

JUNE
2020

BELIZE CRIME OBSERVATORY



CRIME ANALYSIS **REPORT**

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Crime Analysis Report

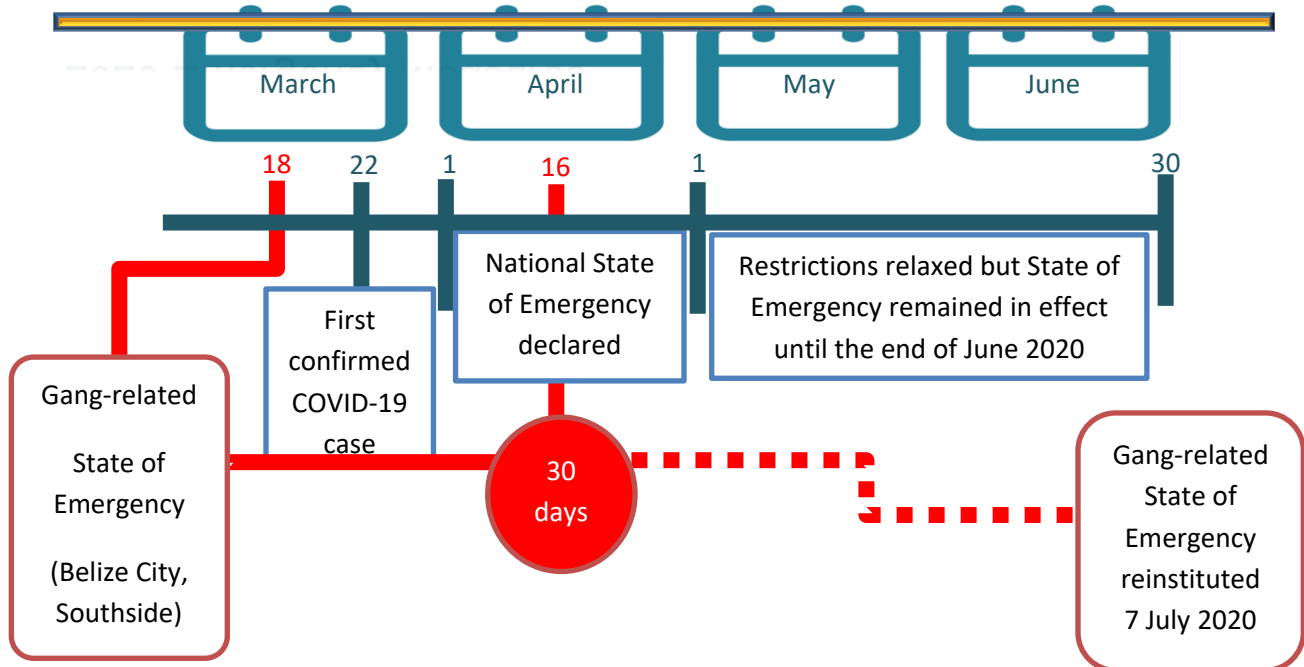
PERIOD: 1st – 30th June 2020



SUMMARY

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the dynamics of crime during the latter half of the reporting period (April to June 2020).

2020 Emergency Measures



- For January to June 2020, major crimes declined by 24% and murders declined by 23% when compared to the same period in 2019;
- At mid-year 2020, declines were reported for all categories of major crimes except theft;
- With the relaxation of special measures to combat COVID-19, robberies became an increasing concern;
- The greatest decline in murders was recorded in Belize City, where a localized state of emergency was implemented in March and again in July 2020 to combat gang violence;
- There was an increase in sexual violence during the COVID-19 period, and the vast majority of the people impacted were young girls and women;

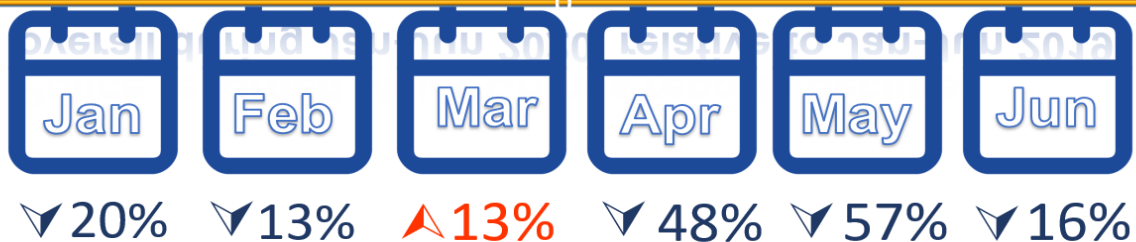
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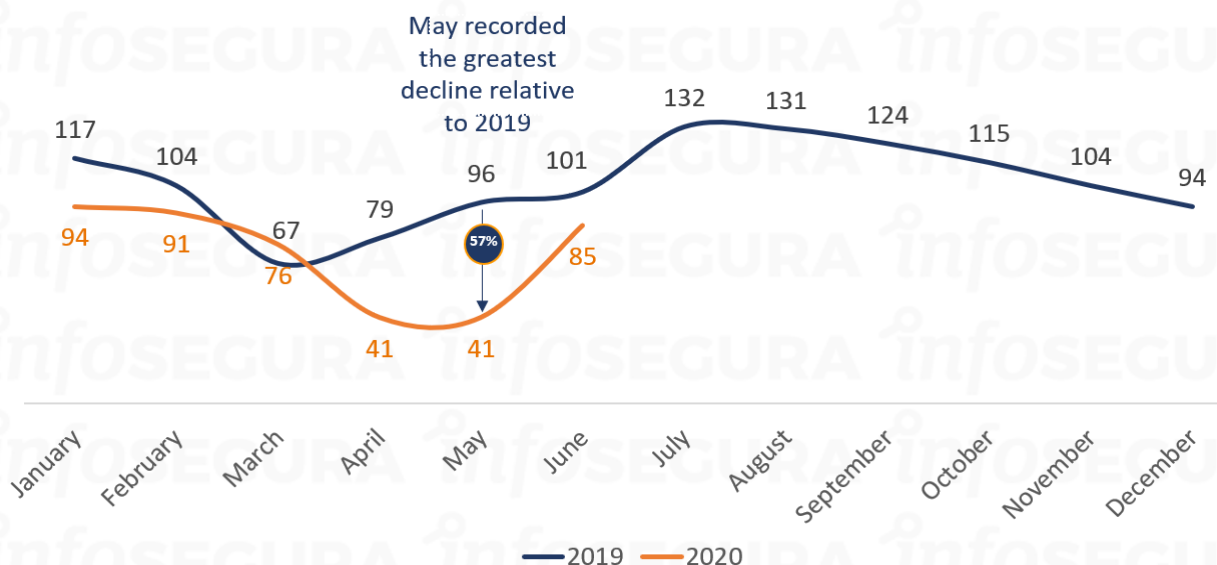


MAJOR CRIMES

Police recorded Major Crimes reports declined overall during Jan-Jun 2020, relative to Jan-Jun 2019



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

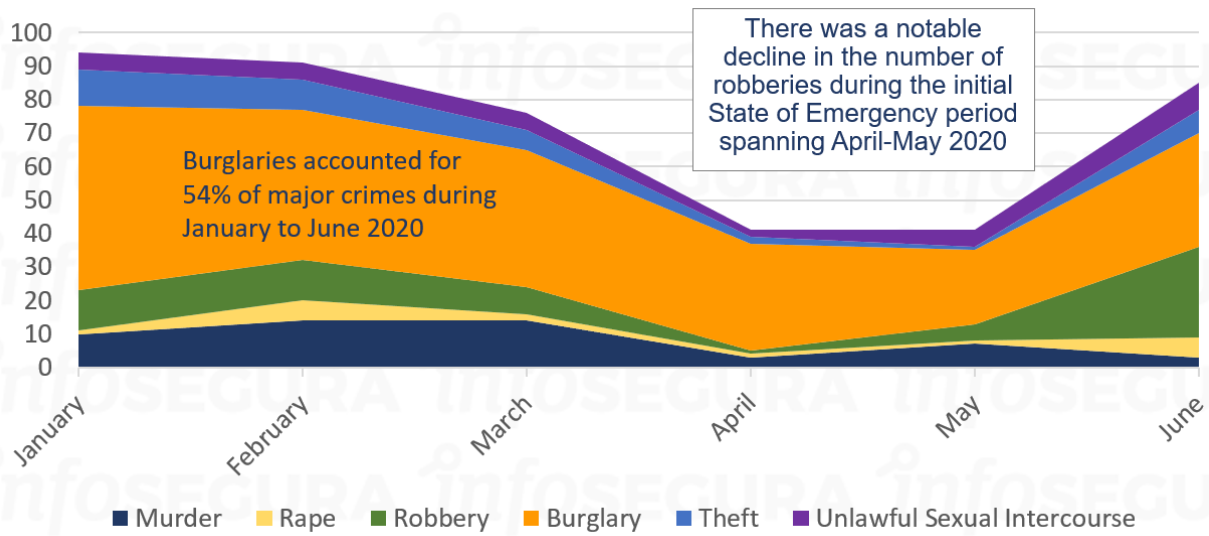


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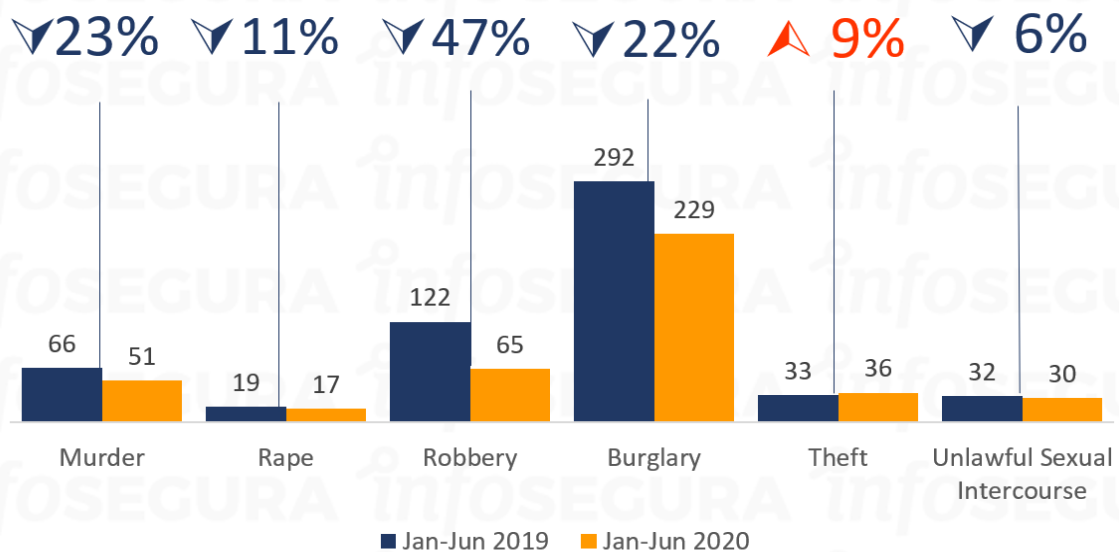
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Major crimes have been on a downward trend for most of the period, but a notable rise was observed in June 2020. This was mainly attributable to an escalation in robberies.



All categories of major crimes, except for theft, recorded a decline for the first half of 2020 when compared to the same period in 2019.

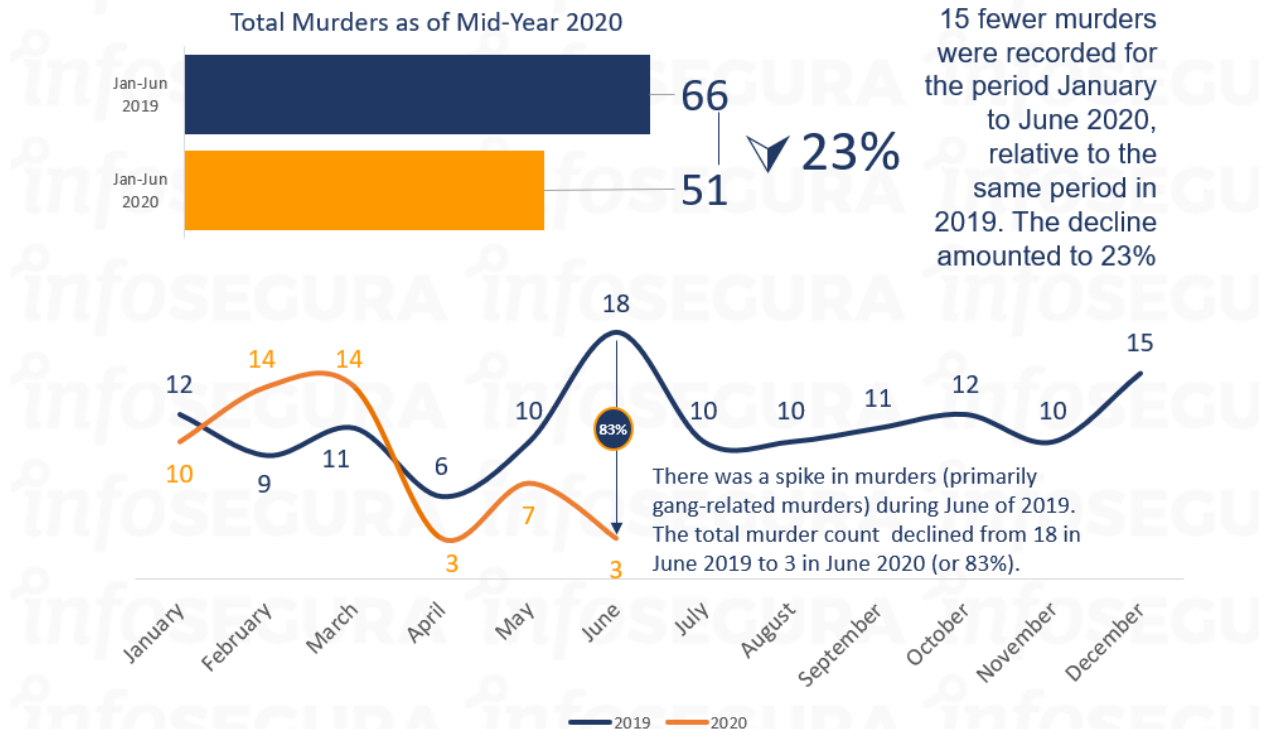


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MURDERS

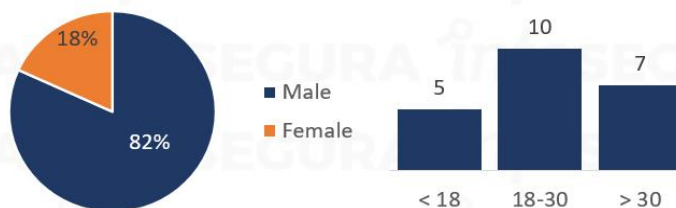


142 GANG MEMBERS WERE IMPRISONED FOR 30 DAYS UNDER THE LOCALIZED STATE OF EMERGENCY COVERING 8 SELECT ZONES

The majority of the victims were males, most frequently in the 18 to 30 age group.

3 children (2 males and 1 female) were murdered before the gang related state of emergency of 18 March 2020.

Age and Sex of 22 murder victims killed in Belize City from January to June 2020



MAP SHOWING 8 STATE OF EMERGENCY ZONES AND THE LOCATION OF MURDERS FOR JAN-JUN 2020

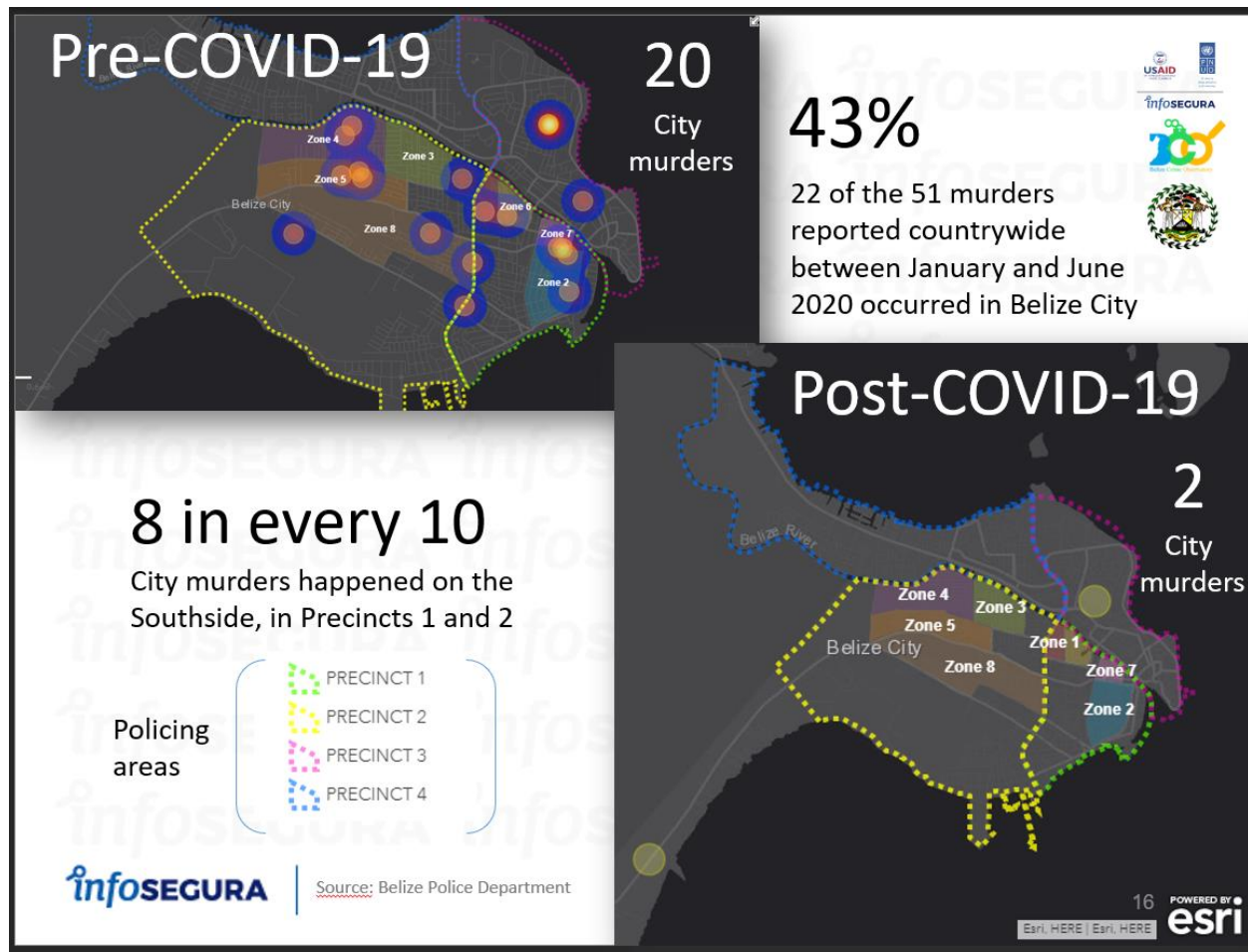


Source: Belize Police Department



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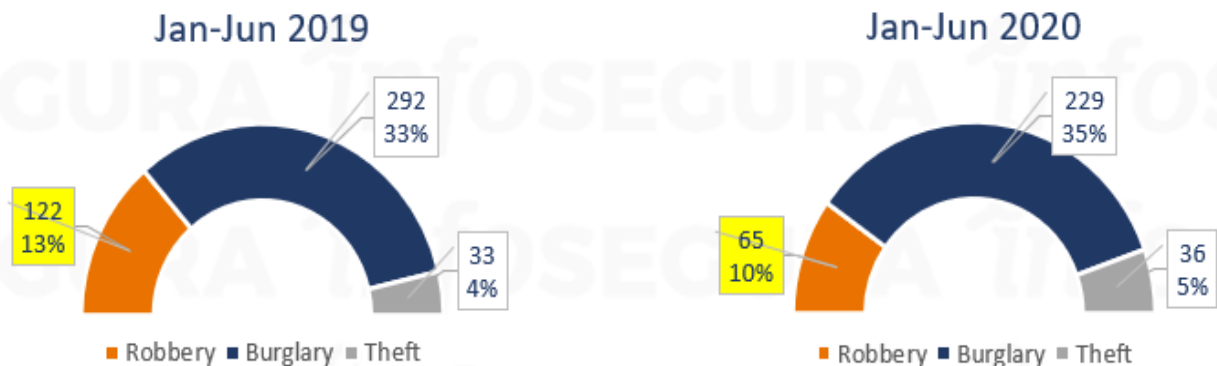
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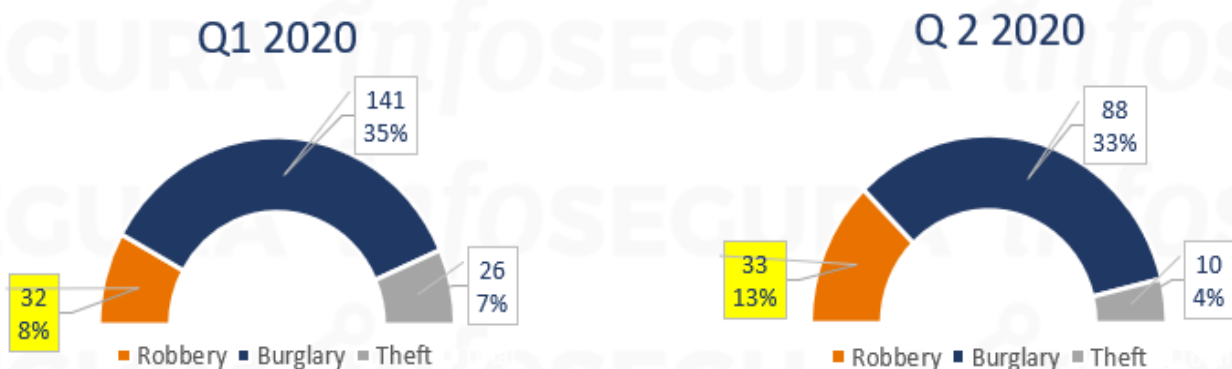


PROPERTY CRIMES

During the first half of 2020, robberies declined in proportion from 13% of major crimes against property for the first half of 2019 to 10%.



Robberies increased in proportion from 8% of major crimes against property recorded during the first quarter (Q1) of 2020 to 13% in second quarter (Q2).



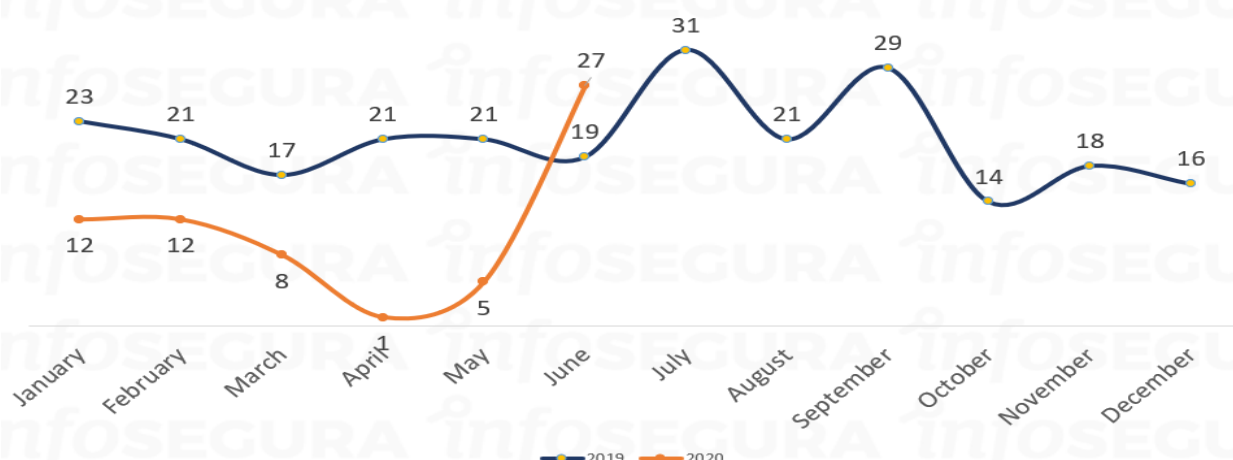
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Although robberies have declined overall for the 6-month period, the total recorded for June 2020 was 42% higher than the count for June 2019.

Furthermore, robberies accounted for 22% of major crimes during the period, up from 15% the same time last year.



January to June 2020

66% of the robberies were committed using a firearm

82% of the perpetrators were on foot

June 2020

74% of the robberies were committed using a firearm

85% of the perpetrators were on foot

Robberies happened most frequently on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

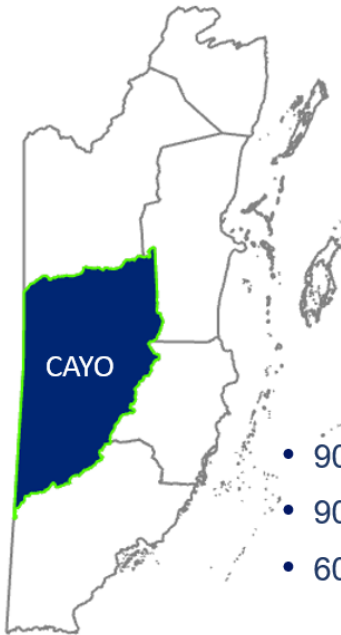
District	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BELIZE	3	3	2	5	2	4	3
CAYO	1	6	2	2	2	3	2
COROZAL			2	3	2		1
ORANGE WALK	1			1		3	2
STANN CREEK	1		1	1	2	2	
TOLEDO		1		1	1		

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40% of the robberies recorded in June 2020 happened in the Cayo District



During January to March 2020, 14 robberies were recorded in the Belize District and 5 in the Cayo District.

During April to June 2020, 8 were recorded in the Belize District and 13 in the Cayo District – with 10 of those having occurred in June.

- 90% of those robberies were committed with a firearm
- 90% of the perpetrators moved on foot
- 60% of those robberies happened on a Monday

InfoSEGURA

Source: Belize Police Department

21

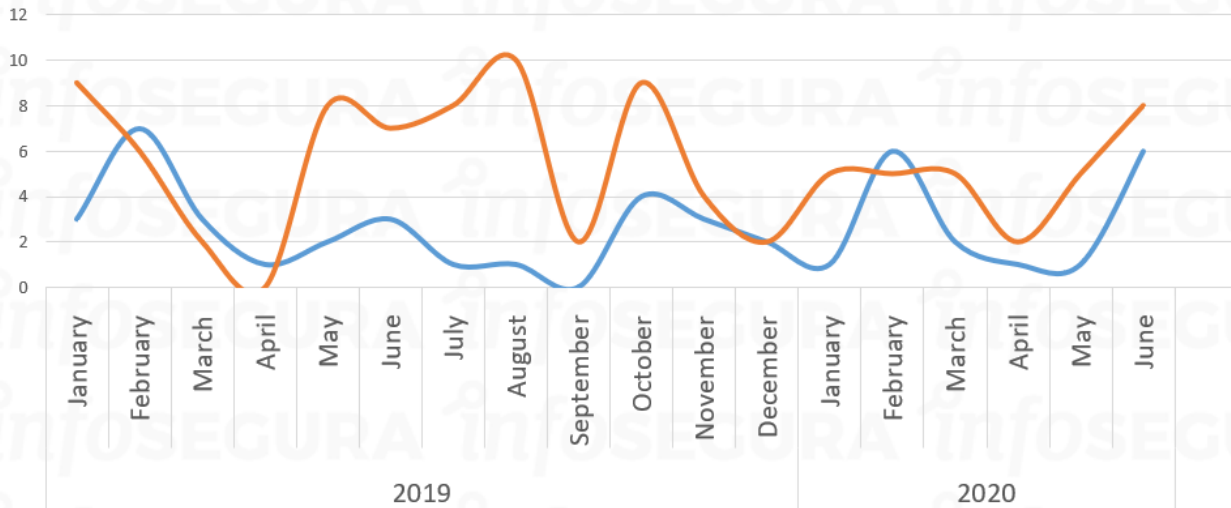
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SEXUAL VIOLENCE

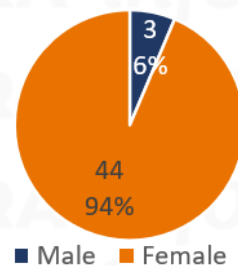
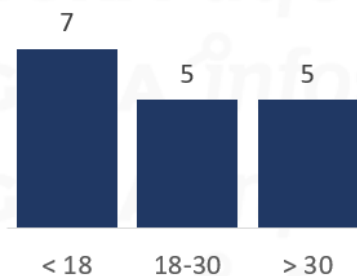
After a dip in April, sexual violence rose overall during May and June 2020.



94%



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



6%

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

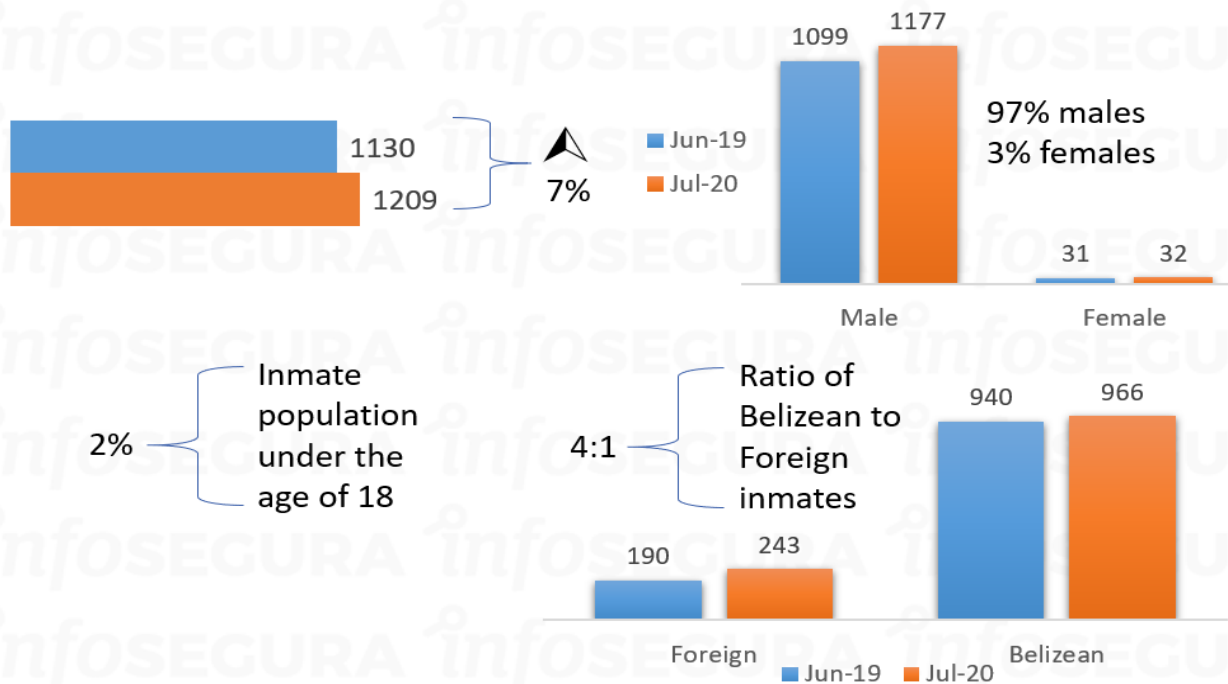
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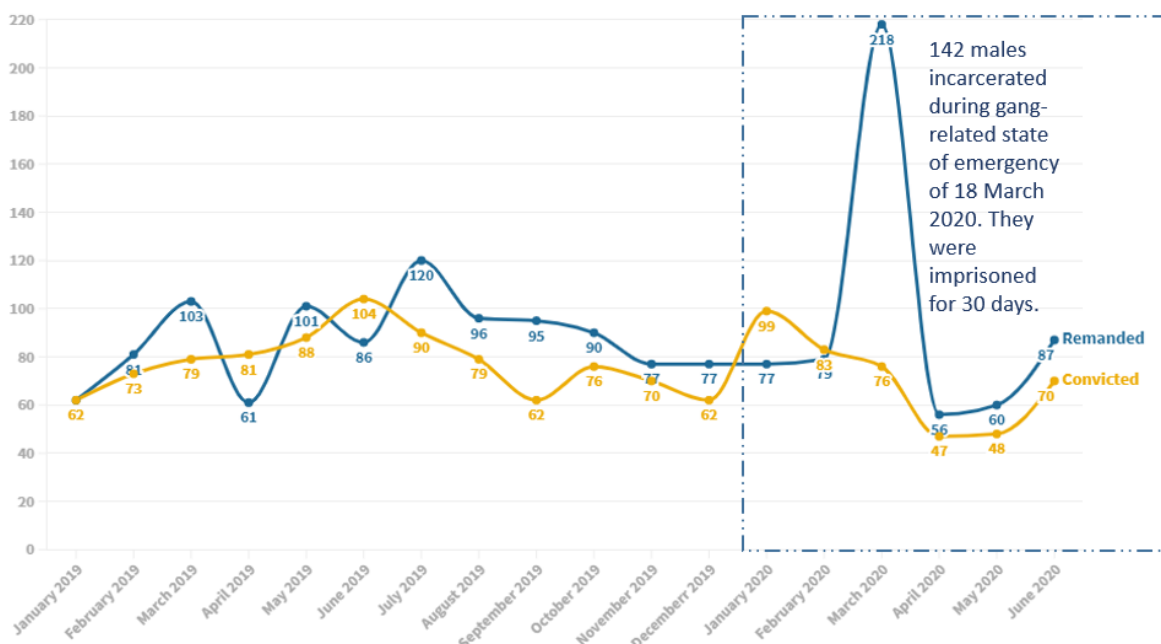


CONTINUUM OF JUSTICE

Profile of Inmate Population as of 30 June 2020 (compared to end of June 2019)



Inmates Incarcerated per Month



Crime Analysis Report

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Resolution of Incidents of Major Crime



MURDER

Incidents: 51

Arrests: 20

Remanded: 24

Convicted: 0

Sexual Violence

Incidents: 47

Arrests: 21

Remanded: 48

Convicted: 2

Crimes Against Property

Incidents: 330

Arrests: 87

Remanded: 106

Convicted: 47

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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>



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