



infoSEGURA



Belize

Violence Against Women and Girls, 2023

- Preliminary Considerations
- Advances and Challenges
- The continuum of Violence:
 - Domestic Violence
 - Sexual Violence
 - Femicide/Feminicide

Data Source: Belize Police Department through the Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center

Insights in Violence Against Women and Girls

- **In Belize, women and girls continue to be the main victims of both Domestic and Sexual Violence.**
- **Intimate partner violence continues to be a main arising concern within the continuum of violence.**
- **A significant percentage of Domestic Violence reports were because of common assault.**
- **Majority of the victims of Sexual Violence are girls of age 40 years or older.**
- **Most male victims were murdered with a firearm as well as most female victims. Yet, the proportion of female victims were less than male victims.**
- **In Belize, Violence Against Women and Girls prove to be of concern hence, the Domestic Violence in Belize Motion of Parliament was launched to prioritize Domestic Violence as a national issue of significance. This bill sets out specific measures and commitments the government is taking against this national issue.**

Preliminary Considerations

Concepts and approaches for analysis

What is Violence Against Women and Girls?

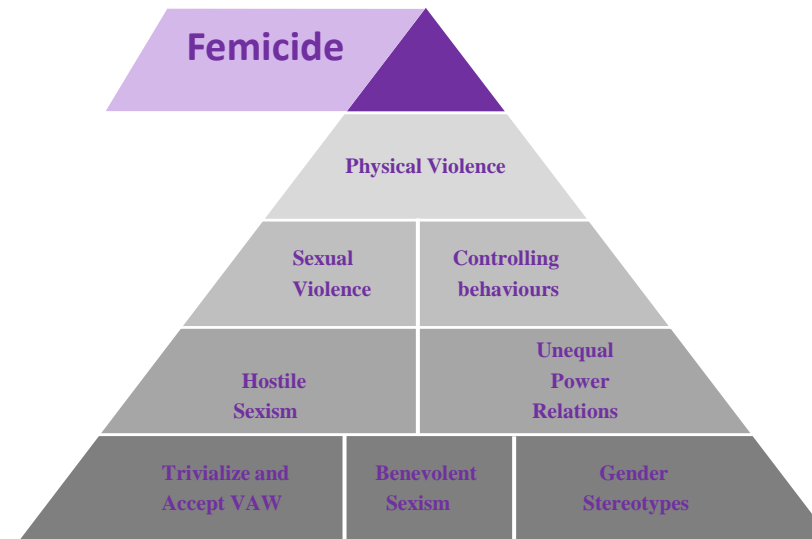
Violence Against Women and Girls is understood to be “any action or conduct, based on gender, that causes death, harm or physical, sexual, or psychological suffering to women, both in the public and private spheres.”

Source: The Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against women, better known as the Belém do Pará Convention, 1994

Continuum of Violence

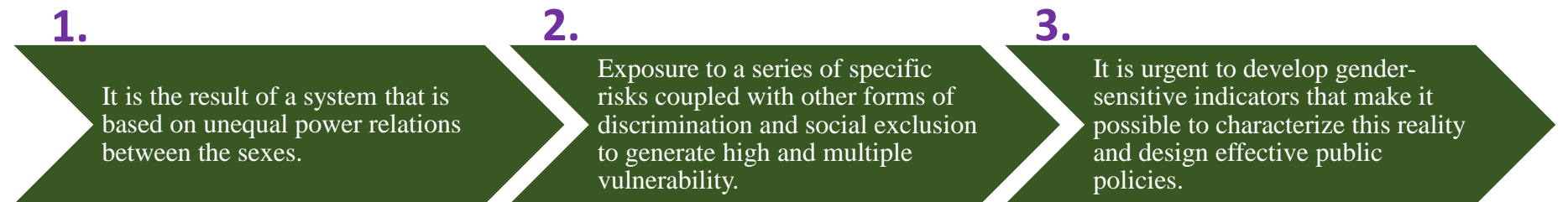
“The attainment of the Sustainable development Goals (SDGs), and its promise – to leave no one behind – cannot be fulfilled without putting an end to violence against women and girls.... [Rape is an] extreme manifestation of the continuum of violence against women and girls.”

UN Deputy Secretary General (Nov. 2019)



Graphic adapted by the Belize Crime Observatory with information published by Women’s Health

Why is it necessary to generate robust information on Violence Against Women and Girls?



Advances and Challenges

Legal framework, information management and victimization

Belize’s Policy and Legal Framework

1996	2000	2002	2007	2013	2014	2017	2020	2022	2023
•Protection Against Sexual Harrassment Act	•Families and Children Act Revised	•Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy	•New Domestic Violence Act	•Trafficking in Persons Act •Revised National Gender Policy	•Criminal Code Amendments	•National Gender-based Violence Plan of Action	•Cybercrime Act •Spotlight Project Intervention	•Domestic Violence in Belize Motion of Parliament	•Anti Human Trafficking Geo-Spatial Mapping exercise

5 Actions Being Taken

1. Enhancing the capture and reporting of multidimensional data
2. Strengthening the capacity and applying a more gender-sensitive approach to information management
3. Promoting and supporting data sharing for improved surveillance and intervention
4. Enhancing the Inter-agency data sharing to improve evidence-based decisions and policies
5. Maximizing the availability of data in specific offences such as Human Trafficking, Missing Person, etc.

The Continuum of Violence

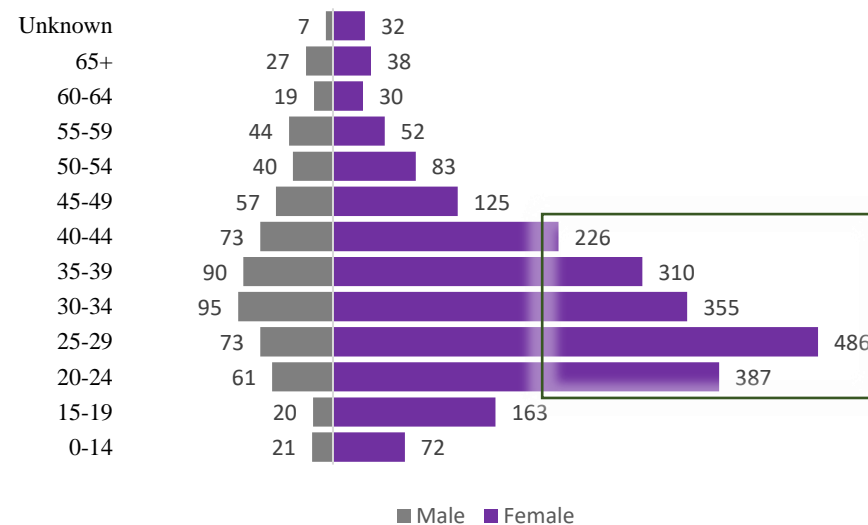
How is the continuum of violence against women and girls manifested?

Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence in Belize Law refers to "...physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, or financial abuse committed by a person against a spouse, child, de facto spouse, or any other person who is a member of the household of the applicant or the respondent."

Domestic Violence Act, 2007 (Belize)

- During 2023, **women and girls** were the main victims of Domestic Violence accounting for **79%** of the reports.
- **75%** of all reports were filed by women aged **20 to 44 years**.



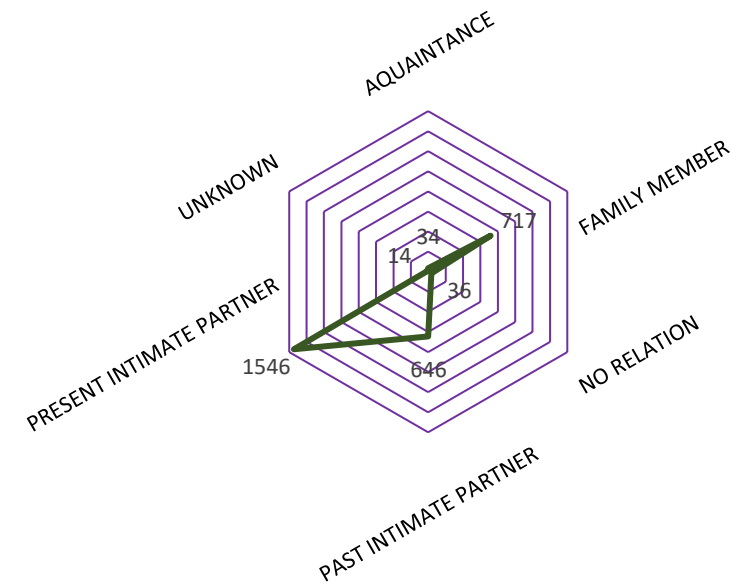
Domestic Violence by Age and Sex, 2023

- In 2023, **94%** of the Domestic Violence reports occurred **in the residence** of either the victim or the perpetrator.



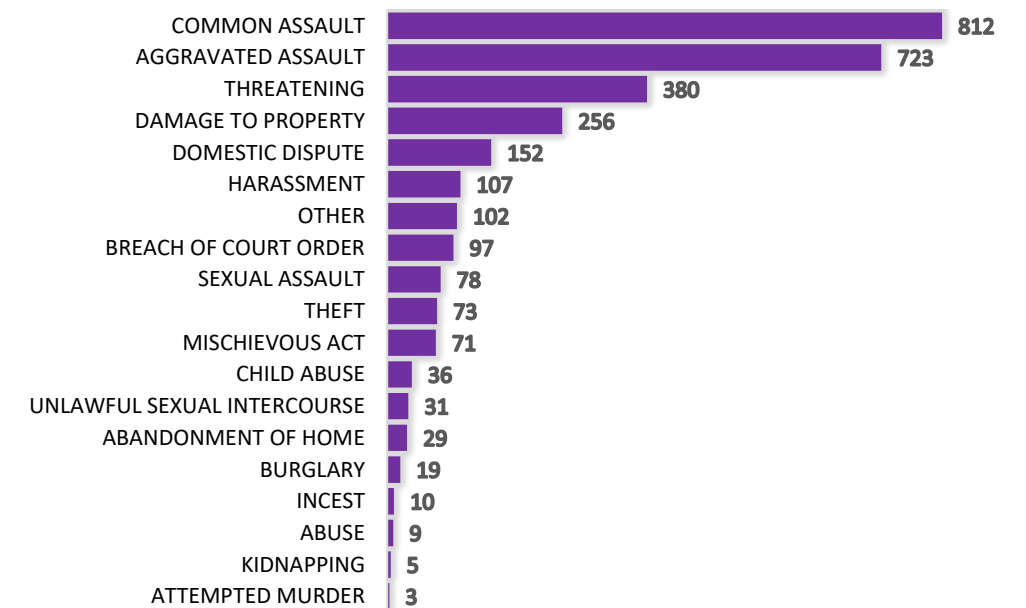
Domestic Violence according to place of occurrence, 2023

- **7 in 10** Domestic Violence reports were levied against a present or past intimate partner.



Domestic Violence according to relationship to offender, 2023

- **27%** of the Domestic Violence reports were because of common assault.



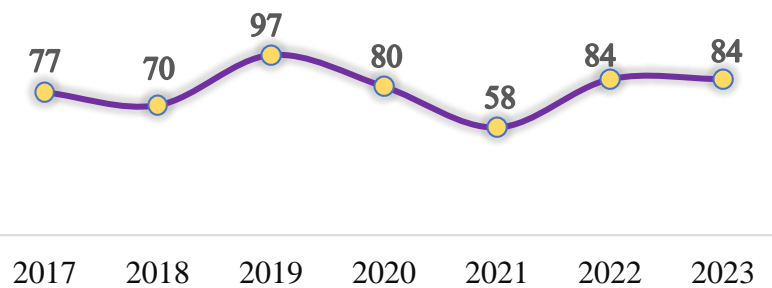
Domestic Violence by Crime or Offence, 2023

Sexual Violence

“Sexual violence is any act, attempted or threatened, that is sexual in nature and carried out without the consent of the victim. Sexual violence includes rape, sexual abuse and harassment, exploitation, and forced prostitution. It can happen within marriages, especially when there is a lack of consent for sexual activity by one of the spouses.”

UNCHR, The UN Refugee Agency (2023)

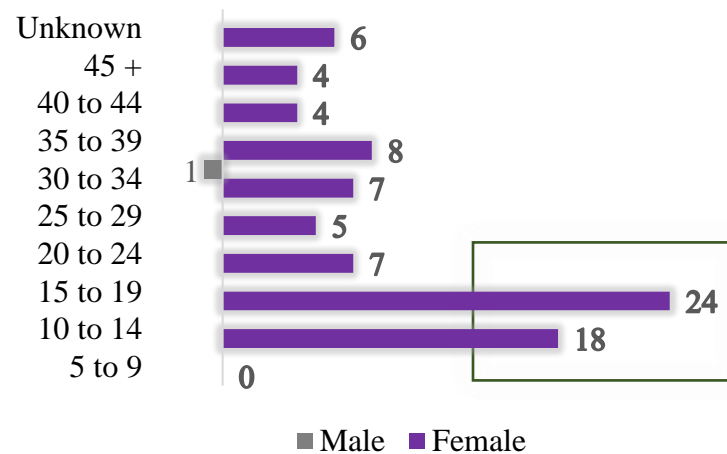
- **Cases of sexual violence in major crimes category remained the same as the previous year (2022).**
- Sexual Violence cases accounted for **8%** in the major crimes category.



Sexual Violence Cases, 2017 to 2023

Note: Major Crimes in Belize include Murder, Rape, Robbery, Burglary, Theft and Unlawful Sexual Intercourse.

- During 2023, **99%** of the victims of sexual violence were females.
- **50%** of all victims of sexual violence were females aged **10 to 19 years**.



Sexual Violence by Age and Sex, 2023

Femicide/Feminicide

Femicide is generally understood to involve intentional murder of women, but broader definitions include any killing of women or girls.

Femicide differs from male homicide in specific ways. For example, most cases of femicide are committed by partners or ex-partners, and involve ongoing abuse in the home, threats or intimidation, sexual violence, or situations where women have less power or fewer resources than their partner.

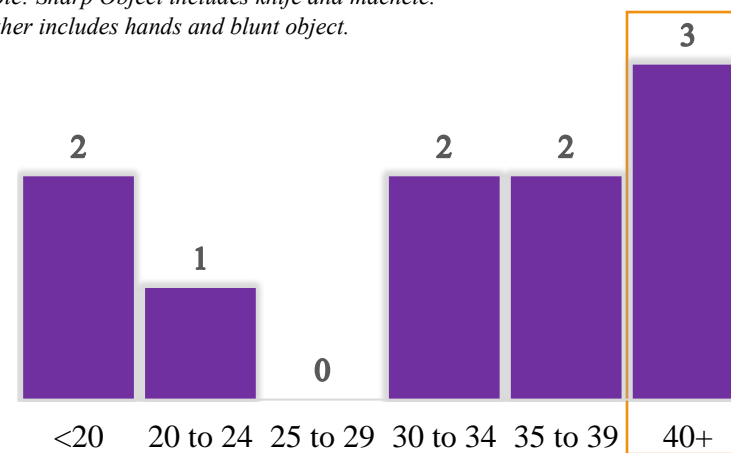
Understanding and addressing violence against women, WHO (2012)

Note: Femicides is not legally defined in Belize but instead we characterize the offences based on international standard definition.

In 2023, **10%** of the females who were murdered were victims of gender-related murders or femicides.

- **1 in 10** of the females were murdered **by an intimate partner**.
- **6 in 10** of the females were murdered **with a firearm**.
- **2 in 10** of the females were murdered **with a sharp object**.
- **2 in 10** of the females were murdered **by other**.

Note: Sharp Object includes knife and machete. Other includes hands and blunt object.



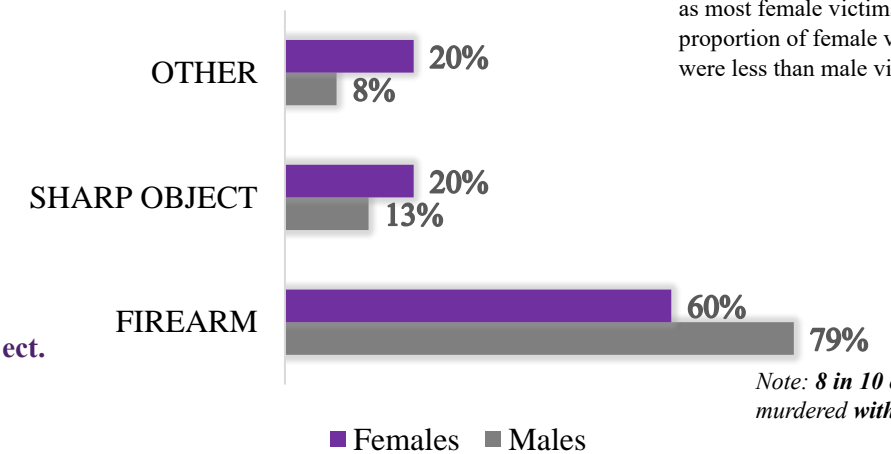
Female Murder Victims by Age, 2023

Females accounted for **11%** of the murder victims in 2023.



10 **77**

Murder Victims by Sex, 2023



Murder Weapons Used, 2023

Most male victims were murdered with a firearm as well as most female victims. Yet, the proportion of female victims were less than male victims.

Note: **8 in 10** of the males were murdered **with a firearm**.

10 During 2023, the age group 40 + years accounted for **30%** of the female murder victims.

