

**FEBRUARY**  
**2020**

BELIZE CRIME OBSERVATORY



**POLICE LINE**

**DO NOT CROSS**

**CRIME ANALYSIS**  
**REPORT**

## Table of Contents

SUMMARY .....	- 1 -
MURDER.....	- 3 -
PROPERTY CRIMES .....	- 4 -
SEXUAL VIOLENCE .....	- 5 -
TRAFFIC FATALITIES.....	- 5 -
OTHER VIOLENT DEATHS .....	- 6 -
IMPRISONMENT .....	- 8 -
GLOSSARY.....	- 9 -

# Crime Analysis Report

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020

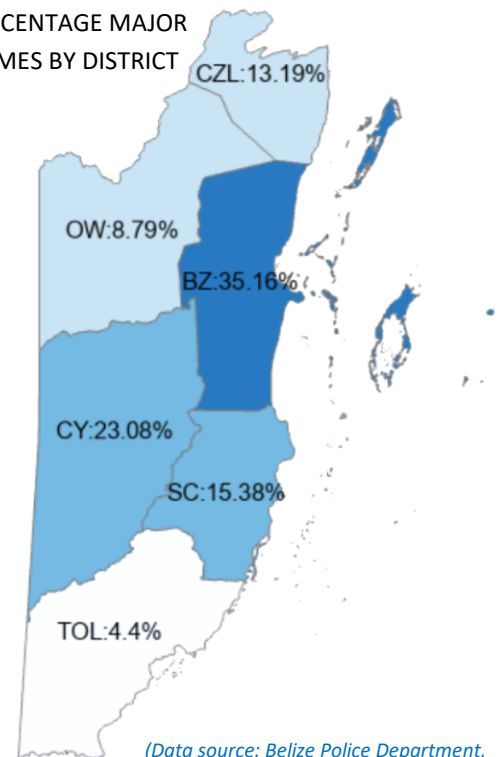


## SUMMARY

### MAJOR CRIMES:

- Total 91 incidents countrywide for the month of February 2020.
- ↓13% (13 incidents) decrease compared to February 2019
- 35% Belize District (↓ from 39% in Feb 2019)
- 23% Cayo District (↑ from 14% in Feb 2019)

PERCENTAGE MAJOR CRIMES BY DISTRICT



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

### Major Crimes Comparative Police recorded cases for February



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

### Distribution of Major Crimes Cases by Districts (Feb 2019 vs. Feb 2020)



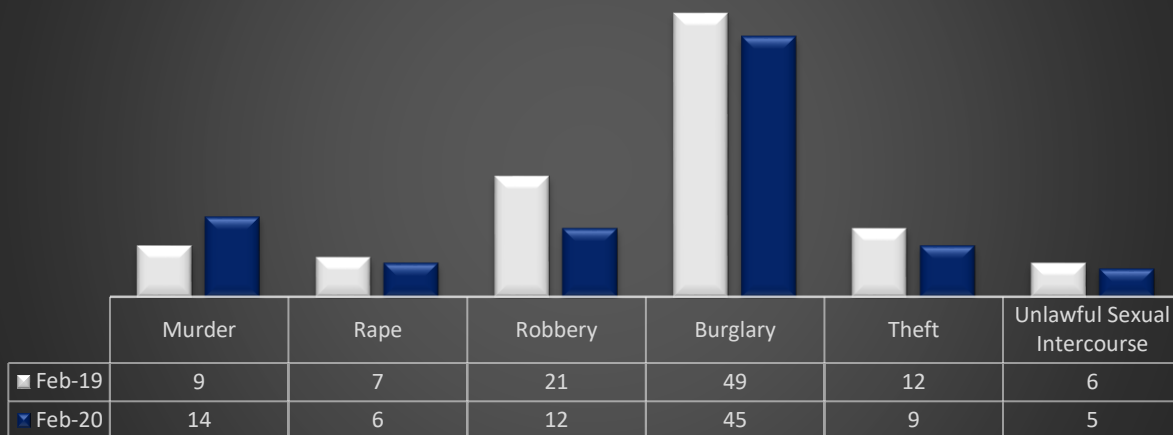
(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

# Crime Analysis Report

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020

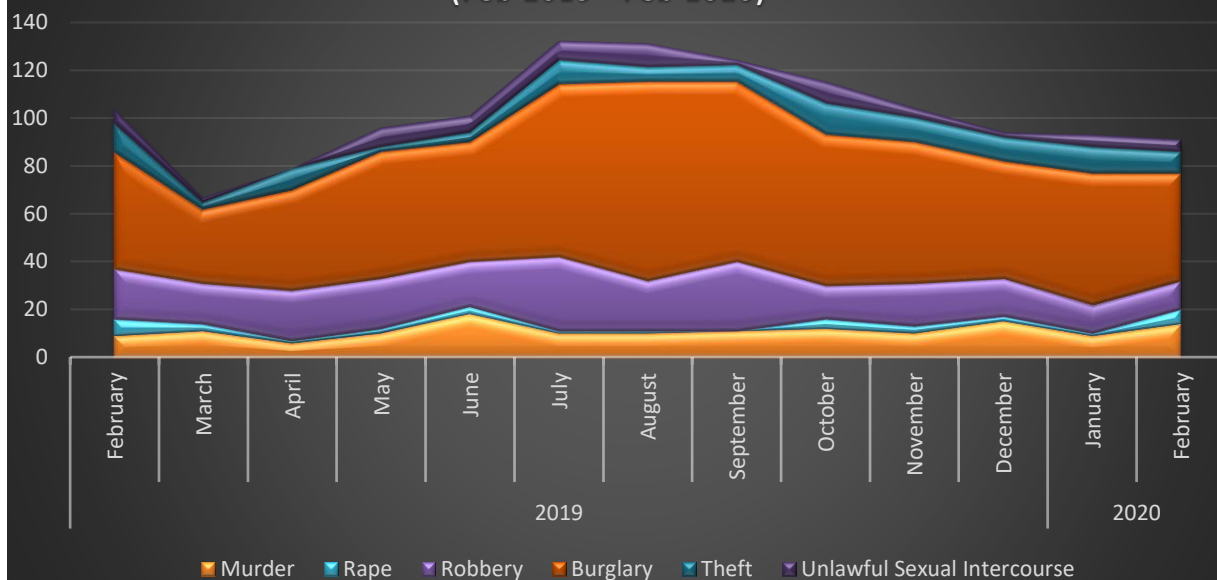


**Major Crime Comparison for February 2020  
(Year-on-Year by Category)**



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

**Breakdown of Major Crimes Cases by Category  
(Feb 2019 - Feb 2020)**



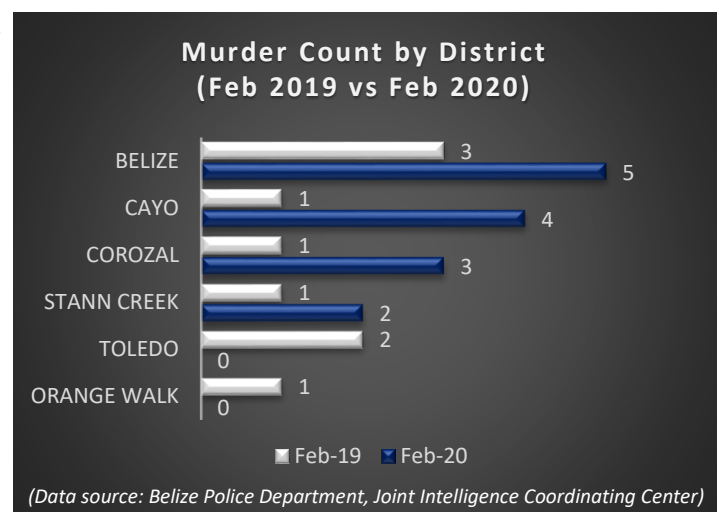
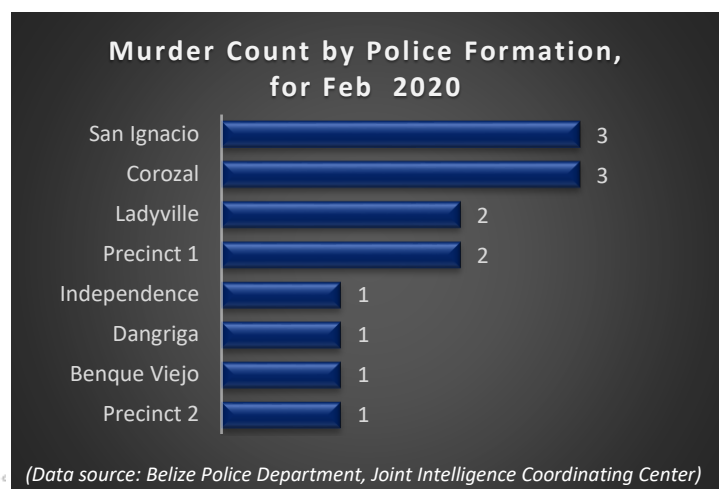
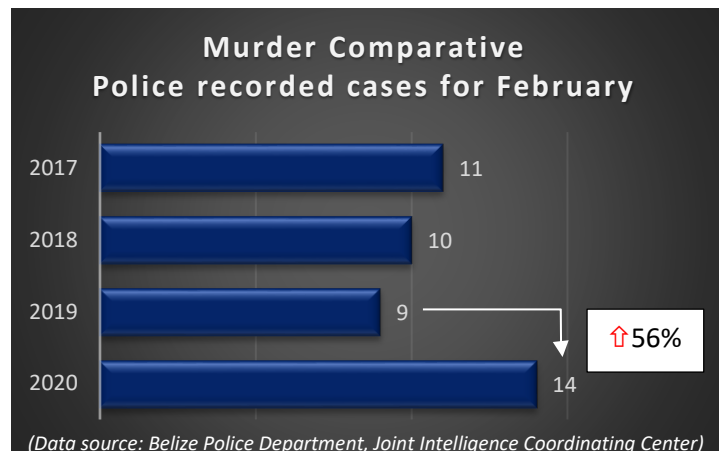
(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

# Crime Analysis Report

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020



## MURDER



# Crime Analysis Report

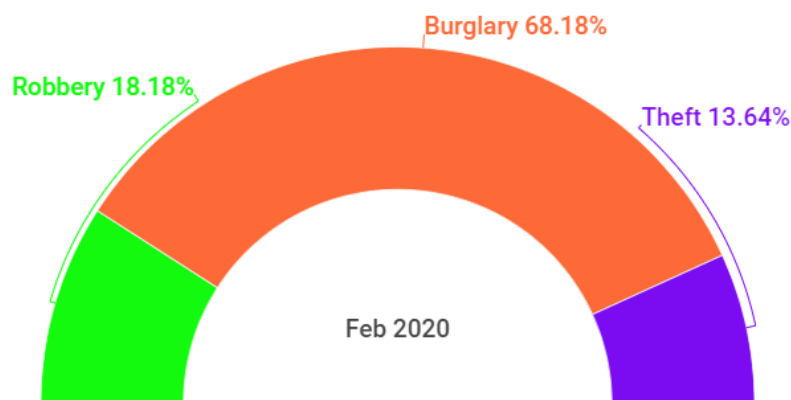
PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020



## PROPERTY CRIMES

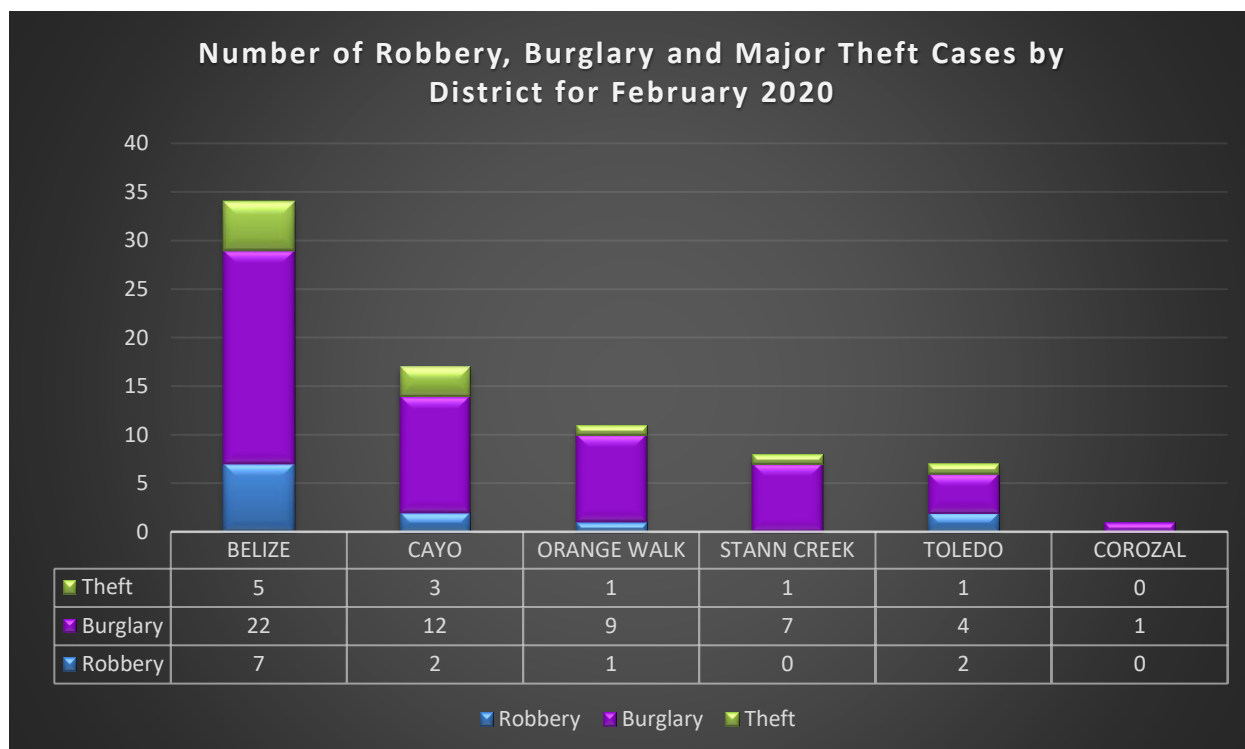
- There were 66 cases of property crimes recorded by the Belize Police Department during February 2020, down 20% (or 16) from 91 in February 2019.
- Of the 66 incidents, 12 were robberies, 45 were burglaries, and 9 were incidents of major theft of items valued at least BZ\$5,000.

Percentage of Cases of Property Crime by Category:  
Robbery, Burglary and Major Theft



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

About 7 out of every 10 major crimes reported were property crimes, down from about 8 in 10 last February, due to an increase in murder and a decline in robbery cases.



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

# Crime Analysis Report

PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020



## SEXUAL VIOLENCE

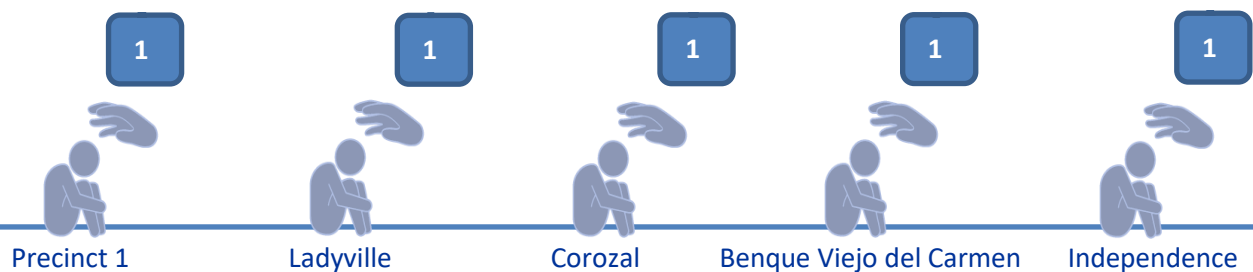
Unlawful Sexual Intercourse:

- 5 reports for February 2020

Rape cases:

6

February  
2020



## TRAFFIC FATALITIES



Authorities recorded a decline in road traffic fatalities, from 8 in February 2019 to 6 in February 2020.

Road traffic fatalities declined markedly during the first two months of 2020, to a cumulative count of 7 from 13 for the same period of 2019, representing a decline of 46%.

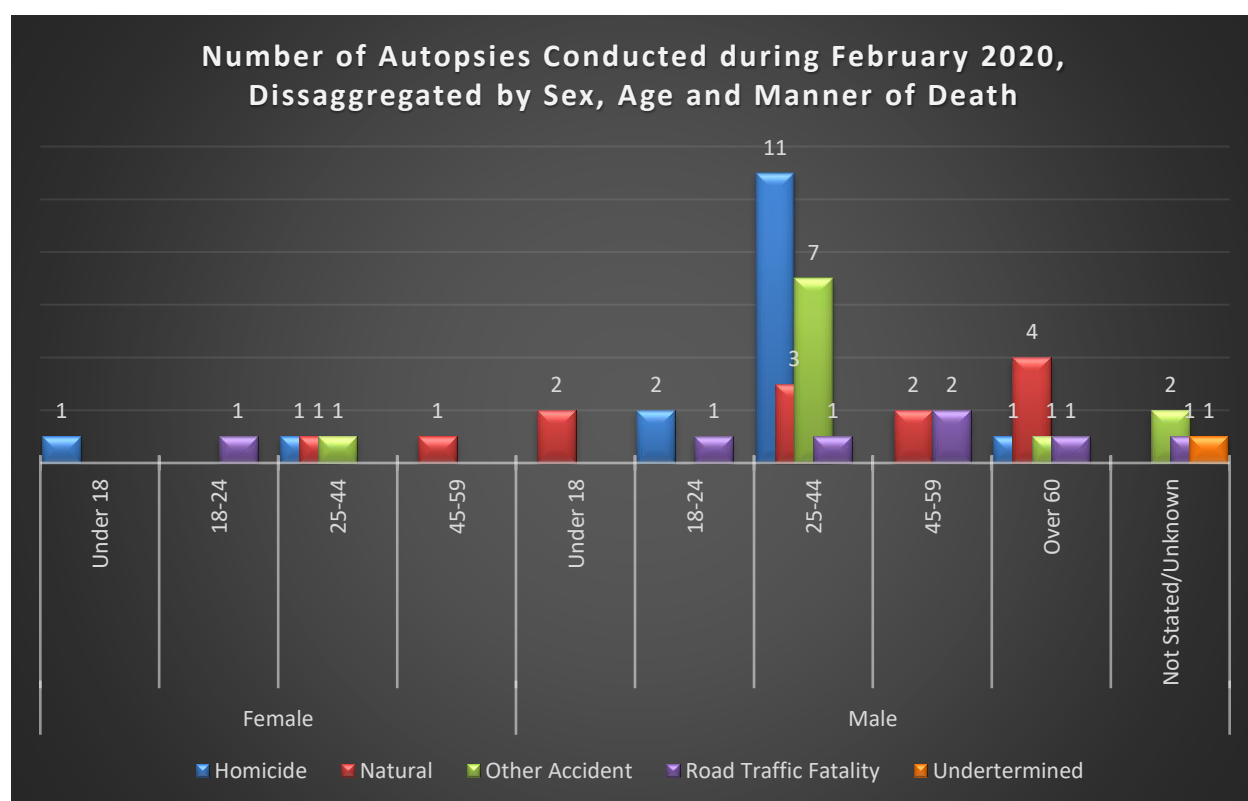


(Data sources: National Forensic Science Service, the Ministry of Health and the Belize Police Department),

## OTHER VIOLENT DEATHS

During February 2020, the National Forensic Science Service performed 48 autopsies – just under half of them being for violent deaths categorized as homicides (16 or 33%) and road traffic fatalities<sup>1</sup> (7 or 15%). Thirteen (or 27%) of the deaths were due to natural causes, while 11 (amounting to 23 %) were due to accidents not regarded as road traffic fatalities. The cause of one of the deaths was undetermined. No suicides were recorded during the month.

Nine in every 10 autopsies done in February 2020 were for males. As was the case in January, the males for whom autopsies were done had died more frequently due to homicides than from natural causes. Two of the homicide victims were females—one of them a minor—and 14 were males age 18 and over.



(Data source: National Forensic Science Service)

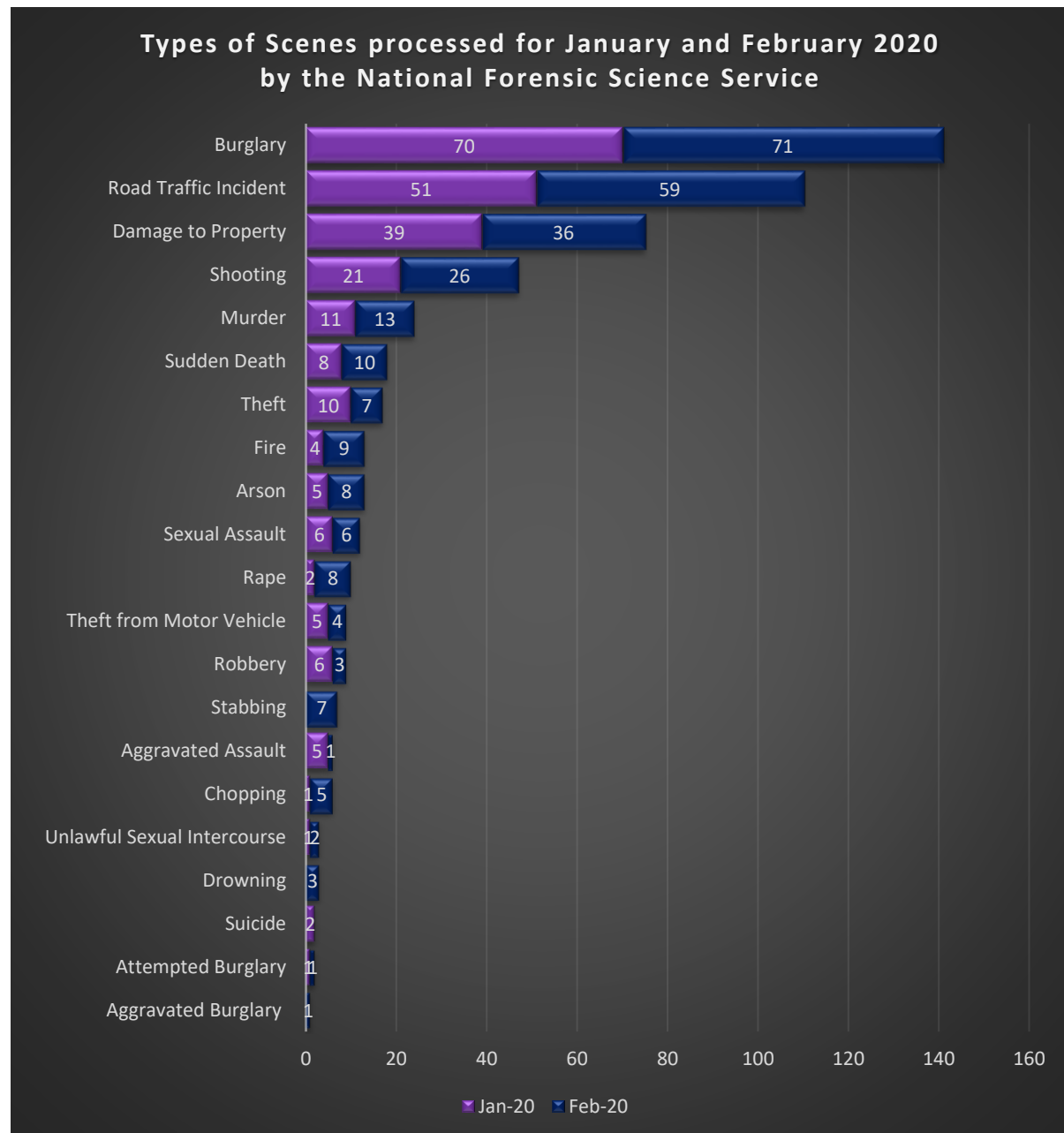
Eight more autopsies were done during February 2020 than during February 2019. The 40 autopsies done during February 2019 included 9 for homicides, 8 for road traffic fatalities, and 1 for suicide.

<sup>1</sup> Autopsies are not always done during the month a person dies. There are occasions when autopsies for persons who die near the end of one month are conducted in the following month.



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(Data source: National Forensic Science Service)

# Crime Analysis Report

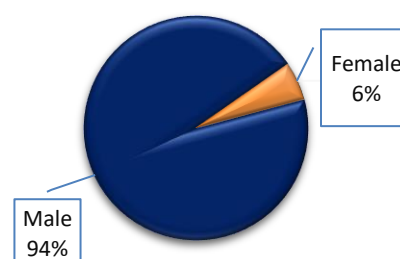
PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020



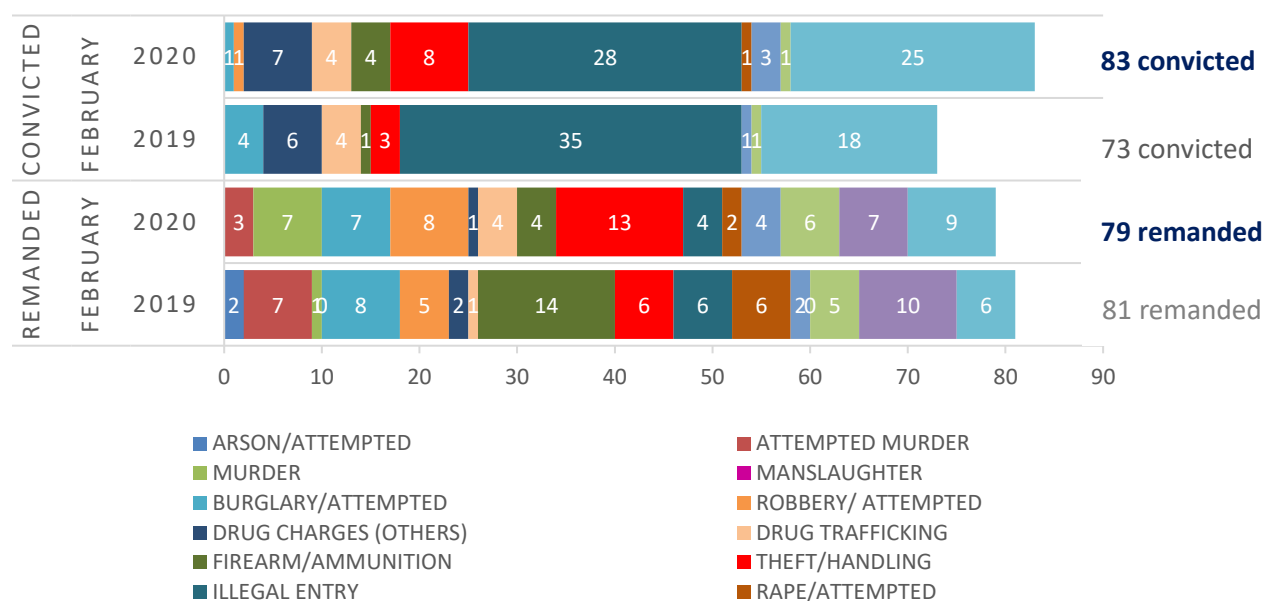
## IMPRISONMENT

During February 2020, 162 people – 153 males and 9 females– were imprisoned. This represented an increase of 8 inmates imprisoned (or 5%), from 154 during February 2019. About 6 in every 10 people imprisoned were between the ages of 18 to 30. Youth in that age bracket accounted for about 40% of the remanded inmates.

About a fifth of the persons imprisoned were foreigners from Central America (primarily Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador) who had been convicted of illegal entry. Persons convicted of illegal entry comprised just over a third of the total imprisoned convicts (29 of 83 inmates—a 22% decrease compared to February 2019.



### YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARATIVE OF IMPRISONMENT (FEB 2019 VS FEB 2020)



(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.

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

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**Belize Crime Observatory**  
Ministry of National Security (Home Affairs)



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*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 February 2020. Any future revisions will be noted in subsequent reports.*