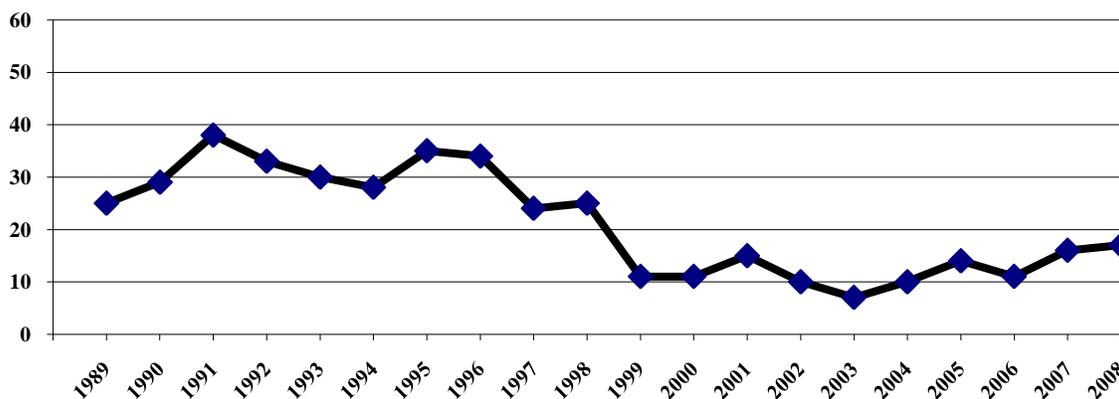


# R A P E

The Uniform Crime Reporting Program defines rape as “the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will.”\* Attempts to commit rape by force or threat of force, and assaults with the intent to commit rape, are also included; however, statutory rape (without force) and other sex offenses are excluded.

\* In addition, by definition, “sexual attacks on males are excluded from the rape category and must be classified as assaults or other sex offenses depending on the nature of the crime and the extent of injury.” However, in NIBRS, which Cambridge began using to submit crime data in 2007, “a sexual assault on a male by a female could be classified as a forcible rape, depending on the nature of the attack and the extent of the injury.”

**Twenty Year Review:  
Rape in Cambridge, 1989-2008**



**16 reported in 2007 • 17 reported in 2008**

The Cambridge Police Department’s Sexual Assault Unit reports that three attempted rapes and fourteen completed rapes were reported in 2008. This is an increase of one incident from 2007. In 12 of the cases, the victim had a prior acquaintance with the rapist. Three of the rapes were classified as domestic in nature. There were two stranger-to-stranger rapes reported in Cambridge during 2008. Note that the number of rapes that go unreported each year is uncertain. Experts estimate that as many as 50% of domestic and acquaintance rapes are not reported by the victim.

	Acquaintance.	Contact	Blitz	Domestic	Total
<b>Completed</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Attempt</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>

## *CATEGORIES OF RAPE*

- **Acquaintance Rapes** are non-domestic rapes committed by someone who knows the victim. They include rapes of co-workers, schoolmates, friends, and other acquaintances, including “date rapes.” Twelve of the seventeen incidents in 2008 were perpetrated by acquaintances.
- **Blitz Rapes** are rapes in which the suspect “comes out of nowhere.” Usually, the attacker is a stranger but this is not necessarily the case. Among all of the categorizations of rape, the blitz rape, or “street rape,” tends to invoke the most fear in the average citizen. There was one blitz rape recorded in Cambridge in 2008.

- **Contact Rapes** are **stranger** rapes in which the suspect contacts the victim and tries to gain his/her confidence before assaulting him/her. Contact rapists typically pick up their victims in bars and lure them into their cars or houses, or otherwise try to coerce the victim into a situation in which they can begin their assault. There was one incident in Cambridge in 2008 that fit into this category.
- **Domestic Rapes** involve rapes between spouses, romantic partners, or family members. Three domestic rapes were reported in 2008. Romantic partners committed two of these incidents and a spouse perpetrated the other.

### **2007\* NATIONAL AND REGIONAL RAPE STATISTICS**

The FBI's Uniform Crime Report for 2007 reports that:

- The rate of forcible rapes in 2007 was estimated at 59.1 offenses per 100,000 female inhabitants.

With a population of approximately 101,355, Cambridge's rate (approx. 17 per 100,000 persons) falls far below that of cities of comparable size.

In 2007, the FBI reported a decrease of 2.5% in the number of *incidents* of female forcible rape known to the police nationwide. Between 1998 and 2007, the incidence of rape nationwide decreased 2.9% for the ten-year period. Like the Cambridge Police Department, the FBI cautions that a significant portion of rapes go unrecorded, making the validity of the statistics uncertain.

*\*National and regional statistics for 2008 are not yet available.*

Please see the Protect Yourself section starting on page 151 for tips on how you can protect yourself against becoming a victim of rape, and how to handle the situation if you do find yourself in dangerous circumstances.