

Austin Police Department

Annual Crime and Traffic Report: 2013 Preliminary Report



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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 preliminary crime statistics reported to the FBI. They will vary slightly from the final results contained in the FBI’s report, “Crime in the United States” published in Fall 2014.

Overview

This document contains UCR crime data for the calendar year 2013 (January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013). We have also included selected traffic statistics on fatal collisions.

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 **violent crime rate** of 376 per 100,000 residents declined 8% as compared with 2012 and is a 20-year low. (Page 3)
- Austin’s **property crime rate** of 5,018 per 100,000 residents fell 4% as compared with 2012 and is a 20-year low. (Page 8)
- The **robbery rate** of 92 per 100,000 residents reflects a 22% decline as compared with 2012 and is also a 20-year low. (Page 5)
- The **recovery rate for auto thefts** stolen in 2013 was 80%, up from 79% in 2012. (Page 10)
- **Case clearance rates improved**; the violent case clearance rate increased from 49% in 2012 to 57% in 2013; the property case clearance rate increased from 12% in 2012 to 13% in 2013. (Page 11)
- Both **traffic fatalities** and **fatal collisions** declined 4%; fatalities dropped from 78 in 2012 to 75 in 2013 and fatal collisions dropped from 75 in 2012 to 72 in 2013. (Page 12)
- The proportion of **pedestrian fatalities** involving an **alcohol-impaired pedestrian** increased from 42% in 2012 to 55% in 2013. (Page 13)

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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)

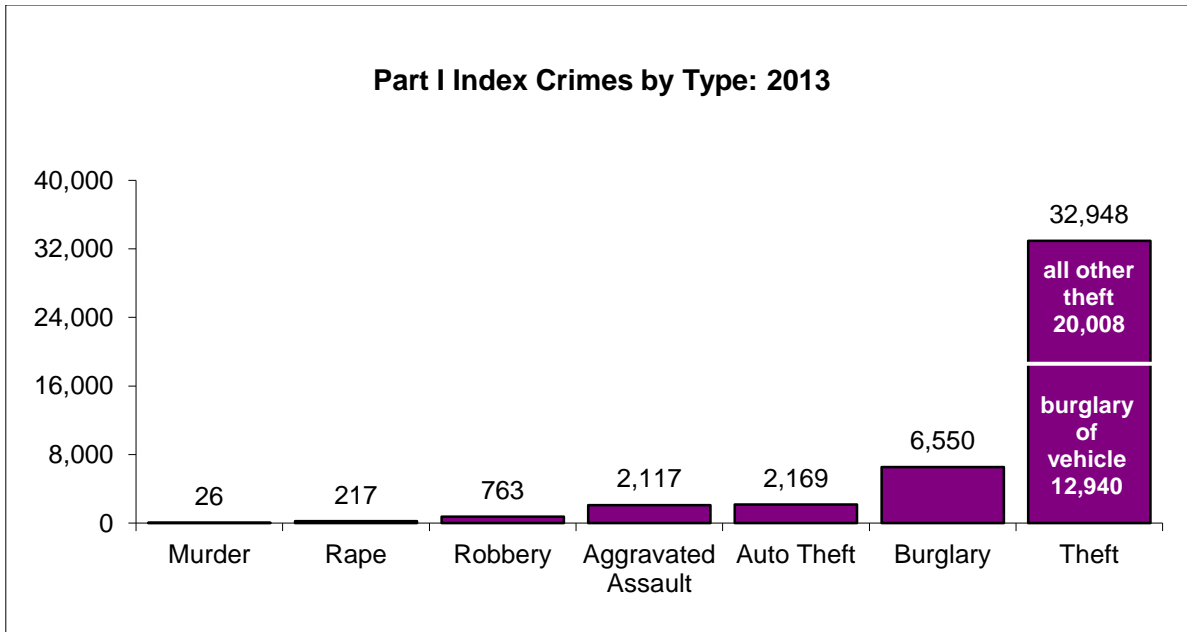
These categories and crime definitions are used for reporting city-level crime statistics to the FBI under its Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program.

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.

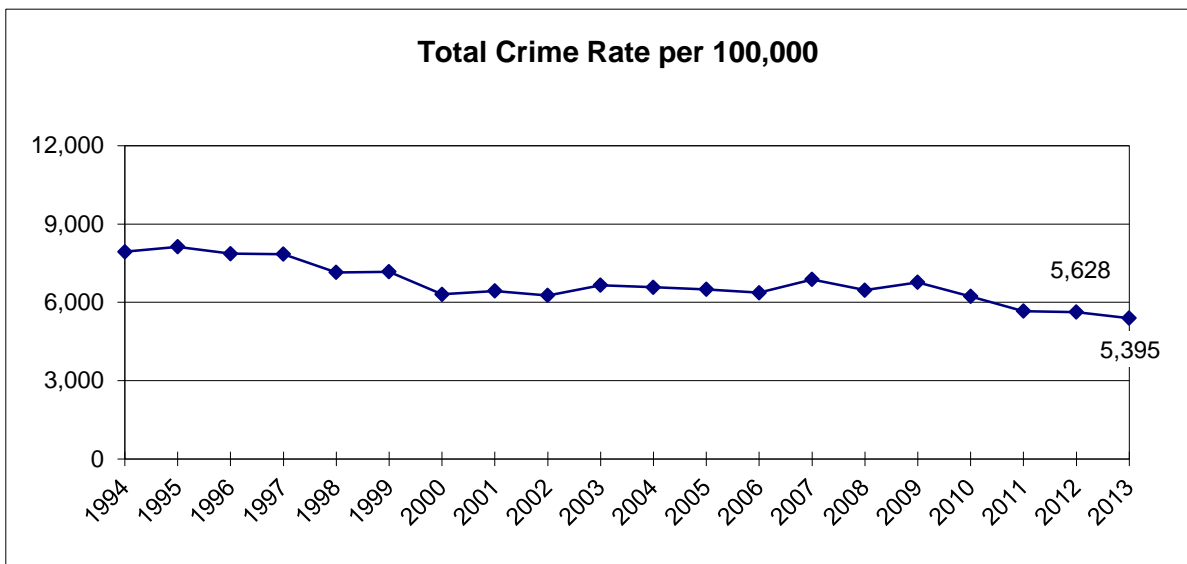
Part I Index Crimes	Offenses			Rate per 100,000		
	2012	2013	% chg	2012	2013	% chg
Murder	33	26	-21%	4.0	3.1	-21%
Rape	209	217	4%	25	26	4%
Robbery	978	763	-22%	117	92	-22%
Aggravated Assault	2,187	2,117	-3%	263	255	-3%
Total Violent Crime	3,407	3,123	-8%	409	376	-8%
Burglary	7,244	6,550	-10%	870	789	-9%
Theft	33,913	32,948	-3%	4,072	3,968	-3%
Auto Theft	2,315	2,169	-6%	278	261	-6%
Total Property Crime	43,472	41,667	-4%	5,219	5,018	-4%
Total Index Crime	46,879	44,790	-4%	5,628	5,395	-4%

Note: This table represents Austin’s 2013 preliminary crime statistics reported to the FBI. It will vary slightly from the final results contained in the FBI’s report, “Crime in the United States” published in Fall 2014.



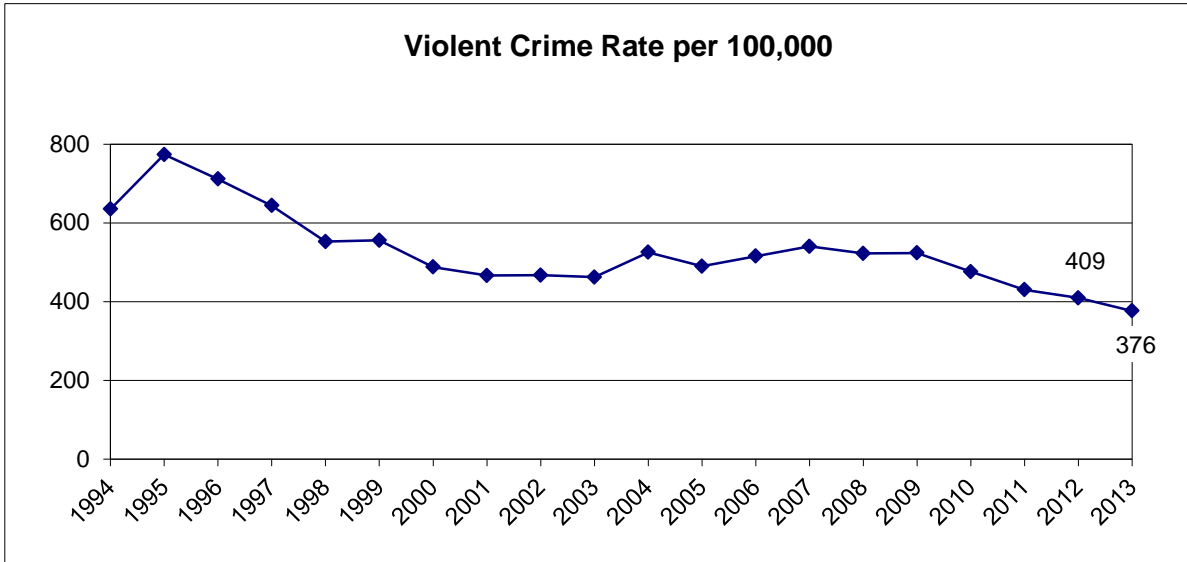
Trends

In 2013, the number of all Part I Index crimes for Austin was 44,790. This was a 4% decrease in incidents as compared with 2012 (46,879). The crime rate per 100,000 residents was 5,395 in 2013 – a 4% decrease from the 2012 rate of 5,628 and a 10-year low (1994 to 2013).



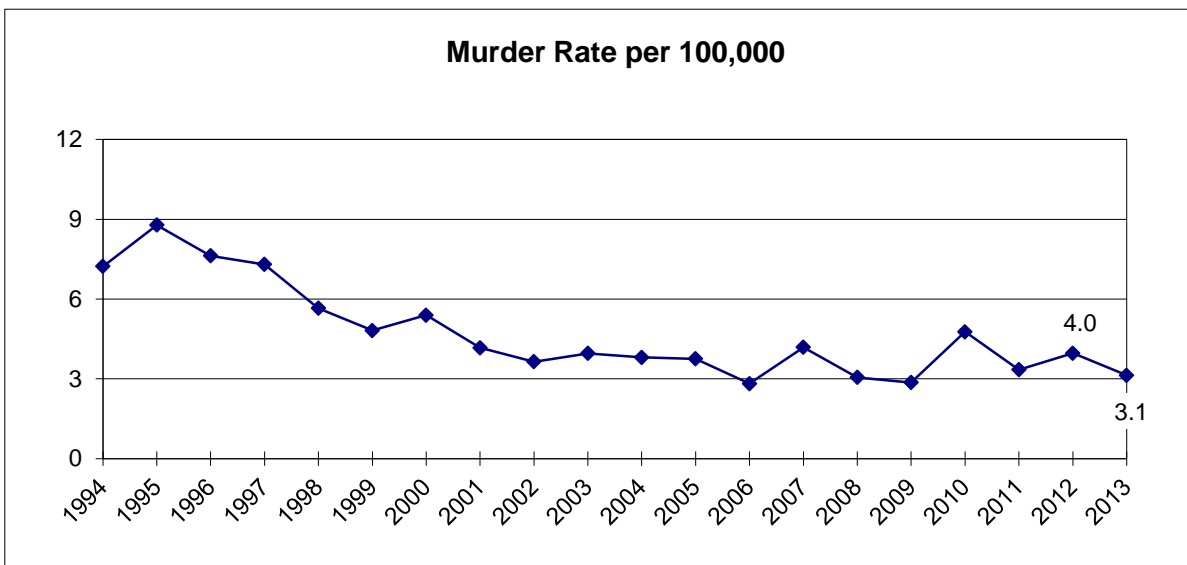
Violent Crime

In 2013, the number of violent crimes in Austin was 3,123. This was a 8% decrease in incidents as compared with 2012 (3,407). The rate of violent crime per 100,000 residents was 376 in 2013. This reflects a drop of 8% from the prior year's rate of 409 and represents a 20-year low (1994 to 2013).



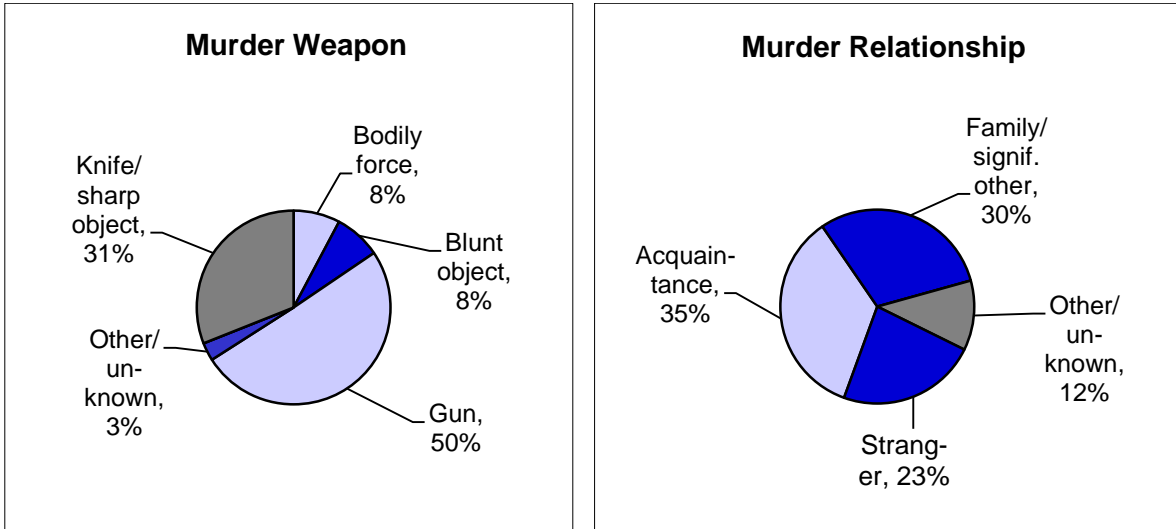
Murder

During 2013 there were 26 murder victims, down from 33 in 2012. Over the previous 10 years (2002 to 2011), the number of murder victims ranged from 20 to 38. The murder rate was 3.1 per 100,000 residents, down from the rate of 4.0 in 2012.



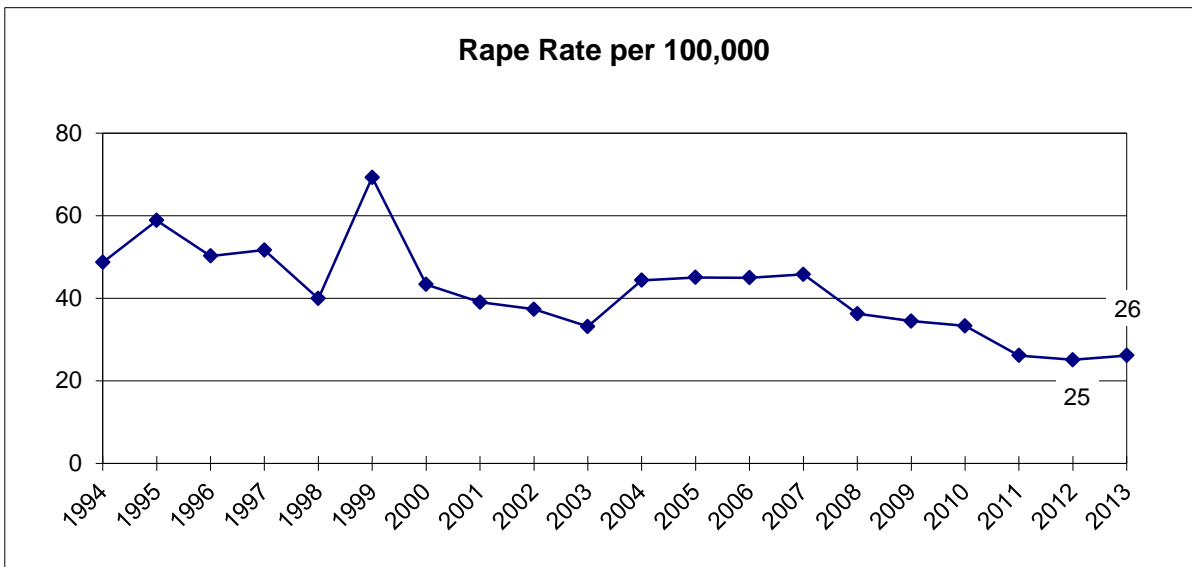
In 2013, guns were the most frequent weapon used in murders (50%), followed by knives or other sharp objects (31%). In 2012, guns were used in 40% of incidents and knives or other sharp objects were used in 24% of incidents.

The relationship (connection) between the victim and suspect was established in 88% of the cases. Of these, the victim knew the offender as an acquaintance, family member, significant other, or roommate in 74% of murders, up from 61% in 2012.

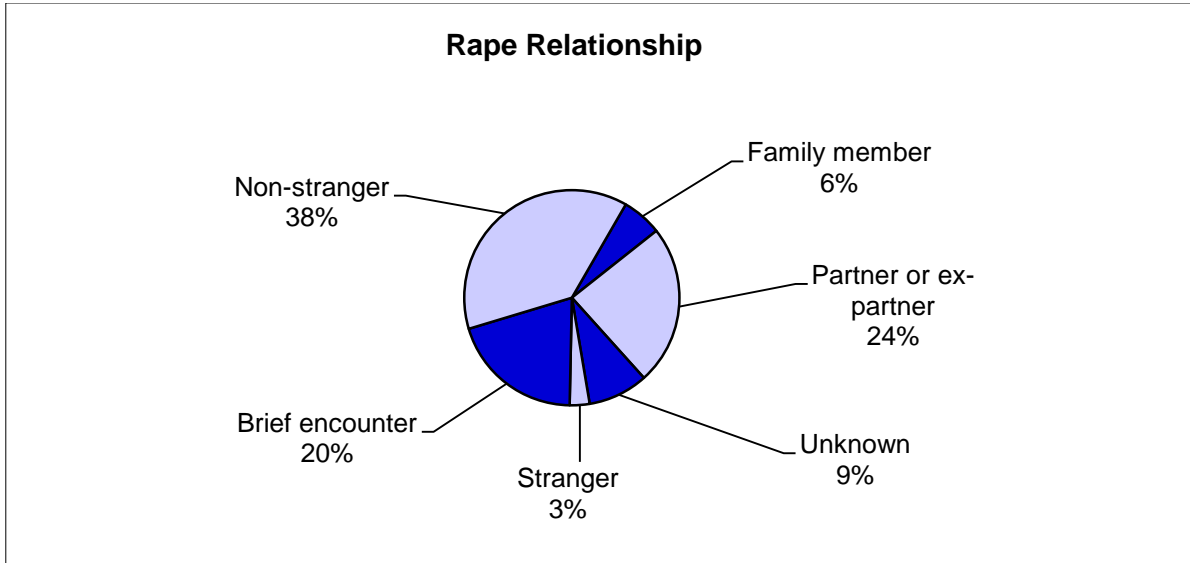


Rape

There were 217 reported victims of rape in Austin during 2013, up from 209 in 2012. The rate was 26 per 100,000 residents, which was up 4% from 25 in 2012. Over the previous 10 years (2002 to 2011), the rate ranged from 26 to 46.

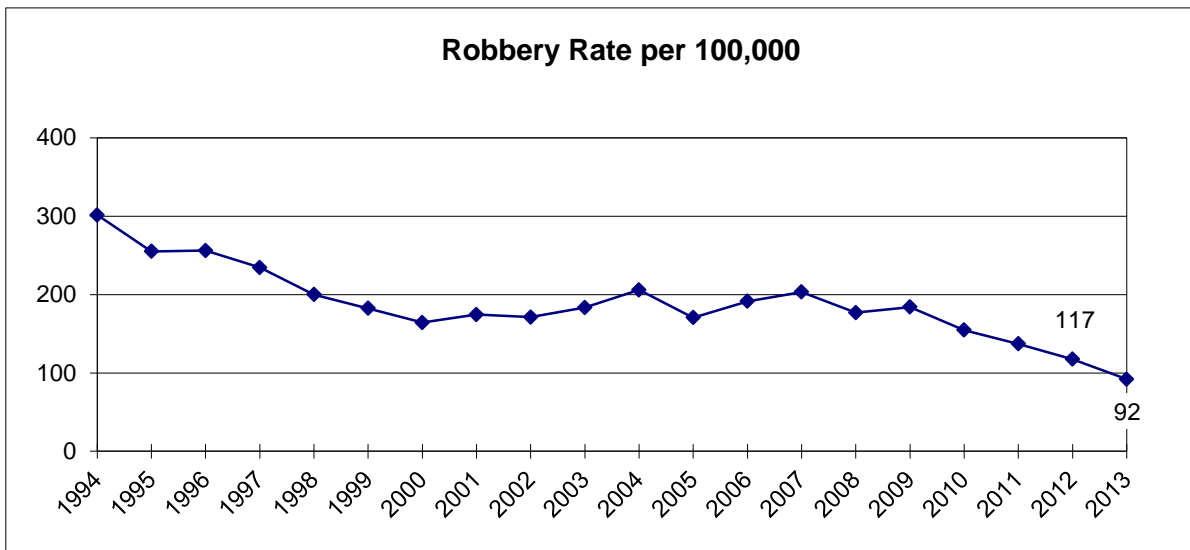


The relationship (connection) between the victim and suspect was established in 91% of the cases. Of these, the victim knew the suspect as a family member, partner or ex-partner, from a brief encounter, or otherwise as a non-stranger in 97% of the incidents. This was up from 96% in 2012.

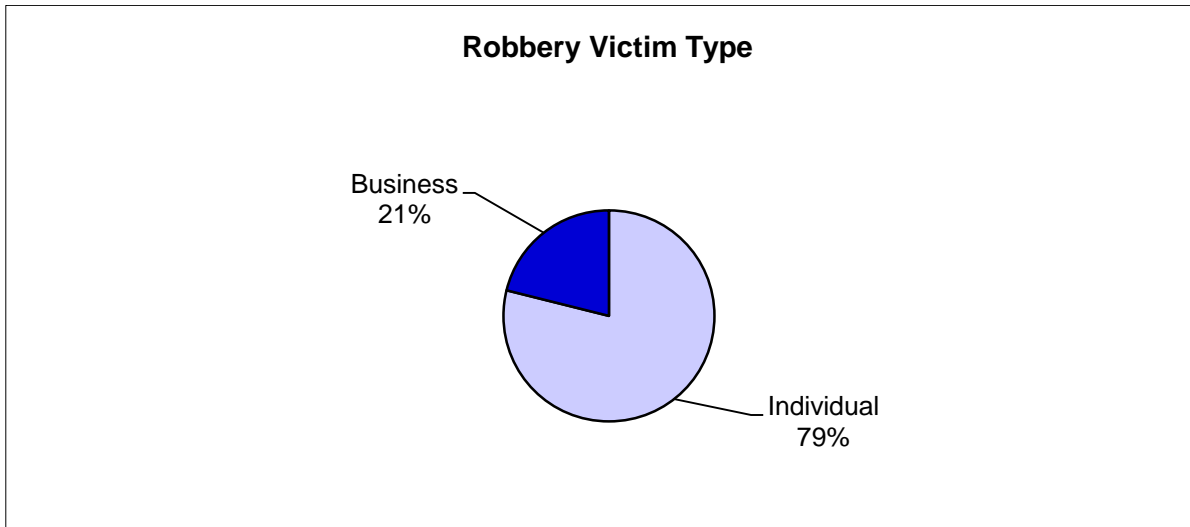


Robbery

There were 763 robberies reported in 2013, down from 978 in 2012. The rate was 92 robberies per 100,000 residents, which was a 22% decrease from the previous year's rate of 117 and represents a 20-year low (1994 to 2013).

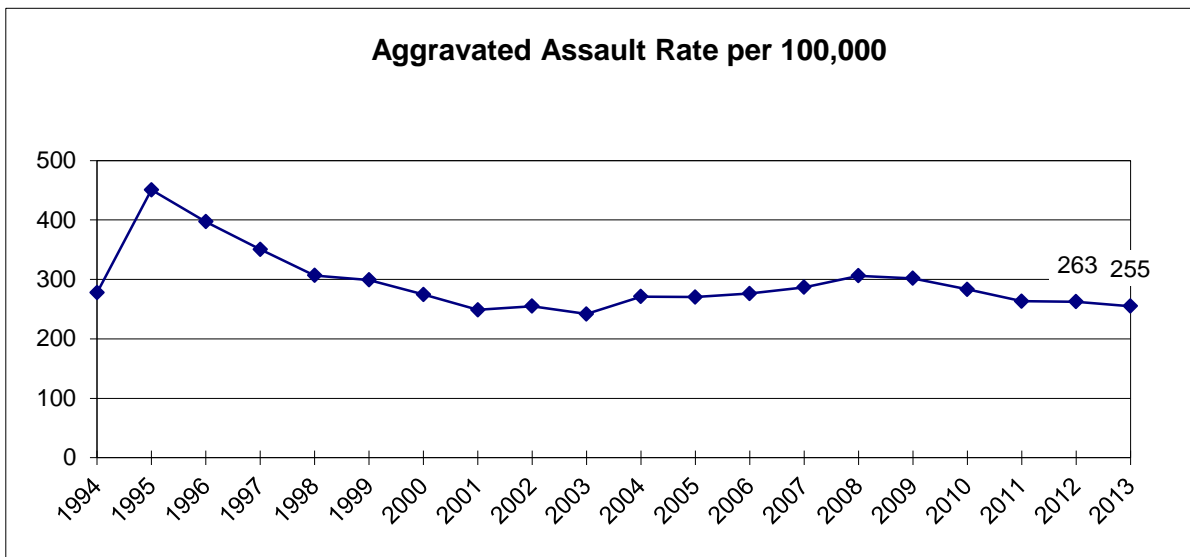


Seventy-nine percent of robberies were committed against individuals, as compared with 21% that occurred at businesses. This was unchanged from 2012.

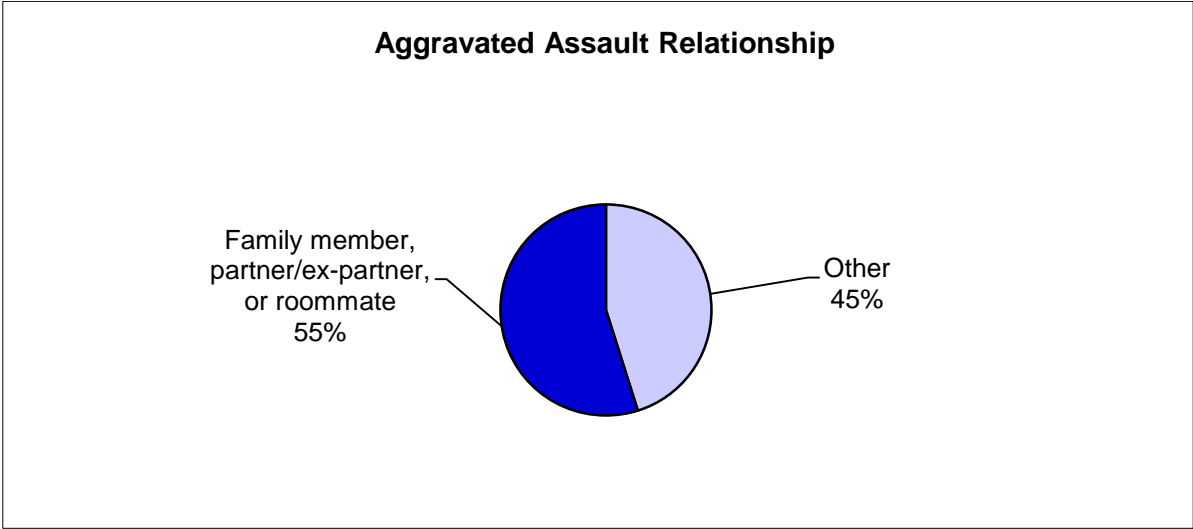


Aggravated Assault

There were 2,117 reported victims of aggravated assault in 2013, down from 2,187 in 2012. The rate was 255 victims per 100,000 residents, down 3% from the prior year's rate of 263 and represents a 10-year low (2004 to 2013).

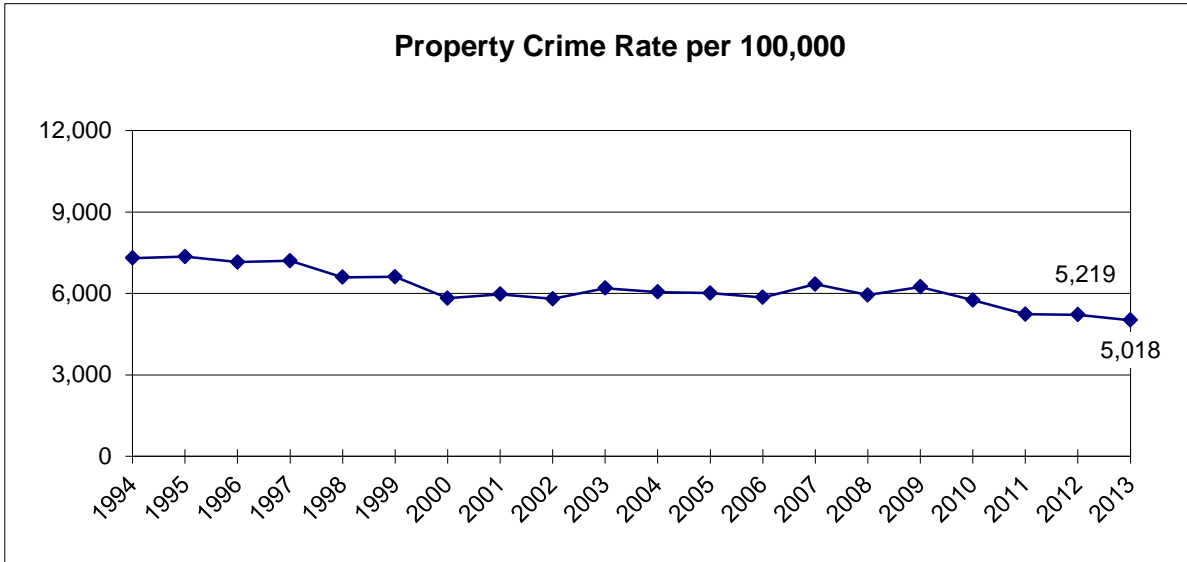


More than half (55%) of aggravated assaults were committed by a family member, partner or ex-partner, or roommate of the victim. This was up from 47% in 2012.



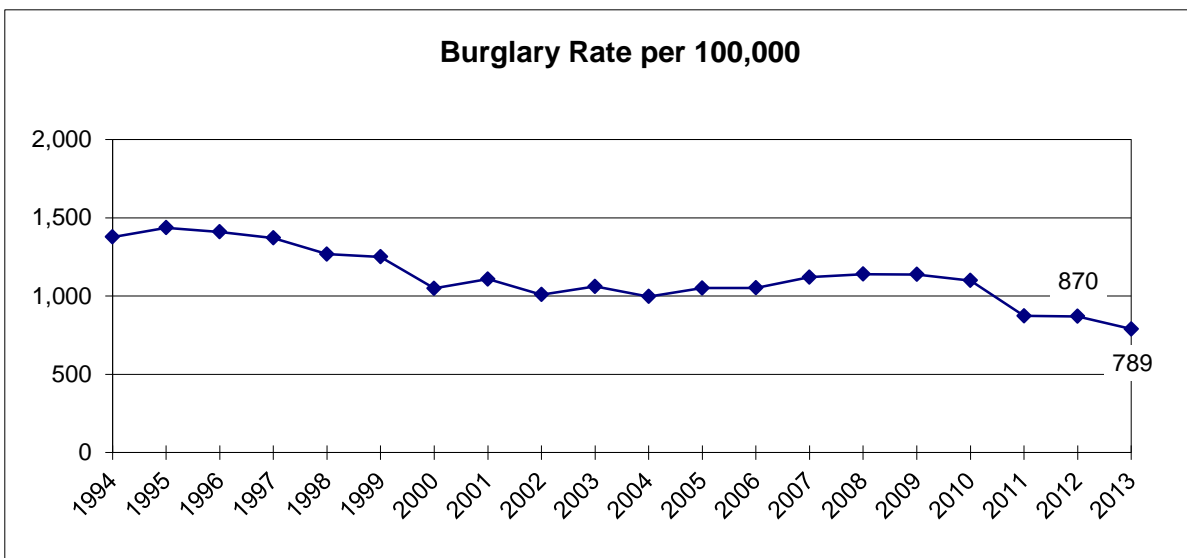
Property Crime

In 2013, the number of property crimes in Austin was 41,667, down from 43,472 in 2012. The rate of property crime per 100,000 residents was 5,018 in 2013, which was down 4% from the prior year's rate of 5,219 and represents a 20-year low (1994 to 2013).

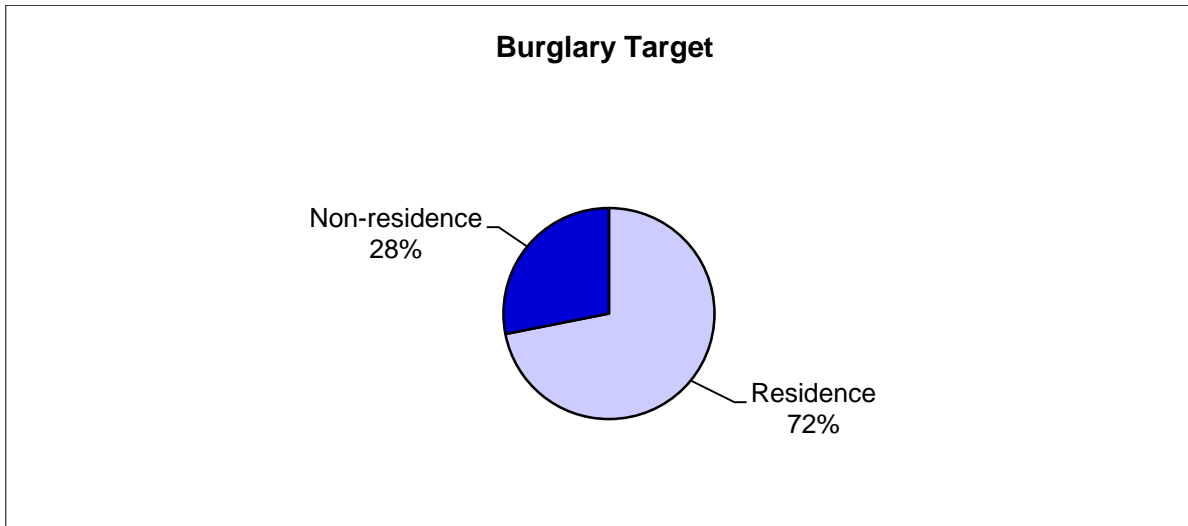


Burglary

There were 6,550 reported burglaries in 2013, down from 7,244 in 2012. The rate was 789 burglaries per 100,000 residents, which was down 9% from the prior year's rate of 870 and represents a 20-year low (1994 to 2013).

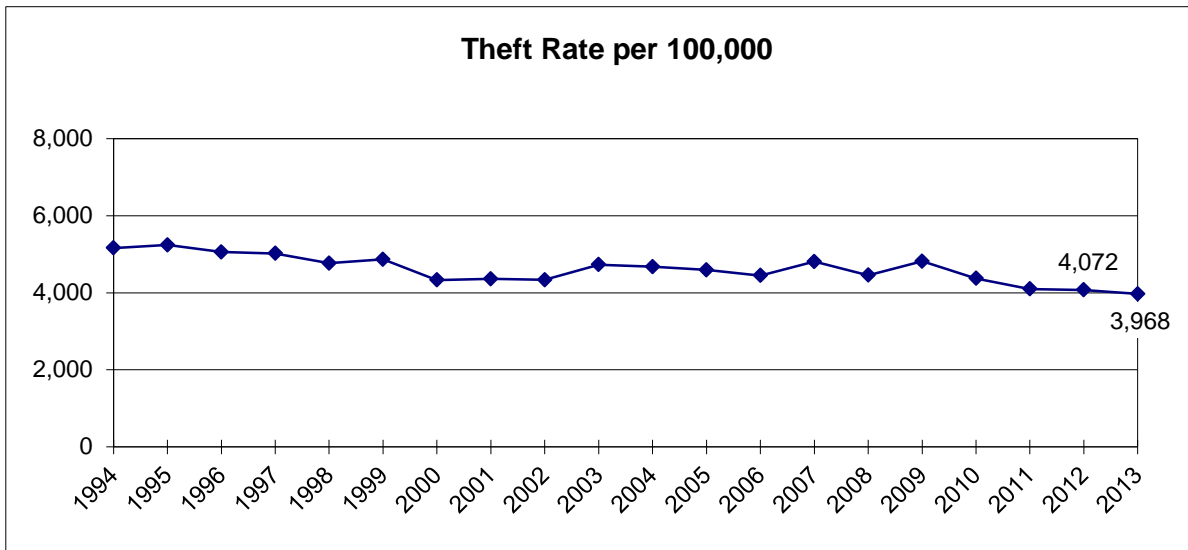


Seventy-two percent of burglaries involved residences and 28% involved other targets (businesses, offices, restaurants, etc.). This was relatively unchanged from 2012, when 73% of burglaries involved residences and 27% involved other targets.



Theft

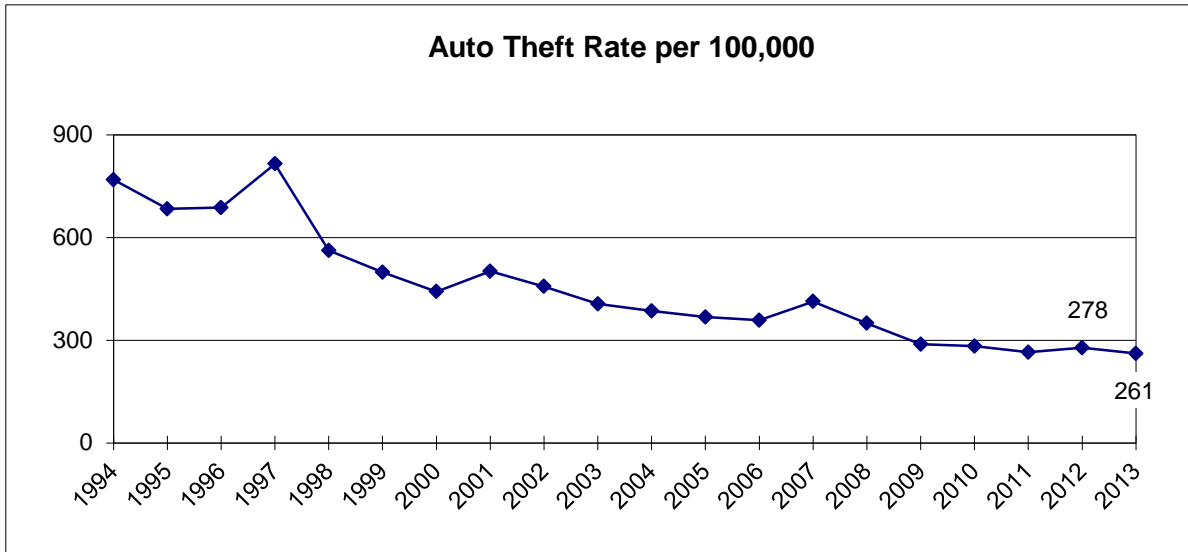
There were 32,948 reported thefts in 2013, down from 33,913 in 2012. The rate was 3,968 thefts per 100,000 residents, which was down 3% from the rate of 4,072 in 2012 and represents a 20-year low (1994 to 2013).



Of all thefts reported in 2013, 39% were burglary of vehicle, or BOV offenses. This was down from 2012, when 41% of thefts were BOV offenses.

Auto Theft

There were 2,169 reported auto thefts in 2013, down from 2,315 in 2012. The rate was 261 auto thefts per 100,000 residents, which was a 6% decrease from the rate of 278 in 2012 and represents a 20-year low (1994 to 2013).



The most frequently stolen vehicles were Honda Accord sedans and trucks made by Ford, Chevrolet, and GMC. Together, they represent 36% of all stolen vehicles where the make and model were known. Of all vehicles stolen in 2013, 80% were successfully recovered, up from 79% in 2012.

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
Murder	100%
Rape	66%
Robbery	29%
Aggravated Assault	66%
Total Violent Crime	57%
Burglary	9%
Theft	14%
Auto Theft	11%
Total Property Crime	13%

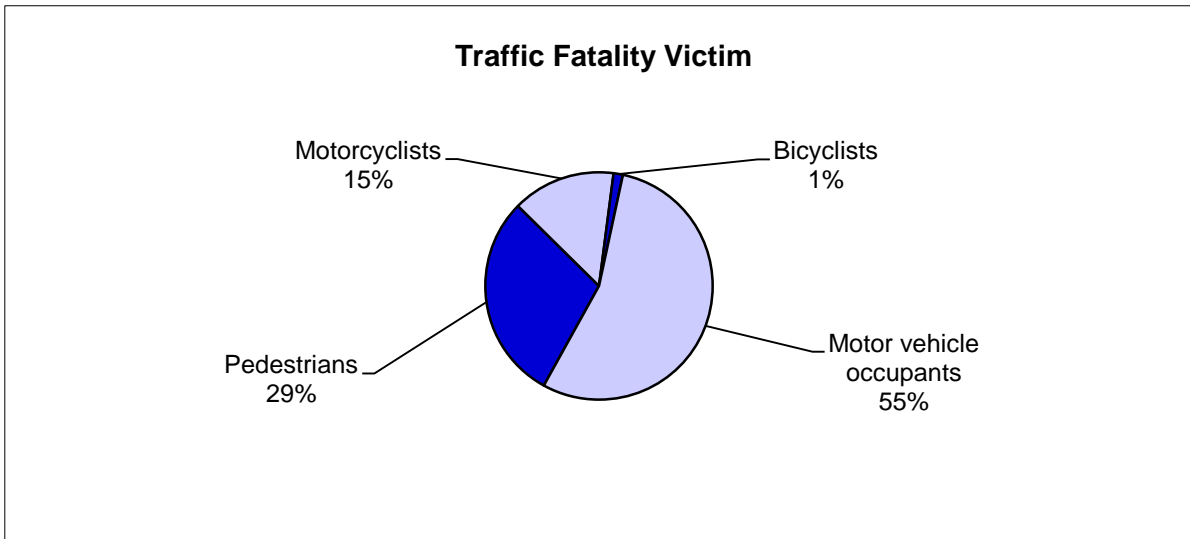
During 2013, Austin police solved, or cleared, 57% of the reported **violent crimes**, which was up from 49% in 2012.

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 2013, Austin solved 13% of property crimes, up from 12% in 2012.

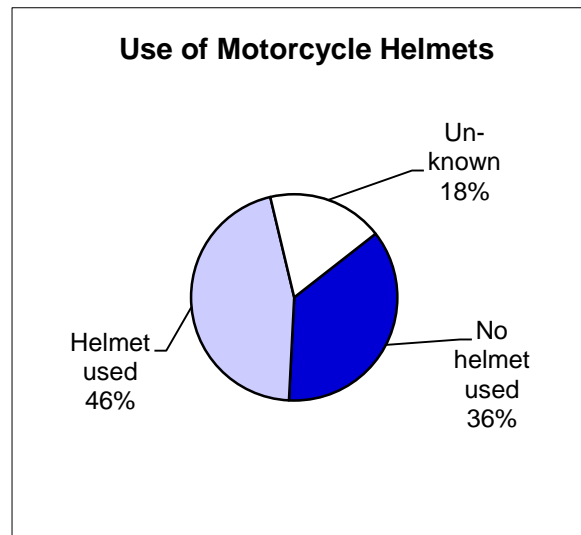
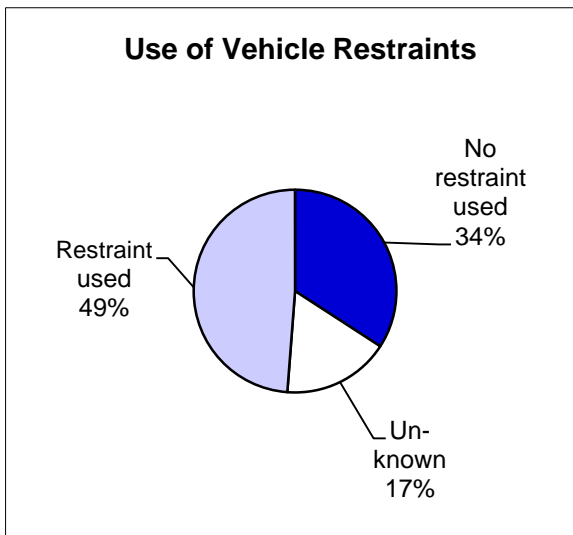
Traffic Fatalities

During 2013 there were 72 fatal collisions that resulted in 75 deaths, as compared with 75 fatal collisions that resulted in 78 deaths in 2012.

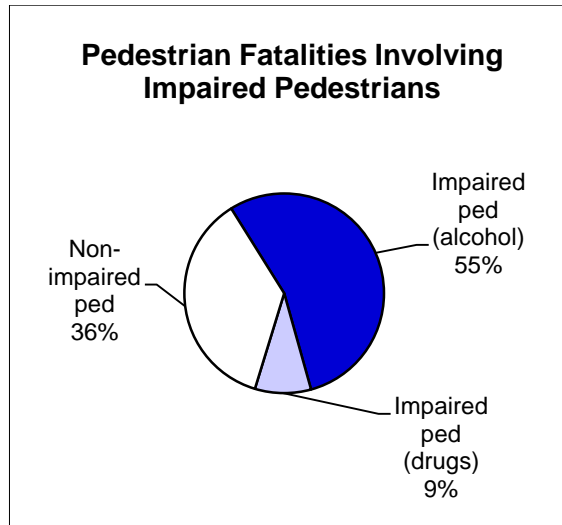
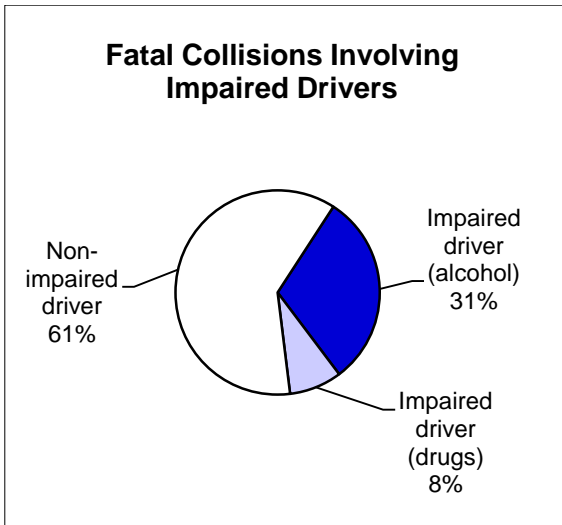
In 2013 most traffic fatalities involved motor vehicle occupants (41, or 55%), followed by pedestrians (22, or 29%), motorcyclists (11, or 15%) and bicyclists (one, or 1%). Similarly, in 2012, most traffic fatalities involved motor vehicle occupants (35, or 45%), followed by pedestrians (26, or 33%), followed by motorcyclists (14, or 18%) and bicyclists (three, or 4%).



Of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2013, 14 (or 34%) victims were not using restraints, as compared with 14 (or 40%) victims in 2012. Of all motorcycle fatalities, four (or 36%) victims were not wearing helmets, as compared with eight (or 57%) in 2012.



Of all fatal crashes in 2013, 22 (or 31%) involved an alcohol-impaired driver, as compared with 22 (or 29%) in 2012. Of all pedestrian fatalities in 2013, 12 (or 55%) involved an alcohol-impaired pedestrian, as compared with 11 (or 42%) in 2012.



In 2013, 20 (or 28%) fatal crashes involved speed, as compared with 22 (or 29%) in 2012. And in 2013, 32 (or 44%) fatal crashes occurred on freeways (IH-35, Mo-Pac, US Hwy 183, and State Hwy 71/290 West), as compared with 30 (or 40%) in 2012.

