

Austin Police Department

Annual Crime and Traffic Report: 2015 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 2016.

Overview

This document contains UCR crime data for the calendar year 2015 (January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015). We have also included selected traffic statistics on fatal crashes.

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 394 per 100,000 residents decreased 1% as compared with 2014. (Page 3)
- Austin’s **property crime rate** of 3,985 per 100,000 residents decreased 4% as compared with 2014 and is a 20-year low. (Page 8)
- The **robbery rate** of 105 per 100,000 reflects an 8% increase as compared with 2014; 82% of these crimes were committed against individuals. (Pages 5-6)
- The **burglary rate** of 563 per 100,000 residents represents a decline of 11% as compared with 2014; the **theft rate** of 3,160 per 100,000 represents a decline of 3% as compared with 2013; both represent 20-year lows. (Pages 8-9)
- **Crime by council district** shows the highest violent crime rates in Districts 1, 3 and 4; the lowest in Districts 6, 8, and 10. The highest property crime rates are found in Districts 3, 4, and 9; the lowest in Districts 6, 8, and 10. (Pages 11-12).
- **Traffic fatalities** increased 62%, from 63 in 2014 to 102 in 2015; and **fatal crashes** increased 66%, from 56 in 2014 to 93 in 2015. **Impairment continues to be a significant factor**: 37% of 2015 all fatalities involved an impaired driver and 37% of pedestrian fatalities involved an impaired pedestrian. (Pages 15-16)

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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)

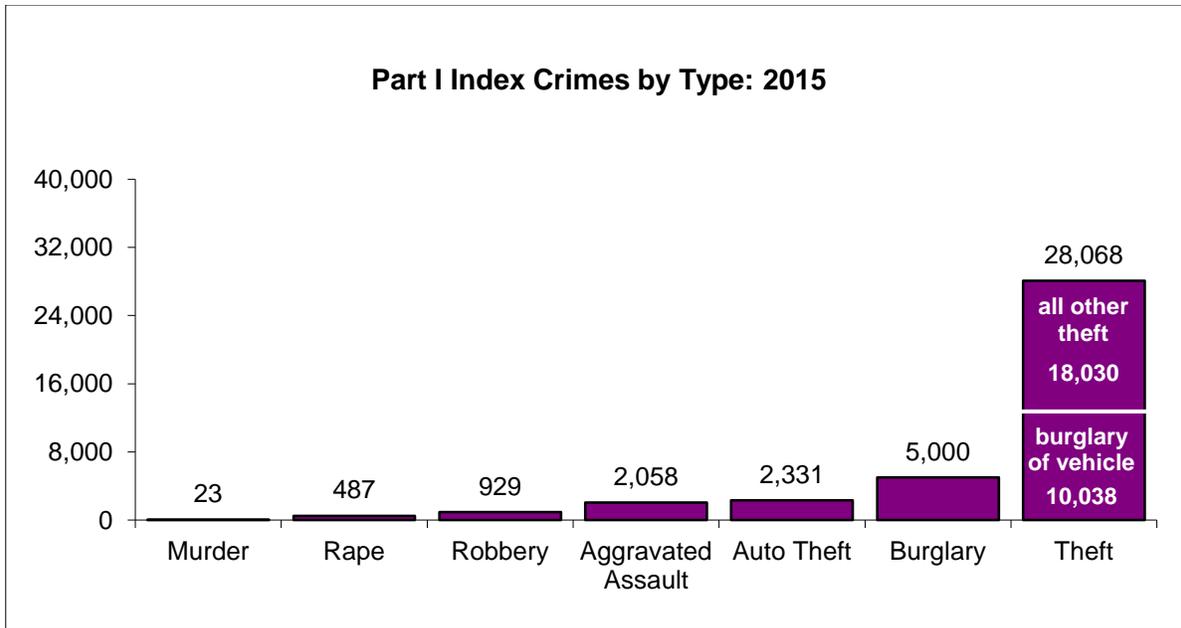
These categories and crime definitions are used for reporting city-level crime statistics to the FBI under its Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program.

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.

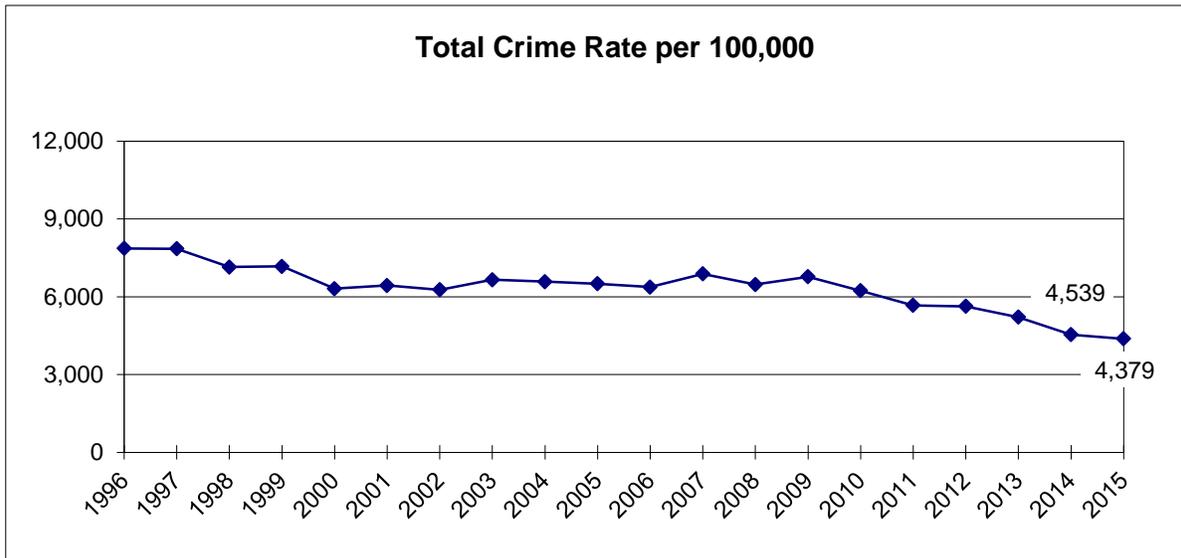
Part I Index Crimes	Offenses			Rate per 100,000		
	2014	2015	% chg	2014	2015	% chg
Murder	32	23	-28%	3.5	2.6	-27%
Rape	571	487	-15%	63	55	-13%
Robbery	873	929	6%	97	105	8%
Aggravated Assault	2,105	2,058	-2%	233	232	-1%
Total Violent Crime	3,581	3,497	-2%	396	394	-1%
Burglary	5,733	5,000	-13%	634	563	-11%
Theft	29,423	28,068	-5%	3,255	3,160	-3%
Auto Theft	2,288	2,331	2%	253	262	4%
Total Property Crime	37,444	35,399	-5%	4,142	3,985	-4%
Total Index Crime	41,025	38,896	-5%	4,539	4,379	-4%

Note: This table represents Austin’s 2015 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 2016.



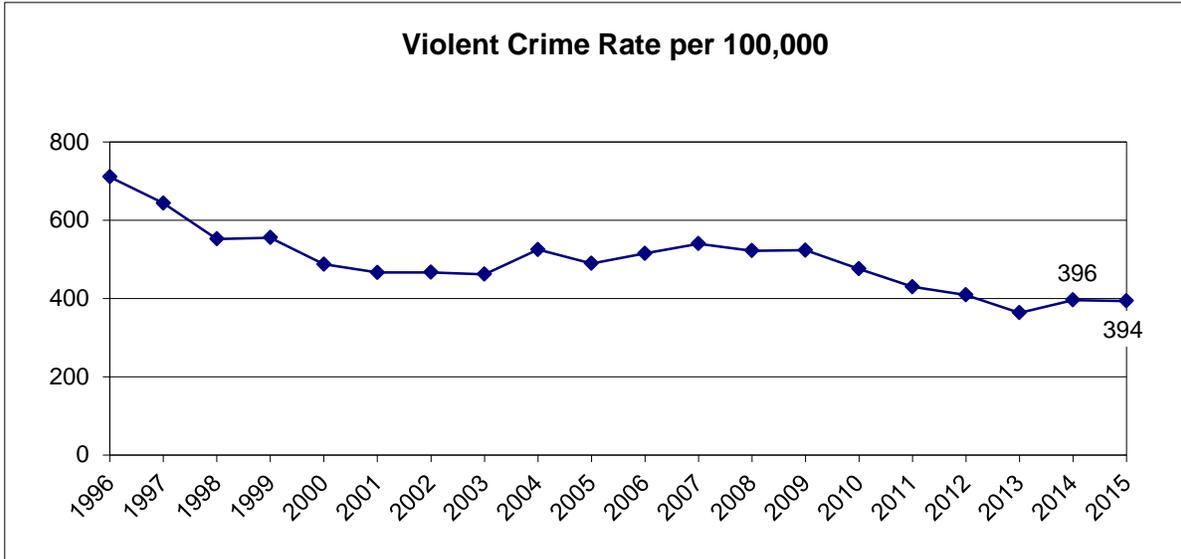
Trends

In 2015, the number of all Part I Index crimes for Austin was 38,896. This was a 5% decrease in incidents as compared with 2014 (41,025). The crime rate per 100,000 residents was 4,379 in 2015 – a 4% decrease from the 2014 rate of 4,539 and a 20-year low (1996 to 2015).



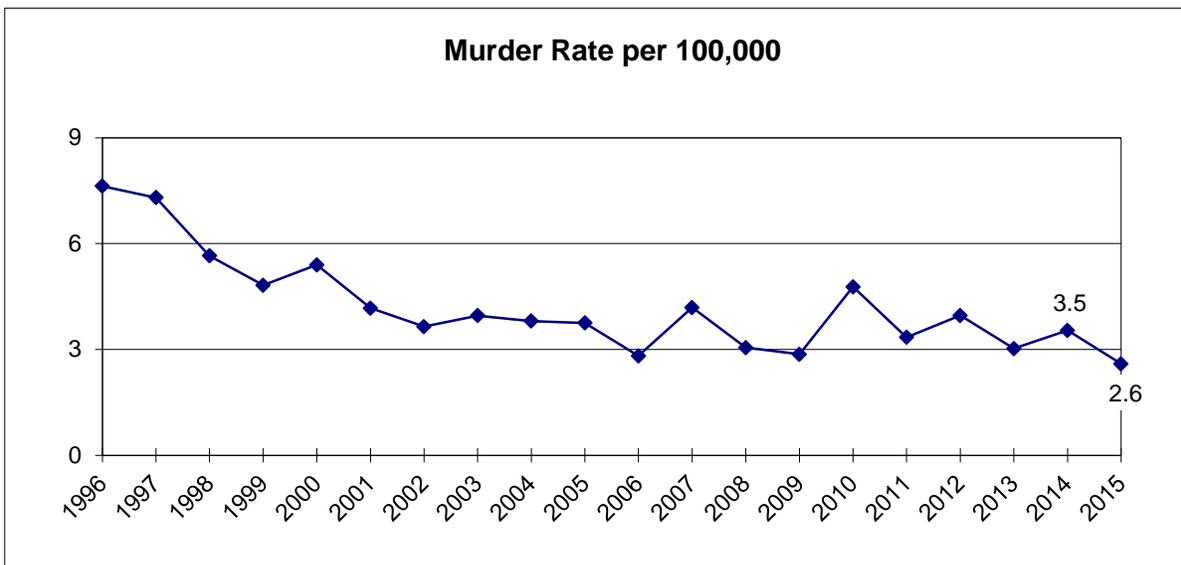
Violent Crime

In 2015, the number of violent crimes was 3,497, a 2% decrease in incidents from 2014 (3,581). The rate of violent crime per 100,000 residents was 394 in 2015, down 1% from 396 in 2014.



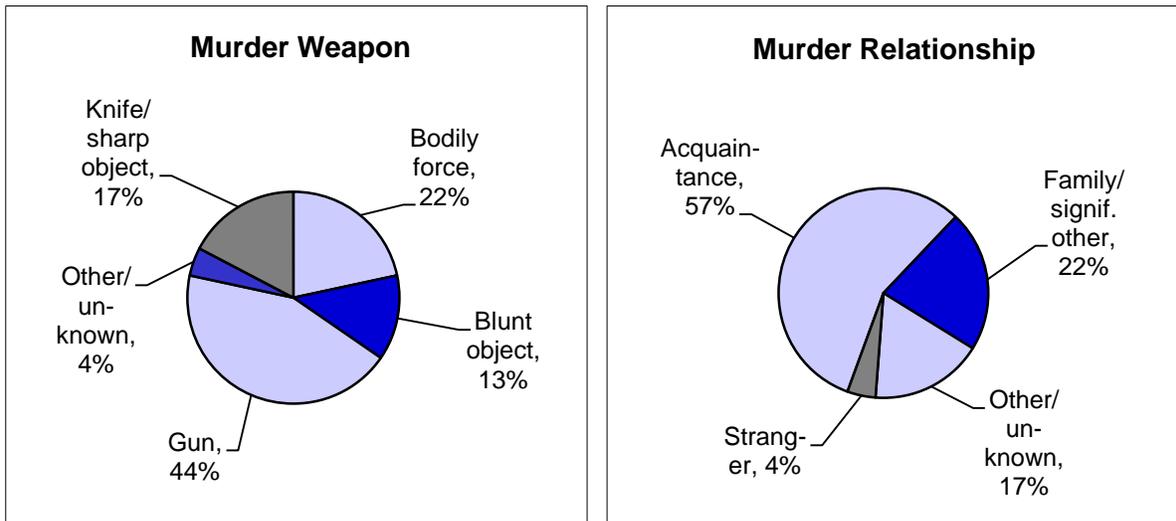
Murder

During 2015 there were 23 murder victims, down from 32 in 2014. Over the previous 10 years (2005 to 2014), the number of murder victims ranged from 20 to 38. The murder rate was 2.6 per 100,000 residents, down from the rate of 3.5 in 2014 and a 20-year low (1996 to 2015).



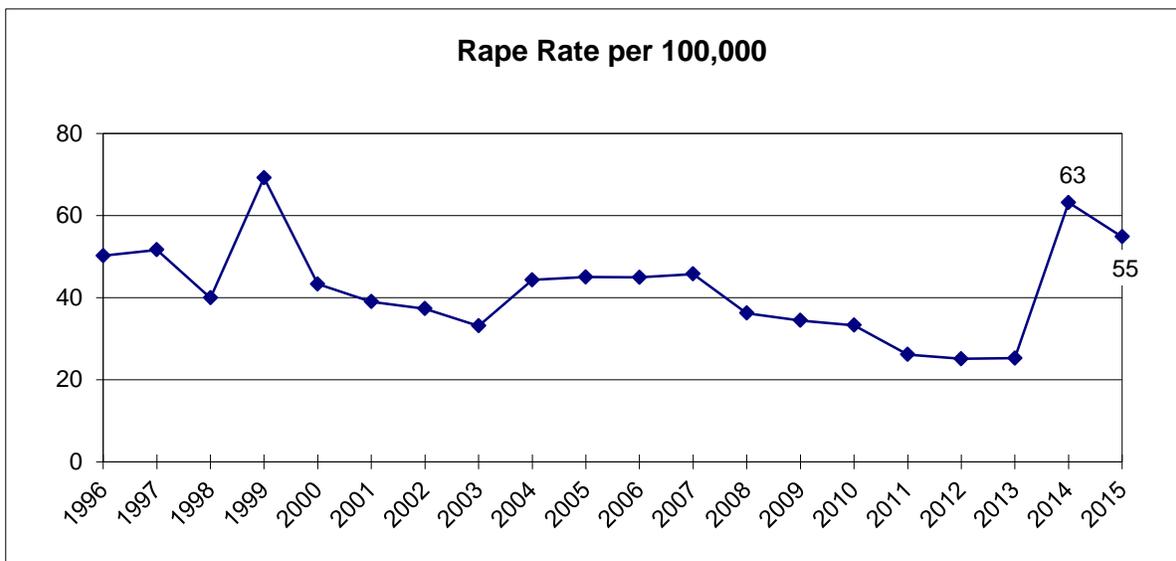
In 2015, guns were the most frequent weapon used in murders (44%), followed by bodily force (22%).

The relationship (connection) between the victim and suspect was established in 83% of the cases. Of these, the victim knew the offender as an acquaintance, family member, significant other, or roommate in 95% of murders, up from 88% in 2014.



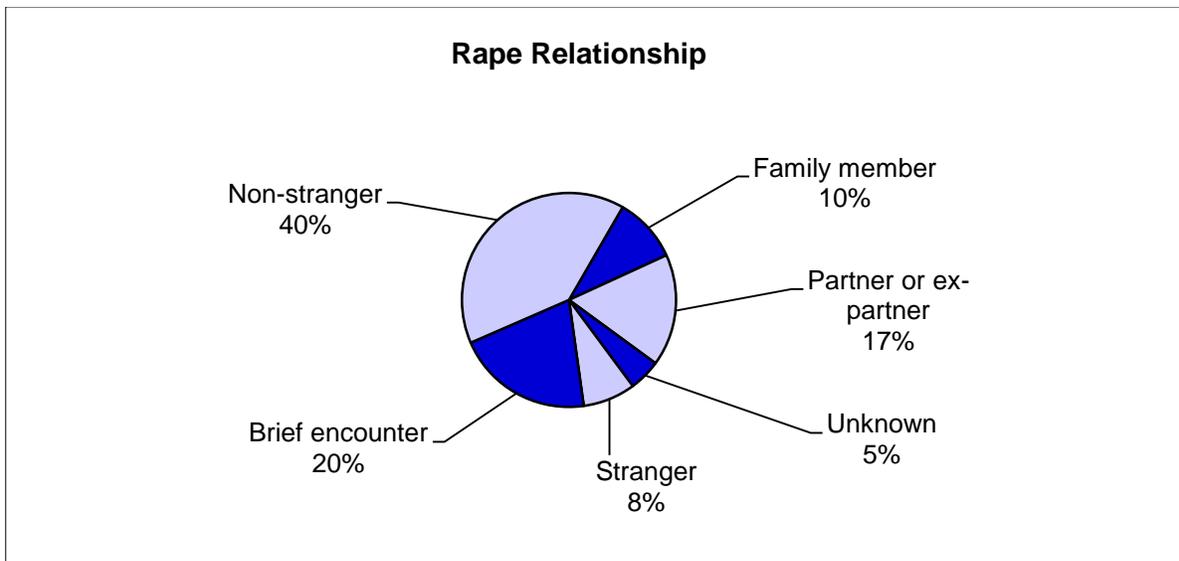
Rape

There were 487 reported victims of rape in 2015, down from 571 in 2014. The rate was 55 per 100,000 residents, down 13% from 63 in 2014.



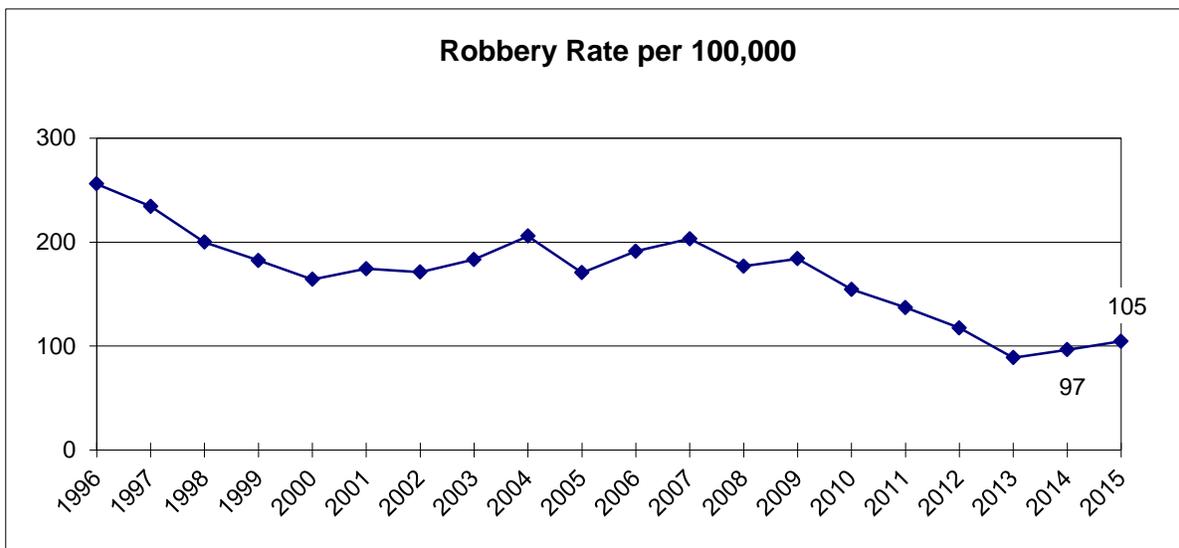
Note: In 2014, Austin began using the FBI's modified rape definition that includes sexual assaults not previously included in rape counts, thereby increasing counts and rates.

The relationship (connection) between the victim and suspect was established in 95% 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 92% of the incidents. This was unchanged from 2014.

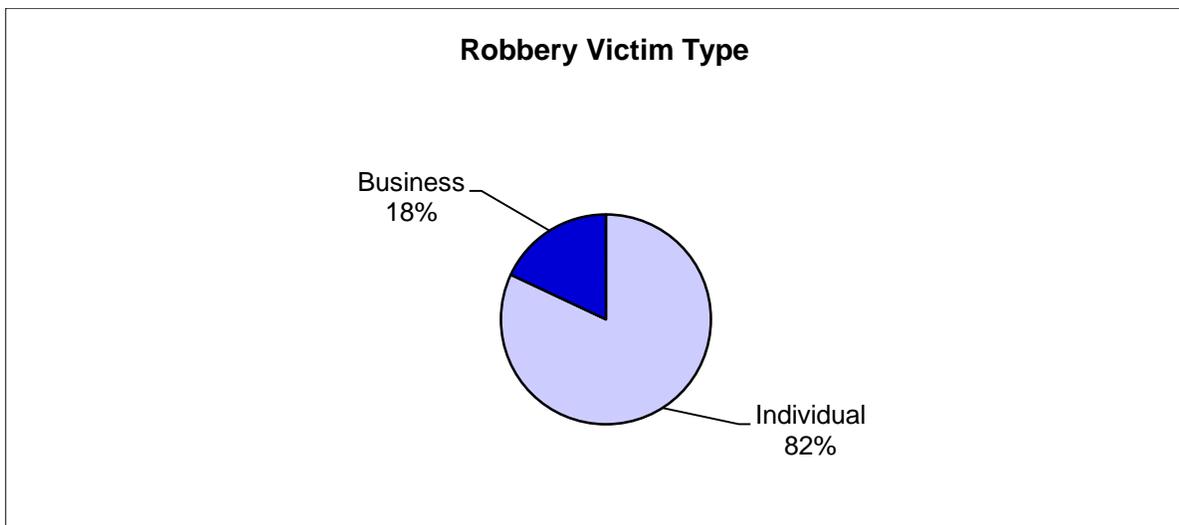


Robbery

There were 929 robberies reported in 2015, up from 873 in 2014. The rate was 105 robberies per 100,000 residents, which was an 8% increase from the previous year's rate of 97.

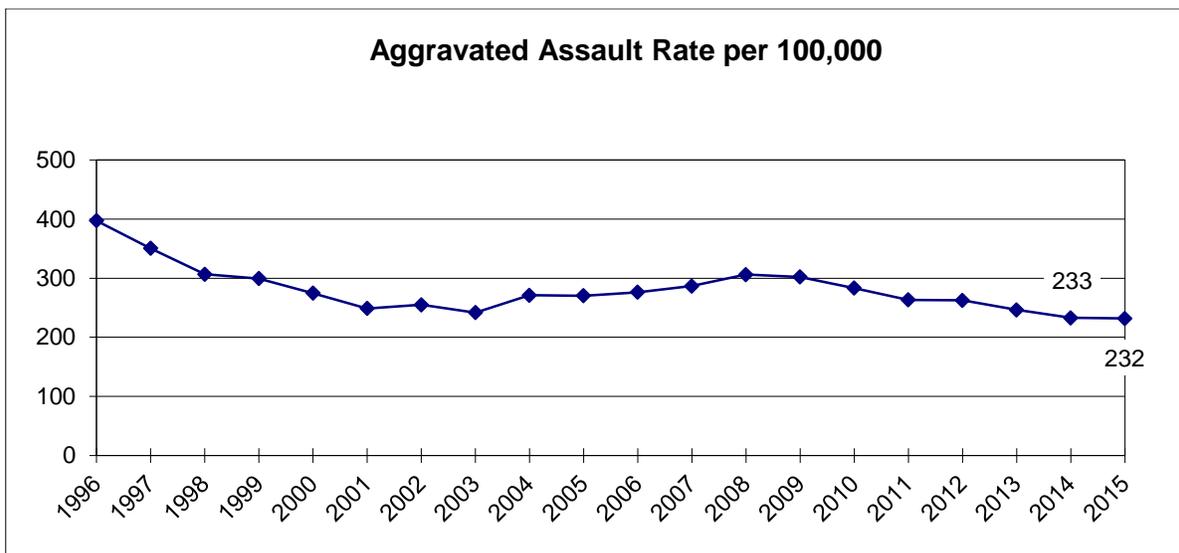


Eighty-two percent of robberies were committed against individuals, as compared with 18% that occurred at businesses. During 2014, 84% of robberies were against individuals and 16% occurred at businesses.

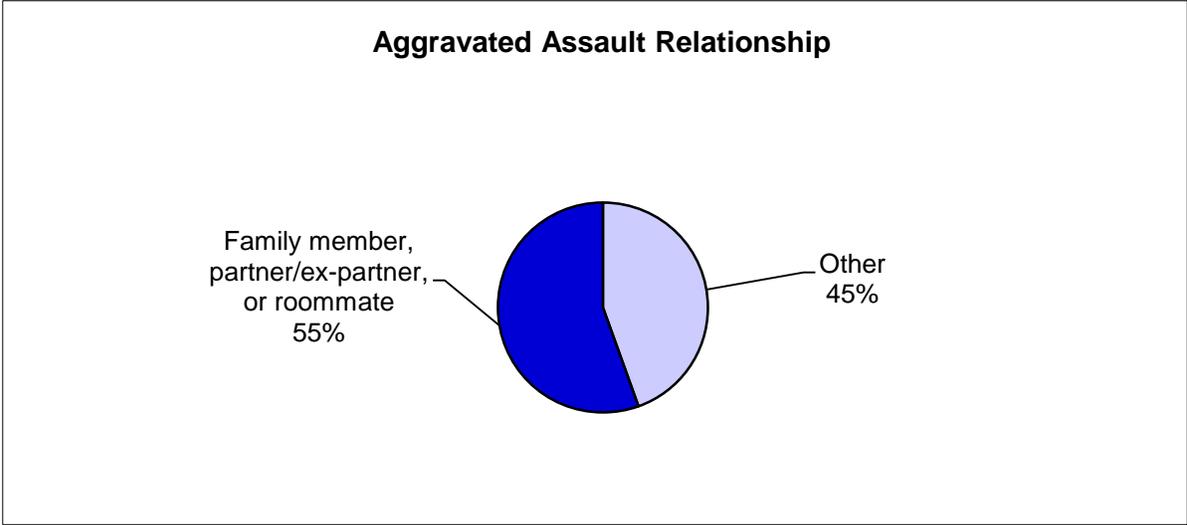


Aggravated Assault

There were 2,058 reported victims of aggravated assault in 2015, down from 2,105 in 2014. The rate was 232 victims per 100,000 residents, down 1% from the prior year's rate of 233 and represents a 20-year low (1996 to 2015).

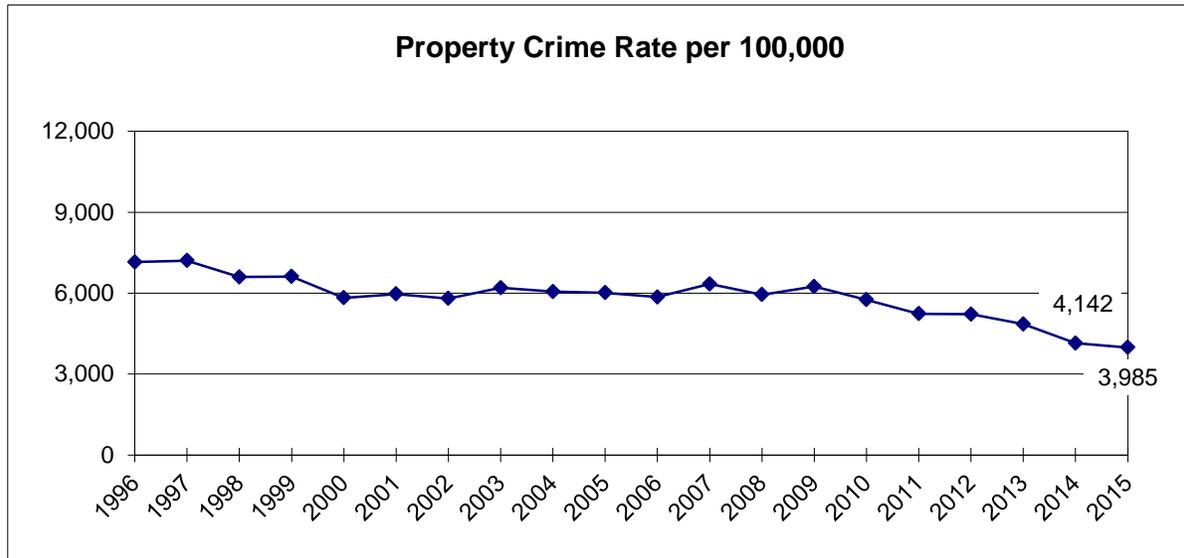


More than half (55%) of aggravated assaults were committed by a family member, partner or ex-partner, or roommate of the victim. This was down from 56% in 2014.



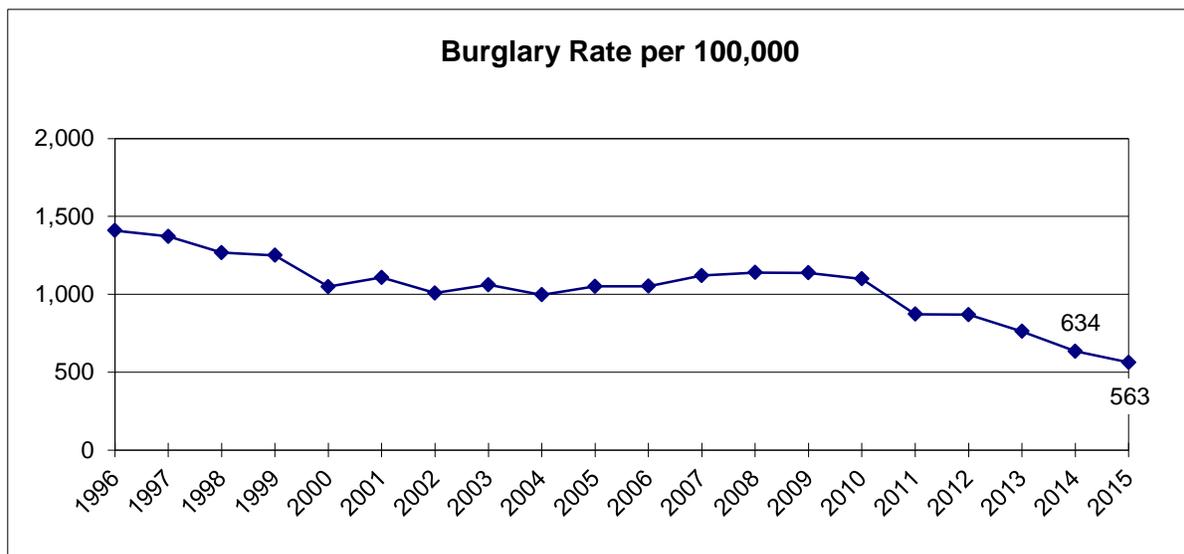
Property Crime

In 2015, the number of property crimes in Austin was 35,399, down from 37,444 in 2014. The rate of property crime per 100,000 residents was 3,985 in 2015, which was down 4% from the prior year's rate of 4,142 and represents a 20-year low (1996 to 2015).

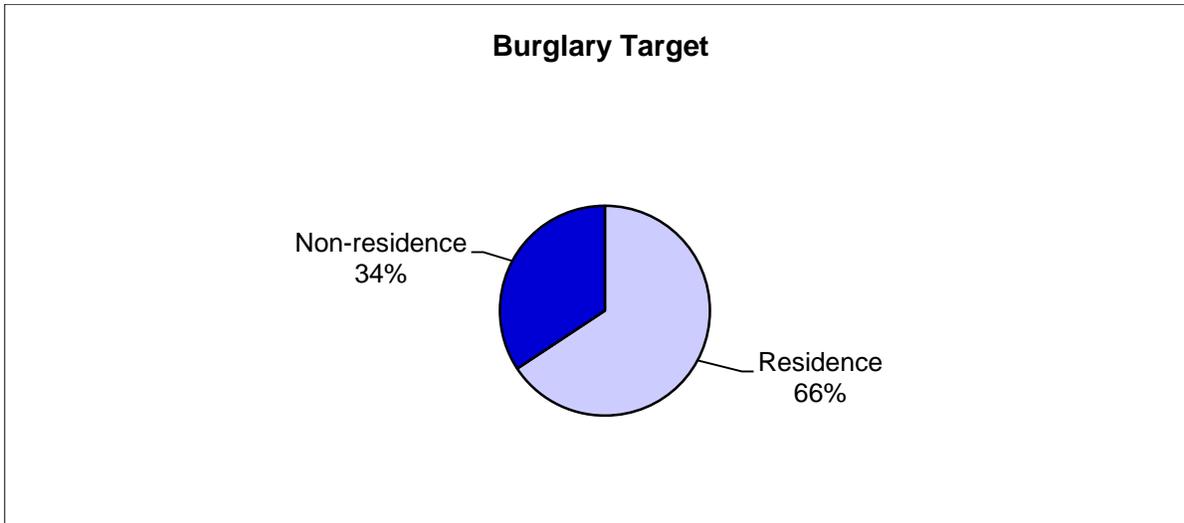


Burglary

There were 5,000 reported burglaries in 2015, down from 5,733 in 2014. The rate was 563 burglaries per 100,000 residents, which was down 11% from the prior year's rate of 634 and represents a 20-year low (1996 to 2015).

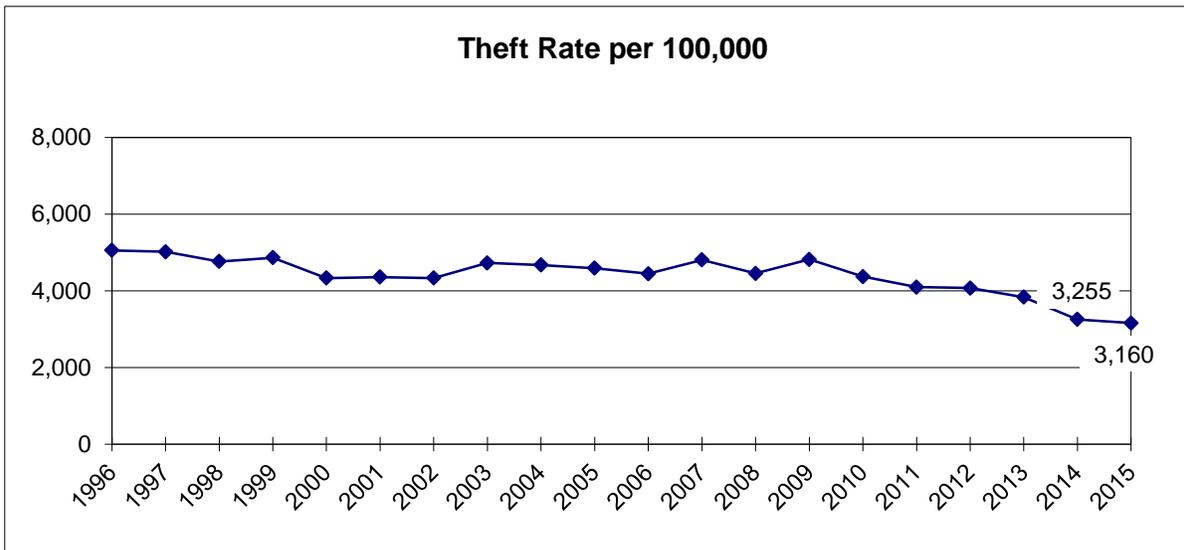


Sixty-six percent of burglaries involved residences and 34% involved other targets (businesses, offices, restaurants, etc.). During 2014, 70% of burglaries involved residences and 30% involved other targets.



Theft

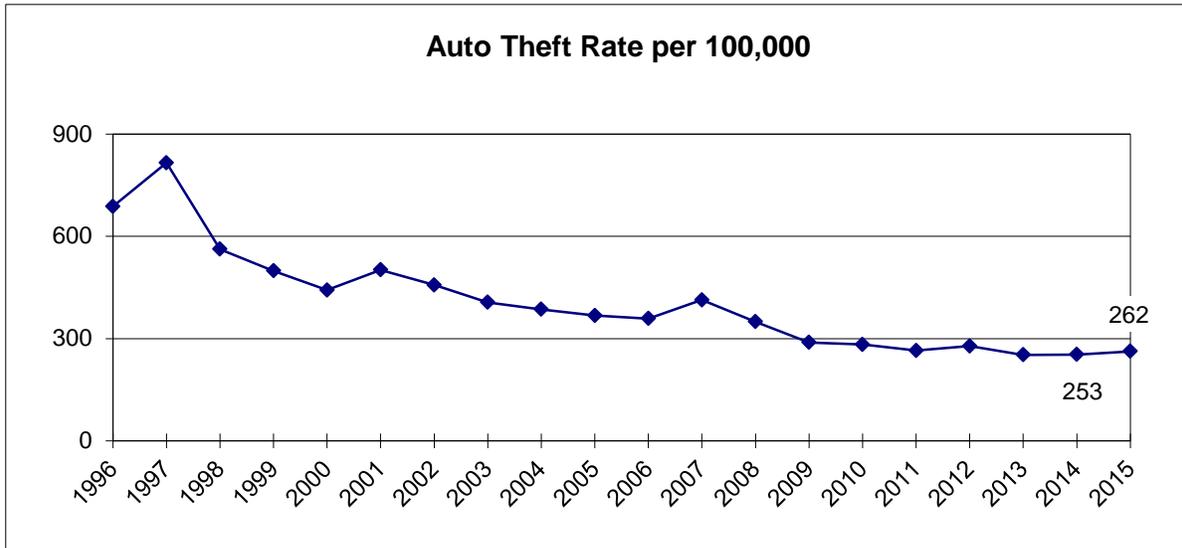
There were 28,068 reported thefts in 2015, down from 29,423 in 2014. The rate was 3,160 thefts per 100,000 residents, which was down 3% from the rate of 3,255 in 2014 and represents a 20-year low (1996 to 2015).



Of all thefts reported in 2015, 36% were burglary of vehicle, or BOV offenses. This proportion was unchanged from 2014.

Auto Theft

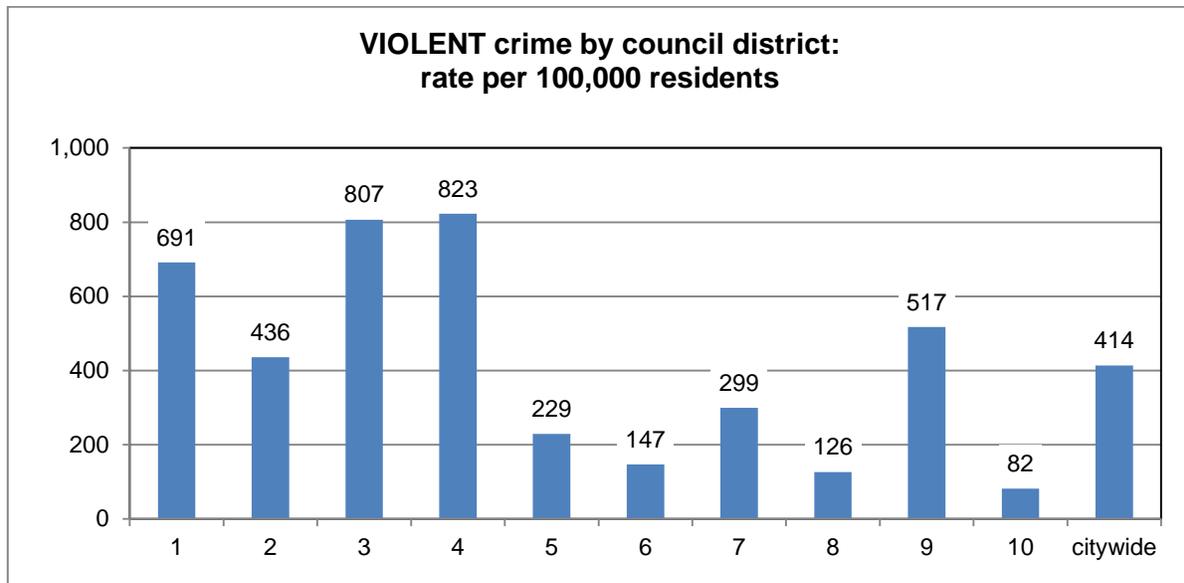
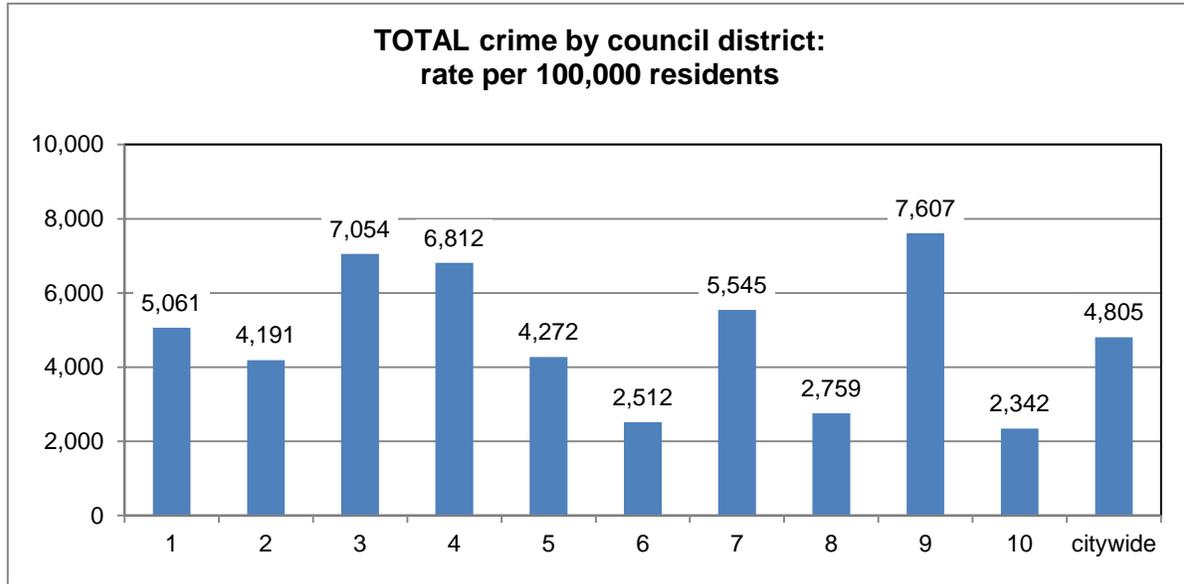
There were 2,331 reported auto thefts in 2015, up from 2,288 in 2014. The rate was 262 auto thefts per 100,000 residents, which was a 4% increase from the rate of 253 in 2014.

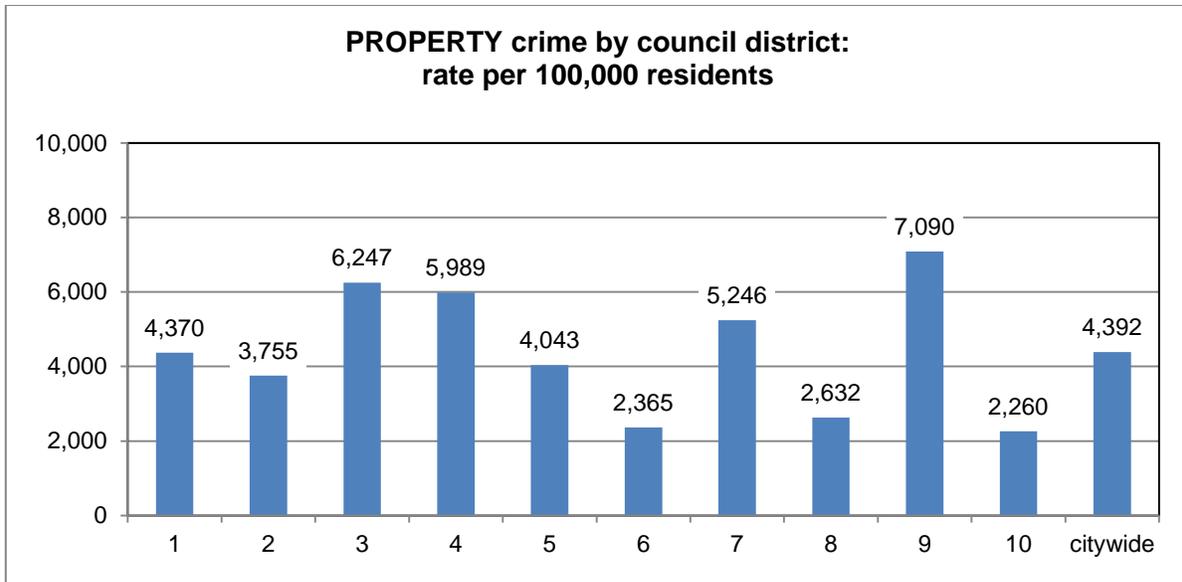


The most frequently stolen vehicles were Honda Accord sedans; trucks made by Ford, Chevrolet, and GMC; and sport utility vehicles made by Chevrolet and GMC. Together, they represent 34% of all stolen vehicles where the make and model were known. Of all vehicles stolen in 2015, 77% were successfully recovered, down from 80% in 2014.

Crime by Council District

The charts below show crime rates by council district. Rates represent crimes per 100,000 residents. Three crime rates are shown: total, violent, and property. For reference, a council districts map is included on page 13.





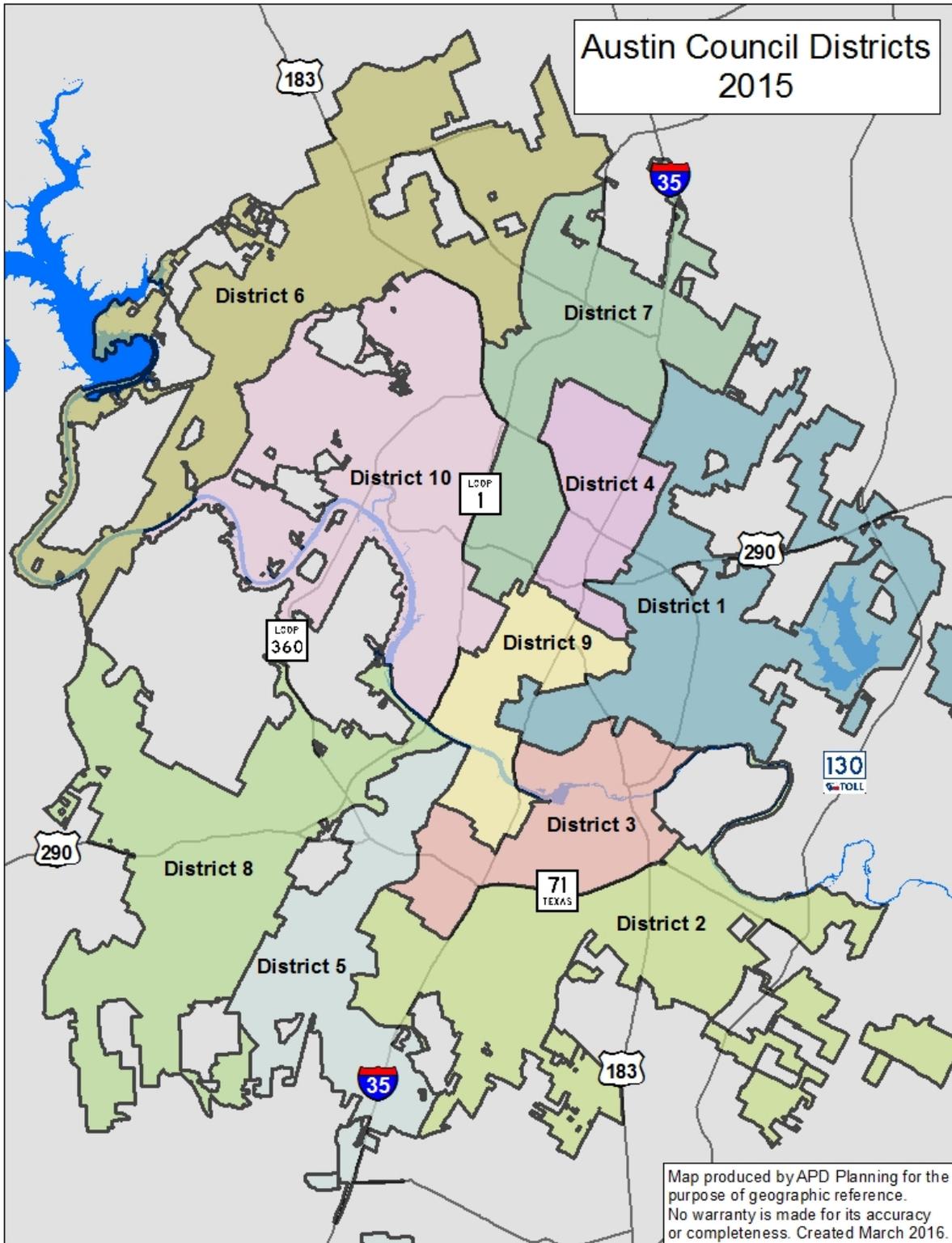
The tables below provide additional detail. The first table shows counts by each crime and the second table shows rates by each crime type.

Note: Because different sources must be used to generate these figures, the counts and rates don't match the total figures provided on Page 1 of this report.

Part I Index Crimes	Crime COUNT by district										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Murder	5	3	4	6	2	0	0	0	2	1	23
Rape	71	39	79	82	25	27	25	14	78	14	454
Robbery	128	64	186	218	49	33	73	23	142	12	928
Agg Assault	334	243	373	347	111	61	143	61	188	39	1,900
Violent Crime	538	349	642	653	187	121	241	98	410	66	3,305
Burglary	715	565	734	794	397	275	510	209	462	259	4,920
Theft	2,486	2,209	3,928	3,593	2,715	1,589	3,512	1,746	4,871	1,515	28,164
Auto Theft	199	230	309	366	184	84	202	89	289	53	2,005
Property Crime	3,400	3,004	4,971	4,753	3,296	1,948	4,224	2,044	5,622	1,827	35,089
Total	3,938	3,353	5,613	5,406	3,483	2,069	4,465	2,142	6,032	1,893	38,394

Part I Index Crimes	Crime RATE per 100,000 residents by district										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Murder	6	4	5	8	2	0	0	0	3	1	3
Rape	91	49	99	103	31	33	31	18	98	17	57
Robbery	165	80	234	275	60	40	91	30	179	15	116
Agg Assault	429	304	469	437	136	74	178	79	237	48	238
Violent Crime	691	436	807	823	229	147	299	126	517	82	414
Burglary	919	706	922	1,001	487	334	633	269	583	320	616
Theft	3,195	2,761	4,936	4,528	3,330	1,929	4,362	2,249	6,143	1,874	3,525
Auto Theft	256	287	388	461	226	102	251	115	364	66	251
Property Crime	4,370	3,755	6,247	5,989	4,043	2,365	5,246	2,632	7,090	2,260	4,392
Total	5,061	4,191	7,054	6,812	4,272	2,512	5,545	2,759	7,607	2,342	4,805

Council Districts Map



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)
	2015	2014	2014
Murder	87%	66%	56%
Rape	53%	54%	37%
Robbery	31%	31%	23%
Aggravated Assault	60%	61%	43%
Total Violent Crime	51%	53%	36%
Burglary	12%	11%	9%
Theft	13%	15%	15%
Auto Theft	20%	16%	8%
Total Property Crime	13%	15%	13%

During 2015, Austin police solved, or cleared, 51% of the reported violent crimes, down from 53% in 2014.

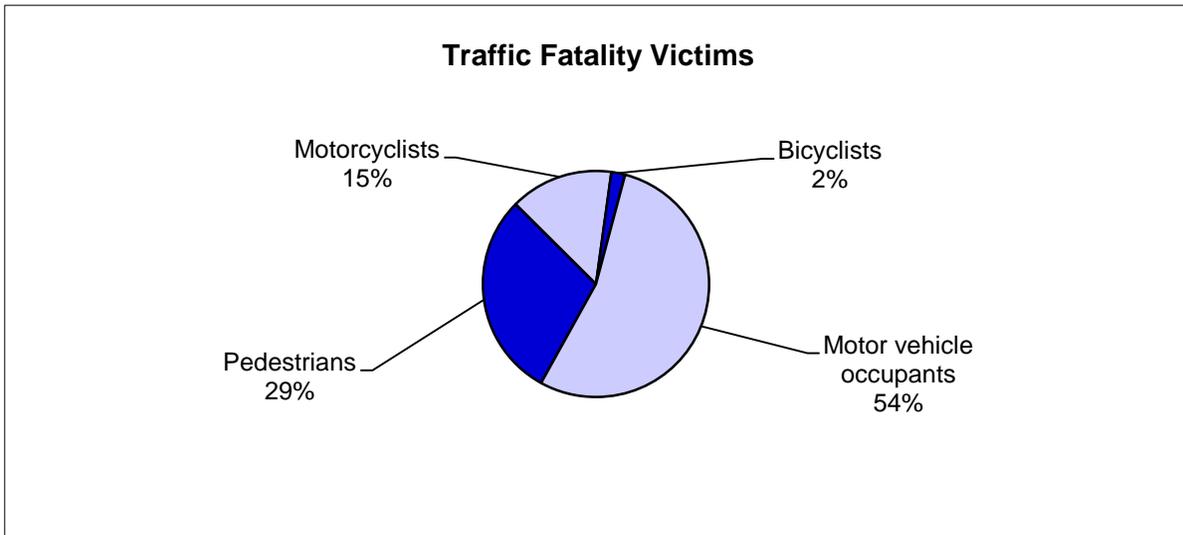
Solving property crimes is generally more difficult because many property crimes are discovered after the crime has occurred, with no known suspects or witnesses. During 2015, Austin solved 13% of property crimes, down from 15% in 2014.

For comparison purposes, clearance rates are shown for other cities of similar size. At this time, 2014 is the most current data available from the FBI. We plan to update these with 2015 clearance rates in the final version of this report, to be issued in Fall 2016.

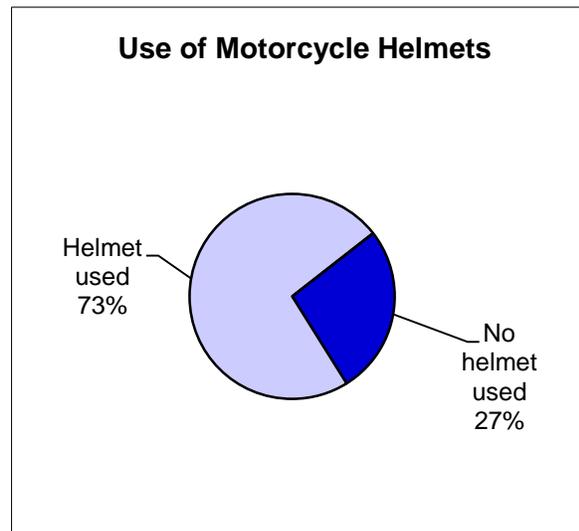
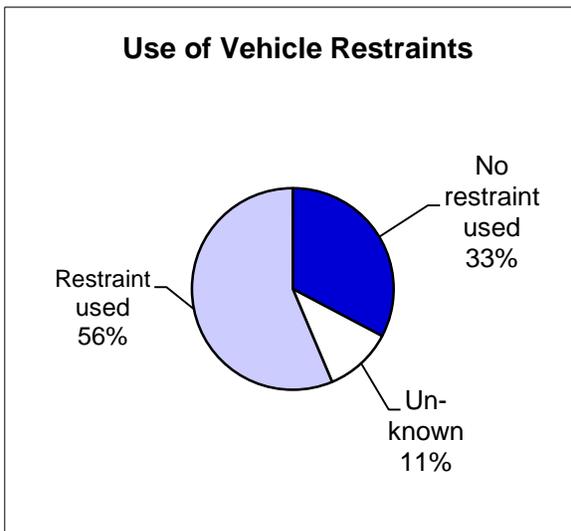
Traffic Fatalities

During 2015 there were 93 fatal crashes that resulted in 102 deaths, as compared with 56 fatal crashes that resulted in 63 deaths in 2014.

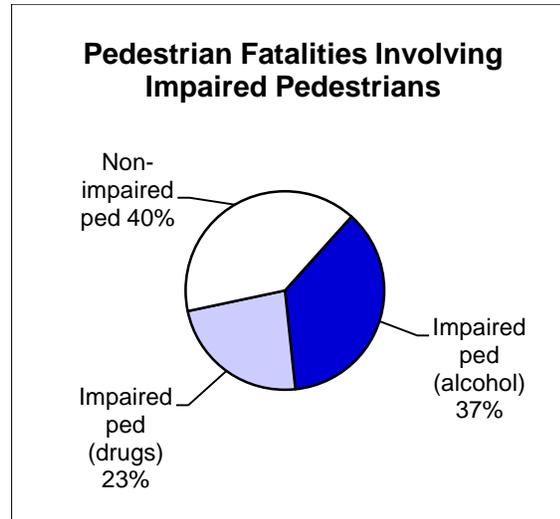
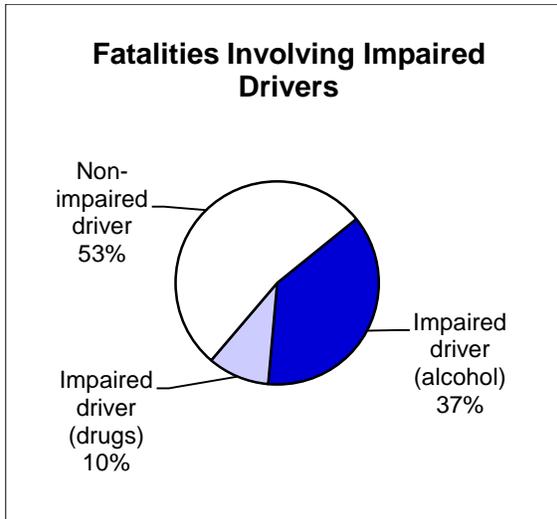
In 2015 most traffic fatalities involved motor vehicle occupants (55, or 54%), followed by pedestrians (30, or 29%), motorcyclists (15, or 15%) and bicyclists (two, or 2%). Similarly, in 2014, most traffic fatalities involved motor vehicle occupants (34, or 54%), followed by pedestrians (15, or 24%), followed by motorcyclists (13, or 21%) and bicyclists (one, or 1%).



Of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2015, 18 (or 33%) victims were not using restraints, as compared with 10 (or 29%) victims in 2014. Of all motorcycle fatalities, four (or 27%) victims were not wearing helmets, as compared with six (or 46%) in 2014.



Of all fatalities in 2015, 38 (or 37%) involved an alcohol-impaired driver, as compared with 28 (or 44%) in 2014. Of all pedestrian fatalities in 2015, 11 (or 37%) involved an alcohol-impaired pedestrian, as compared with eight (or 53%) in 2014.



In 2015, 31 (or 33%) fatal crashes involved speed, as compared with 20 (or 36%) in 2014. And in 2015, 35 (or 38%) fatal crashes occurred on freeways (IH-35, Mo-Pac, US Hwy 183, and State Hwy 71/290 West), as compared with 29 (or 52%) in 2014.

