

# **Austin Police Department**

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## **Annual Crime and Traffic Report: 2013 Final Report**



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Research and Planning Unit  
December 16, 2014

## 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 used to track year-to-year performance and trends as well as to compare our crime statistics to other US cities of similar size.

This report contains Austin’s final crime statistics reported to the FBI; it updates our preliminary report produced in April 2014.

## Overview

This document contains UCR crime data for the calendar year 2013 (January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013). For comparison, we have included data from other large US cities; among them, Boston, Charlotte, Oklahoma City, and Seattle (see Page 3 for a complete list). We have also included selected traffic statistics on fatal collisions and comparable data for other jurisdictions.

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 rate of 363 **violent crimes** per 100,000 residents was 45% lower than the average rate of 661 for US cities of comparable size. (Page 4)
- Austin’s rate of 4,850 **property crimes** per 100,000 residents was 8% higher than the average rate of 4,504 for US cities of comparable size. (Page 11)
- The number of **robberies** fell from 978 in 2012 to 763 in 2013; our rate per 100,000 residents was 70% lower than the average of large US cities. (Page 8)
- Austin’s rate of **thefts** decreased from 4,072 in 2012 to 3,835 in 2013; our rate per 100,000 residents was 28% higher than the average of large US cities. (Page 13)
- Austin’s **traffic fatalities** decreased 4%, from 78 in 2012 to 75 in 2013; our fatality rate was lower than the rates for both Texas and the US. (Page 17)
- Austin’s **violent crime clearance rate** (57%) continues to exceed that of other large US cities (39%), though our property crime clearance rate (13%) slightly lags that of other cities (14%). (Page 16).
- Austin fatalities involving an **alcohol-impaired driver** increased from 24% in 2012 to 33% in 2013 and fatalities involving an **alcohol-impaired pedestrian** increased from 42% in 2012 to 55% in 2013. (Page 19)

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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

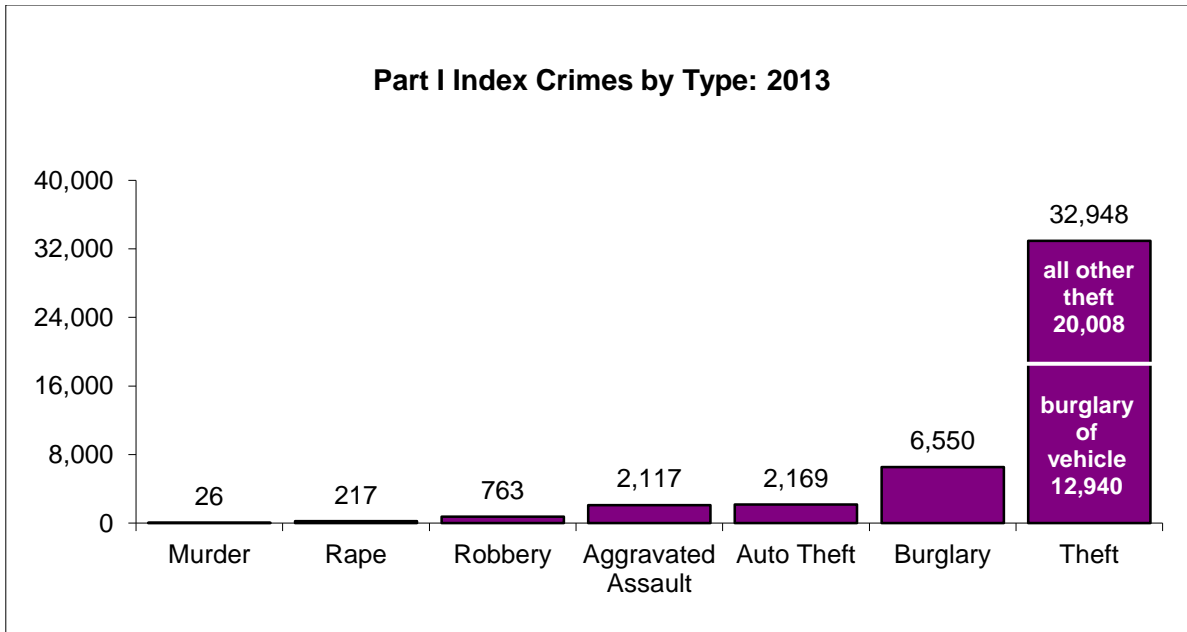
Burglary (number of premises entered)  
 Theft (number of offenses)  
 Auto Theft (number of vehicles)

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

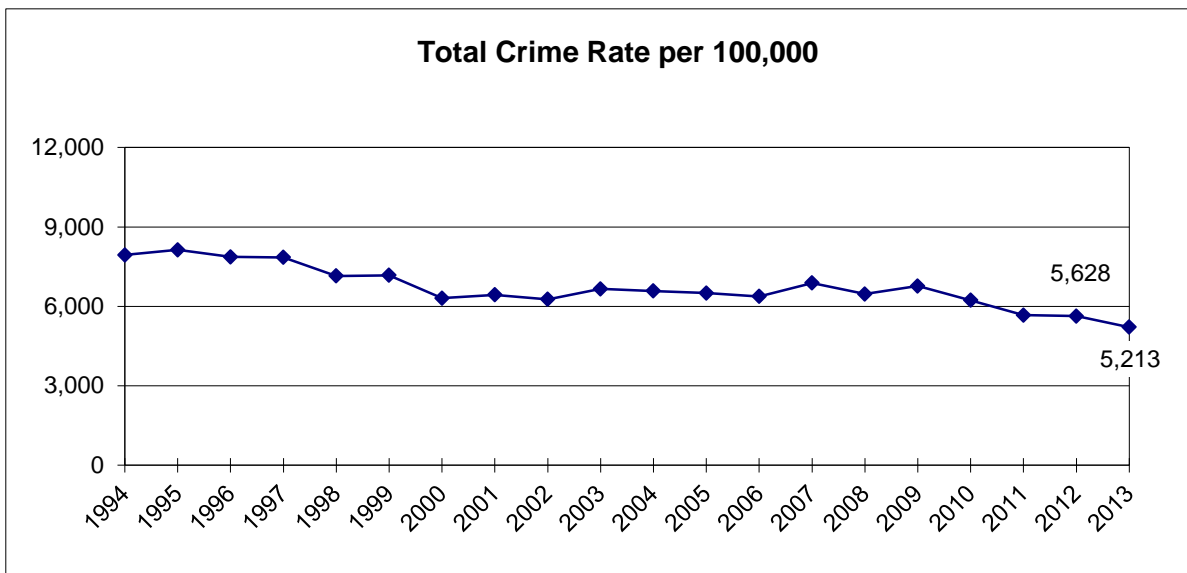
Throughout this report, crime is reported in terms of actual numbers (e.g., incidents, victims) as well as rate per 100,000 residents. Rates allow for comparisons to previous years and with other cities.

Part I Index Crimes	Offenses			Rate per 100,000			
	2012	2013	% chg	2012	2013	% chg	
Murder	33	26	-21%	4.0	3.0	-24%	
Rape	209	217	4%	25	25	1%	
Robbery	978	763	-22%	117	89	-24%	
Aggravated Assault	2,187	2,117	-3%	263	246	-6%	
<b>Total Violent Crime</b>	<b>3,407</b>	<b>3,123</b>	<b>-8%</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>-11%</b>	
Burglary	7,244	6,550	-10%	870	762	-12%	
Theft	33,913	32,948	-3%	4,072	3,835	-6%	
Auto Theft	2,315	2,169	-6%	278	252	-9%	
<b>Total Property Crime</b>	<b>43,472</b>	<b>41,667</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>5,219</b>	<b>4,850</b>	<b>-7%</b>	
<b>Total Index Crime</b>	<b>46,879</b>	<b>44,790</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>5,628</b>	<b>5,213</b>	<b>-7%</b>	
				Population	832,901	859,180	3%



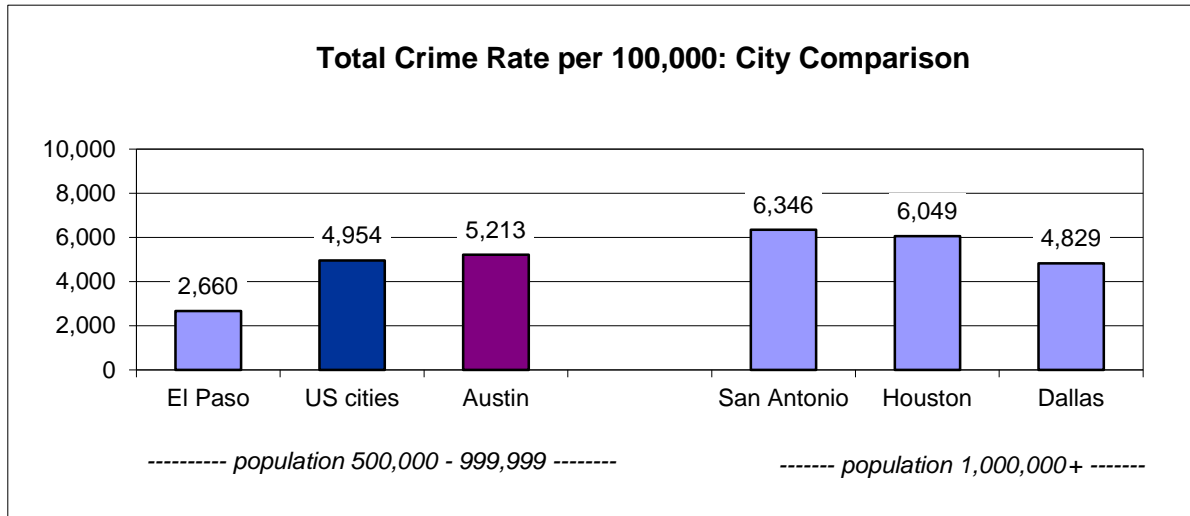
## Trends

In 2013, the number of all Part I Index crimes for Austin was 44,790. This represents a 4% decrease in incidents as compared with 2012 (46,879). The rate of crime per 100,000 residents was 5,213 in 2013 – a 7% decrease from the rate of 5,628 in 2012 and represents a 20-year low.



## Compared to Other Cities

This chart shows how Austin compares to large US cities (those with population between 500,000 and 999,999; Austin's population was 859,180 in 2013, according to FBI UCR reporting). For regional comparison, Texas cities are also identified. Austin's rate of 5,213 offenses per 100,000 was 5% higher than the average rate of 4,954 for all large US cities.



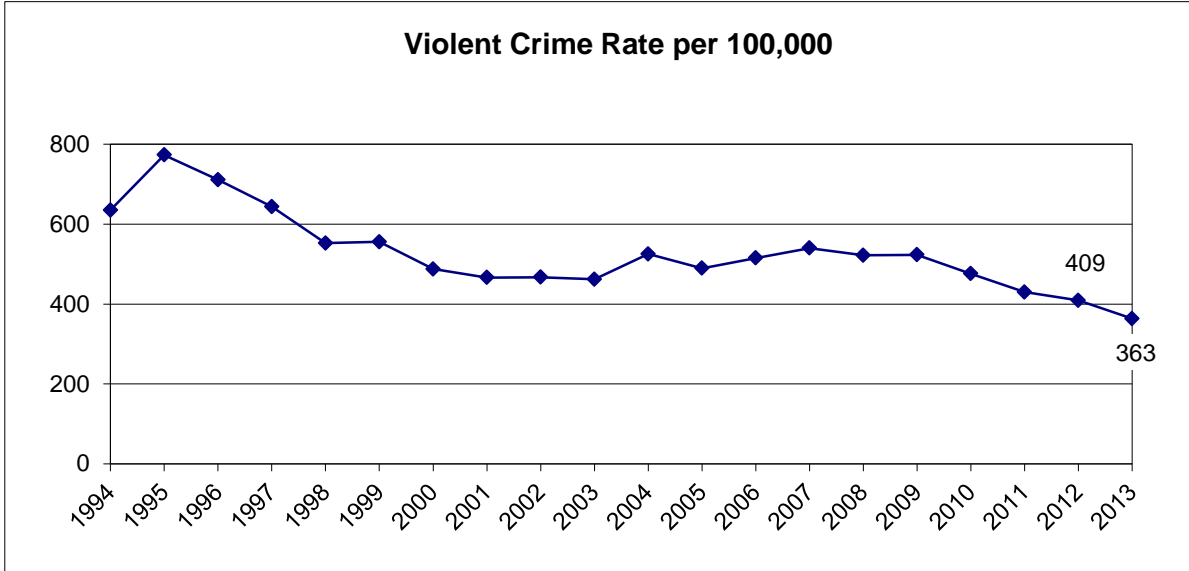
The following cities are included in the “US cities” category above, and elsewhere throughout this report\*:

- Albuquerque
- Baltimore
- Boston
- Charlotte
- Denver\*
- Detroit\*
- El Paso
- Fort Worth\*
- Fresno
- Indianapolis\*
- Jacksonville\*
- Louisville
- Memphis\*
- Milwaukee\*
- Nashville\*
- Oklahoma City
- Portland
- San Francisco
- San Jose
- Seattle\*
- Tucson
- Washington DC\*

\* In 2013, the FBI broadened its rape definition to include more offenses, which will result in higher rape (and therefore violent and total crime) counts than in the past. Austin adopted the new definition in 2014, but these 10 cities made the change in 2013. Because their counts/rates are not comparable to Austin's, they are excluded from rape, violent, and total crime comparisons in this report.

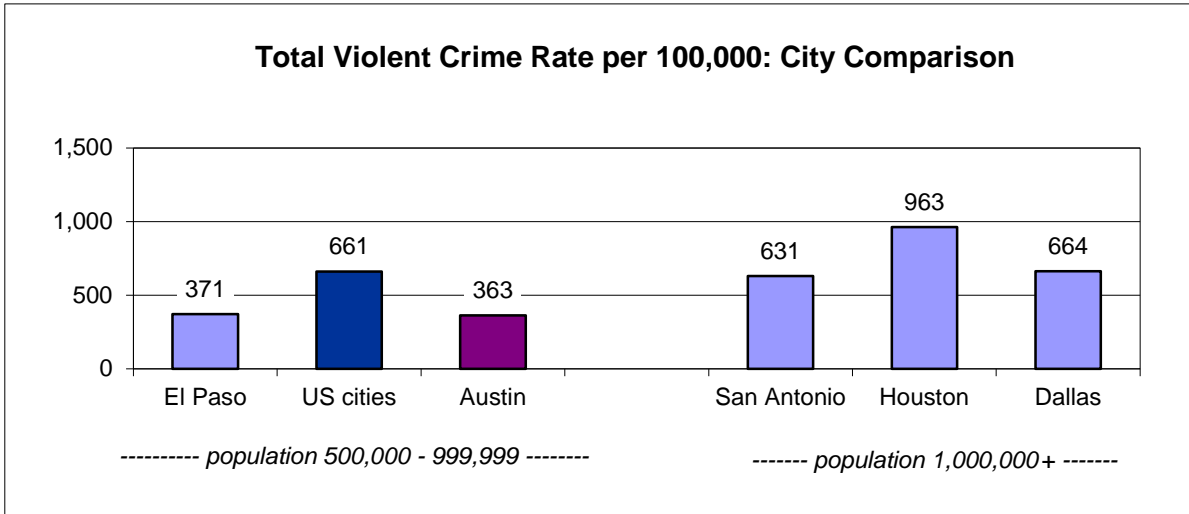
## Violent Crime

In 2013, the number of violent crimes in Austin was 3,123. This represents a 8% decrease in incidents as compared with 2012 (3,407). The rate of violent crime per 100,000 residents was 363 in 2013 – an 11% decrease from the rate of 409 in 2012 and represents a 20-year low.



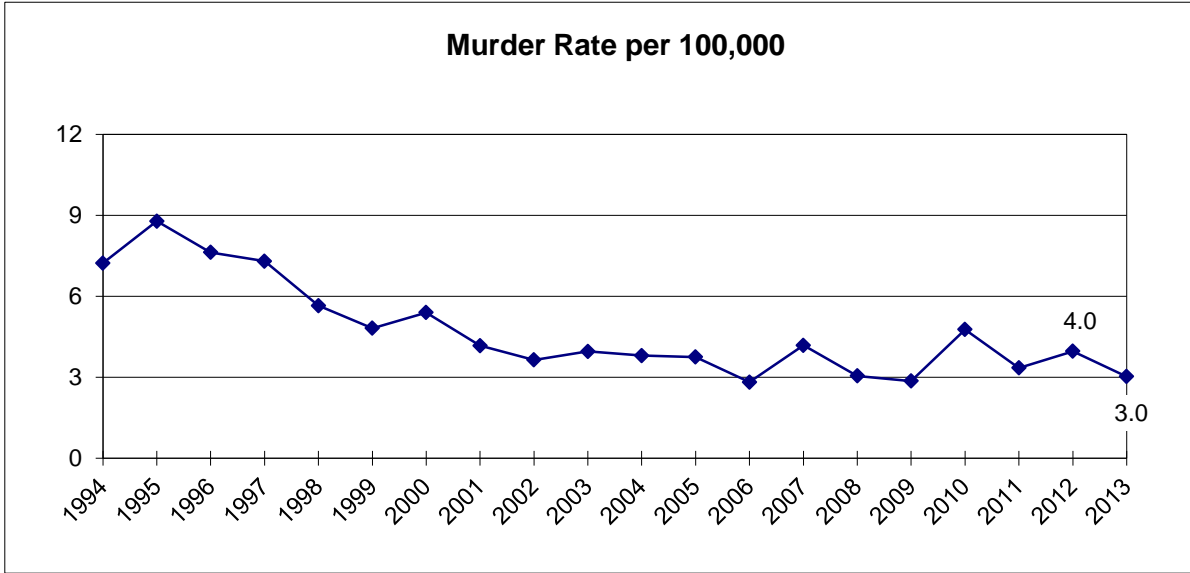
## Compared to Other Cities

Austin's rate of 363 violent crimes per 100,000 was 45% lower than the average rate of 661 for all large US cities.

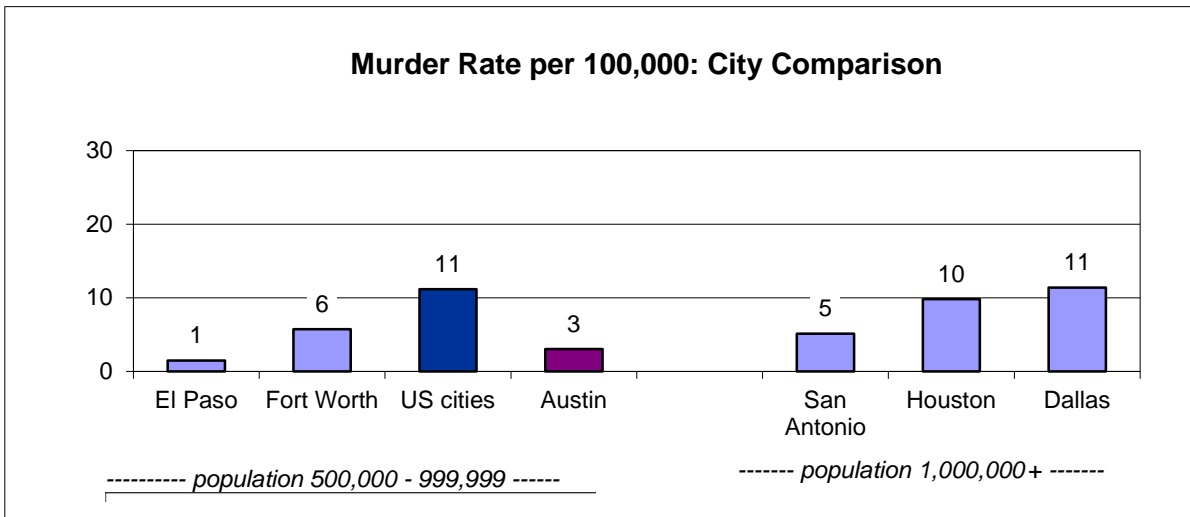


## Murder

During 2013 there were 26 murder victims in Austin, down from 33 in 2012. Over the previous 10 years (2002 to 2011), the number of murder victims ranged from 20 to 38. The murder rate was 3.0 per 100,000 residents, which was down from the rate of 4.0 in 2012.



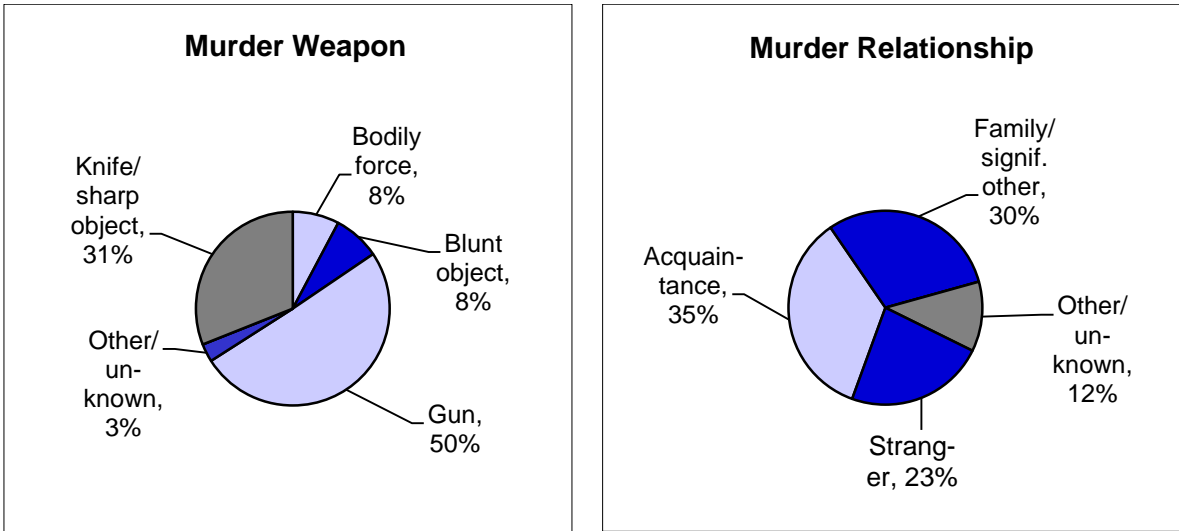
Austin's murder rate was 73% lower than the average of US cities our size.





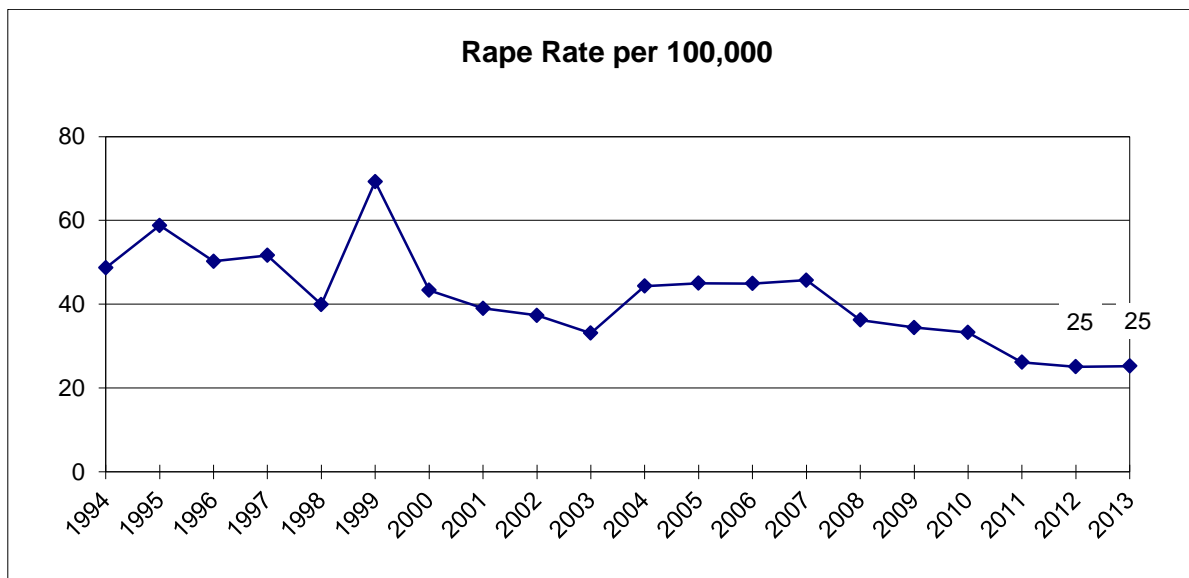
In 2013, guns were the most frequent weapon used in murders (50%), followed by knives or other sharp objects (31%). In 2012, guns were used in 40% of incidents and knives or other sharp objects were used in 24% of incidents.

The relationship (connection) between the victim and suspect was established in 88% of the cases. Of these, the victim knew the offender as an acquaintance, family member, significant other, or roommate in 74% of murders, up from 61% in 2012.

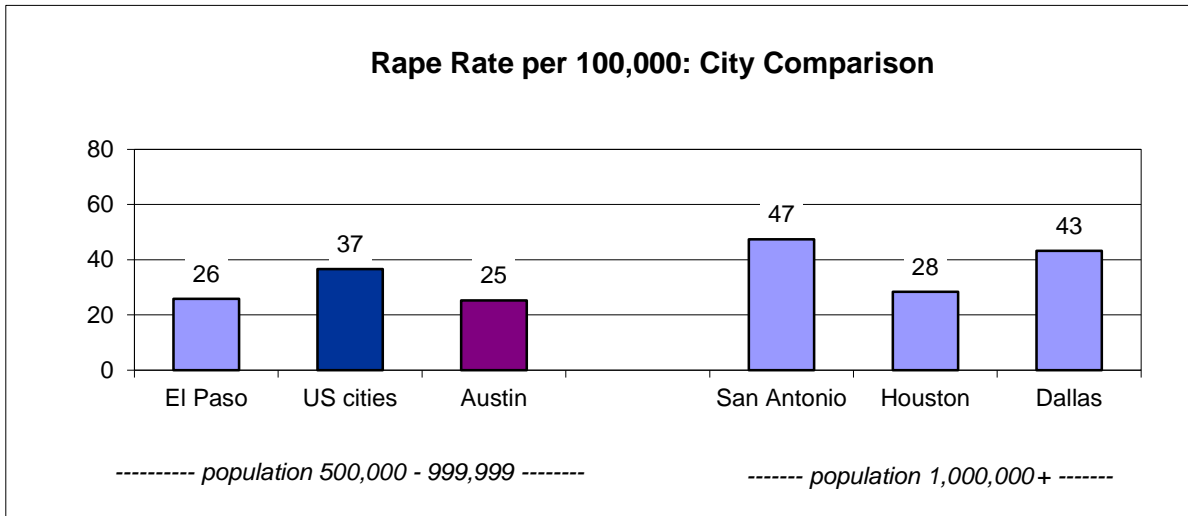


## Rape

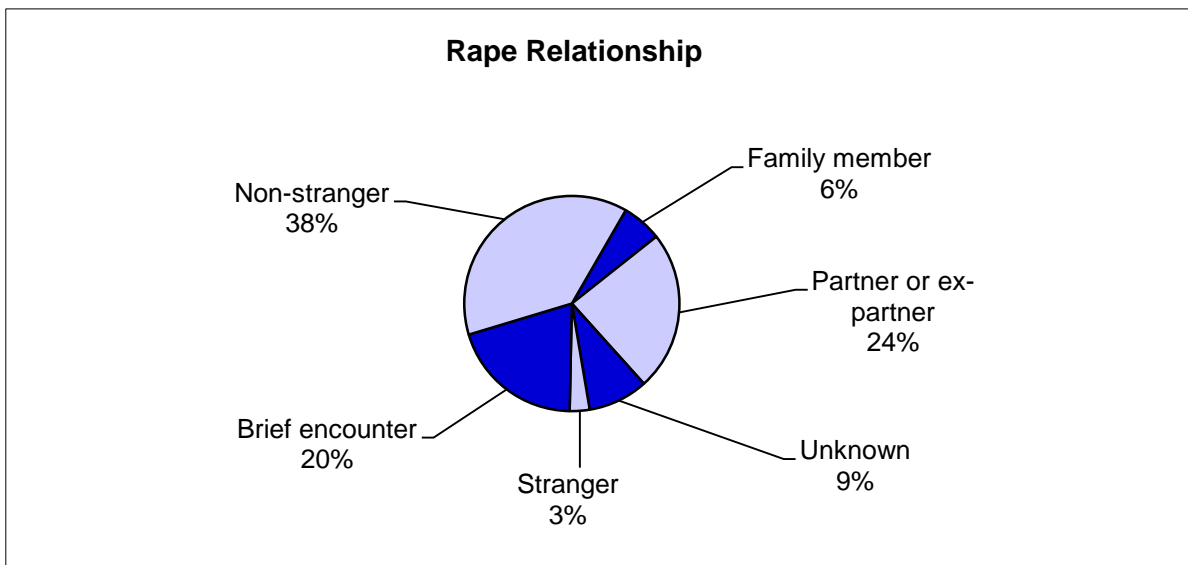
There were 217 reported victims of rape in Austin during 2013, up from 209 in 2012. The rate was 25 per 100,000 residents, which is stable from last year and remains a 20-year low.



Austin's rate of reported rapes was 31% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.

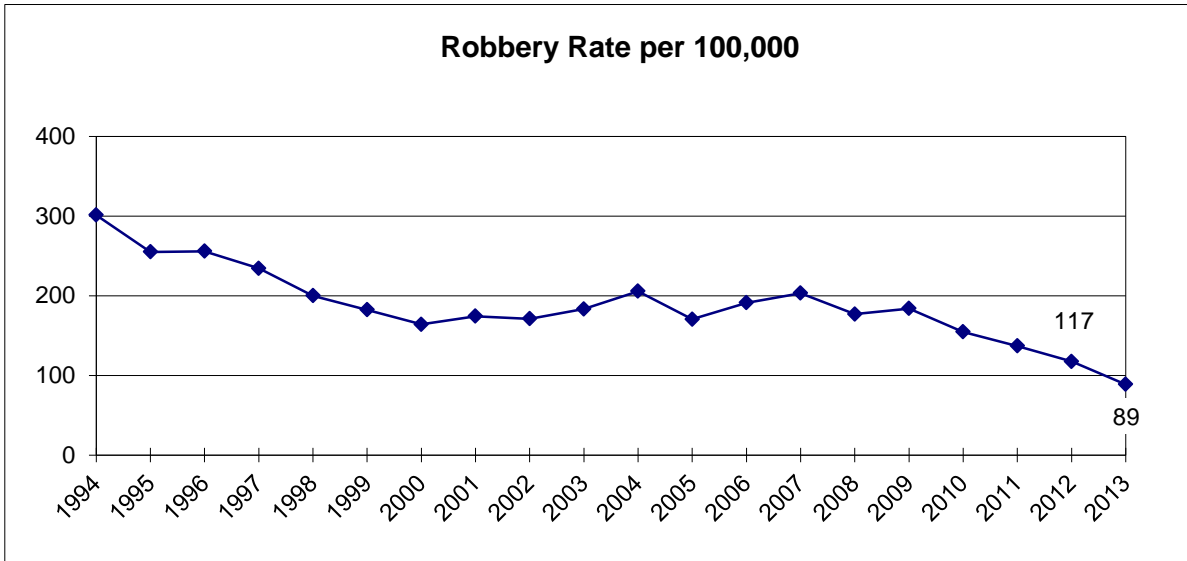


The relationship (connection) between the victim and suspect was established in 91% of the cases. Of these, the victim knew the suspect as a family member, partner or ex-partner, from a brief encounter, or otherwise as a non-stranger in 97% of the incidents. This was up from 96% in 2012.

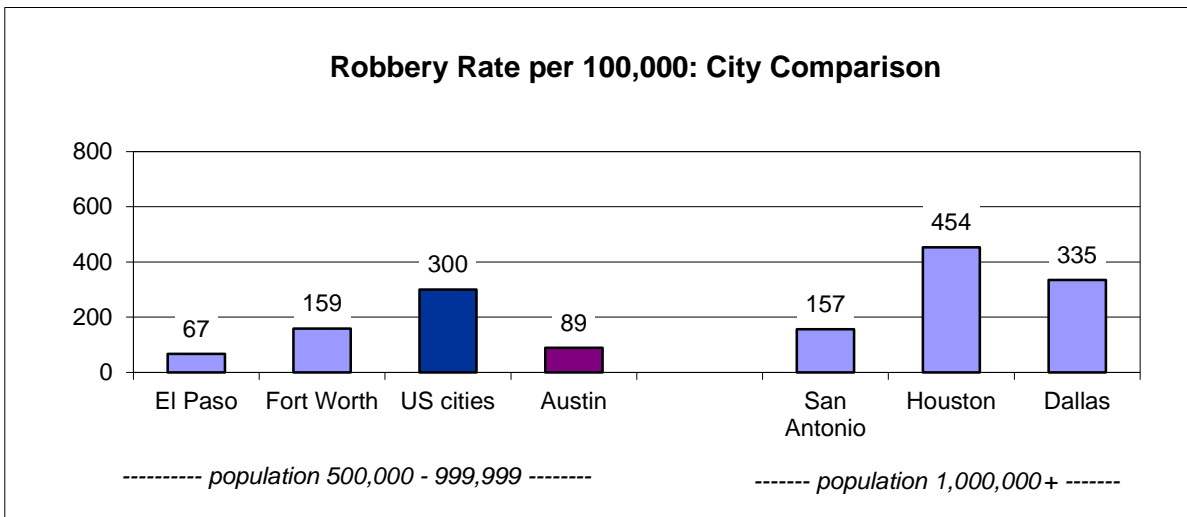


## Robbery

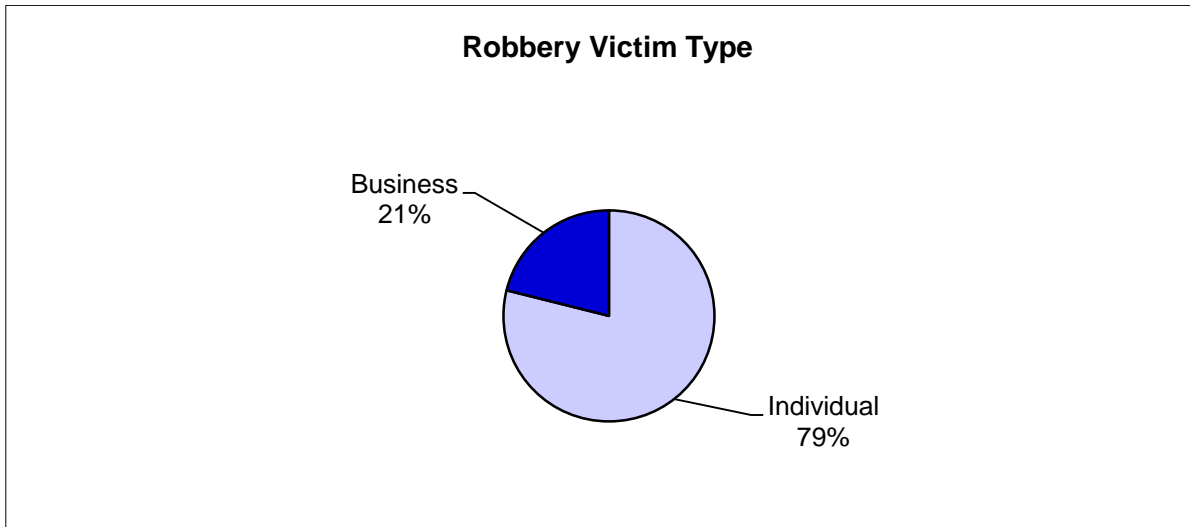
There were 763 robberies reported in 2013, down from 978 in 2012. The rate was 89 robberies per 100,000 residents, which represents a decrease from the previous year's rate of 117 and is a 20-year low.



Austin's rate of reported robberies was 70% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.

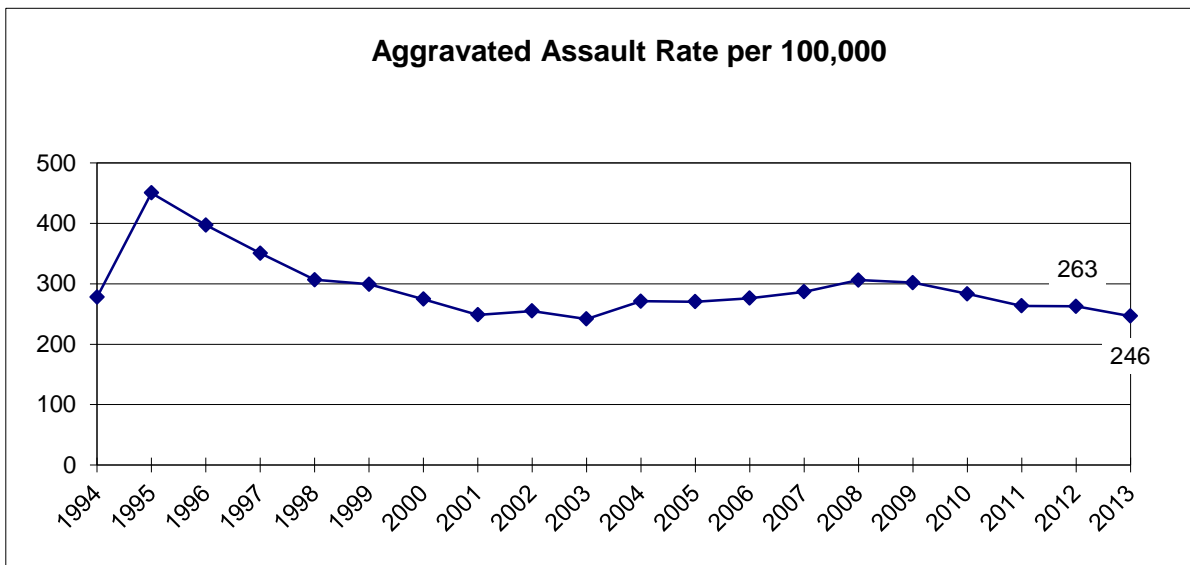


Seventy-nine percent of robberies were committed against individuals, as compared with 21% that occurred at businesses. This was unchanged from 2012.

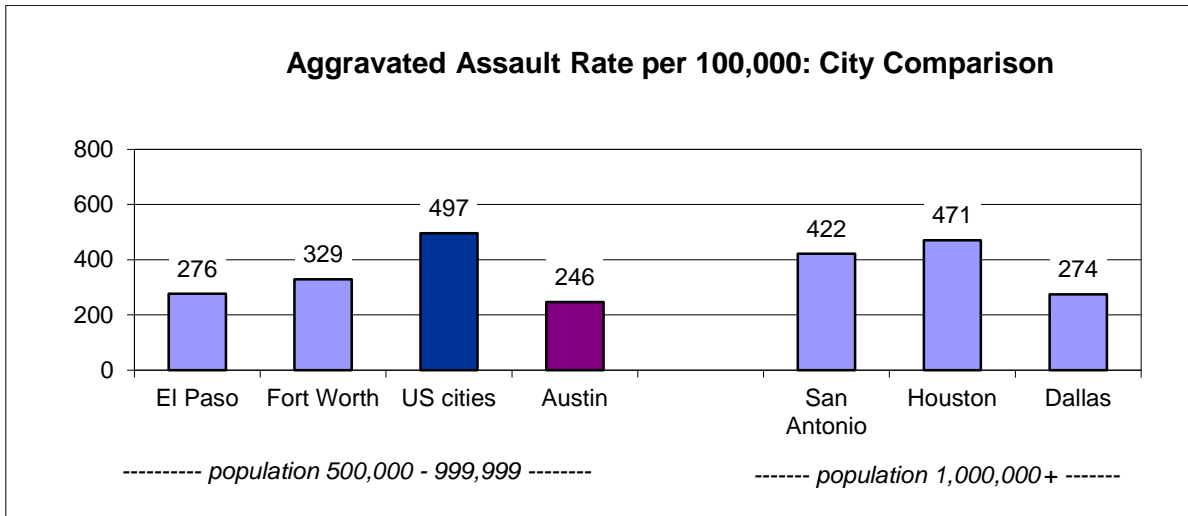


## Aggravated Assault

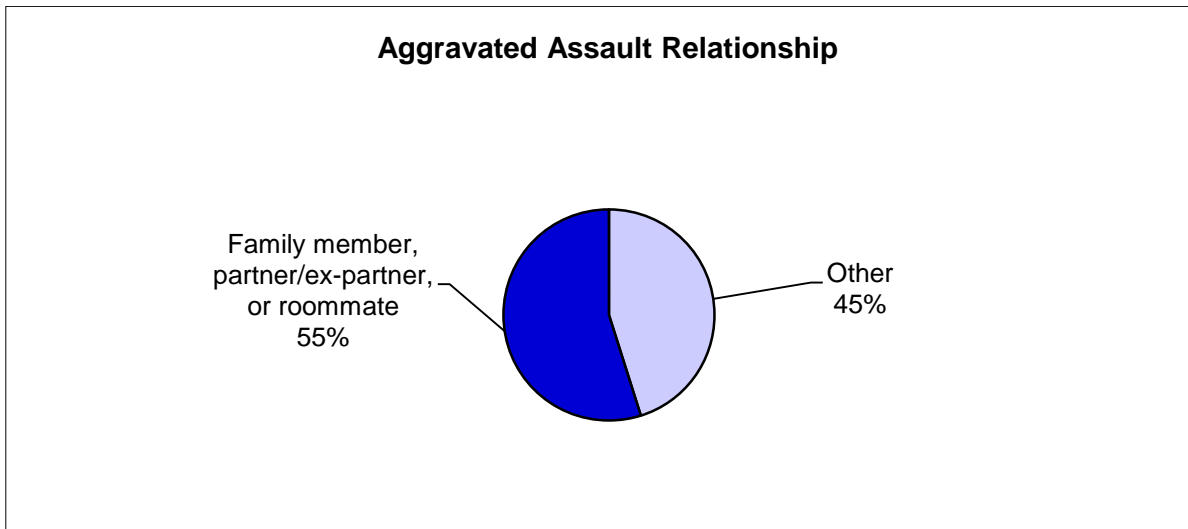
There were 2,117 reported victims of aggravated assault in 2013, down from 2,187 in 2012. The rate was 246 victims per 100,000 residents, down from 263 in 2012, and represents a 10-year low.



Austin's rate of aggravated assault victims was half the average of US cities of the same size.

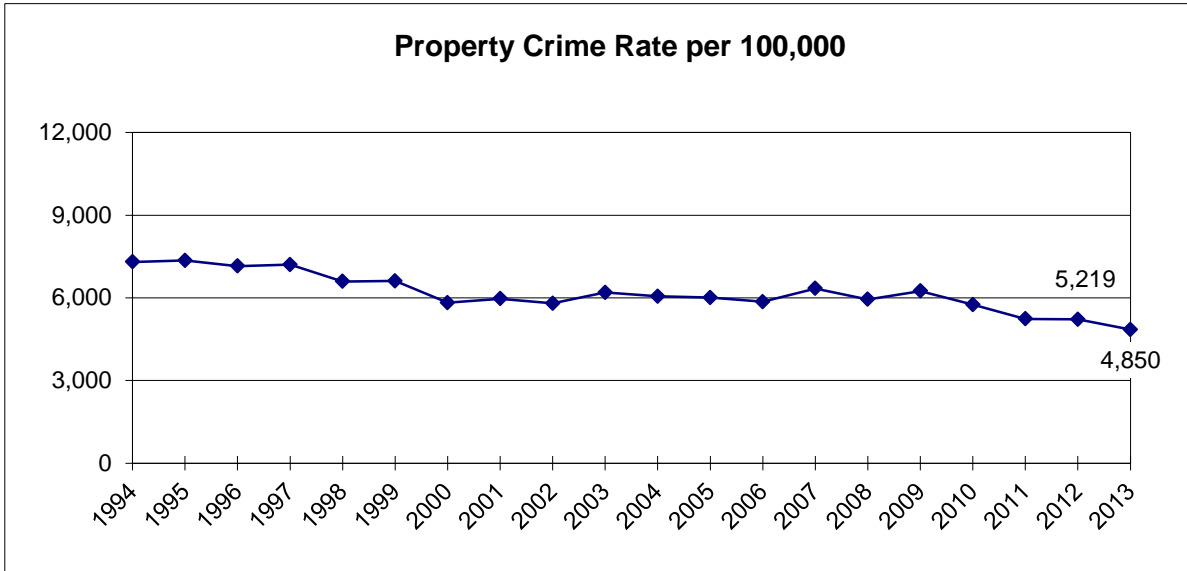


More than half (55%) of aggravated assaults were committed by a family member, partner or ex-partner, or roommate of the victim. This was up from 47% in 2012.



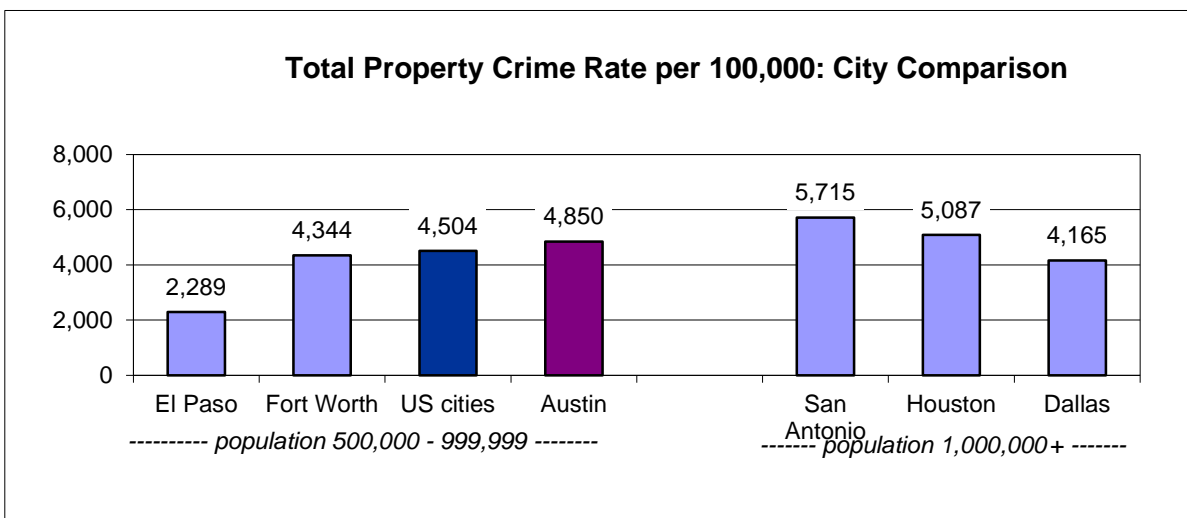
## Property Crime

In 2013, the number of property crimes in Austin was 41,667. This represents a 4% decrease in incidents as compared with 2012 (43,472). The rate of property crime per 100,000 residents was 4,850 in 2013, a 7% drop from the rate of 5,219 in 2012 and represents a 20-year low.



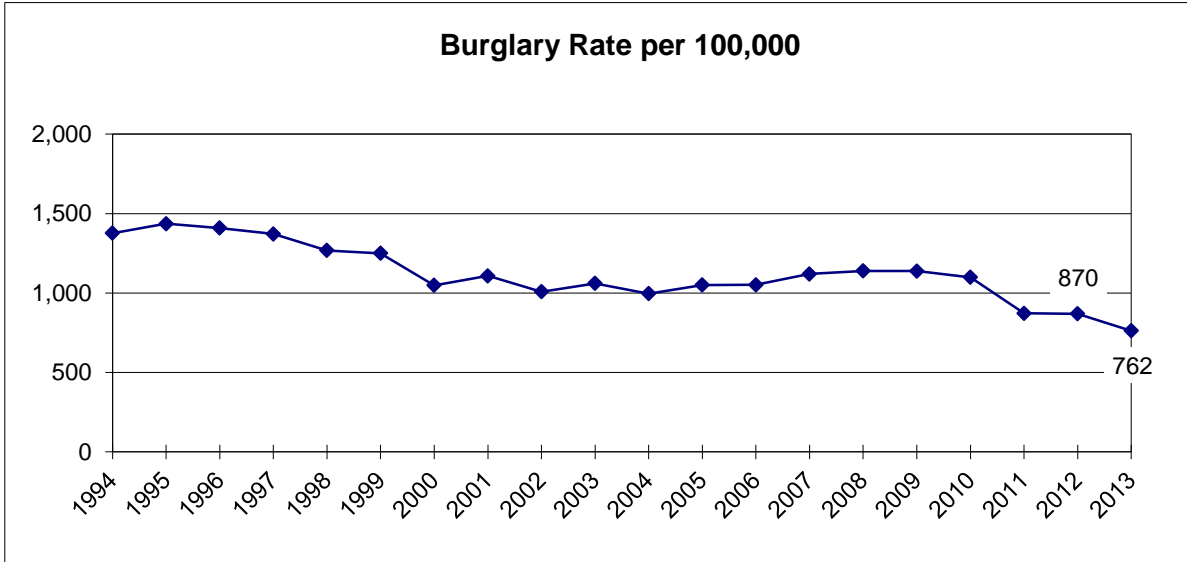
## Compared to Other Cities

Austin's rate of 4,850 property crimes per 100,000 in 2013 was 8% higher than the average rate of 4,504 per 100,000 for large US cities.

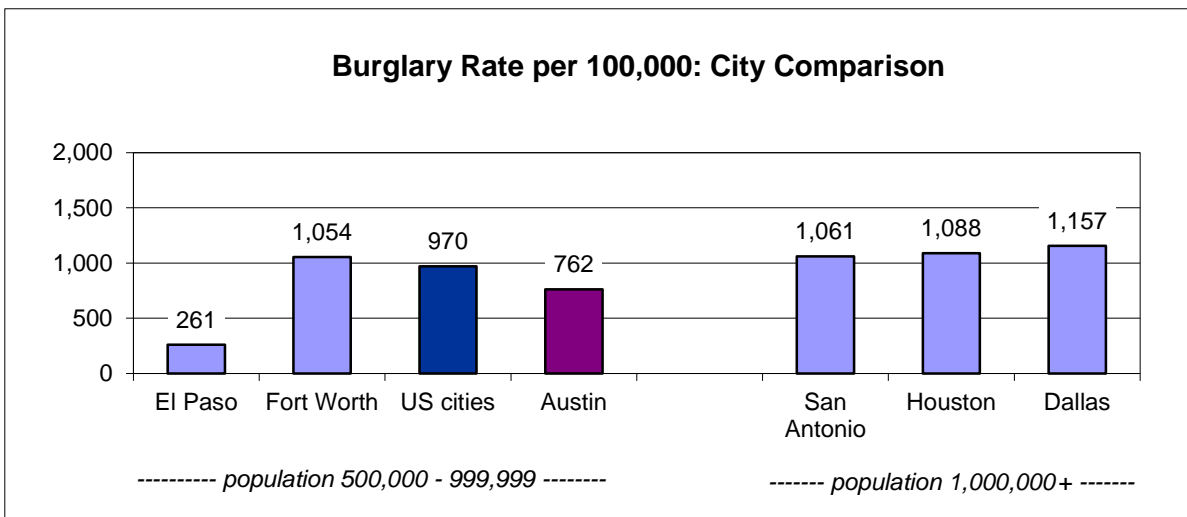


## Burglary

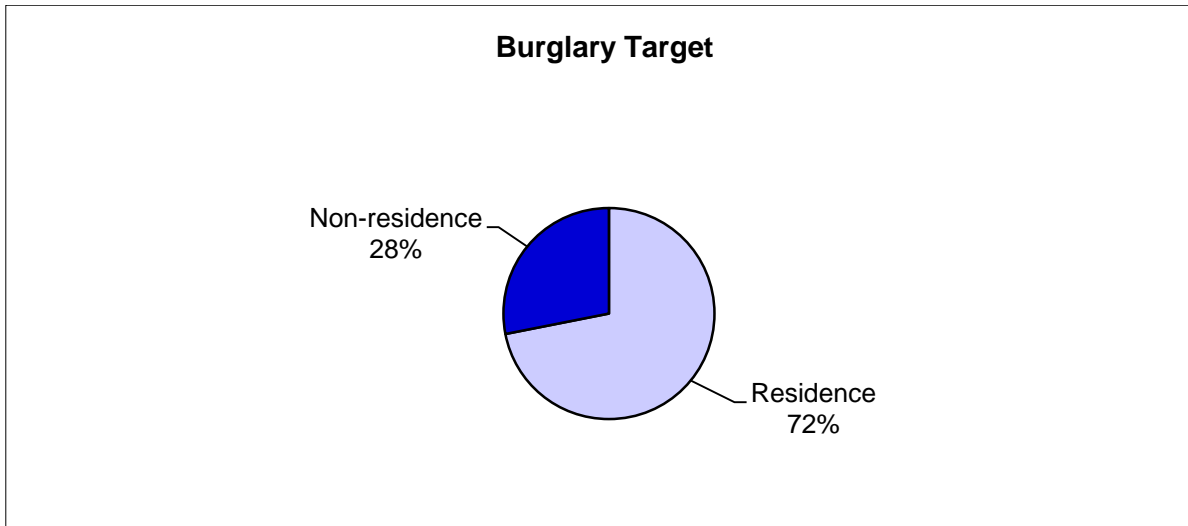
There were 6,550 reported burglaries in 2013, down 10% from 7,244 in 2012. The rate was 762 burglaries per 100,000 residents, a 12% drop from the rate of 870 in 2012 and represents a 20-year low.



Austin's burglary rate in 2013 was 21% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.

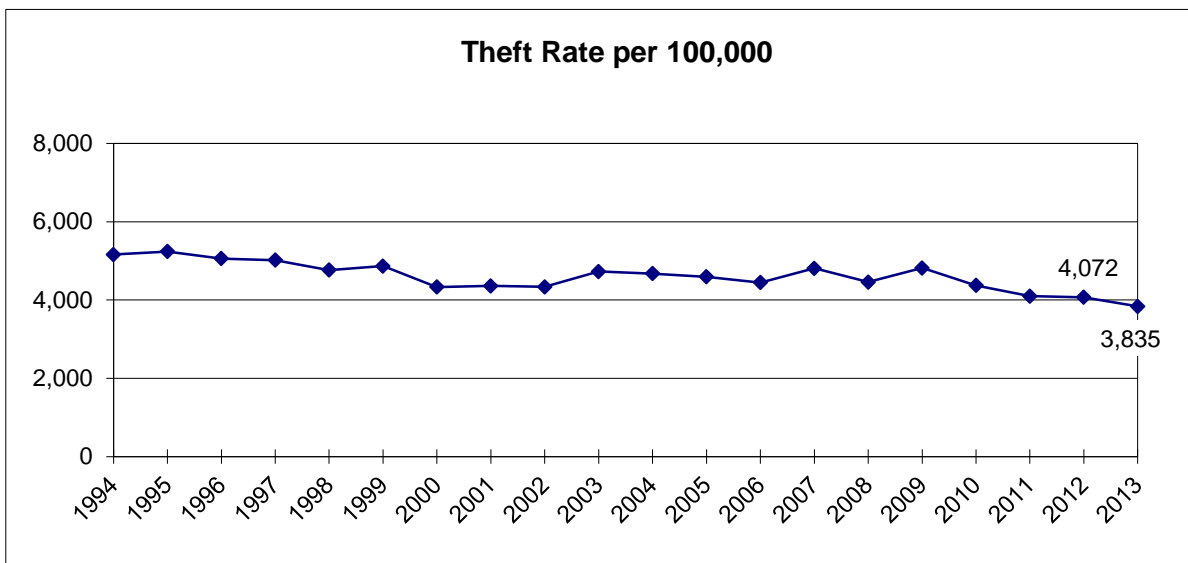


Seventy-two percent of burglaries involved residences and 28% involved other targets (businesses, offices, restaurants, etc.). This was relatively unchanged from 2012, when 73% of burglaries involved residences and 27% involved other targets.



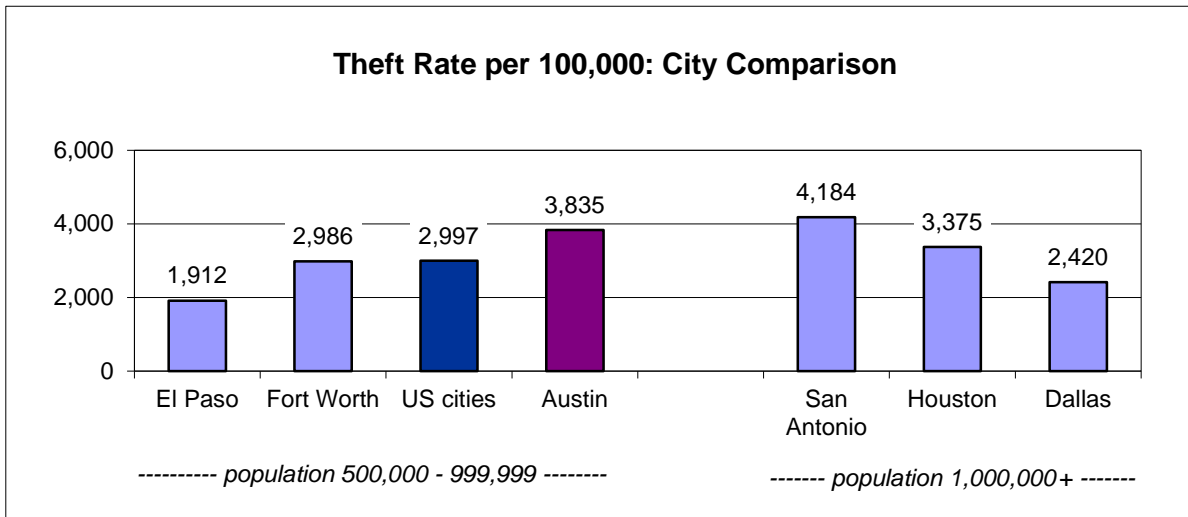
## Theft

There were 32,948 reported thefts in 2013, down from 33,913 in 2012. The rate was 3,835 thefts per 100,000 residents, which represents a 6% decrease versus the rate of 4,072 in 2012 and is a 20-year low.





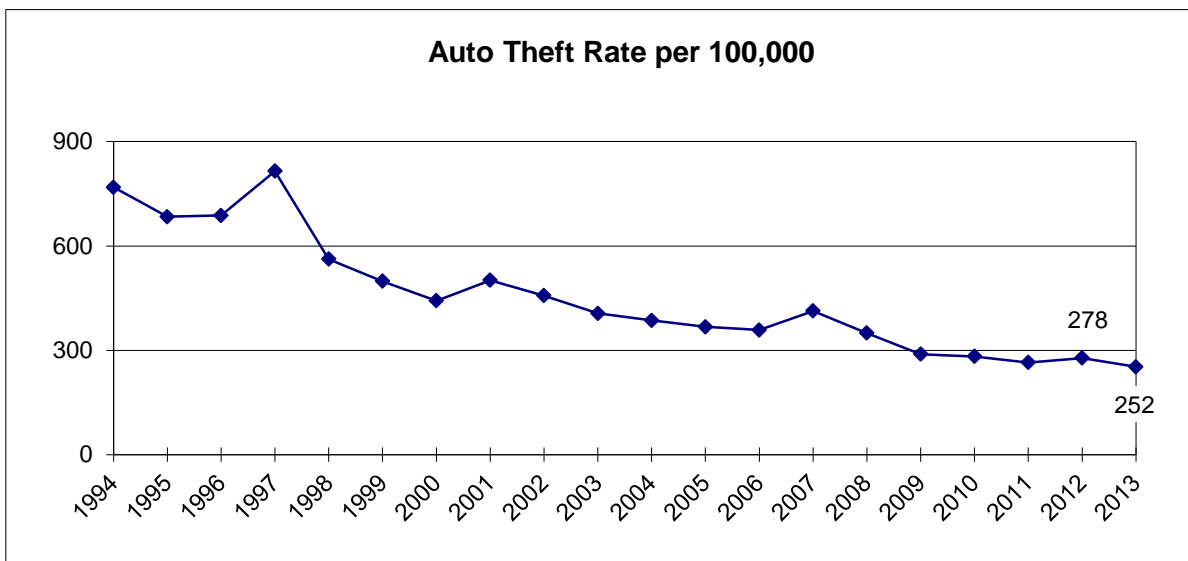
Austin's rate of thefts in 2013 was 28% higher than the average of US cities of the same size.



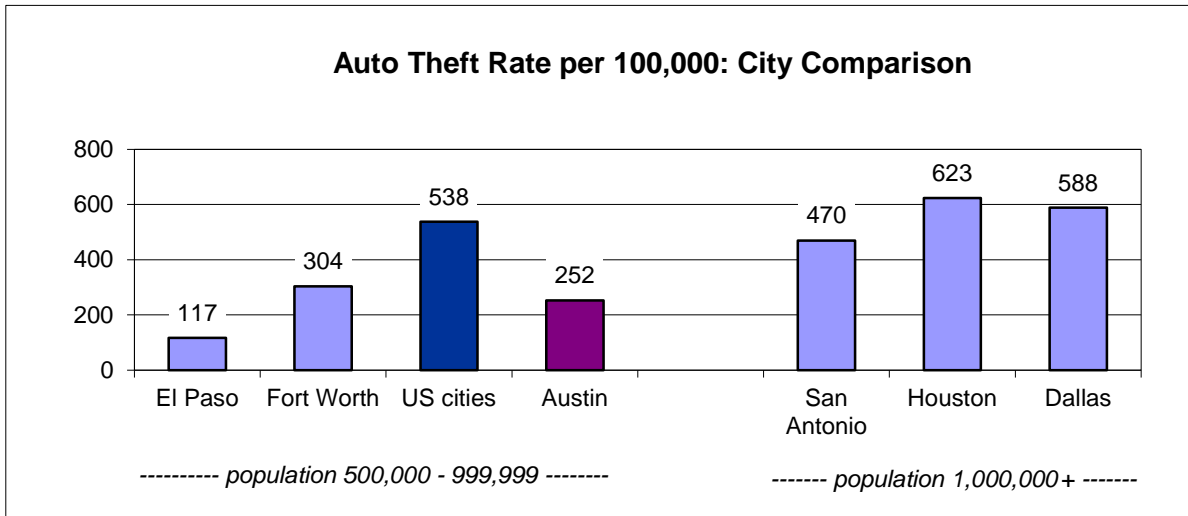
Of all thefts reported in 2013, 39% were burglary of vehicle, or BOV offenses. This was down from 2012, when 41% of thefts were BOV offenses.

### Auto Theft

There were 2,169 reported auto thefts (including attempted thefts) in 2013, down from 2,315 in 2012. The rate was 252 auto thefts per 100,000 residents, which represents a 9% decrease from the rate of 278 in 2012 and represents a 20-year low.

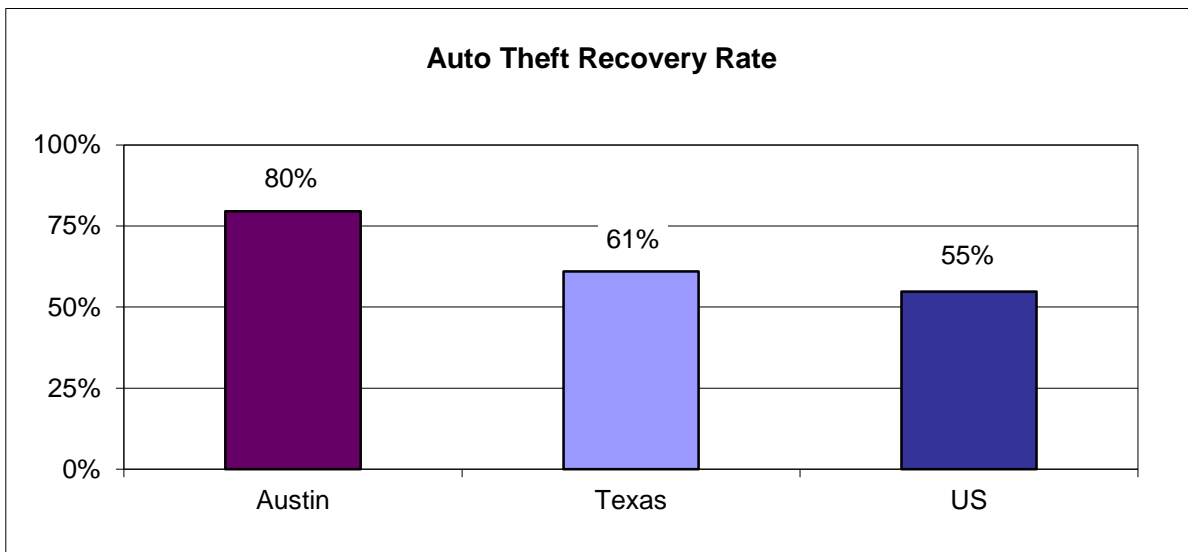


Austin's auto theft rate in 2013 was 53% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.



The most frequently stolen vehicles were Honda Accord sedans and trucks made by Ford, Chevrolet, and GMC. Together, they represent 36% of all stolen vehicles where the make and model were known.

In terms of recovery, of all vehicles stolen in 2013, 80% were successfully recovered, up from 79% in 2012. That rate is higher than those of both Texas and the US (includes all US cities).



## 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.

Part I Index Crimes	% of Crimes Cleared by Arrest or Exception	
	Austin	US Cities (pop 500,000 - 999,999)
Murder	100%	57%
Rape	66%	36%
Robbery	29%	25%
Aggravated Assault	66%	47%
<b>Total Violent Crime</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>39%</b>
Burglary	9%	10%
Theft	14%	16%
Auto Theft	11%	8%
<b>Total Property Crime</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>14%</b>

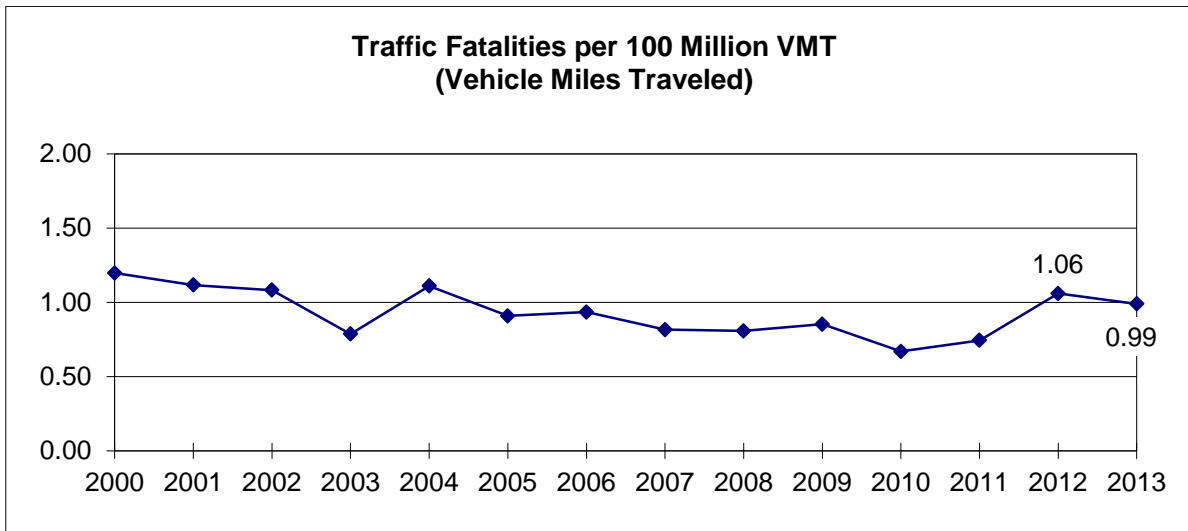
During 2013, Austin police solved, or cleared, 57% of the reported **violent crimes**, which was up from 49% in 2012. This compared with 39% for all large US cities (those with 500,000 to 999,999 residents). Austin outperformed other cities on clearing all violent crime types: murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

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 2013, Austin solved 13% of property crimes, up from 12% in 2012, but still slightly lower than the average rate of 14% for large US cities. Austin outperformed other cities in clearing auto thefts, but lagged other cities in clearing burglary and theft cases.

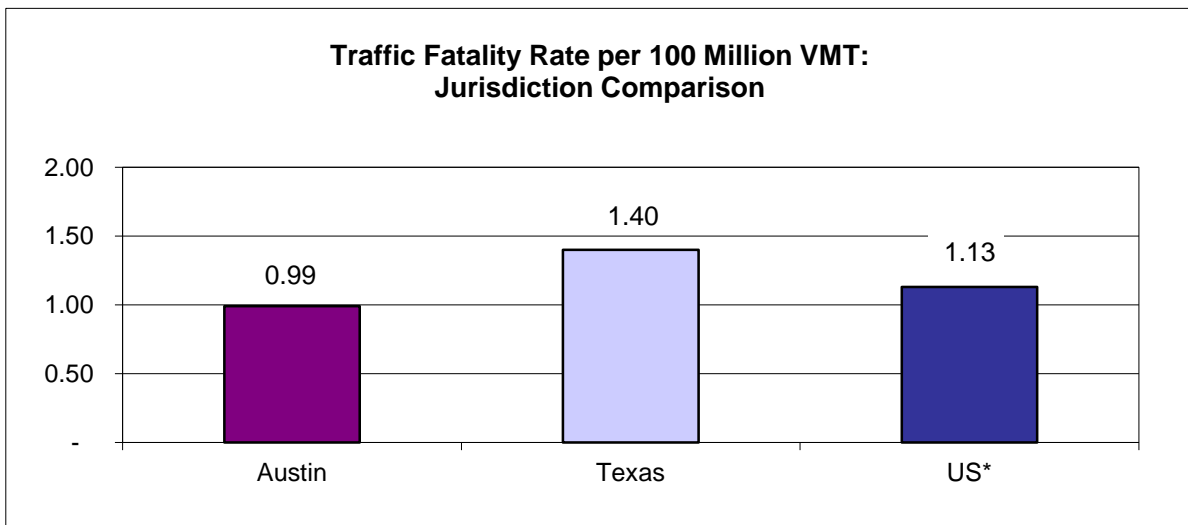
## Traffic Fatalities

During 2013 there were 72 fatal collisions that resulted in 75 deaths, as compared with 75 fatal collisions that resulted in 78 deaths in 2012.

The 2013 traffic fatality rate was .99 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT), as compared with the rate of 1.06 in 2012.

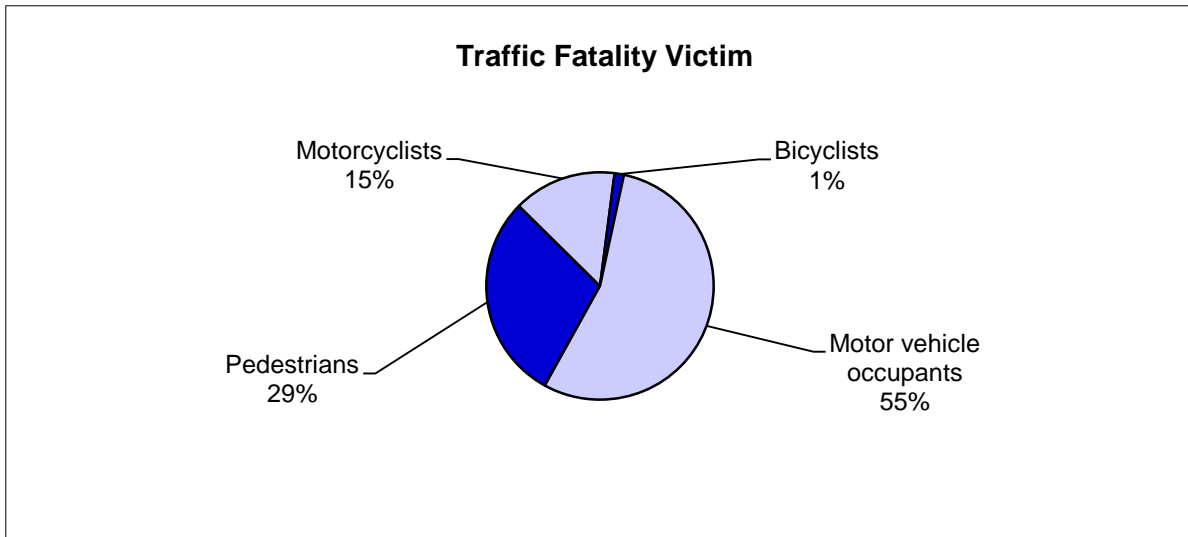


Austin's rate of .99 fatalities per 100 million VMT was lower than the rates for both Texas (1.40) and the US (includes all US cities, 1.13).

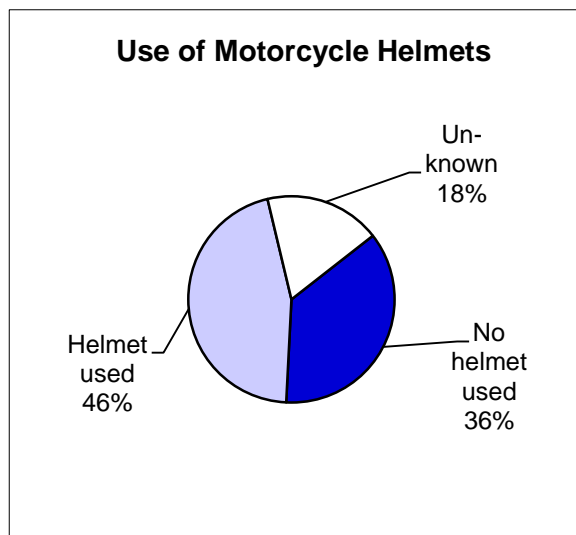
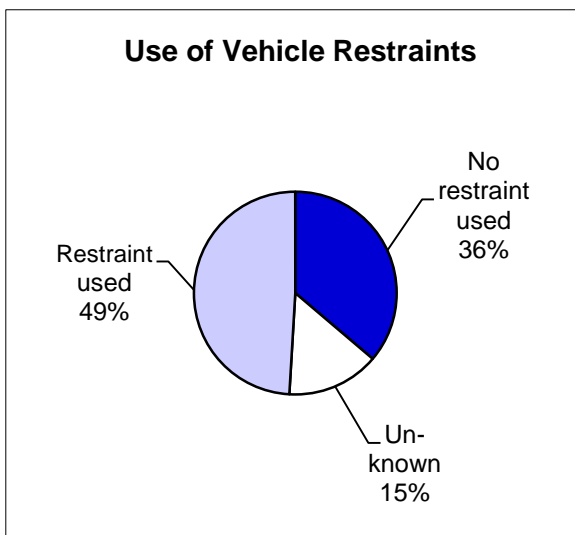


\* 2012 US statistics are the most current data available from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

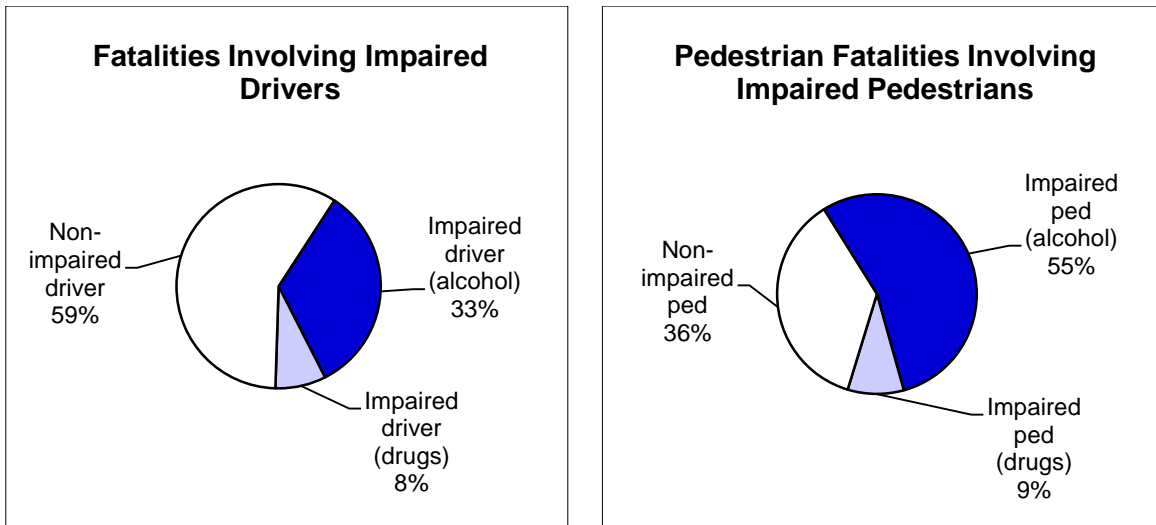
In 2013 most traffic fatalities involved motor vehicle occupants (41, or 55%), followed by pedestrians (22, or 29%), motorcyclists (11, or 15%) and bicyclists (one, or 1%). Similarly, in 2012, most traffic fatalities involved motor vehicle occupants (35, or 45%), followed by pedestrians (26, or 33%), followed by motorcyclists (14, or 18%) and bicyclists (three, or 4%).



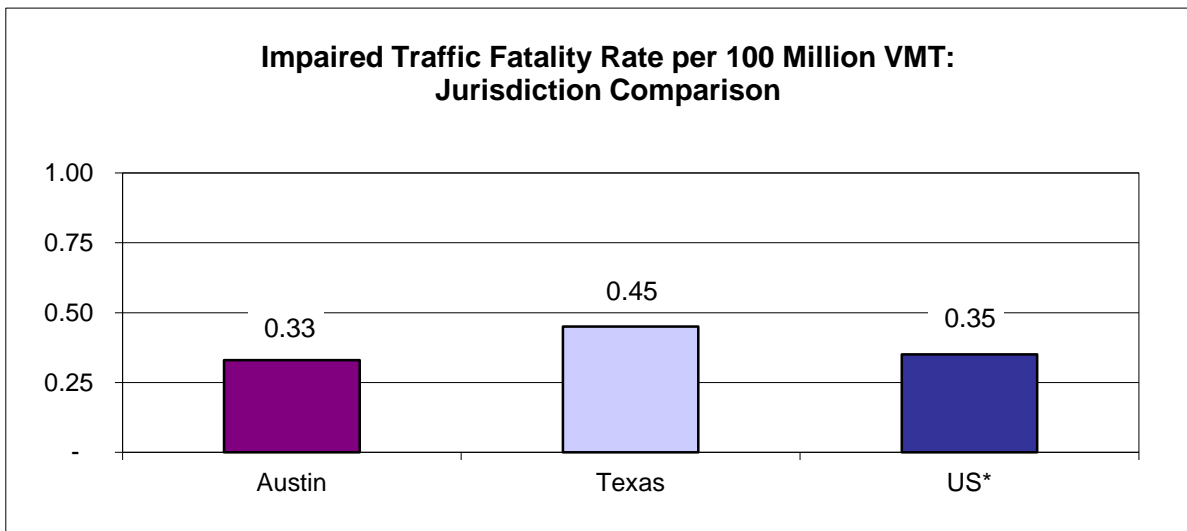
Of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2013, 15 (or 36%) victims were not using restraints, as compared with 12 (or 34%) victims in 2012. Of all motorcycle fatalities, four (or 36%) victims were not wearing helmets, as compared with eight (or 57%) in 2012.



Of all fatalities in 2013, 25 (or 33%) involved an alcohol-impaired driver, as compared with 19 (or 24%) in 2012. Of all pedestrian fatalities in 2013, 12 (or 55%) involved an alcohol-impaired pedestrian, as compared with 11 (or 42%) in 2012.



Austin's rate of traffic fatalities involving driver alcohol impairment is .33 per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT). That rate is lower than the rates for both Texas (.45) and the US (.35).



\* 2012 US statistics are the most current data available from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

In 2013, 16 (or 22%) fatal crashes involved speed as a contributing factor, as compared with 7 (or 9%) in 2012. And in 2013, 33 (or 46%) fatal crashes occurred on freeways (e.g., IH-35, Mo-Pac, and US Hwy 183, and State Hwy 71/290 West), as compared with 30 (or 40%) in 2012.

