



BETTER SAFE

Community Outreach Campaign

Greater Austin Crime Commission

FALL 2020

In August, the Austin City Council made substantial cuts to the police department's budget.

- More than \$21 million was moved to other programs and services, and 150 officer positions and funding for fiscal year 2021 cadet classes were eliminated.
- An additional \$128.8 million was placed in a “transition budget” to identify other police functions and services that can be cut or moved.
- A city-community task force will consider the “transition budget” and make recommendations to the city council in six months or less.

This fall, the Greater Austin Crime Commission and a coalition of business and community groups will urge the Austin City Council to:

- Restart police cadet classes.
- Restore police positions cut by canceled cadet classes.
- Resume police staffing plan implementation.
- Carefully consider additional cuts to police functions and services.
- Promote alternative responses to improve outcomes and reduce police workload (for example, homelessness and mental health calls).

Crime in Austin

Crime has increased during the first seven months of this year.

	Current YTD	Last Year YTD	Percent Change
Murder	29	19	53%
Auto Theft	2,125	1,617	31%
Arson	76	62	23%
Aggravated Assault	1,748	1,497	17%
Building Theft	216	194	11%
Robbery	623	570	9%
Burglary	2,512	2,328	8%
Vandalism	4,252	4,063	5%

Source: Austin Police Department

National Rankings

According to the latest FBI rankings, Austin is the fifth-safest large city, but dropped from 11th to 18th in property crime.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Austin's ranking among the safest major US cities on violent crime	2	2	4	5	5	5
Austin's ranking among the safest major US cities on property crime	21	17	17	13	11	18

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation

Citywide Violent Crime

Aggravated assaults, individual robberies, and business robberies were up last year.

Violent Crime	2018 Total	2019 Total	Percent Increase
Homicide	31	32	3%
Rape	698	515	-26%
Bank Robbery	25	19	-24%
Business Robbery	245	249	2%
Individual Robbery	747	794	6%
Aggravated Assault no FV	1,019	1,168	15%
Aggravated Assault FV	1,109	1,099	-1%
Total Pt I Violent	3,874	3,877	0%

*Family Violence (FV)

Source: Austin Police Department

Citywide Property Crime

Burglary non-residential, auto theft, burglary of vehicle, and other theft were up last year.

Property Crime	2018 Total	2019 Total	Percent Change
Burglary (non-residential)	1,974	2,241	14%
Burglary (residential)	2,211	1,976	-11%
Auto Theft	2,432	2,938	21%
Burglary of Vehicle	10,985	12,173	11%
Other Theft	15,527	16,416	6%
Total Pt I Property	33,129	35,744	8%

Source: Austin Police Department

Emergency and Urgent Call Response Times

Police response times increased for at least the eighth consecutive year (up 28% overall since 2011).

	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
Total police response time for EMERGENCY and URGENT calls	6:45	7:19	7:30	7:45	8:04	8:04	8:18	8:40

Source: Austin Police Department

Traffic Fatalities

In 2019, Austin had eighty-six traffic fatalities. Thirty-six were pedestrians. More than half of the pedestrians killed in 2019 were individuals experiencing homelessness.

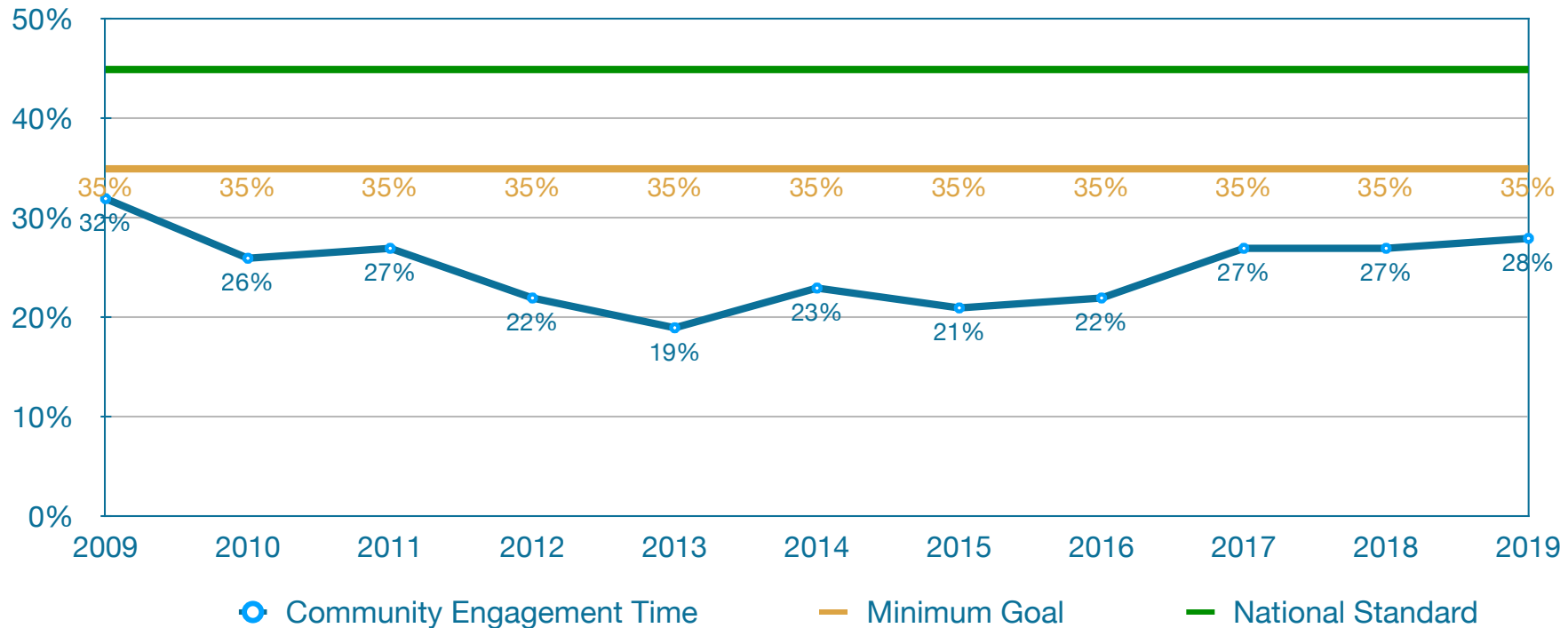
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Traffic Fatalities	78	75	63	102	79	76	74	88

Source: Austin Police Department

Community Policing (Engagement) Time

Last year, available community policing (engagement) time was 28%. The national standard is 35–45% and the community goal is 35%.*

Community Engagement Time vs. 35% Minimum Goal vs. 45% National Standard



*Business, community, and neighborhood groups endorsed the goal of achieving 35 percent community policing (engagement) time in 2017. Source: Austin Police Department



Join the Neighborhood Network austincrime.org.

Follow the Greater Austin Crime Commission on
Facebook (@CrimeComm) and Twitter (@gacc97).
For more information, email info@austincrime.org.