

El Salvador

Analysis of the state of citizen security

January—December 2023



infoSEGURA

Overview

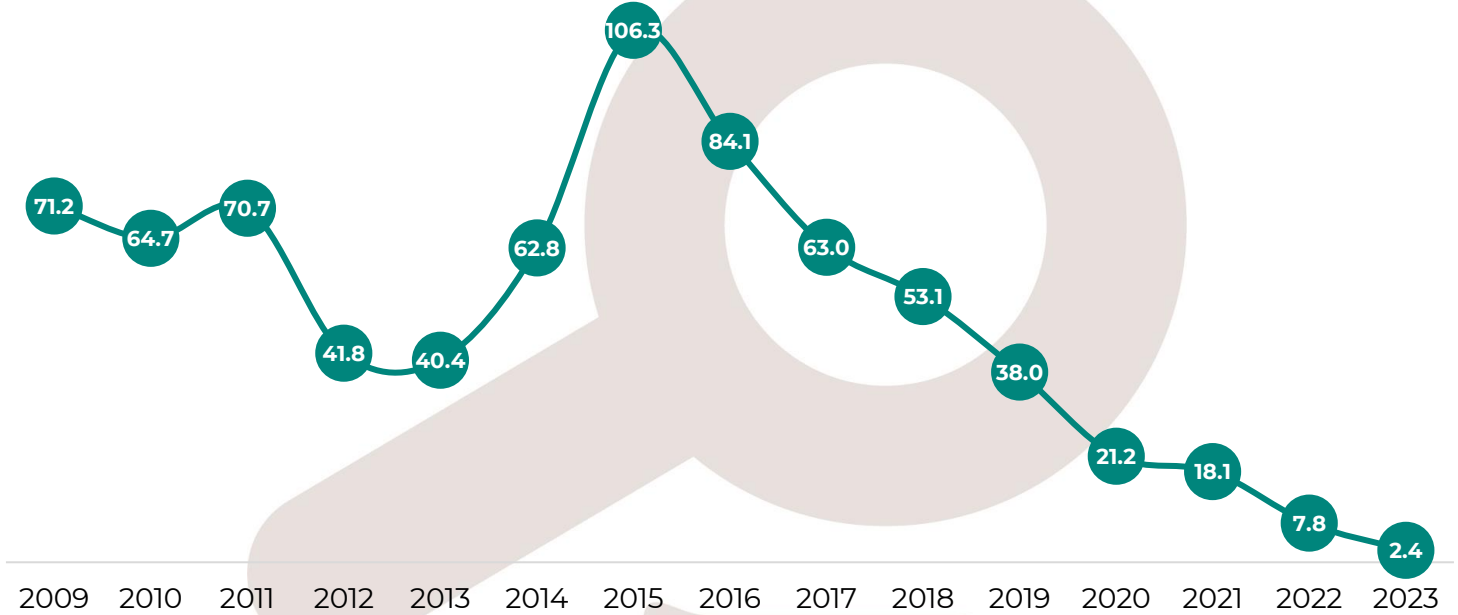
- At the end of 2023, homicide in El Salvador underwent a 69.0 per cent reduction, with 154 reported cases. The significance of this reduction is evident when you contrast this figure with 496 homicides recorded in 2022.
- The 2023 homicide rate was **2.4 per 100,000 population**, lower than that recorded in 2022. The average daily homicide rate was **0.4** in 2023, while in 2022 it had been 1.4.
- An important reduction in homicides can be observed after the State of Exception was declared on 27 March 2022. As of January 2024, it has been extended 24 times.
- Between January and December 2023, the National Civil Police reported a total of **247 days without homicides**, which is 67.7 per cent of the year.
- The Office of the Prosecutor General of the Republic (FGR) reported **53 homicides resulting from common crime** in 2023. This is **87.6 per cent** lower in comparison with 2022 in this category. Moreover, in 2022, homicides resulting from social- and family intolerance rose 50.0 per cent and 51.6 per cent respectively.
- In this regard, it is relevant that on 22 June 2023, the Special Law for Municipal Restructuring came into effect, reorganizing the 14 departments on Salvadoran territory into 44 municipalities and 262 municipal districts. Based on this law, former municipalities are remade as municipal districts.¹
- The following geographic analysis reflects this arrangement.
- At the departmental level, in 2023, **San Salvador** has the highest number of homicide victims, **38** fatalities, which is about one fourth (24.7%) of the total. This is followed by the departments of **La Libertad** with 20, Santa Ana 15 and San Miguel 13 victims. In Ahuachapan, San Vicente and Sonsonate, records show nine homicide victims in each of these departments. Cabañas, Chalatenango and La Paz report five homicides each, while in Cuscatlán and Morazán there were two each.
- An overview of 44 municipalities noted that, in 2023, there were more victims of homicide in Central San Salvador (23), Eastern San Salvador (10), Central Santa Ana (9) and Southern La Unión Sur (9). It is important to mention that in San Salvador, only the municipality of Northern San Salvador exhibits 0 homicides during the year. This is actually one of the five municipalities with no homicides in 2023, along with Western Cabañas, Southern Chalatenango, Northern Cuscatlán and Coastal La Libertad.
- At the district level, the police reported homicide victims in 76 out of the country's 262 districts (29.0%), while **186** registered no victims in 2023 (70.0%).
- The districts of Soyapango and Cuscatancingo in San Salvador (departmental capital), account for two thirds of the victims of homicide reported in 2023 in the department de San Salvador.
- In the western region, the department capital city of Santa Ana reported a total of nine homicides during 2023, while districts like San Francisco Menendez (Southern Ahuachapan) and Acajutla (Western Sonsonate) reported **four** homicides each. The department capital city of **San Miguel**, in the Eastern Region, reported **five** homicides in 2023.
- Moreover, the University Public Opinion Institute (IUDOP)² conducted a survey between 9 and 22 December 2023 to understand the prevalence of crime victimization in 2023. According to the results of 1,280 representative interviews, **5.5 per cent** of the population had been **victims** of crime in 2023. This was a **51.3 per cent** reduction in comparison with the percentage of victimization in December 2022 (11.3%).
- Of these individuals, 38.0 per cent had been victims of theft (unarmed robbery, physical aggression or -threat), some 26.8 per cent threat, 19.7 per cent assault but no robbery; and 16.9 per cent unarmed robbery, with physical aggression or -threat.
- The IUDOP also inquired into the public perception of security. According to this latest survey, nine out of every 10 persons (91.5%) feel very safe (25.6%) or safe (65.9%). Nonetheless, 7.9 per cent feel unsafe and 0.6 per cent very unsafe. The perception of safety **was greater in 2023 than it had been in 2022**, when 88.2 per cent stated they felt very safe (16.8%) or safe (71.4%).

¹ The Special Law for Municipal Restructuring can be referenced in tome 439 of the Official Gazette No. 110, dated 14 June 2023, following this link: <https://www.asamblea.gob.sv/leyes-y-decretos/decretos-por-anios/2023/0>

² This information can be referenced at the following link: <https://uca.edu.sv/iudop/publicacion/evaluacion-de-anio-2023>

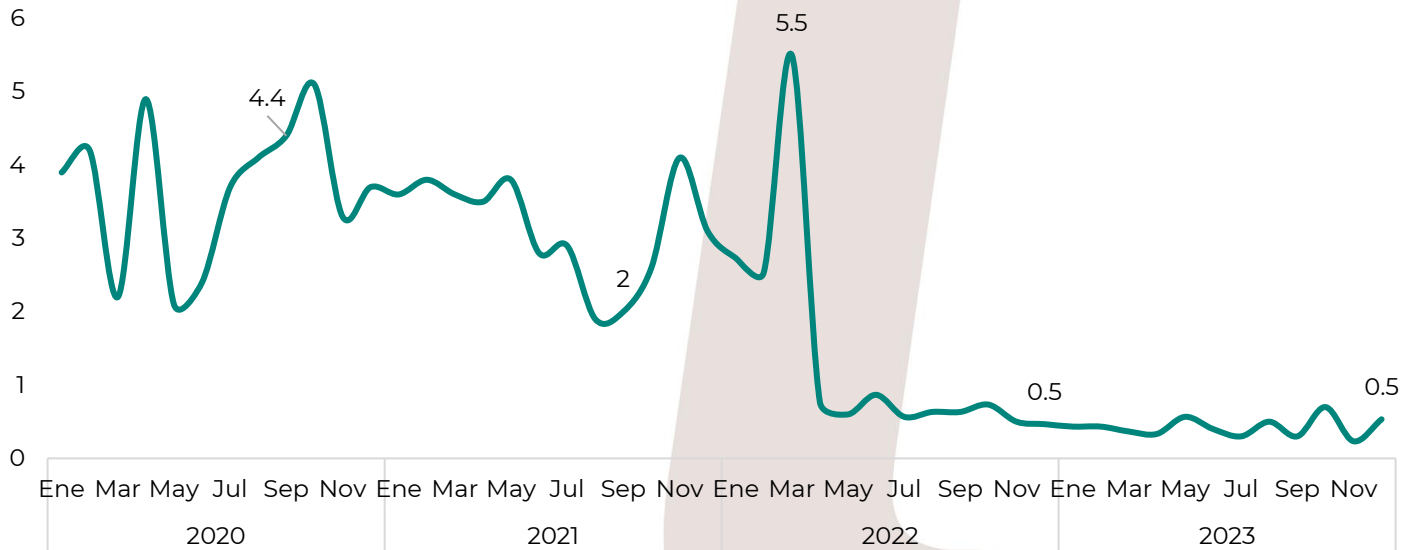
Evidence

Homicide rate per 100,000 population, 2009-2023



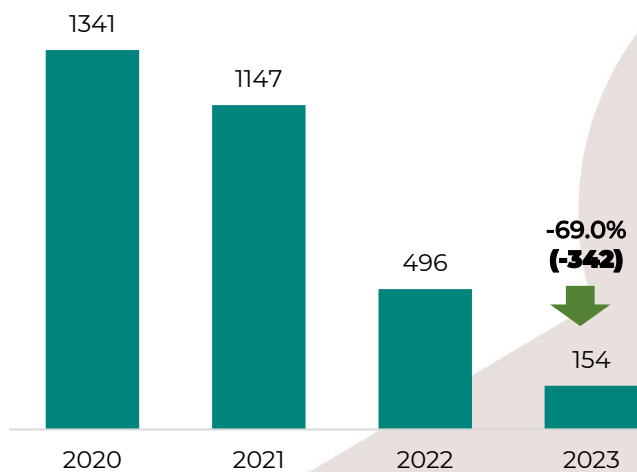
Source: Prepared by UNDP through InfoSegura based on data provided by the Working Group on Homicide Facts and Figures (2009-2021) and FGR (2022-2023).

Average daily homicide by month of occurrence, January 2020 to December 2023

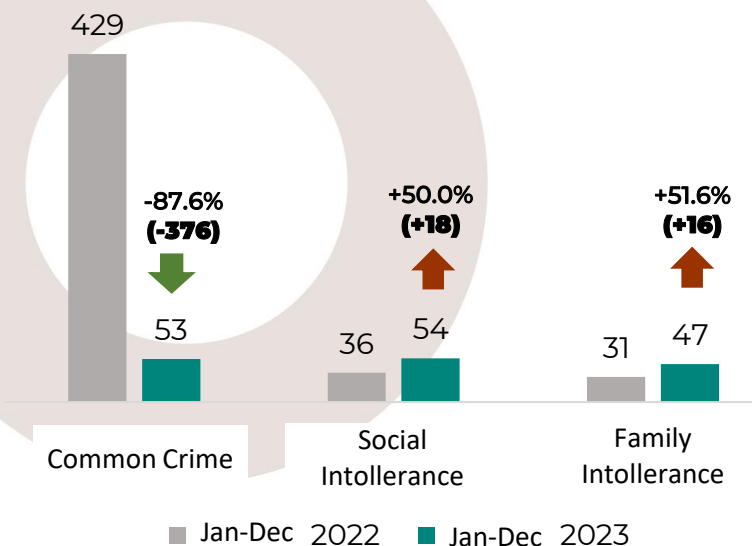


Source: Prepared by UNDP through InfoSegura based on data provided by the Working Group on Homicide Facts and Figures (2020-2021) and FGR (2022-2023).

Number of homicides
January-December 2020-2023

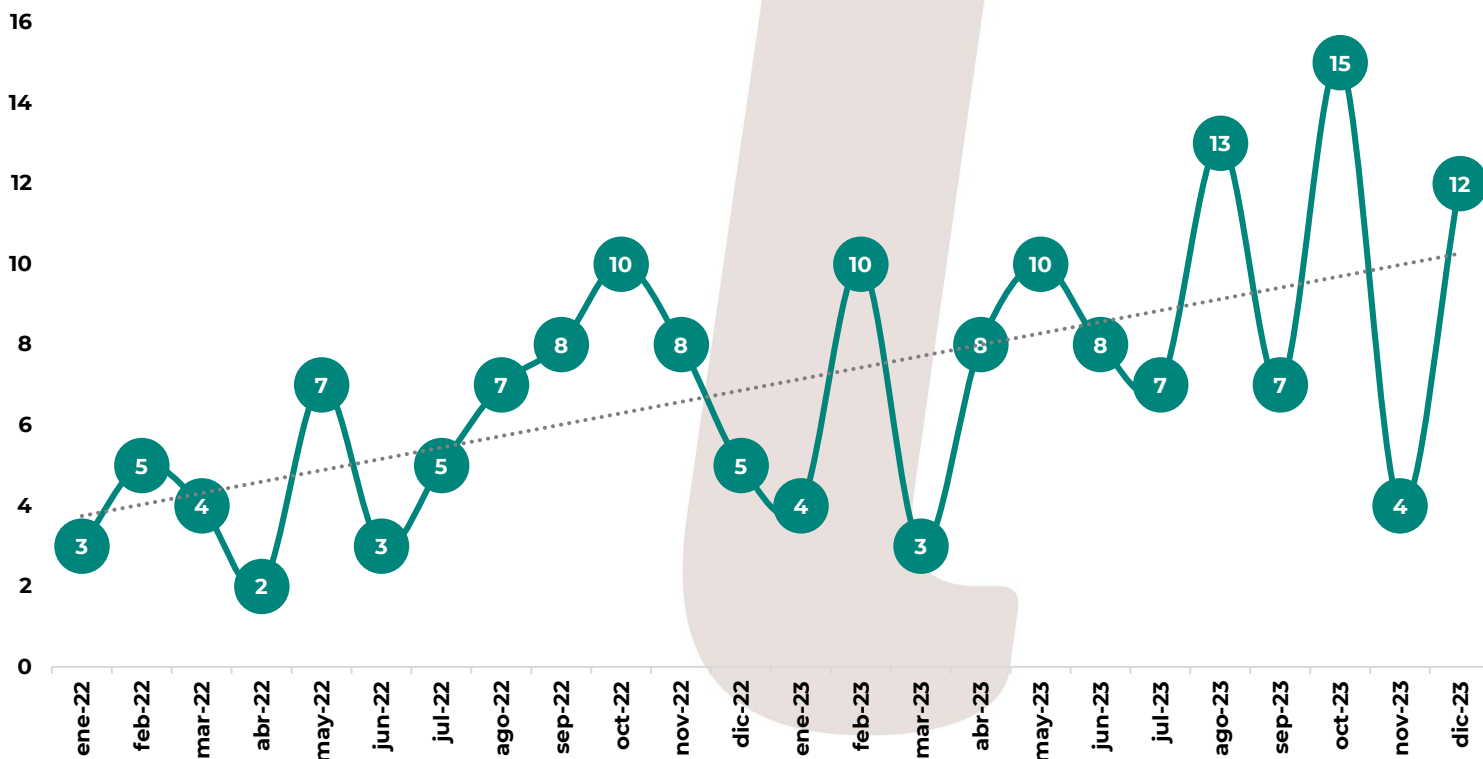


Number of homicides disaggregated by
category, January-December 2022-2023



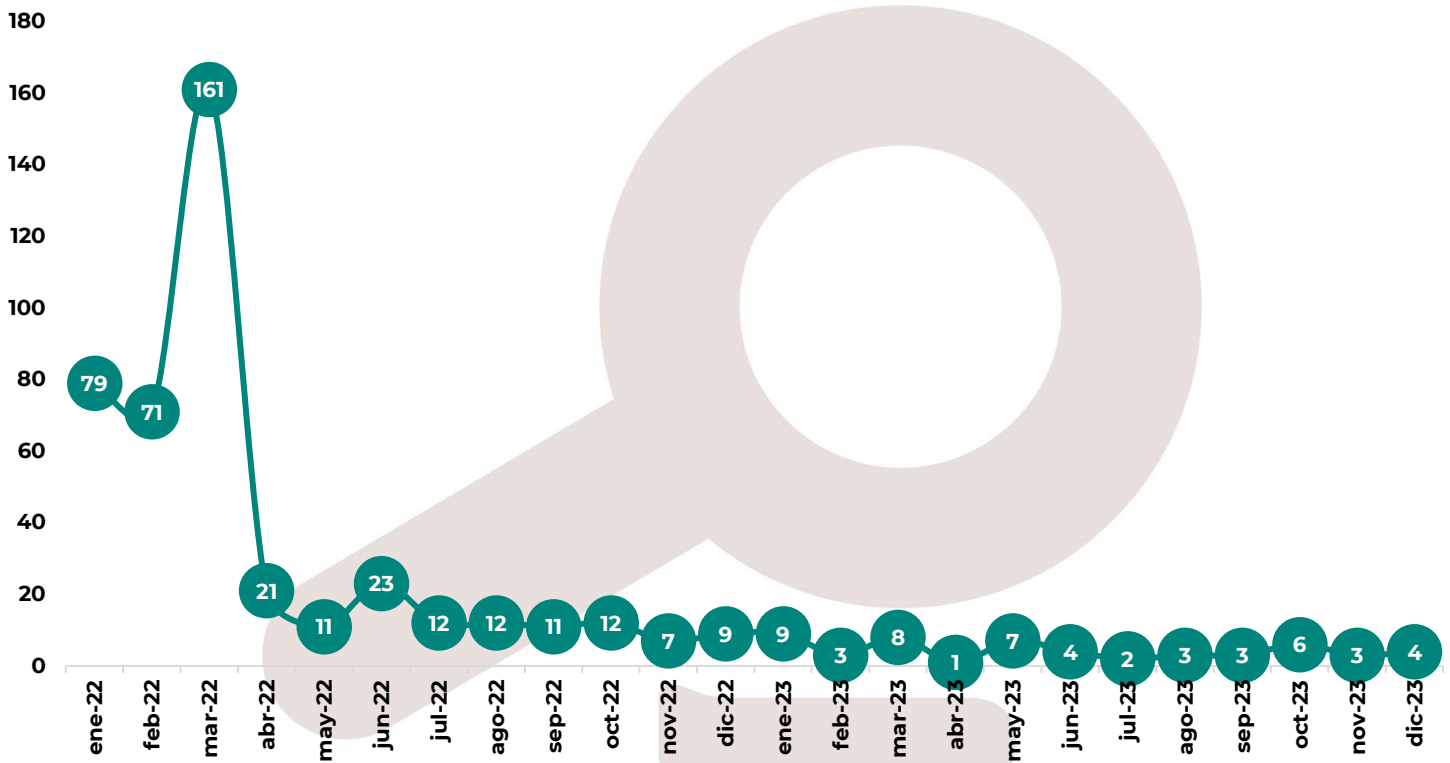
Source: Prepared by UNDP through InfoSegura based on data from the FGR statistics portal.

Homicide motivated by intolerance (social- and family-)
2022-2023



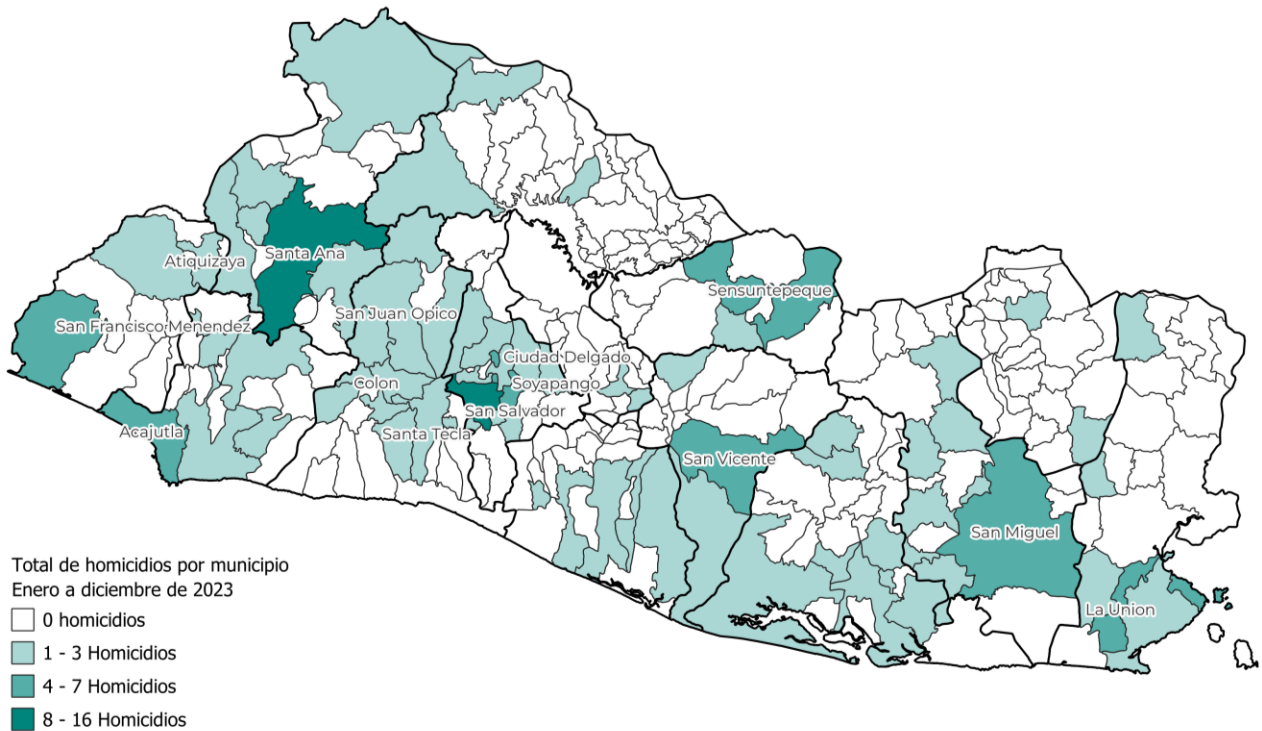
Source: Prepared by UNDP through InfoSegura based on data from the FGR statistics portal.

Homicide resulting from common crime 2022-2023



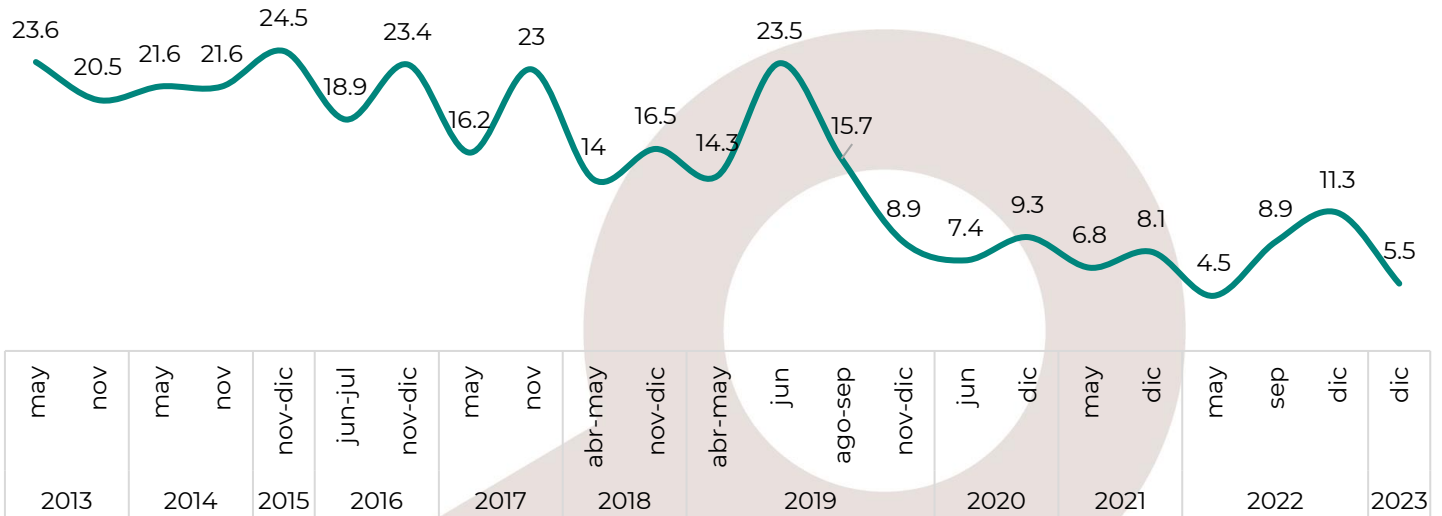
Source: Prepared by UNDP through InfoSegura based on data from the FGR statistics portal.

Number of homicides by municipality, January—December 2023



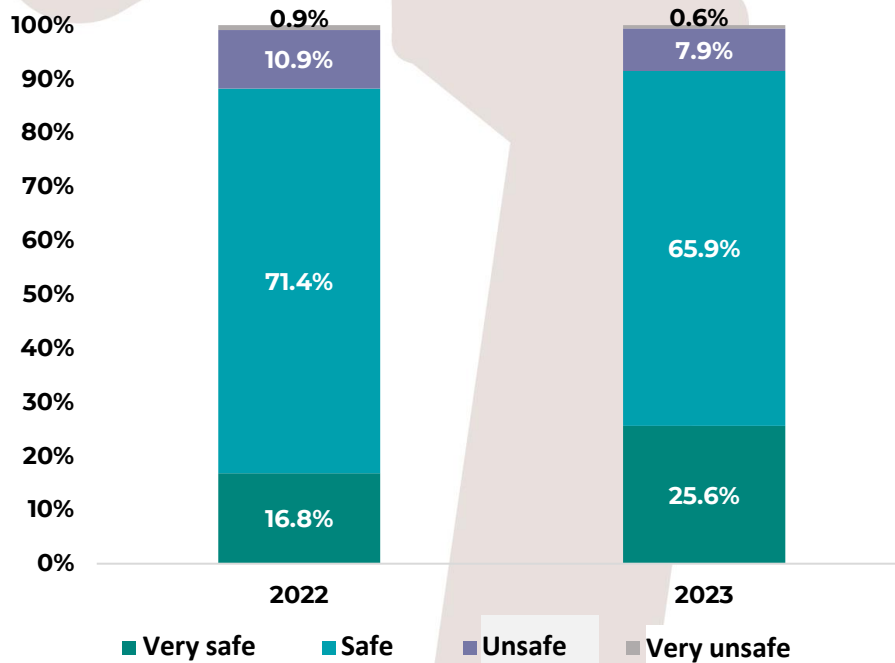
Source: Prepared by UNDP through InfoSegura based on daily figures published by the National Civil Police (PNC).

Victimization rate by survey, 2013—2023



Source: Prepared by UNDP through InfoSegura based on the IUDOP Year-End Review for 2023.

Perception of safety, December 2022 and 2023



Source: Prepared by UNDP through InfoSegura based on the IUDOP Year-End Review for 2022 and 2023.



Source: Prepared by UNDP InfoSegura, with data provided by the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Republic of El Salvador (FGR), National Civil Police (PNC) and IUDOP.

This report was prepared with data available as of 6 February 2024.