

**NOVEMBER**  
**2020**

BELIZE CRIME OBSERVATORY



**CRIME ANALYSIS**  
**REPORT**

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# Crime Analysis Report

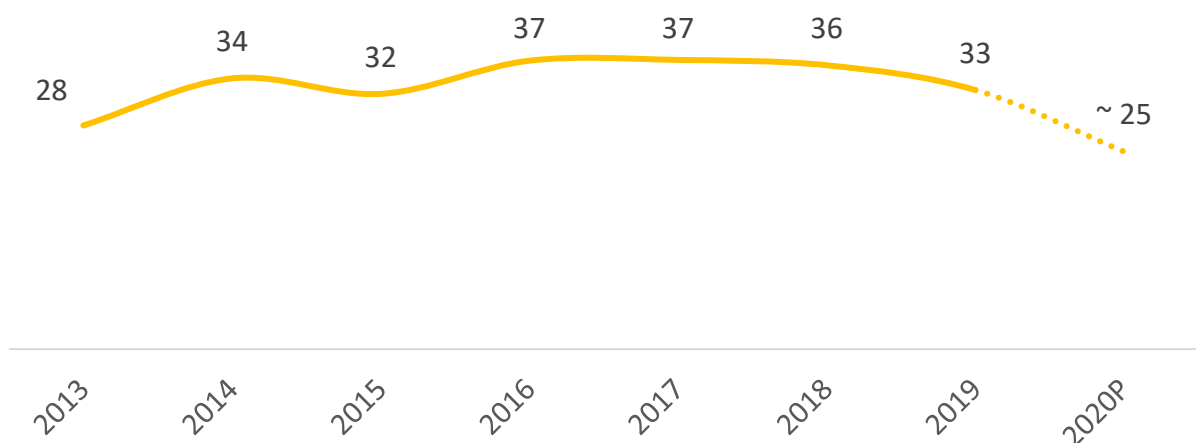
PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020



## SUMMARY

- Despite fluctuations over the recent months in reports of major crimes in Belize, an overall decline of **30%** was registered for the period January to November 2020, relative to the same period in 2019.
- There were 818 major crimes recorded during January to November 2020, a reduction of 352 reports when compared with January to November 2019 (for which 1,170 incidents were recorded).
- 8 in every 10 of those were crimes against property: robbery, burglary, or theft.
- Murders increased in November 2020, both relative to the previous month and the same month in 2019. Twelve murders were recorded during November 2020, up from 8 in October 2020 and 10 in November 2019.
- However, for January to November 2020, murders were down by **21%**, with 25 fewer murder victims recorded. This was due to a reduction in murders from 119 for January to November 2019 to 94 for January to November 2020.
- Approximately **9 in 10** murder victims were males. From among the 94 victims recorded, 11 were females and 83 were males.
- Given the current trend, Belize's murder rate is projected to fall this year to around 25 per 100,000 inhabitants, which would be the lowest rate recorded for Belize since 2013.

Belize Murder Rate for 2013 to 2019 | 2020 projected figure included



Data Source: Belize Police Department

# Crime Analysis Report

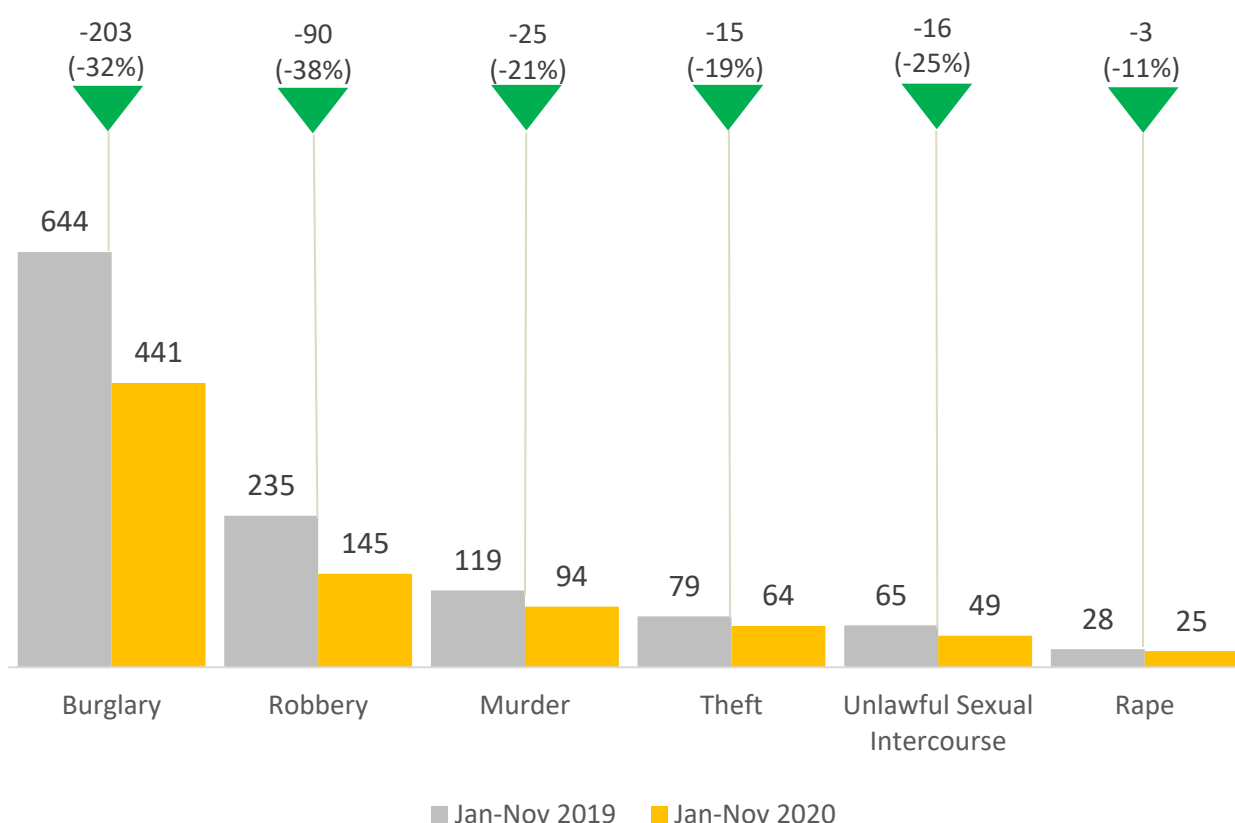
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## MAJOR CRIMES

- All categories of major crimes recorded a decline for the first 11 months of 2020 when compared to the same period in 2019.
- The greatest declines were observed for robberies and burglaries; the smallest decline was recorded for rape.
- The overall decline in major crimes of 30% represents a marked improvement from the 8% decline registered for January to November 2019. This was attributable to special measures to limit mobility during the COVID-19 pandemic, and to targeted police interventions to counter gang-related violence.

Change in Number of Major Crimes Incidents Registered by Police



Data Source: Belize Police Department

*The six crime categories included above reflect the Belize Police Department's Major Crimes classification scheme. Please refer to the Glossary of this report for more information.*

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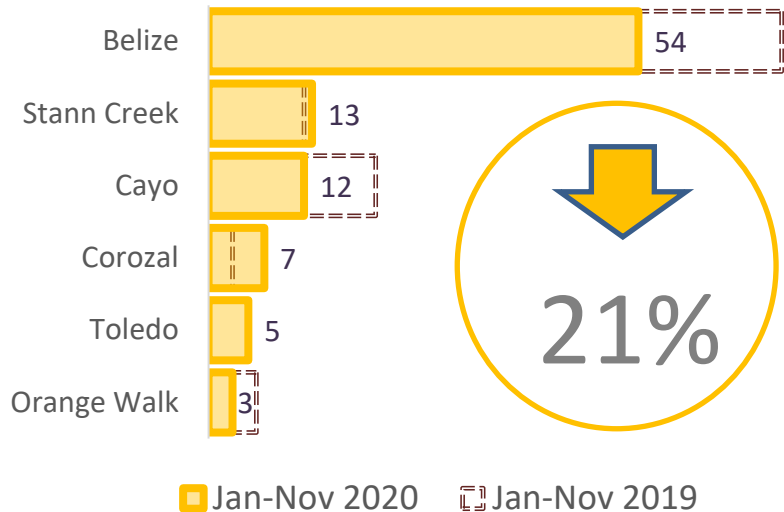


## MURDERS

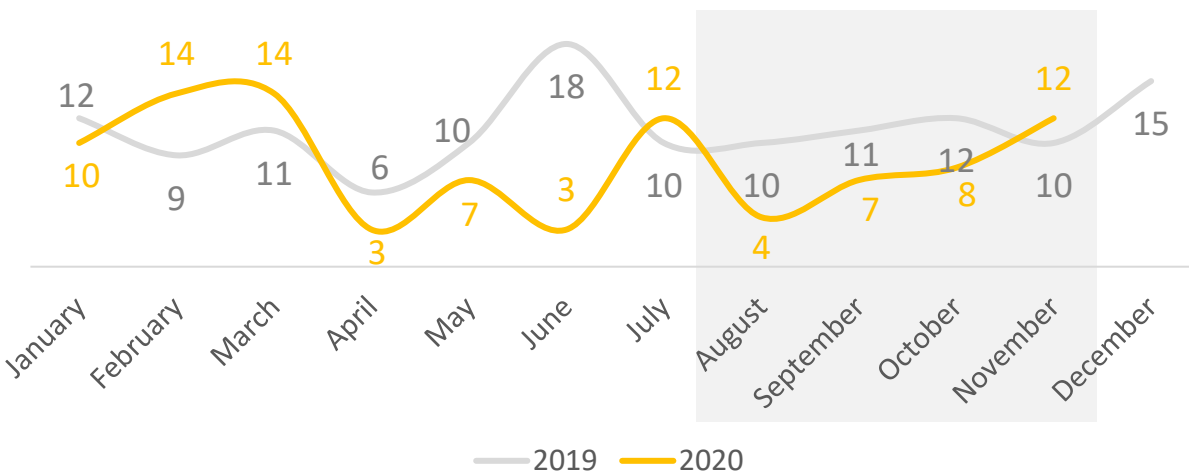
Nationally, the murder count has declined by 21%, a decrease of 25 incidents, from 119 during January to November 2019 to 94 for the period January to November 2020.

However, the number of murders increased in the districts of Corozal and Stann Creek.

Toledo recorded no change for the period under review.



### Number of Murders Recorded per Month



### Proportion of Male and Female Victims



About  
9 in every 10  
murder victims  
for Jan-Nov 2020  
were males

■ Male    ■ Female

Data Source: Belize Police Department

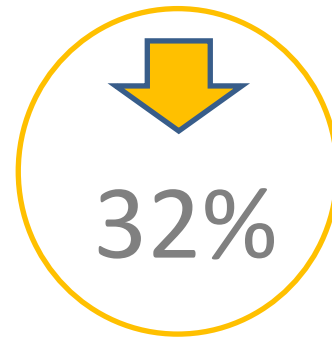
# Crime Analysis Report

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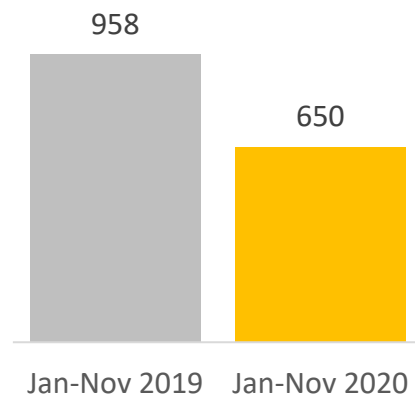
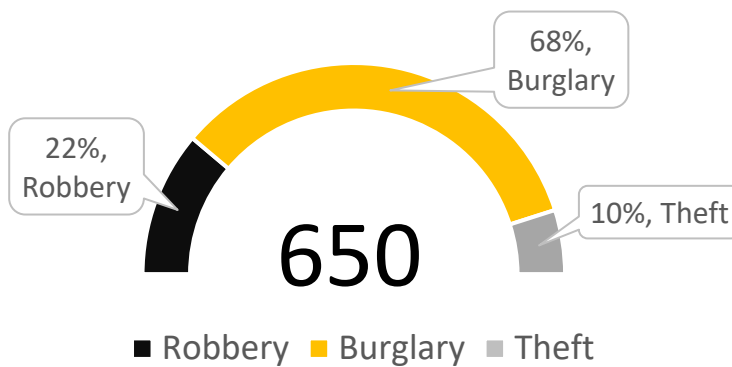


## PROPERTY CRIMES

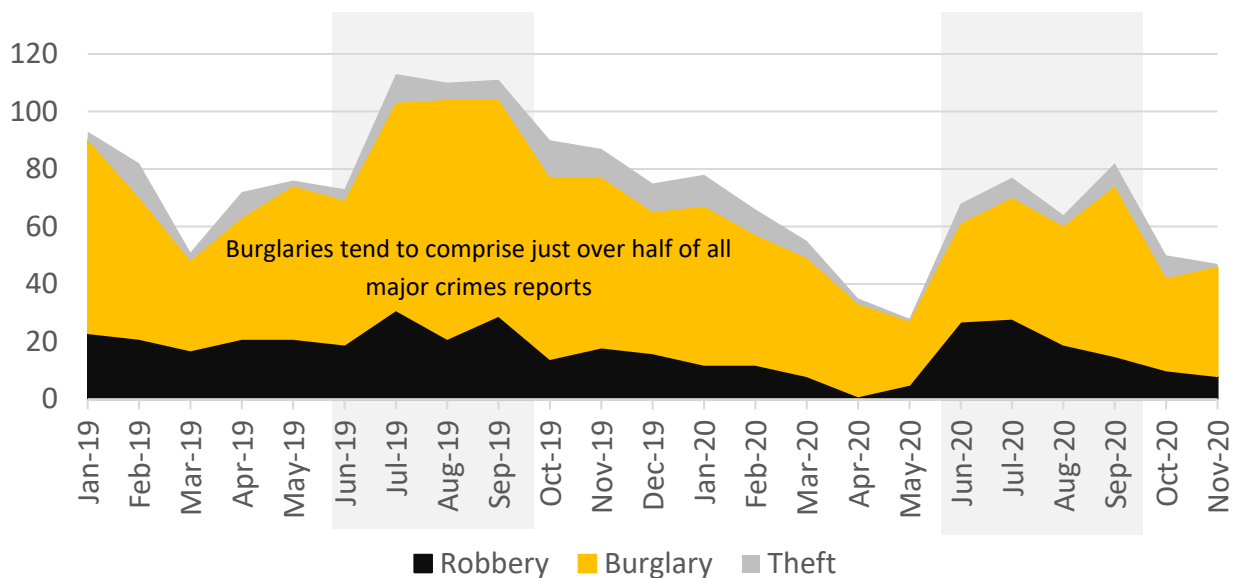
Over the past two months, there has been a general decline in robberies, burglaries, and thefts. This decline followed a marked rise during June to September. There was similar rise evident during the same period in 2019. Overall, though, property crimes have reduced markedly since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The total reduction, from 958 during January to November 2019 to 650 for January to November 2020, amounted to 32%.



A marked decline is registered for property crimes



## Number of Robbery, Burglary, and Theft Reports Registered since January 2019



Note: Police exclude theft cases for items valued under BZ\$5,000 from major crimes reports.

Data Source: Belize Police Department

# Crime Analysis Report

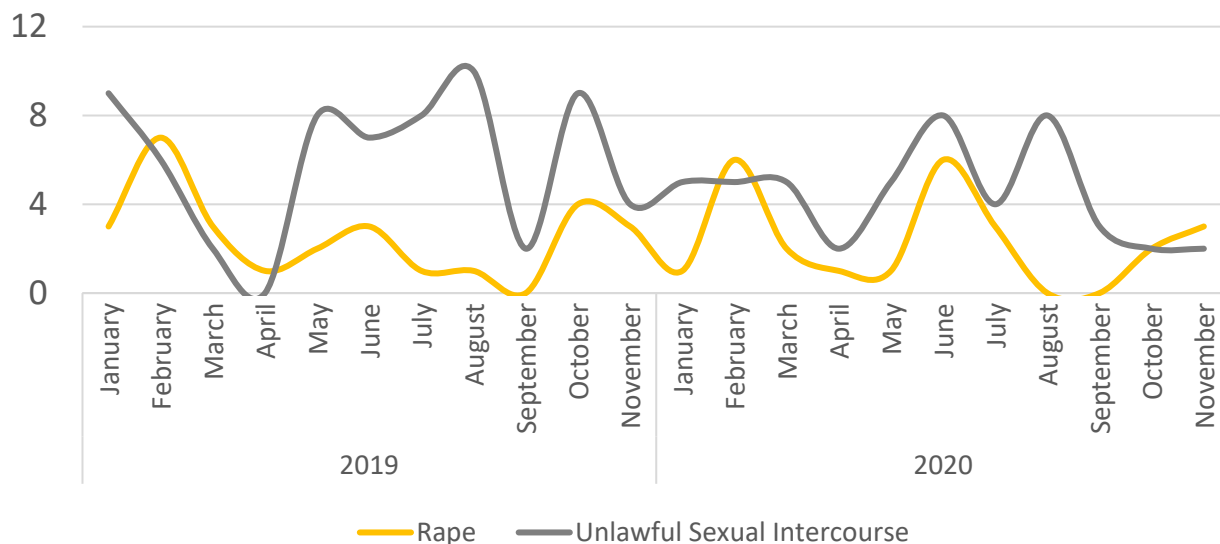
PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020



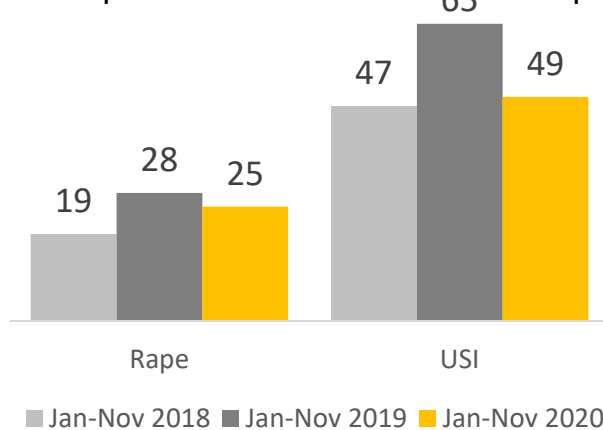
## SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Although sexual violence was on an upward trajectory during the second quarter of 2020 (April to June), there has been an overall decline since January 2020. Generally, sexual violence reports were down by 26% for January to November 2020, when compared with the same period in 2019. The reduction in reports registered by Police was greater for unlawful sexual intercourse than for rape. Notable spikes in reports of unlawful sexual intercourse occurred in June and August. There was a similar but more pronounced spike last August.

Number of Rape and Unlawful Sexual Intercourse Reports recorded by Police since January 2019.



### 3-year Comparative for Sexual Violence Reports



Data Source: Belize Police Department

- There was a sharp decline in reports of rape and unlawful sexual intercourse (USI) during January to November this year, relative to the same period last year.
- The decline was not enough to reduce incidents to below levels recorded during 2018, when all other major crimes registered an overall decline.

# Crime Analysis Report

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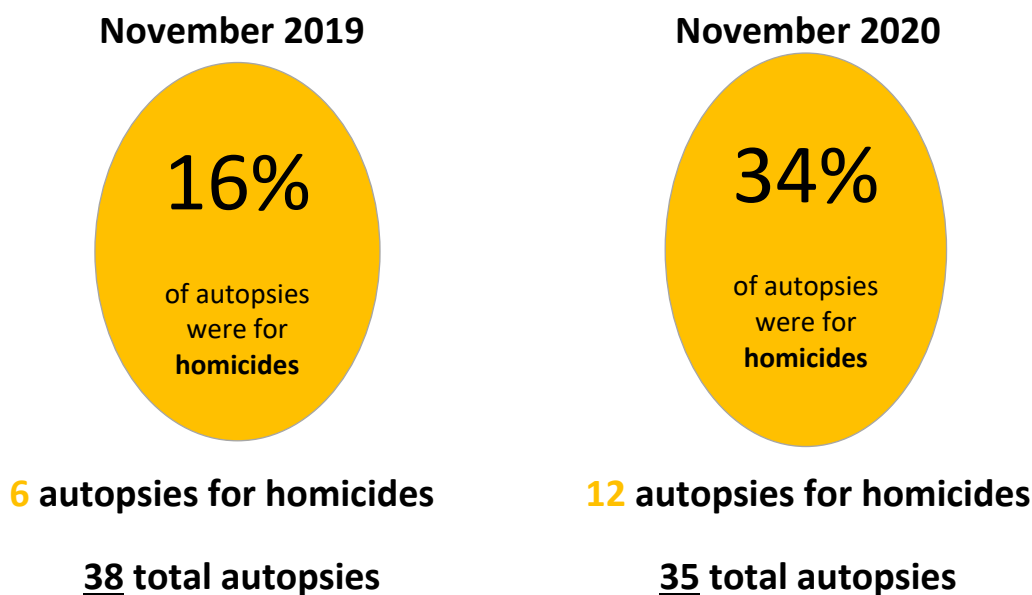


## AUTOPSIES

During the month of November 2020, the National Forensic Science Service conducted 35 autopsies: 2 for which the manner of death was undetermined, 6 for accidental deaths (including 3 road traffic fatalities and 1 drowning), 12 for homicides, and 15 for natural causes. There were none for suicides.

The homicide victims were all males, ages 16 to 57. The three road traffic incident victims were also males.

Eight of the 12 homicides were registered in the Belize District. The remaining 4 were in Cayo, Corozal, Stann Creek, and Toledo. The Orange Walk District was the only district to record no homicide during the month.



Data Source: National Forensic Science Service



# Crime Analysis Report

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## INCARCERATION

There were 69 people incarcerated during November 2020: 29 newly convicted persons and 40 newly remanded.

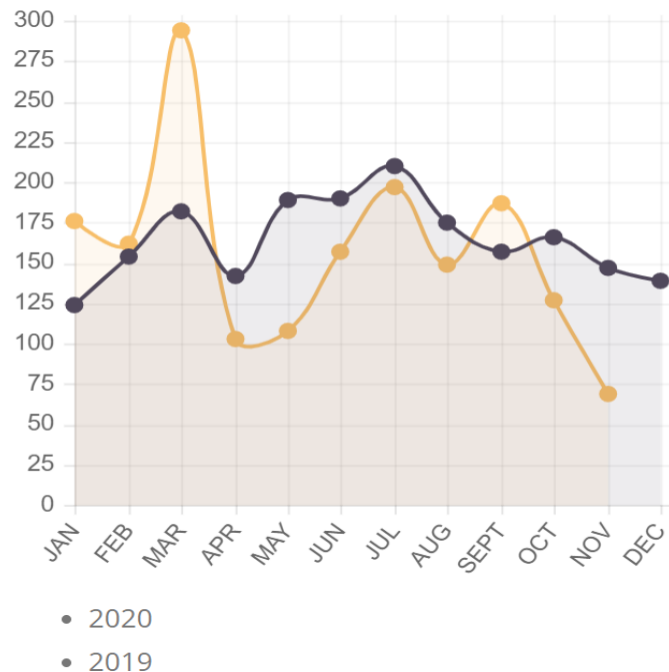
From among the remanded inmates, 5 were incarcerated for murder, 8 for burglary and related charges, and 4 for unlawful sexual intercourse.

A total of 8 migrants from Central America were incarcerated for illegal entry.

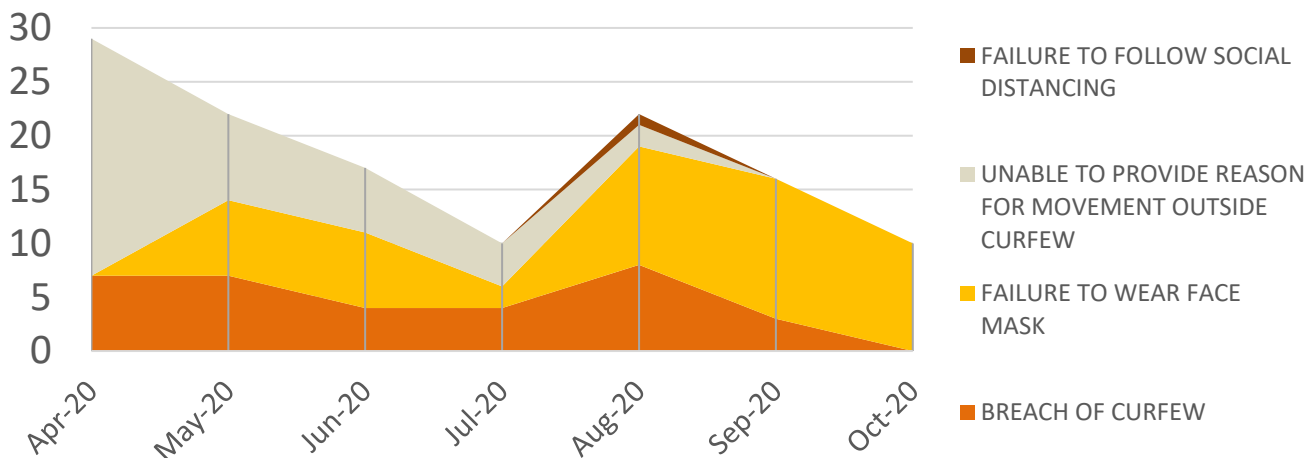
In all, 59 of the persons incarcerated were Belizeans, while the remaining 10 were foreign nationals.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in Belize, over 200 persons have been incarcerated for violations of special containment measures. (See details below.)

Number of Persons Incarcerated per Month



Incarceration related to COVID-19 measures



Data Source: Belize Central Prison

# Crime Analysis Report

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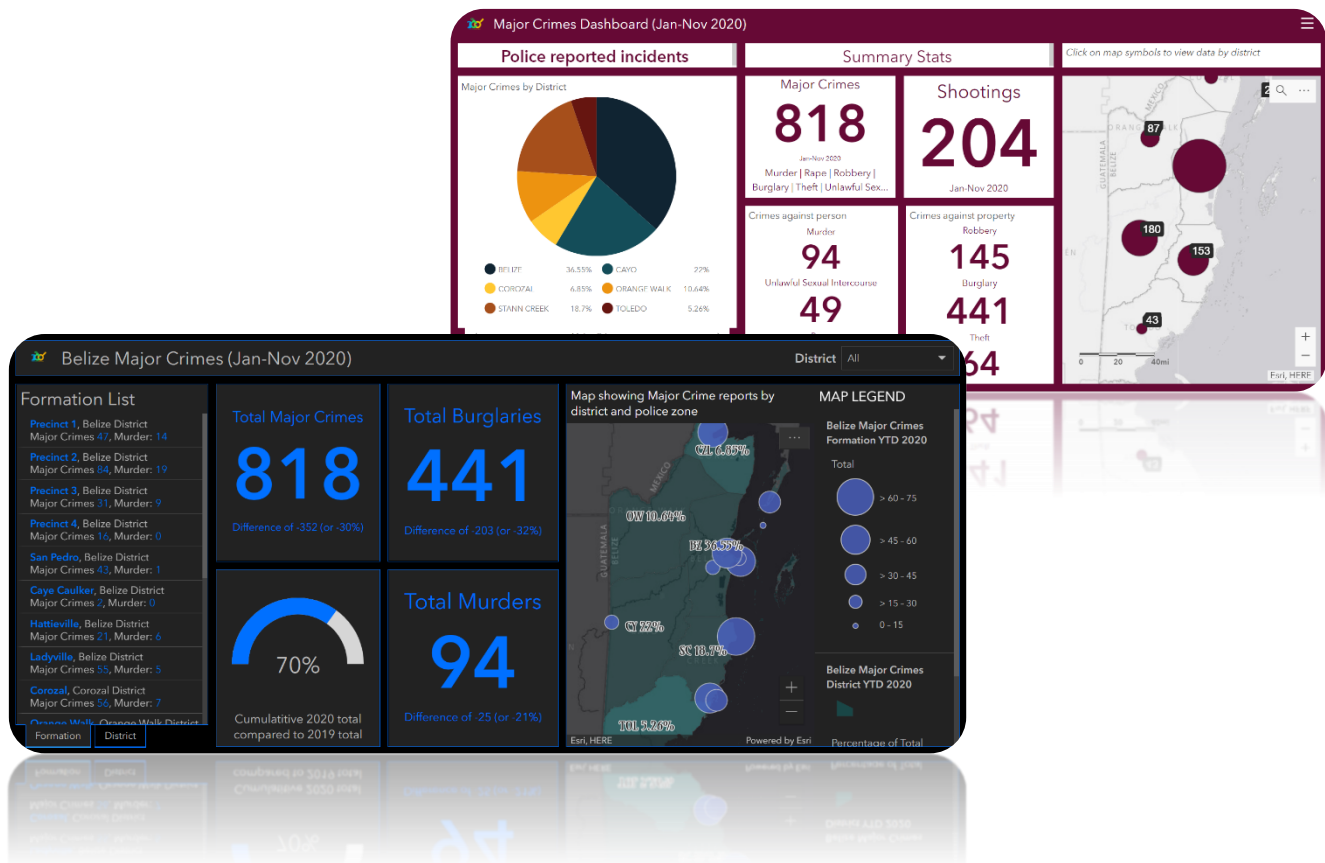


## DATA DASHBOARDS

View the BCO's [interactive crime data dashboards](#) to access more detailed information. Access them through the "Data" tab on our website.



Dashboards provide details by [location](#) and [crime type](#).



## 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.

ACCESS MORE **DATA** via

<https://bco.gov.bz/data/>

EXPLORE AND **DOWNLOAD CRIME DATA** from

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.”*

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



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<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 November 2020. Any future revisions will be noted in subsequent*