

Austin Police Department

Annual Crime and Traffic Report: 2018 Preliminary Report



Prepared by the Austin Police Department
Chief of Police, Brian Manley
Research and Planning Unit
June 20th 2019

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” that will be published in Fall 2019.

Overview

This document contains UCR crime data for the calendar year 2018 (January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018). 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 382 per 100,000 residents decreased 8% as compared with 2017. (Page 3)
- Austin’s **property crime rate** of 3,458 per 100,000 residents increased 8% as compared with 2017. (Page 8)
- The **aggravated assault rate** of 193 per 100,000 represents a 14% decrease as compared with 2017 and is a 10-year low. (Page 7)
- The **burglary rate** of 467 per 100,000 residents represents a 4% increase as compared with 2017. (Page 8)
- The **violent crime clearance rate** declined six percent to 40% in 2018. The **property crime clearance rate** declined one percent to 10%. (Page 11)
- **Traffic fatalities** decreased from 76 in 2017 to 74 in 2018; and **fatal crashes** increased from 71 in 2017 to 73 in 2018. (Page 13)

Table of Contents

- Overall Crime Statistics 1**
 - Incidents and Rates 1
 - Trends 2
- Violent Crime 3**
 - Murder 3
 - Rape 4
 - Aggravated Assault 7
- Property Crime 8**
 - Burglary 8
 - Theft 9
 - Auto Theft 10
- Solving Crime 11**
- Traffic Fatalities 13**
- Perception of Police Services 15**

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)

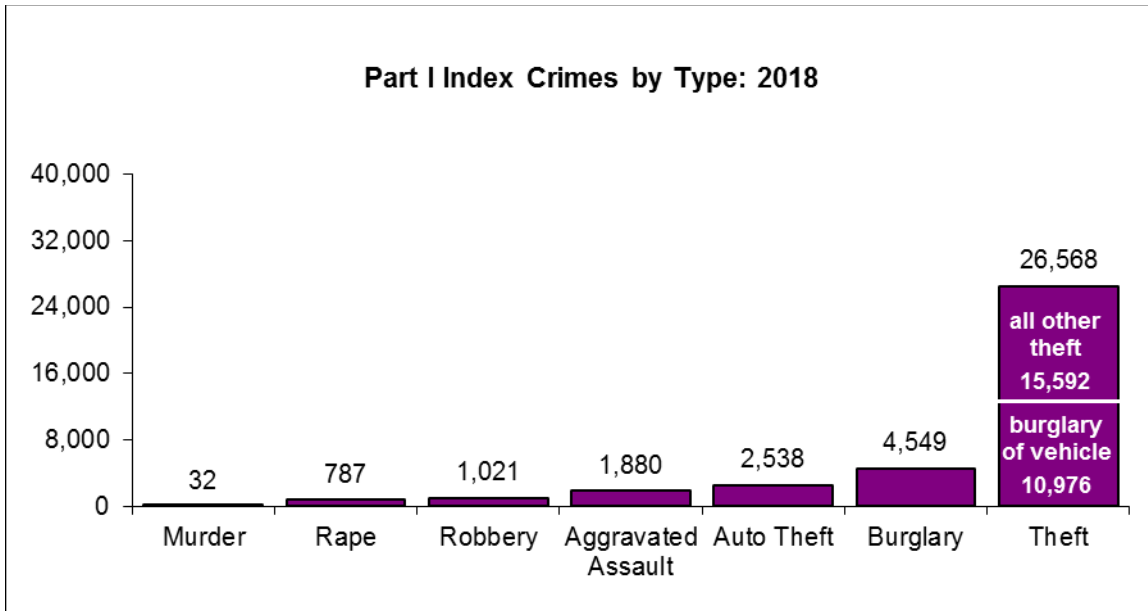
These categories and crime definitions are used for reporting city-level crime statistics to the FBI under its Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. The UCR program records crime in the year it is reported.

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. Population figures come from the US Census Bureau.

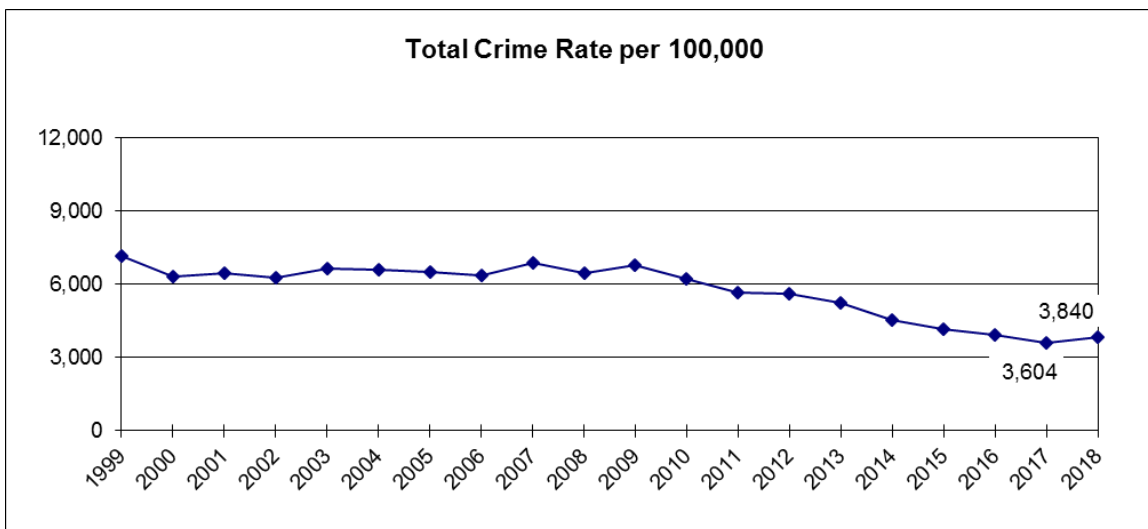
Part I Index Crimes	Offenses			Rate per 100,000		
	2017	2018	% chg	2017	2018	% chg
Murder	25	32	28%	2.6	3.3	28%
Rape	834	787	-6%	86	81	-6%
Robbery	987	1,021	3%	102	105	3%
Aggravated Assault	2,186	1,880	-14%	225	193	-14%
Total Violent Crime	4,032	3,720	-8%	415	382	-8%
Burglary	4,380	4,549	4%	451	467	4%
Theft	24,542	26,568	8%	2,525	2,730	8%
Auto Theft	2,079	2,538	22%	214	261	22%
Total Property Crime	31,001	33,655	9%	3,190	3,458	8%
Total Index Crime	35,033	37,375	7%	3,604	3,840	7%
Population	971,949	973,344	<1%			

Note: This table represents Austin's 2018 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 2019.



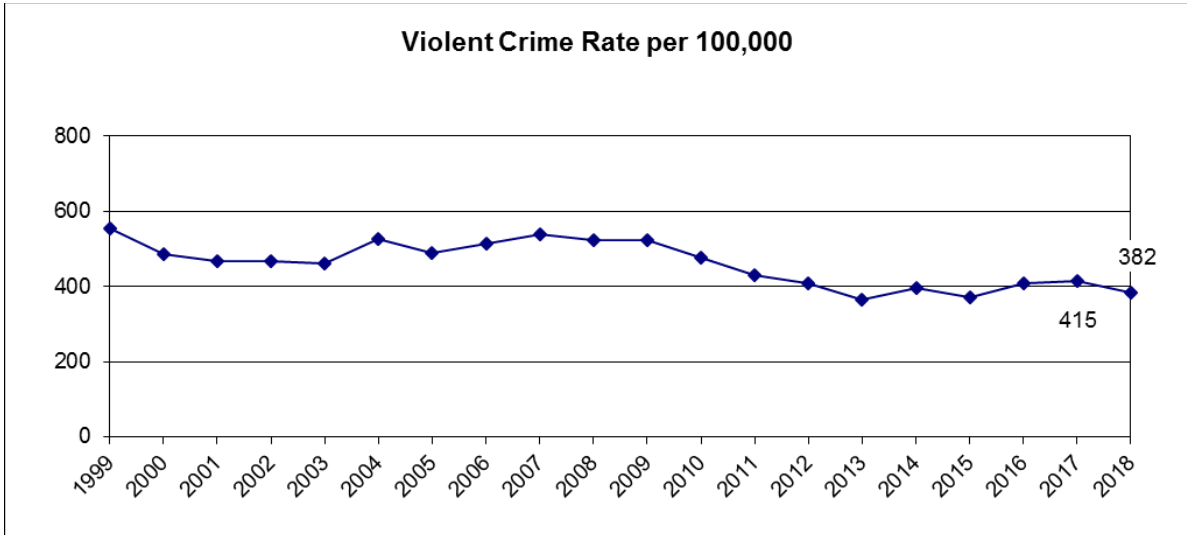
Trends

In 2018, the number of all Part I Index crimes for Austin was 37,375. This was a 7% increase in incidents as compared with 2017 (35,033). The crime rate per 100,000 residents was 3,840 in 2018 – a 7% increase from the 2017 rate of 3,604.



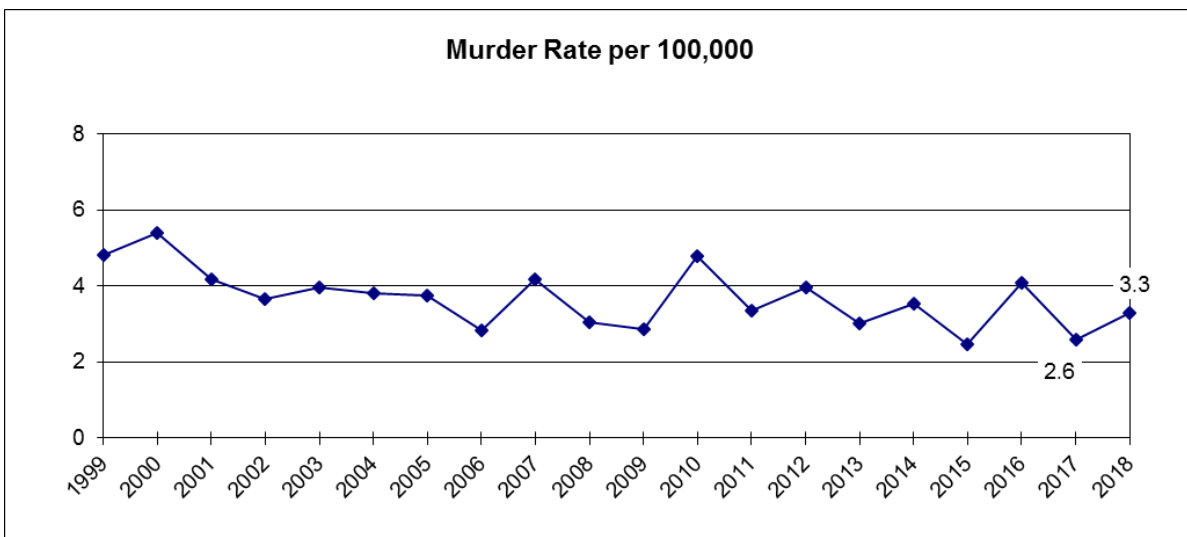
Violent Crime

In 2018, the number of violent crimes was 3,720, an 8% decrease in incidents from 2017 (4,032). The rate of violent crime per 100,000 residents was 382 in 2018, down 8% from 415 in 2017.



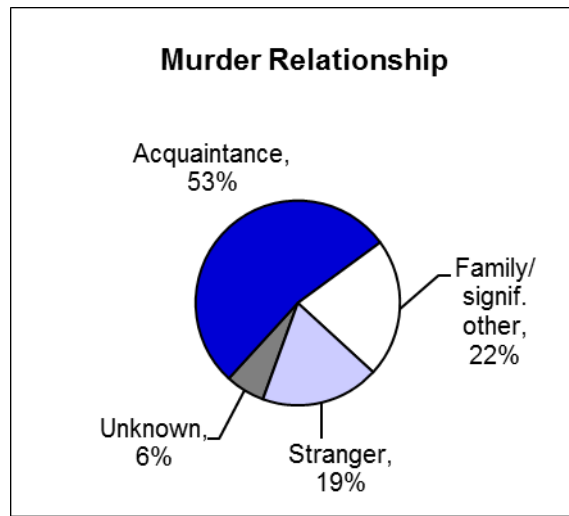
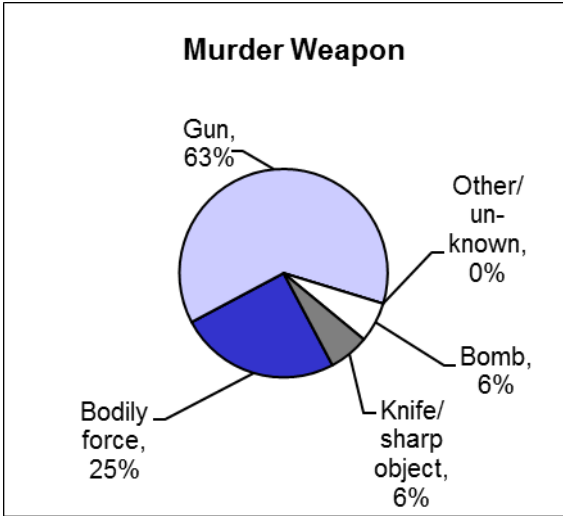
Murder

During 2018, there were 32 murder victims, up from 25 in 2017. Over the past 20 years (1999 to 2018), the number of murder victims ranged from 20 to 39. The 2018 murder rate was 3.3 per 100,000 residents, up from the rate of 2.6 in 2017.



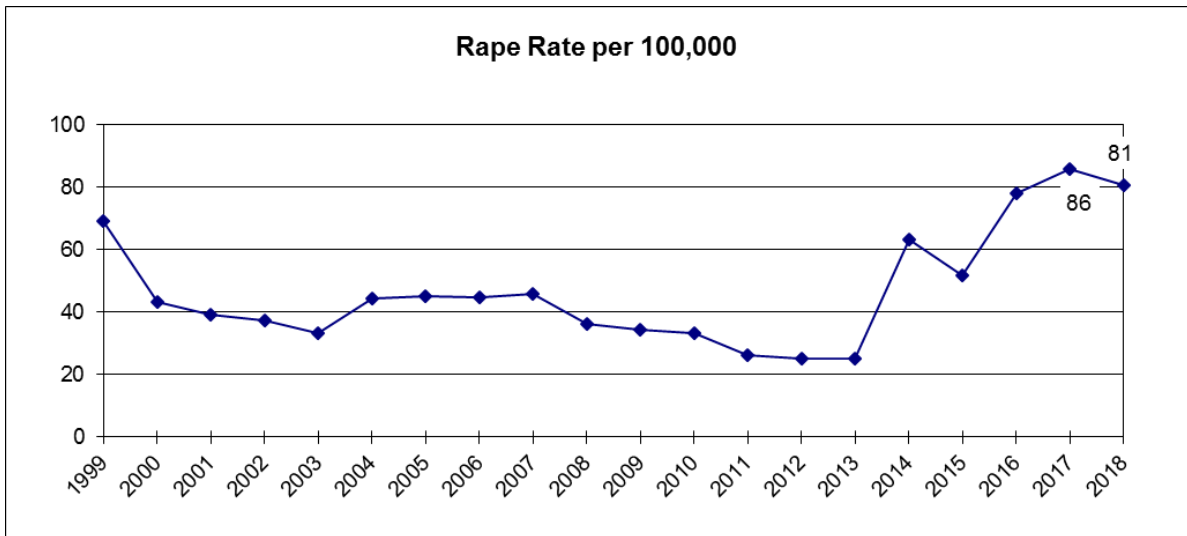
In 2018, guns were the most frequent weapon used in murders (63%), followed by bodily force (25%).

The victim knew the offender as an acquaintance, family member, significant other, or roommate in 75% of murders, up from 65% in 2017.



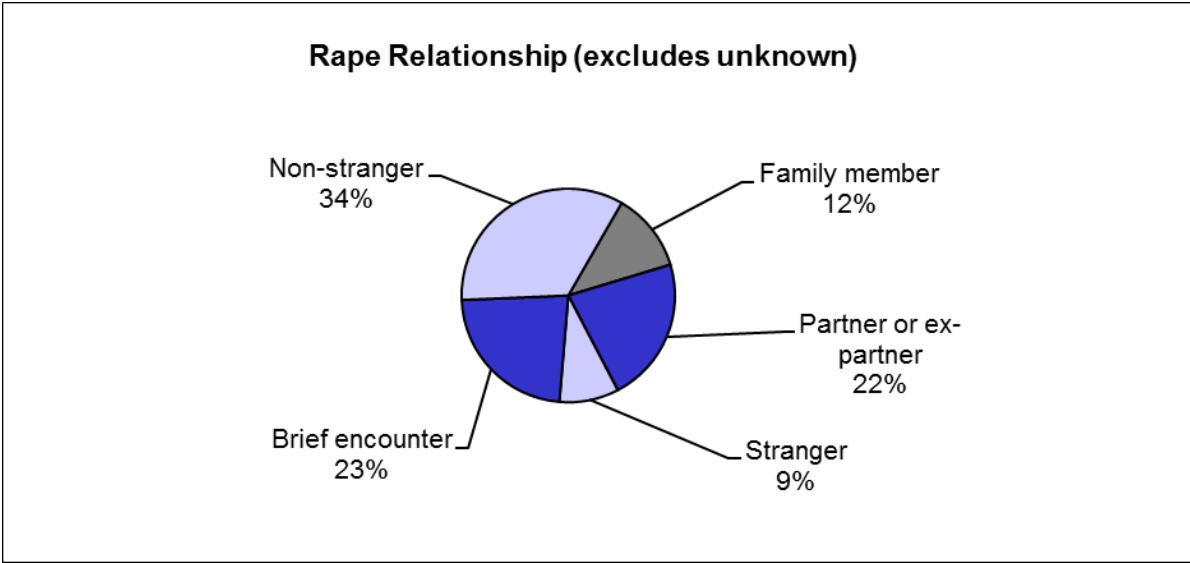
Rape

There were 787 reported victims of rape in 2018. The rate was 81 per 100,000 residents.



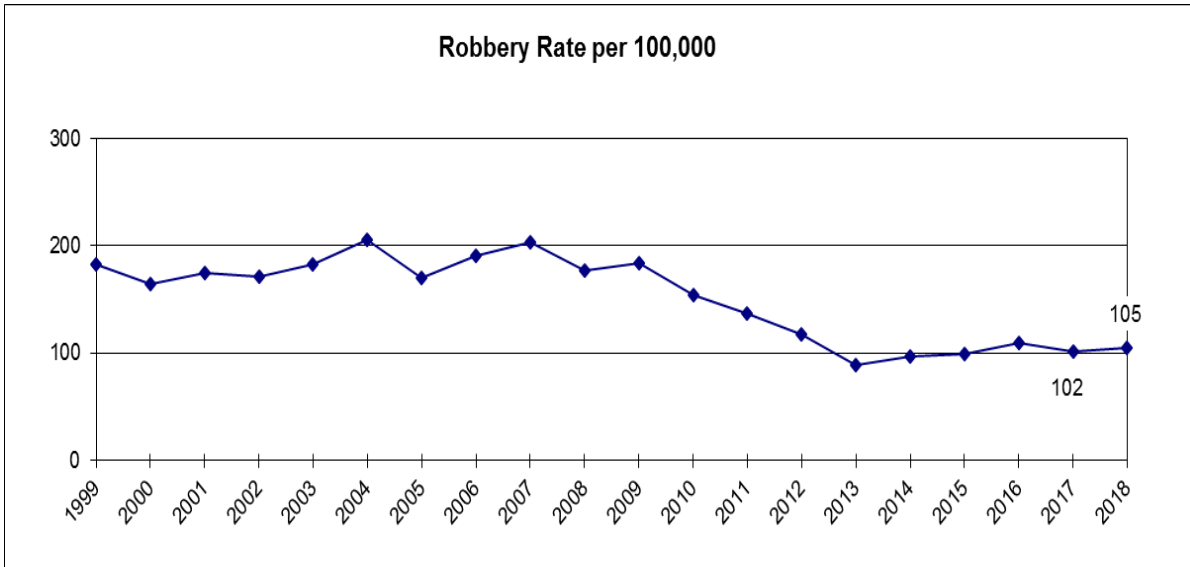
Note: Due to FBI-directed modifications to reporting requirements and changes in offense code use over time, offenses are not comparable from 2013 to 2016.

The victim knew the suspect as a family member, partner or ex-partner, from a brief encounter, or otherwise as a non-stranger in 91% of the incidents. This was down from 93% in 2017.

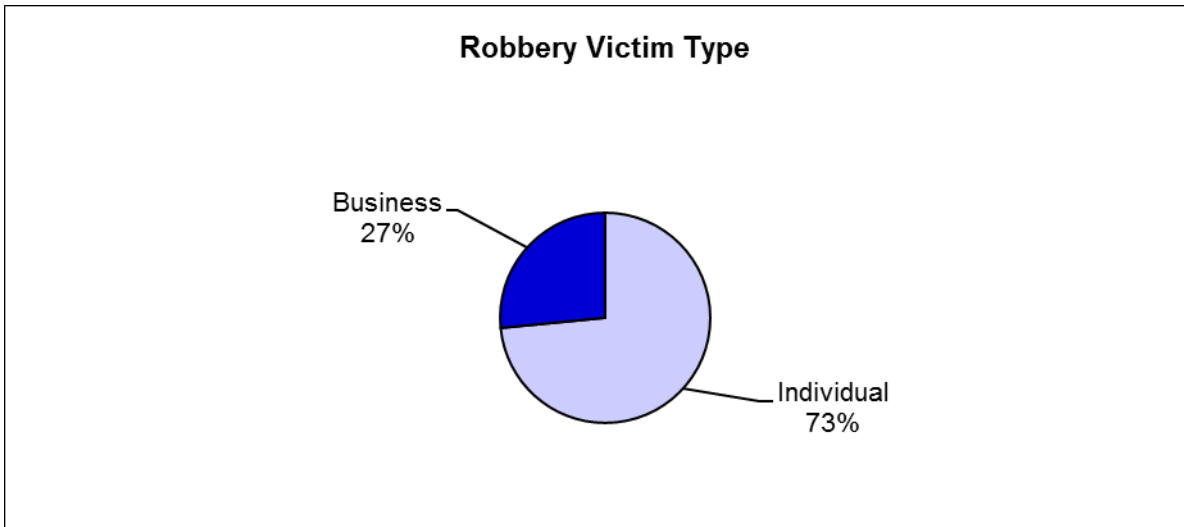


Robbery

There were 1,021 robberies reported in 2018, up from 987 in 2017. The rate was 105 robberies per 100,000 residents, which was a 3% increase from the previous year's rate of 102.

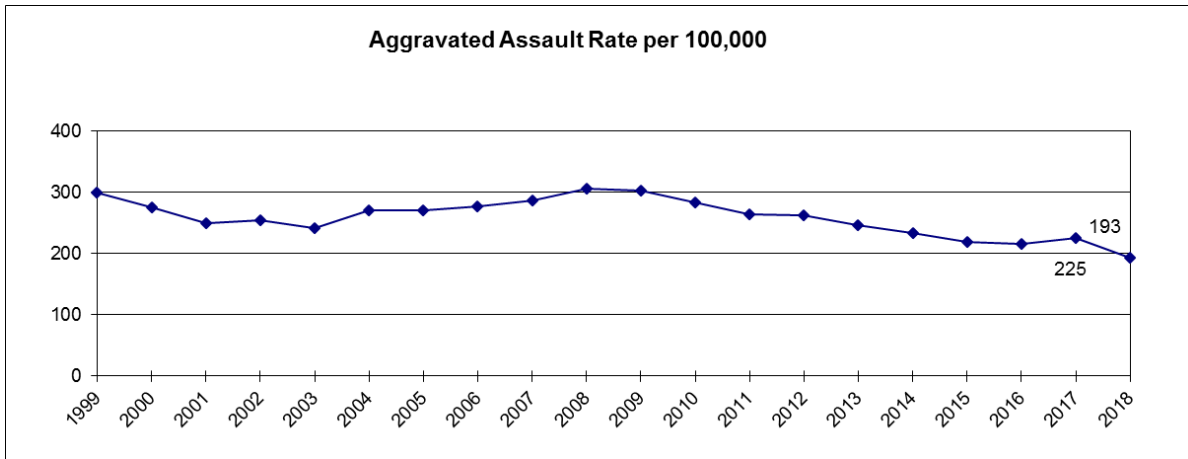


In 2018, 73% of robberies were committed against individuals, as compared with 27% that occurred at businesses. In 2017, 82% of robberies were committed against individuals, and 18% of robberies occurred at businesses.

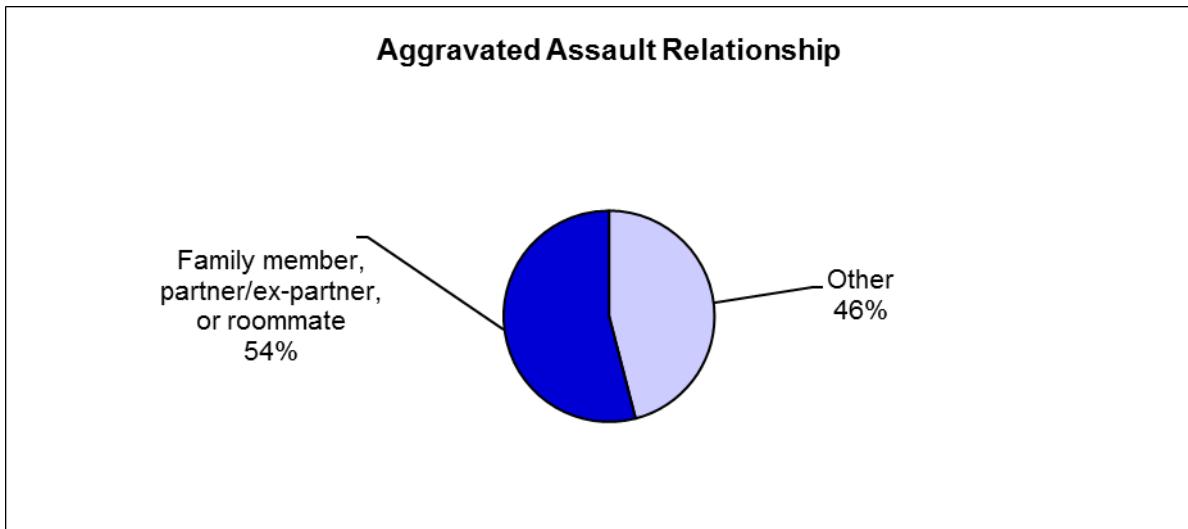


Aggravated Assault

There were 1,880 reported victims of aggravated assault in 2018, down from 2,186 in 2017. The rate was 193 victims per 100,000 residents – a ten-year low, down 14%.

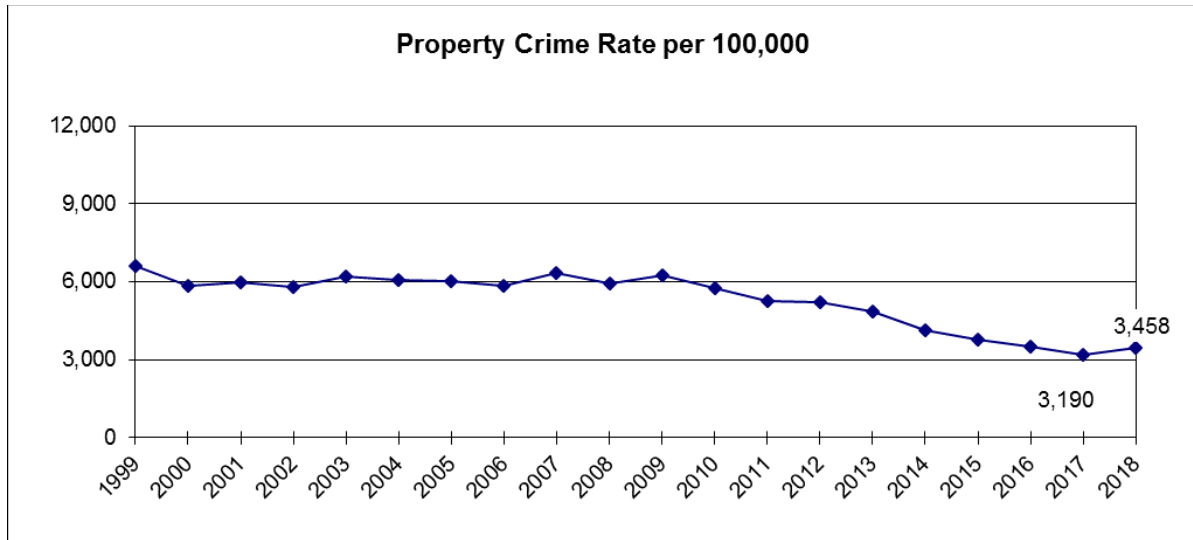


In 2018, 54% of aggravated assaults were committed by a family member, partner or ex-partner, or roommate of the victim. This was up from 50% in 2017.



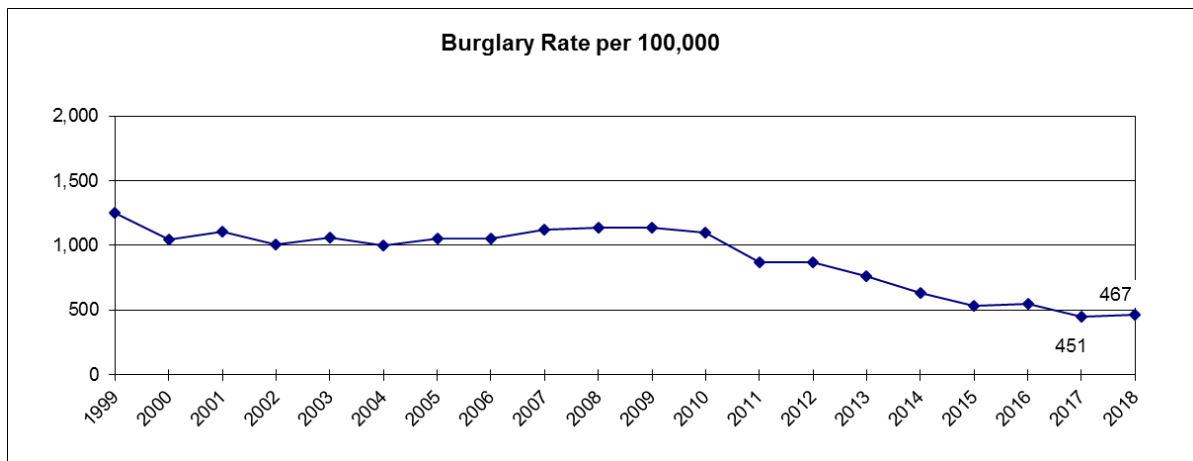
Property Crime

In 2018, the number of property crimes in Austin was 33,655, up from 31,001 in 2017. The rate of property crime per 100,000 residents was 3,458 in 2018, which was up 8% from the prior year's rate of 3,190.

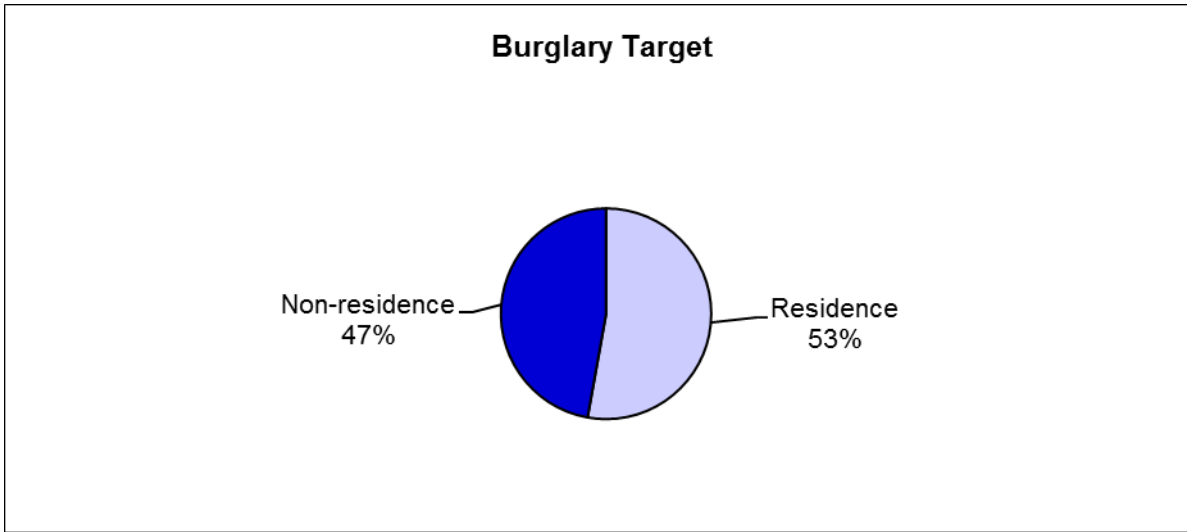


Burglary

There were 4,549 reported burglaries in 2018, up from 4,380 in 2017. The rate was 467 burglaries per 100,000 residents, which was up 4% from the prior year's rate of 451.

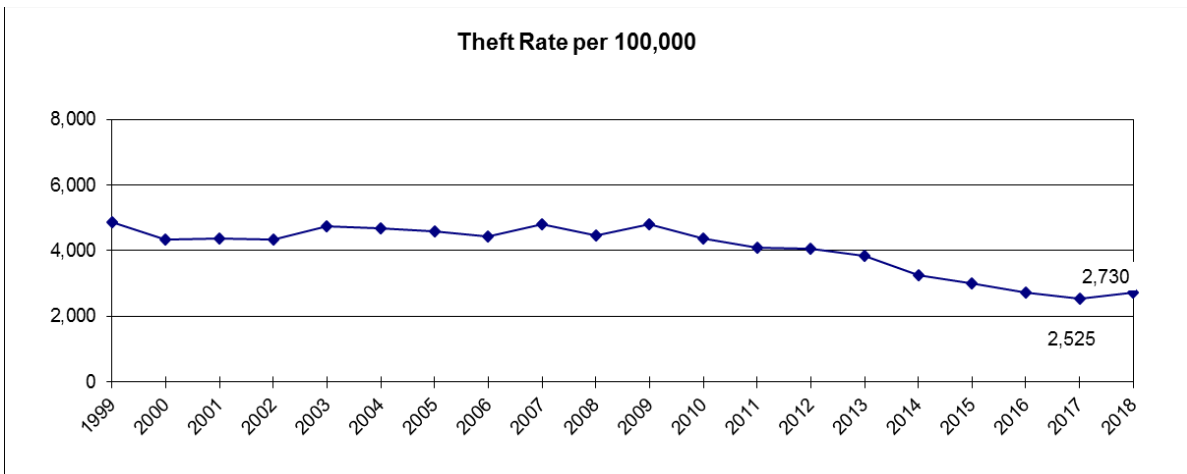


In 2018, 53% of burglaries involved residences and 47% involved other targets (businesses, offices, restaurants, etc.). During 2017, 57% of burglaries involved residences and 43% involved other targets.



Theft

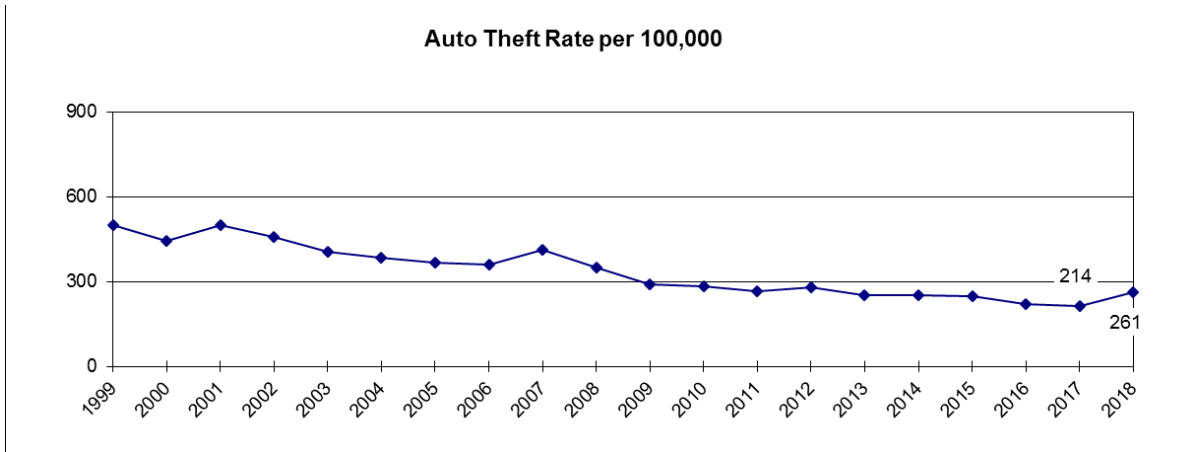
There were 26,568 reported thefts in 2018, up from 24,542 in 2017. The rate was 2,730 thefts per 100,000 residents, which was up 8% from the rate of 2,525 in 2017.



Of all thefts reported in 2018, 41% were burglary of vehicle, or BOV offenses, up from 37% in 2015.

Auto Theft

There were 2,538 reported auto thefts in 2018, up from 2,079 in 2017. The rate was 261 auto thefts per 100,000 residents, which was a 22% increase from the rate of 214 in 2017.



The most frequently stolen vehicles were Ford F150s, Chevy Silverados, Honda Motorcycles, and Toyota Camrys. Together, they represent 22% of all stolen vehicles where the make and model were known. Of all vehicles stolen in 2018, 78% were successfully recovered, up from 75% in 2017.

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)
	2018	2017	2017
Murder	88%	104%*	59%
Rape	34%	53%	35%
Robbery	33%	33%	23%
Aggravated Assault	45%	48%	42%
Total Violent Crime	40%	46%	36%
Burglary	12%	13%	9%
Theft	9%	10%	11%
Auto Theft	18%	15%	8%
Total Property Crime	10%	11%	10%

** 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%.*

During 2018, Austin police solved, or cleared, 40% 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 2018, Austin solved 10% of property crimes, down from 2017.

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 Diego
- San Francisco
- San Jose
- Seattle
- Tucson
- Washington DC

As a result of the aforementioned audit conducted by the DPS UCR team regarding APD’s use of exceptional clearances for rapes cases, 2018 clearance data is not comparable to previous years. APD took numerous steps to ensure the department

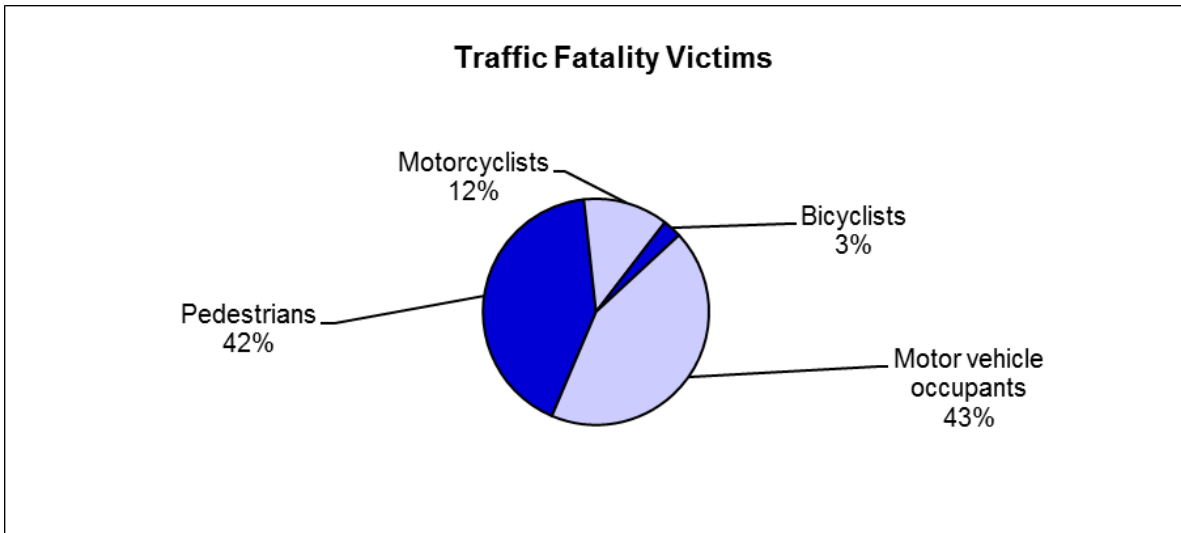
classified all 2018 clearances according to UCR guidelines. First, APD retrained all detective units regarding the proper use of UCR classifications. After receiving this training, detective units reviewed all Part I crimes for 2018 that were cleared exceptionally to ensure the cases were classified correctly. Finally, APD assembled an independent team to conduct an additional, internal review of cases cleared exceptionally.

Going forward, APD will implement standardized templates and quarterly assurance checks to maintain consistent, accurate classification of clearance status.

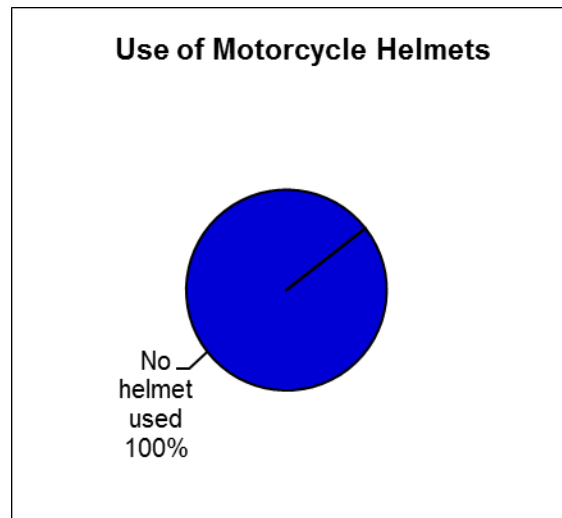
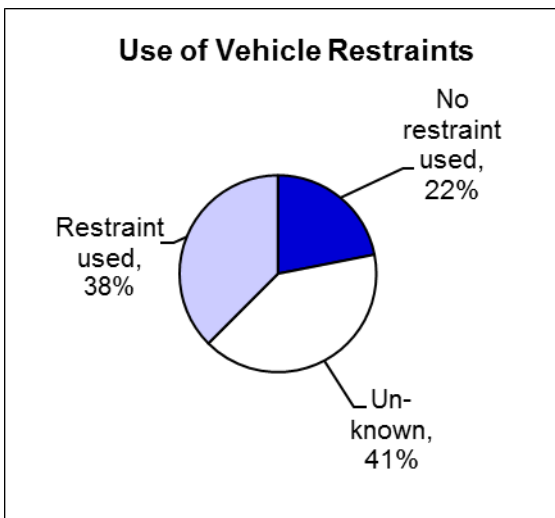
Traffic Fatalities

During 2018, there were 73 fatal crashes that resulted in 74 deaths, as compared with 71 fatal crashes that resulted in 76 deaths in 2017.

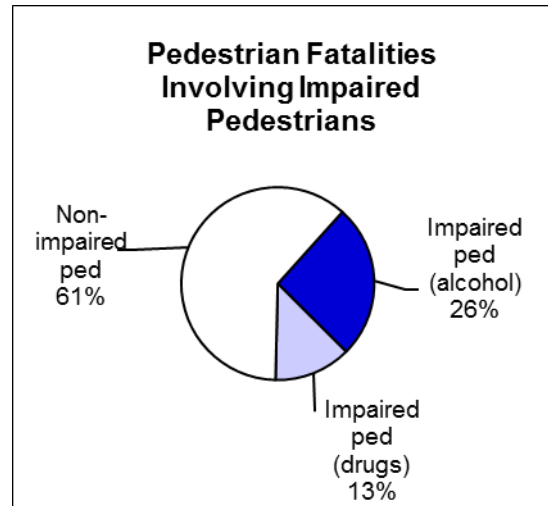
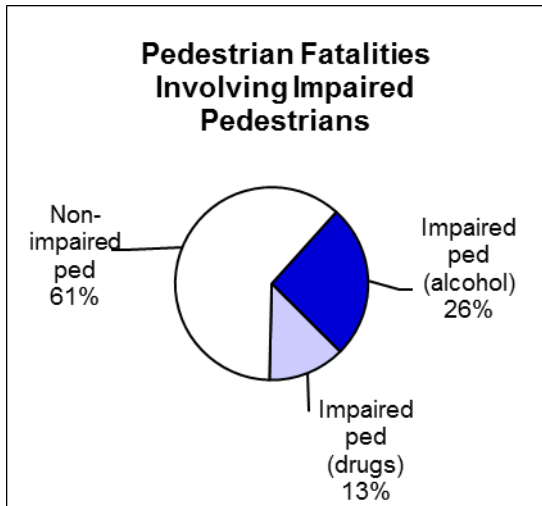
In 2018, most traffic fatalities involved motor vehicle occupants (32, or 43%), followed by pedestrians (31, or 42%), motorcyclists (9, or 12%) and bicyclists (2, or 3%). Similarly, in 2017, most traffic fatalities involved motor vehicle occupants (38, or 50%), followed by pedestrians (23, or 30%), followed by motorcyclists (11, or 14%) and bicyclists (4, or 5%).



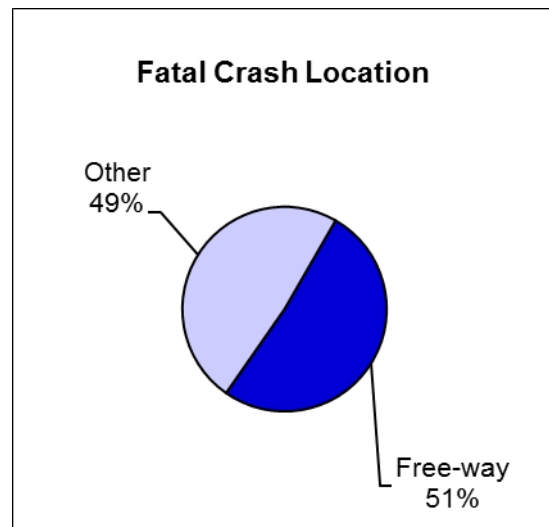
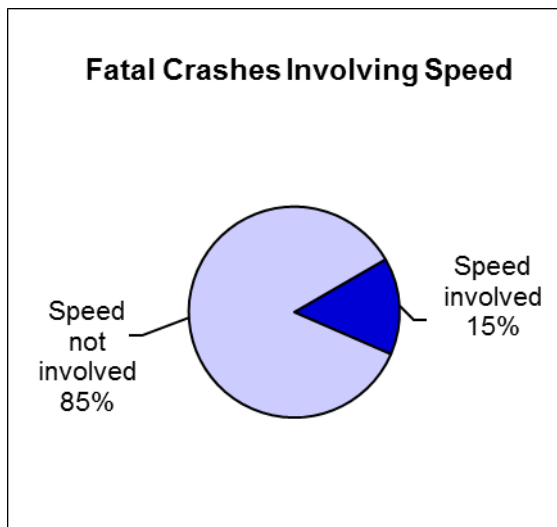
Of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2018, 7 (or 22%) victims were not using restraints, as compared with 10 (or 26%) victims in 2017. All nine motorcycle fatality (or 100%) victims were not wearing helmets, as compared with three (or 27%) in 2017.



Of all fatalities in 2018, 29 (or 39%) involved an impaired driver, as compared with 28 (or 37%) in 2017. Of all pedestrian fatalities in 2018, 12 (or 39%) involved an impaired pedestrian, as compared with 12 (or 52%) in 2017.

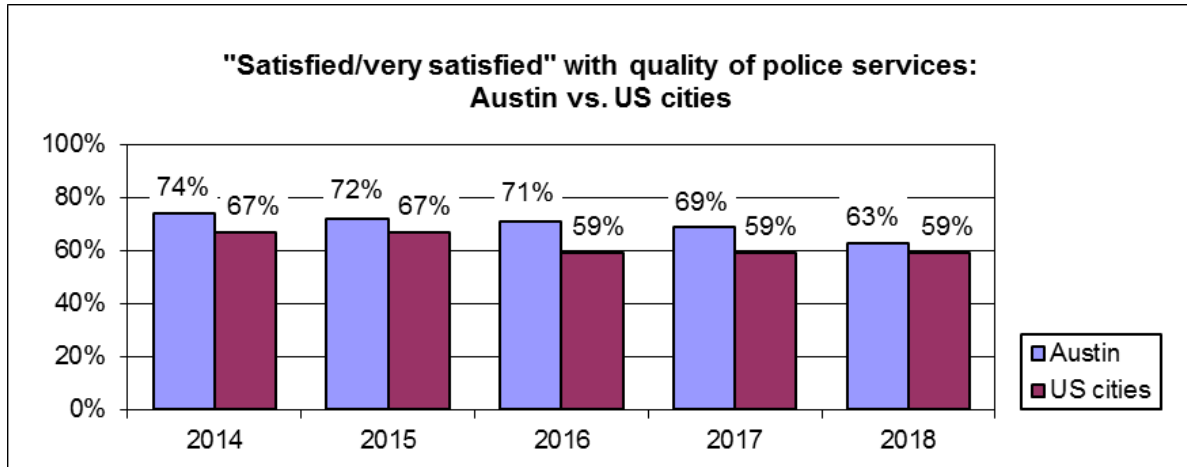


In 2018, 11 (or 15%) fatal crashes involved speed, as compared with 26 (or 37%) in 2017. In 2018, 38 (or 51%) fatal crashes occurred on freeways (IH-35, Mo-Pac, US Hwy 183, and State Hwy 71/290 West), as compared with 25 (or 35%) in 2017.

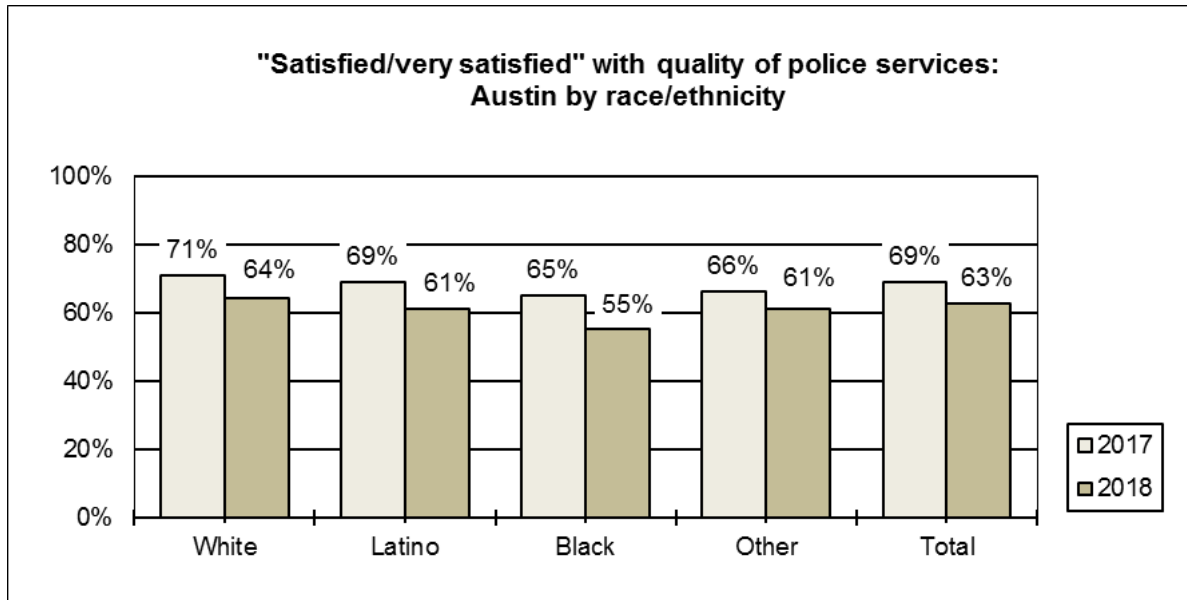


Perception of Police Services

In 2018, overall satisfaction with the quality of police services (63%) was down from 2017 (69%). However, when respondents were asked to rate the statement “I trust APD” – 68% indicated that they agreed with that statement.



The chart below shows Austin’s results by race/ethnicity for 2017 and 2018. Although satisfaction with APD’s overall quality of service saw a decrease, APD is committed to improving relationships throughout our community.



Results in this section come for the Austin Community survey. The full results of this survey are available [here](#).