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**infoSEGURA**

# **BELIZE CITIZEN SECURITY ANALYSIS (2021-2022)**

*Key indicators and other highlights*

Belize Crime Observatory, June 2022

 [www.infosegura.org](http://www.infosegura.org)

# This presentation focuses on the following:

Major Crimes Summary

Homicides

Gender-related Violence

- Femicides
- Sexual Violence
- Domestic Violence

Property Crimes

Incarceration

Road Traffic Fatalities

Suicides

# KEY CITIZEN SECURITY INDICATORS

29.06

incidents per 100,000 population in 2021



**MURDER RATE**

179.69

cases per 100,000 population in 2021



**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RATE\***

335.20

inmates per 100,000 population in 2021



**INCARCERATION RATE**

10.23

autopsies per 100,000 population in 2021



**SUICIDE RATE**



**Overall crimes &  
offences were  
down in 2021**

**Major Crimes**

- Murder
- Rape
- Robbery
- Burglary
- Theft
- Unlawful Sexual Intercourse

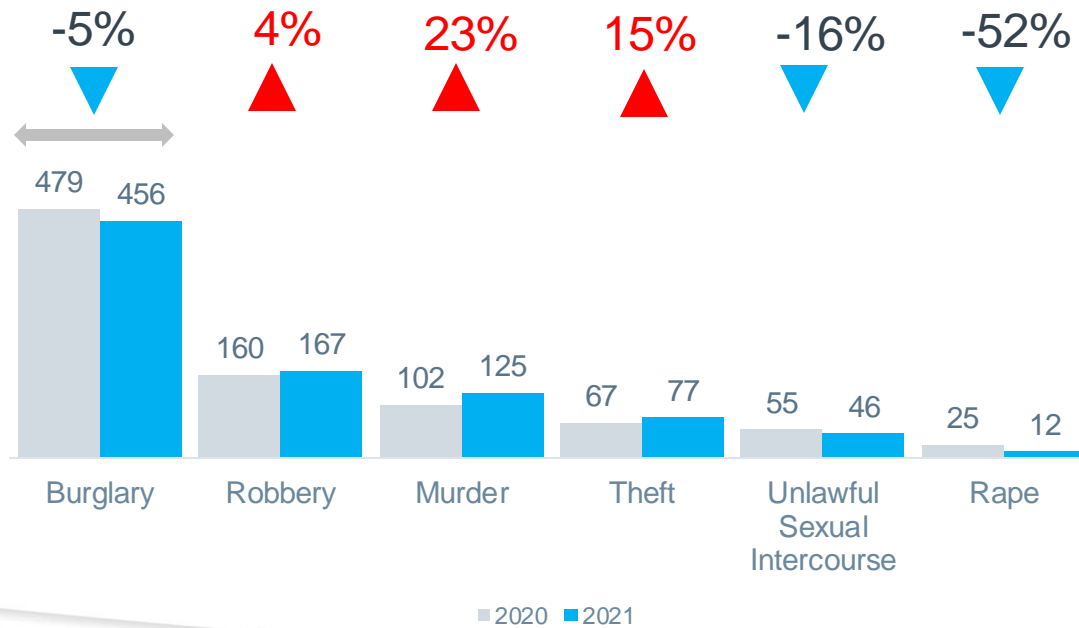
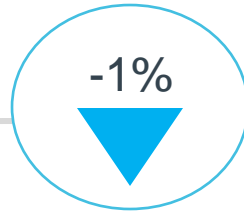
**Some other  
prevalent crimes  
and offences**

- Common Assault
- Breach of Protection Order
- Assaulting a Police Officer
- Public Drinking
- Using Insulting Words
- Using Threatening Words
- Sexual Assault
- Damage To Property
- Wounding
- Aggravated Assault
- Harm

# MAJOR CRIMES SUMMARY

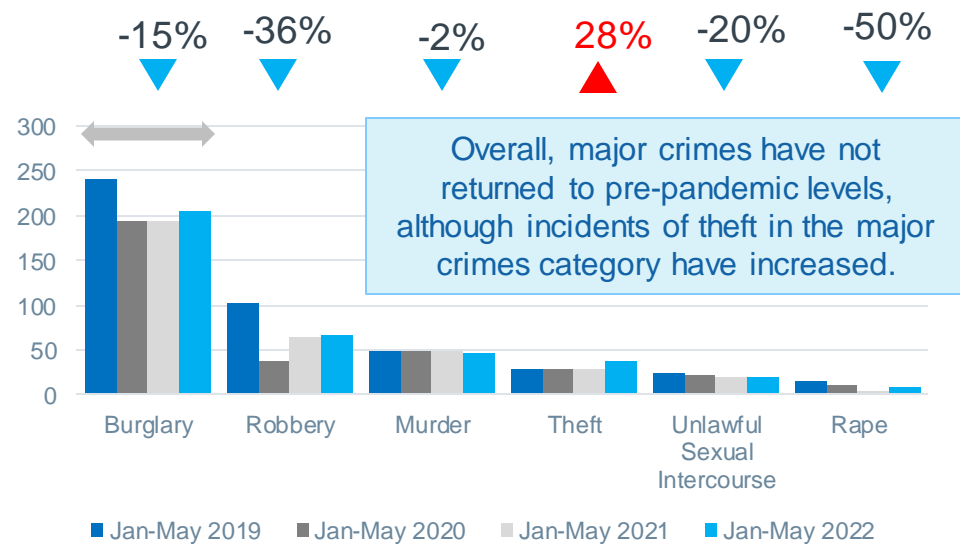
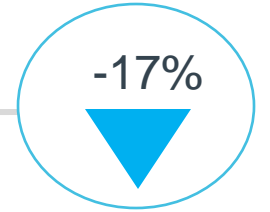
## Change in Major Crimes

Absolute change and percent change, 2021 vs 2020



## Change in Major Crimes

(First 5 months, 2019 vs 2022)

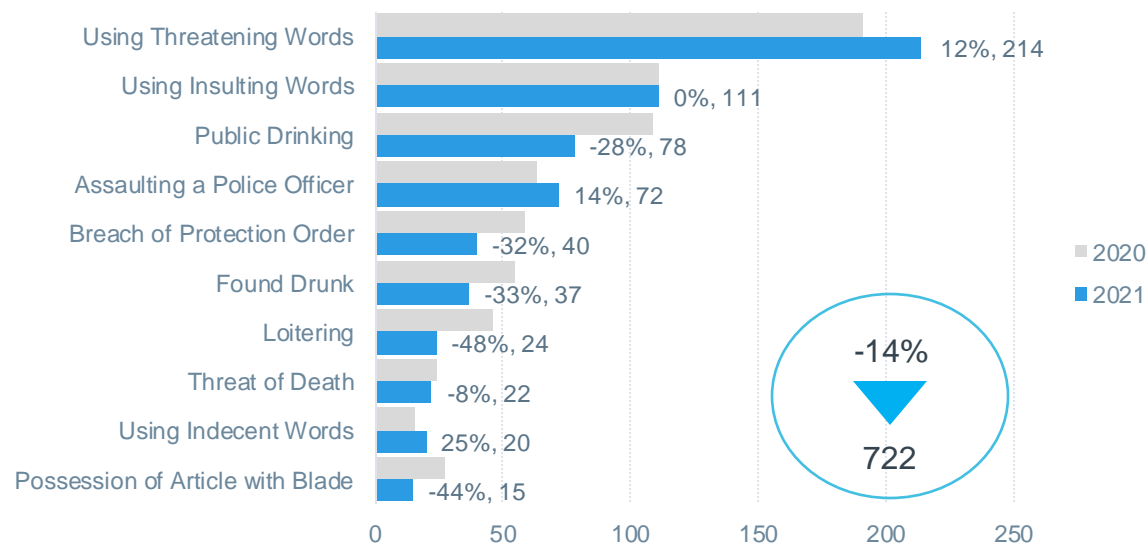


Overall, major crimes have not returned to pre-pandemic levels, although incidents of theft in the major crimes category have increased.

# SUMMARY FOR OTHER CRIMES

## Top 10 Summary Jurisdiction Offences\*

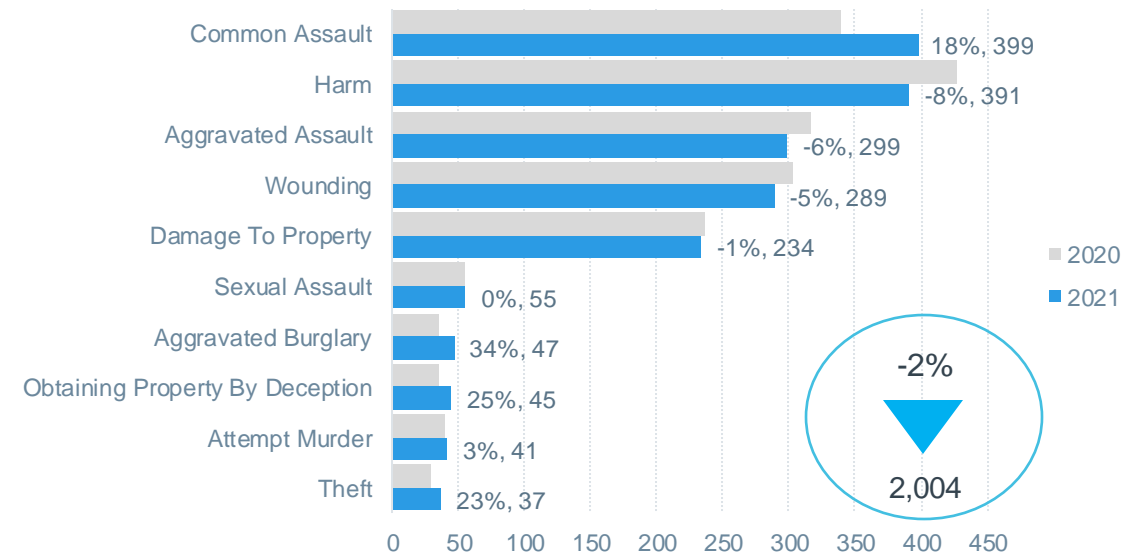
Absolute change and percent change, 2021 vs 2020



\*"Summary Jurisdiction Offences" refers to offences defined under Belize's Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Act

## Top 10 Other Offences

Absolute change and percent change, 2021 vs 2020



The cases of theft here are for items valued less than BZ\$5,000 or US\$2,500, not included in the Major Crimes category

2021

# HOMICIDE RATES OF INFOSEGURA TARGET COUNTRIES



## RANKING

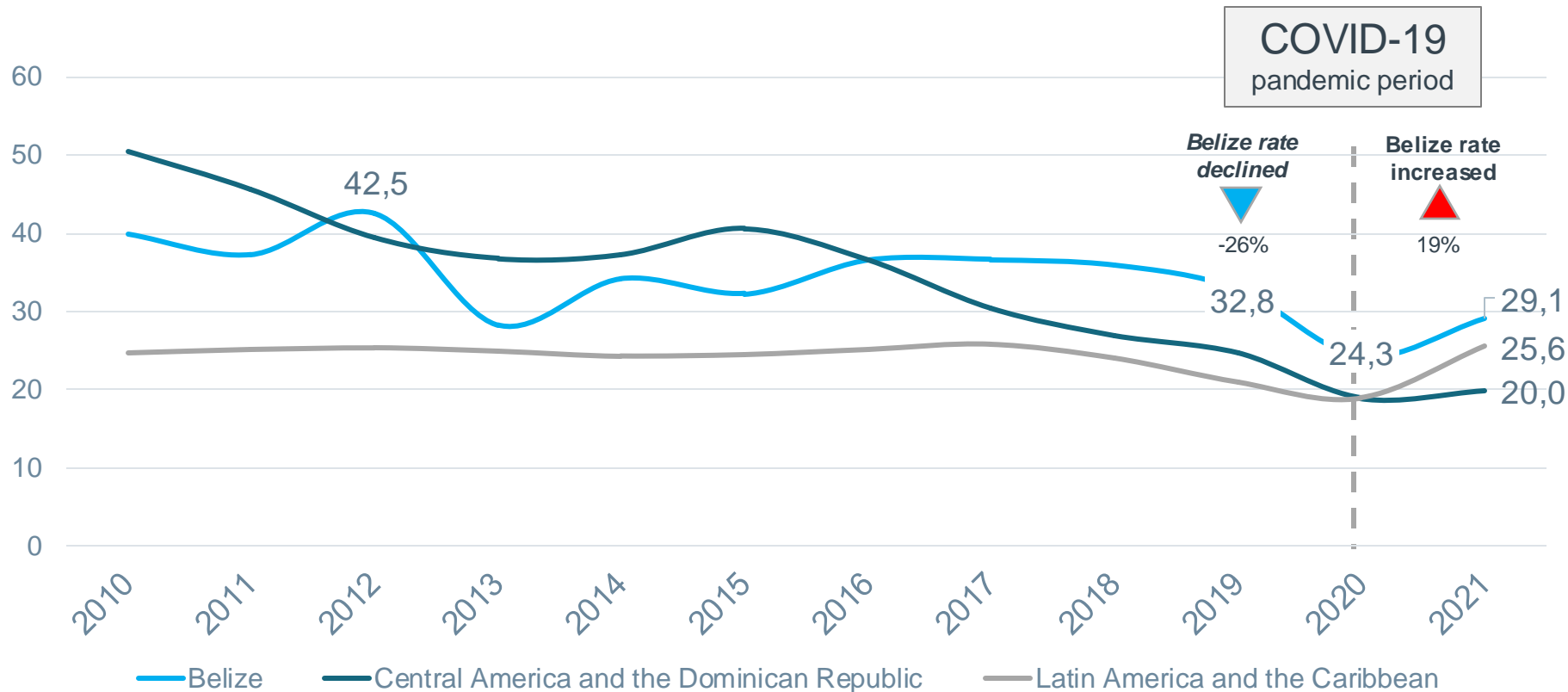
HIGH



LOW

- Honduras
- Belize**
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Costa Rica
- Dominican Republic

# Since 2017, Belize's murder rate has remained higher than the overall homicide rate quoted for InfoSegura target countries, as well as the LAC region



**432,516**  
BELIZE  
POPULATION  
*estimated Sept 2021*

The first national census **since 2010** commenced in May 2022



Data sources: Crime data: Belize Police Department | Demographic data: Statistical Institute of Belize | Regional data: InfoSegura

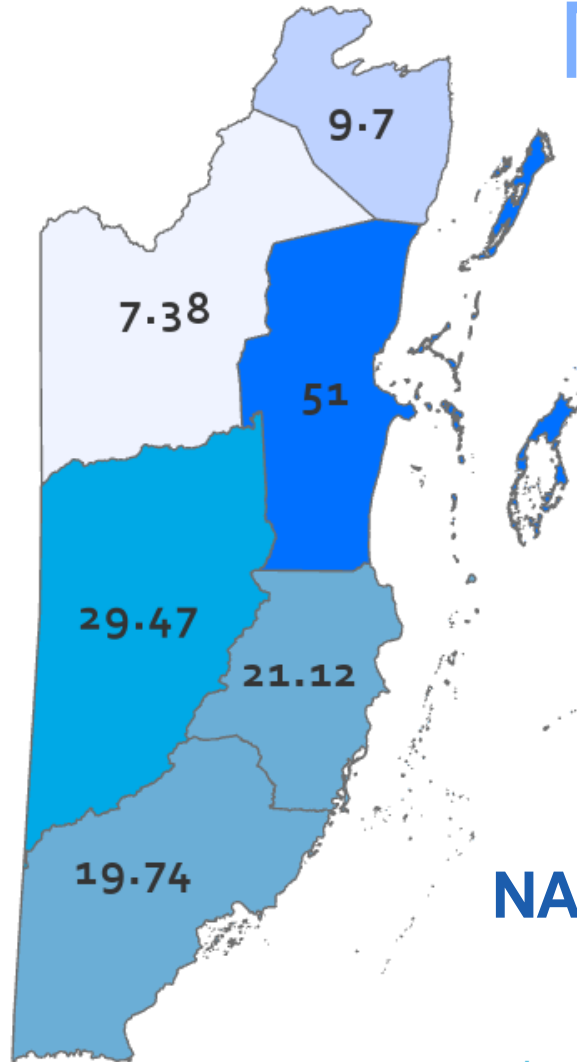




2021

# MURDER RATES

AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL



## RANKING

HIGH



LOW

- Belize
- Cayo
- Stann Creek
- Toledo
- Corozal
- Orange Walk

NATIONAL MURDER RATE

29.06

incidents per 100,000 population in 2021



SCAN ME



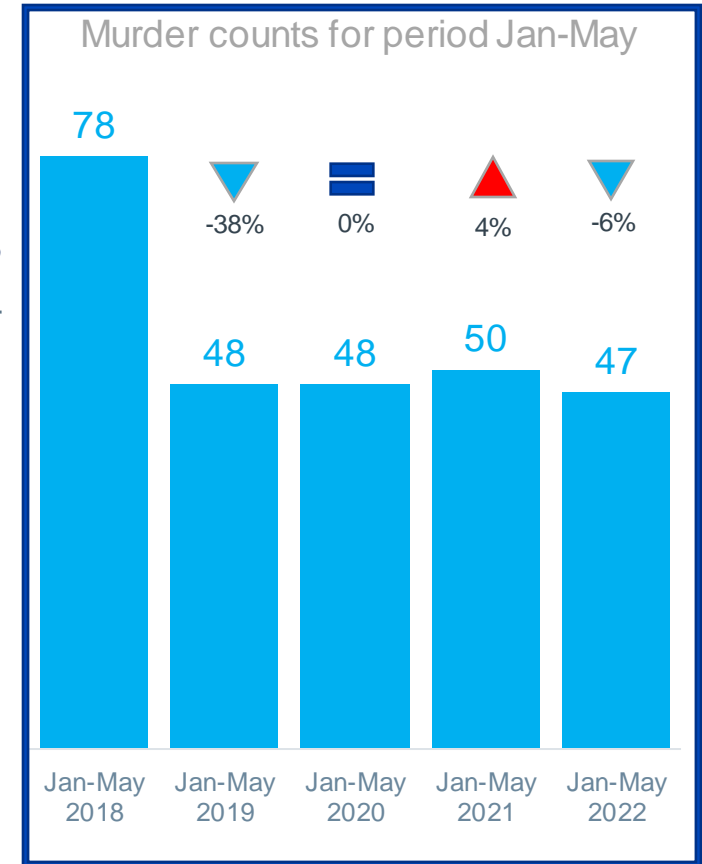
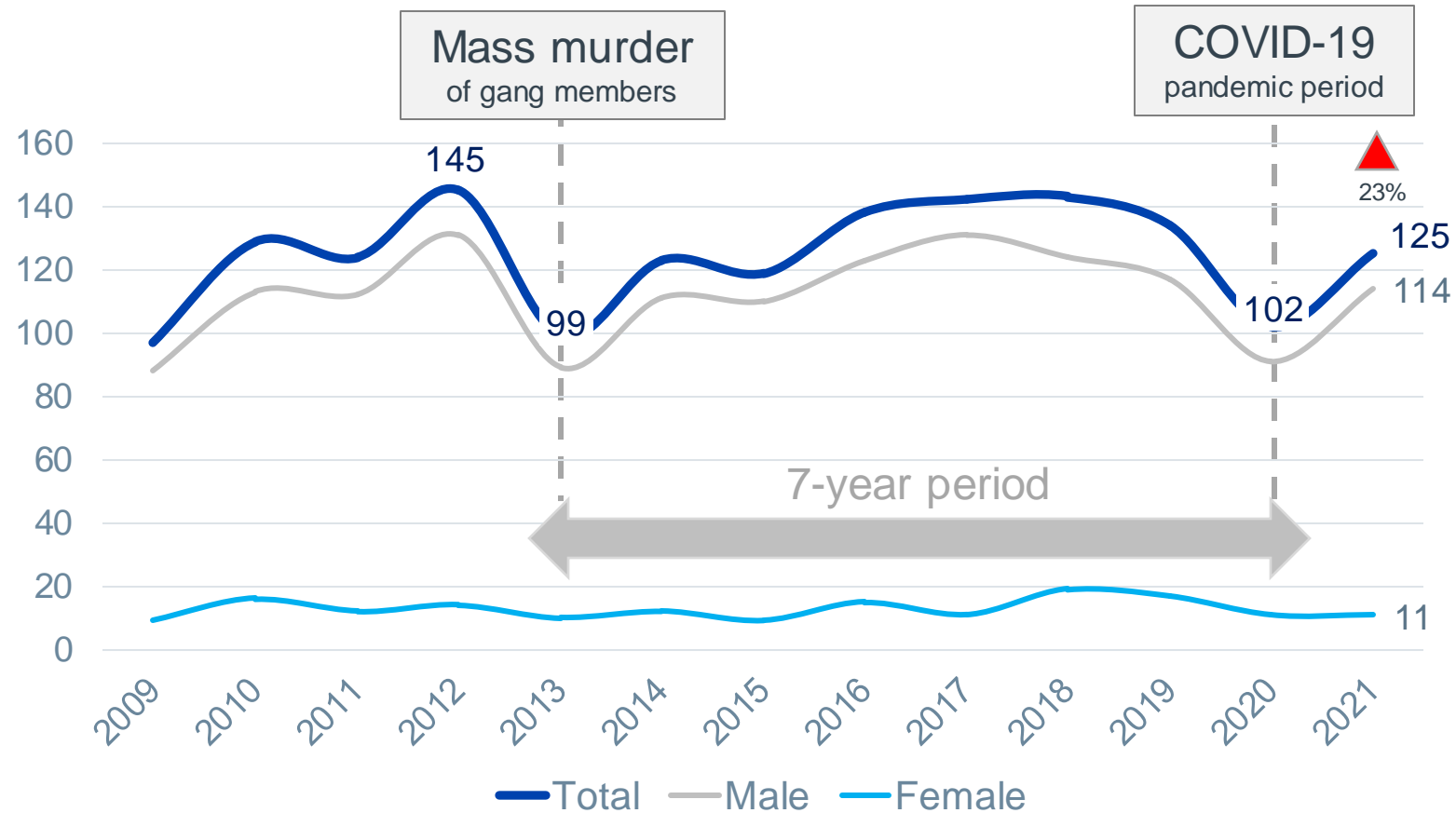
Belize's Murder Rate (2009-2021)

Rate per district: 2009-2021

Explore

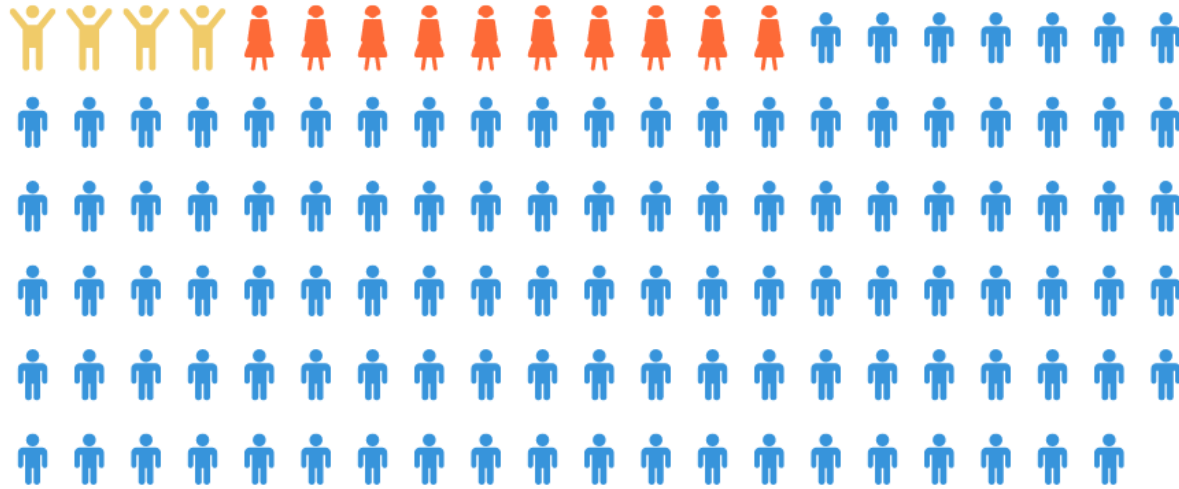
# Historical and Recent Trends in Murder Incidents

2009-2021 & Jan-May 2018 to Jan-May 2022



# EVERY LIFE COUNTS!

## 125 persons murdered in 2021



● Children ● Women ● Men

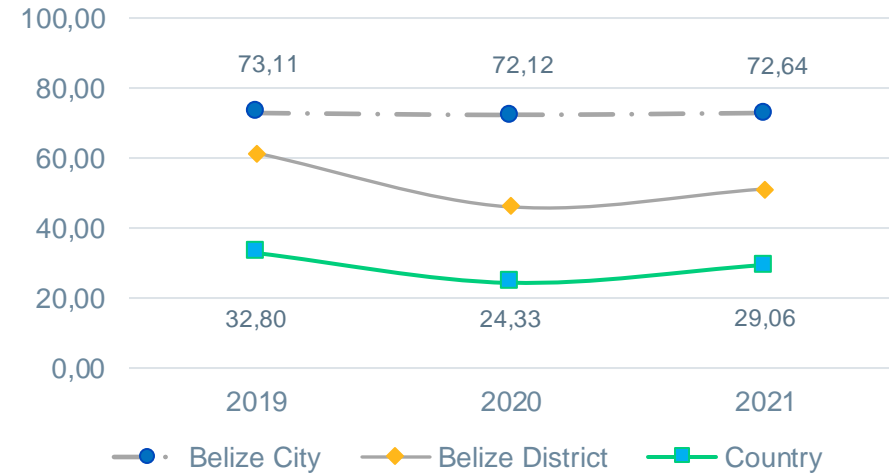
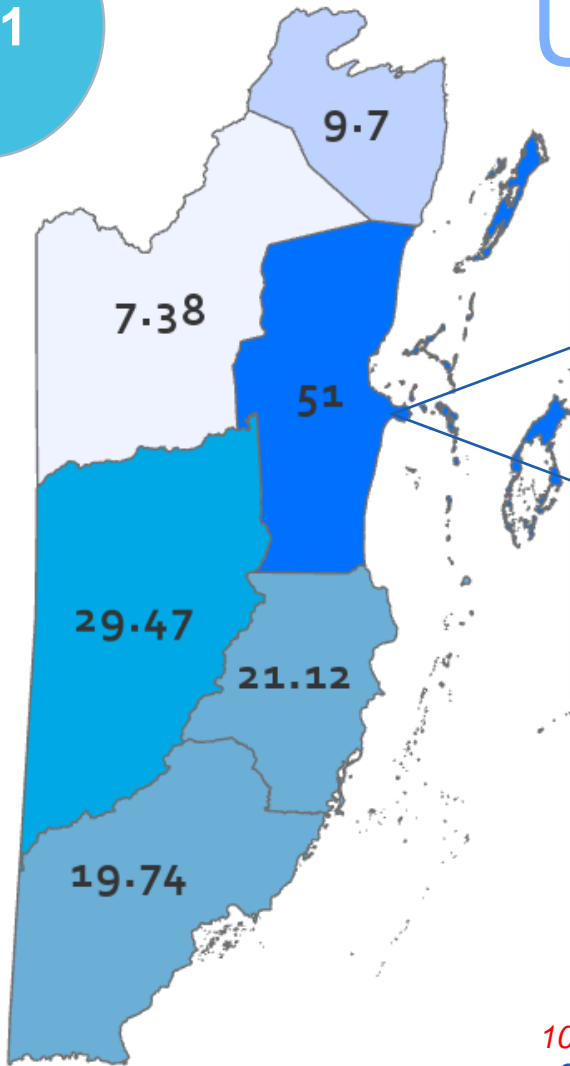
- 111 were men
- 10 were women
- 4 were children

On average, 10 Belizean lives were lost to murder every month

2021

# URBAN BELIZE MURDER RATES

## BELIZE CITY INCIDENTS



## CITY MURDER RATE

# 72.64

incidents per 100,000 population in 2021

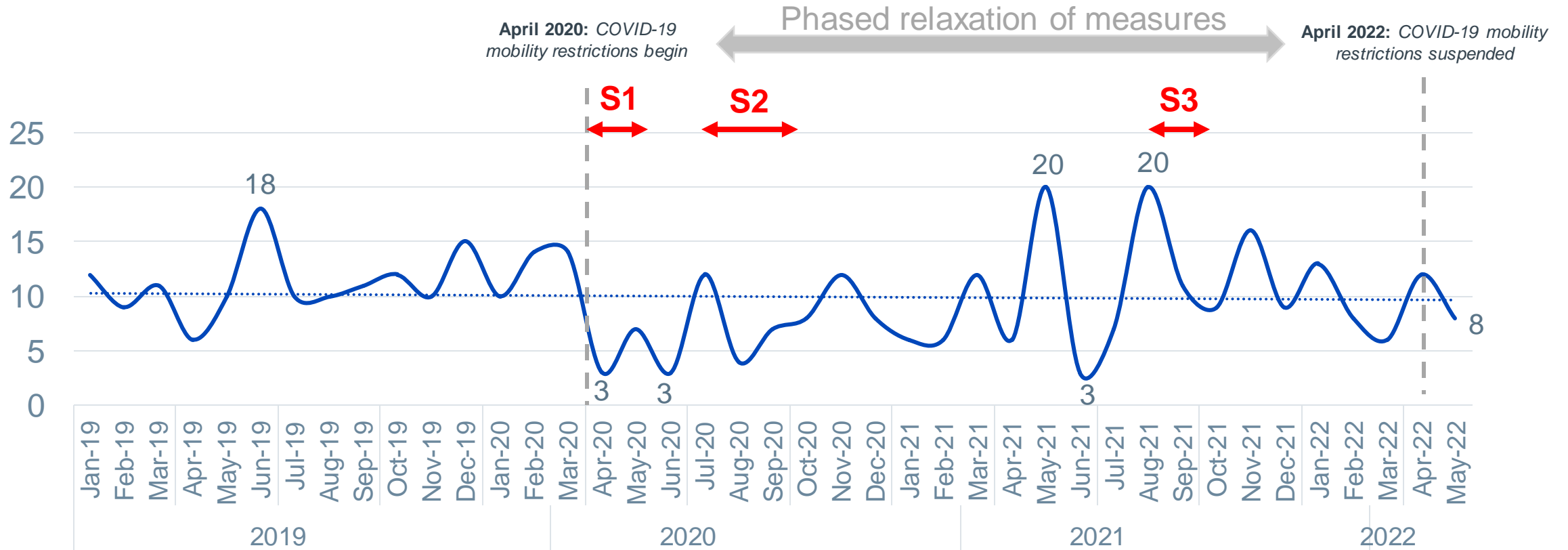
In 2018, the Belize City rate was **105.64 per 100,000**, and it had declined by 31%, to 73.11 in 2019. The gains have mostly been sustained, notwithstanding the pandemic.



4 in 10 murders happened in Belize City

# EVERY LIFE COUNTS!

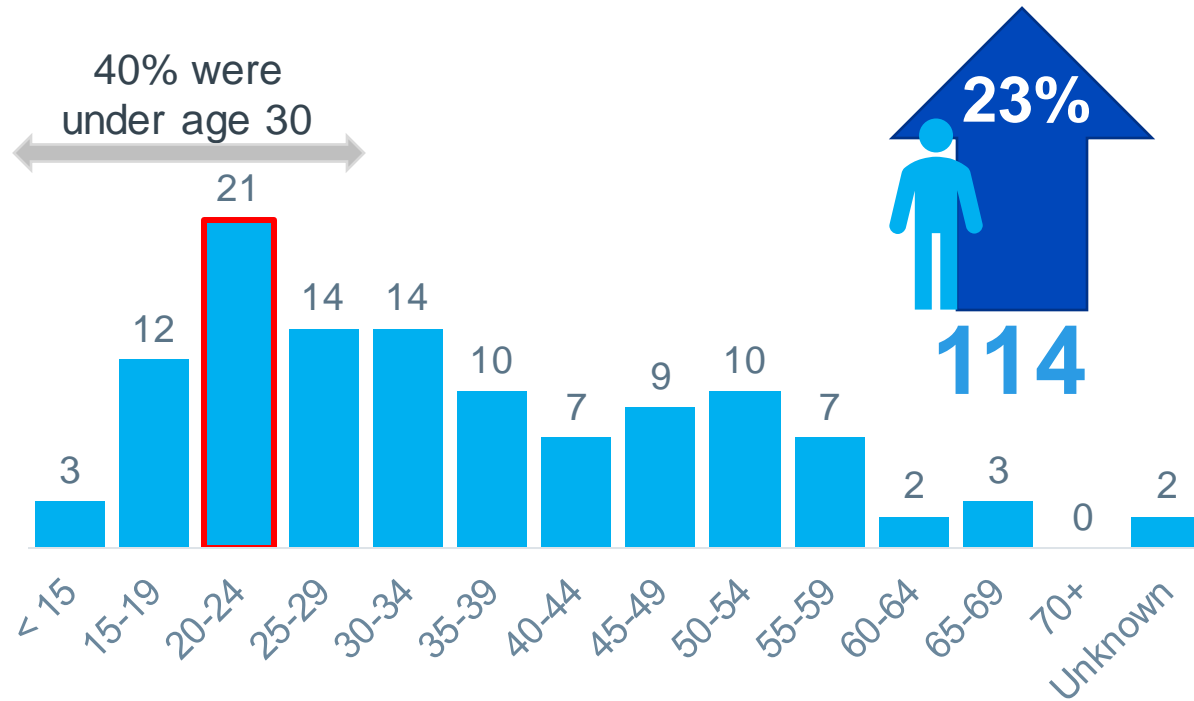
## Murders per Month (Jan 2019 – May 2022)



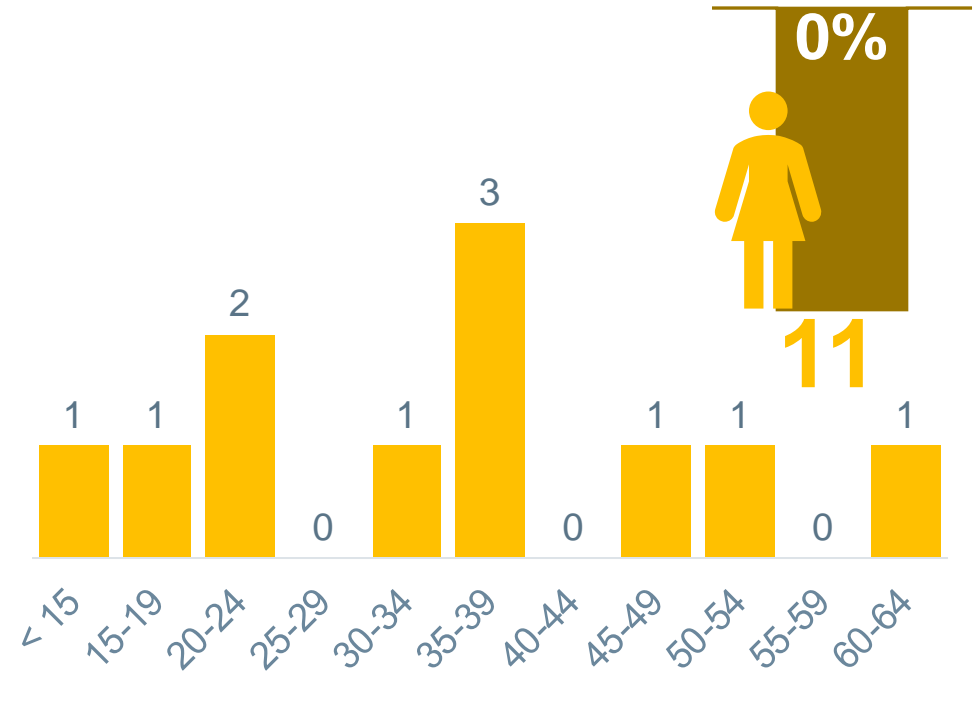
The red arrows denote periods during which the Government of Belize implemented States of Emergencies aimed at gang members. These were separate from the COVID-19 related States of Emergencies otherwise implemented starting in early 2020.

# EVERY LIFE COUNTS!

## Age and sex breakdown of persons killed in 2021



2 in 10 males were ages 20 to 24



3 in 10 females were ages 35 to 39

# GENDER-RELATED VIOLENCE



# FEMICIDES IN 2021

63%



- In 2021, 64 percent of females who were murdered were victims of gender-related murders or femicides.
- 7 of these killings were in the context of double murders;
- 3 of the women were killed along with their son or daughter





**2020**

**6 in 10 murders**  
of females were  
committed with  
firearms

**2021**

**5 in 10 murders**  
of females were  
committed with  
firearms

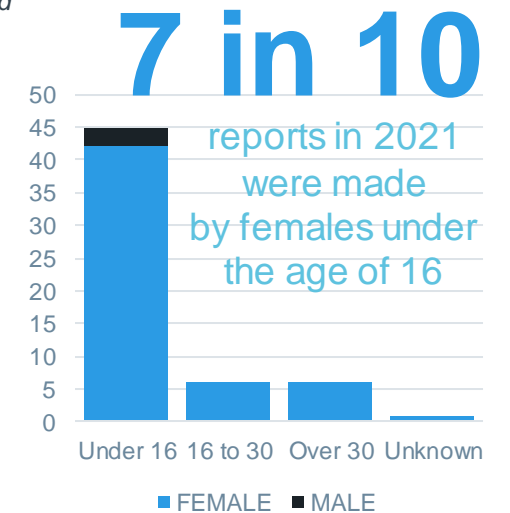
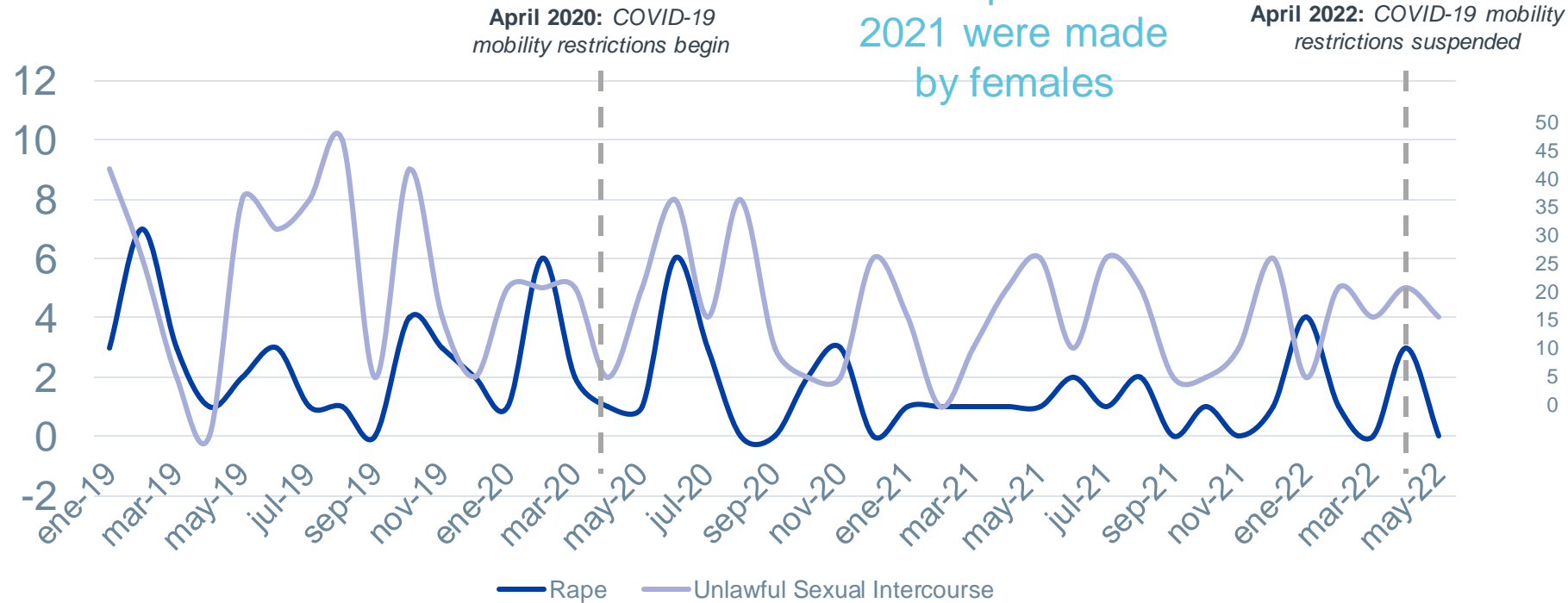
Proportionally, more females are killed with brute force of blunt and sharp objects than males were, although firearms remained the primary object used. The percentage of firearm killings of females had increased during the pandemic year, 2020.



# SEXUAL VIOLENCE

in the major crimes category

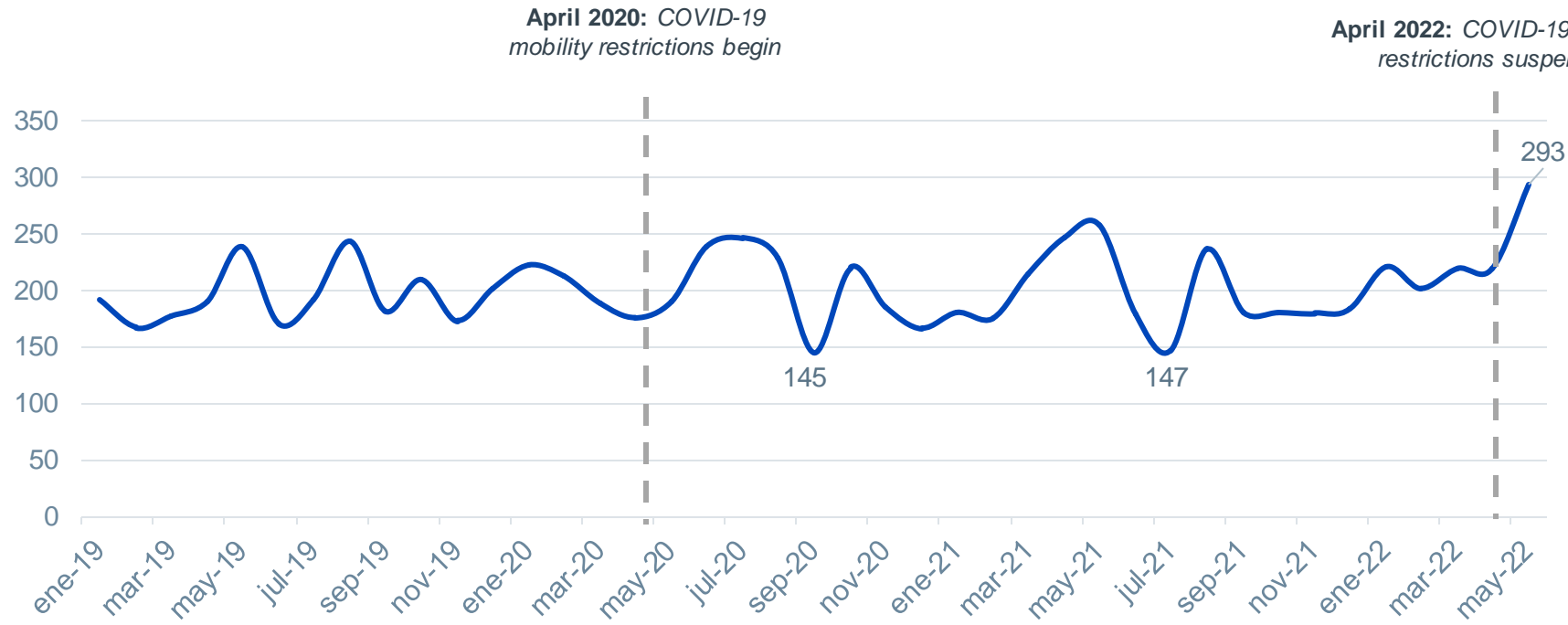
**96%**  
of reports in  
2021 were made  
by females



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTS

**80%**  
of reports made in  
2021 were by females

**7%**  
▲



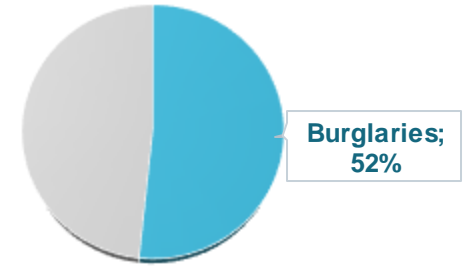
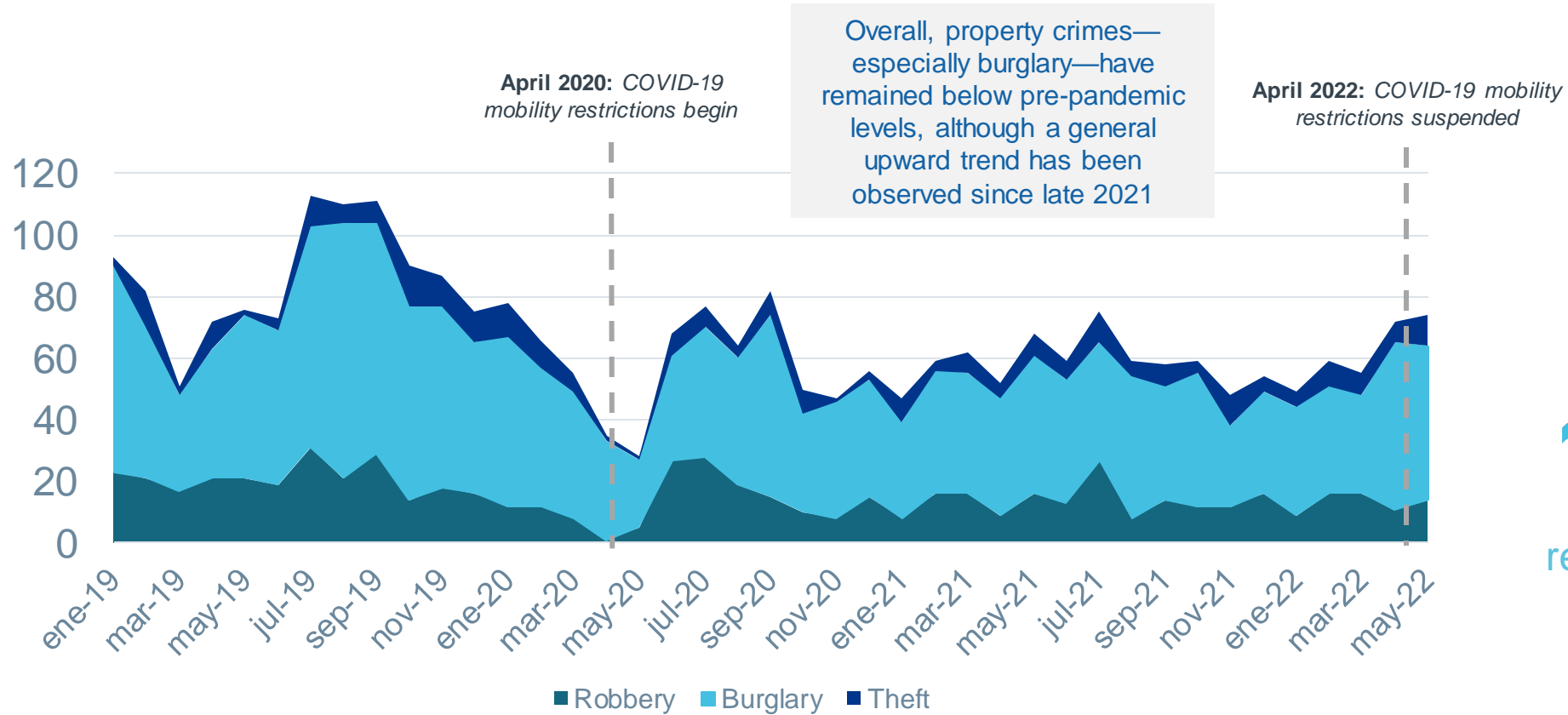
Data sources: Domestic violence data: Belize Police Department



# PROPERTY CRIMES



# PROPERTY CRIMES TRENDING UP



**~50%**  
of major crimes recorded during 2021 were burglaries

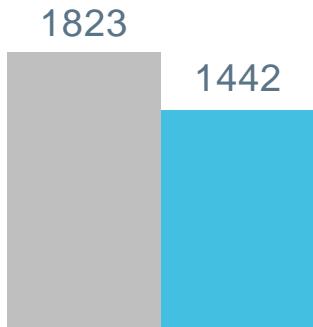
# INCARCERATION



# INCARCERATION

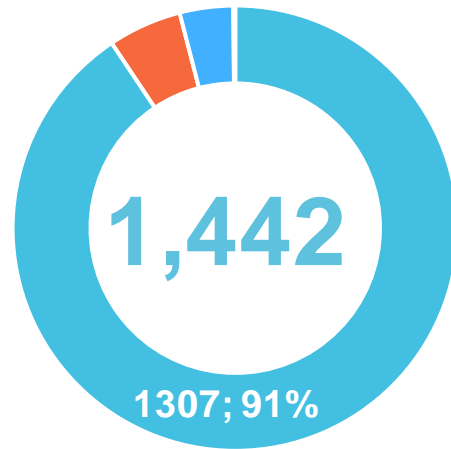
Jan-Dec 2021

20%  
▼



■ 2020 ■ 2021

566 convicted inmates  
876 remanded inmates

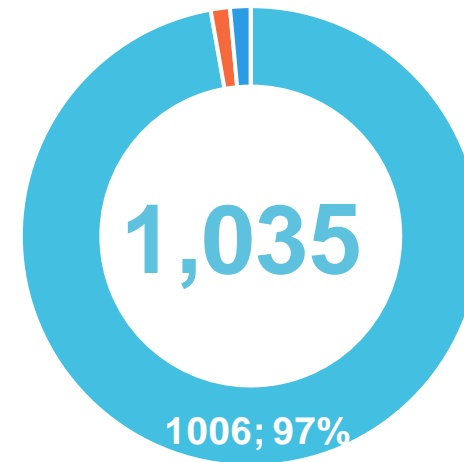


- Adult Males
- Adult Females
- Under 18 Males
- Under 18 Females

# TOTAL POPULATION

as of 31 December 2021

680 convicted inmates  
355 remanded inmates



- Adult Males
- Adult Females
- Under 18 Males
- Under 18 Females

43% ages 18 to 30

With the easing of gang-related States of Emergencies and detentions for COVID-19 related violations, there was a sharp decline in persons being sent to prison.

# ROAD TRAFFIC FATALITIES

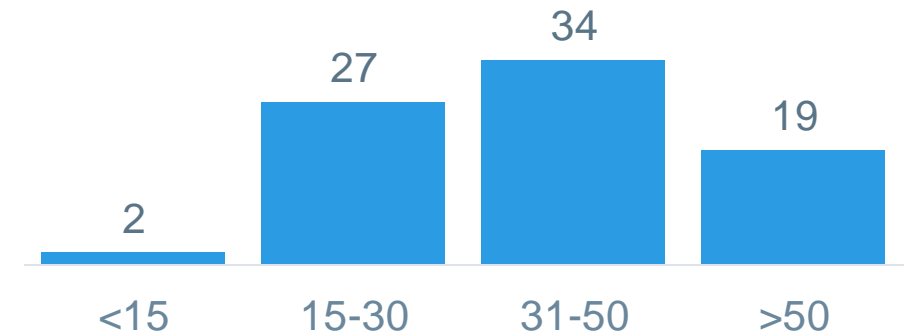
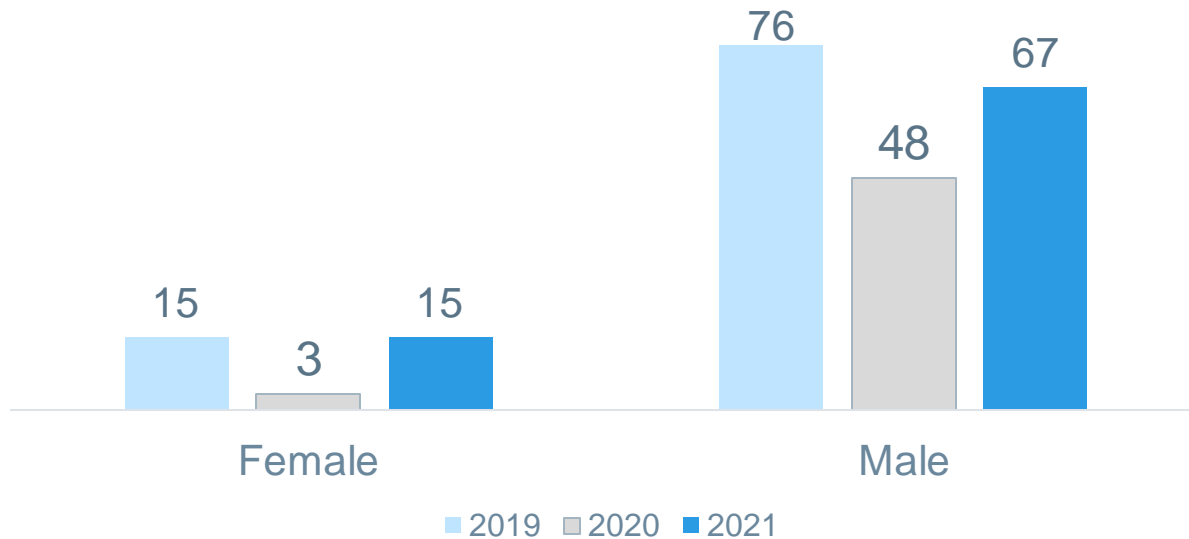




# ROAD TRAFFIC FATALITIES

- With mobility restrictions in place during 2020, road traffic fatalities fell substantially, by 44%.
- Although these increased again in 2021 (by 61%) as Belize began to reopen, they remained below pre-pandemic levels.

**~80%**  
or  
4 out of 5 road traffic fatality victims were males



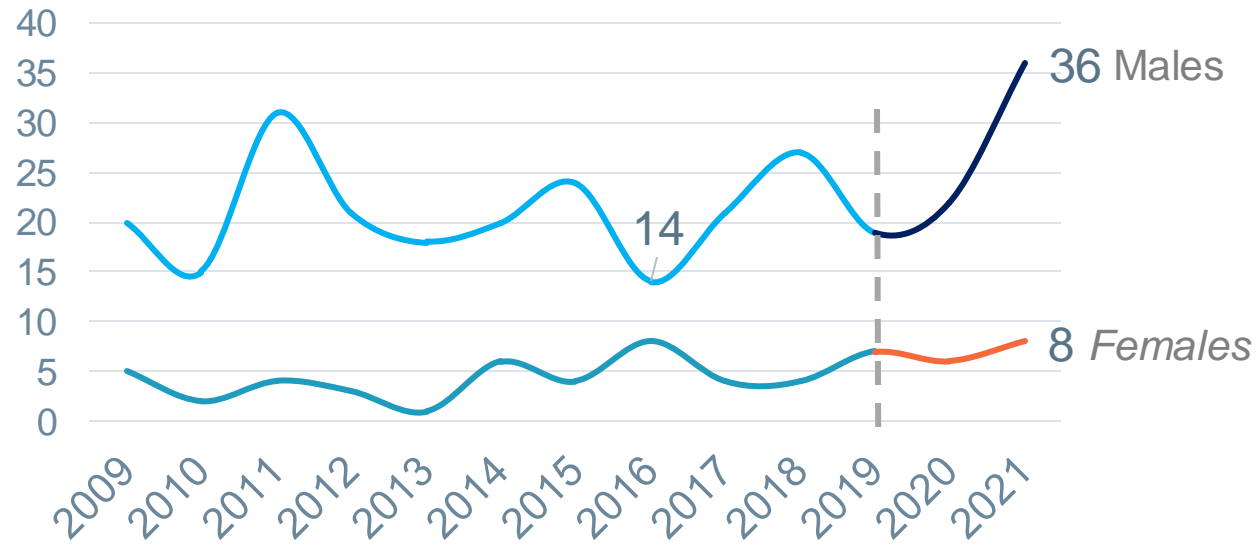
4 in 10 persons who lost their lives in road traffic fatalities were ages 31 to 59

# SUICIDES



# SUICIDES

- In 2021, suicides reached the highest levels on record since 2009—a period of 12 years
- 2021 registered a 57 percent increase over 2020



Data prior to 2019 sourced from Ministry of Health; data for 2019-2022 sourced from the National Forensic Science Service.

**~80%**  
or  
4 out of 5  
suicide victims  
were males

- There were 44 suicides recorded\* in 2021.
- The median age for suicide victims was 33 for males and 27 for females

**21 suicides were recorded as of mid-June 2022**

\*Figures reported for 2021 are based on Forensic autopsies.

# KEY TAKEAWAYS

- During 2021, Belize Police registered a 1% reduction in major crimes.
- The murder count increased 25%, from 102 to 125, while the rate (which had declined 26% during in 2020) increased 19% in 2021, from 24.33 to 29.06 incidents per 100,000.
- Urban violence was largely responsible for this increase, as 4 in 10 murders happened in the Belize City area.
- Males accounted for 9 in 10 murder victims, and 40% of the males murdered were below the age of 30.
- 64 percent of females who were murdered were victims of femicide, and there were occasions where their children were also killed with them.
- 96% of reports of sexual violence in the major crimes categories were made by females, and 7 in 10 were under the age of 16.





# KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Domestic violence cases are on an upward trajectory. Reports are up 7% for the period January to May 2022, compared to the same time in 2021. 8 in 10 reports are made by females.
- Burglaries, which account for more than 50% of major crimes, are generally below pre-pandemic levels but are increasing. There has also been a general increase in robberies and theft.
- Incarceration declined 20% (from 1,823 to 1,442) during 2021, while the prison population declined by 7% (from 1,108 to 1,035).
- Based on autopsies conducted during 2020, suicides increased 57% - reaching the highest annual count on record since 2009; 4 in every 5 persons were males.
- Road traffic fatalities increased 61%, with 4 in every 5 persons also being males.



# Official Data Sources:

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Belize Police Department  
Belize Central Prison  
National Forensic Science Service  
The Statistical Intitute of Belize  
Ministry of Health & Wellness (Epidemiology Unit)



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