

Austin Police Department

Annual Crime and Traffic Report: 2012 Final Report



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Research and Planning Unit
November 20, 2013

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 drafted in April 2013.

Overview

This document contains UCR crime data for the calendar year 2012 (January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012). For comparison, we have included data from other large US cities; among them, Baltimore, Louisville, Portland, and San Francisco (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 409 **violent crimes** per 100,000 residents was 54% lower than the average rate of 887 for US cities of comparable size. (Page 4)
- Austin’s rate of 5,219 **property crimes** per 100,000 residents was 15% higher than the average rate of 4,528 for US cities of comparable size. (Page 11)
- The number of **murders** increased from 27 in 2011 to 33 in 2012; Austin’s rate per 100,000 residents was 70% lower than the average of large US cities. (Page 5)
- The number of **robberies** fell from 1,106 in 2011 to 978 in 2012; our rate per 100,000 residents was 61% lower than the average of large US cities. (Page 8)
- Austin’s number of **auto thefts** increased from 2,139 in 2011 to 2,315 in 2012; 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** increased 44%, from 54 in 2011 to 78 in 2012; our fatality rate per 100 million VMT (vehicle miles traveled) was lower than the average rates for both Texas and the US. (Page 17)
- Austin’s **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)

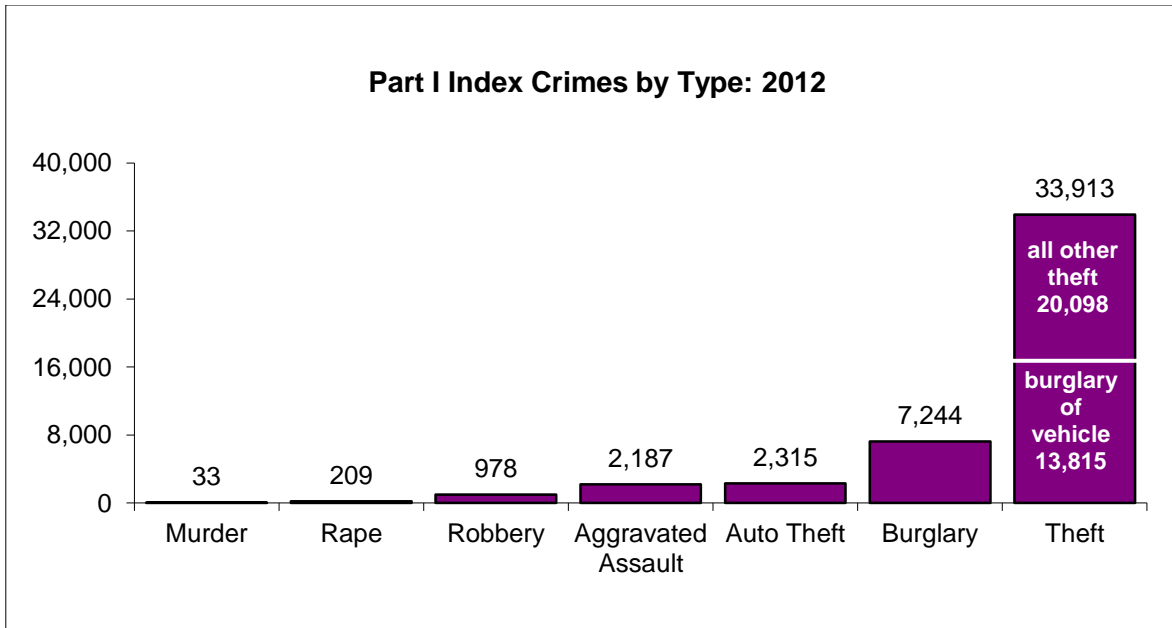
These categories and crime definitions are used for reporting city-level crime statistics to the FBI under its Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program.

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.

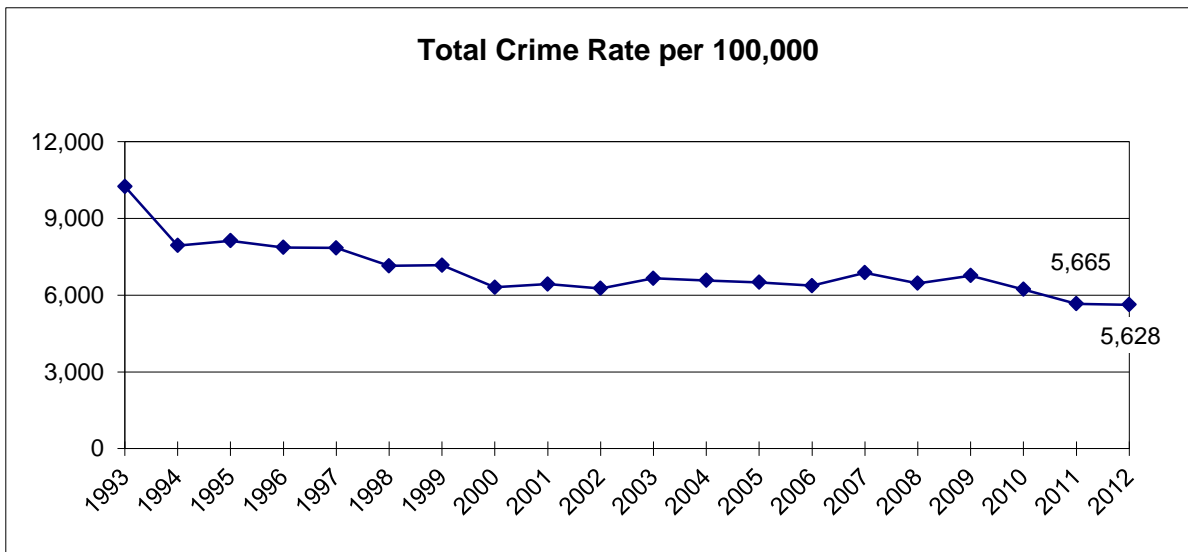
Part I Index Crimes	Offenses			Rate per 100,000		
	2011	2012	% chg	2011	2012	% chg
Murder	27	33*	22%	3.3	4.0	18%
Rape	211	209	-1%	26	25	-4%
Robbery	1,106	978	-12%	137	117	-14%
Aggravated Assault	2,126	2,187	3%	263	263	0%
Total Violent Crime	3,470	3,407	-2%	430	409	-5%
Burglary	7,042	7,244	3%	873	870	0%
Theft	33,069	33,913	3%	4,098	4,072	-1%
Auto Theft	2,139	2,315	8%	265	278	5%
Total Property Crime	42,250	43,472	3%	5,235	5,219	0%
Total Index Crime	45,720	46,879	3%	5,665	5,628	-1%
Population	807,022	832,901	3%			

* The FBI reported 31 murders for Austin in 2012, but that excludes two incidents that occurred and were reported, but that did not meet FBI reporting deadlines/requirements. The correct count is 33.



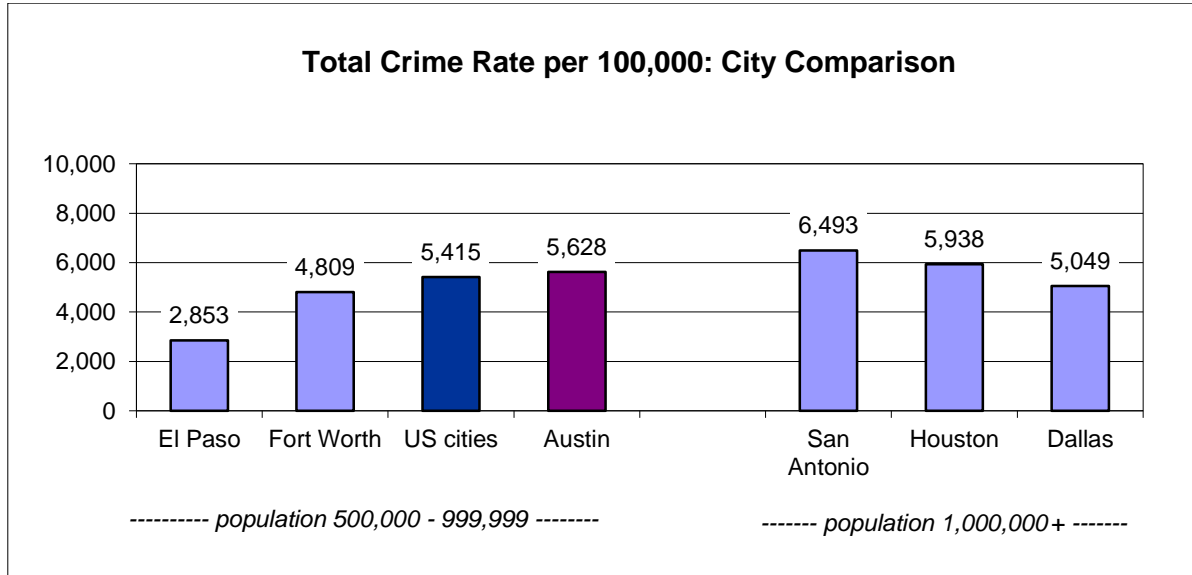
Trends

In 2012, the number of all Part I Index crimes for Austin was 46,879. This represents a 3% increase in incidents as compared with 2011 (45,720). The rate of crime per 100,000 residents was 5,628 in 2012 – a 1% decrease from the rate of 5,665 in 2011. Over the previous 10 years (2001 to 2010), the rate ranged from 6,231 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 832,901 in 2012, according to FBI UCR reporting). For regional comparison, Texas cities are also identified. Austin’s rate of 5,628 offenses per 100,000 was 4% higher than the average rate of 5,415 for all large US cities.



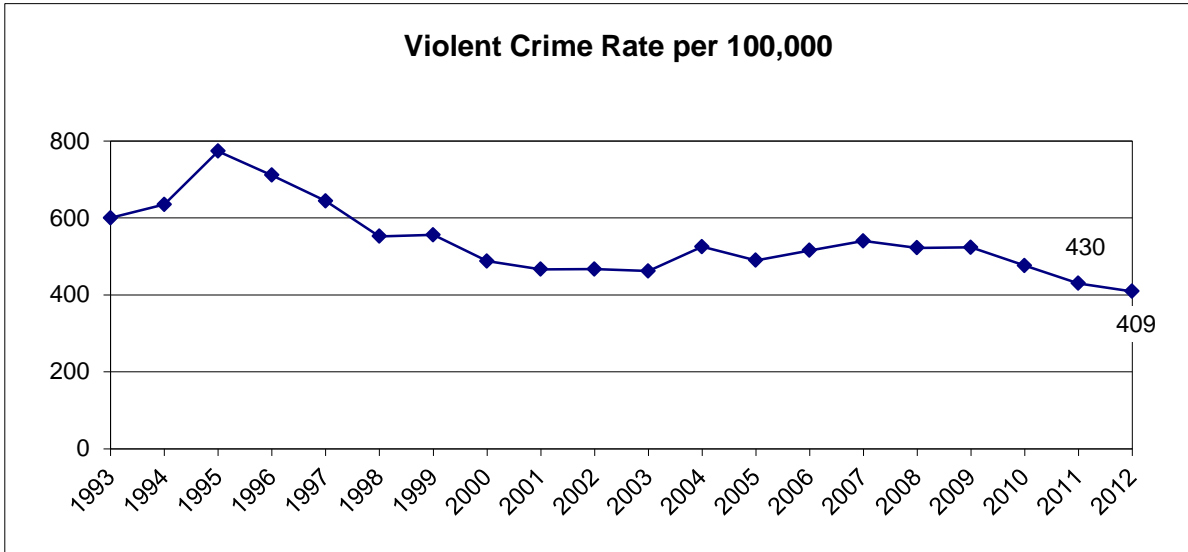
The following cities are included in the “US cities” category above, and elsewhere throughout this report:

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

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

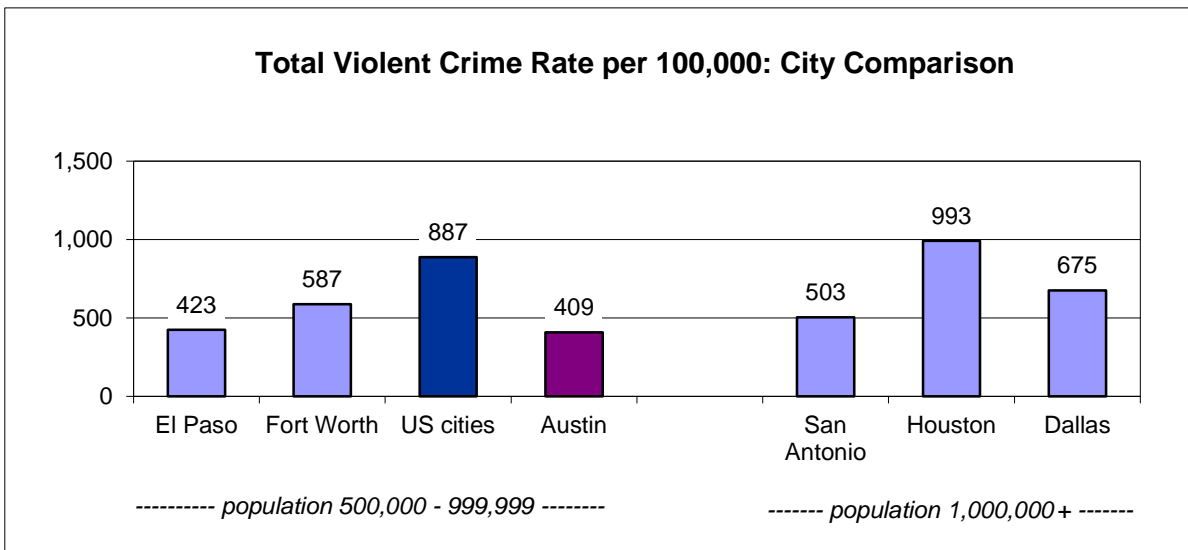
Violent Crime

In 2012, the number of violent crimes in Austin was 3,407. This represents a 2% decrease in incidents as compared with 2011 (3,470). The rate of violent crime per 100,000 residents was 409 in 2012 – a 5% decrease from the rate of 430 in 2011. Over the previous 10 years (2001 to 2010), the rate ranged from 462 to 540.



Compared to Other Cities

Austin's rate of 409 violent crimes per 100,000 was 54% lower than the average rate of 887 for all large US cities.

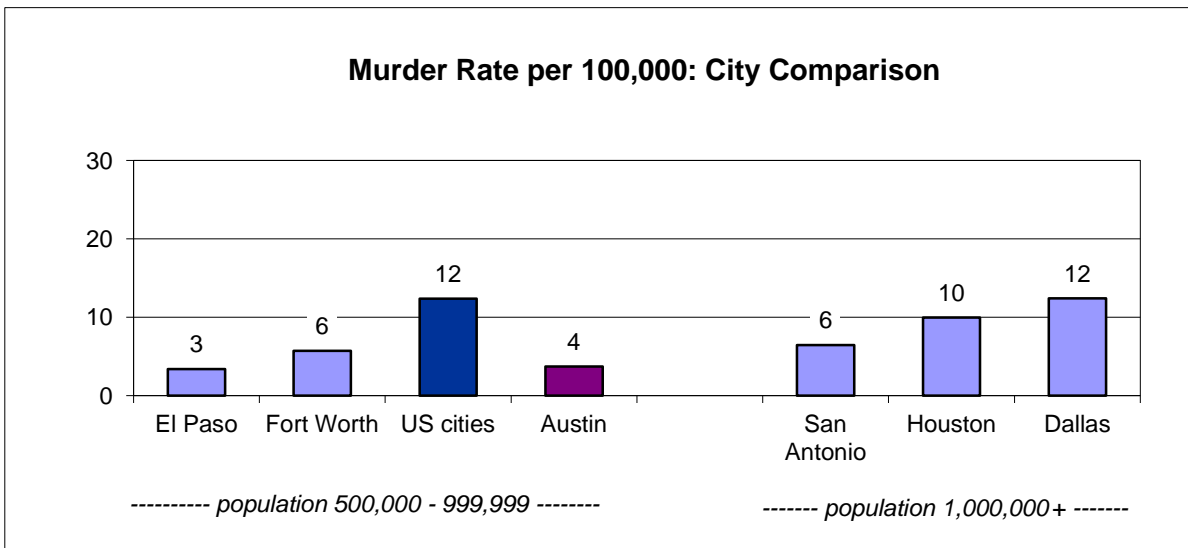


Murder

During 2012 there were 33* murder victims in Austin, up from 27 in 2011. Over the previous 10 years (2001 to 2010), the number of murder victims ranged from 20 to 38. The murder rate was 4.0 per 100,000 residents, which was up from the rate of 3.3 in 2011.



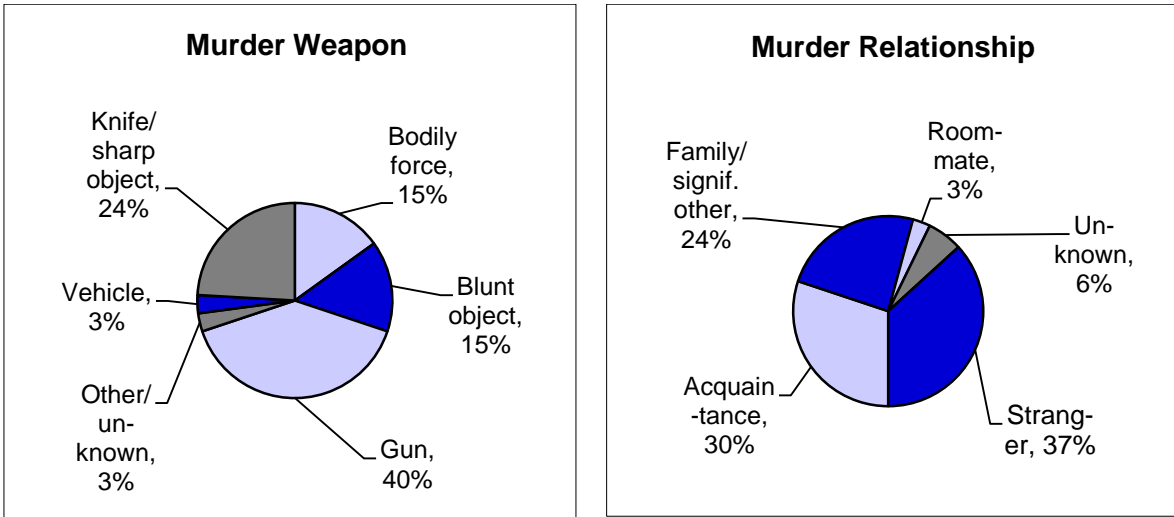
Austin's murder rate was 70% lower than the average of US cities our size.



* The FBI reported 31 murders for Austin in 2012, but that excludes two incidents that occurred and were reported, but that did not meet FBI reporting deadlines/requirements. The correct count is 33.

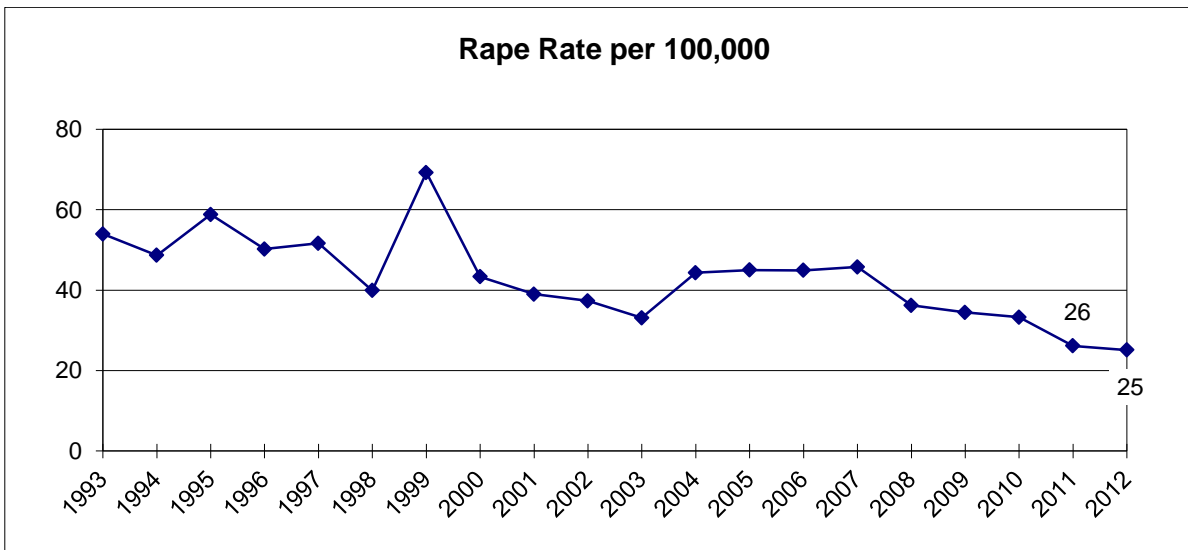
In 2012, guns were the most frequent weapon used in murders (40%), followed by knives or other sharp objects (24%). In 2011, knives or other sharp objects were used in 33% of incidents and guns were used in 26% of incidents.

The relationship (connection) between the victim and suspect was established in 94% of the cases. Of these, the victim knew the offender as an acquaintance, family member, significant other, or roommate in 61% of murders, down from 84% in 2011.

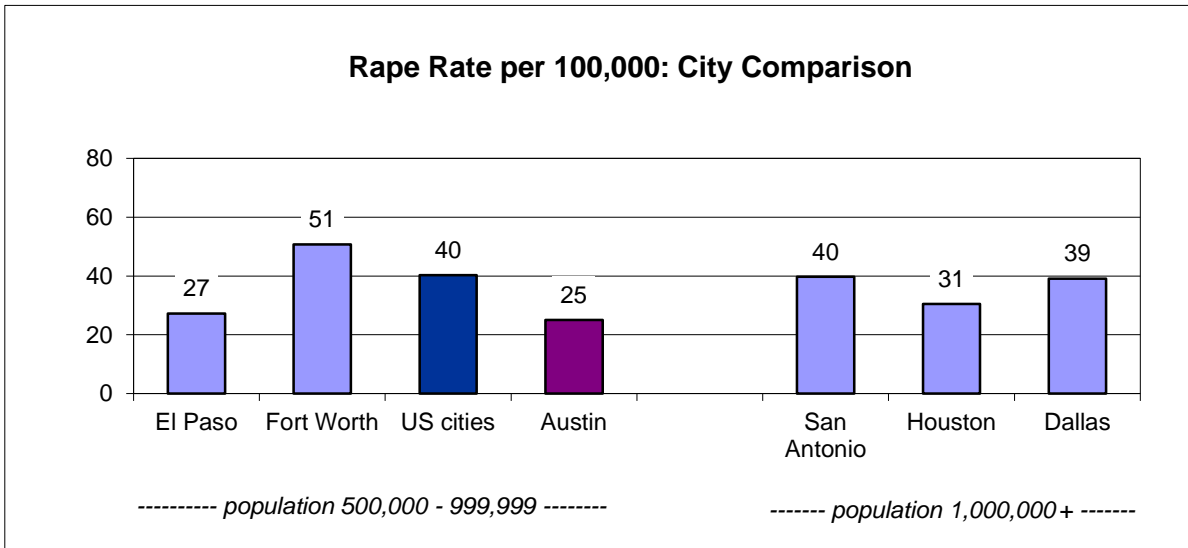


Rape

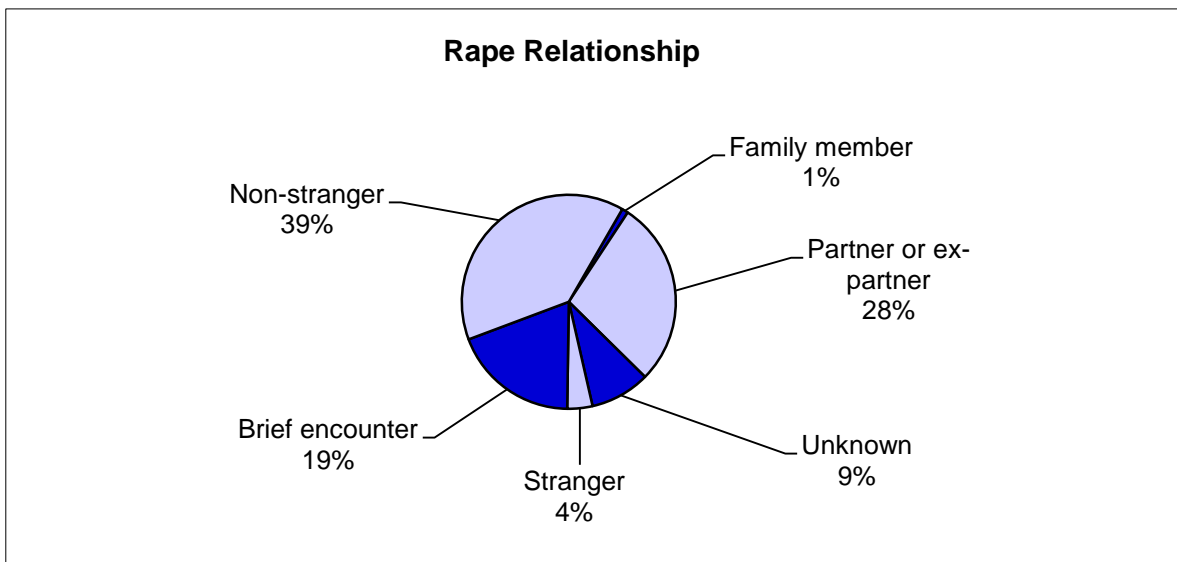
There were 209 reported victims of rape in Austin during 2012, down from 211 in 2011. The rate was 25 per 100,000 residents, which is a drop from the prior year's rate of 26. Over the previous 10 years (2001 to 2010), the rate ranged from 33 to 46.



Austin's rate of reported rapes was 38% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.

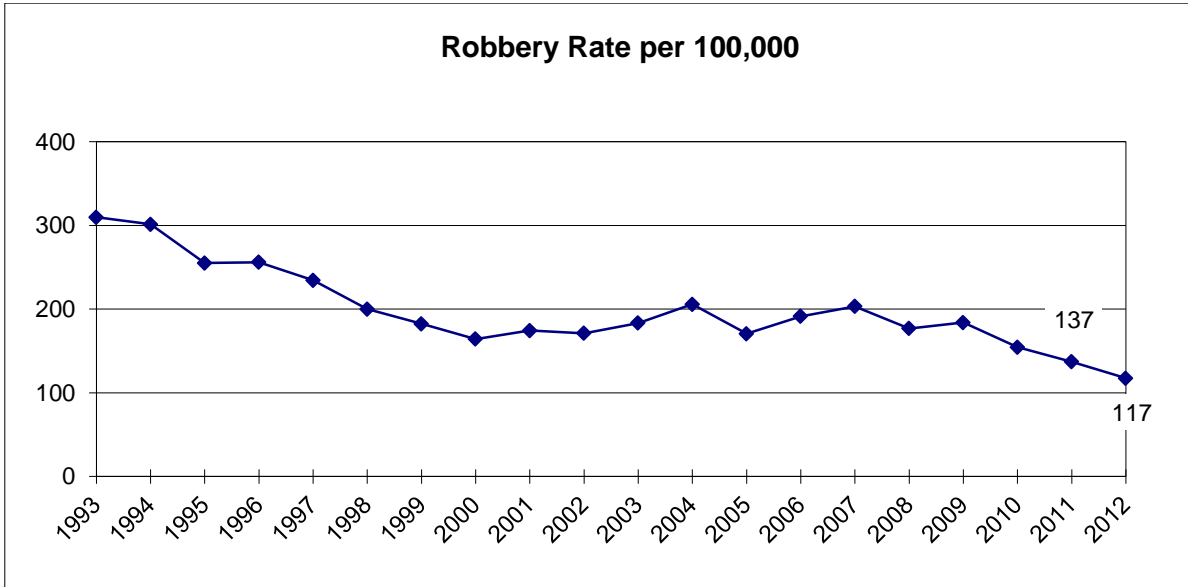


The relationship (connection) between the victim and suspect was established in 91% of the cases. Of these, the victim knew the suspect as a family member, partner or ex-partner, from a brief encounter, or otherwise as a non-stranger in 96% of the incidents. This is up from 93% in 2011.

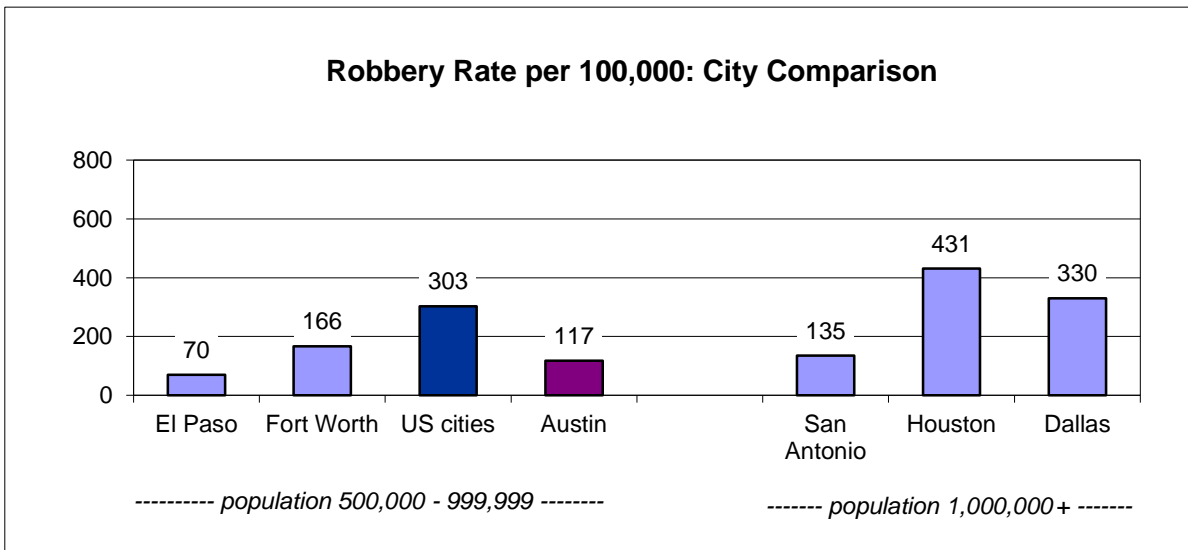


Robbery

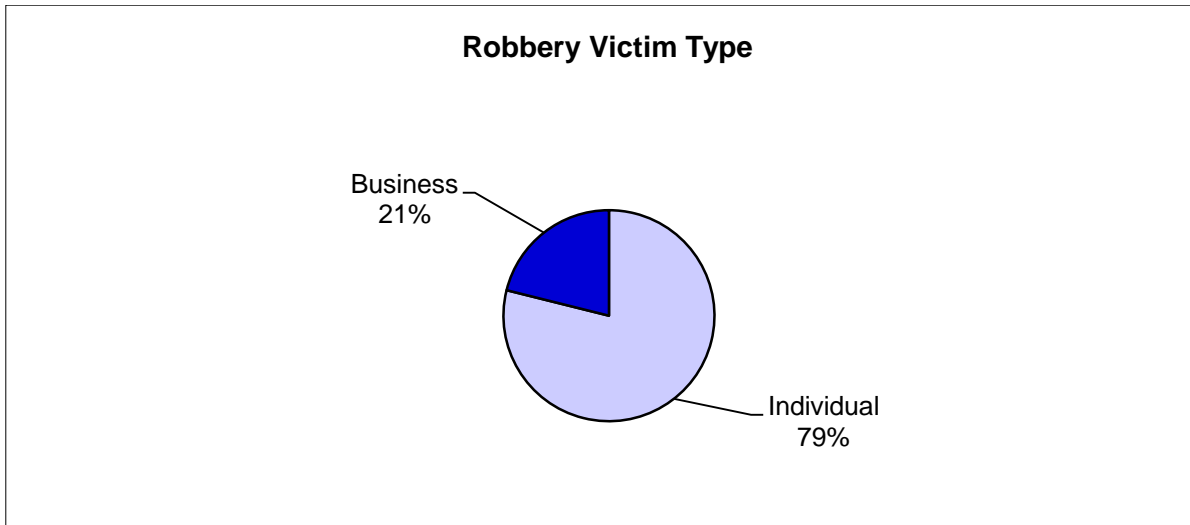
There were 978 robberies reported in 2012, down from 1,106 in 2011. The rate was 117 robberies per 100,000 residents, which represents a decrease from the previous year's rate of 137. Over the previous 10 years (2001 to 2010), the rate of annual robberies ranged from 155 to 206.



Austin's rate of reported robberies was 61% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.

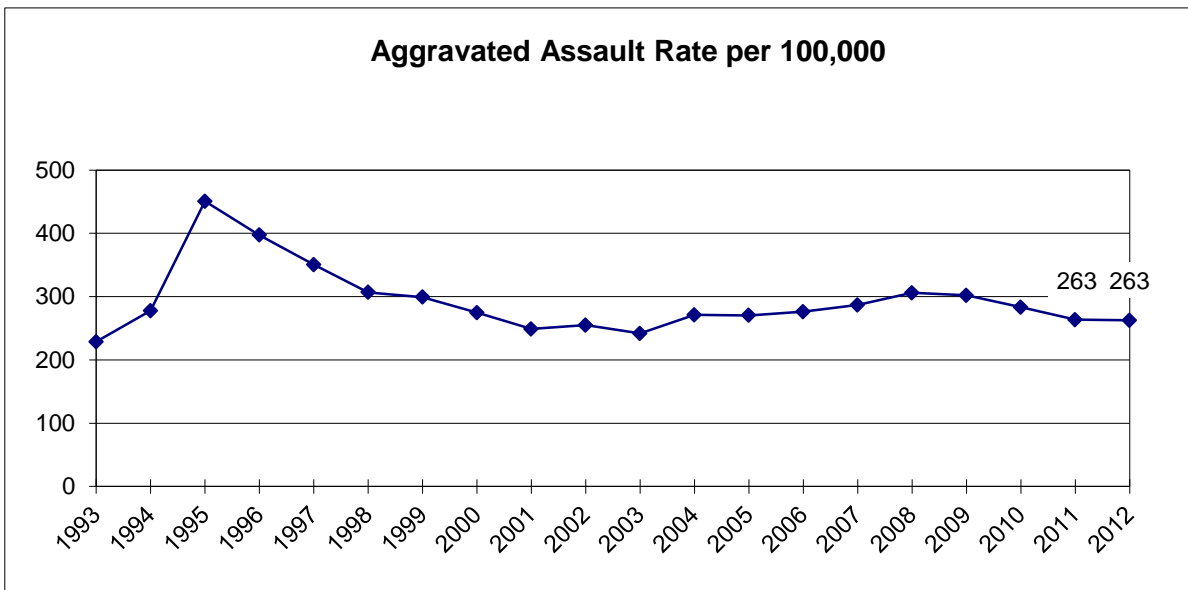


Seventy-nine percent of robberies were committed against individuals, as compared with 21% that occurred at businesses. In 2011, 83% of robberies were committed against individuals and 17% occurred at businesses.

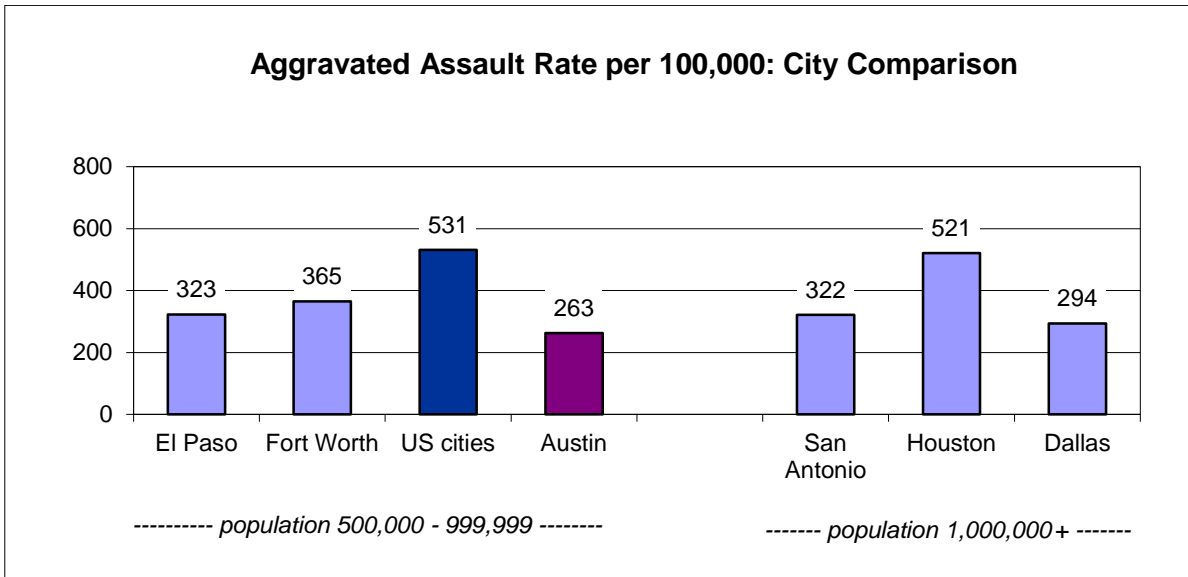


Aggravated Assault

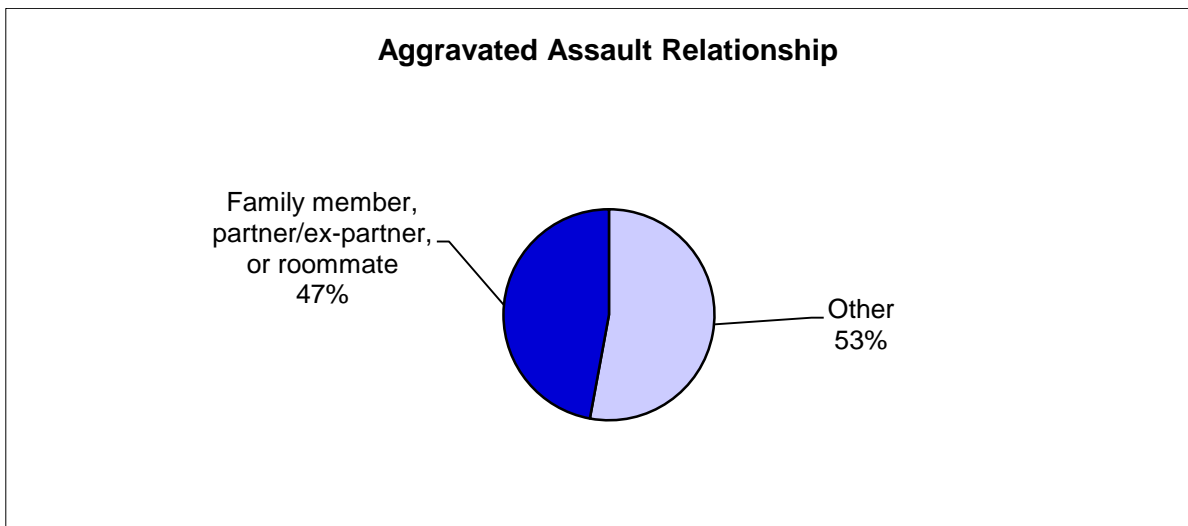
There were 2,187 reported victims of aggravated assault in 2012, up from 2,126 in 2011. The rate was 263 victims per 100,000 residents, which was unchanged from 2011. Over the previous 10 years (2001 to 2010), the rate of aggravated assault victims ranged from 242 to 306.



Austin's rate of aggravated assault victims was 51% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.

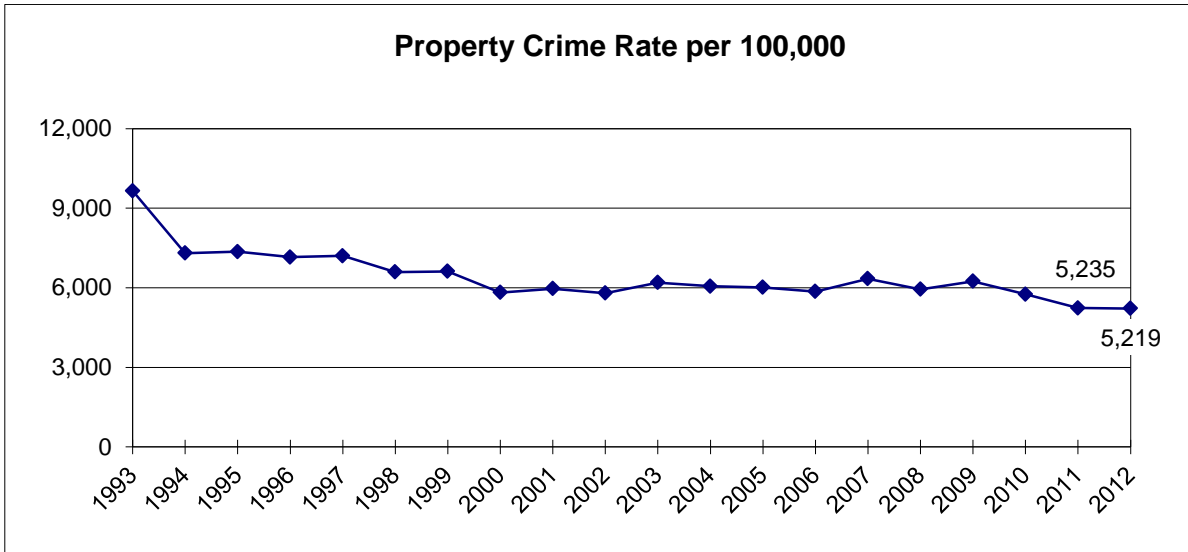


Fewer than half (47%) of aggravated assaults were committed by a family member, partner or ex-partner, or roommate of the victim. This is down from 48% in 2011.



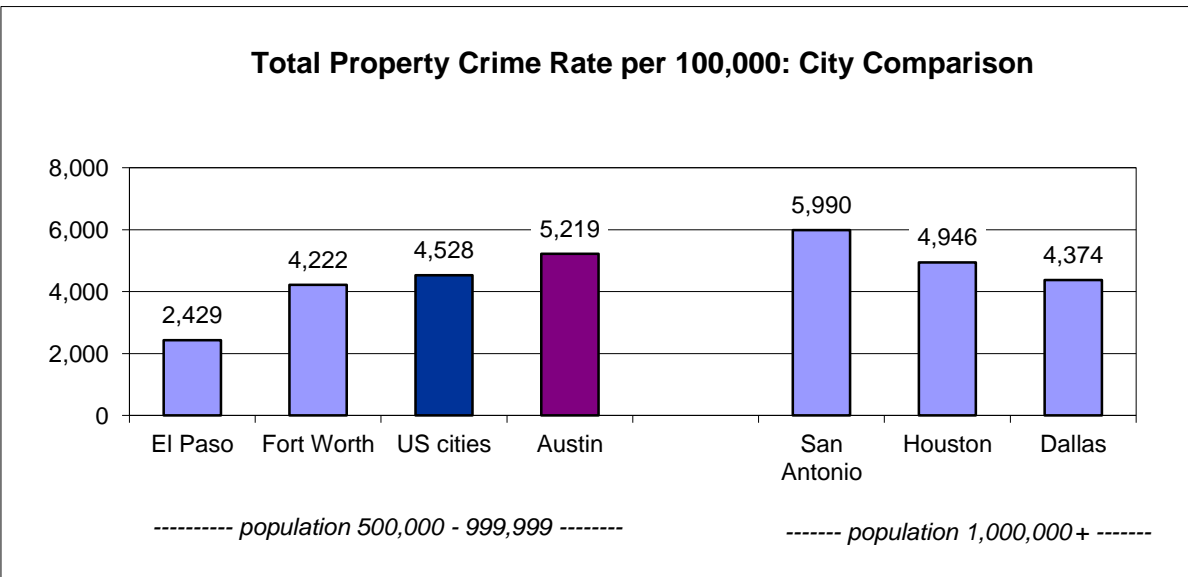
Property Crime

In 2012, the number of property crimes in Austin was 43,472. This represents a 3% increase in incidents as compared with 2011 (42,250). The rate of property crime per 100,000 residents was 5,219 in 2012, a less than 1% drop from the rate of 5,235 in 2011. Over the previous 10 years (2001 to 2010), the rate ranged from 5,755 to 6,341.



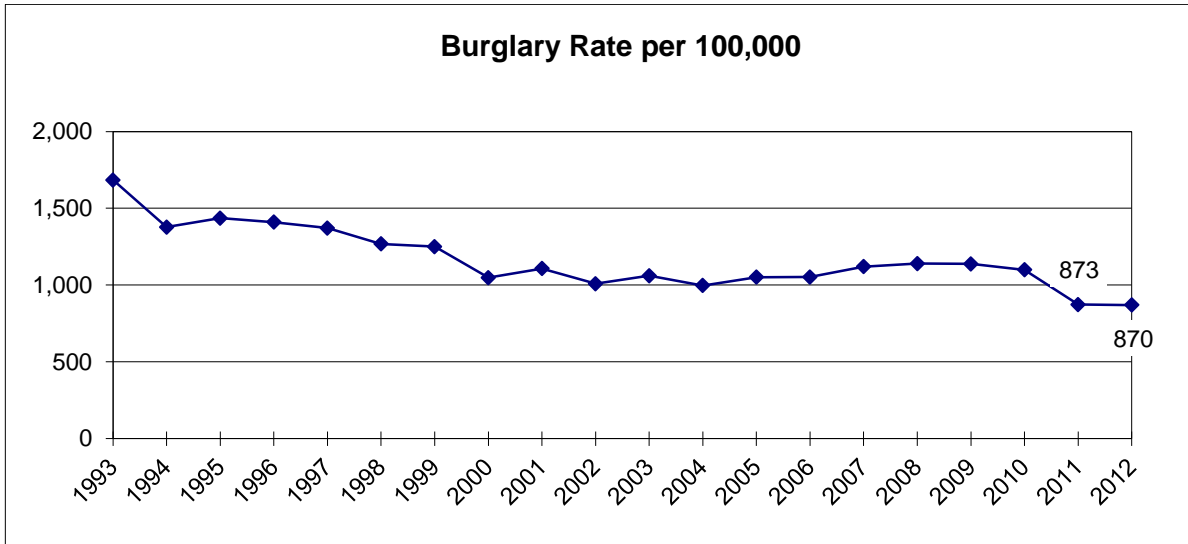
Compared to Other Cities

Austin's rate of 5,219 property crimes per 100,000 in 2012 was 15% higher than the average rate of 4,528 per 100,000 for large US cities.

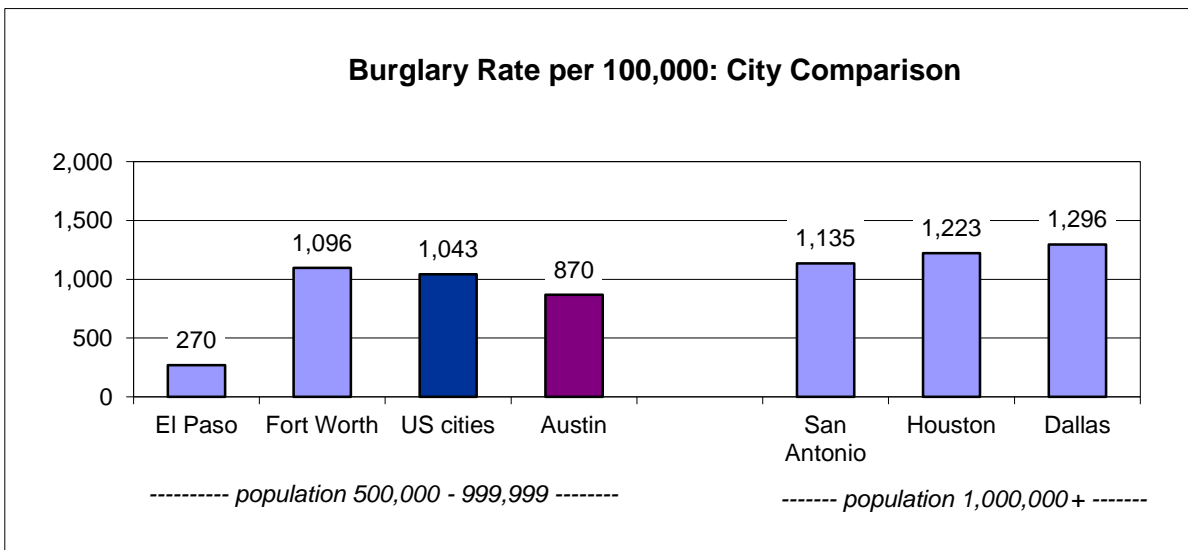


Burglary

There were 7,244 reported burglaries in 2012, up 3% from 7,042 in 2011. The rate was 870 burglaries per 100,000 residents, a less than 1% drop from the rate of 873 in 2011. Over the previous 10 years (2001 to 2010), the burglary rate ranged from 997 to 1,139.

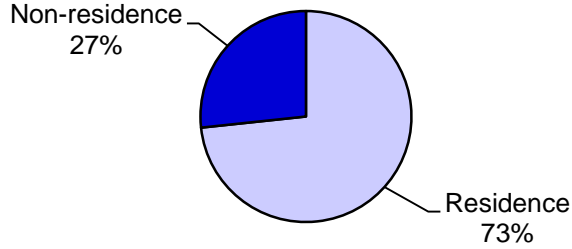


Austin's burglary rate in 2012 was 17% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.



Seventy-three percent of burglaries involved residences, as compared with 27% that involved other targets (businesses, offices, restaurants, etc.). In 2011, 75% of burglaries involved residences and 25% involved other targets.

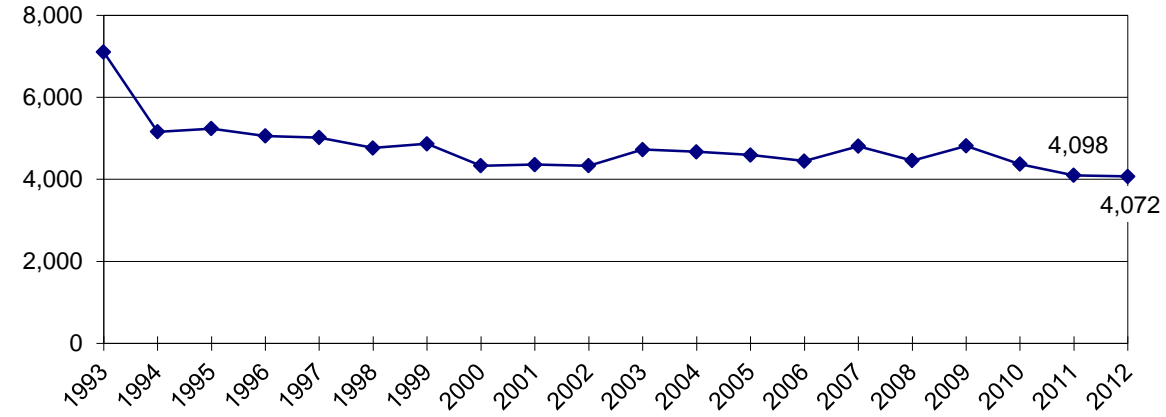
Burglary Target



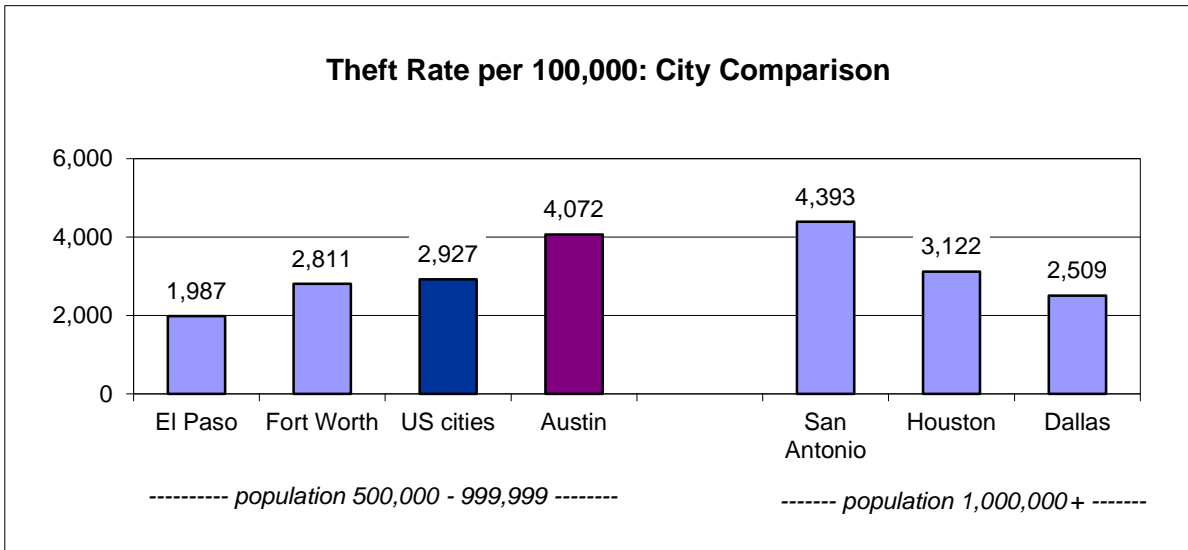
Theft

There were 33,913 reported thefts in 2012, up from 33,069 in 2011. The rate was 4,072 thefts per 100,000 residents, which represents a 1% decrease versus the rate of 4,098 in 2011. Over the previous 10 years (2001 to 2010), the theft rate ranged from 4,334 to 4,819.

Theft Rate per 100,000



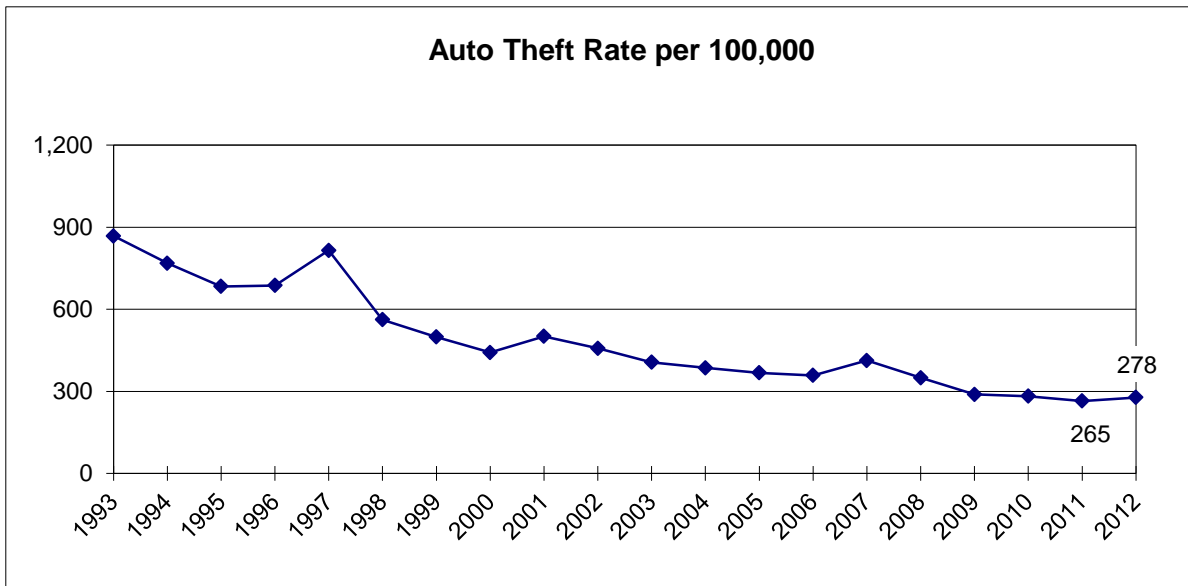
Austin's rate of thefts in 2012 was 39% higher than the average of US cities of the same size.



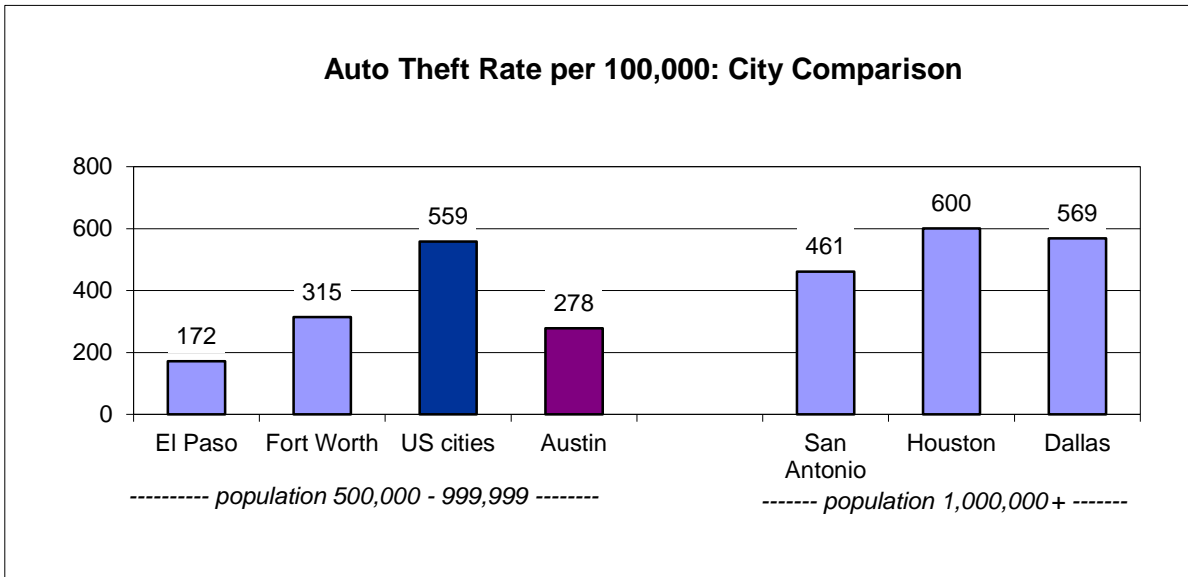
Of the 33,913 thefts reported this year, 13,815 (41%) were burglary of vehicle, or BOV offenses. This represents a 1% increase from the number of BOVs reported in 2011 (13,640; also 41% of thefts).

Auto Theft

There were 2,315 reported auto thefts (including attempted thefts) in 2012, up from 2,139 in 2011. The rate was 278 auto thefts per 100,000 residents, which represents a 5% increase from the rate of 265 in 2011. Over the previous 10 years (2001 to 2010), the rate ranged from 283 to 501.

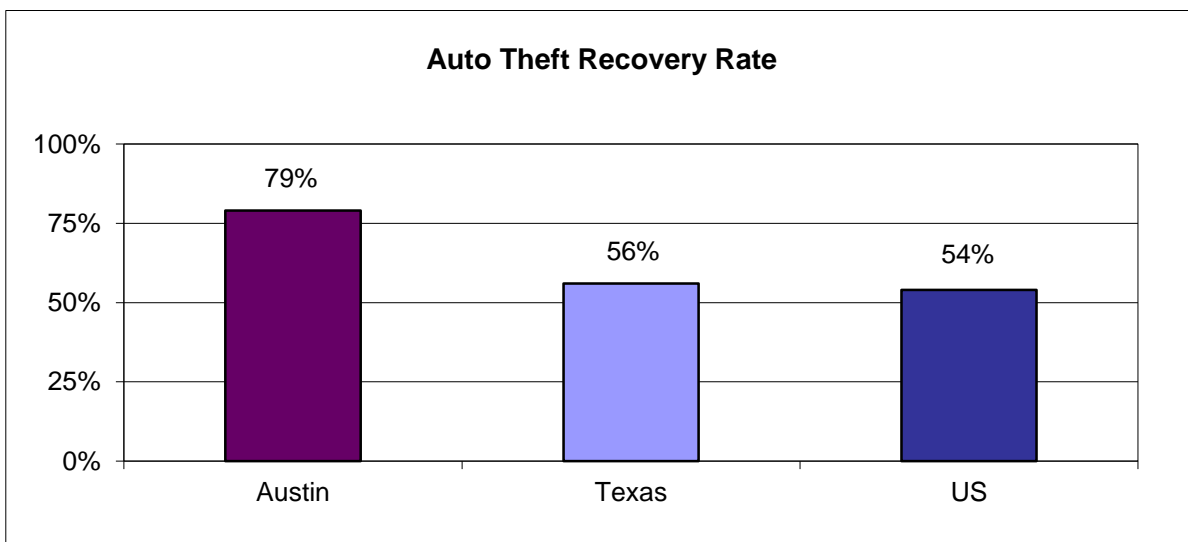


Austin's auto theft rate in 2012 was 50% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.



The most frequently stolen vehicles were Honda Accord sedans and trucks made by Chevrolet, GMC, and Ford. Together, they represent 36% of all stolen vehicles where the make and model were known.

In terms of recovery, of all vehicles stolen in 2012 (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	88%	51%
Rape	51%	39%
Robbery	23%	23%
Aggravated Assault	60%	47%
Total Violent Crime	49%	38%
Burglary	10%	9%
Theft	13%	16%
Auto Theft	9%	8%
Total Property Crime	12%	13%

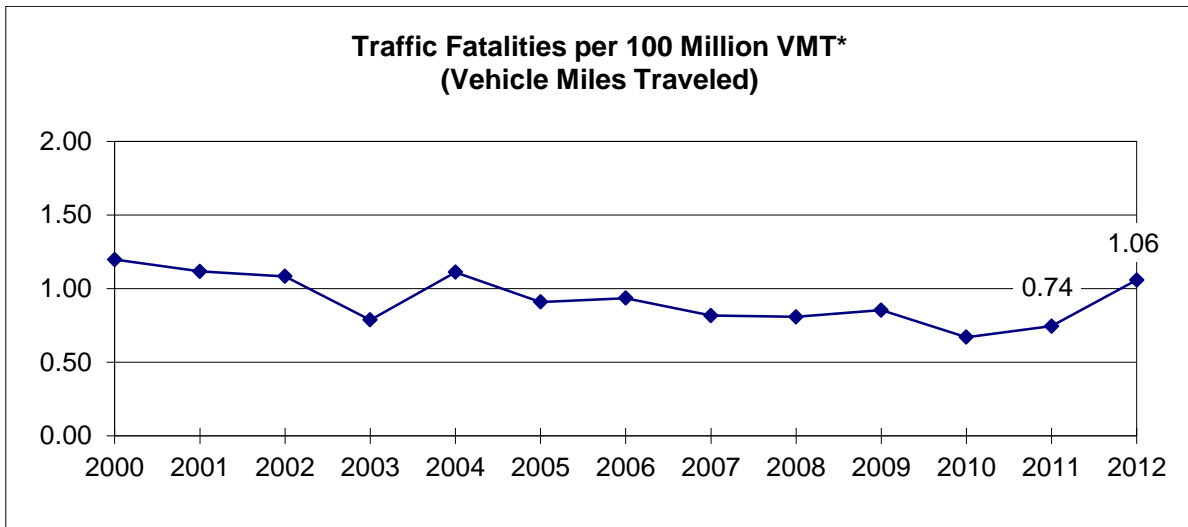
During 2012, Austin police solved, or cleared, 49% of the reported **violent crimes**. This compared with 38% for all large US cities (those with 500,000 to 999,999 residents). Austin matched other cities on robbery clearance rate and outperformed other cities on clearance rates for murder, rape, and 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 2012, Austin solved 12% of property crimes, which was slightly lower than the average rate of 13% for large US cities.

Traffic Fatalities

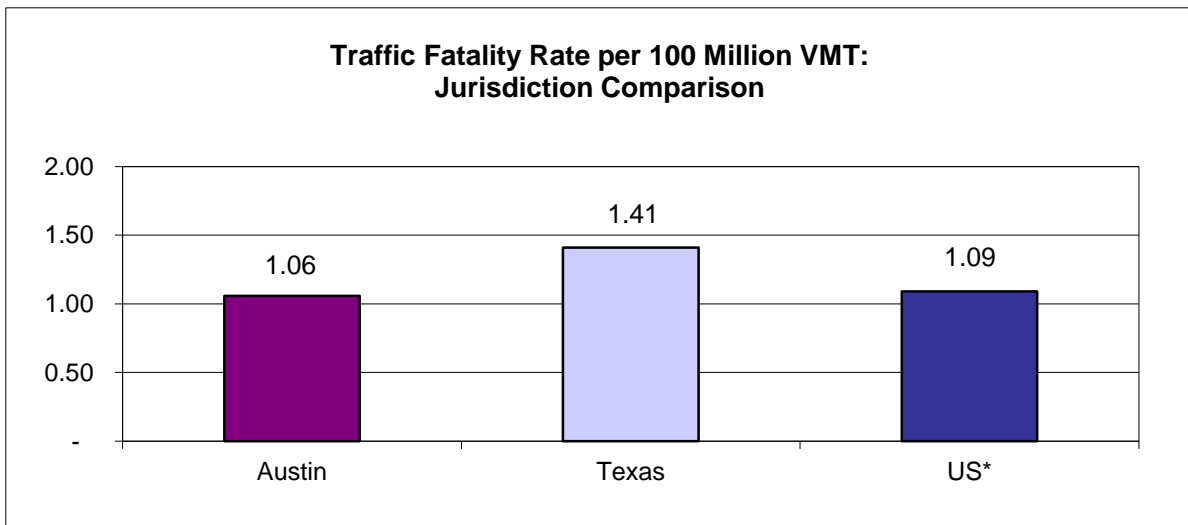
During 2012 there were 75 fatal collisions that resulted in 78 deaths, as compared with 48 fatal collisions that resulted in 54 deaths in 2011.

The 2012 traffic fatality rate was 1.06 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT), as compared with the rate of .74 in 2011.



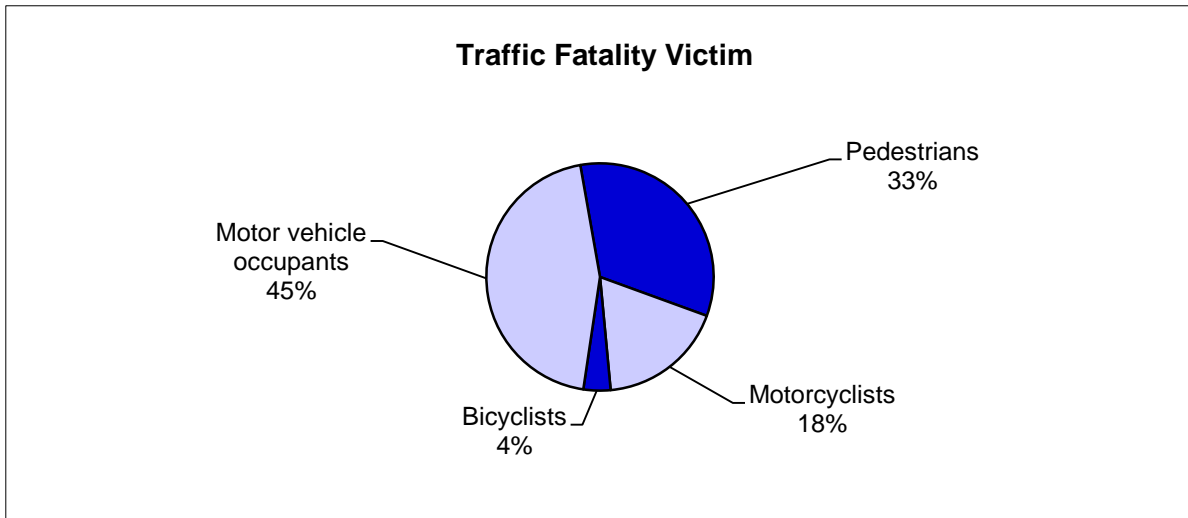
* In 2012, we began using a more accurate Austin VMT source (TxDOT). As a result, the historical results have been restated as shown above.

Austin's rate of 1.06 fatalities per 100 million VMT was lower than the rates for both Texas (1.41) and the US (includes all US cities; 1.09).

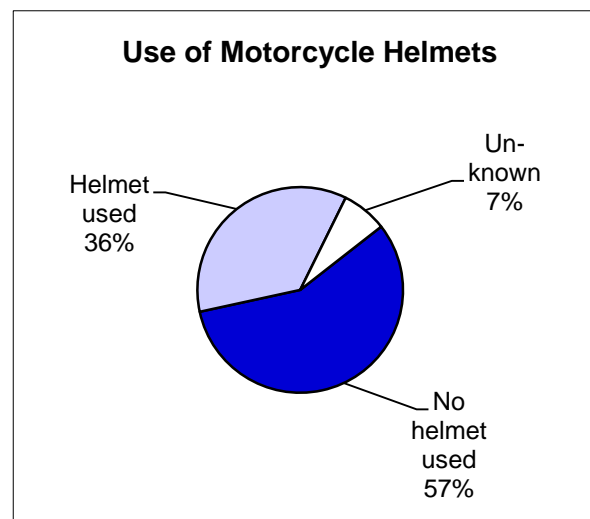
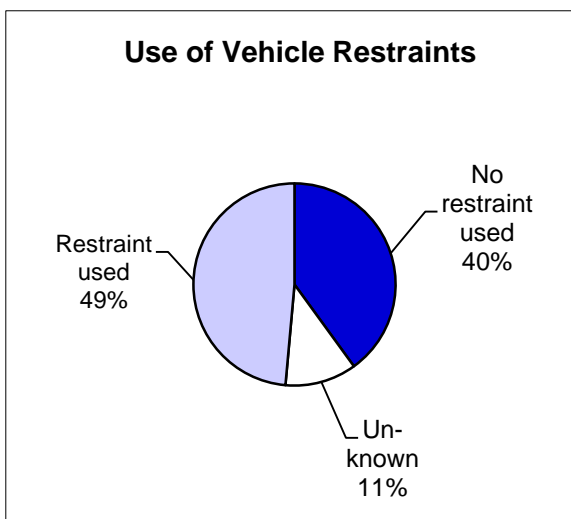


* 2011 US statistics are the most current data available from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

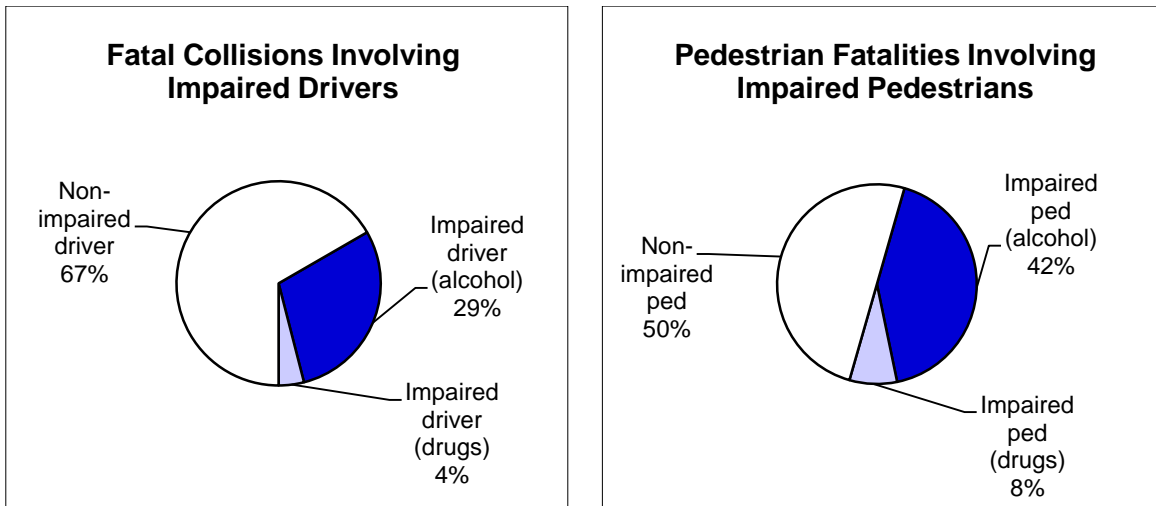
In 2012 most traffic fatalities involved motor vehicle occupants (35, or 45%) and pedestrians (26, or 33%), followed by motorcyclists (14, or 18%) and bicyclists (three, or 4%). Similarly, in 2011, most traffic fatalities involved motor vehicle occupants (22, or 41%) and pedestrians (22, or 41%), followed by motorcyclists (nine, or 16%) and bicyclists (one, or 2%).



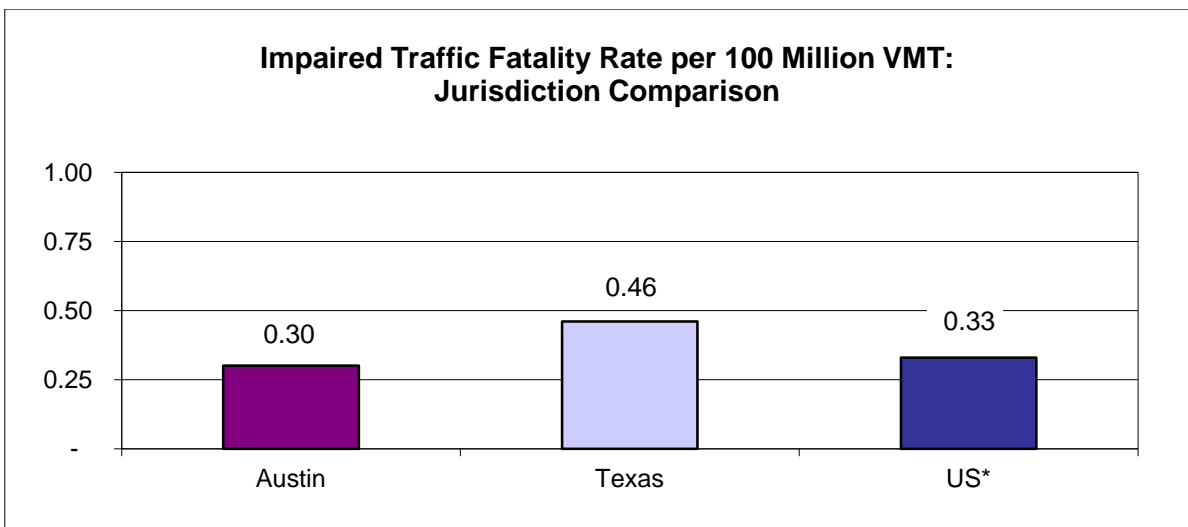
Of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2012, 14 (or 40%) victims were not using restraints, as compared with nine (or 41%) victims in 2011. Of all motorcycle fatalities, eight (or 57%) victims were not wearing helmets, as compared with four (or 44%) in 2011.



Of all fatal crashes in 2012, 22 (or 29%) involved an alcohol-impaired driver, as compared with 10 (or 21%) in 2011. Of all pedestrian fatalities in 2012, 11 (or 42%) involved an alcohol-impaired pedestrian, as compared with six (or 27%) in 2011.



Austin's rate of traffic fatalities involving driver alcohol impairment is .30 per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT). That rate is lower than the rates for both Texas (.46) and the US (.33).



* 2011 US statistics are the most current data available from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

In 2012, 22 (or 29%) fatal crashes involved speed, as compared with 11 (or 23%) in 2011. And in 2012, 30 (or 40%) fatal crashes occurred on freeways (IH-35, Mo-Pac, US Hwy 183, and State Hwy 71/290 West), as compared with 21 (or 44%) in 2011.

