

BELIZE

Analysis of the State of the Violence and Citizen Security

From January to September of 2020



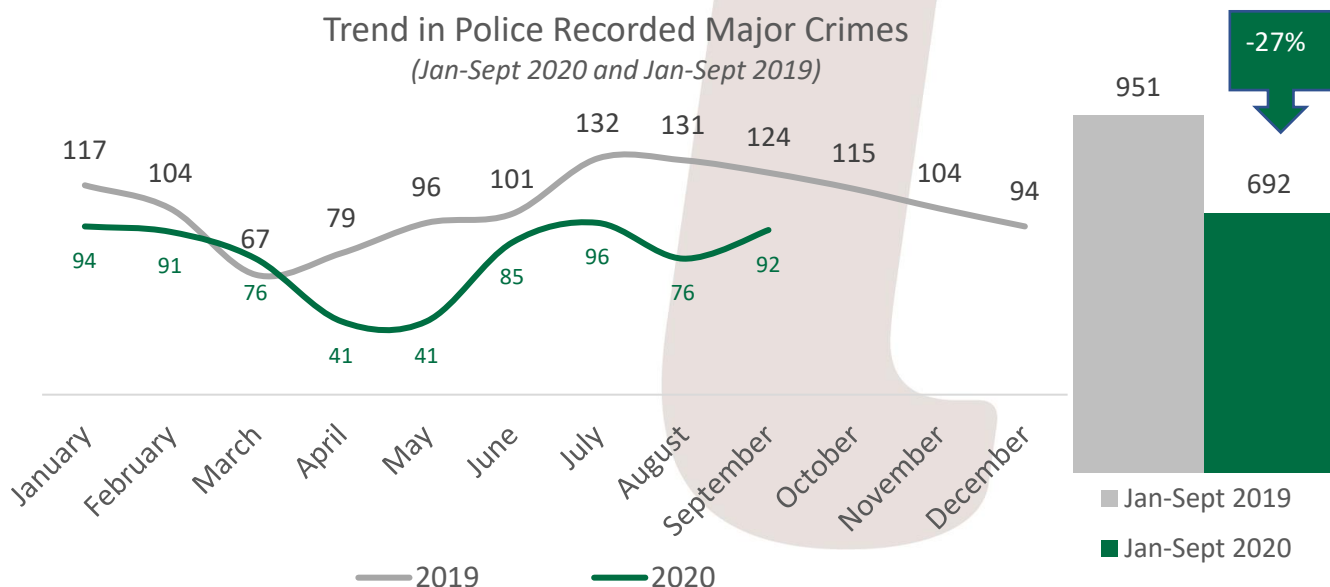
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Highlights

- Despite fluctuations over the recent months in reports of major crimes in Belize, an overall decline of 27% has been registered for the period January to September 2020, relative to the same period in 2019.
- Murders were down by 24% (23 fewer murders), with male victims recording a larger reduction than female victims.
- However, murders increased in the Corozal and Stann Creek Districts.
- Robberies, burglaries, and thefts recorded an overall decline, although the southernmost district of Toledo, neighboring Guatemala and Honduras, recorded an increase.
- Nationally, the reductions in cases of theft and rape were less pronounced than the reductions in the other crime categories.
- The prison population grew about 14% by the end of September 2020, compared with one year prior. An increase in incarcerated migrants contributed to the rise, in addition to incarceration related to COVID-19 and gang-related State of Emergency measures.
- The proportion of inmates held in pretrial detention remained virtually unchanged, at 1 in 4 inmates.
- Although females accounted for less than 5% of the prison population, the number of female inmates grew 36%, whereas the number of inmates below the age of 18 fell 36%.

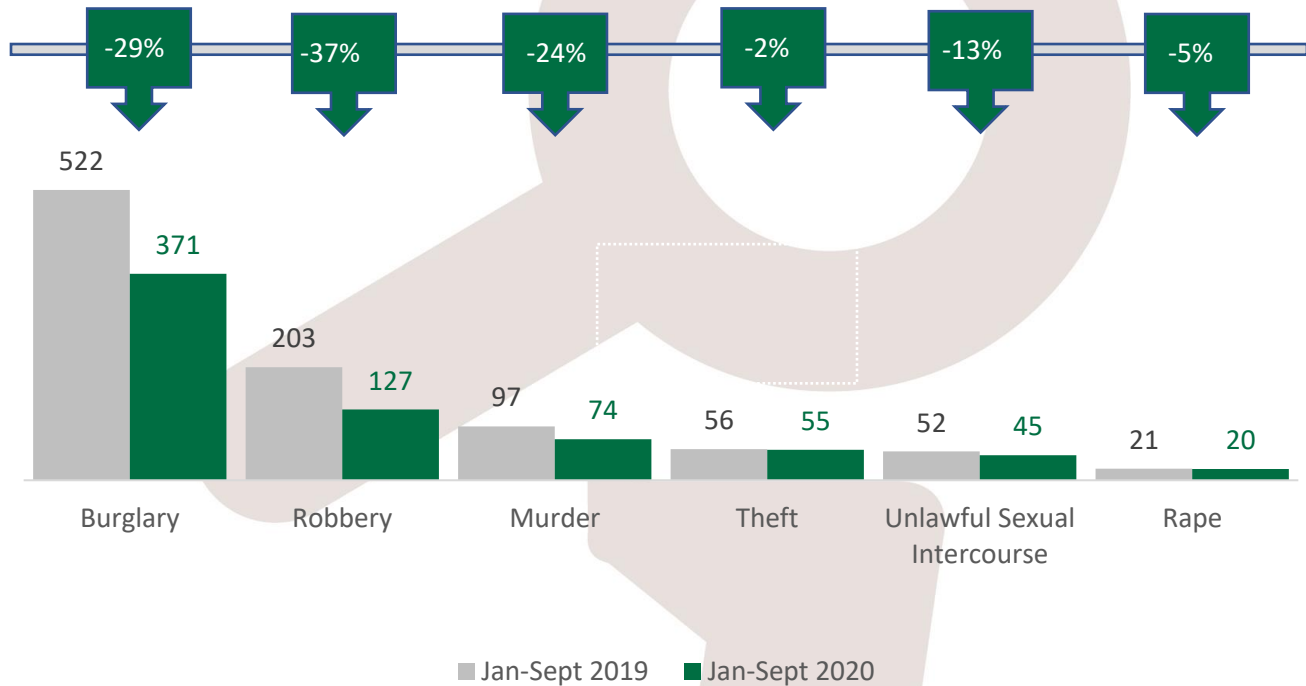
Evidence

Major crimes continued its general upward trend for the period June to September 2020, after a marked decline in April-May 2020, during strict measures to contain the spread of COVID-19.



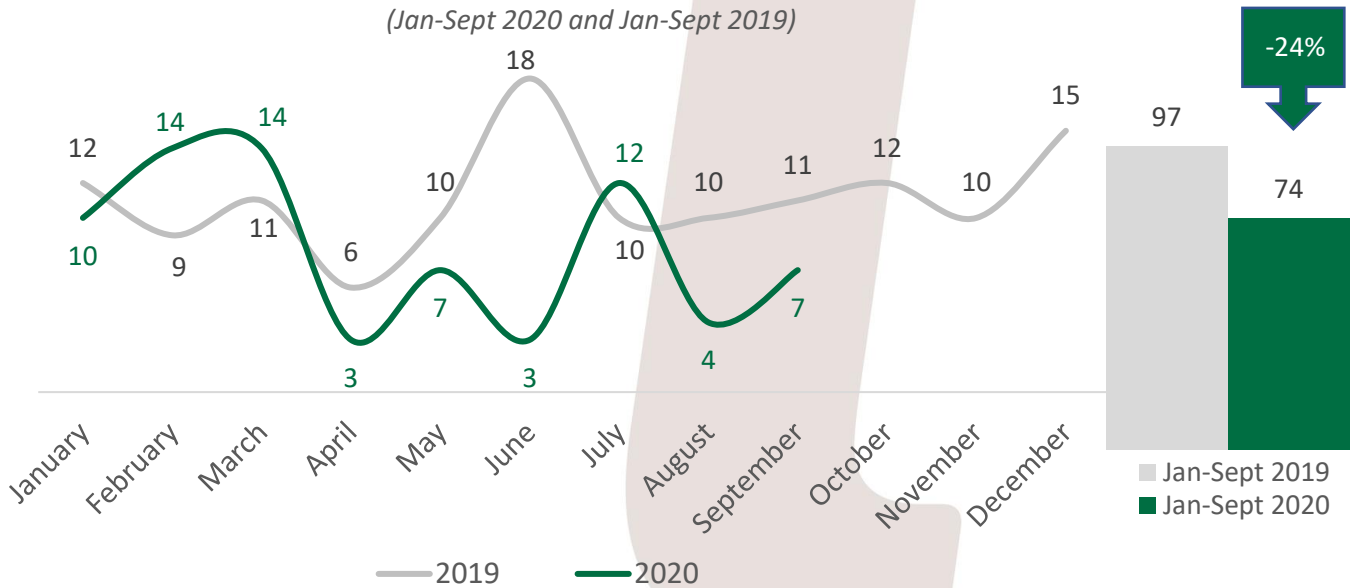
All categories of major crimes recorded a decline for the first 9 months of 2020 when compared to the same period in 2019.

Change in Major Crimes Incidents by Category (Jan-Sept 2020 and Jan-Sept 2019)



Data Source: Belize Police Department

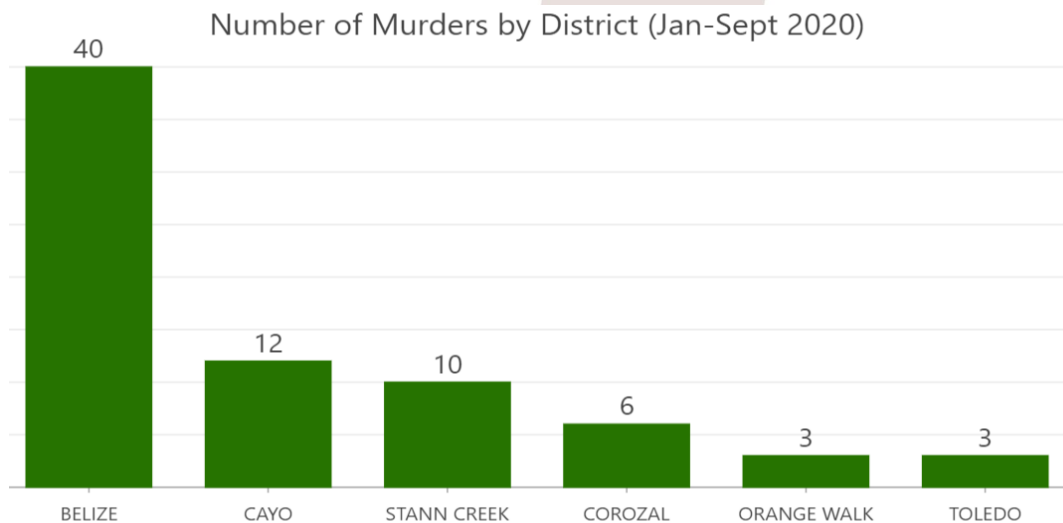
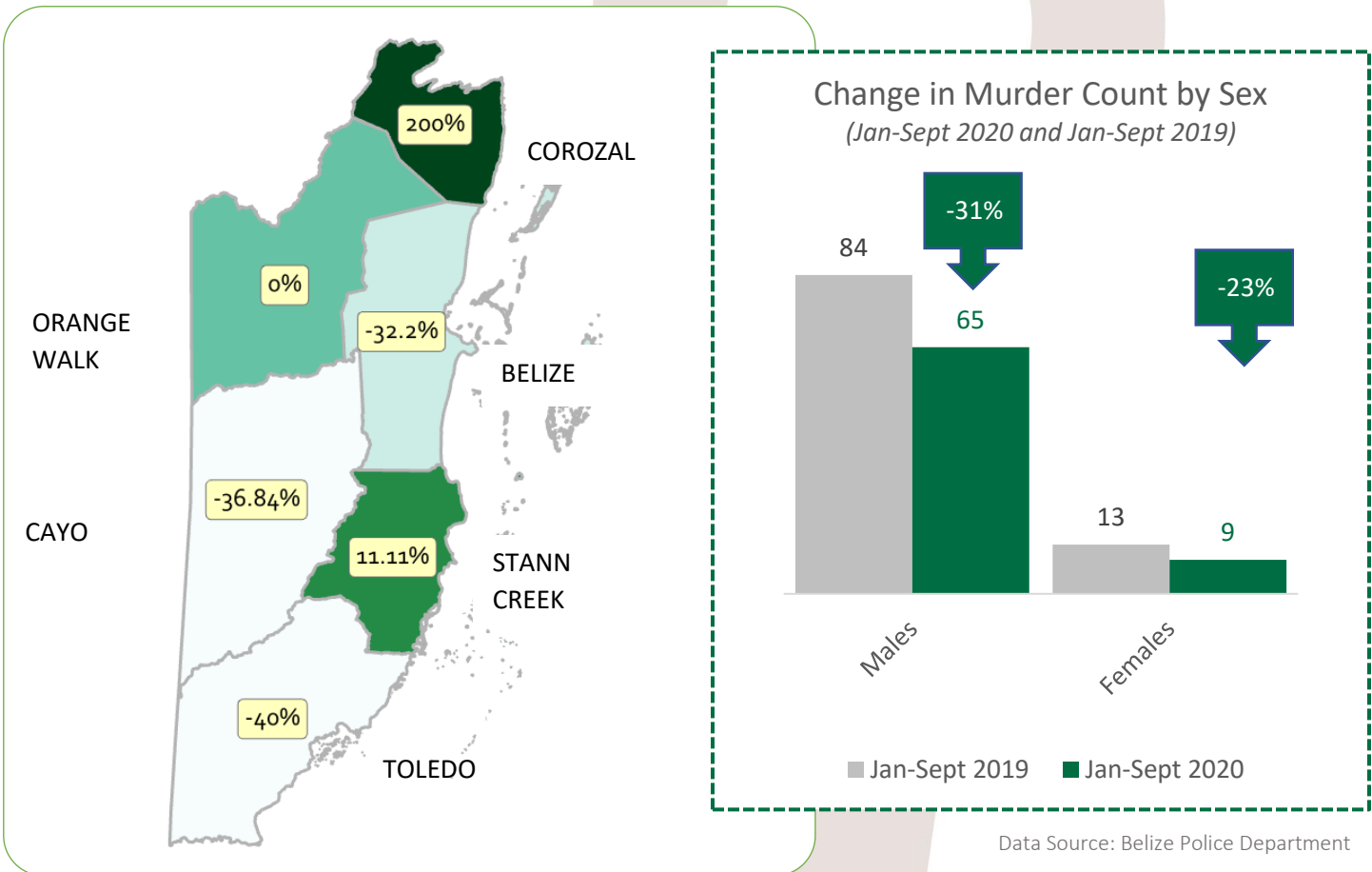
Trend in Police Recorded Murders (Jan-Sept 2020 and Jan-Sept 2019)



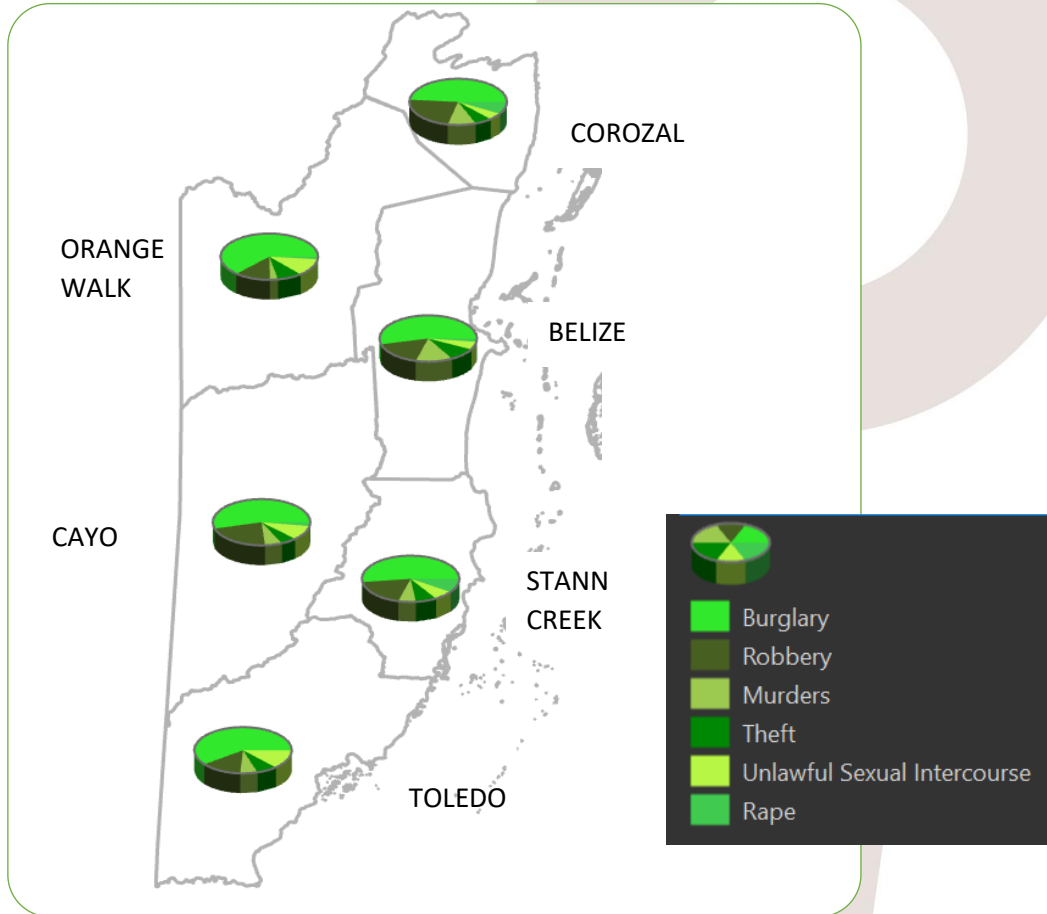
Nationally, the murder count has declined by 24%, with the count for males registering a more notable decline of 31%, while for females, the count declined 23%.

For January to September 2020, an average of 8 murders per month were recorded, down from an average of 11 for the same period last year.

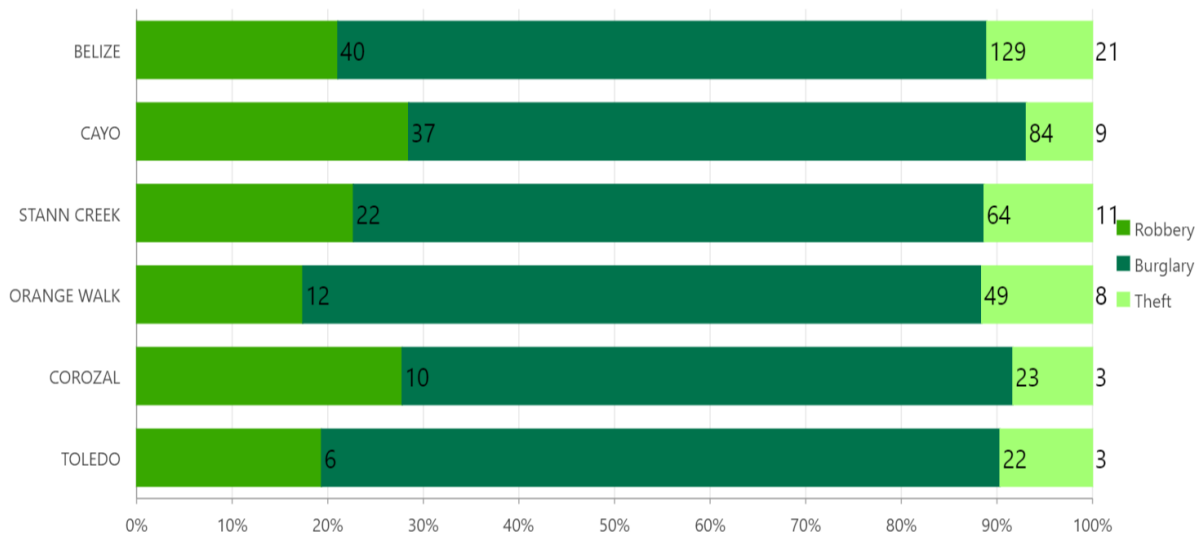
Although nationally, the murder count declined by 24%, the districts of Corozal and Stann Creek registered an overall increase.



Property crimes (robberies, burglaries and thefts) continued to account for the vast majority of major crimes cases under police investigation. Although burglaries declined overall over the period, January to September 2020, property crimes reports increased in the district of Toledo. Overall, major crimes increased in Toledo.



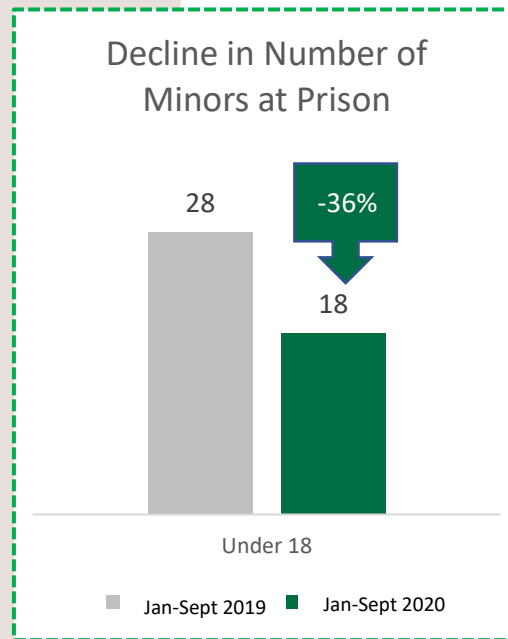
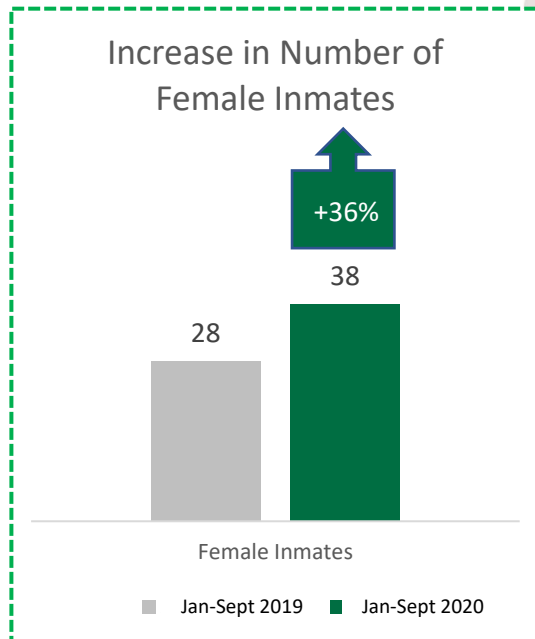
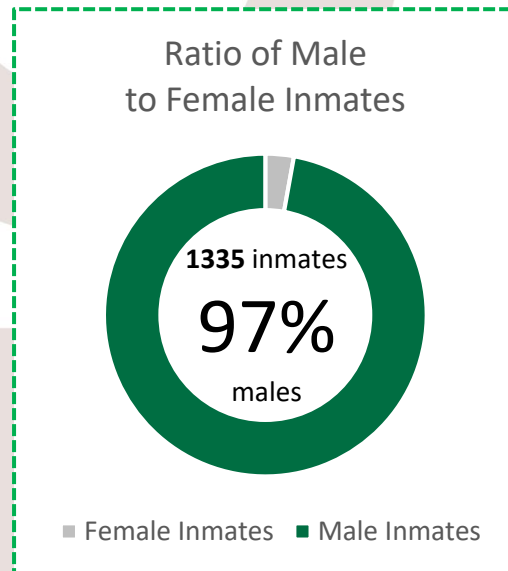
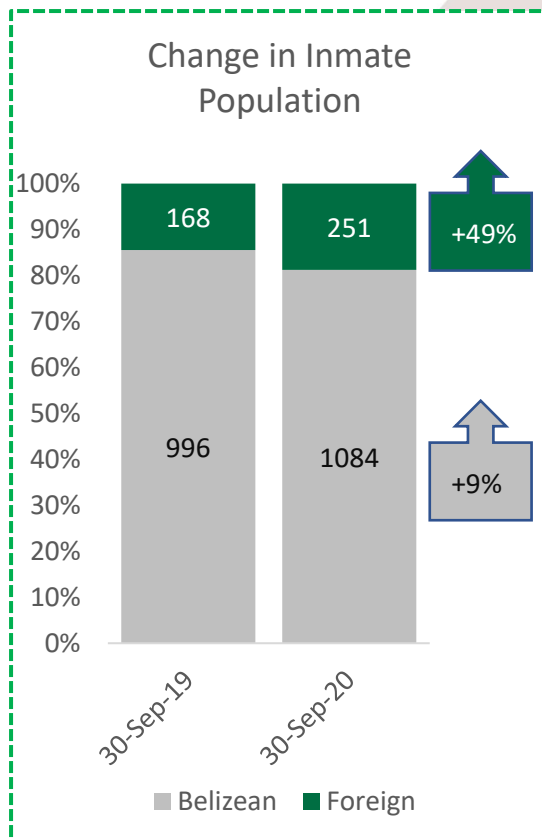
Ratio of Robberies, Burglaries and Thefts by District



Data Source: Belize Police Department

The prison population increased by roughly 14% at the end of September 2020, compared to September 2019, from 1,164 to 1,335. Pretrial detainees amounted to 1 in every 4 inmates.

Whereas there was a decline in the number of inmates under the age of 18, there was an increase in the number of female inmates, although they continued to comprise a very small percentage of the prison population. There was also a notable 49% increase in the number of foreign inmates.



Data Source: Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation