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# **Citizen Security Analysis in Belize 2022**

Belize

May 2023

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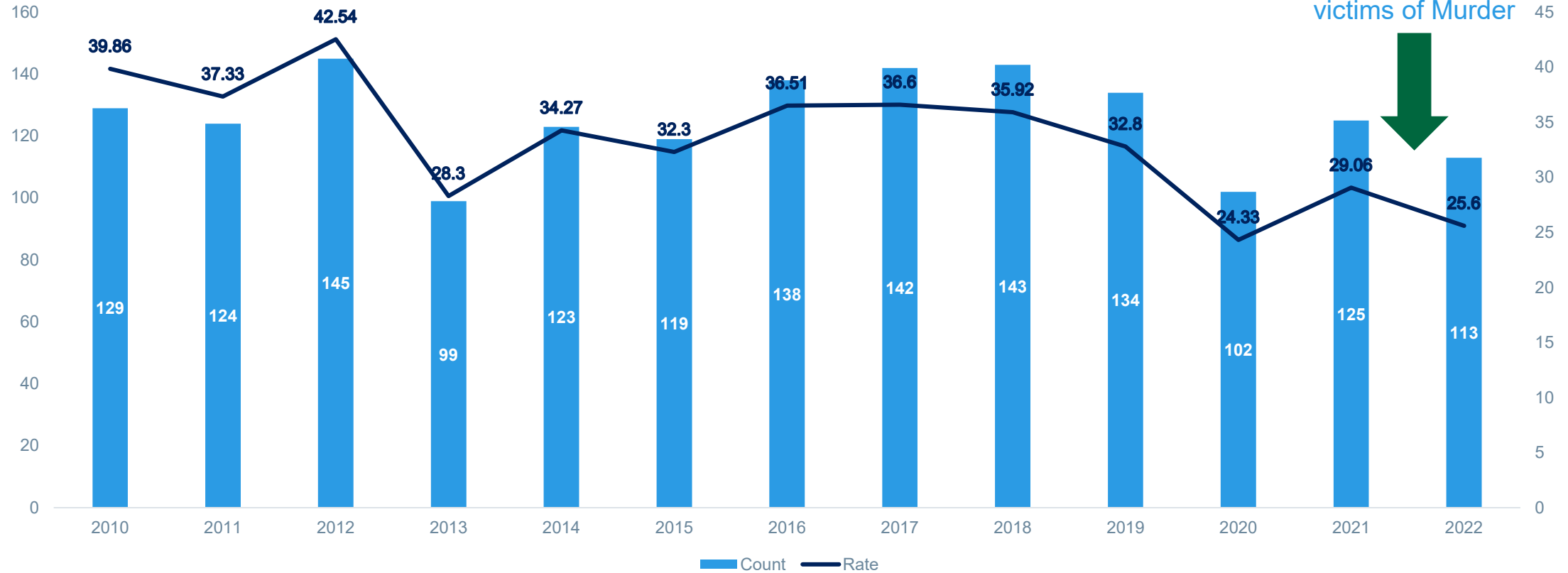
# Murder Rate declined in 2022

9.6%

decrease in victims of Murder



In 2022 the murder rate was 25.6 murders per 100,000 inhabitants.



# Murder victims 2022

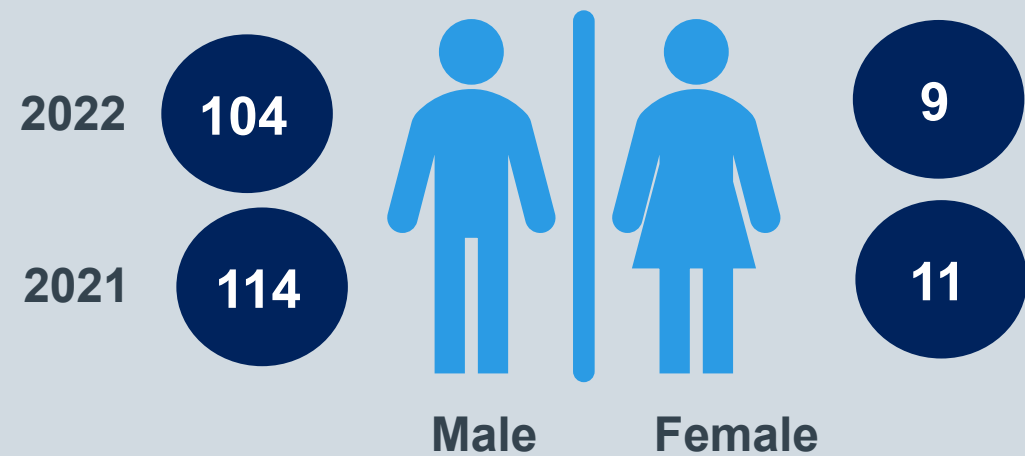
113

Victims of Murder

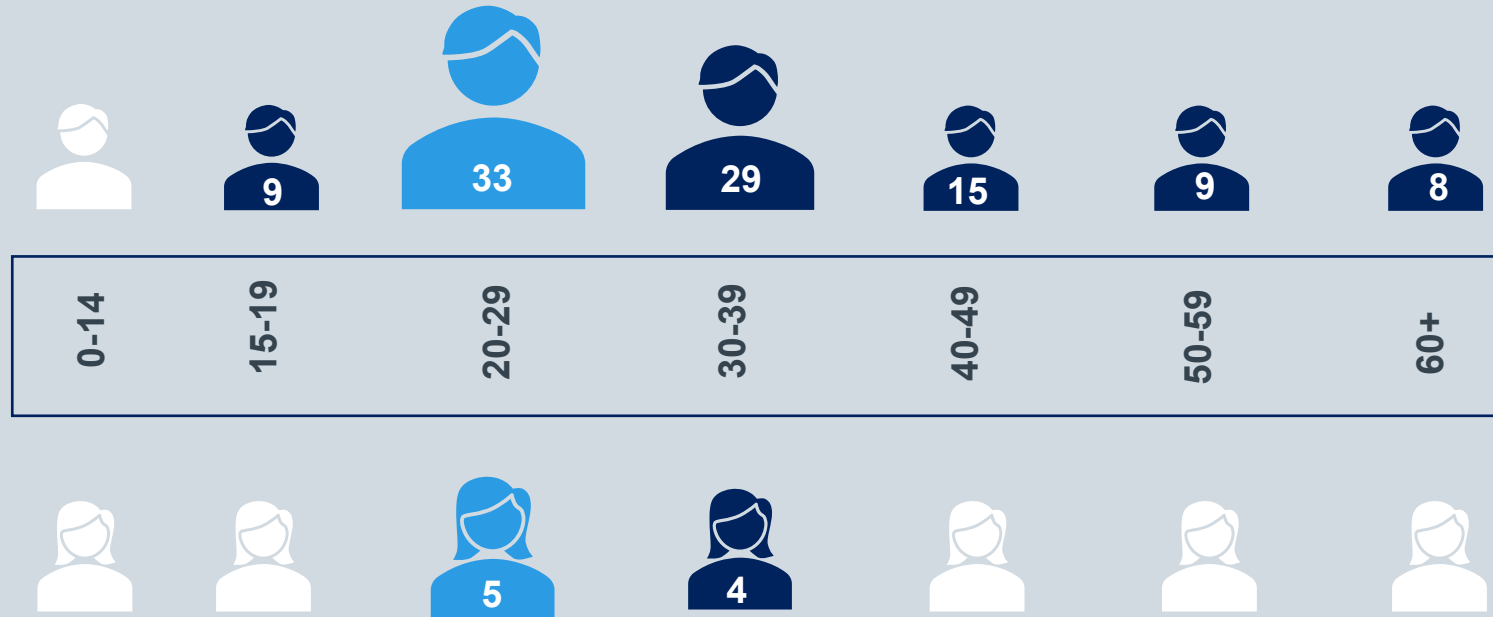


9 IN 10

Murder victims were males



# Age of Murder Victims



2021

2022

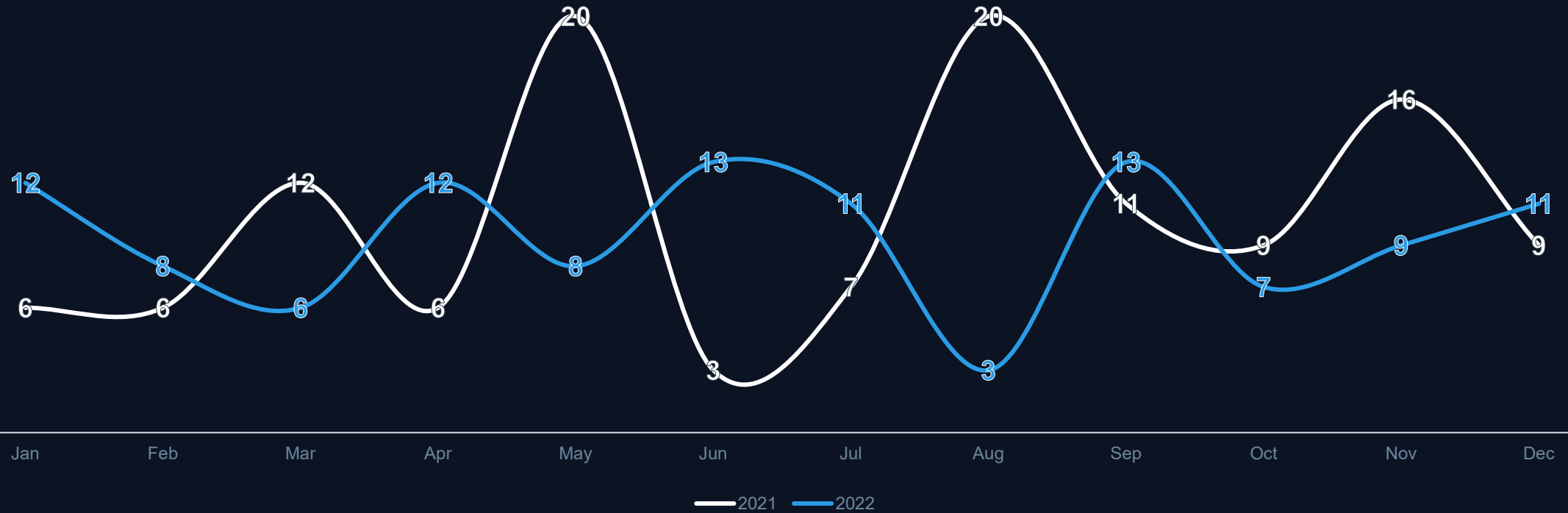
31%

32%

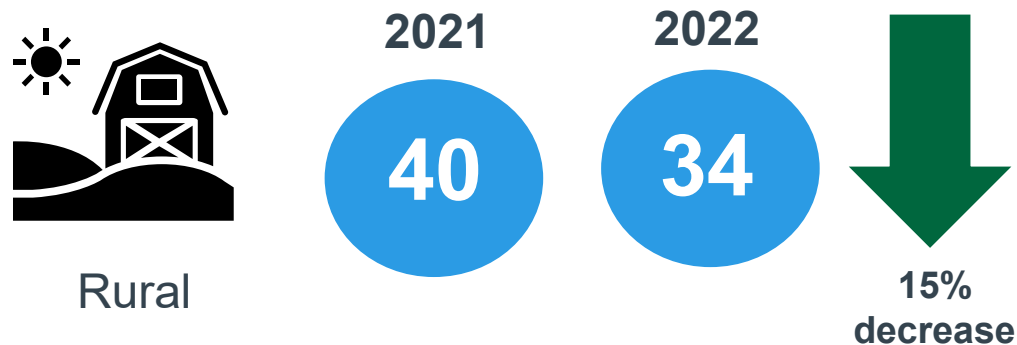
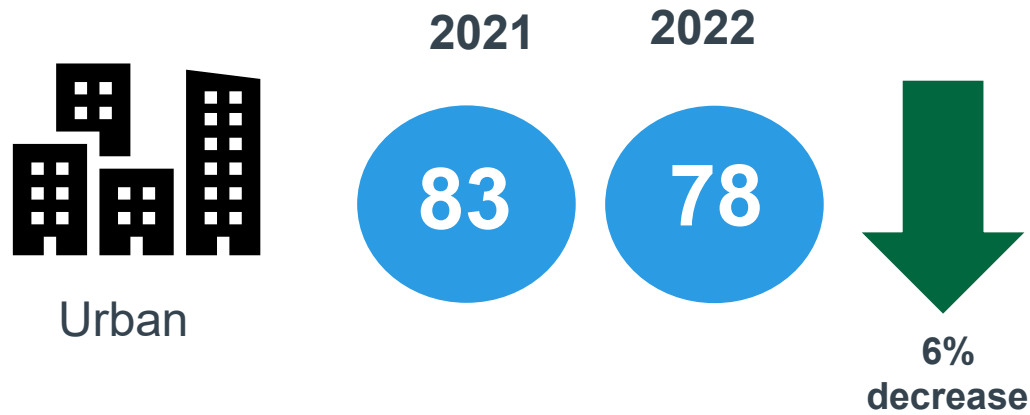
of male murder victims were between the ages 20-29 years

# Decrease in Murders

**85%** decrease in August



# Decrease in murder victims in both urban and rural areas



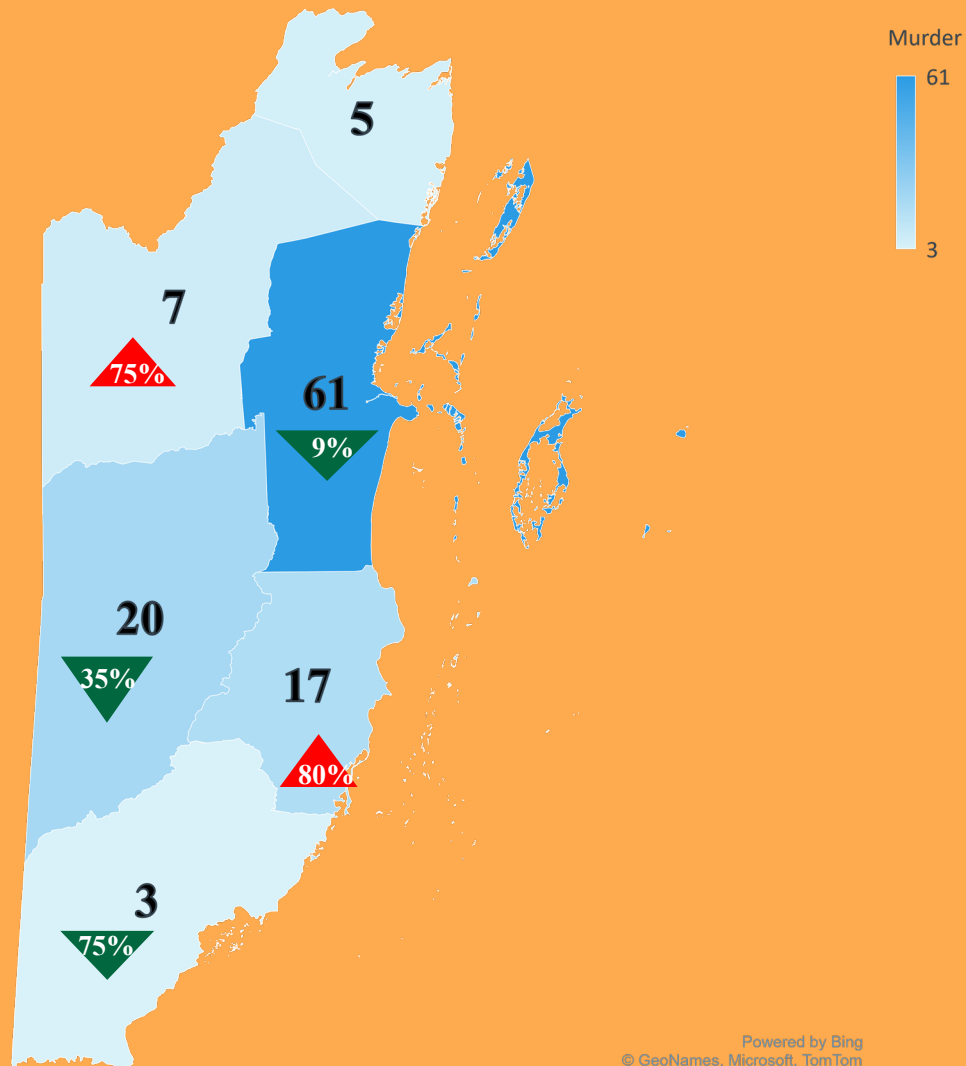
# 7 IN 10

of the murders recorded were in urban areas

This represents **69%** of the murder victims in 2022 (a total of 78 murder victims).

*Note: There were 2 murders committed in 2021 and 1 in 2022 with unknown geographical area.  
Urban areas consist of Towns or Cities.  
Rural areas consist of Villages or Smaller Communities.*

# Murders by District

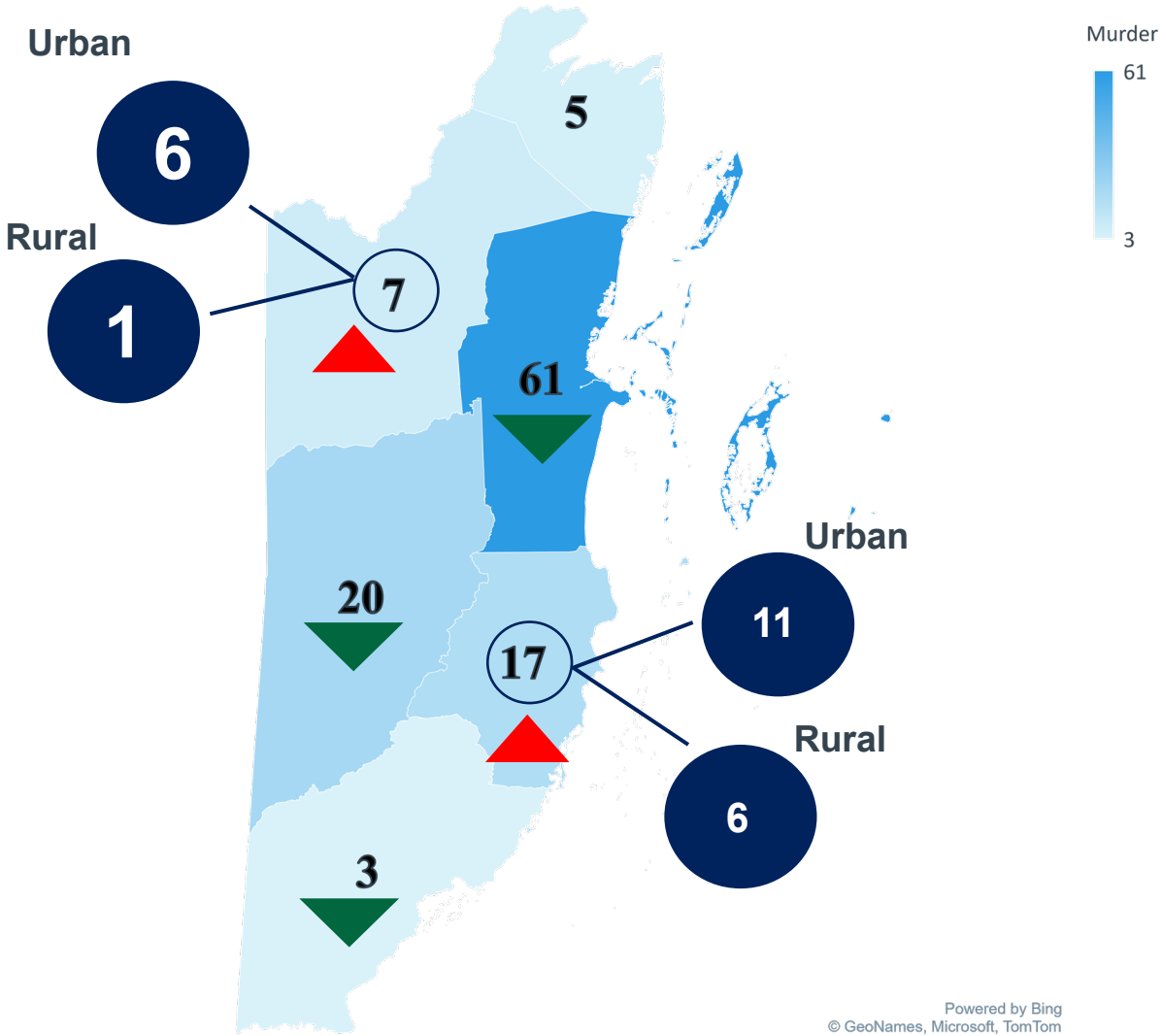


The Orange Walk and Stann Creek Districts increased in murders during 2022.

The Orange Walk District increased by **75%** in murders and the Stann Creek District increased by **80%** in murders.

Though the Belize District accounted for the highest amount of murder victims, there was **a decrease of 9%** in 2022 compared to the previous year.

# Murders by Districts



The Orange Walk and Stann Creek Districts increased in murders during 2022.

**85%** of the murders were committed in urban areas of the Orange Walk District.

**65%** of the murders were committed in urban areas of the Stann Creek District

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# What the data says about gun deaths?



Firearm

2021

91

73%

2022

87

77%



Sharp Object

28

22%

24

21%

About ...

**8 IN 10**

murders were committed with a firearm

**2 IN 10**

murders were committed using a sharp object

*Note: There were 6 murders committed with another type of weapon in 2021 and 2 in 2022.*

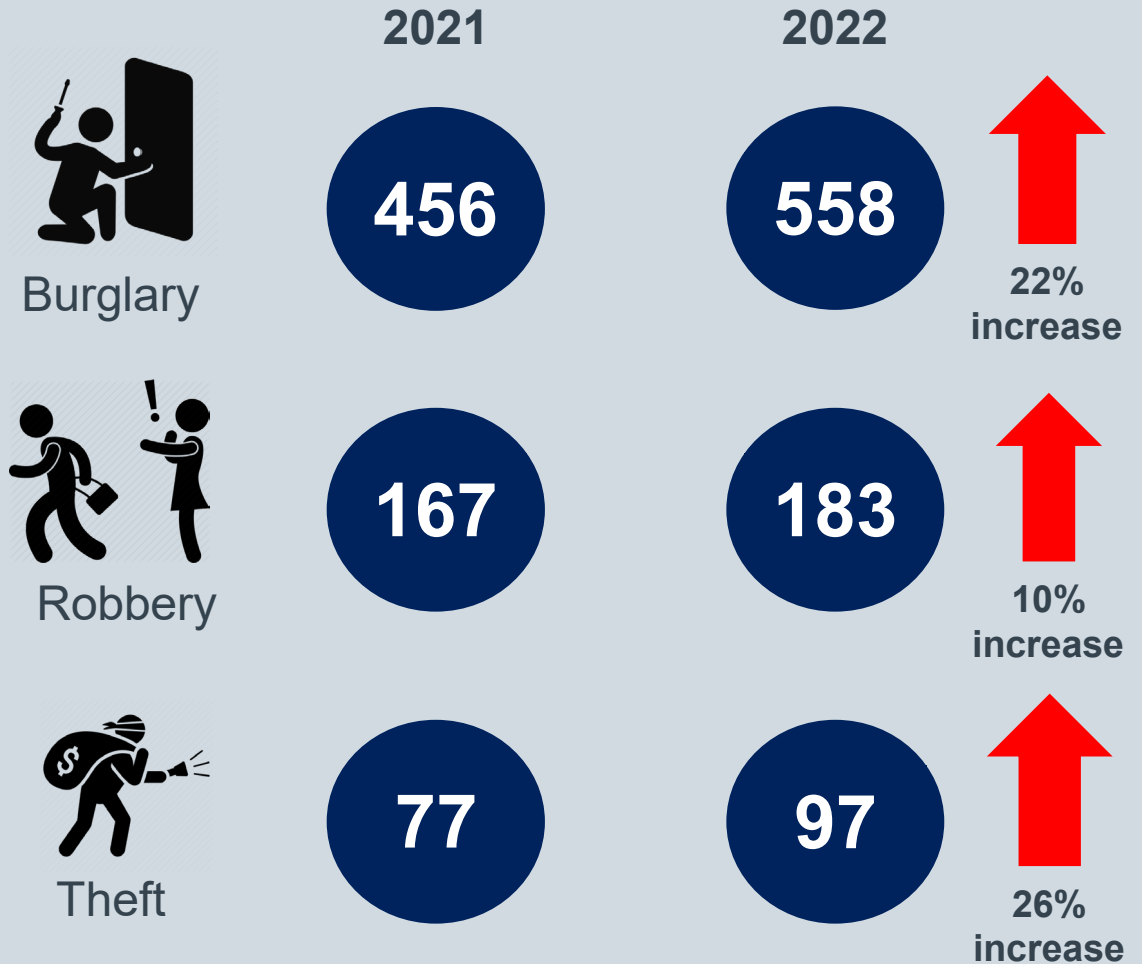
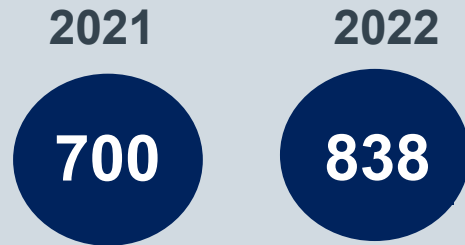
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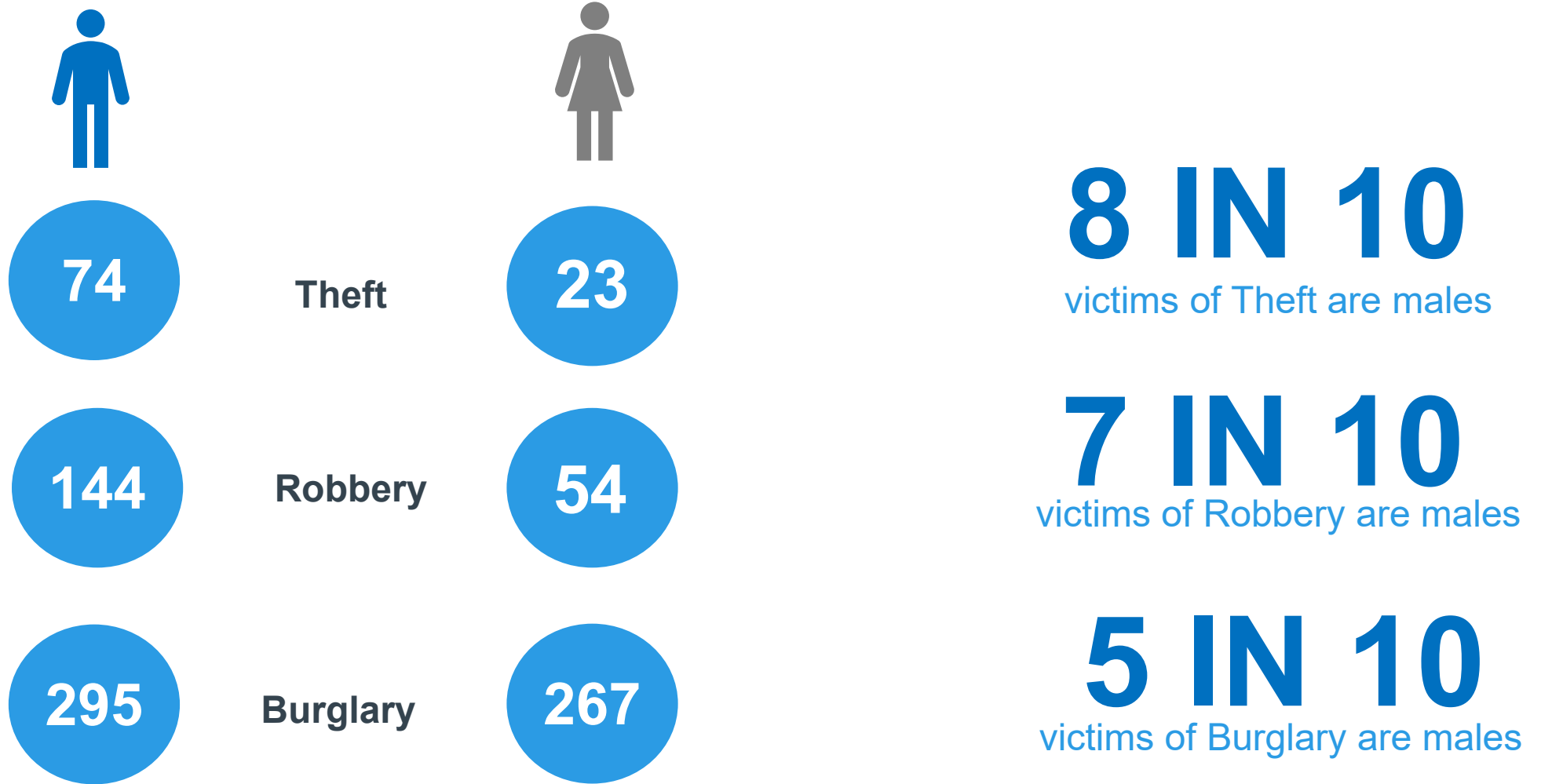
# Property Crimes increase in 2022

19.7%

overall increase  
in Property  
Crimes in 2022.

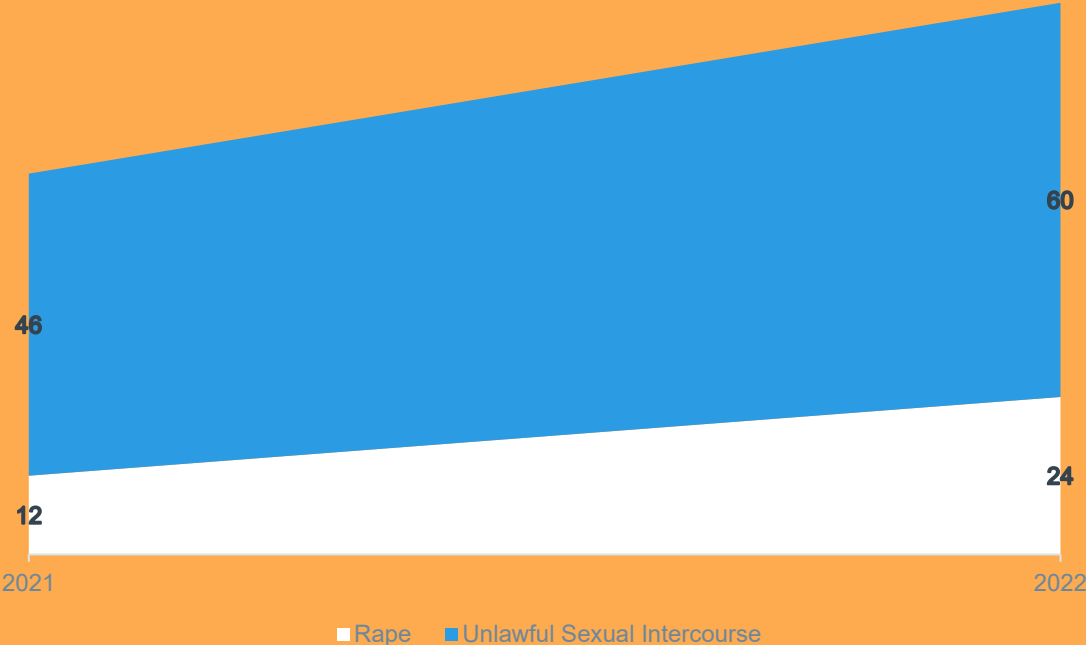


# As of 2022 the majority of the victims of Property Crimes were males



# Victims of Sexual Violence

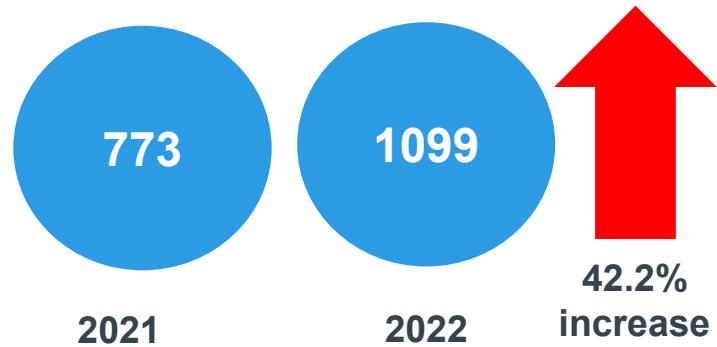
Both Rape and Unlawful Sexual Intercourse **increased** in reports during 2022.



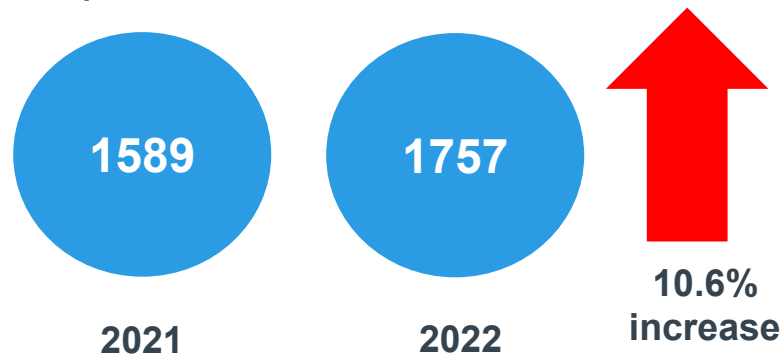
Majority of the victims of sexual violence were females accounting for **99%**.

# Domestic Violence

## Cases of Domestic Violence

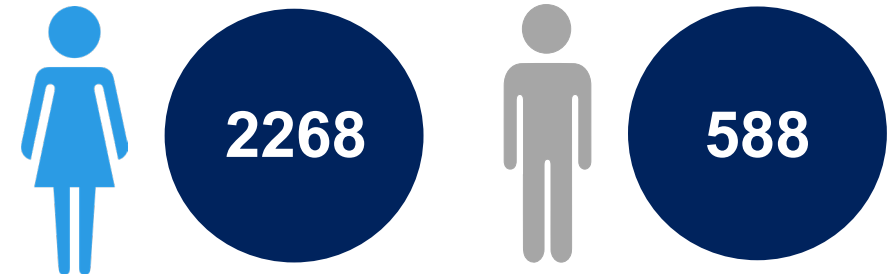


## Reports filed for Future Reference



# 8 IN 10

Reports were filed by females



Most reports were filed by females aged

**20 to 44 years**

*Note: Future Reference are reports made by an individual, but no court action is taken.*

# Increase in Domestic Violence



# A Call for Action

1. There are many factors that can contribute to criminality such as crimes being underreported especially in rural areas. This is one of the issues that Belize is facing where even though rural crimes seem to be low, it can be attributed to unreported crimes.
2. Also, the high number of murders recorded in the Urban areas of Belize continue to be of concern. This issue mainly affects the young male population.
3. Moreover, the notable increase in Domestic Violence reports is a call for action. This issues mainly affects the female population in Belize.

# Evidence-Based Policy Making

## ➤ Rural Safety and Security Strategy and Action Plan

- Consulting rural community leaders to gather knowledge about crime and safety conditions in the rural areas of Belize to better understand and move toward a wholistic approach to ensuring safety and security for all.
- Such active engagement and collaboration will:
  1. Build a government-community relationship
  2. Build trust and confidence in law enforcement
  3. Reduce criminality
  4. Provide positive alternatives for youths



# Evidence-Based Policy Making

## ➤ The Leadership Intervention Unit

- A multi-sectoral 3-pronged approach focusing on Social Development, Change Behavior, and a Violence Interrupter/Heal-up component.
- This has been impacting the lives, especially of the young men on the Southside of Belize City, in terms of intervening, resolving situations, resolving disputes, and at the same time offering them educational opportunities, both in the academics, and well as training.
  - the launch of the training for one hundred young men at the Tubal Institute in air condition repairs
  - law enforcement aspect where police officers go out and conduct raids based on intelligence, conduct preventative patrols, conduct checkpoints, conduct highway patrols to prevent crime from occurring.

# Evidence-Based Policy Making

## ➤ Domestic Violence in Belize Motion 2022

- zero-tolerance position concerning domestic violence and prioritize it as a national issue of significance.
- The Bill sets out specific measures and commitments the government will take against this issue such as:
  1. Legislative review to fill gaps and put in the necessary reforms for response
  2. Restructure and expand the Domestic Violence Unit
  3. Strengthen interventions
  4. Increase public awareness

## ➤ Support to Spotlight Initiative

- Data used for spotlight and inter-ministerial meetings with policy makers.
- This will lead to data assessments of health, police, judiciary and human development and service mapping.

# Data Sources

**Belize:** Belize Police Department through the Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center, and Belize National Forensics Science Service



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