



infoSEGURA



BELIZE

Analysis of the State of Citizen Security

January to December 2021

BELIZE

Analysis of Violence and Citizen Security in Belize | JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2021

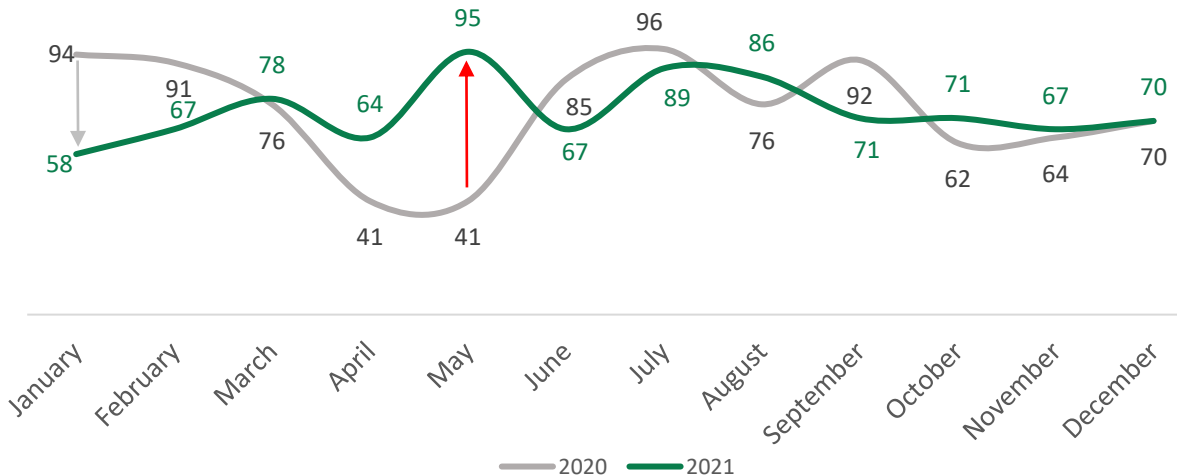
HIGHLIGHTS

- Belize registered an overall decline in Major Crimes during 2021. According to official data provided by the Belize Police Department, the total number of Major Crimes registered in 2021 was 883, down from 888 in 2020. This represents a decline of less than 1%.
- Belize’s murder rate increased for the first time since 2017 – from 24.33 in 2020 to 29.06 in 2021. The last increase was recorded in 2017. The murder rate had been consistently declining for the prior three consecutive years (2018 to 2020).
- A total of 125 murders were recorded during 2021, representing an increase of 23%. The most notable increase (as well as the highest murder rate) was seen in males ages 50 and over.
- Urban gun violence continues to account for most murders. The largest urban locations – Belize City and the City of Belmopan – continued to be areas of greatest concern. A sharp rise in murders was recorded in Belmopan and its environs.
- Theft and Robberies also rose during 2021, while Sexual Violence (Rape and Unlawful Sexual Intercourse) declined.
- The number of people incarcerated during 2021 decreased relative to 2020. The size of the prison population (composed of 99% males) also declined.
- Incarceration peaked in August 2021, due to the detention of several gang members under state of emergency regulations, amid a surge in violent crimes in the Belize City area.

MAJOR CRIMES

The number of major crimes recorded during **January 2021** declined 38% relative to January 2020

The number of major crimes recorded during **May 2021** was double the amount recorded during May 2020

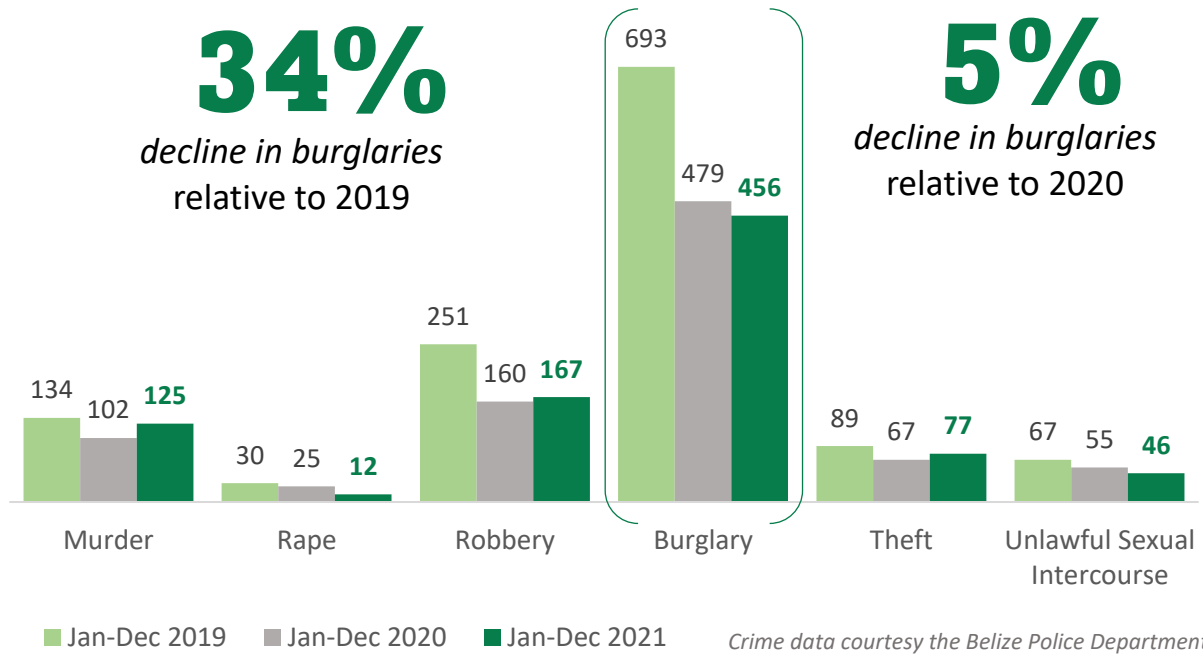


Crime data courtesy the Belize Police Department

Prepared by the Belize Crime Observatory, Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries, with data from the Belize Central Prison, Belize Police Department, and the Statistical Institute of Belize.

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Burglaries—which continued to comprise more than half of Major Crimes reports—declined 34% relative to 2019 and 5% relative to 2020.



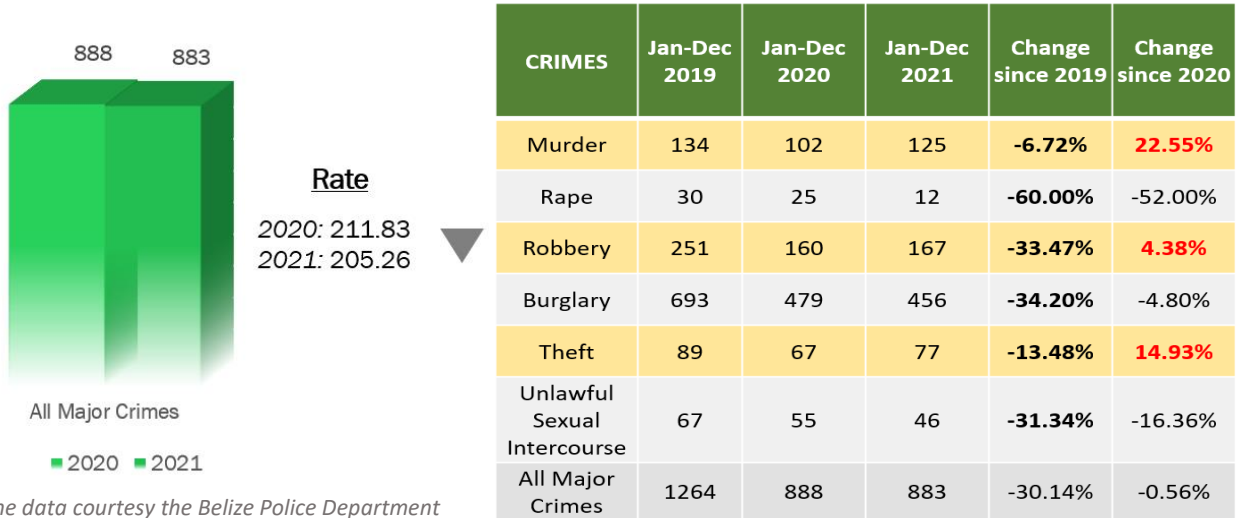
Of the six categories of Major Crimes, the three categories of crimes that tend to occur at private locations (burglary, rape and unlawful sexual intercourse) registered declines in both counts and rates, whereas the other three (robbery, murder and theft) registered declines.

		<u>Count</u>		<u>Rate</u>	
Burglary	2020	479	▼	114.27	▼
	2021	456		106	
Robbery	2020	160	▲	38.17	▲
	2021	167		38.82	
Murder	2020	102	▲	24.33	▲
	2021	125		29.06	
Theft	2020	67	▲	15.98	▲
	2021	77		17.9	
USI	2020	55	▼	13.12	▼
	2021	46		10.69	
Rape	2020	25	▼	5.96	▼
	2021	12		2.79	

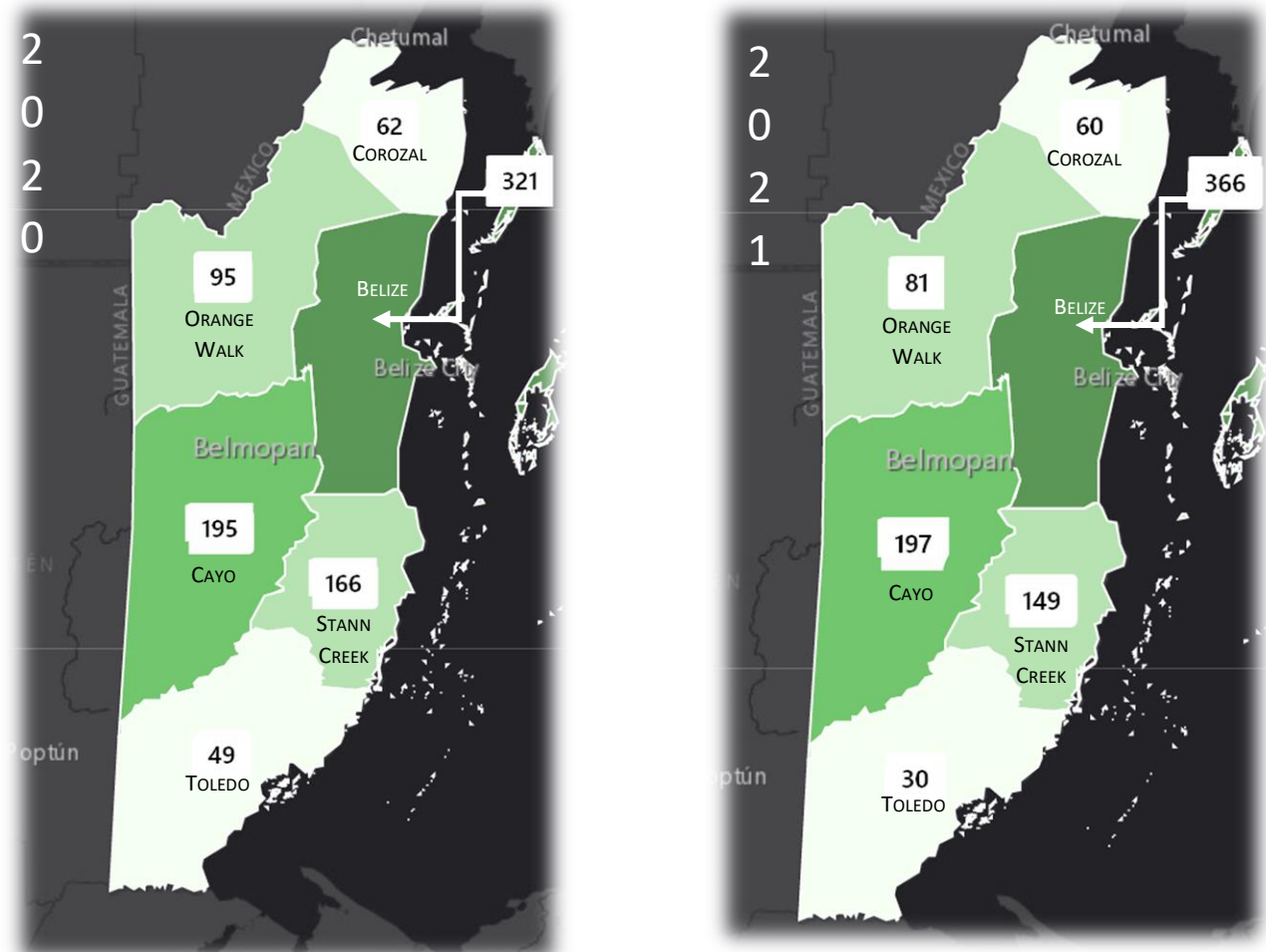
*Crime data courtesy the Belize Police Department
Demographic data courtesy the Statistical Institute of Belize*

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Incident counts in all major crimes categories remained lower than the pre-pandemic period of 2019.

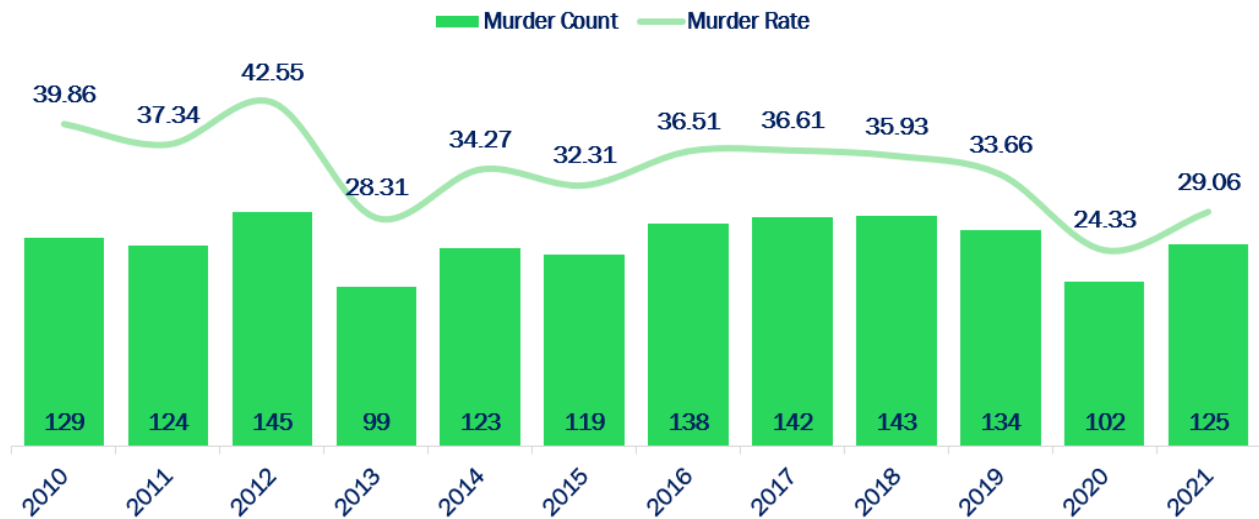


Major crimes increased in the central districts (Belize and Cayo) but declined in the other four districts.



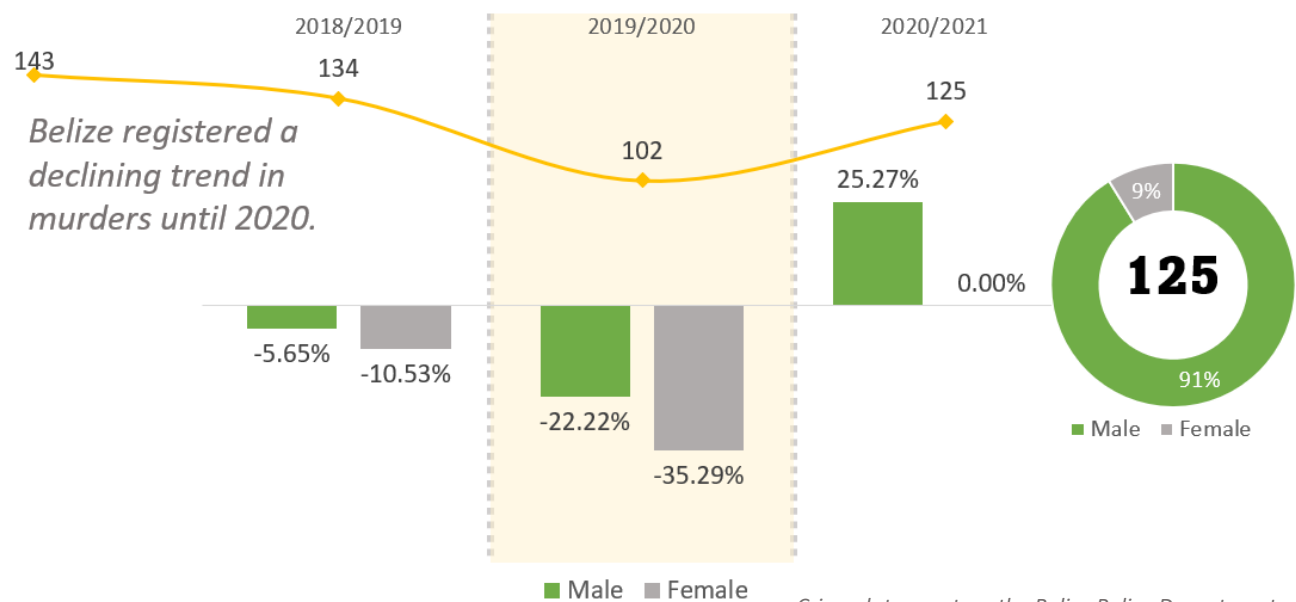
MURDERS

Belize’s murder rate increased for the first time since 2017. The murder rate declined consistently over the 3-year period 2018 to 2020, with 2020 registering the most notable fall, amid state-imposed measures to combat the spread of COVID-19 and to curb gang violence in hot spot areas of Belize City.



Crime data courtesy the Belize Police Department
Demographic data courtesy the Statistical Institute of Belize

Our analysis of the data disaggregated by sex revealed that the murder rate declined marginally for females (from 5.25 in 2020 to 5.11 in 2021) but rose substantially for males (from 43.42 to 53.00). Nine in every ten murder victims were males.

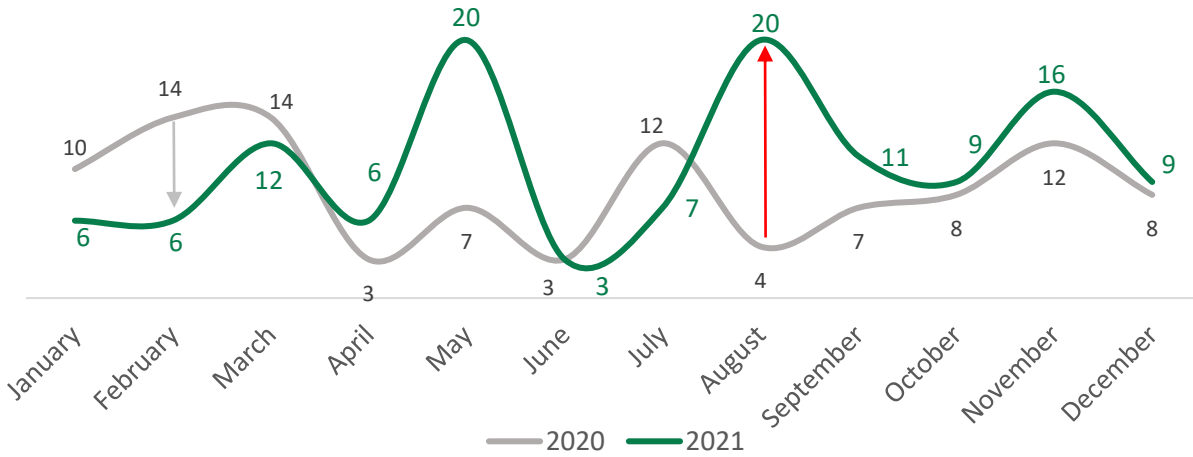


Crime data courtesy the Belize Police Department

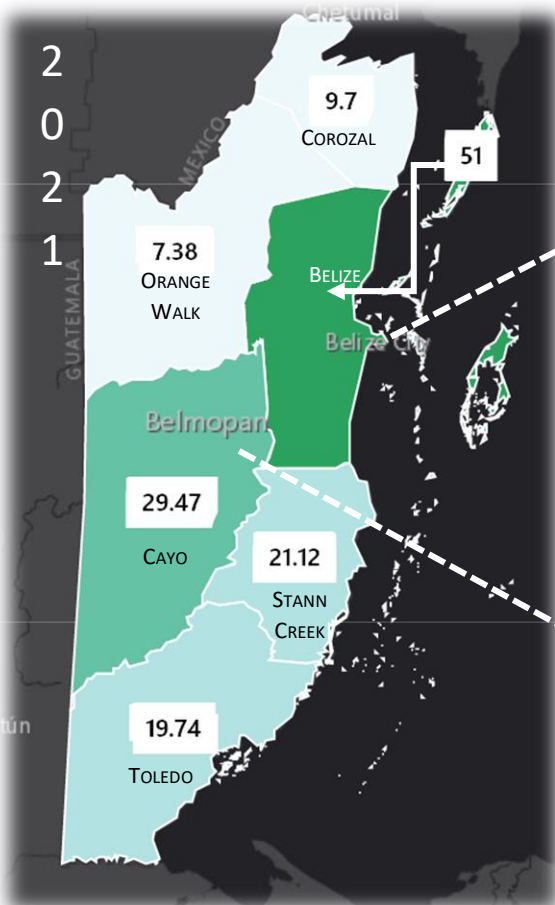
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The number of **murders** recorded during February 2021 declined 57% relative to February 2020

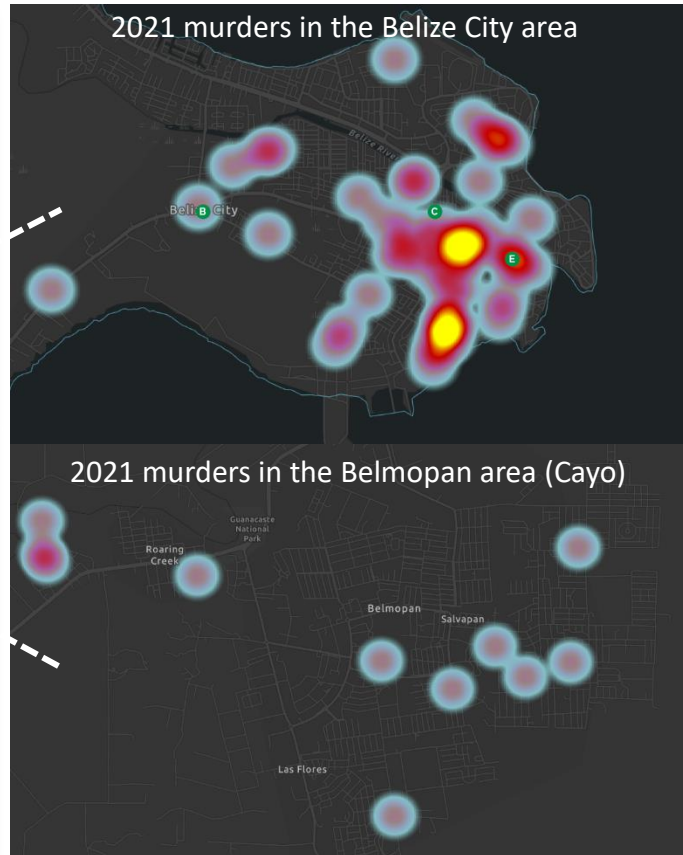
The number of **murders** recorded during May 2021 increased five-fold relative to May 2020



Murder Rate by District



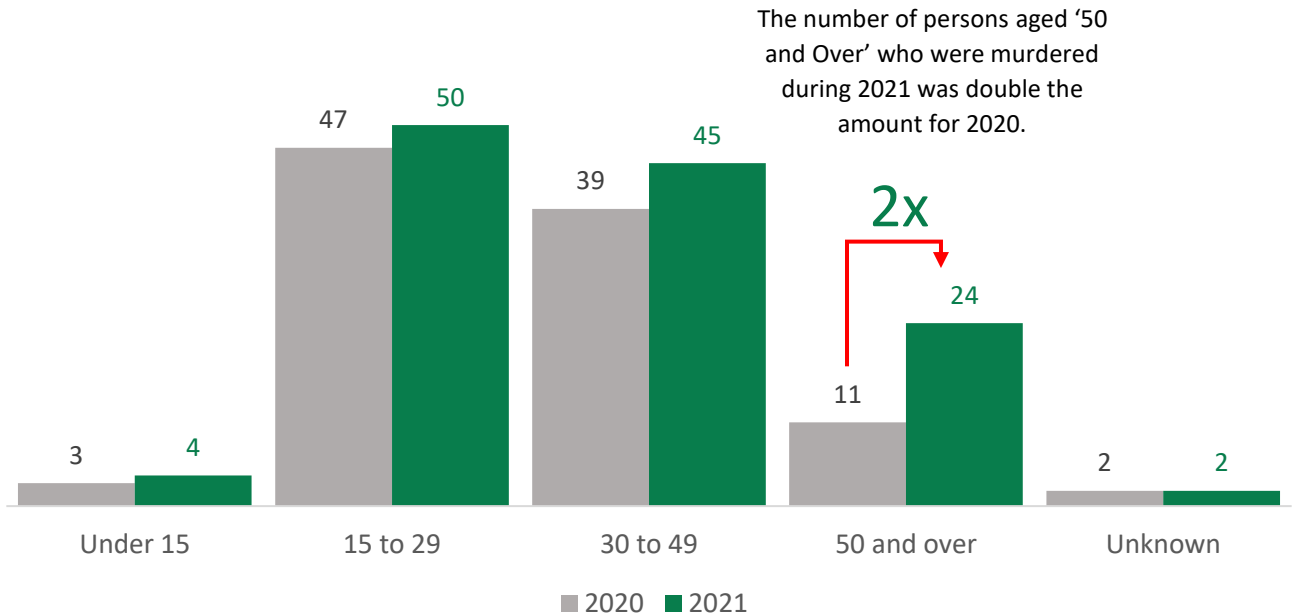
The highest murders rates were recorded in the Belize and Cayo Districts, with hotspots in the Belize City and Belmopan area



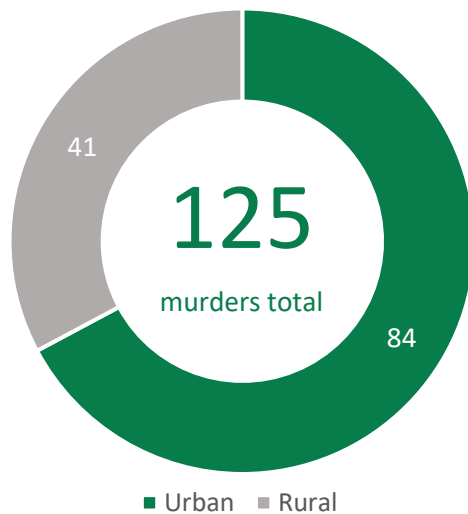
Crime data courtesy the Belize Police Department
Demographic data courtesy the Statistical Institute of Belize

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The murder rate increased most sharply for elder persons. The 2021 murder rate for persons in the **'15-29'** age group was **41**, whereas the murder rate in the **'50 and Over'** age group was **45**—more than double the previous year's rate for this age group. In 2020, the murder rates for persons aged **'15-29'** was **39**, while the rate for persons **'50 and Over'** was **21**.



Crime data courtesy the Belize Police Department
Demographic data courtesy the Statistical Institute of Belize



Urban gun violence continued to account for most murders during 2021.

About a third of the murders happened in rural Belize, whereas an estimated two-thirds happened in urban Belize.

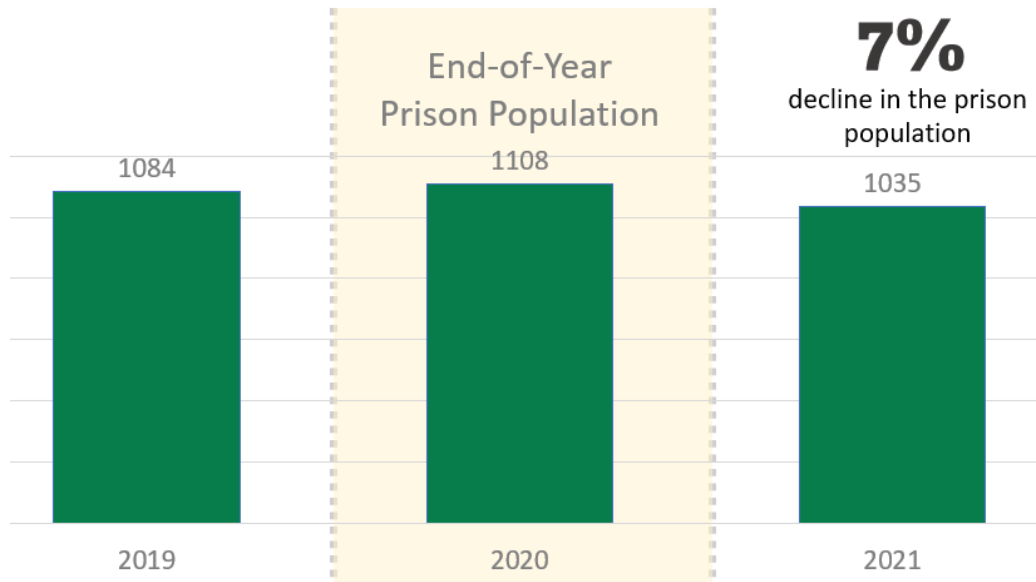


Firearms accounted for about **7 in every 10** murder weapons.

Crime data courtesy the Belize Police Department

IMPRISONMENT

The prison population declined from 1,108 at the end of 2020 to 1,035 at the end of 2021. This represents an overall decrease of 7%.



Data courtesy Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation

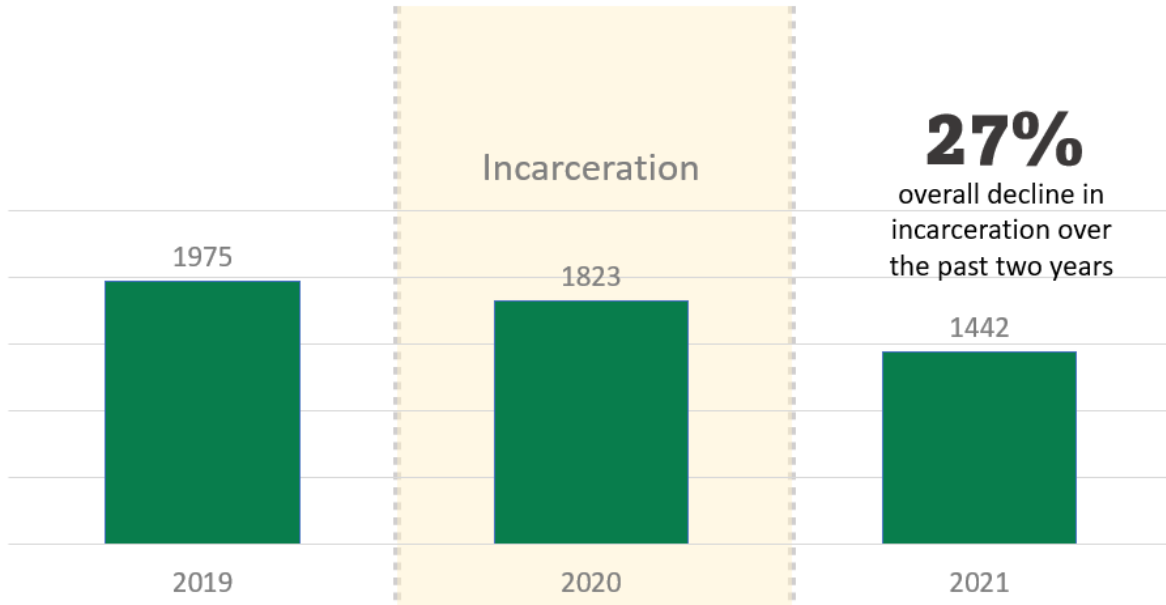
Young males ages 18 to 25 comprised the largest age group. Of the 1,035 persons imprisoned at the end of 2021, 1.4% of them were females.



Data courtesy Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation

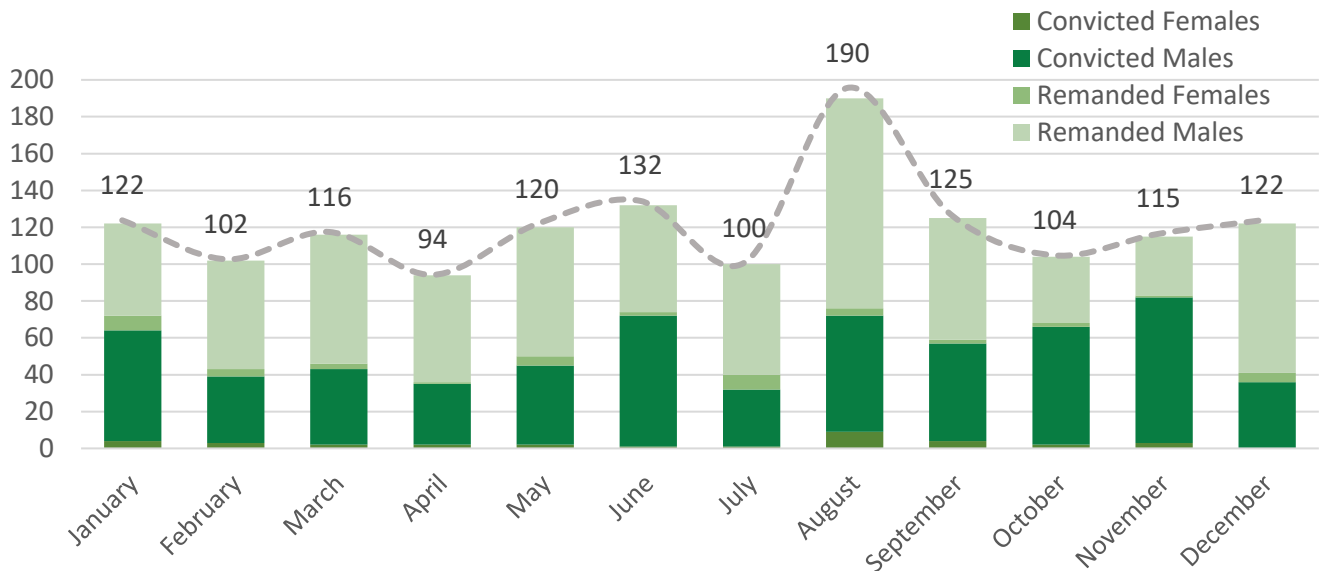
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Incarceration continued to decline. Since 2019, the number of persons newly remanded or convicted has declined 27%, despite several persons having been remanded for violation of COVID-19 regulations, as well as for gang-related crimes or offences.



Data courtesy Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation

Incarceration peaked in August 2021, due to the detention of several gang members under state of emergency regulations, amid a surge in violent crimes in the Belize City area.



Data courtesy Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation