

Austin Police Department

Annual Crime and Traffic Report: 2011 Final Report



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November 15, 2012

Background

Each calendar year, the Austin Police Department reports crime statistics to the FBI through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. After federal review, these become our “official” statistics and are useful in tracking year-to-year performance and trends, as well as comparing our crime statistics to other US cities of comparable size.

This report contains Austin’s final crime statistics reported to the FBI; it updates our preliminary report published in April 2012.

Overview

This document contains UCR crime data for the calendar year 2011 (January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011). For comparison, we have included data from other large US cities; among them, Denver, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, and Seattle. (see Page 3 for a complete list). We have also included selected traffic statistics on fatal collisions and comparable data for other jurisdictions.

The report is organized by crime category (violent or property) and by type of crime within each category (e.g., murder and robbery within violent crime).

Notable Findings

This year’s crime statistics include the following noteworthy findings:

- Austin’s rate of 430 **violent crimes** per 100,000 residents was 49% lower than the average rate of 846 for US cities of comparable size. (Page 4)
- Austin’s rate of 5,235 **property crimes** per 100,000 residents was 13% higher than the average rate of 4,648 for US cities of comparable size. (Page 11)
- The number of **murders** declined from 38 in 2010 to 27 in 2011; Austin’s rate per 100,000 residents was 70% lower than the average of large US cities. (Page 5)
- The number of **burglaries** fell from 8,749 in 2010 to 7,042 in 2011; our rate per 100,000 residents was about a quarter the average of large US cities. (Page 12)
- Austin’s number of **auto thefts** declined from 2,250 in 2010 to 2,139 in 2011; of all vehicles stolen, 79% were successfully recovered, which was higher than the average recovery rates for both Texas and the US. (Page 14)
- Austin’s number of **traffic fatalities** grew from 49 in 2010 to 54 in 2011; our fatality rate per 100 million VMT (vehicle miles traveled) was lower than the average rate for Texas, but higher than the US rate. (Page 17)
- The **impaired traffic fatality** rate per 100 million VMT was lower than the rates for both Texas and the US. (Page 19)

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Overall Crime Statistics

The FBI identifies seven “Part I Index Crimes,” based on their seriousness and frequency of occurrence. Each crime is defined – including how incidents are counted – and grouped into two categories:

Violent crimes

Murder (number of victims)
 Rape (number of victims)
 Robbery (number of offenses)
 Aggravated Assault (number of victims)

Property crimes

Burglary (number of premises entered)
 Theft (number of offenses)
 Auto Theft (number of vehicles)

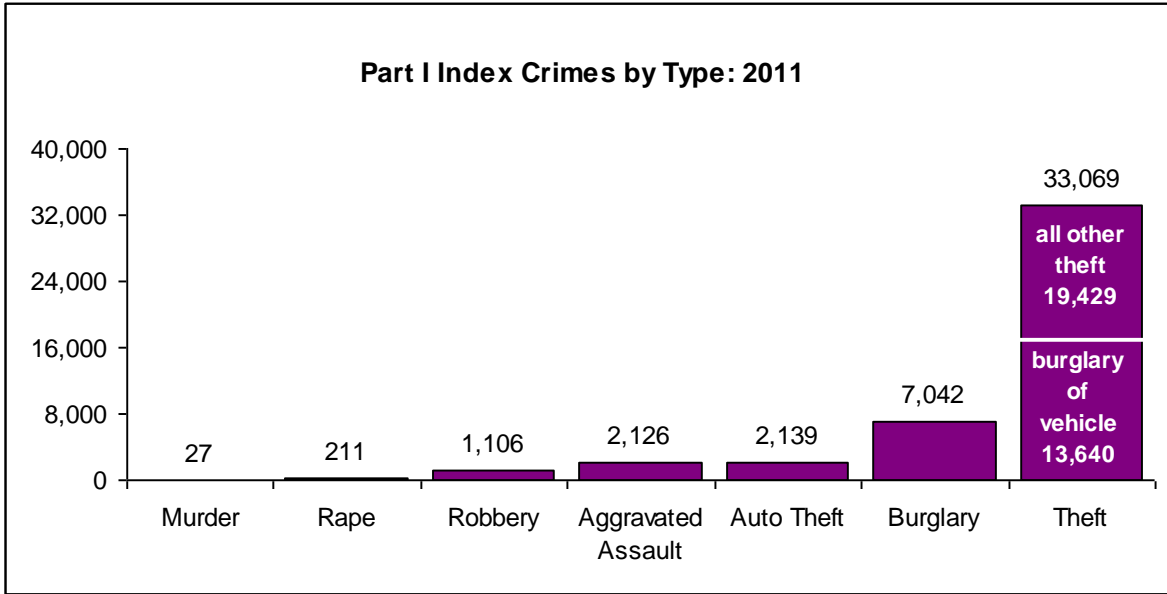
These categories and crime definitions are used for reporting city-level crime statistics to the FBI under its Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program.

Incidents and Rates

Throughout this report, crime is reported in terms of actual numbers (e.g., incidents, victims) as well as rate per 100,000 residents. Rates allow for comparisons to previous years and with other cities.

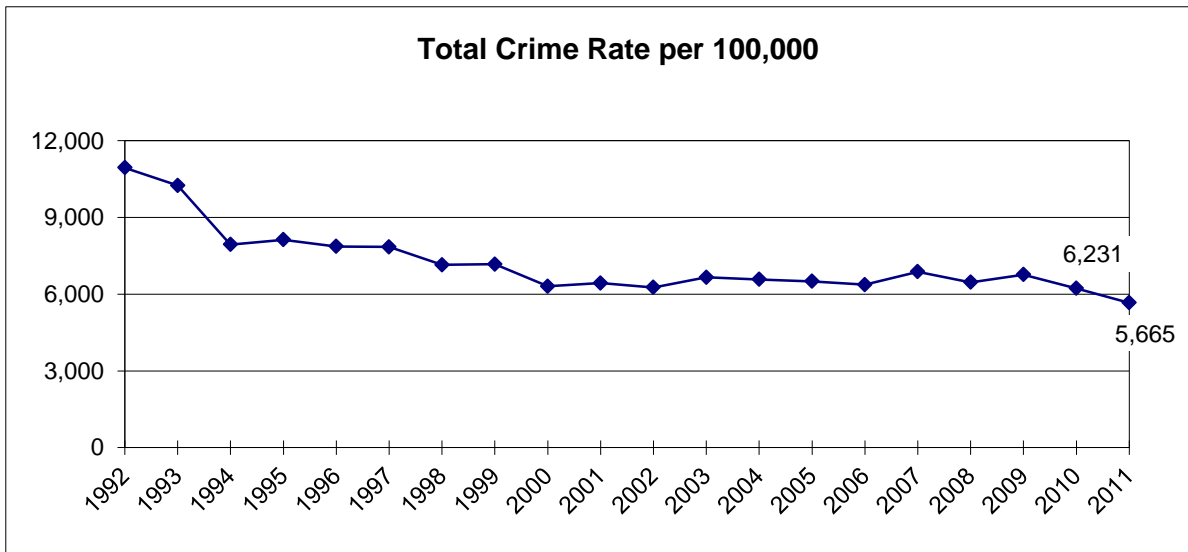
Part I Index Crimes	Offenses			Rate per 100,000		
	2010	2011	% chg	2010	2011	% chg
Murder	38	27*	-28.9%	4.8	3.3	-29.9%
Rape	265	211	-20.4%	33.3	26.1	-21.4%
Robbery	1,231	1,106	-10.2%	154.6	137.0	-11.3%
Aggravated Assault	2,256	2,126	-5.8%	283.3	263.4	-7.0%
Total Violent Crime	3,790	3,470	-8.4%	475.9	430.0	-9.7%
Burglary	8,749	7,042	-19.5%	1,098.7	872.6	-20.6%
Theft	34,827	33,069	-5.0%	4,373.5	4,097.7	-6.3%
Auto Theft	2,250	2,139	-4.9%	282.6	265.0	-6.2%
Total Property Crime	45,826	42,250	-7.8%	5,754.8	5,235.3	-9.0%
Total Index Crime	49,616	45,720	-7.9%	6,231	5,665	-9.1%
		Population		796,310	807,022	1.3%

* The FBI reported 28 murders for Austin in 2011, but that count does not include a correction that was submitted and accepted after the deadline. The correct count is 27.



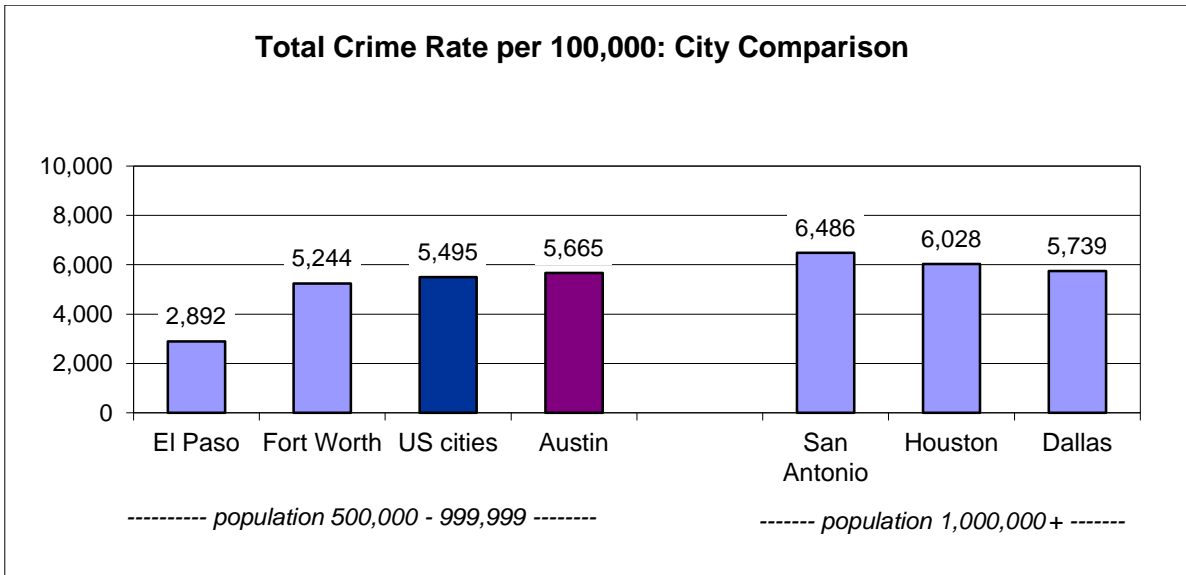
Trends

In 2011, the number of all Part I Index crimes for Austin was 45,720. This represents an 8% decrease in incidents as compared with 2010 (49,616). The rate of crime per 100,000 residents was 5,665 in 2011 – a 9% decrease from the rate of 6,231 in 2010. Over the previous 10 years (2000 to 2009), the rate ranged from 6,267 to 6,881.



Compared to Other Cities

This chart shows how Austin compares to large US cities (those with population between 500,000 and 999,999; Austin's population was 807,022 in 2011, according to FBI UCR reporting). For regional comparison, Texas cities are also identified. Austin's rate of 5,665 offenses per 100,000 was 3% higher than the average rate of 5,495 for all large US cities.



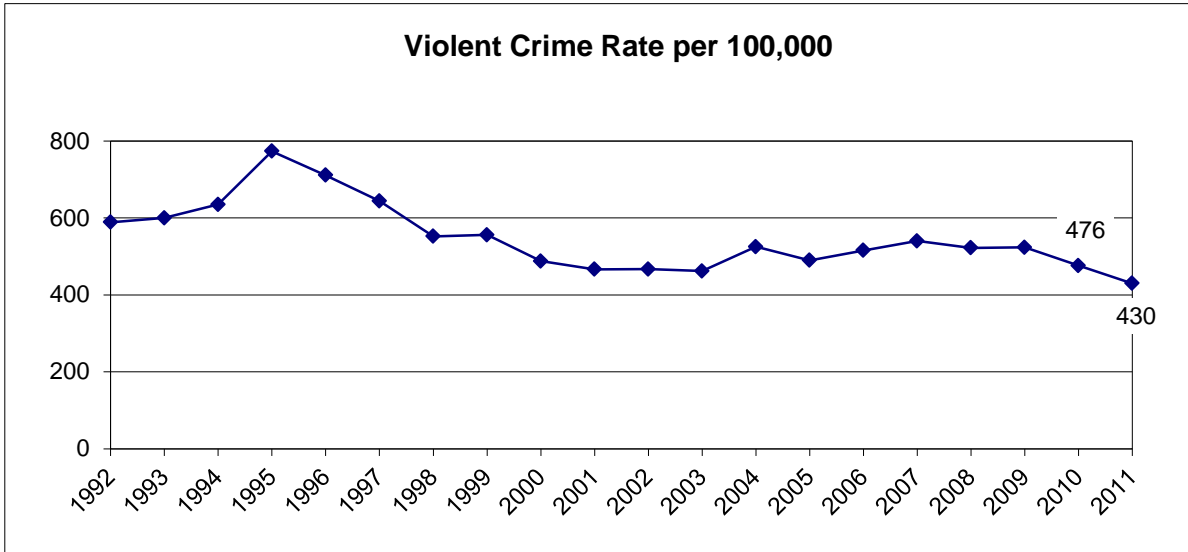
The following cities are included in the “US cities” category above, and elsewhere throughout this report:

- Austin
- Baltimore
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg
- Denver
- El Paso
- Fresno
- Jacksonville
- Memphis
- Nashville
- Portland
- San Jose
- Washington
- Albuquerque
- Boston
- Columbus
- Detroit
- Fort Worth
- Indianapolis
- Louisville Metro
- Milwaukee
- Oklahoma City
- San Francisco
- Seattle

Note: Cities with population of 1 million or greater (e.g., New York, Los Angeles) are not included in the “large US cities” category.

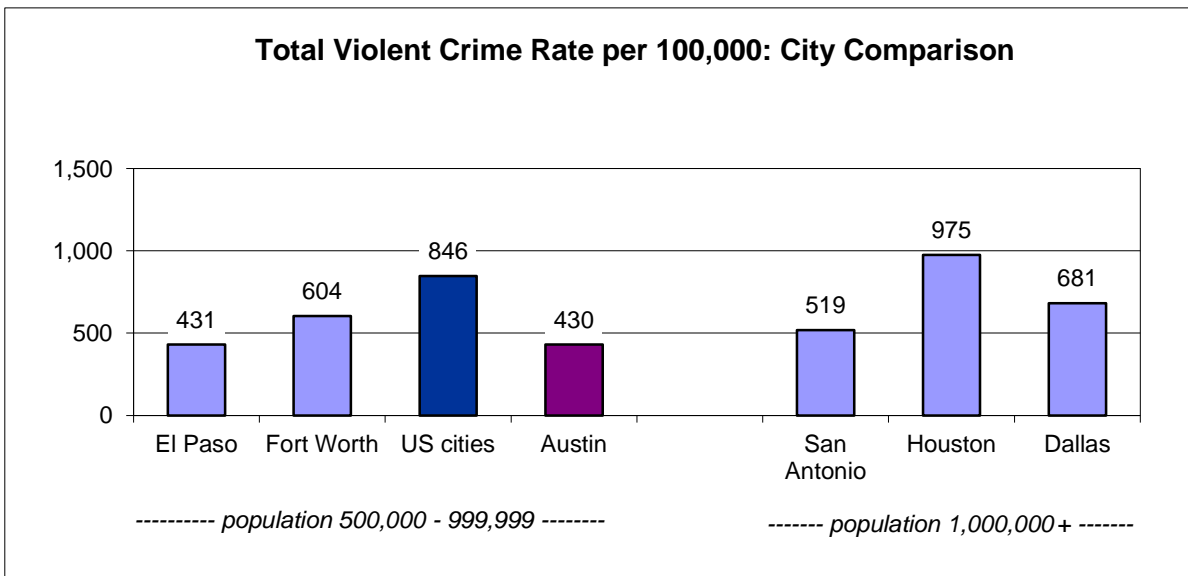
Violent Crime

In 2011, the number of violent crimes in Austin was 3,470. This represents an 8% decrease in incidents as compared with 2010 (3,790). The rate of violent crime per 100,000 residents was 430 in 2011 – a 10% decrease from the rate of 476 in 2010. Over the previous 10 years (2000 to 2009), the rate ranged from 462 to 540.



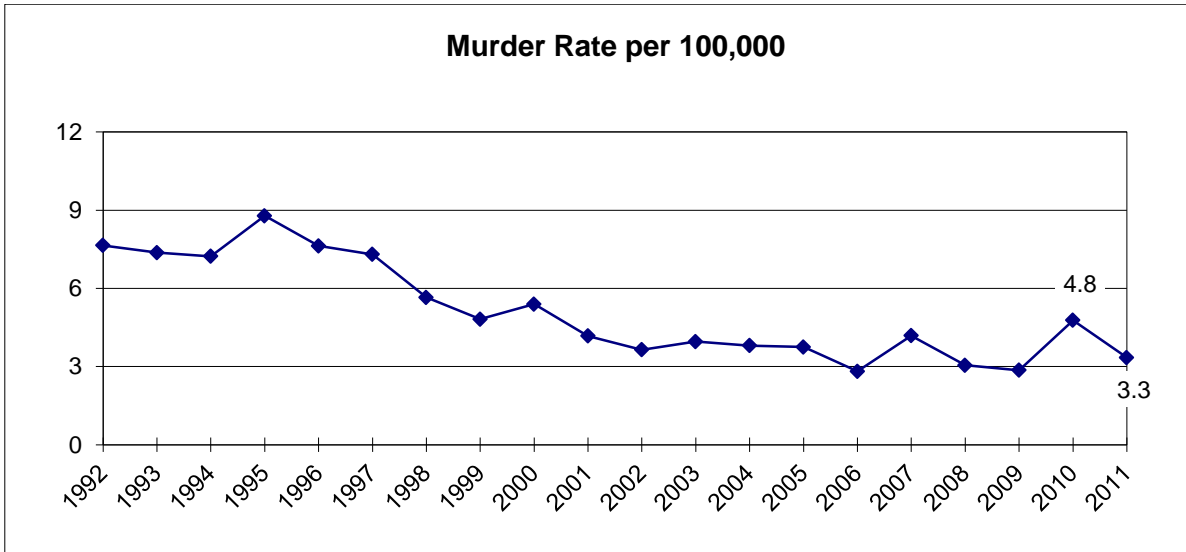
Compared to Other Cities

Austin's rate of 430 violent crimes per 100,000 was 49% lower than the average rate of 846 for all large US cities.

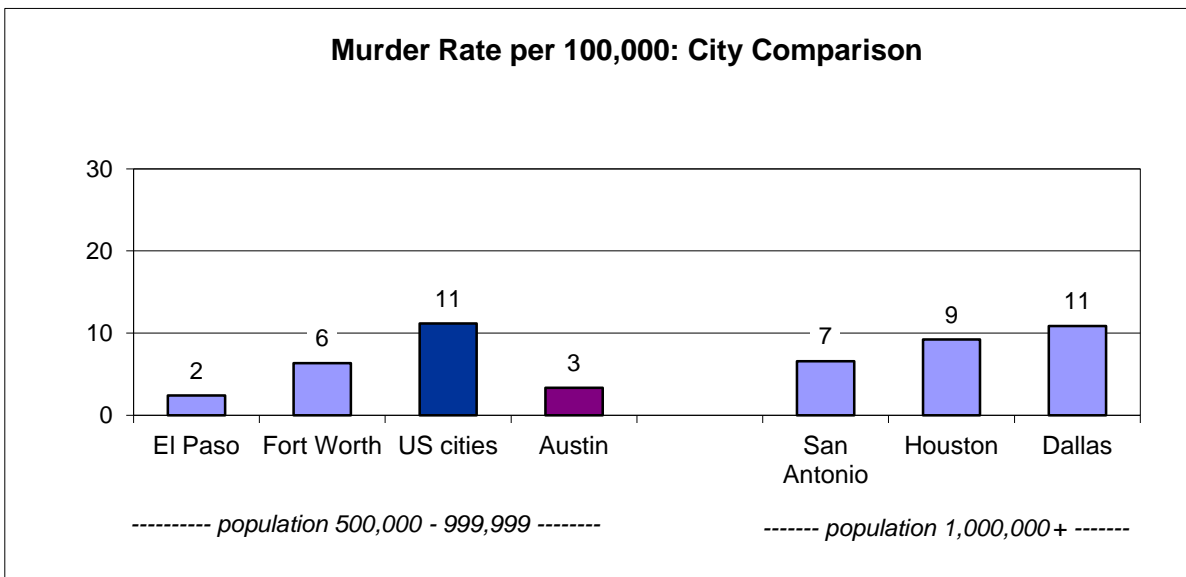


Murder

During 2011 there were 27* murder victims in Austin, down from 38 in 2010. Over the previous 10 years (2000 to 2009), the number of murder victims ranged from 20 to 33. The murder rate was three per 100,000 residents, which was down from the rate of five in 2010.



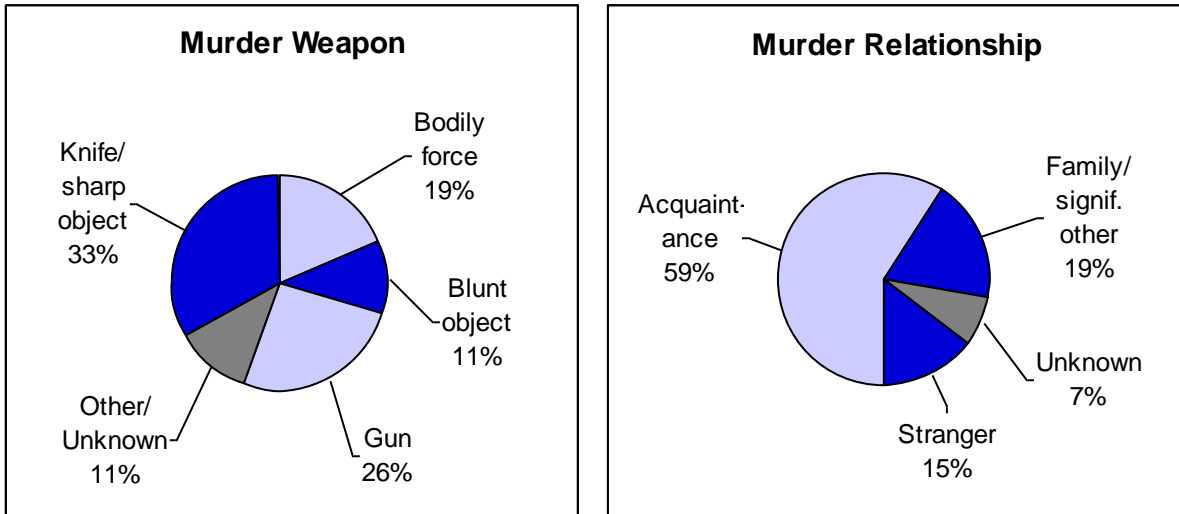
Austin's murder rate was 70% lower than the average of US cities our size.



* The FBI reported 28 murders for Austin in 2011, but that count does not include a correction that was submitted and accepted after the deadline. The correct count is 27.

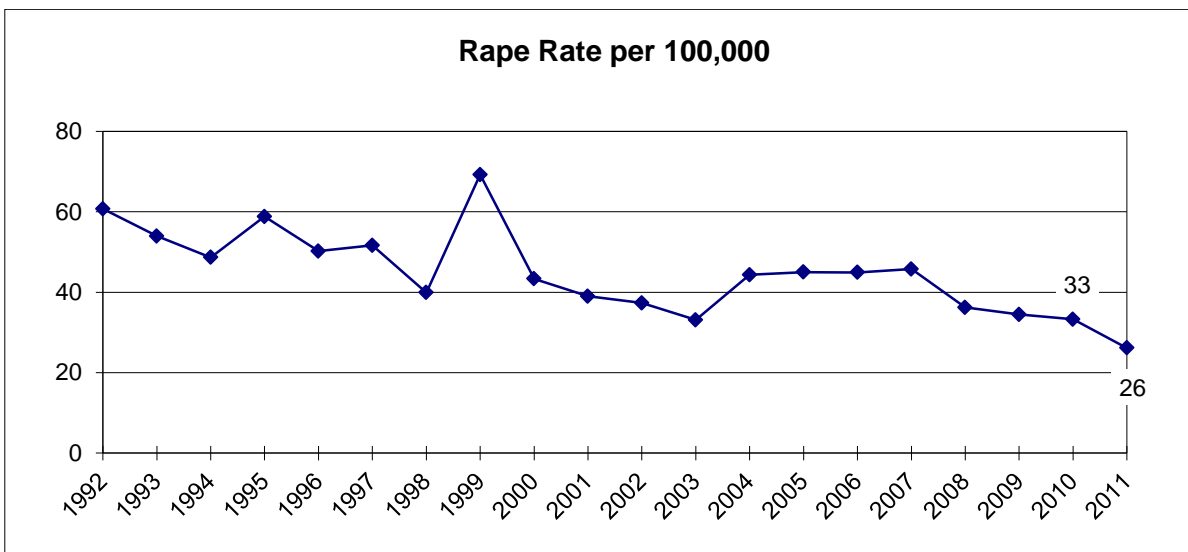
In 2011, knives or other sharp objects were the most frequent weapons used in murders (33% of incidents), followed by guns (26%). In 2010, knives or other sharp objects were used in 21% of incidents and guns were used in 47% of incidents.

The relationship (connection) between the victim and suspect was established in 93% of the cases. Of these, the victim knew the offender (as an acquaintance, family member, or significant other) in 84% of murders, up from 64% in 2010.

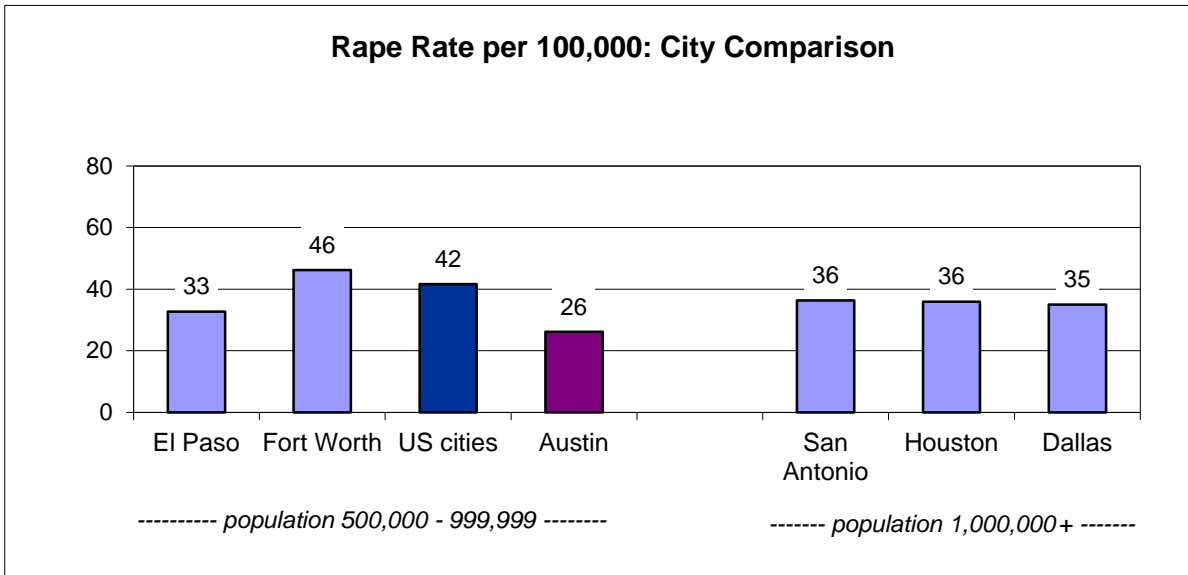


Rape

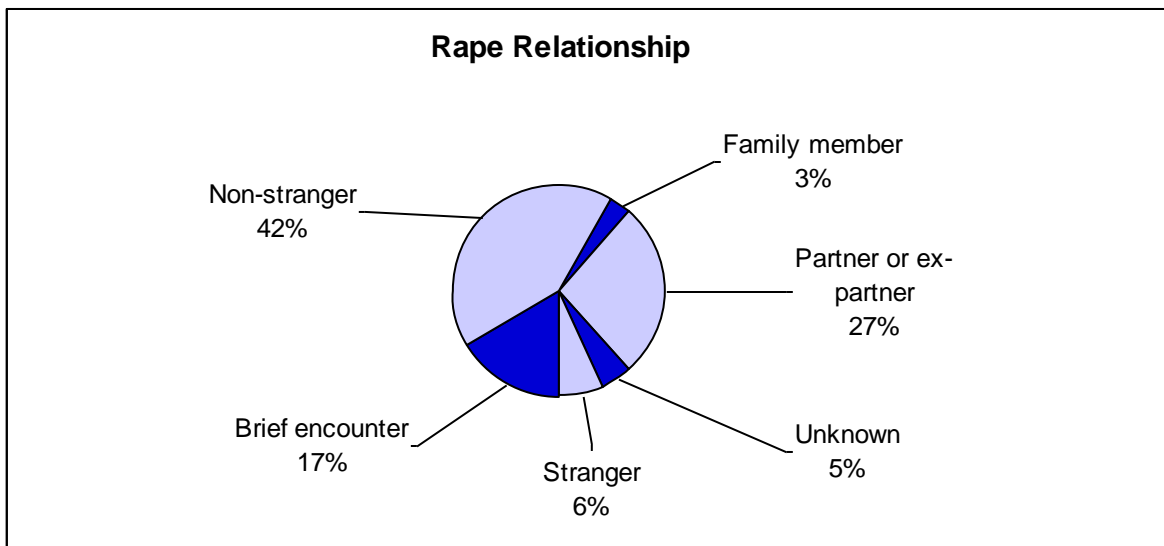
There were 211 reported victims of rape in Austin during 2011, down from 265 in 2010. The rate was 26 per 100,000 residents, which is a drop from the prior year's rate of 33. Over the previous 10 years (2000 to 2009), the rate ranged from 33 to 46.



Austin's rate of reported rapes was 37% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.

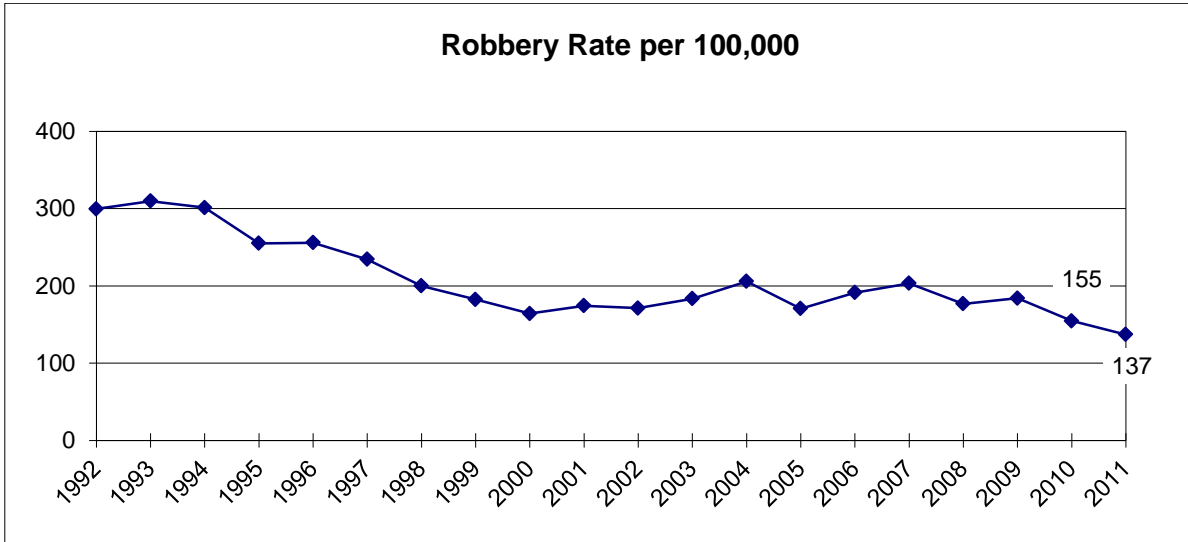


The relationship (connection) between the victim and suspect was established in 95% of the cases. Of these, the victim knew the suspect as a family member, partner or ex-partner, from a brief encounter, or otherwise as a non-stranger in 93% of the incidents. This is stable from 2010.

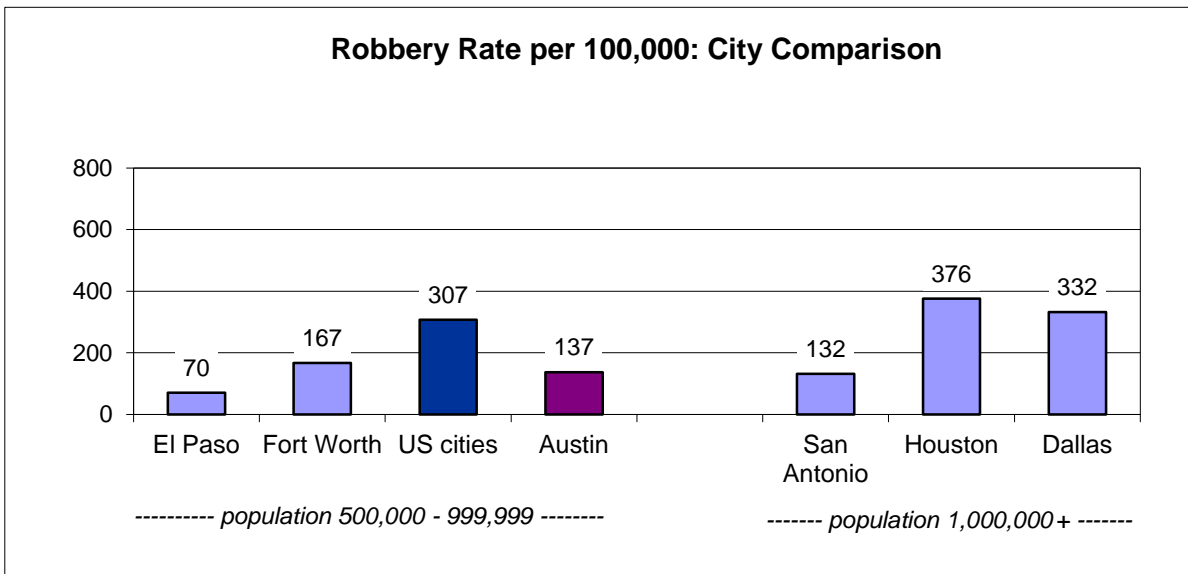


Robbery

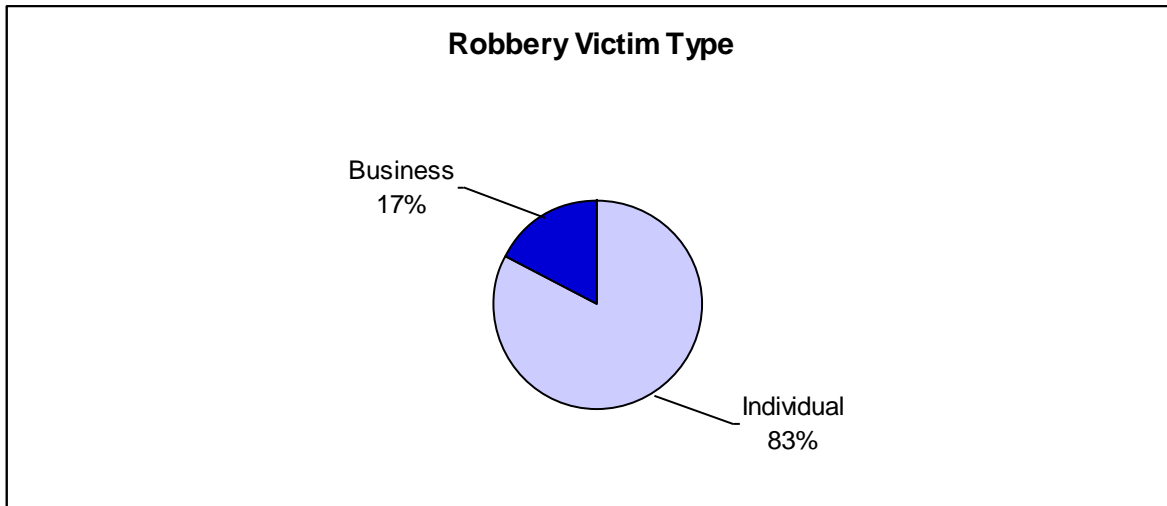
There were 1,106 robberies reported in 2011, down from 1,231 in 2010. The rate was 137 robberies per 100,000 residents, which represents a decrease from the previous year's rate of 155. Over the previous 10 years (2000 to 2009), the rate of annual robberies ranged from 164 to 206.



Austin's rate of reported robberies was 55% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.

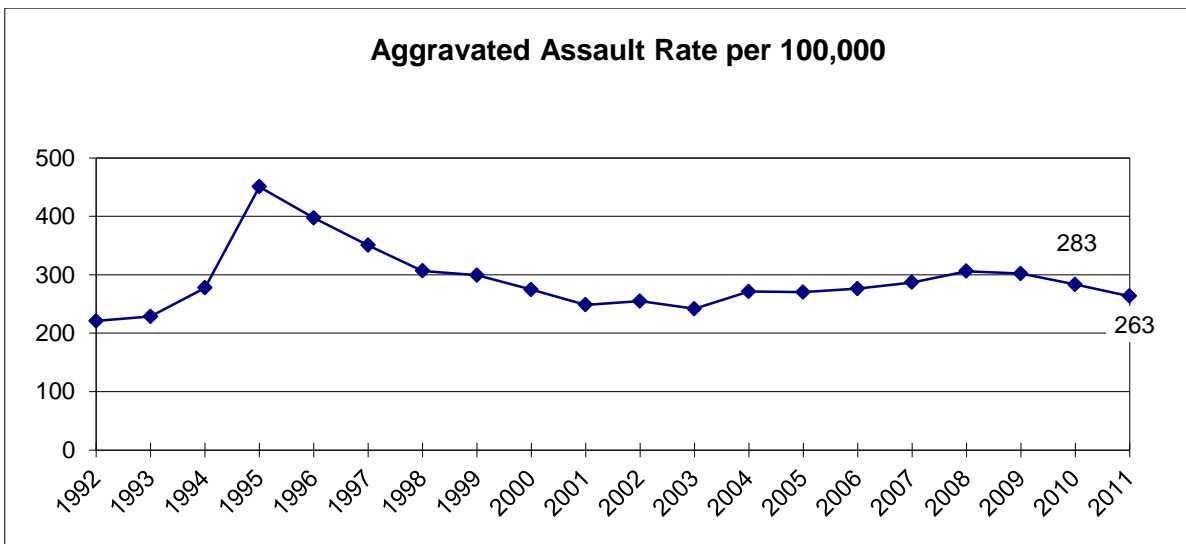


Eighty-three percent of robberies were committed against individuals, as compared with 17% that occurred at businesses. In 2010, 81% of robberies were committed against individuals and 19% occurred at businesses.

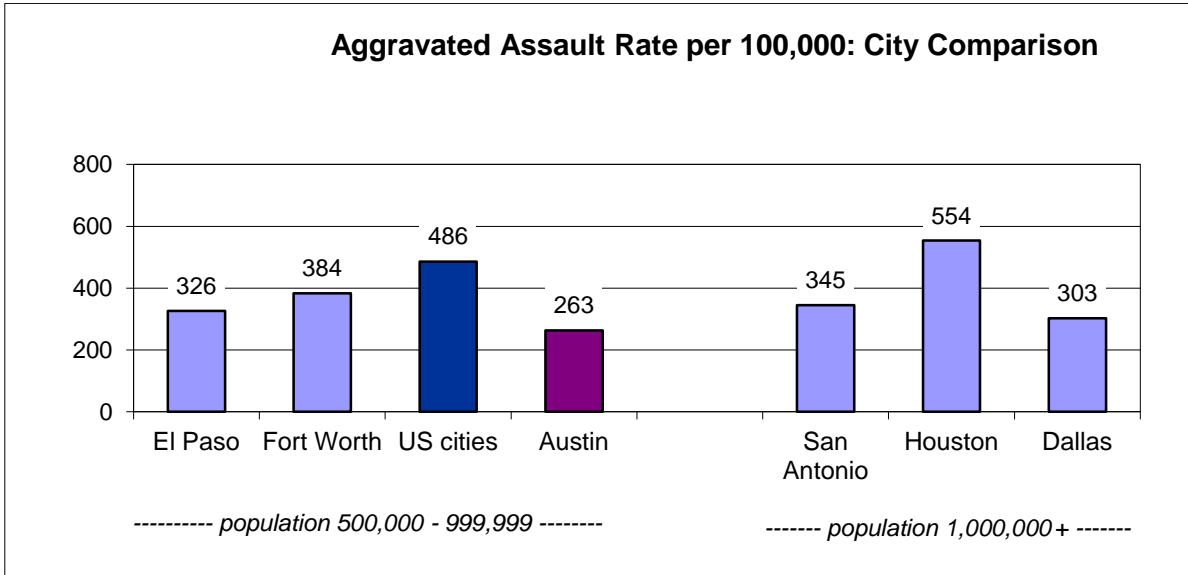


Aggravated Assault

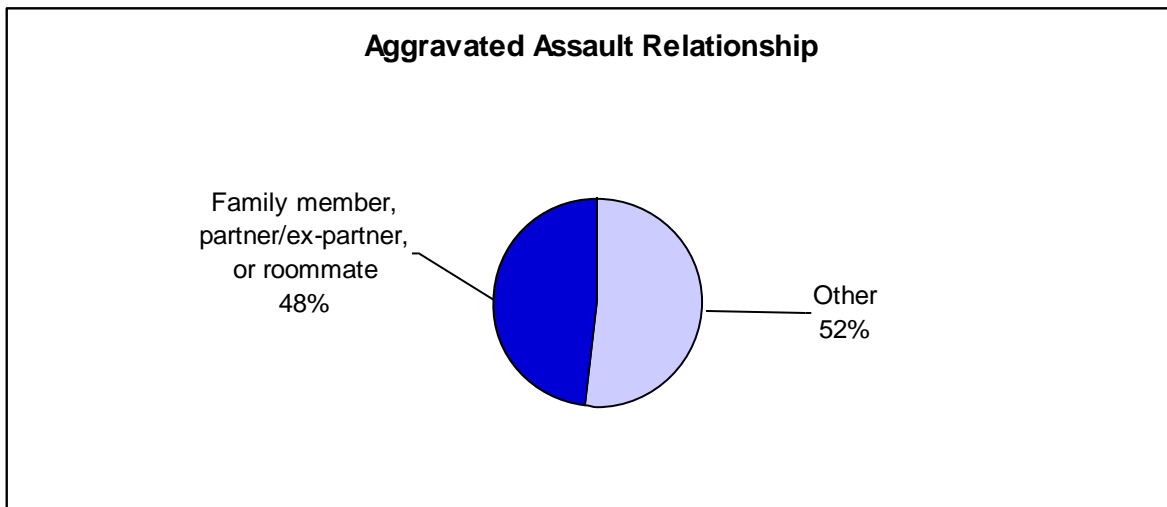
There were 2,126 reported victims of aggravated assault in 2011, down from 2,256 in 2010. The rate was 263 victims per 100,000 residents, which represents a decrease from the rate of 283 in 2010. Over the previous 10 years (2000 to 2009), the rate of aggravated assault victims ranged from 242 to 306.



Austin's rate of aggravated assault victims was 46% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.

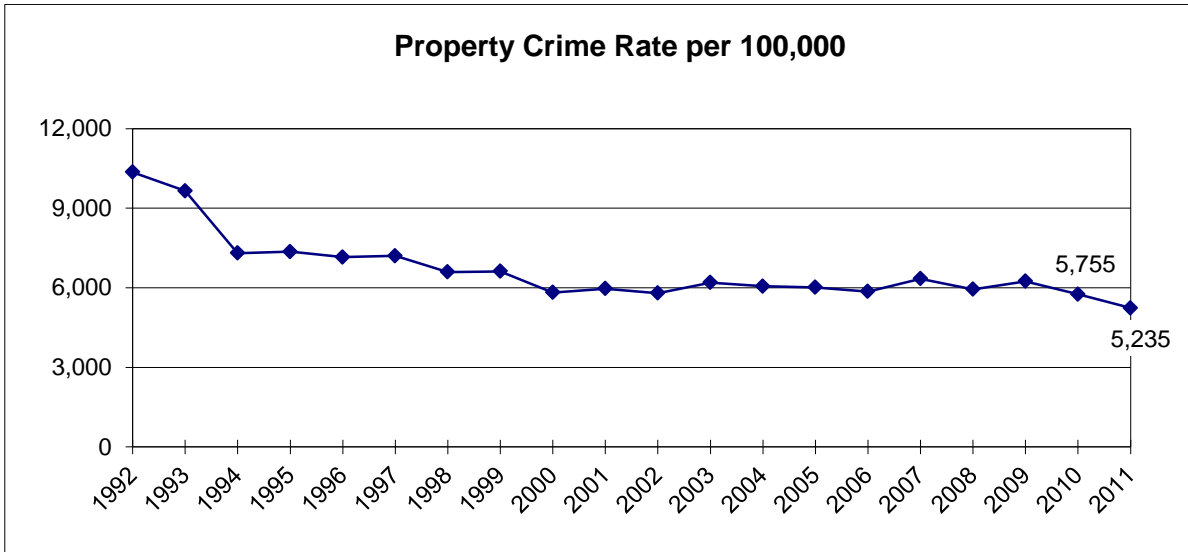


Fewer than half (48%) of aggravated assaults were committed by a family member, partner or ex-partner, or roommate of the victim. This is down from 53% in 2010.



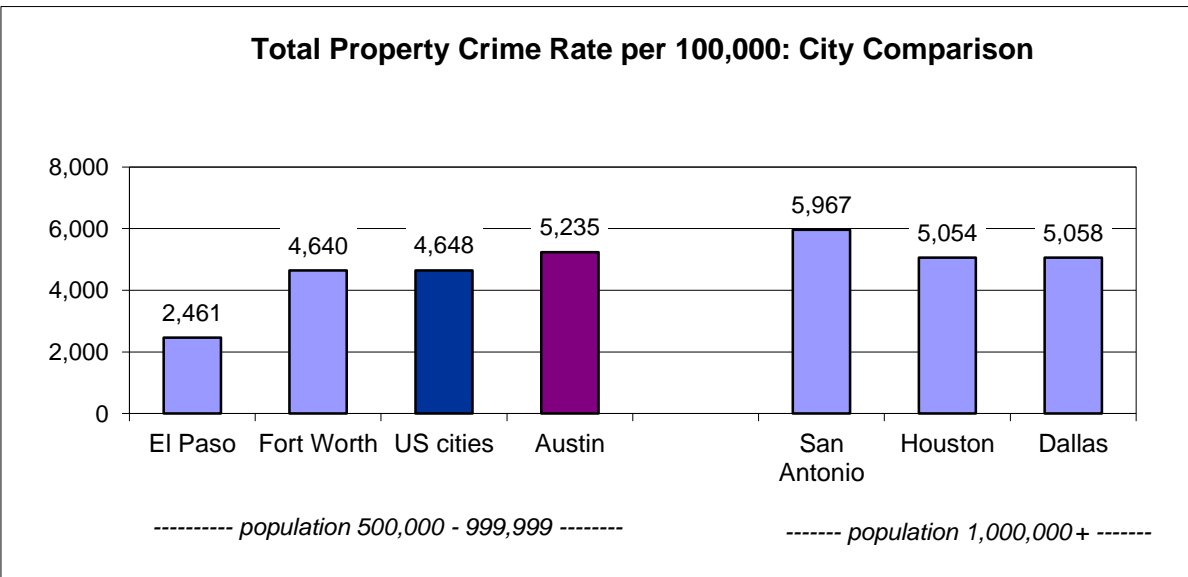
Property Crime

In 2011, the number of property crimes in Austin was 42,250. This represents an 8% drop in incidents as compared with 2010 (45,826). The rate of property crime per 100,000 residents was 5,235 in 2011 – a 9% decrease from the rate of 5,755 in 2010. Over the previous 10 years (2000 to 2009), the rate ranged from 5,800 to 6,341.



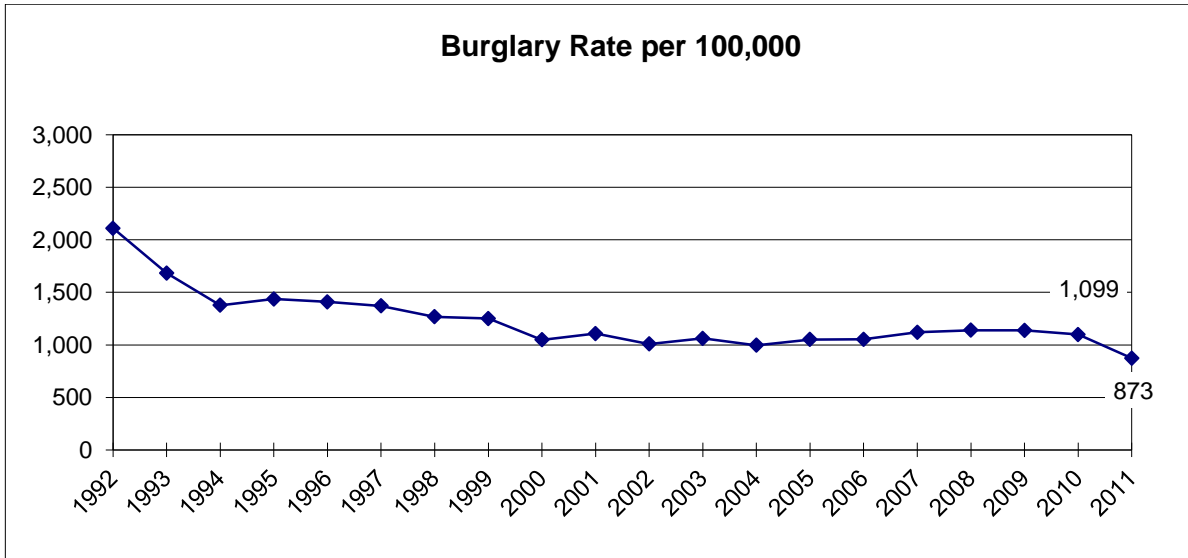
Compared to Other Cities

Austin's rate of 5,235 property crimes per 100,000 in 2011 was 13% higher than the average rate of 4,648 per 100,000 for large US cities.

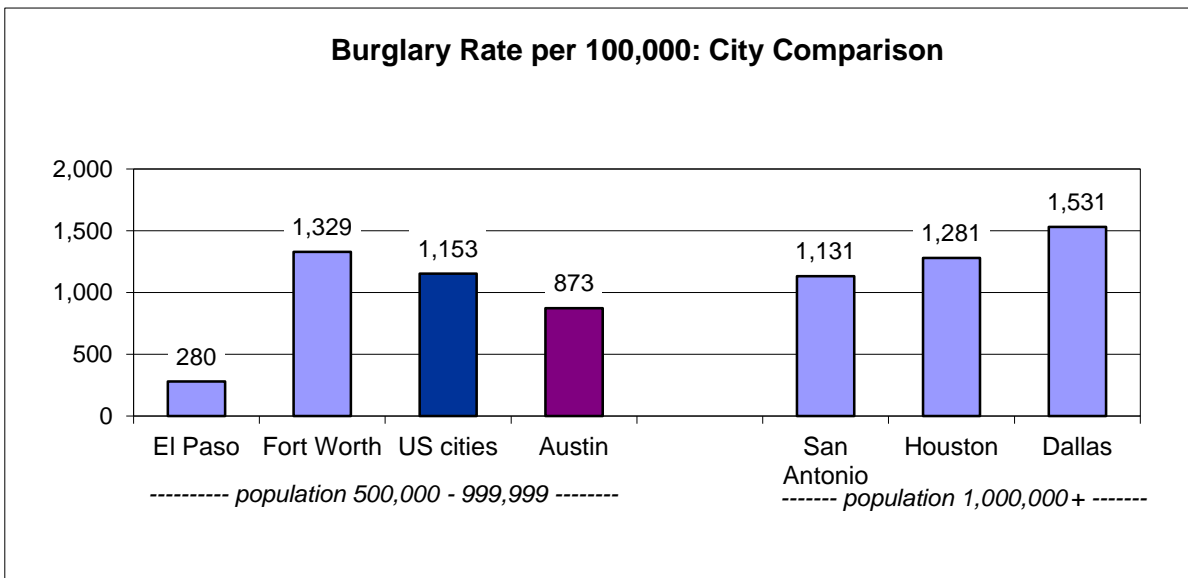


Burglary

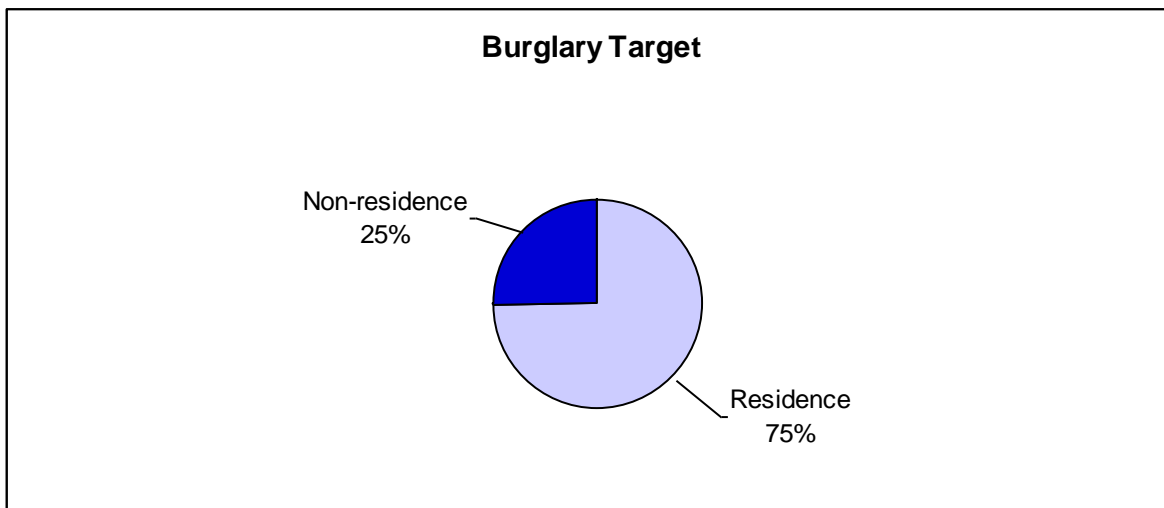
There were 7,042 reported burglaries in 2011, down 20% from 8,749 in 2010. The rate was 873 burglaries per 100,000 residents, which represents a 21% decrease from the rate of 1,099 in 2010. Over the previous 10 years (2000 to 2009), the burglary rate ranged from 997 to 1,139.



Austin's burglary rate in 2011 was 24% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.

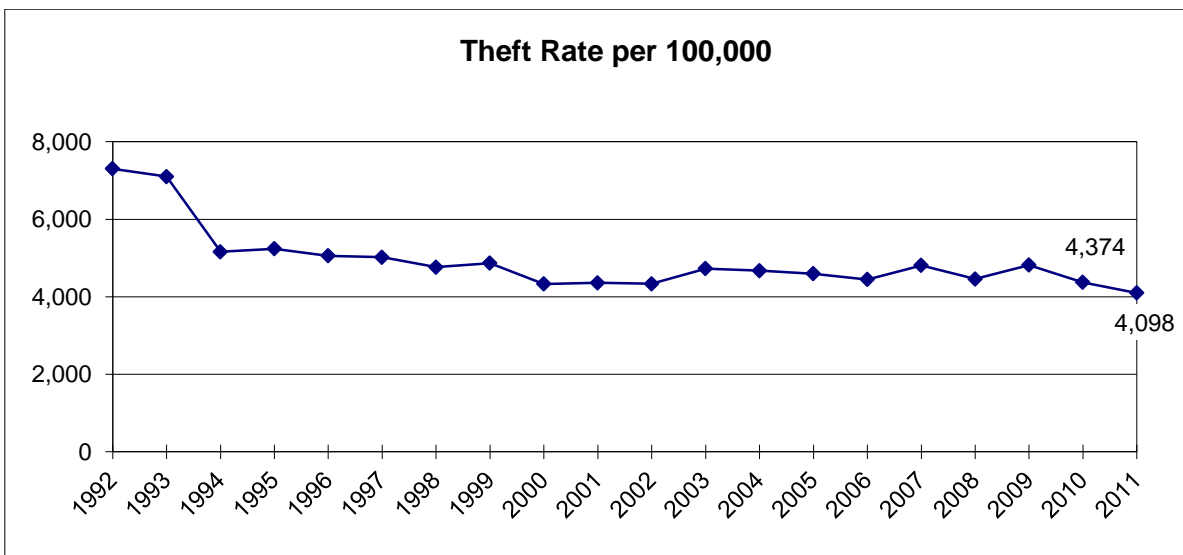


Seventy-five percent of burglaries involved residences, as compared with 25% that involved other targets (businesses, offices, restaurants, etc.). In 2010, 76% of burglaries involved residences and 24% involved other targets.

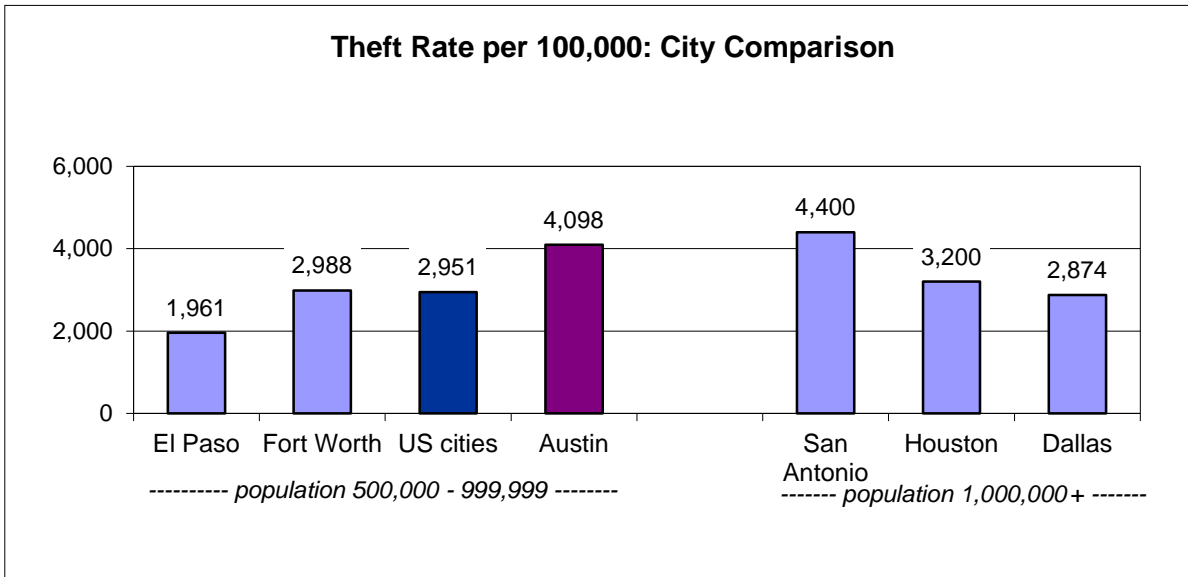


Theft

There were 33,069 reported thefts in 2011, down from 34,827 in 2010. The rate was 4,098 thefts per 100,000 residents, which represents a 6% decrease versus the rate of 4,374 in 2010. Over the previous 10 years (2000 to 2009), the theft rate ranged from 4,332 to 4,819.



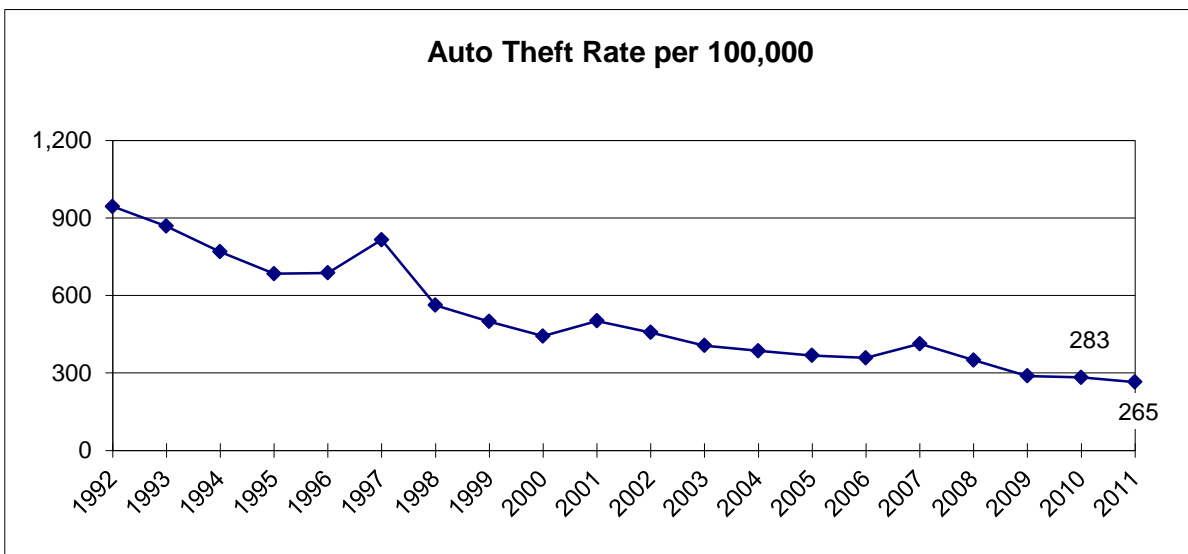
Austin's rate of thefts in 2011 was 39% higher than the average of US cities of the same size.



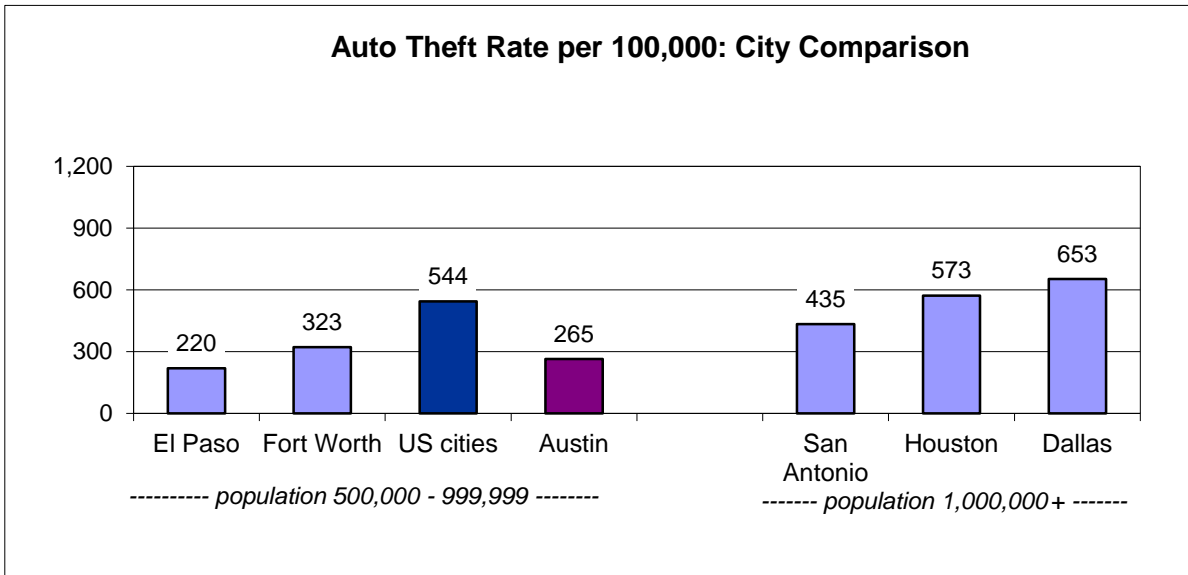
Of the 33,069 thefts reported this year, 13,640 (41%) were burglary of vehicle, or BOV offenses. This represents a 10% decrease from the number of BOVs reported in 2010 (15,178; 44% of thefts).

Auto Theft

There were 2,139 reported auto thefts (including attempted thefts) in 2011, down from 2,250 in 2010. The rate was 265 auto thefts per 100,000 residents, which represents a decrease from the rate of 283 in 2010. Over the previous 10 years (2000 to 2009), the rate ranged from 289 to 501.

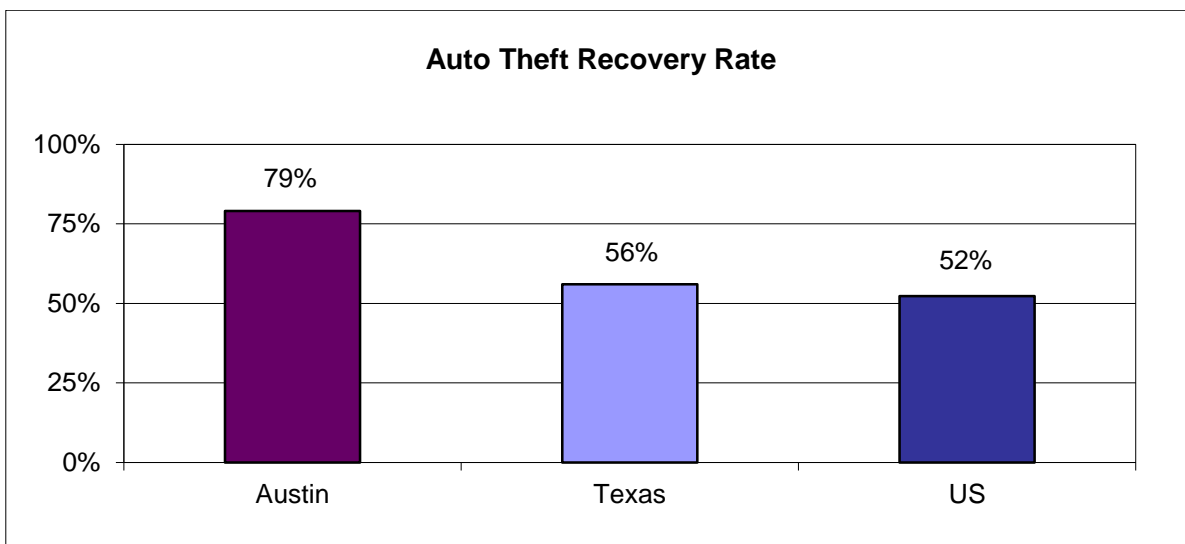


Austin's auto theft rate in 2011 was 51% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.



The most frequently stolen vehicles were Honda Accord sedans and trucks made by Ford, Chevrolet, and GMC. Together, they represent 31% of all stolen vehicles where the make and model were known.

In terms of recovery, of all vehicles stolen in 2011 (not including attempted thefts), 79% were successfully recovered. That rate is higher than those of both Texas and the US (includes all US cities).



Solving Crime

Crimes can be cleared in two ways: by arrest and by exception. A crime is cleared exceptionally when a circumstance prevents an arrest. Examples include when the offender dies, the victim refuses to cooperate with the prosecution, or the offender is being prosecuted in another jurisdiction and cannot be extradited.

Part I Index Crimes	% of Crimes Cleared by Arrest or Exception	
	Austin	US Cities (pop 500,000 - 999,999)
Murder	93%	53%
Rape	38%	40%
Robbery	29%	24%
Aggravated Assault	58%	48%
Total Violent Crime	48%	39%
Burglary	9%	9%
Theft	13%	15%
Auto Theft	9%	8%
Total Property Crime	12%	13%

During 2011, Austin police solved, or cleared, 48% of the reported **violent crimes**. This compared with 39% for all large US cities (those with 500,000 to 999,999 residents). When looking at clearance by type of violent crime, Austin outperformed large US cities on murder, robbery, and aggravated assault.

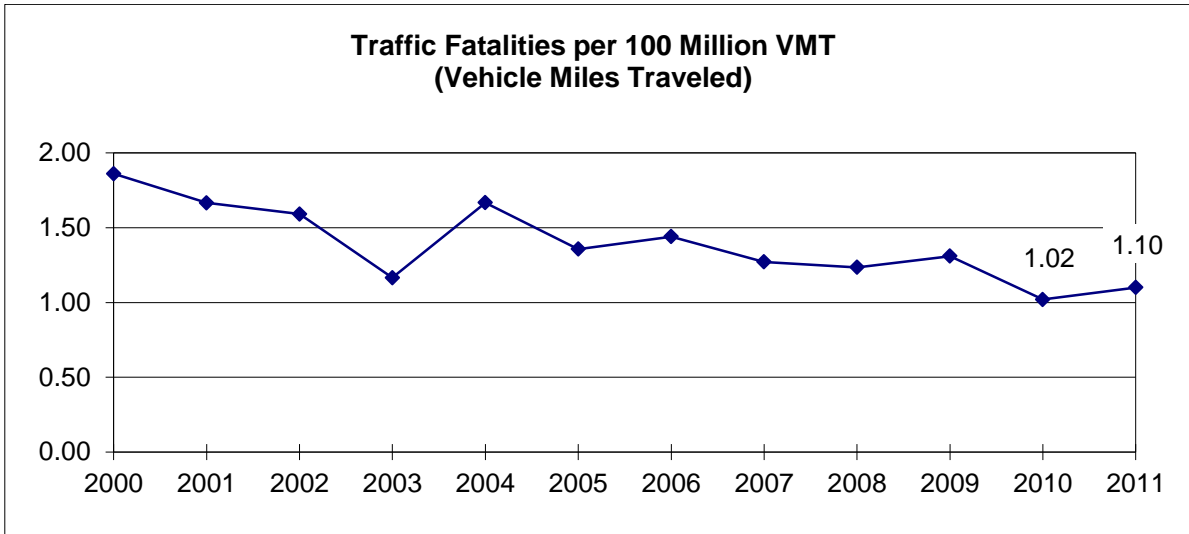
Solving **property crimes** is generally more difficult because many property crimes are discovered after the crime has occurred, with no known suspects or witnesses. During 2011, Austin solved 12% of property crimes, which was slightly lower than the average rate of 13% for large US cities.

APD has taken proactive steps to increase property crime clearance rates, including the creation of a centralized Burglary Unit and adding detective positions in 2012.

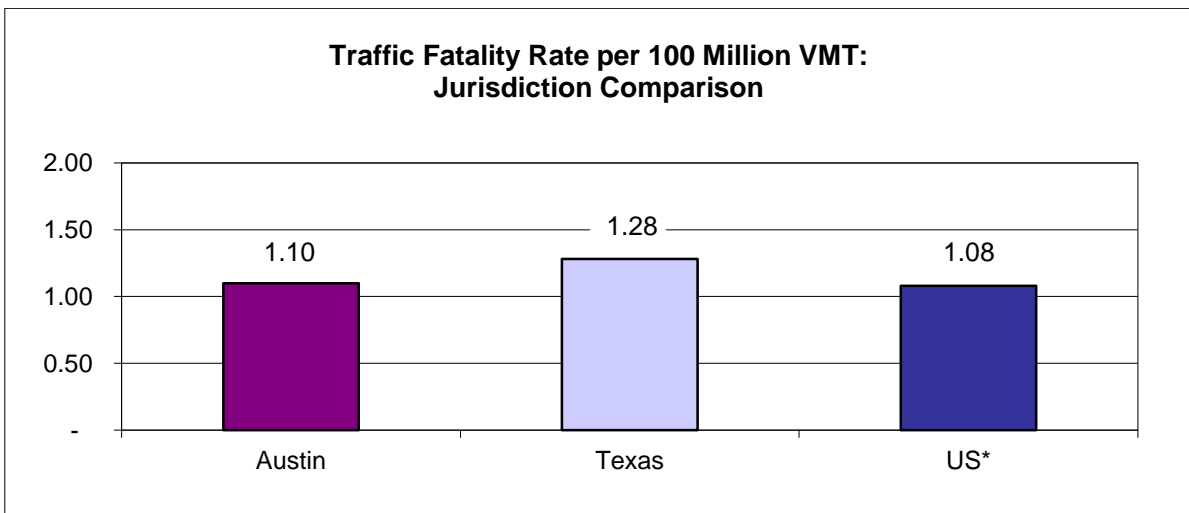
Traffic Fatalities

During 2011 there were 48 fatal collisions that resulted in 54 deaths, as compared with 47 fatal collisions that resulted in 49 deaths in 2010.

The 2011 traffic fatality rate was 1.10 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT), as compared with the rate of 1.02 in 2010.

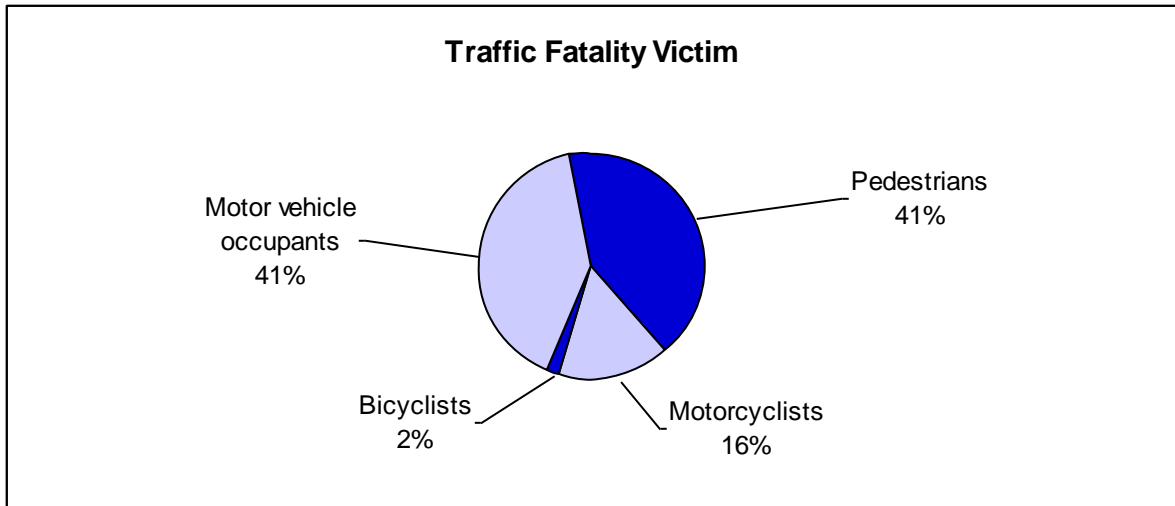


Austin's rate of 1.10 fatalities per 100 million VMT was lower than the rate of Texas (1.28), but higher than the US rate (includes all US cities; 1.08).

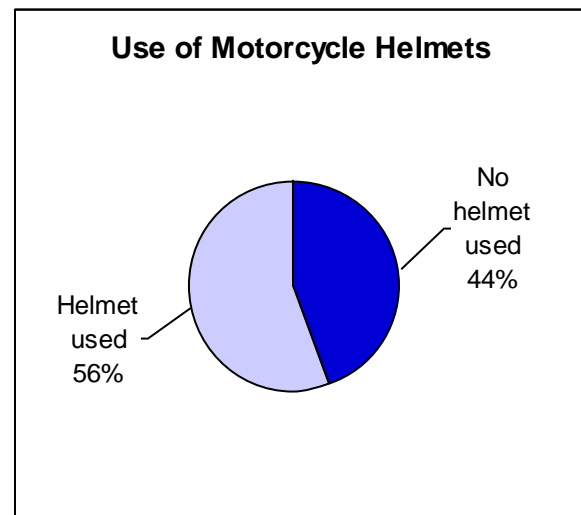
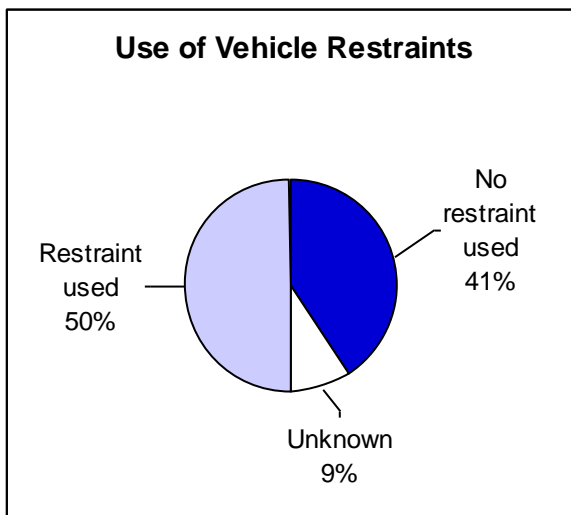


* 2010 US statistics are the most current data available from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

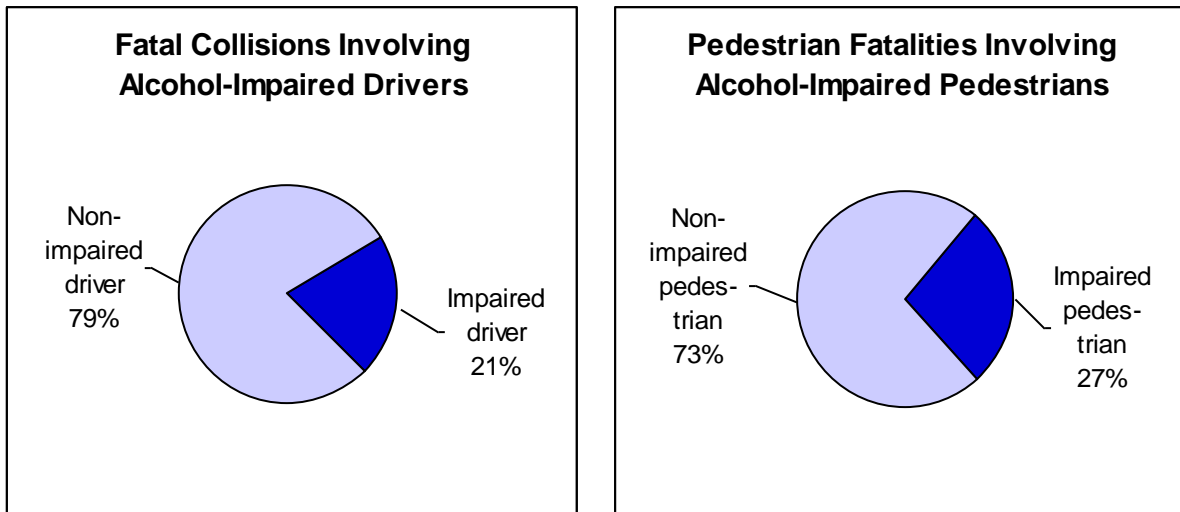
In 2011 most traffic fatalities involved motor vehicle occupants (22, or 41%) and pedestrians (22, or 41%), followed by motorcyclists (9, or 16%) and bicyclists (1, or 2%). In 2010, most traffic fatalities involved motor vehicle occupants (28, or 57%), followed by pedestrians (10, or 20%), motorcyclists (9, or 18%), and bicyclists (2 or 4%).



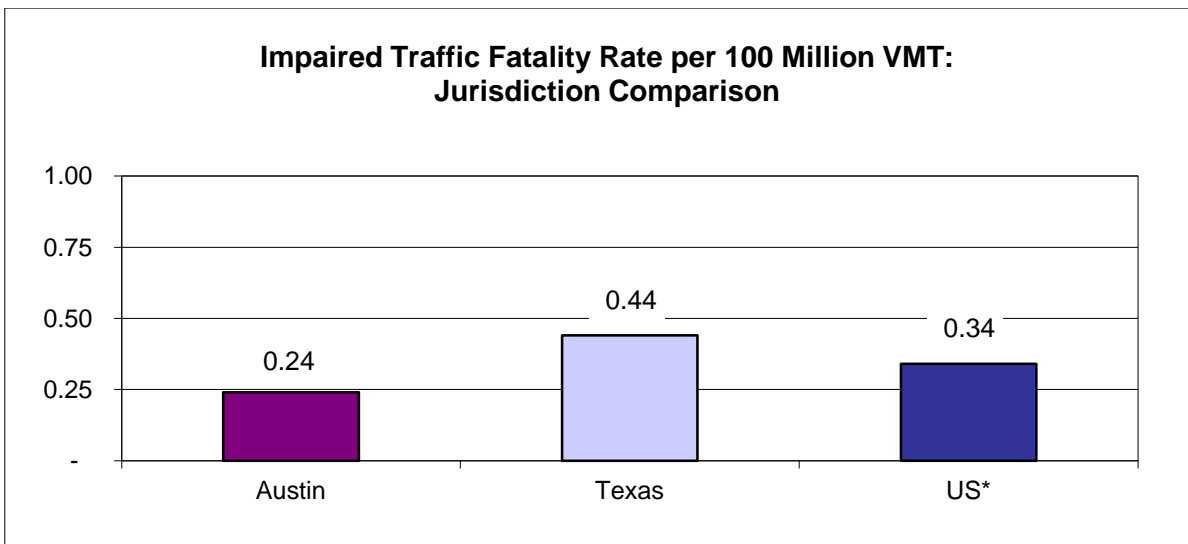
Of all motor vehicle fatalities, nine (41%) victims were not using restraints, as compared with 12 (43%) victims in 2010. Of all motorcycle fatalities, four (44%) victims were not wearing helmets, as compared with five (56%) in 2010.



Of all fatal crashes, 10 (21%) involved an alcohol-impaired driver, as compared with 25 (53%) in 2010. Of all pedestrian fatalities, six (27%) involved an alcohol-impaired pedestrian, as compared with five (50%) in 2010.



Austin's rate of traffic fatalities involving driver alcohol impairment is .24 per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT). That rate is lower than the rates for both Texas (.44) and the US (.34).



* 2010 US statistics are the most current data available from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

In 2011, 11 (23%) fatal crashes involved speed, as compared with 23 (49%) in 2010. And in 2011, 21 (44%) fatal crashes occurred on freeways (IH-35, Mo-Pac, US Hwy 183, and State Hwy 71/290 West), as compared with 22 (47%) in 2010.

