

GUATEMALA

Analysis of the State of Homicidal Violence January-June 2022

Highlights

- As of June 2022, 1,508 individuals were victims of homicide, 153 more than during the same period the previous year, but 304 fewer victims than in 2019.
- The annualized homicide rate as of June returns to the trend in recent years, with a rate of 17.2 homicides per 100,000 population; this is similar to the projected rate based on the behavior of homicides between 2010 and 2019.
- During January to June 2022, seven men and one woman succumbed to a violent death daily.
- Homicides of women increased by 12.5 % compared to Jan-Jun 2021; a higher proportion than in men (+11.1%).
- Homicides, robberies, and theft rose mainly in urban municipalities, and dropped in rural areas, signs of a possible demographic displacement from rural to urban settings, which may also be reflected in the rise in crime and violence.
- Homicidal Violence is concentrated in vulnerable areas in urban settings. In the first half of 2022, the department of Guatemala was the site of approximately four in ten homicides nationwide, primarily in areas where there is high risk of crime and violence, and residential city areas.

Homicides

Violence takes too many lives
(Jan-Jun 2022)

Violence-related fatalities
1,508



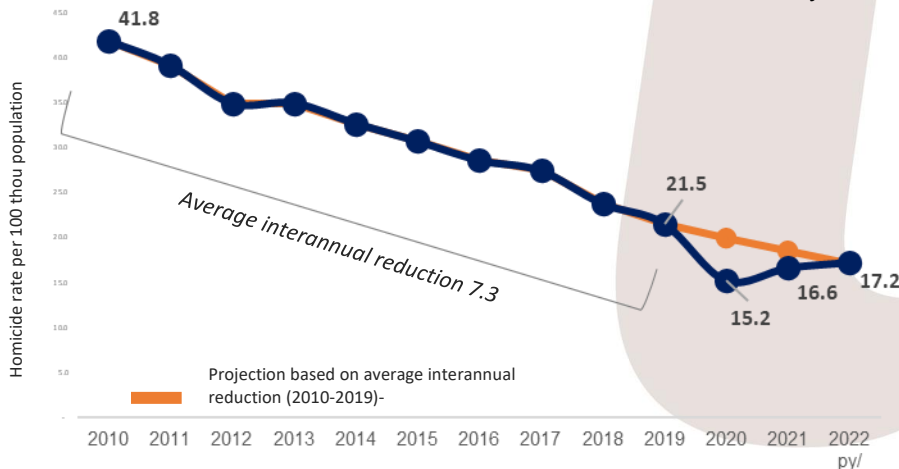
Male victims
1,283



Female victims
225

January to March 2022, there were 1,508 violence-related deaths, 153 more victims compared to the same period the previous year.

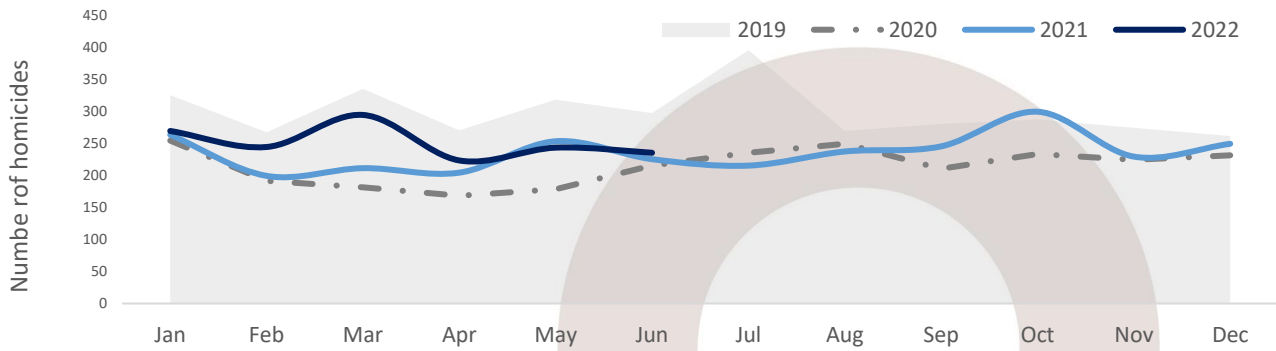
The homicide rate returned to the same trend it had in recent years.



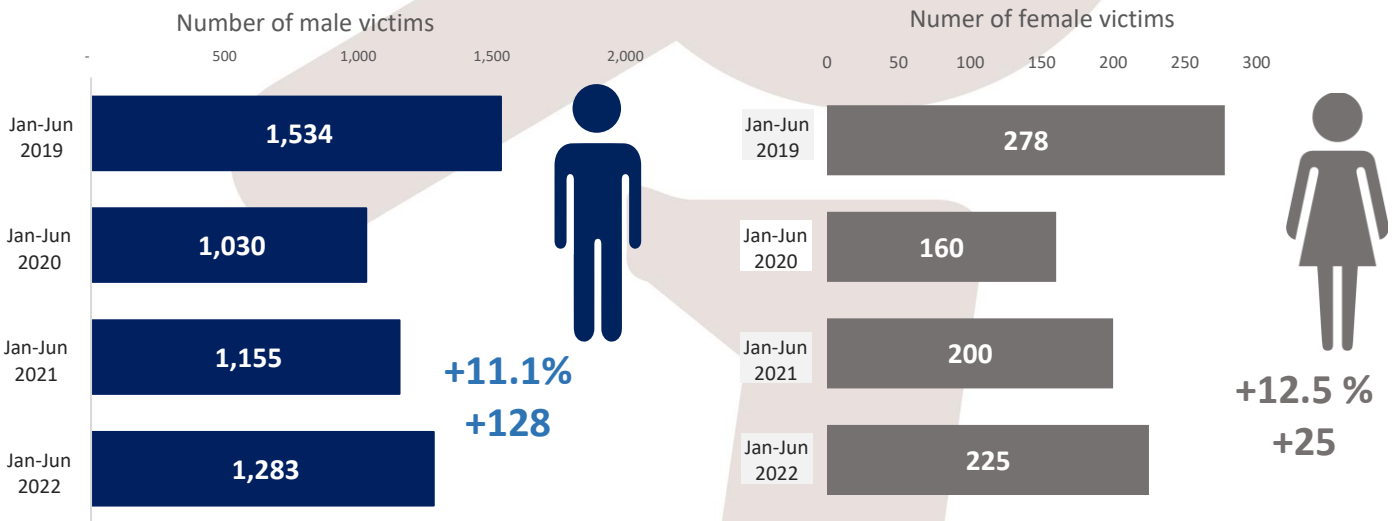
Annualizing the homicide rate with data as of June 2022, the rate was 17.2 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants.

A downward trend in homicides started in 2010 with an average interannual reduction of 7.3%. Projecting total homicides with this average interannual reduction, we see that 2022 is projected to have a closing rate of 17.1 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants, similar to the 17.2 interannual rate as of June 2022.

In the last three months (April-June 2022), the upward trend in homicides slowed.

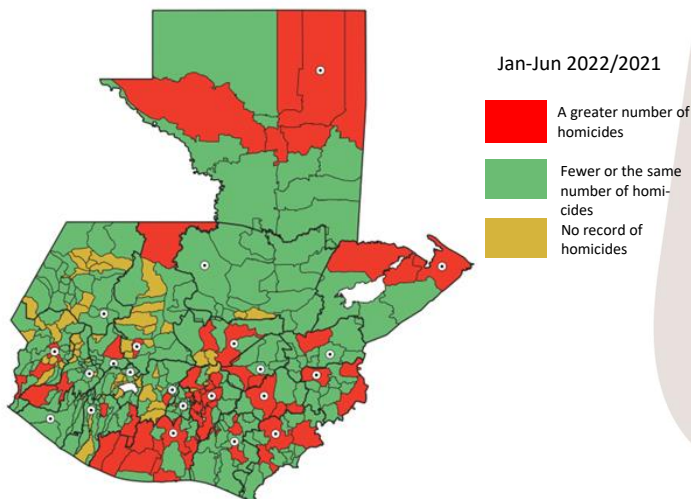


During the first quarter in 2022, a rising trend became apparent, primarily in March when it reached near pre-pandemic levels. However, during the period from April to June 2022, the rise slowed and the number of homicides recorded was similar to 2021 and even lower than in 2019.



Between January and June 2022, 1,283 men died violently, 128 more victims, which is an 11.1% rise as compared to the same period in 2021; but this figure is still lower than 2019 reaching only 80.3% of homicides that took place during that same period of the year.

At least one woman died violently every day in Guatemala between January and June 2022. This adds up to 225 female victims, 25 more compared to 2021, with a 12.5% increase; this is a greater proportion than male homicides.



The rise in homicides is not uniform.

As of the first part of 2022, only 101 municipalities had higher homicide numbers compared to 2021, equivalent to 29.7% of the municipalities in the country. Out of 22 department capitals, 11 registered an increase in the number of homicides. It is also worth noting the rise in homicides in municipalities in the departments of Guatemala, Escuintla, Petén, and others bordering El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico.

Urban violence on the rise

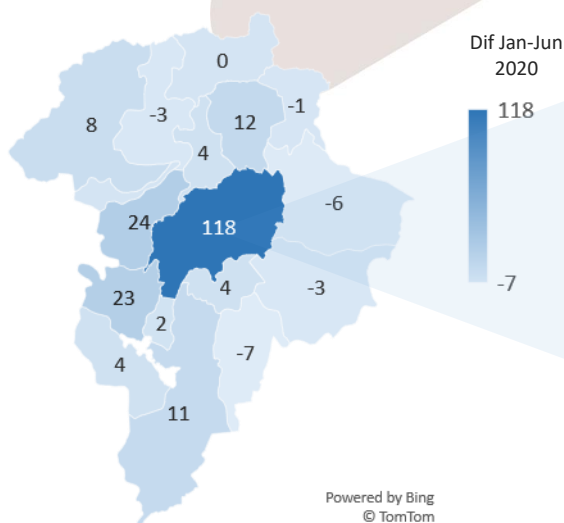
Crime and violence potentially shift from rural to urban areas

January to June

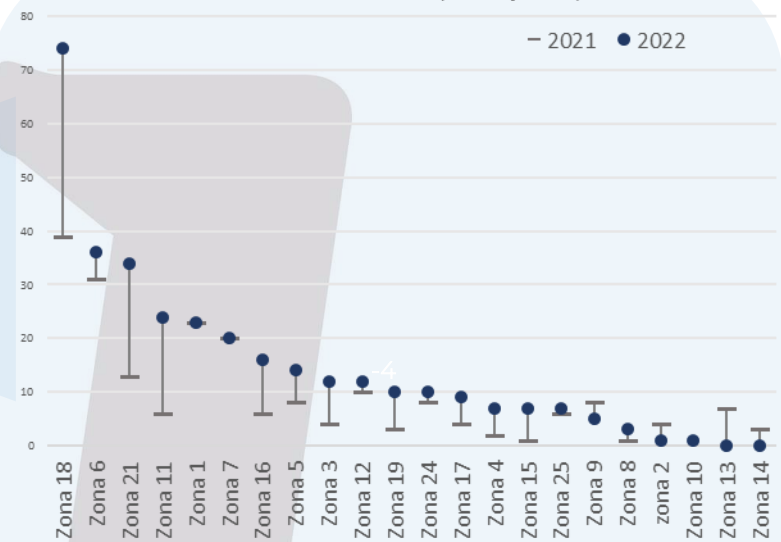
	Very urban	Urban	Rural	Very rural
Percentage of the population	>75%	50%>75%	25%>50%	25%<
Homicides	28.3%	17.4%	-3.2%	-28.8%
Robbery and Theft	10.6%	30.4%	-1.1%	-15.2%

Homicide, robbery, and theft dropped in mostly rural municipalities during the first part of 2022, while in municipalities that are mostly urban, both crimes were on the rise. Out of every ten homicides between January and June 2022, seven took place in primarily urban municipalities. These factors point to a potential shift of crime and violence from rural to urban areas, considering that urban cities account for greater economic activity, trade and therefore people have greater purchasing power.

Difference in homicides figures in the municipalities of the department of Guatemala



Number of homicides (January-June)



The department that exhibited the greatest increase in the number of female homicides in the first semester of 2022 was Guatemala, this increase occurred mainly in the municipality of Guatemala, followed by Mixco and Villa Nueva, other municipalities increased by fewer than 12 homicides.

Focusing by zones in the municipality of Guatemala, and comparing to 2021, during the first part of 2022, in zone 18, 35 more homicides were recorded, for a total of 74 homicides in that zone. This is followed by zone 6 and zone 21, the latter showing 21 more homicides than the year before. These three are well-known hot zones for crime and violence, and residential areas there are overcrowded.

Source: 2010-2021 INE with data provided by National Civil Police. 2022. Guatemala National Civil Police (PNC)-Statistics Section, validation by INE pending, prepared with data from 18 July 2022. Urban population: Percentage of the population living in urban and rural areas according to the National Statistics Institute's 2018 National Census.

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