



City of Austin

Animal Services Office, Austin Animal Center

7201 Levander Loop Bldg A, Austin, TX 78702

2000 to 2015 Dog Bite Report

I. What Bite Reports Represent

Bite reports are collected in any and all cases where a person has potentially been exposed to saliva contact/transmission from an animal. Bite reports specifically involving a dog may include situations as minor as a puppy breaking a person's skin while playing, all the way to severe, life-threatening bites from demonstrably aggressive dogs. Many reports may have inconclusive information, which results when we have an allegation of a bite, but were unable to obtain confirmation on the bite from the complainant. A bite report is intended to address the health and safety of a person, and not to necessarily record an injurious act from an animal.

That being clarified, it is reasonable to assume that many dog bite reports do involve injurious contact from a dog.

II. Bite Reports vs. Population Growth

With a consistent upward trend of bite reports for the last 15 years, it is clear that the increase in bite reports predates the Council's no-kill resolution. As the City of Austin and Travis Co. (both serviced by AAS) are now part of the fastest-growing metro area in the country, it is also expected that the overall amount of bite reports will increase as well, and it seems apparent that this is the stronger reason for the increase in reports. **Therefore, the passing of the no-kill resolution has no substantive correlation to bite report increases; whereas population growth provides a strong correlative relation for a consistent increase in bite reports.**

III. Conclusion

When looking at the complete data set, we can conclusively say there appears to be no evidence that suggests the no-kill plan has had any direct effect on bite report volume.

Even when evaluating correlative elements such as population growth vs. bite reports, there are noticeable aberrations in the trends for certain ranges of time. This demonstrates that the data has some element of volatility and, while certain correlations can be established, they are only so useful in speculating the causative agents of changes in bite report trends.

Furthermore, bite reports, being designed to be more precisely "saliva contact" reports than "aggressive animal reports", are overall not a reliable metric of vicious and injurious acts involving a canine. While the City ended pet licensing/registration years ago, Austin Animal Services still vigilantly maintains a "dangerous dog" database, and requires all owners keep their dangerous animal registered annually. The safety of the community's citizens, along with their ability to live harmoniously with Austin's/Travis Co.'s companion animals, are the central focus of Austin Animal Services.



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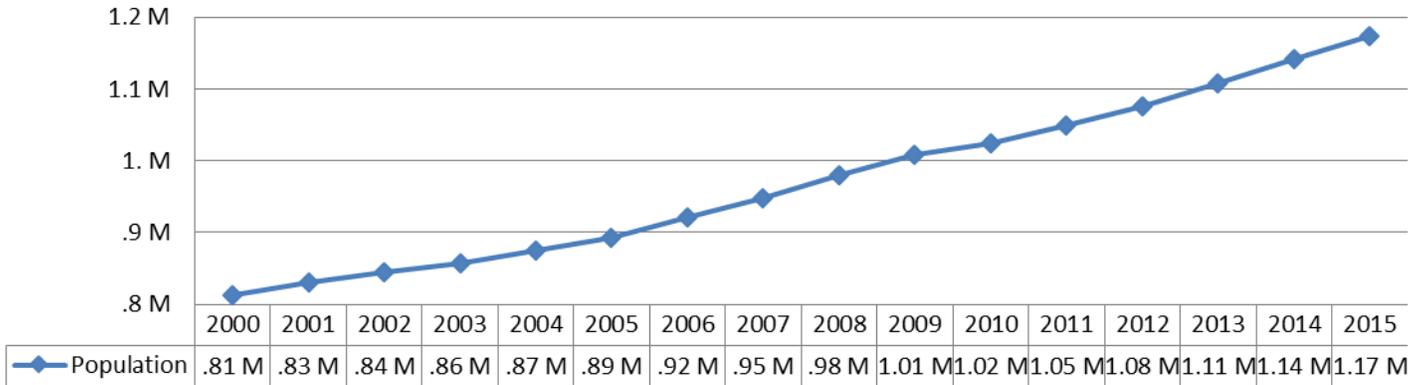
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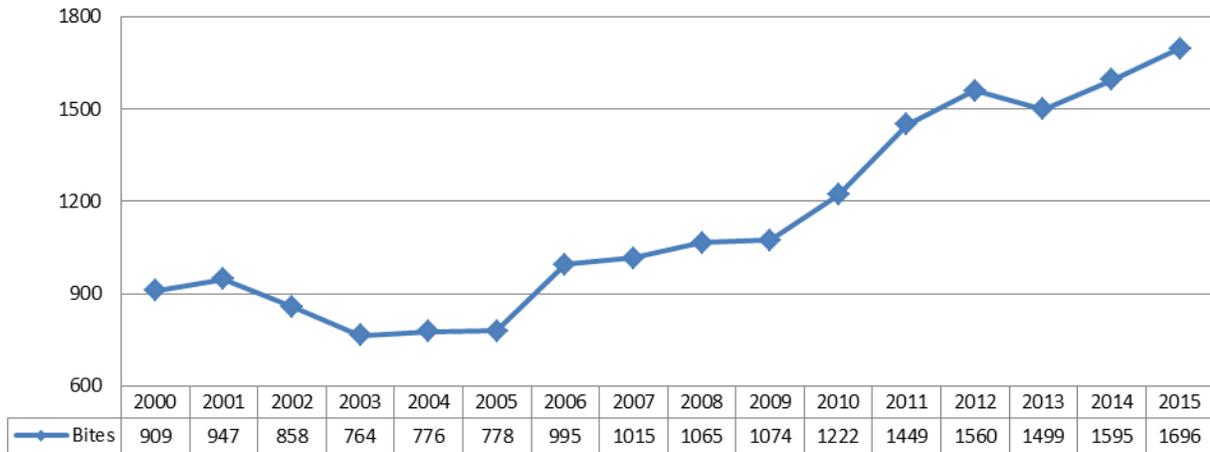
Figure 1. Travis Co. Population and Dog Bite Reports

1a. Travis Co. Population Growth 2000-2015

Source: http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Planning/Demographics/austin_forecast_2016_annual_pub.pdf



1b. Dog Bite Reports





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1c. Correlative Graph – Amount of Dog Bite Reports (Fig 1b.) as Percentage of Travis County Population (Fig 1a.)

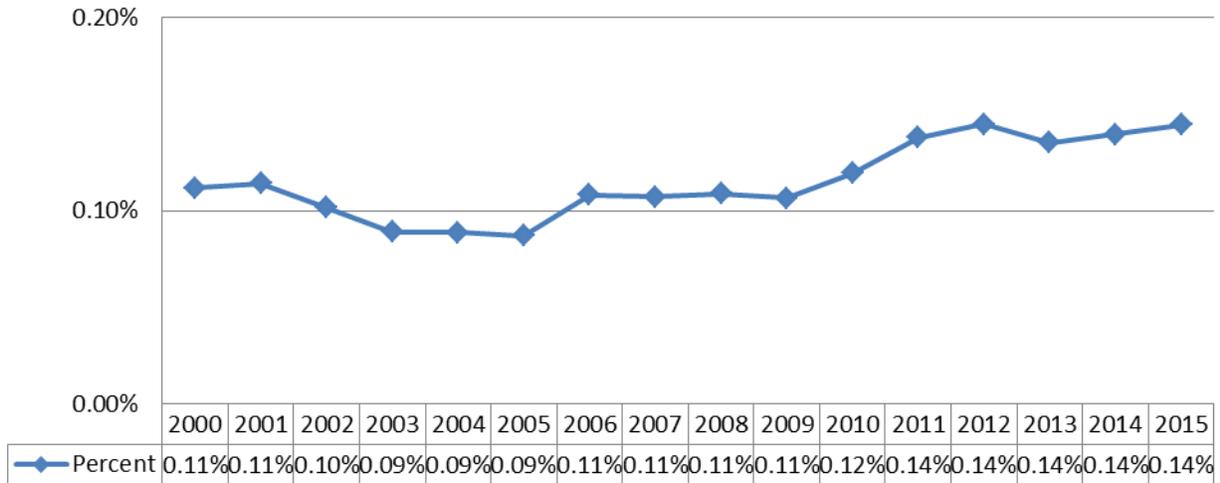
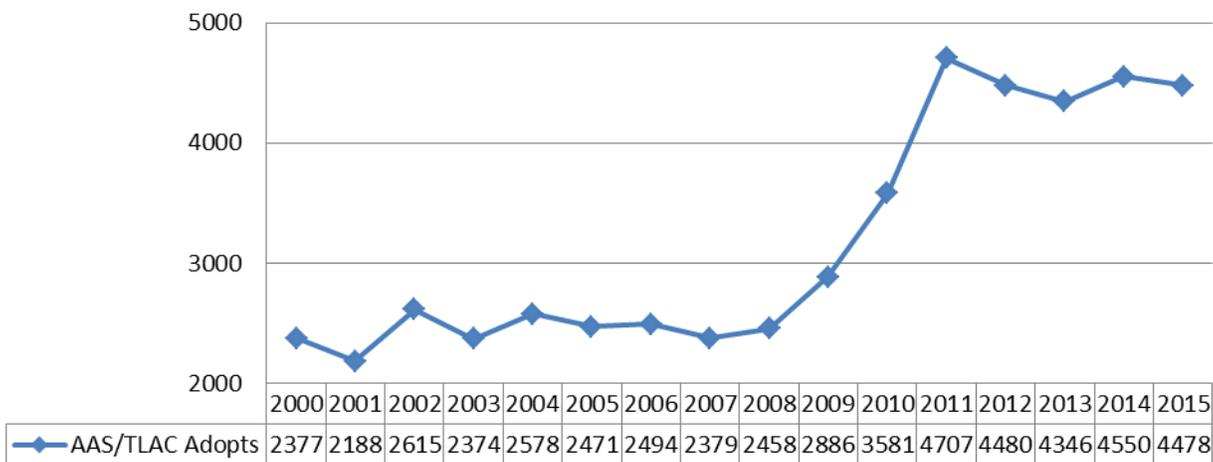


Figure 2.

2a. AAS/TLAC Adoptions 2000 - 2015



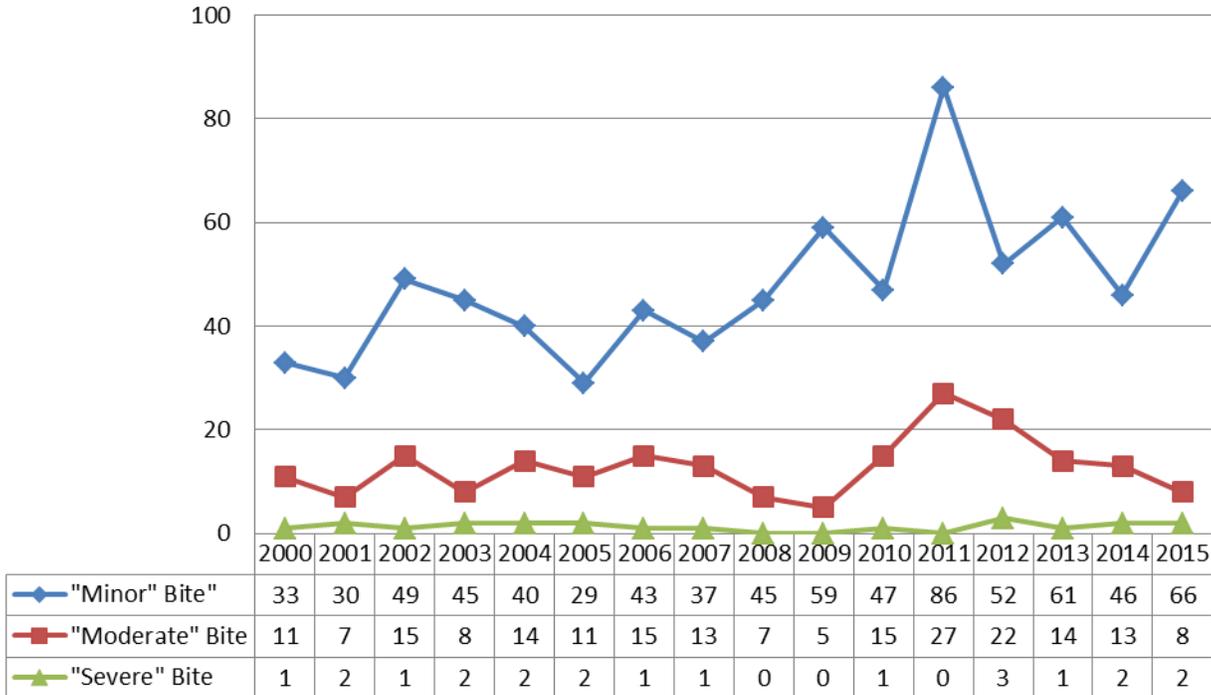


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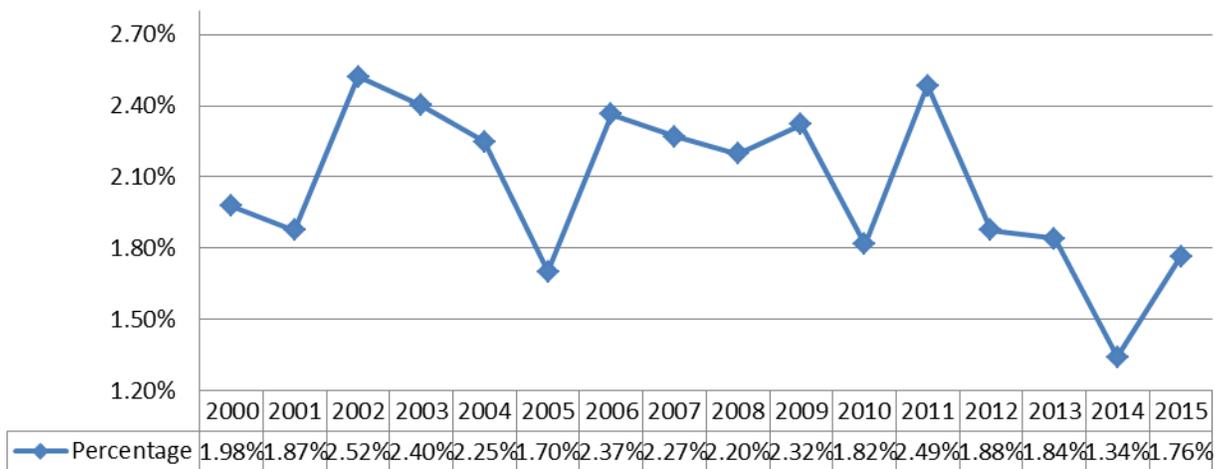
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2b. Dogs Adopted from AAC who had a Bite Report 2000 - 2015



2c. Percentage of All Adopted Dogs (2a.) Who Had a Bite Report (2b.)



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