



MONTHLY MAJOR CRIMES ANALYSIS **DECEMBER 2019**



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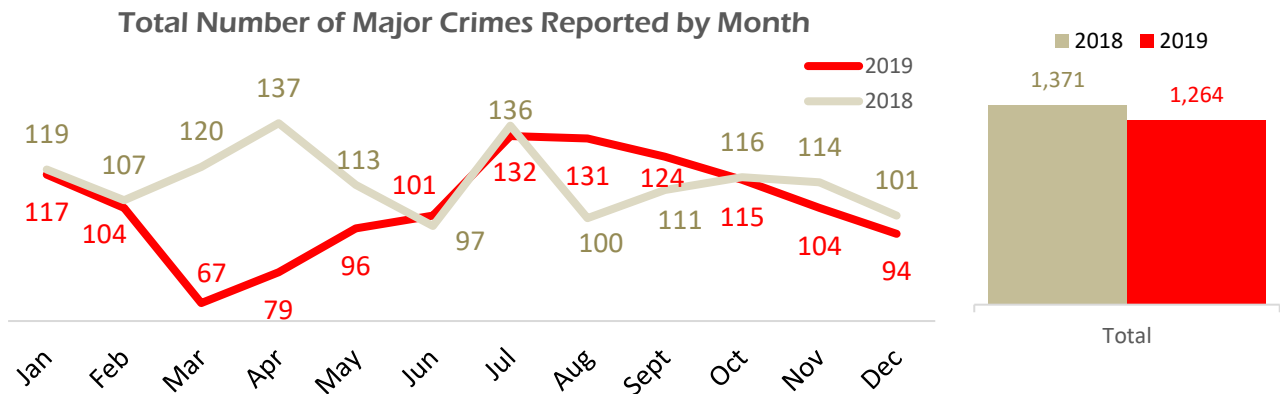
Crime Analysis Report

PERIOD: 1st – 31st December 2019

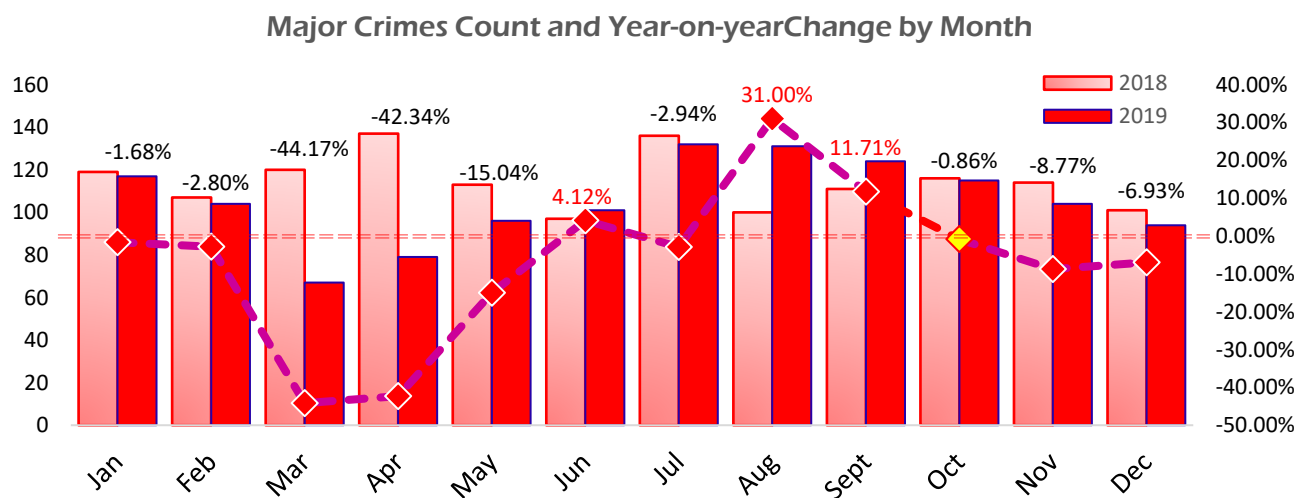


SUMMARY

The country of Belize saw a noted reduction in major crimes during 2019, with the largest declines reported for robberies and burglaries, followed by murder and theft. However, reports of sexual violence increased. Total major crime incidents reported for the period January to December 2019 declined by roughly 7.80% when compared with the same period in 2018 (down from 1,371 to 1,264 or 107 reports). Although June, August and September recorded increases relative to the same time in 2018, there has been a sustained overall decline since July. For the month of December 2019, 94 major crimes were reported by the Belize Police Department. This represents a decrease of 6.93% relative the same month last year, when 101 incidents were reported and a decrease of 9.62% when compared to the previous month, for which 104 major crime incidents were recorded by police.



(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)



(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

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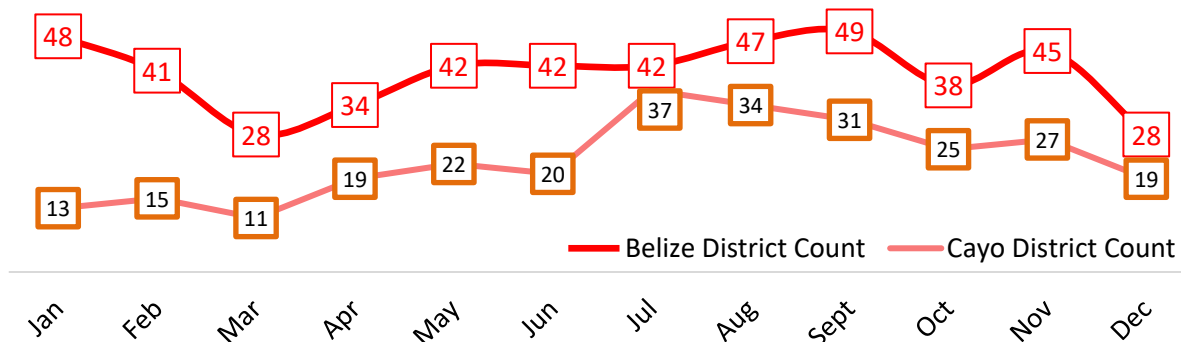
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The Belize District (which accounts for about 30% of the national population, based on mid-year 2019 estimates by the Statistical Institute of Belize - SIB) accounted for roughly 3 in 10 (or 29.79%) of the major crimes recorded during the month of December 2019, and 38.29% of major crimes for the period January to December 2019. It recorded an overall decline of 145 reports (from 629 to 484 or 23.05%) – the largest relative decline of any district for 2019. During December, major crime reports furthermore plummeted in the Belize District to March levels (28 reports)—the lowest monthly count for the district during 2019.

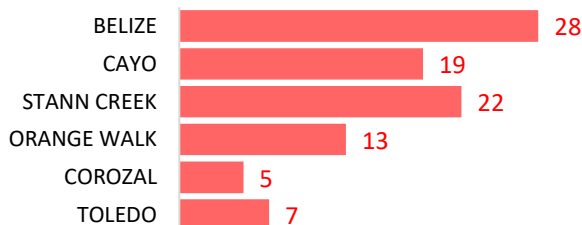
The Cayo District, which accounts for roughly a quarter of the country's population, based on the SIB's population estimates, accounted for about 2 in 10 (21.60%) of major crimes for the 12-month period. Major crime counts in the Cayo District had generally been trending towards an increase, although there had been a consistent decline since the peak in July 2019. December recorded the lowest major crimes count in that district since April 2019. Overall, though, major crime counts in the Cayo District increased by 31 during 2019 (from 242 to 273 or 12.81%). Notably, Stann Creek recorded a larger count of major crimes than Cayo in December 2019, although Cayo recorded a higher cumulative count for the 12-month period. Orange Walk and Toledo recorded the highest increases for 2019. Cayo recorded the third largest increase.

Total Number of Major Crimes Reported Monthly for January to December 2019 for the Cayo and Belize Districts

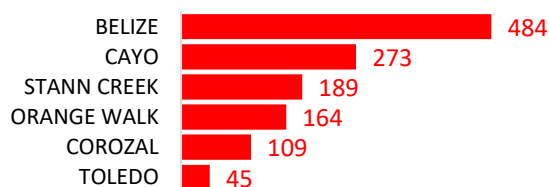


(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

Total Number of Major Crimes Reported by District for December 2019



Total Number of Major Crimes Reported by District for January to December 2019



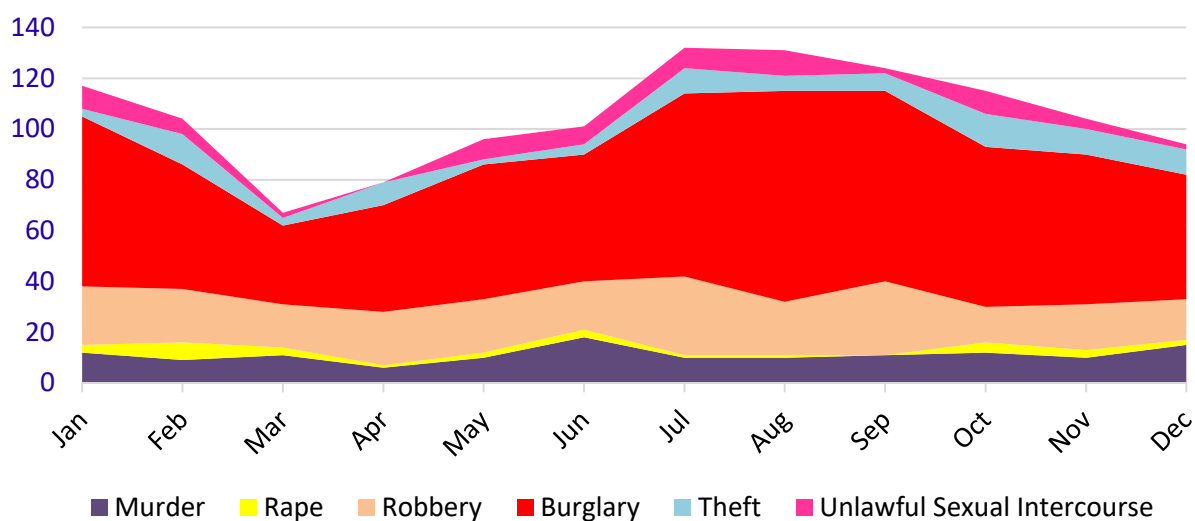
(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

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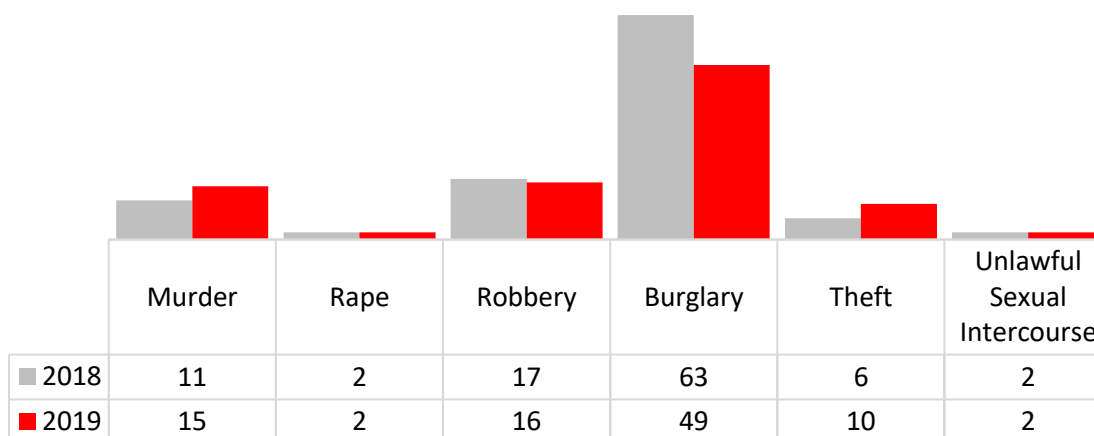
**Trend in Major Crime Reports for January to December 2019,
Categorized by Crime Type**



(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

As detailed below, the number of reports of murder recorded in December 2019 were up by 50% when compared with the same month last year (from 10 to 15). Reports of major theft (of items valued BZ\$5,000 and above) increased (from 6 to 10), while burglary reports were down by 22% (from 63 to 49). The number of sexual violence reports did not change.

**Major Crimes Count by Crime Category for
December 2019 and December 2018**



(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

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MURDER

Murders for
December 2019

15

+50% change
compared to
December
2018

Fifteen murders were recorded in Belize during December 2019, an increase of 50% from December 2018, when 10 murders were recorded.

4

of the murders were reported in
Belmopan and 3 in Punta Gorda. Belize
City recorded 2.

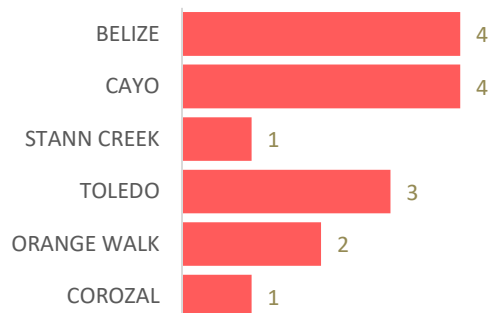
Murders for
Jan-Dec 2019

134

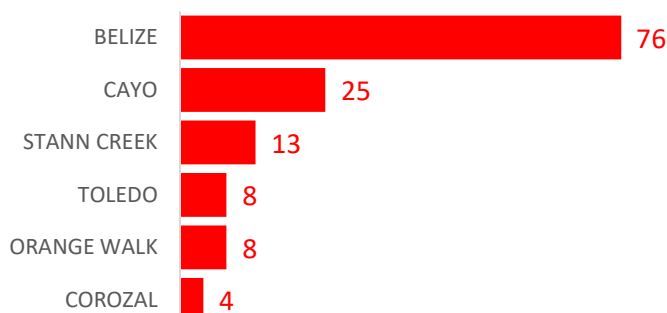
▼ by 9
or 6.93%
compared to
Jan-Dec 2018

For the period January to December 2019, 134 murders were recorded, down from 143 for 2018. This represents a decline of 9 (or 6.29%).

Total Number of Murders Reported
by District for December 2019



Total Number of Murders Reported by
District for January to December 2019



(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

4 of the 15 murders
recorded during December
were reported in the Belize
District, 3 of them in the
rural area.

About 6 in 10 (or 56.72%)
of the murders recorded
for 2019 were reported in
the Belize District.

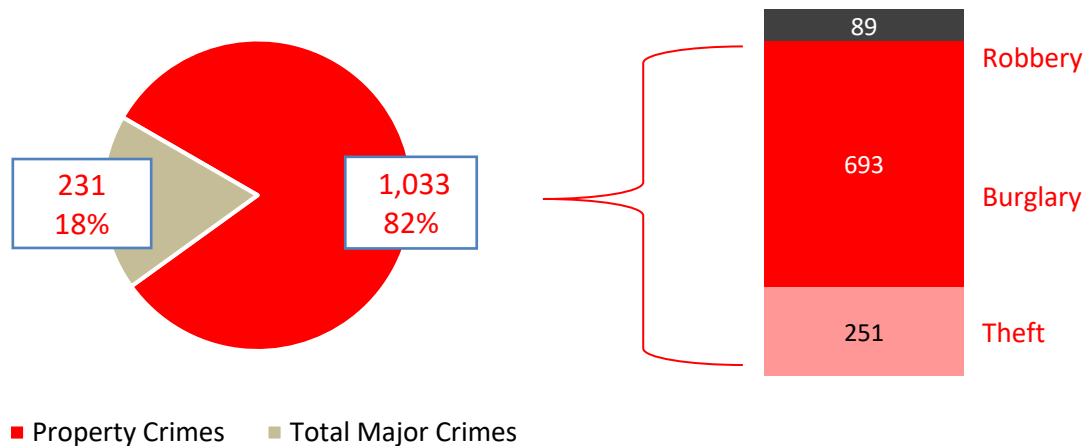
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PROPERTY CRIMES

Proportion of Major Crimes That Were Property Crimes for the period Jan-Dec 2019

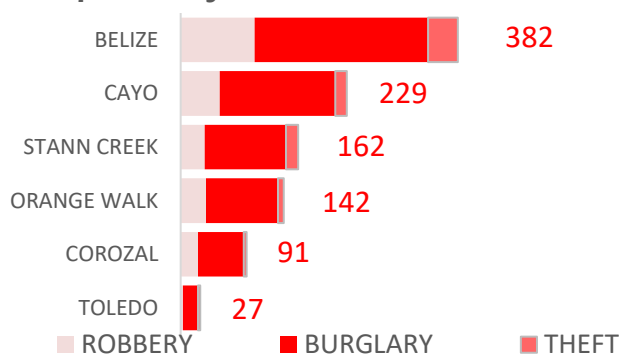


(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

There were 75 property crimes recorded during December 2019, down 12.79% from 86 in December 2018. For 2019, 1,033 property crimes were recorded in the major crimes category, excluding theft of items valued below BZ\$5,000. This represents an overall decline of 10.79%, from 1,158 incidents recorded during the same period in 2018.

About 8 out of every 10 major crimes reported continue to be property crimes.

Total Number of Property Crimes Reported by District for Jan-Dec 2019



1,033
Property Crimes
January to
December 2019

10.79%
↓

(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

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SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Unlawful Sexual Intercourse: ● 2 reports for December 2019.

● 67 cases for January to December 2019.

Rape cases:

2

December
2019

Jan-Dec 2019:
30 total



Punta Gorda

Sexual violence (rape and unlawful sexual intercourse) were the only types of major crimes that recorded an overall increase in 2019. Reports of rape were up from 21 to 30 (or 42.86%), while reports of unlawful sexual intercourse were up from 49 to 67 (or 36.73%). Furthermore, sexual violence reports were unchanged, with 4 cases recorded during December 2019, as well as December 2018.

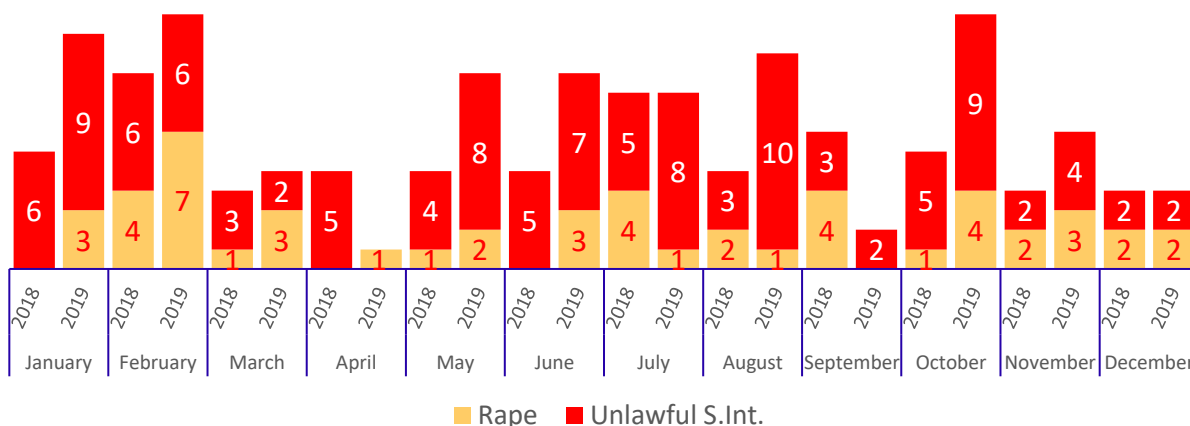
97

Sexual violence
reports
January to
December 2019

38.57%



Total Cases of Sexual Violence (Rape and Unlawful Sexual Intercourse)
recorded for Jan-Dec 2019, compared to Jan-Dec 2018



(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

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GANG-RELATED MAJOR CRIMES

During December 2019, at least 6 gang-related major crime incidents were reported in Belize City, as well as 4 shooting incidents. (See disaggregation of gang-related major crime incidents below.)



The total number of suspected gang-related crimes in Belize City for December 2019, including incidents of aggravated assault, was virtually unchanged relative to the same month last year. There was also a reported increase in gang-related robberies (up from 2 to 4), but no increase in incidents of burglary and theft deemed to have been gang-related. Reports of gang-related theft declined from 2 in December 2018 to 0 in December 2019. There was a decline in murders but an increase in shootings deemed gang-related.

(Data sources: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center and Gang Suppression Unit)

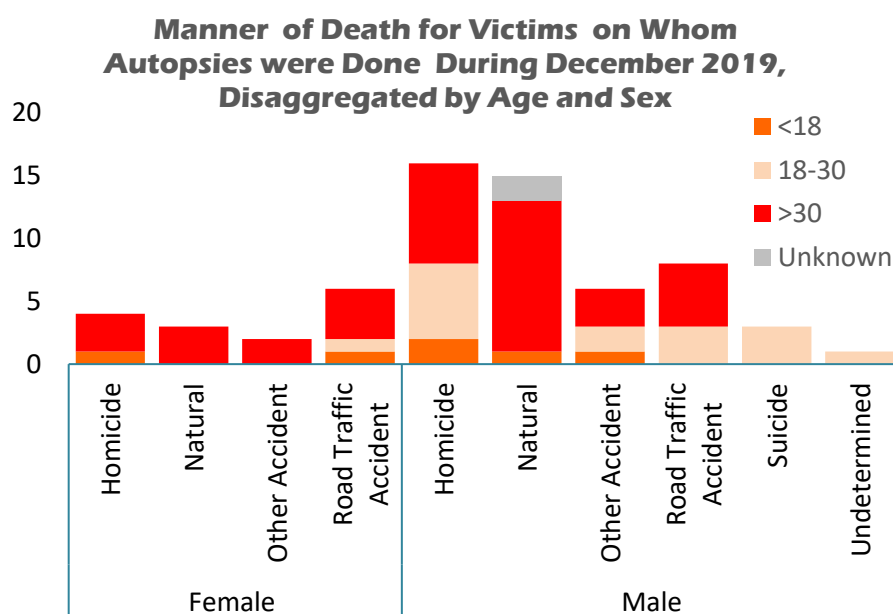
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MANNER OF DEATH

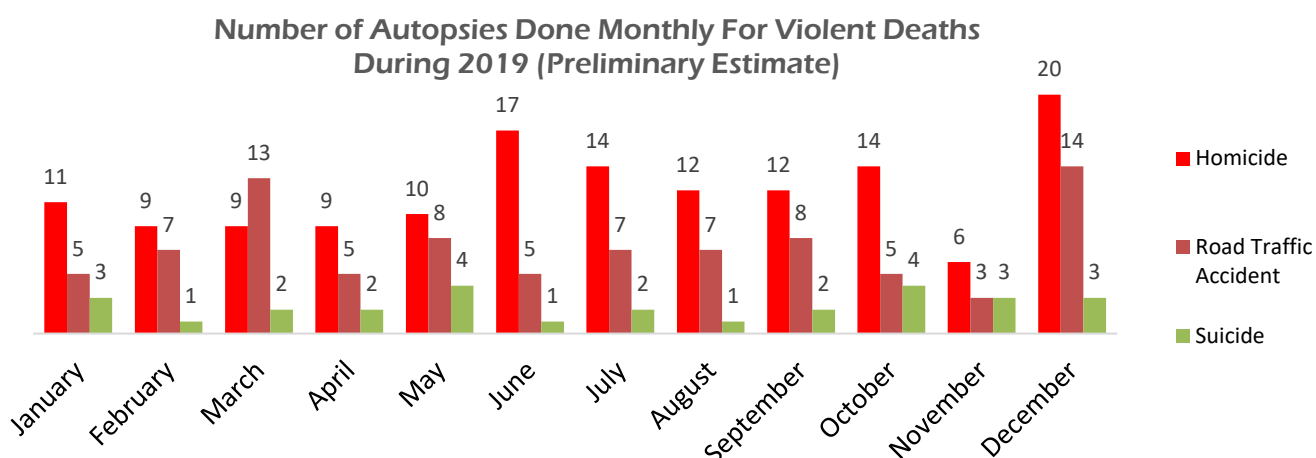
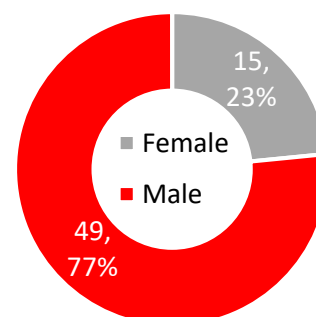
During December 2019, the National Forensic Science Service examined 64 deaths (49 males and 15 females). Over half (20 of 37) were violent deaths classified as homicides (20), suicides (3), and road traffic accident (RTA) fatalities (14). The preliminary estimate is that for the period January to December 2019, the department performed autopsies on 143 homicide victims, 28 suicide victims and 87 victims of fatal road traffic accidents – a total of 258 victims.



(Data source: National Forensic Science Service)

57.8%

of autopsies done in December 2019 were for victims of violent deaths: homicides, suicides and RTAs



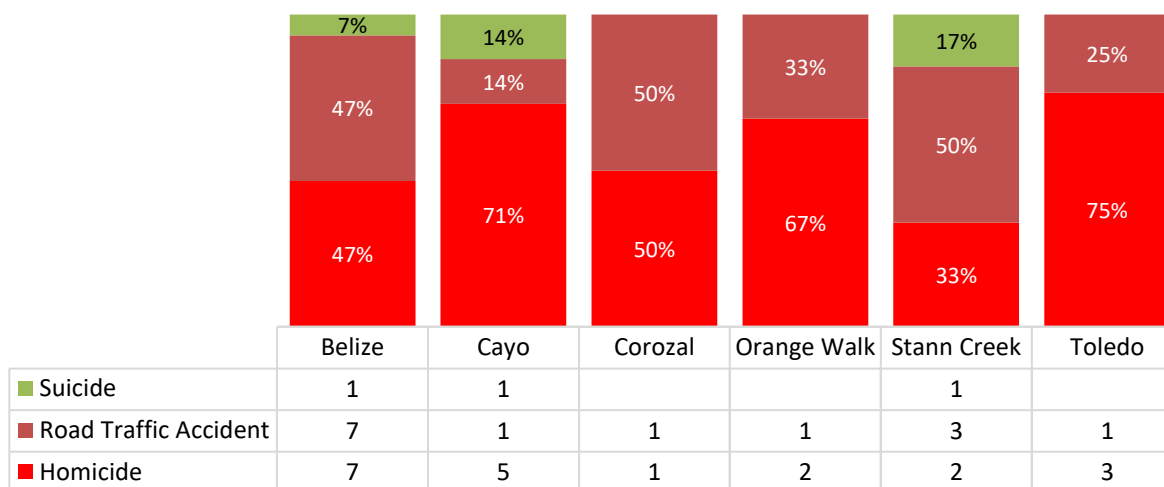
(Data source: National Forensic Science Service)

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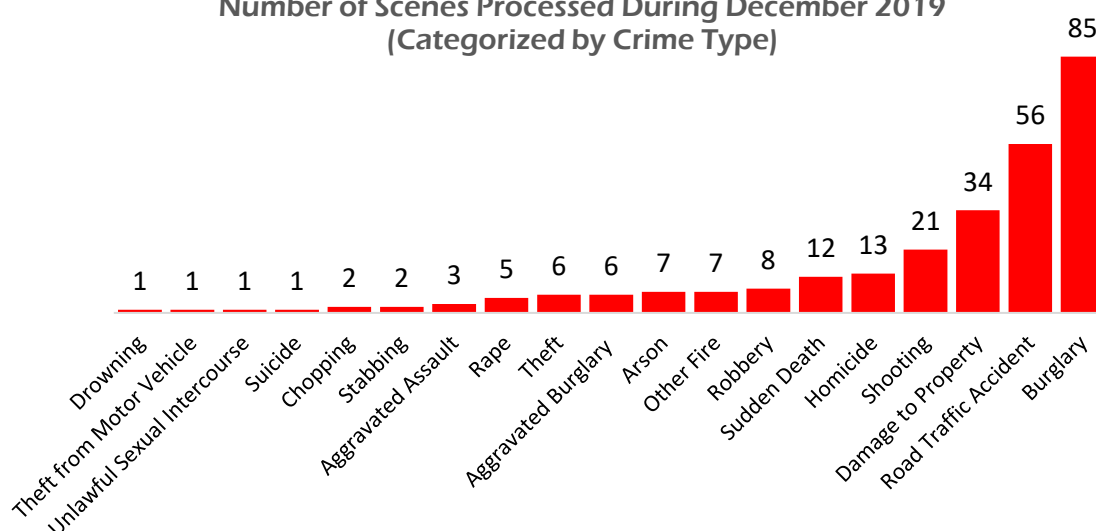
Number of Violent Deaths by District and Proportion by Type, for December 2019



(Data source: National Forensic Science Service)

The National Forensic Science Service (Scenes of Crime Unit) processed **271** scenes during **December 2019**. The most prevalent incident type (suspected at the time of processing the scene) was burglary, for which **85** scenes were processed. A total of **56** road traffic accident, **13** homicide and **1** suicide scenes were also processed.

Number of Scenes Processed During December 2019 (Categorized by Crime Type)



(Data source: National Forensic Science Service)

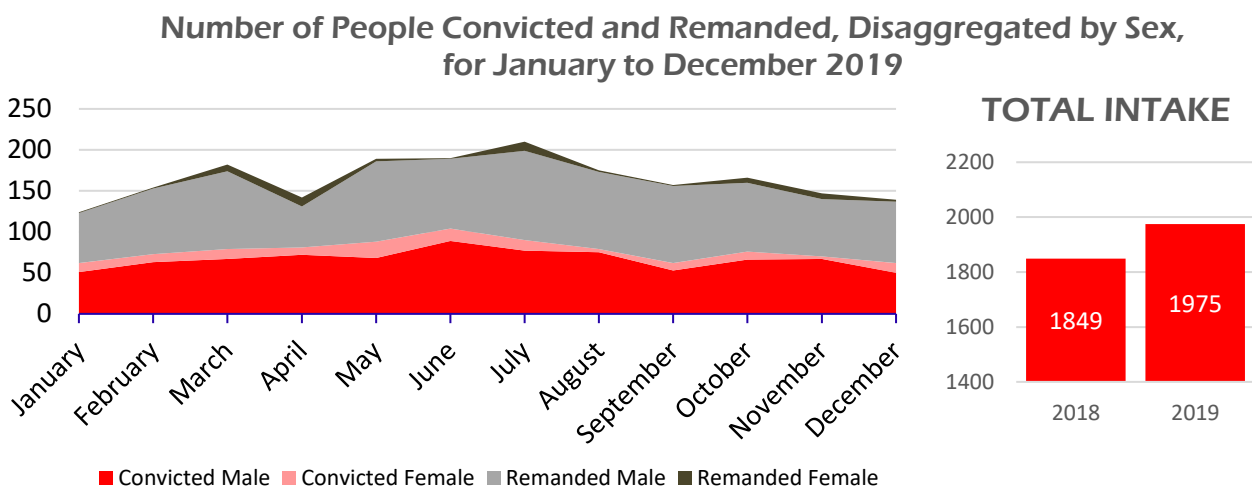
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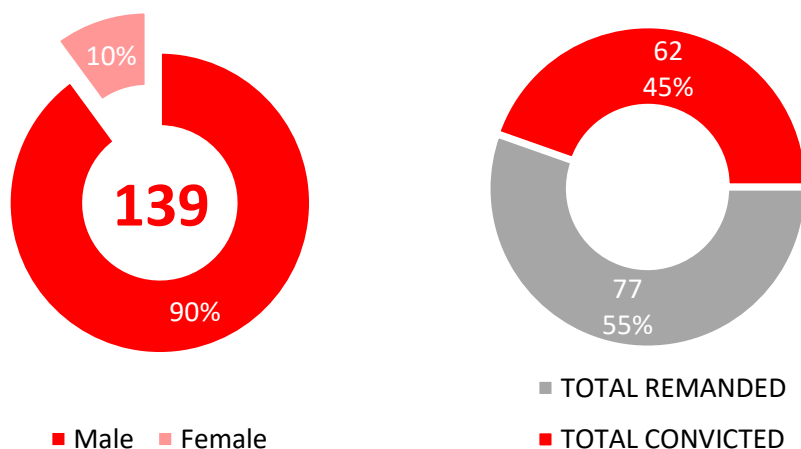
IMPRISONMENT

During the month of December 2019, 62 people (12 females and 50 males) were listed as newly convicted inmates at the Belize Central Prison, an increase of 15% from December 2018, when 53 were recorded. During December 2019, there were 77 people (2 females and 75 males) remanded to prison – an increase of 19% when compared with December 2018, when 62 were remanded.



(Data source: Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation)

Proportion of Incarcerated Inmates by Sex and Status for December 2019



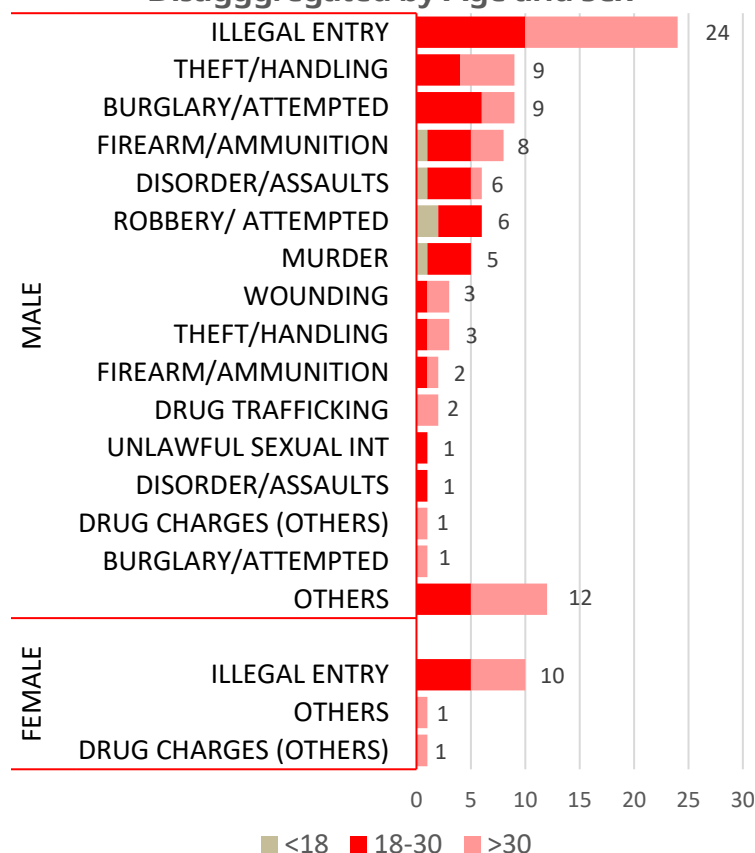
(Data source: Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation)

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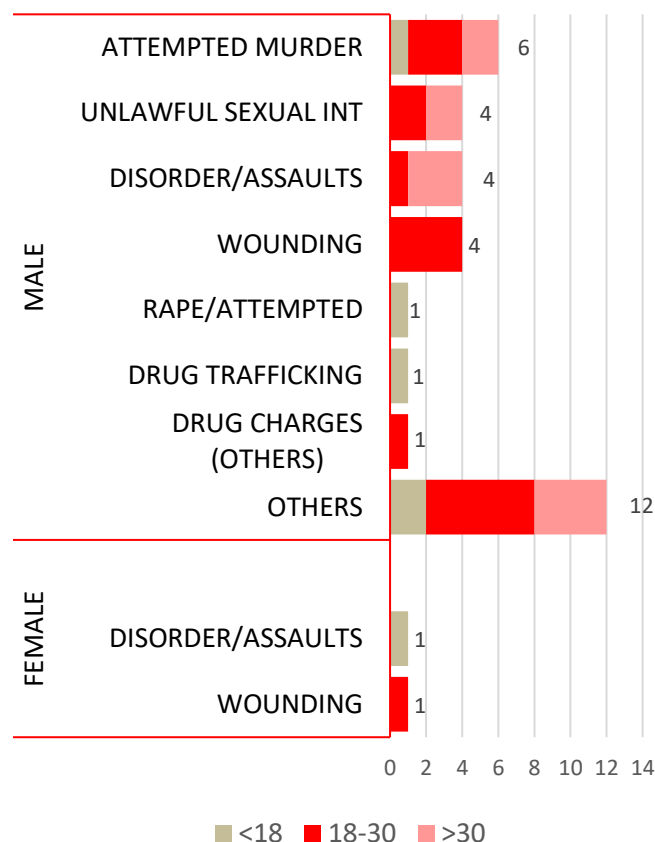
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Offences for Which Inmates Were Remanded in December 2019, Disaggregated by Age and Sex

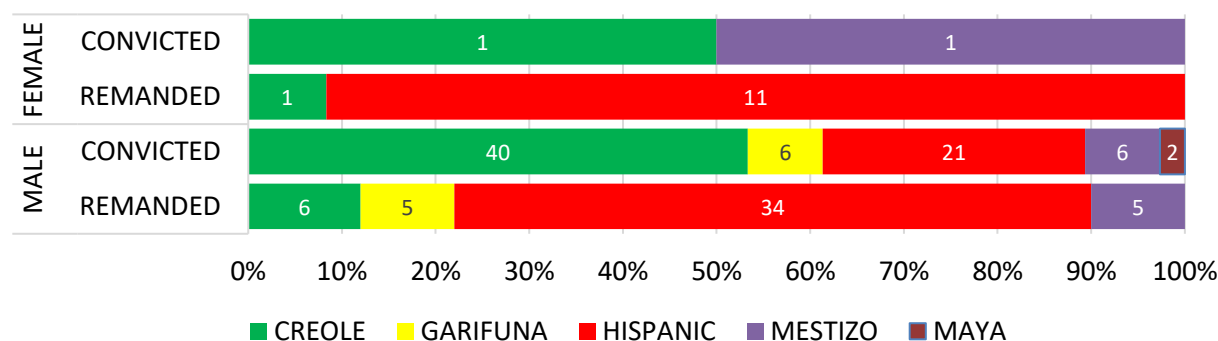


Offences for Which Inmates Were Convicted in December 2019, Disaggregated by Age and Sex



(Data source: Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation)

Ethnic Composition of Inmates Incarcerated During December 2019, Disaggregated by Sex and Status



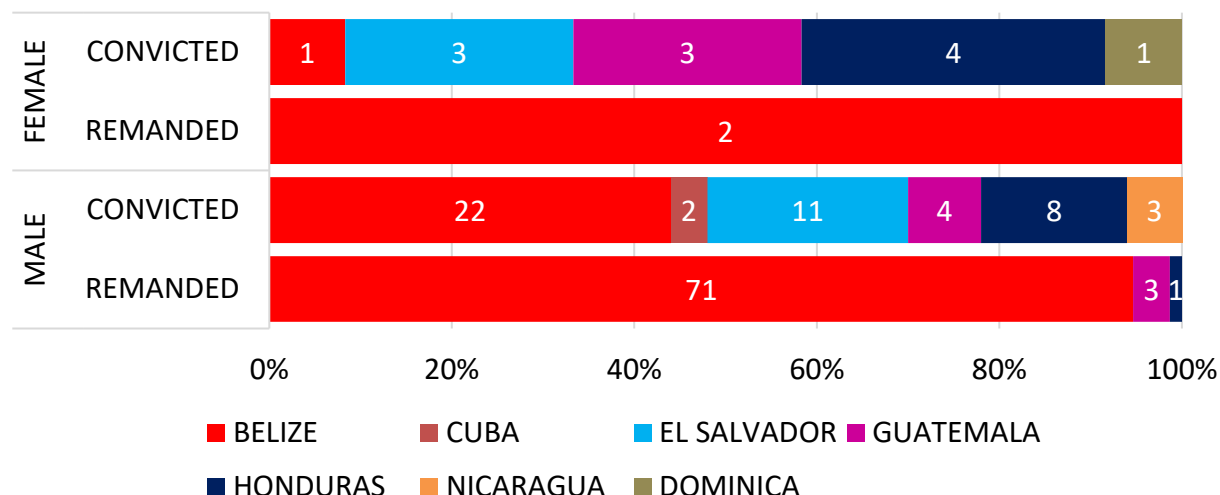
(Data source: Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation)

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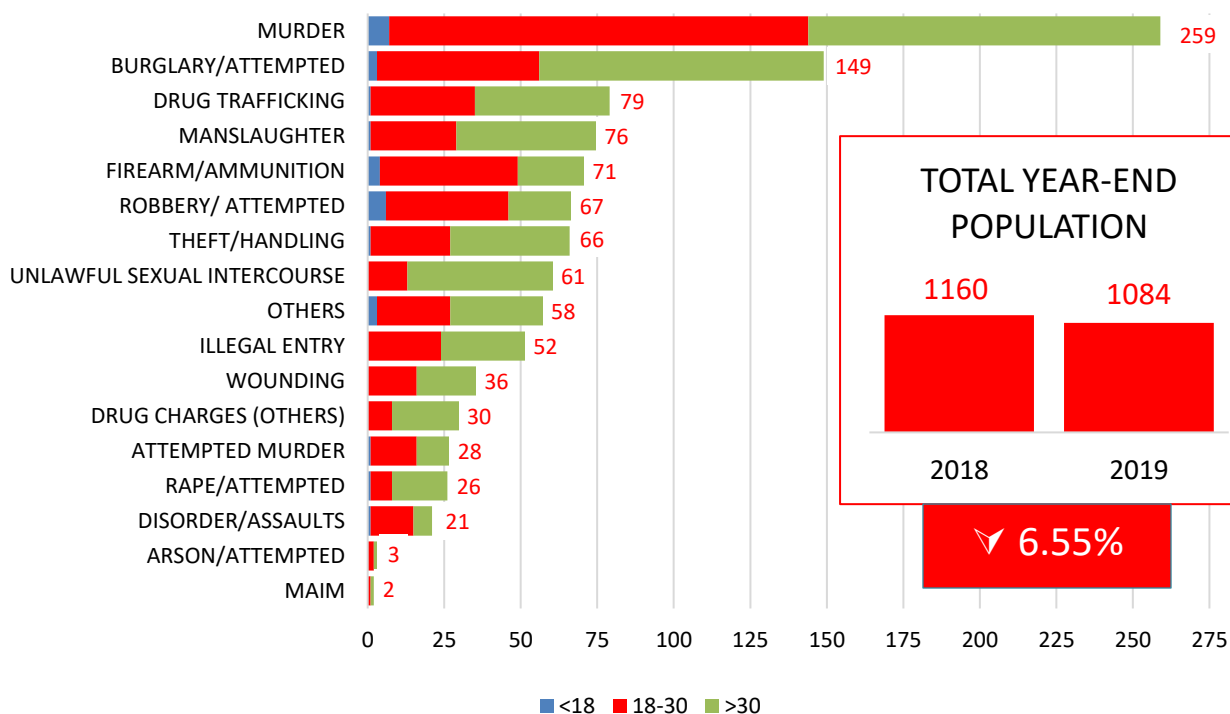
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Composition of Inmates Incarcerated During December 2019, Disaggregated by Country of Origin, Sex and Status



BREAKDOWN OF 2019 YEAR-END PRISON POPULATION BY OFFENCE AND AGE



(Data source: Belize Central Prison/Kolbe Foundation)

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.

Suicide: The act of an individual taking his or her own life.

Violent Death: Any form of death that results from an external factor, such as the use of a weapon or any object, toxin, or means of force, either by another person or the victim, whether the fatality was accidentally or intentionally caused. This report focuses on three types of violent deaths: homicides, suicides and road traffic fatalities.

Note: This December 2019 report will be supplemented by the Fourth Quarter 2019 and Annual Analysis reports.

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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 National Security (Home Affairs)



<https://bco.gov.bz>



bco@nsc.gov.bz

*DATA SOURCES: Belize Police Department - Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center and Gang
Suppression Unit; the National Forensic Science Service; and the Belize Central Prison.
Figures are reported as of December 2019. Any future revisions will be noted in subsequent reports.*