

Austin Police Department

Annual Crime and Traffic Report: 2019 Final Report



Prepared by the Austin Police Department
Chief of Police, Joseph Chacon
Research and Planning Unit
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 2019 (January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019). We have also included selected traffic statistics on fatal crashes and citizen perception of safety from the Austin Community Survey.

Notable Findings

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

- Austin’s **violent crime rate** of 411 per 100,000 residents increased 7% as compared with 2018.
- Austin’s **property crime rate** of 3,718 per 100,000 residents increased 8% as compared with 2018.
- The **aggravated assault rate** of 247 per 100,000 represents a 28% increase as compared with 2018.
- The **burglary rate** of 441 per 100,000 residents represents a 6% decline as compared with 2018.
- The **violent crime clearance rate** decreased from 40% in 2018 to 38% in 2019.
- The **property crime clearance rate** decreased one point to 9%.
- **Traffic fatalities** increased from 74 in 2018 to 88 in 2019; and **fatal crashes** increased from 73 in 2018 to 86 in 2019.
- Residents’ satisfaction with the **overall quality of police services** slightly increased from 63% in 2018 to 66% in 2019; and none of the safety areas saw significant changes in satisfaction from 2018.

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

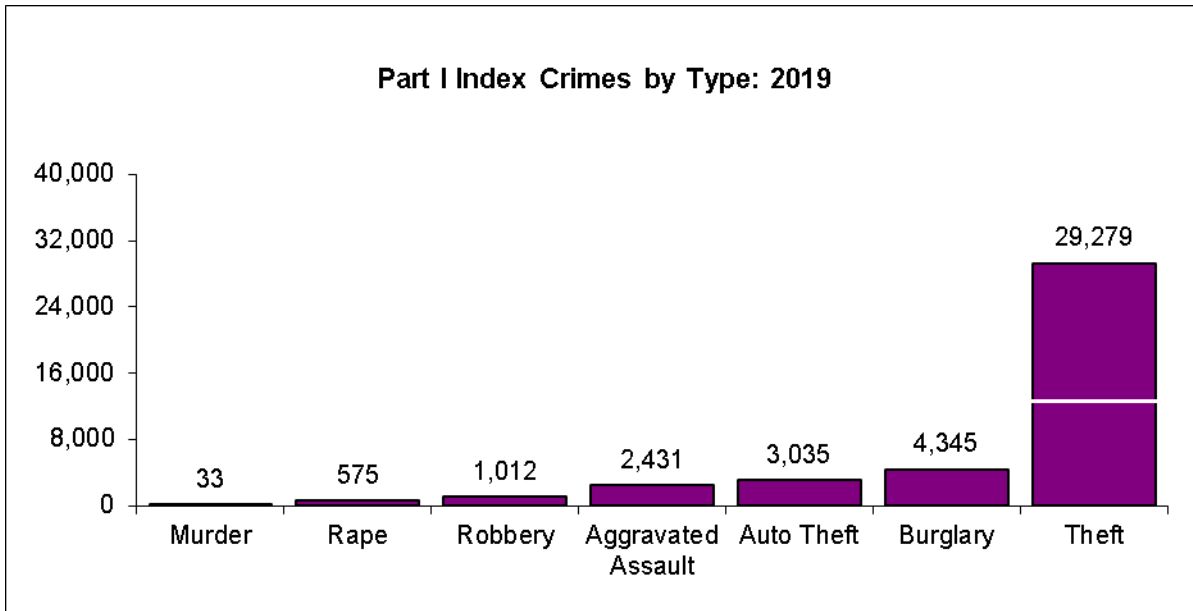
Burglary (number of premises entered)
 Theft (number of offenses)
 Auto Theft (number of vehicles)

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

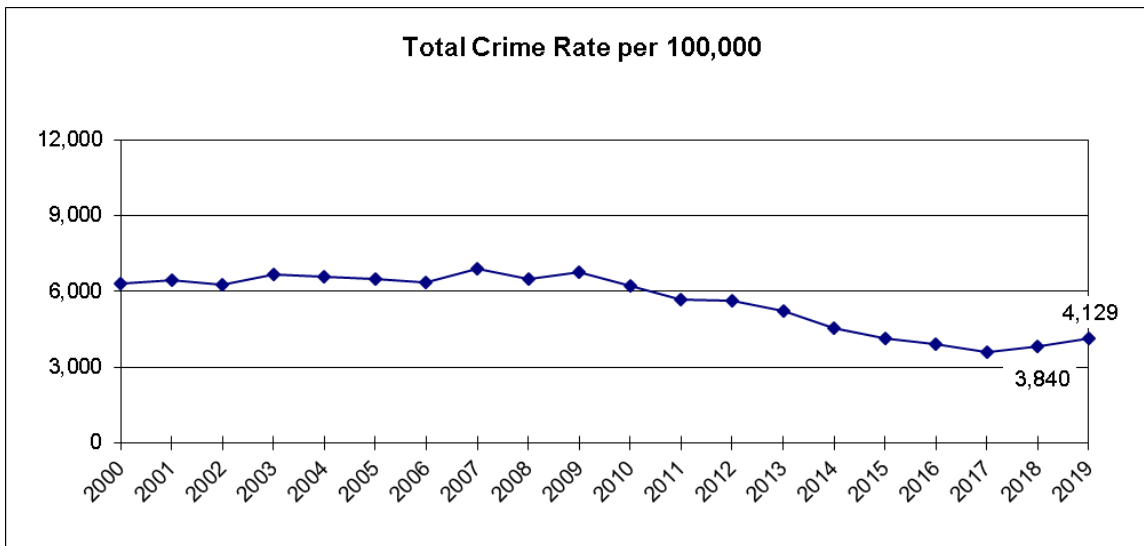
In this report, crime is reported in terms of actual numbers (e.g., incidents, victims) as well as rate per 100,000 residents. Rates allow for comparisons to previous years and with other cities.

| Part I Index Crimes | Offenses | | | Rate per 100,000 | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|------------------|----------------|-----------|
| | 2018 | 2019 | % Change | 2018 | 2019 | % Change |
| Murder | 32 | 33 | 3% | 3.3 | 3.3 | 2% |
| Rape | 787 | 575 | -27% | 80.9 | 58.3 | -28% |
| Robbery | 1,021 | 1,012 | -1% | 104.9 | 102.6 | -2% |
| Aggravated Assault | 1,880 | 2,431 | 29% | 193.1 | 246.5 | 28% |
| Total Violent Crime | 3,720 | 4,051 | 9% | 382.2 | 410.8 | 7% |
| Burglary | 4,549 | 4,345 | -4% | 467.4 | 440.6 | -6% |
| Theft | 26,568 | 29,279 | 10% | 2,729.6 | 2,969.3 | 9% |
| Auto Theft | 2,538 | 3,035 | 20% | 260.8 | 307.8 | 18% |
| Total Property Crime | 33,655 | 36,659 | 9% | 3,457.7 | 3,717.7 | 8% |
| Total Index Crime | 37,375 | 40,710 | 9% | 3,839.9 | 4,128.5 | 8% |



Trends

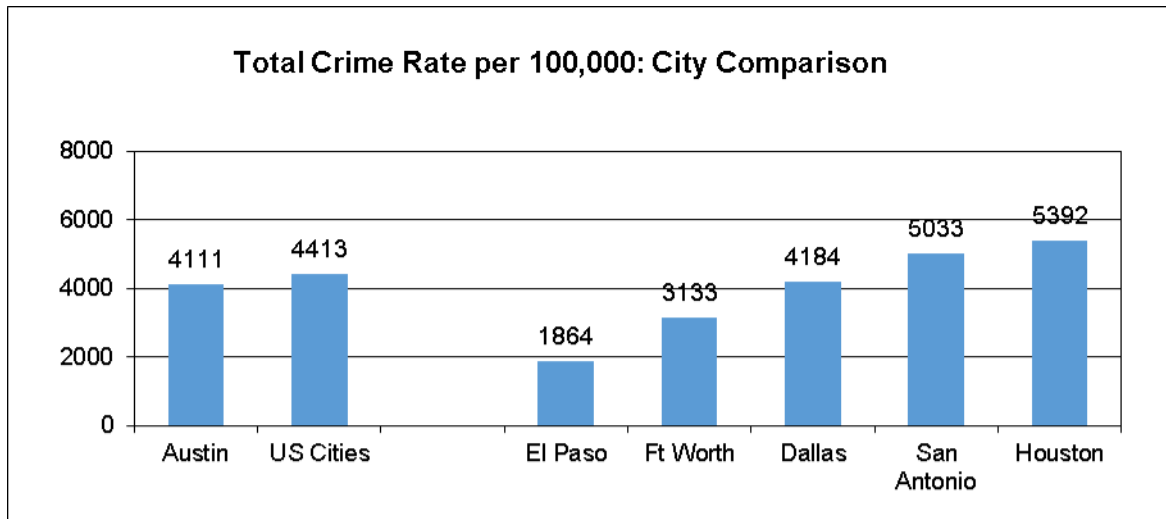
In 2019, the number of all Part I Index crimes for Austin was 40,710. This was a 9% increase in incidents as compared with 2018 (37,375). The crime rate per 100,000 residents was 4,129 in 2019 – an 8% increase from the 2018 rate of 3,840.



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 2019 population was 986,062. 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 4,111 offenses per 100,000 was 7% lower than the average rate of 4,413 for all large US cities.

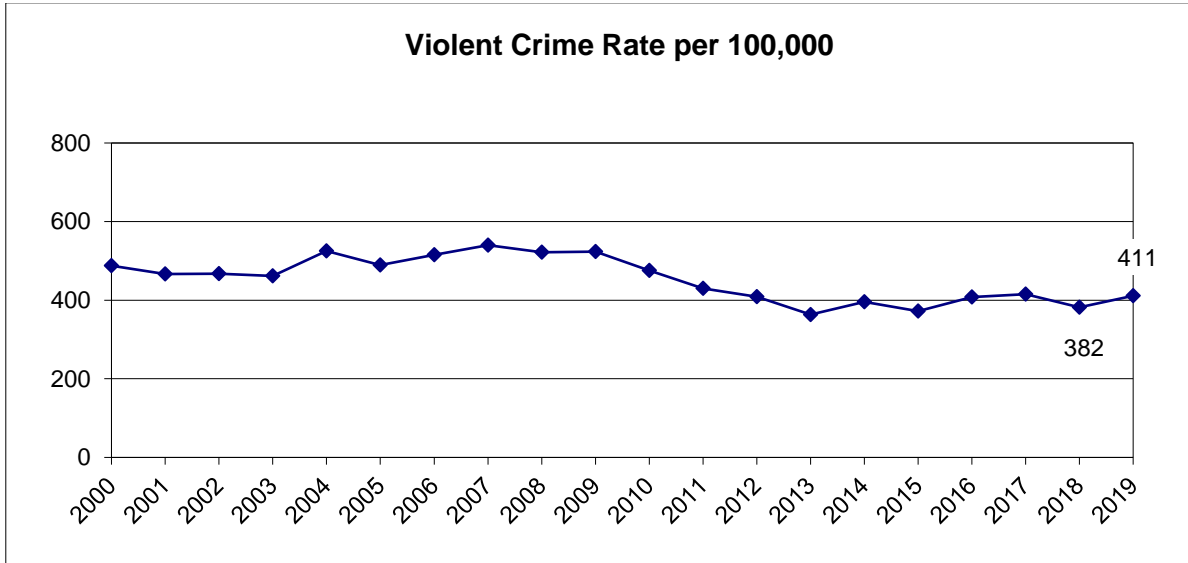


The following cities are included in the "US cities" category above, and elsewhere throughout this report:

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

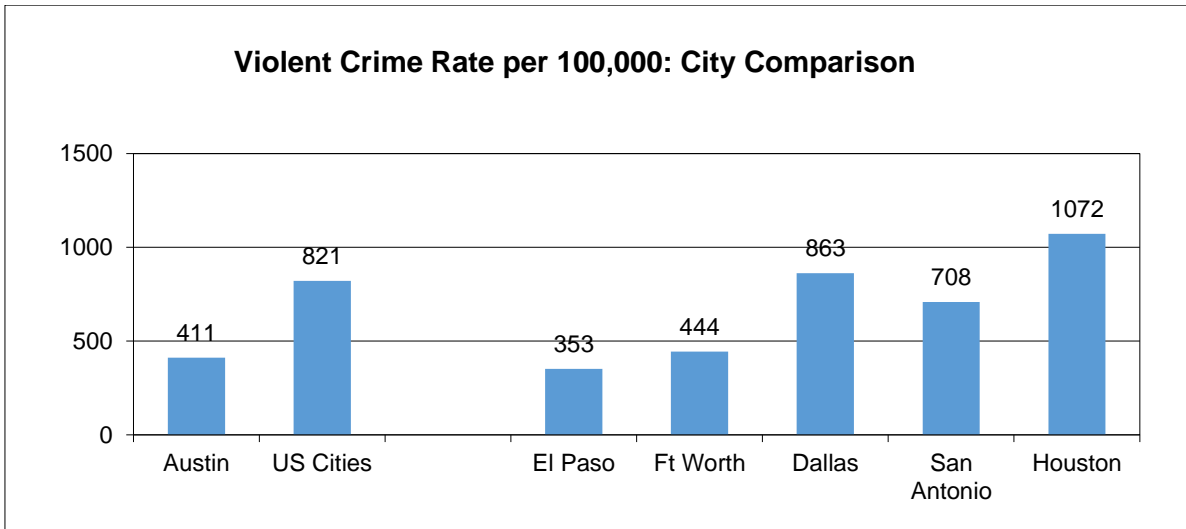
In 2019, the number of violent crimes was 4,051, a 9% increase in incidents from 2018 (3,720). The rate of violent crime per 100,000 residents was 411 in 2019, up 7% from 382 in 2018.



Compared to Other Cities

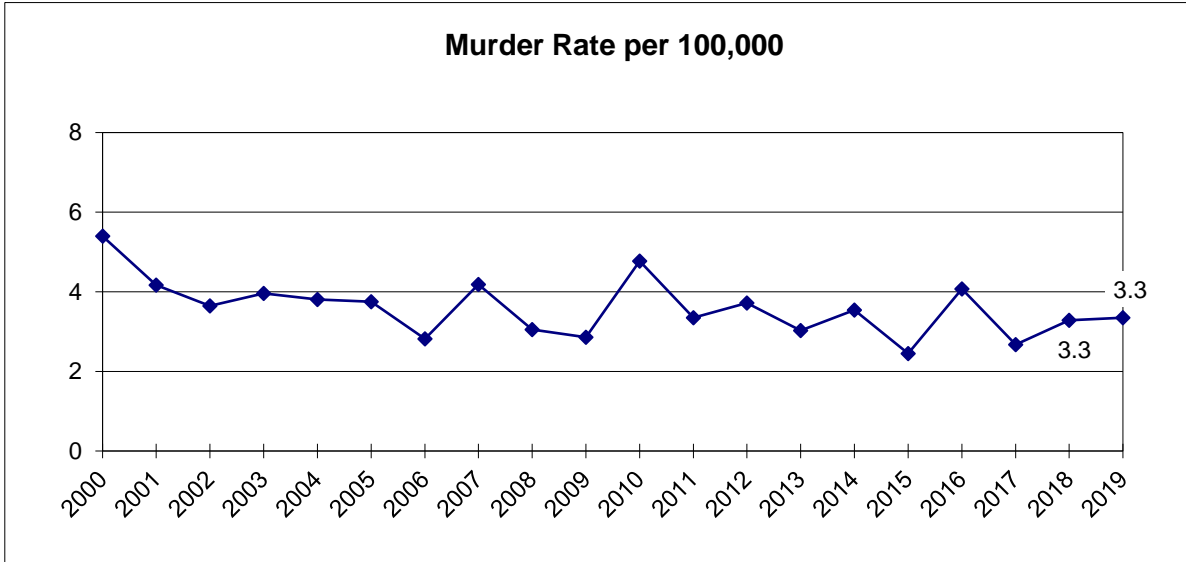
Austin's rate of 411 violent crimes per 100,000 was 50% lower than the average rate of 821 for all large US cities.

986062

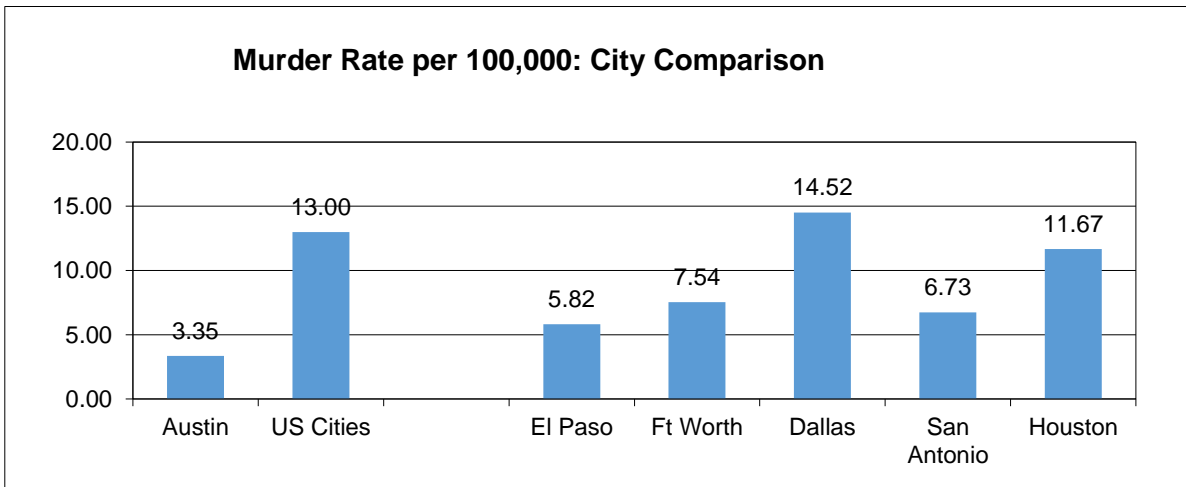


Murder

During 2019, there were 33 murder victims, up from 32 in 2018. Over the past 20 years (1999 to 2019), the number of murder victims ranged from 20 to 39. The 2019 murder rate was 3.3 per 100,000 residents, remaining unchanged from in 2018.

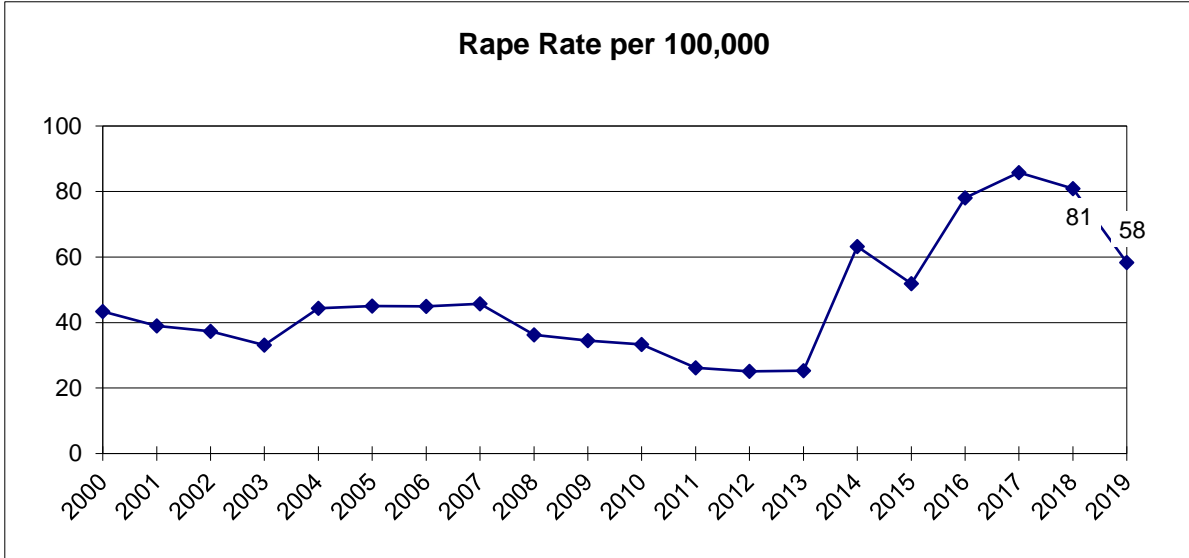


Austin's murder rate was 74% lower than the average of US cities our size.



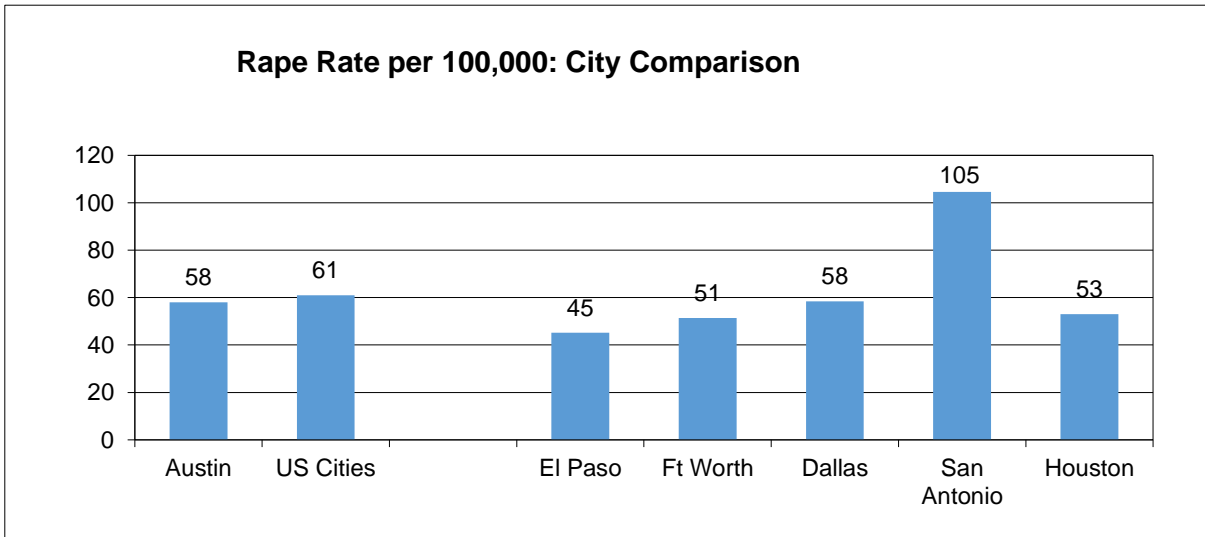
Rape

There were 575 reported rapes in 2019, down 27% from 2018 (787). The rate was 58 per 100,000 residents.



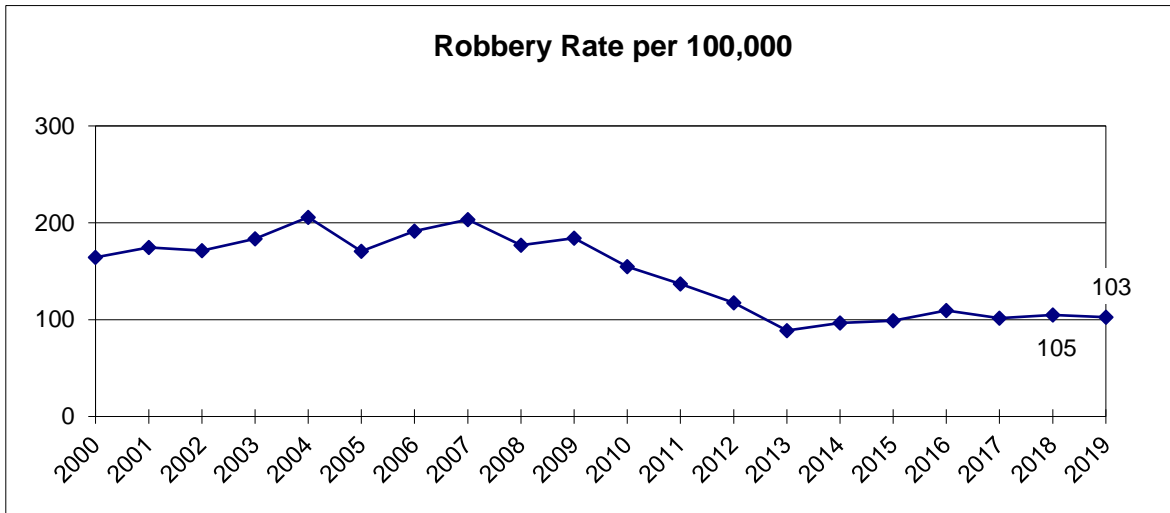
Note: Due to FBI-directed modifications to reporting requirements and changes in offense code use over time, offenses are not comparable from 2013 to 2016.

Austin's rate of reported rapes was 5% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.

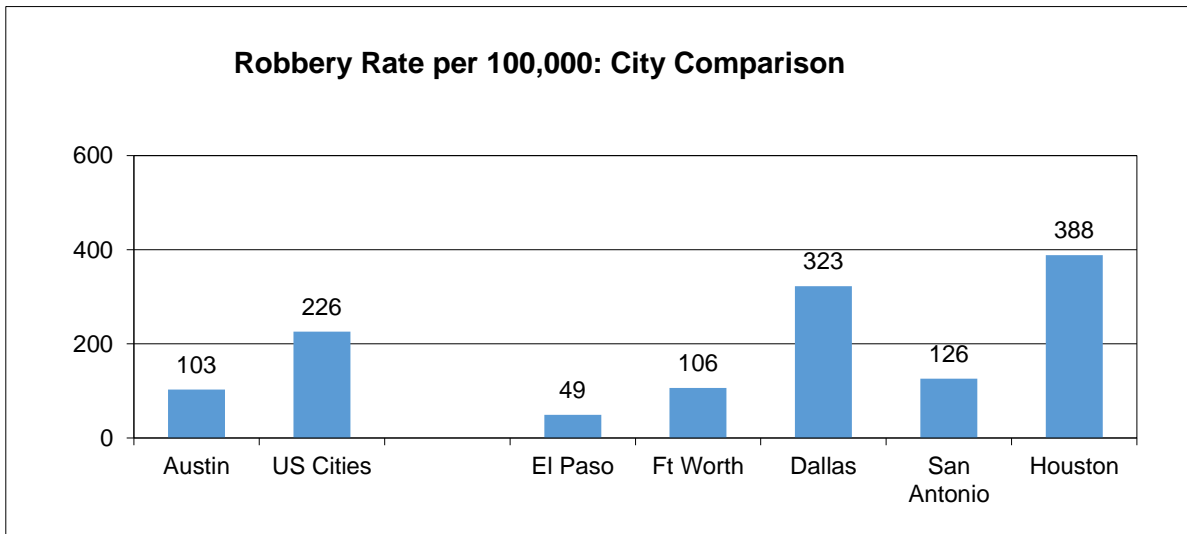


Robbery

There were 1,012 robberies reported in 2019, down 1% from 1,021 in 2018. The rate was 103 robberies per 100,000 residents, which was a 2% decrease from the previous year's rate of 105.

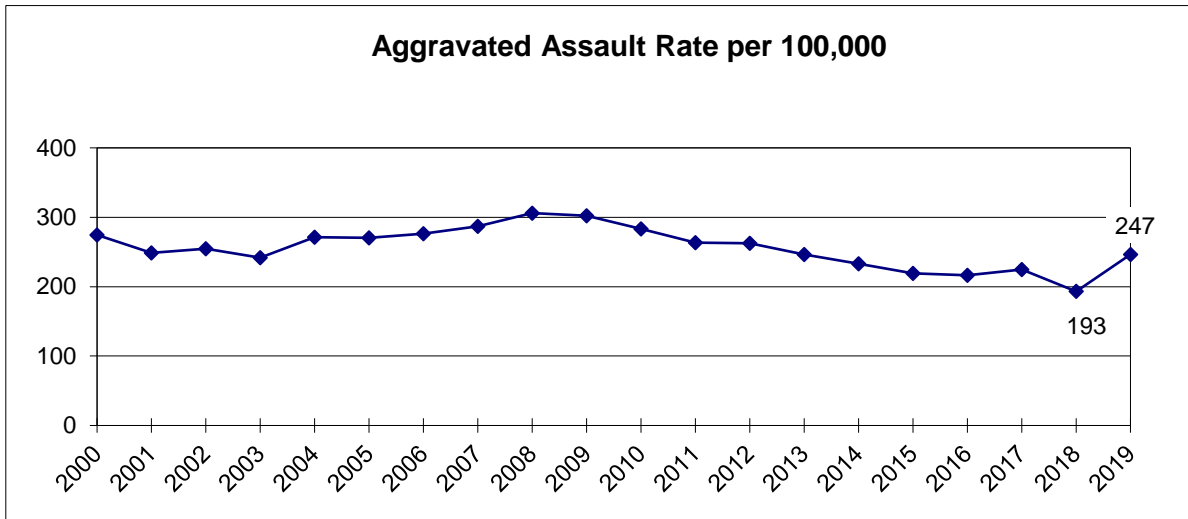


Austin's rate of reported robberies was 54% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.

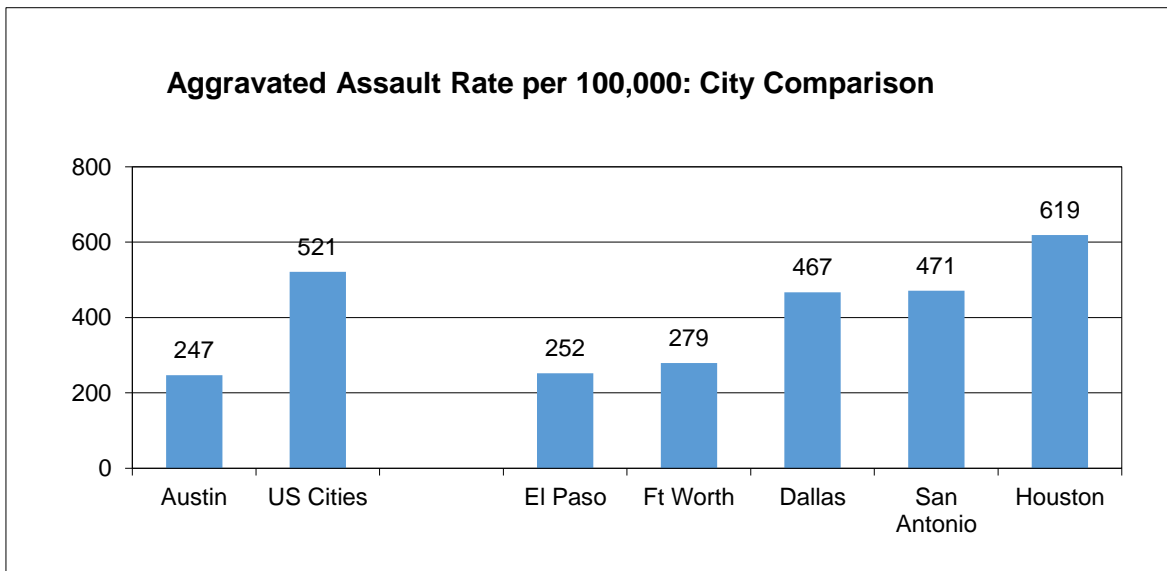


Aggravated Assault

There were 2,431 reported victims of aggravated assault in 2019, up from 1,880 in 2018. The rate was 247 victims per 100,000 residents, up 26% from the prior year's rate of 193.

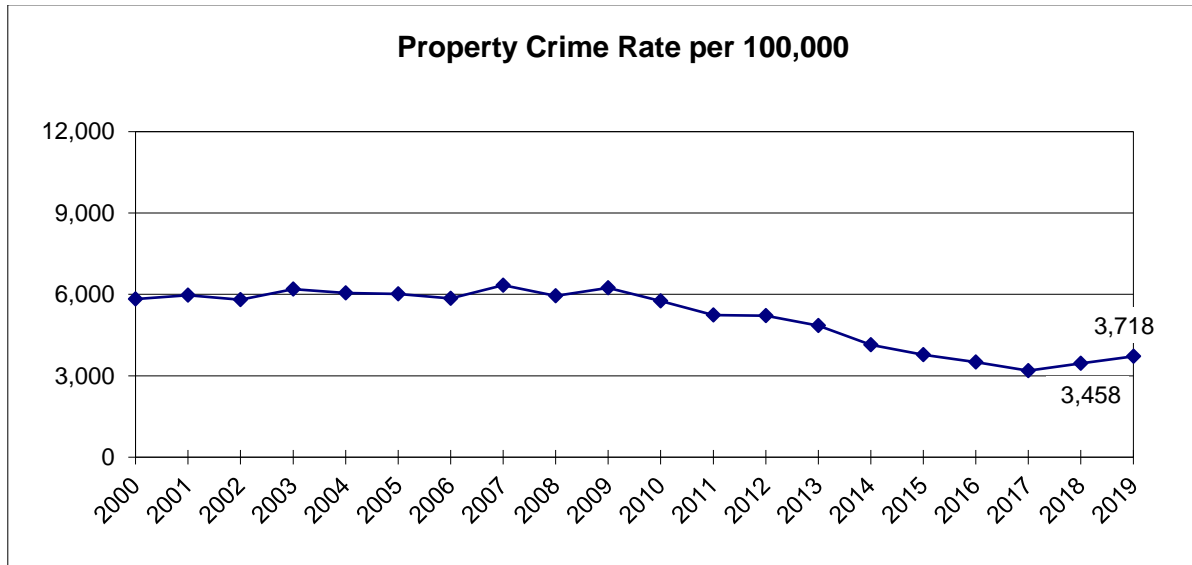


Austin's rate of aggravated assault victims was 53% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.



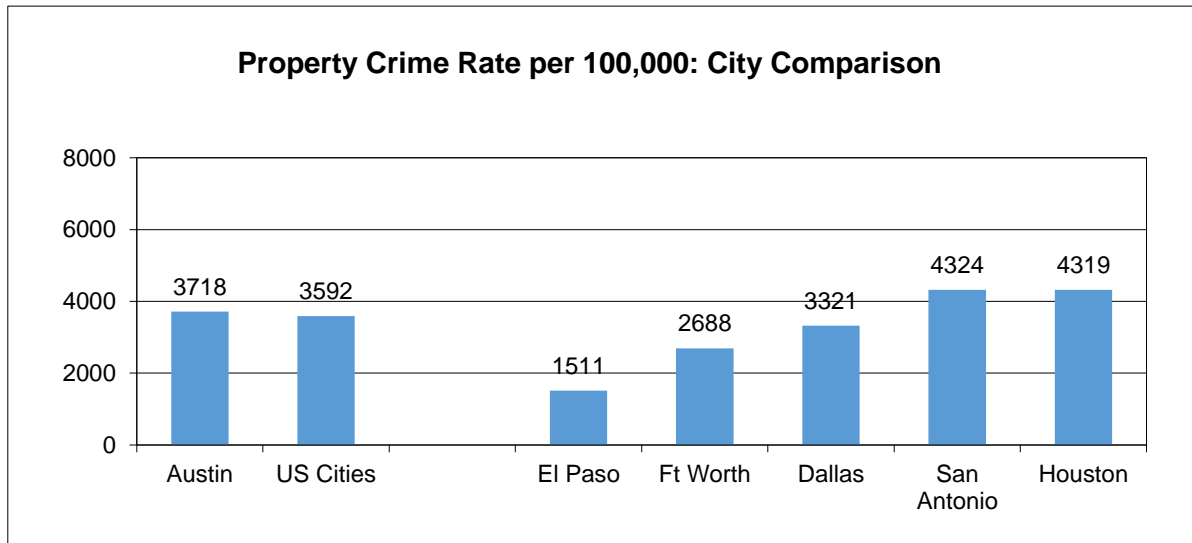
Property Crime

In 2019, the number of property crimes in Austin was 36,659, up 9% from 33,655 in 2018. The rate of property crime per 100,000 residents was 3,718 in 2019, which was up 8% from the prior year's rate of 3,458.



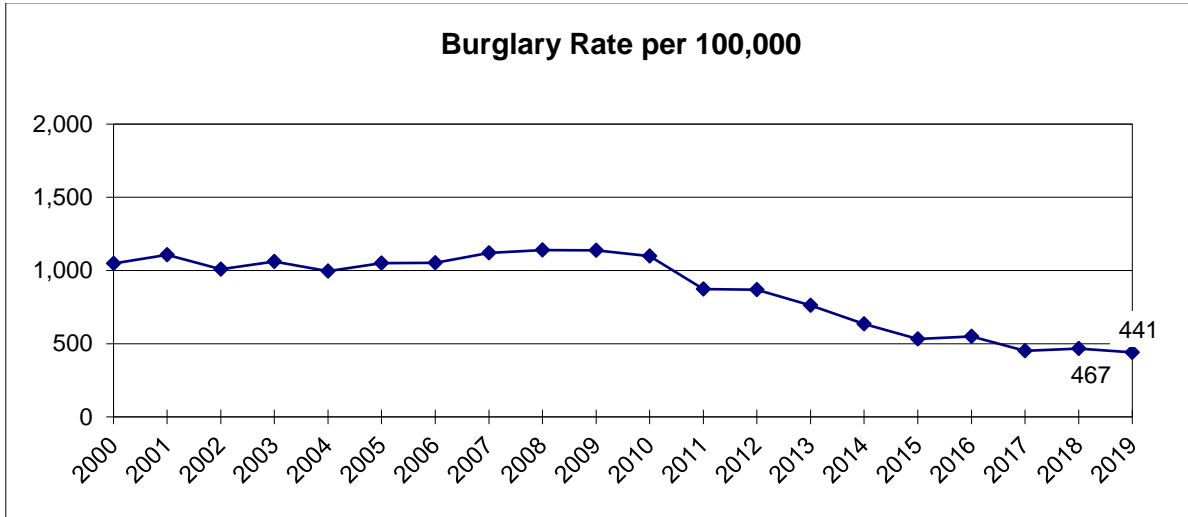
Compared to Other Cities

Austin's rate of 3,718 property crimes per 100,000 in 2019 was 4% higher than the average rate of 3,592 per 100,000 for large US cities.

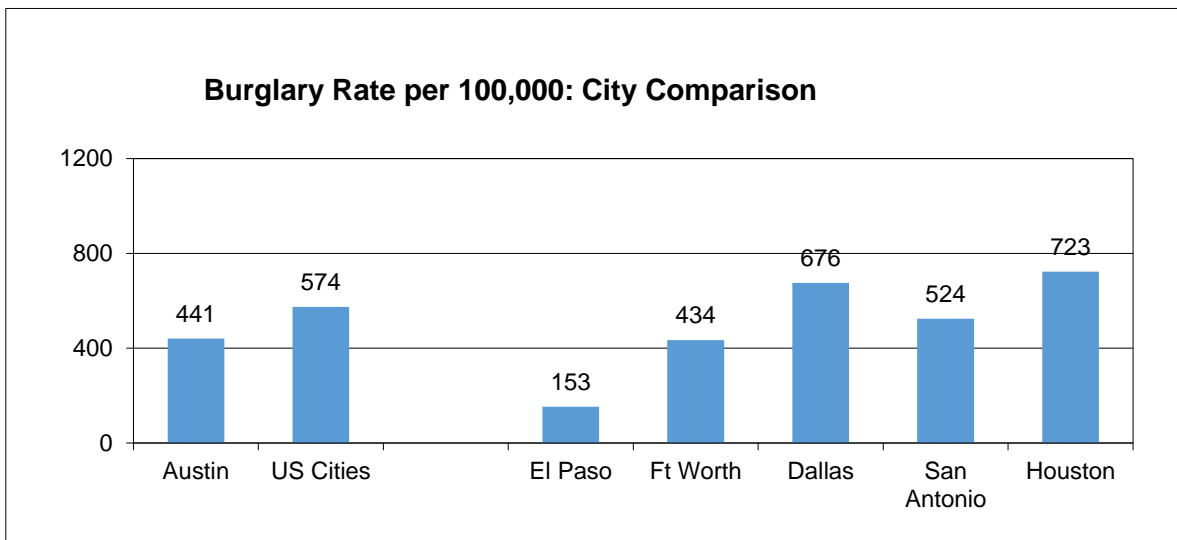


Burglary

There were 4,345 reported burglaries in 2019, down 4% from 4,549 in 2018. The rate was 441 burglaries per 100,000 residents, which was down 6% from the prior year's rate of 467.

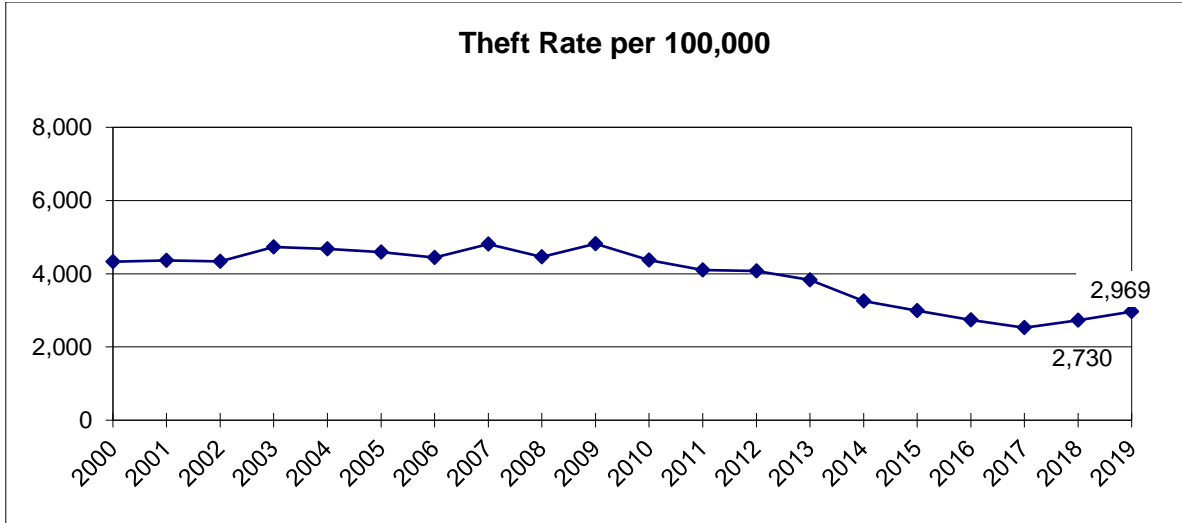


Austin's burglary rate in 2019 was 23% lower than the average of US cities of the same size.

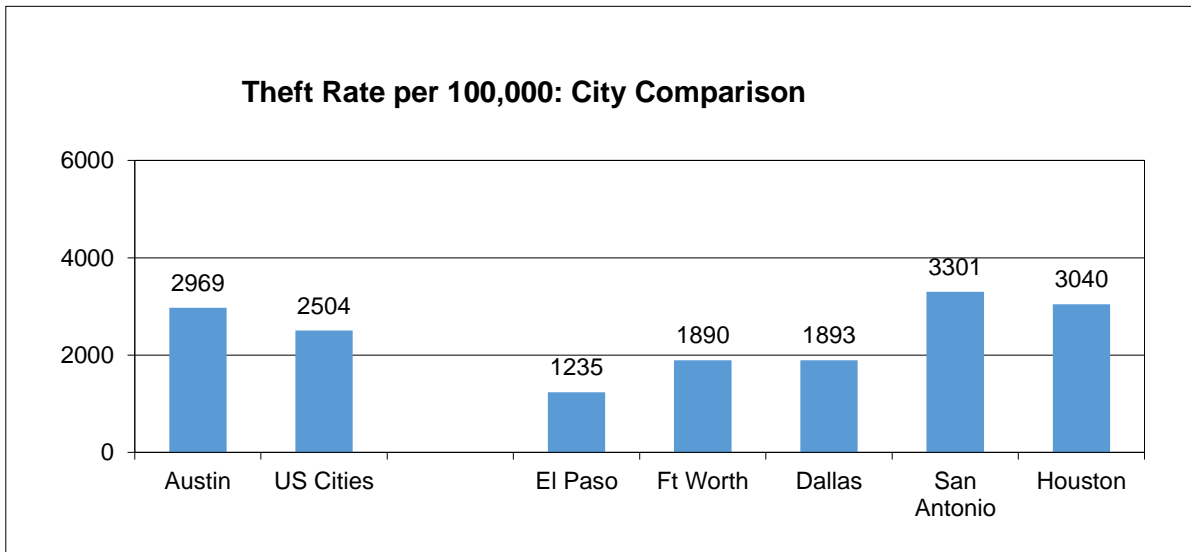


Theft

There were 29,279 reported thefts in 2019, up from 26,568 in 2018. The rate was 2,969 thefts per 100,000 residents, which was up 9% from the rate of 2,730 in 2018.

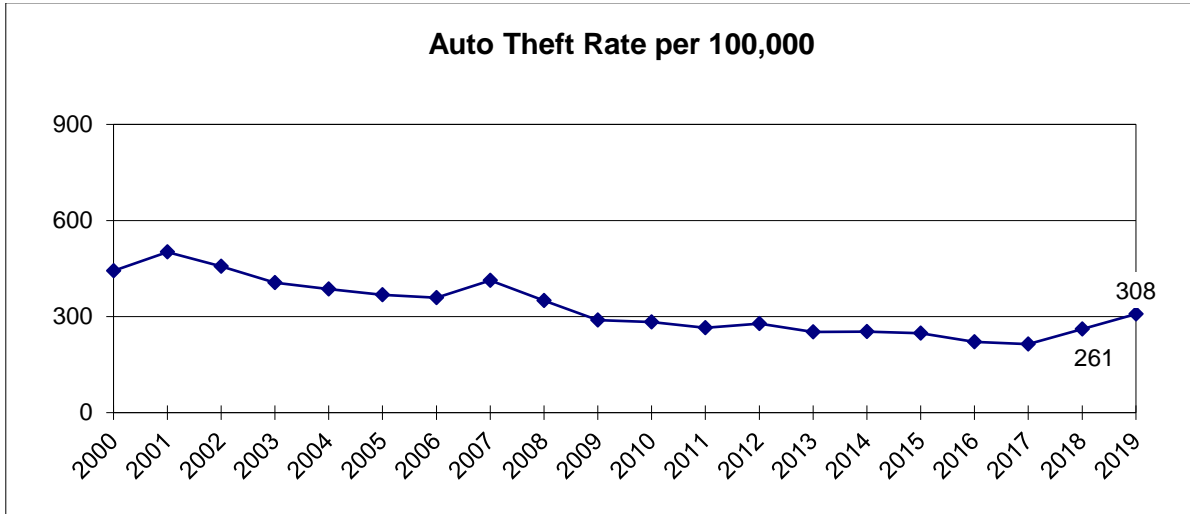


Austin's rate of thefts in 2019 was 19% higher than the average of US cities of the same size.

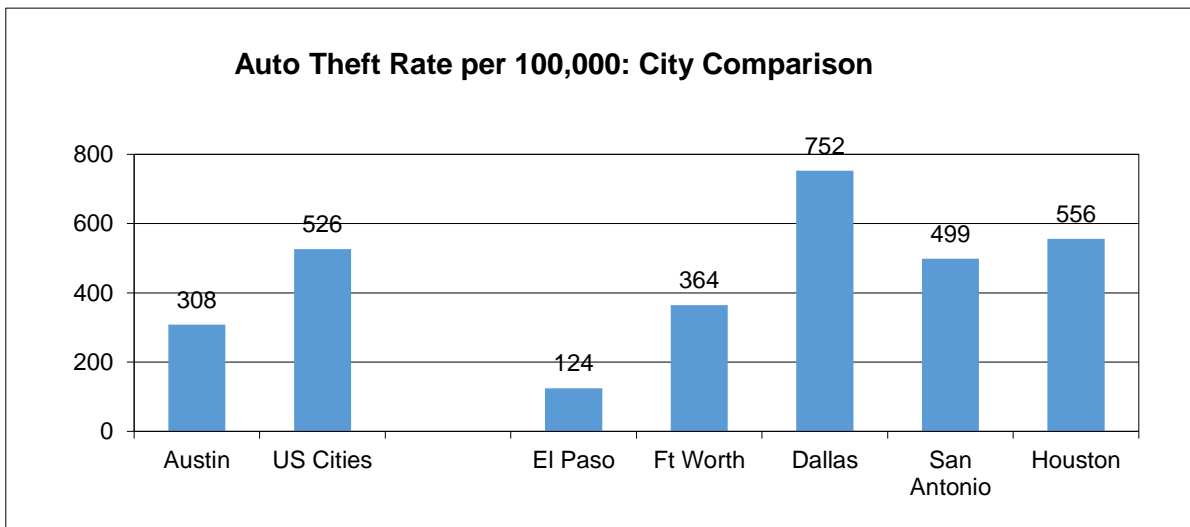


Auto Theft

There were 3,035 reported auto thefts in 2019, up 20% from 2,538 in 2018. The rate was 308 auto thefts per 100,000 residents, which was an 18% increase from the rate of 261 in 2018.



Austin's auto theft rate in 2019 was 41% 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.

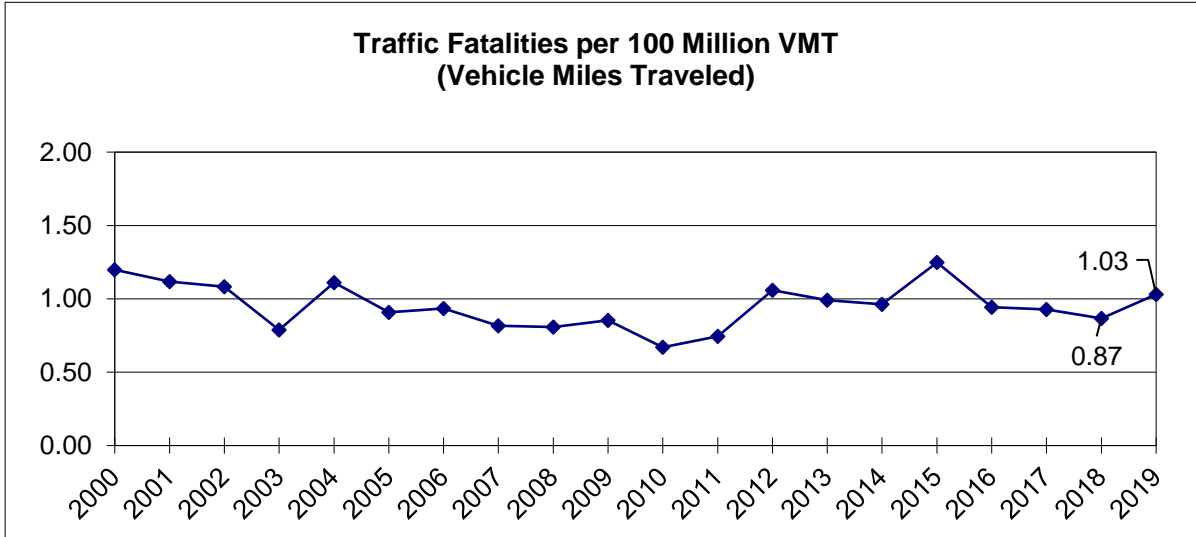
| Part I Index Crimes | % of Crimes Cleared by Arrest or Exception | |
|-----------------------------|--|------------|
| | Austin | |
| | 2018 | 2019 |
| Murder | 88% | 76% |
| Rape | 34% | 13% |
| Robbery | 33% | 32% |
| Aggravated Assault | 45% | 47% |
| Total Violent Crime | 40% | 38% |
| Burglary | 12% | 35% |
| Theft | 9% | 35% |
| Auto Theft | 18% | 39% |
| Total Property Crime | 10% | 9% |

During 2019, Austin police solved, or cleared, 38% of the reported violent, a decrease of 2% from the rate in 2018.

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 2019, Austin solved 9% of property crimes, down from 10% in 2018.

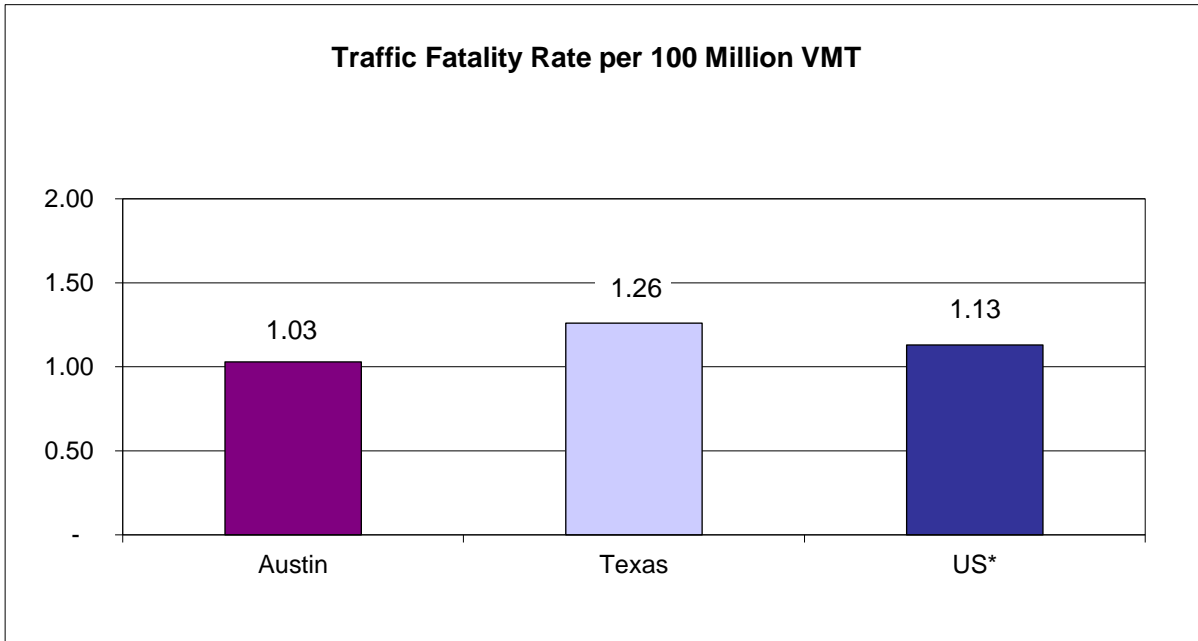
Traffic Fatalities

During 2019, there were 86 fatal crashes that resulted in 88 deaths, as compared to 73 fatal crashes that resulted in 74 deaths in 2018.



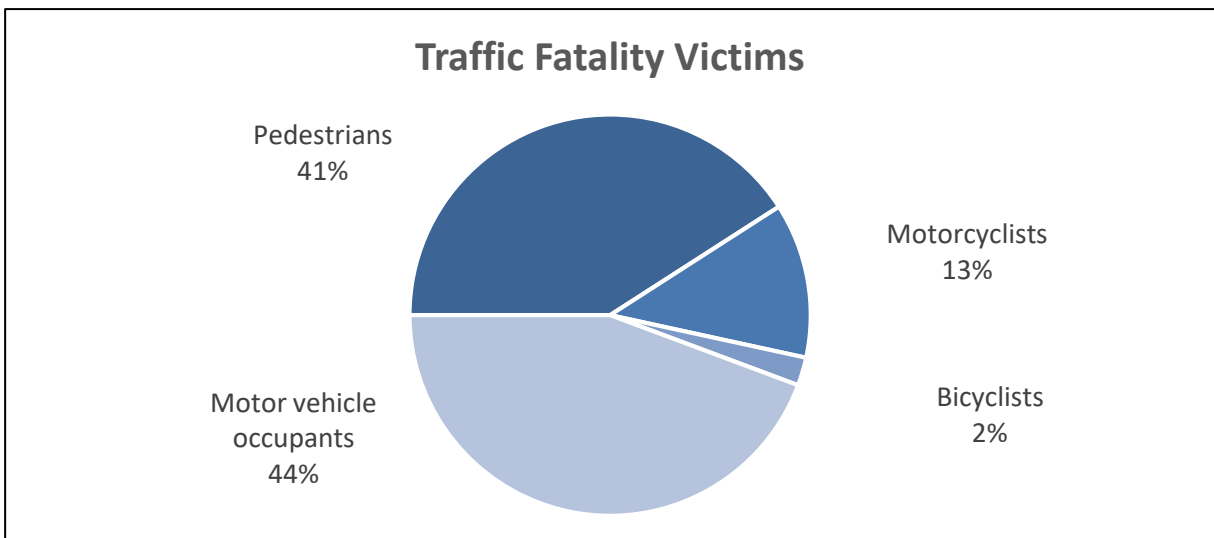
The 2019 traffic fatality rate was 1.03 fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), as compared to the rate of 0.87 in 2018.

Austin's rate of 1.03 fatalities per 100 million VMT was lower than the rates for both Texas (1.26) and the US (1.13).

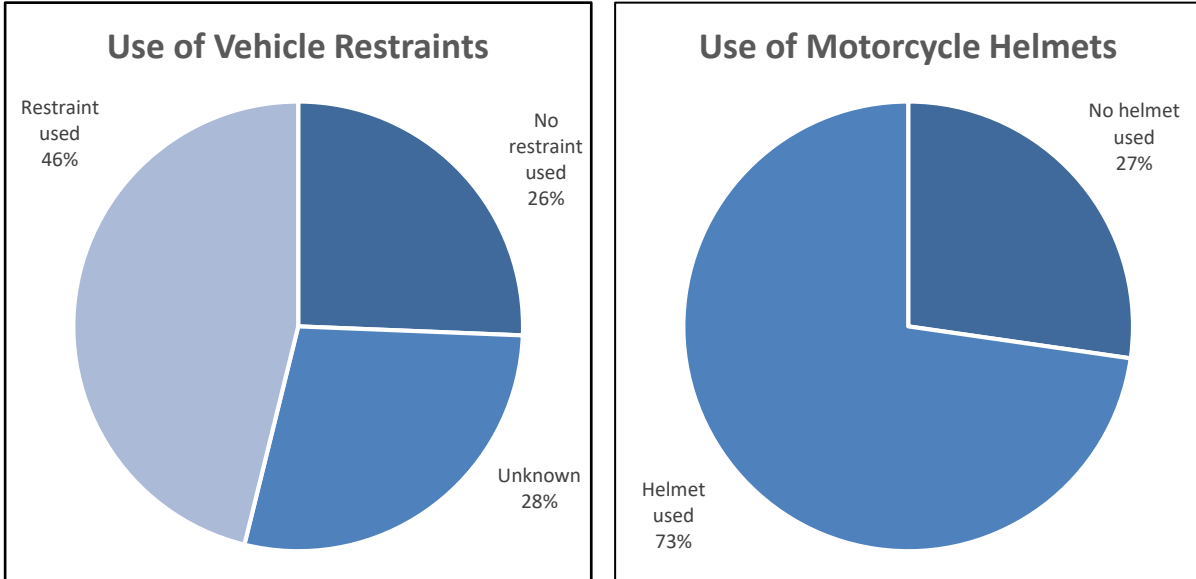


* 2018 US statistics are the most current data available from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

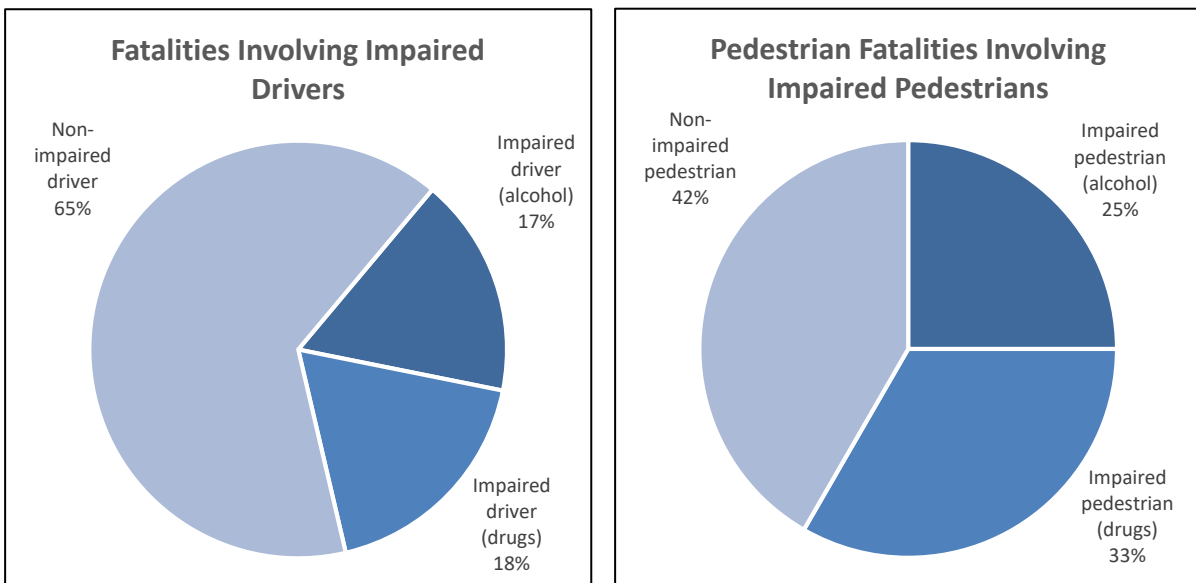
In 2019, most traffic fatalities involved motor vehicle occupants (39, or 44%), followed by pedestrians (36, or 41%), motorcyclists (11, or 13%) and bicyclists (2, or 2%). Similarly, in 2018, most traffic fatalities involved motor vehicle occupants (32, or 43%), followed by pedestrians (31, or 42%), motorcyclists (9, or 12%), and bicyclists (2, or 3%).



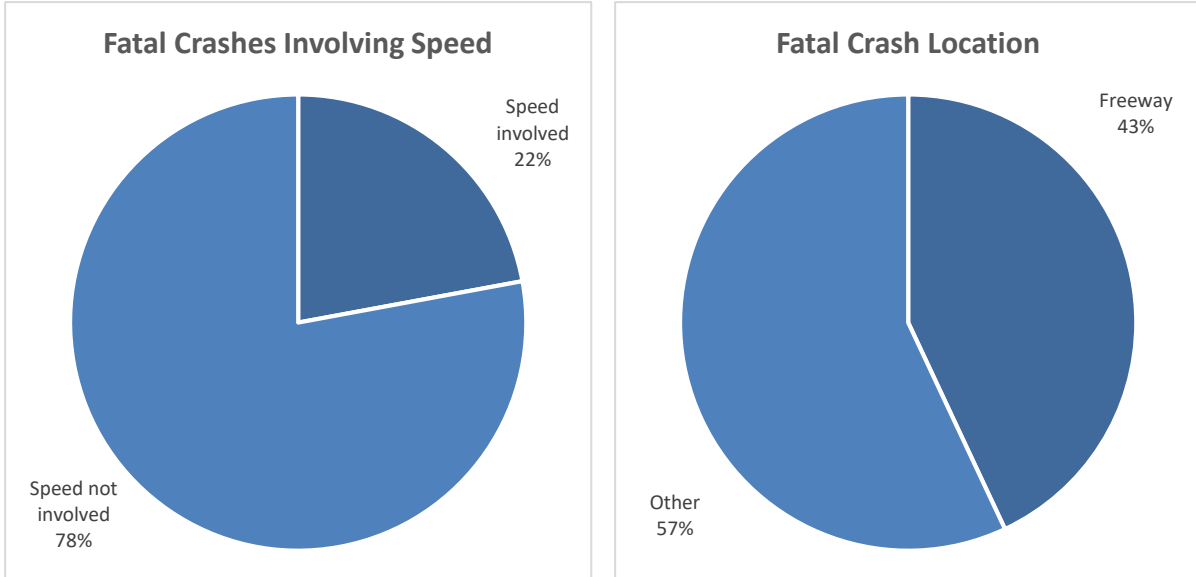
Of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2019, 10 victims (or 26%) were not using restraints, as compared with 7 victims (or 22%) in 2018. Of all motorcycle fatalities in 2019, 3 victims (or 27%) were not wearing helmets, as compared with 9 (or 100%) in 2018.



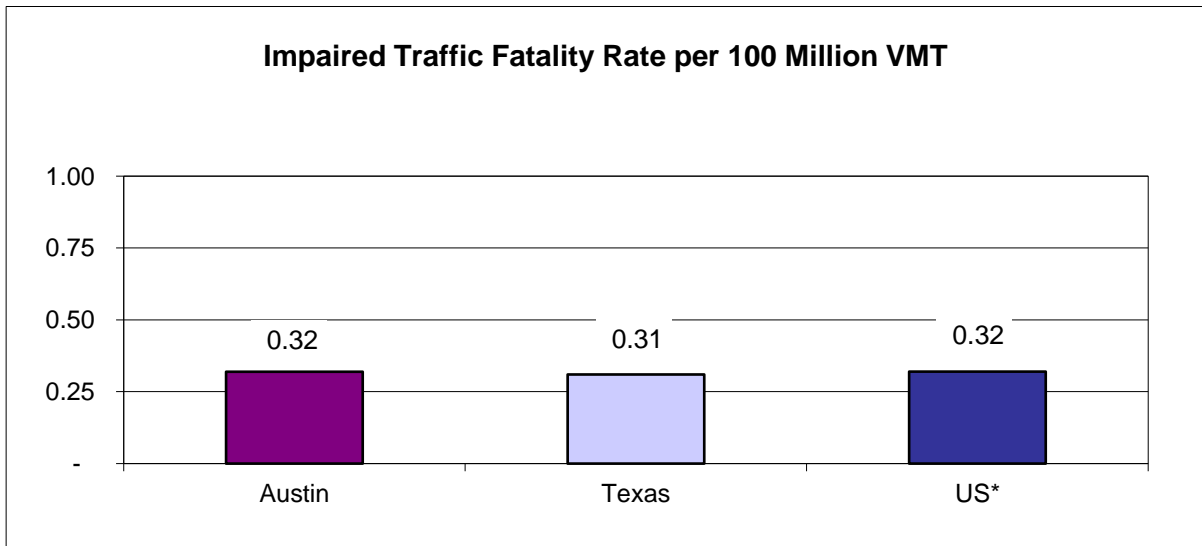
Of all fatalities in 2019, 31 (or 35%) involved an impaired driver, as compared with 27 (or 36%) in 2018. Of all pedestrian fatalities in 2019, 21 (or 58%) involved an impaired pedestrian, as compared with 19 (or 61%) in 2018.



In 2019, 19 fatal crashes (or 22%) involved speed, as compared with 11 (or 15%) in 2018. In 2019, 37 fatal crashes (or 43%) occurred on freeways (IH-35, Mo-Pac, US Hwy 183, and State Hwy 71/290 West), as compared to 37 (or 51%) in 2018.



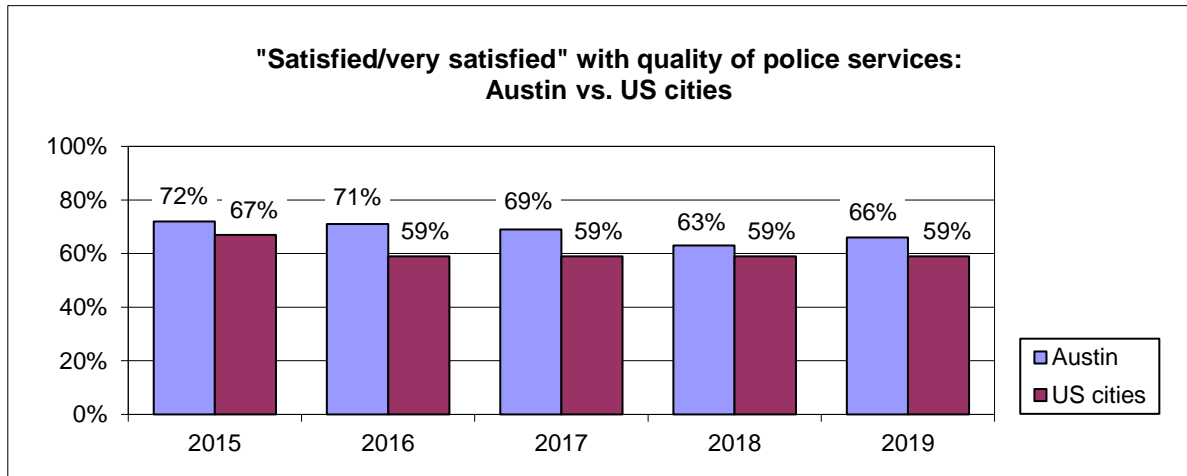
Austin's rate of traffic fatalities involving driver alcohol impairment is 0.32 per 100 Million VMT. That rate is higher than the rate for Texas (0.31), and the same as the rate for the US (0.32).



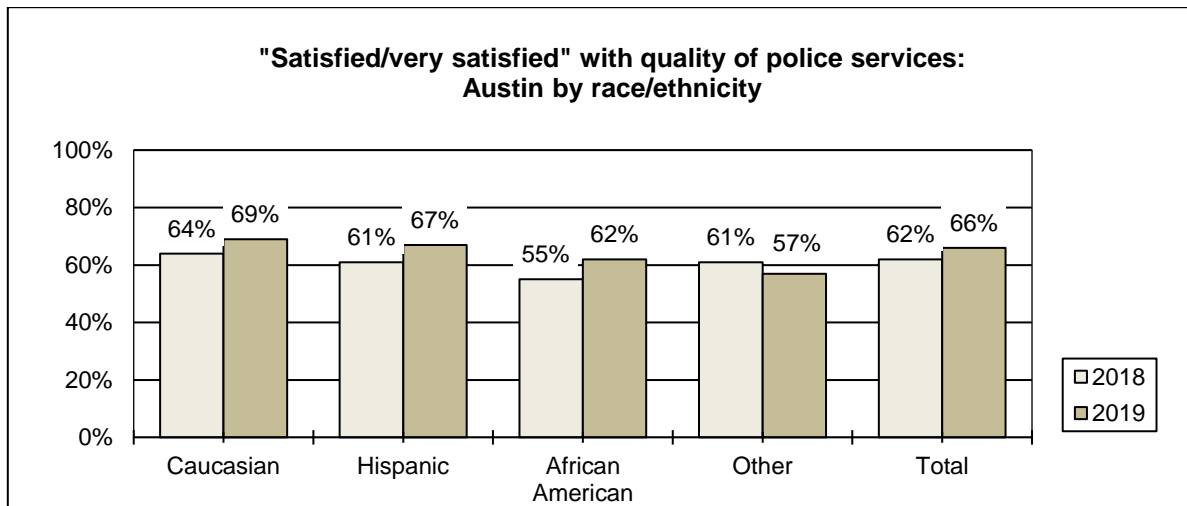
* 2018 US statistics are the most current data available from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Perception of Safety

In 2019, the result for overall satisfaction with the quality of police services (66%) was up from 2018 (63%) and remained seven percentage points above other US cities surveyed.



The chart below shows Austin's results by race/ethnicity for 2018 and 2019. Satisfaction with APD's overall quality of service saw a slight increase among Caucasians, Hispanics, and African Americans, while satisfaction as reported by "other" group went down by four percentage points. APD is committed to improving relationships throughout our community.



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