

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Throughout Mayor Adler's term, Austinites proved time and time again their commitment to helping their neighbors and fellow Texans. We have all learned just how vital community support is to surviving hardship.

COVID

During the past three years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Austin has been committed to maintaining our communities' health and well-being. Austin Public Health worked to equitably distribute vaccines and to broadly address health disparities and inequities related to COVID-19 with a holistic and comprehensive approach.

Throughout the global devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic, Austin's economic recovery has also been of utmost importance. Mayor Adler continues to commit to recovering from the pandemic with strategies that are equitable, safe, and prosperous for everyone.

By the numbers:

- **Austin-Travis County has had the lowest COVID-19 death rate among all other major Texas cities and counties since the beginning of the pandemic.**
- According to UT modeling, **if the state had adopted Austin-Travis County's COVID-19 guidelines and policies, over 50% of those who died** from COVID-19 in Texas **would be alive today.**
- Because of – not in spite of – our COVID-19 guidelines and policies, Austin made up all of 2020's pandemic-related job losses by May 2021 and **the metro ranks first for job growth since February 2020.**

(Source: [Statista](#); [Austin Chamber](#))

Winter Storm Uri

The February 2021 winter storm brought 164 hours of freezing temperatures and broke the Austin record for consecutive days of grounded snow. 69% of Texans (and 40% of

Austin Energy customers) lost power. Across the state, 246 people lost their lives. In Austin, 28 lost their lives.

- The City was under a boil water notice for 6 days, with more than 1,500 emergency water-shutoffs and 700 traffic accidents.
- More than 1,000 people were provided shelter by the City.
- 120,000 meals were distributed by Austin-Travis County and 50,000 additional meals were provided by community partners.

The after-action report for 2021 Winter Storm Uri was released to the public on November 4th. The report offered 132 recommendations to ensure the community is better prepared and better served for the next major emergency. Austin Energy and Austin Water also conducted internal assessments of their infrastructure, operations, and communications during the event.

(Source: data.austintexas.gov; [Texas Comptroller](#))

Floods and Drought

As the effects of global warming and climate change increasingly impact day-to-day life, Austin has experienced an unprecedented number of floods and droughts.

- In 2015, major flooding occurred around Memorial Day, leading to 50 closed roadways in Austin and almost 500 total in the surrounding areas.
- In 2018, the Llano River flooded, leading to a bridge collapse, flooding, and at least one death.
- In 2019, it rained more than 7 inches in the span of a few hours, leading to flash floods around the city.
- Currently, the City of Austin is in Stage One of our drought contingency plan, triggered by lower-than-normal levels of water storage. The city has only seen 12.13 inches of rain all year, eight inches less than what we had received by this time last year.

In May 2020, the Austin City Council passed a resolution asking the City Manager to hire a Chief Resiliency Officer and staff a Resilience Office to help the City better craft their preparation and response to crises around the city, especially surrounding climate change and the acute stresses it causes. In 2022, a CRO was hired and started to work on building resilience for our city.

(Source: [CoA](#))