



MEMORANDUM

Austin Police Department *Office of the Chief*

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Art Acevedo, Chief of Police

DATE: May 30, 2013

SUBJECT: CIUR 956 Firearms Report

The City Council passed Resolution 20130228-035 based on concerns about gun violence. The resolution language includes direction to the City Manager to explore methods for collecting data about the use of firearms in the commission of a crime.

In response, the Austin Police Department has compiled data into a report about trends in gun violence. That report is attached for your review. Based on nationwide statistics collected by the FBI, Austin remains one of the safest U.S. cities of our size. This fact is reflected in the comparatively small number of crimes that involve a firearm.

Please contact me or my staff should you have any questions.

H. A. ACEVEDO
Chief of Police

cc: Marc Ott, City Manager
Michael McDonald, Deputy City Manager

Attachments

An Analysis of Gun Violence in Austin 2010 - 2012

Prepared by the Austin Police Department
Crime Analysis Unit
May 30, 2013

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Introduction

There is currently no definitive method to evaluate the level of gun violence in Austin or any other municipality. The results of an analysis about the use of firearms in the commission of a crime will vary greatly depending on the practicality of tracking information required to establish a data set, the criteria used for the analysis and the availability of ever-changing statistics.

The Austin Police Department worked to gather comparative data from other cities regarding firearms used in a crime. The ten police departments APD polled were unable to provide accurate statistics because there is no law enforcement standard for what constitutes gun violence nor is there a requirement for reporting it. As a result, many law enforcement agencies simply do not compile the data.

The information provided in this report represents a particular point in time and cannot reflect the dynamic nature of illegal activity. As a result, we have limited this report to reflect the use of firearms in Part I violent offenses (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault), and disorderly conduct offenses (DOC) involving firearms.

Austin Police Department Disclaimers

1. The data provided is for informational use only and is not considered official APD crime data as in official Texas DPS or FBI crime reports.
2. APD's crime database is continuously updated, so reports run at different times may produce different results. Care should be taken when comparing against other reports as different data collection methods and different data sources may have been used.
3. The Austin Police Department does not assume any liability for any decision made or action taken or not taken by the recipient in reliance upon any information or data provided.
4. The data for Part I offenses and DOC offenses was mined using APD's Record Management System (RMS). *There were numerous cases in which no weapon data was available in the RMS.*

Maps:

The maps in this report have been produced by the Austin Police Department's Crime Analysis Unit for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made for their accuracy or completeness.

Executive Summary

An analysis of Austin Police Department's Part I violent offenses and disorderly conduct (DOC) gun offenses from 2010 through 2012 provide some degree of insight into gun violence in Austin. This report includes charts, graphs, maps and tables with additional details about the data used to draw the following conclusions:

- The percentage of all cases involving guns was relatively consistent during the three year period and showed a range between 22.5% and 24.7%.
- The highest percentage of cases involving guns were murder (39.8%) and robbery (37.8%). Firearms were used in 2.8% of rape cases.
- Across the three years:
 - There was significant fluctuation in the number of murder cases involving guns.
 - The number of robbery cases involving guns showed a steady decline.
 - The number of aggravated assaults committed using a firearm remained relatively consistent.
 - Handguns were the most common type of firearm used among homicides, robberies and aggravated assaults.
 - The number of disorderly conduct violations involving the discharge of a weapon in a public place increased over the three year period.
- A mapping analysis of robberies, aggravated assaults and disorderly conduct offenses showed little change from year to year. The concentration of these three violations were similar to one another and occurred in the same areas of Austin.

Analysis

Part I Violent Offenses: Gun Violence in Context

- From 2010-2012, there were 9,953 reports of Part I offenses filed with APD. There were guns involved in 2,323 (23.3%) of the offenses.

	Guns	Total	Gun Percent
2010-2012 Total	2323	9953	23.3%

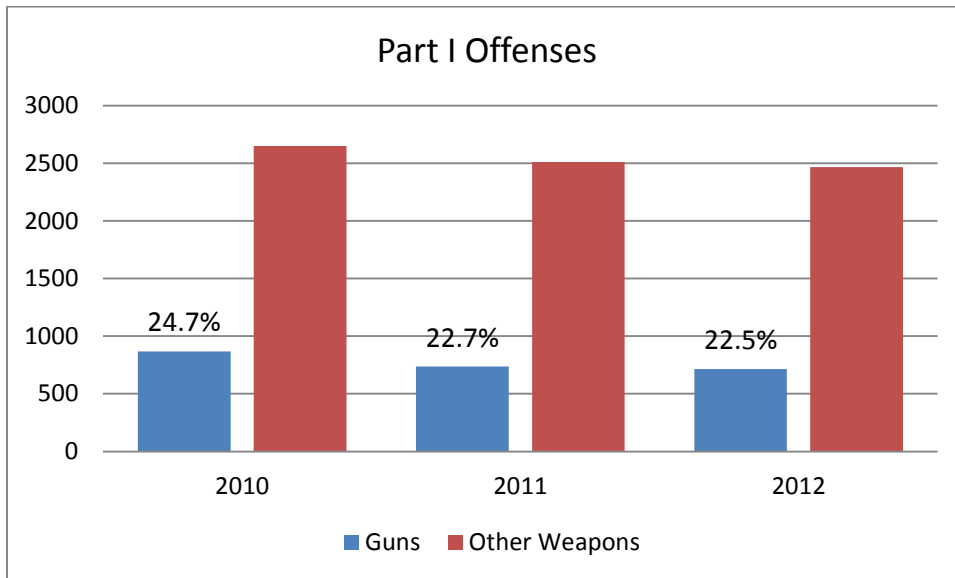
- The annual breakdown demonstrated a relatively consistent percentage of cases involving firearms.

	Guns	Total	Gun Percent
2010	869	3520	24.7%
2011	738	3249	22.7%
2012	716	3184	22.5%

	Total
Automatic Handgun	278
Handgun	1589
Automatic Shotgun	8
Shotgun	85
Automatic Rifle	7
Rifle	39
Automatic Firearm (type not stated)	29
Firearm (type not stated)	288

NOTE: "Automatic" includes semi-automatic as well as fully automatic. The vast majority of the cases with a gun type of "automatic" involve semi-automatic guns.

Part I Violent Offenses



Part I Violent Offenses: Gun Violence by Offense Type

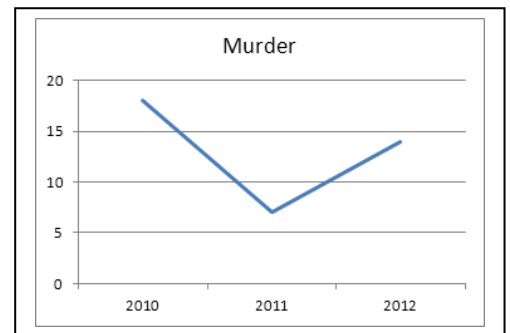
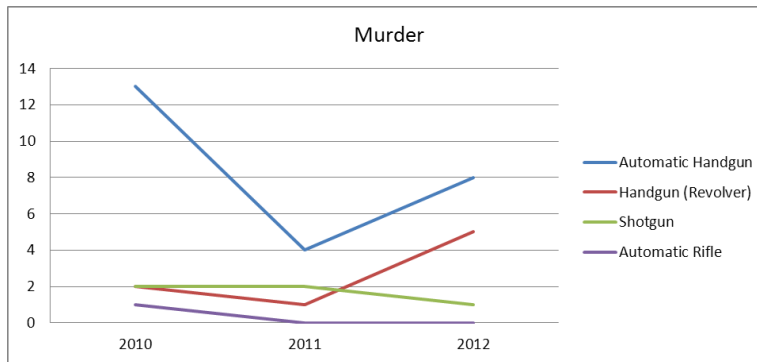
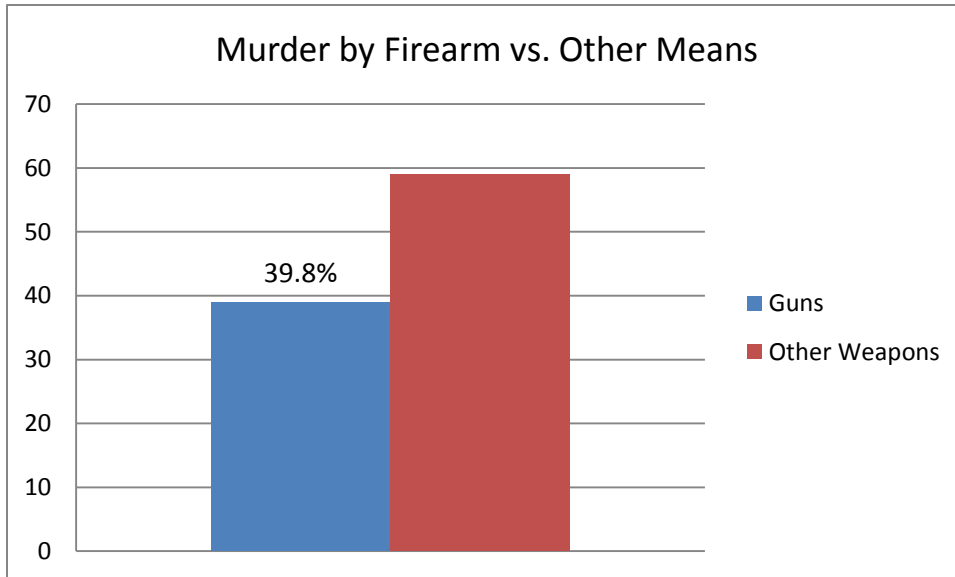
- Homicides and robbery crimes involved guns more frequently than any other offense studied in this report.

	Guns	Total	Gun Percent
Murder	39	98	39.8%
Rape	19	675	2.8%
Robbery	1245	3296	37.8%
Aggravated Assault	1020	5884	17.3%

	2010	2011	2012
Murder	18	7	14
Rape	6	8	5
Robbery	501	402	342
Aggravated Assault	344	321	355

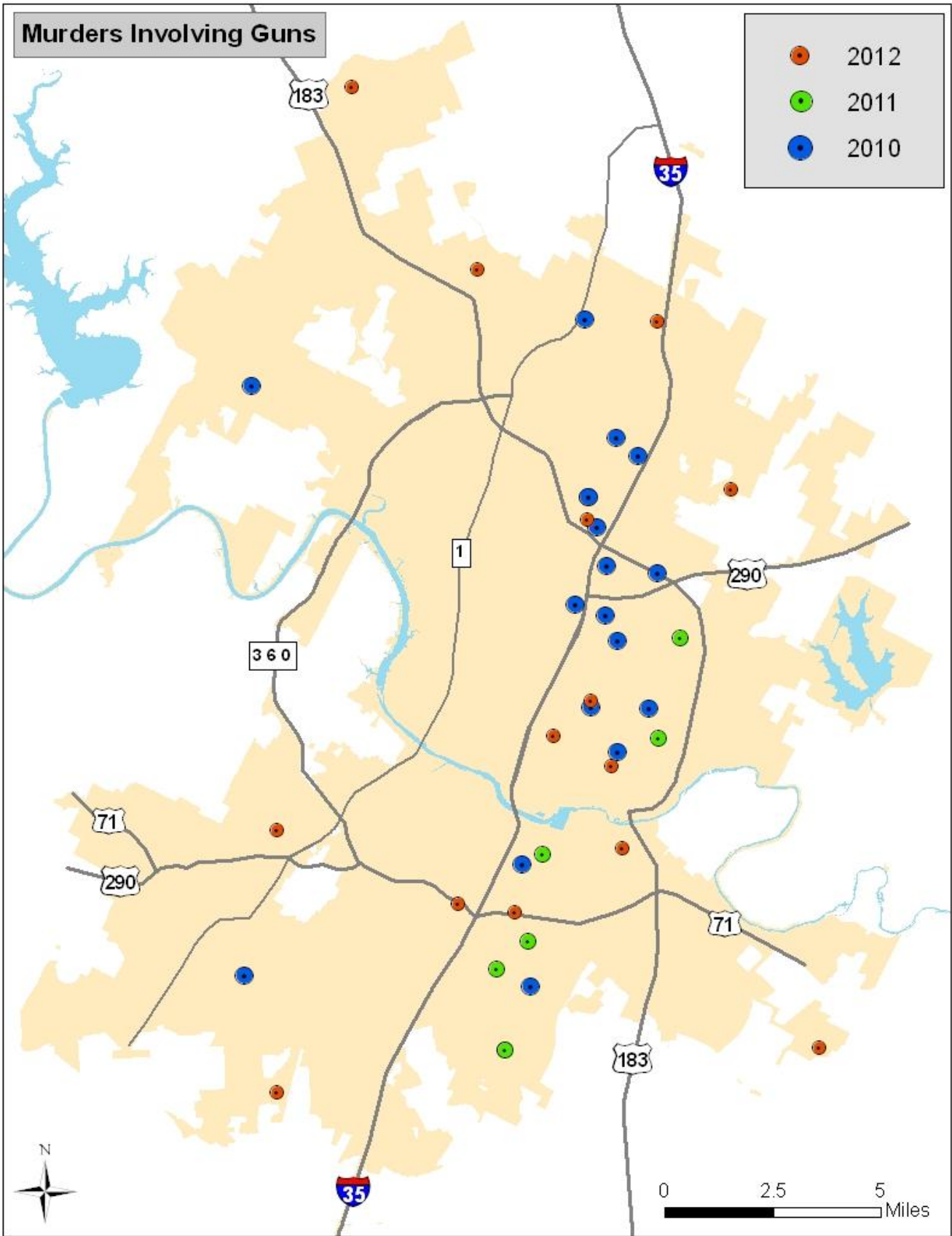
Murder

There were 98 murders from 2010-2012 - 39 of these were committed using a firearm (39.8%). The majority of these murders occurred east of the IH 35 corridor.



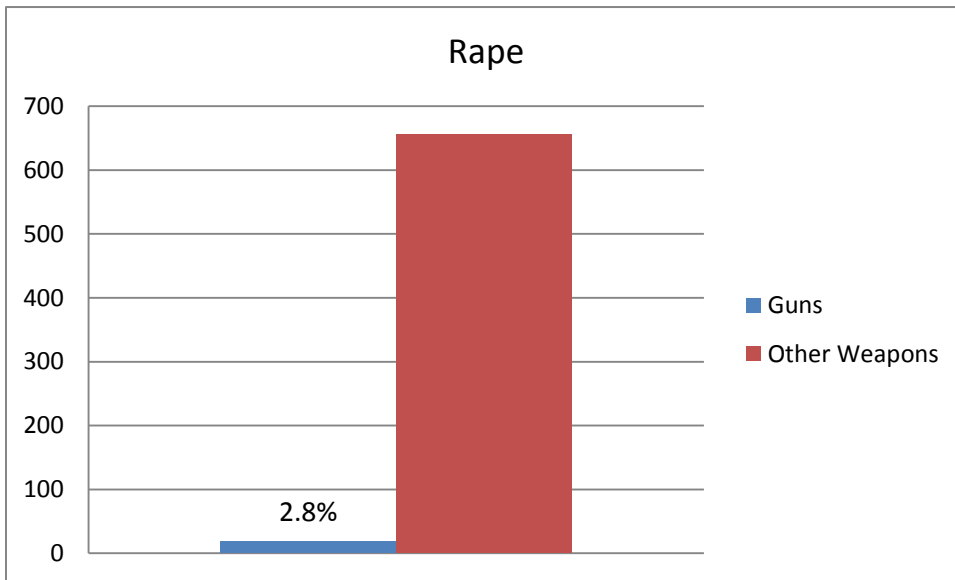
Yearly Breakdown of Firearms used in Murders:

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Automatic Handgun	13	4	8
Handgun (Revolver)	2	1	5
Shotgun	2	2	1
Automatic Rifle	1	0	0



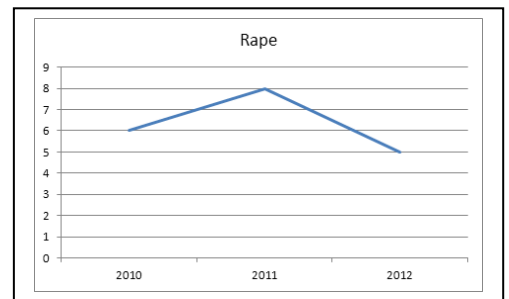
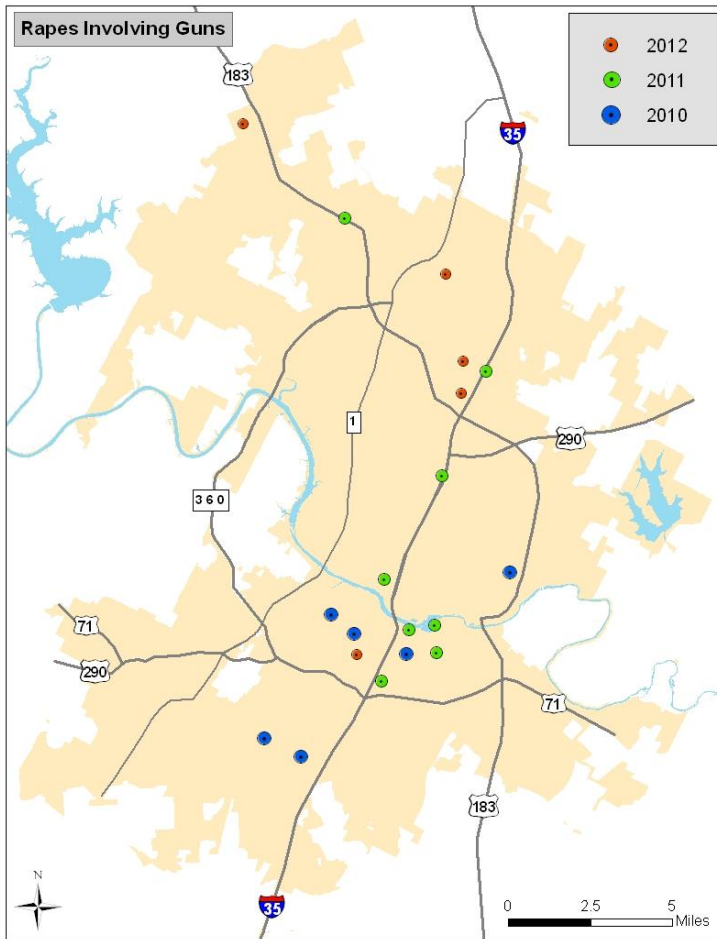
Rape

There were 675 reported rapes from 2010-2012 - 19 of these involved the use of a firearm (2.8%). Rapes involving guns occurred primarily in central and south Austin.



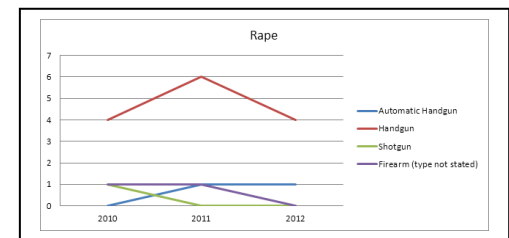
Firearms used in rapes remains very low over a three year period:

2010: 6
2011: 8
2012: 5



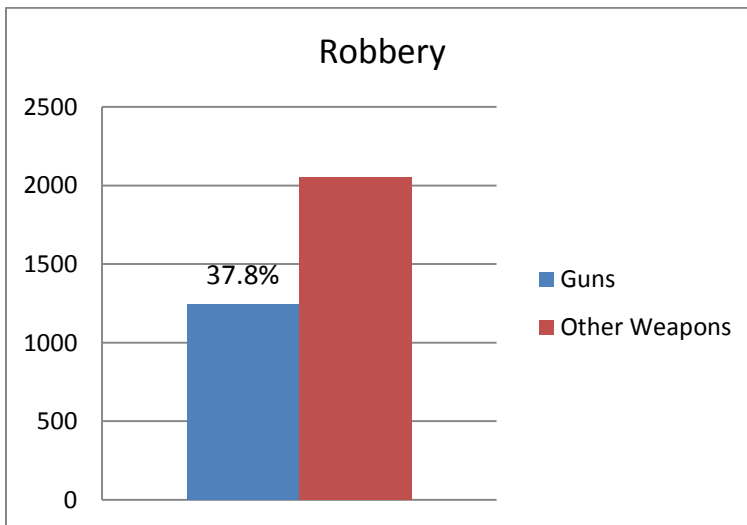
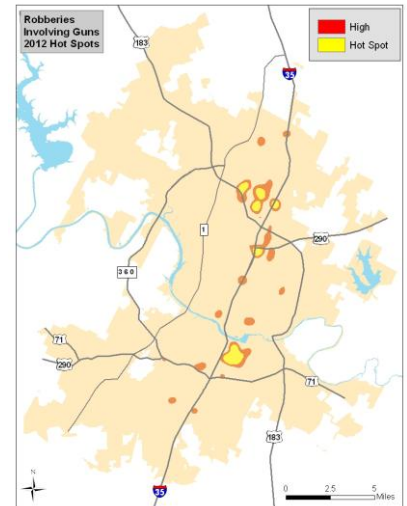
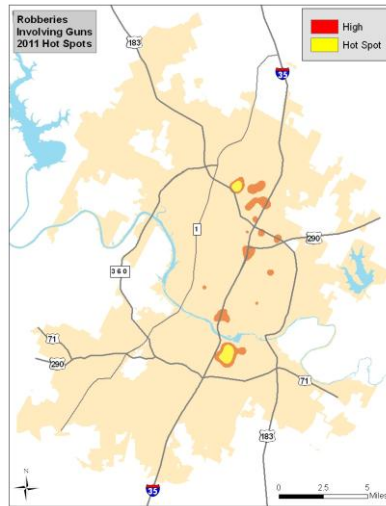
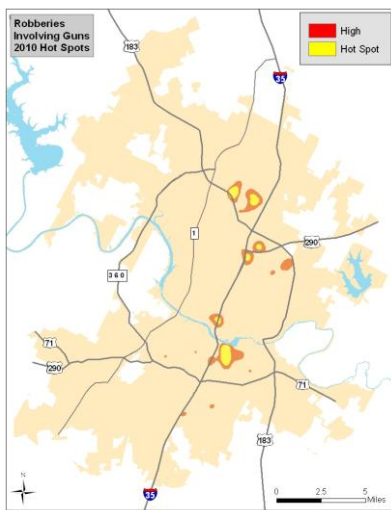
Type of Firearm Used in Rape

	2010	2011	2012
Auto Handgun	0	1	1
Handgun	4	6	4
Shotgun	1	0	0
Type not stated	1	1	0

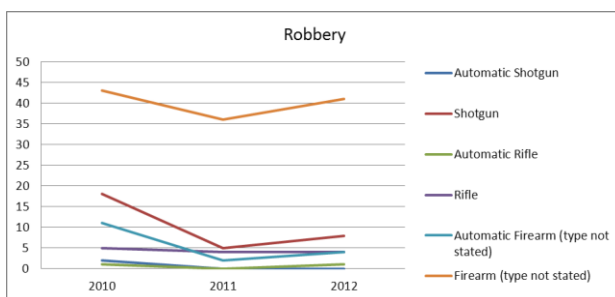
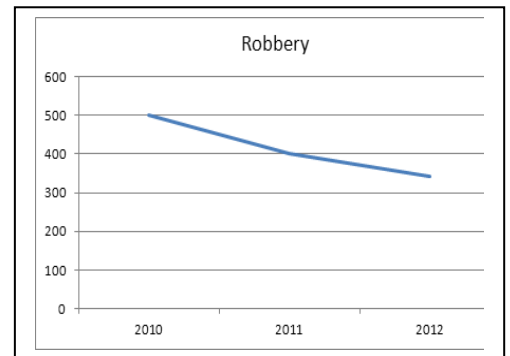


Robbery

There were 3,296 robberies in Austin from 2010-2012 - 37.8% (1,245) of these were committed using a firearm. Robberies involving guns declined over the three year period. However, the maps below demonstrate that the geographic concentration of robberies was relatively consistent.



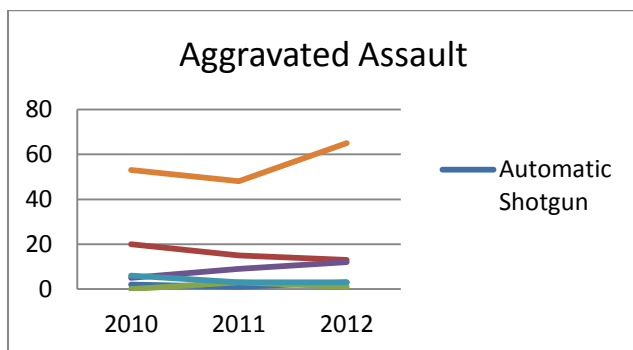
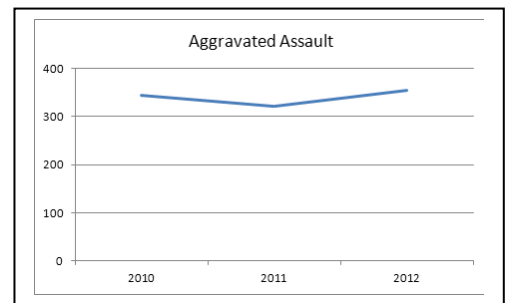
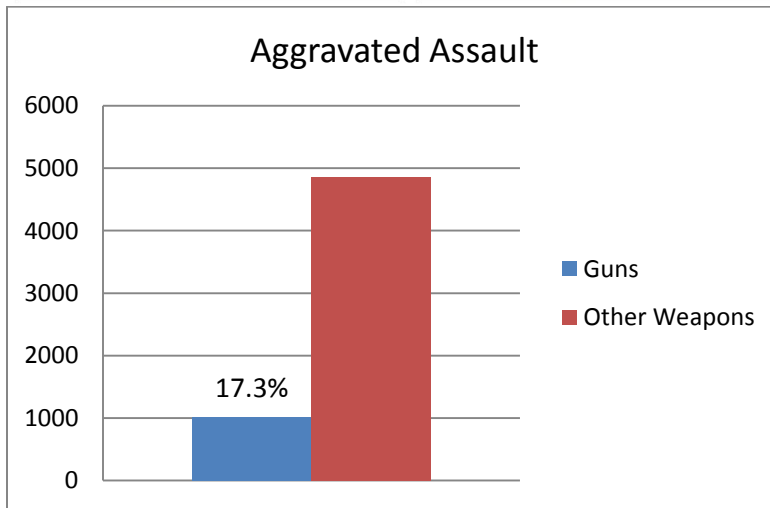
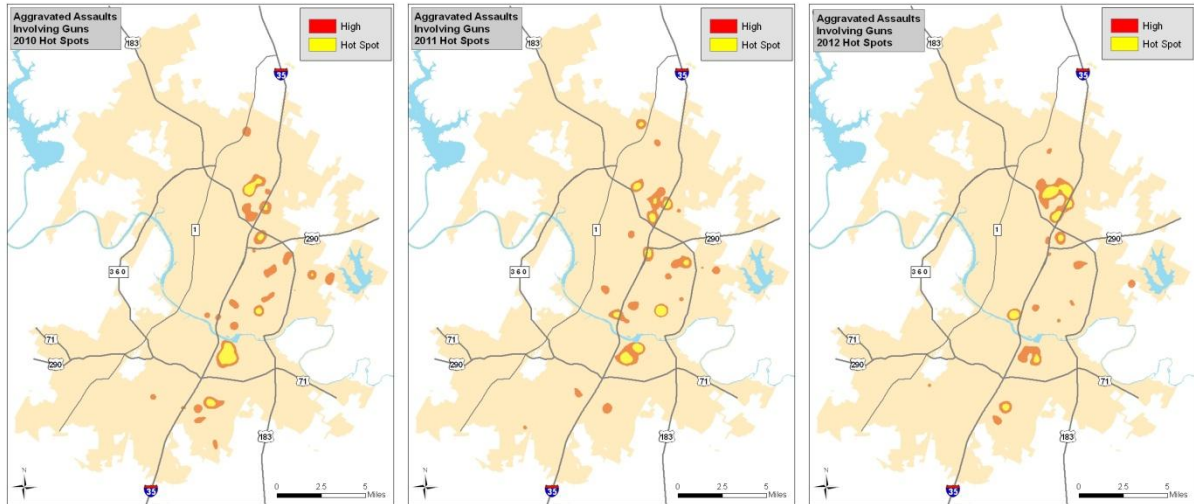
Robberies by Year:			
Year	2010	2011	2012
	501	402	432



Type of Firearm Used in Robberies			
	2010	2011	2012
Automatic Handgun	74	47	37
Handgun	347	308	247
Automatic Shotgun	2	0	0
Shotgun	18	5	8
Automatic Rifle	1	0	1
Rifle	5	4	4
Auto Firearm (type not stated)	11	2	4
Firearm (type not stated)	43	36	41

Aggravated Assault

There were 5,884 aggravated assault cases from 2010-2012 - 17% (1,020) involved a firearm. The maps below demonstrate that the annual geographic concentration of aggravated assaults remained relatively consistent.



<u>Type of Firearm Used in Aggravated Assault</u>			
	2010	2011	2012
Automatic Handgun	26	33	34
Handgun	232	209	224
Automatic Shotgun	2	1	3
Shotgun	20	15	13
Automatic Rifle	0	3	1
Rifle	5	9	12
Auto Firearm (type not stated)	6	3	3
Firearm (type not stated)	53	48	65

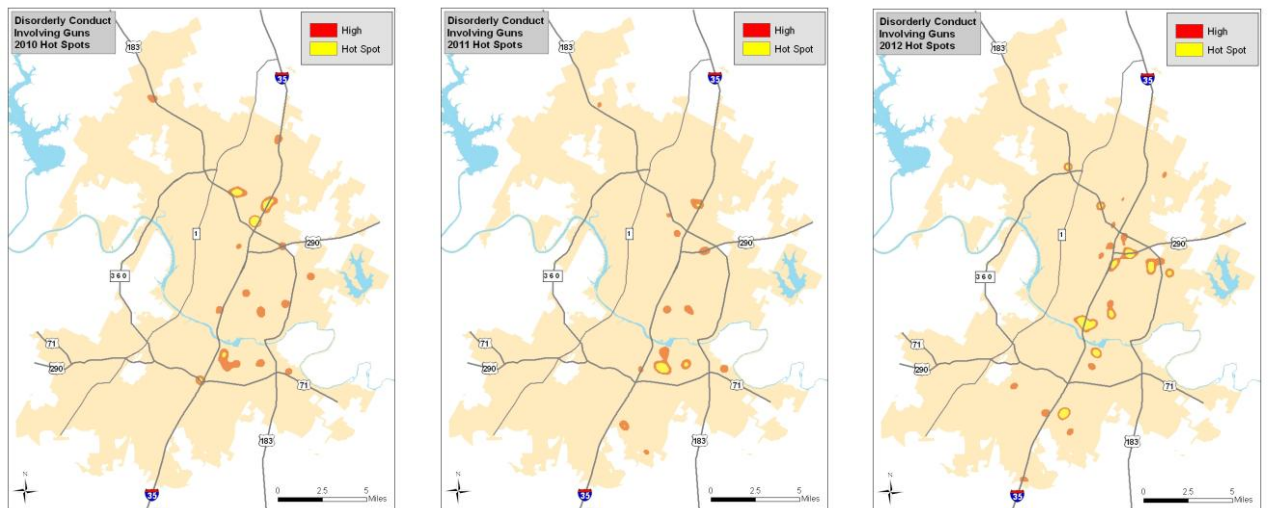
Disorderly Conduct Offenses: Number of Offenses

APD statistics showed 284 disorderly conduct offenses recorded during the three year period. While the number of offenses fluctuated slightly from year to year, the disorderly conduct-display of a gun in a public place was the most common offense. The department does not have data available to offer a breakdown by weapon type, but the yearly variation in each offense type indicated:

- There was an upward trend in the number of disorderly conduct - discharge of a gun in a public place.
- The number of cases for disorderly conduct – discharge of a gun on a public roadway remained stable.
- There was significant fluctuation in the number of disorderly conduct – display of a firearm in a public place cases.

Disorderly Conduct Offenses: Cases by Location

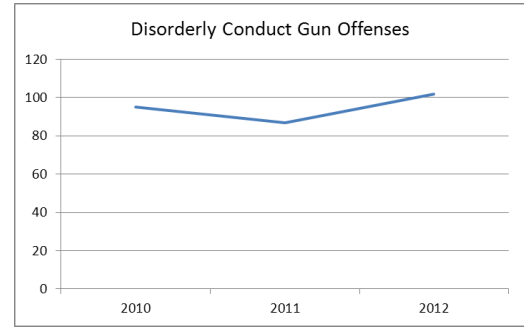
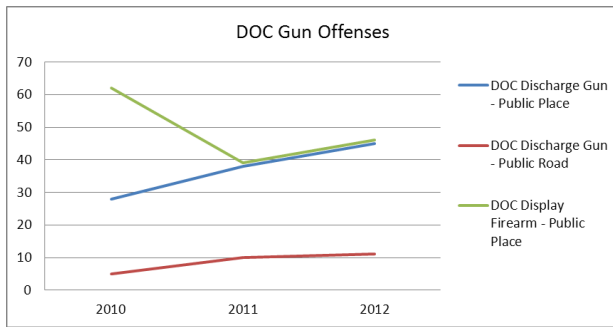
A mapping analysis showed that concentrations of disorderly conduct violations occurred in areas where there were also concentrations of robberies and aggravated assaults.



Disorderly Conduct Offenses: By Offense Type

	2010	2011	2012
DOC Discharge Gun - Public Place	28	38	45
DOC Discharge Gun - Public Road	5	10	11
DOC Display Firearm - Public Place	62	39	46

DOC Gun Offenses	
	Total
2010	95
2011	87
2012	102



Conclusions

1. Austin remains the third safest city according to UCR data:

- Austin's violent crime rate of 420 per 100,000 residents declined 2% as compared with 2011 and is at a 20-year low.
- The rate of reported rapes (26 per 100,000 residents) is unchanged from last year's rate and represents an historical low.
- The robbery rate of 120 per 100,000 residents reflects a 12% decline as compared with 2011 and is also at an historical low.

2. Crime incidents involving the use of a firearm remain relatively low for the City. As a result, the limited data makes it challenging to formulate effective preventative measures.

3. Tracking the use of firearms in crime remains a challenge for many cities including Austin.

4. In order to enhance the Department's capabilities, APD is finalizing a business intelligence needs assessment and is requesting civilian staff with expertise in public safety analysis in the FY14 budget. This analytics package of software and personnel will greatly aid the Department in becoming a more data-driven organization.