

# GUATEMALA

## Analysis of the State of homicidal Violence

January-March 2022

### Highlights

- From January to March 2022, there were 807 homicide deaths, 134 more victims than during the previous year, but fewer than the number of homicides recorded during 2019.
- During January to March 2022, the equivalent of 8 men and 1 woman died violently every day.
- Young people between the ages of 18 and 29 were the main victims of homicide again in 2022.
- Firearms were the means for committing 8 in 10 homicides in 2022. Compared to the previous year, there were 145 more victims of homicide by means of a firearm.
- In the department of Guatemala, there was a rise in the number of homicides compared to the previous year. During the first quarter in 2022, this department accounted for 4 in 10 homicides nationwide.

### Homicides

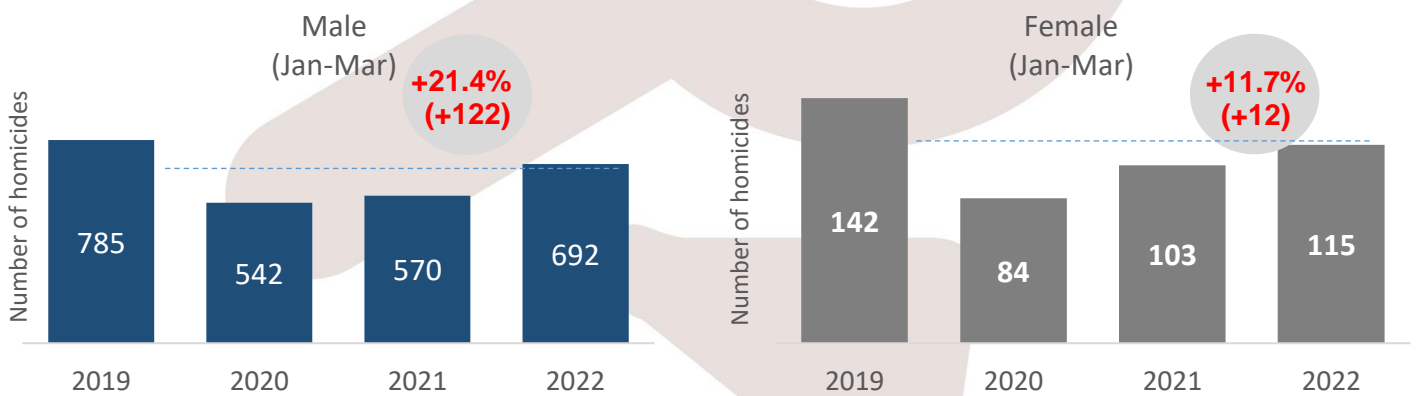
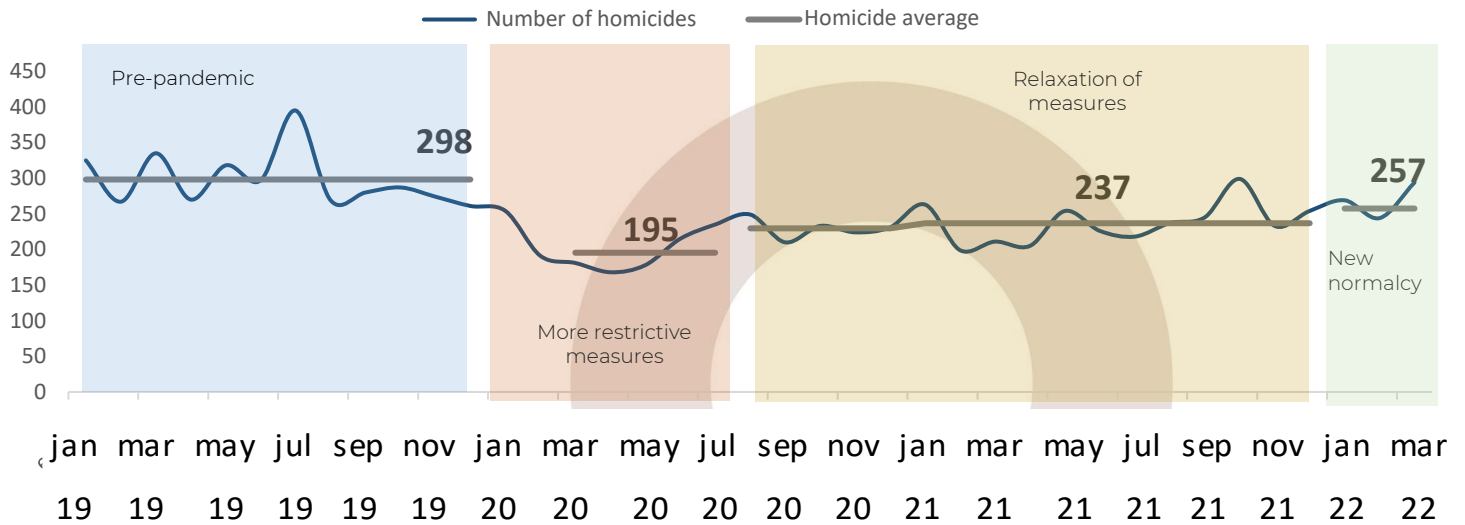
Violence takes too many lives  
(Jan-Mar 2022)



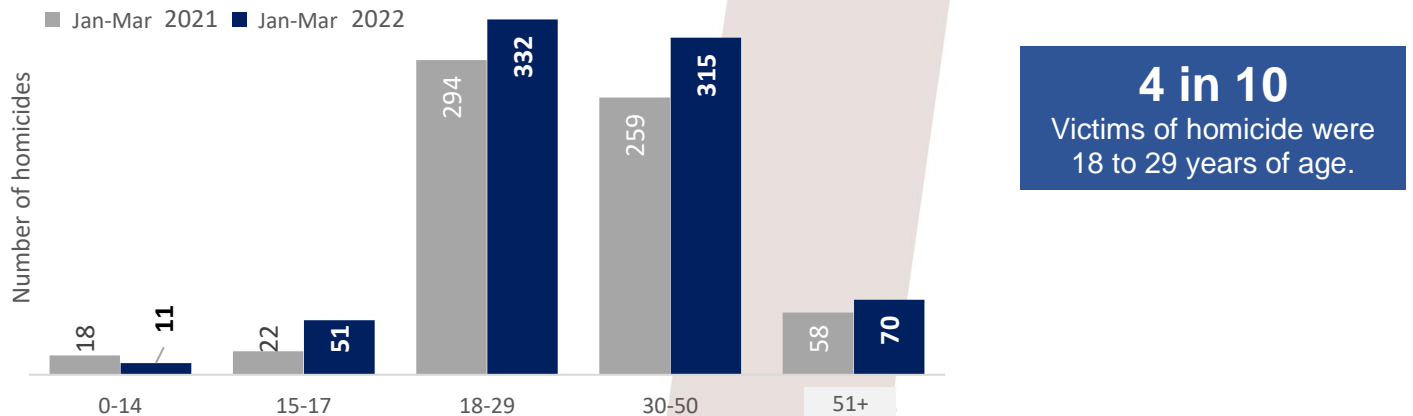
January to March 2022, there were 807 violence-related deaths, 134 more victims compared to the same period the year before. March 2022 figures were higher than the previous year every month, except October.



Prior to the pandemic, on average, there were 298 homicides per month, which is a marked difference as compared to the period from March to June 2020, when the strictest control and prevention measures were in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with an average of approximately 195 homicides per month. Nonetheless, once these measures were relaxed, there is a slight uptick in the monthly homicide average. During the first quarter in 2022, with conditions returning to normal, there was a noticeable rise in homicides, with an average 257 deaths per month, but still short of the pre-pandemic levels.

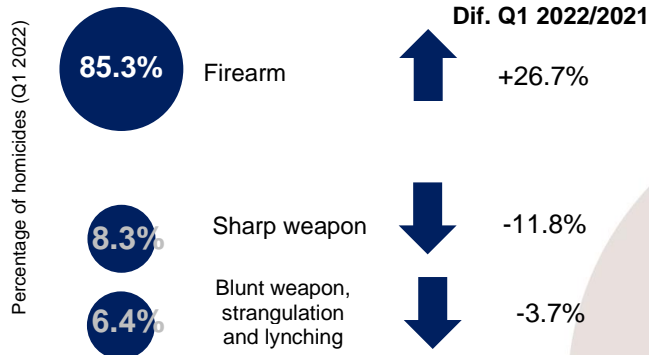


Between January and March 2022, approximately 8 men and more than 1 woman lost their lives to violent homicides in the country on a daily basis. Homicides in men were up in greater proportion than in women during the first quarter of 2022, in men it reached 88% and in women 81% of the homicides recorded prior to the pandemic (year 2019).



Except for 0- to 14-year-olds, all age groups registered an increase in the number of homicides from January through March 2022, with 30- to 50-year-olds accounting for the widest upswing, 56 more victims of homicide as compared to 2021.

In 30–50-year-old males, there was an increase in homicides involving a firearm in the department of Guatemala.



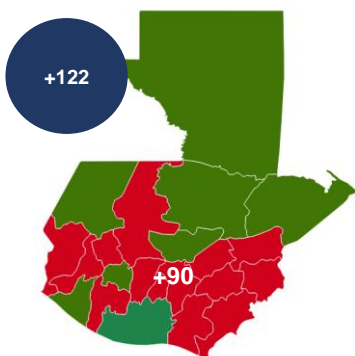
As of the first quarter in 2022, firearms were used to commit at least 8 in 10 homicides, equivalent to 688 firearm-related deaths.

### Male

Between January and March 2022, over half of the departments (14 out of 22) recorded a hike in the number of male homicides as compared to the same period in 2021. The departments were mainly in the east and central regions of the country.

The department of Guatemala, as of the first quarter in 2022, accounted for 42.9% of male homicides, and this represented 73.8% of the increase registered nationwide for homicide. This almost reached the pre-pandemic levels (299 homicides as of Q1 2019 - 297 homicides as of Q1 2022).

In January to March 2022, in the department of Guatemala, the municipalities that experienced the greatest increases in male homicides in relation to the first quarter of 2021 were: Guatemala (+54), Villa Nueva (+24), Mixco (+9), Villa Canales (+8) and Santa Catarina Pinula (+7).

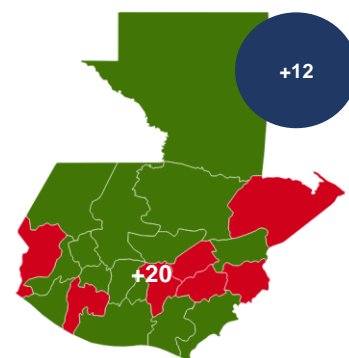


### Female

Of the country's 22 departments, 7 registered an increase in the number of female homicides compared to the first quarter of 2021, mainly in the department of Guatemala, where 1 out of every 2 homicides targeting women were committed during the first quarter of 2022.

In the department of Guatemala, the increase was mainly due to homicides targeting women between the ages of 18 and 29 who died from gunshot wounds.

As of the first quarter of 2022, there was a marked rise in homicides targeting women in the municipality of Guatemala, with 34 female victims, 20 more than the same period the previous year and surpassing the pre-pandemic figures (27 homicides as of the first quarter of 2019).



Source: 2010-2020 INE with data provided by National Civil Police. 2021-2022 Guatemala National Civil Police (PNC)-Statistics Section, validation by INE pending, with data provided on 7 April 2022.