- **Drug dealing** out of motel rooms. We had 13 drug-related arrests at Danvers motels (all but three at Motel 6 or Days Inn) from January to March 2009, but then nothing for the rest of the year.
- **Burglaries** and **thefts** from rooms. There were 15 such incidents in 2008 and 10 in 2009.
- Drunken guests **trashing** motel rooms.

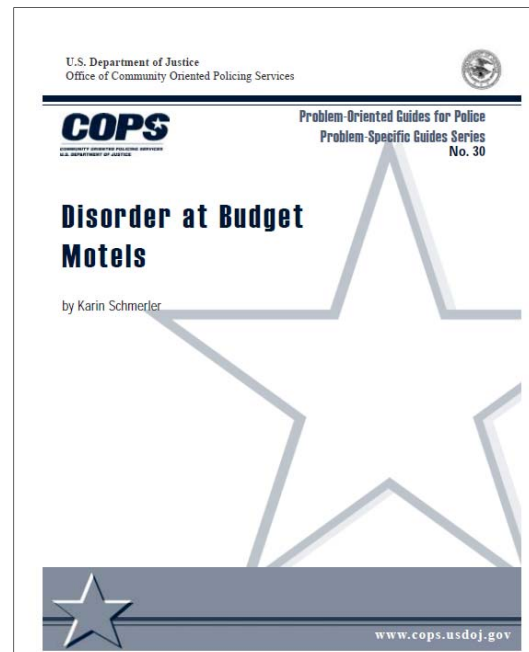
The unfortunate thing is that most of the guests at these motels are legitimate ones: families on their way to and from vacations; out-of-towners visiting local residents during holidays; non-criminals, including children, using the motels for transitional housing. And yet, there's a reasonable chance 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

The problem of crime and disorder at motels has been well-studied by other analysts and researchers, including the Center for Problem-Oriented Policing, which published a guide to the problem available at [http://www.popcenter.org/problems/budget\\_motels](http://www.popcenter.org/problems/budget_motels). The guide outlines 34 effective strategies, many of which the town, the Danvers Police Department, and our motels already follow, such as requiring photo identification at check-in, following clear check-in policies, and guaranteeing payment. Many of the strategies require the cooperation of the town's legal department, and almost all of them require the cooperation of the motel managers.

This is thus another problem in which place managers—the businesses themselves—can have a far greater influence on the level of crime and disorder than the police department. They have the power, for instance, to maintain “do not rent” lists, to turn away suspected prostitutes, to install cameras in public areas, to prominently post signs and notices, to enforce policies on visitors, to employ security guards, to inspect rooms, and to limit access to the buildings. This puts them in an economic bind, however, as most problem guests are nonetheless *paying* guests, and some of the motels essentially depend on the business of criminals and prostitutes to maintain operations. Hence, solving the problem requires the town to implement legal incentives to compel effective place management.

On the issue of the transitional population, this has been hotly debated in political and media circles already, primarily because of the impact on the Danvers school system. From a police perspective, their contribution to the crime and disorder problem is primarily one of volume: where there are more people, there is more crime and disorder. We are more concerned with homeless families becoming victims rather than offenders; cramped motel rooms along highways with drug users and prostitutes for neighbors are less-than-ideal environments to raise children. We wish DTA would adopt a more dispersed approach to assigning families to motels in the region and find other more quality and cost-effective ways to temporarily house homeless families.

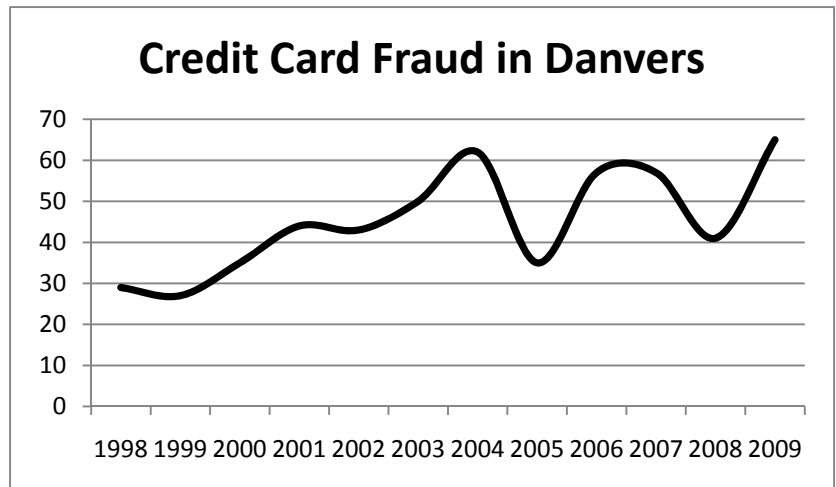


## Credit Card Fraud

Credit card fraud is a national problem that has been growing for years. It's also an infuriating problem, because it is entirely within the power of credit card companies to solve almost all of it, and it is entirely within the power of retail establishments to solve most of it.

Credit card fraud in Danvers hit a high of 65 in 2009. Two trends became clear:

1. Online and remote fraud has overtaken store-specific fraud. The only two locations with three or more incidents were Best Buy and Target. About half of the incidents occurred either online or in other towns (but with Danvers residents as victims).
2. Thieves are committing the crimes without obtaining the cards themselves. Almost half of the victims in 2009 still had physical possession of the cards that were used illegally. This means that the offenders somehow created copies of the cards or used the card numbers in an online transaction. It is unclear how they are obtaining the card numbers, expiration dates, and security codes in either event.



Law limits liability to victims of credit card fraud, and most retailers and credit card companies have relatively painless mechanisms for reporting fraud and issuing refunds. It is still a hassle for the victims, especially if the cards used are debit cards which withdraw funds directly from the victims' accounts.

## Solving the Problem

As we mentioned earlier, credit card companies have it entirely within their power to almost eliminate this crime through one simple mechanism: require a PIN for all credit card transactions. Yes, it would require a major retrofit of existing equipment and databases, but we can't imagine it wouldn't be worth it for them. Short of that, some retailers are taking steps to prevent credit card fraud by requiring users to enter their zip codes. While this is an admirable direction, it makes international transactions difficult and it hardly prevents the crime when a thief steals the victim's entire wallet or purse.



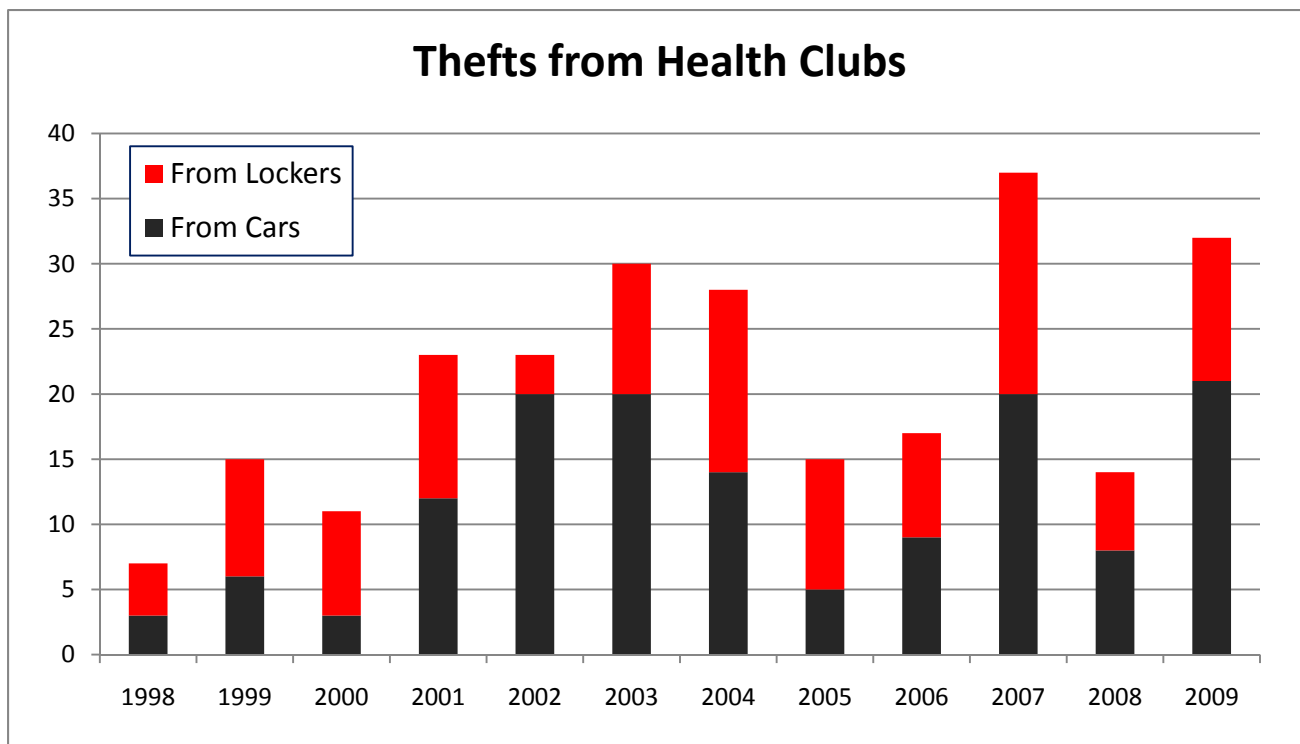
Brick-and-mortar retailers can prevent a lot of fraud by simply doing a better job verifying that the user is the same person to whom the card is issued. This can be done at a very basic level by at least ensuring that the user is the same sex as the person named on the card, and it can be improved by matching signatures and checking photo ID (although this is sometimes a violation of the merchant's agreement with the credit card company). Why more retailers don't choose to do this remains a mystery to us since they usually take the loss from fraudulent sales.

The Internet is aswarm with advice for credit card owners to protect themselves, some of it quite drastic (use only gift cards, request a debit-only card from your bank, and so on), but basic methods of protection are quite simple: check your account regularly for fraudulent activity, report any immediately to your issuer, and try not to have your purse or wallet stolen. This means not leaving it unattended in your car, unlocked in a gym locker, or loose in a drawer where troubled family members (or their friends) can steal it.

## Thefts from Cars and Lockers at Health Clubs

Thieves who target health clubs make effective use of victim's routines. Simply put, people do not exercise with their wallets in their pockets or their purses slung over their arms. But since most health club patrons arrive at the clubs *with* their wallets or purses, they choose between one of two options: leave them in their cars, or take them inside and put them in lockers. Consequently, health club parking lots and locker rooms have long been prowling grounds for thieves.

The problem rose rapidly from 1998 through 2003 and then fell significantly in 2005 and 2006. Suddenly in 2007 we had our worst year on record, followed by a low 2008 and a high 2009. Although 2009's totals were below 2007, the number of thefts from vehicles was the highest recorded so far.



Notable is that although in previous years, thefts were dispersed among multiple locations, since 2006 they have been highly concentrated at a single location: Planet Fitness on Route 1. This means that this problem is related to the first one we studied in this report: thefts from cars on Route 1.

Data shows that thefts at health clubs have been most likely in the midday hours, from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., particularly on Mondays and Tuesdays. The majority of thefts target wallets and purses, although GPS devices are also common. The thieves often use stolen credit cards at local stores soon after stealing the cards.

Thefts from cars are committed by simply smashing windows. In some cases the victims had taken pains to stow their valuables out of sight, which suggests thieves may be “staking out” the lots for likely victims as they enter. When items are stolen from lockers, about half the time it’s by cutting a lock. The other half of the time, the victim left the locker unlocked. Men’s and women’s lockers seem to suffer roughly equal rates of theft.

#### Thefts (All Types) at Health Clubs

Location	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Planet Fitness, 20 Archmeadow Dr	2	13	22	9	22	<b>68</b>
Boston North Fitness, 30 Prince Street	3	2	6	3	6	<b>20</b>
YMCA, 34 Pickering Street	5	1	5	1	3	<b>15</b>
Boston Sports Club, 50 Ferncroft Road	4	0	2	1	1	<b>8</b>
Lydon Aquatic Center, 200 Commonwealth Ave	0	0	2	0	0	<b>2</b>
SuperFitness, 10 Hutchinson Drive	1	0	0	Closed	Closed	<b>1</b>

*Note: these are the current or most recent names at these locations. Some of these businesses had different names or were owned by different chains in previous years.*

#### How Do We Solve the Problem?

Again, we must stress the importance of cooperation of the businesses themselves. We can patrol parking lots, but thefts are rare enough that the likelihood of an officer encountering an offender during any individual patrol is vanishingly small. Health clubs themselves, on the other hand, can:

- Post warning signs
- Install cameras
- Carefully screen visitors
- Monitor parking lots
- Provide locks and more secure locations to lock valuables

The police can do a better job responding rapidly to emerging patterns and thoroughly investigating records at health clubs when a theft does occur.

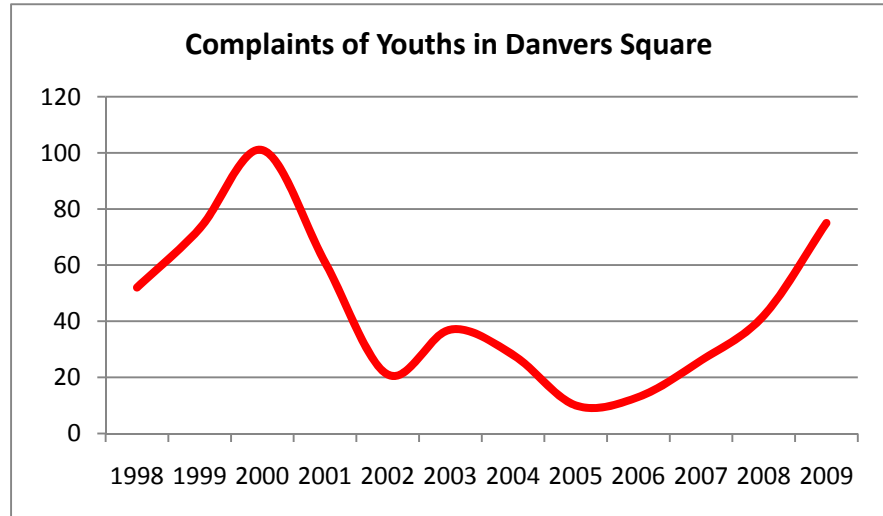
#### Downtown Youth Disorder

The issue of “youth disorder” in Danvers Square is largely a matter of perception. To some observers, any collection of teenagers in a public place is “disorderly,” while others are more tolerant. Some establishments welcome the youths and the business they bring; others resent them for deterring adult customers. Some business owners will deny it is a problem at all; others will say it is the top problem that they face. As we say, a matter of perception.

Data shows that 2009 brought that highest number of complaints of youth disorder in Danvers Square (75) since 2000. The problem is most acute between 3:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M., although reports often continue well into the evening. Fridays are the most likely days. Early release days at Danvers High School exacerbate the problem, often flooding downtown streets with a river of teenagers.



Complaints include loitering, throwing rocks, lurking in alleys behind businesses, harassing business owners and customers, fighting, and damaging property. A majority of complaints come from a small handful of Danvers Square establishments. Some of the complaints, particularly regarding fighting and vandalism, can be substantiated by the police; others cannot.



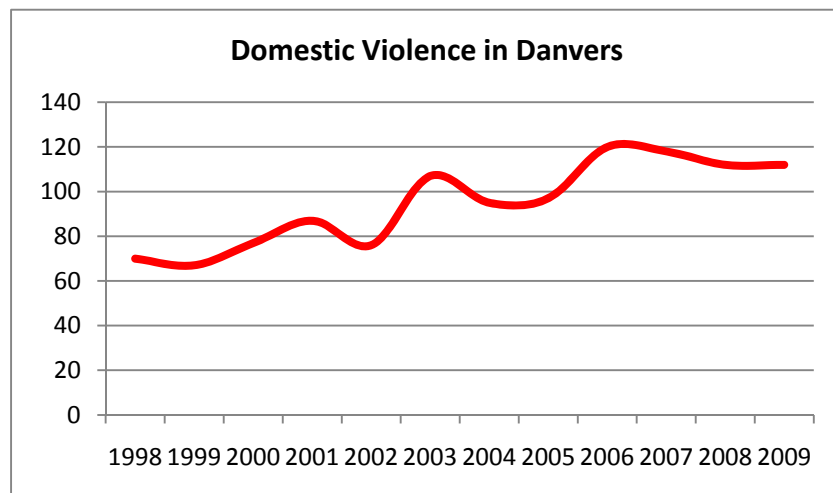
### Solving the Problem

The Danvers Police Department has worked extensively with the downtown business community on this issue. We have also worked with DanversCARES to provide events for teenagers on school half-days so that they do not congregate in the Square. Unfortunately, teens have not signed up for these events in great numbers. We have assigned police officers to the Square to engage the teenagers, and this has helped to some degree. We have also posted warning signs in places where teenagers loiter, and businesses tell us that this has had an effect. We will continue to monitor this problem in 2010 and see if the strategies we implemented in 2009 alleviate it.

### 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 statistics since then have remained in the same range. Domestic simple assault in 2008 was at the highest level in a decade, and we only fell two incidents short of matching that total in 2009. Total domestic incidents also hit a high of 556 in 2008, with 2009 close on its heels. Aside from violence, the biggest increases we saw last year were in the areas of fraud and theft, usually committed by drug-addicted children against parents, and harassing phone calls, usually committed by and against ex-boyfriends and girlfriends.



### Domestic Crimes and Incidents in Danvers

Incident Type	2005	2006	2007	2008	Avg.	2009	Change
Aggravated Assault	5	15	12	10	11	9	-18%
Simple Assault	66	76	83	85	78	83	+6%
Threats/Intimidation	22	23	20	16	20	19	-5%
Sexual Assault/Sex Offenses	4	6	3	2	4	1	-75%
<b>Total Violence</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>None</b>
Violation of Restraining Order	26	22	25	42	29	27	-7%
Auto Theft	2	0	0	1	1	1	None
Burglary	7	7	5	2	5	4	-20%
Fraud/Forgery	2	3	7	8	5	10	+100%
Other Theft	7	8	6	5	7	14	+100%
Vandalism	9	9	10	23	13	15	+15%
Disorderly/Drunkenness	27	24	29	21	25	12	-52%
Disputes (immediate)	231	226	233	231	230	235	+2%
Harassment	8	7	16	18	12	15	+25%
Harassing Phone Calls	15	20	20	31	22	39	+77%
Civil Disputes (no immediate inc.)	13	17	20	16	17	27	+59%
Keep Peace/Stand By	17	17	14	23	18	14	-22%
Other	26	14	26	22	22	27	+23%
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>+7%</b>

The recent increases are partly 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.

Domestic Violence by Relationship Type		
Relationship	2008	2009
Intimate Partner	47	49
Parent/Child	16	26
Spouse	22	10
Ex-Intimate Partner	12	10
Sibling	5	9
Ex-Spouse	5	3
Other	7	5

### 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 14 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.

## Status of Problems Reported in the 2008 Annual Crime Report

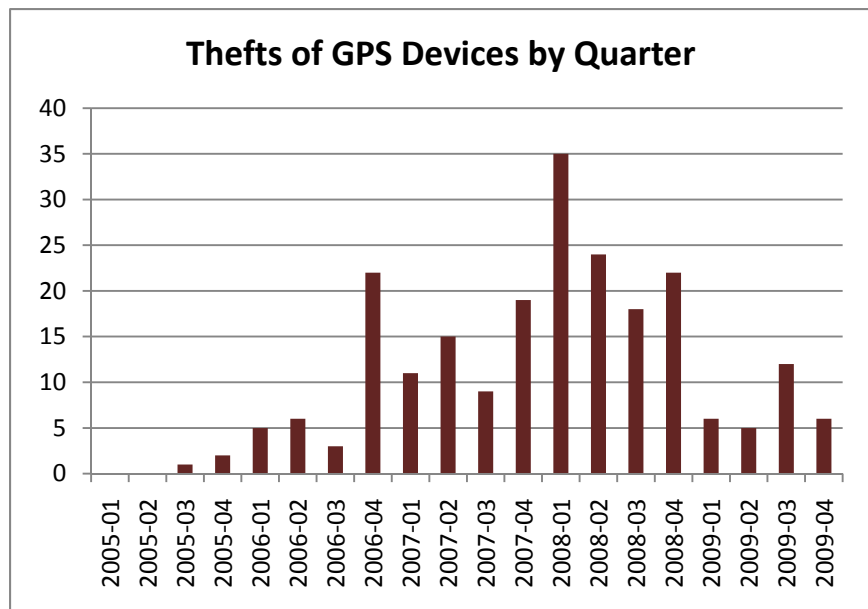
The *2008 Annual Crime Report* contained discussions of several problems not covered here. You can still find the report, and the discussions of these problems, on the Danvers Police Department web site. Their exclusion in this report indicates that either they didn't change much, or they ceased to be problems in 2009. Following is a brief update of each.

### Thefts of GPS Devices from Cars

Thefts of GPS devices are an international crime trend, made possible by the sudden availability of these devices beginning in 2006. Thefts rose steadily in Danvers, peaking during the first quarter of 2008. In 2009, they experienced a sudden drop: there were 29 in 2009 compared to 99 in 2008. Other cities and towns reported similar decreases.

What occasioned such a drop? Probably supply and demand. As the market became saturated with GPS devices, their relative value declined. When they retailed for \$500 and only 10% of drivers had them, a thief could sell one on the street or online for \$250. Now that they sell for \$250 and 80% of drivers have them, second-hand devices go for as little as \$20. Perhaps equally important, widespread media coverage of the trend has made GPS owners more protective of their devices.

These factors do not mean that the trend is over. In the first five months of 2010, we recorded 25 GPS thefts—almost as many as all of 2009—suggesting we may have a resurgence. But GPS devices are here to stay, and thus so are GPS thefts. They are among many types of property that thieves look to steal from cars, and as such they are no longer so much a unique and separate problem as they are part of the overall theft-from-car problem covered in other parts of this report.



### Thefts from Cars in Residential Driveways

Thefts from cars at houses are often subject to one-night sprees in which the same thief enters multiple cars. There were only a few such sprees in 2009, and total incidents fell from 93 in 2008 (a record) to 40 in 2009, so we did not feel it necessary to cover it again. However, the problem re-emerged in a big way in the opening months of 2010, so look for it again in the *2010 Annual Crime Report*.

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.



What we wrote last year still remains entirely relevant: “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.”

## Neighbor Feuds

Arbitrating feuds between neighbors is part of the life of a municipal police officer. 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

Incidents Between Neighbors (Selected Categories)				
Type	2006	2007	2008	2009
Assault	3	3	8	4
Disputes	66	43	52	54
Disorderly/Drunkenness	7	6	5	2
Harassment	6	8	9	5
Theft	2	2	4	0
Noise Complaints <sup>2</sup>	15	21	52	16
Threats	4	3	7	4
Traffic Complaints <sup>3</sup>	3	3	2	3
Vandalism	2	5	7	10

(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.

If such incidents didn’t get better in 2009, neither did they get particularly worse. Disputes held steady but noise complaints, at least, fell significantly. Most of the long-term Hatfield-McCoy style feuds seem to have ended. We will continue monitoring these problems, of course, and intervening as best we can.

## Large Apartment Complexes

Last year, we noted that, “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.”

In 2009, there were 217 calls for service to Avalon Danvers (the former State Hospital site), 172 to Endicott Green on Route 1, and 49 to 240 Conant Street, three complexes that did not exist five years ago. (This makes it all the more amazing that total calls for service fell in 2009.) These numbers are so high simply because of the number of people living at these locations, not because there is anything “bad” about them. To the contrary, our experience has been that the complex managers do a reasonably good job maintaining safety and security.

Last year, we also said that, “There’s no way to ‘solve’ this one; it’s just a new dynamic that the Danvers Police have to adapt to.” This remains true, and we believe we are adapting well.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

## Good Trends

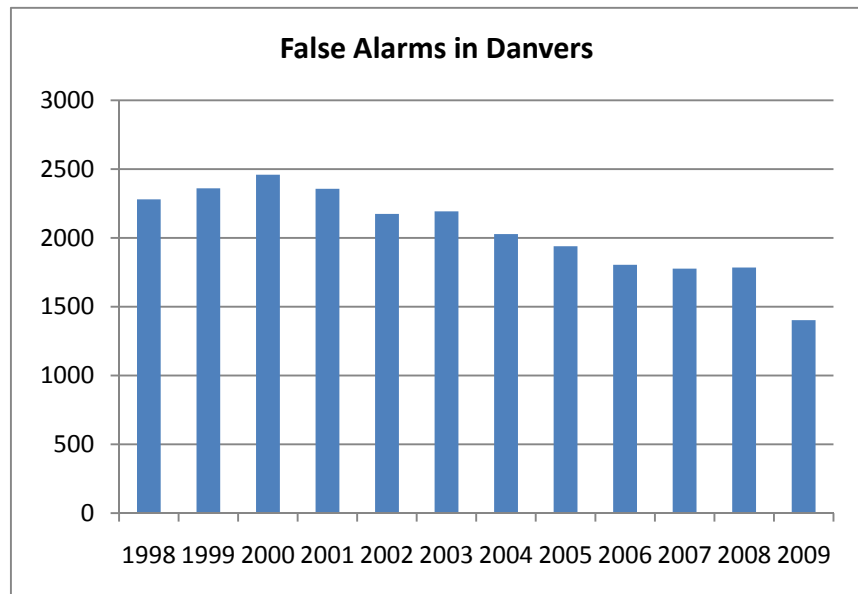
We usually only cover increases and bad news in this section of the *Annual Crime Report*, but this year we thought it would be worth talking about some of the positive things that happened in Danvers in 2009.

### False Alarm Bylaw Does Its Job

False alarms topped 2000 for every year between 1998 and 2004, but they began to fall in 2005. Still, they remained our top call for service type in every year through 2008.

The decreases were 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.

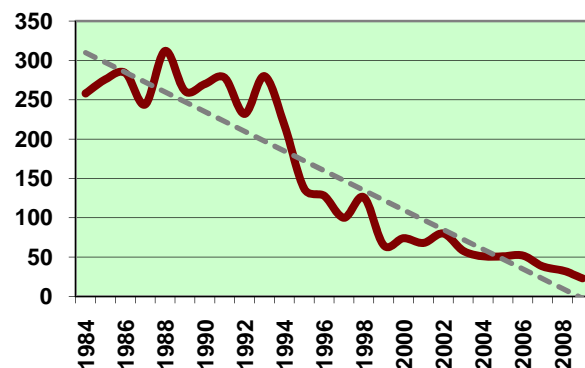
To help drive down false alarms even further, the Town of Danvers enacted a tough new bylaw in 2008 that greatly increased fines for false alarms starting in January 2009. In the year after the bylaws took effect, false alarms fell 29% from the average. It was no longer our top call-for-service type in 2009, and we saved more than 300 patrol hours last year.



It's worth noting for this discussion that less than 1% of activated burglar alarms are caused by an actual burglary. In 12 years and over 24,000 alarms, Danvers Police have caught burglars at the scene of a burglary only six times.

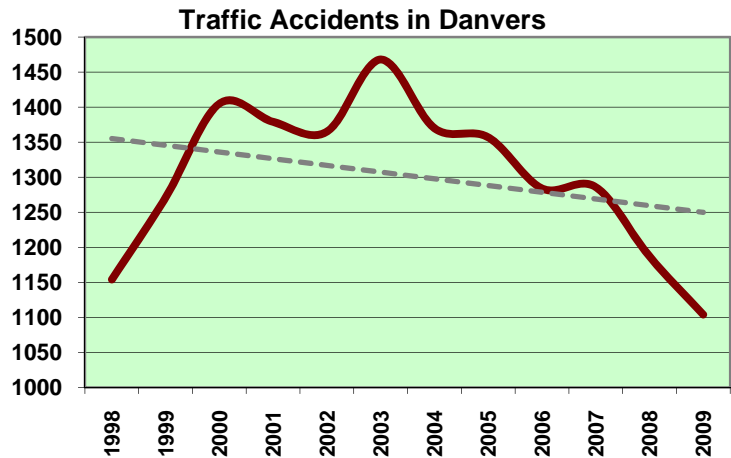
### Auto Theft Smashes Lowest Threshold

Yes, you're reading this headline for the second year in a row. We thought that auto theft had reached the lowest level possible in 2008, when we recorded only 33 thefts, representing a 41% decrease from the average. Then it fell to only 23 thefts in 2009, representing a 56% decrease from the average. This is the lowest level since we began collecting auto theft statistics, probably the lowest level since Lizzies were seen in Danvers Square. Check out the "auto theft" section below for more information.



## Traffic Accidents Plummet

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 13 years. It’s difficult to say why, but it is likely a combination of a sluggish economy (lowering traffic in town), continually high gas prices, and a significant investment in selective enforcement efforts by the Danvers Police Department. Whatever the cause, Danvers drivers were 16% safer in 2009 compared to the average.



## Other Good Trends

Some other miscellaneous positive trends in 2009:

- Both **residential and commercial burglary** hit 13-year lows, falling 22% and 41%, respectively.
- All **violent crimes** were down. Some were only down slightly, but all were down.
- **Drug offenses** fell 34%. This was in part because of the new state law turning marijuana possession to a civil rather than criminal offense. Still, it is worth noting that this change does not seem to have increased public consumption of marijuana (as was feared).
- **Drunk driving** hit its lowest level since 1998. Since our statistics are dependent upon catching drunk drivers, this could simply be a function of our own activity. However, **accidents caused by drunk drivers** also reached their lowest level since 1998, suggesting that there is really less drunk driving occurring.
- **Total crimes** fell 12% and **total calls for service** fell 7%.



# ANALYSIS OF SELECTED CRIME AND DISORDER

## Murder

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

**Average of 0.3 • 0 in 2009**  
**100% Decrease**

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 2009.

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 4.7 • 4 in 2009**  
**14% Decrease**

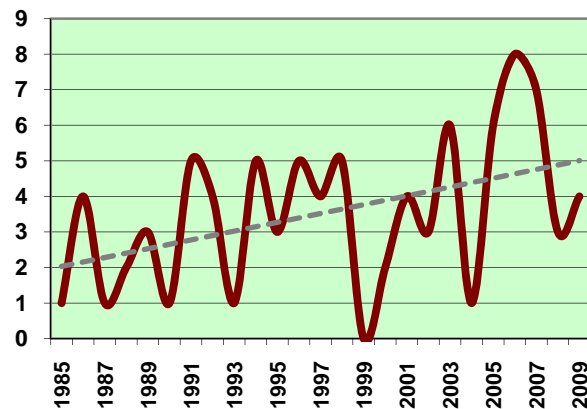
2006 and 2007 brought the highest rape totals in more than 25 years, so it was good to see it return to normal levels in 2008 and 2009. As the chart shows, rape totals can be very erratic from one year to the next, and often rapes reported (and thus recorded) in one year actually occurred many years earlier. This was particularly notable in 2006, when only two

of the eight rapes reported that year actually occurred that year.

Although the overall volume was low, 2009 brought the first "street" rape in over a decade when a 22-year-old woman leaving TGI Friday's on the night of Tuesday, April 28, was attacked in the parking lot and dragged into a wooded area. The case remains unsolved.

The other three rapes in 2009 consisted of two acquaintance rapes and one domestic rape.

### Rape, 1985–2009



Over the years, several repeat sexual assault 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.

**Indecent assaults** (including molestation) were low in Danvers in 2009 after high totals in 2007 and 2008. Two of the three incidents this year occurred in the lobby of Motel 6 between guests; the other involved a cab driver attempting to grope a passenger (also at a Route 1 motel).

## 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.

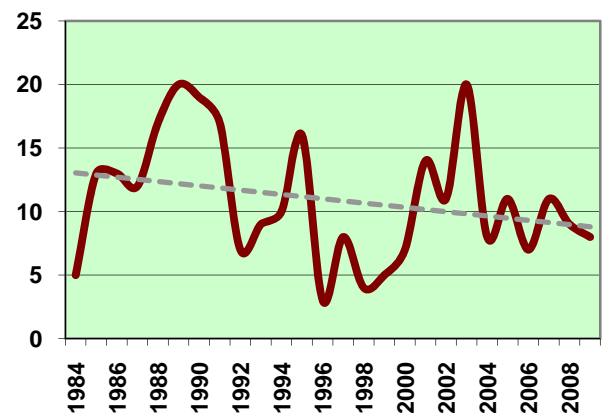
## Robbery

**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 10.3 • 8 in 2009  
23% Decrease**

2009 continued 2008's trend of offering almost all of its robberies in the latter part of the year: five of the eight occurred between July and November. Gone are the days in which we could depend on a purse snatching series outside grocery stores every winter.

### Robbery, 1985–2009



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 2009, there were five individual robberies and three commercial robberies.

There were no patterns in 2009. Oddly, two of the commercial robberies occurred at tanning salons, but the suspect descriptions and *modus operandi* are different enough to rule out a serial offender. There were also two incidents at Motel 6, but in very different circumstances.

Gas stations are usually our top commercial target, but there were no gas station robberies in 2009.

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. This was true of a September robbery at the Stop & Shop Citizen's Bank this year.

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.

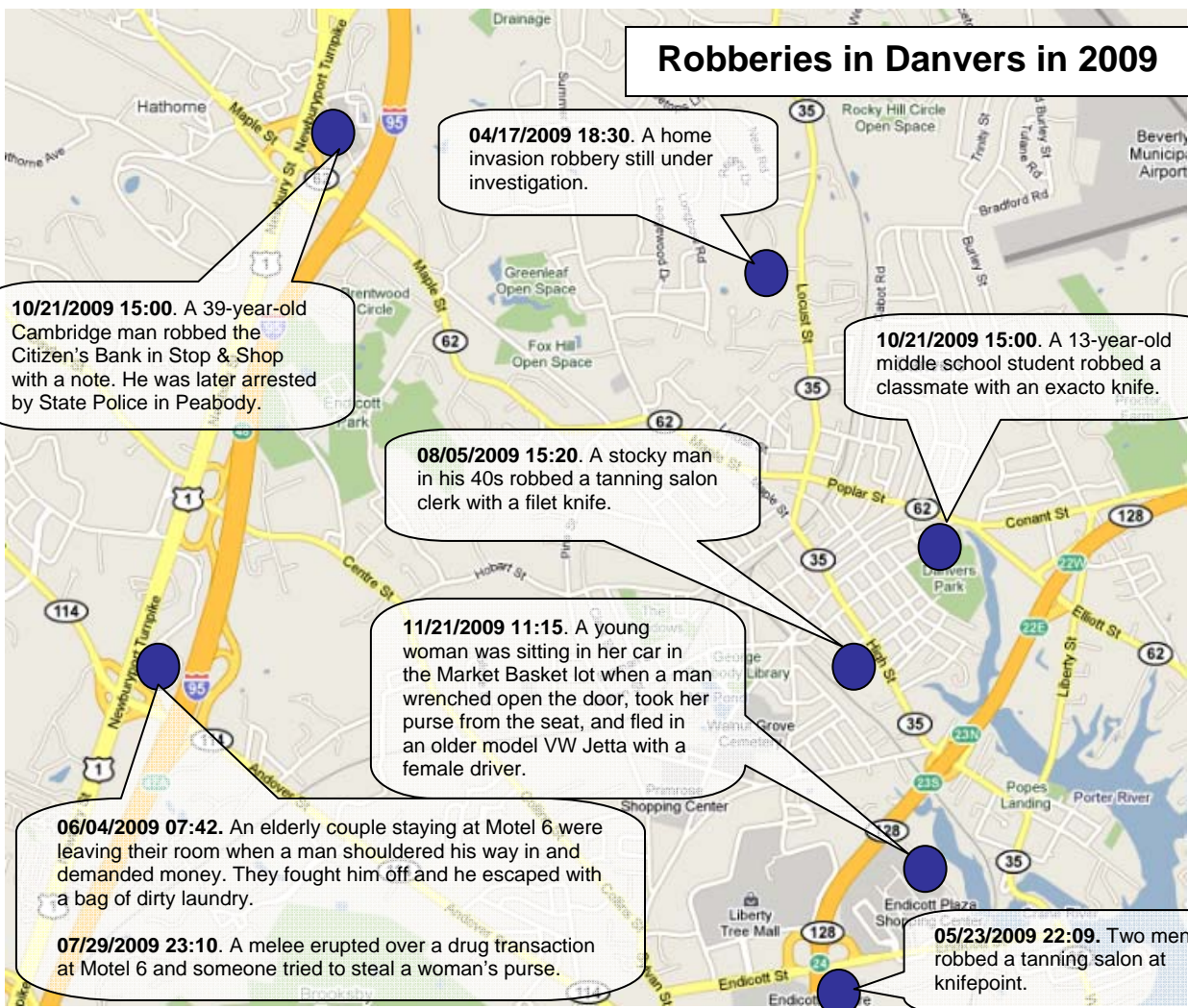
### Preventing Robbery

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 2009





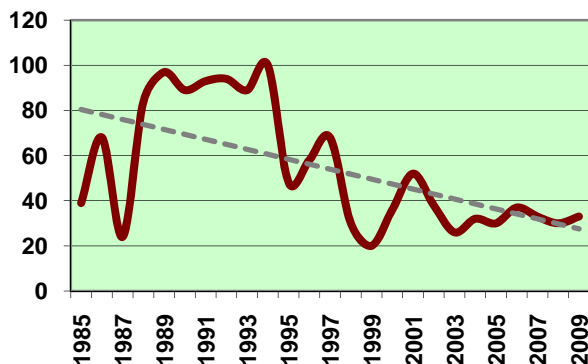
## Aggravated Assault

**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 33.2 • 33 in 2009**  
**1% 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, 1985–2009



In 2008, there were *no* aggravated assaults that we categorized as “random,” meaning they were between strangers and unprovoked. There were also some other interesting trends:

- For the first time since we began tracking assaults by categories in 1998, acquaintance aggravated assaults outnumbered domestic aggravated assaults.
- There were four aggravated assaults against police officers, two involving motor vehicles in the Liberty Tree Mall parking lot, and one memorable incident in which an enraged husband attacked his house, menaced his wife, and came at the responding officer with a chainsaw.
- Three road rage assaults, including two at the same intersection: Route 95 and Route 114.

### Aggravated Assaults by Category

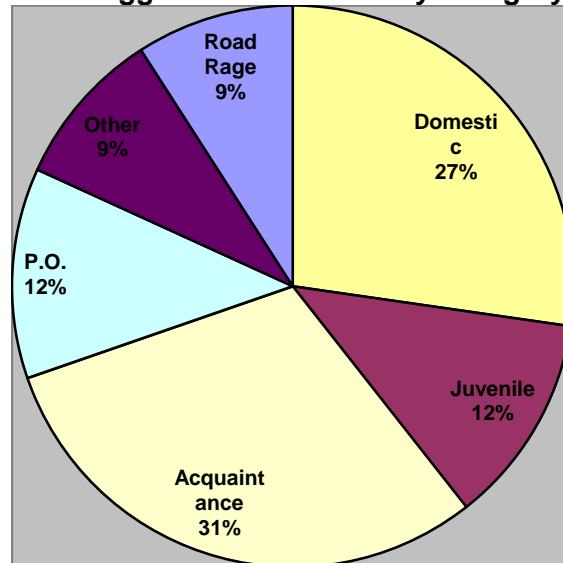
Category	2006	2007	2008	2009
Acquaintance	9	6	7	10
Domestic	16	12	10	9
Juvenile	4	6	6	4
On Police Officer	1	3	0	4
Road Rage	3	0	2	3
Retail/Patron	1	0	0	1
Bar Fight	1	1	0	0
Random/Stranger	3	3	5	0
Workplace	0	1	0	0
Other/Unknown	0	0	0	2

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

Only one incident in 2009 involved a gun—one of the aforementioned “road rage” incidents on May 12, 2009, in which a man driving a Cadillac pointed a handgun at another driver during a minor traffic dispute.

Only one aggravated assault in 2009 resulted in serious injury to the victim. It occurred on Saturday, September 19, when a large birthday party was in full swing at Jimmy’s Allenhurst on Route 114. A fight started between two men over a woman. One of the men was joined by friends who hit the other man with a candlestick, burned him with a cigarette, knocked him down, and punched and kicked him repeatedly, resulting in a concussion and orbital fracture. Warrants were issued for five men from Lowell, Southboro, Boston, and Framingham.

### 2009 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 2009, simple assaults decreased 9% from the average, reversing a series of steady increases that started in 2006.

### Simple Assaults by Category

Category	2006	2007	2008	2009
Domestic	78	87	85	81
Acquaintance	28	30	36	26
Juvenile	30	25	29	18
Road Rage	6	6	5	4
Random/Stranger	8	2	10	4
Bar Fight	2	2	1	3
On Police Officer	6	9	5	3
Retail/Patron	3	4	4	1
Workplace	3	5	6	1
Other/Unknown	3	3	5	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>146</b>

The table shows that with simple assault, domestic assaults far outnumber the other categories. Acquaintance and juvenile assaults account for almost all the rest. The problem of domestic violence is recounted in the "Trends and Problems" section of this annual report.

## 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.

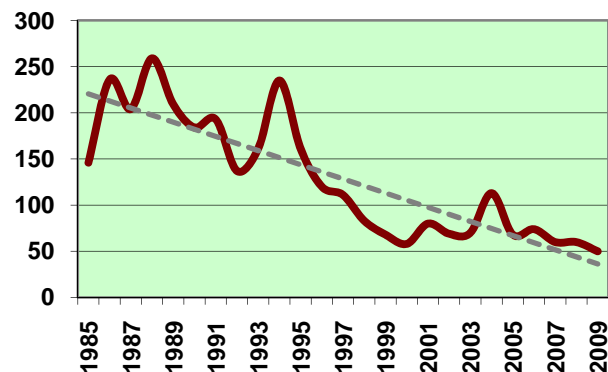
## Burglary

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

**Average of 71.7 • 50 in 2009  
30% Decrease**

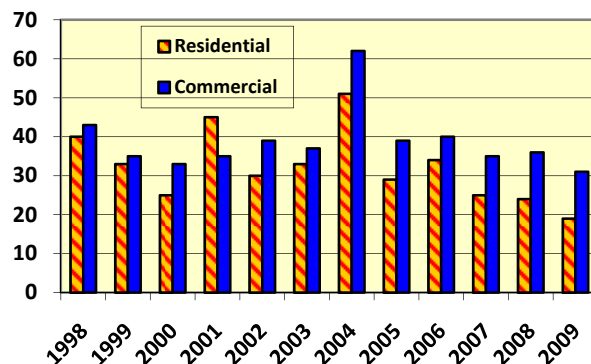
In 2009, burglaries in Danvers reached their lowest level in more than a quarter century.

### Burglary, 1985–2009

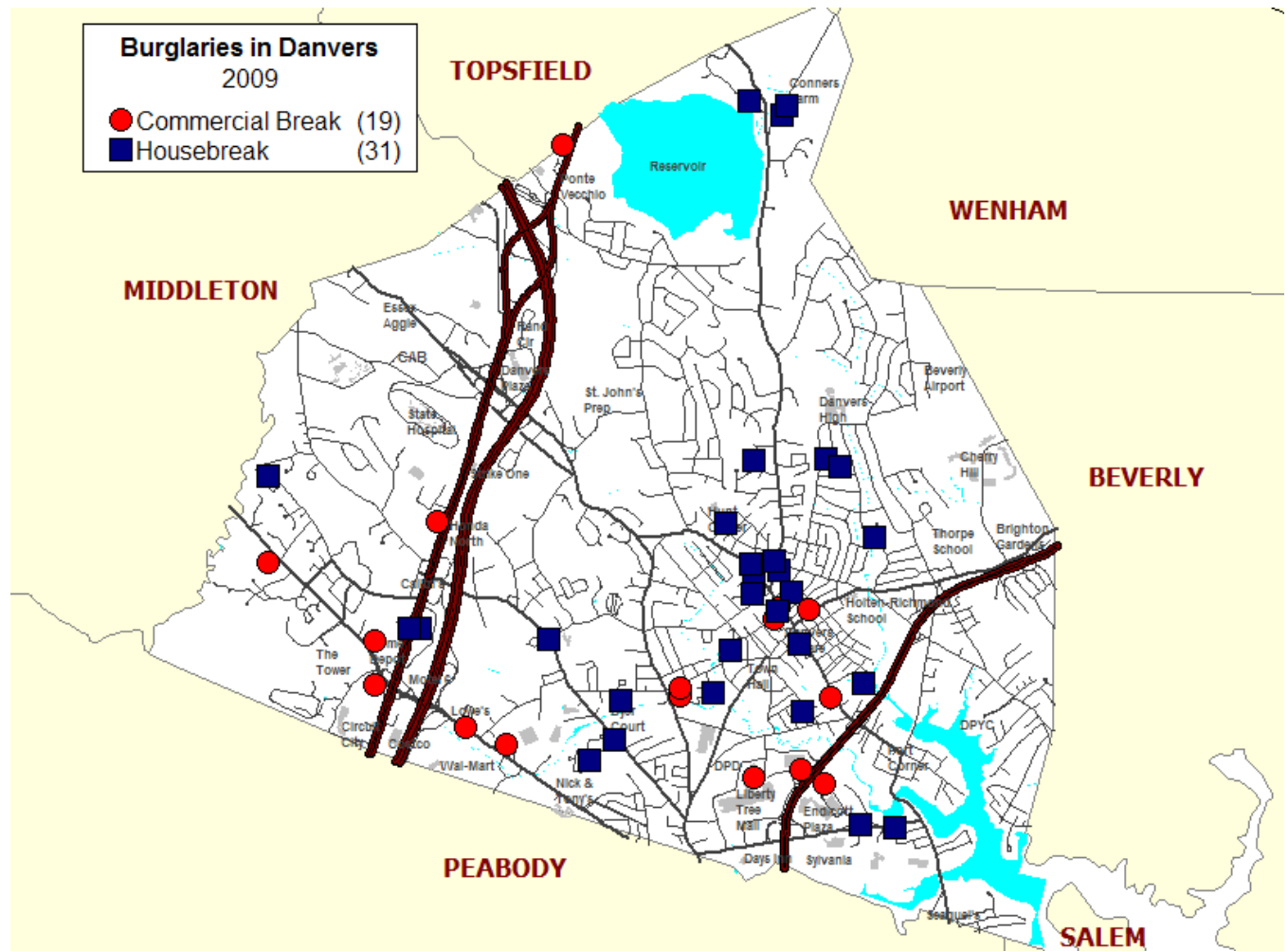


The 70 burglaries in 2009 comprised 31 housebreaks and 19 commercial breaks. Housebreaks fell 22% from the average and commercial breaks fell 41%.

### Burglaries in Danvers



There was one housebreak series during the year, in April, when a 21-year-old man broke into four houses near the intersection of Valley Road and Locust Street, by the Reservoir. He was arrested on two separate occasions for this series. The only commercial burglary series consisted of two weekend incidents at the Northeast Mini-Warehouse on Route 1, spaced two weeks apart in the fall.



Housebreaks are usually a daytime phenomenon: over the past two years, 79% of housebreaks have occurred between 8:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.; 63% 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.

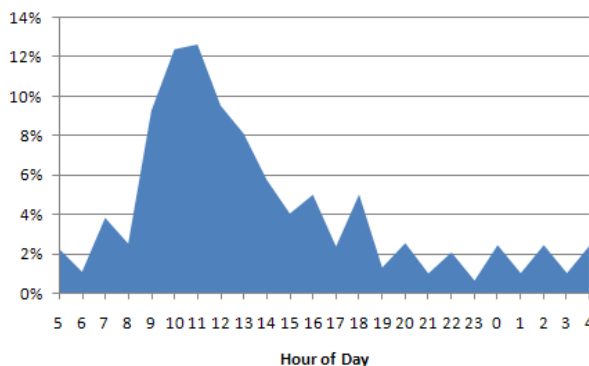
Items most commonly stolen in housebreaks are:

- Jewelry
- Cash
- Laptop computers
- Televisions
- Video games and consoles
- Cameras
- iPods and MP3 players
- 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 11 of the 31 housebreaks (35%), 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 one occasion in which the victim encountered the burglar, the burglar promptly fled.

**When Housebreaks Occur**





## 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 262.9 • 226 in 2009  
14% Decrease**

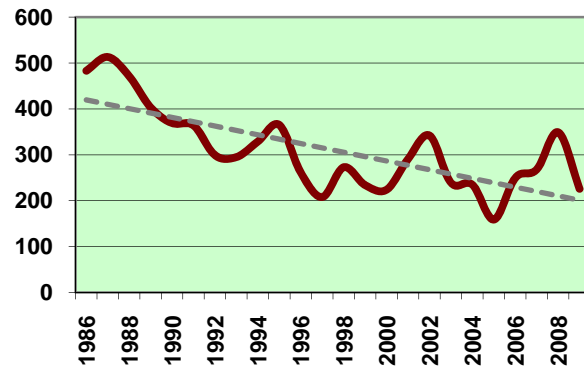
In 2008, we reached a 15-year high in thefts from cars thanks to the proliferation of GPS devices, but the collapse of that market helped thefts to fall 14% in 2009. We still had plenty of patterns, however, including:

- Thefts from Route 1 restaurant, hotel, business, and apartment parking lots.
- Thefts from cars at health clubs.
- Thefts from residential driveways.

Most major commercial parking lots continued to be hot spots, including the Liberty Tree Mall (27), Planet Fitness (15), Strike One (13), and the Crowne Plaza Hotel (11).

Related long-term problems and trends were covered in detail on Pages 16 to 26.

## Thefts from Cars, 1986–2009



Locking a car does little to deter thieves: most thefts are committed by simply smashing a window. The most common targets with figures from 2007-2009 are:

• GPS devices	182
• Cash	98
• Purses	91
• Auto parts	84
• Car stereos	76
• Mobile phones	69
• Credit cards	62
• iPods and MP3 players	61
• Laptop computers	51
• Backpacks and duffel bags	47
• Tools	37
• Clothing	36

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 by Location

2009



**Avalon Danvers** was one of the few residential hot spots in 2009.

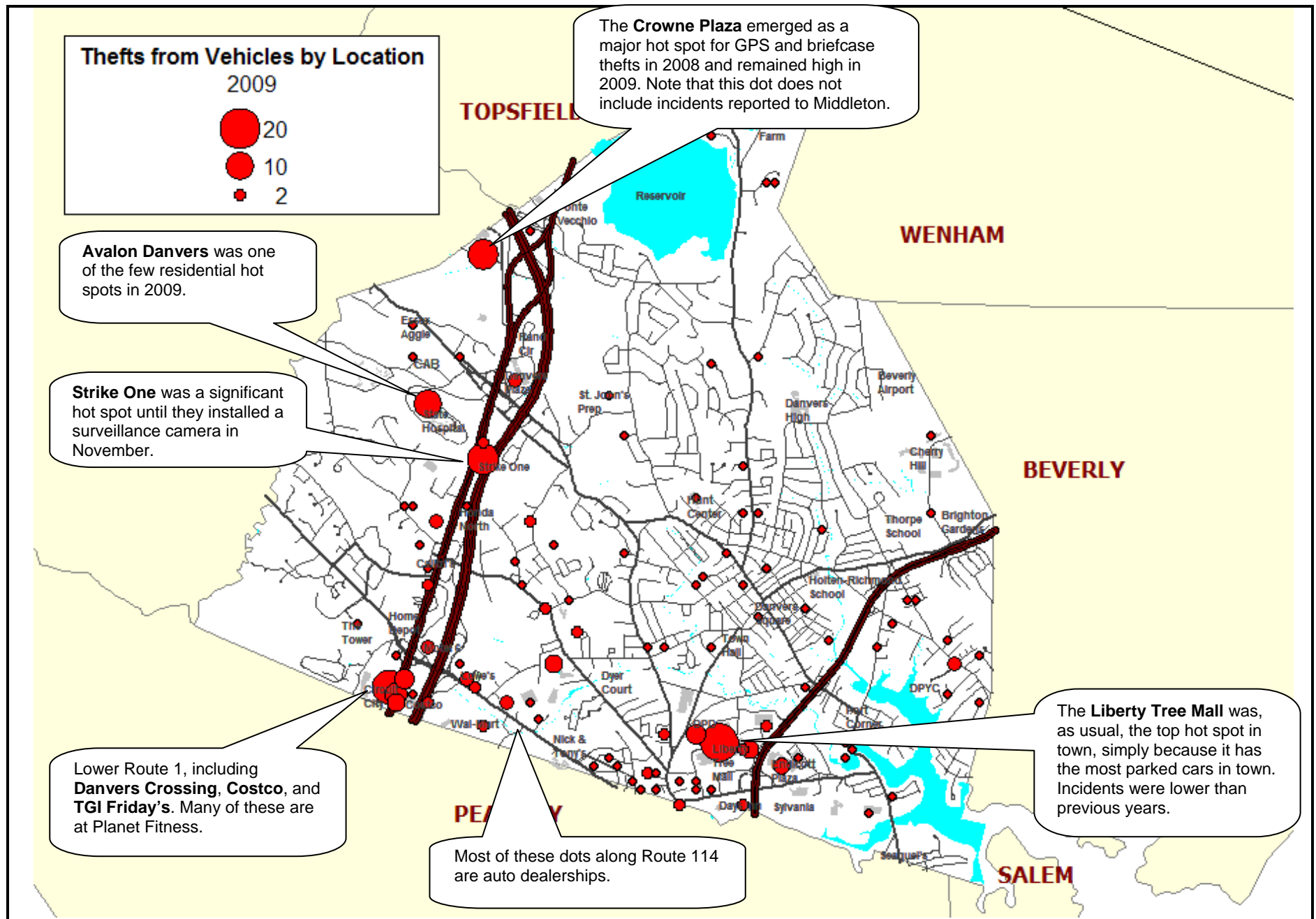
**Strike One** was a significant hot spot until they installed a surveillance camera in November.

Lower Route 1, including **Danvers Crossing**, **Costco**, and **TGI Friday's**. Many of these are at Planet Fitness.

Most of these dots along Route 114 are auto dealerships.

The **Crowne Plaza** emerged as a major hot spot for GPS and briefcase thefts in 2008 and remained high in 2009. Note that this dot does not include incidents reported to Middleton.

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.



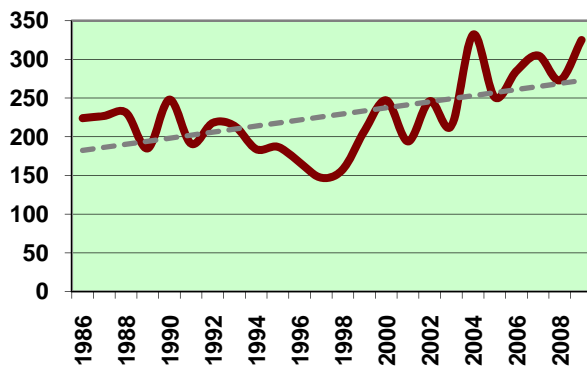
## Shoplifting

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

**Average of 266.0 • 325 in 2009  
22% 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, 1985–2009**



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. Wal-Mart and Kohl's, with strong security forces, together account for 59% of our incidents. It is unlikely that tiny Claire's Boutique has more shopliftings than the big box stores below it on the list (not to mention several stores, like Lowe's and 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	2008	2009
Wal-Mart	55 Brooksby Village Dr	52	106
Kohl's	50 Independence Way	68	86
Claire's Boutique	100 Independence Way	23	17
Best Buy	230 Independence Way	19	16
Target	240 Independence Way	7	14
Sports Authority	100 Independence Way	8	13
Marshalls	100 Independence Way	13	12
Nordstrom	5 Independence Way	0	6
Stop & Shop	301 Newbury St	14	5
Dick's Sporting	96 Commonwealth Ave	1	4
Famous Footwhs.	100 Independence Way	7	3
Market Basket	139 Endicott St	5	3
Costco	11 Newbury St	4	3
Gulf Express	160 Andover St	1	3
White Hen	110 Newbury St	0	3
BJ's Wholesale	6 Hutchinson Dr	0	3
CVS	17 Maple St	0	3
Circuit City	4 Newbury St	6	0

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.

A review of the 1,873 people arrested or suspected of shoplifting since 2004 shows that they are 47% male and 53% female (women have a far greater share of shoplifting than most other crimes). 44% are under the age of 21 (peak ages are 14–20), 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 (15%), Peabody (14%), Danvers (10%), Salem (9%), Beverly (9%), 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, jewelry, food, DVDs, health and beauty aids, shoes, video games and consoles, iPods and accessories, and televisions.

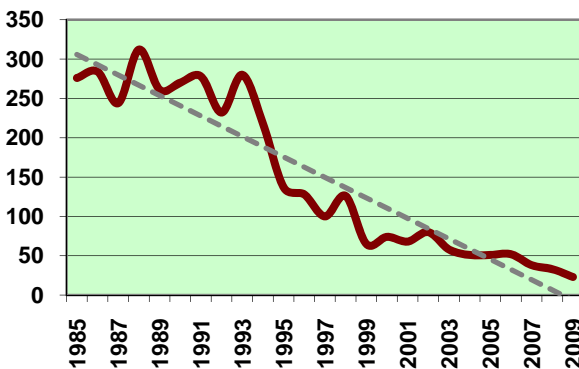
## Auto Theft

**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 52.5 • 23 in 2009  
56% Decrease**

Auto theft is a crime on its way out. The 2009 total of 23 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, 1985–2009**



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 2009 that only one location had more than one: the Liberty Tree Mall (always the top spot because of the large number of targets) with six. There were no patterns reported in the crime in 2009.

During the past four years, the most stolen makes and models have been:

- Honda Civic (13)
- Honda Accord (6)
- Ford Econoline van (5)
- Pontiac Grand Am (4)

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 2009 was 1999.

80% of cars stolen since 2005 have been recovered. Our recovery rate in 2009 was 70%. Towns supplying the most recoveries since 2004 have been:

- Danvers (23)
- Lynn (20)
- Peabody (15)
- Boston (12)
- Revere (10)
- Lawrence (8)
- Chelsea (7)
- Salem (7)

Danvers Police recovered 15 stolen cars in Danvers in 2008, well below the average of 24. 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

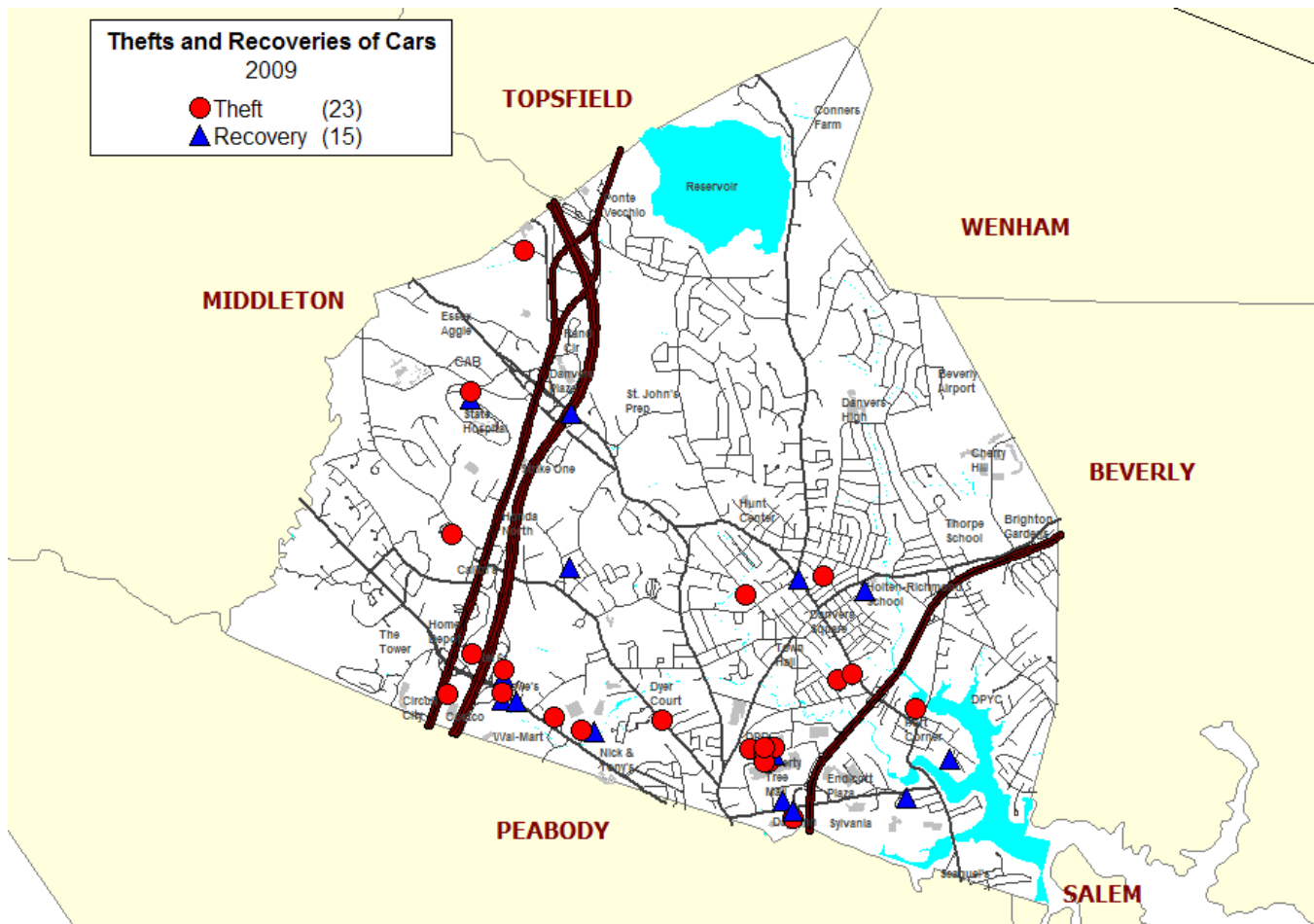
About 25% of all cars stolen in Danvers, particularly newer models, have the keys in them at the time of the theft. Do not leave your car keys in your car.

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 119.6 • 146 in 2009**  
**22% Increase**

## 22% Increase

Except for a couple of dips in 2005 and 2008, fraud and forgery have been on a steady upward trajectory. It is one of the most consistently growing crimes, both in Danvers and around the world.

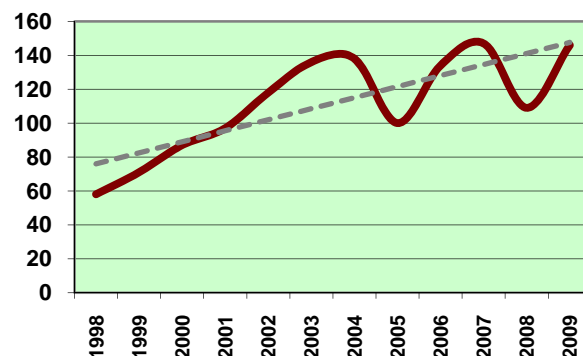
Fraud and forgery are vexing problems for local police for several reasons:

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, 1998-2009



### Fraud by Category

Category	2006	2007	2008	2009
Bad Checks	10	6	8	9
Con Games	31	12	11	28
Counterfeiting	15	35	14	14
Credit/ATM Card	57	57	41	65
Forged Check	8	14	7	8
Identity Theft	12	20	25	21
Other	1	2	3	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>146</b>

### 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 spring of 2009.
- **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 2008. 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. Three different CVS stores fell victim to fake \$100 traveler's checks in one day in 2009.

**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.

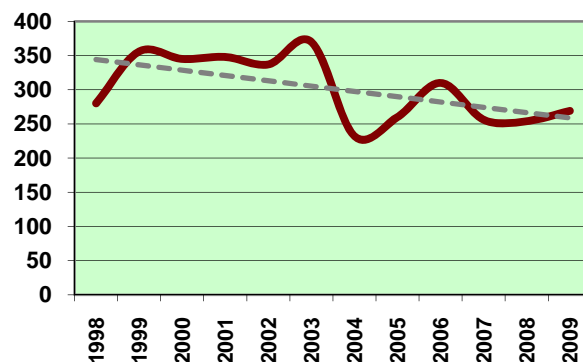
## Vandalism

**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 290.4 • 269 in 2009  
7% 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 from 2007-2009.

**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 and 2009, we had essentially no such patterns.

Vandalisms in 2008 included 136 incidents of damage to automobiles, 57 incidents of damage to residences, 41 to businesses, and 29 to public buildings or property. The most common situational types were:

- Windows smashed on automobiles (usually in commercial parking lots): 40 incidents
- Automobiles scratched or keyed (29)
- Damage to residential mailboxes (20)
- Automobile tires slashed (17)

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.

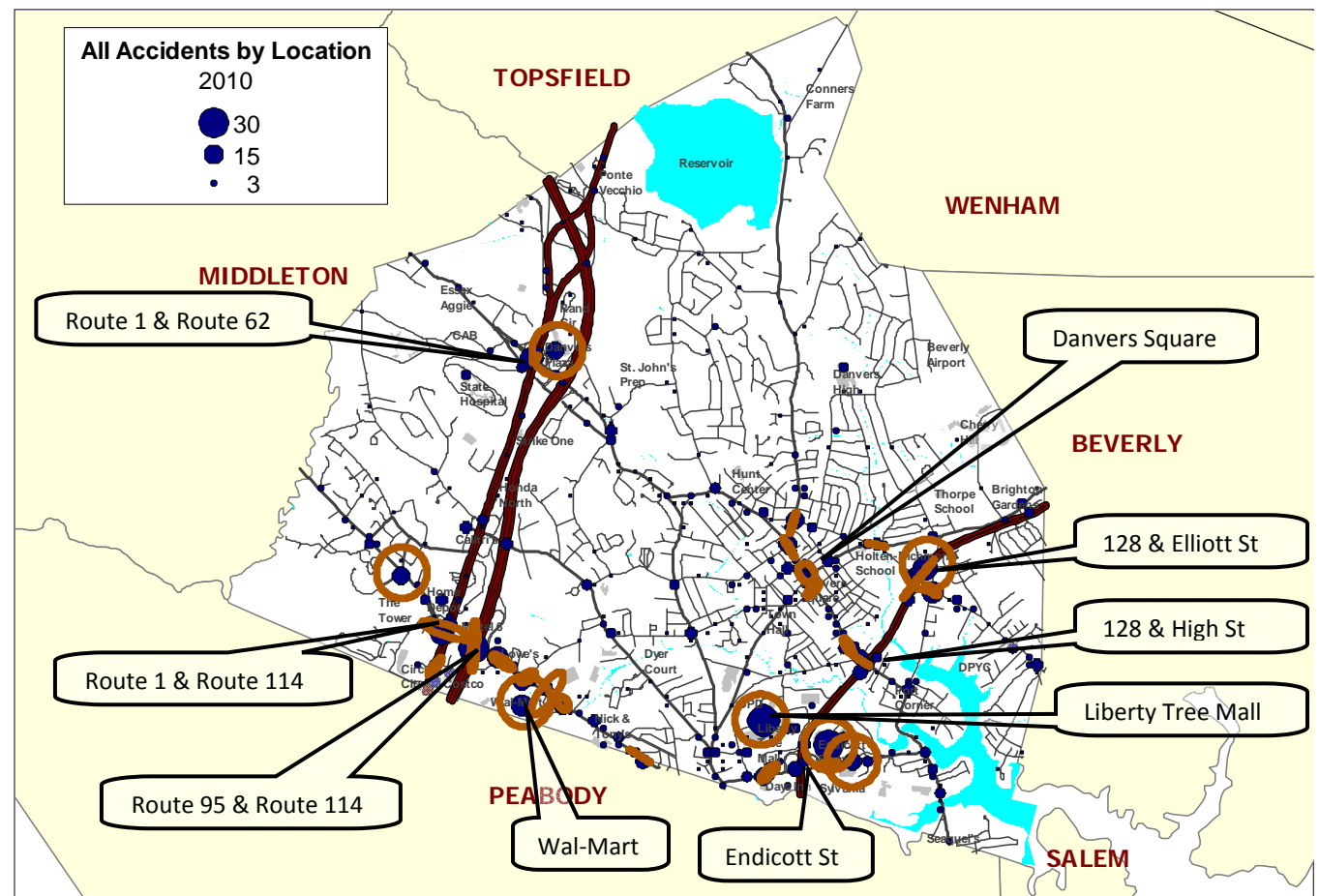
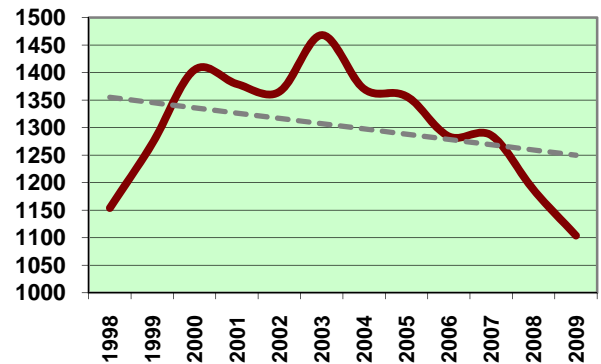
**Average of 1317.9 • 1104 in 2009  
16% Decrease**

In 2009, 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, and in 2009 by a poor economy, which did the same.

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 is 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 Accidents, 1998-2009**





# 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](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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Robert Sullivan 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

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<b>Front Desk Officer</b>	978-774-1213 ext. 113	
<b>Webmaster</b>	978-774-1213 ext. 119	cbruce@mail.danvers-ma.org

## 2010 Supplement: January through April

The *2009 Annual Crime Report* was published in May 2010, a bit later than usual. Because there was a delay in getting this material to the citizens of Danvers, we felt we should offer the community a sense of what's been going on so far in 2010. Here are statistics for crime and disorder **from January 1 to April 30**. The ↑ and ↓ symbols indicate incidents that are unusually high or low.

Incident Type	Average	Usual Range	2009	2010	Change from Avg.	Notes
<b>VIOLENT/PERSONAL CRIME</b>						
Murder	0.1	0–0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>-100%</b>	No murders since 2006.
Rape	1.6	0–3	2	<b>3</b>	<b>+92%</b>	High so far. All acquaintance or domestic rapes
Indecent Assault	2.1	0–4	0	<b>2</b>	<b>-2%</b>	One between co-workers; one high school incident.
Aggravated Assault	9.2	7–12	9	<b>7</b>	<b>-24%</b>	On the low end, but with usual proportions in each category.
Simple Assault	50.0	42–58	51	<b>51</b>	<b>+2%</b>	Holding at the average and consistent with 2008.
Robbery	4.5	1–8	1	<b>3</b>	<b>-34%</b>	One cab driver, one restaurant robbery, one purse snatching
Kidnapping	0.2	0–1	0	<b>0</b>	<b>-100%</b>	No incidents so far. Only one in the past 5 years.
Threats/Intimidation	26.8	18–36	19	<b>29</b>	<b>+8%</b>	Normal volume with no patterns to report.
Bomb Threats	1.2	0–3	0	<b>2</b>	<b>+61%</b>	Dealing with series of bomb threats scrawled on DHS bathroom wall.
↓ Violation of a Restraining Order	12.6	10–15	10	<b>5</b>	<b>-60%</b>	Very low for second straight year.
<b>PROPERTY CRIME</b>						
↑ Residential Burglary	10.0	8–12	9	<b>13</b>	<b>+31%</b>	High with high-volume series reported near the high school.
Commercial Burglary	8.1	5–11	9	<b>10</b>	<b>+23%</b>	High with pattern of breaks with scrap metal stolen.
↑ Theft from a Vehicle	77.4	52–103	64	<b>104</b>	<b>+34%</b>	Major pattern in residential driveways in January and February
Theft from a Building	31.7	24–39	18	<b>28</b>	<b>-12%</b>	Pattern continuing at Planet Fitness lockers, but low volume.
Theft from a Person	7.5	3–12	3	<b>4</b>	<b>-46%</b>	Very few incidents and no patterns reported.
Theft from a Residence	15.8	12–19	11	<b>16</b>	<b>+1%</b>	Normal volume.
Theft of a Bicycle	2.4	1–4	0	<b>7</b>	<b>+195%</b>	Increase in thefts from residential yards in the spring.
Theft of Services	7.3	5–10	5	<b>6</b>	<b>-18%</b>	Very few incidents of gas drive-offs and dine & ditch reported.
Shoplifting	92.0	75–109	109	<b>105</b>	<b>+14%</b>	Continues to be very high at Wal-Mart and Kohl's.
↓ Auto Theft	17.3	11–24	9	<b>10</b>	<b>-42%</b>	Matching pace to continue 2009's lows despite Bobcat theft pattern.
Arson	0.6	0–1	0	<b>0</b>	<b>-100%</b>	No incidents so far; last was November 2009.
Fraud & Forgery	40.8	34–48	48	<b>44</b>	<b>+8%</b>	Continuing pattern of credit card fraud as covered in this report.
↓ Employee Theft	6.0	4–8	6	<b>2</b>	<b>-67%</b>	Very low. Incident at mall and home improvement stores.
Trespassing	11.7	5–19	8	<b>6</b>	<b>-49%</b>	A few incidents of shoplifters returning to mall after warning.
↓ Vandalism	83.4	69–98	81	<b>56</b>	<b>-33%</b>	Very low with no usual springtime school vandalism patterns.



Incident Type	Average	Usual Range	2009	2010	Change from Avg.	Notes
<b>SOCIETAL/VICE CRIME</b>						
↓ Drug Offenses	33.6	24–43	30	<b>15</b>	<b>-55%</b>	Continues to plummet in response to marijuana decriminalization.
Liquor Law Violations	13.4	8–18	10	<b>8</b>	<b>-40%</b>	Continues lows from 2009. Hardly any house parties.
↓ Drunk Driving	28.1	12–44	15	<b>9</b>	<b>-68%</b>	Lowest level since 1998 after six years of heightened enforcement.
Prostitution	2.1	0–4	7	<b>4</b>	<b>+90%</b>	Continuing issues at budget motels, but not as bad as 2009.
Indecent Exposure	2.5	1–4	1	<b>1</b>	<b>-61%</b>	One incident at a playground in March.
↓ Weapon Violations	7.1	5–9	9	<b>2</b>	<b>-72%</b>	Very low. No knife bylaw violations so far this year.
Dumping/Littering	6.9	4–10	7	<b>6</b>	<b>-14%</b>	Normal. Occasional problem behind vacant buildings on 1 and 114.
↑ Child Neglect	4.8	3–6	6	<b>7</b>	<b>+45%</b>	Oddly high, but no repeat families involved.
<b>DISORDER/QUALITY-OF-LIFE</b>						
Disorderly Conduct	41.0	32–50	47	<b>33</b>	<b>-20%</b>	Low with decreased activity at the Mall.
Disputes	170.8	153–189	171	<b>178</b>	<b>+4%</b>	Normal volume of domestic and neighbor feuds this year.
Noise Complaints	95.9	78–114	100	<b>95</b>	<b>-1%</b>	High in winter with complaints of idling plows; low since.
↓ Fireworks	3.7	2–5	6	<b>1</b>	<b>-73%</b>	Hardly any reported so far this year. Not really the season yet.
↓ Drunkenness	47.6	41–55	35	<b>34</b>	<b>-29%</b>	Picking up as we get into spring, but low in the winter.
↑ Vagrancy	5.6	2–9	2	<b>10</b>	<b>+80%</b>	Repeat reports of panhandling on Route 114 and Endicott Street.
Youth Disorder	54.9	34–76	58	<b>40</b>	<b>-27%</b>	Fewer complaints from Danvers Square area merchants.
↓ Skateboard, Bike, & Scooter Complaints	24.8	15–35	15	<b>9</b>	<b>-64%</b>	Lowest in 13 years with fewer complaints from area merchants.
Suspicious Activity	259.9	239–280	286	<b>263</b>	<b>+1%</b>	Normal. No patterns or trends observed.
Psychiatric Disorder	38.4	27–50	51	<b>42</b>	<b>+9%</b>	Normal. Several repeat residents with multiple calls.
Harassing & Annoying	15.0	11–19	18	<b>18</b>	<b>+20%</b>	Normal to high. A couple of repeat incidents between acquaintances.
Annoying/Obscene Phone Calls	32.6	27–38	31	<b>30</b>	<b>-8%</b>	Also normal. A couple of repeat incidents between acquaintances.
<b>TRAFFIC ISSUES</b>						
Motor Vehicle Accidents	393.3	356–430	341	<b>390</b>	<b>-1%</b>	Normal volume after very low figures in 2008 and 2009.
Traffic & Parking Complaints	174.2	152–196	203	<b>157</b>	<b>-10%</b>	Normal volume with no new trends.
Criminal Motor Vehicle Offenses	167.7	107–229	106	<b>108</b>	<b>-36%</b>	Still very low reflecting technology issues at DPD.
↓ Disabled Motor Vehicles	204.6	158–251	156	<b>144</b>	<b>-30%</b>	Low for third year probably reflecting decreased traffic in town.
Abandoned Motor Vehicles	11.1	8–14	10	<b>8</b>	<b>-28%</b>	Lowest in more than a decade, but for unknown reasons.
↓ Recovered Stolen Vehicles	8.8	6–12	7	<b>5</b>	<b>-43%</b>	Very low, consistent with decrease in auto theft.
Dangerous Road Conditions	71.8	59–84	62	<b>82</b>	<b>+14%</b>	High from March and April rain storms.

Incident Type	Average	Usual Range	2009	2010	Change from Avg.	Notes
<b>GENERAL SERVICE INCIDENTS</b>						
911 Errors	96.9	74–120	120	<b>108</b>	<b>+11%</b>	Normal volume with no new trends detected.
↓ False Alarms	608.2	500–717	438	<b>469</b>	<b>-23%</b>	Although not as low as 2009, continues to reflect new bylaws.
Animal-Related Incidents	97.1	64–130	87	<b>92</b>	<b>-5%</b>	Normal volume with no new trends detected.
Check Well-Being	244.9	209–280	251	<b>265</b>	<b>+8%</b>	Normal.
Unattended Death	9.2	6–13	15	<b>10</b>	<b>+9%</b>	Normal volume with no new trends detected.
↓ Fire Assists	25.2	17–33	15	<b>16</b>	<b>-36%</b>	Very low with few fires so far.
↓ Lost Property	45.5	32–59	41	<b>27</b>	<b>-41%</b>	Decrease in lost cell phone reports may reflect changing policies at cell phone companies.
↑ Medical Aid	503.0	453–553	559	<b>637</b>	<b>+27%</b>	Record high, reflecting increasing population and more assisted living.
Missing Persons	18.7	5–32	15	<b>8</b>	<b>-57%</b>	Has decreased steadily every year since 2002.
Suicide or Attempt	4.9	2–8	3	<b>2</b>	<b>-59%</b>	Both medication overdoses; both unsuccessful.
↑ Town/Utility Problem	81.2	59–104	90	<b>152</b>	<b>+87%</b>	Very high with damage and issues caused by spring rain storms.
Miscellaneous Public Service	141.3	107–176	150	<b>156</b>	<b>+10%</b>	Slight increase almost entirely due to one disabled resident.
<b>POLICE-DIRECTED ACTIVITY</b>						
↑ Traffic Enforcement	585.0	68–1102	1320	<b>1174</b>	<b>+101%</b>	High for fifth year, due to new programs implemented in late 2005.
Directed Patrols	387.3	132–642	116	<b>282</b>	<b>-27%</b>	Competes with traffic enforcement category for patrol resources.
↓ Warrant Arrests or Service	105.7	85–126	107	<b>73</b>	<b>-31%</b>	Another victim of some technology and detection problems.
Service of Legal Papers	131.0	76–186	192	<b>169</b>	<b>+29%</b>	Normal volume with no new trends detected.
↓ Prisoner Transport	91.1	78–105	88	<b>64</b>	<b>-30%</b>	Decrease reflecting decreased arrest total
<b>OVERALL TOTALS</b>						
↓ Total Calls for Service <sup>3</sup>	4971.1	4773–5169	4959	<b>4726</b>	<b>-5%</b>	Fairly low thanks to moderate decreases across many categories.
↓ Total Reported Crimes	664.2	607–721	613	<b>601</b>	<b>-10%</b>	Mixture in violent and property crimes but very low in vice crimes.
↓ Total Arrests	325.6	247–404	263	<b>175</b>	<b>-46%</b>	Very low, reflecting primarily decreases in arrestable motor vehicle offenses, drunk driving, warrants, and drug offenses.

<sup>3</sup> This total does not include directed patrols or selective enforcement assignments