Analysis of citizen security in Belize

Overview

The year 2020 saw a monumental decline in major crimes cases registered by the Belize Police Department. A total of 888 major crimes cases were registered, compared to 1,264 during 2019. This decline of 376 cases amounted to 29.75%.

Overall, declines were recorded nationally for all categories of major crimes, with the greatest declines recorded for robbery and burglary, while the least declines were recorded for sexual offences in the 'major crimes' category: rape and unlawful sexual intercourse.

For January to December 2020, murders were down by 23.88%, with 32 fewer murder victims recorded. This was due to a reduction in murders from 134 for January to December 2019 to 102 for January to December 2020.
All major crimes registered a decrease in 2020 in comparison to 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>Jan-Dec 2019</th>
<th>Jan-Dec 2020</th>
<th>Decrease</th>
<th>% Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>693</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>-214</td>
<td>-30.88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>-91</td>
<td>-36.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>-32</td>
<td>-23.88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>-22</td>
<td>-24.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unlawful Sexual Intercourse</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>-22</td>
<td>-17.91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>-5</td>
<td>-16.67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Belize Police Department

Belize registered 102 murders in 2020

114 Intentional
12 Other Homicide
1 Non-intentional Homicide
3 Undetermined/Not Stated

118 Homicides Registered

Belize’s Murder Rate per 100,000 inhabitants (2013-2020)

Belize’s murder rate, therefore, fell during 2020 to 24.33 per 100,000 inhabitants, the lowest rate recorded for Belize since 2001, when the murder rate was 18.35 per 100,000 inhabitants.

Female Murder Victims: Number and Rate (2010-2020)

During 2020, approximately 9 in 10 murder victims were males. From among the 102 victims recorded, 11 were females and 91 were males.

Source: Belize Police Department
Only four months of 2020 recorded a higher number of murders in comparison to the same month of 2019.

There was a significant reduction of the number of homicides between April and June.

The main victims of violent death were young people.

At least 80% of victims are females.

**Number of Murders Recorded Nationally per Month (Jan 2019 - Feb 2021)**

Source: Belize Police Department

**Source: National Forensic Science Service**

**Age Disaggregation of Female Victims of Violent Deaths, 2020 Autopsies**

**Age Disaggregation of Male Victims of Violent Deaths, 2020 Autopsies**

**At least 80% of victims are females**

**Source: National Forensic Science Service**
There was a slight decrease in the total number of domestic violence cases in 2020.

84% of domestic violence cases were against women and 4 in 10 cases were against people between 18 and 30 years old.

Almost 8 in 10 complainants were females.

Incarceration
Over the course of 2020, there were 1,823 people incarcerated, a decrease of 8% (or 152) when compared to 2019, when 1,975 were incarcerated.

The prison population grew by 2% or 24 inmates; 1,108 inmates were registered as of 31 December 2020, compared to 1,084 at the end of 2019.