

Austin Police Department

Annual Crime and Traffic Report: 2010 Final Report



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November 14, 2011

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 “official” statistics are used in tracking year-to-year performance and trends, as well as comparing our crime statistics to other US cities of similar size.

This report contains Austin’s final crime statistics reported to the FBI; it updates our preliminary report published in April 2011.

Overview

This document contains UCR crime data for the calendar year 2010 (January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010). For comparison, we have included data from other large US cities; among them, Boston, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Fort Worth, and Portland (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 476 **violent crimes** per 100,000 residents was lower than the average rate of 830 for US cities of comparable size. (Page 4)
- Austin’s **property crime rate** of 5,755 per 100,000 residents was higher than the average rate of 4,528 for US cities of comparable size. (Page 11)
- The number of **murders** increased from 22 in 2009 to 38 in 2010; Austin’s rate per 100,000 residents was less than half the average of large US cities. (Page 5)
- Austin’s number of **robberies** declined from 1,415 in 2009 to 1,231 in 2010; our rate per 100,000 residents was about half the average of large US cities. (Page 8)
- The number of **thefts** dropped from 37,054 in 2009 to 34,827 in 2010; Austin’s rate per 100,000 residents was double the average of large cities. (Page 12)
- Austin’s number of **auto thefts** increased from 2,219 in 2009 to 2,250 in 2010; of all vehicles stolen, 80% were successfully recovered, which was higher than the average recovery rates for both Texas and the US. (Page 13)
- Austin’s number of **traffic fatalities** declined from 62 in 2009 to 49 in 2010; our fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT) was lower than the average rates for both Texas and the US. (Page 16)

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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

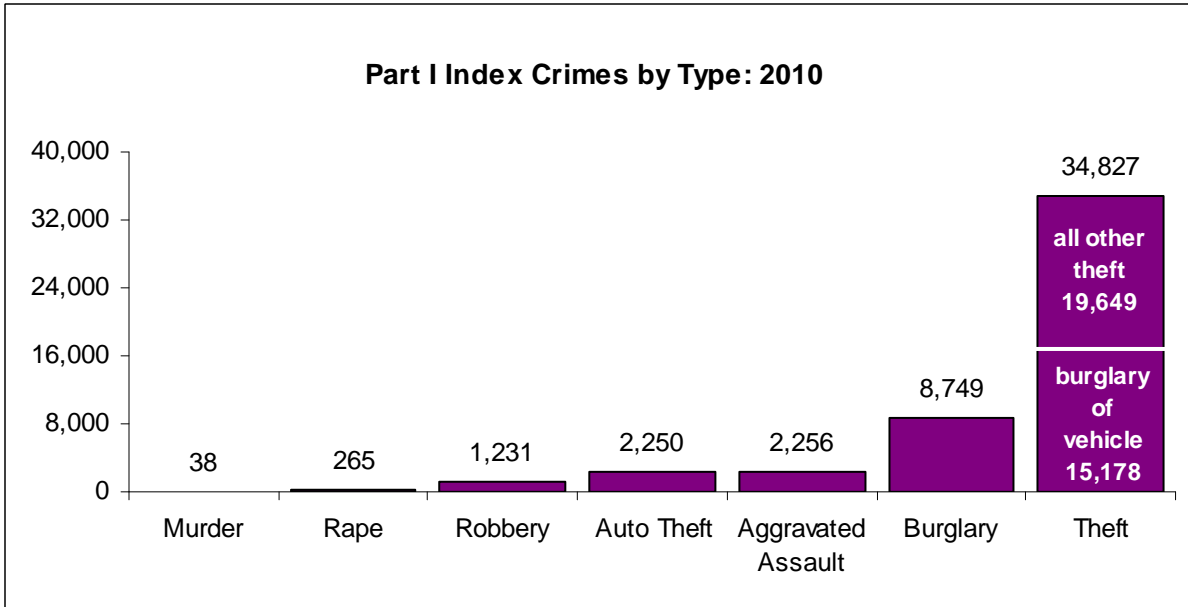
Burglary (number of premises entered)
 Theft (number of offenses)
 Auto Theft (number of vehicles)

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

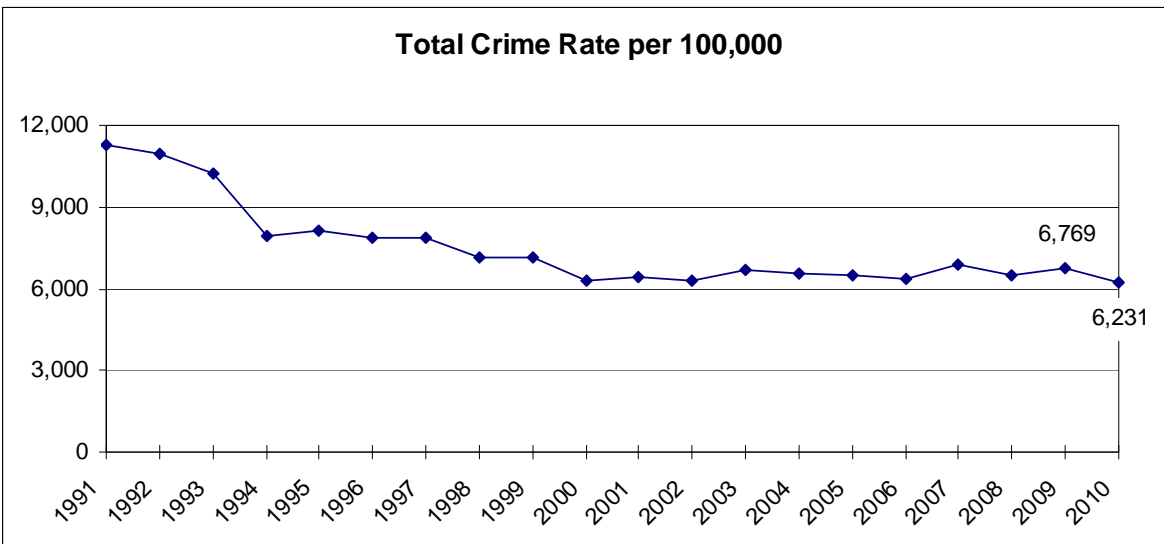
Throughout this report, crime is reported in terms of actual numbers (e.g., incidents, victims) as well as rate per 100,000 residents. Rates allow for comparisons to previous years and with other cities.

Part I Index Crimes	Offenses			Rate per 100,000			
	2009	2010	% chg	2009	2010	% chg	
Murder	22	38	72.7%	2.9	4.8	66.8%	
Rape	265	265	0.0%	34.5	33.3	-3.4%	
Robbery	1,415	1,231	-13.0%	184.0	154.6	-16.0%	
Aggravated Assault	2,322	2,256	-2.8%	302.0	283.3	-6.2%	
Total Violent Crime	4,024	3,790	-5.8%	523.3	475.9	-9.0%	
Burglary	8,753	8,749	0.0%	1,138.3	1,098.7	-3.5%	
Theft	37,054	34,827	-6.0%	4,818.7	4,373.5	-9.2%	
Auto Theft	2,219	2,250	1.4%	288.6	282.6	-2.1%	
Total Property Crime	48,026	45,826	-4.6%	6,245.5	5,754.8	-7.9%	
Total Index Crime	52,050	49,616	-4.7%	6,769	6,231	-7.9%	
				Population	768,970	796,310	3.6%



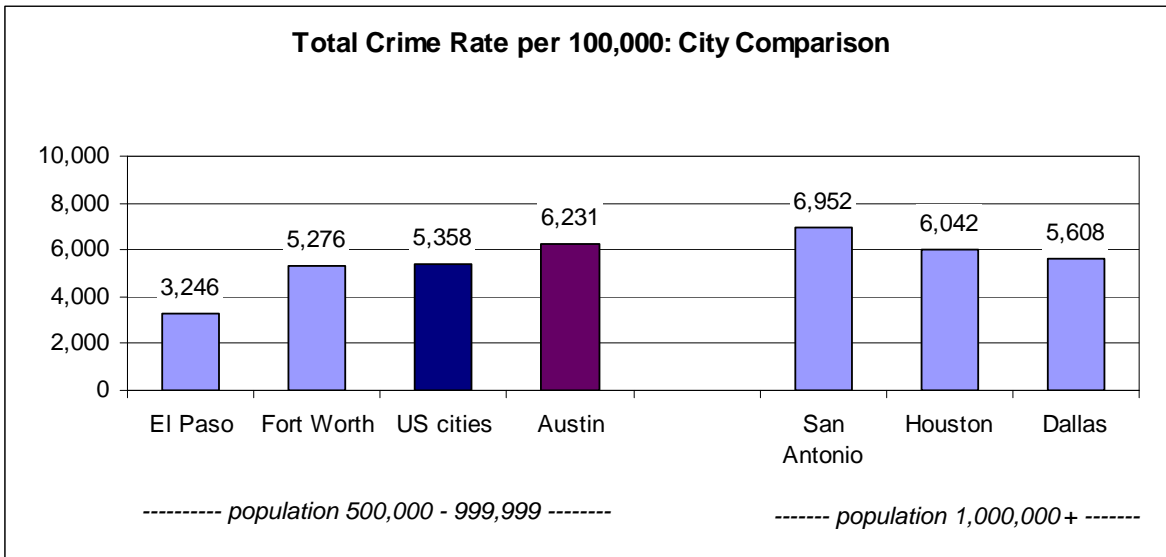
Trends

In 2010, the number of all Part I Index crimes for Austin was 49,616. This represents a 5% decrease in incidents as compared with 2009 (52,050). The rate of crime per 100,000 residents was 6,231 in 2010 – an 8% decrease from the rate of 6,769 in 2009. Over the previous 10 years (1999 to 2008), the rate ranged from 6,267 to 7,172.



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 796,310 in 2010, according to FBI UCR reporting). For regional comparison, Texas cities are also identified. Austin's rate of 6,231 offenses per 100,000 was 16% higher than the average rate of 5,358 for all large US cities.



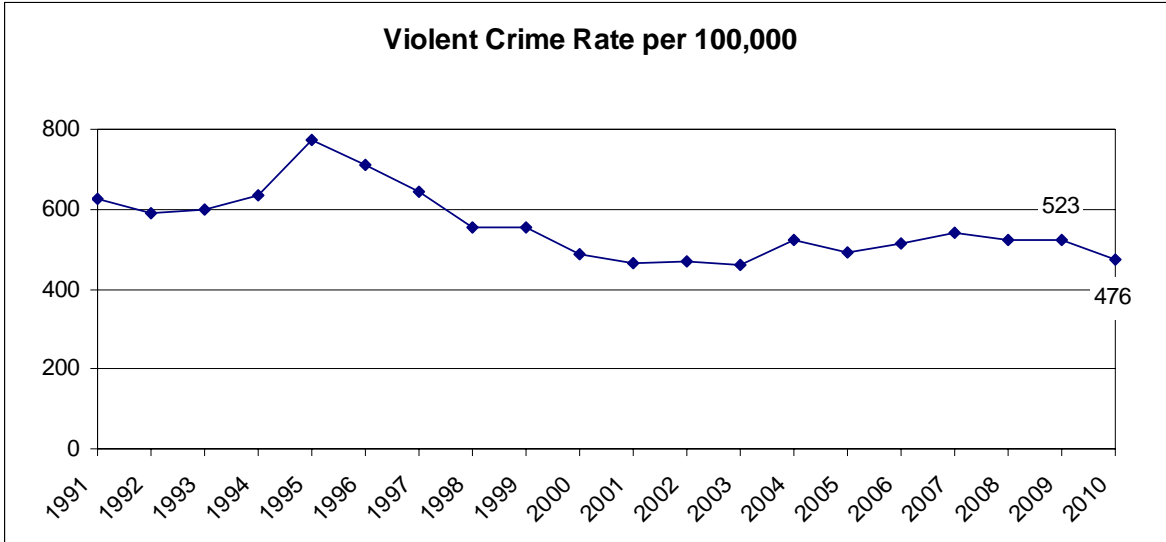
The following cities are included in the “US cities” category above, and elsewhere throughout this report:

- Austin
- Atlanta
- Boston
- Columbus
- Detroit
- Fort Worth
- Jacksonville
- Memphis
- Nashville
- Portland
- San Jose
- Washington
- Albuquerque
- Baltimore
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg
- Denver
- El Paso
- Honolulu
- 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.

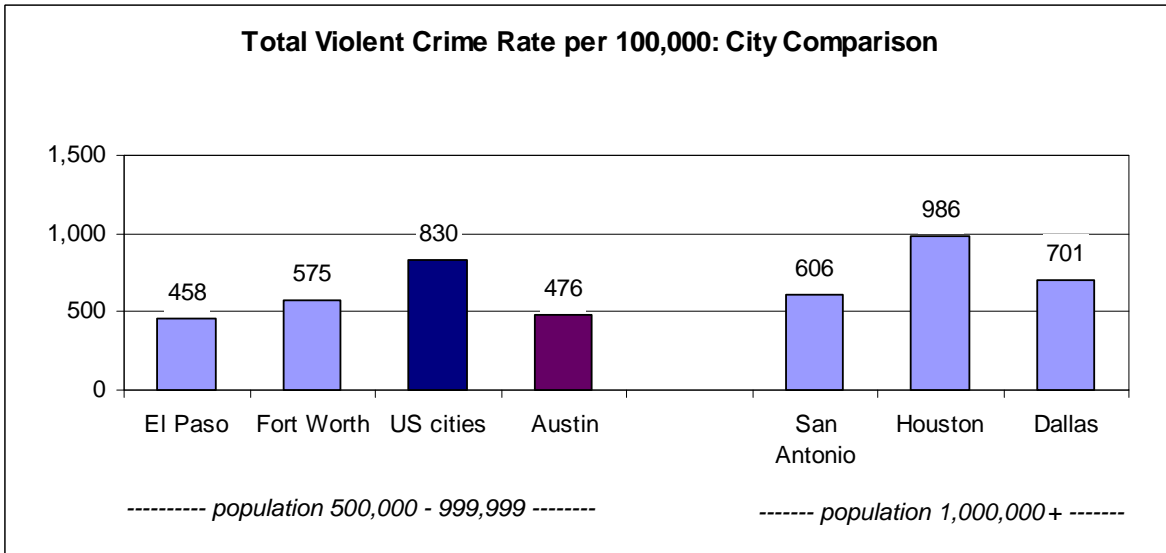
Violent Crime

In 2010, the number of violent crimes in Austin was 3,790. This represents a 6% decrease in incidents as compared with 2009 (4,024). The rate of violent crime per 100,000 residents was 476 in 2010 – a 9% decrease from the rate of 523 in 2009. Over the previous 10 years (1999 to 2008), the rate ranged from 462 to 556.



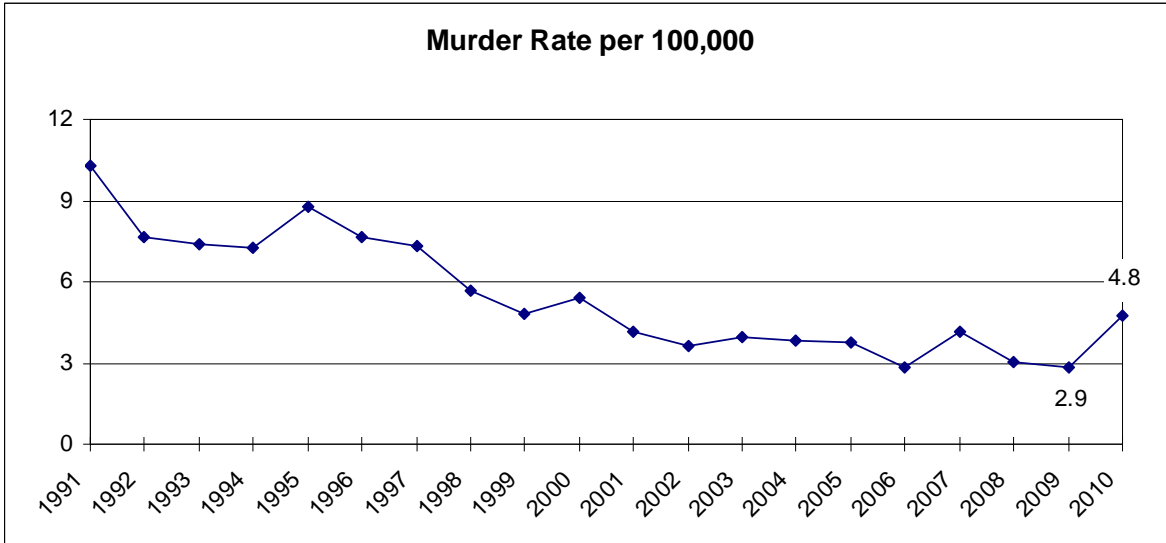
Compared to Other Cities

Austin's rate of 476 violent crimes per 100,000 was 43% lower than the average rate of 830 for all large US cities.

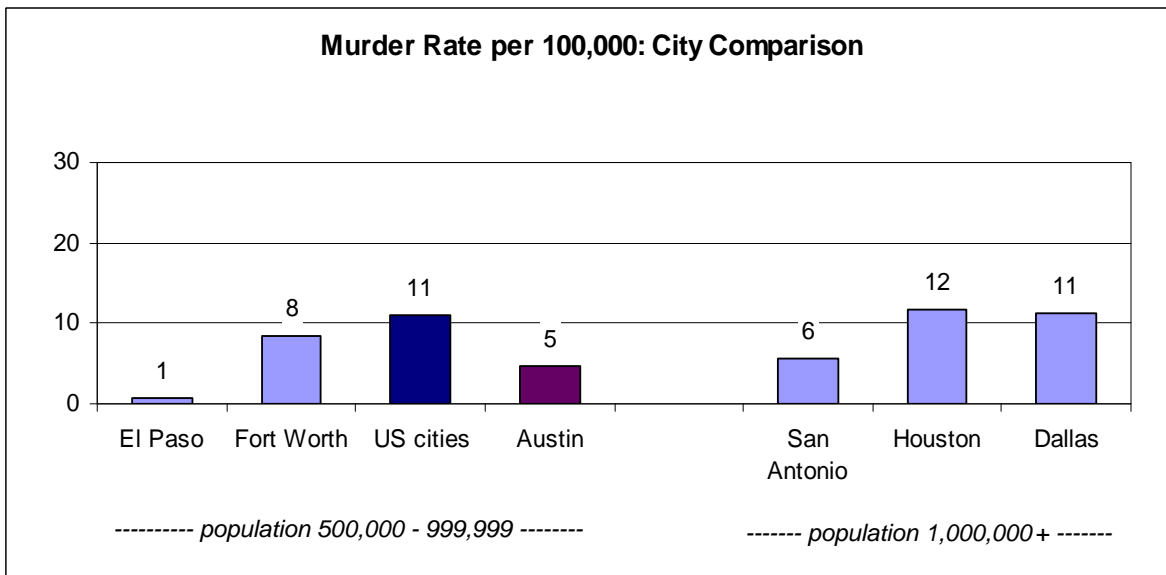


Murder

During 2010 there were 38 murder victims in Austin, up from 22 in 2009. The murder rate was five per 100,000 residents, which was up 67% from the rate of three in 2009. Over the previous 10 years (1999 to 2008), the number of murder victims ranged from 20 to 33.

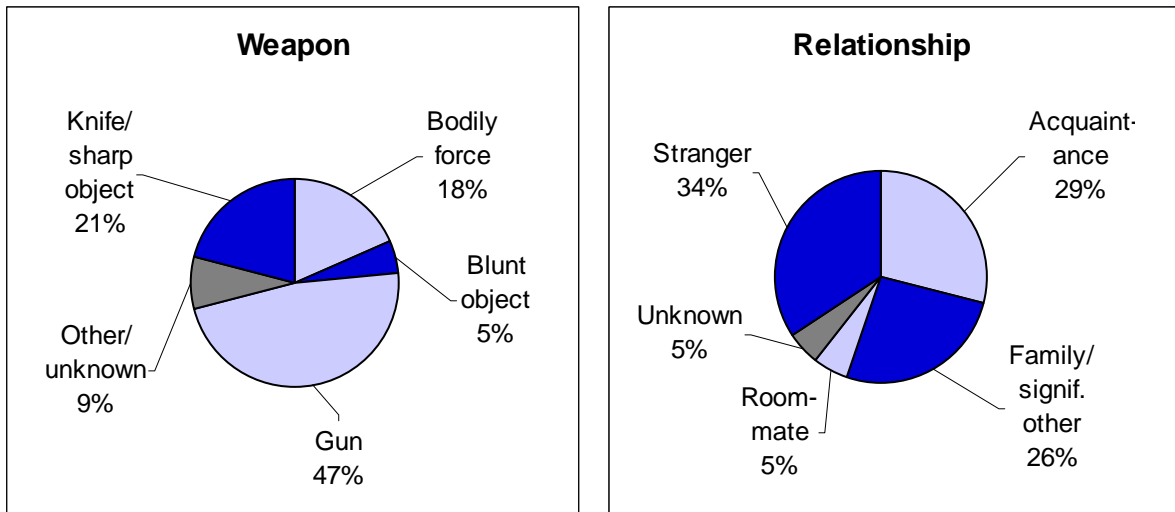


Austin's murder rate was 56% lower than the average of US cities our size.



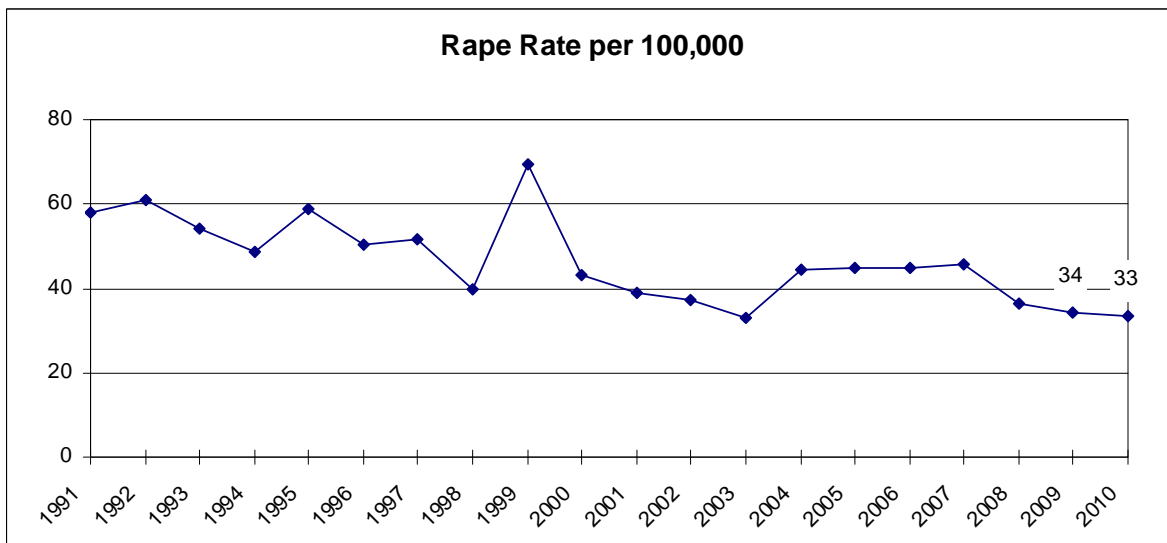
In 2010, guns were the weapons used most frequently in murders (47% of incidents), followed by knives or other sharp objects (21%). In 2009, guns were used in 54% of incidents and knives or other sharp objects were used in 27% of incidents.

The relationship (connection) between the victim and suspect was established in 95% of the cases. Of these, the victim knew the offender (as an acquaintance, family member, significant other, or roommate) in 64% of murders, up from 45% in 2009.

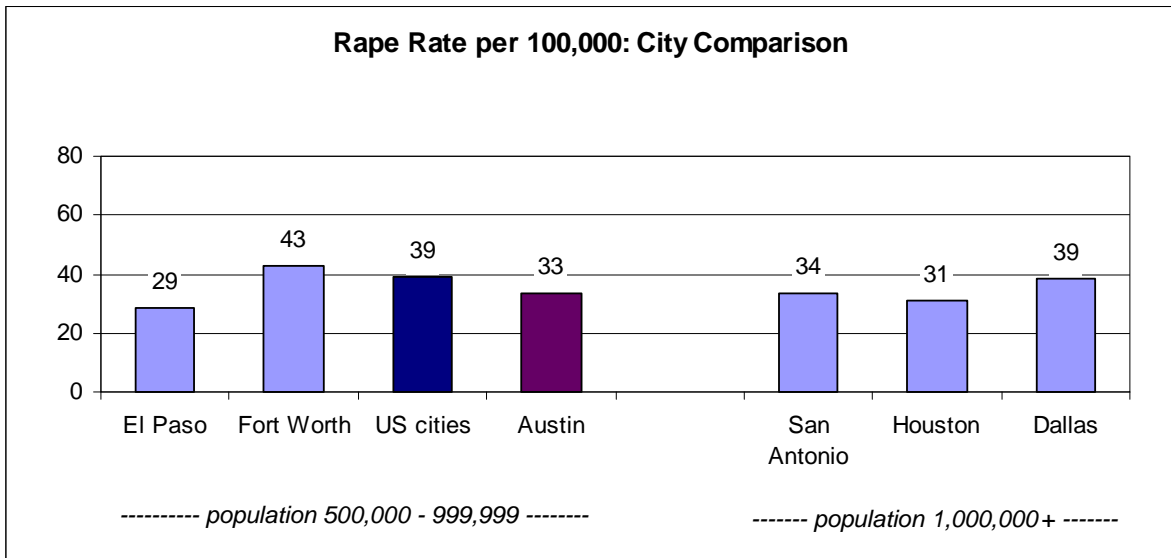


Rape

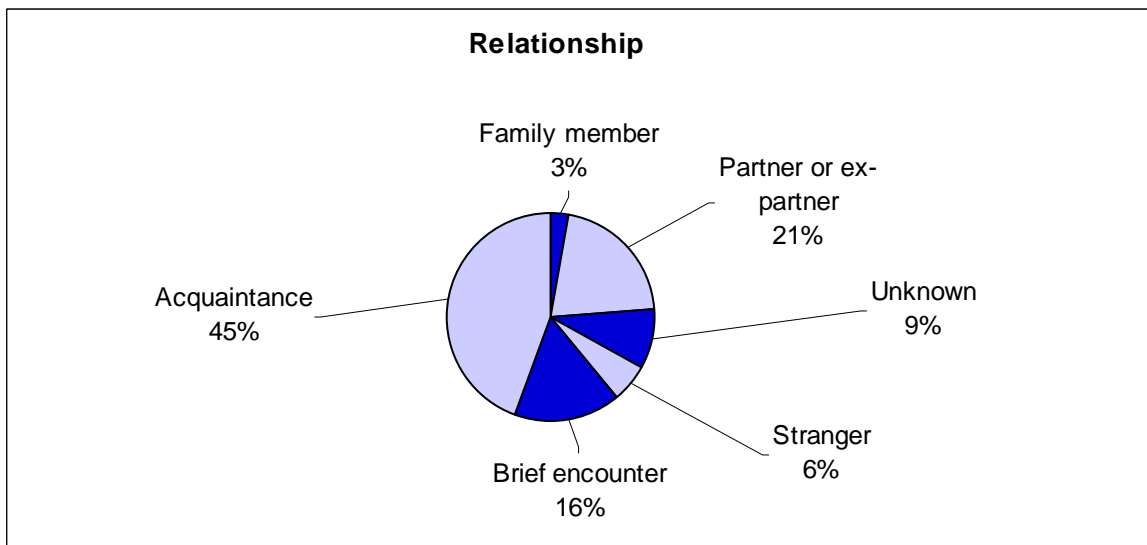
There were 265 reported victims of rape in Austin during 2010. The rate was 33 per 100,000 residents, which was down slightly from the previous year's rate of 34. Over the previous 10 years (1999 to 2008), the rate ranged from 33 to 69.



Austin's rate of reported rapes was 15% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.

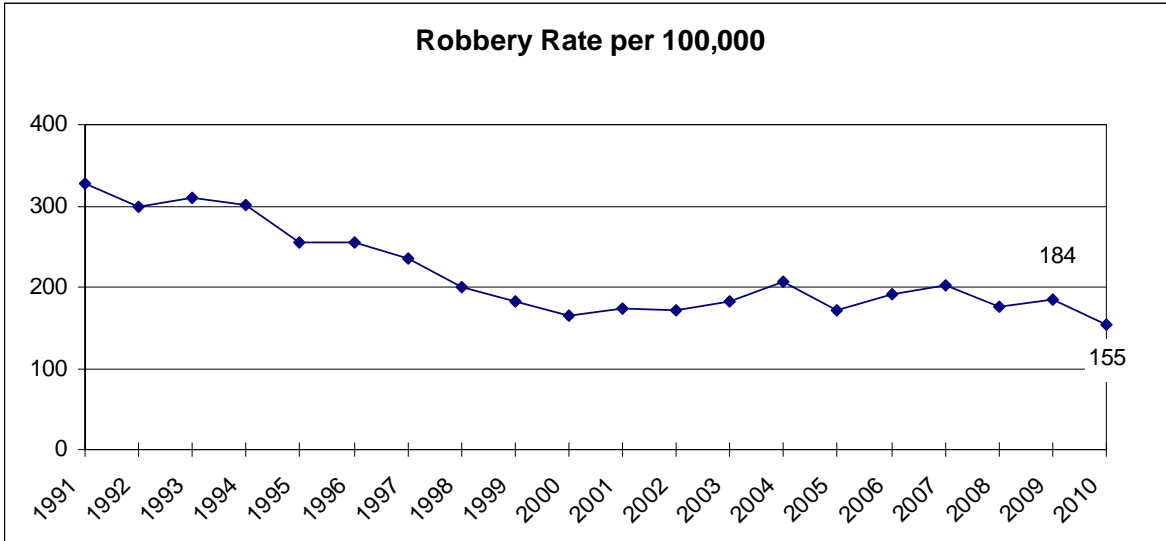


The relationship (connection) between the victim and suspect was established in 91% of the cases. Of these, the victim knew the suspect as an acquaintance, family member, partner, ex-partner, or from a brief encounter in 93% of the incidents. This is up from 88% in 2009.

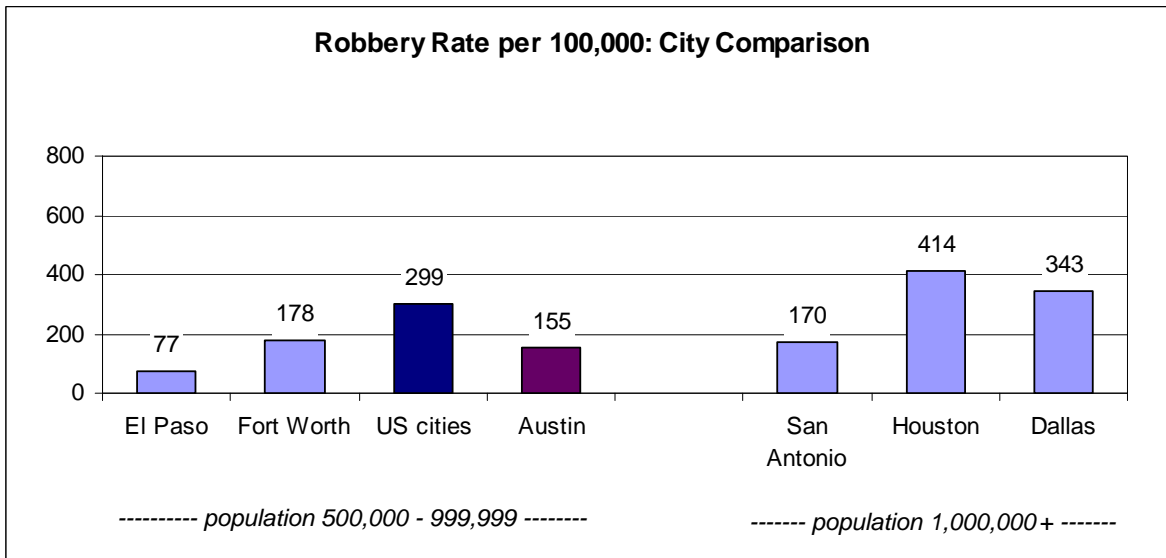


Robbery

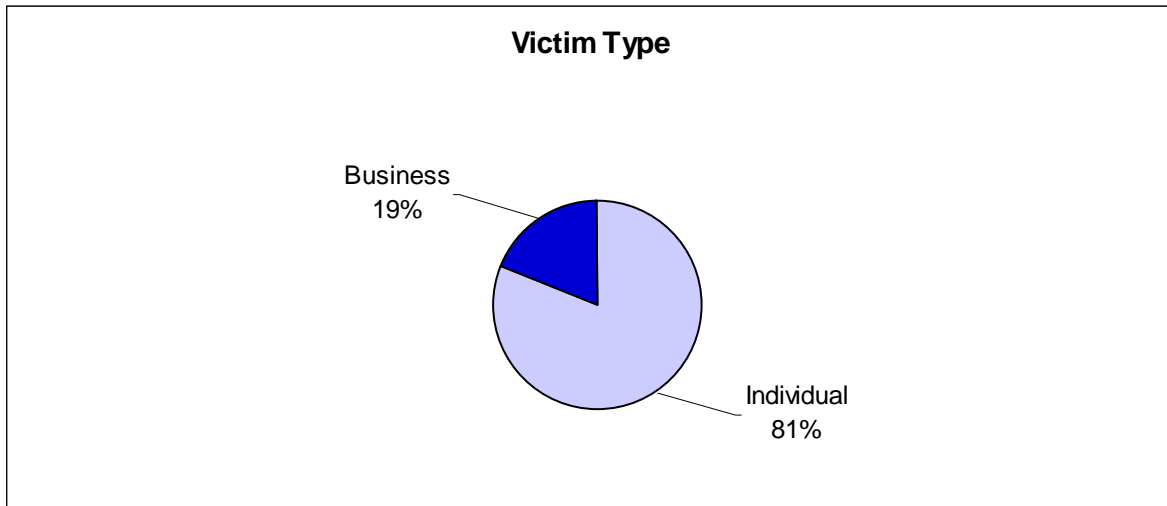
There were 1,231 robberies reported in 2010, down from 1,415 in 2009. The rate was 155 robberies per 100,000 residents, which represents a decrease from the previous year's rate of 184. Over the previous 10 years (1999 to 2008), the rate of annual robberies ranged from 164 to 206.



Austin's rate of reported robberies was 48% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.

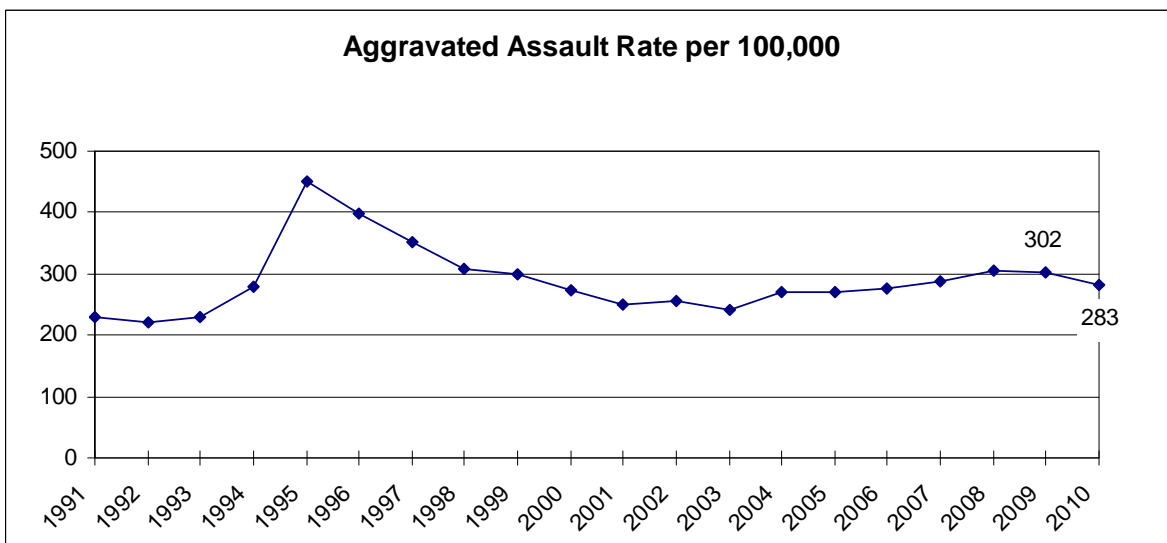


Eighty-one percent of robberies were committed against individuals, as compared with 19% that occurred at businesses. In 2009, 83% of robberies were committed against individuals and 17% occurred at businesses.

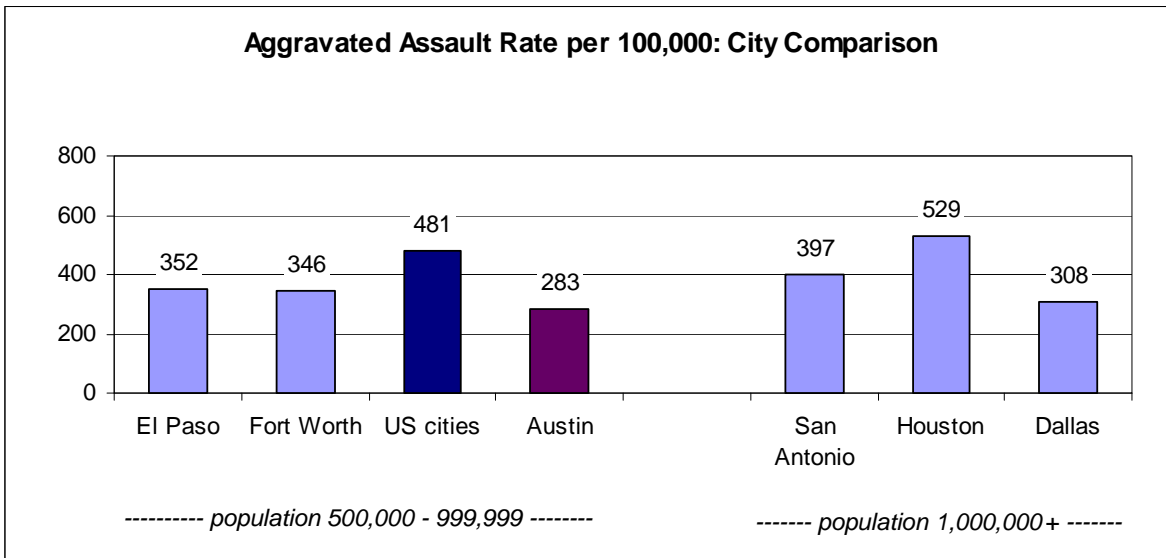


Aggravated Assault

There were 2,256 reported victims of aggravated assault in 2010, down from 2,322 in 2009. The rate was 283 victims per 100,000 residents, which represents a decrease from the rate of 302 in 2009. Over the previous 10 years (1999 to 2008), the rate of aggravated assault victims ranged from 242 to 306.

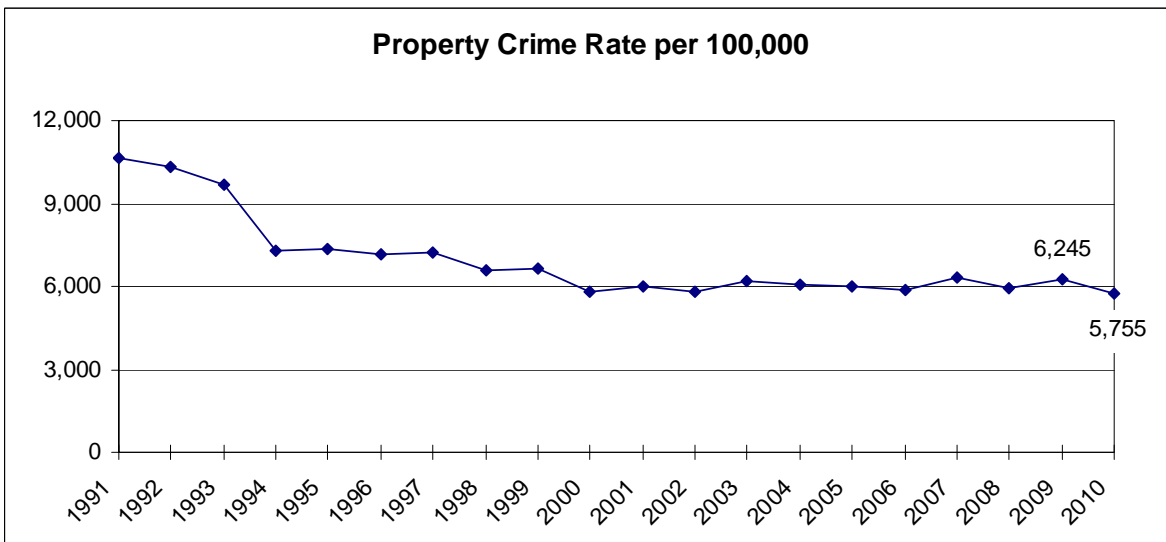


Austin's rate of aggravated assault victims was 41% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.



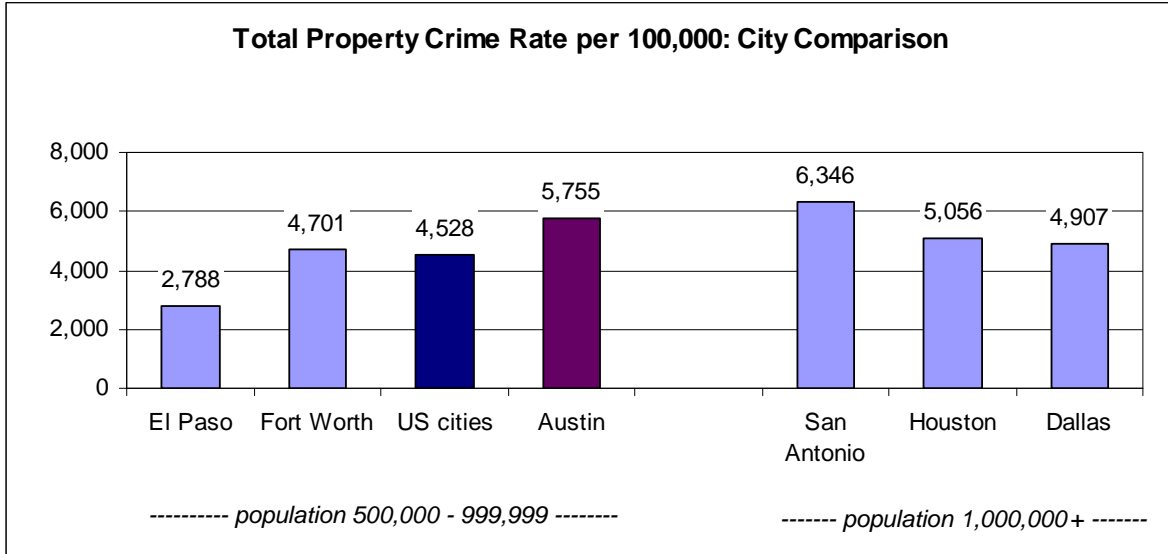
Property Crime

In 2010, the number of property crimes in Austin was 45,826. This represents a 5% drop in incidents as compared with 2009 (48,026). The rate of property crime per 100,000 residents was 5,755 in 2010 – an 8% decrease from the rate of 6,245 in 2009. Over the previous 10 years (1999 to 2008), the rate ranged from 5,800 to 6,616.



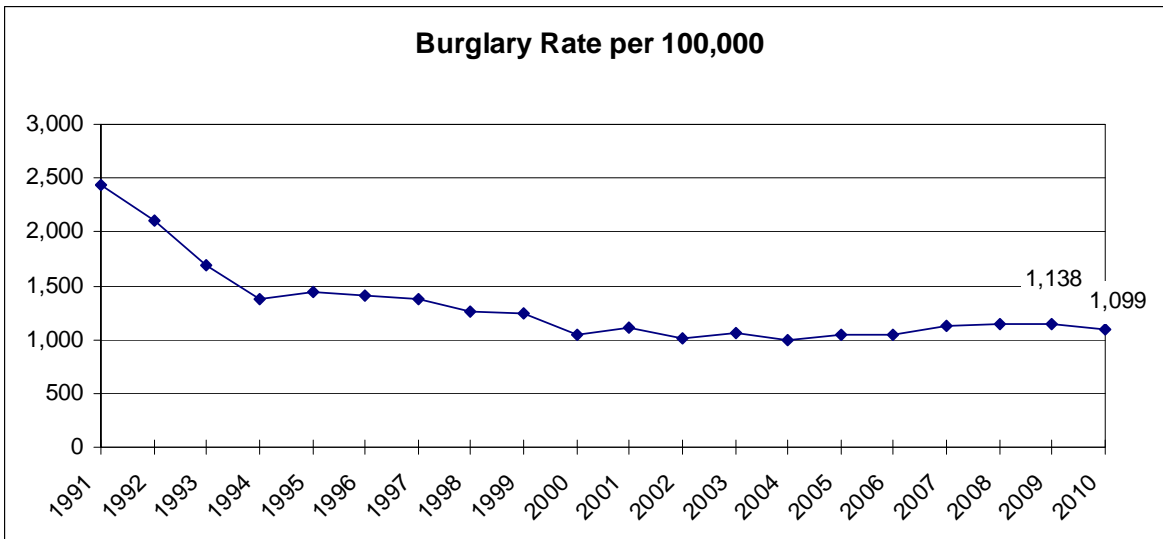
Compared to Other Cities

Austin's rate of 5,755 property crimes per 100,000 in 2010 was 27% higher than the average rate of 4,528 per 100,000 for large US cities.

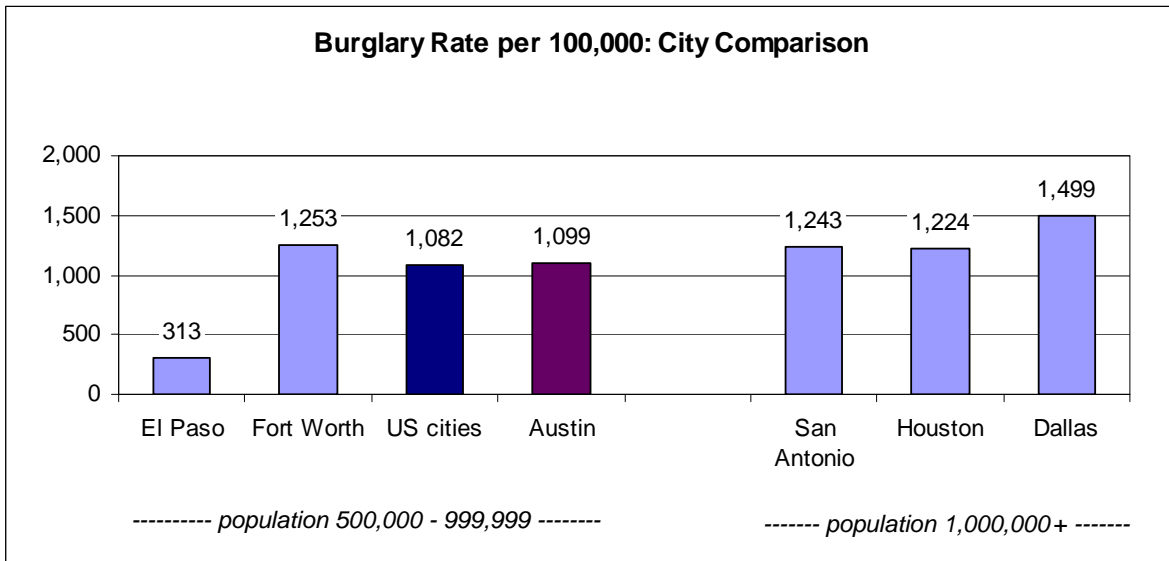


Burglary

There were 8,749 reported burglaries in 2010, down slightly from 8,753 in 2009. The rate was 1,099 burglaries per 100,000 residents, which represents a 4% decrease from the rate of 1,138 in 2009. Over the previous 10 years (1999 to 2008), the burglary rate ranged from 997 to 1,251.

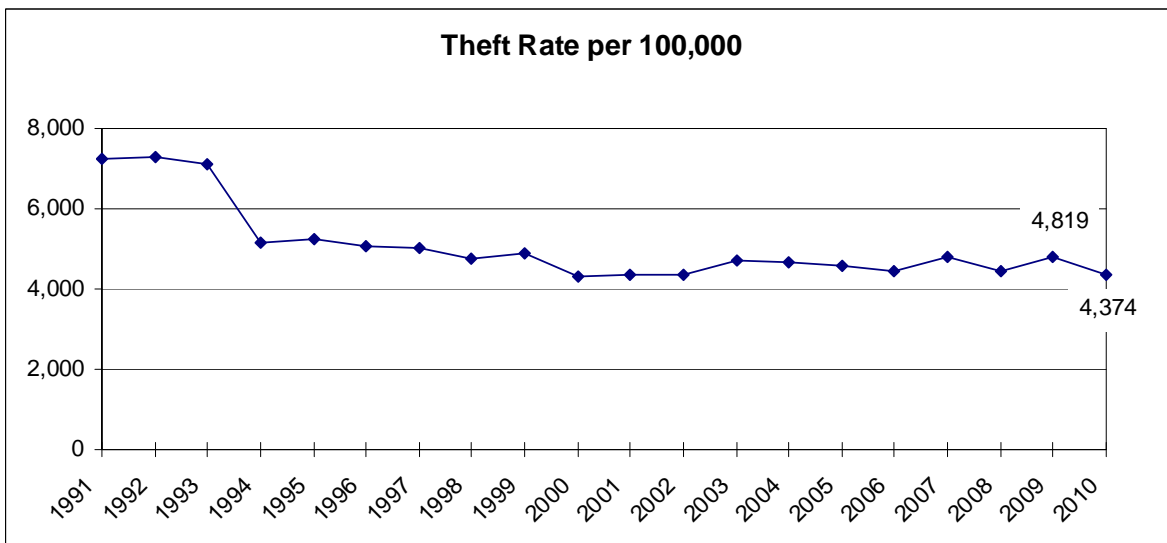


Austin's burglary rate in 2010 was 2% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.



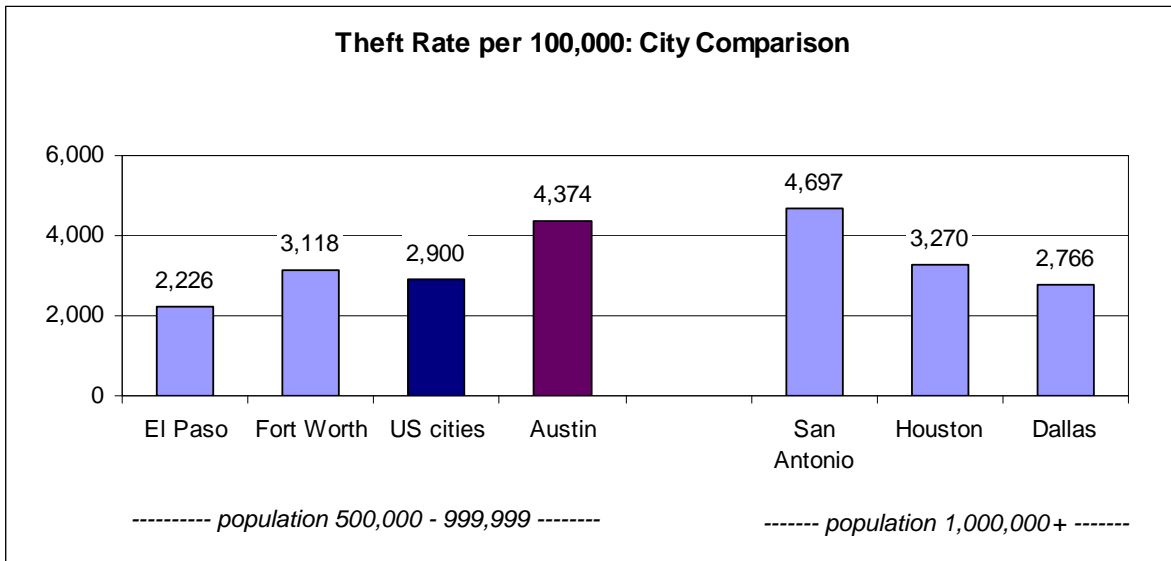
Theft

There were 34,827 reported thefts in 2010, down from 37,054 in 2009. The rate was 4,374 thefts per 100,000 residents, which represents a 9% decrease versus the rate of 4,819 in 2009. Over the previous 10 years (1999 to 2008), the theft rate ranged from 4,332 to 4,867.



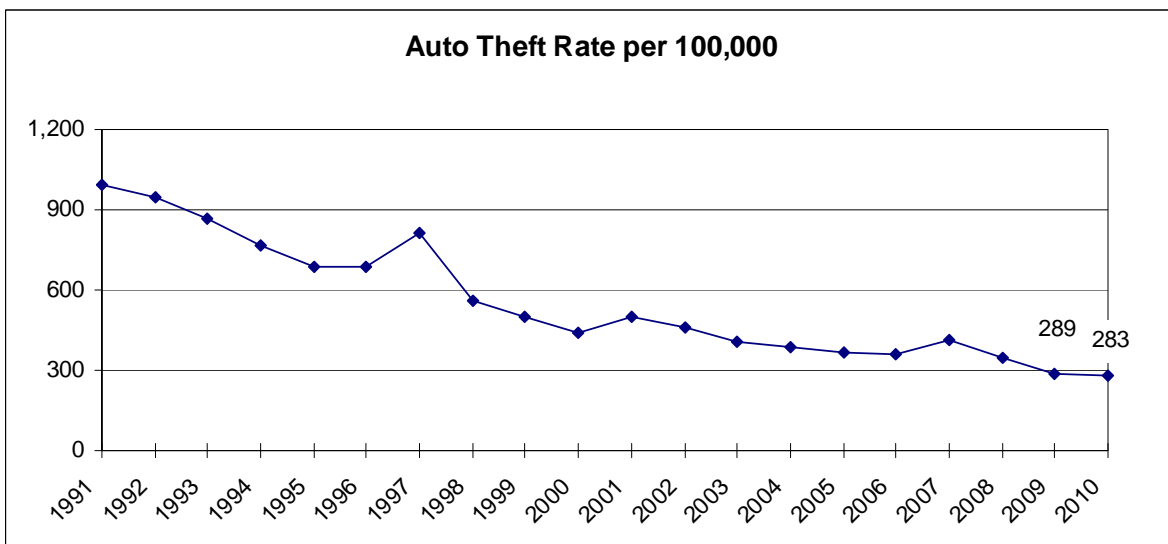
Of the 34,827 thefts reported this year, 15,178 (44%) were burglary of vehicle, or BOV offenses. This represents a 15% decrease from the number of BOVs reported in 2009 (17,882; 48% of thefts).

Austin's rate of thefts in 2010 was 51% higher than the average of US cities of the same size.

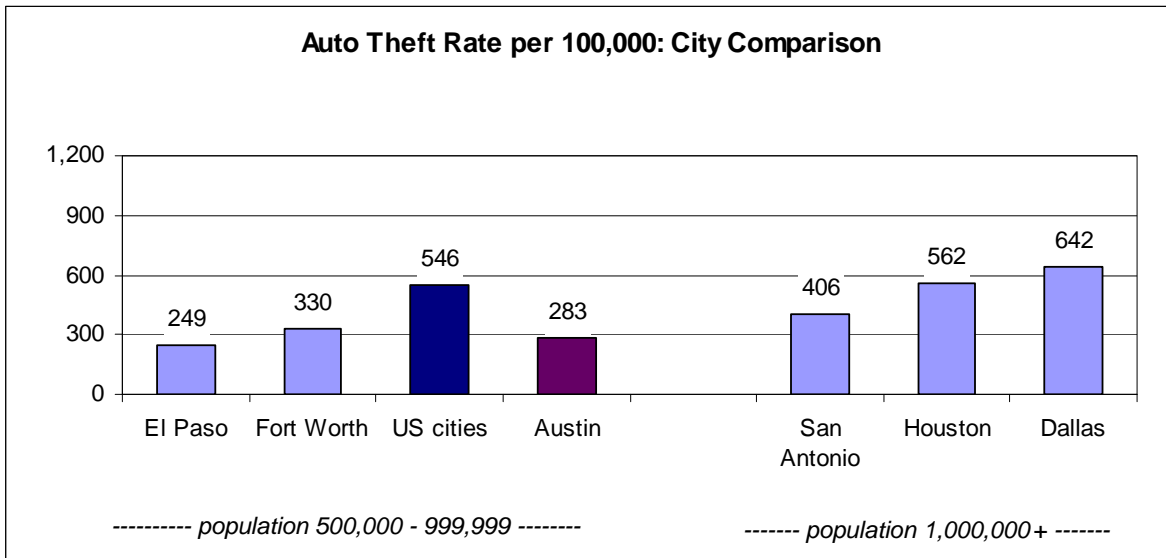


Auto Theft

There were 2,250 reported auto thefts (including attempted thefts) in 2010, up from 2,219 in 2009. The rate was 283 auto thefts per 100,000 residents, which represents a slight decrease from the rate of 289 in 2009. Over the previous 10 years (1999 to 2008), the rate ranged from 349 to 501.

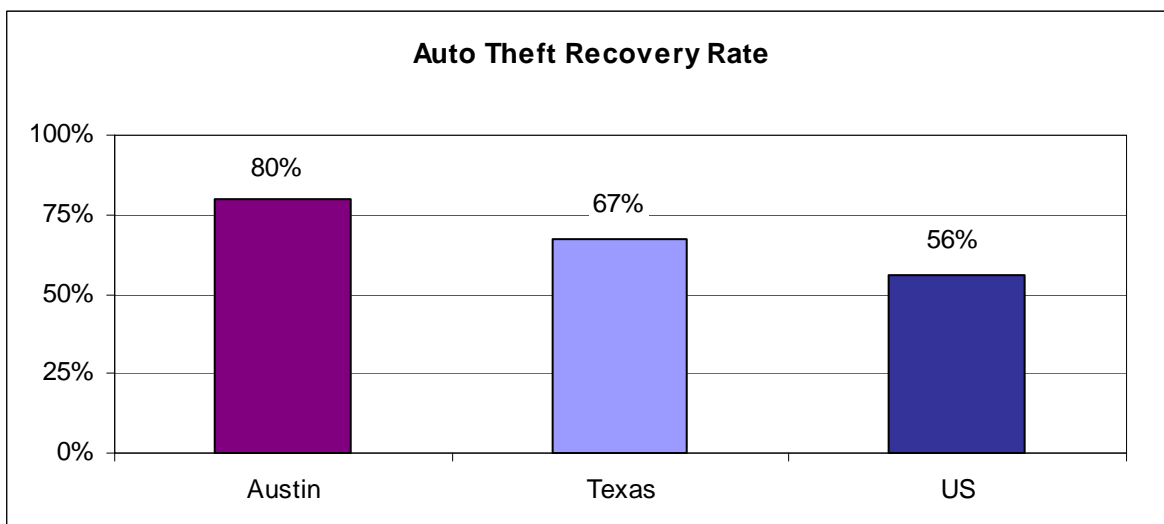


Austin's auto theft rate in 2010 was 48% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.



The most frequently stolen vehicles were Honda Accord sedans and trucks made by Ford, Chevrolet, and GMC. Together, they represent 35% of all stolen vehicles where the make and model were known.

In terms of recovery, of all vehicles stolen in 2010 (not including attempted thefts), 80% were successfully recovered. That rate is higher than those of either Texas or 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	97%	57%
Rape	32%	41%
Robbery	29%	24%
Aggravated Assault	50%	49%
Total Violent Crime	42%	40%
Burglary	5%	9%
Theft	11%	15%
Auto Theft	10%	8%
Total Property Crime	10%	13%

During 2010, Austin police solved, or cleared, 42% of the reported **violent crimes**. This compared with 40% 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.

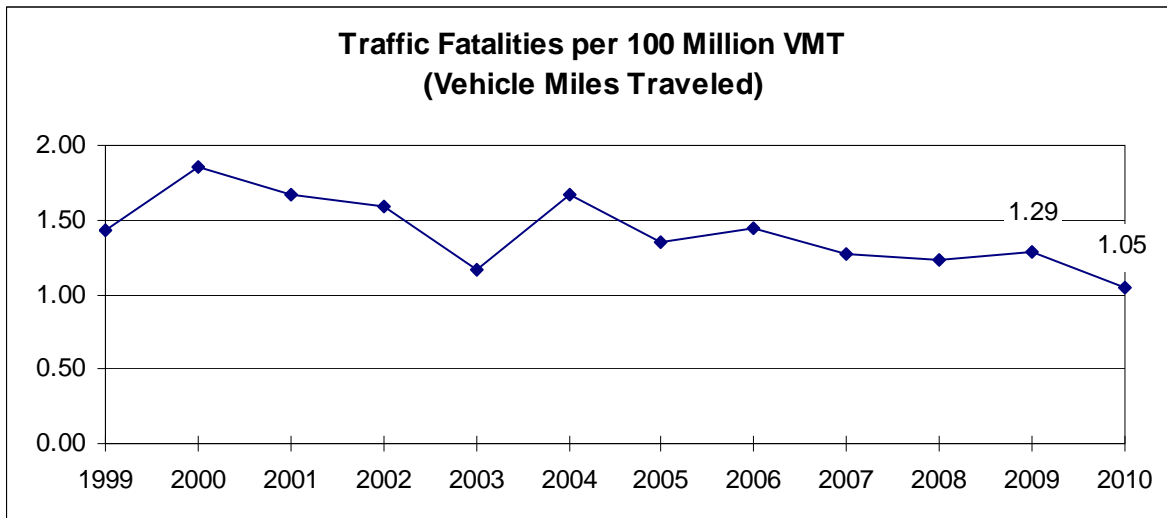
Solving **property crimes** is generally more difficult because many property crimes are discovered after the crime has occurred, with no known suspects or witnesses. During 2010 Austin solved 10% of property crimes, which was lower than the average rate of 13% for large US cities.

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

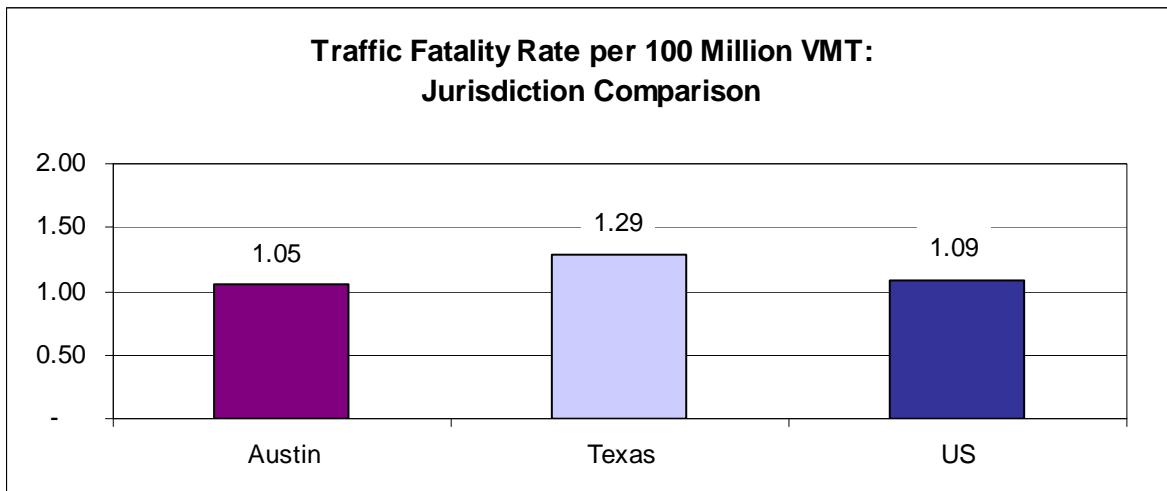
Traffic Fatalities

During 2010 there were 47 fatal collisions that resulted in 49 deaths, as compared with 60 fatal collisions and 62 deaths in 2009.

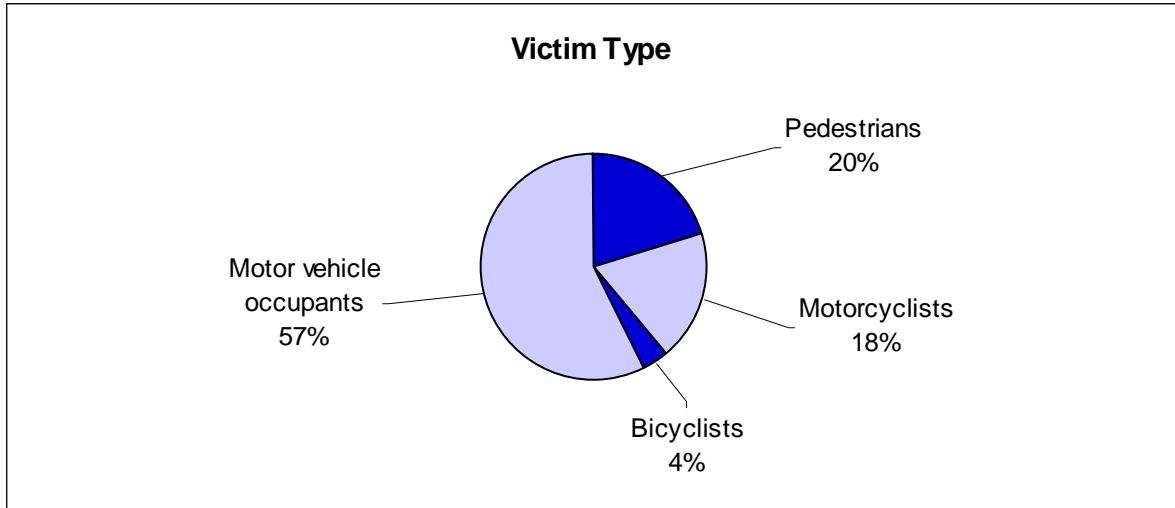
The 2010 traffic fatality rate was 1.05 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT), as compared with the rate of 1.31 in 2009.



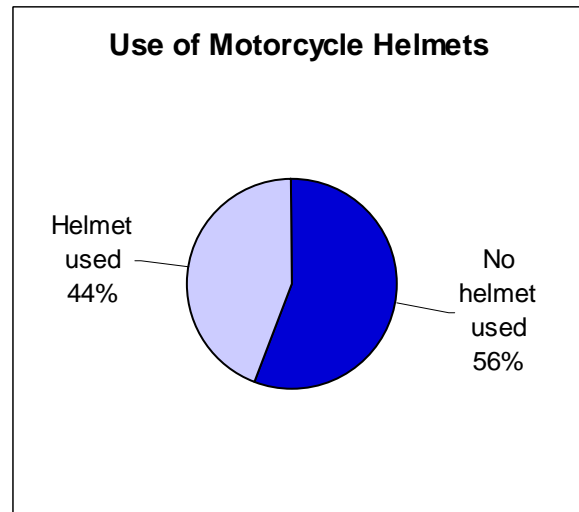
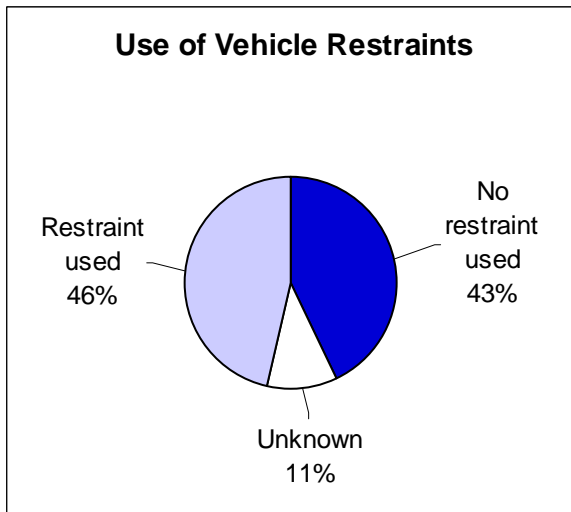
Austin's rate of 1.05 fatalities per 100 million VMT was lower than the rates of both Texas (1.29) and the US (includes all US cities; 1.09).



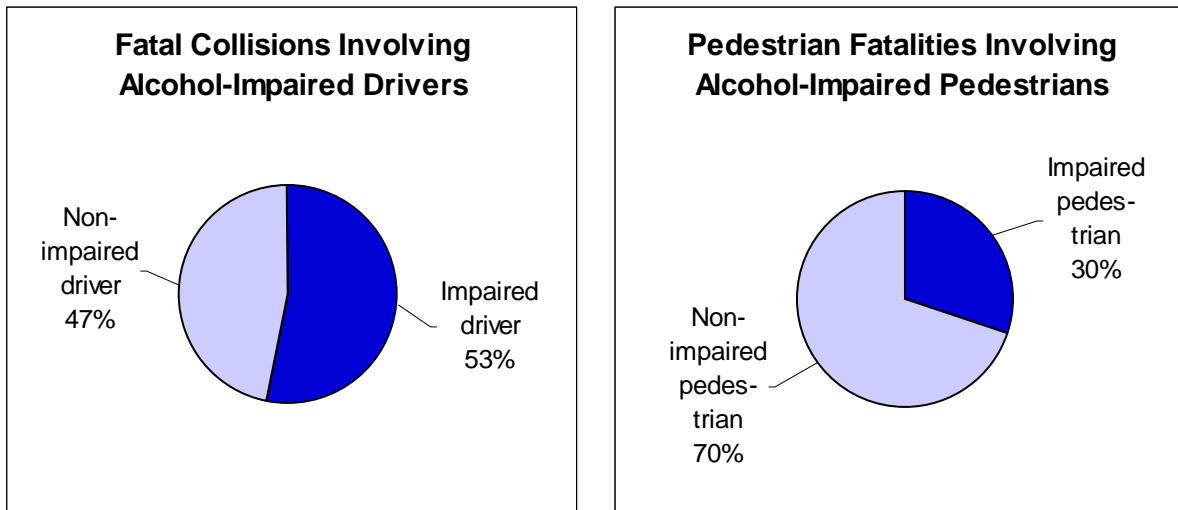
In 2010, most traffic fatalities involved motor vehicle occupants (28, or 57%), followed by pedestrians (10, or 20%), and motorcyclists (9, or 18%). In 2009, 30 (48%) fatalities involved motor vehicle occupants, 16 (26%) involved pedestrians, and 15 (24%) involved motorcyclists.



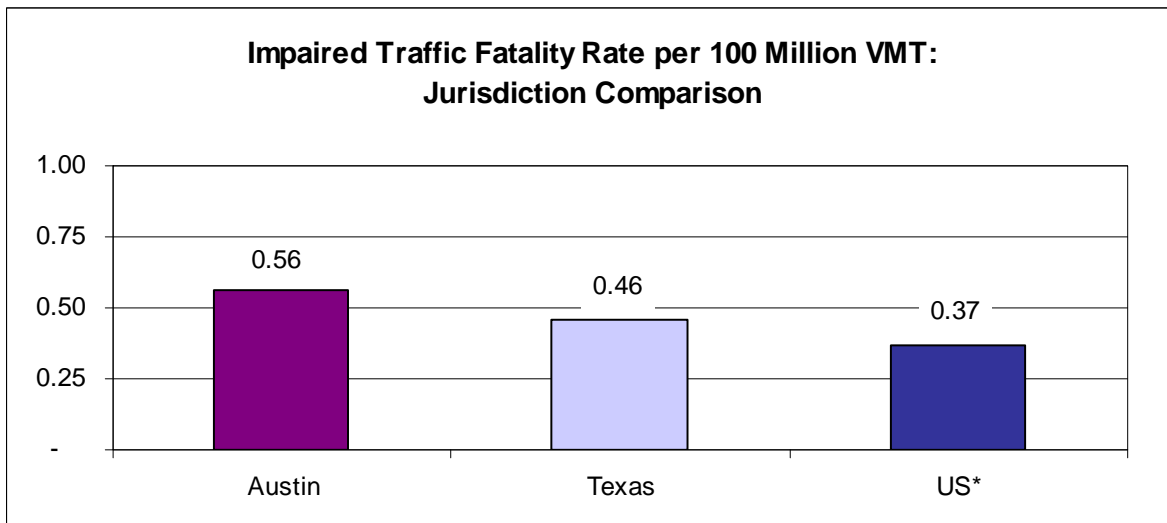
Of all motor vehicle fatalities, 12 (43%) victims were not wearing seatbelts or other restraints, as compared with 12 (40%) in 2009. Of all motorcycle fatalities, five (56%) victims were not wearing helmets, as compared with seven (47%) in 2009.



Of all fatal crashes, 25 (53%) involved an alcohol-impaired driver, as compared with 23 (37%) in 2009. Of all pedestrian fatalities, three (30%) involved an alcohol-impaired pedestrian, as compared with five (31%) in 2009.



Austin's rate of traffic fatalities involving driver alcohol impairment is .56 per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT). That rate is higher than the rates for both Texas (.46) and the US (.37).



* 2009 US statistics are the most current data available from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

In 2010, 23 (49%) fatal crashes involved speed, as compared with 22 (37%) in 2009. And in 2010, 22 (47%) fatal crashes occurred on freeways (e.g., IH-35, Mo-Pac, US Hwy 183, and State Hwy 71/290 West), as compared with 27 (45%) in 2009.

