

# BELIZE

## Analysis of the State of Homicide: Murder January to December 2022

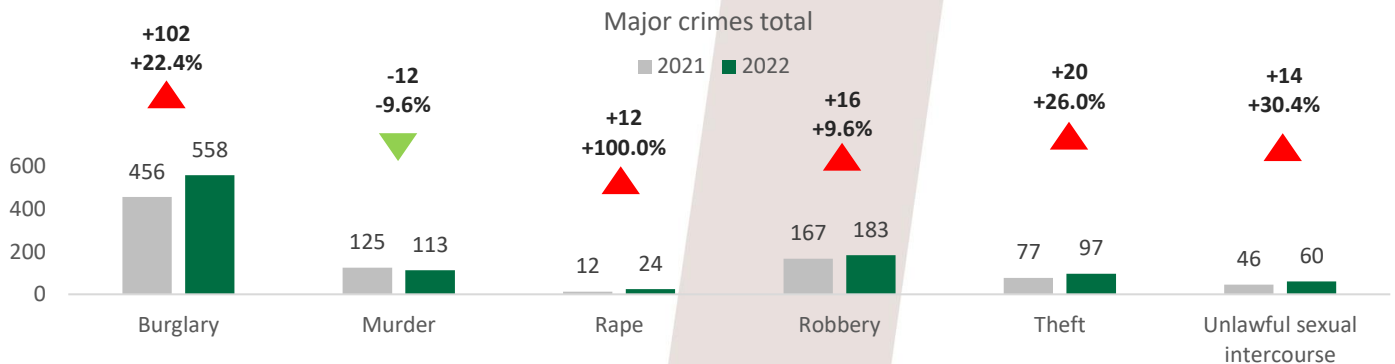


### Highlights

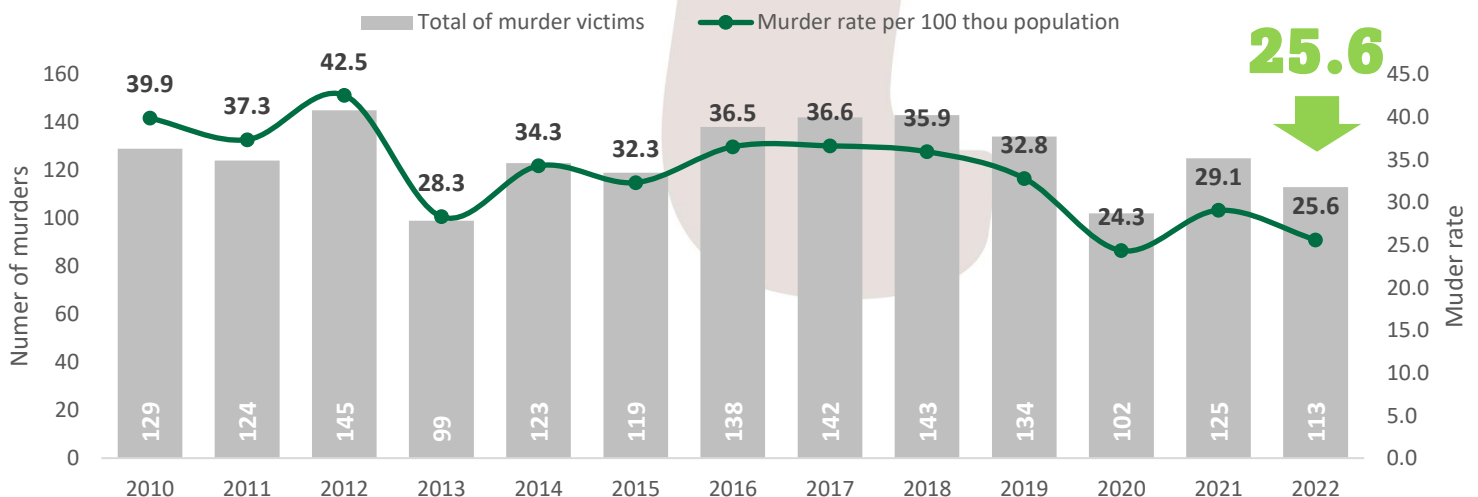
- During 2022, 1,035 major crimes were registered. This is 152 more instances of crime than the same period the previous year.
- There was a notable rise in sexual violence during 2022: increased number of reported rapes (12 more reports) and unlawful sexual intercourse (14 more reports) in comparison with the previous year.
- During 2022, there were 113 victims of murder (-12 victims than the prior year) registered, equivalent to a 25.6 victims per 100 thousand population.
- Between January and December 2022, violent deaths came to 10 people per month, on average.
- In the same time period, 104 male and 9 female murder victims were reported.
- Young people ages 18 to 29 and people between 30 and 49 years of age are the primary victims of murder according to data for 2022.
- 8 in 10 murders were committed with firearms during January to December 2022.
- 7 in 10 homicides were registered in the urban areas of the country.
- 7 in 10 murders occurred in the districts of Belize and Cayo in 2022.

### Evidence

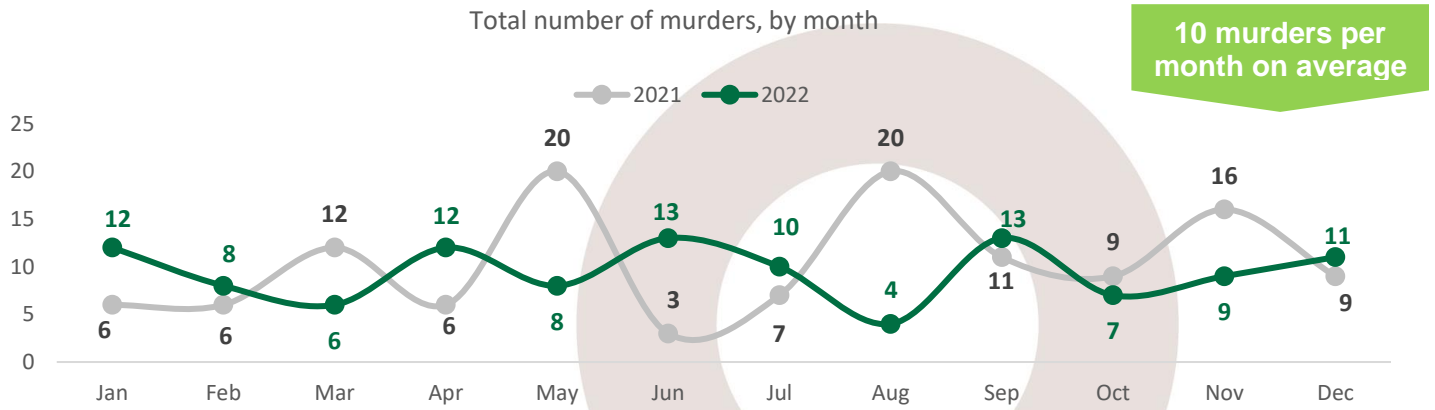
From January to December 2022, figures show a total of 1,035 recorded instances of major crimes. This represents a 17.2% rise as compared to the previous year. There was a rise in all crime categories, except murders, where there was a decrease of 9.6%.



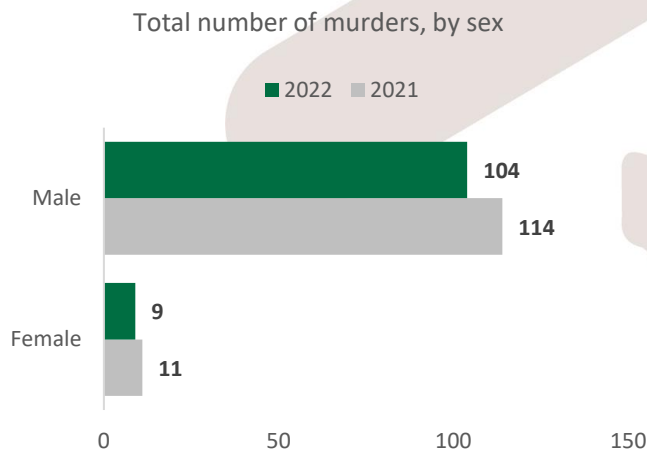
2022 closed with records showing 113 murder victims, a 9.6% decrease compared to the previous year. The total of homicides remains below (21 fewer victims) records for 2019 (134 victims), the year prior to the pandemic. Based on this data, 2022 registers a rate of 25.6 victims per 100 thousand population. This would represent a 3.5-point reduction compared to the rate in 2021 (29.1 per 100 thou population).



The months when the greatest number of murder victims reported in 2022 were January, June, and September with 13 victims each.



During January to December 2022, approximately 9 men and 1 woman were victims of murder every month. There was a decrease registered for the total of both female and male victims of murder.



**-2 female victims**  
**-18.2%**



**-10 male victims**  
**-8.8%**



Firearms were used in 80.5% of all murders (used in 91 out of 113 cases). The remainder murders were committed with sharp weapons (17.7%), blunt objects (0.9%), and other weapons (hands) (0.9%).

## 8 in 10 murders were committed with firearms

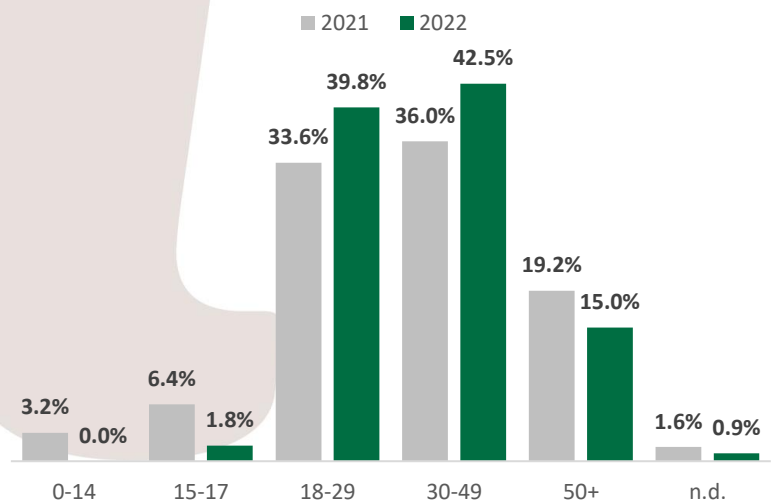


These proportions are different for women:

- 6 in 10 were murdered with a firearm.
- 3 in 10 were murdered with sharp weapons.
- 1 in 10 were murdered with other weapons (hands).

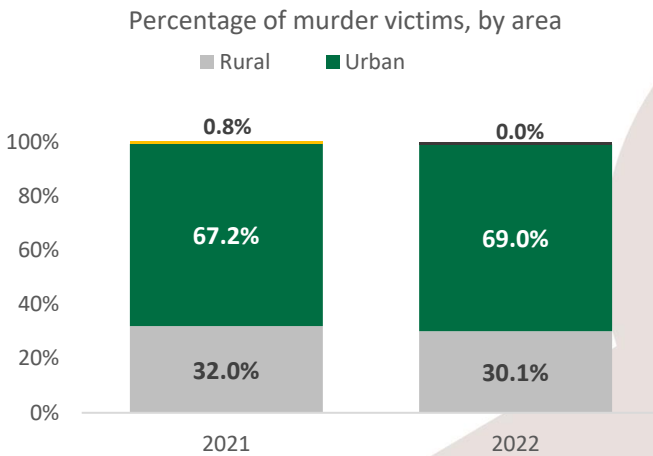
Between January and December 2022, two in five victims of murder were young people between 18 and 29 years of age. People between the ages of 30 and 49 show a similar proportion.

Percentage of victims of murder, by age group



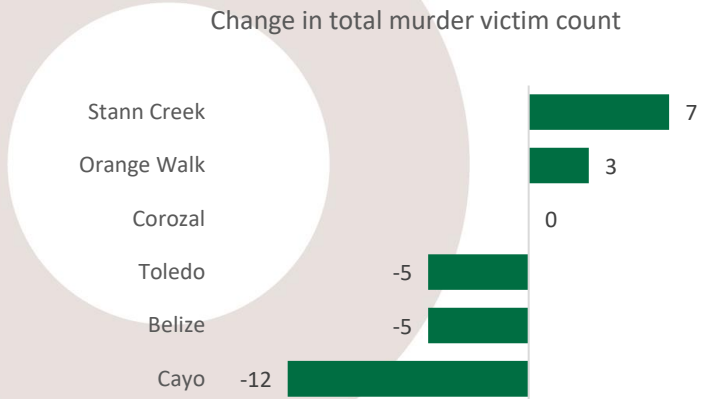
\*n.d.: no data available.

69.0% of murders were registered as having taken place in an urban area in 2022. This proportion is slightly higher than prior year.

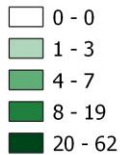


\*n.d.: no data available.

Seven out of ten murders are registered in the districts of Belize and Cayo. In three out of six districts, there was a decrease in the total number of victims of murder as compared to 2021: Cayo, Belize, and Toledo; while two districts reported increases: Stann Creek and Orange Walk. Corozal remained without changes.



Total murder victims 2022



Variance in total murder of victims 2022-2021

