



MONTHLY CRIME ANALYSIS

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NOVEMBER 2021

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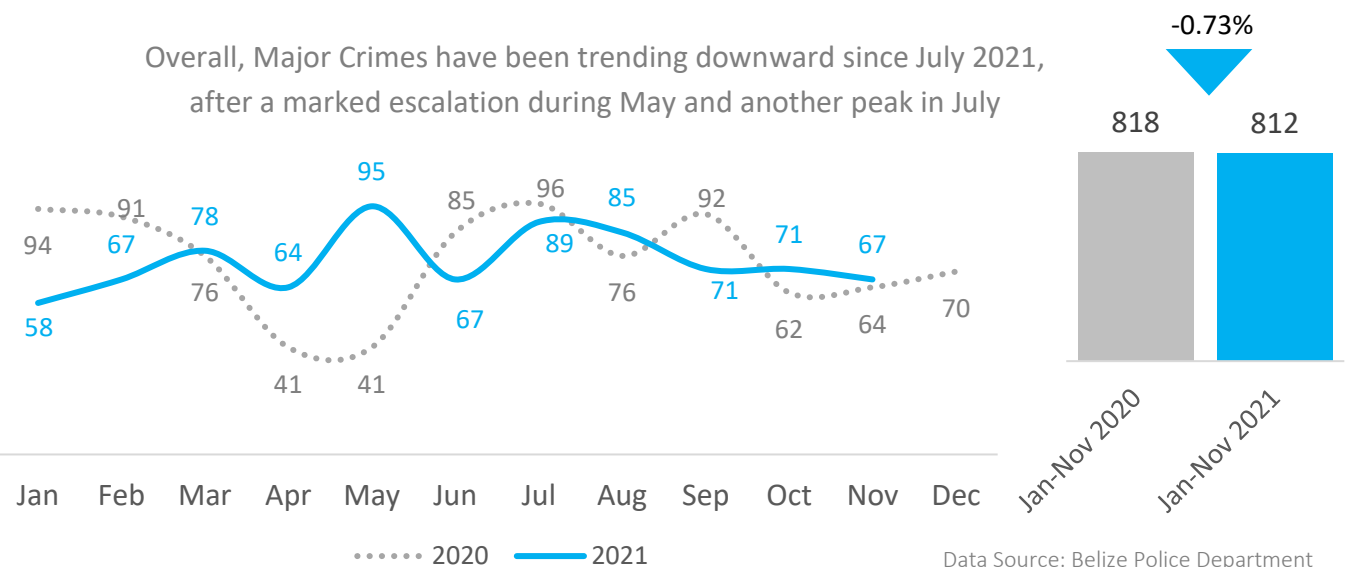
Crime Analysis Report

PERIOD: 1st – 30th November 2021



SUMMARY

- The period January to November 2021 registered a marginal overall decrease in Major Crimes relative to the same period in 2020. Increases in **Murder, Theft** and **Robbery** were offset by declines in the other three categories of Major Crimes: Burglary, Rape and Unlawful Sexual Intercourse.
- November 2021 registered the second most notable spike in Murders for this year so far and the third most prominent peak since the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic, with **16 Murders**: 13 males and 3 females.
- Official data released by the Belize Police Department indicate a decline in Major Crimes, from **818** incidents for the period January to November 2020 to **812** for January to November 2021. This decrease of **6** incidents amounted to **-0.73%**.
- However, relative to the pre-COVID-19 period of January to November 2019, Major Crimes are down by **-30.6%**—representing an overall fall by **358** incidents. A total of **1,170** Major Crimes were registered during that 11-month period. Declines in **Robberies** and **Burglaries** accounted for this substantial drop, relative to the pre-COVID-19 period.
- The most notable relative declines continue to be recorded for Major Crimes in the Sexual Violence category: Rape and Unlawful Sexual Intercourse.
- About **8 in every 10** cases of Major Crimes continue to be incidents of Robbery, Burglary, or Theft. Burglary was the only crime in this category to have registered a decline, compared to the same period last year; incidents of Robbery and Theft have increased.
- There has also been a marked increase in Shootings, from **204** incidents recorded during January to November 2020 to **235** incidents recorded for the period January to November 2021. This is an increase of **31** incidents (or **15%**).



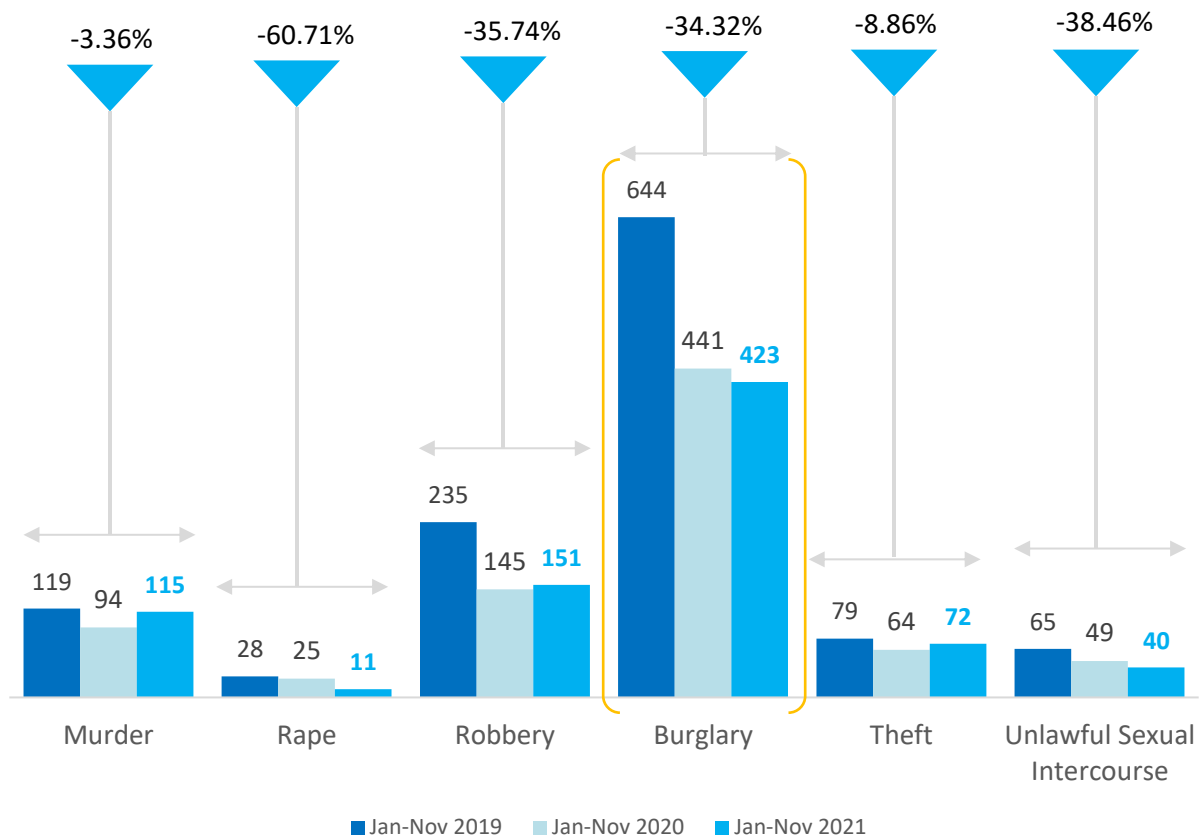
Data Source: Belize Police Department

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MAJOR CRIMES



Data Source: Belize Police Department

All Major Crimes have registered overall declines since the pre-COVID-19 period, with the declines in Sexual Violence (Rape and Unlawful Sexual Intercourse) being the most pronounced. The least pronounced decline has been recorded for Murders.

Relative to the same time last year, the southernmost district of Toledo has registered the most notable relative decline, followed by the northern district of Orange Walk. All categories of Major Crimes registered a decline in Toledo.

The Belize District, in contrast, registered the largest increase in Major Crimes incidents, particularly with respect to Murder and Property Crimes (Robbery, Burglary and Theft). The increase in Major Crimes in the Cayo District continued to be driven by a notable escalation in Murders, although there was a significant fall in burglaries in that district. However, the overall increase registered in Stann Creek was attributable to a rise in Robberies and Burglaries.

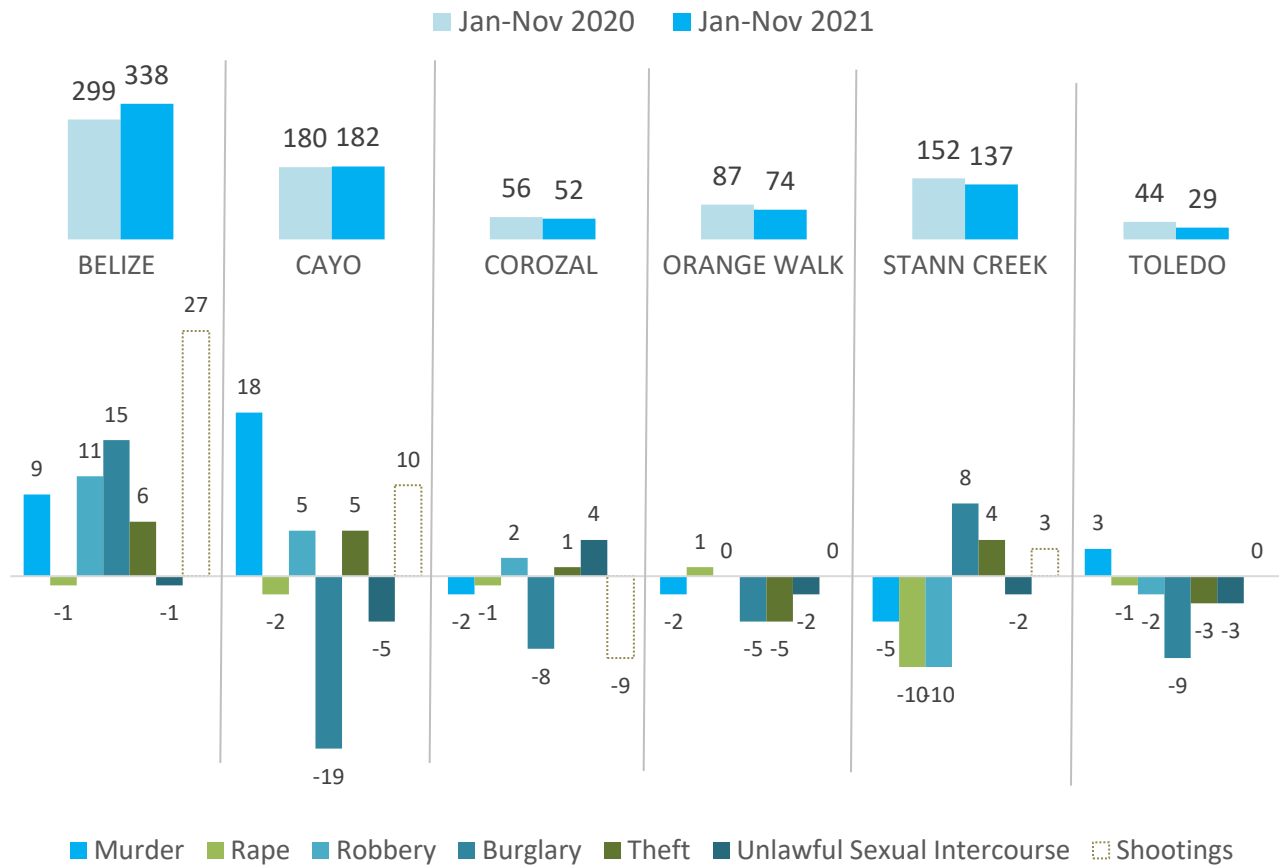
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Top chart: Comparative Counts of Major Crimes Cases Registered by District of Incident

Bottom: Absolute Change in Number of Major Crimes Cases Registered by District and Type



Data Source: Belize Police Department

Four of six districts registered an overall decline in Major Crimes: Corozal, Orange Walk, Stann Creek and Toledo. The remaining two—the Belize and Cayo Districts—registered increases, with the increase in the Belize District being most pronounced.

In the Belize District, Property Crimes (Robberies and Burglaries) on the northside of Belize City (Precincts 3 and 4) and Murders and Robberies on the southside of Belize City (in Precinct 1) were the main concerns. Property Crimes were also a notable concern in the Hattieville area in the Belize District.

Murders in the Belmopan policing area (which includes the surrounding communities) were largely responsible for the overall increase in Major Crimes, largely offset by a marked reduction in Major Crimes in the western municipality of San Ignacio/Santa Elena.

NOTE: The six Major Crimes categories included above reflect the Belize Police Department’s Major Crimes classification scheme. Please refer to the Glossary of this report for more information.

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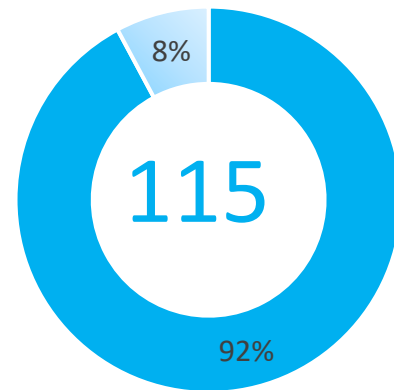
MURDERS

There were 115 Murders recorded nationally for the period January to November 2021. This represents an increase of about 3% relative to the same period in 2020 (the pre-COVID-19 period) but an increase of 22% over the same period in the previous year.

The Murder count exceeded the 100-mark in November, when 16 murders were recorded. Over 90% of the murder victims were males.

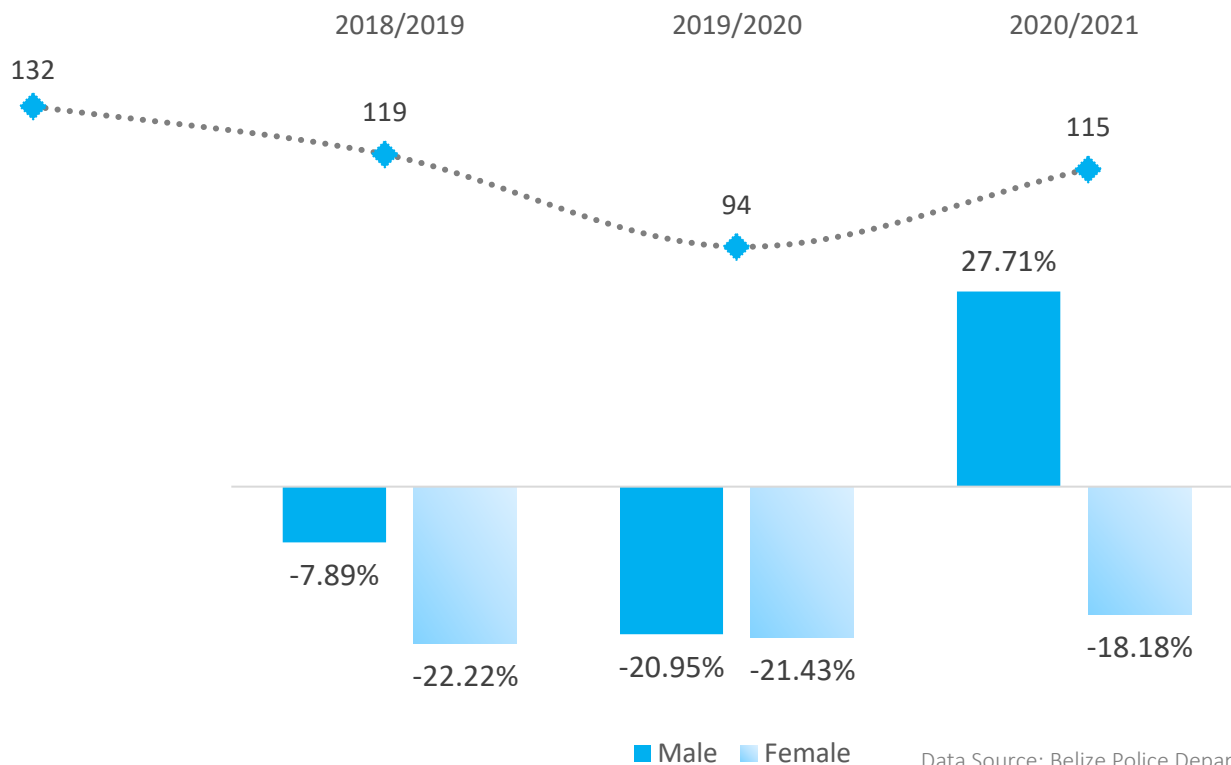
Although the number of Murders of females declined over the past three consecutive periods, the Murders of males, which declined between 2018 to 2020, increased substantially over the period under review. *(Note: These comparisons are only for the 11-month period - January to November.)*

About 9 in every 10 Murder victims for January to November 2021 were males



■ Male ■ Female

Data Source: Belize Police Department



■ Male ■ Female

Data Source: Belize Police Department

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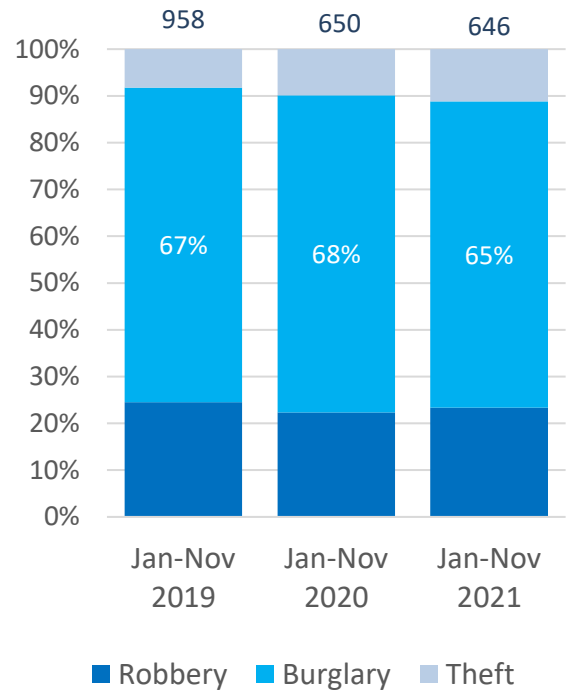


PROPERTY CRIMES

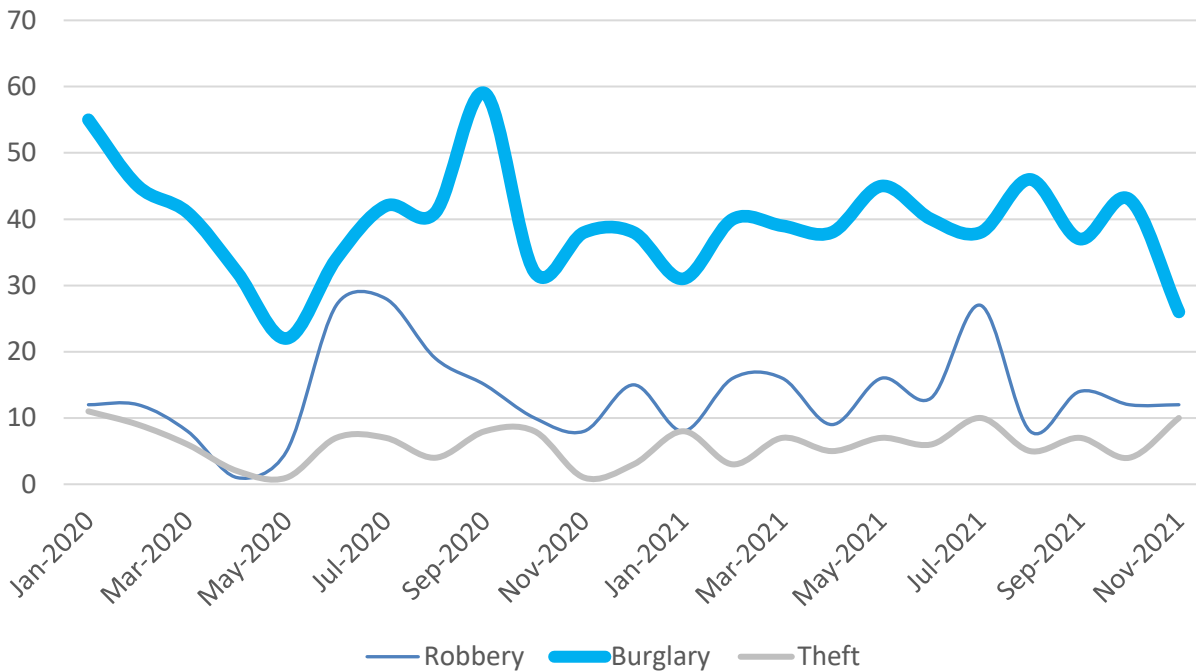
During January to November 2021, there was a marginal decline in incidents of Robbery, Burglary, and Theft, from 650 to 646 incidents, attributable only to a decline in Burglaries, which accounted for 65% of crimes in this subcategory.

Incidents of Theft and Robbery increased nationally.

The chart below shows the overall decline, relative to the same period in 2020, which registered a much wider variation in pattern than this year.



Data Source: Belize Police Department



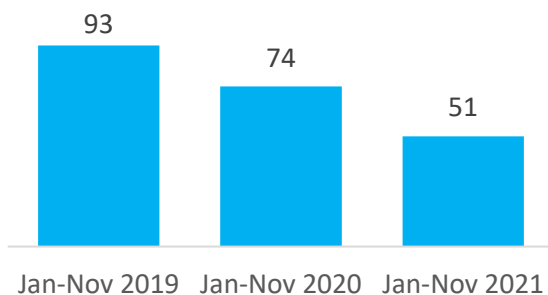
Data Source: Belize Police Department

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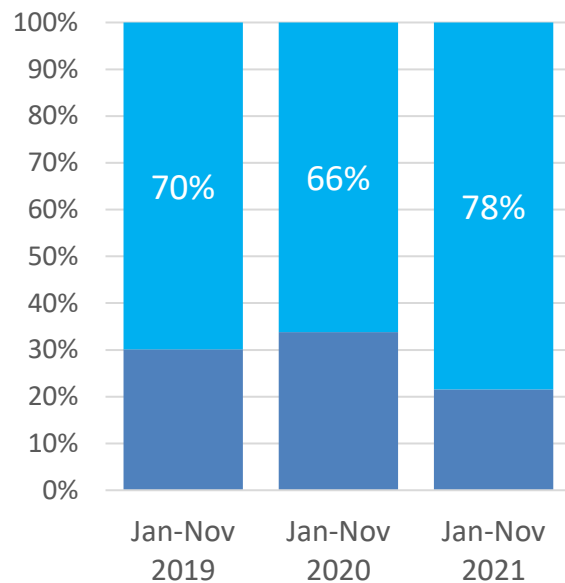
SEXUAL VIOLENCE



Data Source: Belize Police Department

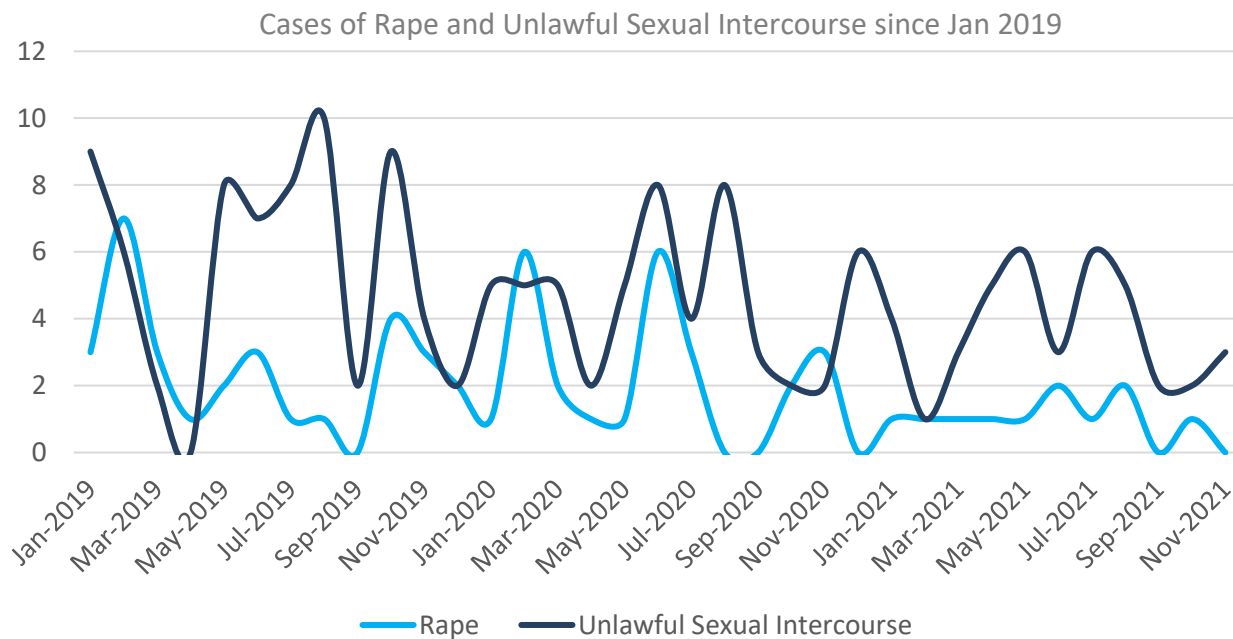
The number of Sexual Violence cases in the Major Crimes category continued to decline. Reports of Unlawful Sexual Intercourse (sexual relations with minors under the age of 16), continued to be more prevalent than Rape.

Police-recorded cases of Unlawful Sexual Intercourse and Rape have fluctuated over time. There have been notable spikes recorded during May and July 2021.



■ Rape ■ Unlawful Sexual Intercourse

Data Source: Belize Police Department



Data Source: Belize Police Department

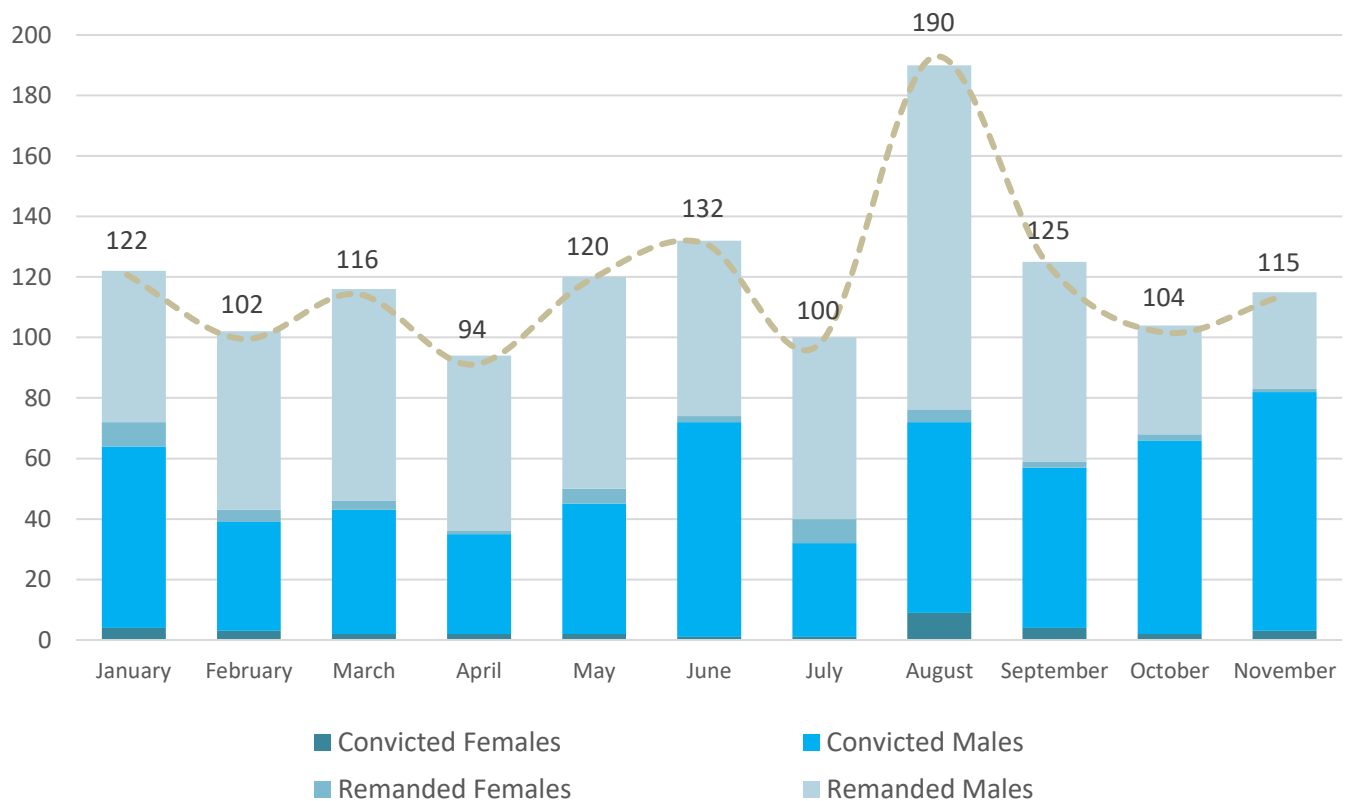
INCARCERATION

A total of **1,320** people (1,247 males and 73 females) were either remanded or convicted of a crime or offence during the period January to November 2021. Persons ages 30 and under accounted for 1 in every 2 persons incarcerated for the 11-month period. Males comprised 94% of the persons either remanded to prison or newly listed as convicted persons.

The notable rise in incarceration registered in August 2021 was due to the gang-related State of Emergency, implemented by the Belize Police Department to curb gang violence.

During the month of November 2021, disorders or assaults, gang-related activities, COVID-19 violations (and particularly breach of curfew, social distancing and mask-wearing protocols), as well as drug trafficking, illegal entry, burglary, theft, and handling stolen goods were the offences that led to 6 in every 10 incidents of incarceration.

Monthly Totals of Remanded and Convicted Inmates, Jan-Nov 2021
with Breakdown by Status and Sex



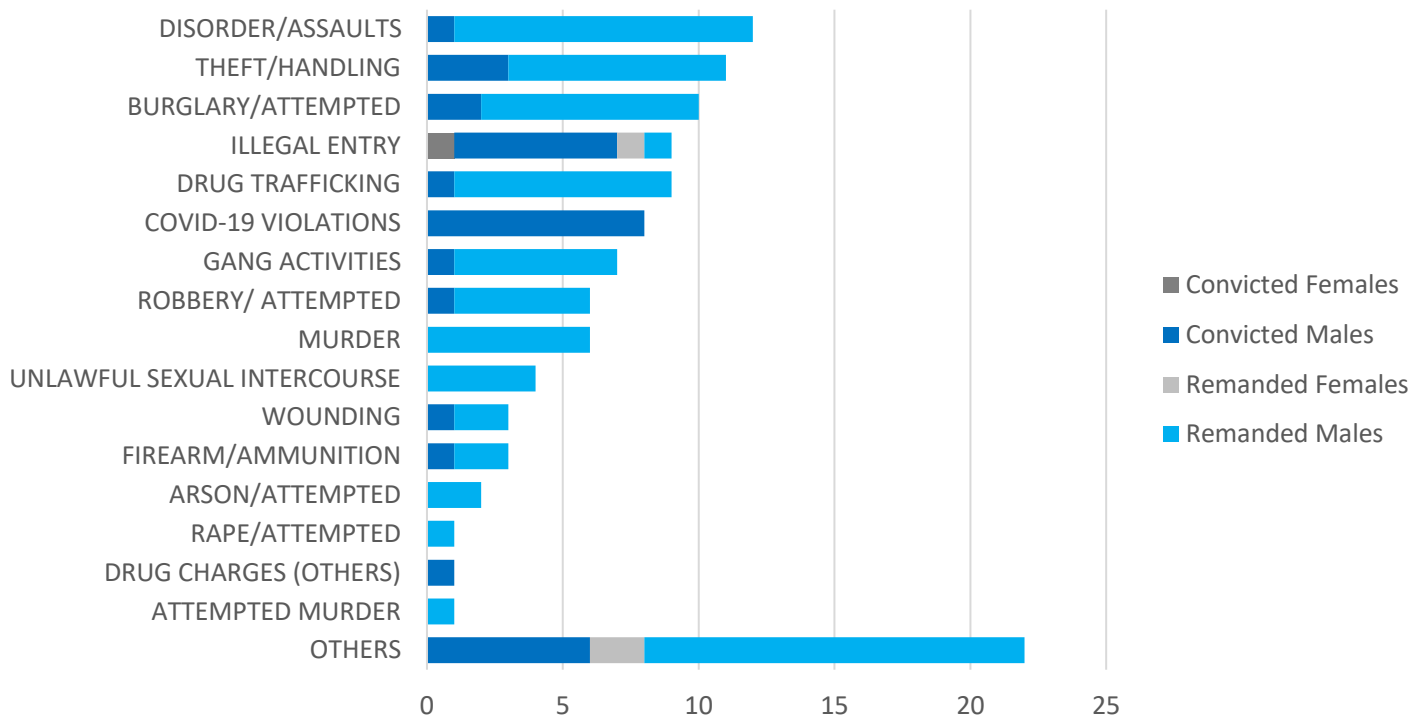
Data Source: Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation

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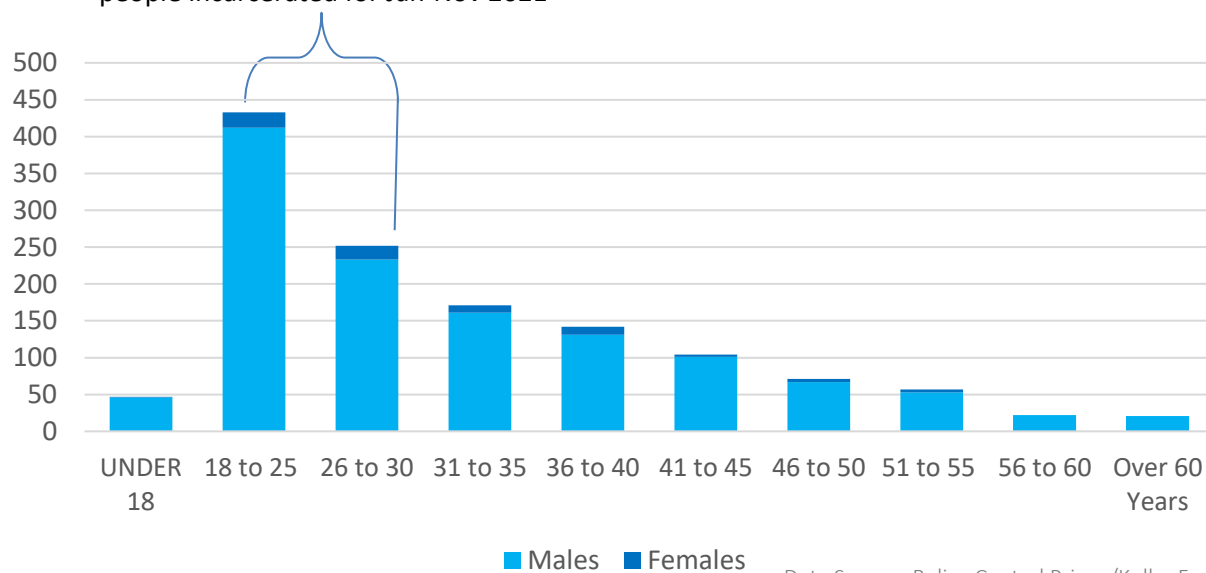
Number of Persons Incarcerated, by Crime or Offence (Nov 2021 only)



Data Source: Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation

Number of Persons Incarcerated, by Age and Sex (Jan-Nov 2021)

These age groups accounted for about half of the people incarcerated for Jan-Nov 2021



Data Source: Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation



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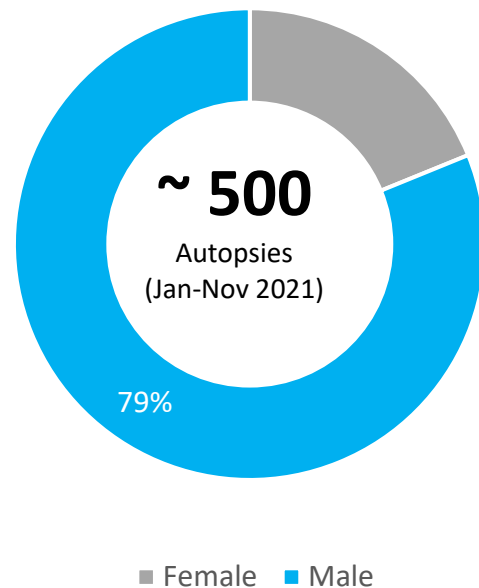
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FORENSIC ANALYSIS

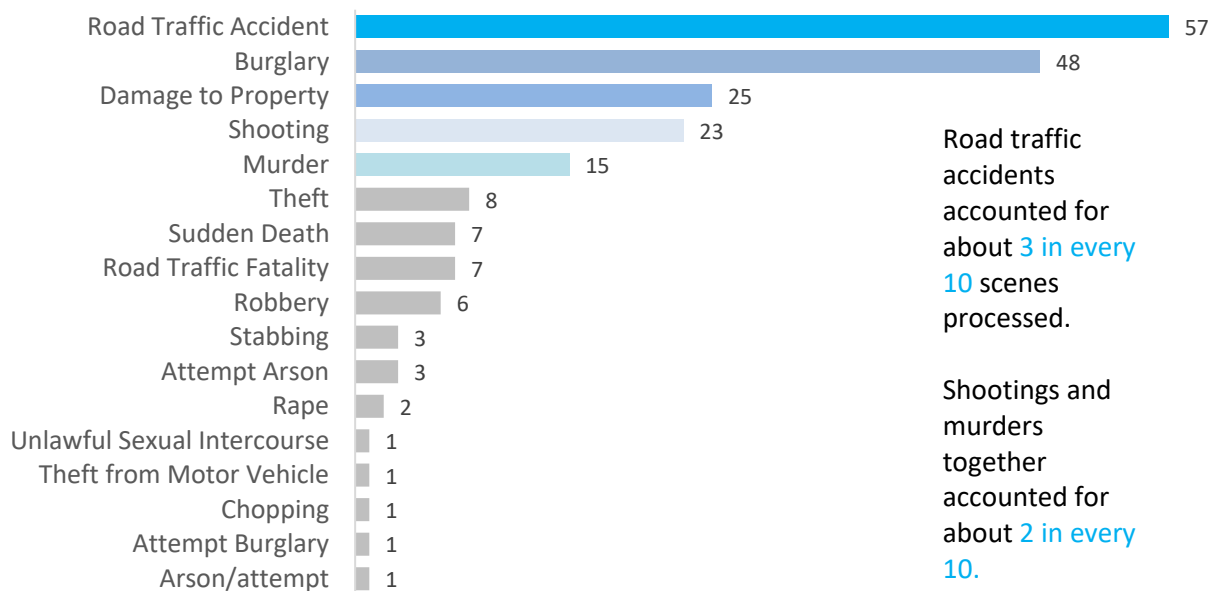
Road Traffic Accidents, Burglaries, Damage to Property, Shootings and Murders were the top five categories of incidents to which the National Forensic Science Service (Scenes of Crimes Unit) responded during the month of November 2021. These categories accounted for 80% of the scenes processed. During the same month, a total of 62 autopsies were documented, bringing the total for January to November 2021 to approximately 500. Of the 62 autopsies documented, 15 were for homicides, 14 for road traffic fatalities, and 6 for suicides.

For the 11-month period, about a fourth of the autopsies conducted were on male homicide victims (most of whom had been shot). Another one-fourth of the persons had died accidentally—the majority due to road traffic incidents. However, most of the persons upon whom autopsies were done had died of natural causes.



Data Source: National Forensic Science Service

Scenes of Crimes processed during November 2021, shown by Incident Type



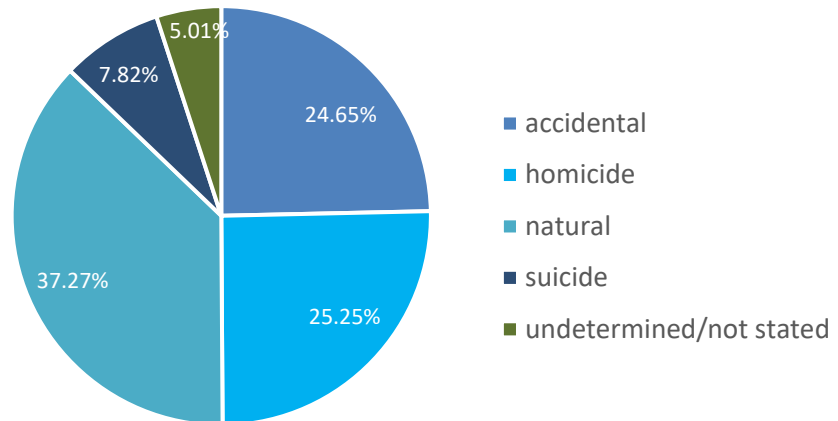
Note: Some road traffic accidents were non-fatal

Data Source: National Forensic Science Service

Autopsies by Manner of Death (Jan-Nov 2021)

Natural causes accounted for the largest percentage of autopsies.

Homicides accounted for the second largest category.

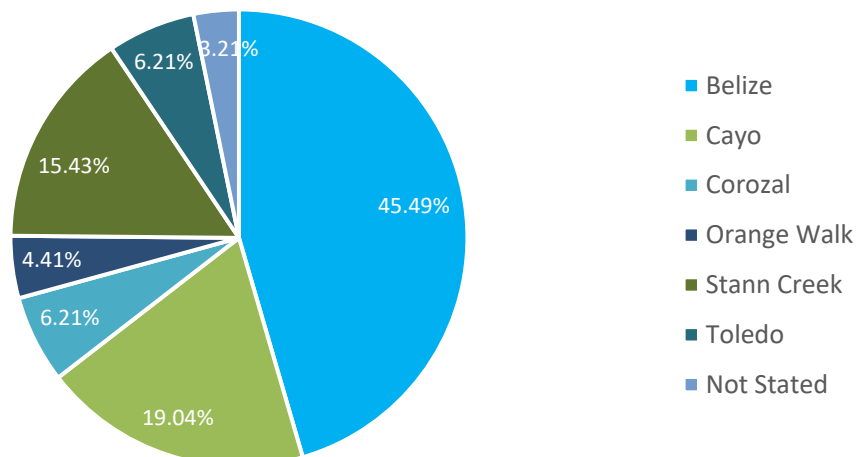


Data Source: National Forensic Science Service

Autopsies by District (Jan-Nov 2021)

Nearly half of the deaths occurred in the Belize District.

Cayo and Stann Creek accounted for the second and third largest proportion, respectively.



Data Source: National Forensic Science Service



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DATA PRODUCTS

Explore more data via the BCO's online web mapping portal. Visit by clicking [here](#) or click the image to the right.



The BCO updates its [interactive crime data dashboards](#) regularly. Here (to the left) is a dashboard featuring Major Crimes Data by District and Policing Area.

You can also explore our [Open Data](#) site.



More data and information are freely available via the BCO's revamped online Repository



Click here to access the [REPOSITORY](#)

GLOSSARY

Gang-related Crime: a criminal offence carried out by a gang or member of a gang, as classified by the Belize Police Department. The 2018 Amendment to The Crime Control and Criminal Justice legislation (Chapter 102 of the Laws of Belize) regards “any criminal activity or any enterprise, pursuit or undertaking in relation to a serious offence, acquiesced in, or consented or agreed to, or directed, ordered, authorized, requested or ratified by any gang member” as gang-related activity, and includes a schedule of serious offences under the wider classification of gang-related activities.

Homicide: the unlawful killing of a human being by another human being, either intentionally or not. The homicide classification used in this report is based on the classification by the National Forensic Science Service, for reporting purposes and includes murder and manslaughter.

Major Crime: The Belize Police Department includes six crime types under its classification of Major Crimes: murder, rape, unlawful sexual intercourse, robbery, burglary, and theft. Only theft of items valued BZ\$5,000 and above are included among Major Crimes.

Police Formation/Precinct: The Belize Police Department operates 17 policing areas, referred to as formations and precincts. The Belize City area is divided into four precincts: Precinct 1, Precinct 2, Precinct 3, and Precinct 4. Orange Walk has one police formation, and so does Corozal. Punta Gorda is the police formation for the entire Toledo District. Stann Creek is divided into three policing areas: Placencia, Dangriga and the Intermediate Southern Formation in Independence Village. The divisions exist for operational purposes and are not necessarily geographic. For example, the Belmopan Formation includes some surrounding villages, such as Roaring Creek and Armenia.

Property Crimes: robberies, burglary, and theft, involving the deprivation of the victim of any form of property, including cash, livestock, household goods, motor vehicles, etc.

Sexual Violence: The two Major Crimes classified as sexual violence in this report are rape and unlawful sexual intercourse.



ACCESS MORE DATA via

<https://bco.gov.bz/data/>

EXPLORE AND DOWNLOAD CRIME DATA from

BCO's Open Data Site: <https://crime-data-belizeco.hub.arcgis.com/>



*“Supporting Improvements in
Citizen Security by Informing,
Interpreting, and Influencing
the Understanding of Crime.”*

Belize Crime Observatory
Ministry of Home Affairs & New Growth Industries

 <https://bco.gov.bz>

 bco@nsc.gov.bz

DATA SOURCES: Belize Police Department - Joint Intelligence Coordinating, the Belize Central Prison and the National Forensic Science Service. Figures are reported as of November 2021. Any future revisions will be noted in subsequent reports.