Introduction

The purpose of this basic report is to put the current number of murders in Austin Texas into the context of a longer timeframe, from 1981 to the present. Over that timeframe, Austin Police Department has utilized at least three different Records Management Systems (RMS). Our current RMS came online in 2003 and includes comprehensive data back to 1991. Data prior to 1991 is not easily available. APD Crime Analysts recently researched other sources for historical data and concluded that the best source for a long-term look at criminal homicides in Austin is the Texas Department of Public Safety's online database, specifically the SRS Offense Trends data available at: https://txucr.nibrs.com/SRSReport/CrimeTrends. That data goes back to 1981.

Because the status of murder investigations change over time, the yearly numbers sometime change. It is not unusual to find small differences in the yearly totals between various sources or reports. The APD Homicide Analyst closely tracks and updates the status of murders from 2010 to the present. The updated numbers are provided instead of Texas DPS numbers for 2010 to the present. It takes extensive effort and time to investigate murders, so the total for 2021 will very likely change as investigations unfold.

UCR Criminal Homicide Definitions

According to the *Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook*, two categories of murder are included for UCR purposes. The first, Criminal Homicide – Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter, is defined as the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another. Included in this category is any death resulting from a fight, argument, quarrel, assault or commission of a crime. The second category, Criminal Homicide – Manslaughter by Negligence, is defined as the killing of another person through gross negligence. Not included as criminal homicide are deaths resulting from suicides, fetal deaths, traffic fatalities, or justifiable homicides. Justifiable homicides include the killing of a felon by a peace officer in the line of duty and the killing of a felon, during the commission of a felony, by a private citizen. Attempts at murder and assault with intent to kill are recorded under Aggravated Assaults.

Police investigations are the sole basis for the offense classification. Any determinations made by courts, medical examiners, juries, or other judicial bodies are excluded for UCR purposes.

About the Data

**AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT DATA DISCLAIMER**

Understanding the following conditions about crime information tallied from the Versadex mainframe database will allow you to get the most value out of the data provided:

- Due to methodological differences in data collection, different data sources or reports may produce different statistics.
- The data is continuously being updated. The data provided represents a particular point in time and does not reflect the dynamic nature of the Versadex mainframe database.
- The data here may not reflect official Texas DPS, FBI UCR or NIBRS numbers.
- If the information provided here is used outside the department, then the following disclaimer applies:
  “The Austin Police Department cannot assume any liability for any decision made or action taken or not taken by the recipient in reliance upon any information or data provided.”
### Yearly Totals & Rate per 100,000 Population for Criminal Homicides in Austin Texas

#### Austin Texas Murders - 1981 to September 14, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Tx DPS data (SRS Offense Trends)</th>
<th>APD Homicide Analyst Spreadsheet</th>
<th>Population of Austin</th>
<th>Murder Rate (per 100,000 population)</th>
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City of Austin population numbers: [https://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Planning/Demographics/austin_forecast_2021_pubfix.pdf](https://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Planning/Demographics/austin_forecast_2021_pubfix.pdf)

APD uses the full purpose population numbers for rate calculations.
2010 – September 14, 2021 Criminal Homicides, Cumulative by Month

Austin Texas Murders - 2010 to September 14, 2021 Criminal Homicides

(10-Year Average is based on 2011 – 2020 numbers)