

GUATEMALA

Analysis of the State of Homicidal Violence January-March 2024



victims of homicide from
Jan-Mar 2024



7

lives are lost as a result
of violence,
approximately.



6

men die violently,
every day.



1

woman dies
violently
approximately
every day.

Key findings

Between January and March 2024, National Civil Police records show the homicide trend was:

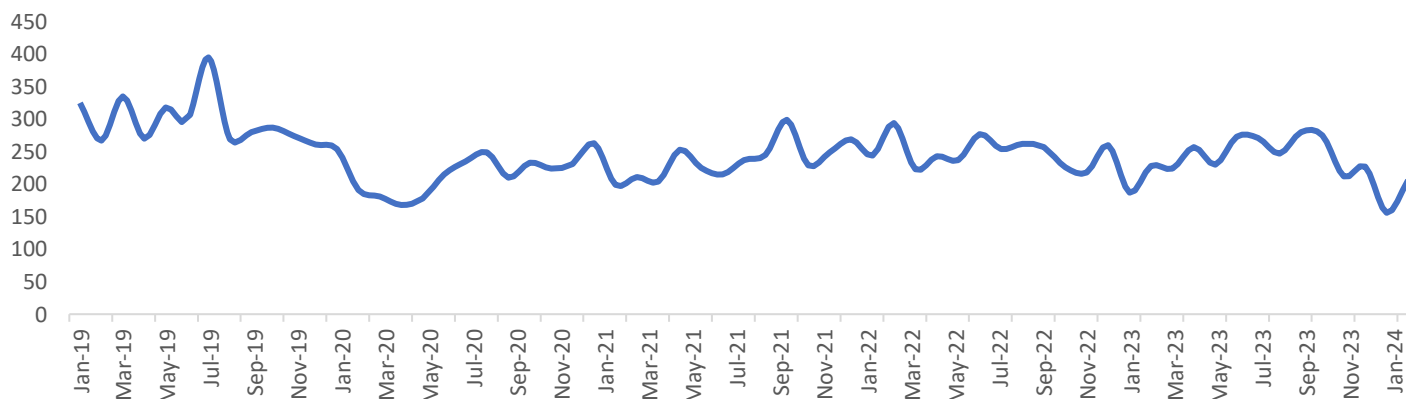
- 589 victims of homicide were reported, 12.7 per cent fewer cases than during the same period the previous year, and the lowest number of homicides registered in the last five years, even than during the COVID 19 pandemic.
- A significant drop in the number of homicides of women was reported, some 21.2 per cent lower, and the lowest figure in the last five years, considerably lower in the departments of Guatemala, Izabal and Escuintla.
- Firearm-related homicides represented 79.5 per cent of the total, showing there was a reduction in firearm use as compared to the same period in 2023.
- Homicide rates fell in 91 municipalities, representing 26.8 per cent of the total. This decrease was moderately concentrated specifically in the departments of Guatemala, Escuintla and Izabal.
- The municipalities in the Department of Guatemala contributed significantly to the drop in homicides countrywide, representing 62.8 per cent of the total reduction.
- Analysis of relevant variables reveals a general downward trend in homicide statistics, with a possible causal relationship to new security strategies and actions that have been implemented.

Homicides

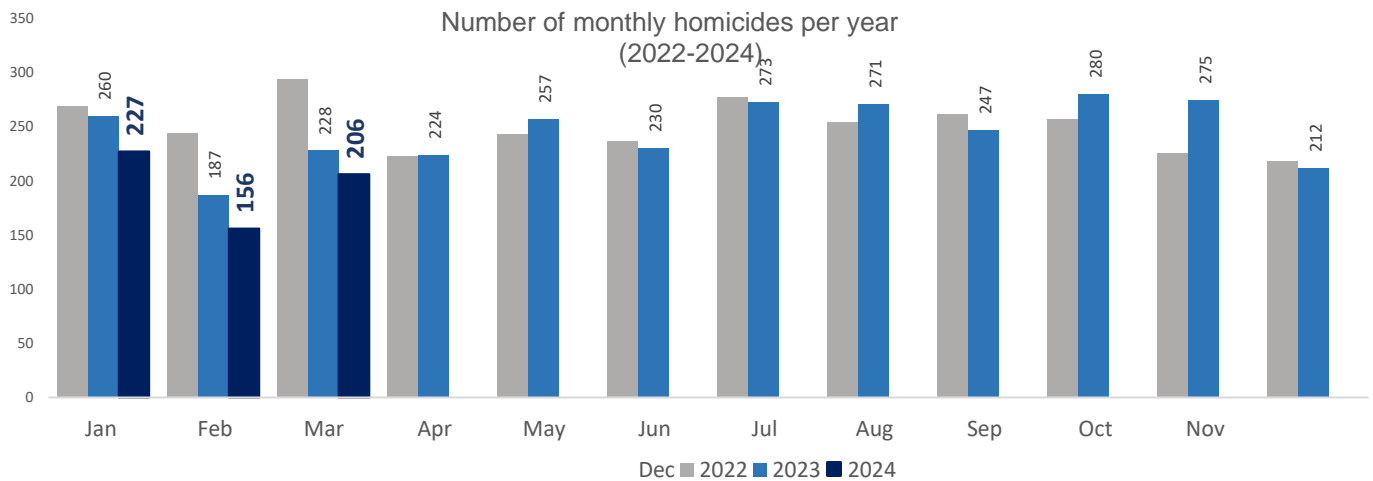
Guatemala reported 589 homicides from January to March 2024, showing a downward trend with regard to 2023. This period, records show on average 196 homicides per month. That is the lowest quarterly average in the last five years, even compared to 2020, an atypical year given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It should be noted that this reduction coincided with police actions implemented in the territory at the behest of the Ministry of Governance.¹

Number of homicides per month
(January 2019-March 2024)



¹ Achievements mentioned by the new authorities at the Ministry of Governance as of April 2024 include 74,600 pre-emptive police interventions, 13,551 containment interventions, 21,421 preventive checkpoints, 2,989 raids. As for extortion activities, law enforcement conducted 4,300 pre-emptive interventions, 300 raids, detaining those involved. Source: Ministry of Governance online: <https://mingob.gob.gt/mingob-presenta-avances-de-seguridad/>



As of the first quarter (Q1) 2024, reports show a 12.7 per cent decrease in the number of homicides as compared to the same period in 2023, that is 86 fewer victims. January was marked by the steepest drop in the number of homicides, with 33 fewer victims reported than in January 2023. This trend continued in February and March with 31 and 22 fewer homicides, respectively, compared to the same months in 2023. This monthly decline is a positive trend in terms of the reduction in the number of homicides compared to 2023.

Out of every 10 victims of homicide reported during Q1 2024, approximately nine were men.



Between January and March 2024, a 21.2 per cent reduction in homicides of women was reported. This is equivalent to 18 fewer victims compared to the same period in 2023. It should be noted that the number of homicides of women during this period was lower than at any time in the last five years, even lower than that reported in 2020.

Departmental homicide data for women reveals reductions in the departments of Guatemala (-6), Chiquimula (6) and San Marcos (-4) when compared to the first quarter of 2023. In 22 departments, only four exhibited a rise in the number of homicides of women as of the first quarter of 2024.

Homicides of women between 18 and 25 years of age reported the most dramatic decrease with 12 fewer cases in relation to Q1 2023.

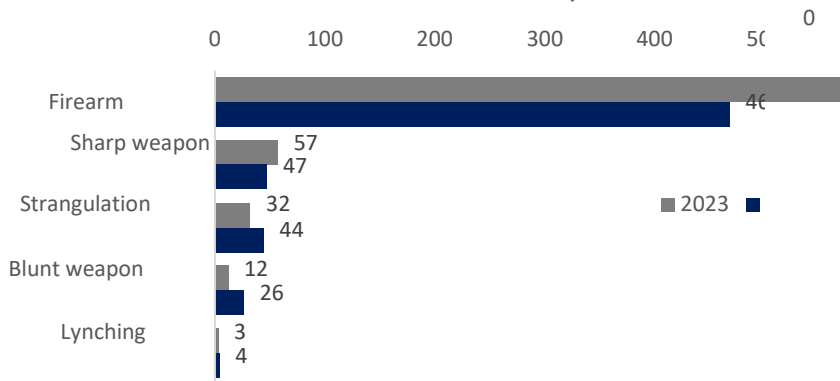
Male homicide data indicates an 11.5 per cent decrease compared to Q1 2023, translating to a reduction of 68 fewer homicide victims. As of the first quarter in 2024, the number of female homicides is the lowest reported since 2020.

Between January and March 2024, male homicides in the departments of Guatemala (-46), Escuintla (-15) and Chimaltenango (-10) experienced the sharpest drop compared to the same period in 2023. However, six out of 22 departments reported an increase in cases of male homicide as of Q1 2024.

Homicides of men from the ages of 26 to 35 exhibited the most significant reduction, with 46 fewer homicides; nonetheless, homicides with undetermined victim ages saw a 22-case uptick.

As of Q1 2024, at least **8 in 10** homicides were committed with firearms.

Number of homicides by type of weapon
(Jan-Mar 2023-2024)

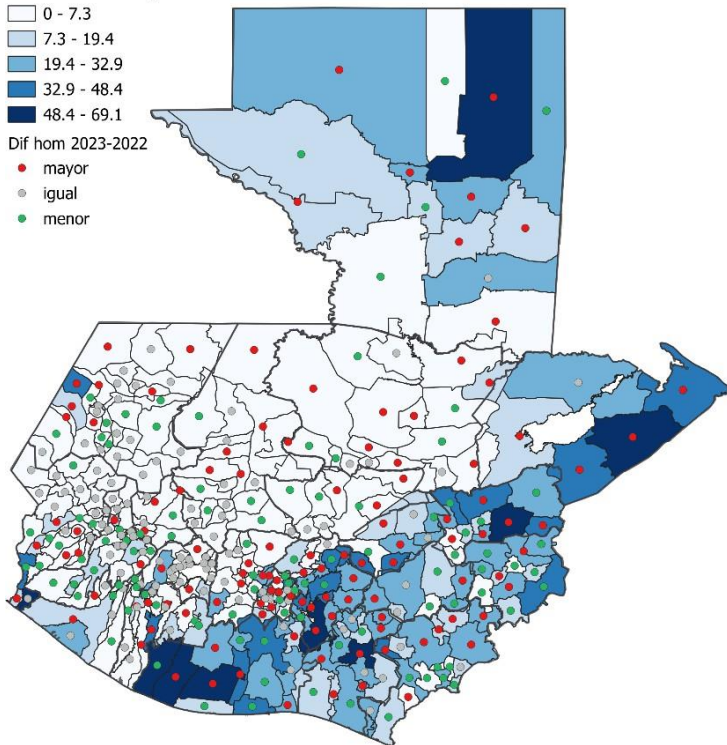


The use of firearms in the total number of homicides fell from 84.6 per cent in Q1 2023 to 79.5 per cent in Q1 2024. This represents an 18 per cent reduction in homicide by firearm in 2024 in both male and female homicides.

By contrast, homicides committed with a blunt weapon and by strangulation reported an increase compared to the first quarter of 2023.

Territorial Approach

Tasa de homicidios por cada 100 mil habitantes. 2023



Between January and March 2024, female homicides fell in 91 municipalities. This represents a 26.8 per cent reduction compared to the corresponding period in 2023. A concentration of green points—lower homicide rates— can be observed in the departments of Guatemala, Escuintla and Izabal on the map.

A smaller percentage—18.5 per cent—of municipalities exhibited a rise in the number of homicides, though. In addition, half—54.7 per cent—of municipalities exhibited no change in homicide figures compared to Q1 2023.

In the Department of Guatemala, the municipalities of Guatemala (-36), Villa Nueva (-10) and Villa Canales (-10) reported the sharpest drops in homicides compared to Q1 2023. The Department of Guatemala was the only one that reported 54 fewer homicides, 62.8 per cent of those reported for the whole country.

For their part, the municipalities of Santa Ros-Barbarena (+13), Jutiapa-Jutiapa (+8) and Asunsion Mita-Jutiapa (+7) reported the sharpest upturn in the number of homicides compared to Q1 2023.

Source: 2010-2022 INE with data provided by National Civil Police. 2023-2024 National Civil Police with data downloaded on 18 March 2024 from the internet: <https://pladeic.mingob.gob.gt/> output tables by the Statistics Section at the National Civil Police.

Note: There is a difference of one case when using municipal data due to the delay in the adjustments in the databases published in PLADEIC and the output tables provided by the Statistics Section of the National Civil Police.

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