

DATACCIÓN con PNUD Infosegura
Webinar con evidencia sobre seguridad ciudadana



MULTIDIMENSIONAL ANALYSIS OF CITIZEN SECURITY: **BELIZE**

*Análisis multidimensional de **BELIZE** de seguridad ciudadana*

JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER 2021
enero a septiembre 2021

14 OCTOBER 2021



 www.infosegura.org

OUTLINE

- Context
- Highlights
- Citizen Security Analysis
 - Murders
 - Acts Against Property
 - Gender-based Violence
 - Domestic Violence
 - Sexual Violence
 - Femicides
 - Incarceration
 - Forensic Analysis
- Considerations

ESQUEMA

- *Contexto*
- *Reflejos*
- *Análisis de seguridad ciudadana*
 - *Homicidios dolosos*
 - *Actos contra la propiedad*
- *La violencia de género*
 - *Violencia doméstica*
 - *Violencia sexual*
 - *Femicidios*
- *Encarcelamiento*
- *Análisis forense*
- *Consideraciones*



Hon. Kareem Musa -
New Minister responsible
for Police / Home Affairs

SOCIAL

- COVID-19 Health Crisis
- Education
- Social Services

POLITICAL

- Change in administration (Nov. 2020)

ECONOMIC

- Poverty – 52% (2018)
- Unemployment – 11.2% (2021)

CONTEXT

CULTURAL
multi-ethnic population

GEOGRAPHIC
Disparities across communities



Belize has reopened to cruise tourism

CONTEXTO: Social, político, económico, cultural, geográfico

HIGHLIGHTS

MURDERS

90

-7%

relative to
2019

CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

539

-31%

relative to
2019

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

1,600+

Change
varies by
category

INCARCERATION

1,047

-10%

relative to
2019

FORENSIC ANALYSIS

267

-27

relative to
2019

** Based on most recent available data*

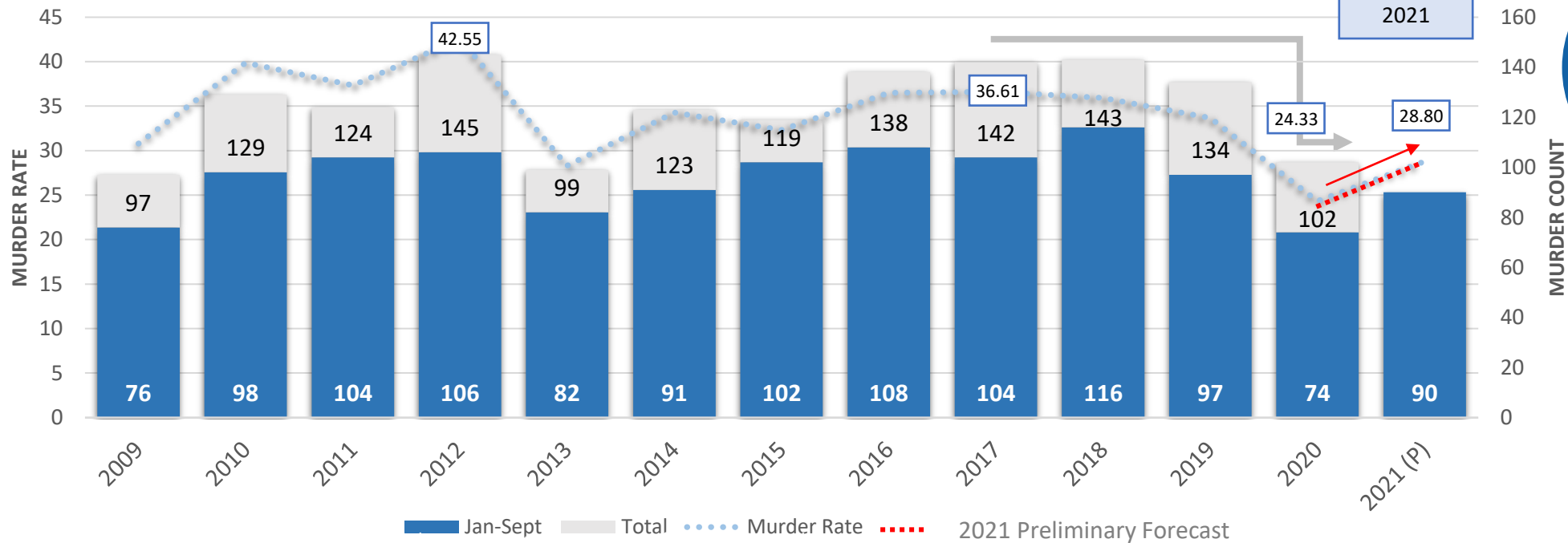
Murders (*Homicidios dolosos*)

"Every person who intentionally causes the death of another person by unlawful harm is guilty of **MURDER.**"
(*Belize Criminal Code, Chapter 101 of the Laws of Belize*)

*Murder is one of six categories of Major Crimes,
prioritized by Belize's law enforcement authorities.*

AFTER THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF DECLINE (2018-2020), THE MURDER RATE IS FORECASTED TO RISE IN 2021, BASED ON THE CURRENT TRAJECTORY

Murder Count and Rate for 2009-2020 (2021 Forecast included)



2020 REGISTERED THE MOST PRECIPITIOUS DECLINE IN THE MURDER RATE SINCE 2013

90 Murders Jan-Sept 2021

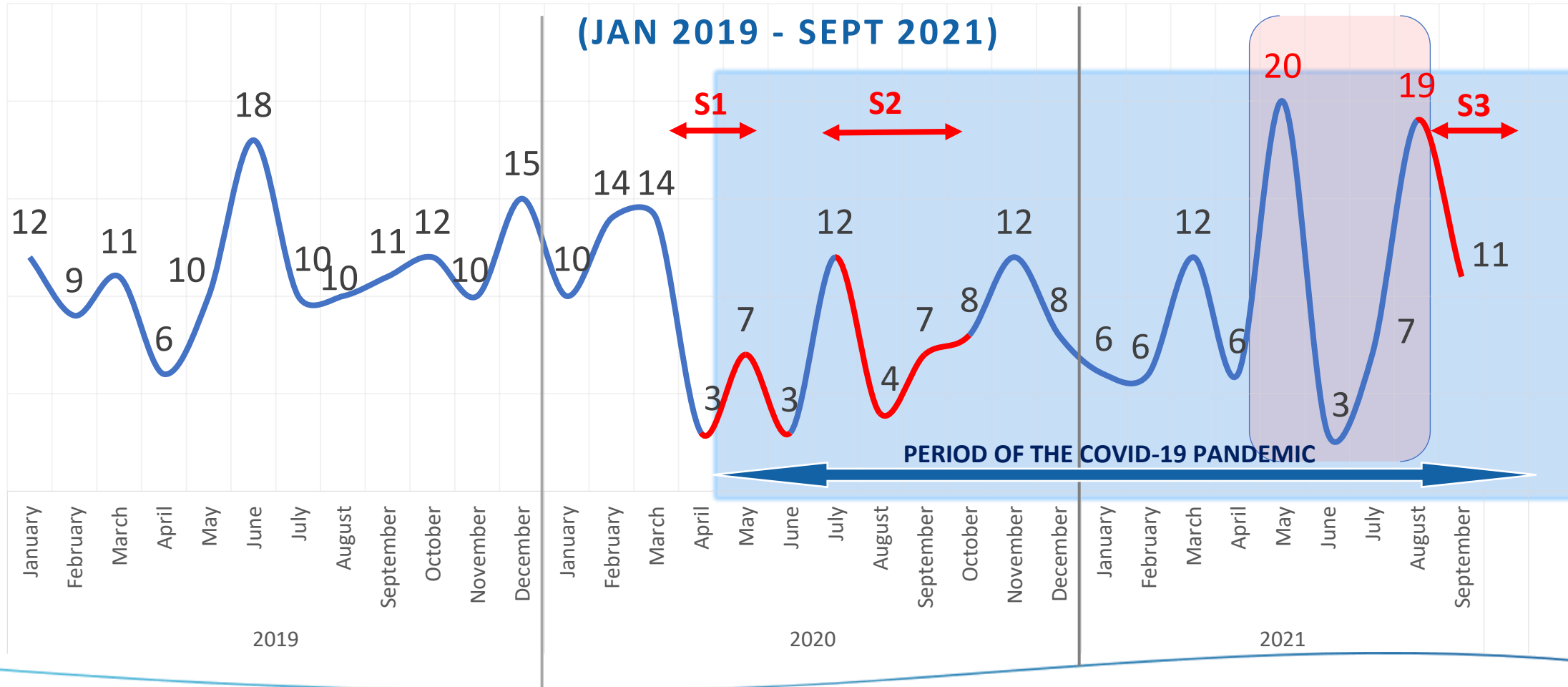
FORECASTS

- BZ: 28.80
- LAC: 20.8
- CA / RD: 19.6

Just before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in Belize, **gang-related States of Emergencies (SOE)** began to be imposed to suppress urban violence. The most recent gang-related SOE was implemented in August 2021.



BELIZE MURDER COUNT (JAN 2019 - SEPT 2021)

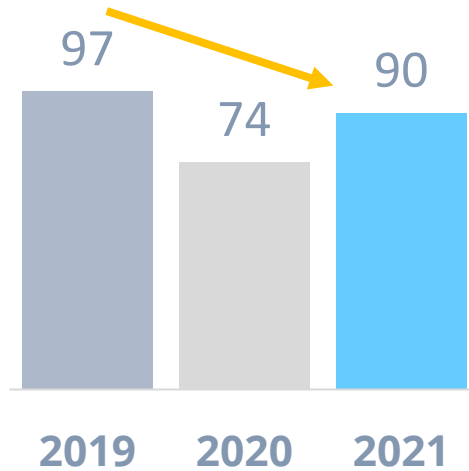


Data Source: Belize Police Department



National Perspective

January to September 2021

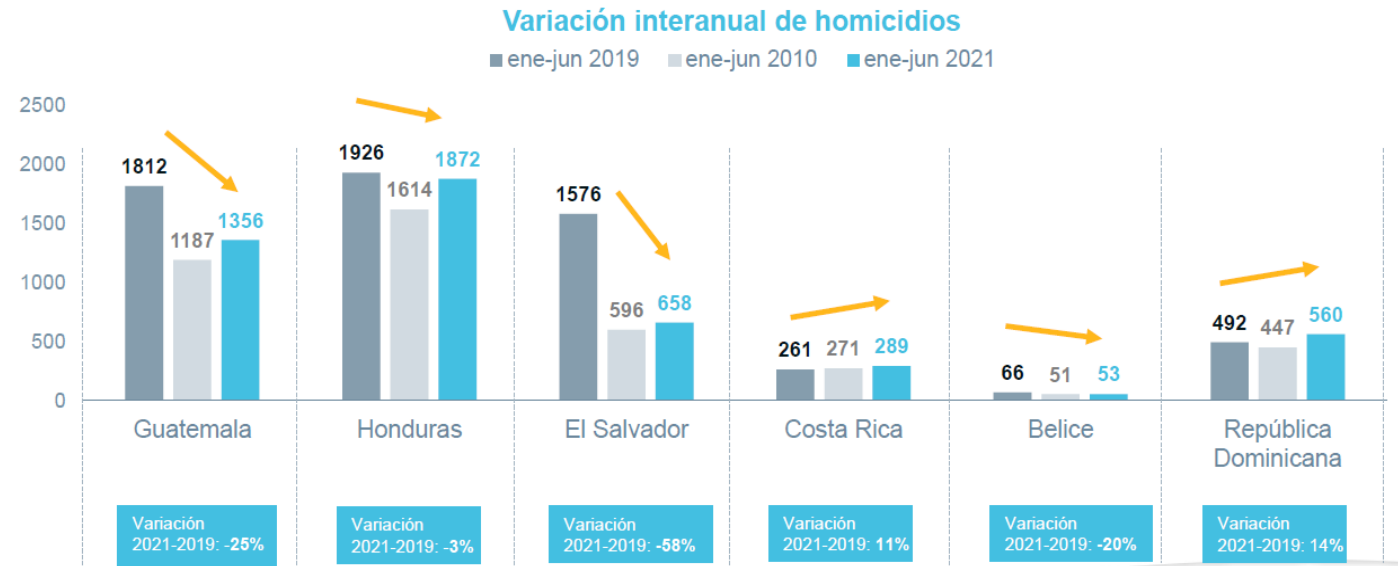


Change
 2021-2019: - 7.22%
 2021-2020: +21.62%

The gap between 2019 and 2021 narrowed between July and September 2021, approaching pre-COVID-19 levels.

Regional Comparison

January to June 2021

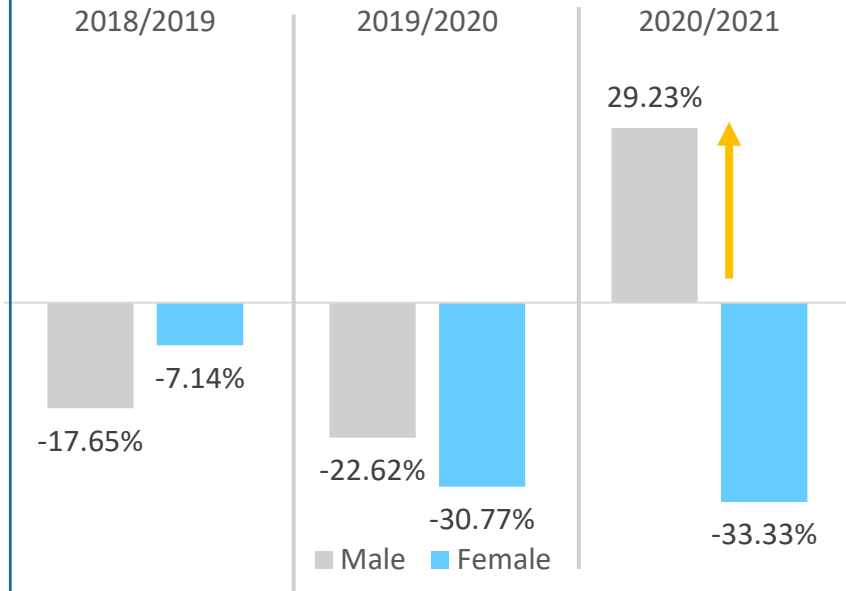


Regional chart by InfoSegura

Belize registered the third largest percent decline in murders among InfoSegura countries during January to June 2021. However, the situation has since been deteriorating.

National Perspective

January to September 2021



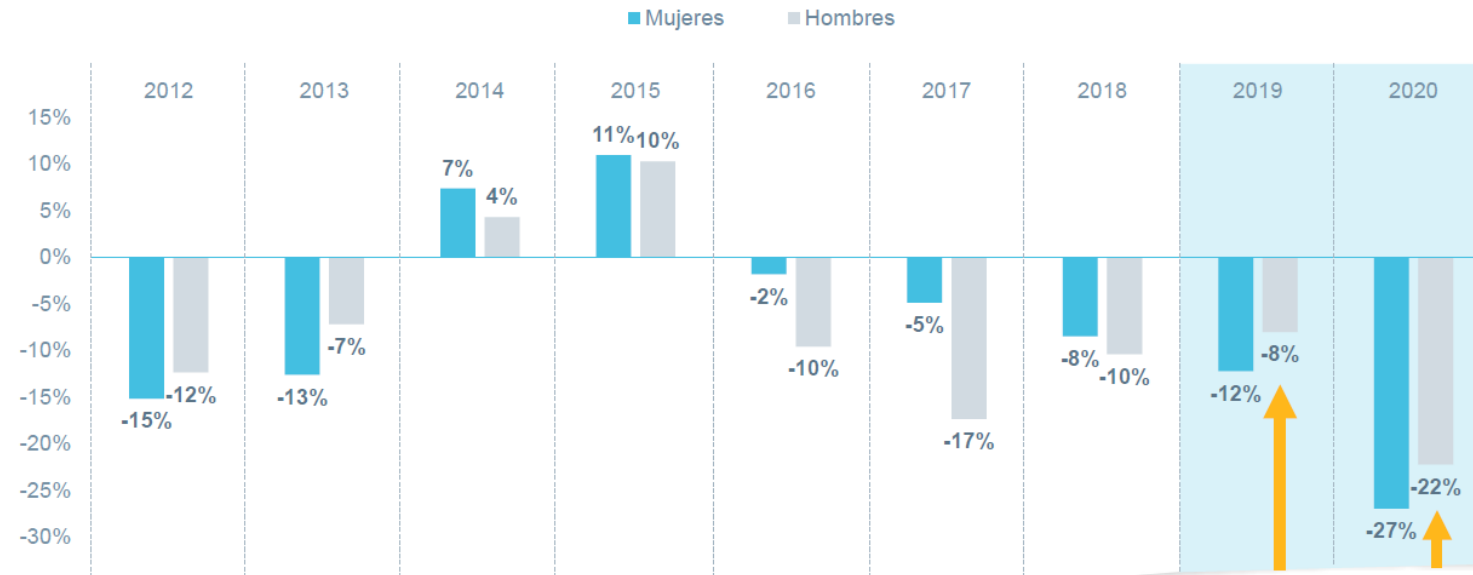
In Belize, there was a marked increase in the number of males murdered during January to September 2021.

Comparative national level data for January to September only

Regional Comparison

January to June 2021

Cambios en el total de homicidios respecto al año anterior por sexo



Regional chart by InfoSegura

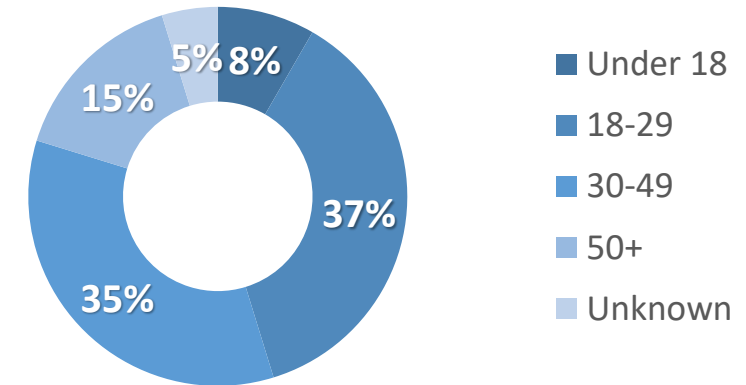
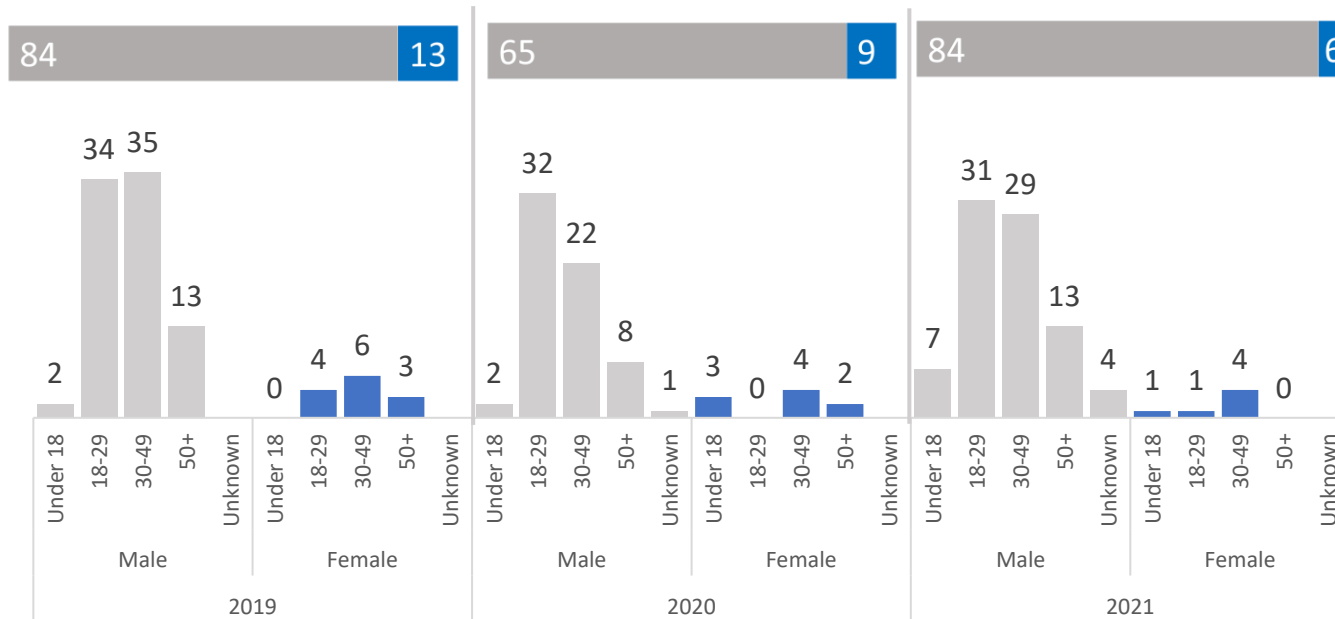
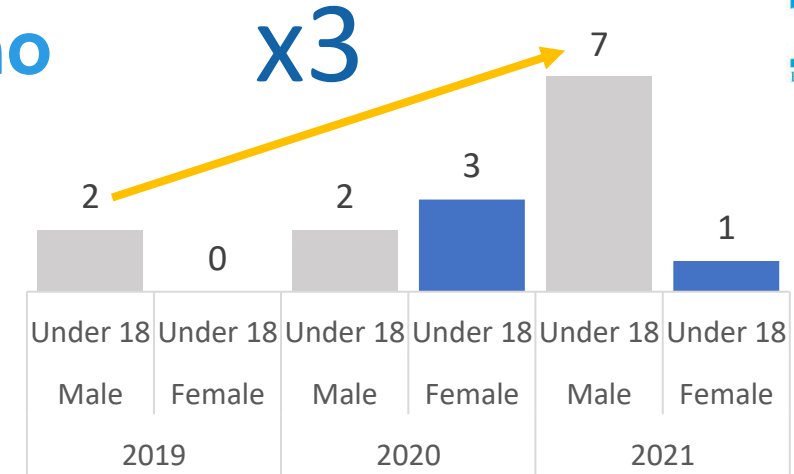
Regionally, as well as in Belize, the number of females murdered declined in 2020 to a greater extent than did the number of males.

There was a notable increase in the number of male minors under the age of 18 who were murdered during Jan-Sept 2021

Police-involved killings*

The killing of two minors (ages 14 and 16) by Police were excluded from the murder count.

x3



Incidents involving females will be elaborated in the section on gender-based violence.

SUMMARY STATS

MURDERS (January to September 2021)

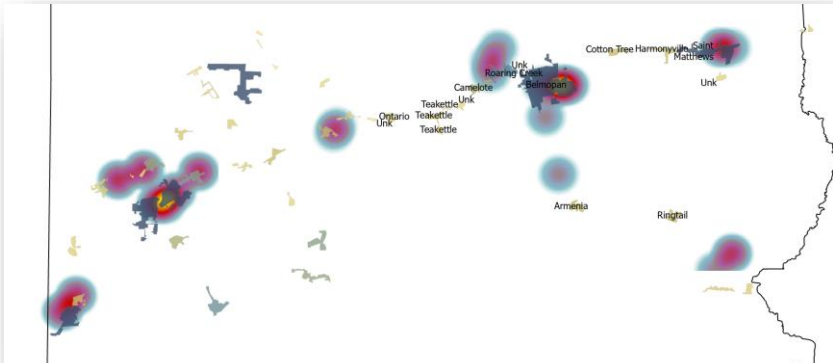


Data Source: Belize Police Department

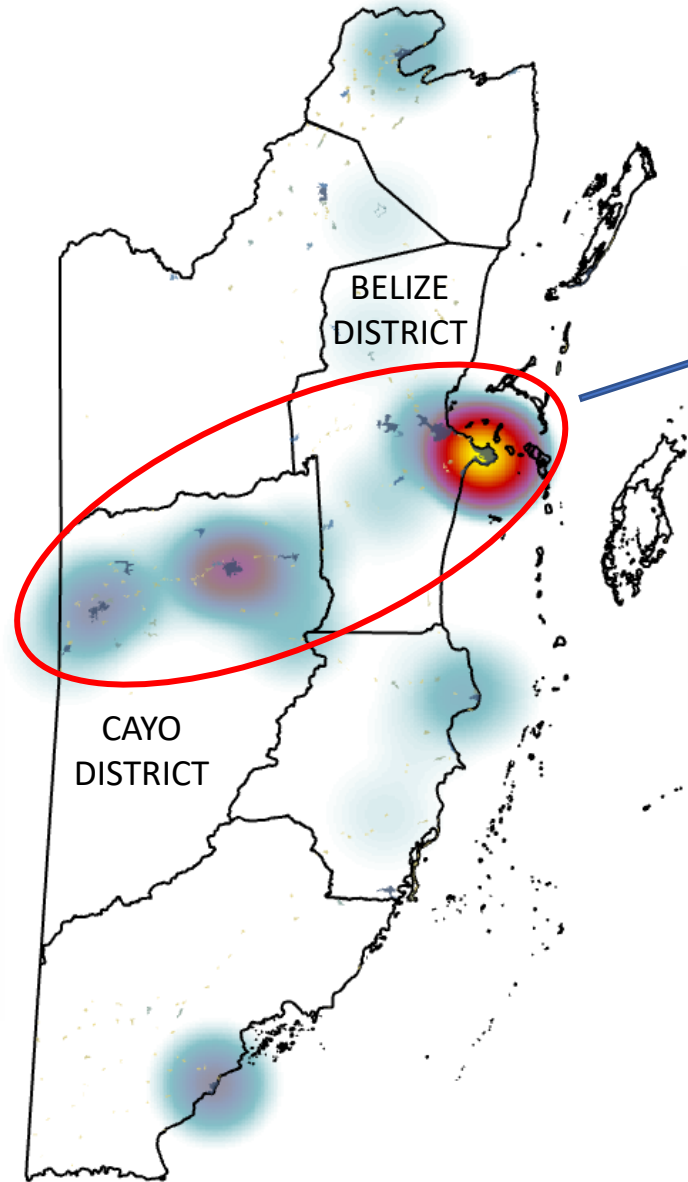
CENTRAL BELIZE

is the area of primary concern.

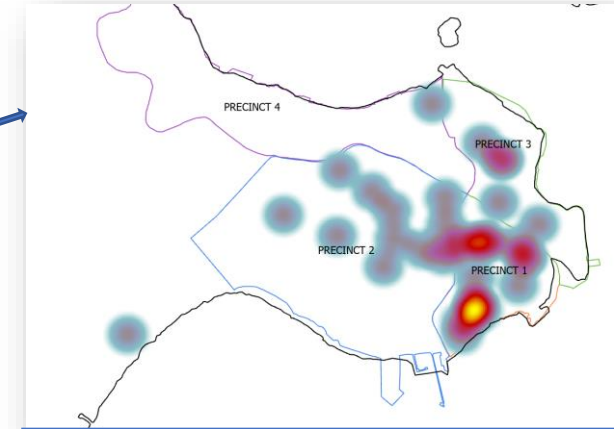
*CAYO DISTRICT:
Population 105,190*



30% of murders happened in the Cayo District, which is home to 24% of the nation's population.



*BELIZE CITY:
Population 66,083*



40% of murders happened in Belize City and 50% in the Belize District

MEASURES ANNOUNCED

May to June 2021

- Multi-pronged gang intervention
- Gang mediation
- Relocation of a City Precinct, and
- Multi-agency collaboration to address socioeconomic issues

INTERVENTIONS TARGETING GANGS

INTERVENCIONES DIRIGIDAS A LAS PANDILLAS

- Localized curfew
- Two-week mediation
- 30-day localized State of Emergency

16 August - 17 September, 2021

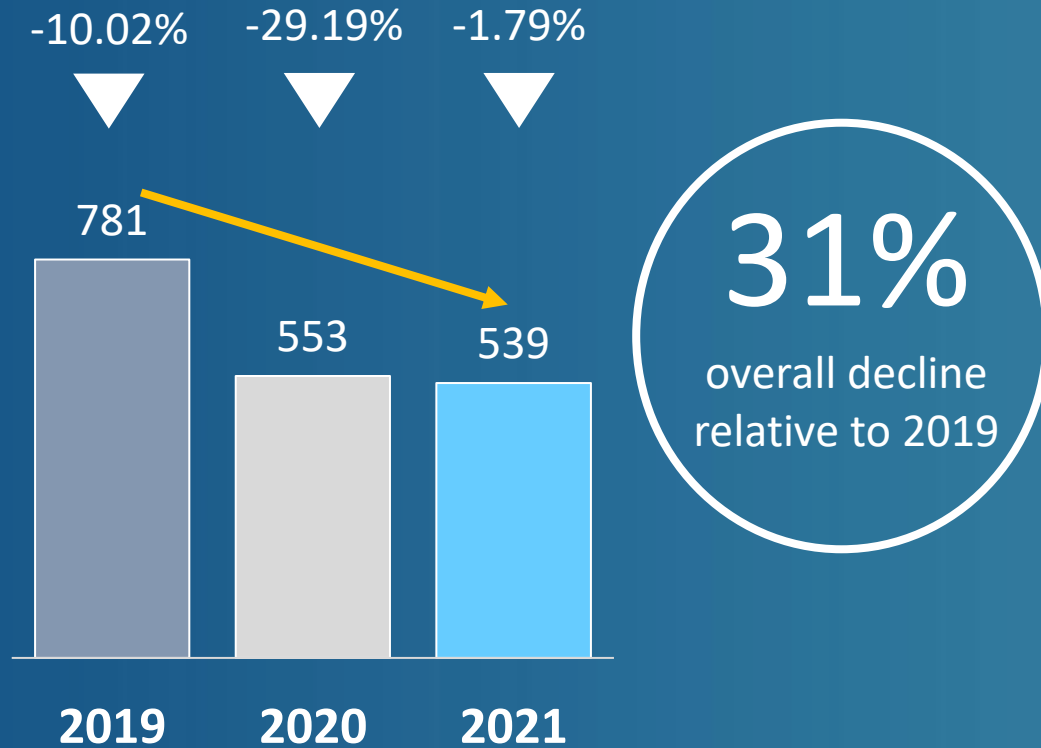
Other proposed measures:

- Targeting of gang financiers
- Extend duration of detention
- Gun control

At the end of 2020, the Gang Suppression Unit (GSU) was renamed the Gang Intelligence, Investigation and Interdiction Unit (GI3).



Acts Against Property (*Actos contra la propiedad*)



Robbery, burglary and theft are the three categories of Acts Against Property included in the Major Crimes classification utilized by the Belize Police Department.

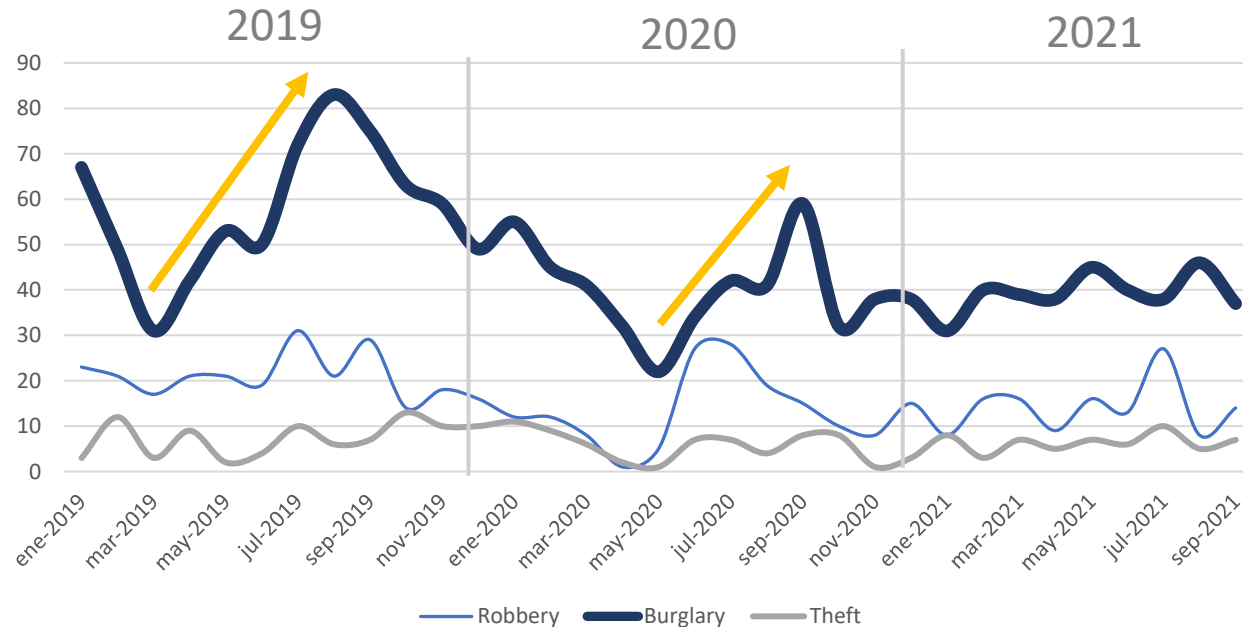
Although there has been an overall decline in these categories of crime, portions of southern Belize have registered a notable increase in burglary.

The Belize District registered an increase in all three categories.

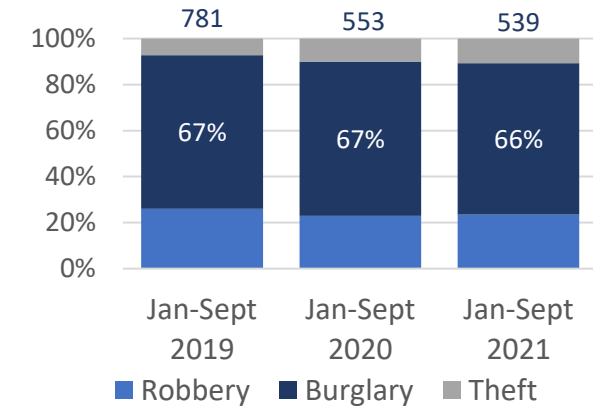
Burglaries constituted approximately **two-thirds** of Crimes Against Property

The upward trend in burglaries registered during May to September for the years 2019 and 2020 was not observed during 2021.

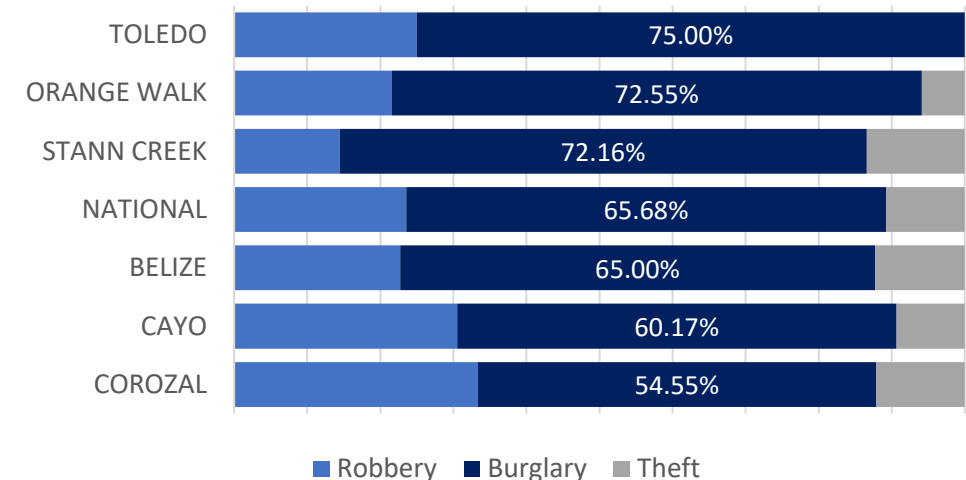
Crimes Against Property (Jan 2019 to Sept 2021)



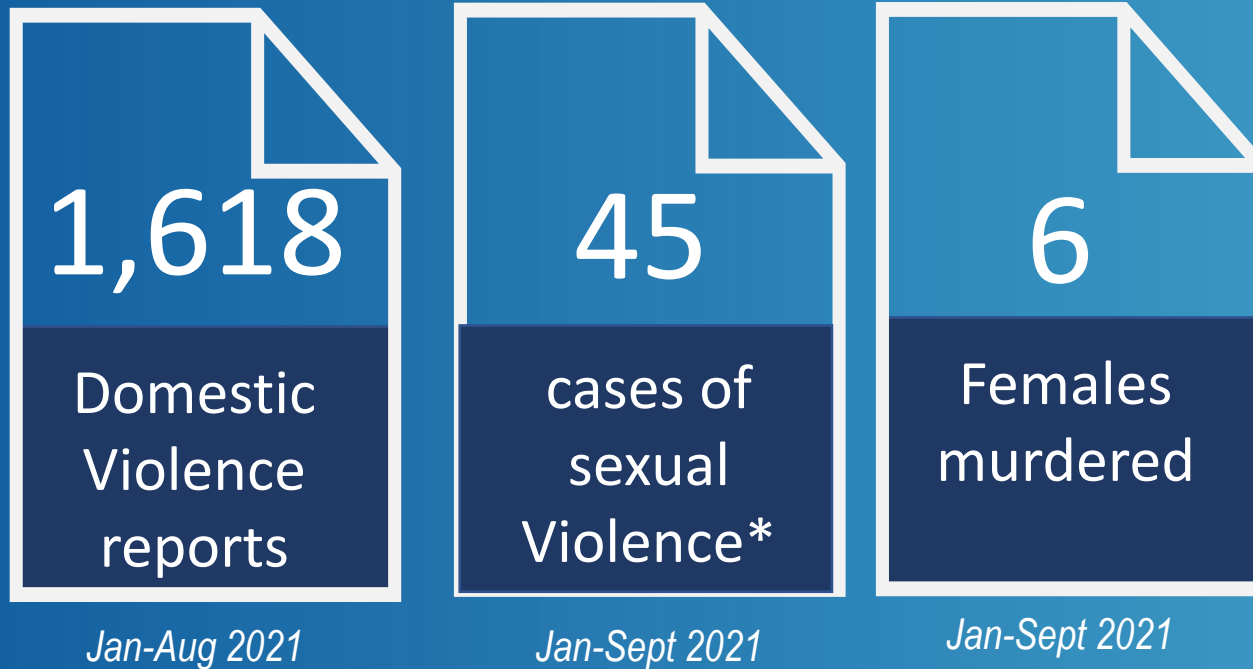
Proportion of Property Crimes by Period



Proportion of Property Crimes by District



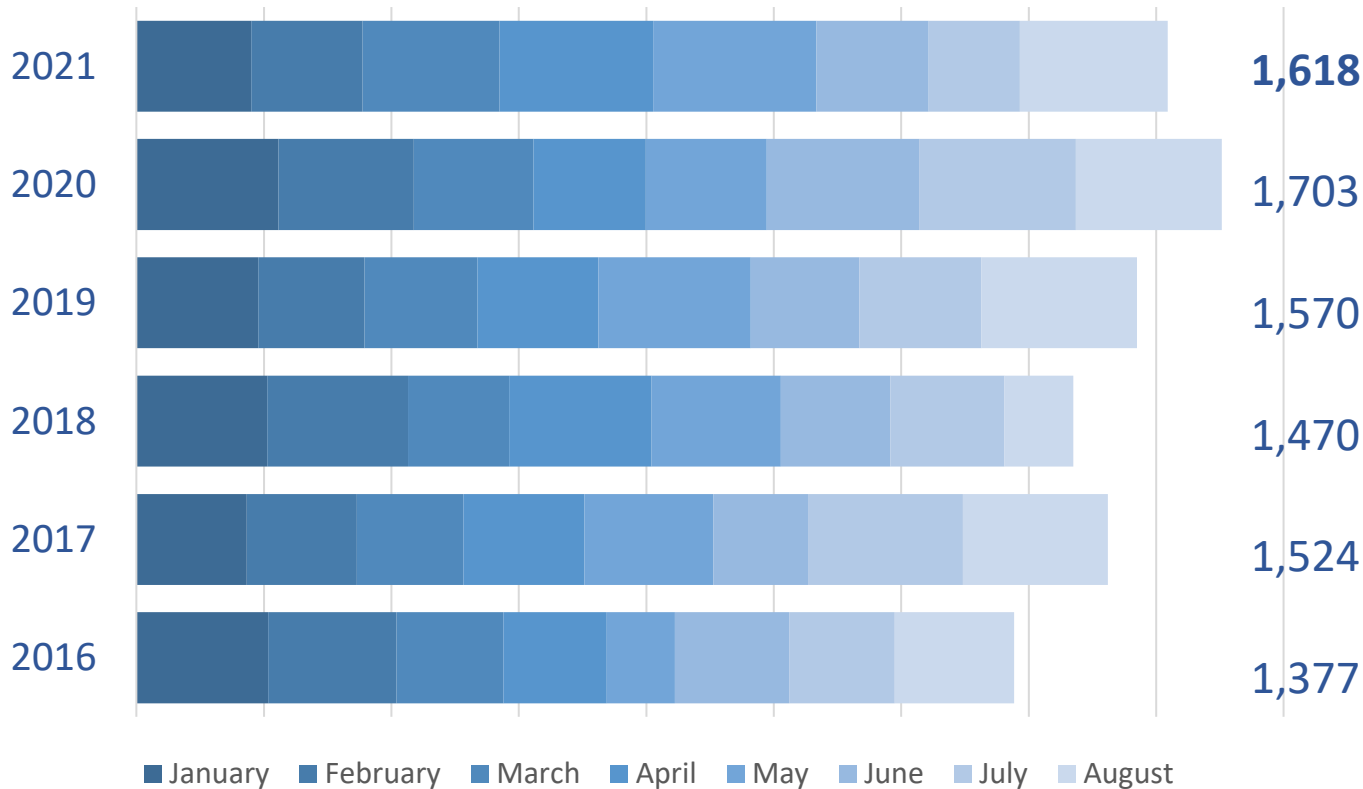
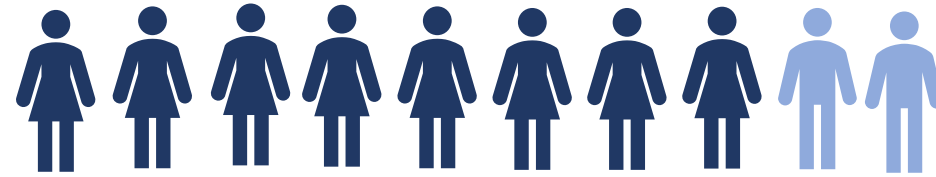
Gender-based Violence (*La violencia de género*)



A female police officer and her teenaged daughter were murdered in what Police ruled to be an incident of domestic violence

* Sexual violence cases include rape and unlawful sexual intercourse, based on the major crimes classification by Police.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



80%

on average, 8 in every 10 reports documented by police since 2016 were made by females

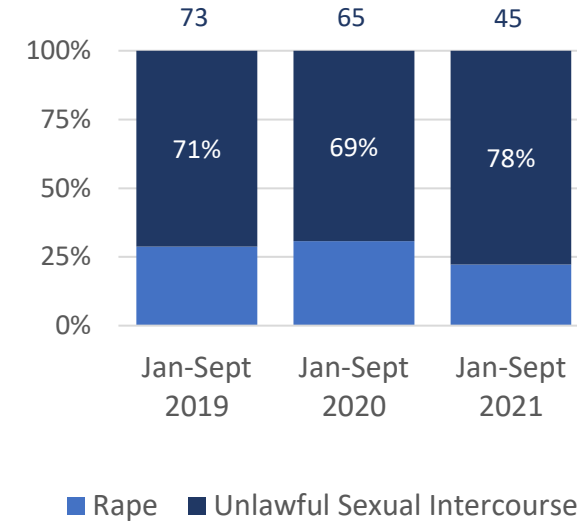
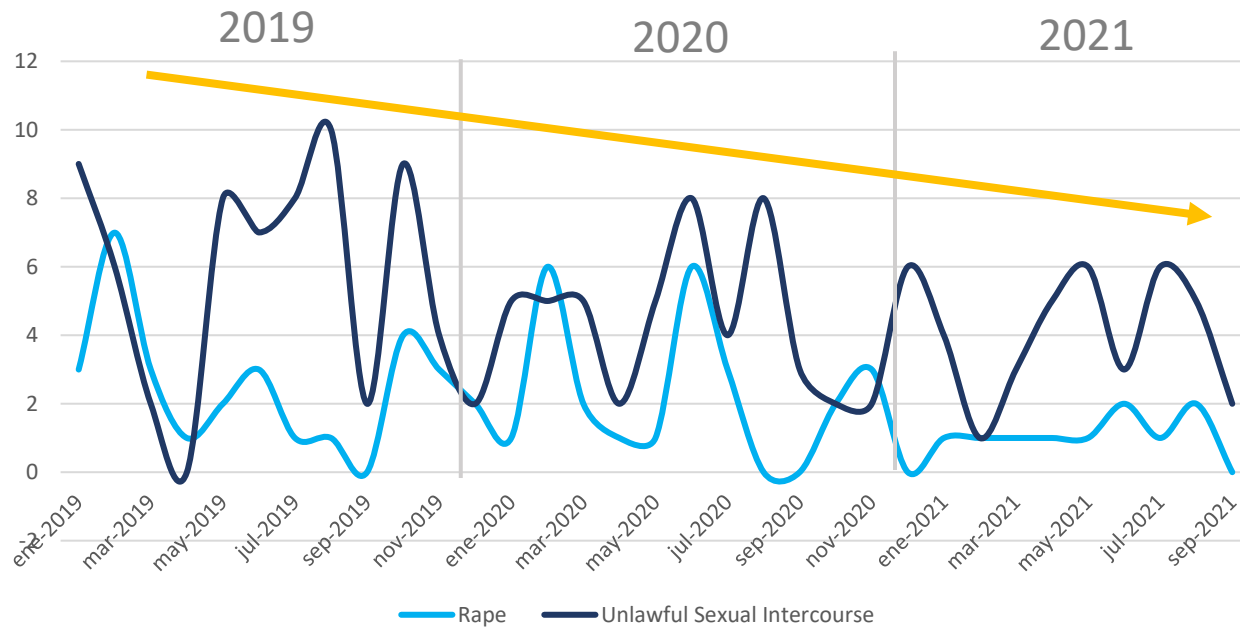
- As of the end of August 2021, domestic violence reports were at their second highest level since 2016, for the 9-month period.
- Reports peaked during the height of the pandemic period in 2020.

Note: not all reports result in court action.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

97%

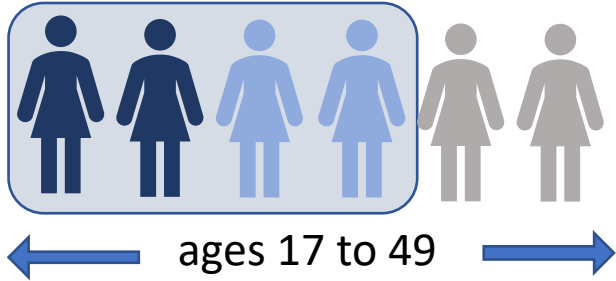
of the complainants documented during January to September 2021 were females.



16

was the average age of persons who had suffered sexual violence in these two major crimes categories

FEMICIDES



Between January to September 2021, 6 females were murdered. Based on the circumstances of the incidents, it appears that at least 4 of these were gender-based killings that may be classified as FEMICIDES, and of these, two were reported as cases of Intimate Partner Violence.

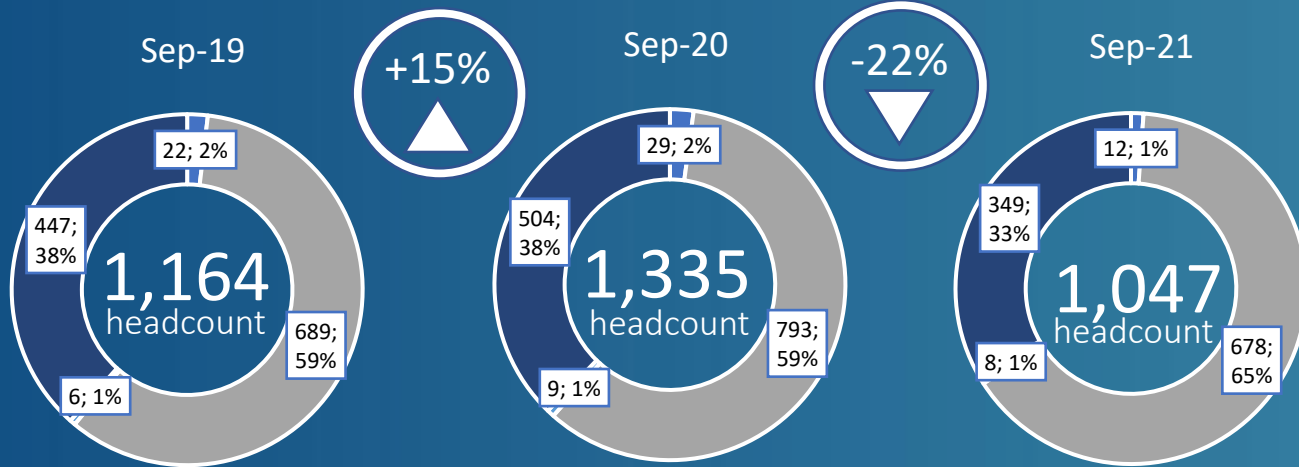
Better documentation on femicides or gender-related killings, as well as official guidelines or protocols are needed. The BCO intends to engage inter-agency partners, through the InfoSegura Project, so that a proper classification scheme can be developed and agreed.

The BCO, in collaboration with the National Women's Commission and the Belize Police Department, contributed data to the UN Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean for the period 2013-2020.

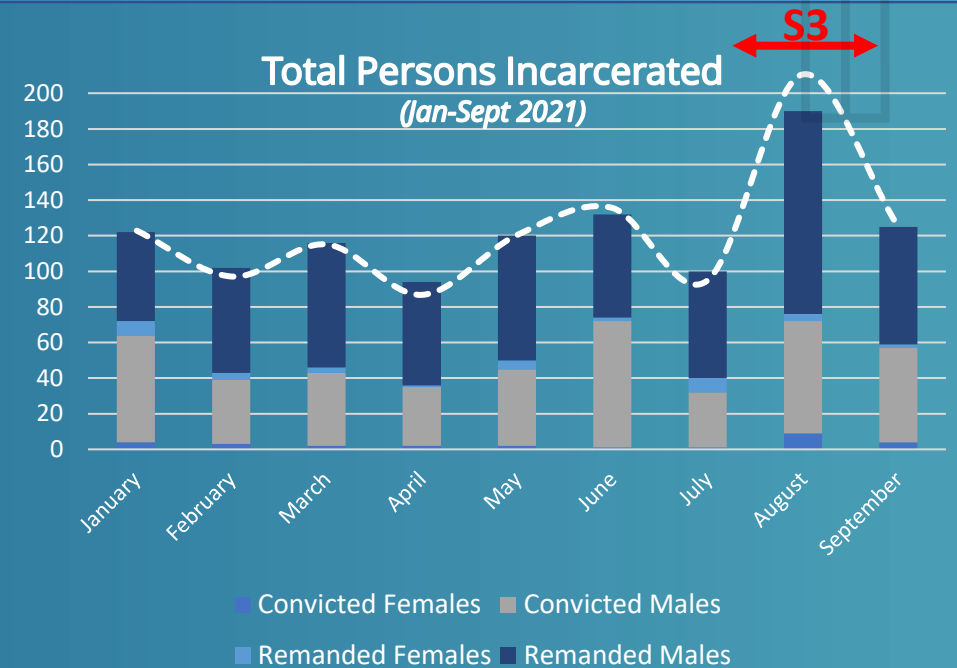
The BCO supports and advocates for the introduction of legislative provisions to include femicides as a specific category of crime in Belize's Criminal Code.

Incarceration (*Encarcelamiento*)

98% males



■ Convicted females ■ Convicted males ■ Convicted females ■ Convicted males ■ Convicted females ■ Convicted males
■ Remanded females ■ Remanded males ■ Remanded females ■ Remanded males ■ Remanded females ■ Remanded males

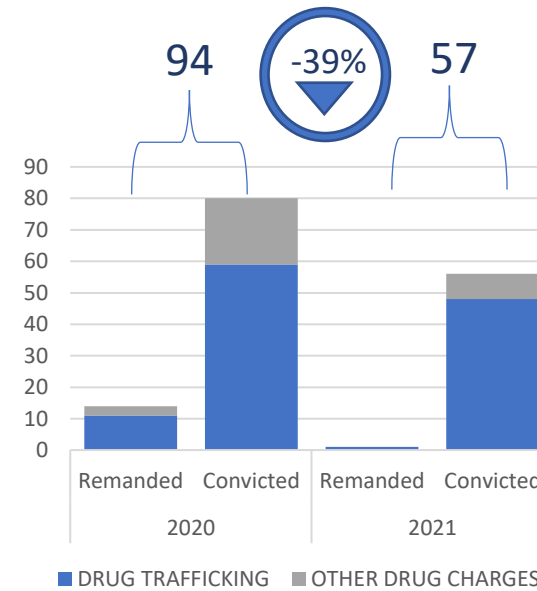
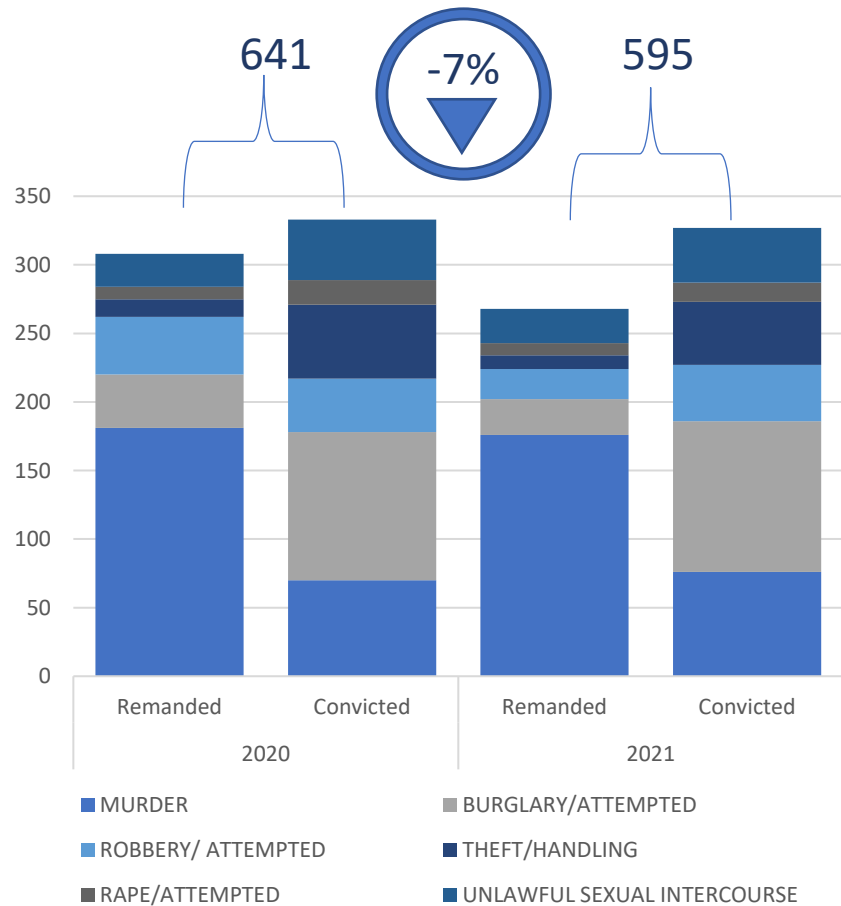


The prison population declined a cumulative 10% over the three-year period.

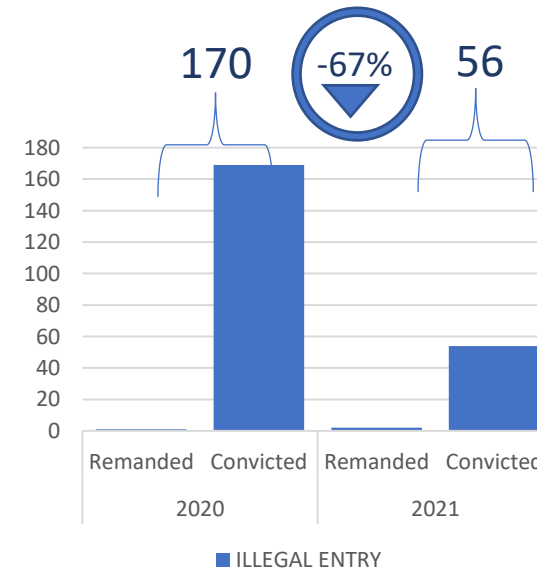
Head counts provide a snapshot at the end of September. These counts are released every quarter.

Incarceration peaked in August, after the Government of Belize declared a gang-related state of emergency.

Since 2020, the headcount has decreased across virtually all major categories, except for murder and disorders/assaults



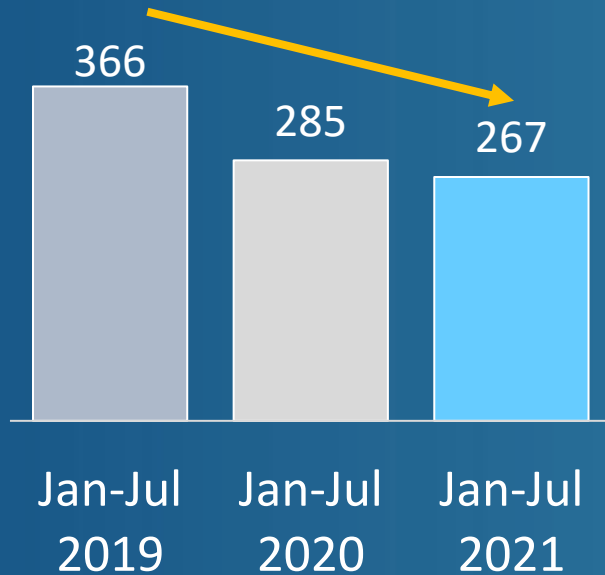
The headcount for persons remanded and/or convicted on drug charges declined notably



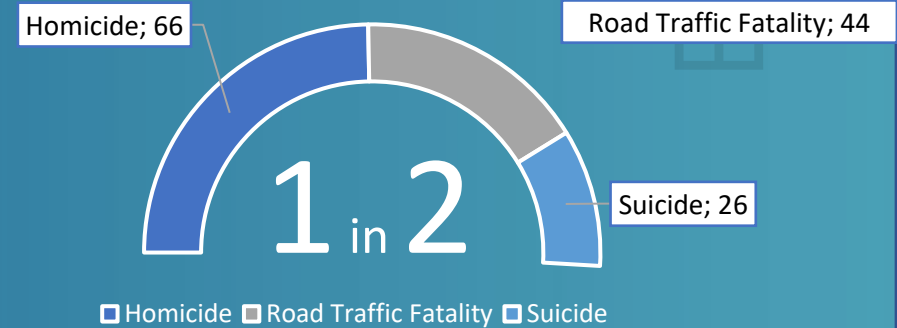
The most drastic decline was noted for illegal entry

Forensic Analysis *(Análisis forense)*

84% males



27%
overall decline
relative to 2019



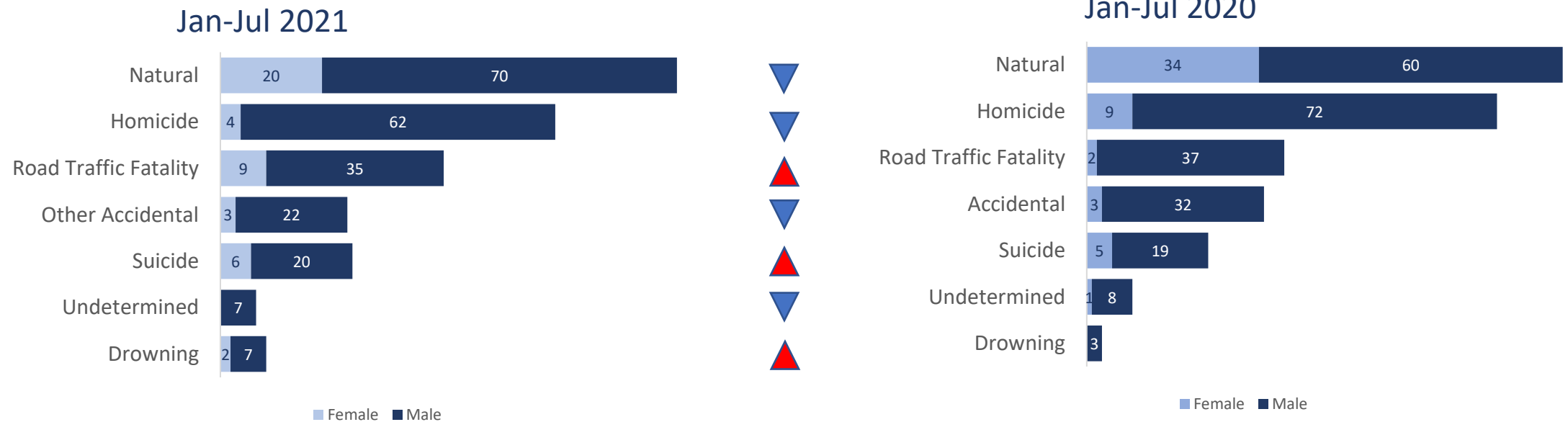
Just over half of the autopsies were for:

- *Homicides*
- *Suicides*
- *Road Traffic Fatalities*

The number of forensic autopsies performed during the period January to July 2021 was lower than the number for the same period in both 2019 and 2020

An increase in suicides, drownings, road traffic fatalities was recorded relative to the same period in 2020.

Police registered **60 murders** during the period. For **66 autopsies**, the manner of death was determined to be **'homicide'**.



For the 7-month period, there was a notable decrease in deaths classified as homicides, for both males and females.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR ENHANCING EVIDENCE FOR POLICIES AND DECISIONS

*Mejora de las Pruebas para
Políticas y Decisiones*

CITIZEN SECURITY

Achieving Citizen Security transcends a focus on crime prevention and interdiction. It must also consider all the myriad factors that breed crime and violence.

The 2013 IDB Report on Citizen Security in Belize identifies several major drivers of Belize's high crime rates:

- drug trafficking*
- the presence of gangs*
- the availability of firearms*
- low levels of human development*
- fragmentation of social ties*
- inadequate education for youth*
- lack of adequate employment opportunities for youth*
- weak rule of law*
- institutional functioning of the justice sector.*



MORE SPECIFIC,
STRATEGIC & SUSTAINABLE
INTERVENTIONS ARE
NEEDED

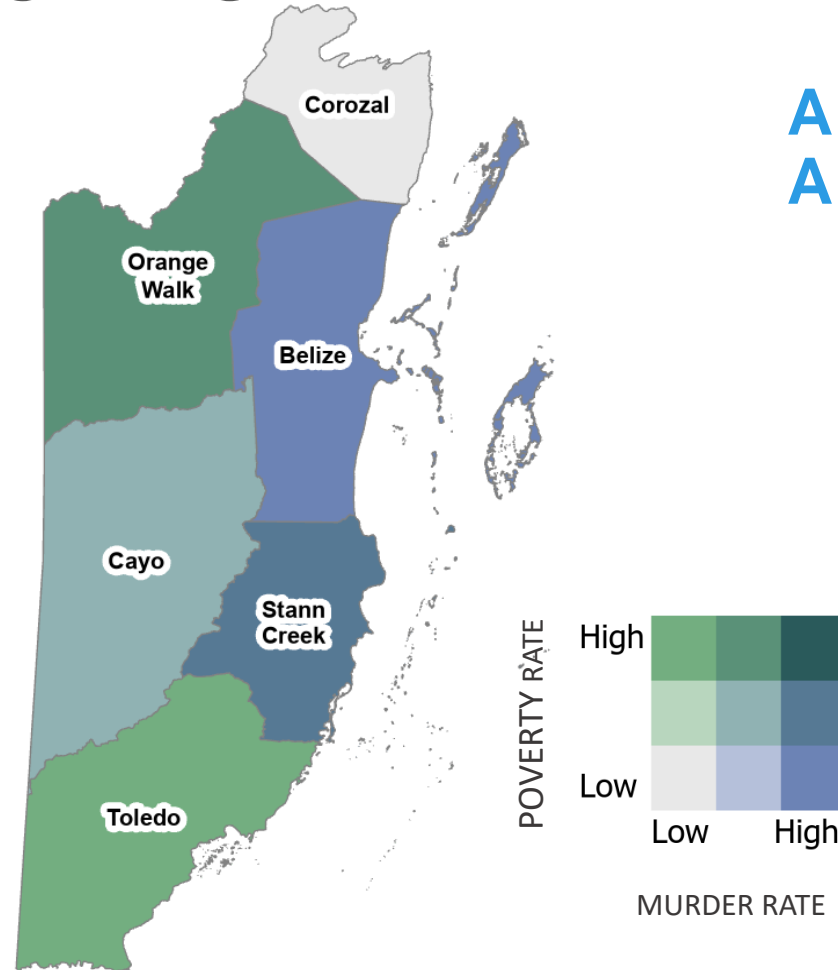
Interventions previously identified (in early 2020) as a part of the exercise to develop a new Citizen Security Strategy for Belize include:

- Community-based programs in high-crime, high-poverty areas
- Create job opportunities for low-literacy populations in high-crime areas

- Increase finance and business support for low-literacy populations in high-crime areas
- Install camera surveillance in high-crime areas

MORE INFORMATION NEEDED FOR BETTER BIVARIATE OR MULTIVARIATE ANALYSES

- At the district level, there is no direct positive correlation evident between murder rates and poverty rates.
- Although the Belize District had the highest murder rate in 2018, it also had the lowest poverty rate.



A MORE MULTI-DIMENSIONAL APPROACH NEEDED

- More community-level data are needed to inform community-level interventions.
- Data need to be more granular and provided in a timelier fashion.
- Current population estimates are not readily available for all communities, and the national census was postponed to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

4 CRITICAL WAYS IN WHICH **USAID-UNDP-INFOSEGURA** CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE TRANSFORMATIONS NEEDED



Strengthening capacity for integrated information management and multidimensional analysis, using innovation and technology



Broadening the scope of data sharing arrangements and collaboration, to support inter-agency partnerships across the continuum of justice.



Supporting targeted gang interventions through South-South Cooperation during Phase III of the project



Bridging the resource and technological gaps within public sector agencies that feed decisions and policies for Government agencies, as well as developmental partners

OFFICIAL DATA SOURCES *(FUENTES OFICIALES DE DATOS)*



Belize Central Prison

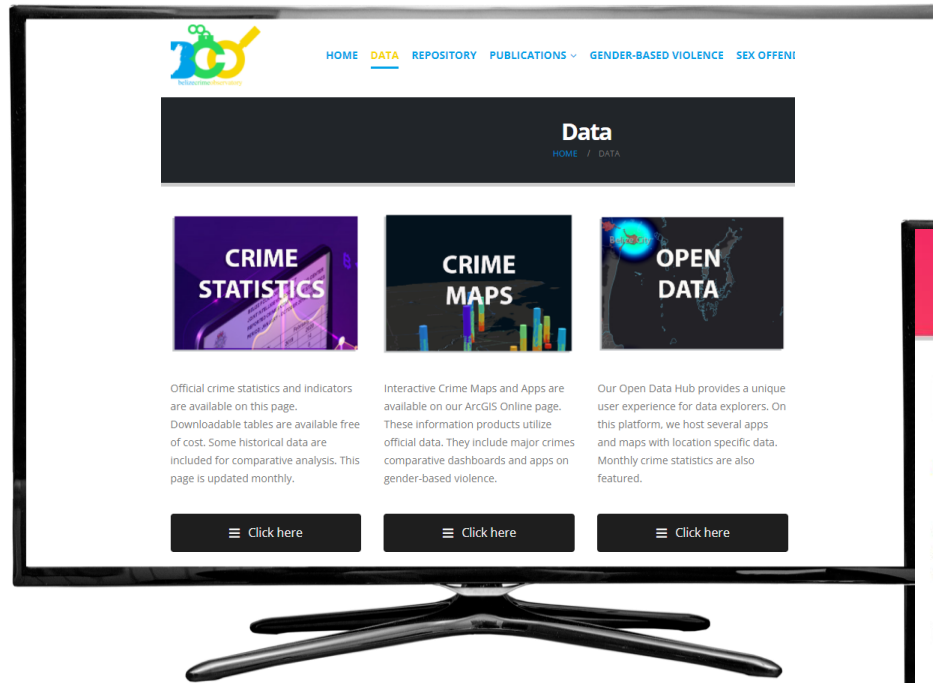


Belize Police Department



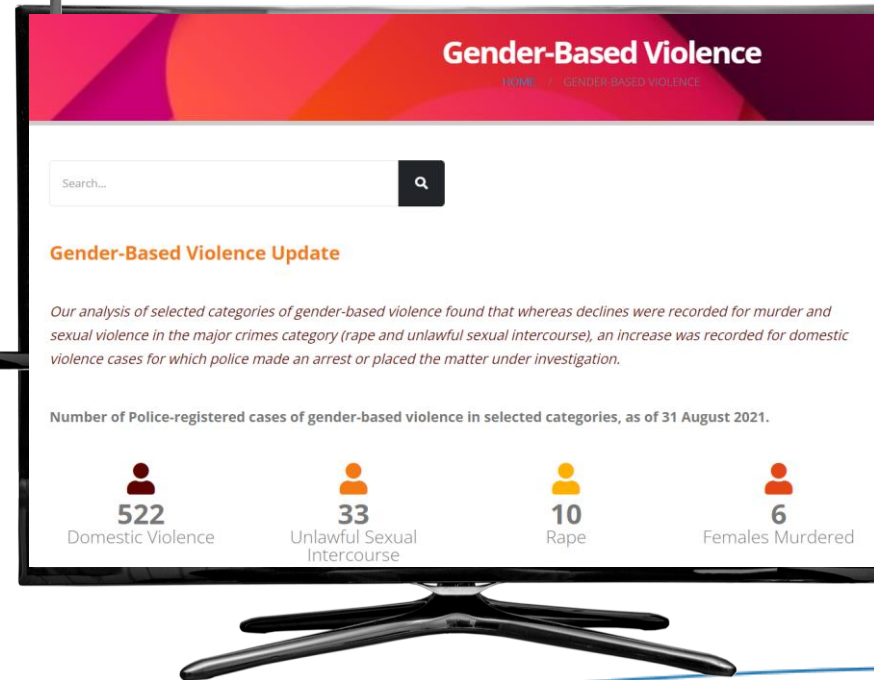
National Forensic Science Service

BCO's Data Page: <https://bco.gov.bz/data>



Crime Statistics, Maps, Open Data

NEW! Gender-Based Violence Page

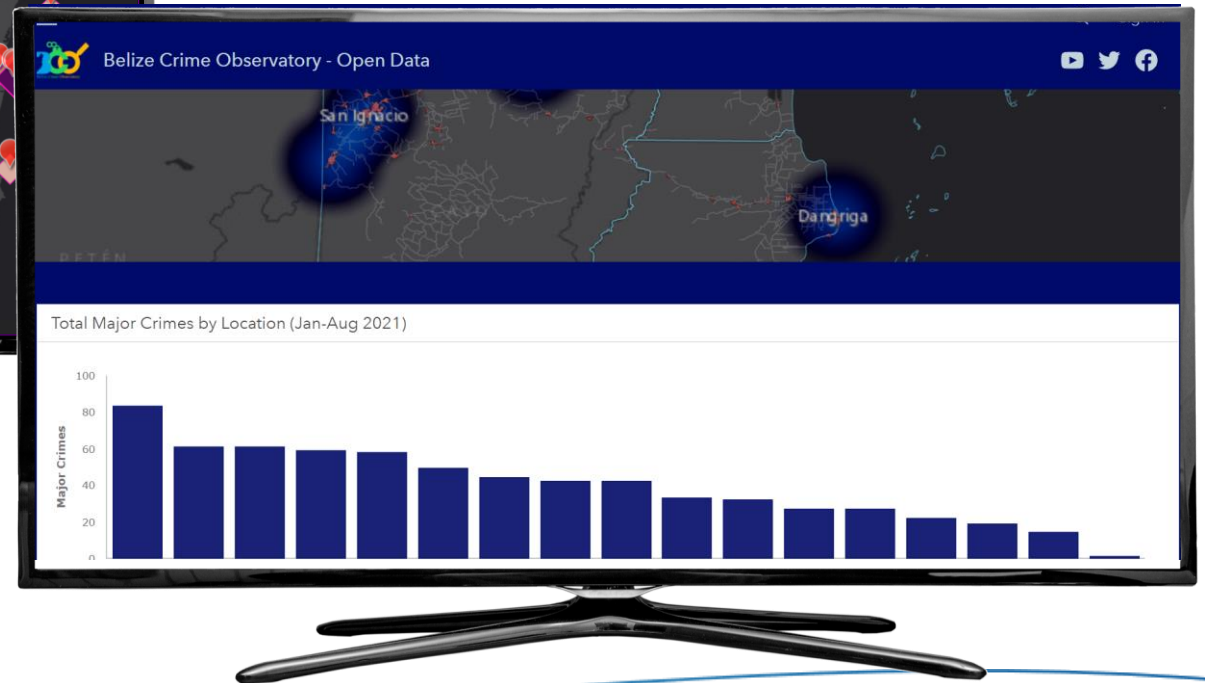


Dashboard and Hub Site



Major Crimes Comparative ArcGIS Dashboard

Open Data Hub (Maps and Apps)



THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

MIL GRACIAS!



 <https://bco.gov.bz/>



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