

# **Austin Police Department**

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## **Annual Crime and Traffic Report: 2020 Final Report**



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2/25/2023

## 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 final crime statistics reported to the FBI.

## Overview

This document contains UCR crime data for the calendar year 2020 (January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020). We have also included selected traffic statistics on fatal crashes. There was no Community Survey in 2020.

## Notable Findings

This year’s crime statistics include the following noteworthy findings:

- Austin’s **violent crime rate** of 467 per 100,000 residents increased 14% as compared with 2019.
- Austin’s **property crime rate** of 3,631 per 100,000 residents decreased 2% as compared with 2019.
- The **aggravated assault rate** of 305 per 100,000 represents an 23% increase as compared with 2019.
- The **burglary rate** of 477 per 100,000 residents represents an 8% increase as compared with 2019.
- The **violent crime clearance rate** decreased from 38% in 2019 to 36% in 2020.
- The **property crime clearance rate** decreased two points to 7%.
- **Traffic fatalities** increased from 88 in 2019 to 94 in 2020; and **fatal crashes** increased from 86 in 2019 to 88 in 2020.

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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)

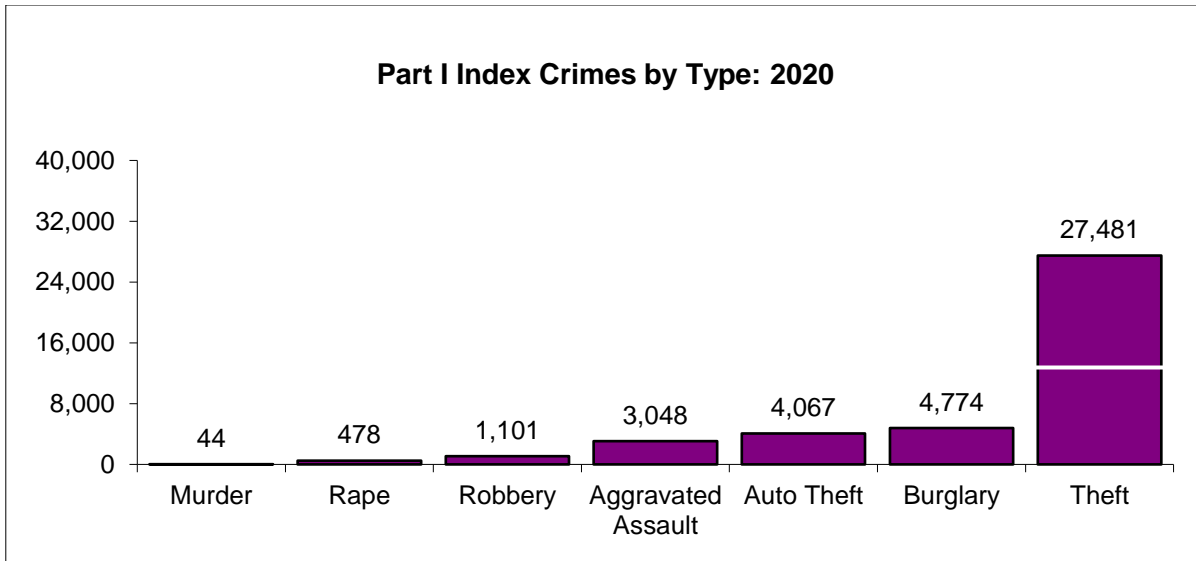
These categories and crime definitions are used for reporting city-level crime statistics to the FBI under its Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program.

## Incidents and Rates

In 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.

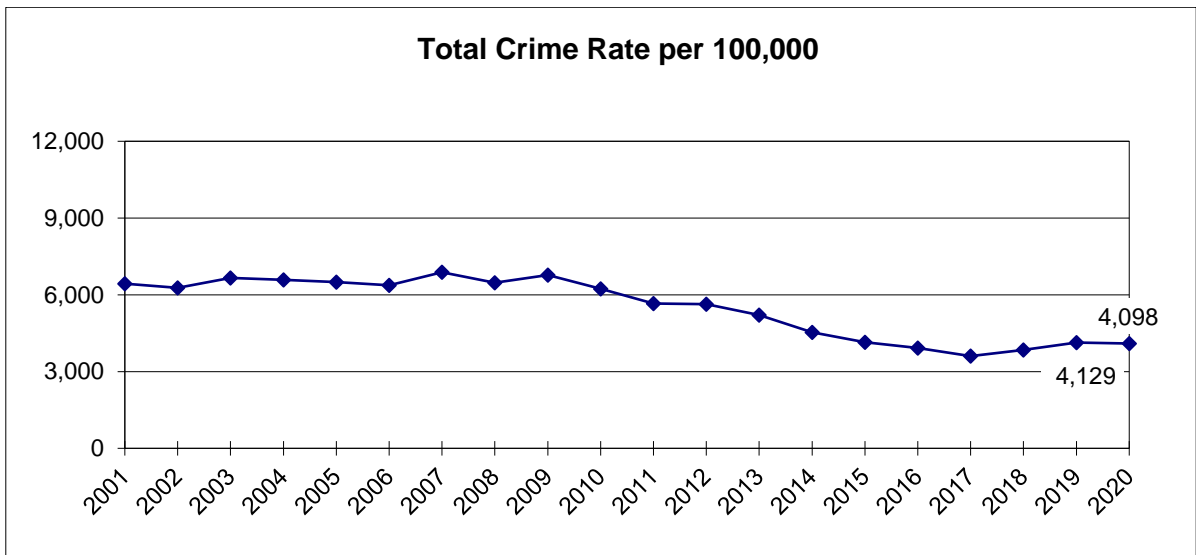
Part I Index Crimes	Offenses		
	2019	2020	% chg
Murder	33	44	33%
Rape	575	478	-17%
Robbery	1,012	1,101	9%
Aggravated Assault	2,431	3,048	25%
<b>Total Violent Crime</b>	<b>4,051</b>	<b>4,671</b>	<b>15%</b>
Burglary	4,345	4,774	10%
Theft	29,279	27,481	-6%
Auto Theft	3,035	4,067	34%
<b>Total Property Crime</b>	<b>36,659</b>	<b>36,322</b>	<b>-1%</b>
<b>Total Index Crime</b>	<b>40,710</b>	<b>40,993</b>	<b>1%</b>

Rate per 100,000		
2019	2020	% chg
3.3	4.4	31%
58.3	47.8	-18%
102.6	110.1	7%
246.5	304.7	24%
<b>410.8</b>	<b>467.0</b>	<b>14%</b>
440.6	477.3	8%
2,969.3	2,747.3	-7%
307.8	406.6	32%
<b>3,717.7</b>	<b>3,631.2</b>	<b>-2%</b>
<b>4,128.5</b>	<b>4,098.2</b>	<b>-1%</b>



## Trends

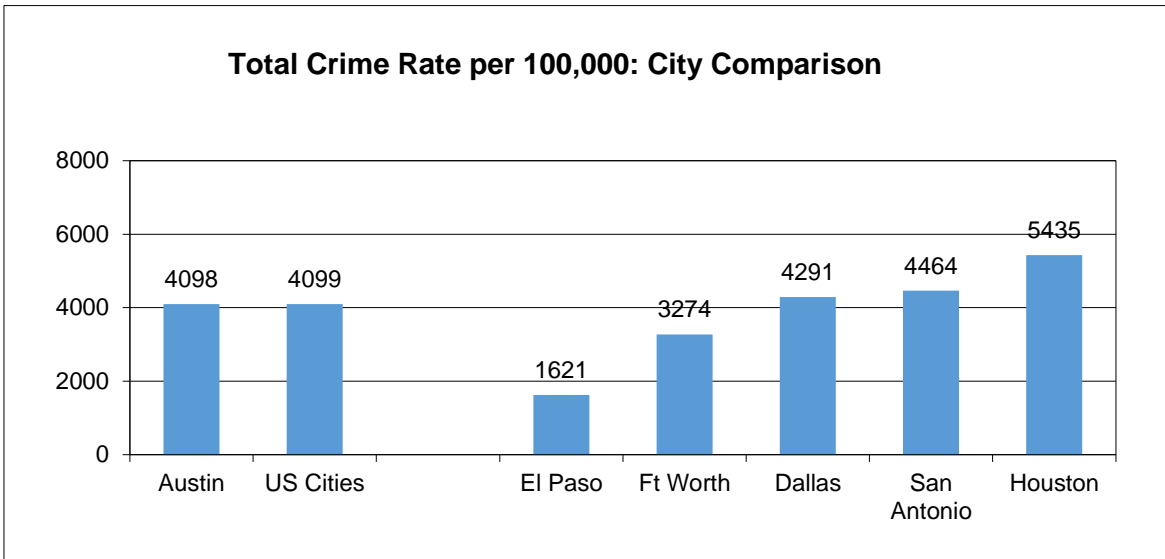
In 2020, the number of all Part I Index crimes for Austin was 40,993. This was a 1% increase in incidents as compared with 2019 (40,710). The crime rate per 100,000 residents was 4,098 in 2020 – a 2% decrease from the 2019 rate of 4,129.



## Compared to Other Cities

This chart shows how Austin compares to large US cities (population 500,000 to 1,500,000). According to FBI UCR, Austin's 2020 population was 1,00,276. For regional comparison, large Texas cities are identified; Houston and San Antonio are the only Texas cities *not* included in US cities average because their populations exceed the range.

Austin's rate of 4,098 offenses per 100,000 was about equal to the average rate of 4,099 for all large US cities.

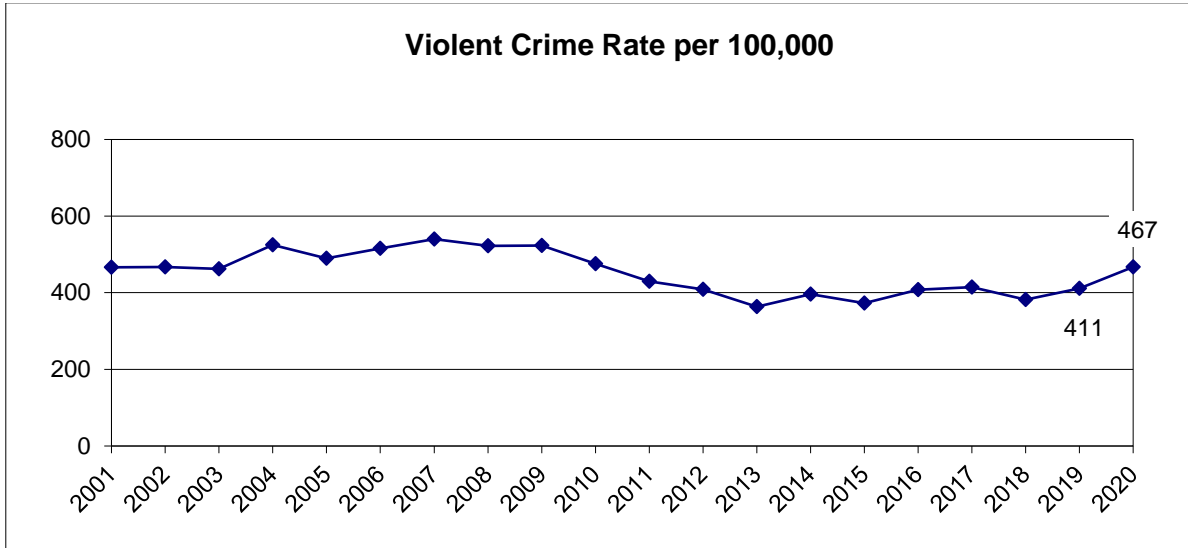


The following cities are included in the "US cities" category above, and elsewhere throughout this report:

Albuquerque, Baltimore, Boston, Charlotte, Columbus, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, El Paso, Fort Worth, Honolulu, Jacksonville, Louisville, Memphis, Mesa, Milwaukee, Nashville, Oklahoma City, Portland, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Seattle, Tucson, Washington D.C.

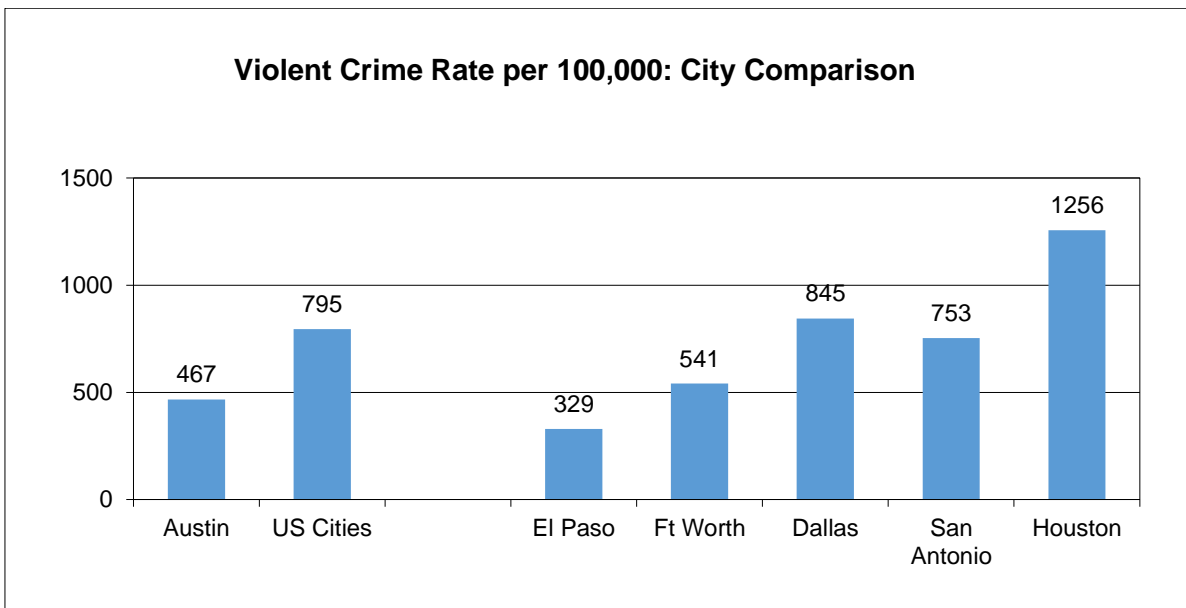
## Violent Crime

In 2020, the number of violent crimes was 4,671, a 15% increase in incidents from 2019 (4,051). The rate of violent crime per 100,000 residents was 467 in 2020, up 14% from 411 in 2019.



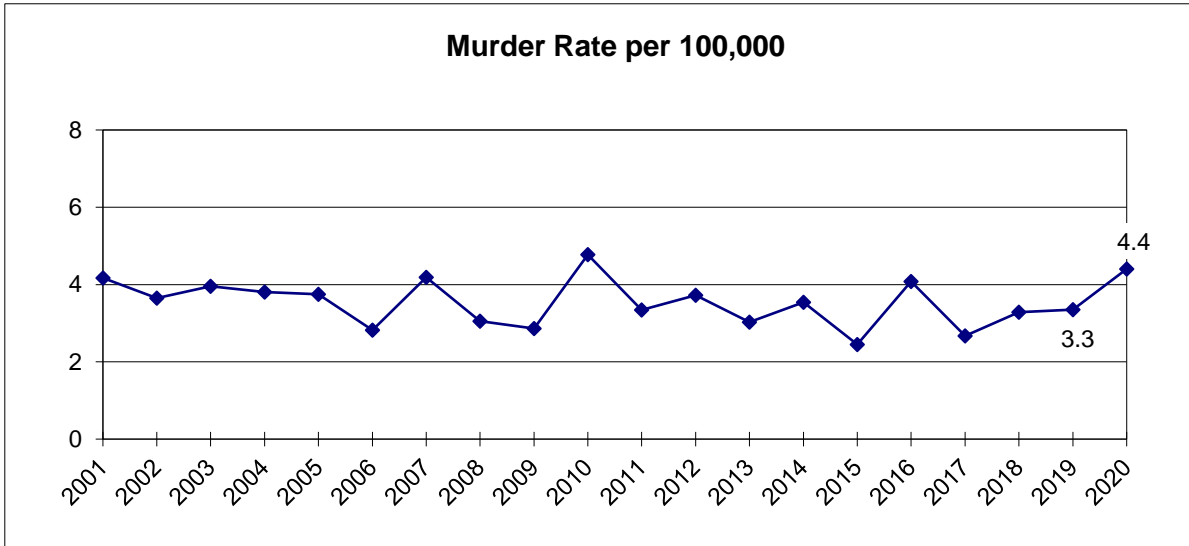
## Compared to Other Cities

Austin's rate of 467 violent crimes per 100,000 was 41% lower than the average rate of 795 for all large US cities.

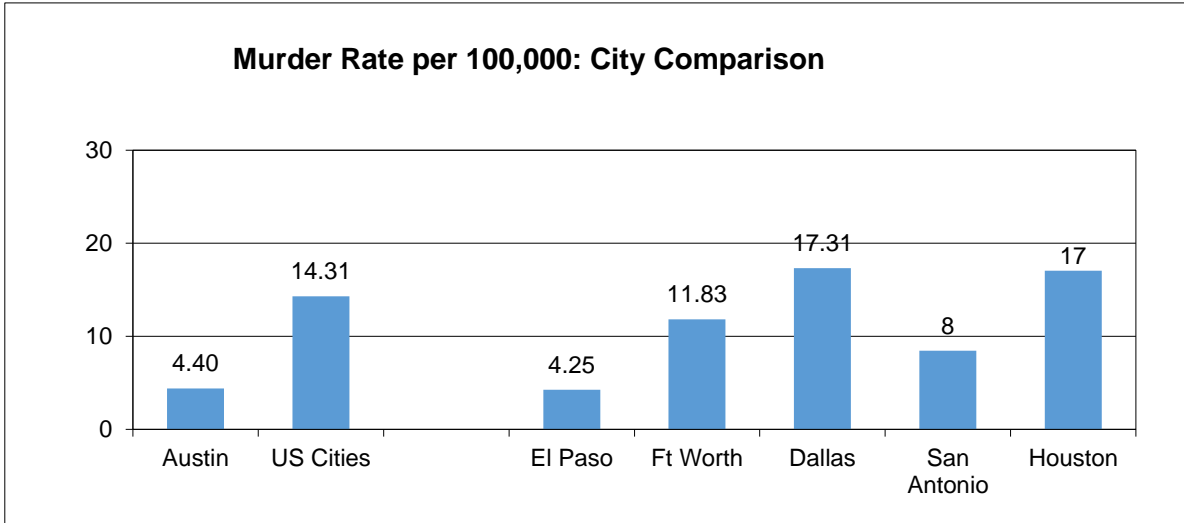


## Murder

During 2020, there were 44 murder victims, up from 33 in 2019. The 2020 murder rate was 4.4 per 100,000 residents, up 31% from 2019.



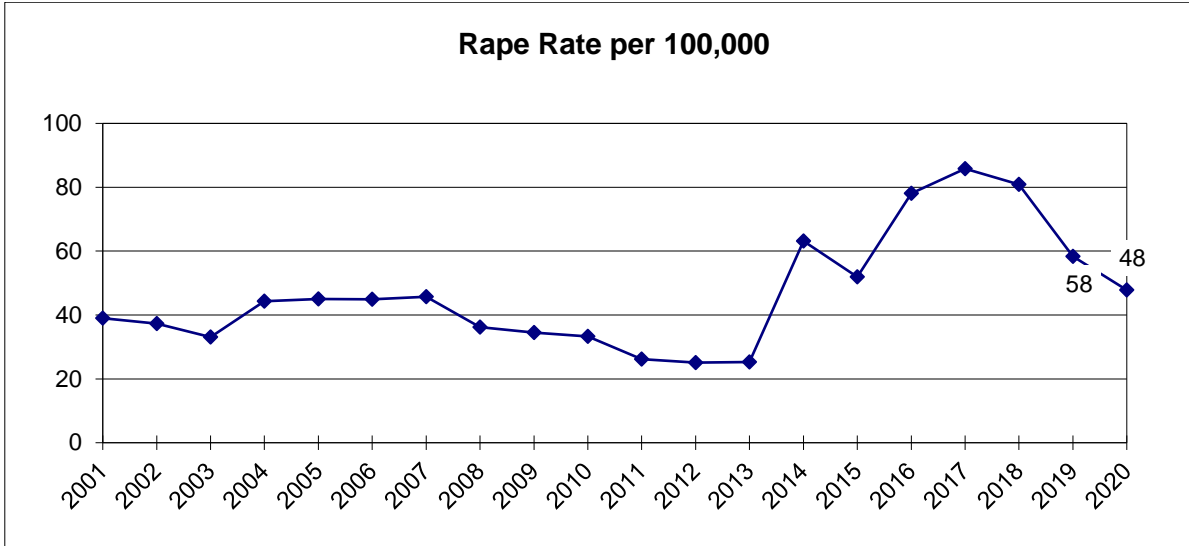
Austin's murder rate was 69% lower than the average of US cities our size.





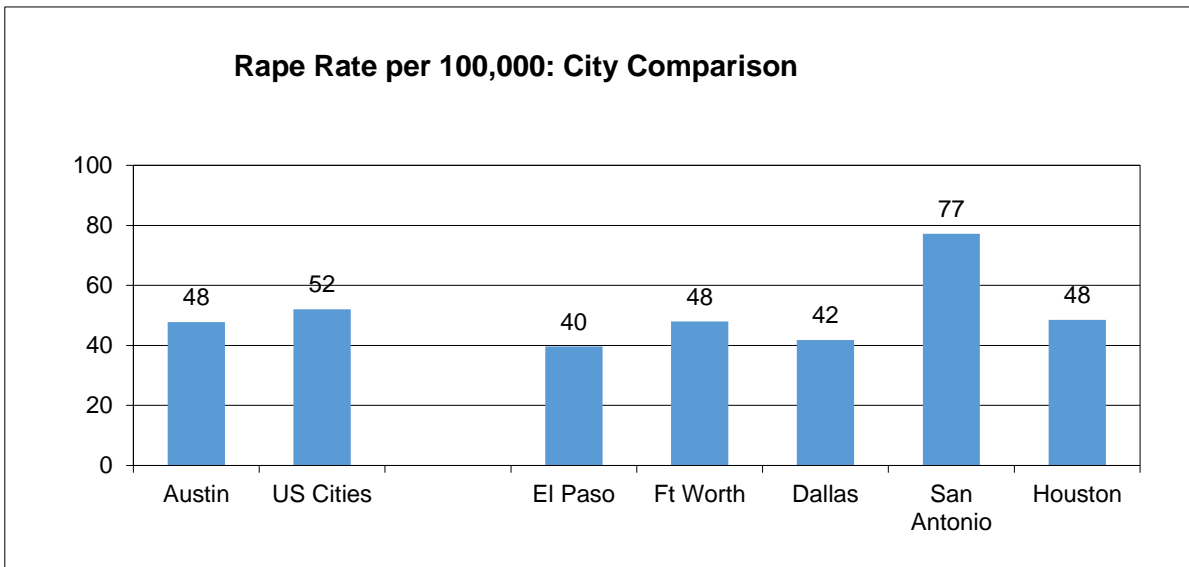
## Rape

There were 478 reported rapes in 2020, down 17% from 2019 (575). The rate was 48 per 100,000 residents.



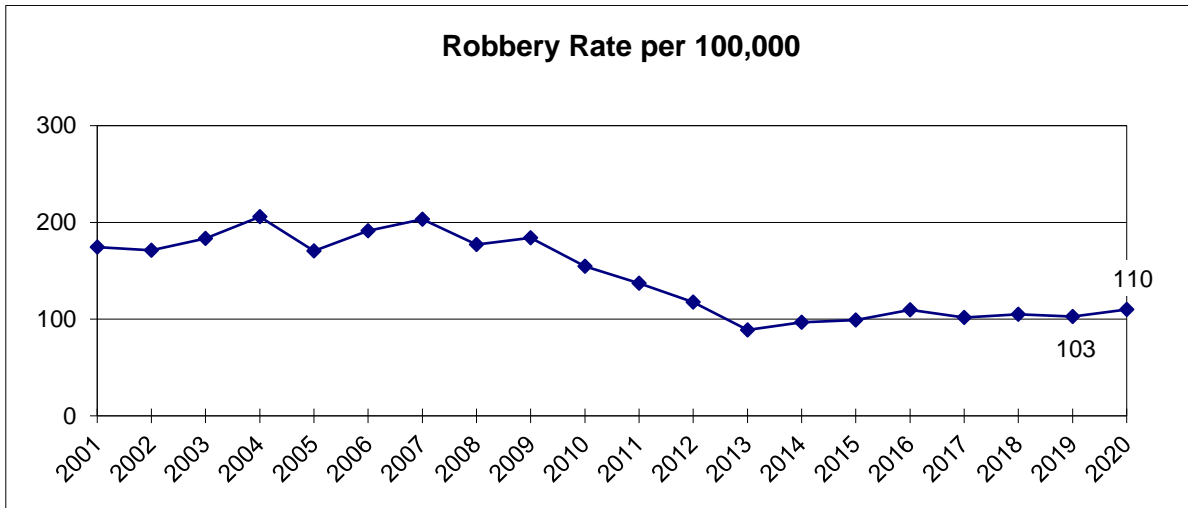
Note: Due to FBI-directed modifications to reporting requirements and changes in offense code use over time, offenses are not comparable from 2013 to 2016.

Austin's rate of reported rapes was 8% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.

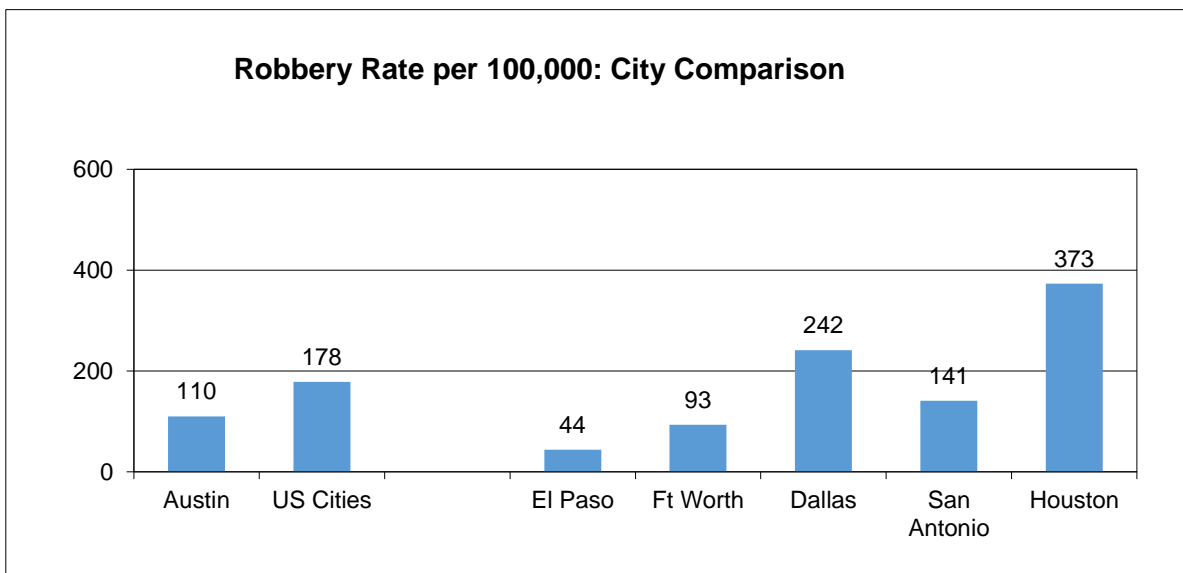


## Robbery

There were 1,101 robberies reported in 2020, up 9% from 1,012 in 2019. The rate was 110 robberies per 100,000 residents, which was a 7% increase from the previous year's rate of 103.

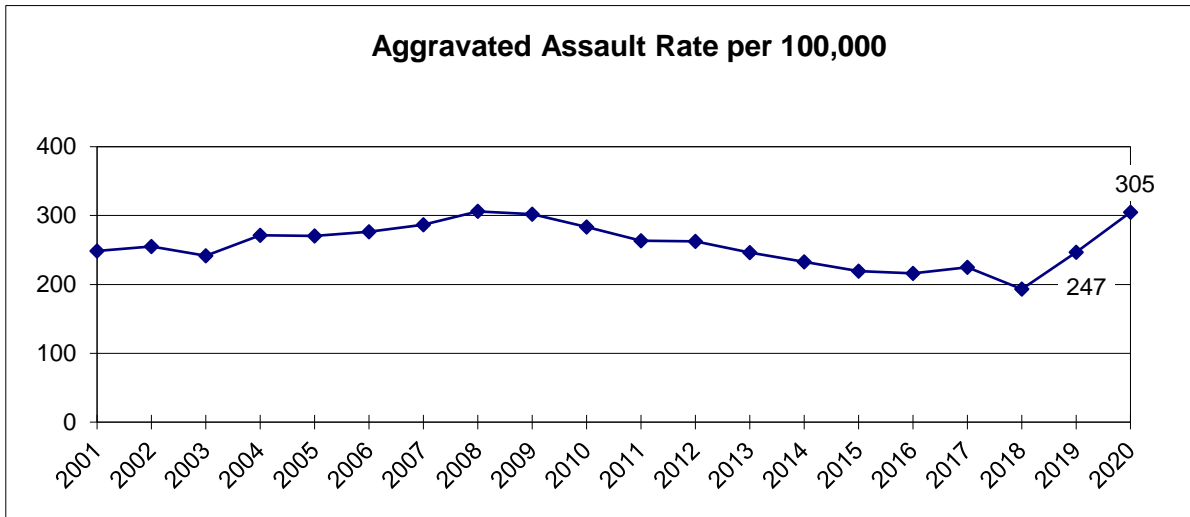


Austin's rate of reported robberies was 38% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.

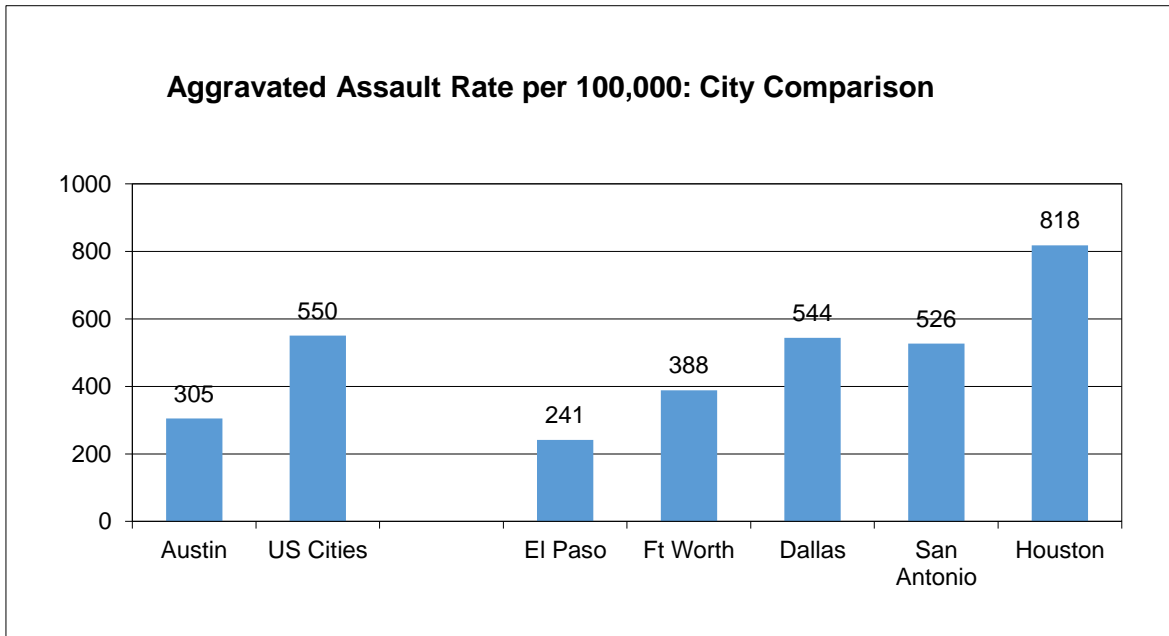


## Aggravated Assault

There were 3,048 reported victims of aggravated assault in 2020, up from 2,431 in 2019. The rate was 305 victims per 100,000 residents, up 24% from the prior year's rate of 247.

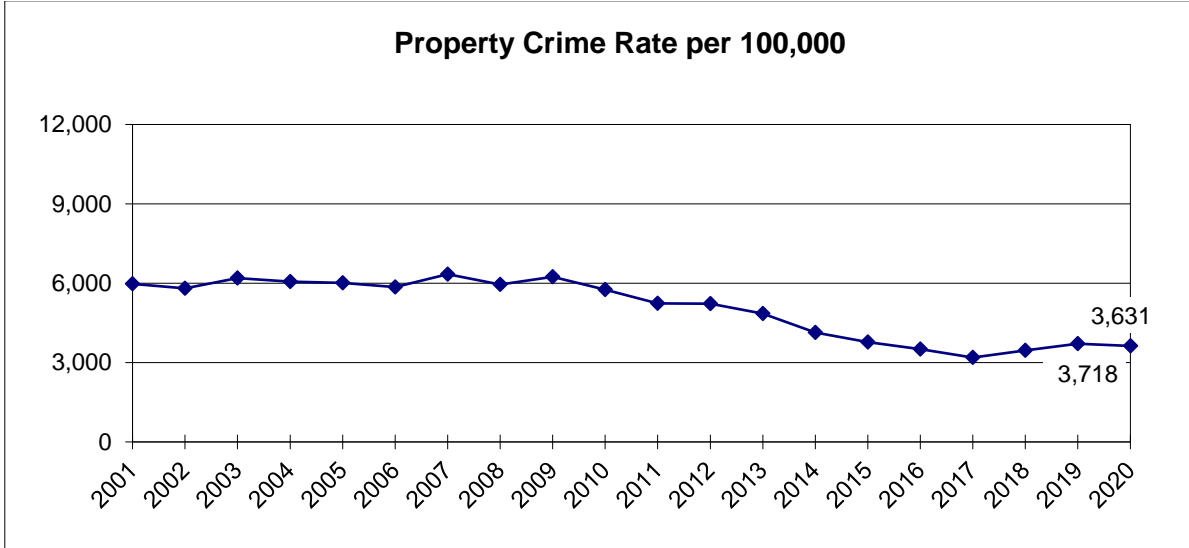


Austin's rate of aggravated assault victims was 45% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.



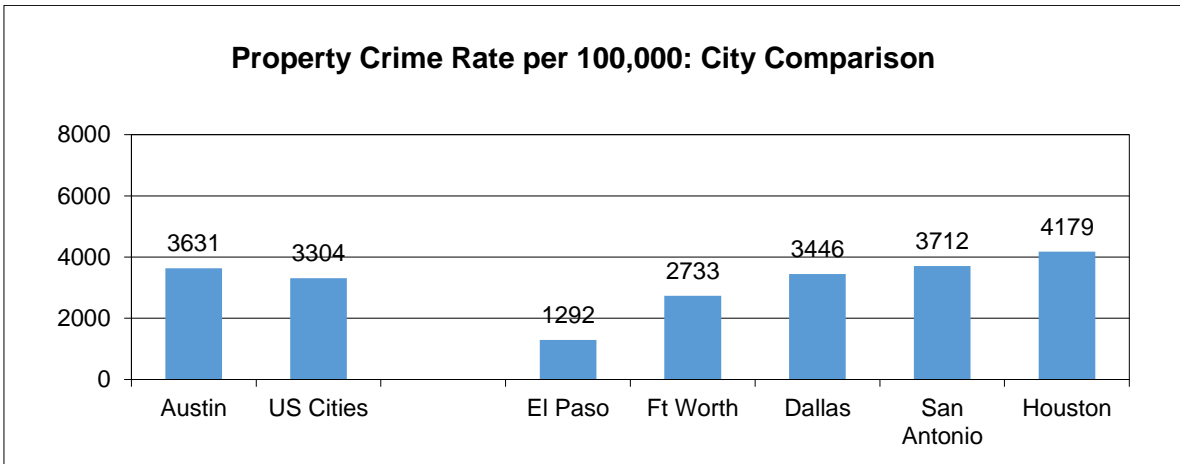
## Property Crime

In 2020, the number of property crimes in Austin was 36,322, down 1% from 36,659 in 2019. The rate of property crime per 100,000 residents was 3,631 in 2020, which was down 2% from the prior year's rate of 3,718.



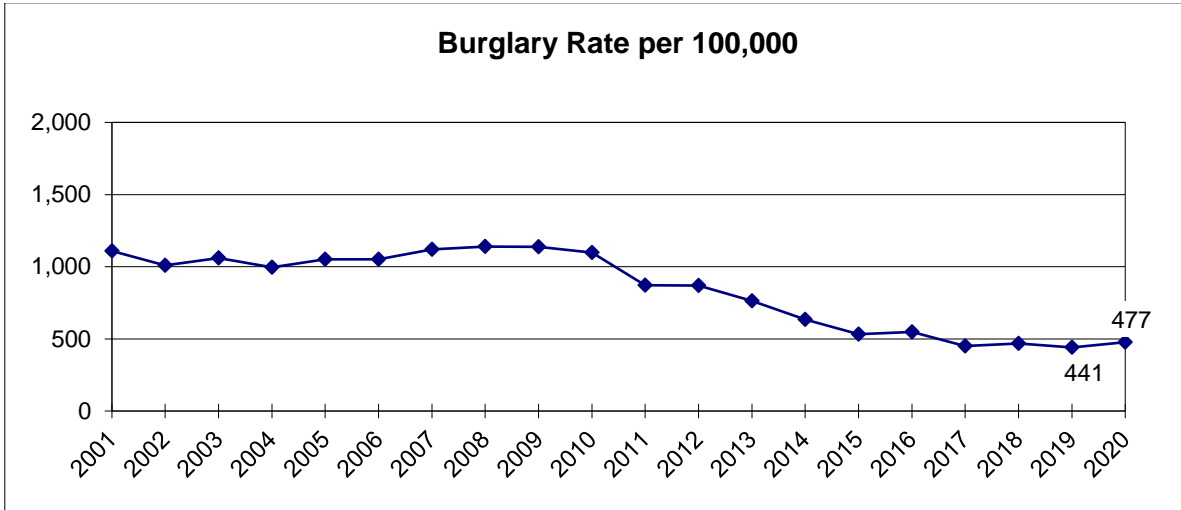
## Compared to Other Cities

Austin's rate of 3,631 property crimes per 100,000 in 2020 was 10% higher than the average rate of 3,304 per 100,000 for large US cities.

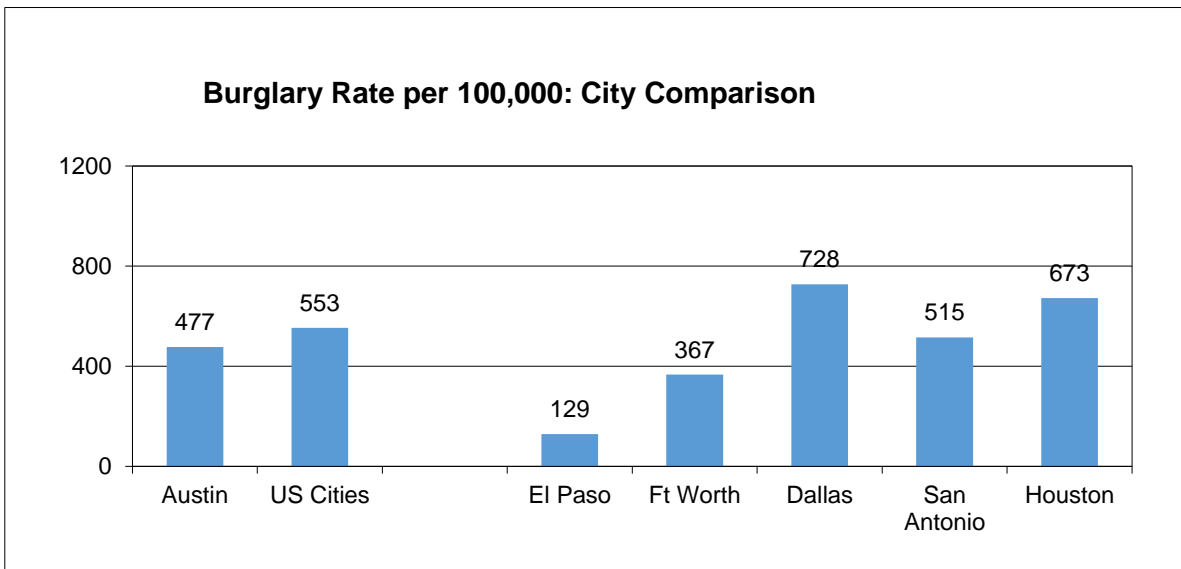


## Burglary

There were 4,774 reported burglaries in 2020, up 10% from 4,345 in 2019. The rate was 477 burglaries per 100,000 residents, which was up 8% from the prior year's rate of 441.

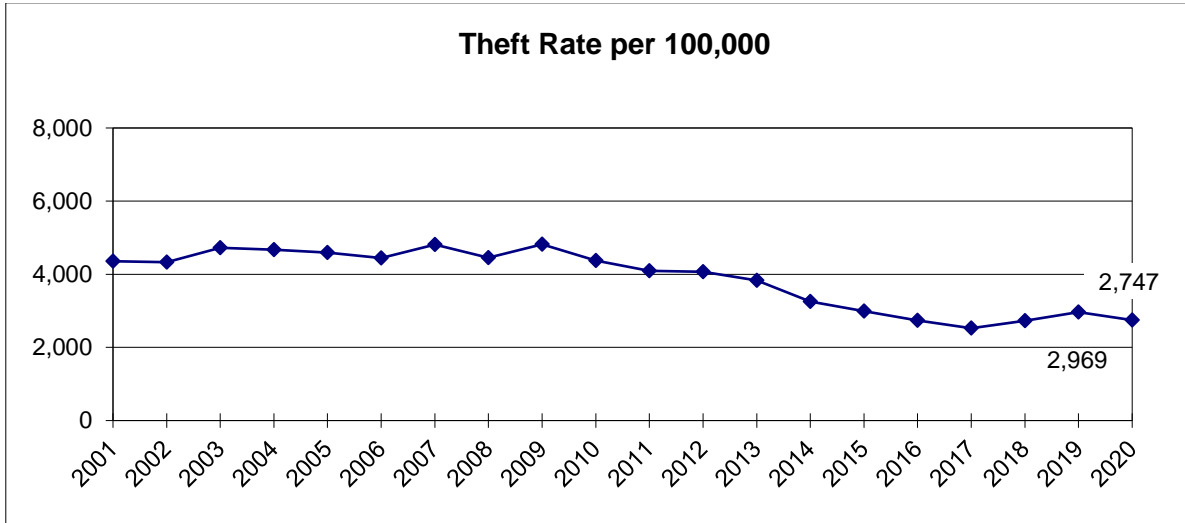


Austin's burglary rate in 2020 was 14% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.

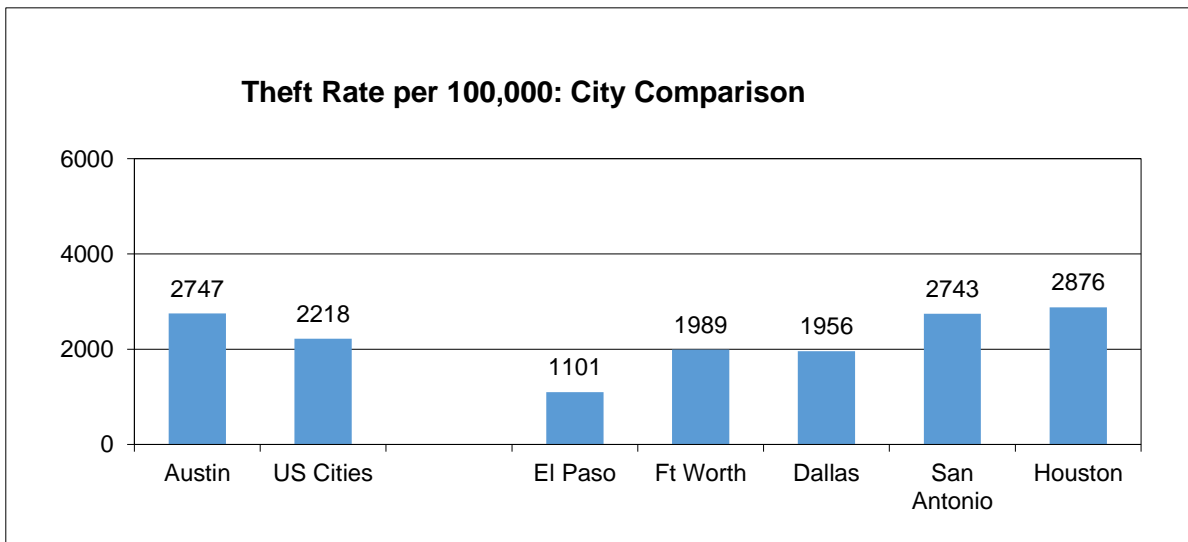


## Theft

There were 27,481 reported thefts in 2020, down from 29,279 in 2019. The rate was 2,747 thefts per 100,000 residents, which was down 7% from the rate of 2,969 in 2019.

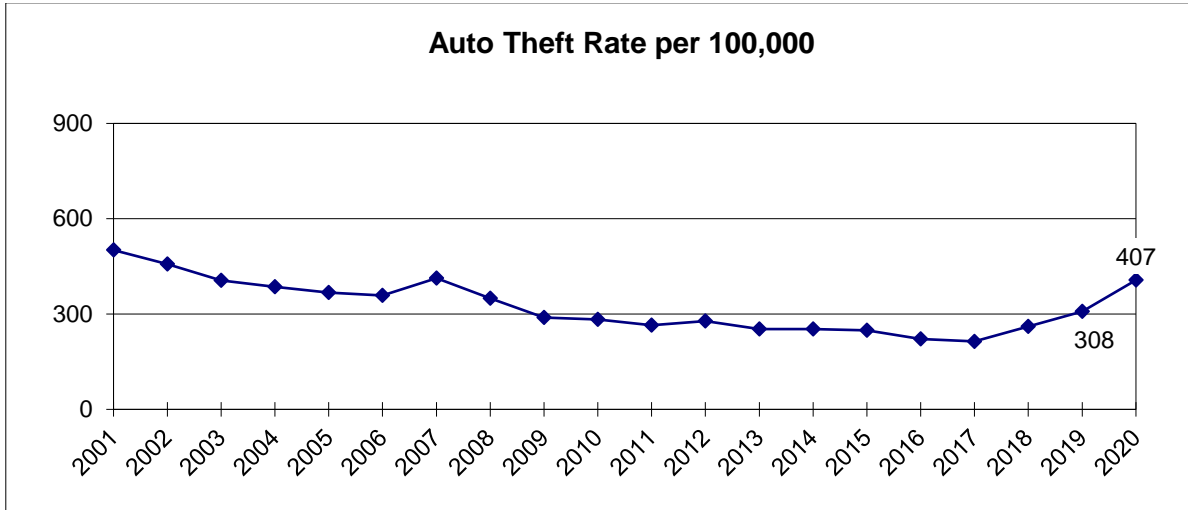


Austin's rate of thefts in 2020 was 24% higher than the average of US cities of the same size.

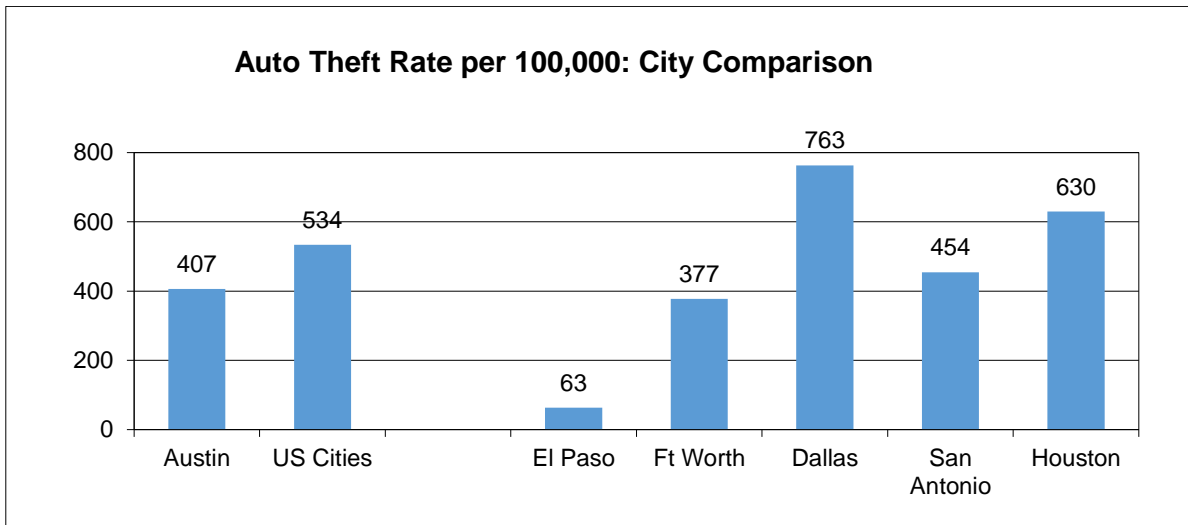


## Auto Theft

There were 4,067 reported auto thefts in 2020, up 34% from 3,035 in 2019. The rate was 407 auto thefts per 100,000 residents, which was an 32% increase from the rate of 308 in 2019.



Austin's auto theft rate in 2020 was 24% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.



## Solving Crime

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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.

	% of Crimes Cleared by Arrest or Exception	
Part I Index Crimes	Austin	
	2019	2020
Murder	76%	86%
Rape	13%	20%
Robbery	32%	23%
Aggravated Assault	47%	43%
<b>Total Violent Crime</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>
Burglary	35%	26%
Theft	35%	25%
Auto Theft	39%	29%
<b>Total Property Crime</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>7%</b>

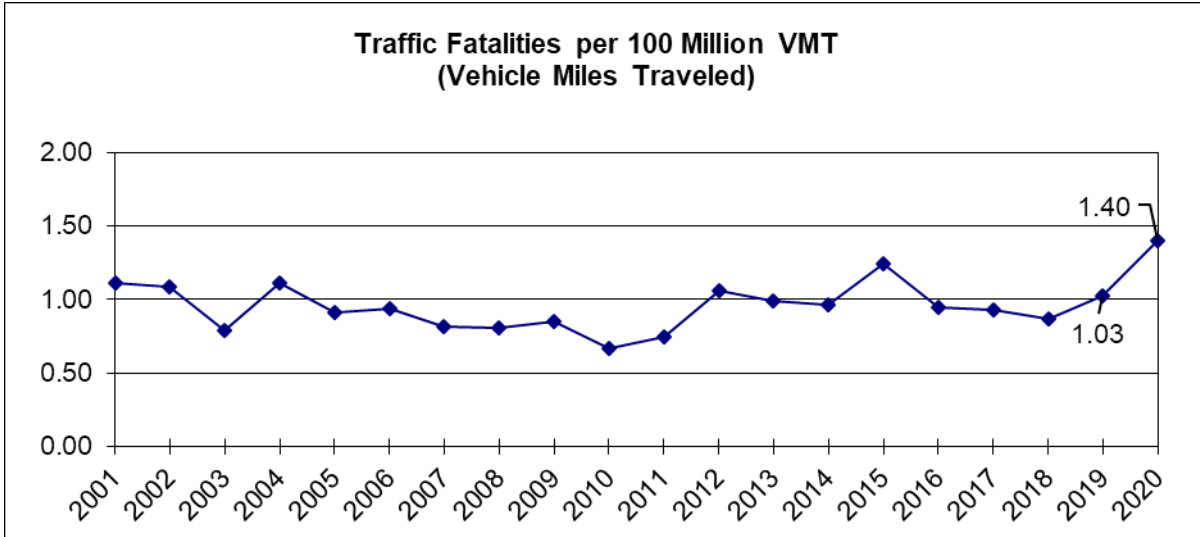
During 2020, Austin police solved, or cleared, 36% of the reported violent, a decrease of 2% from the rate in 2019.

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 2020, Austin solved 7% of property crimes, down 2% from 2019.



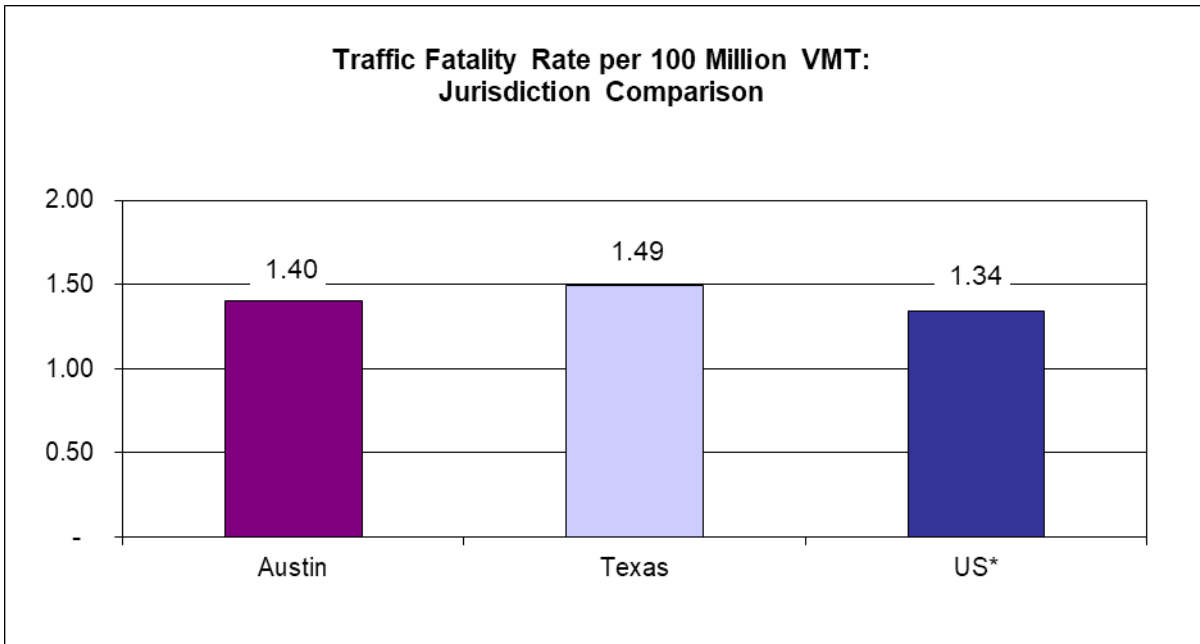
## Traffic Fatalities

During 2020, there were 88 fatal crashes that resulted in 94 deaths, as compared to 86 fatal crashes that resulted in 88 deaths in 2019.



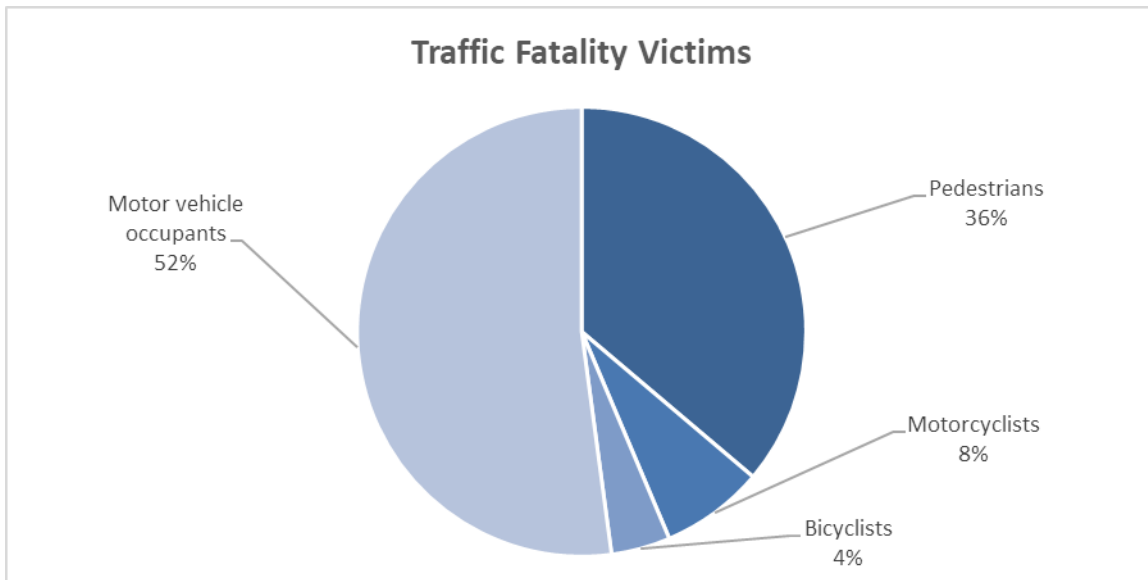
The 2020 traffic fatality rate was 1.40 fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), as compared to the rate of 1.03 in 2019.

Austin's rate of 1.40 fatalities per 100 million VMT was lower than the rate for Texas (1.49), but higher than the rate for the US (1.34).

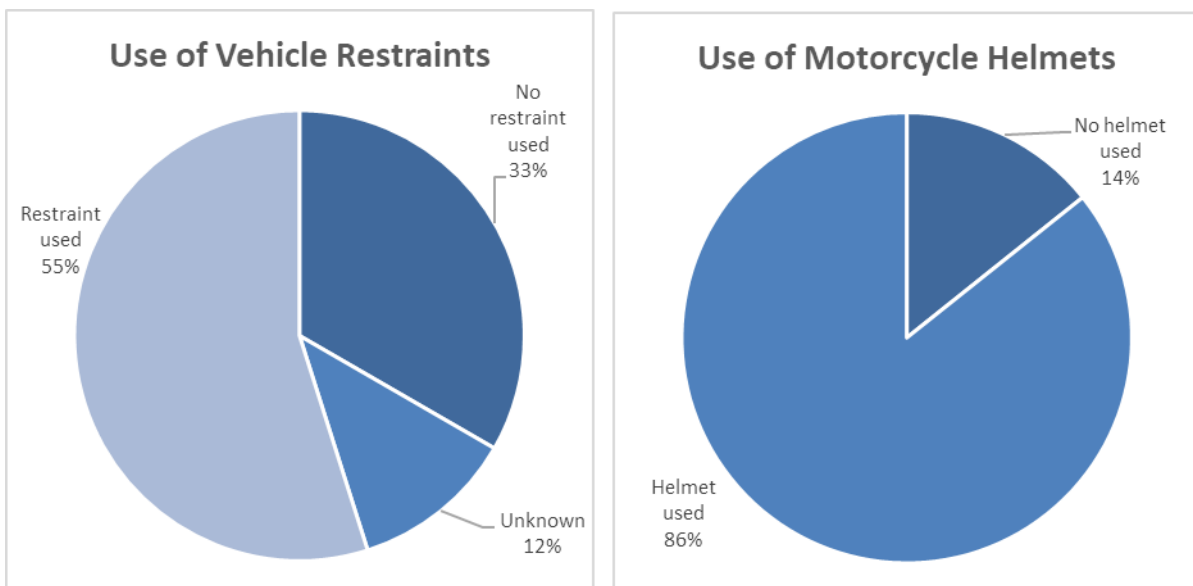


In 2020, the largest portion of traffic fatalities involved motor vehicle occupants (49, or 52%), followed by pedestrians (34, or 36%), motorcyclists (7, or 8%) and

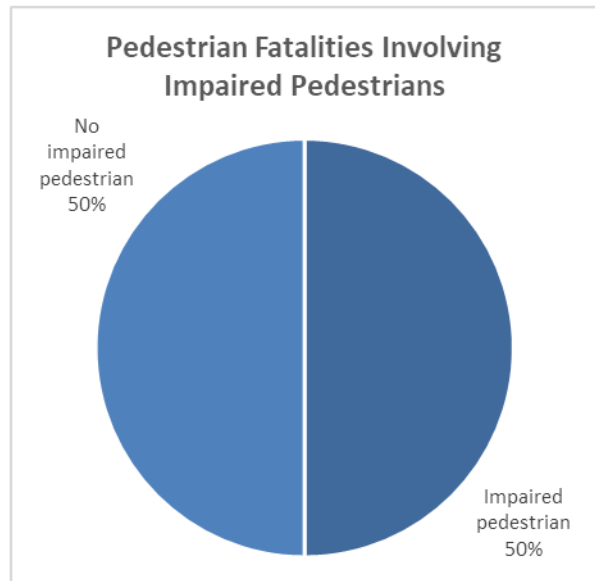
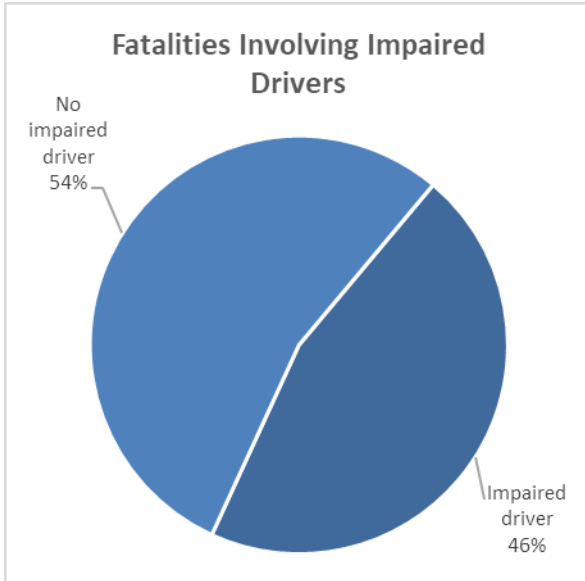
bicyclists (4, or 4%). In 2019, the largest portion of traffic fatalities similarly involved motor vehicle occupants (39, or 44%), followed by pedestrians (36, or 41%), motorcyclists (11, or 13%), and bicyclists (2, or 2%).



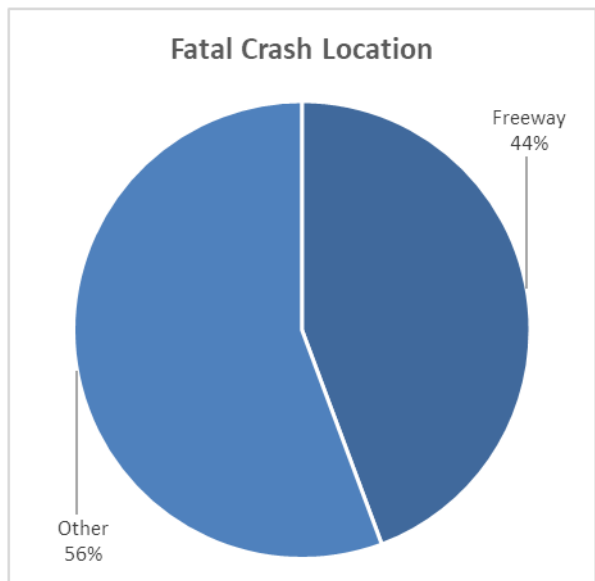
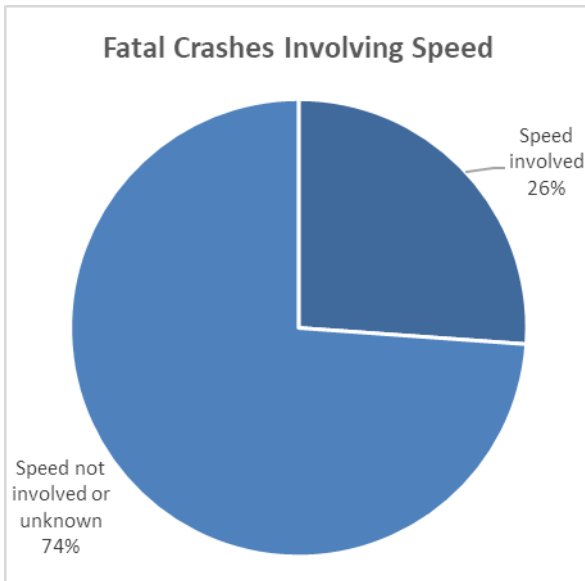
Of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2020, 17 victims (or 33%) were not using restraints, as compared with 10 victims (or 26%) in 2019. Of all motorcycle fatalities in 2020, 1 victim (or 14%) were not wearing helmets, as compared with 3 (or 27%) in 2019.



Of all fatalities in 2020, 43 (or 46%) involved an impaired driver, as compared with 31 (or 35%) in 2019. Of all pedestrian fatalities in 2020, 17 (or 50%) involved an impaired pedestrian, as compared with 21 (or 58%) in 2019.



In 2020, 23 fatal crashes (or 26%) were known to involve speed, as compared with 19 (or 22%) in 2019. In 2020, 39 fatal crashes (or 44%) occurred on freeways (IH-35, Mo-Pac, US Hwy 183, and State Hwy 71/290 West), as compared to 37 (or 43%) in 2019.



Austin's rate of traffic fatalities involving driver alcohol impairment is 0.64 per 100 Million VMT. That rate is higher than the rate both for Texas (0.57) and the rate for the US (0.40).

