

GUATEMALA

Analysis of the State of Violence and Citizen Security

First Semester 2020 (1S-2020)



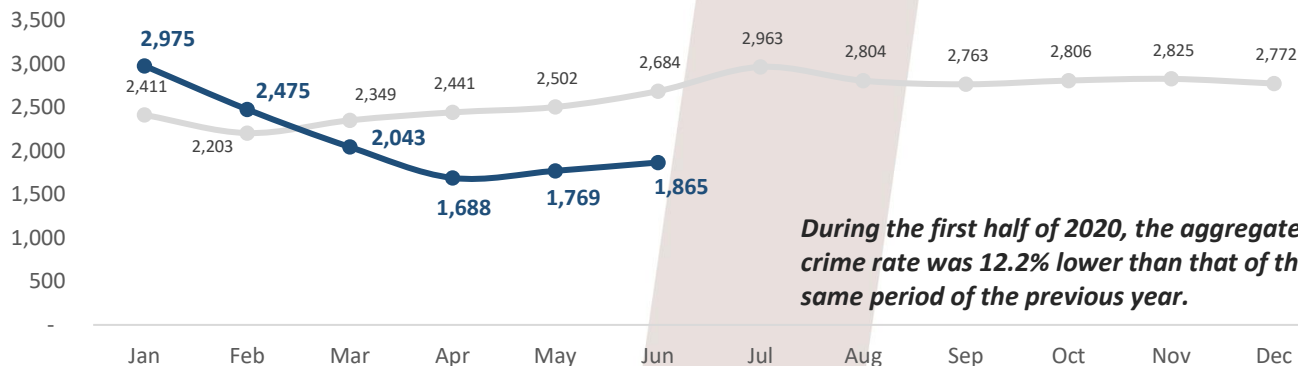
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Highlights

- Between January and June 2020, the total crime rate declined (-12.2%) compared to the same period the previous year, primarily as an outcome of the measures adopted in mid-March to contain¹ the COVID-19² pandemic.
- During the period of confinement due to COVID-19, crimes committed in public (homicides and property crimes) fell significantly, while crimes occurring in the private sphere (domestic violence) increased.
- For most offenses there is a turning point in the month of June 2020. This month, the number of incidents rose as compared to the rest of the months under COVID-19 containment measures. Some hypotheses that could explain the increase are related to the socioeconomic crisis and the possible adaptation of criminal groups to the context, but either of this hypothesis requires further investigation.
- Between January and June 2020, homicides plummeted 34.2%, as compared to the same period the previous year (619 fewer victims). Still, records in June 2020 show a rise in the number of homicides compared to previous months, and it was the month with most homicides since the containment measures came into effect.
- Between January and June 2020, intrafamily violence cases handled by the National Civil Police showed an upward trend (+26.3%). Other sources of information, such as the Public Prosecutor's 1572 hotline, also recorded an increase in emergency calls due to physical violence.
- A web search of words related to violence, such as "aggression" and "filing a report" have increased during the pandemic. This may have to do with the rise in violence against women and other household members during the COVID-19 containment period.

Evidence

Between January and June 2020, the crime rate shows a significant decline compared to the semester of the previous year, mainly due to the measures the government adopted to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, June shows a slight increase compared to the previous months.



During the first half of 2020, the aggregate crime rate was 12.2% lower than that of the same period of the previous year.

Note: The total crime rate includes offenses recorded by the PNC with the following: Extortion, robbery, theft, injury, homicide, rape and intrafamily violence; missing persons are excluded as this does not constitute an offense.

Source: 2019 INE with police data - 2020 Guatemala National Civil Police (PNC)-Statistics Section, validation by INE pending.

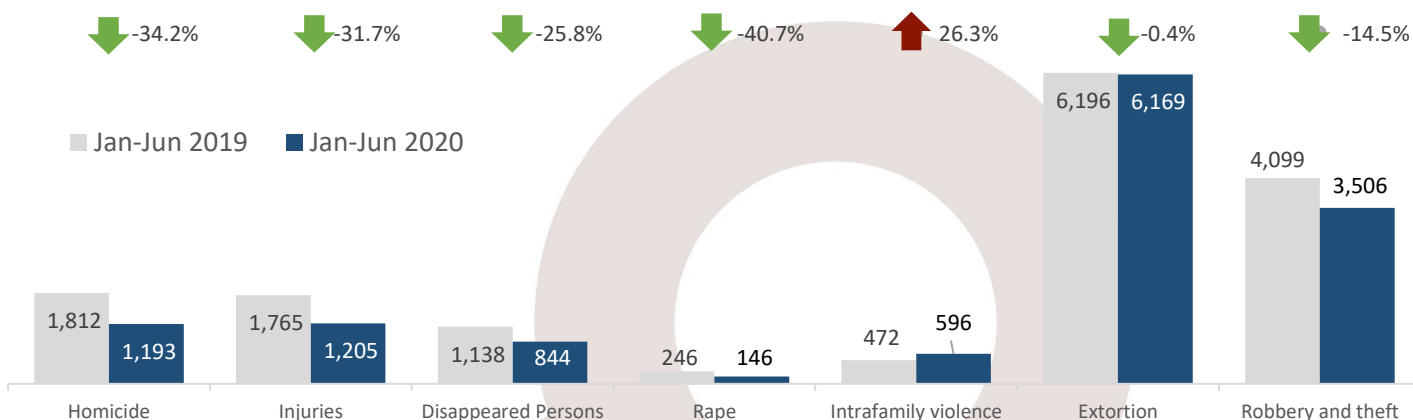
¹ The government put in place the following measures to contain the pandemic: Closing air, land- and maritime borders, suspended school, and partial work stoppage, curfew (4:00 am to 4:00 pm),

public transport suspended, limited automobile traffic, according to license plate numbers.

²As of January 17 through March 2020, 6 States of Prevention were implemented in 13 municipalities with high crime rates



Between January and June 2020, only the number of incidents of intrafamily violence exhibited an increase as compared to the same period the previous year.



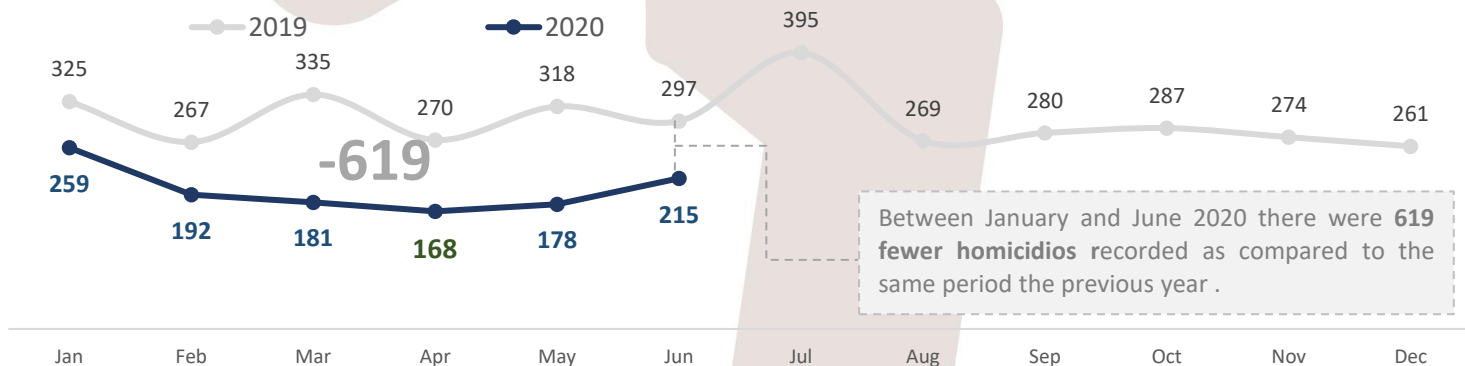
Source: 2019 INE with police data - 2020 Guatemala National Civil Police (PNC)-Statistics Section, validation by INE pending.

Homicides

June 2020 recorded a rise in the number of homicides, and became the month with most homicides since the lockdown measures came into effect. However, this figure remains below what had been recorded the previous year.



April 2020 saw the least number of homicides since 2010. During the entire month lockdown measures were in place due to COVID-19.

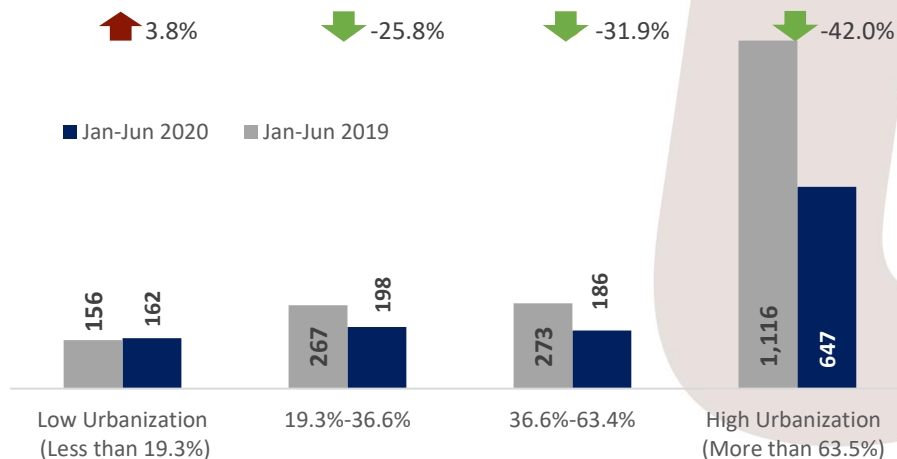


Between January and June 2020 there were 619 fewer homicidios recorded as compared to the same period the previous year.

Source: 2019 INE with police data - 2020 Guatemala National Civil Police (PNC)-Statistics Section, validation by INE pending.

The municipalities that had highest urbanization, showed the steepest reduction in homicides between January and June 2020.

Homicides by percentage of urbanization



Containment measures in response to the pandemic were better monitored in the most urban municipalities.

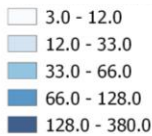
- Most urban regions where demographic density is high, record the most cases of COVID-19, and a more serious reduction in mobility.

Source: 2019 INE with police data - 2020 Guatemala National Civil Police (PNC)-Statistics Section, validation by INE pending.

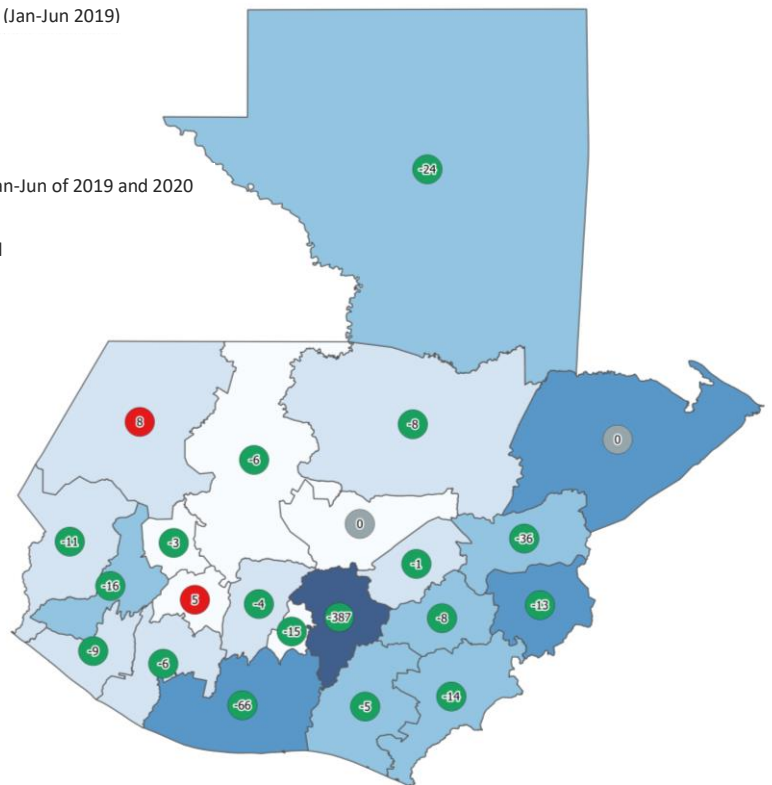
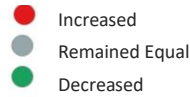
At the departmental level, only Solola and Huehuetenango show a rise in the number of homicides, as compared to the first semester the previous year.

In Solola, social conflict in Nahuala and Huehuetenango, the increase has been mainly the municipalities that share a border with Mexico.

Number of homicides (Jan-Jun 2019)

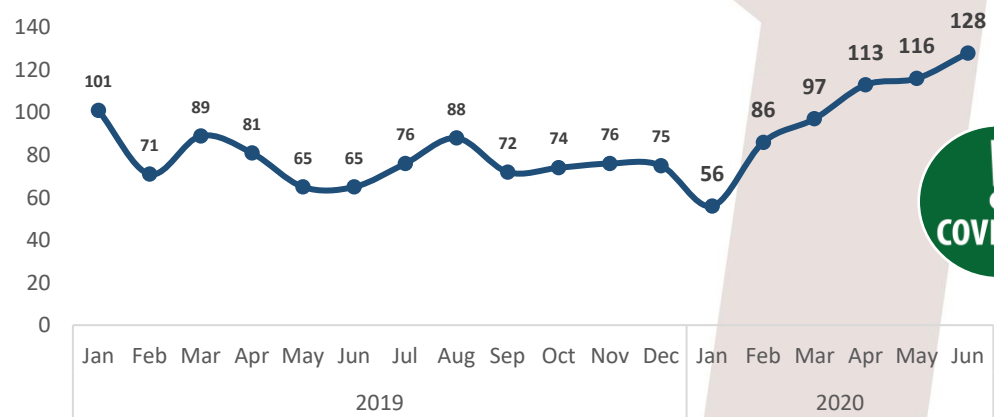


Difference between Jan-Jun of 2019 and 2020



Source: 2019 INE with police data - 2020 Guatemala National Civil Police (PNC)-Statistics Section, validation by INE pending.

PNC Response to Distress Calls to the Domestic Violence Hotline



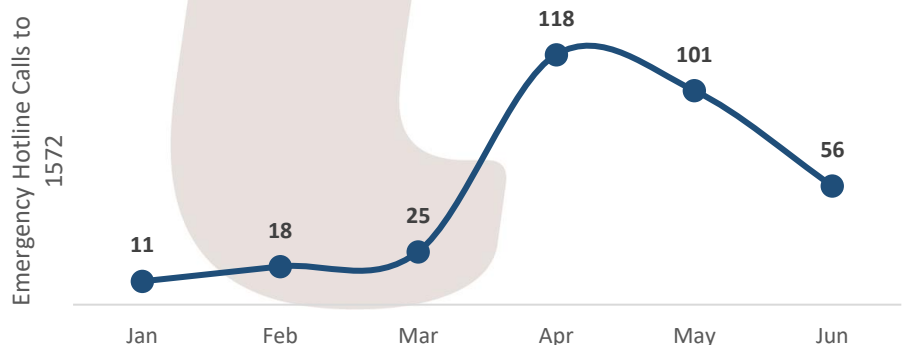
Source: 2019 INE with police data - 2020 Guatemala National Civil Police (PNC)-Statistics Section, validation by INE pending.



Police responses to hotline reports of intrafamily violence were on the rise starting in February 2020. This period coincides with the implementation of lockdown measures in response to the COVID-19 emergency.

Hotline calls by Women Victims of Physical Violence (Hotline 1572 Office of Atty Grl.)

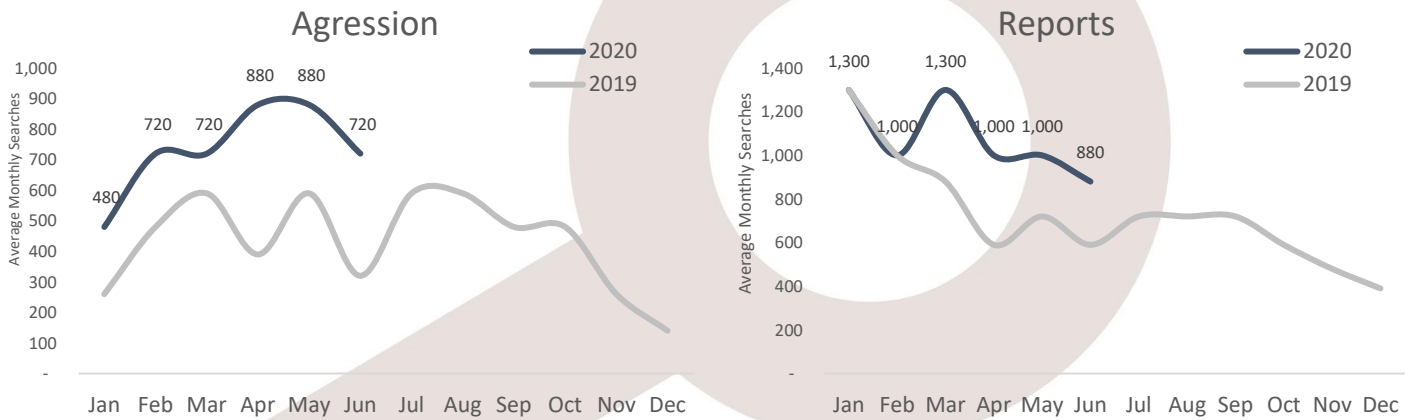
In June, emergency reports of physical violence to the Atty General's 1572 hotline were down, after a spike in calls in April 2020.



Source: Office of the Attorney General

KEYWORDS (Google Searches)

Between January and June 2020, the average search on the web for words associated with violence, such as: **aggression** and **reporting** show an increase, compared to the previous year, coinciding with the period of implementation of the measures to contain the pandemic.



Source: Google Ads

Note: Your Average Monthly Search: Shows the average number of searches for these keywords and their variants. This information can be used to see how popular these keywords are during different periods of the year.

Crime Against Property

In June, robberies, thefts and extortions were on the rise, possibly due to the economic impact of the containment measures in response to the COVID-19. Still, in Q1 2020, property crimes were lower as compared to the same period the previous year.

