

Austin Police Department

Annual Crime and Traffic Report: 2011 Preliminary Report



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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 September 2012.

Overview

This document contains UCR crime data for the calendar year 2011 (January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011). 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 434 per 100,000 residents represents a 9% decrease as compared with 2010. (Page 3)
- Austin’s **property crime rate** of 5,284 per 100,000 residents represents a decrease of 8% as compared with 2010. (Page 8)
- The **number of murders** fell 29%, from 38 in 2010 to 27 in 2011. The murder rate is about three per 100,000 residents. (Page 3)
- The **number of rapes** fell 20%, from 265 in 2010 to 211 in 2011. The rate is 26 per 100,000 residents. (Page 4)
- The number of **burglary of vehicle (BOV)** incidents declined 10%, from 15,178 in 2010 to 13,640 in 2011. (Page 9)
- Austin's number of **auto thefts** fell from 2,250 in 2010 to 2,139 in 2011; of all vehicles stolen, 79% were successfully recovered. (Page 10)
- Austin’s number of **traffic fatalities** grew from 49 in 2010 to 54 in 2011; the number of **fatal collisions** grew 2%, from 47 in 2010 to 48 in 2011. (Page 12)
- The number of **fatal collisions involving an alcohol-impaired driver** decreased 60%, from 25 in 2010 to 10 in 2011. (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)

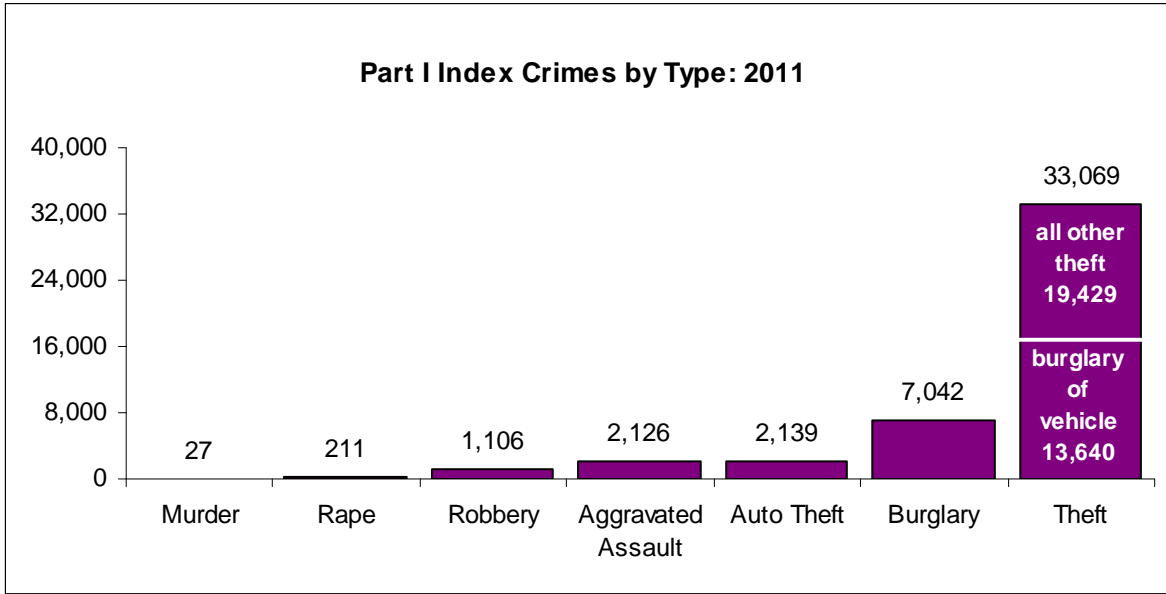
These categories and crime definitions are used for reporting city-level crime statistics to the FBI under its Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program.

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.

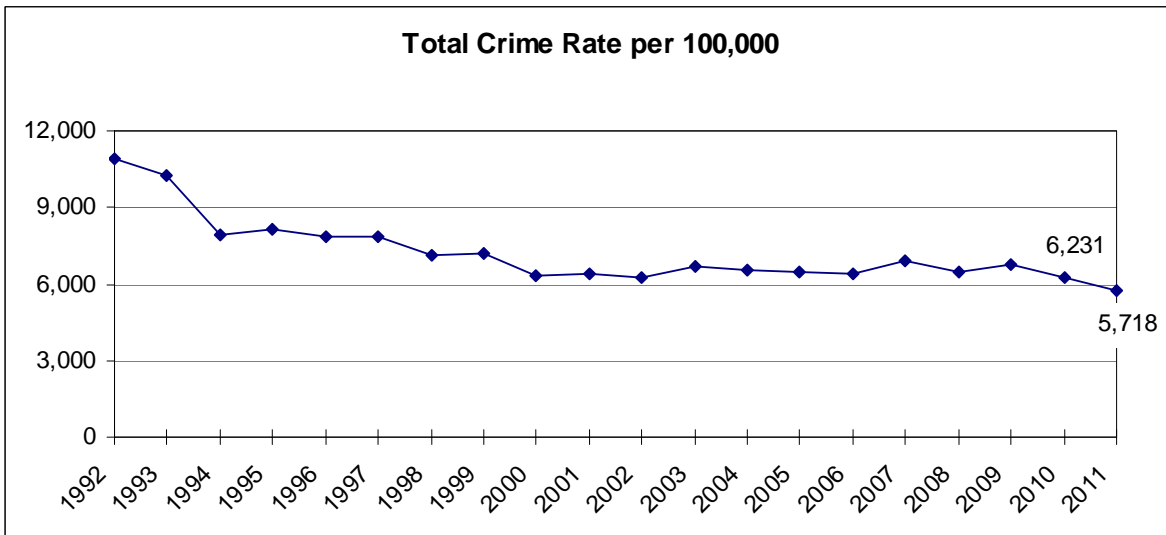
Part I Index Crimes	Offenses			Rate per 100,000		
	2010	2011	% chg	2010	2011	% chg
Murder	38	27	-28.9%	4.8	3.4	-29.2%
Rape	265	211	-20.4%	33.3	26.4	-20.7%
Robbery	1,231	1,106	-10.2%	154.6	138.3	-10.5%
Aggravated Assault	2,256	2,126	-5.8%	283.3	265.9	-6.1%
Total Violent Crime	3,790	3,470	-8.4%	475.9	434.0	-8.8%
Burglary	8,749	7,042	-19.5%	1,098.7	880.7	-19.8%
Theft	34,827	33,069	-5.0%	4,373.5	4,135.8	-5.4%
Auto Theft	2,250	2,139	-4.9%	282.6	267.5	-5.3%
Total Property Crime	45,826	42,250	-7.8%	5,754.8	5,284.0	-8.2%
Total Index Crime	49,616	45,720	-7.9%	6,231	5,718	-8.2%
Population	796,310	799,578	0.4%			

Note: These represent Austin’s 2011 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 September 2012.



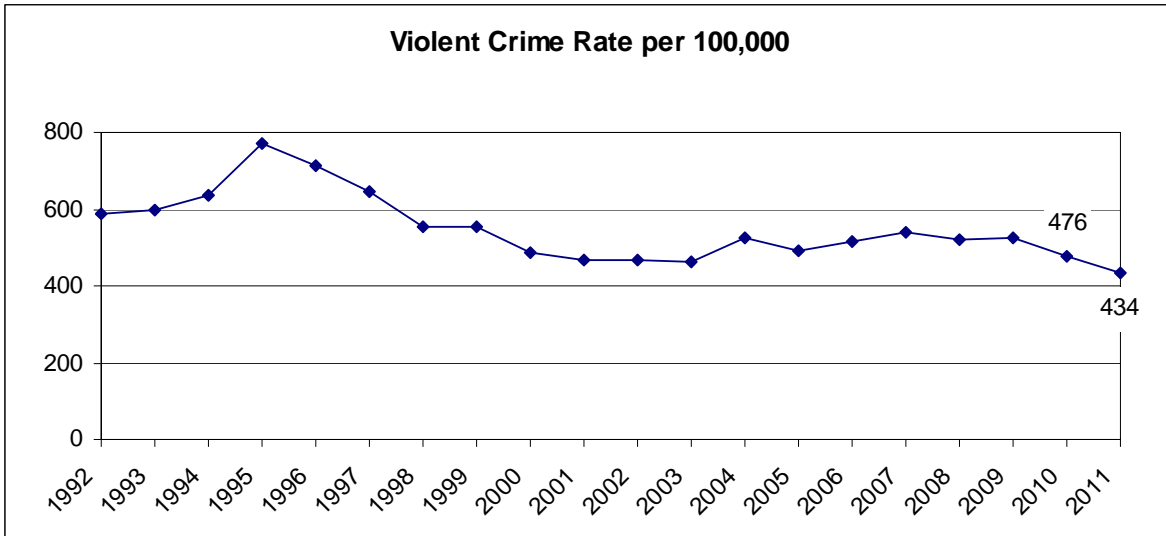
Trends

In 2011, the number of all Part I Index crimes for Austin was 45,720. This represents an 8% decrease in incidents as compared with 2010 (49,616). The rate of crime per 100,000 residents was 5,718 in 2011 – an 8% decrease from the rate of 6,231 in 2010. Over the previous 10 years (2000 to 2009), the rate ranged from 6,267 to 6,881.



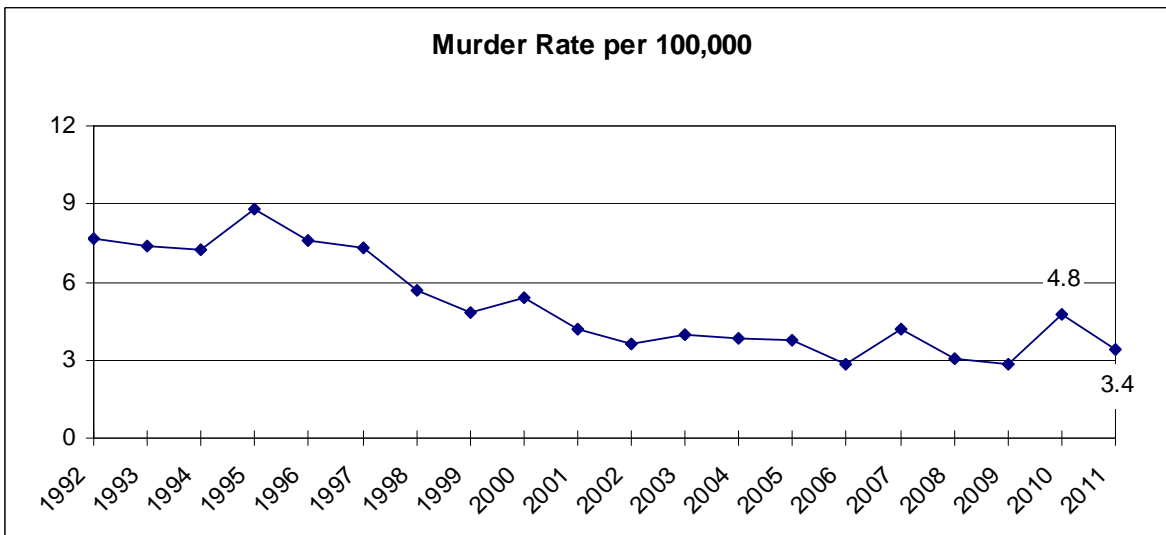
Violent Crime

In 2011, the number of violent crimes in Austin was 3,470. This represents an 8% decrease in incidents as compared with 2010 (3,790). The rate of violent crime per 100,000 residents was 434 in 2011 – a 9% decrease from the rate of 476 in 2010. Over the previous 10 years (2000 to 2009), the rate ranged from 462 to 540.



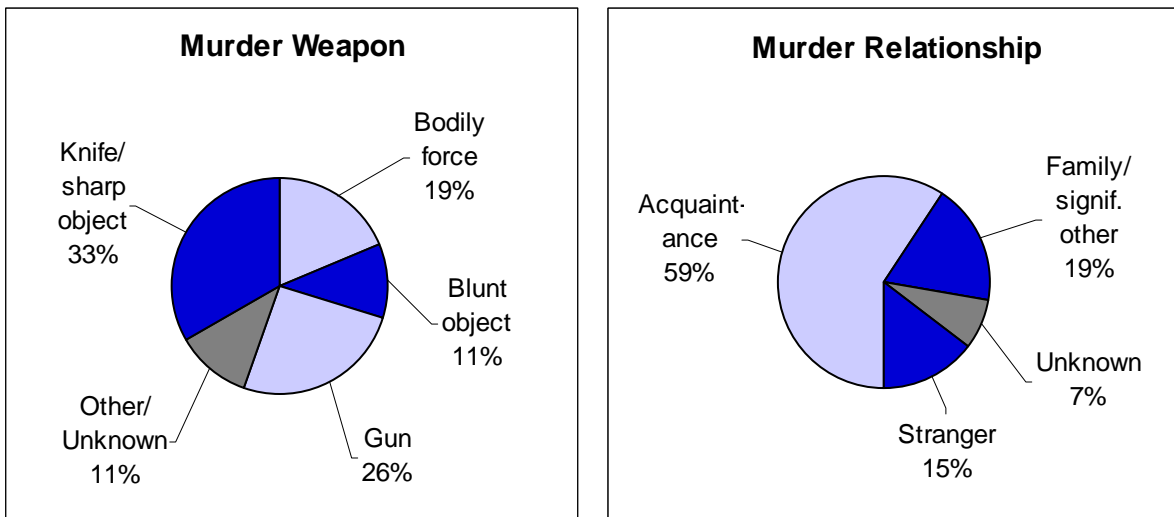
Murder

During 2011 there were 27 murder victims in Austin, down from 38 in 2010. Over the previous 10 years (2000 to 2009), the number of murder victims ranged from 20 to 33. The murder rate was three per 100,000 residents, which was down from the rate of five in 2010.



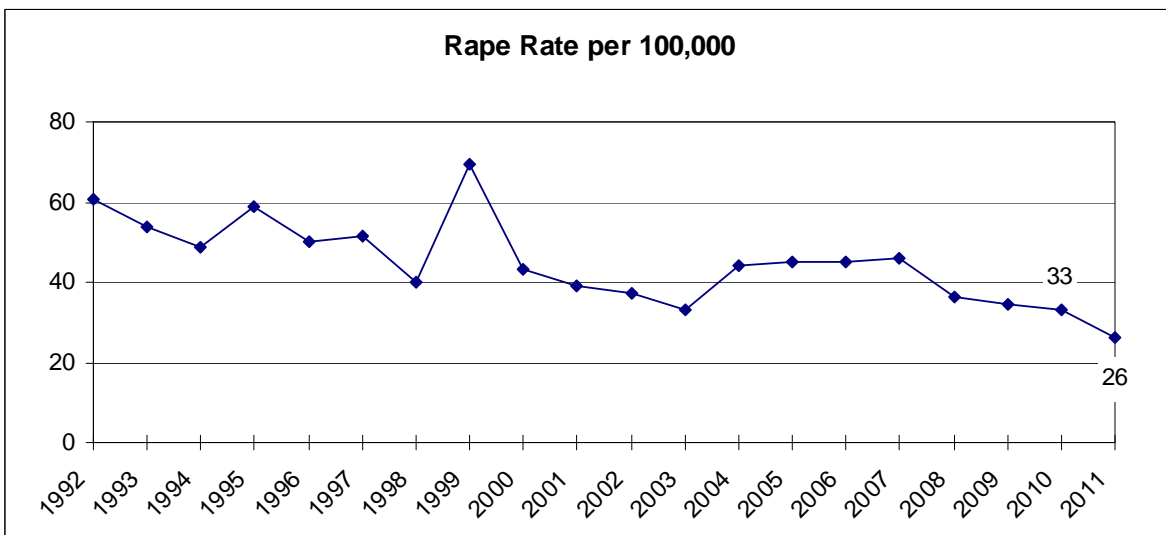
In 2011, knives or other sharp objects were the most frequent weapons used in murders (33% of incidents), followed by guns (26%). In 2010, knives or other sharp objects were used in 21% of incidents and guns were used in 47% of incidents.

The relationship (connection) between the victim and suspect was established in 93% of the cases. Of these, the victim knew the offender (as an acquaintance, family member, or significant other) in 84% of murders, up from 64% in 2010.

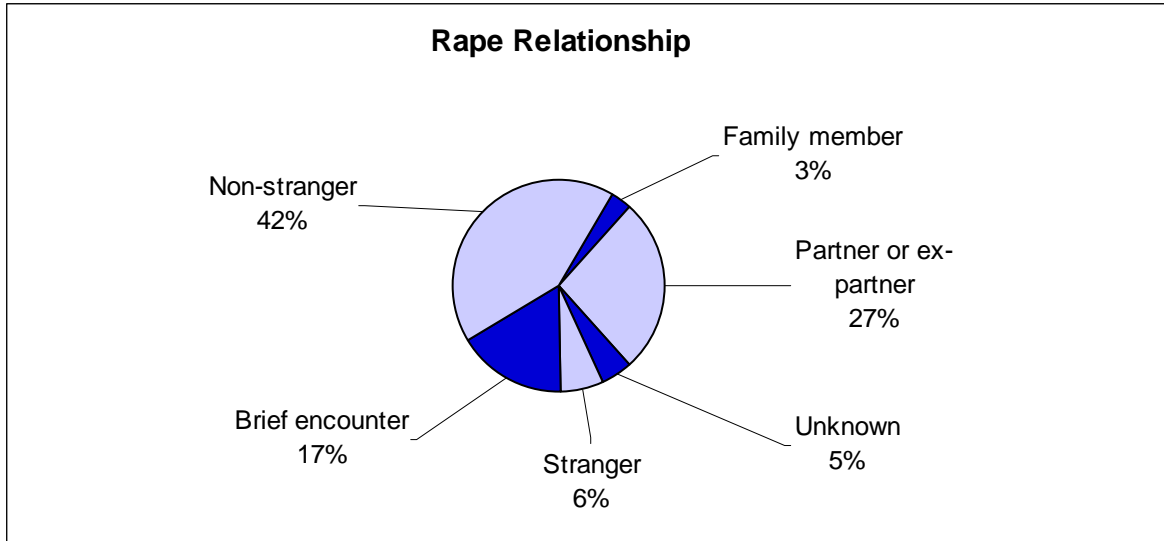


Rape

There were 211 reported victims of rape in Austin during 2011, down from 265 in 2010. The rate was 26 per 100,000 residents, which is a drop from the prior year's rate of 33. Over the previous 10 years (2000 to 2009), the rate ranged from 33 to 46.

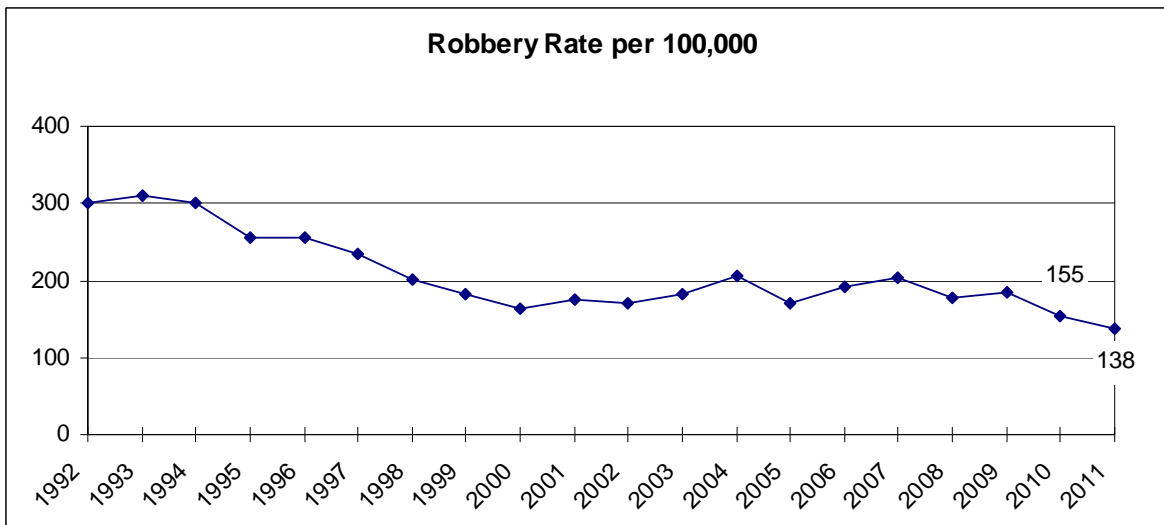


The relationship (connection) between the victim and suspect was established in 95% of the cases. Of these, the victim knew the suspect as a family member, partner or ex-partner, from a brief encounter, or otherwise as a non-stranger in 93% of the incidents. This is stable from 2010.

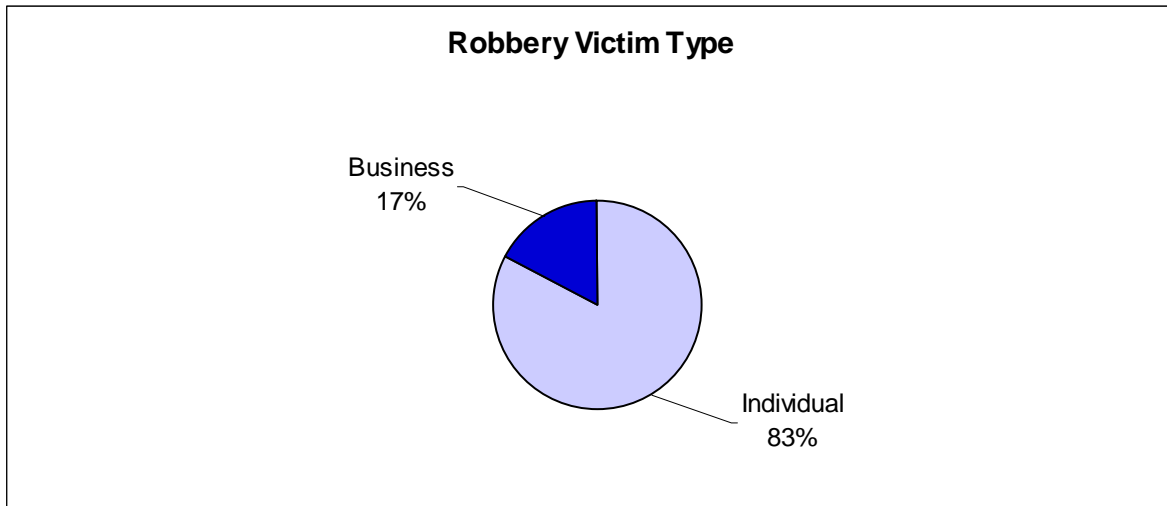


Robbery

There were 1,106 robberies reported in 2011, down from 1,231 in 2010. The rate was 138 robberies per 100,000 residents, which represents a decrease from the previous year's rate of 155. Over the previous 10 years (2000 to 2009), the rate of annual robberies ranged from 164 to 206.

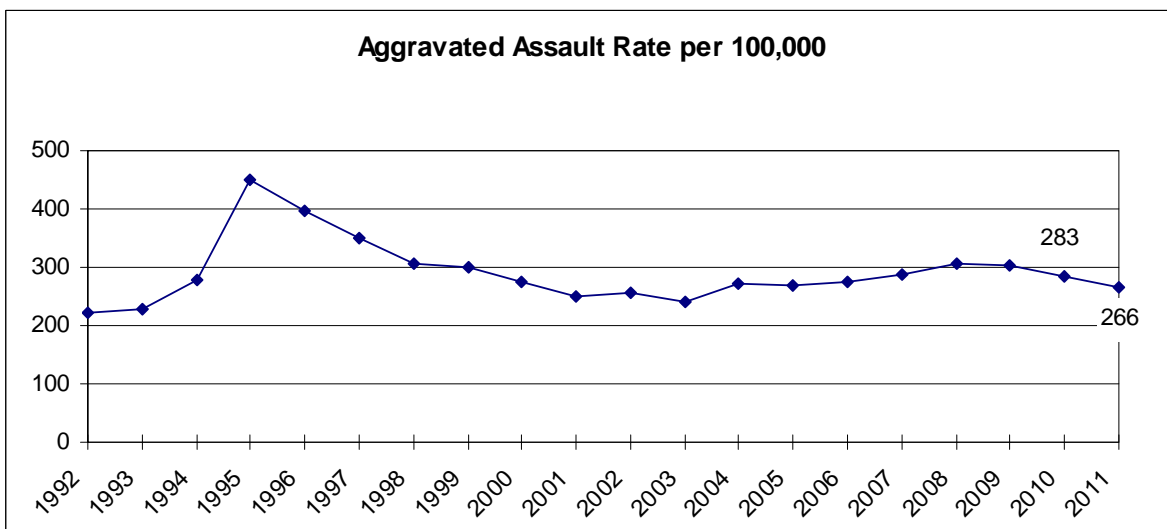


Eighty-three percent of robberies were committed against individuals, as compared with 17% that occurred at businesses. In 2010, 81% of robberies were committed against individuals and 19% occurred at businesses.

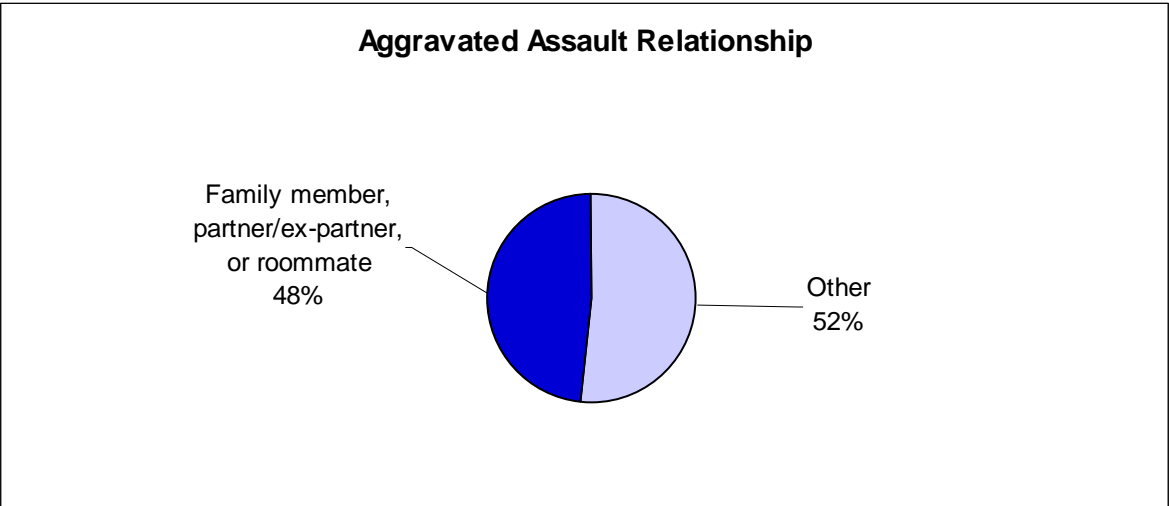


Aggravated Assault

There were 2,126 reported victims of aggravated assault in 2011, down from 2,256 in 2010. The rate was 266 victims per 100,000 residents, which represents a decrease from the rate of 283 in 2010. Over the previous 10 years (2000 to 2009), the rate of aggravated assault victims ranged from 242 to 306.

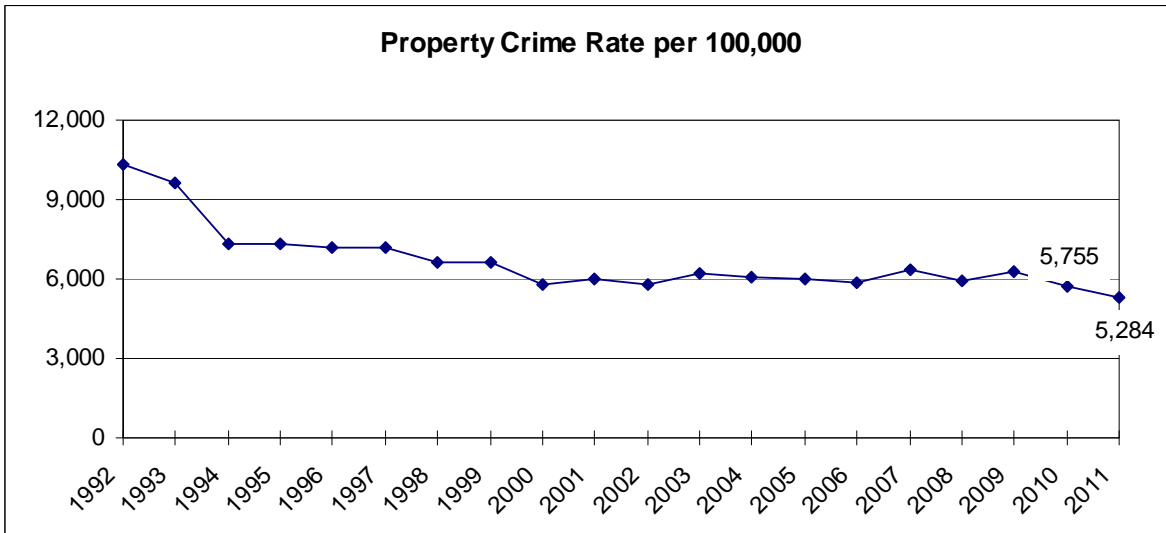


Fewer than half (48%) of aggravated assaults were committed by a family member, partner or ex-partner, or roommate of the victim. This is down from 53% in 2010.



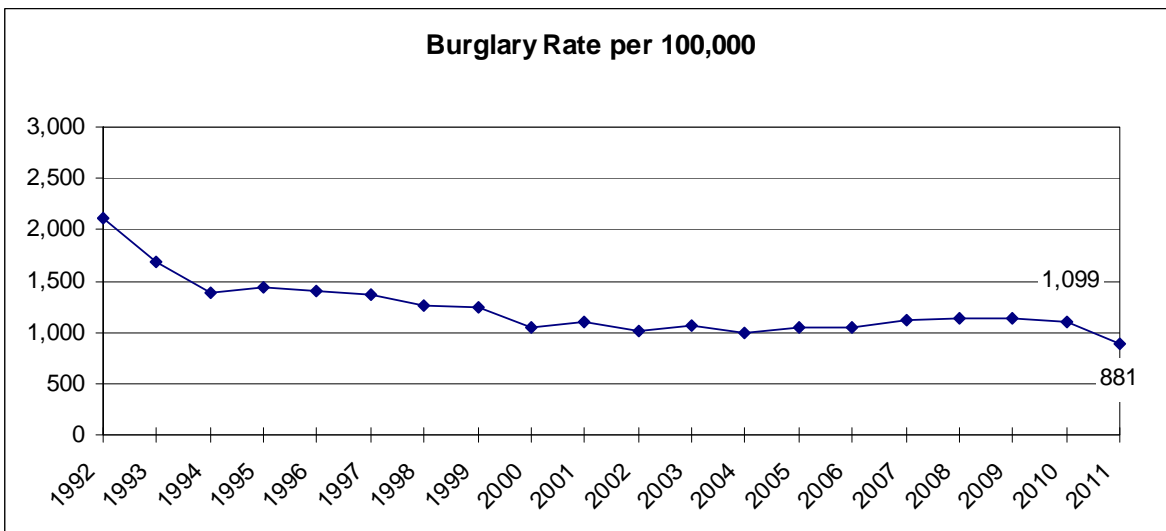
Property Crime

In 2011, the number of property crimes in Austin was 42,250. This represents an 8% drop in incidents as compared with 2010 (45,826). The rate of property crime per 100,000 residents was 5,284 in 2011 – an 8% decrease from the rate of 5,755 in 2010. Over the previous 10 years (2000 to 2009), the rate ranged from 5,800 to 6,341.

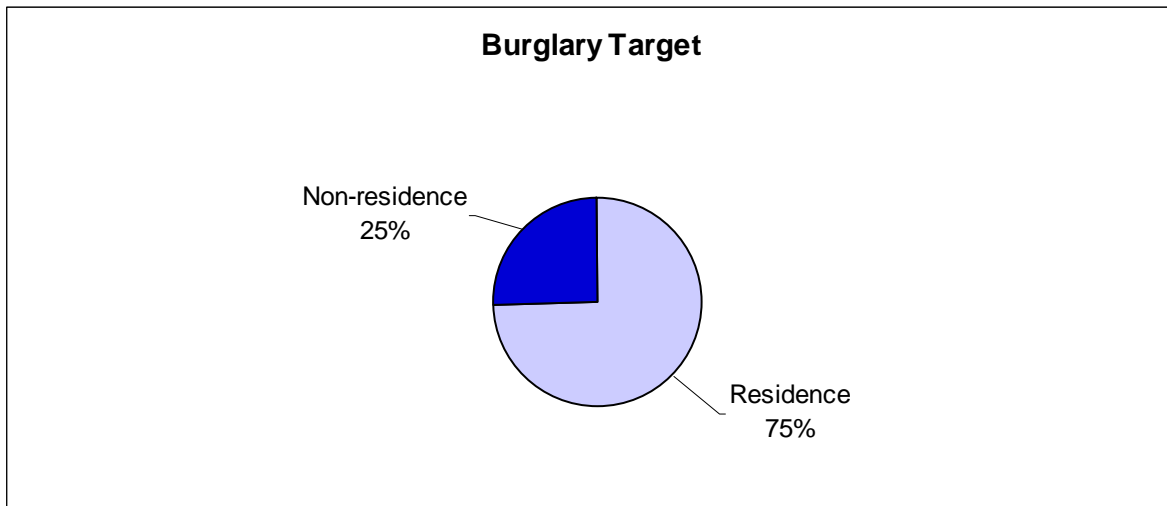


Burglary

There were 7,042 reported burglaries in 2011, down 20% from 8,749 in 2010. The rate was 881 burglaries per 100,000 residents, which represents a 20% decrease from the rate of 1,099 in 2010. Over the previous 10 years (2000 to 2009), the burglary rate ranged from 997 to 1,139.

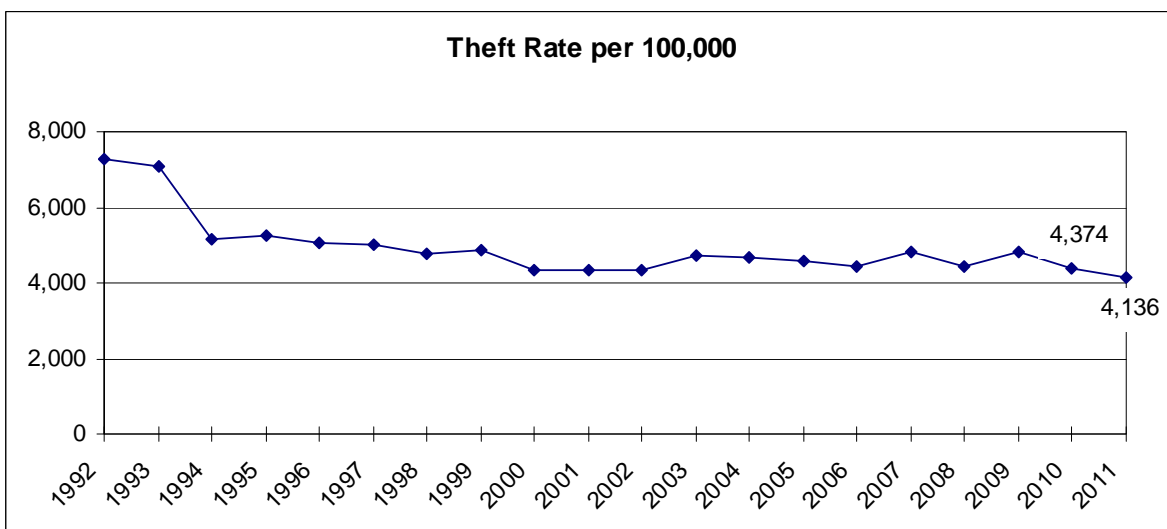


Seventy-five percent of burglaries involved residences, as compared with 25% that involved other targets (businesses, offices, restaurants, etc.). In 2010, 76% of burglaries involved residences and 24% involved other targets.



Theft

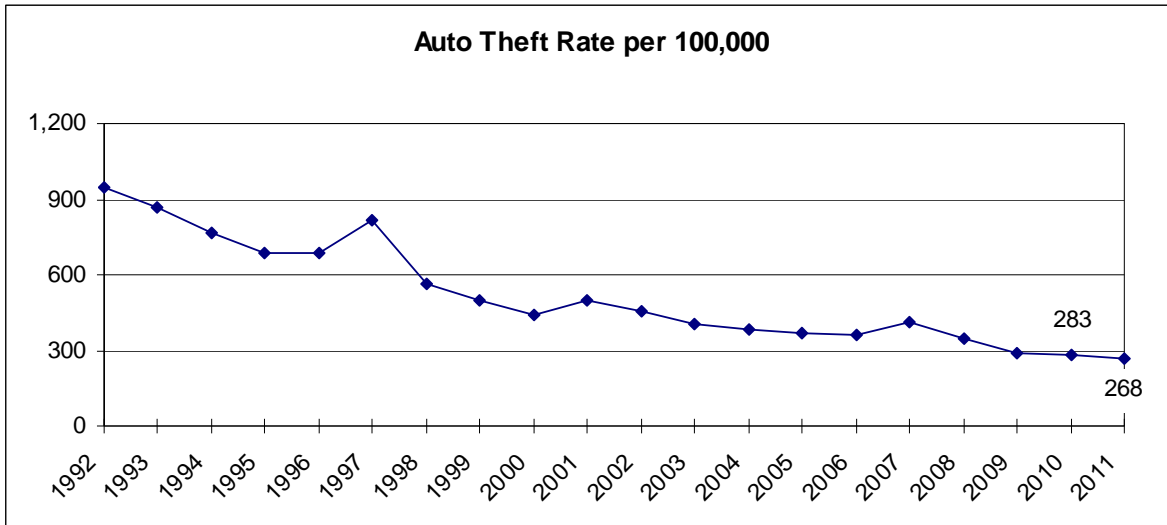
There were 33,069 reported thefts in 2011, down from 34,827 in 2010. The rate was 4,136 thefts per 100,000 residents, which represents a 5% decrease versus the rate of 4,374 in 2010. Over the previous 10 years (2000 to 2009), the theft rate ranged from 4,332 to 4,819.



Of the 33,069 thefts reported this year, 13,640 (41%) were burglary of vehicle, or BOV offenses. This represents a 10% decrease from the number of BOVs reported in 2010 (15,178; 44% of thefts).

Auto Theft

There were 2,139 reported auto thefts (including attempted thefts) in 2011, down from 2,250 in 2010. The rate was 268 auto thefts per 100,000 residents, which represents a decrease from the rate of 283 in 2010. Over the previous 10 years (2000 to 2009), the rate ranged from 289 to 501.



The most frequently stolen vehicles were Honda Accord sedans and trucks made by Ford, Chevrolet, and GMC. Together, they represent 31% of all stolen vehicles where the make and model were known. Of all vehicles stolen in 2011 (not including attempted thefts), 79% were successfully recovered.

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.

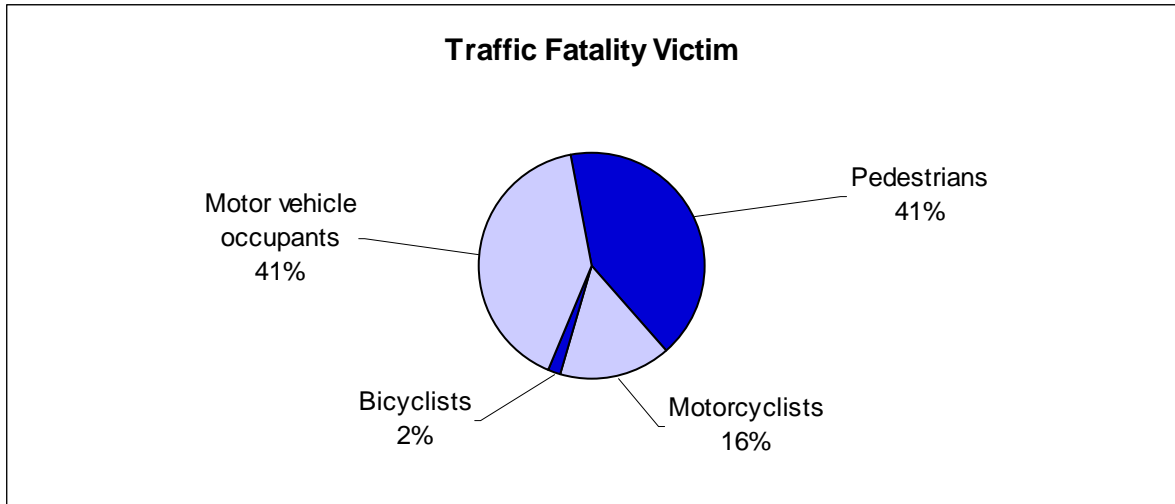
Part I Index Crimes	% of Crimes Cleared by Arrest or Exception
Murder	93%
Rape	38%
Robbery	29%
Aggravated Assault	58%
Total Violent Crime	48%
Burglary	9%
Theft	13%
Auto Theft	9%
Total Property Crime	12%

During 2011, Austin police solved, or cleared, 48% 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 2011, Austin solved 12% of property crimes.

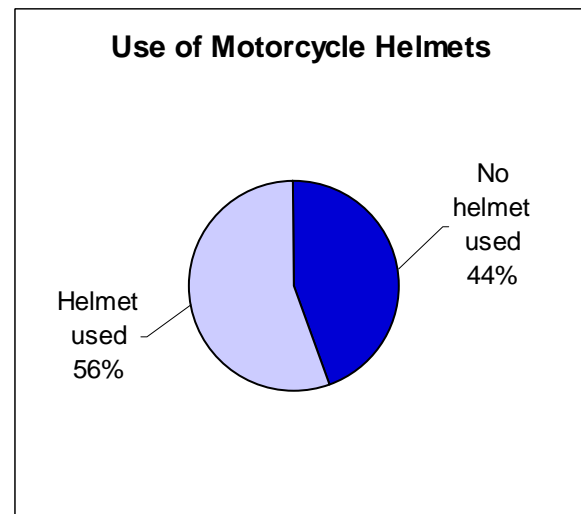
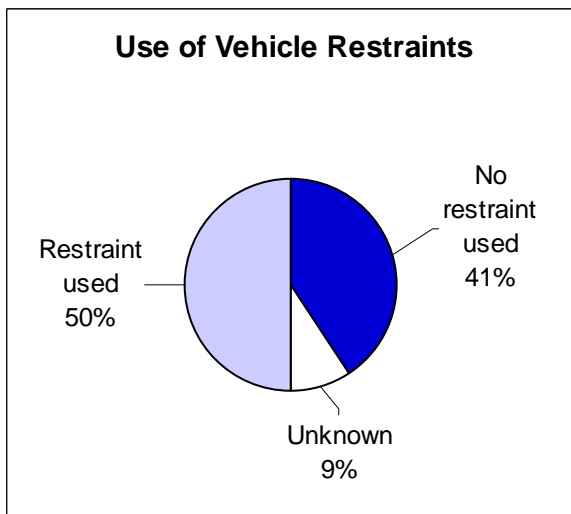
Traffic Fatalities

During 2011 there were 48 fatal collisions that resulted in 54 deaths, as compared with 47 fatal collisions that resulted in 49 deaths in 2010.

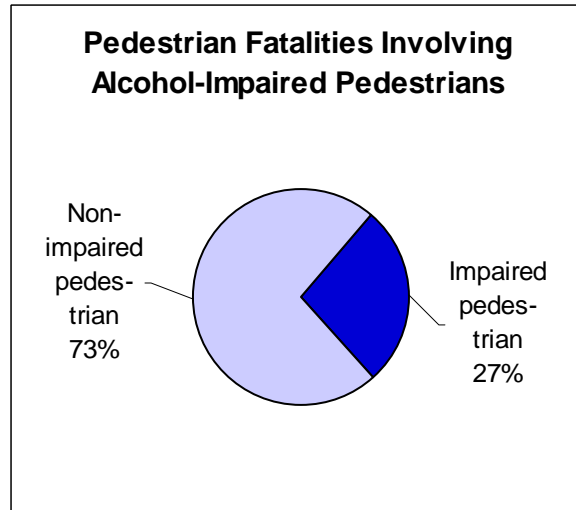
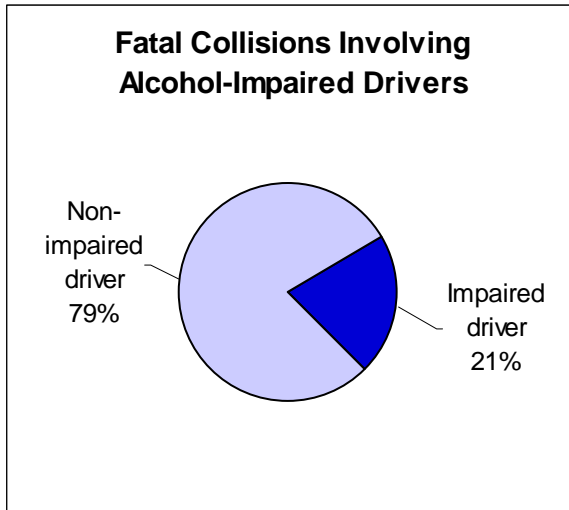
In 2011 most traffic fatalities involved motor vehicle occupants (22, or 41%) and pedestrians (22, or 41%), followed by motorcyclists (9, or 16%). In 2010, most traffic fatalities involved motor vehicle occupants (28, or 57%), followed by pedestrians (10, or 20%), and motorcyclists (9, or 18%).



Of all motor vehicle fatalities, nine (41%) victims were not using restraints, as compared with 12 (43%) victims in 2010. Of all motorcycle fatalities, four (44%) victims were not wearing helmets, as compared with five (56%) in 2010.



Of all fatal crashes, 10 (21%) involved an alcohol-impaired driver, as compared with 25 (53%) in 2010. Of all pedestrian fatalities, six (27%) involved an alcohol-impaired pedestrian, as compared with five (50%) in 2010.



In 2011, 11 (23%) fatal crashes involved speed, as compared with 23 (49%) in 2010. And in 2011, 21 (44%) fatal crashes occurred on freeways (IH-35, Mo-Pac, US Hwy 183, and State Hwy 71/290 West), as compared with 22 (47%) in 2010.

