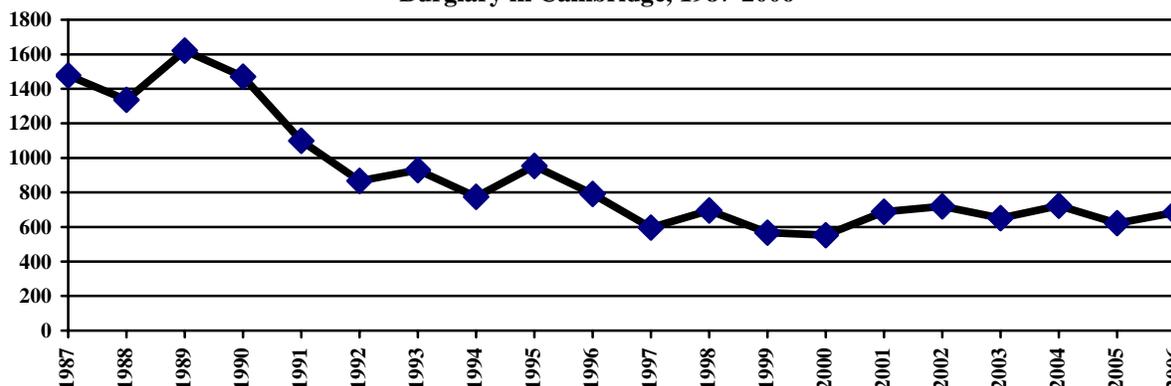


BURGLARY

Burglary is described as the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. The use of force to gain entry is not required to classify an offense as burglary. Burglary attempts are included in the total.

**Twenty Year Review:
Burglary in Cambridge, 1987-2006**



623 reported in 2005 • 685 reported in 2006

Burglary is categorized as a more serious crime than larceny since it involves the use of force and unlawful entry into a business or residence. Perpetrators employ various techniques to enter residences or businesses. Since burglars need to pull off their heist quickly, break-ins are occasionally only unsuccessful “attempts,” in which no entry is made, but damage is caused to the structure.

	2005	2006	% Change from 05-06
Commercial Burglary	133	189	+42%
Residential Burglary	490	496	+1%
Total	623	685	+10%

Burglars often fall into two types: the “amateur” and the “professional.” Amateurs are likely to smash windows or kick in doors to enter unoccupied buildings. These burglars will often take lightweight, visible property, such as a purse left on a table, loose change, or other less costly items. “Professional” burglars, alternatively, are more sophisticated in their methods and tend to steal higher-priced items. They often pry open a door, disable alarms, and even occasionally enter occupied establishments.

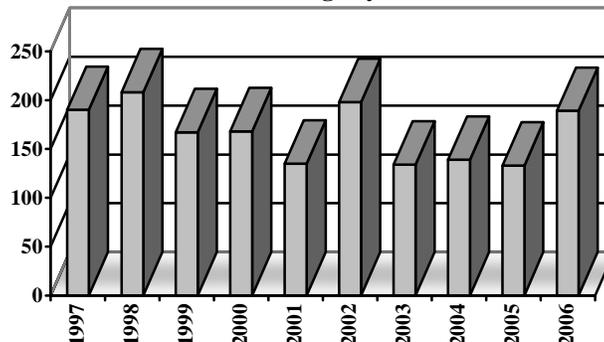
For the purposes of analysis, burglary is divided into two main categories: *commercial* and *residential*.

Over the past twenty years, burglary in Cambridge has decreased by approximately 54%. Burglary crimes peaked in the late 1980’s, dramatically decreased in the early 1990’s, and have continued to be relatively steady since.

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

A commercial burglary, more commonly referred to as a *commercial break*, is the unlawful entry into a commercial establishment, including business, government, religious, or retail establishments. Between 2005 and 2006, there was a 42% increase in commercial breaks in Cambridge. Over the past five years, commercial breaks have averaged approximately 159 incidents a year, a 9% decrease from the previous five-year average.

Commercial Burglary 1997-2006



A wide variety of establishments are targeted in commercial burglary using an array of methods. Most breaks can be categorized as one of the following:

- ◆ **Smash & Grab** burglaries target display windows along major routes. The burglar runs or drives up, smashes the window, steals valuables from the immediate window area, and runs off. The entire endeavor may take less than a minute.
- ◆ **Retail** burglars pry or smash their way into stores or other locations with cash registers on the premises. They hope to steal cash left in the register or safe and may grab cigarettes or lottery tickets on the way out.
- ◆ **Restaurant/Bar** burglars often cross multiple jurisdictions, breaking into similar franchises, looking for safes. Registers and cash were targeted in the majority of the 2006 cases.
- ◆ **Business** burglars enter real-estate offices, law firms, technology companies, and other offices, looking for laptop computers and other expensive equipment. The majority of these incidents occurred when an intruder gained entrance into locked offices and stole electronic equipment.
- ◆ **Construction Site/Industrial Area** thieves are a special breed of burglars who know how to select, steal, and sell expensive power tools, building supplies, and heavy equipment. They are often in the business themselves and may have done sub-contract work on the sites that they target. Construction site and industrial area burglaries increased by 450% over 2005. This astronomical increase can be attributed to the rise in thefts of copper and construction materials in 2006. For more information on copper thefts, please see “hot theft targets”.
- ◆ **Safe Crackers** are a more professional type of burglar. In these incidents, perpetrators enter businesses with high cash intake, such as restaurants and bars, and usually take that cash.
- ◆ **Church** burglars are usually homeless individuals with substance abuse problems. They enter lightly secured houses of worship, looking for petty cash and easily fenced items.
- ◆ **School** burglars are generally juveniles, breaking into their own schools to vandalize or steal

TYPE OF PREMISE	2005	2006
Industrial/Construction	8	44
Bar/Restaurant/Social	55	35
Business Offices	17	27
Other: (hair salons, health clubs, medical buildings etc)	14	25
Retail Establishments	13	23
School	10	15
Convenience/Gas	8	10
Church	7	5
Government Building	1	5
TOTAL	133	189

computers and other expensive goods they see everyday.

IN FOCUS: PROFESSIONAL COMMERCIAL BURGLARY PATTERNS

In 2006 there were two focal points regarding commercial burglaries: breaks that occurred in Central Square and breaks that occurred at construction sites (only two incidents overlapped). Both saw dramatic increases when compared to 2005. Central Square reported 22 more commercial burglaries in 2006 compared to 2005, translating to a 147% increase. Throughout the year, multiple locations were burglarized at least twice. Central Square experienced 13 burglaries in December alone with nine of those occurring in the Area 4 neighborhood. This pattern continued into January of 2007.

Construction site breaks (disregarding industrial breaks) rose by 24 in 2006; this translates to a 343% increase, from 7 incidents in 2005 to 31 in 2006. This can be attributed to the rise in thefts of copper and expensive construction equipment being targeted nationwide. May and June were the most problematic months with a total of 12 breaks. This pattern is thoroughly discussed in the “hot theft targets” of this report.

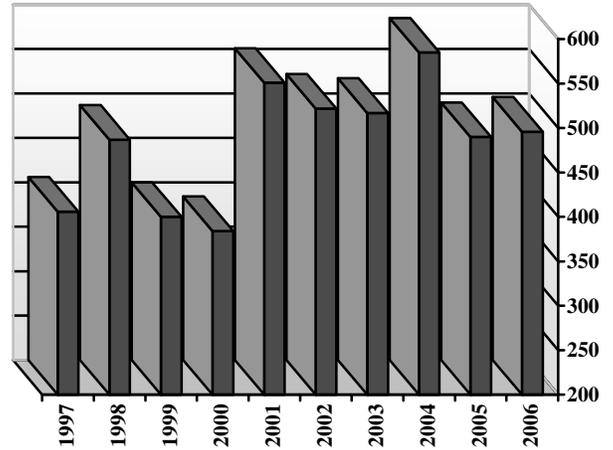
GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF COMMERCIAL BURGLARIES					
Business District	2004	2005	2006	% Change 05-06	% of Total
Central Square	49	15	37	+147%	20%
Inman Square/Harrington	13	15	30	+100%	16%
East Cambridge/Galleria	8	15	29	+93%	15%
Porter Square/North Cambridge	6	16	23	+44%	12%
Harvard Square	20	14	18	+29%	10%
Alewife/West Cambridge	16	14	17	+21%	9%
Kendall Square/M.I.T.	11	8	13	+63%	7%
Massachusetts Avenue 1500-1900	10	16	8	-50%	4%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	2	4	8	+100%	4%
Bay Square/Upper Broadway	4	16	6	-63%	3%

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

Residential burglaries, or “housebreaks,” are of particular concern to local police and communities because of the loss of personal security felt when one’s home is invaded and possessions are stolen.

Housebreaks were up 1% in the City in 2006 compared to 2005. This total includes 80 housebreak incidents (16%) that were attempted, but not completed. The greatest decreases were recorded in North Cambridge and East Cambridge. Inman/Harrington recorded a 59% increase, due to varying patterns throughout the year. For a detailed synopsis of neighborhood housebreak activity in 2006, please refer to the Neighborhood Section of this report.

Residential Burglary, 1997-2006



GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

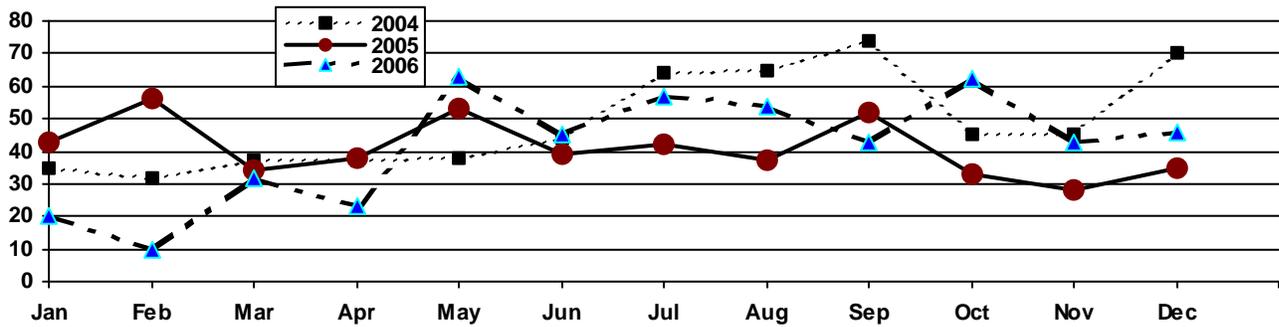
AREA	2004	2005	2006	% Change 05-06	% of Total
Cambridgeport	68	68	85	+25%	17%
Mid-Cambridge	89	74	78	+5%	16%
Area 4	70	37	54	+46%	11%
Inman/Harrington	61	34	53	+56%	11%
Peabody	66	48	43	-10%	9%
West Cambridge	47	41	43	+5%	9%
East Cambridge	38	62	41	-34%	8%
North Cambridge	49	52	31	-40%	6%
Riverside	47	36	31	-14%	6%
Agassiz	36	26	24	-8%	5%
Strawberry Hill	11	8	9	+13%	2%
Cambridge Highlands	1	1	3	N/A	1%
M.I.T. Area	2	3	1	N/A	0%

* Please note that due to reclassification these numbers may differ slightly from those reported in the UCR.

Housebreaks most commonly occur during the daytime while victims are not home. Suspects are often long gone by the time the victim returns home and calls the police. Unknown suspects are most often the perpetrators in Cambridge housebreaks, although a small percentage of incidents involve acquaintances or family members. For example, 3% of all reported housebreak victims named an *acquaintance* (friends, roommates, or neighbors) as a suspect. An additional 2% of incidents were categorized as *domestic*, perpetrated by family members, ex-boyfriends, etc. Entry is gained into a residence by various methods. The most common method of entry is forcing or prying open the front door. However, entry is made via unlocked/open windows in a large number of breaks during the summer months. The front doors of a residence were pried/forced/broken in 20% of the housebreaks in 2006. Window entry was significant regarding two different methods: cut or removed window screens accounted for 10% of all entries and shoved/forced windows accounted for 6%. However, unlocked windows and doors combined enabled suspects to enter without force in at least 19% of all housebreaks in 2006. The property targeted in housebreaks typically includes cash and jewelry, but in a society where many own valuable electronics, common targets of theft now include laptops, iPods, digital cameras, TVs, DVD players, and video gaming systems.

Top Five Items Stolen/Targeted		
	In Housebreaks:	In Commercial Burglaries:
1	Laptops	Cash
2	Jewelry	Tools
3	Cameras	Laptop/Computer
4	Cash	Cameras
5	Miscellaneous Electronics	Wire & Cable

2004 – 2006 MONTHLY HOUSEBREAK TOTAL COMPARISON



Protect your home or business! Please read the Protect Yourself section starting on page 138 for tips on how you can protect against becoming a victim of a commercial burglary or housebreak.

2006 TIMELINE OF CAMBRIDGE HOUSEBREAK PATTERNS

January had no discernible patterns develop and reported the second lowest number of housebreaks throughout the year.



With only 11 breaks reported, **February** experienced the fewest housebreaks of the year. The main time that the breaks occurred was in the middle of the day.



Mid-**March** saw an increase of breaks along the Somerville border in the neighborhoods of North Cambridge and Agassiz. However, 25% of the breaks during this month were attempts.



In **June**, incidents in Mid-Cambridge continued with the entry gained through cut window screens. Electronics were stolen in most cases and the usual time frame was from 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The pattern also continued in Area 4 (Sector 2), where two suspects were questioned.



Housebreaks in **May** more than doubled when compared to previous months. Many patterns developed and three people were arrested. In Sectors 2 & 3 in mid-May, there was a rash of breaks with cut window screens and electronics stolen. At the same time, a daytime pattern developed in Sector 4 where locks were pried off front doors and jewelry and laptops were stolen. Over the last weekend in May, there were nine breaks reported. Sectors 1, 2, & 3 accounted for 74% of the breaks reported in May.



Housebreaks decreased slightly from March to **April**. Mid-Cambridge breaks were the most common.



July experienced a pattern on the border of Sectors 1 & 2 with entry being gained through unlocked windows. This pattern continued into **August**. Another pattern emerged in August, at night in Cambridgeport. Four people were arrested in two incidents, one of whom was a prime suspect in the pattern from the two previous months. About 23% of all the breaks in July and August were attempts.



Housebreaks decreased a bit into **September**, although the Cambridgeport pattern continued. Two arrests were made in regard to these breaks.



Cambridgeport continued to be the hot spot in **October**, with 32% of the breaks occurring in this neighborhood. Entry was gained through windows by cutting screens.



By year's end, 2006 had reported an overall increase of 1% in housebreaks. The neighborhoods with the most significant decline were East Cambridge and North Cambridge, while Inman/Harrington reported the largest increase.



December was very similar to November. Most breaks took place during the workday, with some streets incurring multiple breaks.



November saw an even proportion of breaks spread throughout the city. A suspect who was connected to the Cambridgeport breaks was arrested in Brookline.