



Austin Police Department

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Downtown Area Command

Downtown Austin Gun Violence
July 21st, 2021

Downtown Austin Gun Violence

- ▶ Austin is experiencing the same nationwide trend of rising violent crime in 2020 and 2021
- ▶ 22 people have been shot in Downtown Austin this year (14 in 1 incident)
- ▶ 8 separate shooting incidents with a gun shot victim
- ▶ 4 deaths

Downtown Austin Gun Crimes

Violent Gun Crimes

- ▶ There has been a steady increase in violent gun related crimes in 2021 as compared to previous years:
- ▶ 2016: 26
- ▶ 2017: 29
- ▶ 2018: 35
- ▶ 2019: 35
- ▶ 2020: 34
- ▶ 2021: 27 (Q1 & Q2)

Downtown Austin Gun Crimes

Gun Possession and Non Injury Crimes

- ▶ There has been a steady increase in minor gun possession crimes in 2021 as compared to previous years:
- ▶ 2016: 39
- ▶ 2017: 39
- ▶ 2018: 51
- ▶ 2019: 64
- ▶ 2020: 83
- ▶ 2021: 77 (Q1 & Q2)

Possible Causes for Increase in Violent Crimes

- ▶ Perception of less punitive penalties for crimes committed
 - ▶ Criminals themselves are telling police they won't be held accountable
- ▶ Release of violent offenders
 - ▶ Pandemic
 - ▶ PR Bonds

Violence Intervention Program

“VIP”

- ▶ Started in April of 2021 to combat rise in violent gun crimes
- ▶ Focused on violent repeat offenders known to carry guns
- ▶ Since inception, has seized over 100+ guns citywide and resulted in over 55 arrests of violent criminals
- ▶ Recently expanded to include a downtown proactive component

VIP For Downtown

- ▶ **Data Driven:**

- ▶ Focuses on peak times, days, and areas that are known to be high activity for guns and violence

- ▶ **Behavior Driven:**

- ▶ Focuses on behavior known to officers that indicate a likelihood of recovering a firearm

- ▶ **Team Driven:**

- ▶ Utilizes multiple units and partner agencies to ensure the cases receive all the attention necessary to cease behavior

Questions