

JULY
2020

BELIZE CRIME OBSERVATORY



POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

CRIME ANALYSIS
REPORT

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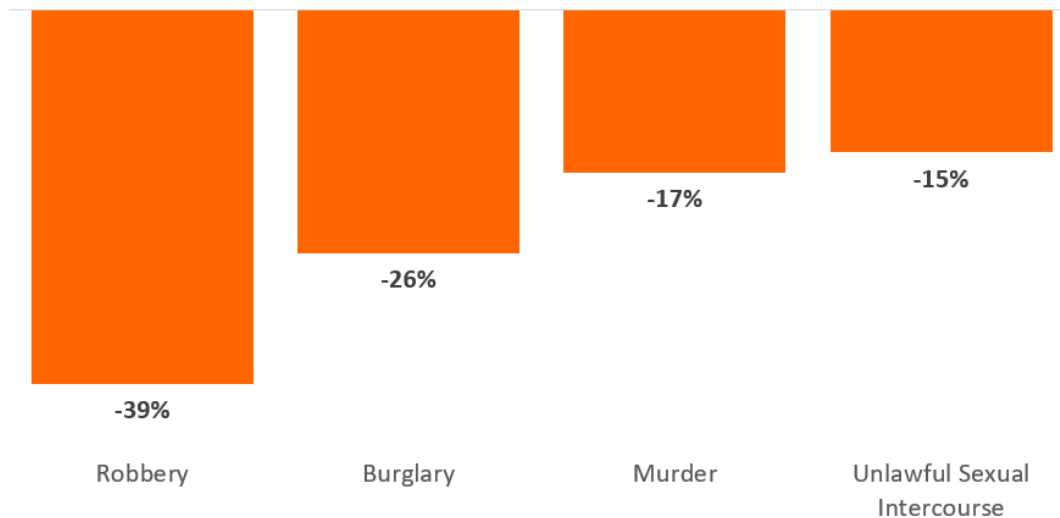
Crime Analysis Report

PERIOD: 1st – 31st July 2020



SUMMARY

The greatest declines for January to July 2020 were recorded for robbery and burglary, primarily due to the sharp declines during the COVID-19 state of emergency period.



- ✚ All categories of major crimes registered an overall decrease for the period January to July 2020.
- ✚ Although the greatest decline was recorded for robberies, the past two months (June to July), have registered a substantial increase in robberies.
- ✚ Overall, sexual violence declined, but females continue to comprise at least 9 in every 10 victims of rape and unlawful sexual violence.
- ✚ Despite the increased incarceration due to the gang-related states of emergency, the total incarceration declined by 0.5% for the period January to July 2020. Meanwhile, the prison population grew roughly 7% for the first half of 2020.

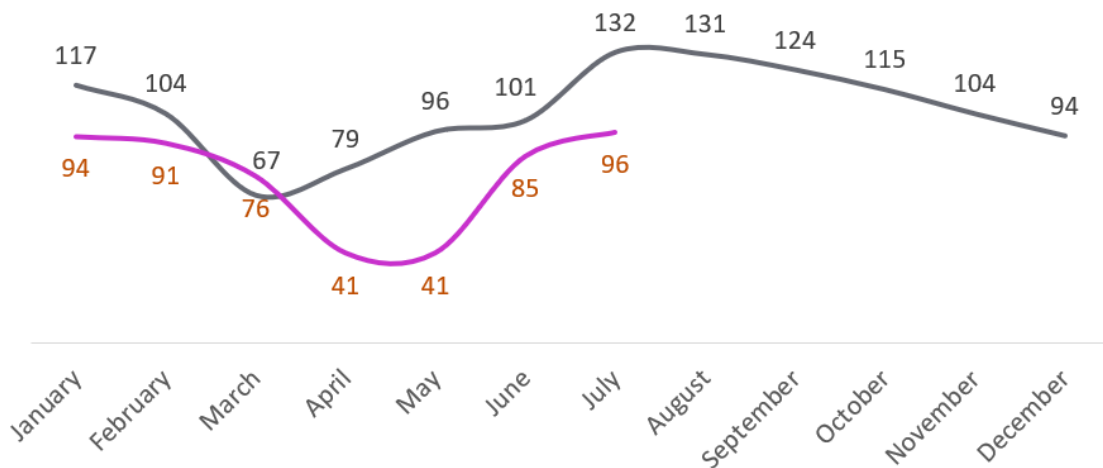
Crime Analysis Report

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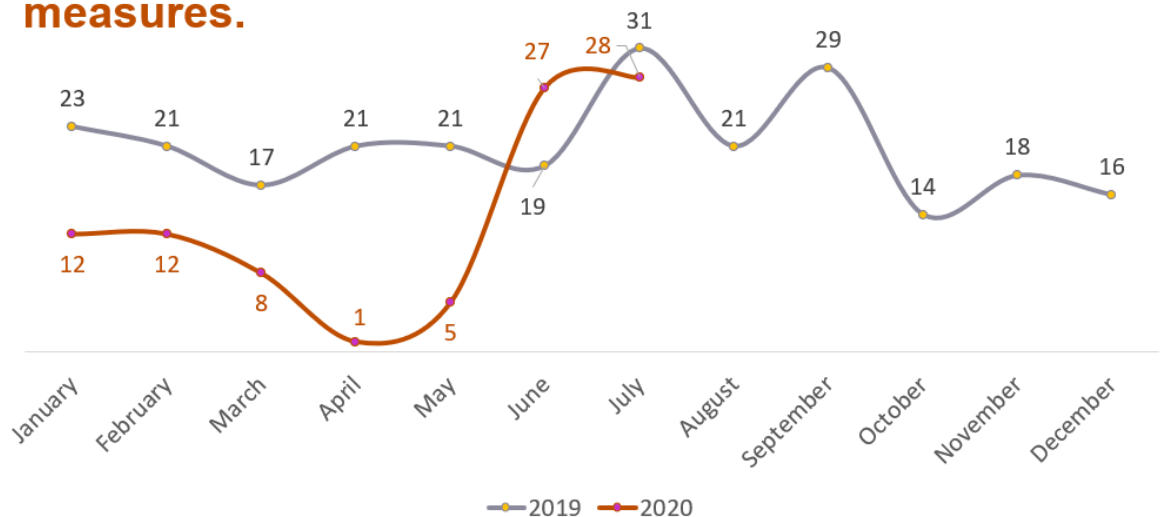


MAJOR CRIMES

The marked decline in police registered major crimes observed during the first two months of COVID-19 measures was reversed in June 2020.



- The number of robbery reports have been escalating over the past two months (June and July 2020), reversing the marked declines achieved since January 2020, and particularly during the implementation of COVID-19 measures.

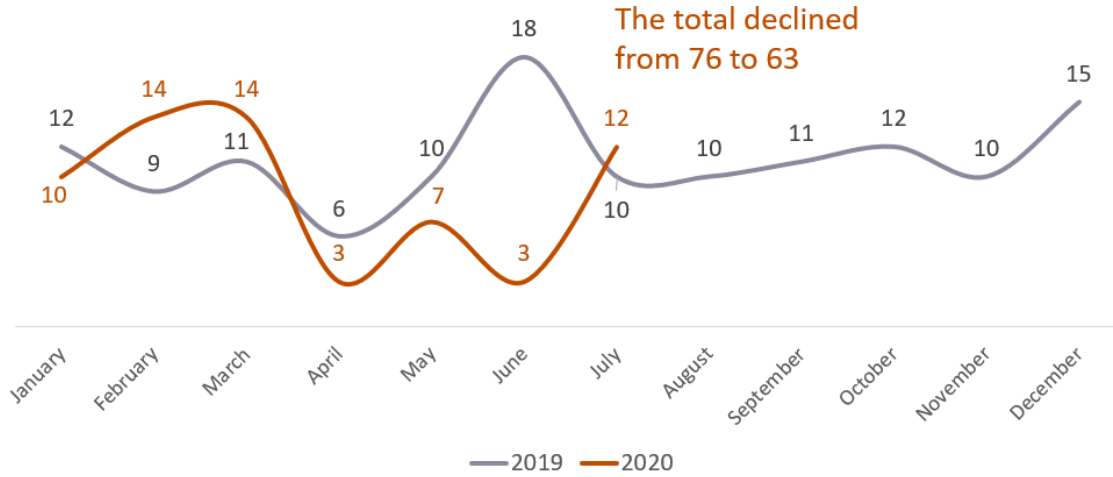


Crime Analysis Report

PERIOD: 1st – 31st July 2020



Despite an overall 17% decline in the number of murders, July recorded a substantial increase relative to June, but less marked increase over July 2019



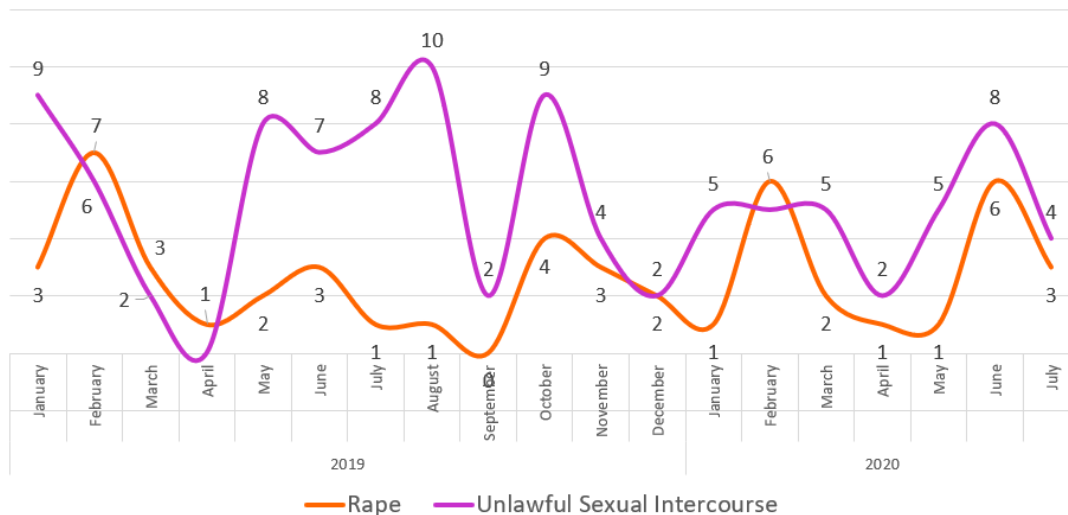
Crime Analysis Report

PERIOD: 1st – 31st July 2020



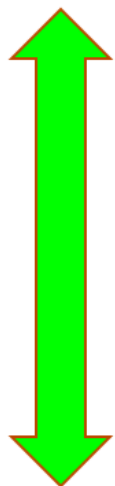
SEXUAL VIOLENCE

For January to July 2020, cases of sexual violence declined 10% relative to the 2019. The number of reported rape incidents remained the same but the number of unlawful sexual intercourse cases declined 15%.



Note: Unlawful Sexual Intercourse refers to sexual relations with minors under the age of 16

94%



Women and girls were the primary victims of sexual violence for the period January to June 2020

The only male victims of sexual violence were minors, under the age of 18.

6%

Crime Analysis Report

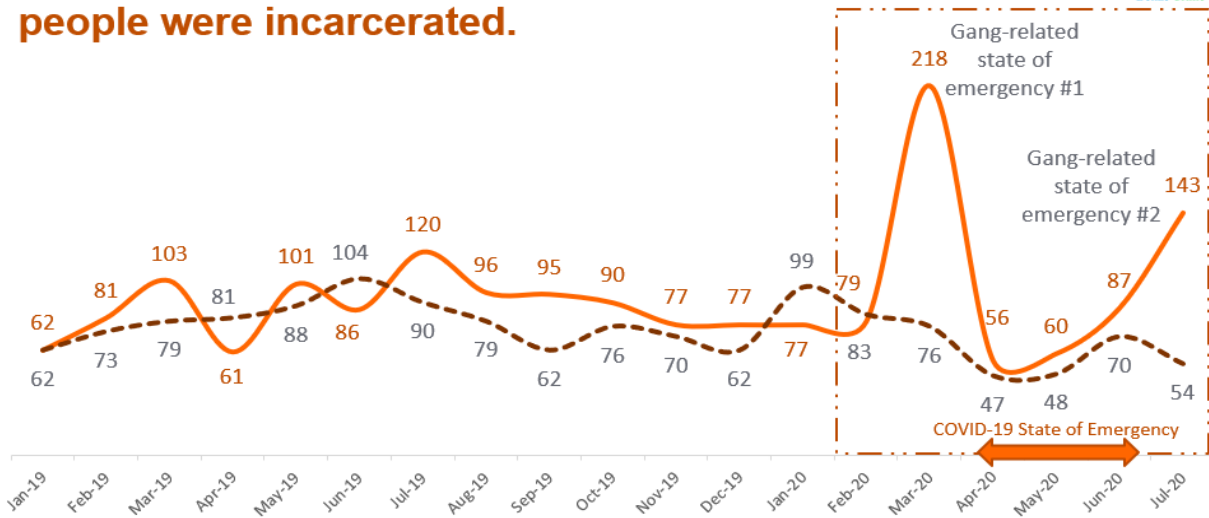
PERIOD: 1st – 31st July 2020



INCARCERATION

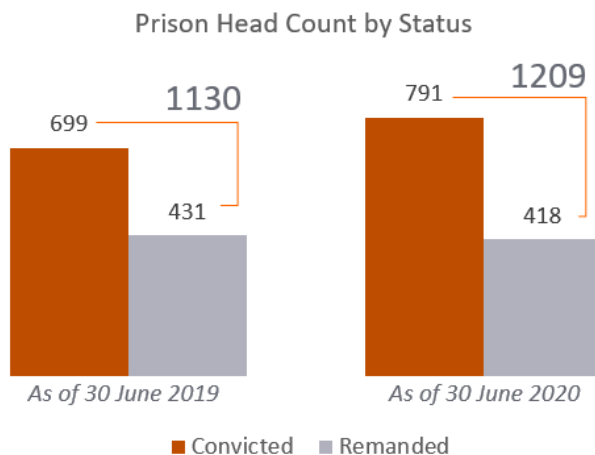
A total of 1,191 people were newly remanded and convicted during January to July 2020, 6 less than the first 7 months of 2019, when 1,197 people were incarcerated.

-0.5%

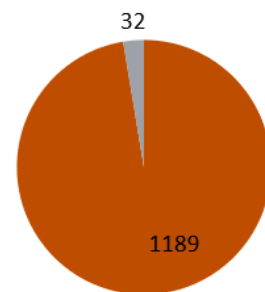


The Prison population grew by roughly 7%

-6.99%



Mid-Year Head Count by Sex



■ Total Male ■ Total Female

As of 30 June 2020

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.”*

Belize Crime Observatory
Ministry of National Security (Home Affairs)



<https://bco.gov.bz>



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