

July 2013

## Boston's Violent Crime Rates Continue Downward Trend

*All Part 1 violent and property crimes decrease since 2008 except rape*

In a recent Suffolk University/Boston Herald [poll](#) of 600 Boston residents, 68% felt that crime in the City has gotten somewhat better (33%) or stayed about the same (35%). The Police Department's crime statistics over the past four years would merit a more positive response, but the recent uptick in shootings in Boston probably influenced the perception of safety. Each category of [Part 1](#) violent and property crime has decreased from 2008 through 2012 except rape. Overall, 23,660 Part 1 cases in 2012 represent a decrease of 5,221 cases, or 18.1% since 2008 and a cut of 1,127 cases or 4.5% in 2012.

### Violent Crimes

Part 1 violent crimes include homicide, robbery, rape and attempted rape, and aggravated assault. Total violent crime cases of 5,287 in 2012 decreased by 1,320 cases or 20% since 2008 and by 107 or 2.0% in 2012. Homicides decreased from 62 in 2008 to 56 in 2012, a drop of six in four years and eight in 2012. Rape and attempted rape cases of 285 in 2012 were 72 or 33.8% over 2008 and up 17 in 2012.

### Property Crimes

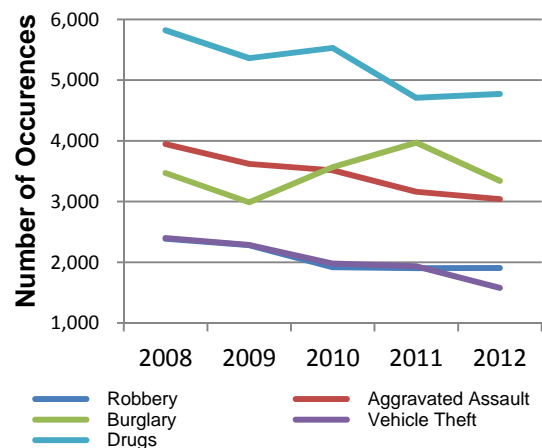
Part 1 property crimes involve burglary and attempted, larceny and attempted and vehicle theft and attempted. Property crimes of 18,373 in 2012 represent a decrease of 3,901 cases or 17.5% since 2008 and a drop of 1,020 cases or 5.3% in 2012. The 3,340 burglary cases in 2012 are below 2008 cases by 129 or 3.7% and represent a cut of 629 cases or 15.8% in 2012.

### Shootings

Shooting cases include homicides with a firearm and non-fatal shootings. Shooting cases of 247 in 2012 represented a decrease of 73 cases or 22.8% since 2008 and a decrease of 13 cases or 5.0% in 2012.

This year a 19.1% increase in shootings has been reported through July 28 over the same period in 2012. In July there were 156 shootings in Boston, 25 more than the 131 in 2012. Homicides with a firearm increased from 16 to 23 and non-fatal shootings increased from 115 to 133 during this time.

Selected Crime Numbers



### Why Declining Trend

The 4-year decline is due to demographic changes and strategies by the Boston Police Department that are targeting impact players, hot spots and selected gangs with police officers as part of its overall community policing program.