

# **Austin Police Department**

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## **Annual Crime and Traffic Report: 2012 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 2013.

## Overview

This document contains UCR crime data for the calendar year 2012 (January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012). 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 420 per 100,000 residents declined 2% as compared with 2011 and is a 20-year low. (Page 3)
- Austin’s **property crime rate** of 5,355 per 100,000 residents grew 2% as compared with 2011. (Page 8)
- The **rate of reported rapes** (26 per 100,000 residents) is unchanged from last year’s rate and represents an historical low. (Page 4)
- The **robbery rate** of 120 per 100,000 residents reflects a 12% decline as compared with 2011 and is also an historical low. (Page 5)
- Austin’s number of **traffic fatalities** increased 44%, from 54 in 2011 to 78 in 2012; the number of **fatal traffic collisions** grew 56%, from 48 in 2011 to 75 in 2012. (Page 12)
- The proportion of **fatal collisions** involving an **alcohol-impaired driver** increased from 21% in 2011 to 29% in 2012. (Page 13)
- The proportion of **pedestrian fatalities** involving an **alcohol-impaired pedestrian** increased from 27% in 2011 to 42% in 2012. (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.

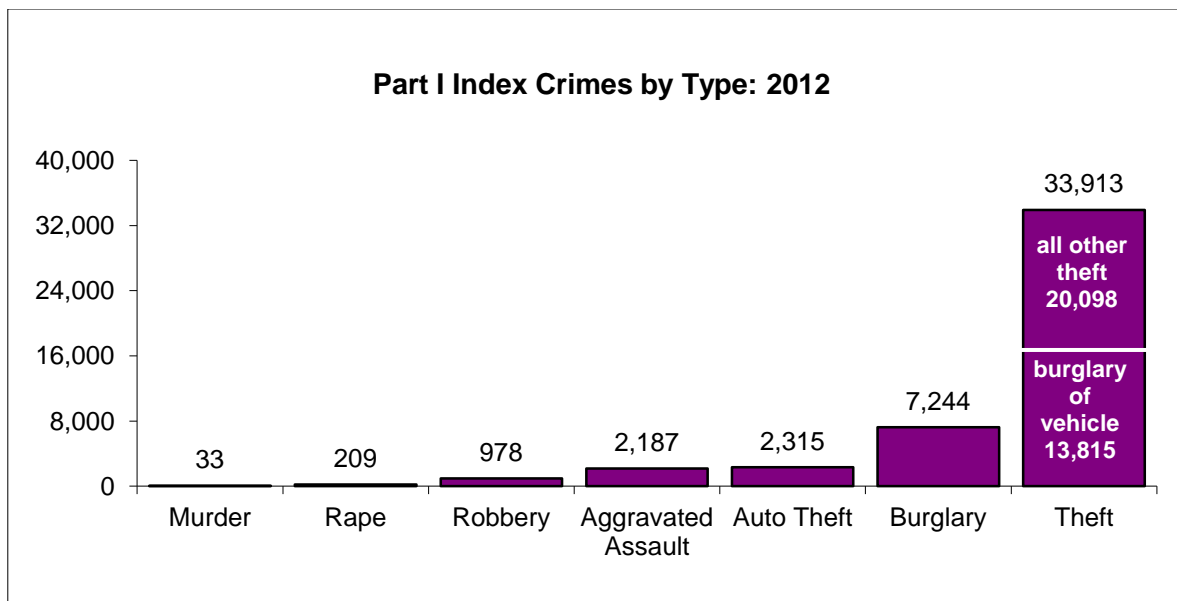
## Incidents and Rates

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		
	2011	2012	% chg	2011	2012	% chg
Murder	27	33*	22%	3.3	4.1	22%
Rape	211	209	-1%	26	26	-2%
Robbery	1,106	978	-12%	137	120	-12%
Aggravated Assault	2,126	2,187	3%	263	269	2%
<b>Total Violent Crime</b>	<b>3,470</b>	<b>3,407</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>-2%</b>
Burglary	7,042	7,244	3%	873	892	2%
Theft	33,069	33,913	3%	4,098	4,178	2%
Auto Theft	2,139	2,315	8%	265	285	8%
<b>Total Property Crime</b>	<b>42,250</b>	<b>43,472</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>5,235</b>	<b>5,355</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Total Index Crime</b>	<b>45,720</b>	<b>46,879</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>5,665</b>	<b>5,775</b>	<b>2%</b>
Population				807,022	811,746	1%

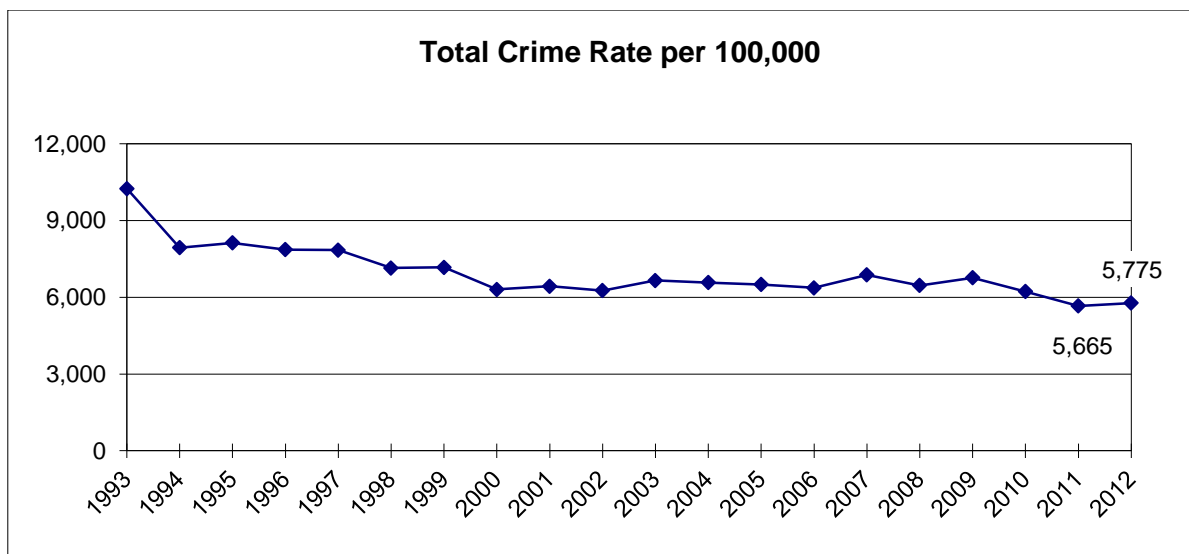
\* The FBI received a report of 31 murders for Austin in 2012, but that excludes two incidents that occurred and were reported, but which did not meet FBI reporting deadlines/requirements. The correct count is 33.

Note: This table represents Austin’s 2012 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 2013.



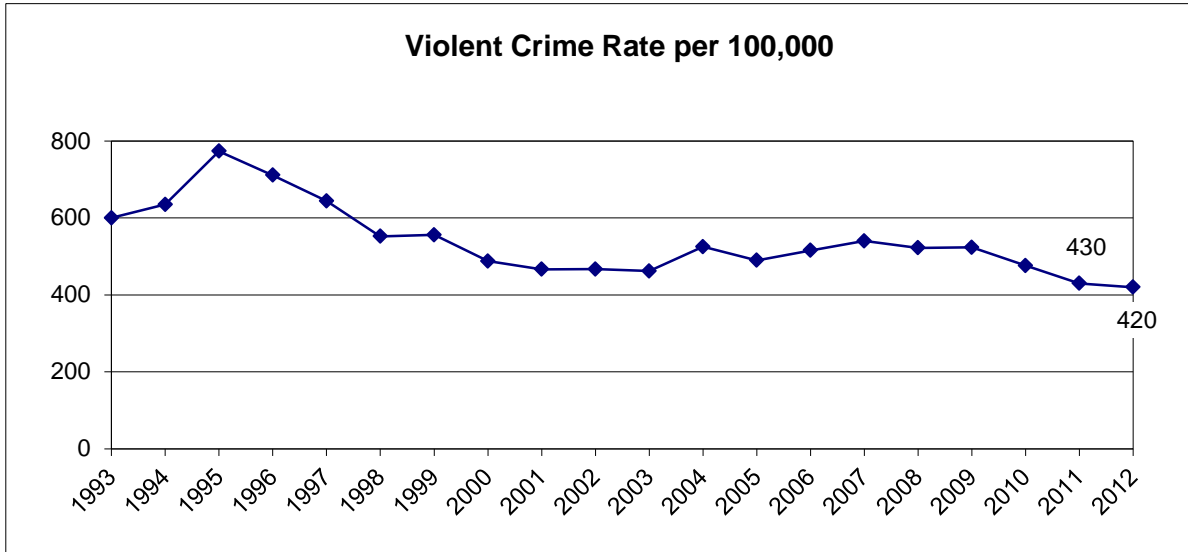
## Trends

In 2012, the number of all Part I Index crimes for Austin was 46,879. This is a 3% increase in incidents as compared with 2011 (45,720). The crime rate per 100,000 residents was 5,775 in 2012 – a 2% increase from the 2011 rate of 5,665. Over the previous 10 years (2001 to 2010), the rate ranged from 6,231 to 6,881.



## Violent Crime

In 2012, the number of violent crimes in Austin was 3,407. This is a 2% decrease in incidents as compared with 2011 (3,470). The rate of violent crime per 100,000 residents was 420 in 2012. This reflects a drop of 2% from the prior year's rate of 430 and represents a 20-year low.



## Murder

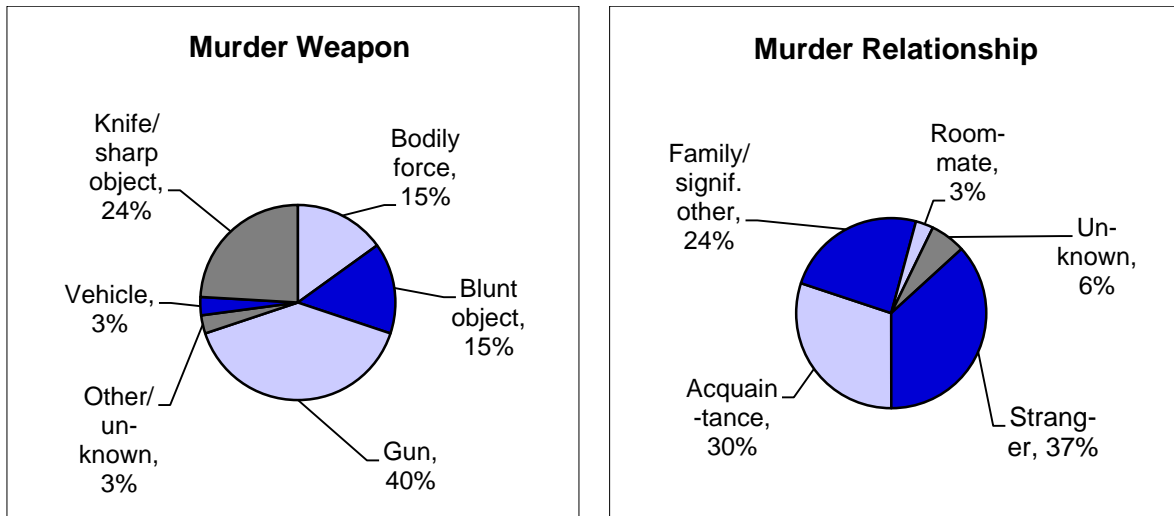
During 2012 there were 33\* murder victims, up from 27 in 2011. Over the previous 10 years (2001 to 2010), the number of murder victims ranged from 20 to 38. The murder rate was 4.1 per 100,000 residents, up from the rate of 3.3 in 2011.



\* The FBI received a report of 31 murders for Austin in 2012, but that count does not include two incidents that were reported after the deadline. The correct count is 33.

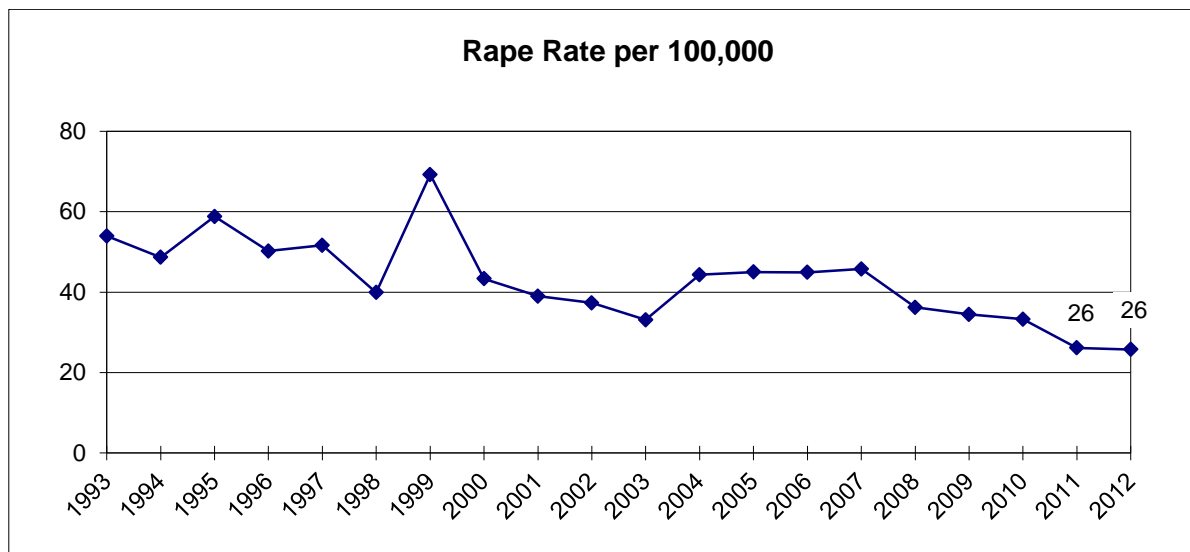
In 2012, guns were the most frequent weapon used in murders (40%), followed by knives or other sharp objects (24%). In 2011, knives or other sharp objects were used in 33% of incidents and guns were used in 26% of incidents.

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.

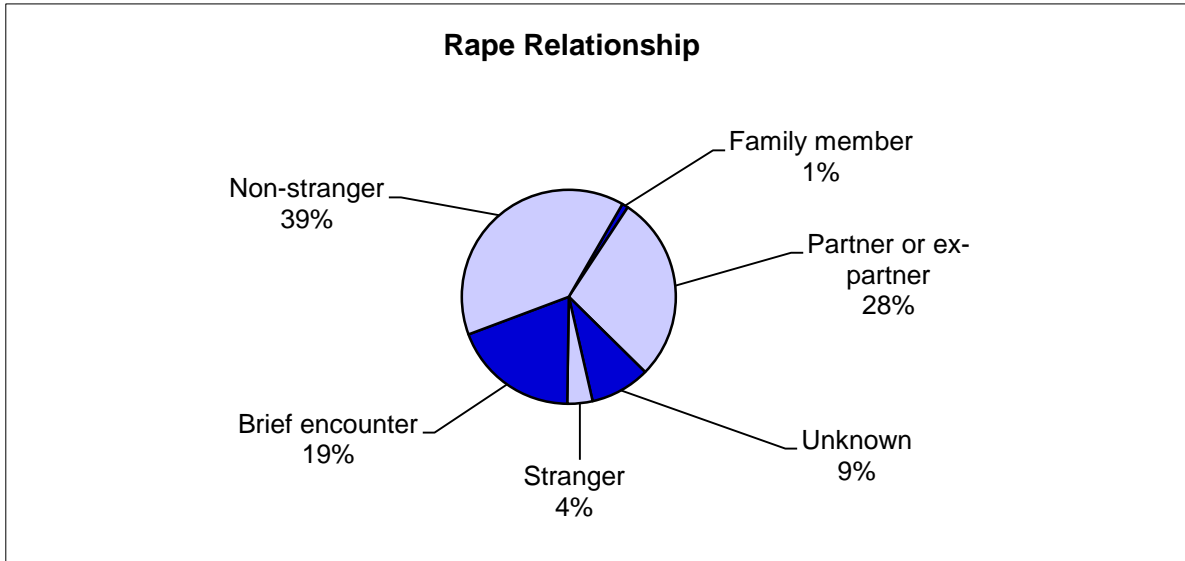


## Rape

There were 209 reported victims of rape in Austin during 2012, down 1% from 211 in 2011. The rate was 26 per 100,000 residents, which is unchanged from the prior year and is the lowest rate experienced over the last 20 years (1993 to 2012).

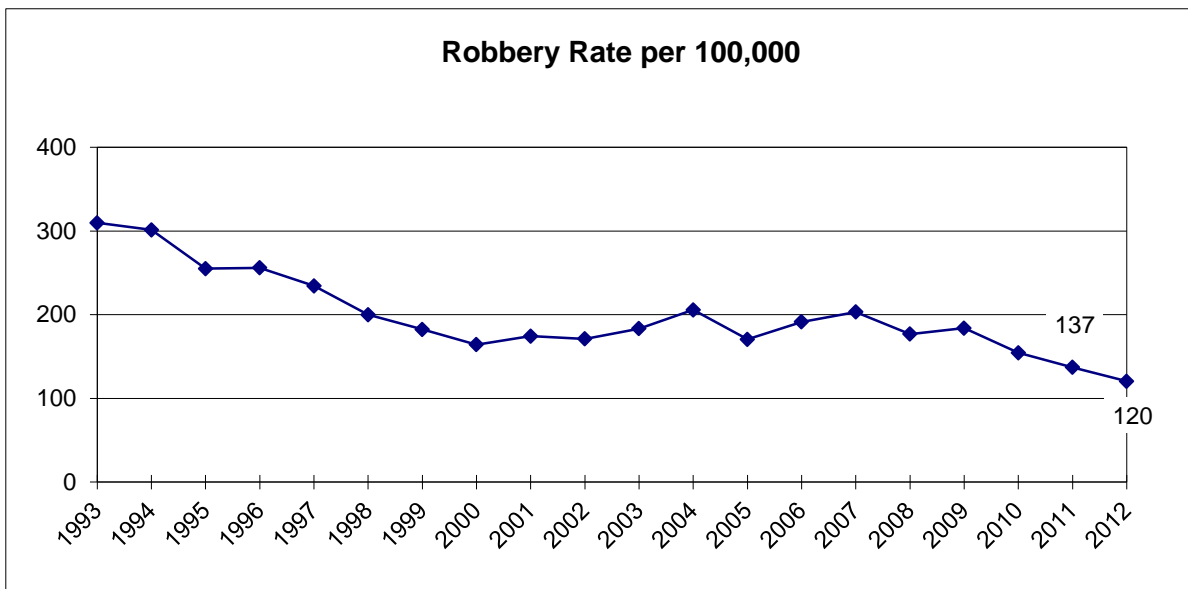


The relationship (connection) between the victim and suspect was established in 91% of the cases. Of these, the victim knew the suspect as a family member, partner or ex-partner, from a brief encounter, or otherwise as a non-stranger in 96% of the incidents. This is up from 93% in 2011.



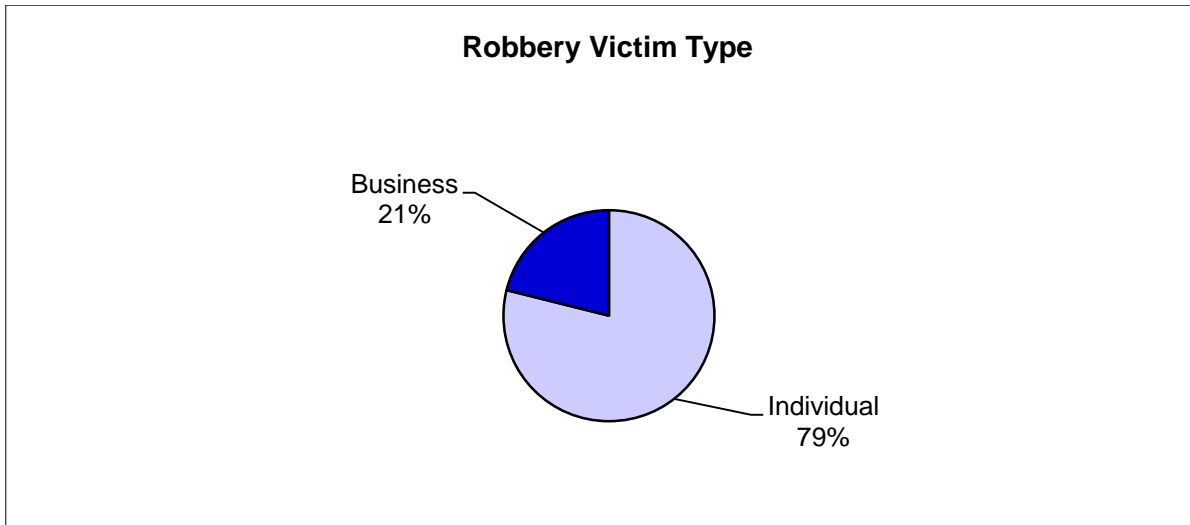
## Robbery

There were 978 robberies reported in 2012, down from 1,106 in 2011. The rate was 120 robberies per 100,000 residents, which represents a 12% decrease from the previous year's rate of 137 and represents a 20-year low (1993 to 2012).



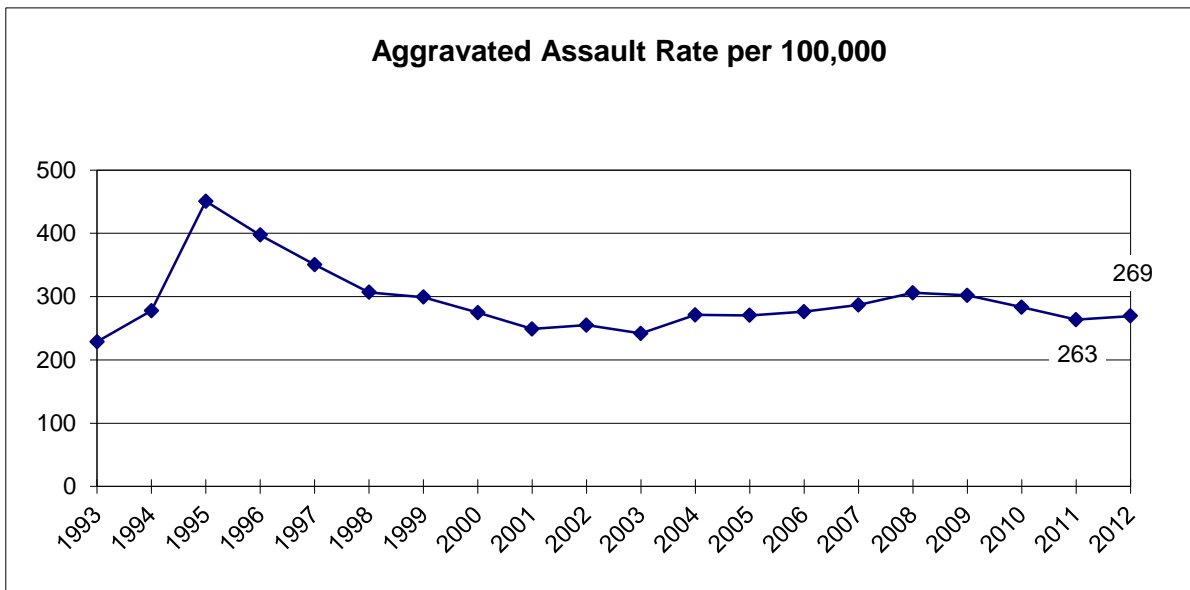


Seventy-nine percent of robberies were committed against individuals, as compared with 21% that occurred at businesses. In 2011, 83% of robberies were committed against individuals and 17% occurred at businesses.

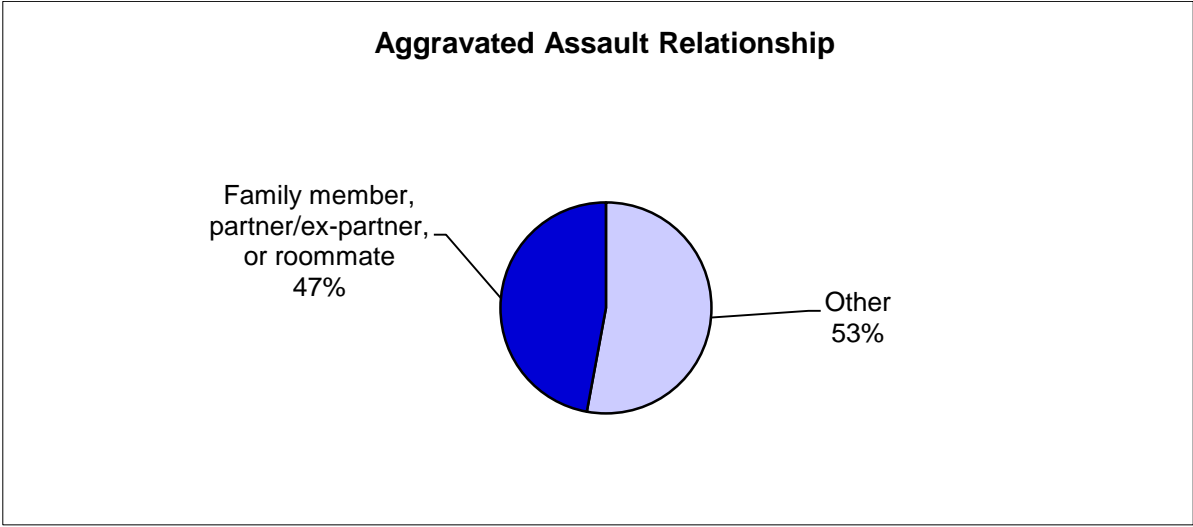


### Aggravated Assault

There were 2,187 reported victims of aggravated assault in 2012, up from 2,126 in 2011. The rate was 269 victims per 100,000 residents, up 2% from the prior year's rate of 263. Over the previous 10 years (2001 to 2010), the aggravated assault rate ranged from 242 to 306.

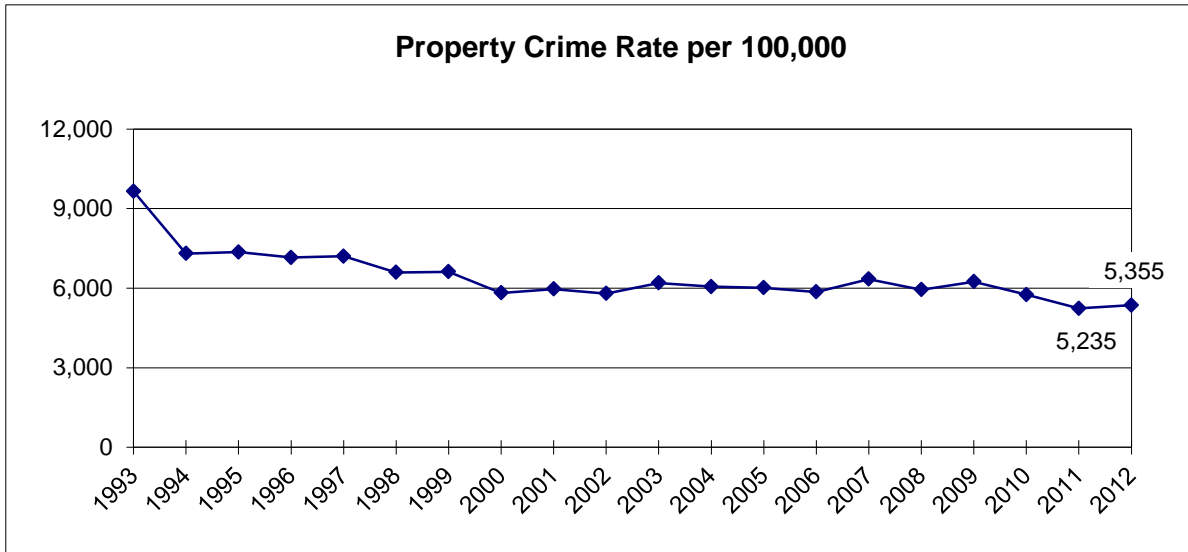


Fewer than half (47%) of aggravated assaults were committed by a family member, partner or ex-partner, or roommate of the victim. This is down from 48% in 2011.



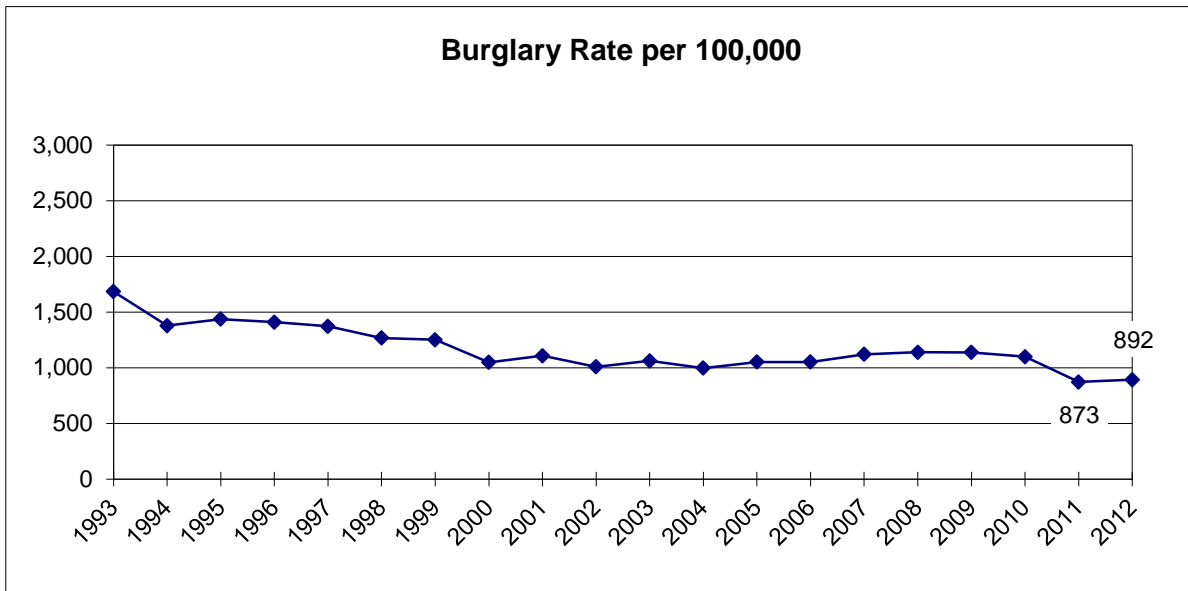
## Property Crime

In 2012, the number of property crimes in Austin was 43,472, up from 42,250 in 2011. The rate of property crime per 100,000 residents was 5,355 in 2012, up 2% from the prior year's rate of 5,235.

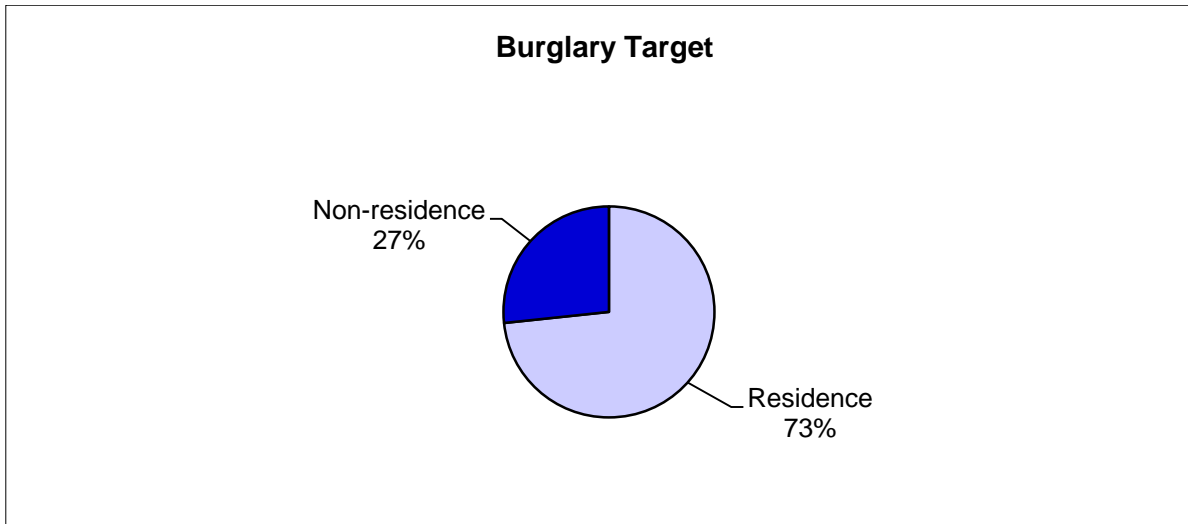


## Burglary

There were 7,244 reported burglaries in 2012, up from 7,042 in 2011. The rate was 892 burglaries per 100,000 residents, up 2% from the prior year's rate of 873. Over the previous 10 years (2001 to 2010), the burglary rate ranged from 997 to 1,139.

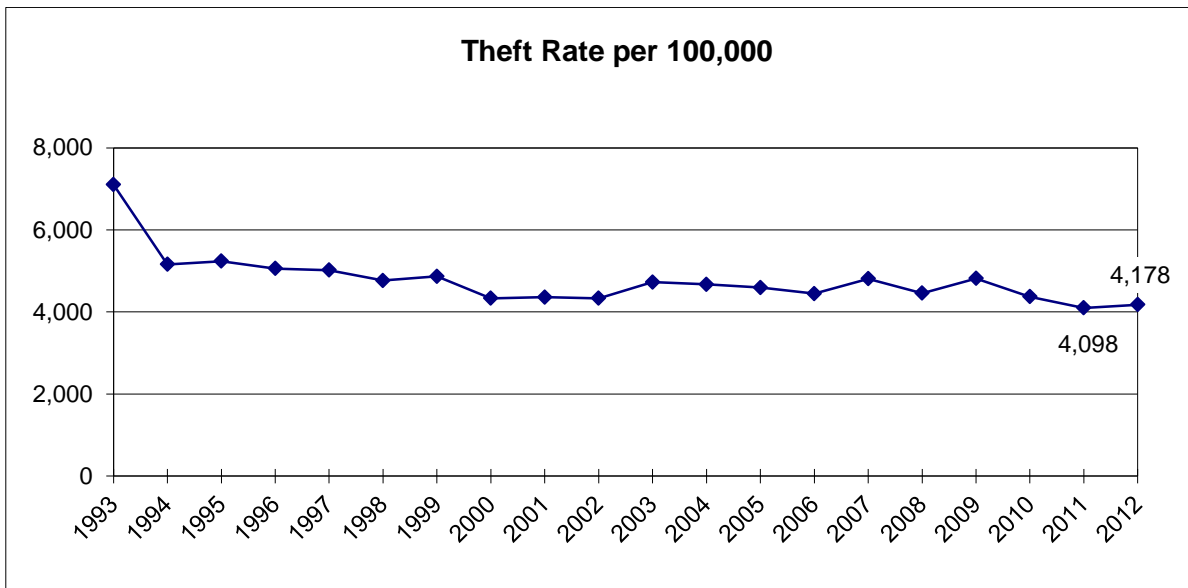


Seventy-three percent of burglaries involved residences, as compared with 27% that involved other targets (businesses, offices, restaurants, etc.). In 2011, 75% of burglaries involved residences and 25% involved other targets.



## Theft

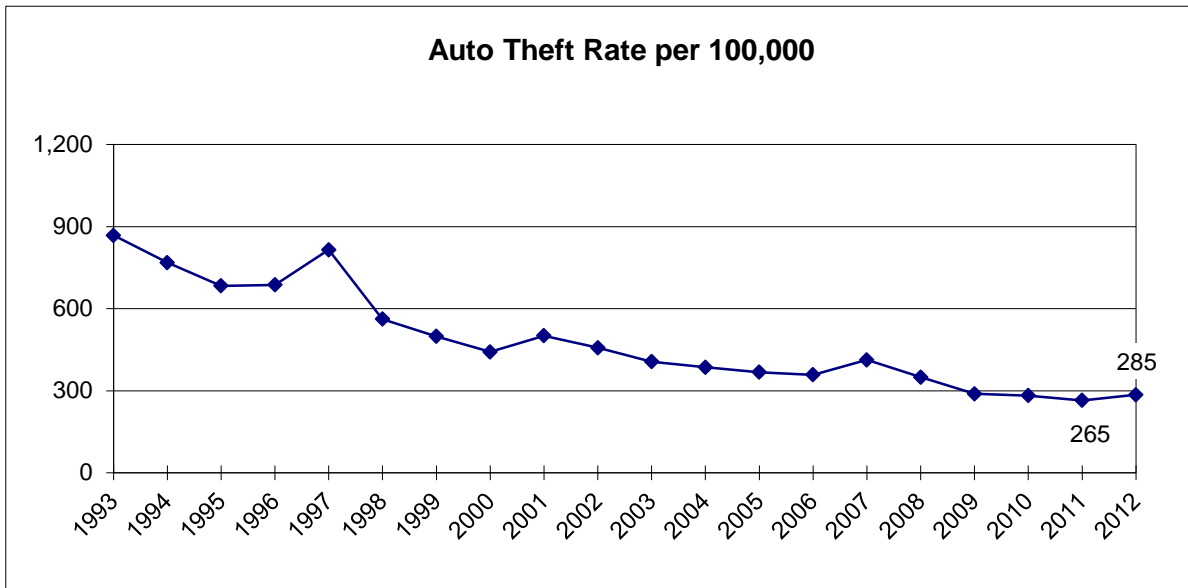
There were 33,913 reported thefts in 2012, up from 33,069 in 2011. The rate was 4,178 thefts per 100,000 residents, up 2% from the rate of 4,098 in 2011. Over the previous 10 years (2001 to 2010), the theft rate ranged from 4,334 to 4,819.



Of all thefts reported in 2012, 41% were burglary of vehicle, or BOV offenses. This is the same proportion as was reported in 2011.

## Auto Theft

There were 2,315 reported auto thefts in 2012, up from 2,139 in 2011. The rate was 285 auto thefts per 100,000 residents, which is a 8% increase from the rate of 265 in 2011. Over the previous 10 years (2001 to 2010), the rate ranged from 283 to 501.



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. Of all vehicles stolen in 2012, 79% were successfully recovered.

## Solving Crime

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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.

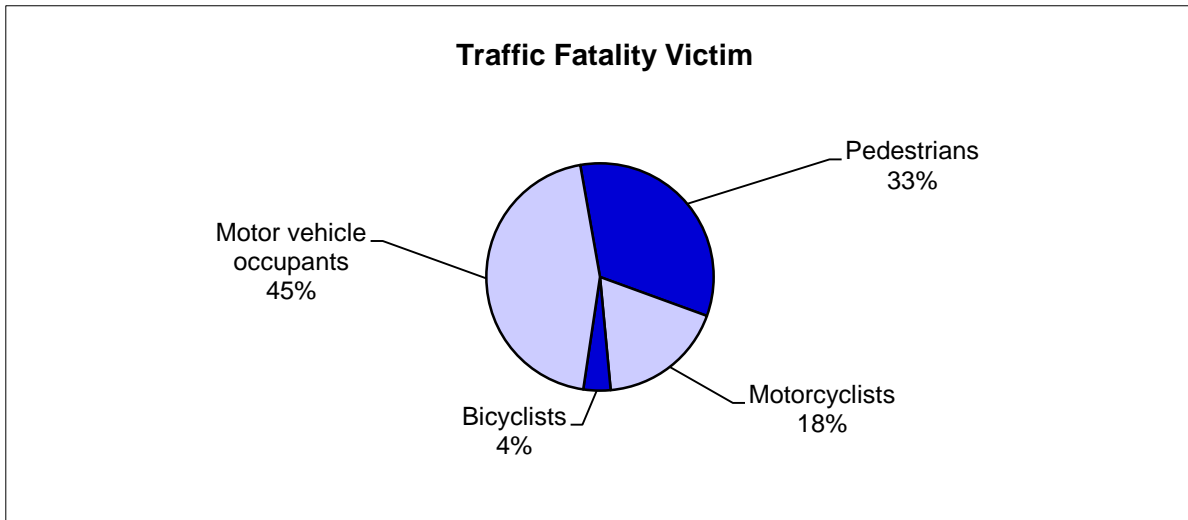
Part I Index Crimes	% of Crimes Cleared by Arrest or Exception
Murder	88%
Rape	51%
Robbery	23%
Aggravated Assault	60%
<b>Total Violent Crime</b>	<b>49%</b>
Burglary	10%
Theft	13%
Auto Theft	9%
<b>Total Property Crime</b>	<b>12%</b>

During 2012, Austin police solved, or cleared, 49% of the reported **violent crimes**. 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.

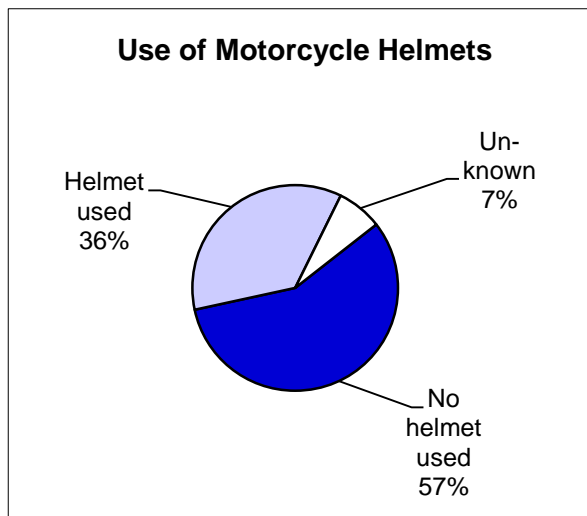
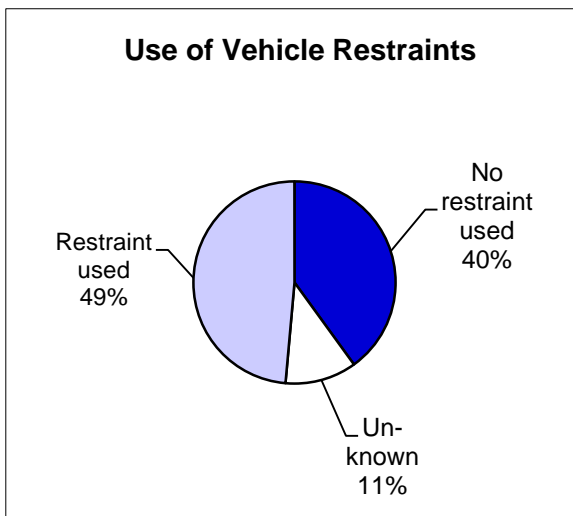
## Traffic Fatalities

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.

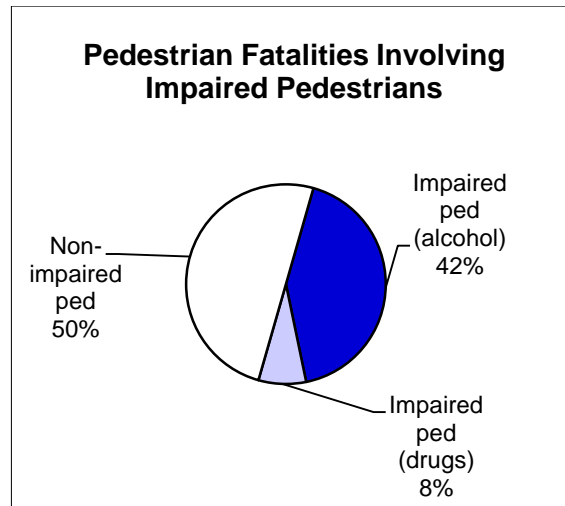
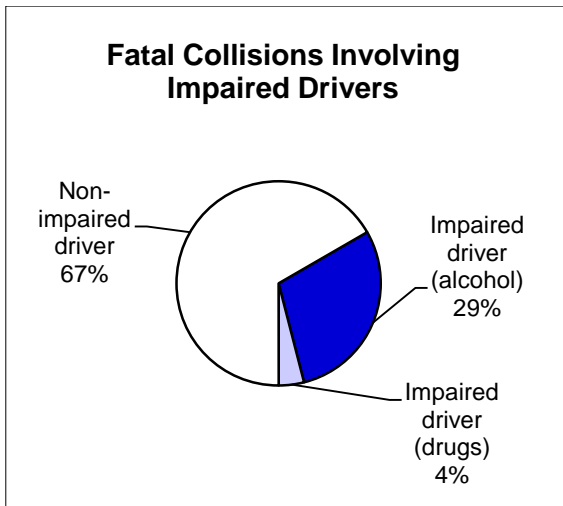
In 2012 most traffic fatalities involved motor vehicle occupants (35, or 45%) and pedestrians (26, or 33%), followed by motorcyclists (14, or 18%) and bicyclists (three, or 4%). Similarly, in 2011, most traffic fatalities involved motor vehicle occupants (22, or 41%) and pedestrians (22, or 41%), followed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



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.

