HONDURAS
Analysis of the State of the Violence and Citizen Security
First Semester 2020 (1S-2020)

Highlights

- Homicides dropped 20% in the first semester of 2020 (384 fewer victims), as compared to the same period the previous year. The reduction coincides with the implementation of lockdown measures in response to COVID-19.1

- Despite the reduction in homicides at the start of the lockdown, between May and June there was a slight rise. Notwithstanding, figures for monthly homicides remain below 2019 levels.

- Fatalities related to traffic incidents, suicides and injuries also dropped during the period under review (-39.1%, -16.4% y -12.2% respectively).

- Violent deaths of both women and men have likewise declined (19.6% and 20% respectively).

- A greater percentage of homicides of women took place in the private sphere (64%) as compared to men (41%).

- Despite the decline in homicides nationwide, the two municipalities that account for the greatest number of victims exhibit the opposite trend. While homicides in San Pedro Sula dropped by 31%, in Distrito Central they rose 13%.

- As per police records, injuries of women increased (+22), while injuries of men decreased (-16.7%).

- Furthermore, the injuries caused with a sharp instrument is higher (as a percentage) for women (42%), as compared to men (32%).

- Firearms continue to account for the majority of injuries, however, there was a significant rise in the number of injuries involving sharp instruments (+16.8%).

- In terms of place of occurrence, injuries continue to occur in the country’s urban areas, nevertheless there was a considerable increase in the rural area (+12.7%).

Evidence

Homicides, Death by Road Traffic Incidents, Suicides and Injuries Decreased.

1 On March 16, measures to prevent the propagation of COVID-19 were adopted, including a complete stay in place order (save certain exceptions).
There were fewer homicides in the first quarter of 2020, possibly due to the lockdown measures put in place to prevent the transmission of COVID-19.

Violent deaths of both women and men have declined 19.6% and 20% respectively as compared to 2019.

Injuries in women rose (+22%), whereas injuries in men dropped (-16.7%).

People between the ages of 18 and 40 remain the main victims of homicidal violence. Approximately 2 in 3 victims were in that age bracket.

Although homicides mainly take place in public areas, homicides that in private spaces decreased less than they did in 2019 (-11.3% compared to -25.5%).

The homicides of women took place more often in the private spaces (64%) as compared to men (41%) in 2020.

Injuries in the rural area increased (+20), while in the urban area the decreased (-83).
Injuries caused by firearms decreased (-17.4%) and those caused by sharp instruments increased (+16.8%).

During the first quarter of 2020, a greater percentage of women (42%) were injured with sharp instruments, as compared to men (32%).

The northern and north central areas of the country continue to account for most homicides, particularly the municipalities of Distrito Central, San Pedro Sula, Choloma and El Progreso.

Likewise, the municipalities of Distrito Central, San Pedro Sula, Danlí and La Ceiba still account for a third of all injuries in the first semester of 2020.