

JANUARY
2020

BELIZE CRIME OBSERVATORY



CRIME ANALYSIS
REPORT

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Crime Analysis Report

PERIOD: 1st – 31st January 2020

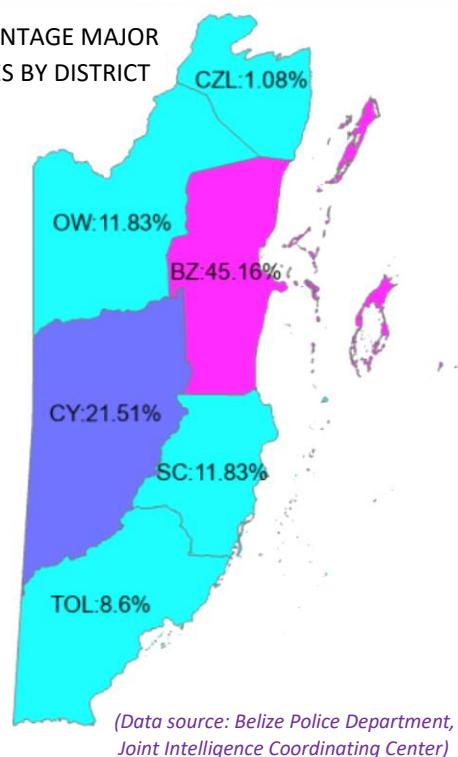


SUMMARY

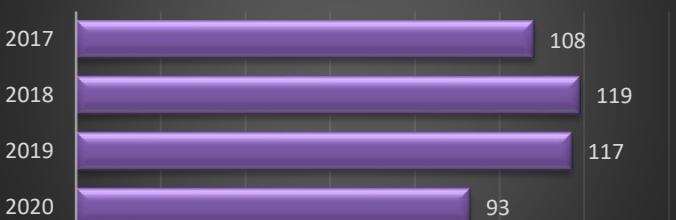
MAJOR CRIMES:

- Total **93** police recorded cases countrywide for the month of January 2020, compared to 117 in January 2019
- **↓ 21%** (24 cases) **decrease** compared to January 2019
- **45%** Belize District (**↑** from 41% in Jan 2019)
- **22%** Cayo District (**↑** from 11% in Jan 2019)

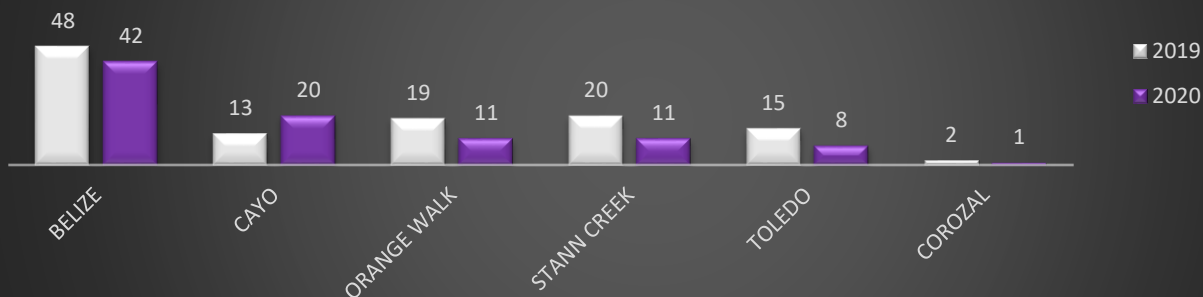
PERCENTAGE MAJOR CRIMES BY DISTRICT



MAJOR CRIMES COMPARATIVE
Police recorded cases for January



Distribution of Major Crimes Cases by District
(Jan 2019 vs. Jan 2020)



Crime Analysis Report

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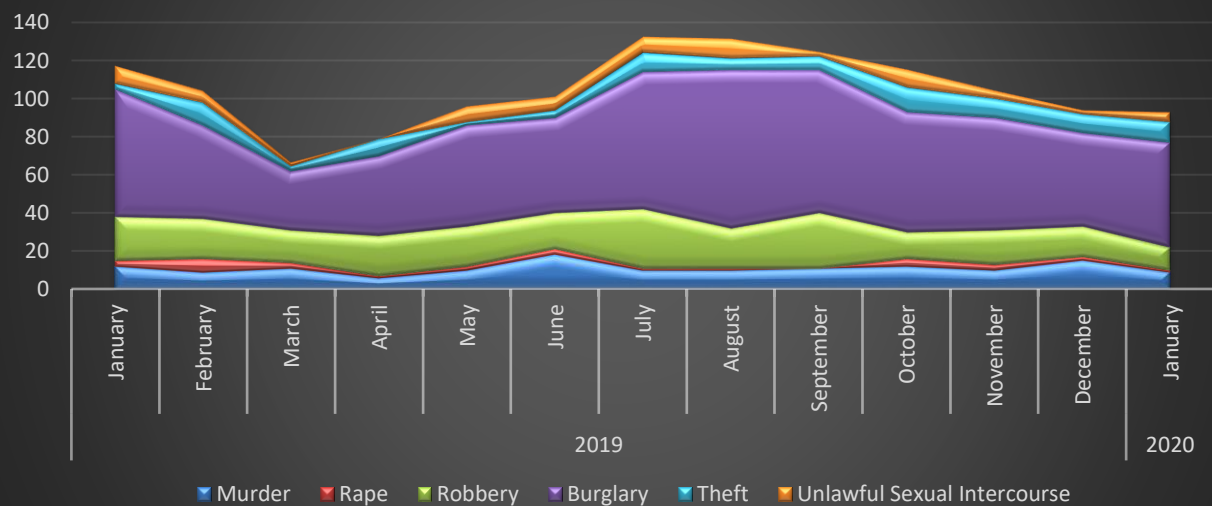


Year-on-Year Major Crimes Comparison by Category



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

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



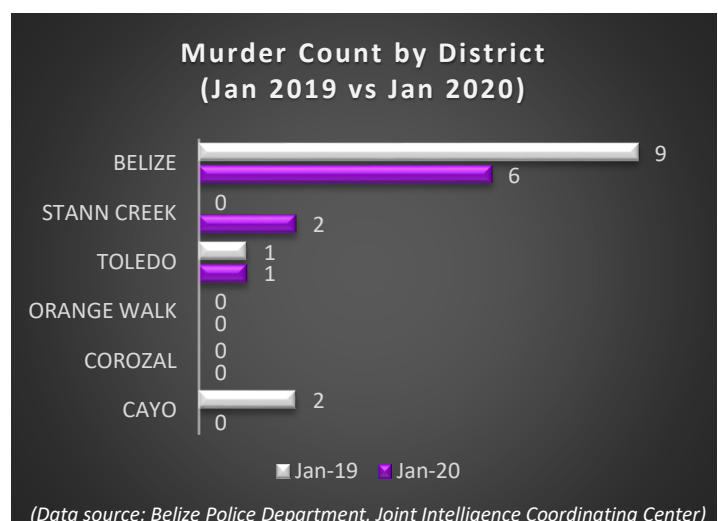
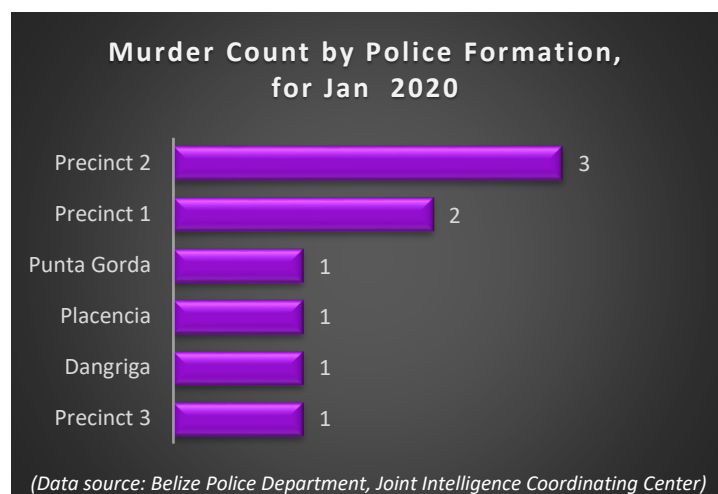
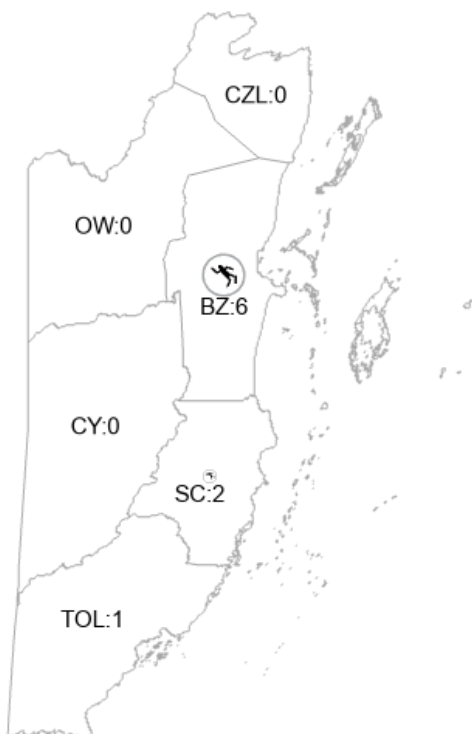
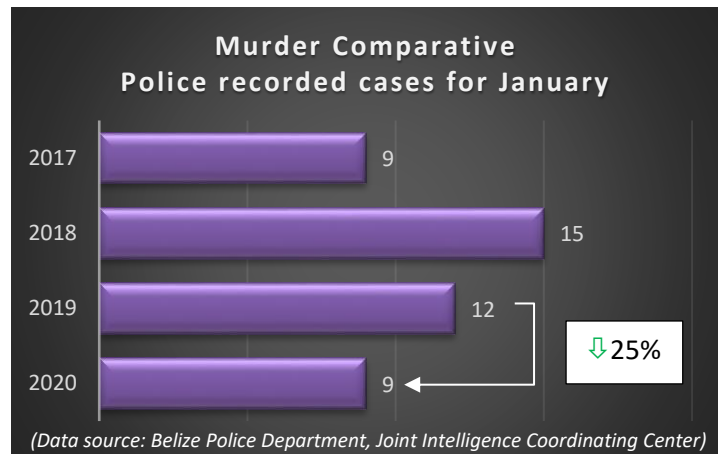
(Data source: Belize Police Department, Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center)

Crime Analysis Report

PERIOD: 1st – 31st January 2020



MURDER



Crime Analysis Report

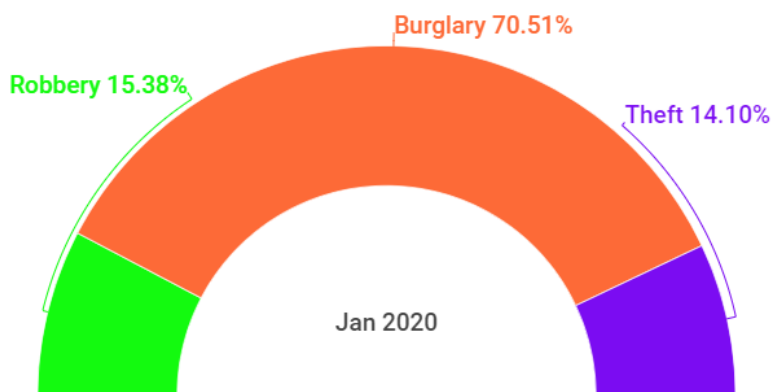
PERIOD: 1st – 31st January 2020



PROPERTY CRIMES

- There were **78** cases of property crimes recorded by the Belize Police Department during January 2020, **down 16% (or 15)** from 93 in January 2019.
- Of the 78 incidents, 12 were robberies, 55 were burglaries, and 11 were incidents of major theft of items valued at least BZ\$5,000.

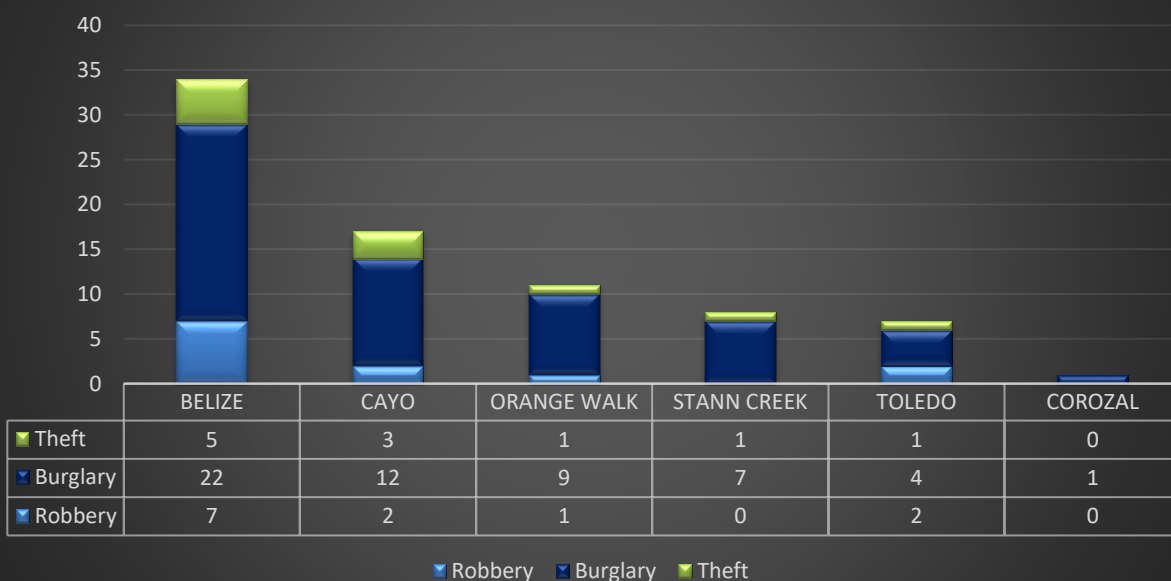
Percentage of Cases of Property Crime by Category:
Robbery, Burglary and Major Theft



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

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

Number of Robbery, Burglary and Major Theft Cases recorded by District for January 2020



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

Crime Analysis Report

PERIOD: 1st – 31st January 2020



SEXUAL VIOLENCE

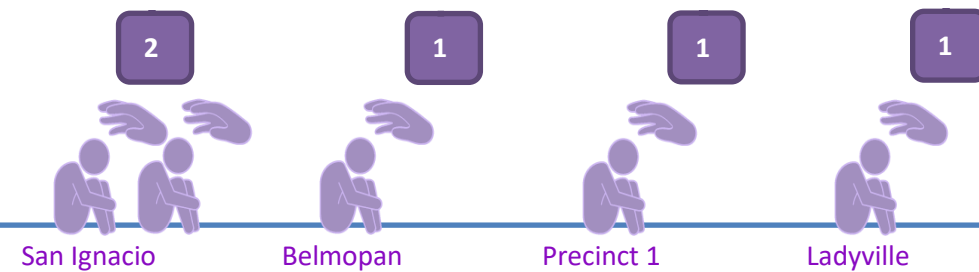
Unlawful Sexual Intercourse:

- 5 reports for January 2020

Rape cases:

1

January
2020



TRAFFIC FATALITIES



Authorities recorded a decline in road traffic fatalities, from 5 in January 2019 to 1 in January 2020. The victim was an elderly male on a bicycle.

A total of 103 road traffic fatalities were recorded for during 2019, averaging 8 to 9 fatalities a month.

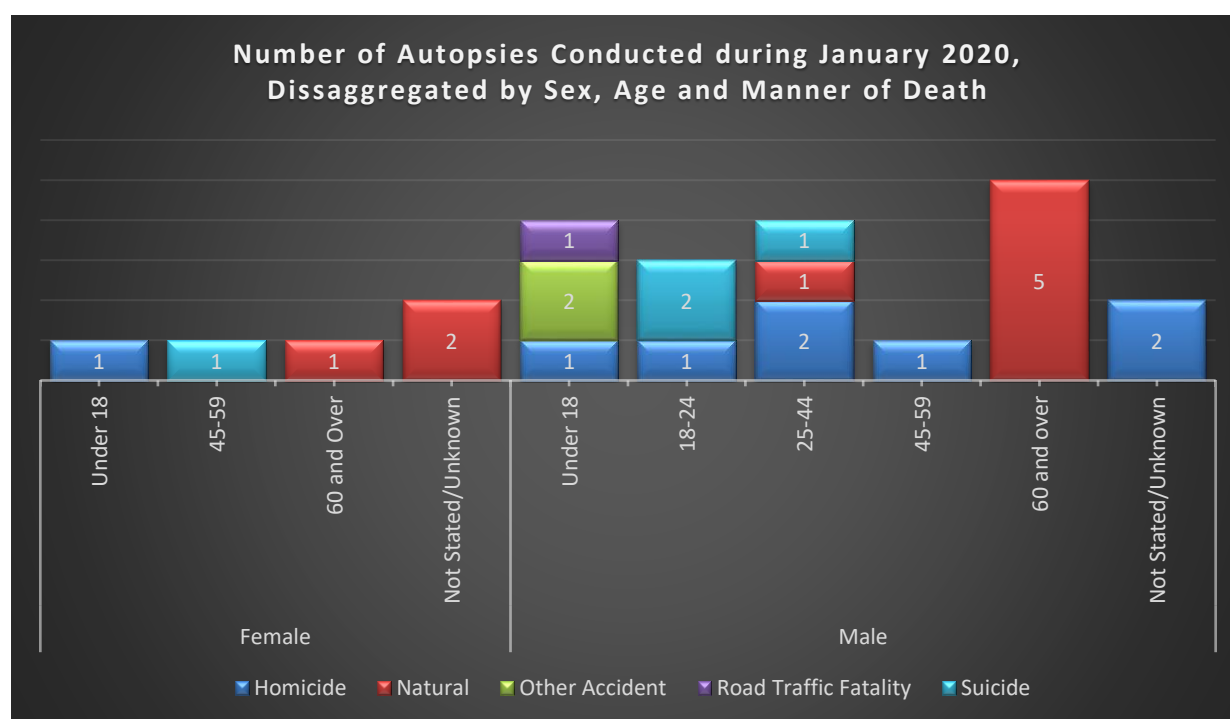


(Data sources: National Forensic Science Service, the Ministry of Health and the Belize Police Department),

OTHER VIOLENT DEATHS

During January 2020, the National Forensic Science Service performed 24 autopsies – just over half of them being for violent deaths categorized as homicides (8 or 33%), suicides (4 or 17%) and road traffic fatalities¹ (1 or 4%). Nine (or 38%) of the deaths were due to natural causes, while the remaining 2 (amounting to 8%) were due to accidents not regarded as road traffic fatalities.

More men died during the month from homicides than from natural causes. Furthermore, 3 of the 4 suicide victims were young males, age 18-25. The fourth victim was a woman in a higher age category. The only female homicide victim during January 2020 was a minor – the first murder victim in Belize for 2020 killed in a suspected femicide.



(Data source: National Forensic Science Service)

Nine less autopsies were done during January 2020 than during January 2019. The 33 autopsies done during January 2019 included 12 for homicides, 6 for road traffic fatalities, and 3 for suicides.

¹ 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.

Crime Analysis Report

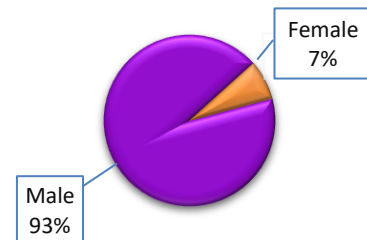
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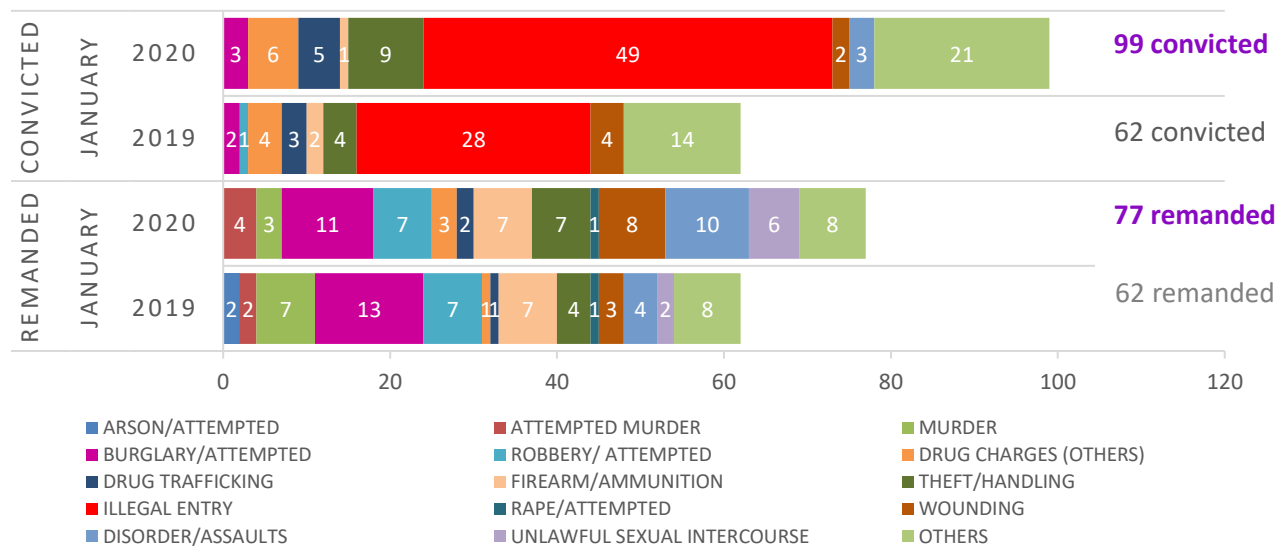
IMPRISONMENT

During January 2020, **176** people – **163** males and **13** females– were imprisoned. This represented an increase of 52 inmates imprisoned (or 42%), from **124** during January 2019. About 4 in every 10 people imprisoned were between the ages of 18 to 25. Youth in that age bracket accounted for half the remanded inmates.

Just over a quarter 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 half of the total imprisoned convicts or 49 of 99 inmates—a 75% increase compared to January 2019.



YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARATIVE OF IMPRISONMENT
(JAN 2019 VS JAN 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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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 January 2020. Any future revisions will be noted in subsequent reports.*