

SECTION II

PART II CRIMES

- **DRUG OFFENSES**
- **VANDALISM**
- **SEX CRIMES**

THE FOLLOWING IS AN OVERVIEW
OF SELECTED PART II CRIMES IN
THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE





N A R C O T I C S

Narcotics includes all incidents in which the police made an arrest, complaint, or warrant for the possession or distribution of illegal narcotics. Narcotics statistics do not include all instances of narcotics use or distribution; they only reflect those cases that are known to the police.

111 reported in 2008 • 109 reported in 2009

The Cambridge Police Department's Special Investigations Unit (SIU) is a specialized group of officers who deal with vice activity throughout the city on a daily basis. Targeting drug activity remains the top goal of the unit. Through strategic planning methods, the members of this unit attempt to alleviate the burdens bestowed upon society by the culture of drug use and sales. By aggressively pursuing low-level street dealers, the SIU, along with patrol officers, are able to climb the drug network and annually arrest top drug suppliers across Cambridge.

Beginning in June 2009, the Cambridge Special Investigations Unit initiated "Operation Central Crack Down" as a result of neighborhood complaints of an increase in street level drug activity that was disrupting the quality of life for both the residential and business community of Central Square and the surrounding neighborhoods. With assistance from other local police departments, the SIU conducted a four-month undercover investigation, focused mainly in the Central Square area but also involving activity in Inman/Harrington, Harvard Square, and North Cambridge. These efforts led to the successful arrests and complaint applications for 32 drug distributors operating within the City of Cambridge. Although focused in Central Square, this operation had an impact on all areas of the city by removing distributors from the streets that were known to travel throughout Cambridge to make their deals.

To the right is a geographic breakdown of drug incidents across the 13 neighborhoods in Cambridge. Area 4 and Cambridgeport, which both include part of Central Square, accounted for the most drug activity over the past three years.

In total, 109 drug incidents were reported in 2009 and 102 arrests were made.

DRUG ARREST SCENARIOS

There are seven common ways that the police learn about drug activity in the city. They are listed below.

1. The Cambridge Police Department Special Investigation Unit initiates an investigation or conducts surveillance resulting in an arrest. Many of these investigations are due to information supplied by confidential sources: **65 cases**
2. A police officer on patrol observes suspicious street activity and upon further investigation discovers narcotics: **17 cases**
3. During a routine motor vehicle stop, a police officer observes or smells narcotics inside the vehicle: **13 cases**
4. During an arrest for another crime such as disorderly conduct, the arresting officer or booking officer finds narcotics on the arrested person: **5 cases**
5. A Cambridge school official or court officer observes drug use: **5 cases**
6. A citizen witnesses a person or persons using drugs and notifies the police: **4 cases**
7. Pharmacists discover patrons attempting to fill fake prescriptions: **0 cases in 2009**

Drug Incidents By Neighborhood

Area	2007	2008	2009	% of total
Cambridgeport	28	13	32	29%
Area 4	37	21	20	18%
North Cambridge	12	8	11	10%
Inman/Harrington	23	12	10	9%
Mid-Cambridge	16	15	10	9%
East Cambridge	20	14	7	6%
Riverside	14	14	7	6%
West Cambridge	3	7	5	6%
M.I.T. Area	3	1	3	3%
Peabody	8	3	2	2%
Agassiz	0	0	1	1%
Strawberry Hill	1	3	0	0%
Cambridge Highlands	1	0	0	0%
Totals	166	111	109	99%*

*Total is less than 100% due to rounding.

DRUG TIP HOTLINE

*The Special Investigations Unit employs an anonymous Drug Tip Hotline to gain intelligence information from the community. The Unit can be reached by calling **617-349-3359**. Generally, you will be greeted by a taped message instructing you to leave very detailed information. **You do not have to provide any personal information and all information is held in confidence.***

Also, you may send crime tips to the Cambridge Police Department's Anonymous Crime Tip E-Mail address by accessing www.Cambridgepolice.org and clicking on Anonymous Crime Tip E-Mail. Or you can send an anonymous text message to TIP411 (847411). Begin your text with Tip650 and then type your message.

Drug Related Activities for Which Persons are Arrested

Activity	2009
<i>Possession with intent to distribute</i> (the carrying of a significant amount of narcotics not for personal use)	36
<i>Possession</i>	33
<i>Drug Sale</i> (observed)	30
<i>Trafficking</i> (the selling, possessing or transporting of copious amounts of narcotics)	10

Types of Drugs Found On Arrested Persons

Drug	2009
Cocaine/Crack	47
Marijuana	33
Heroin	19
Prescription Drugs	9
Hallucinogens	1

The statistics in these two tables reflect only one arrest charge and one type of drug per arrested individual. A few individuals had multiple charges or more than one type of drug on them, but only the most serious was chosen in each arrest.

Summary of Overdose Incidents

Officers responded to several calls for drug-induced overdoses in 2009. While these types of incidents are generally medical in nature, police often respond to assist Fire and EMS agencies.

Unlike in past years where overdoses tended to be focused in a few neighborhoods, the incidents in both 2008 and 2009 were spread more evenly throughout the city, although lower Cambridge experienced a higher proportion of the overdoses than upper Cambridge in 2009. Utilizing witness statements as well as evidence at the scene, such as used needles and medication bottles, officers were able to determine that prescription medications and heroin were used in most of the overdose incidents. Overdose by prescription medication accounted for roughly half of all overdose incidents in 2009. Those incidents involving prescription medications were often intentionally administered overdoses. Most of the medications were anti-depressants or pain medications.

UNDERSTANDING NARCOTICS

This information was compiled from the following sources:

- <http://www.drugfreeamerica.com>
- [Massachusetts Drug Threat Assessment](#), published by the National Drug Intelligence Center of the U.S. Department of Justice
- <http://www.erowid.org>
- <http://www.gazettenet.com/12192002/news/2941.htm>
- http://www.Townonline.com/Lincoln/news/local_regional/lin_newljdrugs12242002.htm.

Massachusetts Drug Classifications

Drug types are classified under 5 different substance categories in Massachusetts: Class A, B, C, D, and E:

- Class A Substances include Heroin and other opiates such as Morphine; some designer drugs such as GHB; and Ketamine (Special K).
- Class B Substances include Cocaine; prescription opiates such as Oxycotin/Oxycodone; LSD; Ecstasy (XTC); Amphetamine (speed); and Methamphetamine (meth).
- Class C Substances include prescription tranquilizers, mescaline, psilocybin/mushrooms, peyote, and some medium doses of prescription narcotics.
- Class D Substances include Marijuana (pot), choryl hydrate, and some lesser doses of prescription drugs.
- Class E Substance charges are typically for lighter doses of prescription narcotics.



MARIJUANA (*pot, weed, grass, dope, herb, bud, Mary Jane*)

Marijuana is the most widely used drug in America. This green or brown dried mixture of leaves, stems, seeds, and flowers from the hemp plant is smoked through a pipe, bong, or marijuana cigarette often called a joint or blunt, to produce a gradual high. Less common forms of the drug are hashish or hashish oil.

Smoke from marijuana contains 50-70% more carcinogenic hydrocarbons than that of tobacco cigarettes. Besides health factors, marijuana affects a user's alertness, concentration, perception, coordination, and reaction time. Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the main active chemical in marijuana, changes the way sensory information gets into and is processed by the part of the brain that is crucial for learning and memory.

HEROIN (*smack, H, dope, horse*)



Heroin is a highly addictive drug derived from morphine, which is obtained from the opium poppy. It is a “downer” that affects the brain’s pleasure systems and interferes with the ability to feel pain. Heroin can be used in many ways, depending on the user’s preference and drug purity. Heroin is fast acting, especially when injected or smoked. Injected heroin reaches the brain in 15 to 30 seconds; when smoked, it causes a reaction in seven seconds. The high from heroin is experienced as intense pleasure. Once a person begins using heroin, they quickly develop a tolerance to the drug and need more and more to get the same effect.

Epidemiologists agree that heroin is the most under-reported drug in terms of usage and that any usage statistics are unreliable. The latest estimates report 379,000 past-year users and 136,000 past-month heroin users (National Survey on Drug Use & Health, 2005). However, some experts estimate that as many as two to three million people in the United States use heroin recreationally. In 1980, the average bag of street heroin was 4% pure; the average bag today is 40% pure and can be as pure as 70%. Increased purity results in snorting and smoking rather than injecting. Heroin use in the state has risen sharply over the last decade, particularly among young men ages 18-24 who are buying cheaper and purer forms of the drug.

COCAINE and CRACK COCAINE (*coke, crack, snow, blow, freebase, rock*)



Cocaine is a drug extracted from the leaves of the coca plant. It is a potent brain stimulant and one of the most powerfully addictive drugs. Cocaine is distributed on the street in two main forms: cocaine hydrochloride, which is a white crystalline powder that can be snorted or dissolved in water and injected; and "crack," which is cocaine hydrochloride that has been processed with ammonia or sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) and water into freebase cocaine. These chips, chunks, or rocks can be smoked.

Cocaine may be used occasionally, daily, or in a variety of compulsive, repeated-use "binges." Regardless of how it is used, cocaine is highly addictive. Crack cocaine and injected cocaine reach the brain quickly and bring an intense and immediate high. Snorted cocaine produces a high more slowly.

Cocaine can produce a surge in energy, a feeling of intense pleasure, and increased confidence. The effects of powder cocaine last about 20 minutes, while the effects of "crack" last about 12 minutes. Heavy use of cocaine may produce hallucinations, paranoia, aggression, insomnia, and depression. Cocaine's effects are short lived, and once the drug leaves the brain, the user experiences a "coke crash" that includes depression, irritability, and fatigue. Long-term effects include heart problems, respiratory problems, sleep and appetite problems, and harm to developing children if used by a pregnant woman.



DESIGNER DRUGS (*Ecstasy, X, E, Special K, LSD*)



Designer drugs are a class of drugs often associated with "raves." Designer drugs are modifications of restricted drugs, made by underground chemists in order to create street drugs that are not specifically listed as controlled (i.e., restricted) substances by the Drug Enforcement Administration. Changing the molecular structure of an existing drug or drugs to create a new substance, like Ecstasy (MDMA), creates a designer drug. The street names of designer drugs vary according to time, place, and manufacturer. Because unlicensed and untrained amateurs create designer drugs in clandestine laboratories, they can be extremely dangerous. In many

cases, the designer drugs are more dangerous and more potent than the original drug. The pharmaceutical drug, fentanyl, was originally created for anesthesia during surgeries. Designer drugs derived from fentanyl are extremely potent and have a strong potential for overdose. They have been associated with hundreds of unintentional deaths in the United States. They are also short lived, about 30 to 90 minutes. Increasingly the drug is sniffed or smoked, in part to avoid getting HIV via infected needles. The respiratory paralysis that may occur is so sudden after drug administration that often victims who injected the drug are found with the needle still in their arm.





OXYCONTIN

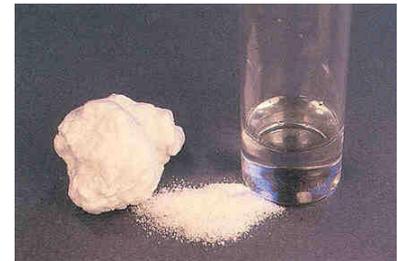
OxyContin (oxycodone HCl controlled-release) is the brand name for an opioid analgesic - a narcotic. Oxycodone is the narcotic ingredient found in Percocet (oxycodone and acetaminophen) and Percodan (oxycodone and aspirin). OxyContin is used to treat pain that is associated with arthritis, lower back conditions, injuries, and cancer. OxyContin is available by prescription only. It is approved for the treatment of moderate to severe pain that requires treatment for more than a few days.

OxyContin abusers remove the sustained-release coating to get a rush of euphoria similar to heroin. They chew the tabs, crush them for snorting, or boil the powder for injection. The most serious risk associated with opioids, including OxyContin, is respiratory depression. Common opioid side effects are constipation, nausea, sedation, dizziness, vomiting, headache, dry mouth, sweating, and weakness. OxyContin is oxycodone in a sustained release form and that is why the tablet should not be broken. Taking broken, chewed, or crushed tablets could lead to the rapid release and absorption of a potentially toxic dose of oxycodone.

In 2001 and 2002, there was a surge in robberies of pharmacies carrying OxyContin in Massachusetts. There is so much money to make with OxyContin that stealing and selling the drug has become irresistible to dealers and addicts who can get their hands on it. As a result, many pharmacies in the area have stopped stocking the drug in order to deter robbers.

GBH (GAMMA HYDROXYBUTYRIC ACID) (liquid ecstasy, easy lay, soap)

GHB is known as the “date-rape” drug. This odorless, colorless liquid can be easily dropped into an unsuspecting victim’s drink. GHB is also available in a white powder form. When ingested, the victim, often a woman, feels drowsy, dizzy, nauseous, and suffers loss of memory. Large amounts of the drug have been known to cause death. Sexual assaults are often accompanied with this drug due to the victim’s inability to resist and the lack of memory of past events caused by the drug. In the recent past, this drug has appeared on college campuses and at large dance parties called “raves.”



METHAMPHETAMINE (Meth, Speed, Crank)



Methamphetamine is a stimulant, which may be prescribed or “home cooked,” and comes in several shapes and sizes. A white powder, chunky crystals, and pills are all available forms. The drug can be taken through injection, snorting, smoking or oral ingestion.

Clandestine labs in California and Mexico are the primary source outputs for meth. Labs are easily movable allowing for a hard approach when targeting distribution. Meth use is on the rise among the American public and is making its way northward from the southern and western parts of the country where it is more popular.

MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION

Malicious destruction, or vandalism of property, includes tire-slashing, window-smashing, spray-painting, and a myriad of other crimes in which someone's property is willfully and maliciously damaged. It is the most commonly reported crime in Cambridge, yet we suspect that vandalism is one of the most underreported crimes; residents and businesses frequently ignore "minor" incidents of vandalism and graffiti.

649 reported in 2008 • 530 reported in 2009

There were 530 incidents of malicious destruction, or "vandalism," reported in 2009. Malicious destruction in Cambridge decreased by 18% from 2008 to 2009 with fewer incidents reported in almost all categories. However, Inman/Harrington saw a 43% increase in the number of vandalism reports (see tire-slashing summary below for explanation). The neighborhood with one of the most noticeable decreases was North Cambridge, which had seen an increase of 29% the previous year (2008).

VANDALISM BY CATEGORY

Category	2008	2009
Car window smashed	134	109
Dents/other damage to car	109	99
Tires slashed or punctured	81	64
Scratches, "pinstripes"	41	45
Attempted theft	19	18
Total Damage to Autos	384	335
Misc. damage at residences	50	38
Window of residence smashed	23	16
Total Damage to Residences	73	54
Window of business smashed	33	34
Misc. damage to businesses	41	31
Total Damage to Businesses	74	65
Graffiti	110	66
Miscellaneous damage	8	10

Vandalism By Neighborhood

Area	2008	2009	% Change
Inman/Harrington	60	86	+43%
East Cambridge	90	67	-26%
North Cambridge	88	54	-39%
Cambridgeport	77	53	-31%
Area 4	90	52	-42%
Mid-Cambridge	44	47	+7%
Peabody	52	45	-13%
Riverside	59	45	-24%
West Cambridge	50	40	-20%
Strawberry Hill	14	18	+29%
Cambridge Highlands	11	10	-9%
Agassiz	9	7	-22%
M.I.T. Area	5	6	+20%
Totals	649	530	-18%

A Closer Look at Tire-Slashings in Cambridge

Included in the malicious destruction statistics are 64 incidents of slashed car tires. Although this crime is down by 21% this year, a number of the incidents in 2009 took place during one-night sprees. Without these sprees, the malicious destruction numbers in Cambridge would have been even lower. The 43% increase in vandalism in Inman/Harrington is due in part to tire-slashings, which accounted for nearly a quarter of all incidents reported in that neighborhood.

There were 15 reports of slashed tires in July in the area of Harding St, Eighth St, and Cambridge St; a Roslindale man was arrested in the area. Later in the year in October, there was another spree around Willow St & Cambridge St, accounting for 11 incidents; unfortunately no suspects were seen at the time. The incidents in Strawberry Hill were sporadic throughout the year, but five of the nine tire-slashings in that neighborhood took place on Holmes St.

Tire Slashings by Neighborhood, 2009

Inman/Harrington	22
East Cambridge	11
Strawberry Hill	9
Cambridgeport	5
Peabody	5
Area 4	4
North Cambridge	3
Riverside	2
Highlands	2
West Cambridge	1
Mid-Cambridge	0
Agassiz	0
M.I.T. Area	0

SEX OFFENSES

Sex Offenses include six crimes of a sexual nature: annoying and accosting, indecent assault, indecent exposure, obscene telephone calls, peeping & spying, and prostitution & solicitation. Rape is not included because it is a Part I crime.

111 reported in 2008 • 97 reported in 2009

Annoying & Accosting

Annoying and accosting a member of the opposite sex is a form of criminal harassment. (Note: Incidents involving phone call harassment are not considered annoying and accosting. Phone calls are a separate category.) Often, annoying and accosting involves a man repeatedly following, shouting, making off-color suggestions, hooting, repeatedly asking for a date, or otherwise harassing a woman. It happens most often on the street and in the workplace. In all but one of the nine incidents in 2009, the perpetrators were strangers to the victims. Two of these incidents were committed by the same suspect; officers identified this suspect and escorted him to an MBTA station to send him back to his residence in Boston.

Indecent Assault

Indecent assault is the unwanted touching of a person by another in a private area or with sexual overtones. Any incident where force or injury occurs would be considered an aggravated assault rather than an indecent assault. In 2009, the victim knew the offender in roughly half of the incidents.

There were no patterns of indecent assaults in Cambridge in 2009. The second quarter (April, May, and June) saw the most incidents with 12. Overall, two arrests were made throughout the year, both of which involved males groping female victims in public establishments.

Indecent Exposure

Indecent exposure is the offensive, often suggestive display of one's body (usually the genitals) in public. The main offenders are typically vagrants or inebriated individuals. Eleven (42%) of the twenty-six indecent exposure incidents in 2009 involved suspects masturbating or engaging in sexual acts in public. Nine incidents (35%) involved individuals seen urinating in public. There were also six flashing incidents. Arrests were made in 14 (54%) of the 26 incidents.

<i>Crime</i>	2008	2009
Indecent Assault	46	29
Indecent Exposure	41	26
Obscene Telephone Calls	7	13
Peeping & Spying	2	12
Annoying & Accosting	12	9
Prostitution and Soliciting	3	8
Total	111	97

Obscene Telephone Calls

Obscene telephone calls are unwanted phone calls of an offensive or repulsive nature. Often the caller uses sexual or vulgar language to cause discomfort and possibly fear to the victim receiving the calls. In all but two of the thirteen incidents in 2009, the caller was unknown to the victim. In the two non-stranger incidents, one suspect was a former employee and one was an acquaintance through the victim's romantic partner.

Peeping & Spying

Peeping and spying occurs most often when offenders peer through windows of houses or apartments, generally at night. There were seven incidents of this nature reported in Cambridge in 2009, one of which resulted in an arrest. One of the other typical peeping scenarios in Cambridge involves the videotaping of unsuspecting victims during situations in which privacy is expected. This type of incident occurred twice in 2009; in April, an unknown male was seen taking pictures of a female while she was in a dressing room at the Cambridgeside Galleria, and in October, a houseguest was caught secretly video recording victims in their bathroom with a hidden camera.

Prostitution & Soliciting Sex for a Fee

Prostitution is commonly associated with "streetwalking," (prostitutes working the streets) but also includes escort services, where a "john" (client) will call and a prostitute will be sent to the "john's" location. In the 1990's, the Cambridge Police Special Investigations Unit (SIU) had proactively fought the visible "streetwalking" problem, nearly eradicating it in Cambridge. In November 2009, complaints of alleged prostitution activity resurfaced, particularly in and around Cambridge hotels. The SIU set up an undercover sting to combat the problem, which resulted in seven arrests for prostitution-related charges. There were also two other prostitution incidents earlier in 2009, one of which ended in arrest.