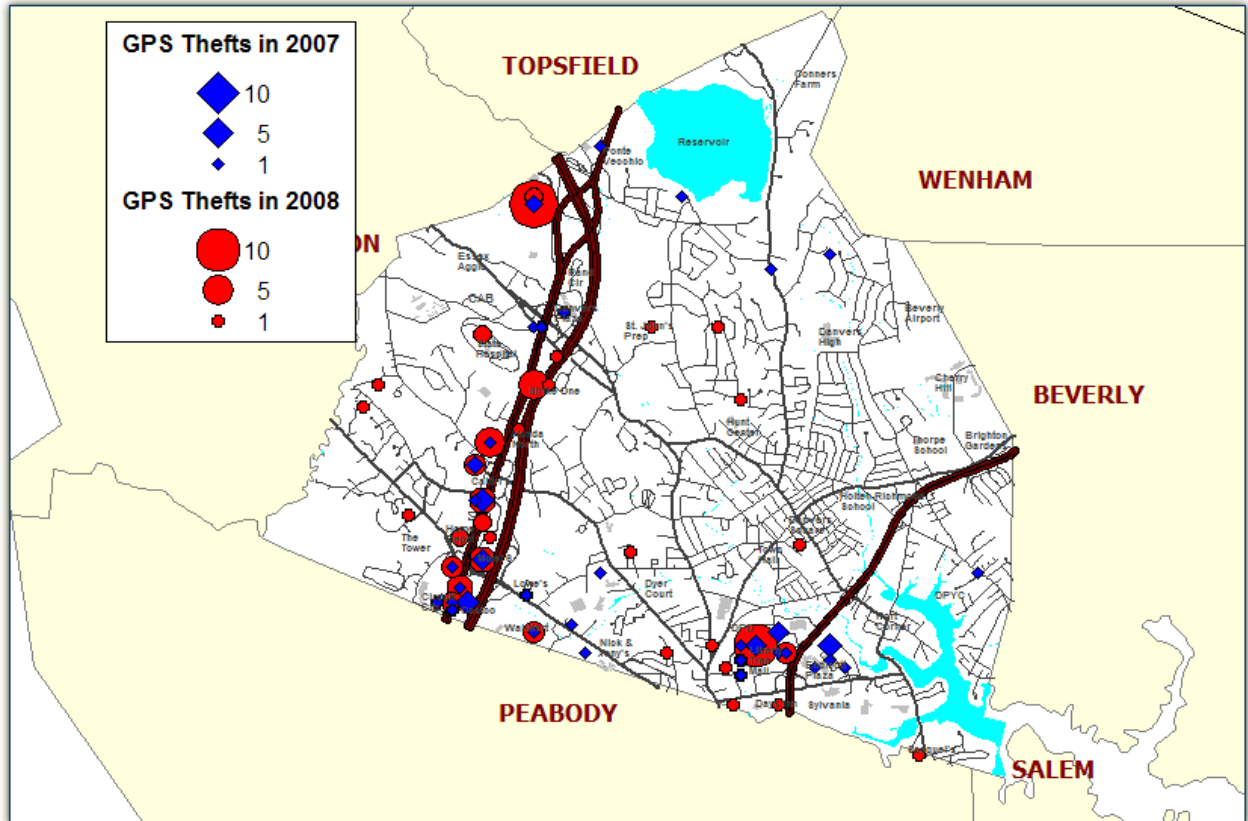
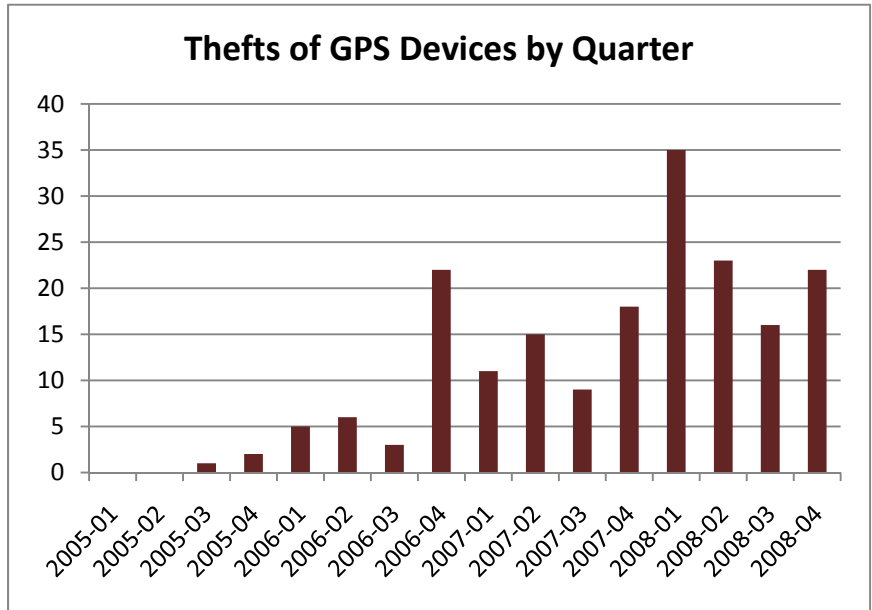


Theft of GPS Devices from Cars

For the second year in a row, GPS devices are our lead story. We thought the thefts were very high in 2007, but we didn't know what "high" was. 2008 brought almost twice the number of GPS thefts that we had in 2007.

We were not the only agency to have such a problem. Similar reports have come in from agencies all across the country. From Maine to California, the existence of unattended GPS devices led to increases of 10% to 50% in the theft from vehicle category. Danvers's 42% increase in thefts from vehicles in 2008 is almost entirely explained by GPS devices.

GPSeS are popular for a simple reason: they are CRAVED. This acronym, invented by criminologist Ronald Clarke, stands for Concealable, Removable, Available, Valuable, Enjoyable, and Disposable.² Cash and credit cards, two of the most popular theft targets, meet almost all these criteria. Big-screen televisions, on the other hand, are rarely stolen despite their value and enjoyability because they are not very concealable or removable.



² Ronald Clarke, *Hot Products: Understanding, Anticipating, and Reducing the Demand for Stolen Goods* (London: Home Office, 1999).