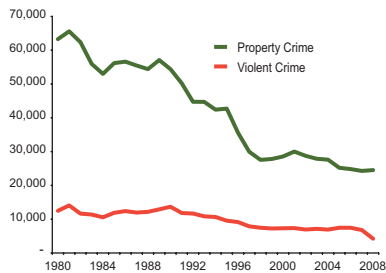


## Public Safety

Total Part 1 Violent and Property Crimes  
Boston, 1980 to 2008



Source: Boston Police Department

Overall, crime in Boston declined by 8.4%, or 2,632 incidents, between 2007 and 2008, continuing a gradual drop since the last peak in 2001. However, citywide averages obscure an increase in youth violence in geographic “hot spots,” for which StreetSafe Boston—a \$20 million public-private partnership targeting youth violence—and new policing initiatives have been launched, even in the face of budget cuts.

### Property Crime

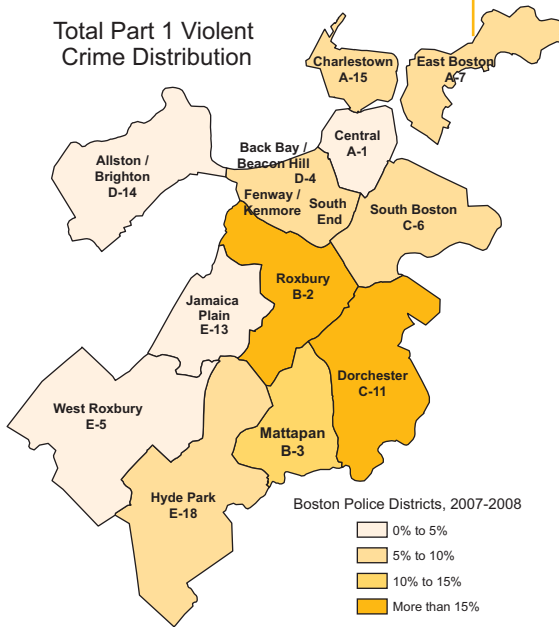
Citywide, property crime (robbery, burglary, larceny and vehicle theft) increased by 1%—or 224 incidents—between 2007 and 2008, but dropped by 14% since 2000. Citywide, actual and attempted vehicle thefts were down by 30%, burglary by 9% and larceny by 6%.

### Violent Crime

Citywide, total violent crime, including homicides, rapes, aggravated assault (actual and attempted) declined by 8%, or 392 incidents, from 31,366 in 2007 to 28,743 in 2008. Half of reported violent crimes are concentrated in Police Districts that comprise roughly one-third of the city’s population and cover the neighborhoods of Roxbury/Mission Hill (20%), Dorchester (16%), and Mattapan/North Dorchester (14%).

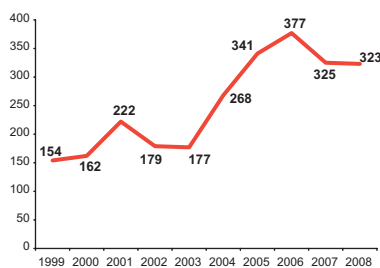
**Homicide:** Citywide, there were 3 fewer homicides in 2008 than in 2007. The greatest decline occurred in Mattapan/North Dorchester (-12) and Roxbury/Mission Hill (-9), though those neighborhoods, along with Dorchester, accounted for 64% of all homicides in 2008. **By Race & Ethnicity:** African American Bostonians accounted for more than two-thirds of homicide victims between 1999 and 2007 and had a homicide victimization rate 4 times the citywide average in 2007.

Total Part 1 Violent Crime Distribution



Data Source: MassGIS, City of Boston and the Boston Police Department; Map by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Annual Shootings  
City of Boston, 1999-2008



Source: Boston Police Department

**Rape:** Citywide, reported rapes and attempted rapes declined by 14, or 5.3%. However, the incident rate increased by 11, or 61% in Allston Brighton, and by 11, or 42%, in Back Bay/South End/Fenway. Reported incidents increased by 2, or 14% in both East Boston and Hyde Park.

**Aggravated Assault:** Overall, reported incidents of aggravated assault declined by 375, or 9%, between 2007 and 2008. However, incidents increased by 38, or 13%, in Charlestown, and more than 50% of aggravated assaults occurred in Roxbury/Mission Hill, Mattapan/North Dorchester and Dorchester.

**Shootings:** The Boston Police Department reported 323 shootings in 2008, a 14% decline since the high of 377 in 2006, but a 100% increase since 1999.

## Youth Safety

**Risky Behavior:** In 2007, 17% of Boston teens reported carrying a weapon, such as a knife or a gun, down from 28% in 1993. Among teens who carried a weapon, 42% reported carrying any weapon on school property and 26% reported carrying a gun. One-third reported being in a fight, and one-third of those on school property, while 8% of teens reported not going to school at least one day out of fear. Among non-fatal stabbings and shootings in 2007, 49% of victims were between the ages of 15 and 24.

**Youth Homicide:** According to a report by Northeastern University’s James Alan Fox, between 2000/01 and 2006/07, Boston experienced a 78% increase in African American homicide offenders between the ages of 14 and 24—the 6th highest increase among large US cities. Between 1999 and 2006 (the most recent year for which data are available) homicides of people under 24 increased by 160%, from 15 to 39, and gang-related homicides increased by 500% from 5 to 30.

## Perceptions

**Perceptions of Safety:** According to the Boston Police Department’s 2008 Boston Neighborhood Survey, fewer than half of Bostonians—43%—feel that their neighborhood is safe. Neighborhoods with the lowest percentage of residents feeling safe were Roxbury (22%), North Dorchester (22%) and Mattapan (25%) in contrast to residents of the Back Bay (69%), West Roxbury (68%) and the North End (60%). Increasing concern over gang activity is a contributor to such perceptions: 19% of Bostonians felt gangs were a problem.

## Systems

**Funding for Public Safety:** The Boston Police Department’s funding increased by 28% between FY2002 and FY2009, despite a pull back in federal funds for community policing, which supported an increase in the number of police officers of 178 between 2004 and 2008. However, in the downturn, the City of Boston has proposed wage freezes, some cutbacks and layoffs of up to 200 officers due to a projected budget shortfall in FY 2010.

**Incarceration:** Massachusetts ranks 5th among all states in its rate of adults involved in the corrections system. In FY2008, Massachusetts spent \$1.25 billion on the corrections system—nearly 5% of General Funds. According to the Pew Center on the States, Massachusetts spent \$532.8 million in FY08 on incarceration alone, up from \$171.6 million in 1986, due in part to the increasing prison population. In 2007, 1 in 24 Massachusetts adults was incarcerated compared to 1982, when the figure was 1 in 127.

