

GUATEMALA

Analysis of the state of homicidal violence

January-December 2021



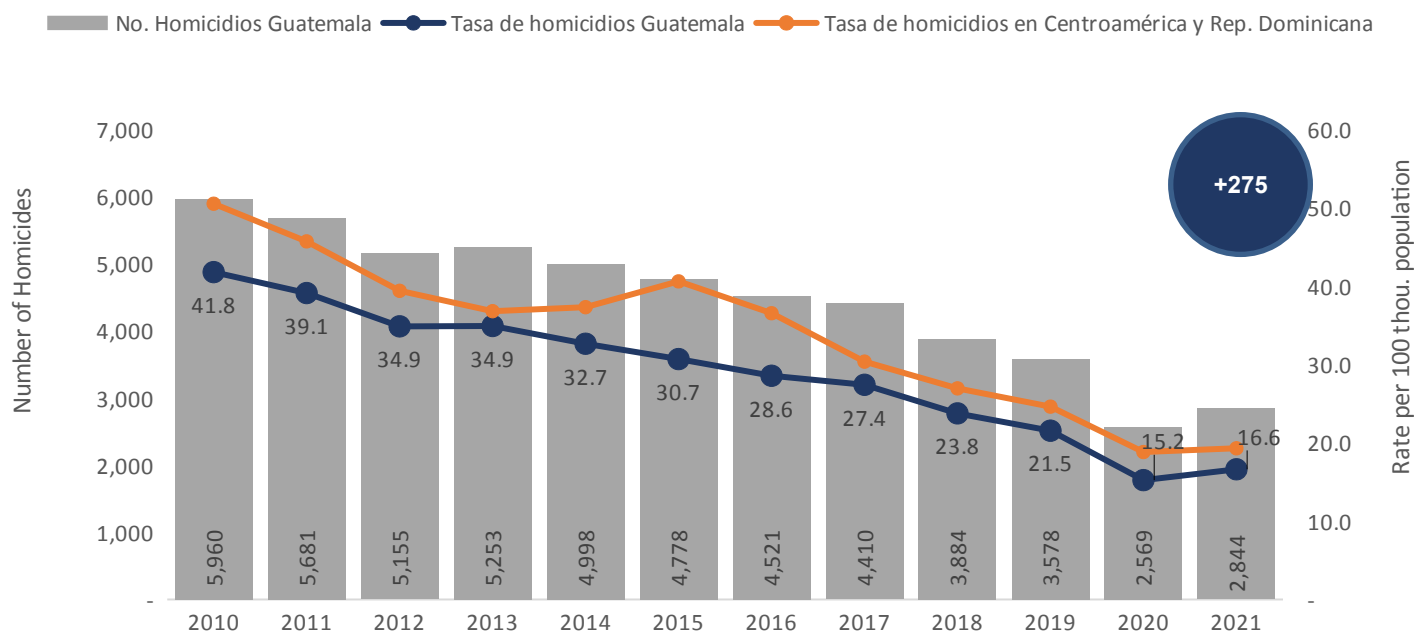
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Highlights

- At the end of 2021, records show 2,844 homicides, 275 (10.7%) more victims than in 2020, and despite relaxation of pandemic containment measures, 734 (20.5%) fewer victims than those recorded in 2019.
- The homicide rate in 2021 close at 16.6 homicides per 100% thousand population, that is 2.7 points below the rate for Central America and the Dominican Republic (19.3).
- Compared to the previous year, the number of females homicides rose 15.6% in 2021, that is 56 more victims. In males, there was also a smaller increase in the proportion 9.9%, 219 more victims.
- Young people ages 18 to 30 were the main victims of homicide; this age group also registered the greatest rise in the number of homicides, 17.1% higher, compared to 2020.
- From a geographic perspective, 11 of the country's departments recorded a rise in the number of homicides compared to 2020. The department of Guatemala accounted for 75% of the total increase in the recorded number of homicides.
- Despite the nationwide rise in homicides as compared to 2020, the figure in over half (64.1%) of the country's municipalities remained the same or was lower than reported the previous year.

Homicides

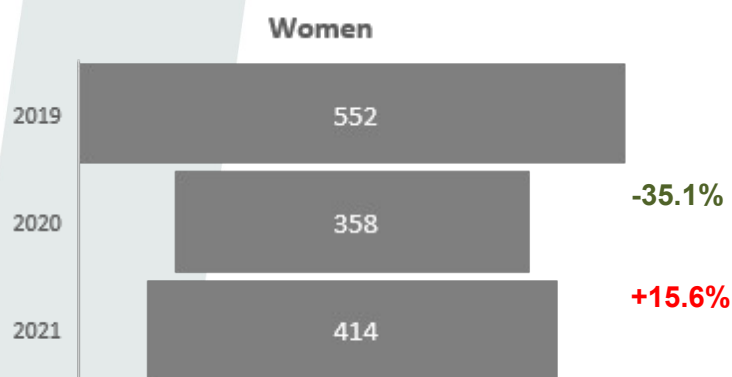
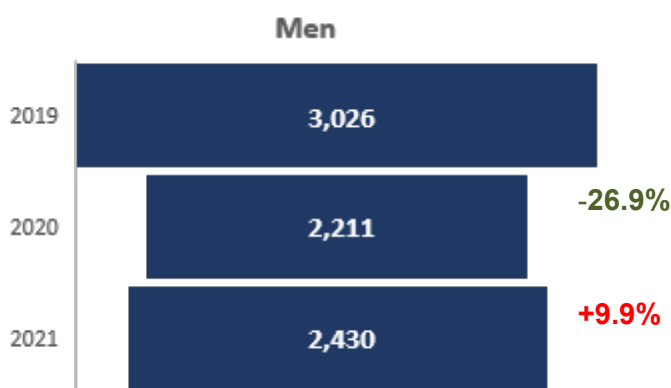
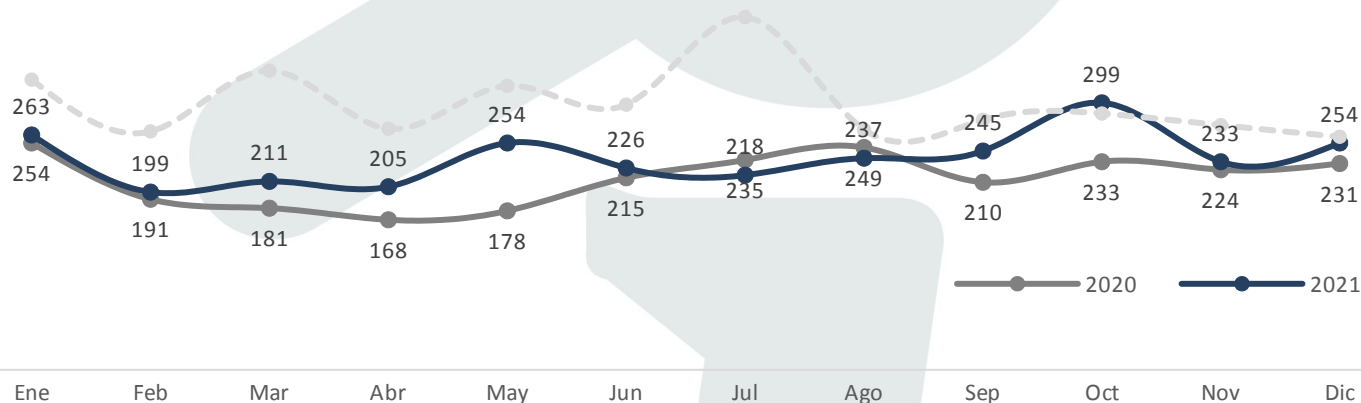
During 2021, there were 2,844 homicides recorded, with 275 more victims of lethal violence compared to 2020. Despite the fact that restrictions in mobility ended in 2021, and the alcohol ban was relaxed, there were fewer victims of homicides than those registered in 2019 prior to the pandemic.



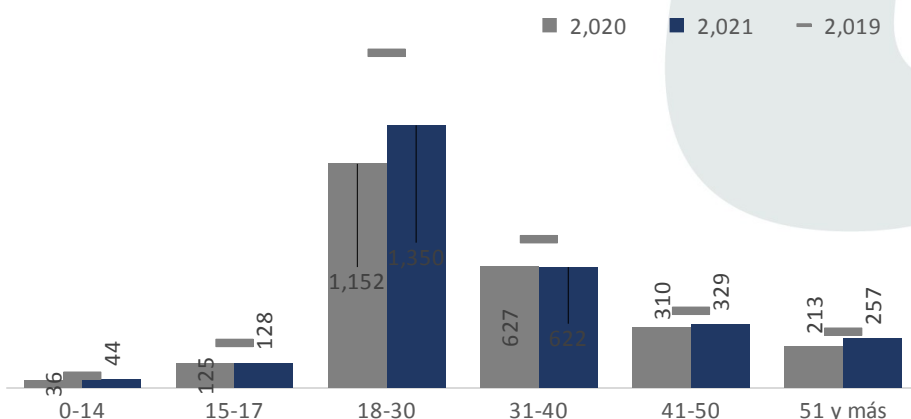
The homicide rate in 2021 closed at 16.6 homicides per 100 thousand population, 9% greater than recorded in 2020 (15.2) but 2.7 points lower than the rate for Central America and the Dominican Republic (19.3).

Apart from July and August, the rest of the months registered a greater number of homicides compared to 2020. The greatest difference is during the period between March and June 2020, when the strictest measures to contain and prevent the pandemic were in place; however, as soon as these were relaxed in the second part of the year, the behavior of homicides is similar both years, except for October.

October 2021 had the greatest number of homicides on record since August 2019.

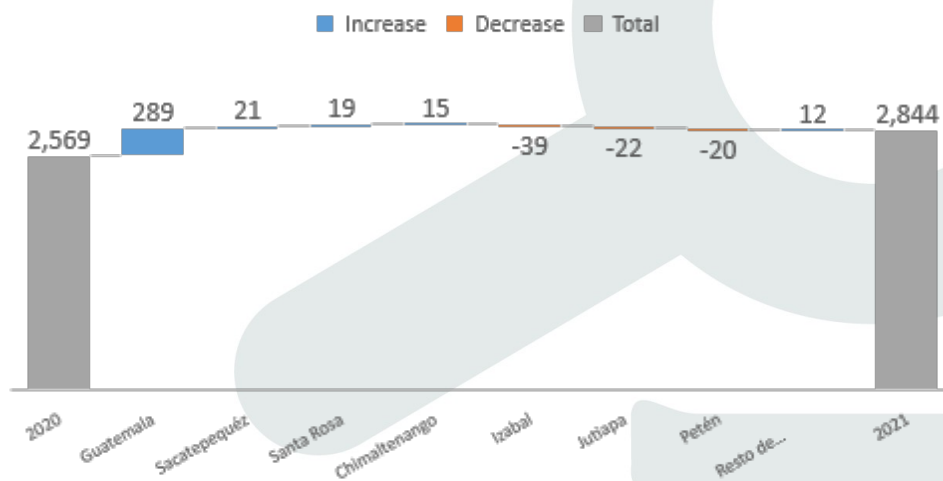


In 2021, homicides of females outpaced those of males, 414 female homicides, equivalent to more than 1 woman victim of homicide a day. However, neither sexes achieved the levels of homicides reached in 2019.



5 in 10
Homicides committed in 2021 tended to involve 18- to 30-year-olds.

Except for 31- to 40-year-olds, all age groups registered an increase in the number of homicides, with 18- to 30-year-olds accounting for the greatest increase, 198 more victims of homicide as compared to 2020.



At the end of 2021, 11 departments registered an increase in the number of homicides, as compared to the previous year. The most notable increases took place in the departments of Guatemala, Sacatepéquez, Santa Rosa and Chimaltenango.

In 2021, Huehuetenango, Santa Rosa and Sololá surpassed the number of homicides registered in 2019 (prior to the pandemic), there is land-related unrest in one of these municipalities.

Men



The departments of Guatemala, Escuintla, Izabal, Chiquimula, Petén, Santa Rosa and Quetzaltenango account for 73.8% of homicides perpetrated on males.

Women



Departments in the center and south-eastern parts of the country account for 82.2% of homicides of females.

Some 122 (35.9%) of the country's municipalities registered an increase in the number of homicides, as compared to 2020. Nevertheless, figures in the remaining 218 municipalities (64.1%) are similar or lower than in 2020.

