Austin Police Department

Annual Crime and Traffic Report: 2017 Preliminary Report

Prepared by the Austin Police Department
Chief of Police, Brian Manley
Research and Planning Unit
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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 2018.

Overview

This document contains UCR crime data for the calendar year 2017 (January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017). We have also included selected traffic statistics on fatal crashes and perception of safety.

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 415 per 100,000 residents increased 2% as compared with 2016. (Page 3)

- Austin's **property crime rate** of 3,190 per 100,000 residents decreased 9% as compared with 2016 and is a 20-year low. (Page 8)

- The **aggravated assault rate** of 225 per 100,000 represents a 4% increase as compared with 2016. (Page 6)

- The **burglary rate** of 451 per 100,000 residents represents an 18% decline as compared with 2016 and is a 20-year low. (Page 8)

- The **violent crime clearance rate** remained stable at 46% from 2016 to 2017. The **property crime clearance rate** declined two points to 11%. (Page 11)

- **Traffic fatalities** decreased from 79 in 2016 to 76 in 2017; and **fatal crashes** decreased from 77 in 2016 to 71 in 2017. (Page 12)

- Residents' perception of **safety in neighborhoods at night** and **safety in city parks** scored well above the national average (24 points and 10 points respectively) in Austin's annual survey. (Page 14)

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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:

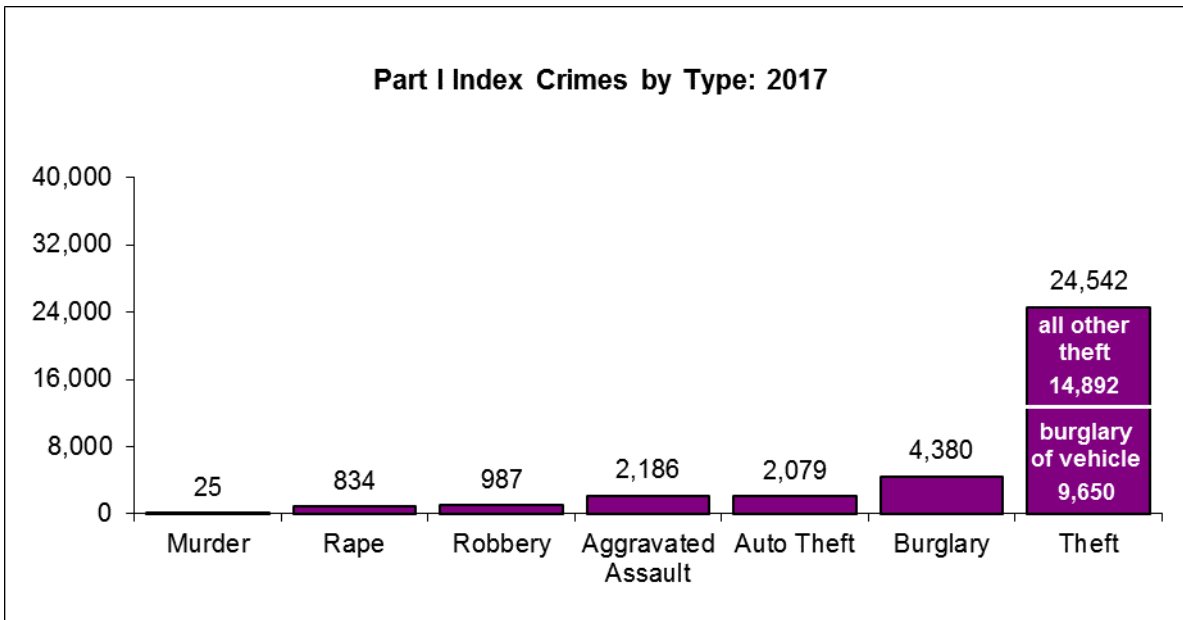| Violent crimes	Property crimes
Murder (number of victims)	Burglary (number of premises entered)
Rape (number of victims)	Theft (number of offenses)
Robbery (number of offenses)	Auto Theft (number of vehicles)
Aggravated Assault (number of victims)	

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.
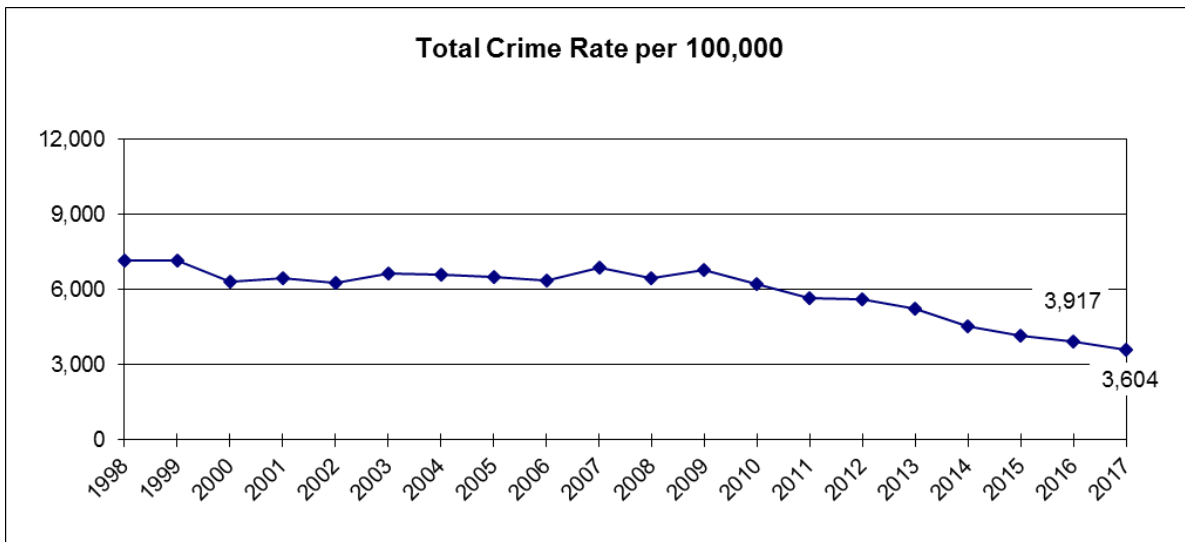
Part I Index Crimes	Offenses			Rate per 100,000		
	2016	2017	% chg	2016	2017	% chg
Murder	39	25	-36%	4.1	2.6	-37%
Rape	747	834	12%	78	86	10%
Robbery	1,048	987	-6%	110	102	-7%
Aggravated Assault	2,069	2,186	6%	216	225	4%
Total Violent Crime	**3,903**	**4,032**	**3%**	**408**	**415**	**2%**
Burglary	5,252	4,380	-17%	549	451	-18%
Theft	26,204	24,542	-6%	2,738	2,525	-8%
Auto Theft	2,119	2,079	-2%	221	214	-3%
Total Property Crime	**33,575**	**31,001**	**-8%**	**3,509**	**3,190**	**-9%**
Total Index Crime	**37,478**	**35,033**	**-7%**	**3,917**	**3,604**	**-8%**

Note: This table represents Austin's 2017 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 2018.

Part I Index Crimes by Type: 2017

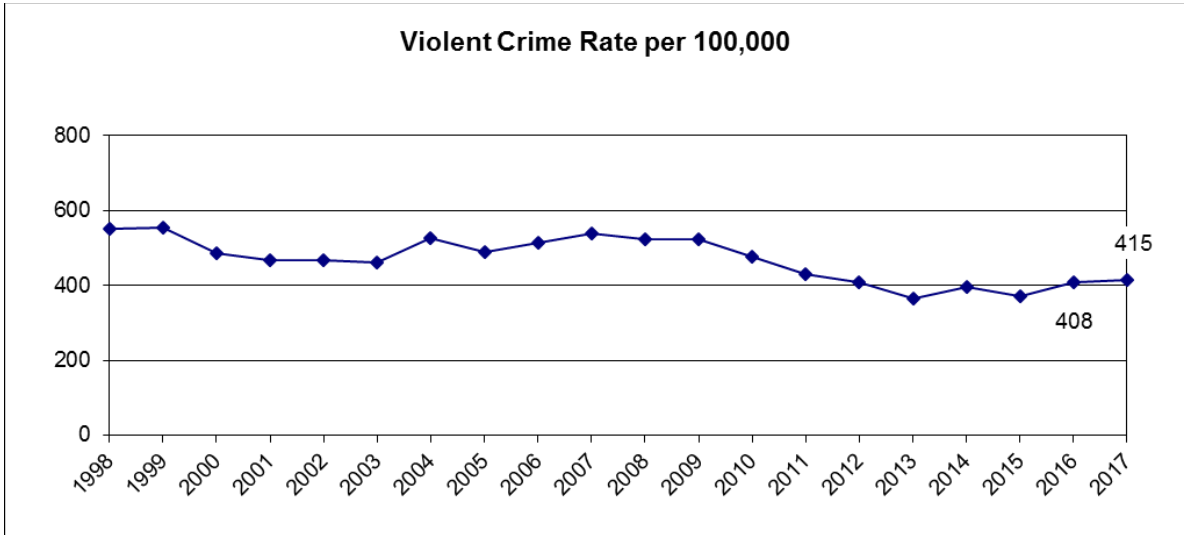| Crime Type	Count
Murder	25
Rape	834
Robbery	987
Aggravated Assault	2,186
Auto Theft	2,079
Burglary	4,380
Theft	24,542
— all other theft	14,892
— burglary of vehicle	9,650

Trends

In 2017, the number of all Part I Index crimes for Austin was 35,033. This was a 7% decrease in incidents as compared with 2016 (37,478). The crime rate per 100,000 residents was 3,604 in 2017 – an 8% decrease from the 2016 rate of 3,917 and a 20-year low (1998 to 2017).

Total Crime Rate per 100,000

The chart shows the total crime rate per 100,000 from 1998 to 2017, declining from about 7,000 in 1998 to 3,604 in 2017. The 2016 value is labeled 3,917 and the 2017 value is labeled 3,604.
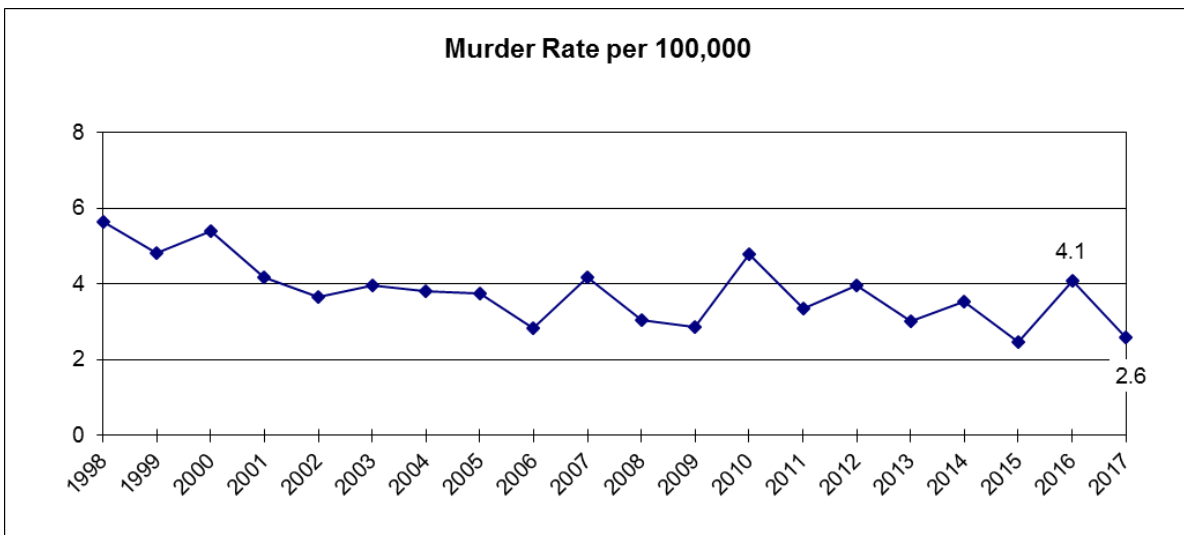
Violent Crime

In 2017, the number of violent crimes was 4,032, a 3% increase in incidents from 2016 (3,903). The rate of violent crime per 100,000 residents was 415 in 2017, up 2% from 408 in 2016.
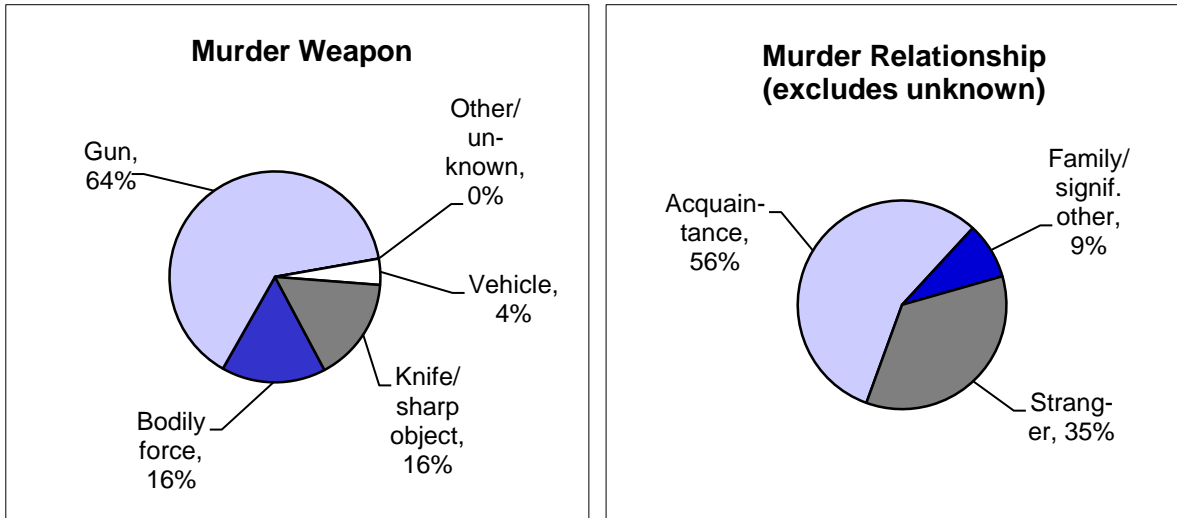
Violent Crime Rate per 100,000

Murder

During 2017, there were 25 murder victims, down from 39 in 2016. Over the past 20 years (1998 to 2017), the number of murder victims ranged from 20 to 39. The 2017 murder rate was 2.6 per 100,000 residents, down from the rate of 4.1 in 2016.
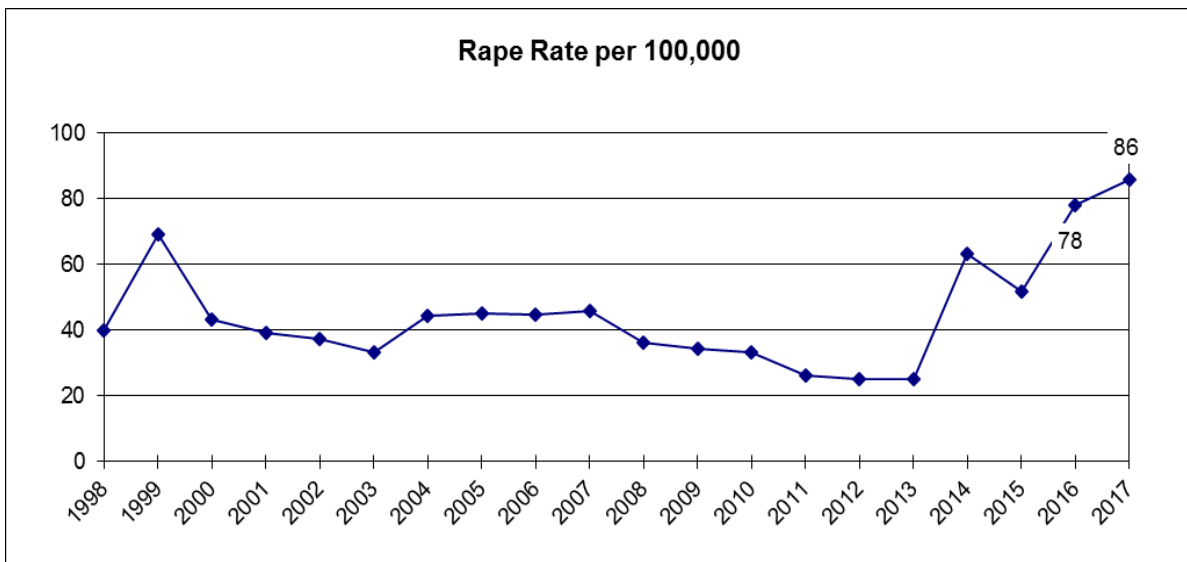
Murder Rate per 100,000

In 2017, guns were the most frequent weapon used in murders (64%), followed by bodily force and knives (both 16%).

The victim knew the offender as an acquaintance, family member, significant other, or roommate in 65% of murders, down from 74% in 2016.
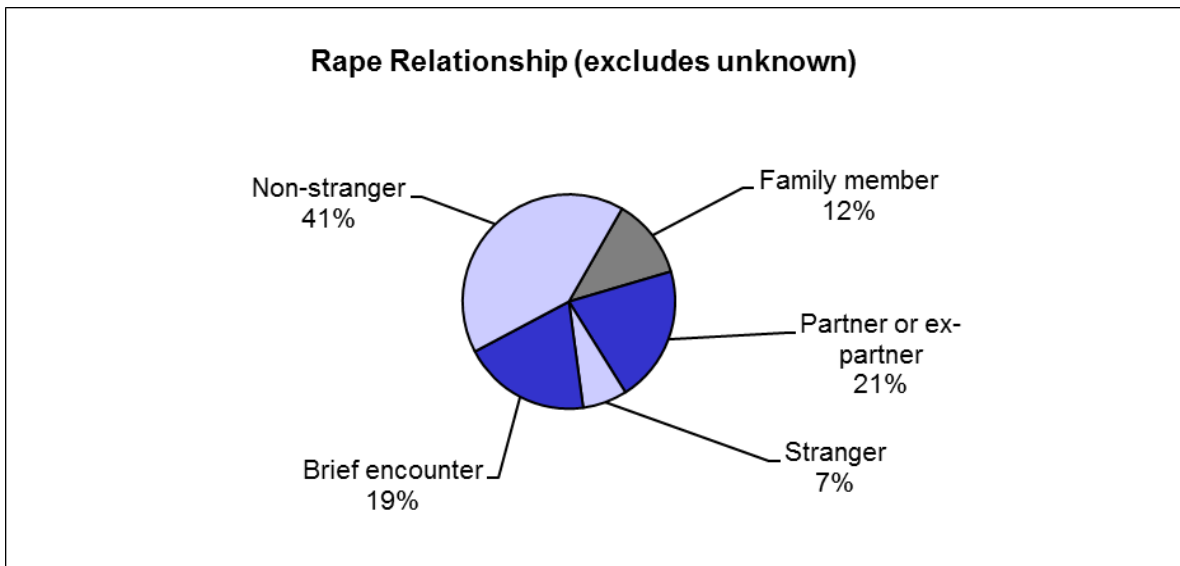
Murder Weapon

Gun, 64%

Other/un-known, 0%

Vehicle, 4%

Knife/sharp object, 16%

Bodily force, 16%

Murder Relationship (excludes unknown)

Acquain-tance, 56%

Family/signif. other, 9%

Strang-er, 35%

Rape

There were 834 reported victims of rape in 2017. The rate was 86 per 100,000 residents.
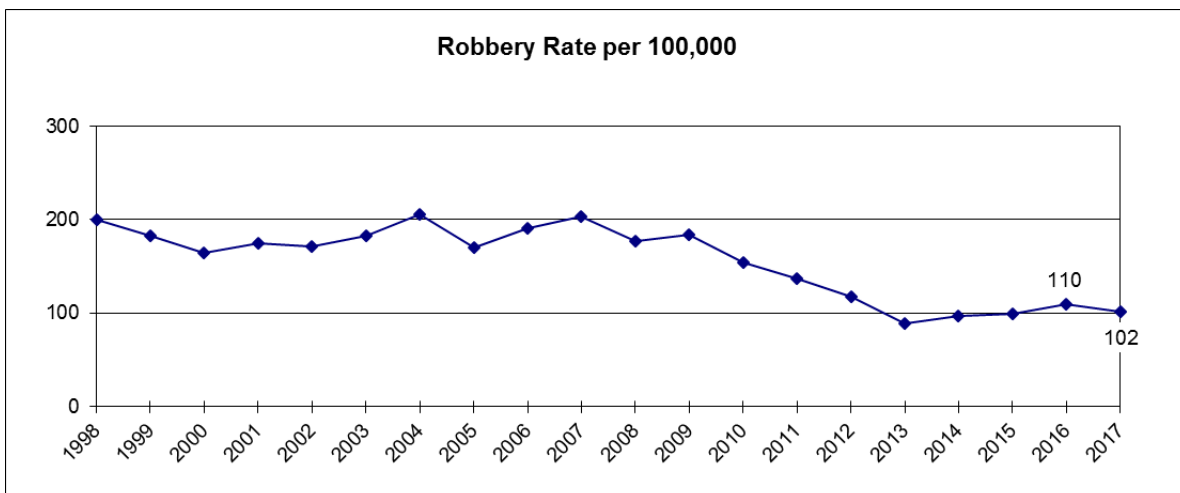
Rape Rate per 100,000

86

78

Note: Due to FBI–directed modifications to reporting requirements and changes in offense code use over time, offenses are not comparable from 2013 to 2016.

The victim knew the suspect as a family member, partner or ex-partner, from a brief encounter, or otherwise as a non-stranger in 93% of the incidents. This was up from 90% in 2016.

Rape Relationship (excludes unknown)

Non-stranger 41%
Family member 12%
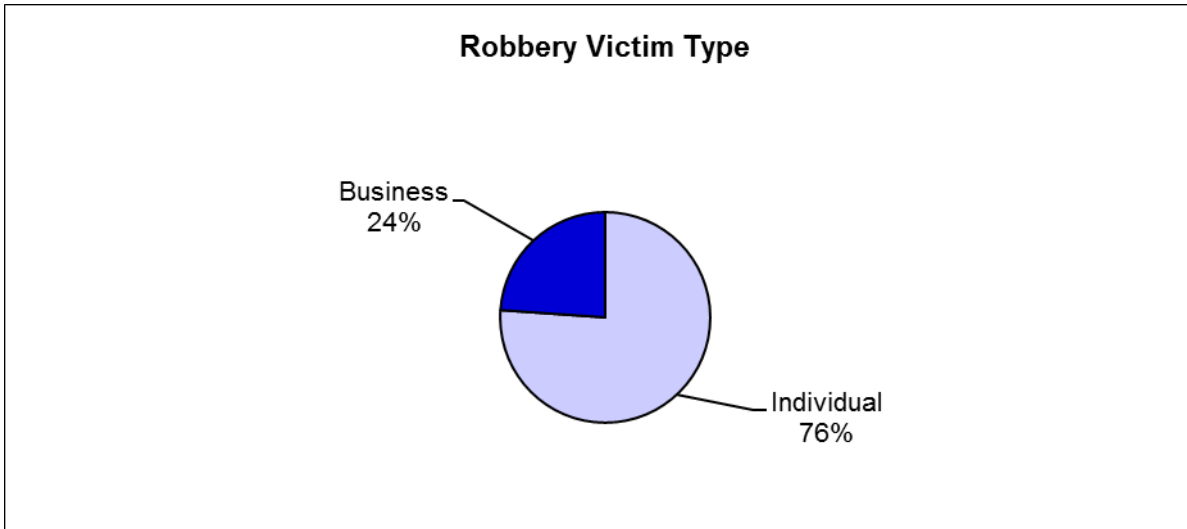Partner or ex-partner 21%
Stranger 7%
Brief encounter 19%

Robbery

There were 987 robberies reported in 2017, down from 1,048 in 2016. The rate was 102 robberies per 100,000 residents, which was a 7% decrease from the previous year's rate of 110.

Robbery Rate per 100,000

110
102

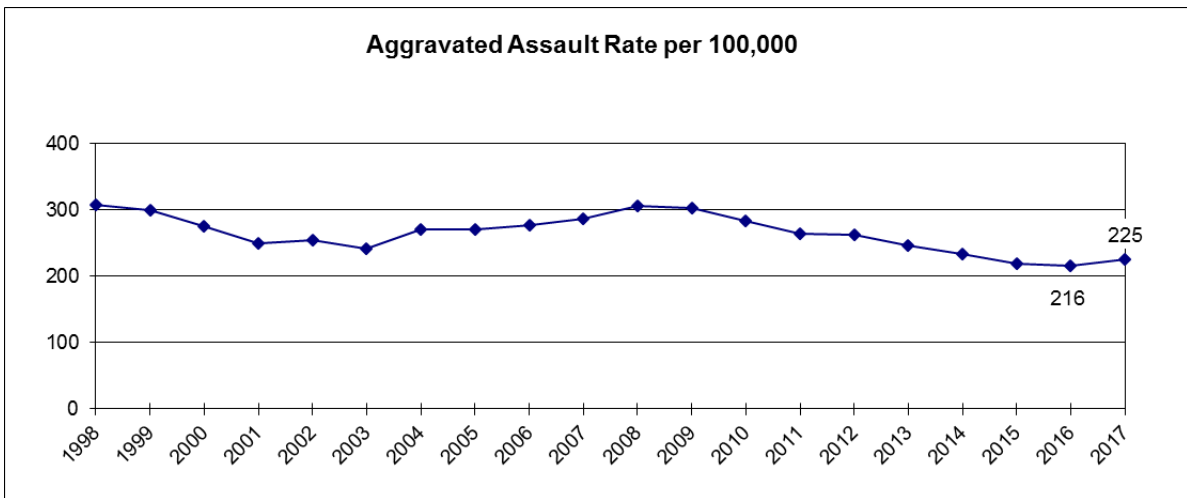1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017

Seventy-six percent of robberies were committed against individuals, as compared with 24% that occurred at businesses. In 2016, 82% of robberies were committed against individuals, and 18% of robberies occurred at businesses.

Robbery Victim Type
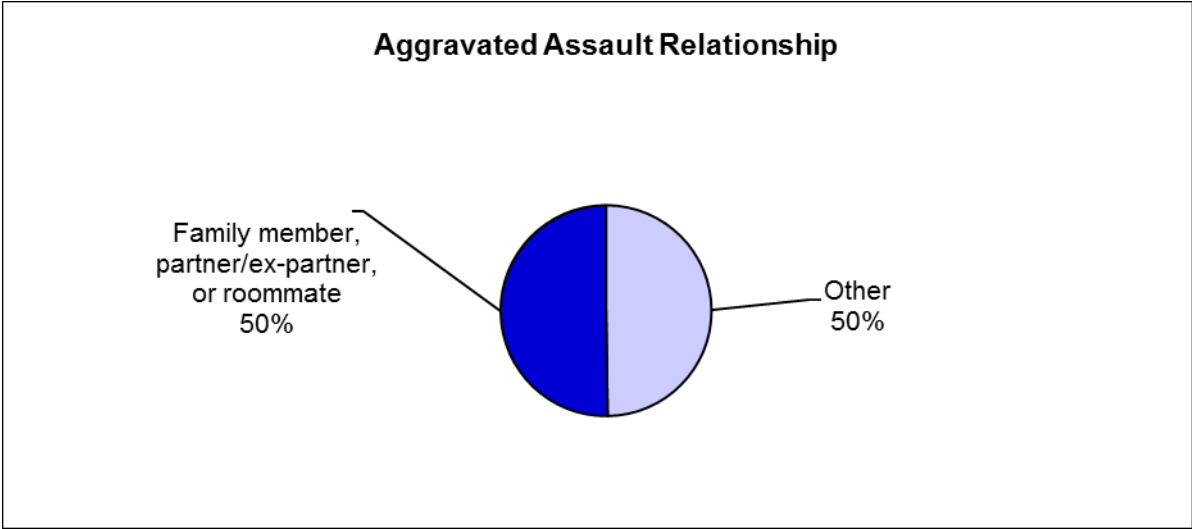
Business
24%

Individual
76%

Aggravated Assault

There were 2,186 reported victims of aggravated assault in 2017, up from 2,069 in 2016. The rate was 225 victims per 100,000 residents, up 4% from the prior year's rate of 216.
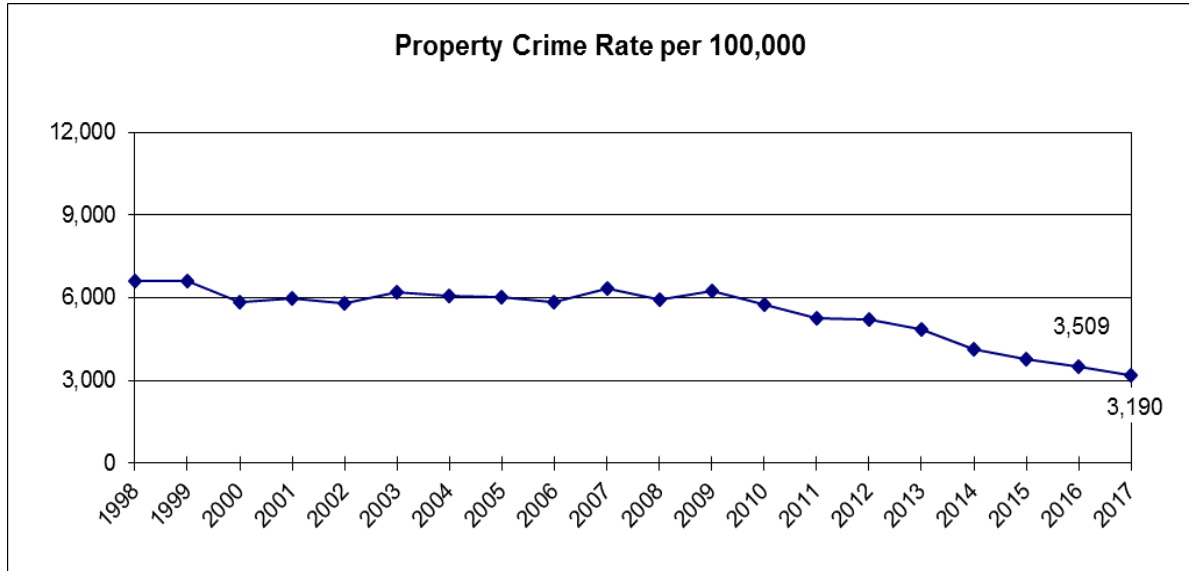
Aggravated Assault Rate per 100,000

225

216

1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017

Half (50%) of aggravated assaults were committed by a family member, partner or ex-partner, or roommate of the victim. This was up from 48% in 2016.

Aggravated Assault Relationship

Family member, partner/ex-partner, or roommate
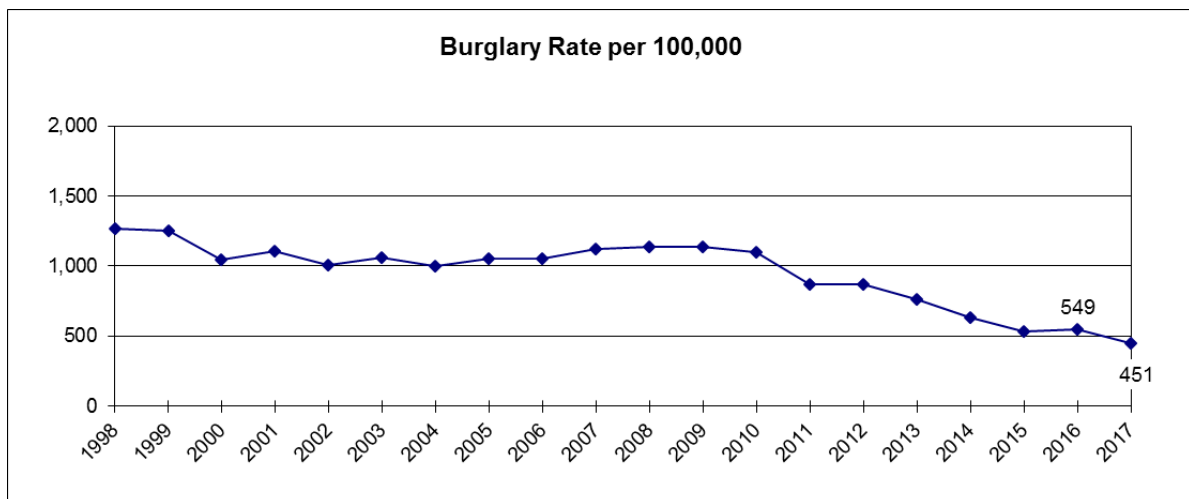50%

Other
50%

Property Crime

In 2017, the number of property crimes in Austin was 31,001, down from 33,575 in 2016. The rate of property crime per 100,000 residents was 3,190 in 2017, which was down 9% from the prior year's rate of 3,509 and represents a 20-year low (1998 to 2017).
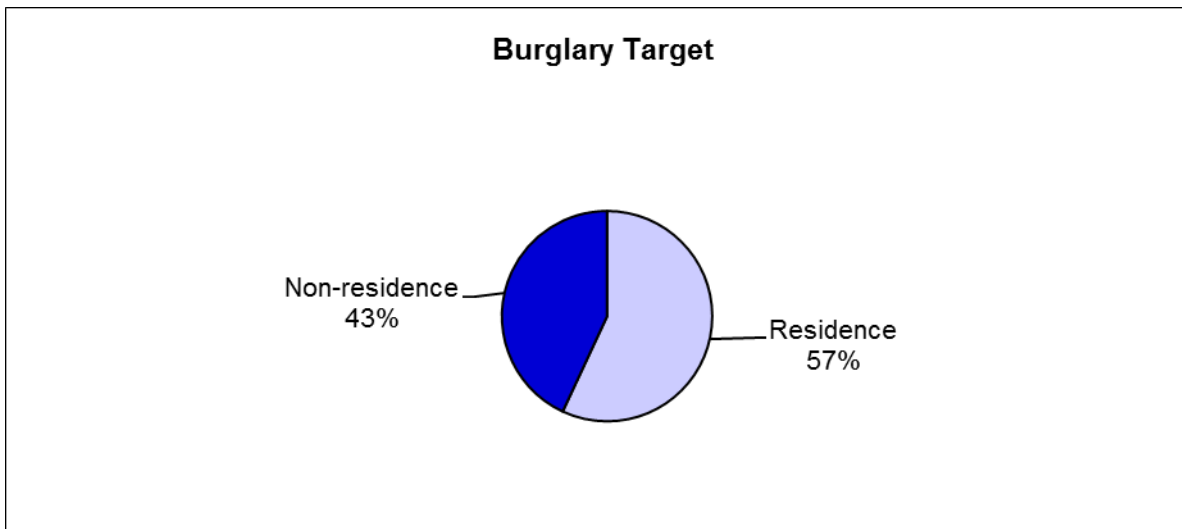
Property Crime Rate per 100,000

Burglary

There were 4,380 reported burglaries in 2017, down from 5,252 in 2016. The rate was 451 burglaries per 100,000 residents, which was down 18% from the prior year's rate of 549 and represents a 20-year low (1998 to 2017).
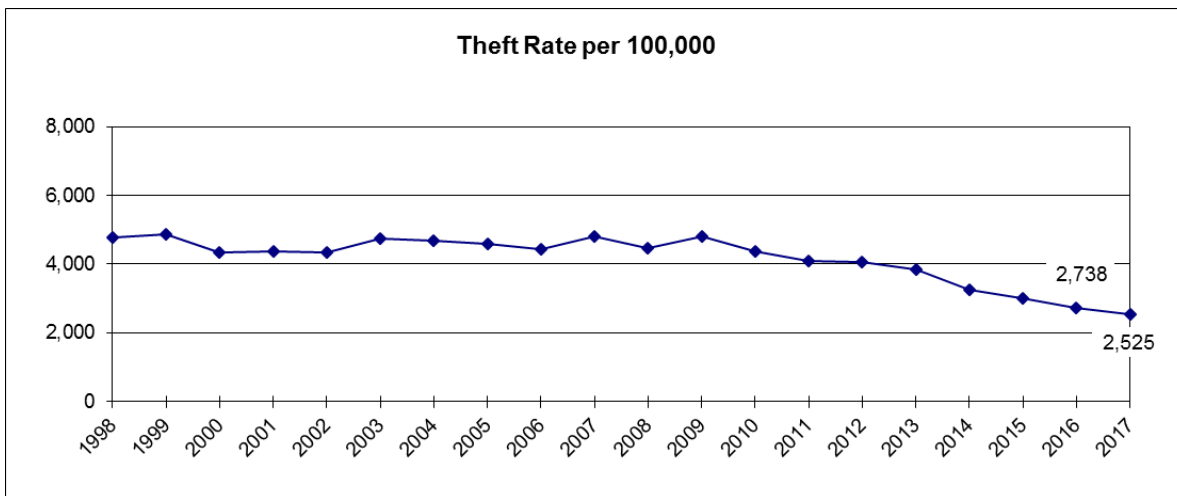
Burglary Rate per 100,000

Fifty-seven percent of burglaries involved residences and 43% involved other targets (businesses, offices, restaurants, etc.). During 2016, 62% of burglaries involved residences and 38% involved other targets.

Burglary Target
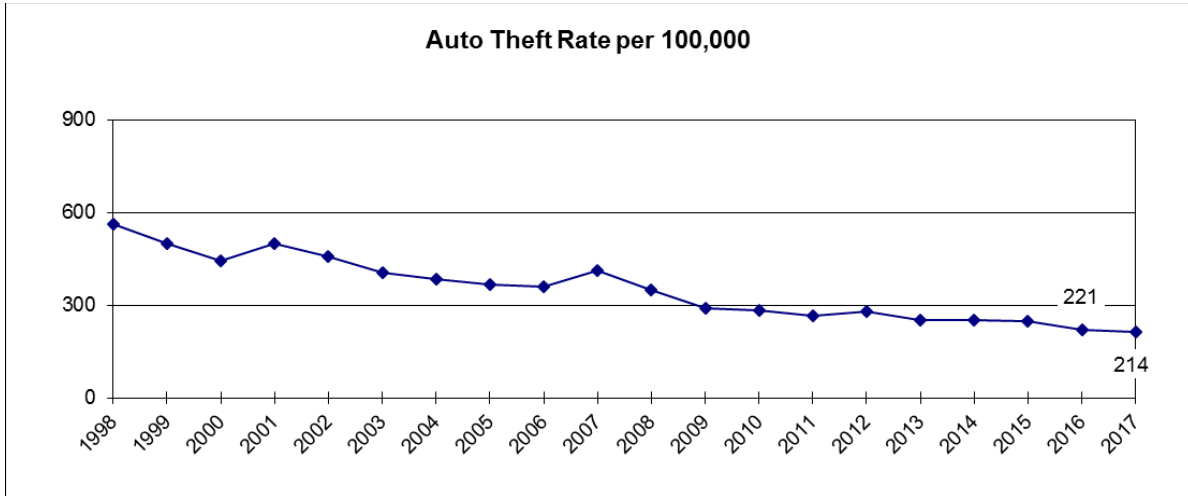
Non-residence 43%

Residence 57%

Theft

There were 24,542 reported thefts in 2017, down from 26,204 in 2016. The rate was 2,525 thefts per 100,000 residents, which was down 8% from the rate of 2,738 in 2016 and represents a 20-year low (1998 to 2017).

Theft Rate per 100,000

2,738

2,525

Of all thefts reported in 2017, 39% were burglary of vehicle, or BOV offenses, up from 35% in 2015.

Auto Theft

There were 2,079 reported auto thefts in 2017, down from 2,119 in 2016. The rate was 214 auto thefts per 100,000 residents, which was a 3% decrease from the rate of 221 in 2016 and a 20-year low (1998 to 2017).

Auto Theft Rate per 100,000

The most frequently stolen vehicles were Honda Accord and Civic sedans, and trucks made by Ford, Chevrolet, Dodge and GMC. Together, they represent 29% of all stolen vehicles where the make and model were known. Of all vehicles stolen in 2017, 75% were successfully recovered, down from 88% in 2016.

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 Avg. (pop 500,000 - 1,500,000) |
	2017	2016	2016
Murder	104%*	79%	51%
Rape	53%	51%	36%
Robbery	33%	35%	23%
Aggravated Assault	48%	48%	40%
Total Violent Crime	**46%**	**46%**	**34%**
Burglary	13%	12%	8%
Theft	10%	12%	12%
Auto Theft	15%	23%	8%
Total Property Crime	**11%**	**13%**	**11%**

During 2017, Austin police solved, or cleared, 46% of the reported violent crimes at the same rate as in 2016.

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 2017, Austin solved 11% of property crimes, down from 2016.

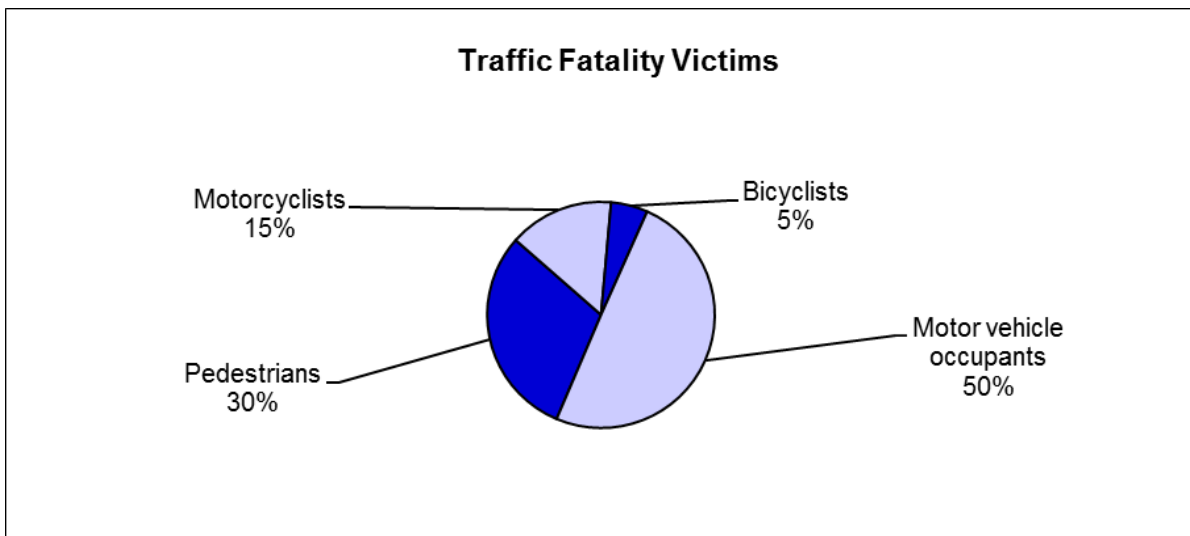The following cities are included in the "US cities average" above:

- Albuquerque
- Baltimore
- Boston
- Charlotte
- Columbus
- Dallas
- Denver
- Detroit
- El Paso

- Fort Worth
- Fresno
- Honolulu
- Indianapolis
- Jacksonville
- Louisville
- Memphis
- Milwaukee
- Nashville

- Oklahoma City
- Portland
- San Antonio
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- San Jose
- Seattle
- Tucson
- Washington DC

* Clearance rate is calculated as the number of crimes cleared during the year divided by the number of crimes reported during the year. Of the murders cleared during 2017, six were reported in prior years, resulting in a 2017 clearance rate of more than 100%.
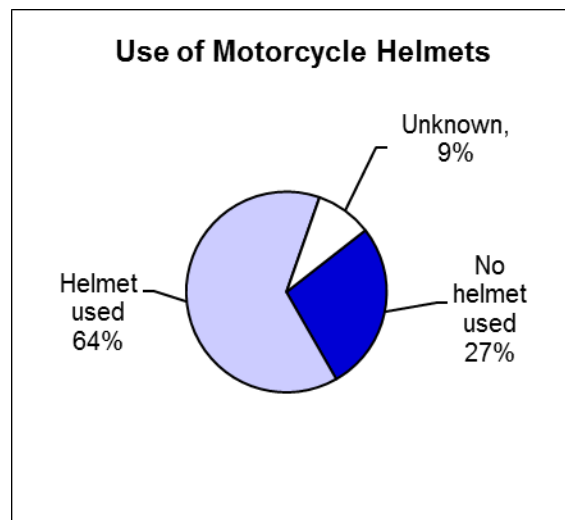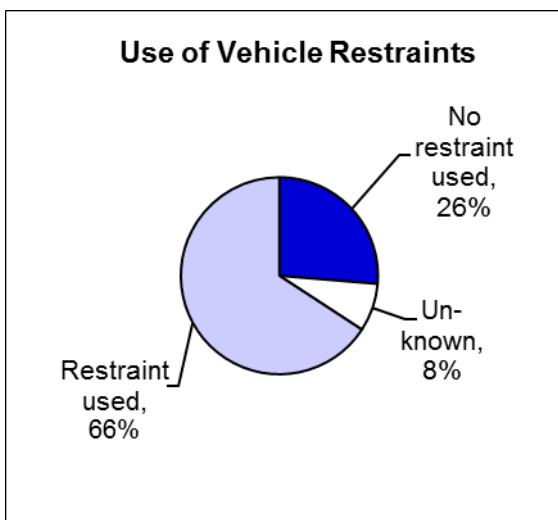
Traffic Fatalities

During 2017, there were 71 fatal crashes that resulted in 76 deaths, as compared with 77 fatal crashes that resulted in 79 deaths in 2016.
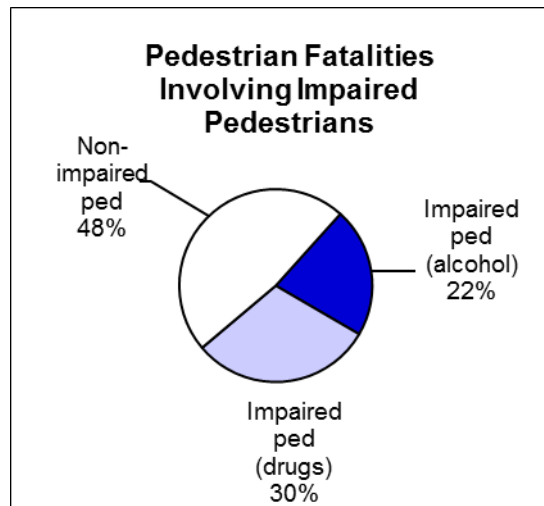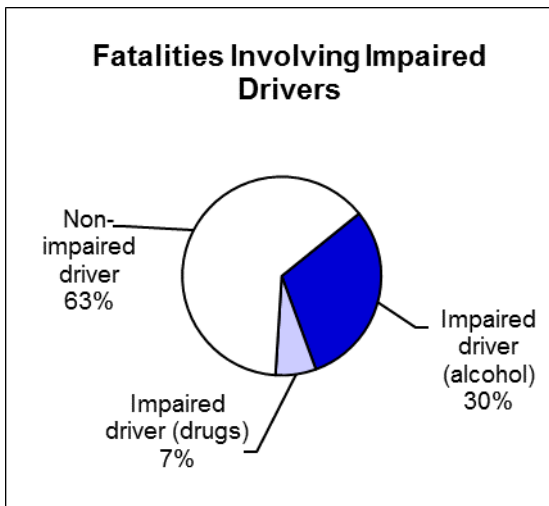
In 2017, most traffic fatalities involved motor vehicle occupants (38, or 50%), followed by pedestrians (23, or 30%), motorcyclists (11, or 15%) and bicyclists (4, or 5%). Similarly, in 2016, most traffic fatalities involved motor vehicle occupants (36, or 46%), followed by pedestrians (28, or 35%), followed by motorcyclists (13, or 16%) and bicyclists (two, or 3%).

Traffic Fatality Victims

- Motorcyclists 15%
- Bicyclists 5%
- Pedestrians 30%
- Motor vehicle occupants 50%

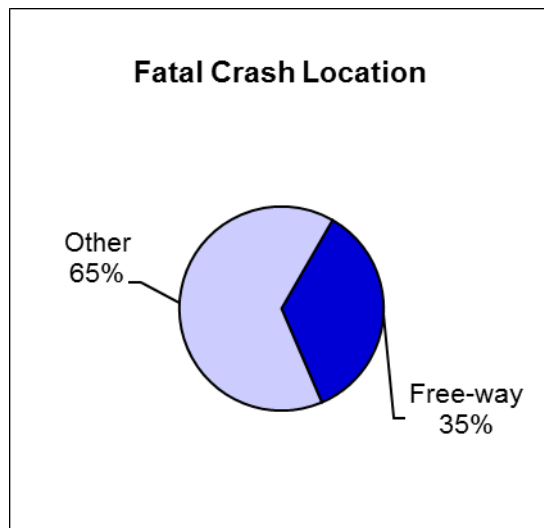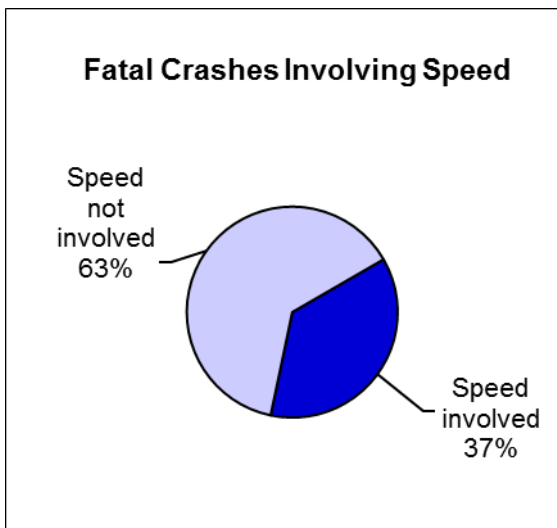Of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2017, 10 (or 26%) victims were not using restraints, as compared with 11 (or 31%) victims in 2016. Of all motorcycle fatalities, three (or 27%) victims were not wearing helmets, as compared with five (or 38%) in 2016.

Use of Vehicle Restraints

- No restraint used, 26%
- Un-known, 8%
- Restraint used, 66%

Use of Motorcycle Helmets

- Unknown, 9%
- No helmet used 27%
- Helmet used 64%

Of all fatalities in 2016, 23 (or 30%) involved an alcohol-impaired driver, as compared with 25 (or 32%) in 2016. Of all pedestrian fatalities in 2017, 5 (or 22%) involved an alcohol-impaired pedestrian, as compared with 12 (or 43%) in 2016.

Fatalities Involving Impaired Drivers

Non-impaired driver 63%

Impaired driver (alcohol) 30%

Impaired driver (drugs) 7%

Pedestrian Fatalities Involving Impaired Pedestrians

Non-impaired ped 48%

Impaired ped (alcohol) 22%

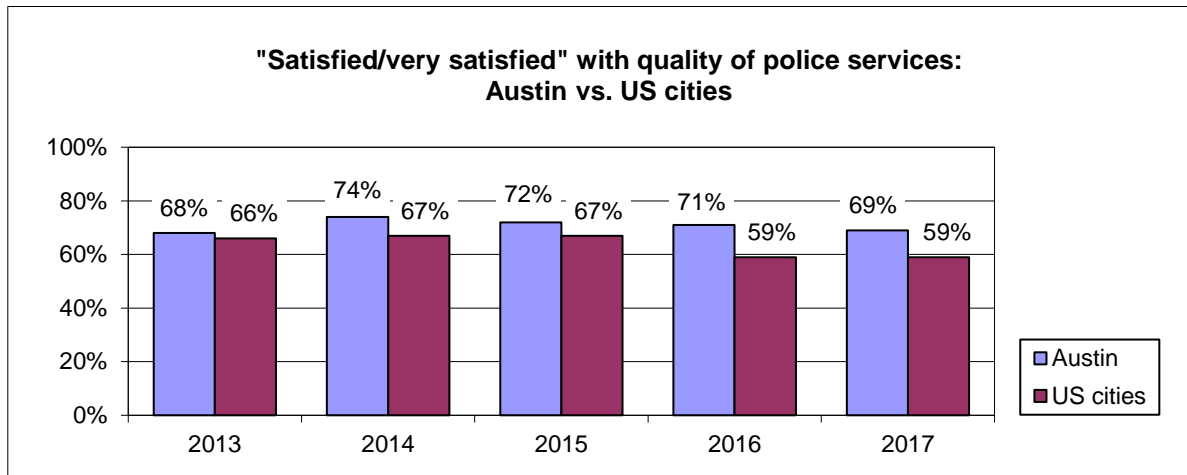Impaired ped (drugs) 30%

In 2017, 26 (or 37%) fatal crashes involved speed, as compared with 23 (or 30%) in 2016. And in 2017, 25 (or 35%) fatal crashes occurred on freeways (IH-35, Mo-Pac, US Hwy 183, and State Hwy 71/290 West), as compared with 32 (or 42%) in 2016.
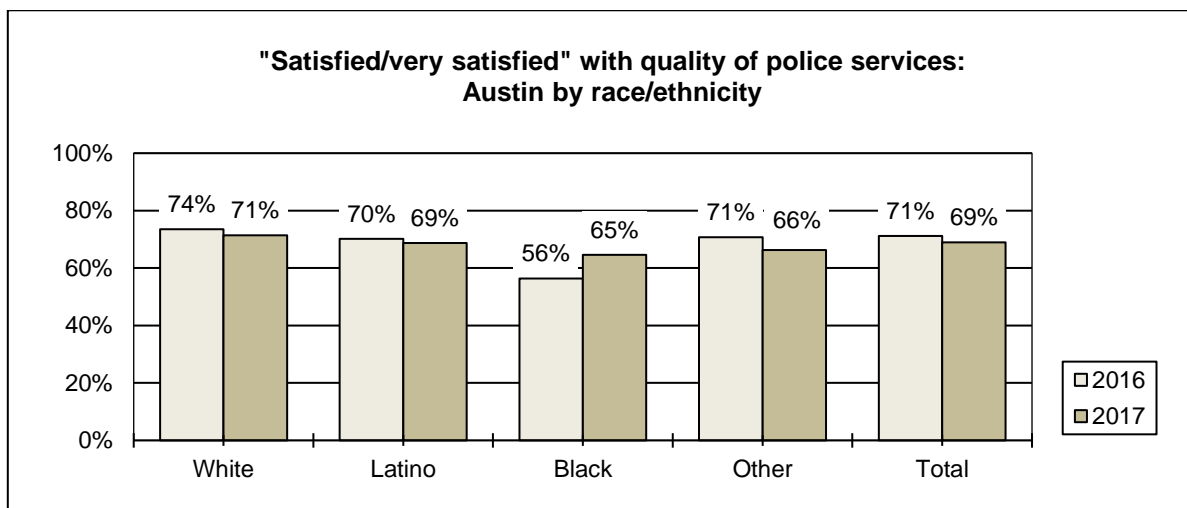

Fatal Crashes Involving Speed

Speed not involved 63%

Speed involved 37%

Fatal Crash Location

Other 65%

Free-way 35%

Perception of Safety

In 2017, "quality of public safety services" was ranked again as the most important city service after "traffic flow." This year the result for overall satisfaction with the quality of police services (69%) was down from 2016 (71%) but remained ten points above other US cities surveyed.

"Satisfied/very satisfied" with quality of police services: Austin vs. US cities

Year	Austin	US cities
2013	68%	66%
2014	74%	67%
2015	72%	67%
2016	71%	59%
2017	69%	59%

The chart below shows Austin's results by race/ethnicity for 2016 and 2017. Although satisfaction with APD's overall quality of service saw a slight decrease, satisfaction as reported by African Americans went up by 9 percentage points. APD is committed to improving relationships throughout our community.

"Satisfied/very satisfied" with quality of police services: Austin by race/ethnicity

Group	2016	2017
White	74%	71%
Latino	70%	69%
Black	56%	65%
Other	71%	66%
Total	71%	69%

While Austin scored 4 points lower on "speed of emergency police response" than last year, feelings of safety downtown at night increased from 28% (2016) to 29% (2017). Notably, Austin scored higher than the national average in "feeling safe in my neighborhood at night" (24 points higher than the national average) and in "feeling safe in city parks" (10 points higher than the national average).

The full City of Austin Community Survey is available here.