

Austin Police Department

Annual Crime and Traffic Report: 2021 Final Report



Prepared by the Austin Police Department
Chief of Police, Joseph Chacon
Research and Planning Unit
4/4/2023

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 2021 (January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021). We have also included selected traffic statistics on fatal crashes and perception of safety.

Notable Findings

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

- Austin’s **violent crime rate** of 491 per 100,000 residents increased 5% as compared with 2020.
- Austin’s **property crime rate** of 3,343 per 100,000 residents decreased 8% as compared with 2020.
- The **aggravated assault rate** of 331 per 100,000 represents a 9% increase as compared with 2020.
- The **burglary rate** of 468 per 100,000 residents represents a 2% decline as compared with 2020.
- The **violent crime clearance rate** increased from 36% in 2020 to 41% in 2021. The **property crime clearance rate** decreased one point to 6%.
- **Traffic fatalities** increased from 94 in 2020 to 120 in 2021; and **fatal crashes** increased from 88 in 2020 to 111 in 2021.
- Residents’ perception of **overall quality of police services** saw a significant decrease in satisfaction from 2019 (there was no Austin Community Survey in 2020).

Table of Contents

- Overall Crime Statistics 1**
 - Incidents and Rates 1
 - Trends 2
 - Compared to Other Cities 3
- Violent Crime 4**
 - Compared to Other Cities 4
 - Murder 5
 - Rape 6
 - Robbery 7
 - Aggravated Assault 8
- Property Crime 9**
 - Compared to Other Cities 9
 - Burglary 10
 - Theft 11
 - Auto Theft 12
- Solving Crime 13**
- Traffic Fatalities 14**
- Perception of Safety 18**

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)

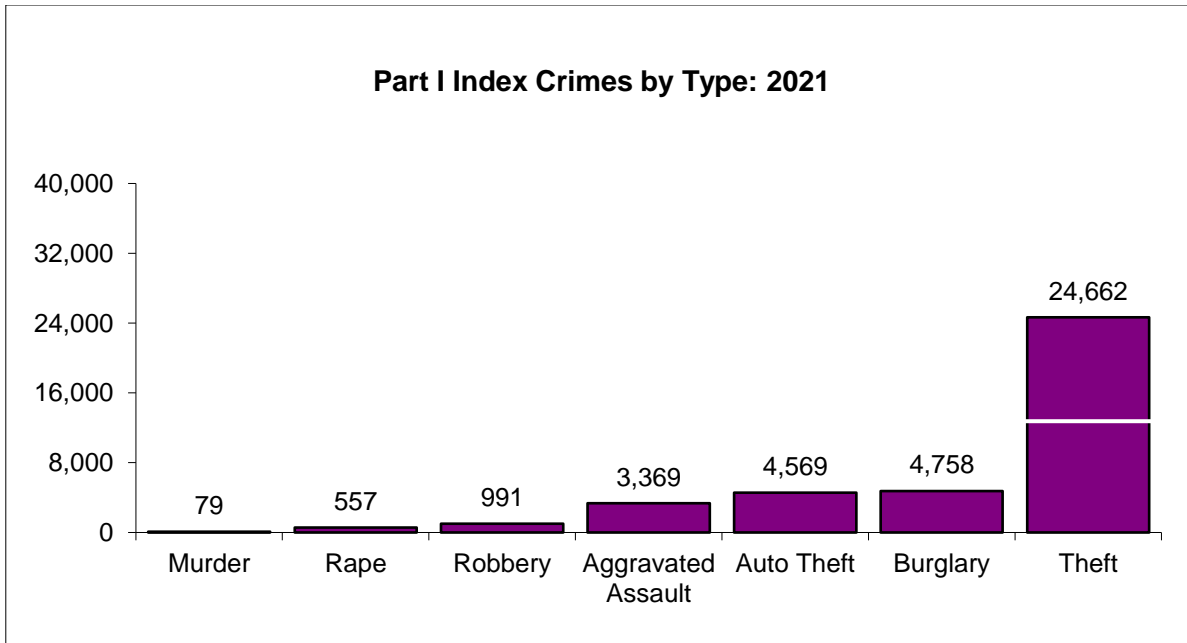
These categories and crime definitions are used for reporting city-level crime statistics to the FBI under its Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program.

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.

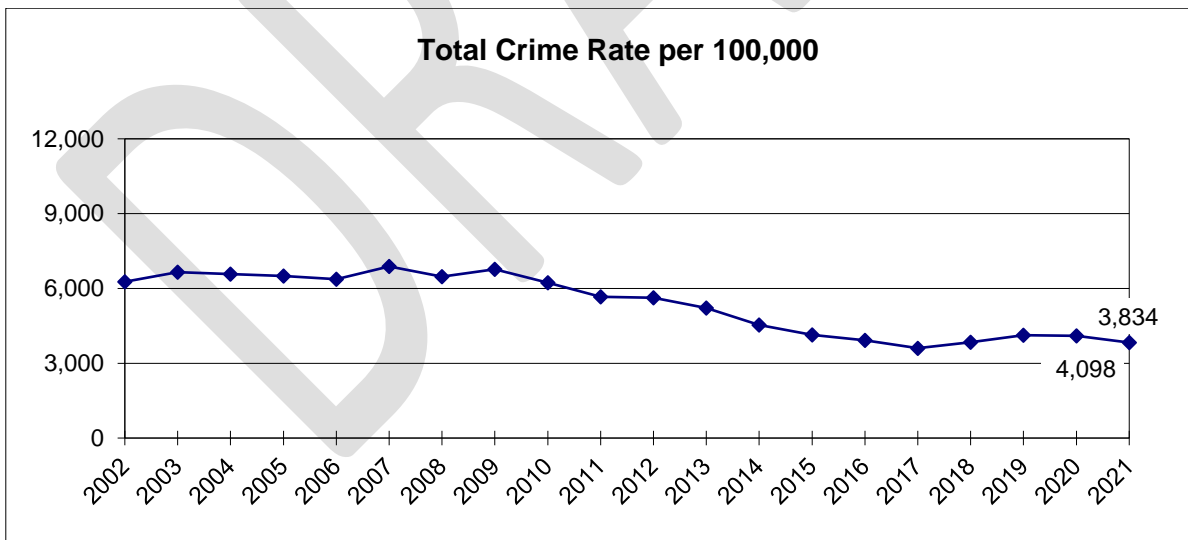
Part I Index Crimes	Offenses		
	2020	2021	% Change
Murder	44	79	80%
Rape	478	557	17%
Robbery	1,101	991	-10%
Aggravated Assault	3,048	3,369	11%
Total Violent Crime	4,671	4,996	7%
Burglary	4,774	4,758	0%
Theft	27,481	24,662	-10%
Auto Theft	4,067	4,569	12%
Total Property Crime	36,322	33,989	-6%
Total Index Crime	40,993	38,985	-5%

Rate per 100,000		
2020	2021	% Change
4.4	7.8	77%
47.8	54.8	15%
110.1	97.5	-11%
304.7	331.4	9%
467.0	491.4	5%
477.3	468.0	-2%
2,747.3	2,425.6	-12%
406.6	449.4	11%
3,631.2	3,343.0	-8%
4,098.2	3,834.4	-6%



Trends

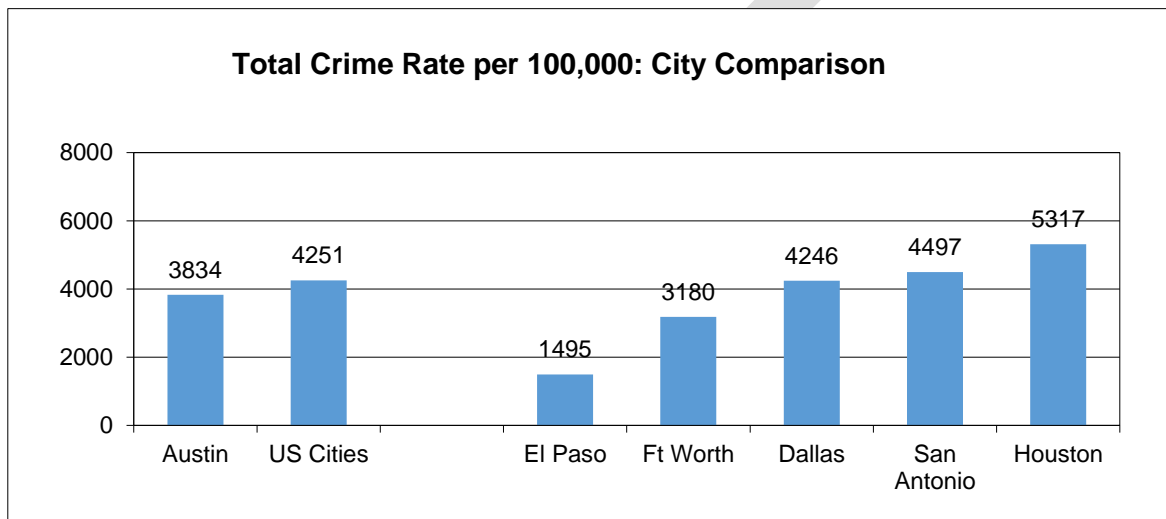
In 2021, the number of all Part I Index crimes for Austin was 38,985. This was a 5% decrease in incidents as compared with 2020 (40,993). The crime rate per 100,000 residents was 3,834 in 2021 – a 6% decrease from the 2020 rate of 4,098.



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 2021 population was 1,016,721. 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 3,834 offenses per 100,000 was 10% lower than the average rate of 4,251 for all large US cities.

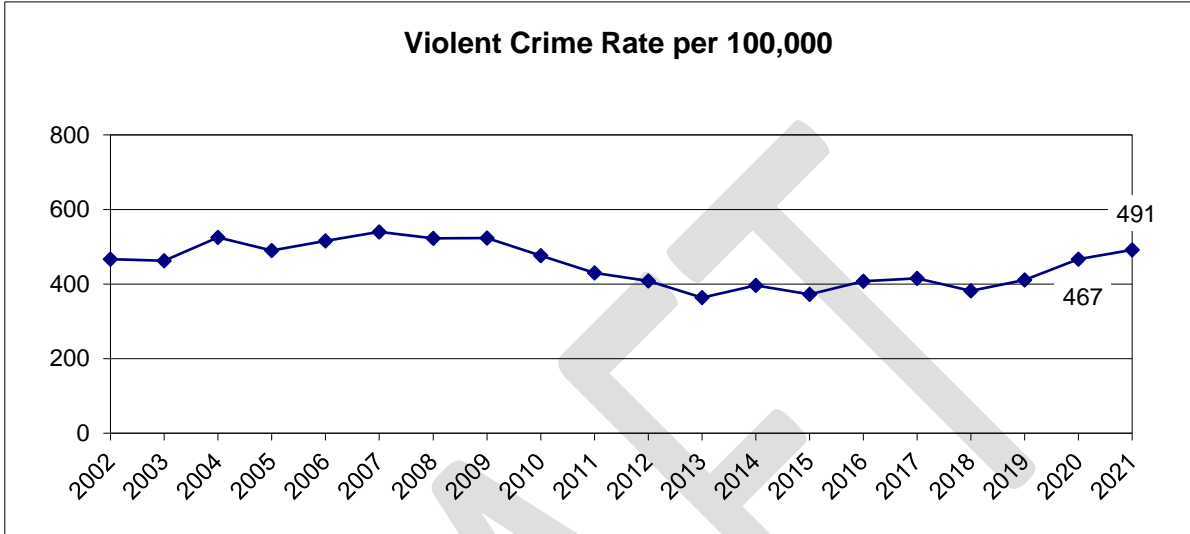


The following cities are included in the "US cities" category above, and elsewhere throughout this report:

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.

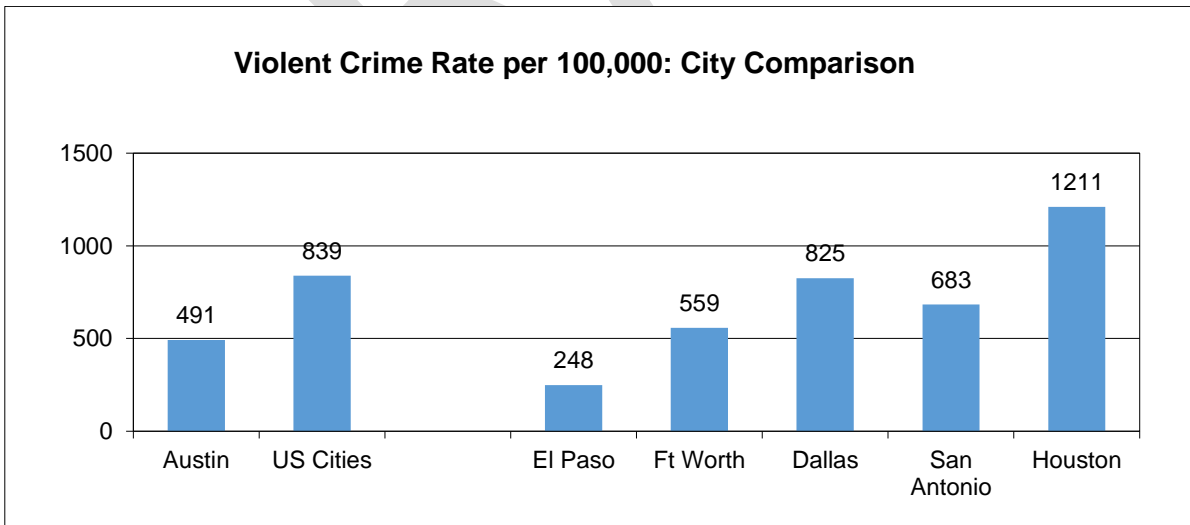
Violent Crime

In 2021, the number of violent crimes was 4,996, a 7% increase in incidents from 2020 (4,671). The rate of violent crime per 100,000 residents was 491 in 2021, up 5% from 467 in 2020.



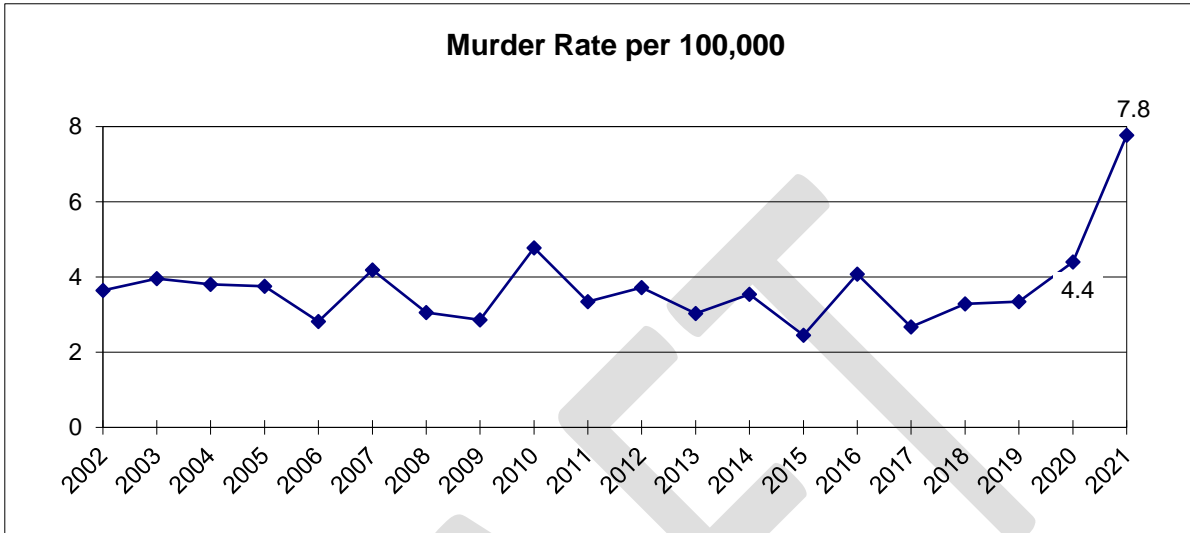
Compared to Other Cities

Austin's rate of 491 violent crimes per 100,000 was 41% lower than the average rate of 839 for all large US cities.

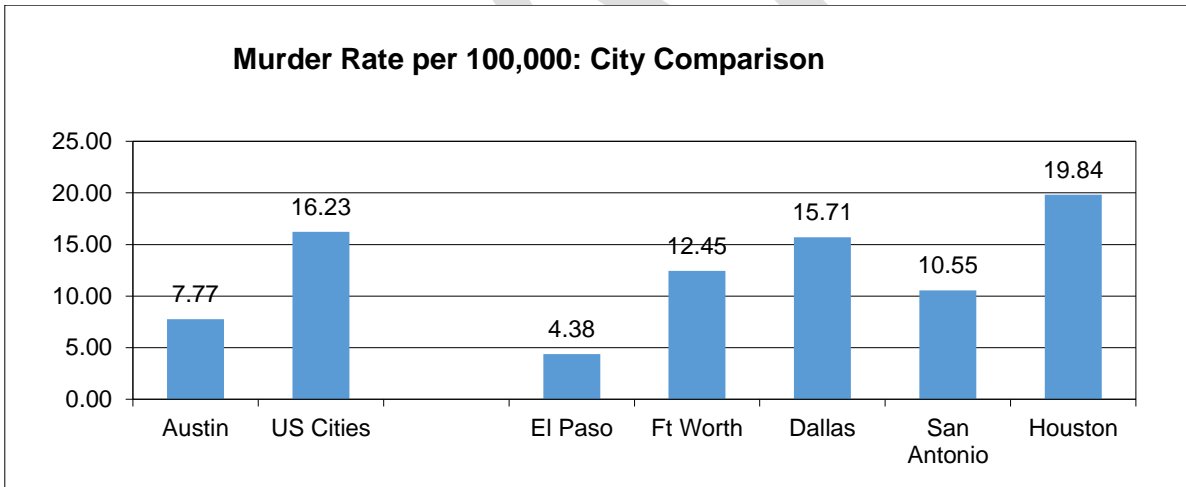


Murder

During 2021, there were 79 murder victims, up 80% from 44 in 2020. The 2021 murder rate was 7.8 per 100,000 residents, increasing 77% from 4.4 in 2020.

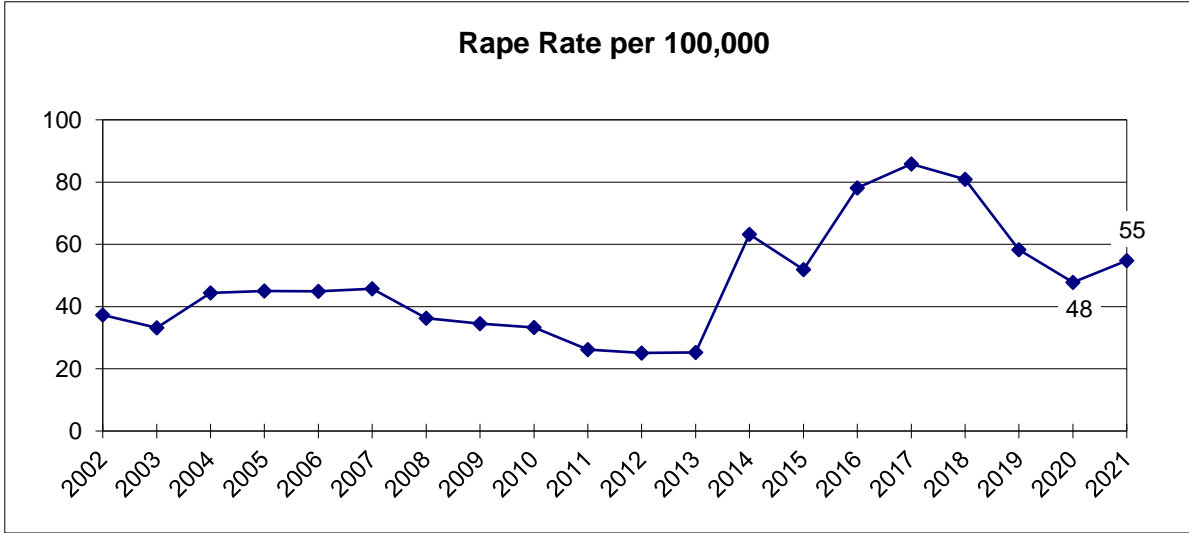


Austin's murder rate was 52% lower than the average of US cities our size.



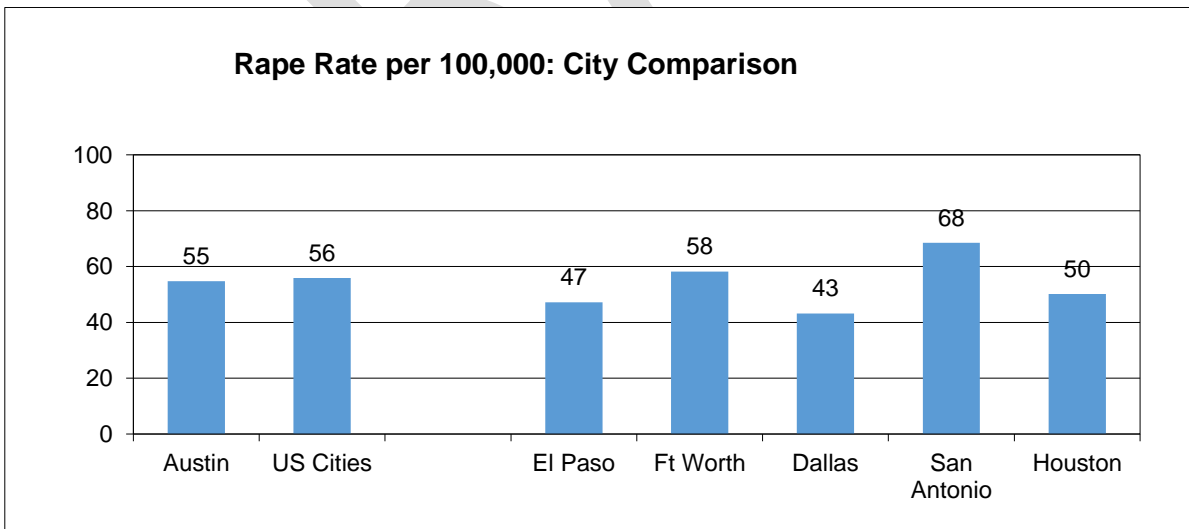
Rape

There were 557 reported rapes in 2021, up 17% from 2020 (478). The rate was 55 per 100,000 residents.



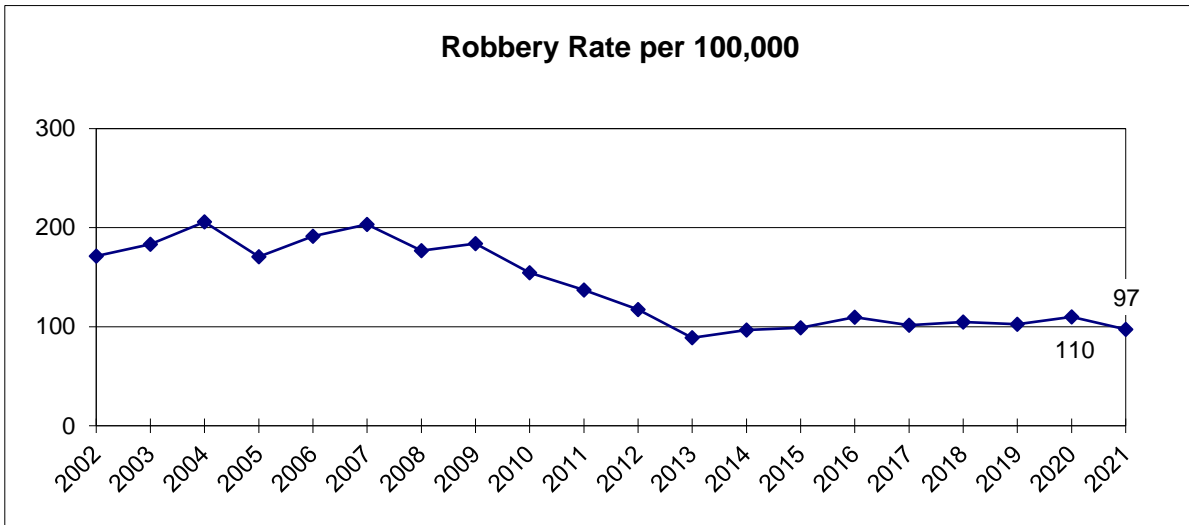
Note: Due to FBI-directed modifications to reporting requirements and changes in offense code use over time, offenses are not comparable from 2013 to 2016.

Austin's rate of reported rapes was 2% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.

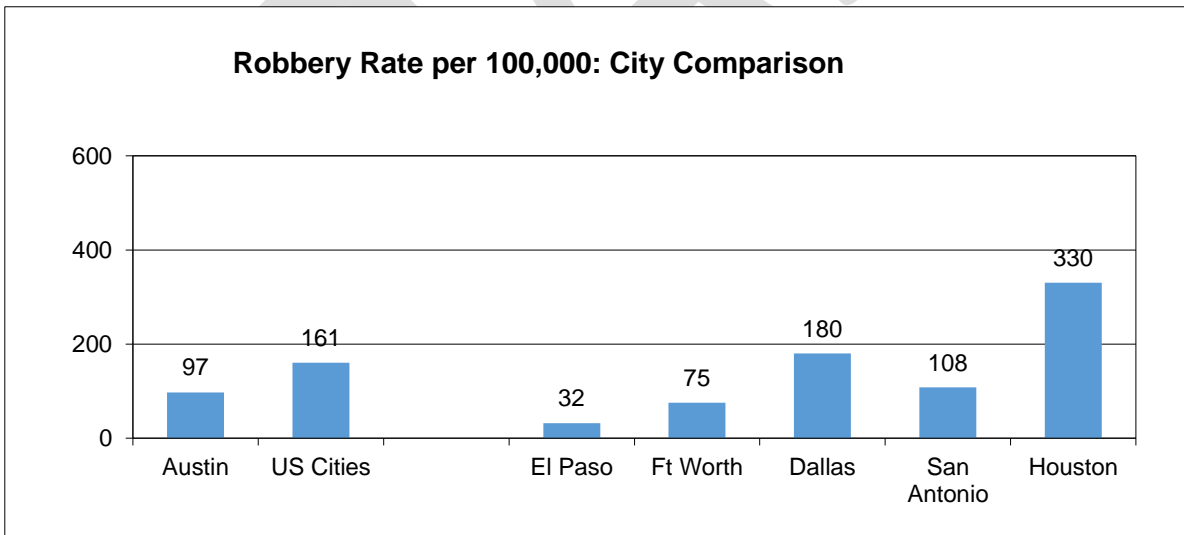


Robbery

There were 991 robberies reported in 2021, down 10% from 1,101 in 2020. The rate was 97 robberies per 100,000 residents, which was a 15% decrease from the previous year's rate of 110.

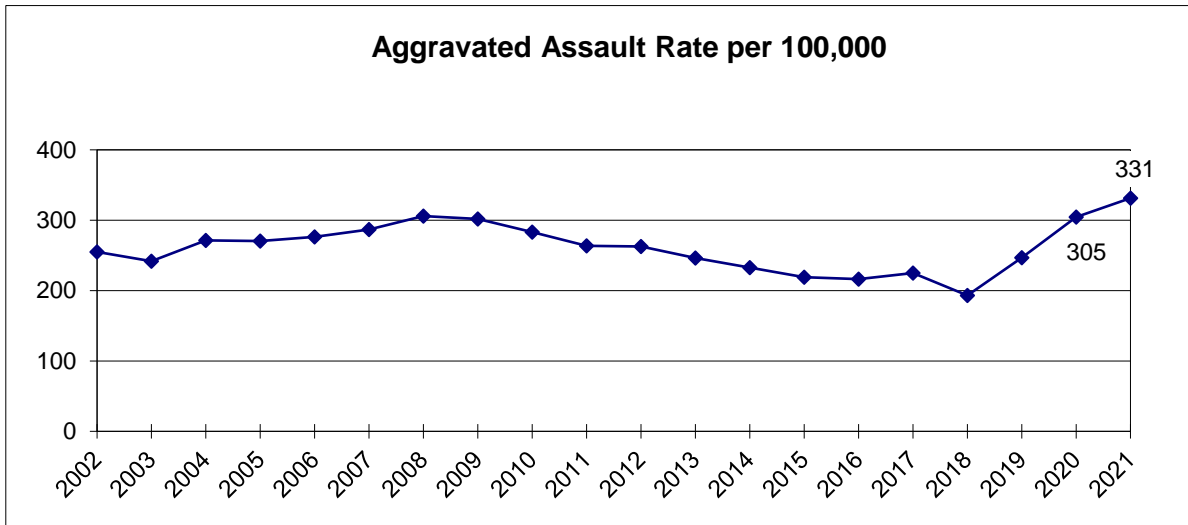


Austin's rate of reported robberies was 39% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.

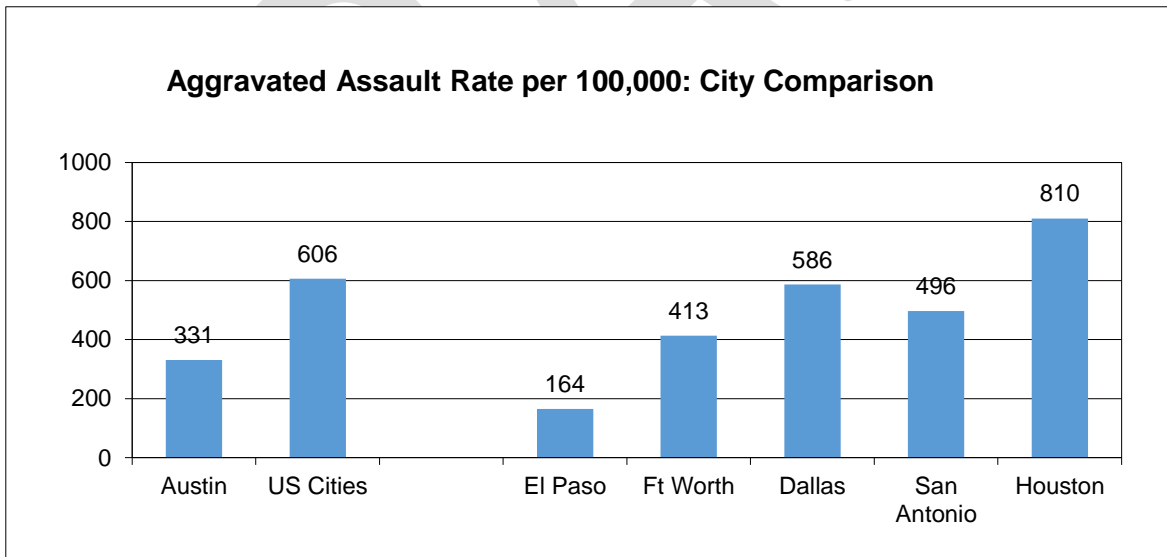


Aggravated Assault

There were 3,369 reported victims of aggravated assault in 2021, up from 3,048 in 2020. The rate was 331 victims per 100,000 residents, up 9% from the prior year's rate of 305.

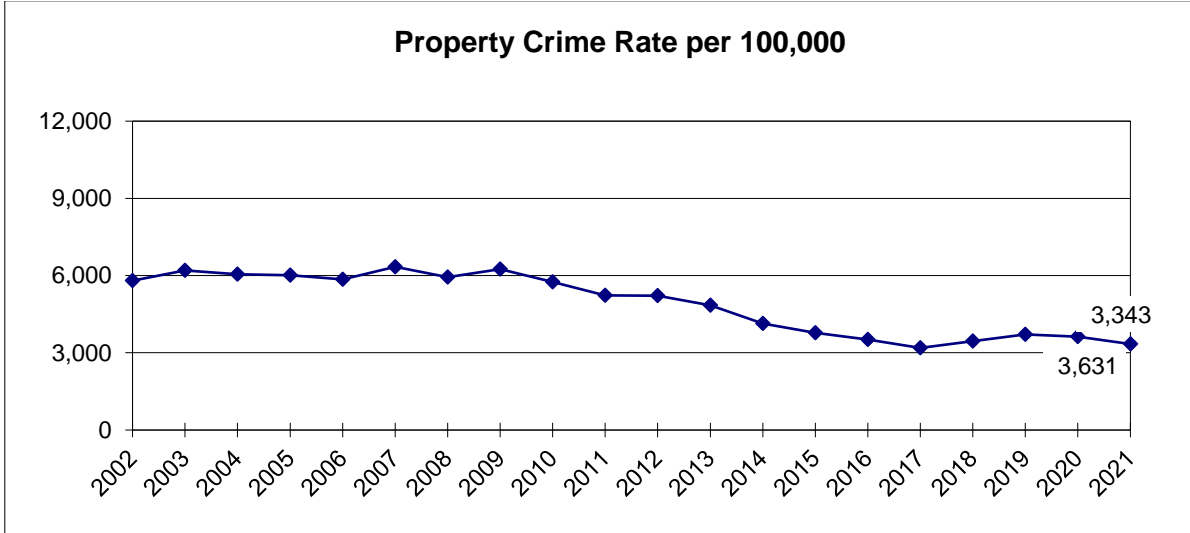


Austin's rate of aggravated assault victims was 45% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.



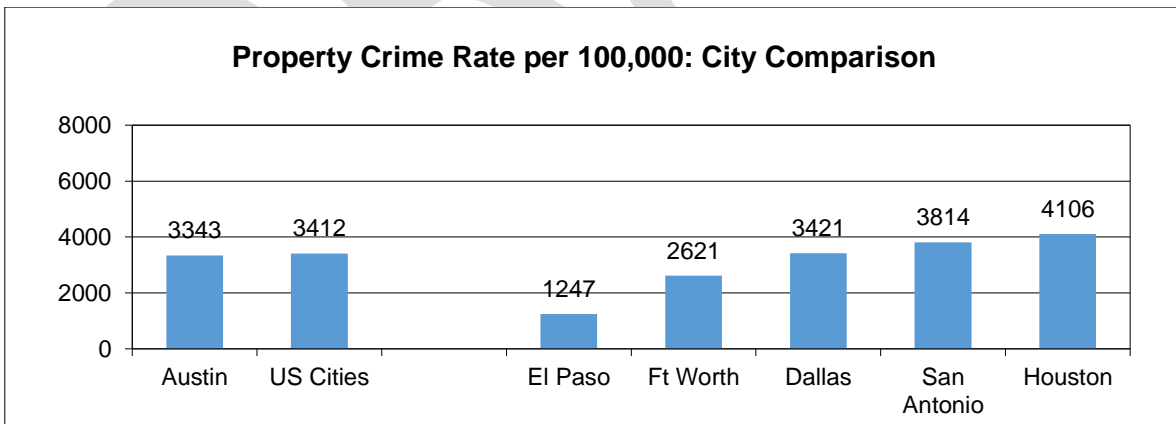
Property Crime

In 2021, the number of property crimes in Austin was 33,989, down 6% from 36,322 in 2020. The rate of property crime per 100,000 residents was 3,343 in 2021, which was down 8% from the prior year's rate of 3,631.



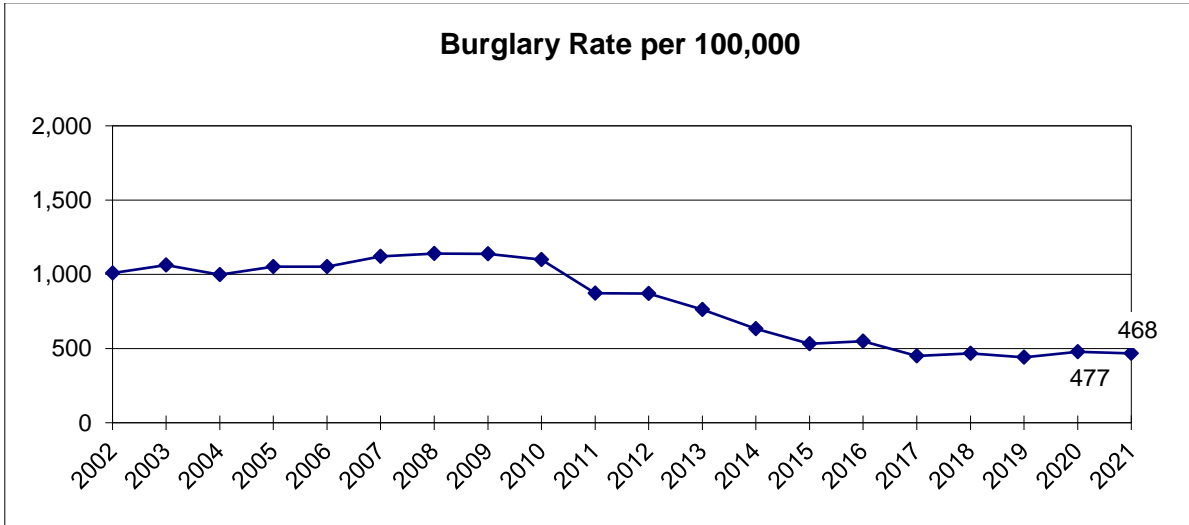
Compared to Other Cities

Austin's rate of 3,343 property crimes per 100,000 in 2021 was 2% lower than the average rate of 3,412 per 100,000 for large US cities.

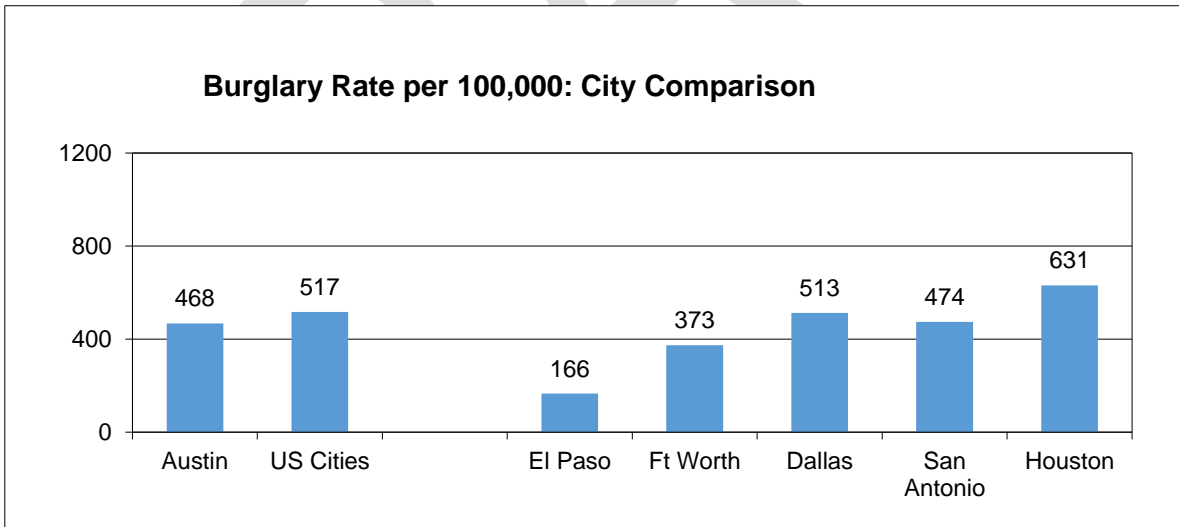


Burglary

There were 4,758 reported burglaries in 2021, which remained essentially unchanged from 4,774 in 2020. The rate was 468 burglaries per 100,000 residents, which was down 2% from the prior year's rate of 477.

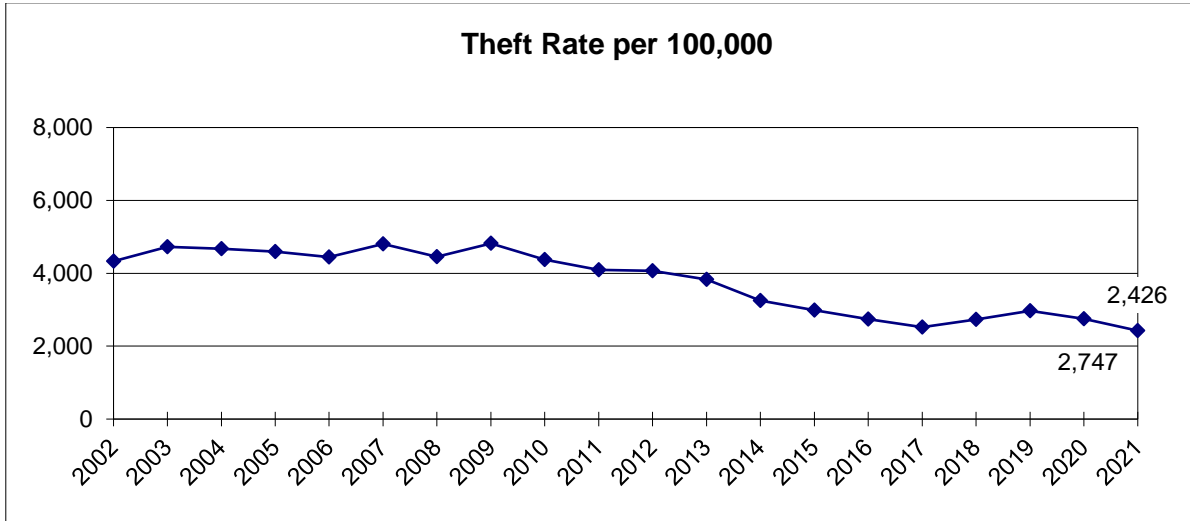


Austin's burglary rate in 2021 was 9% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.

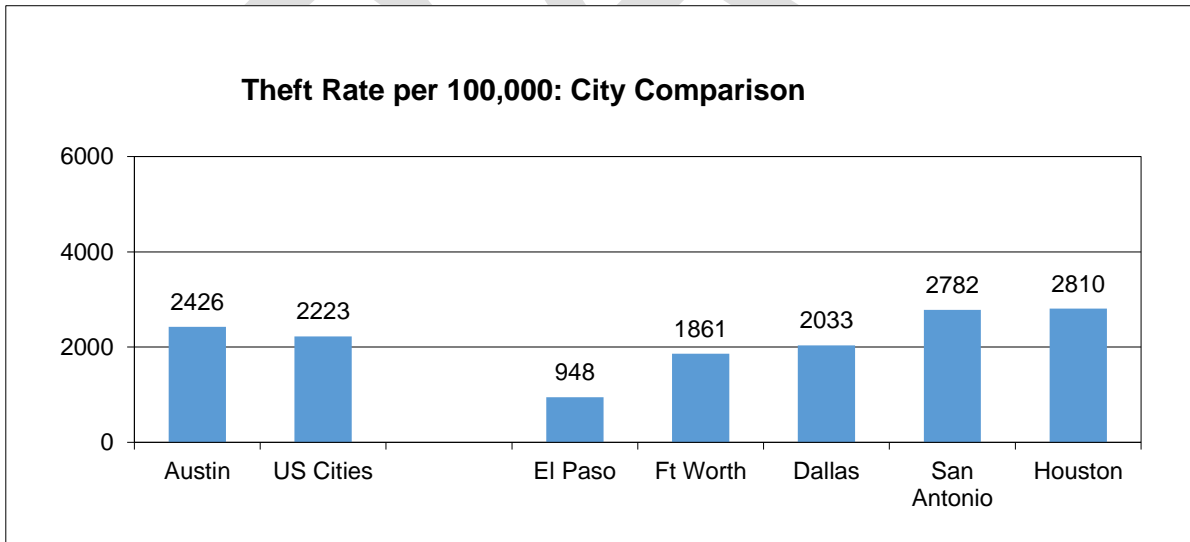


Theft

There were 24,662 reported thefts in 2021, down from 27,481 in 2020. The rate was 2,426 thefts per 100,000 residents, which was down 12% from the rate of 2,747 in 2020.

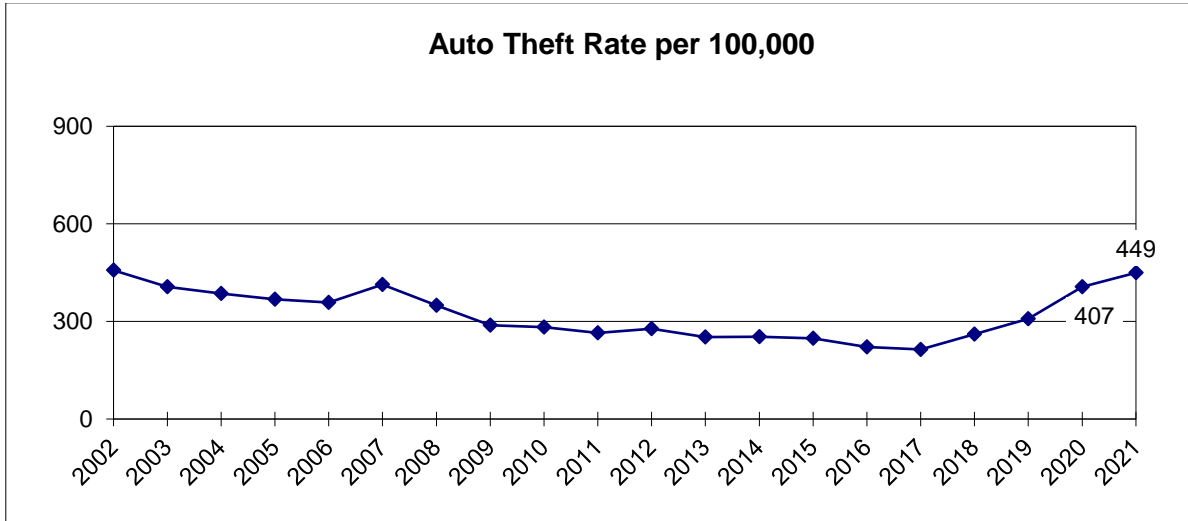


Austin's rate of thefts in 2021 was 9% higher than the average of US cities of the same size.

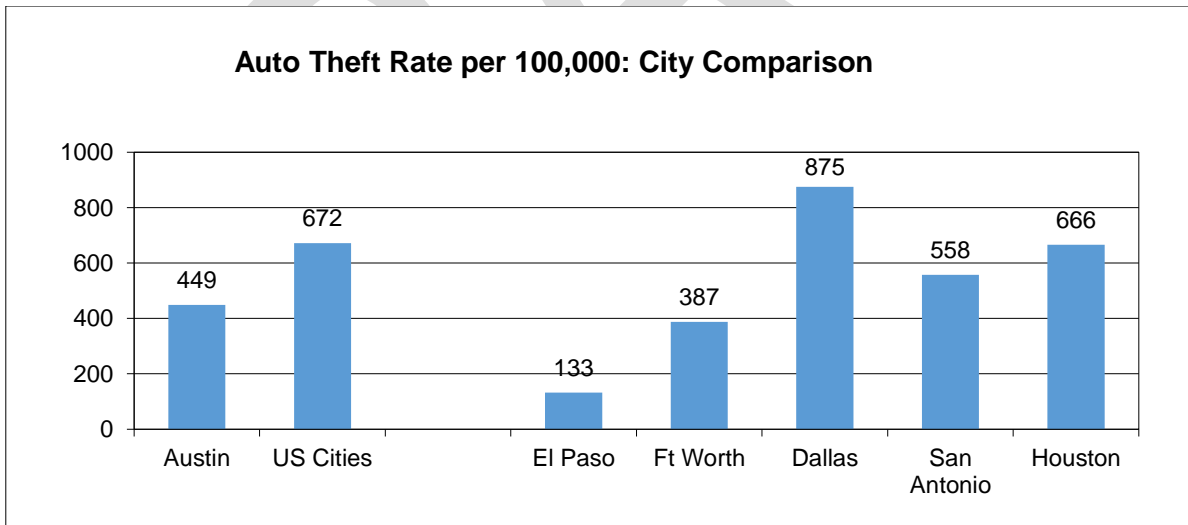


Auto Theft

There were 4,569 reported auto thefts in 2021, up 12% from 4,067 in 2020. The rate was 449 auto thefts per 100,000 residents, which was an 11% increase from the rate of 407 in 2020.



Austin's auto theft rate in 2021 was 33% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.



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.

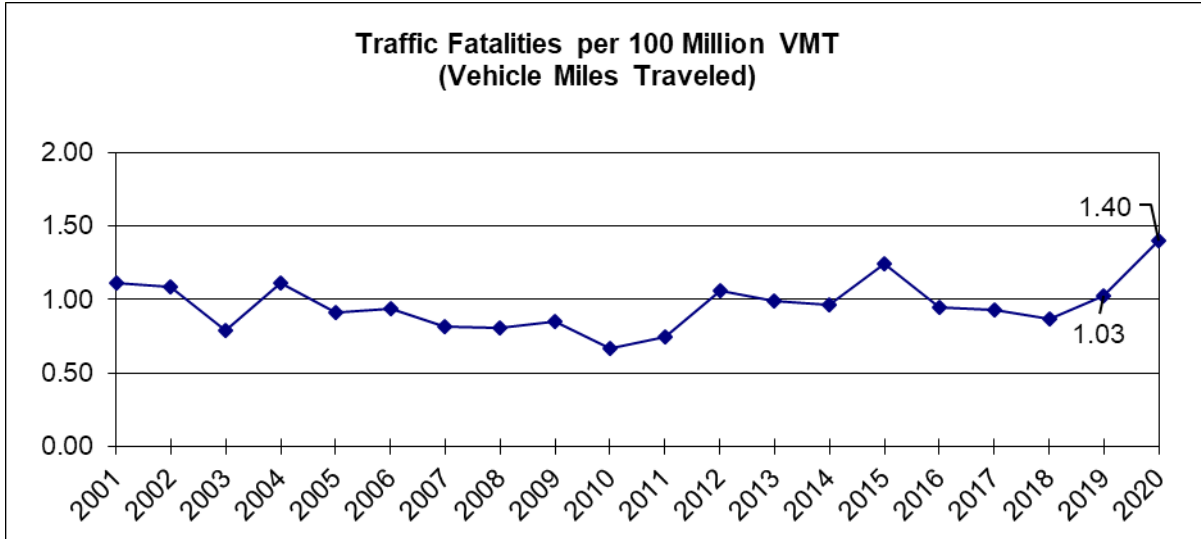
Part I Index Crimes	% of Crimes Cleared by Arrest or Exception	
	Austin	
	2020	2021
Murder	86%	86%
Rape	20%	19%
Robbery	23%	38%
Aggravated Assault	43%	44%
Total Violent Crime	36%	41%
Burglary	26%	24%
Theft	25%	21%
Auto Theft	29%	28%
Total Property Crime	7%	6%

During 2021, Austin police solved, or cleared, 41% of the reported violent crimes, an increase over 2020.

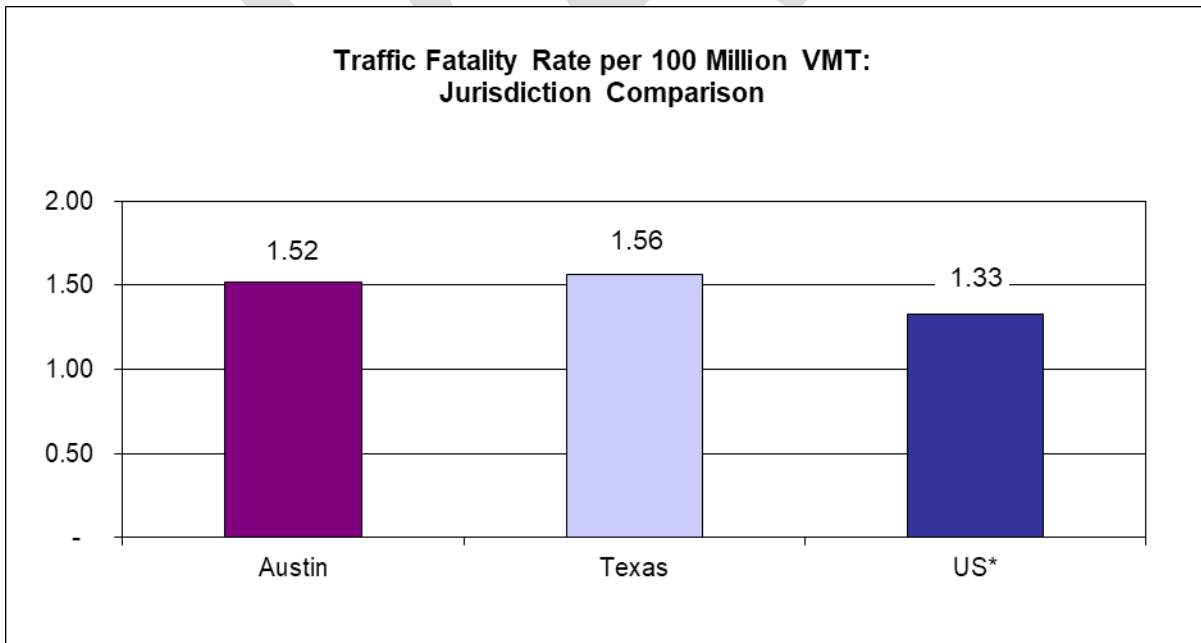
Solving property crimes is generally more difficult because many property crimes are discovered after the crime has occurred, with no known suspects or witnesses. During 2021, Austin solved 6% of property crimes, down from 2020.

Traffic Fatalities

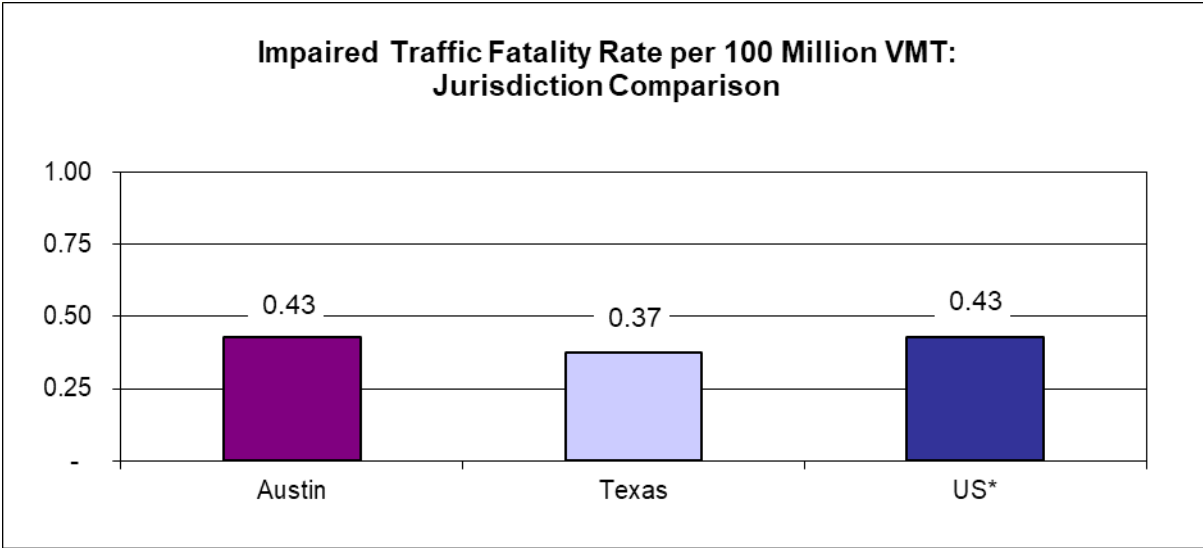
During 2021, there were 111 fatal crashes that resulted in 120 deaths, as compared to 88 fatal crashes that resulted in 94 deaths in 2020.



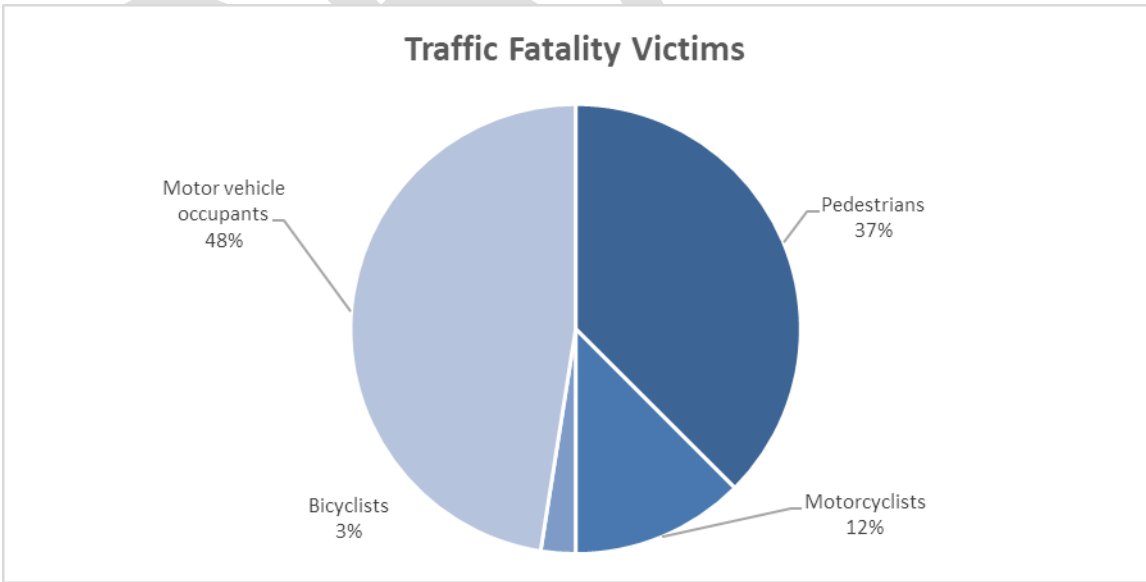
The 2021 traffic fatality rate was 1.52 fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), as compared to the rate of 1.40 in 2020. Austin's rate was lower than the rate for Texas (1.56), but higher than the rate for the US (1.33).



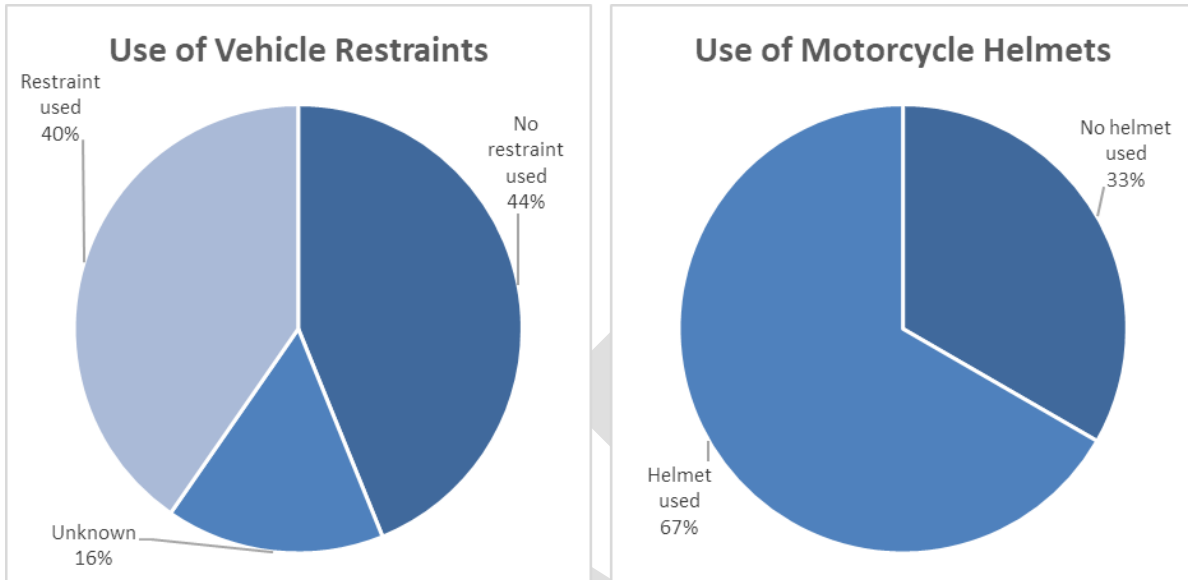
Austin's rate of traffic fatalities involving driver alcohol impairment in 2021 was 0.43 fatalities per 100 Million VMT. That rate is higher than the rate for Texas (0.37) and the same as the rate for the US (0.43).



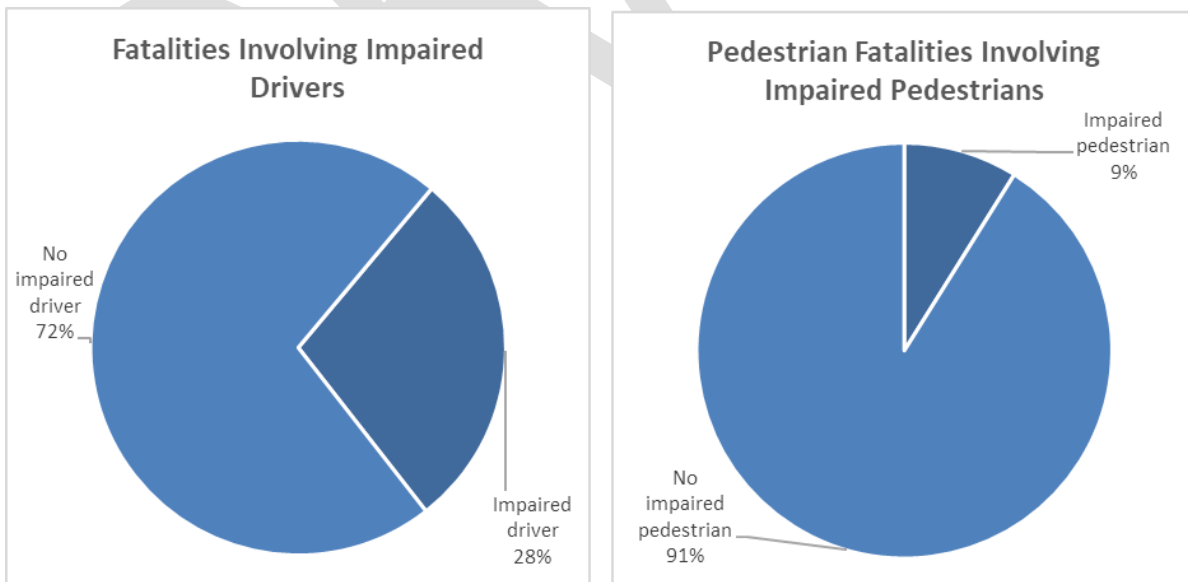
In 2021, the largest portion of traffic fatalities involved motor vehicle occupants (57, or 48%), followed by pedestrians (45, or 37%), motorcyclists (15, or 12%) and bicyclists (3, or 3%). In 2020, the largest portion of traffic fatalities similarly involved motor vehicle occupants (49, or 52%), followed by pedestrians (34, or 36%), motorcyclists (7, or 8%) and bicyclists (4, or 4%).



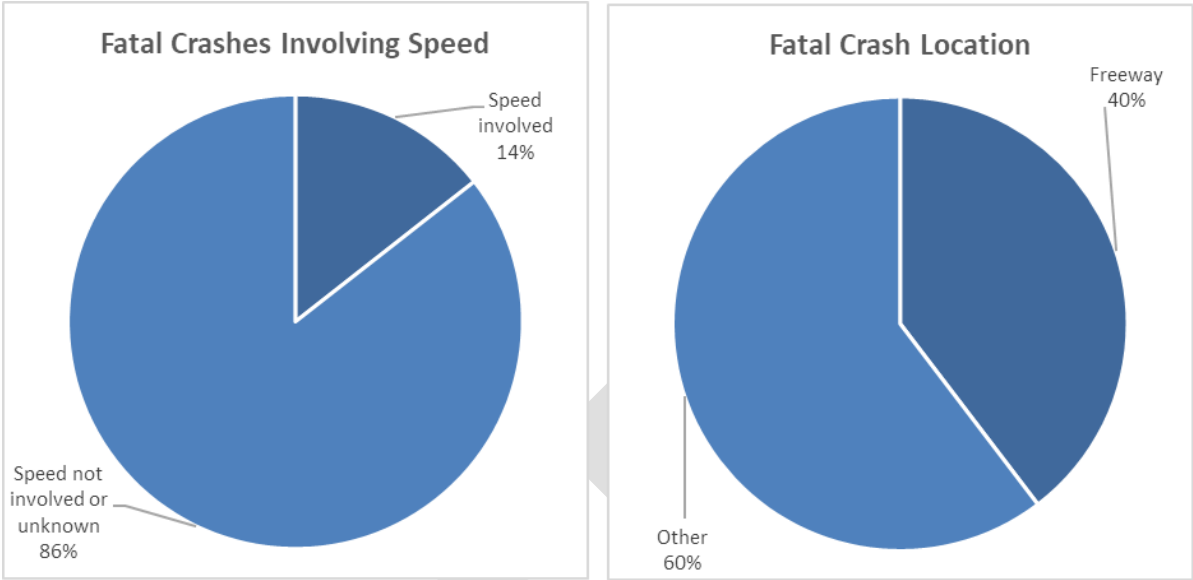
Of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2021, 25 (or 44%) victims were not using restraints, as compared with 17 (or 33%) in 2020. Of all motorcycle fatalities in 2021, 5 (or 33%) victims were not wearing helmets, as compared with 1 (or 14%) in 2020.



Of all fatalities in 2021, 34 (or 28%) involved an impaired driver, as compared with 43 (or 46%) in 2020. Of all pedestrian fatalities in 2021, 4 (or 9%) involved an impaired pedestrian, as compared with 17 (or 50%) in 2020.

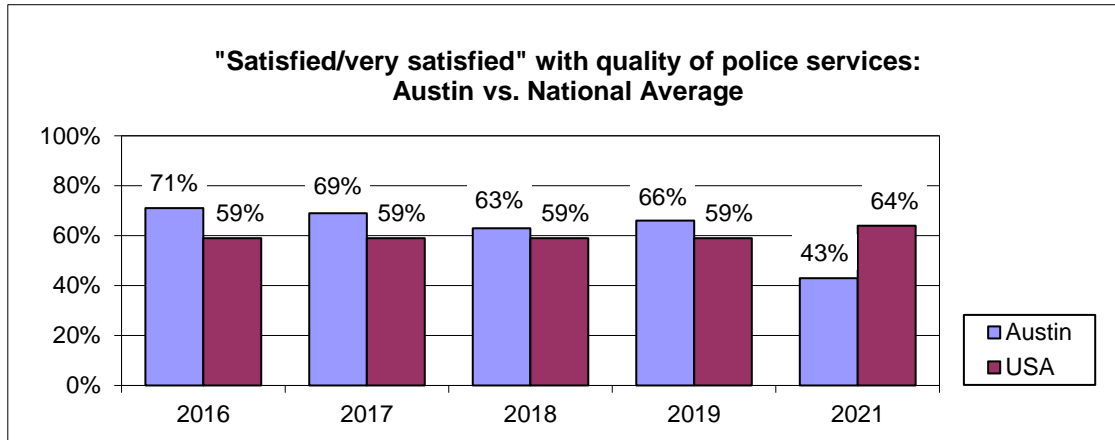


In 2021, 16 (or 14%) of fatal crashes were known to involve speed, as compared with 23 (or 26%) in 2020. In 2021, 44 (or 40%) of fatal crashes of fatal crashes occurred on freeways, as compared to 39 (or 44%) in 2020.

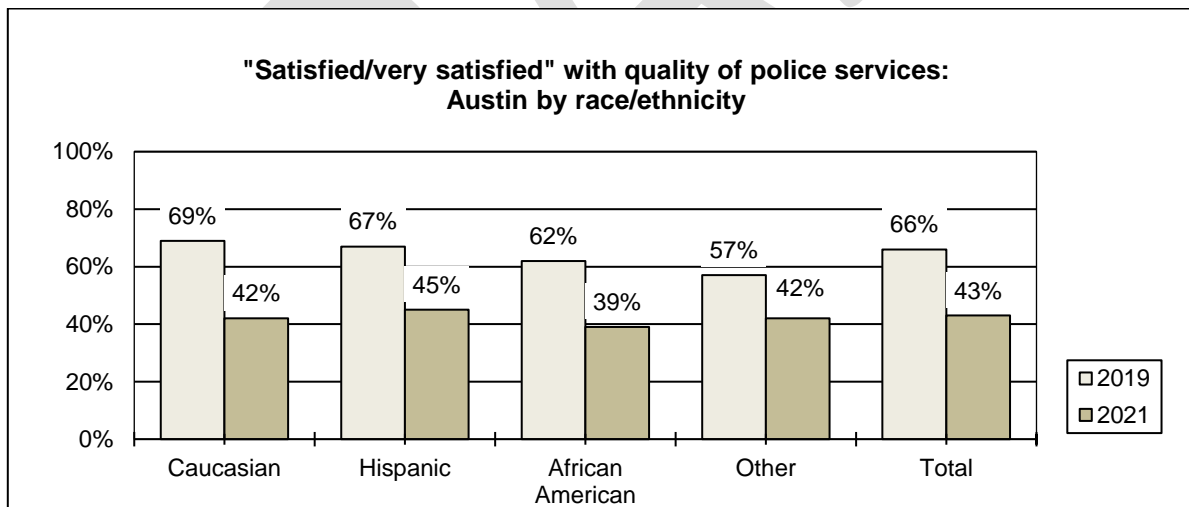


Perception of Safety

In 2021, the result for overall satisfaction with the quality of police services (43%) was down from 2019 (66%). This is 21 percentage points below the national average (64%).



The chart below shows Austin's results by race/ethnicity for 2019 and 2021. Satisfaction with APD's overall quality of service saw a significant drop among all race/ethnicity groups. APD is committed to improving relationships throughout our community.



The full City of Austin Community Survey is available [here](#).